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THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Acton Free Press

JOS H MACINTOSH EDITOR

TUESDAY MORNING, April 13, 1876.

The business of the session of the Dominion Parliament was concluded on Tuesday, and the House was prorogued yesterday. A motion was submitted by Mr. MacKenzie authorizing the Government to enter into contracts during recess for work on the sections of the Pacific Railway from Fort William westward towards Lacs des Milles Lakes and the crossing of St. River, from Rat Portage to Cross Lake. After brief remarks by Messrs. Thompson, (Caribou) and Currier, the motion was adopted. The Supply Bill was afterwards introduced, and passed through all the stages.

The Dominion Government have purchased the site on which the Wellington Hotel stands in Guelph, and the contracts will shortly be given out for the pulling down of the present building, and for the erection of a magnificent structure in its place, for a post office, custom house, and other public offices.

The House of Representatives will discuss Mr. Elijah Ward's Bill to appoint three Commissioners to confer with a like number of representatives of Canada on the subject of reciprocity on May 23rd. Meantime the Committee on Commerce has reported the Bill adversely.

It is proposed in order to give the people of Canada an opportunity of seeing what sort of a show their country made at the Centennial, to collect all the goods allotted to the Dominion and in conjunction with some associations that were made hold a grand exhibition in Toronto in the fall.

Temperance advocates will be interested in the fact that Mr. G. W. Ross, M.P., has given notice of a motion for an Address to His Excellency for copies of all correspondence between the Government and the Lieutenant Governors of the different Provinces regarding the relative jurisdiction of the Dominion and Provincial Parliaments over the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors; together with all decisions of the Courts in the different Provinces bearing on this matter.

Death of A. T. Stewart.

The telegraph announces the death of Alexander T. Stewart, New York's colossal merchant. Over forty years ago he arrived in the commercial metropolis of the Union from Ballymena, County of Antrim, Ireland, and commenced life there as a school teacher. The experience he had of pedagogism was not satisfactory, and he retired from it to enter upon the dry goods trade in the very smallest way. From a little shop he prospered to a store, and from a store to the levithian emporium with which every visitor to New York is made acquainted. His retail establishment alone covers twelve acres, and affords employment to over five thousand persons, male and female. His wealth, estimated at \$100,000,000, and assets at over \$50,000,000. The estate is expected to pay dollar for dollar.

Reports, from below Memphis said that the overflow of the Mississippi extends 70 miles up the Arkansas and 130 miles up the White River; while in front of the city it extends to Madison, 40 miles.

The failure of Messrs. Dredge & Co., wholesale publishers, bookbinders, &c., of Toronto, is announced. Their liabilities are placed at \$43,000, and assets at over \$50,000. The estate is expected to pay dollar for dollar.

Robert Davies, sworn, said—The house burned was in Caledon, on lot No. 3, third line east; Christopher Ward came to our house about daylight on Thursday morning; I told him to put on some clothes; I asked him how the house got on fire, and he said, 'we were quarrelling and we broke the lamp'; I understood it was the woman and him that were quarrelling; the lamp had been spilled, he said, and I went to the house; I went to the window, but I could not see into the room where the bed was; I didn't look at the window, but I went round to the door, the glass was broken; I opened the door, the glass came out so I couldn't see into the house; there was no one at the burning house when I got there, and my boy was the first that came afterwards; I stopped while it burned; Christopher Ward came back while I was there, and I asked him where the woman was; he told me she was in the house; I do not think I asked him any more, but he went on to say that he couldn't get her out, or something like that; I was not at the taking up of the remains, but I saw some things in the cellar afterwards; he did not stop at the burning house ten minutes; then he went to the house; I went over to stay a couple of days with them; I stopped till about eight or nine o'clock at night; I saw they were not agreeing very well; they were quarrelling; I went home that night; I didn't like to stay when I saw the way they were going on; when I was leaving the woman said she was afraid to stay in the house with him; she told me that one night this week her husband had told her to go on her knees and say her prayers, for she had not long to live.

Christopher Ward asked the witness if she observed that he had a piece of lead and some pins in his hand; he said he did not care for all that was lost if she had been saved; I saw the glass from the broken window lying on the ground three or four feet from the wall; Christopher Ward told me that they were sleeping in that room; the window was on the west side of the house, and the wind from the west struck right against the window; I could not see whether the bedroom door was open; he was at our place the day before, but I was not at home; he told my wife that he wanted to get one of my girls to stop with them half a month, as his wife was afraid to stop with him, and for her to see

Miss Davies replied that she remembered him talking about a piece of lead; Mrs. Ward said if he got a pin among the potatoes, it must have fallen out of Mary Morrison's dress.

Ward exclaimed—"I wish to God she was alive now, and she could tell why the pins and the lead got in my vegetables; I was never used to having pins and lead in my food." Drs. Robinson and McKinnon handed in the following:

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MURDER AND ARSON IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CALEDON.

Woman killed by her Husband and the House set on Fire.

A tragic event happened last Thursday about three quarters of a mile from the small village of Killmough, on the boundary line between the townships of Chinguacousy and Caledon, and on the third concession road in Caledon East. A young farmer, named Christopher Ward, had been married about five months to Mary Mayne, and according to the evidence of the neighbors they had not lived very harmoniously. Ward's relations are all respectable people, living on adjoining farms. On the morning of Thursday last a neighbor was surprised at the disturbed and unaccountable appearance of Ward, in perfect misery save the socks upon his feet. The cause of the alarm was immediately explained by his information and the sight of the burning house about one hundred and fifty yards distant. The excited man related that he had made his escape from the fire in that condition, and the fire arrived at the burning house had the evidence confirmed in a short time that the woman had indeed fallen a victim to the fire. They quenched the flames, and proceeded to the spot gathering up what remained of a fair body. The legs were burnt off above the knees; the hand was found nearly entire, but the arms were fallen off and the head also, which in the search could not be found at all. When the spectators had recovered from the horror of the event, and began to speculate on the circumstances, they felt there was more than accident in the event that had terminated so fatally. It was remembered that the survivor, Ward, had manifested some years ago certain indications of unsound mind, and it was remarked from one neighbor to another that his conduct to the wife of a few months had not been uniformly kind. In looking for a motive for such an act the more observant hinted that jealousy was the precipitating cause. Many incidents had seemed too trivial for more than a passing notice were now remembered that proved how watchful the husband had been over every detail of the deceased wife's conduct. No other cause is assignable for the disagreements that existed between them. It is possible, however, that these things may be exaggerated, and the man be entirely innocent. Mr. Thomas Sandercock, postmaster in the village, assisted by two neighbors, had made the exhumation of the remains from the (smouldering) heap, and found fresh material for suspicion. On reaching the remains, and scraping away the ashes from the side, he found the blade of an ordinary butcher knife, the handle being burnt off. This was lying close by the portion of the trunk which alone was left of the body. The news of the catastrophe was rapidly spread throughout the district.

An inquest was held on Friday, by Coronor Allison and the following evidence taken:

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Mr. Moody thinks there is less danger to be apprehended from politics than from arts and bazaars.

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The Toronto City Council has determined not to submit by-laws regarding houses asked for on behalf of blast furnaces and carpet manufacturers.

The telegrams are full of wars and rumors of wars. An insurrection has broken out in Algeria, and serious outbreaks are reported from Bustar, Madras Presidency.

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James Wylie, the herd ladde, and his brother accompanied draughts player, was defrauded last week by a Mr. Yates, of Brooklyn, who won two games out of twenty-seven played, the remaining twenty-five being drawn.

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