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Agent for Pianos and Organs

Fenelon Falls, May 20th, 1896.—14-ly

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Highest price for scrap iron,
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THOS. ROBSON.

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

Friday, January 27th, 1899.

That Ten Per Cent. Royalty.

One of the latest arrivals from Dawson city, Mr. W. C. Gates, is authority for the statement that Commissioner Ogilvie has recommended a reduction of the gold royalty to 2½ or 3 per cent. on the net output, adding that "the people of the district had such confidence in Mr. Ogilvie that much extra work will be done next winter and spring, and many claims which have not been considered worth working while the ten per cent. royalty was in force, will now be opened up." All that the Government has been waiting for is reliable data from an unprejudiced source, and if the Commissioner declares for the reduction, action will quickly be taken.

Success of the Agricultural Department.

The great secret of the success which has attended the administration of the Agricultural Department both in the Federal and Ontario Governments is that the Ministers in charge are in every sense of the word, practical men. This is being constantly demonstrated, not only in the high state of efficiency to which the departments have been brought, but also in the up-to-date policy that is being pursued and the excellent results coming therefrom. It is also made manifest upon the frequent occasions when the Ministers appear on the public platform and discuss practical measures with practical men. This week, for example, Hon. Sidney Fisher has been talking to the farmers of Western Ontario upon the importance of care and knowledge in the matter of stock-raising, discussing the latest improvements in butter and cheese making, and posting them in the details of the requirements of the British market. As he told the Western Ontario Cheese and Buttermakers' Association, "The importance of cheese and butter could not be overestimated, as was evidenced by the fact that during the past year some \$17,500,000 worth of cheese had been exported to England. The present was a critical time for this industry, and while in the old country last year he was startled at some things he heard. Canadian cheese was being criticised, and old country cheese was commanding higher prices; and what was worse the criticism was merited, for the quality of the Canadian cheese was not up to the standard. The Canadian cheese appeared to have been heated, and from examination it was evidently not entirely done in transit, but in the curing rooms of the factory." Continuing, the Minister described the steps that had been taken to perfect cold storage facilities on the cars and vessels, concluding with the remark that he hoped they would soon overcome this slur on the Canadian cheese, and again occupy the proud position they should have, in the markets of the world.

Referring to the butter and bacon trade, Mr. Fisher spoke in very optimistic terms, declaring that there was a splendid market for both these staples in the British market, and that both had already secured a high reputation there.

The Bonus Evil.

The Toronto Star says: "The proposal to appoint a commission to investigate the bonus question much resembles a proposal to shelve the subject as a troublesome, but pressing, political issue. The evil of the system

is widely known, and is in fact admitted in the fact that there is upon the statute books a law prohibiting the granting of bonuses, a measure which, however, is constantly being violated by means of special acts. But even these special acts are deprecated by the legislature which supinely passes them, justifying its weakness on the plea that other places having been granted the privilege, it cannot well be refused to fresh applicants. The fact is, the general act is becoming a dead letter, and it should be abolished or enforced without further delay. To abolish it would be to plunge the whole province into a reckless rivalry of bonus giving, so it seems about time to call a sudden halt in special legislation. At any rate, the evil is so generally known that a commission could learn no more than a government official detailed to gather figures."

It is to be hoped that the giving of bonuses even by special legislation will be done away with, as it is an unmitigated evil that has arisen out of the rivalry existing between localities for the possession of factories, mills and other industries, which are practically put up for sale and knocked down to the highest bidder. If, in a city, town or village a business has grown by degrees until it gives employment to fifteen or twenty hands, an application by the proprietor for encouragement in the shape of exemption from taxes or a small bonus would be laughed at; but if a stranger appears upon the scene and proposes to establish an industry upon a not much larger scale, his application for a few thousand dollars is not considered unreasonable, and in the great majority of cases he gets what he asks, because, if his demand be refused, he may take his industry elsewhere—perhaps to a locality in which raw material, shipping facilities, and other "factors" likely to insure its success are not so great as in the one which refuses a bonus. True, a factory employing a large number of hands is a great benefit to the place in which it is located, but that is no reason why its profits should be swelled at the expense of the pockets of the ratepayers. Bonusing will, however, exist until it is put a stop to by legislation, which cannot be passed too soon; and the evil is so palpable and great that we do not see the use of a commission to inquire into it.

Help With a Dollar.

The mortgage indebtedness of the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, entails an interest expense of \$2,250 each year, a heavy drain on the resources of this great charity. It will be remembered that in a recent issue of this paper the wonderful work of the hospital was described, together with an appeal from the trustees, asking that the people of Ontario pay off \$25,000 of the mortgage this year. They had agreed to retire that portion of the mortgage. A generous response has been made, but there is still \$3,000 needed to complete the fund asked for. Over \$22,000 has been paid in; some of it came from the readers of this paper. The charity is provincial and not local. Sick children from every nook and corner of the province are cared for. The chairman of the hospital trust, J. Ross Robertson, M. P., Toronto, writes: "Is there another man in your town who will help the helpless children with a dollar?" Mr. Robertson says that every gift to a worthy charity bears interest for the donor. Three thousand single dollars will do the work—will you give one?

The Dog Case.

On the 19th inst. Mr. M. W. Brandon of the Falls missed a valuable collie dog, about nine months old, of the gentler sex; next day he procured a search warrant, went with Constable Nevison to the premises of his neighbor, Mr. Hugh McDougall, and found the body of the dog, which Mr. McDougall admits he shot, but under circumstances that he alleges justified the act. Not satisfied with his explanation, Mr. Brandon went to Lindsay, accompanied by the constable, and laid an information before Colonel Deacon, who came to the Falls by the noon train on Wednesday to try the case. At the hour appointed, 1 o'clock, quite a number of villagers assembled to hear the trial, but they were disappointed, as, at the request of Mr. McDougall, it was adjourned until Wednesday next at the same hour and place. Mr. Brandon having retained the services of Mr. Hugh O'Leary Q. C., Mr. McDougall thought it advisable to have a lawyer too; and, as he deposited with Constable Nevison a sum sufficient to pay the expenses of the day, he obtained an adjournment for a week, and was bound over, under a penalty of \$100, to appear next Wednesday. Several witnesses had been subpoenaed, but the only one examined was Mr. Robert W. McNeil,

who lives in Verulam about 8 miles from the Falls, and who did not want to make another trip. Mr. McNeil owns the mother of the victim of Mr. McDougall's unerring aim, and her father was the property of Mr. Brandon himself, and was poisoned by some unknown person about a year ago. The dogs appear to be exceedingly well bred, and Mr. Brandon subpoenaed Mr. McNeil with the view of getting him to give an opinion as to the value of the animal that was killed; but the witness declined to do so, though he practically admitted that he would as soon lose one of his cows as a young collie that is a full brother of Mr. Brandon's lamented favourite.

School Board Proceedings.

Fenelon Falls, Jan. 18th, 1899! Board met pursuant to statute. All the members present except Dr. Wilson. Moved by Dr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Heard, That Mr. McDougall be appointed chairman of the board for the ensuing year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Heard, seconded by Mr. Arnold, That the secretary be instructed to ask for tenders for the following: 15 cords of 4-foot hard wood, beech or maple, to be delivered at the north ward school, and ten cords two-foot long to be delivered at the south ward school. Tenders to be received up to Monday, the 30th inst.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Dr. Graham, That W. T. Junkin be re-engaged as secretary and treasurer of this school board for the ensuing year at his present salary of \$35, and that the securities furnished by him, namely Wm. Juskin and Mrs. J. Ellery, be accepted as satisfactory.—Carried.

Moved by Dr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Heard, That the rules and regulations now adopted by our principal regulating the punctual attendance of the pupils at 9 o'clock be satisfactory and approved of by this board.—Carried.

Dr. Wilson entered and took his seat. Dr. Graham retired.

Moved by Mr. Heard, seconded by Dr. Wilson, That Messrs. Arnold and Nevison and the chairman be a committee to visit the south ward school, and Drs. Graham and Wilson and Mr. Heard be a committee to visit the north ward school to see to all necessary repairs and to arrange for the same.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Nevison, seconded by Dr. Wilson, That the chairman sign an order for \$4.50, for three cords of tamarac wood supplied by J. Hillyer.

Moved by Dr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Nevison, That the third Tuesday of each month be the date for regular meetings.—Carried.

Burnt River.

(Correspondence of the Gazette.)

There was a Farmers' Institute meeting on the 23rd inst., which for the first I think I may say was a success. The attendance at the afternoon meeting was not as large as it might have been, still, there was a fairly good attendance. Mr. Maconachie occupied the chair in an able manner, and Mr. Hallman gave a very interesting address on the growing and curing of corn for fodder, incidentally referring to the value of corn as a fodder crop. After Mr. Hallman, Mr. Orr gave an exceedingly good address on "The insect pests and the best manner of fighting them," and treated the subject in a very able manner, but as his remarks applied almost exclusively to fruit tree pests, and as fruit growing has not reached that importance in this locality which is should, his address was not of as much interest as it would otherwise have been; though we might venture to hope that it will be of future benefit, being of the firm belief that apple growing might be made exceedingly profitable in this locality, the apple tree seeming to thrive best on the roughest and stoniest lands. This being the first Institute meeting held here, there was very little discussion, the men present seeming to be too bashful to say anything. Mr. Carnegie gave a very instructive address which contained some valuable instruction on the fodder question.

At the evening session the audience was all that could be desired so far as numbers were concerned. The chair was ably occupied by Mr. John Fell Sr., who opened the meeting with a few well chosen remarks. Mr. Hallman discussed the "hog question"—beg pardon, the Swine Industry (that's what he called it) and gave some very interesting figures relating to the bacon trade and its growth, as also the best manner of retaining and improving the trade with the old country. Miss Evans and Mr. Maconachie contributed in no small degree to the enjoyment of the evening with their choice music.

Some good bargains in ladies' and children's Hosiery and Gloves at Mrs. McDougall's.