

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

Published Every Thursday Morning. \$1 Per Annum in Advance. Acton Free Press. J. W. HARRISON, EDITOR.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 1876.

STATUTE LABOR.

It is high time that this relic of bygone ages was allowed to take its place with the "things of the past." In the days of the feudal tenure of old Norman times each vassal or field laborer was compelled to perform so many days work to keep in order the roads leading to the castle of his lord; the blacksmith had to give a portion of his time for shoeing his lordship's horses; the wheelwright for making and repairing his carriages; the tailor for making his garments; and so on. Everyone now-a-days would regard this as a system of tyranny to which they would hardly submit. Still it was a more sensible system than that which prevails in Canada with respect to Statute Labor. The tenant did not require the field laborer to perform the work due by the wheelwright; nor the blacksmith to fashion the garment he wore; nor the armorer to forge the colters of his plow. Each artisan and laborer was set to the work which he knew how to perform, and the probability is that he did it properly.

As at present conducted, the system of road making and repairing by statute labor is not only one of the most ridiculous pieces of petty tyranny of modern times, but is one of the greatest humbugs. Road making is a thing that requires skilled labor. But how often do we find an exhibition of skill or systems in the making or repairing of our roads under the superintendence of our pathmasters? Very rarely do we have those who have had any experience in the business. And it cannot therefore be expected that they can have the work done in a good and efficient manner.

Each year new pathmasters are appointed by the Council for the various beats in the municipality. Occasionally an intelligent man may, during his term of service, acquire some little insight into the science of road working, and he might in another year, even with the poor material at his command, perform something like creditable work. But no; as soon as he has attained some knowledge of these matters his term of service has expired and he has to give place to another pupil, who in like manner must succumb to the third, and so on ad infinitum. Even the most experienced and most intelligent pathmaster has such difficulties to contend with as almost to set at naught the exercise of any system which he may attempt.

The material, both animate and inanimate, with which he has to deal is usually wretchedly bad. Statute labor days are looked upon by most men as holidays, in which they are expected to do as little real labor as they conveniently can—when the eye of the "boss" is not on them they do almost nothing. The farmer who is assessed for so many days labor usually sends his worst hands and his poorest team; the carpenter, the shoemaker and the tailor who desert their bench to do the work of the navy, soon tire of wielding the pick and shovel, and the consequence is, the evening of each day shows very small results. And owing to their unskillfulness it very often occurs that little had better been left undone.

Another most serious objection to the system of statute labor is, that the work is usually done at such seasons of the year as may meet the convenience of the people, without reference to the state of the weather and its influence on the road. The work is often left off until late in the season, the fall rains come upon it before the disturbed earth becomes beaten down, and the mud holes are worse than before they were touched. In towns and incorporated villages the Councils have it in their power to do away with statute labor and enforce a money payment instead. It is a great pity this rule does not extend to townships as well, and that the money so paid be expended in a systematic manner on the roads, under an efficient and paid superintendent. We fully believe that if every day's statute labor throughout the country were commuted for a payment of

(twenty-five cents in cash, and properly expended, much more than the work at present performed could be accomplished, and it would be well and permanently done—not scamped and required to be renewed year after year. It may be said that there would be considerable difficulty in collecting the ready money for this purpose. This could easily be arranged by letting small contracts to farmers, and they could employ neighboring farmers and laborers for such assistance as they might require, paying them a fair rate of wages. Thus, what the farmer would pay into the general fund he would receive in the shape of profit on his contracts; and the neighbor would receive his gain in the shape of fair wages for himself and team.

We will have further remarks to make on this subject at another time—giving our views, and embodying the views of persons of experience with whom we have conversed, on the most practicable way of inaugurating a better system of road improvements. If there is one county in Ontario that requires more stirring up than another, it is this matter; we believe that one is Halton. The old rats and the old slip shod system of road spoiling should be banished to that barren whence travelers never return.

The Floods.—From all quarters come dismal reports of too much water. The loss, both from damage to bridges, dams and booms, and cessation of farming operations, will total up very large. And still it rains. From Quebec comes a report of serious damage to a G. T. R. iron bridge and the wrecking of Messrs. Price's mills. Ottawa reports are that large quantities of lumber and timber have been carried off by the swollen streams, and immense damage done to mill property. As a general thing the land is either emergent or so soddened that ploughing is out of the question. From all over the country there is a longing for a bit of sunshine. Terrible to relate, the weather prophet says we are to have rain every day this month.

The Macdonnell heresy case has been the means of setting the minds in Toronto to thinking about creeds and confessions and heresies, and other subjects which have arisen in consequence of the case. Several of them have announced their intention of preaching special sermons on these subjects.

The conference of the three Imperial Churches at Berlin is said to have resulted in a determination not to directly interfere in the Turkish question at present, but press on the Porte the necessity of complying with the recommendations contained in Count Andrassy's note. The writ for the election in East Middlesex has been issued. The nomination takes place on the 31st, and the polling on the 7th of June.

The American Silver Nuisance. A large and influential meeting of the merchants and traders of Guelph was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening to consider the propriety of taking American silver at a uniform rate. A resolution was carried unanimously: "That the merchants and traders of the town of Guelph pledge themselves to take American silver at the following rates only:—The one dollar coin at 80c; the 50c at 40c; the 25c at 20c; the 10c at 10c; the 5c at 5c; and the 2c at 2c."

The Caledon Tragedy. The Jury in this case after long deliberation brought in a verdict of "Guilty." Ward is sentenced to be hanged on the 20th of June next.

The Beecher Matter. New York, May 13.—The following is Rev. Dr. Taylor's reply to the invitation of Plymouth church to be present at the interview between Bowen and Beecher: "I regret to say that I must respectfully decline to be present at any such interview between Beecher and Bowen as that which is proposed in the resolutions which you have sent me. I cannot see the good object that is to be gained by making me the safe in which the secrets there to be disclosed are to be locked up; while, if the expectation was that I should express some opinion about the statements, which might be made, then it seems to me unreasonable to ask that I should accept any such responsibility. It is my earnest desire that Plymouth church may soon see the end of its troubles, but a responsibility which may be properly and constitutionally assumed by a Mutual Council should not be laid upon any one man, and therefore I am constrained to decline the request which has been made to me."

A man named John Baker was drowned in the Toronto Bay on Saturday afternoon. By the breakage of the boom at Trenton seventy thousand logs have escaped into the Bay of Quinte.

An extensive seizure of short-weight butter was made on the London market on Saturday morning by the inspector.

Baron Simon Sin, one of the richest men in Austria, who has just died, left between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000.

The winter wheat crop in western Missouri, Kansas, south-western Iowa, and south Nebraska is in splendid condition; a large yield is promised.

Mlle. Merkus, the "Dutch Amazon," who has been fighting in Herzegovina, is 24, of middle height and very wealthy. She dresses in male attire.

Mr. John M. Robb, formerly editor and proprietor of the Stratford Herald, and at one time postmaster of the town, died on Saturday at 10 o'clock, after a long, lingering illness.

On Sunday, Jas. McQuillan, a farmer in Madoc Township, brutally murdered his wife, from whom he had been separated for some months. He has been arrested.

The revisers of the Authorized Version of the New Testament have held their 59th session. The company carried on their revision to the end of the twenty-second verse of the fifth chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians.

E. Miller's cabinet factory, in Kincairdine, was burned on Friday. The fire caught from the smoke-stack where it passed through the roof. Only the machinery and some of the material in the lower story were saved. Estimated loss about \$3,000; insurance \$700.

Two breach of promise cases have just been decided in the Province. At the Bruce Assizes \$200 was awarded plaintiff, and at Hamilton a Miss Stewart received a verdict of \$700. In the latter action the parties to it had been engaged for twenty-six years.

Orders for the annual drill of the volunteers throughout the Dominion will shortly be gazetted. It is contemplated to exercise the cavalry and infantry for eight days at the headquarters of the corps. The drill will be drilled in camps for twelve days.

As it appears that teachers in our public schools are liable to be, and have been, summoned before the Justice of the Peace for whipping children in school, we understand that the principal of the Brussels school has decided that children under his control, requiring to be punished, are to be sent home by their parents, and not to the Justice of the Peace.

The Coroner issued his warrant for his committal, and he is now in gaol awaiting his trial. Prisoner has made several attempts since being placed there to take his own life, but is closely watched and thereby prevented from so doing.

PROBABLE MURDER. A Man Shot by Some Unknown Person. WALLACE TOWN, May 12. James Webster was this morning shot at his residence in Aldborough by some unseen person. Immediately after the shooting he was summoned from Wallace town. They found Mr. Webster wounded by a rifle ball entering at the collar-bone, which it fractured and passed through the apex of the right lung, and supposed to lodge in the left shoulder. The surgeons could not find the ball by probing. Air is escaping from the lung through the wound. Although the case is regarded as very critical, a preliminary enquiry was held. The evidence of the two medical men and a few others was taken. The examination was not completed. The prisoner was remanded to gaol to await the result of Webster's condition and obtain more evidence. When the constables went to arrest Wright this morning they had to use a little stratagem, as they were afraid of him, as he has been considered

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC for some years, and of a very violent temper when aroused. Mr. Samuel Matheson was requested to accompany the constables, and if possible to get Wright to walk away from the house, where he was armed with revolvers and a combined rifle and shot gun already charged. When approached by Mr. Matheson he appeared to surmise his errand, and told him he would shoot him. Mr. Matheson at once made a spring on him, and they both fell to the ground, and during the struggle the revolver Wright had drawn was discharged, and Matheson received a slight wound in the chest.

ON ANGRERS AT THE CENTENNIAL.—The Centennial celebration of American Independence is likely to become noted for the display to be made in Philadelphia on next 12th July by the Orangemen of the United States. Every man who has been initiated in the mysteries of this order is to participate in the parade and muster in Philadelphia on the 12th of July. Orangemen from all parts of the world will receive a very cordial reception there at that occasion. Canadian Orangemen are particularly invited to co-operate in the celebration.

Volocopedo Race. THE ENGLISH CHAMPION VICTORIES. The fifty mile bicycle contest between David Stanton, of England, and William Butler of Kentucky, at the American Institute, Rink, in New York, last Thursday evening, for \$600, resulted in a decided victory for the English. Butler was obliged to succumb to a painfully swollen knee at the third lap of the twenty-seventh mile. The spectators, notwithstanding the inclement weather, were numerous. The contestants started at 7:56 p.m., Butler taking the lead at the termination of the first lap, and maintaining a distance of about fifteen feet in advance of Stanton, until the first mile was accomplished by Butler in 3m. 52s., and by Stanton in 3m. 54s. Up to the twentieth mile the contestants passed each other alternately, but made an average time of 3m. 45s. per mile. After this, however, Butler manifested some weariness, and frequently stopped to rub his left knee, which at length became so much swollen and painful as to render him unable to continue the race. He accomplished the twenty-six miles in 1h. 38m. 9s. Stanton continued the race, and made the fifth mile in 3m. 9m. 15s. Stanton's quickest mile—the twenty-eighth—was done in 3m. 35s. Butler made his best time in the tenth mile, which he rode over in 3m. 39s.

The Peterboro' Murder. On the 8th inst. it will be remembered, a terrible tragedy was committed in Peterboro', a man named James Ryan having stabbed his wife through the heart in her own house. The poor woman ran downstairs to the door, and as she walked to the next door, who she fell dead. The chief constable at once went to Ryan's house and arrested him there, he denying his guilt, and producing a small pocket knife from his pocket as the only weapon he possessed. He was then conveyed to gaol.

An inquest was held, and after a lengthy investigation the following verdict was returned: That the deceased came to her death on the evening of May 8th, instant, by the infliction of a wound in the chest by a sharp instrument which penetrated the heart as well as the chest, and that from the evidence adduced, the said wound was produced by James Ryan, husband of the deceased.

The Coroner issued his warrant for his committal, and he is now in gaol awaiting his trial. Prisoner has made several attempts since being placed there to take his own life, but is closely watched and thereby prevented from so doing.

ACTON MARKETS. Flour White Wheat ... \$2 00 to 2 50 Spring Wheat ... 0 95 to 1 00 Oats ... 0 50 to 0 70 Peas ... 0 35 to 0 40 Beans ... 0 65 to 0 75 Potatoes ... 0 45 to 0 50 Onions, per bushel ... 0 18 to 0 20 Butter ... 0 10 to 0 12 Eggs, per ton ... 12 00 to 14 00 Lambkins ... 0 50 to 0 80 Pails ... 0 50 to 0 60 Lead ... 0 12 to 0 13 Tallow ... 0 05 to 0 07 Bacon ... 0 11 to 0 14 Ham ... 0 12 to 0 14 Shoulder ... 0 10 to 0 12

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. APPLEBE & SIMPSON, Barristers, Attorneys-in-Law, Solicitors in Chancery, Conveyancers, &c., Main Street, Georgetown.

VILLAGE OF ACTON. COURT OF REVISION OF 1876. The Village Council will hold its first sitting as a Court of Revision, on Assizes Hall for 1876, on Saturday, the 27th day of May, inst., at the Council Chamber, Temperance Hall, commencing at 10 o'clock a.m. The Assizes Roll can be seen at the Clerk's office, up to the 25th inst., on which day all appeals (if any) must be in his hands.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned up to the first of June for a new Brick Store and Dwelling House, in the Village of Acton, for the various works required in the separate trades, (viz) excavation, stone work, brick work, carpenter and joiners work, plastering, painting and glazing. Separate or full tenders will be received for the whole work. Plans and specifications will be sent at the residence of Mr. McNair, Acton. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted unless otherwise satisfactory. D. MCNAIR, Acton, May 3rd, 1876.

ANOTHER REVOLTING WIFE MURDER. A Madoc Farmer Beats Out His Wife's Brains. Belleville, May 16. A most shocking cold blooded murder was committed in the township of Madoc on Sunday. James McQuillan, a farmer living in the 7th concession of that township, near the village of Banockburn, had lived unhappily with his wife, from whom he had separated in March last. He went to Kingston, leaving her destitute, and she was given a home with a neighbor, with whom she resided whilst her husband was absent. He returned about three weeks ago, but his wife did not return to her home. On Sunday he sent his father to negotiate for her return, and she promised to meet him at his brother's. She left shortly after nine o'clock on the same morning to keep the appointment, taking with her two children, aged respectively two and a half and one and a half years, and was seen about ten o'clock in company with her husband, he carrying one child and she the other. Some time later her dead body was found by her husband's brother lying by the roadside horribly mutilated, the upper part of the skull having been smashed in with a large stone, the brains being scattered about, and the throat of the victim giving evidence that she had been severely choked before being killed. The husband, who was found at his father's house with the two children, was at once arrested by the neighbors, who had turned out. He did not deny the charge. His coat was found to be spotted with blood, and parts were still wet as if he had been washing out the blood stains. An inquest was held on Monday before Dr. Sutton, coroner at Madoc, and a verdict of "Wilful Murder" returned against McQuillan, who was brought to the county gaol here to-day.

He is a man of about thirty-five years of age, and has always been considered an industrious, though of a jealous disposition. At the time of the commission of the crime he was perfectly sober. The murdered woman was married to McQuillan about four years ago, she had two children, and was far advanced in pregnancy.

The Huron Signal says: "William Bork, of Porter Hill, is not yet twenty-seven years of age, and has chopped 2,500 cords of wood, split 10,000 rails, cut 2,000 saw logs, paroled 100 tons of tanbark, cleared 40 acres of a fallow, and logged 35 acres. He weighs only 160 lbs. These facts can be verified."

DIED. In Arthur Village, on the 6th inst., Sarah Reeve, infant daughter of the Rev. R. Phillips, aged 1 year and 16 days.

ERIN'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Anglo has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills by the judicious use of such articles of diet to which a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle poisons are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape for a time, but by allowing ourselves to be fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame.—GIRL SERVICE CO. Sold only in packets labeled—"ERIN'S COCOA." Homeopathic Chemist, 48, Threadneedle Street, and 170, Piccadilly, London.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. THE ROCK RIVER COMPANY. Implement Warerooms AND FEED STORE.

The subscribers beg to announce to farmers and others, that they have opened a warehouse on Main Street, Georgetown, next the hay scales, where they will keep always in stock the most desirable kind of Farming Implements. Also in connection, they have opened a FEED STORE, where will always be kept a large stock of flour, feed and seeds, of various descriptions. J. C. DEVEREAUX, ALLAN MOORE, Manager, GEORGETOWN, April 12th, 1876.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. COW STRAYED OR STOLEN. From the residence of the subscriber, about the 30th April, a Brown Cow, with white streak along the body; medium size; about 8 years old. Any one giving such information as will lead to her recovery will be suitably rewarded. N. MCGARVIN, Acton, May 10, 1876.

CHEMICAL MANURES. Proved to be equal for all crops to Barn-yard Manures. The Brockville Chemical & Super-phosphate Works, Brockville, Ont. ALEX. COWAN, Manager. Any substantial farmer, with good references, can purchase one ton or upwards of Chemical Manure on credit till crops are harvested—and perhaps marketed—by paying interest on note at rate of seven per cent per annum. Where no agency has been appointed in a township, each postmaster is hereby authorized to act as agent to receive orders. Where agents have been appointed to a township, they are hereby required to report same to postmasters in their township immediately, in order to prevent confusion. 45-46.

DRIED MEAT. DRIED MEAT. Charles Cameron. Having postponed removal in order to clear out his stock of Pork, offers at a reduced rate Superior Smoked and Unsmoked Hams Cumberland Cut & Bacon. Cured by himself, and which will be found unsurpassed in quality. Try it and be convinced. In future, meat will be found in the shop, partly occupied by G. M. Scott, Main Street, Acton. CHAS. CAMERON, April 26, 1876.

THE ROCK RIVER COMPANY. Implement Warerooms AND FEED STORE.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. BUILDING PAPER. Inodorous Shooting Paper 5/6c a lb.—one pound to a square yard. Prepared Plastering Board 6c a lb. Tarr'd Sheeting 4 1/2c a lb.—1 lb. 1 lb. to a square yard. Moth Proof Carpet Lining 7c a lb.—one pound to a square yard. Call and Examine the Stock at Day's Bookstore. Day Sells Cheap.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. WATCHMAKING AND JEWELRY ESTABLISHMENT, C. & G. HYNDS, Post Office, Acton.

WATCHES, CLOCKS, and JEWELRY. Of all kinds. We have just received another well selected stock of JEWELRY IN ALL THE LATEST PATTERNS, Comprising Gents' Gold-Plated Chains, Studs, Cuff Buttons, Lockets, Seals, Solitaires, Ladies' Gsrs. Ear Drops, Brooches, Plain and Fancy Gold Rings, Plain and Fancy Silver Rings. Also a fine assortment of Jet Jewelry, New Patterns. Some of those One Dollar Clocks left. Clocks for Schools and Churches sold at a small percentage above cost. All work left with us to be repaired will receive prompt attention and warranted to give satisfaction. Don't forget the place. May 16, 1876. C. & G. HYNDS, Post Office, Acton.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. GOLDEN LION OF GUELPH. CHEAPEST DRY GOODS STORE IN ONTARIO. Enormous Sales at Prices never before heard of. Messrs. J. D. Williamson & Co. Are now selling that Immense Montreal Bankrupt Stock recently purchased at 50 cents on the dollar. All are Good, Sound and Honest Goods. We guarantee Satisfaction. SEE THE PRICES! DRESS GOODS. Newest patterns in Checks and Stripes, lovely shades, in plain colors. Beautiful Silk Mixtures at 10c, 12 1/2c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c and 35c per yard. WORTH DOUBLE THE MONEY. Thousands of pieces to choose from. A whole Department is devoted to BLACK LUSTRES. Qualities unrivalled—prices that cannot be approached elsewhere. Silks in every possible pattern and shade—perfect marvels of cheapness. Grenadines, beautiful colored and plain stripes at 10c, worth 25c. Gossamer and Striped Dress Lawns at 12 1/2c—cannot be bought elsewhere under 25 cents. Costume Linen, hundreds of pieces at 12 1/2c, worth 25c. Brilliants, 10c; Cobourgs, 18c; Japanese Silk, 18c; Linen Embroidery, Swiss Embroidery, Check Muslins, 12c. In these and every other line of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods. The Lion Defies Competition! Don't forget those great marvels, beautiful Kid Gloves, all shades, 25c; Parasols, 37 1/2c. WORTH THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT. We treat with silent contempt all insinuations of disappointed rivals. OUR GOODS ARE PERFECT. Our prices 25 per cent below anything to be met with elsewhere. Our sales three times as great as any other house in town. Low Prices and Perfect Goods. Small Profits and Large Sales. Come and See Us.

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