

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

King Alfonso of Spain is dead. Vice President Hendricks of the United States died suddenly last week. Whispers of municipal candidates are in the air, and many names are being mentioned as prospective aspirants for civic honors. No cards have as yet been published, however. In the line of office seeking many are called and few are chosen. The trouble about this is that so many men call themselves, and go for an office that it is not desirable they should have. The entire adult population of St. Marie village, Quebec, on Sunday voluntarily assembled in church and pledged themselves to abstain from alcoholic beverages for the space of one year. The Warden of the County of Dufferin, gave his annual supper at one of the hotels in Orangeville last week. All the toasts were drunk in clear cold water; not a drop of liquor being used. The Liberal Temperance Union is simply the latest out of the many successive masks which the liquor trade and its friends have found it expedient to wear in public. The name is good, but that is the only good thing the society possesses, and it is not the first time Heaven's livery has been used for unworthy purposes. Since the passing of the Scott Act in the County of Bruce three Magistrates, have imposed fines on liquor-sellers, have had their barns burned; they are J. Barker, whose office also was burned; Maj. Daniels, and Thomas Laurence. Only last week several missiles were thrown at Major Daniels as he passed an hotel, and a few nights ago the store windows of two active temperance workers, S. Gracey, furniture manufacturer, and H. Park, jeweller, were smashed. A reward of \$100 has, in the latter case, been offered by the Council for the detection of the perpetrators of the outrage. The County Council are, at their next meeting, to be asked to appropriate the necessary sum for the appointment of a Police Magistrate.

ACTON'S PARLIAMENT.

A Lengthy Session And Not Very Much to Show for it.

THE ELECTIONS IN VIEW.

The Council met on Tuesday evening. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The Finance Committee presented their seventeenth report recommending payment of accounts as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Includes W. E. Smith, rent of pound, \$10 00; Thos. Easton, hall sundries, 9 65; H. P. Moore, printing & adv'g., 7 93; James Brown, lumber & coal, 7 98; Geo. Havill, repairs at hall, 4 45; J. E. McGarvin, Fees Court of Revision, 3 44; P. M. McCann, repairs to hall, 3 25; L. Lyman, work on streets, 3 90; C. T. Hill, mail, 1 56; T. Isam, night constable, 1 25; Hart & Rawlinson, blanks, 81.

ANOTHER DEFEAT.

Scott Act Defeated in Prescott and Russell, by over 1800.

The Scott Act was voted on last Thursday in Prescott and Russell counties and defeated, the majority being over 1800 against it. There is a very large French Canadian element in these counties, and it is said the whisky supporters worked upon their feelings, making the recent hanging of Rié! an expedient in the case. As a consequence the French element voted en masse against the Act because the majority of the English population were in favor of it. In reviewing this matter the Toronto News says:—"The wave is receding. The Scott Act has swept the country for a time like a whirlwind. The wave rushed away up the face of the rock and shook it to its base. Now the wave recedes, and the full height has not been reached; but it will come back again. Five years from now, or six, this country will be seething over a political fight on the subject of straight prohibition. The wave comes, and the wave goes and comes back again, but each time it is stronger and higher and more vigorous. Next time it will be a wild wave."

THE CEMETERY BUSINESS.

To the Editor of the Free Press. Sir,—In my last communication I stated I would not again ask permission to trespass upon your space. Well, sir, I will send this without asking, relying upon your well-known spirit of fair play for its insertion, in reply to that very versatile, untruthful, and artful dodger, "Pro Bono Publico."

He heads off with a whopper— "A syndicate, with J. H. Pearson as President, has endeavored to answer my letter of the 12th inst., by styling me an anonymous scribbler. Such language I could only expect from the pen of so self-important and conceited obstructionists."

Now, sir, there is no such syndicate. No person ever suggested, dictated, or saw said letter until after completion. Such as it was produced over my signature, which you, "P. B. P.," dare not deny. Why? Because it would expose your whole hypocritical game. I am self-important enough to tell the truth, and concerted enough to stick to it. You are probably better up in syndicate business than I.

Now as to some facts: They state first that he, J. B. P., never opposed the cemetery of six acres. Will Mr. J. B. P. please tell the people of Acton how it came about that he and his colleagues, Mr. Ismond, insisted Mr. Wells when that gentleman presented the petition of 82 ratepayers, asking for the submission of a By-law to purchase six acres? Did he tell him to take the petition back and get more signatures to it, and was he not also told by Messrs. Pearson and Ismond to go out into the country to get them?

Mr. Wells never presented a petition to the Council—there was no meeting that night. I never inserted Mr. Wells, or had the slightest intention of doing so. The whole thing is false from beginning to end, so far as it refers to me. I did not do one of the above accusations—a whole batch of whoppers. As evidence of the correctness of my statements, here is what Mr. Wells says:—"Mr. Pearson—According to your request, I beg to state that 'P. B. P.' is incorrect in his statements. It was Mr. Ismond, and not you, who insisted me. I thought at the time you had, but upon hearing your explanation I am satisfied no insult was intended. 'Messrs. Pearson and Ismond again opposed the petition when brought a second time, saying it did not show the expression of the people of Acton. That was a nice insult to the petitioners, and one which they will find resented in the long run, if they have a chance. 'P. B. P.' admits that petition was sent back for more signatures. Who sent it back? The Council! Why? Because they thought there was not a sufficient number of signatures to give an expression of the majority of the people of Acton. For a fact, there never was a petition with 82 bona fide signatures of citizens. Now, 'P. B. P.' did that petition contain one more name on its return? No. Then why should it be accepted any more than at first? Because it was the last chance of getting that property on the public. The majority did not sign it. It must be taken as it was, or rejected. It was taken. Will you, Mr. 'P. B. P.,' tell me when that petition was presented to the Council? I say positively it never was, and I defy you to show me any record of its presentation in the minutes of the Council. No evidence that it was ever recognized by the Council. Now, who has 'insulted the petitioners'? The only time that the petition was ever presented was at a special meeting, called by the Reeve, when the By-law was introduced previous to the petition. The By-law was carried through its several stages, and laid upon the table ready for publication, and so stated. Now, Mr. Editor, there is not a record in the minutes of the Council that such a meeting ever took place. Of this more anon. "The reference to the acceptance of the thirteen acres, presented by Dr. McGarvin, is entirely untrue. The presentation 'hambug' does not come with a good grace. Here was six acres of land, surveyed, or about to be surveyed, immediately in front of said thirteen acres, and on which the Council was about to expend money to beautify. Now the conditions of the purchase of the said six acres was that the owner of the thirteen acres immediately behind should have right of way through the cemetery for all time to come. "Why should the Dr. have the right of way through the cemetery? Who gave him that privilege? Did the citizens? Did the citizens expect he would be granted such a privilege? I say, no, emphatically. What was the width of this privilege? Only sixty feet wide across the whole six acres. Why did not the Dr. reserve his road out of his own ground, according to the diagram that accompanied the petition, instead of being granted a road through, and thereby making the cemetery in two plots, sixty feet apart? "Feeling that the constant travel through the cemetery grounds to it, from time to time, would be a disagreeable feature, Dr. McGarvin very magnanimously saw fit to present the property to the Council. "Why did this sudden affliction of liberality strike the Dr.? What was the consideration? Let's look into it. 'P. B. P.' The consideration was that he gets \$890, or "only \$80 per acre," for land that I think he could not dispose of for more than \$10 per acre, if he could sell it at all. And you call it, 'P. B. P.,' a "magnanimous present." I call it a "magnanimous humbug," and I think the citizens will find it a very expensive one before they are through with it. "It would have been an unbusiness-like transaction if they like Messrs. Pearson and Ismond, had refused to accept, because if there are no lots sold in the thirteen acre tract, Dr. McGarvin gets nothing, and cannot enforce one cent. "Let us see how this Committee purposed assisting the Dr. I have an extract from the Cemetery Committee's first report, taken from the minutes *verbatim*, dated the 8th Sept., 1885:—"It being the purpose of your Committee to survey two acres of the rear portion on hill, they have at present a person employed cutting underbrush and superfluous growth, preparatory to a new survey. "This magnificent present was not to cost the corporation one cent, yet there is a man employed as far back as the 8th Sept., before the piece the citizens purchased was completed. Now, who asked for this expenditure on the hill? Did the citizens? If so, where is your evidence? Who did it? This self-appointed Cemetery Committee, no one else. It cost to survey the three acres over \$160; the level and assist on the whole ground. What will it cost to survey the two acres on the hill and make it correspond with the front? Where is the necessity for it, and where is the money to come from? Every lot sold on the hill the Dr. pockets the money, until he gets \$890, and the citizens

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are robbed of the sale of a lot on the six acres purchased. There is not a foot of fence on the whole thirteen acres, except the gateway, and for which there is a bill in the clerk's hands, not yet passed, for \$47. The Cemetery Committee has spent within a fraction of \$10,000, and what have the citizens to show for it? Nothing. The so-called obstructionists could not prevent that expenditure. They could not prevent their selling of lots. I have no inclination to stop them. "In regard to the second paragraph Mr. Pearson says he would go 'hand and glove' with the majority of the property owners to assist in procuring it. Did he do so? Yes, sir. The citizens never asked me to support a motion giving the Dr. sixty feet of a roadway out of their six acres, nor do I think it was ever intended by the promoters of that scheme to give it to him. If so, why was it not carried out? A By-law to that effect was passed. I think it was simply a scheme, which they knew I, or any other disinterested party, would not support, to get a sort of plausible excuse to introduce this "magnanimous present," which was done at the next meeting of Council. "All I have to say on that point is that this vote did not bear out his statements. How did he act when the Dr. was admitted to the people? Whether he voted for it or not is only known to himself. But this is known; he took a lively interest in endeavoring to defeat it. I did not vote. I did not influence or attempt to influence one vote. I did not take a lively or other interest to defeat it. I was out of Acton nearly all day. Now, is that explicit enough. I've lost track of the whoppers. "Whether he subscribed to their fund I am not prepared to say, but evidently Mr. P. is in possession of the secrets. How does this accord with his profession? "The first question I will answer for you, 'P. B. P.' I know your modesty. I did not subscribe to the funds. Now for the second. Let's see how much of a secret there has been. Do you remember, 'P. B. P.' being in the Council about the middle of June last, I shall take it for granted you was, when the letter was read to the Council by the Reeve, notifying them that if that property was selected proceedings would be instituted against them, or to that effect, signed by two ratepayers, Messrs. Burns and McDonald? Do you also recollect hearing talk, of course you did not get one, of a letter being received by each member of the Council from Messrs. Mowat, McLellan & Co., dated 7th Sept., stating that they had been instructed to take proceedings, &c.? You must certainly remember the following from your first effusion:—"I notice that one or two Councilors are persistently circulating a report that legal proceedings have been instituted against the Corporation to give the By-Laws, &c., which they certainly know is untrue. "Now, sir, you state that it would have been more manly to have told the Council—they had no notice, I presume. You talk of consistency, 'P. B. P.' It would be a gem of ineptitude value to you, and the citizens, did you possess it. "I would ask Mr. P. was the By-Law for raising the funds necessary for the purchase of a cemetery carried by the ratepayers? Was the selection of the property submitted and carried by the people? If so, why as a representative of the people he so persistently opposes their wishes? "I answer to first two questions, Yes. Third question, I did not oppose their wishes. I stuck up like a little man for their interests. I wanted six acres, what they had to pay for. You, sir, I beg your pardon, the Cemetery Committee, only wanted to give the citizens about 5f acres for their \$600, and the balance to the Dr. for a carriage drive for cows, &c. "I have carefully looked up this matter and cannot come to any other conclusion from the wording of the statute, which is very plain. "Why did you not use your influence with the Committee, give them the benefit of your great municipal and statutory knowledge, and otherwise encourage them to carry out the wishes of the people, and give them what they have already paid dearly for? I claim this Committee has no right, morally or legally, to refuse to sell lots to citizens, when demanded, on the six acres. It's theirs, not the Committee's. No matter who opposes or what the consequences, they have gone too far to recede now. "I would advise Mr. P. to drive up Main street as far as Mr. Hall's. "What for? I am not on the streets and sidewalks committee. Have no authority in that matter. Why do you not advise some energetic member of that committee, a very intimate friend of yours, Mr. Henderson, for instance. He has authority, and besides he controls the funds. "Nor would I have permitted the commissioner to purchase nails, &c., from any other contractor, for the use of the corporation. "Now, Mr. Editor, let's get me, I believe for the first time in his column and a half of vituperation and personality. How am I going to get out of it? It's a fact. I can't judge as 'P. B. P.' does. I'm dealing in facts, besides, I've got my little hatchet yet. Well, Mr. Editor, I will make clean breast of it. I did sell about nine kegs, at \$2.90 per keg, that cost me laid down in my store \$2.76 per keg; or at a net profit of 14 cents per 100 pounds. Now, 'P. B. P.,' you are well up in statute and municipal matters, I presume you are also a mathematician. Please tell us the rate per cent. of profit. Will it come up to your average of twelve per cent.? (I might say I am sorry for it, I won't do it again. I hope, Mr. Editor, you won't use this against me at the next election.) That, Mr. Editor, is all for political capital. It is said, "drumming men grasp at straws." I fear, 'P. B. P.,' you missed this straw. If you are really in earnest and so philanthropic as to begrudge me \$1.26 for handling and delivering around town 900 pounds of nails, and will come out massively and say so, I will imitate the Dr.'s magnanimity and present you with the whole profit, without any consideration attached. "In No. 10, Mr. P. states that he did not object to the gravel, for the simple reason he knew nothing about it. I would ask Mr. J. B. P. is that a fact, or is his brain so impaired that he cannot remember? Does he not remember when the cemetery committee brought in their 2nd report, did they not tell the Council that they had discovered a valuable gravel pit, and pointed it out as of great advantage to the cemetery and also for the roads and streets in the village? "Now, Mr. 'P. B. P.,' draw it mild; you have evidently been put out of the county; you 'took it mild.' Upon referring to the minutes of Council I find I was at that meeting, but I don't find a word was said about that gravel pit. I had the curiosity to extend

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WE GUARANTEE SATISFACTION TO EVERY CUSTOMER AS QUALITY IS OUR LEADING FEATURE. J. E. HOWSON, Next Door to Drug Store.

THE CHEAPEST place in Acton to buy Boots and Shoes is at Howson's, and still he is going to give a further reduction of 10 per cent. Ten per cent. off all kinds of Boots and Shoes, Rubbers and Overshoes, for the next 30 days.

HOWSON is going to make the Grocery Business lively for the Christmas season. We do not merely say we can give you better or cheaper goods than any other dealer in town, but we quote you prices in plain figures, which is very different to mere assertions that amount to nothing. Note the following:

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We have made arrangements to continue the business of Nelson, McRae & Co., under the same firm name until the first of January, 1886. Our Clearing Sale continues and we are giving rare values for CASH.

We respectfully ask all indebted to the firm to call and settle their accounts before the first of January, as they must be provided for in some way by that time. NELSON, McRAE & Co. Acton, November 24th, 1885.

THE FREE PRESS. From now till 1st January, 1886, FOR THE SMALL SUM OF \$1.00. By an arrangement with the publisher of the Rural Canadian, now in its ninth year of publication, we are enabled to offer the best paper for the money. The regular price of the two is \$2.00. The Rural Canadian is a monthly illustrated magazine for the Farm and Home. The following are the leading departments:—Farm and Field; Horses and Cattle; The Dairy; Sheep and Swine; Gardens and Orchard; Bees and Honey; Poultry and Pets; House and Farm; The Grasshopper; Rural Notes; Household Hints; Young Canada; Seasonable and Useful. The single copy from month to month is worth the price of several years' subscription. The paper is published on the first of the month. The price of the paper is published on the first of the month. SUBSCRIBE NOW. BALANCE OF YEAR FREE.

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