

SPECIAL LINES: PARASOLS, MILLINERY, DRESS GOODS, J. SIMONS, Tobony Block, Lindsay, May 17th, 1883.

SAVINGS BANK. BRANCH OF THE DOMINION BANK, LINDSAY. Deposits taken of \$1 and upwards. No notice of withdrawal required. Interest allowed at current rates from date of deposit to date of withdrawal, and compounded annually. WALKER DARLING, Agent, Lindsay, August 17th, 1882. J. L. LOVE, GENERAL BROKER. Mortgages and Notes bought, Cheques Cashied, Foreign Money Exchanged and Money Advanced on Security.

The Victoria Warde FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1883.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION. The proposed female school project of Dr. Burrows together with his celebrated and much abused circular have been the leading theme of conversation the past few days. A meeting of the board of education was held Friday evening last, at which an opportunity was taken by that august body to "sit" on Dr. Burrows in a most effective manner, but as Dr. Burrows did not care to be "sat" on in the aforesaid style without having his say, and the board was willing to accept his excuse for not being present on the former occasion a meeting was again called and an opportunity offered him to show why the sentence of the board should not be passed upon him. At this meeting, however, notwithstanding every opportunity offered Dr. Burrows and his friends by the board of education, the reports elsewhere show that the charges of immorality and indecency in connection with our public schools were not sustained, at all events to the extent the public would be naturally led to believe from the circulars, etc., of Dr. Burrows. That in fact the complaints were based merely on hearsay with the exception of one or two, and those which were witnessed were but the usual pranks—harmless in themselves—of the boys and girls on a usual and public playground. That swearing on these playgrounds has been heard no one attempted to deny, or that some naughty boys had even gone so far as to scribble where and in a manner which should not have been done, but the board can be held responsible only so far as they can control it, and this it is well known they are already doing. This scribbling and improper writing is wrong, very wrong, but not only on the school grounds is it found. Only last week the public had an instance of it by a journal making great pretensions of morality in this town, and when the public press may indulge in such scribbling with impunity how can children be expected to know any better or that the Lindsay board of education should experience some trouble in stamping out the grievances asserted by Dr. Burrows? We are free to confess that to a great extent we believe in the sincerity of Dr. Burrows and the friends with him who desire a separate female school. But when this was the object desired it should have been brought forward in a straight and proper way to the attention of the board, and they as gentlemen in duty bound would have duly considered the question. By sending broadcast through the public press insinuations and assertions over his own signature which he has signally failed to prove, at any rate to the satisfaction of the public, however they may appear to himself, he has done temporary harm to the schools, besides bringing discredit on himself and to a certain extent on those who were in sympathy with the object he had in view—the establishment of a separate school for little girls. The board of education is hard on Dr. Burrows, perhaps almost too hard, in that he erred from lack of judgment in bringing up the question more than in intent to destroy the fair fame of the schools, but he certainly was in the wrong to make such sweeping assertions regarding them, and if his late experience teaches him more caution in future his present discomfiture will not have been in vain.

EDITORIAL NOTES. Mr. Charlton's bill making seduction a criminal offence, after undergoing considerable mutilation in the Commons, has been rejected by the Senate. It was framed so that any adventurer could demand blackmail or matrimony, there was also a very objectionable clause referring to teachers and pupils, which was nothing less than a gross libel upon a most respectable class of men. The Fenelon Falls Gazette with an exclamatory "told you so" promises a letter in its next issue that will make the people's hair stand on end regarding the Somerville township affairs. Now Mr. Suddaby had better look out. So had the Gazette the week after when Mr. Suddaby sails in. The Gazette will look more deplored than if A. P. McDonald's canal blasts had "cleaned" it out. The trustees of the great suspension bridge over the East river, between New York and Brooklyn, have announced that the structure will be thrown open to the public on the 24th day of May, 1883. This will be a notable day in the history of those two large cities. The event will be celebrated by festivities appropriate to the occasion. Probably half a million of people will join in the procession across the bridge, forming a rare and wonderful sight. Says the Fort Hope News:—Peterboro' and Lindsay may now be regarded as active rivals for the new Midland Railway workshops. While the geographical odds may be in favor of Lindsay, the financial inducements under the control of Peterboro' are said to far out-weigh any Lindsay consideration. Now let Peterboro' and Lindsay fight the question out on business principles—that is, if Lindsay has the money and Peterboro' the principles. So slow and carefully are our Grit friends moving in their protest business against Mr. Fell, M. P. P., that that gentleman was the other day compelled to move for an order to find out what charges they had against him and what the protest was entered for. He obtained the order, but now has to wait for another period of eight days before they can be compelled to furnish him with the required information. The North Victoria Reformers evidently see they acted rather hastily, and that it will require a good deal of fishing before they can find sufficient evidence to ensure the unseating of Mr. Fell. Mr. J. H. Knight has been instructed by the educational department to hold a commission of enquiry regarding the doings of Mr. Elliott, the headmaster of the Onanese high school, and the trouble in connection with him. Mr. Knight of course takes no part further than the taking of the evidence and forwarding it to the educational department, which being thoroughly partisan in its character, and opposed in every sense to Sir John Macdonald will not be at all likely to deal harshly with the evidence of one so enthusiastic in their political faith. Another instance of the necessity of our educational system being non-political in its character, especially when dealing with such idiocy as this on the part of Mr. Elliott. THE NAPANEE EXPRESS, a quondam journal, run apparently as a mere side show to the Post of this town by an equally enterprising young man, formerly of this town, has had the extremely bad taste to follow its leader so closely as to have also a libel suit on its hands from the very same cause as its older and more sinful contemporary. One would have thought this estimable young man would have had brains enough at all events to have let the Post fight its own dirty battles without any assistance from him, especially as such a foreign matter to the people of Napanee would not be likely to interest his readers in the least. However, Mr. J. C. Rodden will stand none of his nonsense apparently any more than he will the Post's, and on Monday a writ for libel was respectfully sent the Napanee editor to either make the proper apology in his next issue or prepare to make a trip at an early day to Barrie and prove his statements. The Napanee Express of course will correct itself, and that very speedily. Dr. Burrows Again. [To the Editor of the Warde.] SIR,—Notwithstanding the action of the Board of Education in passing a strongly condemnatory resolution the evidence adduced proved that there was a large amount of solid truth in the evidence presented, and the fact that the school board has been induced to make very necessary changes support this contention. The school board may exult in the unanimity of this expression, but I doubt much if it will satisfy other parties then present or the public in general. Yours, etc., P. PALMER BURROWS, Lindsay, May 17th, 1883. Dr. Burrows' Circular. [To the Editor of the Warde.] SIR,—In the supplement of your last issue appears a reply from Dr. Burrows to my communication on the question of the establishment of a separate girls' department in connection with our public schools. This last effort of the worthy doctor and the circular previously issued by him certainly form a most extraordinary production in the interests of educational reform. I may be pardoned at the outset for expressing the regret that he did not submit his manuscript for grammatical criticism and correction to some of "our little girls" before risking its publication. It is to be more deeply regretted, however, that a few cases of improper language and conduct on the part of certain pupils should have led him into scattering broadcast through the public press such a libellous description of the moral tone of our educational institutions. In the face of all that has been written by Dr. Burrows it may surprise the public to learn that during the past year only one case of improper language on the part of a pupil was reported to the board, and that pupil was promptly dismissed. Had the cases of improper conduct within the knowledge of those who are agitating certain charges been reported either to the teachers or to the members of the board, such conduct would have received merit and punishment and the evils complained of been stamped out. Such a course would effect more in removing from our schools "influences, immoral, indecent and subversive of modesty and innocence" than the publication of libels upon the fair fame of the pupils and upon the management of the teachers in charge of them. In his reply, Dr. Burrows has lost sight of the main arguments and statements advanced by myself, and has spent a vast amount of valuable time and space in foolish speculations as to the possible identity and motives of his opponent. Did the worthy doctor forget that the matter at present under discussion is of far greater interest to the people of this community than the existence even of either P. Palmer Burrows or myself? In all questions of public interest what is written is more important than who has written it—of the writer a "self-opinion" is a foolishly-forgotten member of the board of education, or even an honor student of Laval University, I am not a representative of either character, but claim the right to discuss the present aspect of the school question without seeking to place my name so prominently before the public as Dr. Burrows claims he has been forced to do. The first objection to the position taken by Dr. Burrows and his friends is that the imposition of fees upon public school pupils is beyond the power of the board. This serious obstacle to the scheme proposed the doctor has not attempted to remove. In opposition to the overwhelming testimony which to the honor of human nature the first educators of the day have given in favor of the co-education of the sexes we have the simple opinion of Dr. Burrows, in which he is not supported by the majority of the gentlemen associated with him in advocating present changes. But the establishment of a "select public school" is demanded as a matter of right, on the ground that the largest contributors to the school rate have claims as such upon the public funds which the humbler ratepayers have not. This argument if brought to its legitimate conclusion would overthrow the whole system of general taxation. A little reflection must make it clear even to the mind of Dr. Burrows that "a certain firm in town who pay a sum (school rate) equal to all that subscribed by the members of the board" enjoy from public improvements necessary to their trade and supplied from the pockets of the mass of the ratepayers, advantages in comparison with which the sum they contribute to the school rate is as the dust in the balance. The plain duty of the board is to remedy any existing defects in the present system by legislating for the good of the community as a whole, and not by furnishing a "select" public institution from the advantages of which the largest portion of the community would be necessarily excluded. In the petition to be presented to the board by Dr. Burrows and others it is claimed further "that the common school system as at present constituted is in a large degree in favor of professional training," and that what is required is "sound, solid instruction in the common and more elementary branches of a practical and useful character." The framers of the petition have evidently not taken the trouble to find out what the public school programme really is. It comprises the subjects of reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, dictation, grammar, geography, history, elementary drawing and vocal music—certainly subjects of a "common elementary, practical and useful character." The undue prominence given to professional training applies to the high school, and to that institution alone. The extent to which this objectionable feature in our educational system is carried out in that institution at such an absurd cost to the ratepayers of the town, was plainly stated in my last communication. Had Dr. Burrows carefully considered my statements in this connection, he would have discovered a solution to the question under discussion, and would not have sneeringly discussed them with the very classical quotation *cum grano salis*. The present discussion has clearly shown that our public schools are suffering from lack of proper accommodation and possibly from the want of a sufficient supply of teaching ability. Is not the remedy simply that suggested by in my last communication—lessen the absurdly liberal expenditure for the high school, impose fees for strictly professional instruction, and devote the proceeds towards necessary improvements in our public schools? Financially the matter now stands thus: The average cost per pupil per annum in the public school is \$6; in the high school \$35! Average salary in the former institution \$280; in the latter \$525! Total expenditure in salaries for 14 departments in the public school \$3,925; for 4 in the high school \$3,300! Average number of pupils per teacher in the public school over 40; in the high school over 40; in the high school 16! These are statements not to be taken *cum grano salis*—they are facts, and in the present agitation in school affairs worthy of the serious consideration of the board. What have been the returns to the town for such a large expenditure for high school education? Simply that 3 pupils should have matriculated at the universities in 4 years, and that the institution should have the reputation of passing a large number, principally grown-up young men and women from a distance, into the teaching profession. I venture to state that not 20 per cent. of those who have passed the 2nd class teachers' examination within the past 4 years have been *bona fide* pupils of the town. Such is the result of this cramming for the professional examinations that the majority of the young pupils from the town after spending 2 or 3 years at the high school go forth into the business of the world with a hazy idea of the existence of some authors in philosophy or literature, but unable to write a good hand, compose a decent letter, write out an ordinary receipt, or distinguish between a day-book and a ledger. I have simply to appeal to the business men of the town to substantiate the truth of that statement. Is it too much to ask whether "this liberally endowed cramming system be not a frightful mistake, a positive injury and cruelty to the young mind subjected to it?" There has been serious mismanagement somewhere, certainly no lack of liberality on the part of the board. The whole subject financially and from higher points of view is worthy of the consideration of that body, and no doubt the decision will prove in the interests of popular education as opposed to professional training and exam. LINDSAY, May 16th, 1883.

LOWER PRICES THAN EVER. Our study of the market shows that the time has come for a reduction in prices. Looking forward to this we have been making excellent bargains for Cash with jobbers and manufacturers for many weeks. Our plans are now ready, and we will Cut Prices for the balance of the season in a fashion that will surprise you. This is not a clearing sale of old stock, but simply a wise operation on a slow market to turn quickly the best stock of seasonable goods ever offered in this vicinity. We will quote a few prices in proof of what we say, for instance:— Gentlemen's Suits made to order worth \$16 for \$14 " " " " " 18 " 16 " " " " " 20, 17.50 " " " " " 22 " 19 Dress Goods which are cheap at 20 cts. for 15 " " " " " 25 " 20 " " " " " 30 " 25 " " " " " 35 " 30 Carpets of every kind, Cocoa Matting and Mats at Net Cost. Shirts worth 18 cents per yard for 15 cents. Factory Cottons and Steam Looms at 12 and a half per cent. less than old prices. Lace Curtains at 75 cents a pair, And all other goods in our immense stock of Millinery and General Dry Goods at correspondingly Low Prices. James Graham, Late Milne & Graham. Sign of Golden Fleece.

NOTICE. Those with unpaid balances of accounts of 1882 please call and settle without delay. And oblige, SPRATT & KILLEN.

JAMES WETHERUP'S BUILDING HARDWARE At the Lowest Price. All Shades of Mixed Paints Ready for the Brush. Nails, Looks, Hinges, Glass, Putty, Paint Oil, Lead, Dry Colors and Table Cutlery at Special Prices. LACHINE CANAL Notice to Contractors. SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for the formation of Basin near St. Gabriel Locks," will be received at this office until the arrival of the 22nd day of MAY next, at either of which places printed forms of tender can be obtained. Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed form. An accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$2,000 must accompany each tender, which sum shall be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works at the rate and on the terms stated in the offer submitted. The cheque thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted. This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. By order, A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary. Dept. of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 21st April, 1883. 1383-5.

THIS WEEK. New Shapes in Millinery Goods. NEW PARASOLS, NEW GLOVES, NEW HOSEIERY. Above goods all purchased at an EXTRAORDINARY DISCOUNT. For instance, we sell a Kid Glove worth \$1.25 for 50 cents. NOTE—The prices of Canadian Cottons and Cotton Goods are DOWN. Ask our prices. RAY & CO., Hamilton's Block. Lindsay, May 17, 1883.