

1879. HALTON ELECTION.

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE ARE RESTRICTED
FULLY SOLICITED FOR.

W. C. BEATY,
THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE.

ELECTORS OF HALTON,
WORK AND VOTE

Dr. ROBINSON,
IN THE
COMING ELECTION
TO THE ONTARIO PARLIAMENT,
Who will support Honest, Efficient
and Educational Government.

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T. ALBERT MOORE, Editor.

TUESDAY MORNING, March 27, 1879.

THE DUTY ON COAL.

The Conservative papers, great and small, have no hesitation in declaring that the National Policy has given universal satisfaction throughout the Dominion while the Reform journals claim that it has been received with wide spread disappointment and disgust in every section of every Province, even among the friends and supporters of the Government. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the truth lies somewhere between those two extremes. But, while almost every detail of the N. P. has its advocates as well as its opponents, there is one feature of the new tariff which, as far as we can learn, is distasteful to everybody. We refer to the duty on hard coal. There are, of course, some who can see the wisdom of placing a tax upon coal, with a view to protecting the local interests of the Maritime Provinces, though it is well known that a duty of fifty cents per ton is altogether insufficient for that purpose; but we have yet to find an advocate or an apologist for the duty upon hard coal, except as a means of raising an amount of revenue which might be procured from almost any other source, and prove less oppressive to the great masses of the people. Coal is an article of such prime necessity in our climate that a tax upon it requires very strong and exceptional grounds of justification. It furnishes, in a largely increasing degree, the motive power of our manufactures. The coal duty, while it will excite abundant irritation, will probably fail of its object, beyond the bringing in of a certain amount of revenue. Mr. Goldwin Smith, a stanch advocate of the Policy, in a communication to the Toronto *Telegraph*, pronounces in favor of the new tariff as a whole, but slightly withdraws his approval upon arriving at the coal question, in the following words: "The most questionable of the new imposts, as Mr. Tilley is probably aware, is the coal tax, which will not only be severely felt by all in the Upper Provinces, but will take back from the manufacturers part of the boon conferred on them by the protective clause. But the Finance Minister was obliged to offer a consideration to the Maritime Provinces which are connected by no particular bond of commercial interest with Ontario, while they have a very deep interest in free trade with the United States." Convinced as we are of the utter futility of this coal tax, and believing that Mr. Tilley must have been aware of its disadvantages, we conclude that the fifty-cent duty was imposed merely as a "feeler," and that the amount of favor or disfavor with which it is received will lead the Government to the determination to abolish the tax, or raise it to protection figures—probably a dollar on the ton. We sincerely hope that public opinion will be decidedly expressed against the duty, that the Finance Minister will see the advisability of removing, rather than increasing, the tax.

Rev. J. T. BREESE.

Our readers will remember that a few weeks ago we inserted an article in our paper with reference to this person, which spoke in very harsh terms concerning his character. But since the publication of that article we have discovered that no injustice was done Mr. Breeze, and that the facts of which we had been informed by some of the members of the Congregational Church in Acton, were without foundation and as far as we can learn, unjust. When we inserted the former article we did so by special request of the church members, and we were assured that the rumors were facts, and that they had sufficient evidence to uphold them. But it has since turned out to be wrong, and although Mr. Breeze was before the police magistrate at Hamilton, he was discharged.

We therefore take this opportunity of retracting the statements made in

former article, and would advise people that in future when they are anxious to assail a person's character to be satisfied that they have facts in their possession which will uphold their statements, and not arbitrarily seek to destroy a person's character without sufficient cause.

The report that Lieut-Gov. Letellier is about to dissolve the Quebec Legislature is emphatically denied.

The Legislative Councilors of Nova Scotia have declined to vote themselves out of existence, and like barnacles are content, however much every one else objects, to hang on to the ship of state. They have, however, consented to a reduction of their membership as well as to a diminution of their indemnity, which concessions are so much gained.

In order to show the esteem felt for our member throughout the Dominion we clip the following which appeared in the *Montreal Pilot*:

"Because Mr. Macdougall shows a spirit of independence in the House of Commons he must be assisted by men who are not fit to hold a candle to him.

He is not a party jack, and, therefore, he must be denounced. Mr. Macdougall has brains enough to think for himself, and his decline to be the political spokesman of any man, and for this, party spleen must envy its contours on his head. It is to men of independent views that Parliament owes its best debating powers, and, in doubt, who such men are attacked they are able to take care of themselves. It is even men that the country must look for the exposure of party trickery, and for the destruction of party power when any power does wrong."

Acton Township Council.

This Council met at the Centre Inn on Monday the 17th inst., all the members present, the Clerk in the chair. The Clerk presented a letter by the *Mercury* and *Herald* printing offices, and from Kelly & Gould, and on the motion of Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Cumming, that the *Mercury* tender for printing the Voters' Lists and minutes of 1879 was accepted. Mr. David Ross was appointed the delegate from School Section No. 4 to meet with the delegate appointed by the West Galtexia Council and the Public School Inspector to arrange for attaching Lot 1, Con't 4, Acton. The Clerk was directed to notify Wm. E. Morrow, Bowles, and Isaac Duggan, to complete their last contracts on or before the 1st day of June next, failing which they would forfeit the remuneration for the work already done. \$1.23 taxes in 1878 on the stock in Miss Scott's store in Acton, was ordered to be returned to her as she store was closed after it was assessed. A letter from Wm. McCarthy respecting an improvement on 3rd line, at Lots 2, 4, and 5, was laid over until next meeting of the Council. The Council went into a committee to appoint pathmaster, fence-viewers, road overseers, and ditch inspectors. The Clerk in the chair. The blanks were filled, and the by-law read a third time and passed, and numbered 82. On motion the Council adjourned to meet again at the Centre Inn, on Monday 6th of May next.

J. A. DAVIDSON, Township Clerk.

There are 3,000 candidates for 500 seats in the elections to be held in Spain shortly.

The Swiss State Council, by 27 to 15, has resolved to restore capital punishment in France.

The new French Educational Bill received a heavy blow at the Jesuit institutions in France.

The Prince Edward Island elections are to commence on the 2nd of April. The Island is greatly excited in consequence.

It is rumored that Dr. St. Vallier, French Ambassador at Berlin, has resigned, in consequence of differences with Bismarck.

Hon. Mr. Macrae was sworn in on Wednesday of last week, Commissary of Crown Lands, and Hon. A. Courteau Provincial Secretary, for the Province of Quebec.

Petitions are being circulated throughout the County of Huron, with a view of ascertaining the feeling of the ratepayers as to the submission of a Scott Act in the county.

THE GRAVE.

At Limehouse, on the 25th inst., Mr. John Leidman, aged about 29 years.

ACTON MANUFACTURERS.

Floor, \$2.50 to 2.50
Old Fall Wheat, .09 to .10 per bush.
Spring Wheat, .05 to .09
New Fall Wheat, .04 to .06
Barley, .04 to .06
Oats, .03 to .05
Rye, .02 to .04
Bitter (Fresh), .01 to .02
Bitter (salted), .01 to .02
Lard (light), .08 to .10
Lard (dark), .05 to .08
Eggs, .01 to .02
Potatoes, per bag, .08 to 1.00
Apples, per bag, .06 to .07
Hay, per ton, .60 to .08 to .90

GUELPH MARKETS.

Floor, per 100, \$2.10 to 2.25
White Wheat, .08 to 1.00
Treadwell, do, .09 to .09
Spring Wheat, .09 to .09
Red Chaff, .05 to .08
Oats, .03 to .08
Barley, .01 to .02
Pork, .05 to .08
Hay, per ton, .70 to .90
Straw, .03 to .04
Eggs, per dozen, .11 to .13
Butter, per lb, .15 to .16
Potatoes per bag, .06 to .09
Lard, per cwt, .50 to .55
Wool, .35 to .38
Felt, .02 to .04
Pins, .05 to .08

FIRE AND ACCIDENT.

Mrs. Christie's Residence
Narrowly Escapes.

Mr. A. Matthews, sr., Breaks
His Water Pipe.

On Friday evening last about 10 o'clock the residence of Mrs. Christie, on the corner of Mill and Frederick streets narrowly escaped destruction by fire. It seems that a lamp which was sitting on a sewing machine was accidentally upset, and infalling it was broken and the coal oil ignited. A heavy woolen quilt was thrown over the flame, and by hard work on the part of Mrs. Christie the fire was extinguished, with very little damage. When the fire started Mrs. Christie called Mr. Abram Matthews, who lives in the front part of the house to assist her in extinguishing the flames. He was hurrying in, and as the house was dark he ran with great force against a door which was standing open, and unfortunately fractured his collar bone. Dr. Lowry attended him, and we are glad to know that he is recovering as speedily as could be expected.

Because Mr. Macdougall shows a spirit of independence in the House of Commons he must be assisted by men who are not fit to hold a candle to him. He is not a party jack, and, therefore, he must be denounced. Mr. Macdougall has brains enough to think for himself, and his decline to be the political spokesman of any man, and for this, party spleen must envy its contours on his head. It is to men of independent views that Parliament owes its best debating powers, and, in doubt, who such men are attacked they are able to take care of themselves. It is even men that the country must look for the exposure of party trickery, and for the destruction of party power when any power does wrong."

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Whilst Mrs. A. M. Hart was pleading in the Court of Appeals at Montreal on Tuesday she was attacked down by paralysis, and has been dangerously ill since.

A lot of ambitious youths have secured the drill shed at St. Catharines, and are to have a walk of twenty-four hours, the one who covers the greatest distance in that time to take the "aquilaute,"

Several official assignees who disposed of leather works at Ottawa recently have been summoned to appear before the Police Magistrate, on a charge of selling by auction without a license.

It cost Mr. Keechie, of Sheffield, £102 to recover his stolen horse. The steed is worth about \$90. This makes it a rather high-priced one.

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