



The Woodville Advocate.

"Pro Bono Publico."

WOODVILLE, DECEMBER 2 1880.

SLANDER.

The following letter appeared in the Post of last week, and as will be seen, is from the pen of Mr. Sidney McKenzie, the well known babbler of this neighbourhood. We ask our readers to carefully note his remarks :-

To the Editor of the Post :-

SIR, - A few years since some of the most prominent Scotchmen and descendants of Scotchmen in Woodville and neighbourhood organized a St. Andrew's Society here. A fund was created and several are the instances in which the needy have blessed the society for their timely relief. This society has usually celebrated the natal day of Scotland's patron saint by having a public dinner and an evening of social enjoyment. Last St. Andrew's day was celebrated at the Queen's hotel and a sumptuous spread was laid before the guests. After the cloth was removed the company enjoyed themselves with toast, speech and song. Ale alone was furnished by the society, so the toasts were drunk on ale and cold water, just as the individual chose. Among those present who did not belong to the society were Messrs. Henderson & Cave of the Woodville Advocates, who had been presented with complimentary tickets. They partook of the feast, drank their ale, sang their songs, made their speech, and appeared to enjoy the festivity as heartily as any one present. Many were the congratulations as to the enjoyment of the evening. A few days thereafter the ADVOCATE came out with an editorial derogatory to the company who were present at the dinner and their entertainers. Much dissatisfaction was expressed by many at the ADVOCATE's want of candour and of its discourtesy. At a meeting of the members of the society on the 13th inst., I, in the ADVOCATE'S eye, committed the unpardonable sin of having called the attention of the meeting to the ADVOCATE'S untruthful criticism of a year ago. In its columns of last week the leading editorial is boiling over with frothy nonsense and gross absurdities in respect to this matter, but they are withal careful not to deny the accuracy of the statement I made at the meeting. This model journal informs its readers that it is adverse to misrepresentation and that it can produce any number of those present at the last St. Andrew's dinner who can vouch for the correctness of what I said. The gist of what the ADVOCATE did say was that the single and the married were noisy, drunken, howling, disreputable crowd, which assertion, as is well known, is an infamous slander and an affront to the St. Andrew's society and every person who attended the dinner. It also says that a complimentary ticket was not a sufficient bribe to cause it to withhold its opinion of the proceedings. Unfortunate for its own good reputation complimentary tickets were not a sufficient inducement to deter it from slandering its entertainers. Some are charitably enough disposed towards the ADVOCATE to excuse it on the ground of mental infirmity. Be this as it may the drift of the ADVOCATE in this matter seems to be to injure the Woodville St. Andrew's society in the eyes of the public. Herein is the reason why I write and to ask you to publish this letter in reply to a wanton attack on a respectable and humane society. SIDNEY MCKENZIE.

Were the above letter worthy of comment we might feel tempted to reply, but the utter disregard for truth places the writer far beneath our notice. That Mr. McKenzie has never read the article he refers to, or if he did, it must have been through the mists occasioned by an excessive indulgence in the "Society's ale" will be evident to any intelligent reader who digests the following article which appeared in our issue of December 4th, 1879, and which is the one from which Mr. McKenzie has tolled a whole year to find an insult to the Woodville St. Andrew's Society.

"A St. Petersburg professor has made the discovery that singing prolongs life, and exercises generally a beneficial effect upon the health. The professor further says that the effect of singing on the human body is precisely the opposite of that produced by alcohol. That, in fact, the effects of alcohol are counteracted to a certain extent by singing and shouting. Here then we have an explanation of why those young men made such a noise at the supper on Monday night, singing and shouting at the top of their voices. They were acting on a purely scientific principle, to do away with the unsteady gait and bleary eyes caused by their indulgence. This theory also explains why at a public dinner people never—that is to say, hardly ever—show the effects of what they drink. It is well known that after every toast the company strike up a jolly song, such as, "He's a jolly good fellow," and so wave off the intoxication that would otherwise come. And when a man goes home from a supper party, and finds that he has to climb up on the ceiling to get into bed, and that some one has put his horse on a swivel, and is drawing it around at a rapid rate, he can explain to his wife, not that he has been drinking more, but that he has sang less than usual. Singing undoubtedly prolongs existence. A cat has nine lives, no doubt the result of its intermittent seranading.

If the above letter is with the assent of the Society, which we can hardly believe, Mr. McKenzie is the worst man to whom they could have committed the vindication of its honor—his untruthfulness is proverbial, and we are surprised that the Post with its past experience should have even given place to his communication.

The Post's libel suits seem to have awakened quite an interest in Lindsay school matters among our contemporaries, and much sympathy is expressed for friend Barr. The vigorous writings of the Post have raised some powerful enemies against it, but its editor may console himself with the fact that he has done his duty manfully and well.

As high as \$1.10 has been paid for barley during the past week and many of our farmers are biting their fingers that they sold at sixty to seventy cents. It's no use repining over such matters. It is more than possible that had they the grain on hand they would continue to hold it and make less of it than they have this season. While regretting that the farmers had not received the benefit of the high prices, we are glad prices are upwards instead of down. All kinds of produce are realizing very fair prices and we do not see any reason for grumbling.

BRANDY-DRINKERS will be disgusted to learn that the famous Hennessy brandy, which they have been accustomed to regard as the only pure article of the kind in the whole world, has been counterfeited. The Dominion detective agency has made the discovery that enormous frauds have been practised on the unsuspecting, and that there is more of the spurious article upon the shelves of grocers and in the cellars of wine merchants than there is of the imported article. The bottles stamped and labelled with the Hennessy label were found to contain not one drop of the genuine article.

THE unreasonable price charged by the farmers of this neighbourhood for wood is causing many in the village to adopt the use of coal, and this fall quite a number of coal stoves have been imported. Even at the present high price of coal it is found a far cheaper fuel than wood at the prices charged for it here. \$3.00 per cord in this woollen country is monstrous, while the manner in which it is generally piled is anything but satisfactory to consumers. In two years with the prospective increase in the importation of coal, wood will be a drug in the Woodville market, and farmers will have none to blame but themselves.

NORTH Ontario has no less than four railroad schemes on hand. The first is the Toronto and Ottawa road; but if this should not pass through the locality then the Port Perry and Uxbridge link will claim the attention of the municipalities as completing the connection north and south through the county. The third scheme is the extension of the Whitby and Port Perry line from Manilla station, Maniposa, in a northerly direction. The fourth is the proposed extension of this road from Manilla to Gravenhurst, a distance of about fifty miles. No doubt it is desirable to open up the back country as rapidly as practicable, and no objection can be offered to this being done by private corporations. But municipalities should be careful not to burden themselves too heavily with railroad bonuses. The last named project aims at tapping the future trade over the Pacific railway, and is no doubt in itself commendable; but the people of the county of Ontario should hesitate before agreeing to the proposal to grant aid to the extent of \$5,000 per mile, or \$250,000 in all, for any railway undertaking.

WHAT Canada wants is more school teachers! There were only 250 applications for the Collingwood schools, 150 for those in another town whose name we cannot now remember, and we notice by the Woodville ADVOCATE that for the public school of Kirkfield, a small village in North Victoria, there were 50 applicants. With such a pedagogic famine in the land, we consider it a mistake if farmers do not let loose an additional supply of teachers. A farmer who does not supply at least one teacher from his family has no regard for the exigencies of the age. There is no reason why you should permit your sons to disgrace themselves by honest labor on the old farm, where they can earn a generous competence in an independent manner, while you can fit each of them for being one of the "blue beach" pro-

fession who aspire to a temporary residence on a small pittance, in a back country village! It is all very well to talk of the Pacific Railway, but what Canada is pining for at present is another supernumery army of school teachers! Farmers! if you value the salvation of the country and the peace of mind of your children, give us more pedagogues!—Collingwood Messenger.

Mr. F. GLEN, M. P., for the South Riding of Ontario, has a long letter in the Whitby and Oshawa papers urging that immediate steps be taken to extend the Whitby and Port Perry Railway from Manilla to Gravenhurst, a distance of fifty miles, there to obtain running powers over the Ontario Pacific Junction, and thus tap the trade of the Canada Pacific and the great North West. Mr. Glen considers and endeavours to prove that a very considerable bonus to such a road would be a profitable investment for the County; and so far as the South Riding is concerned he makes out a very fair case. But the only advantage it is pretended the Northern townships would derive is railway connection with the County Town. Now there can be no doubt of the immense inconvenience suffered for many years by the people of Mara, Rama, and Thorah in consequence of the great distance from the County Town in the absence of railway connections, but they are already carrying a heavy railway tax, and they will hesitate before incurring any further responsibility in that direction. Especially is this the case in view of the prospect of having a county town at their very door in a short time, when the new County of Couchiching shall be formed, at a much smaller addition to their taxation than would be entailed by basing Mr. Glen's proposed railway. There is no doubt the proposed "County railway," however popular in the south, will meet with most determined opposition from the north, so long as it is proposed to grant a bonus from the whole County, and to this its promoters had better make up their minds in time.—Packet.

ST. ANDREW'S DINNER.

Last Tuesday being St. Andrew's Day, the members of the Woodville St. Andrew's Society and a number of their friends assembled at the Queen's Hotel to partake of the usual annual dinner. There was a good turn out—about 45 being present. After dinner the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and duly responded to. The Rev. Mr. Hastie replying to "The Day we Honor," in a very masterly manner. Songs were sung, recitations and other amusements indulged in. The spread was all that could be desired, the company being very enthusiastic in its praises. After spending a very pleasant evening, votes of thanks were tendered to gentlemen not members of the Society who had ably assisted in the entertainment. Everything passed off in a very enjoyable manner and the company did not disperse until a late hour.

Our Neighbours.

SUGAR is frozen up. Ice seven inches thick.

ANOTHER run of stones is being put into the grist mill at Little Britain.

THERE were fifty applications for the vacant position of teacher at Warminster.

IN ten years Nottawasaga has built twelve school houses, nine of them brick.

THE ratepayers of Campbellford are to vote on a bonus to a new woollen or cotton factory.

MR. JAMES RUTLEY, of Kirkfield, had ten valuable sheep destroyed by dogs, recently.

A PETERBOROUGH rough had to pay \$20 and spend three months in gaol for hitting a man in a fight.

PORT Perry charges four per cent on arrearages of taxation, and all must be paid by the 15th December.

TRAPPEES and hunters are getting 80c to \$1.50 for mink. 8c to 10c for cat, \$1.50 for beaver, \$8 for fisher and otter.

Two smart little boys at Omamee filled a bottle with gunpowder and fired it off; consequences, bad cuts to legs and faces.

THE Midland Railway Company fell in arrears to the township of Thorah to the amount of \$7,500. It has now been paid in full.

ACCIDENT.—On Monday morning last, while assisting Mr. Chas. Sprout to load pork, Mr. H. N. McKinnon missed his footing and fell backwards on the projecting legs of some dead porkers and broke several of his ribs, and was otherwise severely bruised.—Gleaner.

THE Port Hope News states that the Midland Railway will have a line of boats next summer between Milland City and Chicago and Milwaukee and Thunder Bay.

LEVI STONE has a bill against the town of Whithby of \$88 for sheep killed by dogs. On the other hand, the town has assessed damages against Mr. Broderick in \$30 for sheep killed.

THE Whitby Town Council has resolved to ask the Provincial Government to appoint a Police Magistrate for the town, without salary, further than that arising from fees in the performance of his duties.

THE Casket says: "An intelligent and reliable gentleman of Thorah writes us that in that section scarcely any observance is made of the important provision of the law requiring the bars to close and sales to cease on Saturday evenings, and no one seems to take any cognizance of the fact."

THE Belleville Intelligencer gives a glowing account of the gold mines in Marmora. One company expects to clear \$25,000 a month, and there are reserves of ore now in sight in its mine to supply a mill having a capacity of one hundred tons a day for nearly two years, yielding a net value of \$500,000 to \$700,000.

AN old man named James Glassford, who lived near Beaverton, was found in an insensible condition about three o'clock on Tuesday morning, lying beside the Hamilton House. It appears that he was under the influence of liquor Monday night, and put to bed by the proprietor at twelve o'clock. It is supposed that he fell from one of the upper windows while endeavouring to make his way out. He died shortly after being found.

Mr. J. J. Ross, the popular Superintendent of the Whitby Railway, expresses his conviction that the proposed branches to Gravenhurst and Uxbridge will be built.

LINDSAY, Nov. 26.—While John Copeland, a young farmer, was in a barroom last evening, his team, which had started down the track, was struck by the Toronto train due at Lindsay at 9.10 p.m. Both horses were instantly killed, the head of one of them being completely cut off. The tender was thrown from the track. Fragments of the animals' flesh and of the sleigh and contents were scattered for a considerable distance. No damage was done excepting slight injury to the engine. Some of the passengers walked into town, a distance of two miles, thus saving the delay caused by the tender being thrown off the track.—Globe.

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STRAYED,

INTO the premises of the undersigned, Lot 14, 5th Con. Eldon, on or about the 1st of November, 1880, two SPRING CALVES. The owner can have the same by proving property, paying expenses and taking them away. JAMES EWERS, Eldon, Nov. 29th, 1880.

STRAYED,

INTO the premises of the undersigned, Lot 14, 5th Con. Eldon, on or about Sept. 1st, 1880, a RED BULL, coming two years old. The owner can have the same by proving property and paying expenses. JOHN BIRMINGHAM, Eldon, Dec. 1st 1880.

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