THE ACTON FREE PRESS.

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BUSINESS CARDS.

W. H. LOWRY, M. B., M. C. P. S., Graduate of Trinity College, Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons.—MILL STREET, ACTON.

DR. R. MORROW, Physician, Surgeon, &c., of Bellevue College, New York; also Graduate of Victoria College, Canada. Consultation days—Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9 a. m. till 4 p. m. Residence—West Bower street, Acton.

JAMES MATTHEWS, Con- veyancer, Issuer of Marriage Licenses, Auctioneer, Insurance Agent, Agent Money to Loan, Agent Montreal Telegraph Co., Cor. Fourth Division Court, Canada, G. B., &c., Acton, ONT.

D. HENDERSON, Convey- ancer, &c., &c., also Agent Canada Life Assurance Co. Office—Morning's, recently occupied by Dr. Hall, Mill street, Acton. Money to Loan on Mortgage security. Office—Glasgow House, Acton.

J. D. MATHESON, Attorney- at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery, &c., &c. Office—Corner of Main and Church Streets, Georgetown.

WM. LAIDLAW, Barrister, Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery, &c., &c. Offices:—Hamilton, in King street; Milton, Main street. The Milton Office will be under the management of C. W. Campbell, and Mr Laidlaw will attend at the "Milton Office" on Friday of each week.

HENRY L. DRAKE, INSURANCE AGENT, GUELPH, Agent for the Montreal and Western Assurance Companies. All business entrusted to his care will be promptly attended to. Orders by mail will receive prompt attention. H. L. DRAKE.

PATENTS for INVENTIONS in Canada and the United States and Europe, procured in the shortest time and on the most reasonable terms. Send for circulars. All kinds of Patent business transacted. Address, Canada Mechanical Engineer, Solicitor of Patents and Draughtsman, Guelph, Ont.

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OLIVER LOZIER, Plasterer, Acton. All kinds of work done in Plastering and Whitewashing done on the shortest notice, in a workmanlike manner and satisfaction guaranteed.

ACTON FLOUR MILLS. R. & E. NELSON, Proprietors, Flour and Feed always on hand, which will be sold at the lowest market rates. Chopping done on short notice. Cash paid for all kinds of grain.

ROSSIN HOUSE, Acton. Every attention paid to the wants of the travelling public. THOS. CALL BELL, Proprietor.

DOMINION HOTEL, Acton. Robert Agnew, Proprietor. This new House is now open for the reception of guests. Every attention paid to the wants of the travelling public. Commercial Travellers will find good rooms to show samples, &c. Good Stabling and attentive hostlers. The Bar will be kept supplied with the best brands of Liquors, Wines, Cigars, Good Stabling and attentive hostlers.

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KENNEDY'S Marble Works, Opposite side from Mills & Hamilton's Foundry, and Near Eramosa Bridge, Guelph. ALL KINDS OF **MONUMENTS** Tomb Stones, Mantle Pieces, &c., made to any size or design, and put up in any part of the country. ☞ Scotch Granite Monuments imported to order. P.S.—A. Kennedy is a practical marble cutter.

PRIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Now is the Time for Cheap Pictures.

Best Retouched and Burnished Photographs reduced to $1.00 per dozen at the

Ontario Photograph Gallery, Acton.

Call at once and obtain a good and cheap picture, finished in the best style, before prices are again advanced.

N. B.—We were awarded all the first prizes over all competitors at the late County Fair at Milton, Oct. 13th and 14th, 1875.

C. W. HILL, Photo. Acton, Nov. 26, 1875. 22-3m

FARM FOR SALE.

One hundred acres of land, well wooded, being the east half of Lot 21, in the 3rd Concession, in the Township of Esquesing. For particulars address THOMAS GARVIN, Erin P.O., Ont., Nov. 30, 1875.

BOARDERS.

Parties wanting board in a private house can hear of such accommodation by applying at the FREE PRESS office. Acton, March 1, 1876.

DOMINION HARNESS SHOP.

The subscriber begs to announce to the inhabitants of Acton and vicinity that he has commenced the harness business in the

Old Post Office Building,

MILL STREET, ACTON,

where he is prepared to turn out work second to none in the Dominion, as cheap as the cheapest, and on the shortest possible notice. I have on hand a large and well selected stock of

Horse Blankets. Whips. Brushes. Combs. Trunks. etc.

Repairing promptly attended to. Give me a call and be convinced.

J. F. DEMPSEY

Acton, Nov. 25, 1875.

ACTON BAKERY.

Hurrah. Hurrah.

CHEAP BREAD.

Opposition is the life of trade. Buy Galloway's superior Bread.

D. GALLOWAY

Begs to announce to the inhabitants of Acton and vicinity that he has removed his Baking Establishment to the premises next door to Morrow's drug store, where he has built a first-class new oven and refitted the premises in a first-class style for a Bakery and Confectionery Business, and is turning out

BETTER BREAD THAN EVER,

Buns,

Cakes,

Biscuits,

Pastry,

Candies,

All of the best quality and at greatly reduced prices.

Mixed Candies at 25c per lb.

Produce of all kinds taken in exchange for Goods.

Weight for weight given in Bread in exchange for Flour.

Graham Bread a specialty.

Bread, Buns and Cakes delivered every day, free, around the village.

WEDDING & FANCY CAKES made to order and on hand, in the latest styles and at reasonable charges.

N. B.—All goods are warranted pure, as nothing but the best of material is used.

The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.

Call and see for yourselves.

GALLOWAY BROS.

Acton, March 8, 1876.

ACTON PLANING MILLS AND Pump, Sash, Door and Blind Factory,

THOMAS EBBAGE, Manufacturer of

Window Sash, Doors, Venetian Blinds Mouldings,

And other Building Requisites Also Makers of IMPROVED SUCTION PUMPS

Lumber Planed and Dressed to order in the best manner.

☞ All work guaranteed.

Acton, Jan., 1876.

PURE MILK.

The undersigned begs to thank his customers for the liberal patronage received during the past summer, and would say that he is now prepared to supply an additional number of customers with good, pure, fresh milk delivered every morning, and twice a day on Saturdays. Parties who keep cows will find it much cheaper and less trouble to get milk delivered at their doors, and they would do well to sell their cows and buy their milk. Twenty-one quart tickets for $1, if paid in advance, or twenty-one pint tickets for 50 cents.

P. S. ARMSTRONG.

Acton, Nov. 10th, 1875.

JOB PRINTING of all kinds neatly and promptly executed at the FREE PRESS OFFICE, Next the Post Office, Mill Street.

A HUNDRED YEARS TO COME.

[In these days when the Centennial reigns in every story and song, we may fitly pause to read the following beautiful lines:—]

Where, where will be the birds that sing
A hundred years to come?
The flowers that now in beauty spring,
A hundred years to come?
The rosy lip, the lofty brow,
The hearts that beat so gaily now?
O, where will be love's beaming eye,
Joy's pleasant smiles, and sorrow's sigh
A hundred years to come.

Who'll press for gold this crowded street,
A hundred years to come?
Who tread yon church with willing feet
A hundred years to come?
Pain, trembling age and fiery youth
And childhood, with its brow of truth—
The high, the low, the bond the free,
The rich, the poor, on land and sea,
A hundred years to come.

We all within our graves shall sleep,
A hundred years to come!
No living soul for us to weep,
A hundred years to come.
But other men our lands shall till,
And other men our streets will fill,
While other birds will sing as gay,
As bright the sunshine as to-day,
A hundred years to come.

"NOT A DROP MORE, DANIEL."

Daniel Akin had become a confirmed drunkard. So fully had he come under the dominion of the bottle, that he was perfectly miserable when he could not obtain the means of gratifying his thirst. He had neglected his family till his wife's father had taken her and the children to the parental roof. He had spent all his substance in drink and was kept from the poorhouse only by performing menial services for his food and the kindness of Thomas Edgerton, a member of the Society of Friends, who had known him from his youth, and who had a strong hope that, in the course of time, he would see his folly and turn again into the right path.

Hoskins, the leading liquor seller of the place, had let him have drink so long as his money lasted but would trust him no longer. He was lounging about the saloon one bright moonlight evening, pleading with the keeper to trust him for a drink. His reply was sharp and unfeeling:

"Not a drop more, Daniel!"

He remained a while longer and then left. As the cool air of the evening fell upon him, he, all at once, gave utterance to his feelings in the following strain:

"'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Am I drunk or am I sober? Did Hoskins think a drop would hurt me? No; but my money was gone. He has got all; got everything I had—even the Bible my mother gave me. He has got the boots which my wife, with her own earnings bought for Jennie. 'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Daniel, what say you to that? I say so, too. I once had good clothes, but now, I have nothing but rags. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till I have clothes again as good as when Mary and I were married.

"I once had a good watch; but that too is gone. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till I have another horse and buggy as I once had. I once had cows that furnished my family with butter and cheese, but Hoskins has got them. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till those cows, or other goods, are mine again. I once had this wallet full of bills; but now not a cent have I got. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till this wallet is well filled again."

By this time he had reached the place where he formerly resided, and leaning up against the fence, he mused a long time in silence. He viewed the desolate place by the light of the moon, and his eyes ranged over the house and farm, once his own. He then said to himself: "Once I owned this house and farm. Here I was born. Here my father and mother died. I was the pride of their hearts; but I brought down their gray hairs with sorrow to the grave! Here I began my married life, and all that heart could wish was mine. Here Mary and I took comfort together, till Hoskins came and opened his rum shop, and now he calls it his. In that south room my children were born, there my Jennie died. O, how sorrowful she looked when she saw me take her boots and start for the store to pawn them for rum, while she lay sick upon the bed. And then, how she begged for me never to strike her mother again! I can see her now—her pale face, her wasted form, she cannot come to me again. And O, my wife how shamefully I abused her! It was not your Daniel that did it. No, it was Hoskins' accursed rum! No wonder you were taken from me by those who loved you and would not see you abused. They won't have me in the house; they won't let me live with you. 'Not a drop more, Daniel' till this house is mine again. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till these broad acres are again in my possession and the wife and children that are living are in yonder rooms and we are a happy family once more. 'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Help me, my God, till all these things are accomplished! I thank you, Hoskins, for these words. I shall not forget them."

He had become so much occupied with his thoughts and spoken in a tone so loud, that he had not noticed the waggon which had reached the road, in which was seated the kind-hearted Quaker before mentioned. He stopped his horse and heard distinctly the language Daniel used. As he closed his soliloquy, he turned and saw Thomas Edgerton, who said:

"Daniel, does thee mean to keep thy vow?"

"Yes, friend Edgerton, I do."

"Thee has promised a great many times thee'd drink no more. What makes thee think thee will keep thy vow this time?"

"I know, friend Edgerton, I have often vowed I would drink no more. But now I feel different from what I have felt before; my heart is almost broken and I feel my weakness; and I believe God will help me this time."

"God grant that it may be so! Daniel, get in and take a seat. Thee must be hungry; go home with me."

On the way the Quaker drew out of him all that has been written, and he advised him to go to California. He told him to go to New York and work his way round the Cape. He decided to do so. The Quaker kindly promised to furnish him with suitable clothing.

"Thee would like to see thy wife and children before thee goes?"

"I should—but they have become so estranged from me: if I went perhaps they would not believe me. I think it would be better they should not know where I am. I want to surprise them and hope to do so by coming back a sober man, and with money enough to make them comfortable. I prefer that you and your wife should be the only persons in the place who shall know where I am or what I am doing."

Thus, while riding toward the quiet farm-house of the Quaker, the whole thing was arranged. When they reached the farm the horse was put into the barn, and they entered the house. As they seated themselves before the fire, the Quaker said to his wife:

"Amy, thee can put on another plate. Daniel will stay with us a few days, and then he is going to California."

The good Quaker felt confident Daniel would keep his word this time. At the end of a few days everything was in readiness. The old horse was harnessed, and before daylight Daniel Akin was on his way to the railway station. He had not been in the village since the night when the words, "Not a drop more, Daniel," were uttered. He was missed from his customary haunts; but it was supposed he had gone on a spree, and so nothing was thought of his absence. No inquiries were made, for all were glad that he was missing and cared not for his return. He had been gone somewhat more than a year, when the Quaker was in the store of Hoskins and wished to hire a pasture for the coming season.

"I have one I will let you have free if you put up the fences on the place," said Hoskins.

"Where is it?" said the Quaker.

"It's on the Akin farm," was the reply.

"If thee will let it at that rate, thee must have let it get out of repair."

"It is indeed. I cannot leave the store to look after it. The house is poor, and the family who lived in it were too shiftless to buy wood, so they burnt up all the fences; in fact, I would rather sell it than rent it."

"What will thee take for it?" inquired the Quaker.

"It cost me $1600."

"Yes, but thee paid in goods, and charged thine own price for them."

"To be sure I did. Akin could not get trusted anywhere else, and I felt I was running a great risk in letting him have goods, so I charged accordingly; just as everybody else would have done under the circumstances."

"But thee has not told me what thee will take for the place. I will give thee $800 for it, if that is any object to thee."

Hoskins thought long enough over the matter to conclude that the interest on $800 was far better for him than a farm for the use of which he realized nothing, and at last he said, "You can have it."

"Very well, Hoskins, thee can make out the deeds to-morrow, and thee shall have thy money. By-the-by, does thee know what has become of Daniel Akin?"

"No, he has not been in the village for more than a year; at any rate I have not seen him."

We may here tell the reader something that Hoskins did not know. The Quaker had that day received a letter from Daniel Akin, stating that he was at the mines hard at work and sticking to his motto, "Not a drop more, Daniel;" that he had laid up a few hundred dollars and desired him to enquire what the place he once owned could be bought for.

Mr. Edgerton had taken the method above mentioned to find out the views of Hoskins respecting the place; so confident was he that Daniel Akin would come home a sober man, with money in his pocket, that he had ventured to purchase the place to keep for him till his return.

He wrote to Akin, informed him what he had done; and about three months after he received a letter from him stating that he had sent by express $500 in gold to a banker in New York, with orders to sell it and remit the proceeds to him, to go towards the money for the farm.

Gold at that time commanded a high premium, and the $500 became $800 before it reached the hands of friend Edgerton. Akin requested him to draw up a deed giving the property to his wife Mary, to have it duly recorded and left with the register of deeds.

In his letter he said: "If, perchance, I should ever break my resolution, I shall have secured a home for my wife and children. I prefer, however, that they should not know anything of this for the present. If I live to come home, I will give Mary the deeds with my own hands, if not, you can do it. Now that the farm is bought, you had better stock it, for I still stick to my motto, 'Not a drop more, Daniel.'"

Another year passed away. By this time friend Edgerton had stocked the farm with young cattle and sheep, the fences were put in repair, and everything but the house wore a tidy appearance. Another remittance came, which paid for all the stock and left an over-plus with which to repair the house. Carpenters were busy, and villagers who happened to pass that way found that extensive repairs were going on; still no one presumed to question his plans. These repairs completed, furniture found its way into the house. A yoke of oxen were sent on the farm. The villagers were astonished to see the Quaker driving an elegant horse and riding in a new buggy. He received this short note one day:

"I have arrived safe and sound. Please go and get Mary and the children."

Friend Edgerton rode over to the next town and called on Mary's father, and invited her and the children to go home with him and make a visit. The invitation was accepted and they returned with the Quaker to his house. On the afternoon of the next day he said:

"Mary, I want to go to the railway station. Thee and the children can stay with Amy."

He went down to the station and fetched Daniel and left him at his own house, where he had previously conveyed some provisions, and where he was to pass the night. It was dark when friend Edgerton reached his home.

Next morning friend Edgerton said to Mary: "Mary, I suppose thee has heard I bought thy old place? I have got it fitted up, and the children shall ride over after breakfast and see it. I think thee will like it."

They rode over, and Mary was surprised to see the changes which had taken place. They looked over the house and the rooms. Over the mantlepiece in the sitting room was a frame, and under the glass, in large gold letters, were these words:

"NOT A DROP MORE, DANIEL!"

Mary, on reading these words, said, "O, friend Edgerton, if Daniel could have said these words and stuck to them this beautiful place might have still been his."

"Then thee don't know where Daniel is?" said the Quaker.

"No, I have not heard anything of him for more than three years."

"Thee would like to see him, would thee not?"

"O yes, indeed I should."

"Let us walk up stairs."

As they went up the front stairs Daniel slipped down the back ones and took his stand in the front room. When they returned, Mrs. Akin noticed a stalwart man standing in the room with his back to the door, and started back for an instant. The quaker said:

"It is a friend, Mary."

Daniel turned around; but in the man with the heavy beard and moustache Mary did not recognize her husband. Daniel advanced to the step where Mary was standing, and in a voice tremulous with emotion, exclaimed:

"Don't you know me, Mary?"

We leave the reader to imagine what the meeting was. Friend Edgerton said he must go and see Amy, and addressing himself to Mary, said:

"Mary, this home and farm are thine. Daniel has got the papers and will give them to thee. Thee can stay as long as thee likes; thee will live happily once more, for that, pointing to the frame over the mantlepiece—'Not a drop more, Daniel,' is his motto now, and will be as long as he lives."

Daniel and his wife fell on their knees before the Lord. Their prayers were mingled with many tears; but in their future lives those prayers were found to be answered.

Several years had passed away since the above events occurred and Daniel Akin, now an earnest Christian man still sticks to his motto, "Not a drop more, Daniel!"

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

A good conscience is a continual feast.

They who would rule safely must rule with love, not arms.

The best of riches is contentment; the worst of poverty, low spirits.

Prosperity seems to be scarcely safe unless it is mixed with a little adversity.

Some people use one-half their ingenuity to get into debt, and the other half to avoid paying it.

There are many who say more than the truth on some occasions, and balance the account with their consciences by saying less than the truth on others.

If regimen, equity and morality were well understood and conscientiously practised, the physician, the lawyer and the clergyman would be spared a vast deal of trouble.

FUNNIGRAPHS.

Something about dogs—fleas.

A dough-mestic difficulty—heavy bread.

Spring is on hand—Lettuce have peas.

Improving one's time—mending the clock.

It takes a pretty smart man to tell when he is happy.

The home circle—walking round with the baby at night.

What is better than a promising young man? A paying one.

When a man can't find anything to do, he has lived long enough.

Why is the sun like a good loaf? Because it's light when it rises.

Question for actors—Can an actor be said to work when he plays?

In what ship has the greatest number of people been wrecked? Courtship.

The man who doesn't hang out his shingle and advertise dies and leaves no sign.

Those who rise to eminence suddenly are very apt to come back on the next train.

Bashfulness is often like the plating on spoons — when it wears off it shows the brass.

A Spanish proverb says: "A kiss without a moustache is like an egg without salt."

"Why do you use paint?" asked a violinist of his daughter. "For the same reason that you use rosin, papa." "How's that?" "Why, to help me to draw my beau."

Nevada ice-dealers are already preparing to double their prices next summer, upon the ground that the crop will be almost entirely eaten up by the grasshoppers.

A man in Minnesota recently made a fire in his barn to drive out the mosquitoes. The insects probably got out, but the man's two horses were not so fortunate. They went with the barn.

Cash and Credit.

An enterprising grocer in the town of Santa Clara, California, has adopted an original method of business. Each side of the store is fitted up for business on its own account. In the general arrangement each side is a duplicate of the other, the difference being that one side is cash and the other credit. When a customer comes in, the first question asked is, "Do you wish to buy for cash or on account?" If it is a cash customer, the goods and prices on the cash side are shown, but if it is one who wants credit, he is shown the other side, and for the first time in his life, perhaps, made to realize the value of ready money.

Streaked Butter.

The cause of streaked butter is in the imperfect working of the butter after it is salted. Salt in butter sets the color, or deepens and brightens it; so that if the salt is worked into the butter, and not so fully worked as to salt every part, then the fresh butter retains the color it had when it came from the churn, and the salt butter grows so much darker that it is decidedly streaked. The remedy is to work the streaked butter more thoroughly.

Halton County Council

Council met March 7th, pursuant to adjournment. The Warden in the chair. Members present—Messrs. Buck, Clay, Clements, Foster, Menzies, McGarvin, Ramsay, Robinson, Warren, Watson and Young.

AUDITORS REPORT.

On motion of Col. Clay, seconded by Mr. Clements, the auditors' report was adopted and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS.

Mr. Clements, from committee on printing, reported tenders had, in response to advertisement, been received for printing the minutes, and the work had been awarded to *The Oakville Express*—the lowest tender.

Col. Clay thought the committee ought to report before awarding the contract.

Mr. Clements pointed out that it had been the express instructions of the Council to get the work done with the least possible delay; and considering that fact, and that there was no doubt as to the lowest tender, nothing could suffer by the work being placed promptly in the hands of the printer. The advertising of the list of convictions was different, and the committee left that matter to the decision of the Council. Mr. Young said the only object aimed at by the committee was to save time. As regarded the advertising, he moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the ACTON FREE PRESS be awarded the contract for advertising the list of convictions for the current year, the tender from that office being the lowest of any in the county. There was a lower tender, but that paper was printed in Hamilton.

Col. Clay had no political organ to support; but if the only objection to the *Argus* was that it was printed in Hamilton, he thought that paper ought to have the contract. It made no difference if the paper was printed in Chicago. In his opinion the committee ought to have settled the whole matter.

Mr. Warren thought it would be unwise to spend any county money outside of the county. He differed from Col. Clay. It did make a difference whether a paper was published in Hamilton or Chicago or in the county. All members of the council had or ought to have a greater interest in promoting the prosperity of the county than that of Chicago or Hamilton. It might be said it was a small matter; but the principle was the same whether the amount of money expended was large or insignificant. The Council had always acted upon this principle of confining these matters within the limits of the county.

The Warden thought the meaning of the word "published" could only apply to a Journal domiciled in the county.

The motion was passed, awarding the advertising of the list of convictions to the FREE PRESS office.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Dr. Buck, chairman of the standing committee on finance, presented their report, which was read, and adopted.

SCHOOL INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Dr. McGarvin moved, seconded by Dr. Buck, that the report of the Inspector of High and Public Schools be received.

The report was received and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

By permission, Mr. Little, the Inspector, addressed the Council referring to the report just presented by him. He pointed out the fact that there was a falling off in attendance last year, although there were a larger number of pupils enrolled. Only two per cent attended school the year round. The falling off in attendance was two per cent. The best attendance was at Oakville—65-70 per cent, Milton came next with 49 per cent, Nelson, 45; Esquesing, including Acton, 38; and Nassagaweya, 37 per cent. He had found in visiting schools that in some cases the attendance was so bad that entire classes were sometimes absent. This was the greatest evil that militated against the prosperity of our public schools; and if the Council could devise some means of mitigating it, great good would result. He thought the evil was promoted by frequent changes of teachers, and the engagement of those of a low grade. The Council of public instruction never intended that teachers holding third class certificates should be placed in charge of schools—they were to be employed as assistants. This was a matter entirely under the control of the trustees; although any ratepayer could insist and compel the employment of a competent person—one holding a second class certificate. The cause of the frequent change of teachers was purely financial in most cases. He knew of Trustees who engaged teachers holding a third class certificate a short time to take charge of a school which had been previously under the management of thoroughly efficient teachers, whom they had discharged because they asked a reasonable increase of salary. He referred to the state of the school libraries in the county. The best was at Acton, which numbered about 1100 volumes, worth $1000. The next best was at Oakville, 600 volumes. There were good libraries in two sections of Esquesing, and also one at Burlington. In Nassagaweya each S. S. had nominally a library, but they were seldom used. He found it very difficult to enforce the law regarding the engagement of assistant teachers. The buildings and ground attached, used for school purposes throughout the county, with one exception, provided the accomodation the law required.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, that the following gentlemen comprise the board of examiners for the present year, viz: Messrs. Robert Little, P. A. Switzer, B.A., C. H. Lusk, and Rev. F. Tremayne.

Dr. McGarvin thought that Dr. Lusk should not be appointed examiner. He was one of the high school teachers, and consequently would send up pupils to be examined. It might lead to favoritism. The position of Mr. Switzer was different. Three could do the work.

Mr. Young could not see the force of Dr. McGarvin's objection. The examination papers had to be sent to the Department at Toronto. So that favoritism was impossible.

Mr. Warren thought the great point to be secured was to secure efficient teachers. It was rather humiliating to find on the authority of the Inspector, after the very large expenditure of money—voluntary in many instances and compulsory in more—that the working of our educational institutions was so indifferent. He doubted whether it would have been so under our old system. The late regulations had turned out of the profession large numbers of efficient teachers, and he looked to this, rather than to low salaries, as the cause of the lack of well qualified teachers, who although not possessed of high class certificates were trained by long practice and were well qualified to teach the branches it was most needful to know. Last year only 23 second-class certificates were granted. This left very few to choose from. The examiners ought to pay greater attention to ability to teach. It was quite possible for a teacher to take the highest certificate and yet be a very poor teacher. Another reform greatly needed was that the power be granted to trustees to allow pupils to confine their attention to certain branches that it was most necessary they should know, and exclude others. This could be done without interfering with the efficient working of a school. He thought many books were placed in school libraries which he thought objectionable. He referred to works of fiction.

Mr. Little said the trustees selected the books, and if objection was taken to them they alone were to blame.

Col. Clay thought it would be better that the examiners be non-residents of the county, as then there could not possibly be any charge of favoritism. That, in his opinion, was the reason why persons outside the county had hitherto been appointed.

Mr. Menzies said the reason why non-residents were appointed was because there was none in the county who were legally qualified. That was the distinct ground taken last year.

The motion of Mr. Young was then put and carried.

TRAFALGAR AND ESQUESING ROAD.

Col. Clay reported that the special committee appointed to carry out the resolution of the Council regarding the toll-gate on the 7th line Esquesing, had met the President and trustees of the Road Co. They presented the case to them as strongly as possible, urging upon them to yield gracefully to the inevitable, and not force the county to institute a suit against them. The trustees then handsomely agreed to surrender all claims, and allow the charter to lapse after the 22nd February. He was glad to inform the Council that the whole matter was now settled and the toll-gate removed.

THE RAILWAY DEBENTURES.

By permission of the Council, Messrs. Williams, Dayfoot, and Sanford addressed the Council on behalf of the Hamilton and North Western Railway Company, requesting that the debentures issued by the County of Halton should be delivered to the Trustees.

A lengthy discussion here ensued between the members of the deputation and the Council, the latter being opposed to allowing the de-