

## THE FREE PRESS.

Acton, Thursday, July 14, 1881.

### The Victoria Disaster.

As the London police have succeeded in obtaining the names of 125 survivors of the Victoria disaster, and according to official figures the bodies of 181 victims have been recovered, it is very apparent that the evidence of those who stated that there were not four hundred, let alone six hundred, people on board the ill-fated steamer, at the time of the disaster, is not worth very much.

### The Scott Act.

It should be noted by all temperance people who were perplexed by the action of the Toronto Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, and the Scott Act that the General Assembly of that church has completely reversed the action of the Toronto body, and has expressed its approval of prohibition in general, and of the Scott Act in particular. Many Presbyterians have been breathing more freely since this expression of the church's real opinion was given.

### Speaking in Public.

We have attended a large number of complimentary suppers and other social gatherings, in which "making a speech" is one of the prominent features of the entertainment, and we find that the most popular person on these occasions is he who can express himself well and clearly, and conveys a compliment in a neat and pleasant manner. We, therefore, regret that so few of our otherwise accomplished young men—and even older ones—are so easily deficient in this regard. Of the men engaged in the various occupations represented in this place, many, perhaps all, are deeply interested and well "posted" in their several callings, and can explain and dilate upon them in private conversation. Why then can they not say something when called upon in public to represent their interests or present the sentiments of their fellow merchants or workmen? Is it modesty? Then let them remember that information can be both modestly and intelligently conveyed. Is it nervousness? Then let an effort be made to overcome that affliction, or a determination enforced that that trouble shall not prevent a few words, remembering that the most noted orators of the day have been similarly afflicted, and, even after years of practice, quaked and trembled upon rising to speak; but stand until their nerves have become steady and then break into an easy eloquence. Is it lack of rhetorical ability? Then let it be understood that oratory is not at all necessary. A simple truth of an interesting fact, even though it be already well known, repeated in the simplest language, is all that is requisite when accompanied by a pleasant smile or an evident good humor. Whatever else may be the cause, lack of knowledge it cannot be. Every young man, every individual who has been engaged but least in any calling, can speak from experience; especially if he has a disposition to observe and read. Much more than those who have passed years in any business or profession:

### The President's Condition.

The President's condition up to the time going to press was considered as decidedly more favorable than it has been before since the shooting. The sudden rise of temperature on Monday was simply a fluctuation natural to his state. The doctors in attendance are now very sanguine that the President's recovery will now be certain and rapid.

### School Trustee Nomination.

Wednesday last was the day fixed for the nomination of a school trustee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late John Speight, Esq. The nomination was held in the Council Chamber, Matthew's Hall, but was not as largely attended as is usually the case with school meetings.

Mr. James Moore nominated Dr. W. H. Lovry as fit and proper person to fill the vacancy, and Mr. D. Henderson seconded the nomination.

In the absence of any other nomination the ballot declared Dr. Lovry successful to fill the vacancy, so motions in considering the resolution of the commissioners that the work has been performed—Robt. Cola, pathologist, for graveling 30 pence per ton.

### Acton Village Council.

The council of the village of Acton met in the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening, 12th inst., pursuant to adjournment. Members present, Mr. G. S. Smith, reeve, in the chair, Messrs. W. H. Storey, D. Henderson and M. Speight.

Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.

The Finance Committee presented their eighth report, recommending that the following accounts be paid:

Peter Sayers, cedar scalding: \$46.12

Wm. Watson, 7 days work: 7.00

Total: 825.12

Moved by Mr. D. Henderson, seconded by W. H. Storey, that the report of the Finance Committee just read be adopted. Carried.

Moved by W. H. Storey, seconded by M. Speight, that by-law No.—for closing up a portion of Agnes street and opening another in its stead, be now read a second time. Carried.

Moved by D. Henderson, seconded by W. H. Storey, that leave be granted to introduce a by-law to divide the village of Acton into polling subdivisions, and that said by-law be now read a first time. Carried.

Moved by M. Speight, seconded by D. Henderson, that by-law No.—for closing up a portion of Agnes street be now read a third time and passed. Carried.

Moved by D. Henderson, seconded by W. H. Storey, that by-law No.—to divide the village of Acton into polling subdivisions, be now read a third time and passed, and that the seal of the corporation be attached thereto. Carried.

Moved by D. Henderson, seconded by M. Speight, that by-law No.—for closing up a portion of Agnes street be now read a third time and passed. Carried.

Moved by D. Henderson, seconded by W. H. Storey, that leave be granted to introduce a by-law at the next sitting of this council to raise the sum of \$5,500 for the purpose of erecting a Town Hall. Carried.

The council then adjourned.

### Equestrian Township Council.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, Mr. McCrae, D. P. Reeve, in the chair. Members present, Messrs. Lindsay, Graham and Warren. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, that the account of Thomas Bell for six new road scrapers, amounting to \$36.00, be paid by the Treasurer, and also \$25.20 for four scrapers to G. Wilkinson & Co., Aurora—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Warren, seconded by M. Speight, that the By-law to detail Lot No. 24, in the third con., from school section No. 12, Equestrian, in union with Acton School Division, and to have the same attached to school section No. 8, be read; the second and third times, and passed and signed by the reeve and clerk, and the corporate seal attached thereto—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the sum of \$23 be paid to Richard Howson, for building three new culverts between lots 5 & 6 & 7 the 8th con.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Graham, that Arch. McDonald be refunded the sum of \$2.03, being taxes which he could not collect—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, that the account of Law & Bros., of \$20.18, for plank for Jas. Murray's road division be paid—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, that the following acts be paid to the under-mentioned parties:

J. Leslie, rep. 10th line bridge, \$2.50.

A. Cooper, 11th line bridge, 5.00.

Total, \$12.00.

Carried.

Moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the sum of \$50 be granted for repairing the road on 7th line opposite lot 22, and that A. Henderson and F. Riddell be committee to expend the same—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the introduction of the by-law separating the rural portion of Acton School Division, from the Village of Acton be postponed for further information until the next meeting of council—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the sum of \$13.33 be paid to Alex. Ashenhurst, being two thirds value of five lambs killed by dogs—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the following sums to the parties named, on the certificate of the commissioners that the work has been performed—Robt. Cola, pathologist, for graveling 30 pence per ton.

John Street, New York.

Carried.

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