

The Action Free Press.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 6, 1860.

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The recent organization of Farmers' Institutes by the commissioner of agricultural of this province, has furnished most important aspects for the exchange of valuable experience, and for the diffusion of scientific principles and methods among our whole farming community. These institutes are being largely attended and highly appreciated; the professors of the agricultural college have personally interested themselves in the proceedings, and have established between college and institutes cordial relations of the greatest advantage.

The first convention of the Halton Farmers' Institute at Georgetown last week resulted very satisfactorily as to manner, matter and attendance. The address by the several professors were replete with useful information and gave rise to many pertinent questions which were duly answered. But the most interesting, and perhaps the most profitable, part of the proceedings was that borne by the farmers themselves, and those intimately connected with them in business relations, both in the papers' read and in the discussions which followed the several readings. Professor Brown, President of the Agricultural College, showed himself to be admirably qualified to conduct such meetings, both by the questions he asked and the remarks he made from time to time, the effect of which was to provoke discussion, and by the skilful manner in which he managed to draw out from each participant the strong points of his knowledge, or the most valuable records of his experience.

We hope, now that so good a beginning has been made, that the farmers of our county will not be content with holding meetings at such times as they can have outside help, but that they will hold monthly, or at least quarterly meetings, during their slack season, as the late gathering at Georgetown proved that there is enough of talent among their own body to make such meetings both interesting and improving, especially from the practical stand-point.

CONSISTENT AFTER ALL.

The Georgetown Herald, which has always been anxious to retain Esquining Township Exhibition permanently for Georgetown's benefit, appeared unusually jubilant last week, in the belief that it had succeeded in making remarks selected from the columns of the Free Press, respecting the matter, appear inconspicuous. In its over-anxiety to make a point against us, the Herald apparently pays very little attention to the wording of the items it selects and of course fails to arrive at a proper conclusion as to the real purport of our expressions.

The Herald says:-

"About one year ago the Herald stated that Action's chances for the township show were small because the village had no suitable accommodations. The Free Press man said he was wrong and better accommodation than Georgetown. We are glad to see our brother look at the matter in a different and proper light now. In view of the other being in the Action this fall the Free Press says:- 'Our people will necessarily be expected to provide accommodations equal to those enjoyed at Georgetown, and to accomplish this they will require to bestir themselves early and uniformly.'

Although upon the face of the thing there does appear a little inconsistency, it must be understood that the Herald has selected from each of our articles only the sentences themselves which would suit its purpose, irrespective of their connection with the subject. A few words of explanation will suffice to show clearly that the FREE PRESS meant what it said in each instance.

Now, in the first place, we reassert that Action has as good, and better, accommodations than Georgetown, from the most important point of view. It is a well known fact that the very life of an agricultural exhibition is its live stock and if a suitable place is not provided for showing live stock the exhibition will experience a corresponding lack of interest by stock raisers, and consequently be more or less of a failure in that line. In respect to this we can boast of Action much superiority over her sister town. Here we have a fine fifteen acre park, beautifully levelled and otherwise improved and containing the half mile track of Action Driving Park Association, which is acknowledged by men of large experience to be first class in every way. In this then—the most important department—we have much better accommodation than Georgetown.

As far as a hall for the show is concerned we have to admit that Georgetown can supply something better than Action can as yet offer, for it so happens that the Drill Shed—Government property—is situated contiguous to the town square, and by the closing of a street for the day can be used for the purpose required. This convenience is, however, due to no effort on the part of our Georgetown friends. It was in reference to the erection of a new hall in the park for the use of the exhibition that we request our people to "bestir themselves early and uniformly," for we are anxious that Action should possess accommodations equal, and if possible superior, not only in the larger matters, but in every detail, to those generally provided.

We hope the Herald will not further misunderstand us and attribute our remarks to inconsistency.

In Bruce County there exists a Printers' and Publishers' Association, which has been successful operator for some years. A similar organization in Halton County, if properly managed, would doubtless easily, to all concerned, share the same opinions of our brethren of the craft in the county on the subject?

PARTY vs. PRINCIPLE.

We were rather surprised to notice the highly complimentary remarks of the Milton Advertiser and Oakville Star last week concerning the election of Mr. Baxter to the Wardenship. These journals profess to be leaders in the Scott Act movement in this county, and it is hard to understand how they can consistently pretend to be working for the success of the Scott Act and at the same time chronicle with such apparent delight the election of a man to the highest office in the country, who is such a bitter and outspoken enemy to the Act as Mr. Baxter is well-known to be.

More especially do we wonder when at this particular period in the history of the Act it is most desirable that a member of the County Council favorable to the Act should occupy the position. Surely our journalistic friends are not going to allow their political preferences to overshadow their expressed convictions of what principles are right and which should be upheld in preference to any other considerations. We are very loath to think so, but verily the indications point in that direction.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Queen has called upon Gladstone to assume the Premiership, and form a cabinet. A few months work marvellous changes.

If the Scott Act comes short of what is written, it is not and cannot be the fault of the law, but because the officers of the law, at least up to the present, have failed to enforce its commands.—Orilla Packet.

In Amherstburg, Ont., fifty out of eighty-six women on the voters' list voted. This is about as large a proportion as usually votes of men at municipal contests. Yet there were people who said that women would not exercise the franchise even if given the opportunity.

The third session of the parliament of Ontario, open at Toronto last Thursday afternoon. There's no reason to expect a long or a very eventful session; but there should be hard steady work devoted to improving existing legislation rather than to promoting startling novelties.

Barnes, the victor in the great type setting match just finished in Chicago, is as many of our readers know, a Canadian. He was, for some years a resident of Tilsonburg, Ont., in which place it is said he was an apprentice. Barnes is not only a wonderful compositor, but is also a first-class all-round printer.—Chicago Canadian-American.

The Mail of Friday repeats a statement which it has made before, that "the Dominion suffrage is practically manhood suffrage." If this is the case, why not make it actual manhood suffrage? The Mail's statement is "practically" an admission that the enormous expense, trouble, and confusion entailed by the revising barrister system are utterly without necessity or justification.—Nero.

The now Dominion Franchise Voters' Lists are now in course of preparation. The time expired on Saturday when new names could be added to the list. Any additions or erasures must now be made before the Judge's Court of Revision. In our opinion the whole business is an unnecessary waste of legislation. It will be found an expensive outlay, for a careful estimate approximates the cost of the Dominion lists for this county at no less than \$1,200 to \$1,500.

The Scott Act was defeated by about 500 in a majority in the county of Pontiac, Que., last Thursday. Referring to it the Montreal Witness says:—Pontiac is another example of the disadvantage in the matter of social progress of having a mixed population. In pure French counties, and in most pure English ones, the Scott Act carries easily. In evenly mixed ones it fails. Pontiac, moreover, is largely dependent on the lumbermen, and one of their large requirements is liquor. In many villages great liquor shops rule everything. The very reason why Pontiac specifically passed the Scott law has probably proved powerful against it.

A bright idea has come to one of the engineers of the proposed railway from the whirlpool to the American falls. Going over the route on the ice the other day, when he came to the American falls, the inspiration came to him that the line might be extended around behind the falls and back to the whirlpool on the Canadian side. Out of this has been conceived probably the boldest plan ever conceived by man. It would be the most wonderful railroad in the world. The plan contemplates a narrow-gauge steam railway from the whirlpool to the American falls, where the trains would enter the "Shadow of the Rock" and pass behind the American falls, the "Bridal Veil," "Cave of the Winds," and "Horseshoe," reappearing at Sol Davis' "Table Rock," whence it would proceed along the water's edge to the whirlpool on the Canadian side. Well, the conception is a good one, even for a joke, and wider projects than that have been brought within the possibilities.

A Railway by Law Adopted.

London, Ont., Jan. 29th.—The voting on the bylaw granting a bonus of \$75,000 to the London and Southwestern railway company, as yet unorganized, took place to day, the bylaw being adopted by a vote of 260 to 150.

TO GO TO THE NORTH-WEST.

Troops at Quebec Under Orders to Start in March.

Quebec, Jan. 23.—Report has it on the citadel that orders have been received from Ottawa to hold the troops in residence to proceed to the North-west in March. The corps included in the order are the remainder of B. battery, the 87th County of Quebec infantry, and Nos. 2 and 3 of Quebec garrison artillery.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The First Convention, Held in Georgetown Last Week, a Grand Success.

HALTON WILL BE PREPARED.

The first convention of Halton Farmers' Institute, held at Georgetown last Friday and Saturday, was largely attended by farmers and others from all parts of Halton and many from adjoining counties. The Globe says this was one of the largest attended of any of the series of institutes which have yet been held.

Mr. James Bradley took the chair, and made a few pointed remarks relating to the object of the institute.

Mr. Francis Barclay read a paper on butter, giving the result of his experience in connection with the butter trade of many years. He pointed out that with good food, pure water, and kind treatment a healthy cow will always give good milk, and the quality of the butter to be produced depends upon the manner in which it is handled.

It is most important that a better knowledge should be had and greater care exercised by those whose business it is to look after the dairy. Western Ontario butter stands lower in quality than that produced in Eastern Ontario or Quebec Provinces. Owing to the excellence and purity of the Canadian climate, no country in the world should outrival the Dominions in the quality of butter.

Prof. Brown's treatise on the subject of permanent pasture was well received, and elicited many enquiries from the farmers.

H. Reid, V. S., in a well studied paper, discussed the subject of breeding and general management of live stock from a veterinary point of view. He suggested that farmers and breeders should devote their attention to the improvement of one particular breed.

Evening Session.

At the evening meeting the attendance numbered fully 300 a fair proportion of whom were ladies.

W. McCraney, M. P., Halton, prefaced an interesting paper on the life and occupation of a farmer, by speaking highly in favour of the institutes as a means of removing the petty, national, religious and political prejudices which the agricultural community entertained towards each other. He thought that farmers did not make their homes sufficiently attractive to keep their sons from following other pursuits in life instead of sticking to the farm. He pointed out the important place which the farmer occupied in the commercial world. A little more energy and determination to succeed were what some farmers lacked. As a farmer himself he urged his agricultural hearers not to despise their calling or envy others; but by devoting themselves to the interests of their farm and home, they would be honouring themselves and their calling.

Mr. Gordon Mowat, in the course of an address on grape culture and the relative merits of the different varieties, recommended the Concord and the Woodstock as the most productive and profitable for Halton generally, though the Delaware in much of the country would also pay well.

Dr. Roe, in an able paper, discussed the cultivation and management of cereal. It was the most easily grown, the most healthful and delicious, of any garden vegetables, yet there was an impression abroad that it was the hardest of any vegetable to manage.

Col. Campbell, of Nelson, a practical farmer, delivered an address on general matters pertaining to the farm and dairy.

William Kerns, M.P.P., Halton, in the course of an address, said as a buyer of grain that for a long time to come the farmers need not look for an advance in the price of wheat.

Prof. Brown addressed the ladies particularly on butter-making, and the relation of the cow to the dairy. A spirited discussion lasting over an hour followed, after which the meeting adjourned. The proceedings were interspersed with songs and instrumental selections by local talent.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The Institute resumed business at 10 o'clock, Mr. Bradley in the chair.

Dr. Greenway opened the proceedings with an address on the best method of horse-shoeing, and how to take care of two-horse feet, which led to a good deal of discussion. The Dr. also gave a practical address relative to the causes and prevention of diseases among live stock during the session.

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