

THE ACTON FREE PRESS. Published every Thursday Morning.

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THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 22, 1877.

The most important news we have for some time from the seat of war is the report of the capture of the city of Kar.

This is one of the most important triumphs of the Turks, and has resisted the repeated attacks of the Russians almost ever since the war began.

The fall of Kar will probably seal the fate of Erzeroum, as the army will be set free to march to the capital of the Province.

The tide has evidently turned against the armies of the Sultan, and it is very probable that the end is not far off.

Russia's great mistake throughout the campaign appears to have been in underrating the strength of her opponent and in attacking imprudently positions with inadequate forces.

Now, however, that she has discovered her mistake, and has come into the field with a determination to strike as many fatal blows as possible before winter interferes with her operations.

We see the effect of superior forces. The real cause of surprise in this war is the ability of the Turks to hold out as long as they have.

The Dunkin Act contest in Wellington county is being prosecuted with vigor.

Mr. Merwin Knowlton, assisted by local talent, holds nightly meetings in the interest of the Act, while E. Brooks of Peterborough and E. King Dods champion the "anti" cause.

The prospect that the Act will be carried triumphantly seems very good indeed.

The voting commenced on the 27th.

The Union of the Maritime Provinces for legislative purposes will soon be under consideration.

Hon. Mr. Hill, Premier of Nova Scotia, has started the movement, and both political parties are to unite in discussing its feasibility.

The main difficulty will be that such a union would greatly curtail provincial patronage, and deprive many office holders of positions they now occupy.

The advantages of such a union would be great, for legislation would be simplified and the executive power concentrated in one Government.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Today has been set apart as a day of Thanksgiving for the Dominion of Canada, and it may be said correctly that it is the first National Thanksgiving Day ever had in the Dominion.

Inasmuch as all the Provinces have never before joined in setting apart the same day for thanksgiving, Governor Collin, of Illinois, sends to us a correct idea of how such a day ought to be observed, and in a Thanksgiving proclamation, says: "I therefore call upon all citizens to assemble in their places of religious worship, and around their tables and firesides, to make this holiday a day of rest and festivity, not forgetting religious observance, but, above all, a day for the re-assembly of scattered kindred, in order to the closer knitting of those domestic ties which are the pledge and ground of national union and prosperity."

Halton County Council. The Council met in accordance with adjournment in the Court House, on Tuesday last week.

The Warden in the chair. Members present: Messrs Buck, Fraser, Foster, Lyon, McGarvin, McKenzie, Mowbray, Watson, Robinson, Warren, Watson, and Waldo.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk read communications from the Directors of the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary, the Chairman of the Select Committee on Tax Exemptions of the City Council of Toronto, and a letter to the County Treasurer from the Mayor of the City of St. John's, N. S.

acknowledging the receipt of the grant given by the Council in aid of the sufferers by the late fire in that city.

Mr. Lyon moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, that the by-law to raise ten thousand dollars by the issue of debentures for the purpose of building the new Jail and the enlargement of the Court House be read the third time, and passed, the same having received the necessary advertising.—Carried.

The by-law was read the third time and passed.

The Warden read a statement of the amount of money paid up to date to George Blain, contractor for the erection of the new Jail and addition to the Court House.

Mr. Waldo, chairman of the Committee on Finance, presented its report, which was read and adopted.

Mr. Buck moved, seconded by Mr. Foster, that the sum of fifty dollars be granted from the funds of the Municipality to aid in erecting an Eye and Ear Infirmary in the City of Toronto, for the treatment of the poor of the Province of Ontario who are afflicted with disease of the eye and ear, and that the Warden be authorized to issue his cheque on the Treasurer in the sum of \$50 for that purpose.

Mr. Foster moved, seconded by Mr. Buck, that it be necessary to provide sixty cords of good, sound hardwood for the use of the Court House and premises connected therewith, and that Finlay McCallum and Joshua VanAllen be authorized to accept tenders for the same.—Carried.

Dr. McGarvin moved, seconded by Mr. Waldo, that the sum of thirty dollars and fifty cents for equalizing assessments, be referred to the meeting in December, and adjournment over the holidays, and that the meeting in the coming session will be a protracted one; neither will it be a particularly brilliant nor productive one.

But short as it may be, it is hardly possible that it will be able to get through the work it may have to do without overlapping the meeting of the Dominion Parliament.

Mr. Lyon moved, seconded by Mr. Waldo, that this Council adjourn to meet again on the 8th day of December.—Carried. Clerk adjourned.—W. PATTON, Clerk.

The future of Canada. It is noticeable that many of the thinking men of the age have been giving more or less attention to Canada, and that there have been more articles written during the past few months concerning the probable future of the Dominion than during any other period of similar duration.

The upron-trings which hold Canada to the Motherland must be untied sooner or later, seems to be the general conviction of all who have turned for a moment from the conditions of the present to take a peep into the possibilities of the future.

After that, the students of political history part company, some believing that it is impertinent to take a peep into the possibilities of the future. After that, the students of political history part company, some believing that it is impertinent to take a peep into the possibilities of the future.

Mr. Blake is among those who take the latter view. He holds that the day must come "when we shall cease to be dependents by exchanging colonial status for association by rising from the present position of colonists to that of partners in the freedom, the fortunes, and the responsibilities of the Empire." He pointed out that Mr. Foster, one of the foremost statesmen of the Liberal party in England, delivered a long address two years ago, in which he fully recognized what some people here do not appear to do—namely, that we have no disposition to recognize the anomalous character of the present relation of England with her colonies.

At a banquet given to the Premier at Montreal the other day, Mr. MacKenzie gave expression to views of pretty much the same nature, showing that he, too, had fallen in with Mr. Blake in believing that the present lacks the elements of permanence, and that before very many years the question that will have to be decided by the people of Canada and the Motherland will be separation on one hand or federation on the other.

The political contest in Quebec East continues to increase in interest. Both parties are conducting active canvasses from door to door.

AN UNDERGROUND HORROR. Fire Damp Explosion in a Colliery.—TWO HUNDRED MEN IN PERIL.

Saratoga, Pa., Nov. 15, 1877. The Thirty-third Ward of this city was the scene of a thrilling fire-damp disaster this morning, by which a number of workmen were fatally injured, and others maimed in a most appalling manner.

The explosion occurred in one of the chambers of the mine, some sixteen hundred feet from the foot of the shaft, where a gang of workmen were constructing cross walls to direct the course of the air.

The volume of fire-damp, coming in from the shaft, became ignited and exploded with a terrible roar, tearing all before it, causing the entire mine to shake and making the firm breaker at the mouth of the shaft tremble like a reed.

A SCENE OF HORROR. Two hundred men and boys were in the mine when the accident occurred. Their lights were instantly put out. Huge pillars of coal were torn into fragments. Props were flung about in all directions. Mine cars were crushed to pieces, and men and mules carried several yards distant or buried alive among great boilers of rock and coal. It was a moment of intense terror.

As soon as the men in a distant part of the mine recovered from the effects of the shock they turned to assist their comrades, who were lying helpless and dying beneath the heaps of debris.

CAPTURE OF KARs. Turkish Loss 5,000 Killed. TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS. Russia Declares Mediation.

LONDON, Nov. 19.—A special dispatch to the Daily News from Erzeroum has been received regarding the capture of Kar by the Russians. It says the Turks evacuated the place and retreated towards Erzeroum, the Russians pursued and captured a company of the retreating Turkish battalions.

The Turks lost 5,000 men killed, and 10,000 taken prisoners, besides 300 cannon. The Russian losses are reported at 2700 men.

Berlin, Nov. 19.—The semi-official German press states that Russia has declined to refuse all offers of mediation.

The Telegram says the Local Legislature will probably be called together for the despatch of business about the 31st January next. It is now too late to assemble this year, even if it were not found to be the more convenient plan to meet in the beginning of January, instead of meeting in December and adjourning over the holidays, as has been the case in past years.

From all appearances the coming session will be a protracted one; neither will it be a particularly brilliant nor productive one. But short as it may be, it is hardly possible that it will be able to get through the work it may have to do without overlapping the meeting of the Dominion Parliament.

Abyssinia and Egypt have several times been reported as having concluded peace, and their warlike operations have been heard of afterwards. Now a telegram comes from Alexandria to the effect that there is news from Col. Gordon himself that the King of Abyssinia has accepted his terms of peace.

Matters ought to be sufficiently settled in Alexandria for the news from there to be reliable when it is couched for us in this way. The conclusion of this war will make explorations in Africa more feasible, for it is not at all probable that Col. Gordon would offer terms to Abyssinia which would include provisions for the safety and non-interference with exploring and other peaceful expeditions which might come within the power of the King of Abyssinia.

STRAFORD AND HURON. The laying of rails on the railway north is now about completed, but owing to the weather, ballasting has been discontinued till spring. It is intended, we believe, to commence running regular trains to the Listowel about the first week in December. The people of the northern metropolis are prepared to give a hearty welcome to their southern visitors on the day of the formal opening.

CONVICTIONS QUASHED.—An indictment against Mr. Crook's Harrison law passed at the last session of the Legislature compelled defendants in liquor prosecutions to give evidence against themselves, and a number of convictions have thus been obtained. In a case recently appealed, Chief Justice Harrison announced that the Legislature had no power to make such a law, and quashed the conviction thus obtained. This decision of His Lordship will upset a number of convictions made all over the Province.

ONE SCOT, a collector of debts, Toronto, quarrelled with his wife on the 14th inst., and went to bed at Williams' hotel. About 6 o'clock on the 15th inst., he was found dead on the floor of the bedroom. He has been dissected lately.

The Gauge Question. At first much earnest discussion, and very full consideration of the circumstances, both of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, and of the people interested in the running of the road, a fair and feasible financial scheme has been hit upon.

To secure the roadway for the total bonus of \$1,000,000 required, the Company will give that amount in second mortgage Bonds, the interest on which will, in time, make a sinking fund that will pay them off. It is safe to say that this is the very best offer the Company can make, and to wait for any better is needless.

It would be a mistaken disposition, too, to suppose that if this company were not able to renew and run the road, some other company will. If people would but think that the Grand Trunk, for instance, could not run a car to Owen Sound until the whole gauge was changed, they would see the fully of such an expectation. But the Grand Trunk could not change the gauge and renew the rails without spending more money than the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company proposes to spend.

To look to that quarter for assistance is utterly foolish. The people must themselves come to the front, if they wish to retain the road and the profits it brings them.—Daily Telegraph.

Temperance Movement in Ottawa. It is argued by some that no matter how much the question of temperance is discussed, many converts to the total abstinence rank are made, quite as many liquors are consumed and drunkennes is not decreased.

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An Enoch Arden Story. A LOST HUSBAND RETURNS.

Truth, it is said, is stranger than fiction, and the strange life borne out by incidents in the life of a lady belonging to Montreal, which have been related on unquestioned authority. The story is told in a pamphlet, and may be relied on as being perfectly true.

A number of years ago a Montreal man got married to a young lady there, and, shortly after, being attached to the growing accounts received from the land of gold in California, set out for the Golden Gate to better his fortune.

At first he continued to correspond with his young wife, but the letters ceased and information arrived that his young wife had been married to another man. He offered his hand and was accepted. The marriage was a happy one, and all went well until news arrived that the first husband was alive and well in San Francisco.

This information was soon followed by letters from the truant husband, asking the woman he had abandoned so infamously to return to him. Now comes a strange chapter which our informant was not able to explain.

The lady, although professing to be deeply attached to the third husband, and resolved to cling to him, no matter what might happen, went out to California in response to the letters she received. She did not remain long, however, but came back to her first husband, who was now opening a law office in Toronto, and the man she had thus plighted her troth to having taken legal advice, declined to acknowledge her as his wife.

This was the saddest blow which the lady had to bear. She had, however, a consolation in the fact that she had been able to see her husband, and to be assured that he was still alive and well. She had, however, a consolation in the fact that she had been able to see her husband, and to be assured that he was still alive and well.

A CASE OF FOUZERY.—Abraham Page of Branta, was charged before Chief Justice Hagarty, in Toronto, on Friday last, with making a declaration and signing it "Thomas Page, on the 31st day of July last, representing himself to be the owner of land in the County of York, Ontario, which he wished to raise money from the North British Canadian Loan Company.

On investigation it was found that he was not Thomas Page. On being questioned as to why he had signed the declaration, he stated that he was 38 years old, and that he had bought the land in 1854, when he was 14 years old. The above was clearly proven on the part of the Crown by the real Thomas Page, the father of the prisoner, who stated that he had handed his son the deed of the property to enable him to raise money, and had authorized him to do all that was necessary, and even to sign his name. A mortgage had been sent to Page to have it executed, and instead of getting the father and mother to sign the mortgage, the prisoner had either signed it himself or got some one else to sign it.

The name of the father, the father of the prisoner, had been signed by the prisoner's sister. The old man had never authorized the son to make the declaration as to the property. He never saw either the mortgage or the declaration. The jury being unable to agree were discharged.

Sad accounts continue to come in by week of crime and misdeeds, and by the indulgence in drink. Napoleon Parrott was drowned in the Ottawa, near Thurso. He had gone over the river to the mill with a grist; while it was being ground he was about the tavern drinking freely. At last he started home, with his grist and a bottle of whiskey, but was unable to manage his punt, fell out and was drowned. Michael Ryder, of St. Catharines, had been on a long extended spree of late, and while walking near the canal, unable to navigate, fell in and was drowned. Nelson Apperson, a half-breed Spaniard in the London jail, died suddenly, the jury finding that his death resulted from delirium tremens. Thomas Lawless a night watchman at the Victoria Oil Works, London, while in delirium threw himself before a Port Stanley Railway train, and was cut all to pieces. The man had been on a spree for several days.

At Penbrooke, Matthew Mangan was tried for gouging out the eyes of a woman, who he afterwards slew in a quarrel resulting from a drunken debauch. Both eyes were completely torn out. The brutality of the deed has never been surpassed in the annals of Canadian crime, and only goes to show that the perpetrator was, when manifested with drink, more brute than human.

Things will shortly have to be either considerably better or considerably worse in France.

Toronto can't get the Garrison Commem for exhibition purposes.

The Tramp Plague. QUEBEC, Nov. 19.—A Vigilance Committee has been formed in Northern Pennsylvania for protection against tramps. A number of stores in Lehigh and Bucks counties have been plundered.

The tramps found a residence in Thomas Widfrit's house near Cooperburg. The place was captured on Saturday and several thousand dollars worth of stolen goods recovered. The vigilantes had a desperate encounter with another body of tramps four miles from Cooperburg on Saturday, and captured ten, including three severely wounded.

The driving house, stables and contents of Mr. Aaron Foster, of the Township of Erin, were last Thursday completely destroyed by fire. Estimated loss, \$1,200; insured by Industrial Company \$900. Supposed cause—lightning.

MARRIED. WALTON—ROWE.—On the 7th inst. by the Rev. H. Hobbie, at the residence of the bride's mother, Mr. Henry Walton, of the city of London, to Miss Elizabeth Rowe, of Silver Creek, Essex.

COMING—GOREVILLE.—On the 5th inst. Township of London, on the 15th inst. by the Rev. H. Hobbie, of Acton, Mr. John Osborn, of Hobbie's, Ontario, to Miss S. G. Goreville, of Seneca, Ont.

ACTON MARKETS. Flour, new, 33 00 to 3 09; Fall Wheat, new, 12 to 1 15; Spring Wheat, new, 0 70 to 1 05; Sprouted Spring Wheat, 0 75 to 1 00; Barley, 45 to 0 55; Oats, 30 to 0 35; Peas, 0 60 to 0 65; Butter, 17 to 0 18; Eggs, 12 to 0 12; Potatoes, per bag, 0 60 to 0 70; Apples, early, per bag, 0 65 to 0 75.

ERS' COCA.—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, we have prepared a beverage which is not only palatable and refreshing, but is a valuable food and a tonic.

It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up into strength, and a weak and feeble condition restored to its full vigor and ability to resist disease.

Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape them by paying attention to our diet. It is the highest character and is greatly esteemed by those who know her.—Star.

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A CROWDED STORE. Immense Sales of SILKS AND DRESS GOODS.

AT THE FASHIONABLE WEST END, GUELPH. 600 to 700 Yards SELLING DAILY.

We are allowing, without exception, the Largest, Most Attractive and Cheapest—Mark the word Cheapest—STOCK of SILKS AND DRESS GOODS.

Ever shown in this town. Ladies visiting Guelph and buying Dress Goods, Silks, Velvets, Mantles, Millinery, Fur, etc., without first seeing our immense and beautiful stock, do themselves a great injustice. We esteem it a pleasure to show our goods.

Ladies, come direct to the Fashionable West End, the leading house for Silks, Dress Goods, Mantles and Millinery. Full stock of fashionable Trimmings, Buttons, Fringes, etc., to match all our materials.

A. O. BUCHAM. Fashionable West End Dress, Millinery and Mantle Establishment, Guelph, Oct. 21, 1877.

Campaign Opened FOR 1878. WESTERN ADVERTISER & WEEKLY LIBERAL. Reduced Price—Premium to every Subscriber—Harvest for Agents.

The Fifteenth Annual Campaign of the Western Advertiser and Weekly Liberal is now under full headway. Hundreds of new names are pouring in from all parts of Canada.

The Liberal terms to agents, and inducements to subscribers will be found in advance of anything yet issued.

DIET OF FARE. 1.—Best general newspaper in Canada. 2.—Exclusive privilege to new subscribers. 3.—Nightly Liberator to every subscriber. 4.—Barnes' Trial Payment by W. F. Clark. 5.—Barnes' Department—Best in Canada. 6.—Ladies' Fashion and Kitchen. 7.—Ladies' and Kitchen. 8.—Ladies' and Kitchen. 9.—Ladies' and Kitchen. 10.—Ladies' and Kitchen.

HELMUCK BARK. I hereby give notice that I do not now buy Helmuok Bark, as I have a full supply on hand. JOHN WATSON, JR. Acton Tannery, Oct. 15, 1877.

BEATTY'S PIANO & PARLOR ORGAN. BEATTY'S INSTRACTOR. Containing the elements of music, with easy and progressive exercises to perfect the player in the art of music.

Now is the time to leave your order at J. Ryder's Factory for a Stylish Buggy or Serviceable Wagon.

THE ONTARIO SADDLERY, ACTON. It is the place to get the best Harness for the least money.

COLLARS A SPECIALTY. As all farmers know their horses cannot work with sore necks, throats or ill collars, get a new pair that will give entire satisfaction.

Another lot of those famous American Whips. Just received and will be sold cheap for cash.

PHOTOGRAPHERS should forward their address if they wish to obtain a Piano or Organ in exchange for Photographing. Address DANIEL F. BEATTY, Washington, New Jersey.

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Barber and Hairdresser, adjoining Second Street, Wash, and combings prepared to order.

SIGN PAINTERS wanted to do the following: Painting and Puttying of signs, and other work. Address DANIEL F. BEATTY, Washington, New Jersey.