

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
Published every Thursday Morning
\$1 Per Annum in Advance.

Acton Free Press
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 28, 1878.

35 Advertisers.

On the 1st of April we will send out our accounts to advertisers, and it is hoped they will receive due attention. — We have adopted the system of sending out our accounts quarterly, as we think it will be more satisfactory to our advertisers, as well as to ourselves.

BONUSES.

The subject of bonuses is again being agitated by the people of this Village. A full report of the proceedings at a late meeting of electors, to consider the advisability of granting a bonus to a tenant of Mr. Beardmore's tannery, will be found in another column. At that meeting the electors seemed unanimous in favor of granting the bonus asked, and a resolution was passed to the effect that the granting of a bonus of \$2,000 to the tannery, exclusively, would be unfair to other manufacturers, as well as burdensome to the people. All seemed in favor of granting a bonus to any person who would start some new manufacture, but they did not seem to favor the idea of granting a bonus to induce any person to remain after a business had been established.

The bonus question was discussed over before, when the Village was so badly humbugged over the brush factory business; and the people seem now desirous of seeing something tangible and definite instead of false promises before they will pledge themselves to grant a bonus to anything, and that only as heretofore where the most ample security is furnished. In the latter case it would, no doubt, be judicious to grant a bonus, as more than an equivalent would be gained.

One of our citizens has been communicating with a Mr. King, of Mitchell, with reference to granting him a bonus if he would remove his extensive works to this place.

Mr. King manufactures iron and wood working machinery, steam engines and boilers, safes, &c., and employs a large number of hands. He has been offered bonuses from different municipalities, and writes to see what Acton would do in the matter. No doubt the matter will be discussed at some future meeting. A flouring mill, to be run by a joint stock company, is also talked of, and it is altogether likely they will also ask for a bonus.

The question might be asked—Will it pay the Village to grant these bonuses? We say it would, provided the promoters furnished ample security to continue the business. A large manufacturing establishment located in our midst would be the means of greatly increasing our population and the business of the Village. A large amount of money would be paid out for wages every week, which would naturally be circulated in the Village. The yearly taxes paid by the extra population, as well as the money spent in the Village, would soon repay the Corporation for their outlay of a bonus.

The offering of bonuses to manufacturers is becoming quite just now, and municipalities competing to a considerable extent with each other, and if we keep pace with other towns we must show a spirit of liberality. The Village of Mitchell has just granted a bonus to a firm of \$15,000; and Acton is in a good financial circumstances, and in a good position to grant a bonus as what Mitchell is.

Since the question has been again agitated, it would be well to keep the agitation up until we have a few more manufacturers in our Village, as the granting of bonuses to induce manufacturers to locate in our midst is the only way we can see by which Acton can be made to prosper and grow.

The War News.

At no time since the details of the war in Turkey have international relations in Europe between the great powers assumed a phase of more momentous gravity than as they are represented by the last cable telegrams. The meeting of Congress is already regarded as seriously endangered by England's determination to require the submission of the whole of the Russo-Turkish treaty. It is now more than probable that England will decline to send a representative, and that the Congress will, therefore, not assemble. It is expected, in that case, that Russia will obtain the sanction of Germany and Austria at once without difficulty, probably that of Italy. England will then have no alternative but to accept accomplished facts or undertake a war to dispossess Russia.

Go and hear Watson Monday night.

The Government have done wisely in amending the Postal Act in such a way as to give the postal authorities power to open letters and packages supposed to contain immoral or improper publications, and lottery swindle circulars. There is no end to the immoral publications which are sent into Canada from across the line, and anything the authorities can do to prevent the minds of the youth of the country from being contaminated by this literary filth and pictorial nastiness, it will be justified in doing.

As much may be said in regard to lottery swindle circulars. The post office authorities say that the aggregate amount of money annually sent out of the country in response to swindle circulars is something surprising. To learn that any value had ever been received for the money so sent would be something more surprising still.

Those who are inclined to chuckle over Mr. Rine's unparable conduct in Stratford, should not forget that the temperature cause is not responsible for it, nor should they seek to condemn that cause on account of the wrong doing of one of its advocates.

The Village would, of course, be justified in taking security for the maintenance of the works by the person in whose favor the bonus was granted, and, by continued occupation of the property, the taxes accruing therefrom would be, in all probability, sufficient to recoup the Village after a term of years.

Hoping the matter will receive your consideration,

I am, gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

GEO. L. BEARDMORE.

The chairman stated that they had heard the contents of the communication, and it was for those present to say whether a bonus should be granted. He called upon any one present who wished to speak, to give their views on the subject.

Mr. John Speight thought that Mr. Beardmore should be present to represent, and explain what security he was going to give. It would be very well to grant a bonus of \$2,000, as it was most likely that the tannery would run until the money was run out, and then we could whistle for it. That was the way it had been done at many places. He did not believe in putting this Village in debt, and he would not vote for any one who would put it one cent in debt. (Hear, hear.) They had kept the Village out of debt so far, and he hoped it would be kept out of it for some time to come. He was dead against this bonus question. It would cost about \$100 to submit the by-law, and he would like Mr. Beardmore to explain the subject before-hand, and state what security he was prepared to give.

The chairman asked if there was any person present to represent Mr. Beardmore.

Mr. Speight—We had better give everyone a bonus to induce them to stay. (Laughter.)

Mr. Isaac Francis was in favor of a bonus. He was willing to pay his share of the bonus. Something must be done, as the place is pretty flat just now and is getting fatter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. James Moore remarked that the Village was decreasing in population, and something must be done.

Mr. Speight—We had better give everyone a bonus to induce them to stay. (Laughter.)

Mr. Isaac Francis was in favor of a bonus. He was willing to pay his share of the bonus. Something must be done, as the place is pretty flat just now and is getting fatter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Speight—How many hands would they employ in the tannery if they got the bonus.

Mr. Hall—The tannery is so large that it would require from twenty to thirty hands to run it.

Major Allan was sure Mr. Beardmore had made lots of money in this Village and he did not see

that the town limits are to be extended.

The Townsends Base Ball Club of London is advertising for a change catcher who is capable of filling other positions. This is brought about in consequence of the punishment of Quinton, one of their players, by being sent to gaol for three months.

Mr. E. King Dodds, the anti-Dunkin lecturer, was lately presented with a purse of \$1,200 in Toronto, by his admirers. He has, however, travelling through the different states having a prohibitory liquor law, for facts in connection with the movement.

Galt town limits are to be ex-

THE BONUS QUESTION.

Public Meeting of Electors.

NO BONUS TO BE GIVEN.

A public meeting of the electors of this Village was held in Matthew's Hall on Wednesday evening 20th inst., to discuss the advisability of granting a bonus of \$2,000 to a tenant of Mr. Beardmore's tannery. The Hall was crowded to excess, and great excitement prevailed during the evening. The Reeve being absent from town, Mr. D. D. Christie was moved to the chair.

The chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to discuss the advisability of granting a bonus to a tenant of Mr. Beardmore's tannery. He did not know what could be done, as the Reeve was absent. There had been some communications on the subject between Mr. Beardmore and the Reeve, but he did not know what they contained, and it would be impossible for the meeting to proceed unless they knew some of the particulars.

Some person stated that perhaps Mr. Ross, the clerk, had the communication in his possession. Mr. Ross went home for the communication, which he read as follows:

Acton, Feb. 6th, 1878.

To the Municipal Council of the Village of Acton:

GENTLEMEN.—

You are doubtless aware of my having asked the Council of the Village of Acton if they would be willing to grant a bonus to any person who would take the tannery about to be vacated by me, and who would guarantee to employ a certain number of hands. I understand that no definite action was taken at that time. I am desirous to know if the village would grant assistance to the extent of \$2,000 to any one who would comply with the conditions desired by the Municipality. My reason for wishing to know at present is that, in advertising the property, I might be able to state to the Village was prepared to grant a bonus to such a person. I may state distinctly that I have no other motive in view than that of getting a suitable person to occupy the property. In the event of its being used for a light stock tannery it would, without doubt, employ twice the number of men now employed by me, and, in all probability, more.

The Village would, of course, be justified in taking security for the maintenance of the works by the person in whose favor the bonus was granted, and, by continued occupation of the property, the taxes accruing therefrom would be, in all probability, sufficient to recoup the Village after a term of years.

Hoping the matter will receive your consideration,

I am, gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

GEO. L. BEARDMORE.

The chairman stated that they had heard the contents of the communication, and it was for those present to say whether a bonus should be granted. He called upon any one present who wished to speak, to give their views on the subject.

Mr. John Speight thought that Mr. Beardmore should be present to represent, and explain what security he was going to give. It would be very well to grant a bonus of \$2,000, as it was most likely that the tannery would run until the money was run out, and then we could whistle for it. That was the way it had been done at many places. He did not believe in putting this Village in debt, and he would not vote for any one who would put it one cent in debt. (Hear, hear.) They had kept the Village out of debt so far, and he hoped it would be kept out of it for some time to come. He was dead against this bonus question. It would cost about \$100 to submit the by-law, and he would like Mr. Beardmore to explain the subject before-hand, and state what security he was prepared to give.

Mr. Speight—How many hands would they employ in the tannery if they got the bonus.

Mr. Hall—The tannery is so

large that it would require from twenty to thirty hands to run it.

Major Allan was sure Mr. Beardmore had made lots of money in

this Village and he did not see

that the town limits are to be ex-

why he wanted a bonus. It seems as if Mr. Beardmore wants the laborers to mortgage their property to put money into his own purse. (Hear, hear.) It would be better to give him his tax for a while than give him a bonus. He considered bonuses a fraud.

He thought to give Mr. Ryder, who had lately been burnt out, a bonus would be nothing but fair, but to give it to a rich man like Beardmore was simply ridiculous. (Hear, hear.) Anyway, Mr. Beardmore does not pay much into the village.

Mr. Hall—He pays out \$95 per week for wages.

Major Allan—Yes, that is all very well. Most of that is given to the farmers for their bark. It would be better to adjourn at once and not grant a bonus. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. Henry Smith thought the meeting altogether one-sided. We are receiving \$230 per week from the tannery for taxes, and if a larger number of men were employed it would largely increase the taxes.

Mr. P. S. Armstrong—Mr. Beardmore would be more entitled to a bonus if he would put up a fine residence in one lump. He thought that they had had some things to benefit others, and besides, they had other things to look after, such as an addition to our school.

He would be burdensome to the people of Acton to tax the tannery for extra amount. (Applause.)

Mr. P. S. Armstrong—Mr. Beardmore would be more entitled to a bonus if he would put up a fine residence in one lump. He thought that they had had some things to benefit others, and besides, they had other things to look after, such as an addition to our school.

He would be burdensome to the people of Acton to tax the tannery for extra amount. (Applause.)

Mr. Coates thought it would be advisable, before the meeting closes, to appoint a night on which to meet to consider the question of fire protection and the advisability of granting a bonus to Mr. Ryder. He requested them to remain seated after the meeting was closed, as he had a motion to read.

Mr. E. Nicklin said that he had been in Hamilton, and every eighth store on King, was empty, and in Caledonia every fifth, so that Acton is not so bad after all.

Mr. Allan said that New York had lost, during the last six months, 350,000 inhabitants.

Mr. John Kennedy was in favor of granting manufacturers in our midst, instead of granting a bonus to Mr. Beardmore.

Mr. Cook said that if Mr. Beardmore would fill all the empty houses and build new ones and fill them then they would be better prepared to grant him a bonus. (Hear, hear.) He did not see how it was going to benefit the general community by granting a bonus. It might benefit some, but it would not benefit him and yet he would have to pay his share of the taxes.

The chairman asked if they were ready for the motion which had been read.

Considerable discussion took place as to whether the founders or leaseholders, or both, had a right to vote on the motion, when it was decided that both had a perfect right, as it was a meeting of ratifiers that the Council had instructed the Reeve to call.

The motion was then put, each voting to stand up, when it was found that 37 voted for and 13 against it.

The motion was declared carried.

Mr. Coates moved, seconded by Major Allan, that they meet on Wednesday evening, 27th inst., at 8 o'clock, to discuss the advisability of getting a fire engine and hook and ladder company, and granting a bonus to Mr. Ryder. Carried. The meeting then adjourned.

Mr. Shortreed moved, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that the Council meet, at Stewartsont, on Friday 15th inst., the Reeve in the chair. Members all present. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The petition of H. P. Lawson and others respecting Council Chamber, was received and read.

Moved by Mr. Lindsey, seconded by Mr. Shortreed, that the rate-payers of S.S. No. 5; be notified that a by-law will be passed at the next meeting of this Council, dividing said section, making it into two separate school sections; and that the clerk be authorized to give the necessary notices. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town." He was next called before the public by being caught in the act of going through the till of his brother-in-law, Mr. Kennedy, in Pittsburg, and got up a lecture entitled "Out of Town." He was next called before the public by being caught in the act of going through the till of his brother-in-law, Mr. Kennedy, in Pittsburg, and got up a lecture entitled "Out of Town." He was next called before the public by being caught in the act of going through the till of his brother-in-law, Mr. Kennedy, in Pittsburg, and got up a lecture entitled "Out of Town." He was next called before the public by being caught in the act of going through the till of his brother-in-law, Mr. Kennedy, in Pittsburg, and got up a lecture entitled "Out of Town."

Mr. Shortreed moved, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that the Council meet, at Stewartsont, on Friday 15th inst., the Reeve in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The petition of H. P. Lawson and others respecting Council Chamber, was received and read.

Moved by Mr. Lindsey, seconded by Mr. Shortreed, that the rate-payers of S.S. No. 5; be notified that a by-law will be passed at the next meeting of this Council, dividing said section, making it into two separate school sections; and that the clerk be authorized to give the necessary notices. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town."

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town."

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town."

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town."

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town."

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100 to Mr. Murphy, for his services in giving a lecture on "Out of Town."

Moved by Mr. Shortreed, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, that Dr. Freeman's bill of \$1.75 for attending the poor be paid; also that the sum of \$100 be paid to Mr. Murray, for his services in giving a lecture on temperance, and \$100