

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1889

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Food for thought. Nine divorces were granted last year in Canada, but over twenty-five thousand in the United States.

Saturday was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the pope, and in Montreal without anything extraordinary happening.

The commercial "lies of March" (the fourth) has passed both here and in Montreal without anything extraordinary happening.

Messrs. Wallis, Halton, Neven, Follet, and Colyer, Halton, are the three Liberal members of Parliament who now occupy seats which Conservatives filled last session.

Monday was a great day in Washington. It was such a day as only comes once in four years. The Republicans are happy, having returned to the warm sunshine of office after four years spent in the cold shades of opposition.

From the report of the Registrar-General just issued we find there were last year 42,000 births in Ontario, including 303 pairs of twins.

The oath of office taken by President Harrison has the merit of simplicity. It is as follows: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will defend the constitution thereof with all the ability that I possess."

From a return furnished by J. W. Manning, chief officer of the Canada Temperance Act division, for the quarter ending the first of January last, it is found that the operations under the Act were as follows:—Informations laid, 704; convictions, 69; dismissals, 129; penalties imposed, \$27,665.

In the annual report on Dominion penitentiaries just issued, the Inspector calls attention to a considerable decrease in the penitentiary population of late years, a decrease which he holds to be an indication of the more prosperous condition of the country.

The National Prohibition Party of the United States have just held a convention at Louisville, Ky., attended by over 700 delegates, representing all parts of the country.

DEATH OF COUNTY REGISTRAR BARCLAY. MEXICO, March 6.—Mr. Francis Barclay, Registrar of the County of Hamilton, died this forenoon. Mr. Barclay was born in Scotland and came to this country when quite young.

BIG FIRE AT ALTON. About two o'clock Monday morning a fire broke out in the Dixon house block, and in spite of every effort to save it the whole block was completely destroyed.

GRAND JURY. An organ recital took place in the Methodist church last Monday evening. H. G. Collins, Vice-President of the society of Canadian Methodists rendered some fine selections.

ROCKWOOD. Dr. Ivy died last week valued at \$200. Information is said to have been given that the cause of death was John Plummer, of Nassauways, who died last week.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES. Anniversary services will be held in the Baptist church next Sunday. A new pipe organ will be placed in position in the Presbyterian church in a few days.

THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL has fixed the license fees at \$70 and will grant six licenses.

AT THE CAPITAL. Mr. Charles Tupper at Ottawa-Canada's Attorney-General in the Commons-The Hon. Mr. Tupper.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS. Ottawa, March 6.—Sir Charles Tupper arrived in Ottawa on Saturday and drove to the residence of his son, Hon. C. H. Tupper.

On this letter point Sir Charles announced the policy of the Canadian Government. He said, "I may say definitely that neither Great Britain nor Canada will take the initiative in any new negotiation."

Mr. Charlton on Friday read in the House a private telegraphic communication from Mr. Hitt's resolution to promote commercial union with Canada.

Mr. Laurier's speech is condensed into the amendment which he moved, setting out that the settlement of all disputes with the United States is desirable.

Col. O'Brien of Muskoka is a champion of Protectionism and British connection and although a Government supporter he occasionally surprises when he announces his intention of making a motion respecting the non-discrimination of the Jesuits Bill.

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A RAILWAY HORROR.

Awful Disaster at St. George, Ont. Where a G. T. H. Passenger Train Crushed Through a Bridge.

TEN KILLED, TWENTY SEVEN INJURED. Last Wednesday evening at six o'clock there occurred one of the most terrible railway casualties that has occurred in Canada since the awful Desjardins canal horror threw half the country into mourning.

As it proceeded the engine, tender and smoking car crossed the bridge in safety, but just as the passenger coach was near the centre of the bridge the terrible affair occurred. The train passed over the bridge, tumbled a somewhat and landed flatly.

The following is a list of the killed: George Leggat, of Mitchell; W. W. Wemy, of London; Dr. Swan, of Woodstock; A. W. Frazer, of Woodstock, proprietor of the Times.

Mr. McLean, of the firm of McLean and Beecher, Detroit, Mich.; E. H. Baines, of London; Harry Angle, the freeman; Mr. Peare, of Woodstock; A young lady, unidentified; Mrs. Higgins, Toronto, who had died three weeks since.

THE INJURED. Mrs. L. Doolittle, the temperance lecturer; Mrs. and Miss Jennings, of Paris; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, of Woodstock; Mrs. McLeod, of Ingersoll, Ont.; Miss Clarke, of Pontiac, Mich.; James Hylton, of Goderich; Mrs. Tracoe, of Woodstock; R. W. Knight, of Woodstock; John McLaughlin, of Detroit, Mich.; Fred Hancock, of London; George Forbes, of New York; J. B. Marshall and Mr. Marshall, of Regina, S. W. T.

John H. Wilson, coalman, of Chatham; Mrs. Evans, of Hamilton; George Marquette, dining car conductor, Niagara; Robert H. Wilson, of St. Catharines; Mr. McLaughlin, of London; Goodenough Bevel, injured seriously; J. W. Mac, Mayor of Woodstock; W. M. Woodcock, Sanitist, Mich.; Dr. H. Loquene, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. A. S. Sennell, of Detroit; Miss Andrews, of London.

THE TOWN. The town was wild with excitement, and special trains brought delegations from various towns. The accident was witnessed by some of the townpeople, the alarm was given immediately, and in a few moments the streets were the scene of the wildest excitement. Merchants and tradesmen were on their way to supper, but they left the evening meal uncooked, and hurried toward the scene of the wreck.

Every available conveyance was hurried to the bridge, and as the dead and the wounded were taken out of the wreckage, some to private residences, and still others to the Methodist Institute hall and the station house. A noble array of heroic women turned out to minister to the wounded and to dying. All the doctors were soon on hand and attended without delay the poor mortals who groaned for relief. An auxiliary train soon arrived from Hamilton, and another from London. Doctors came from Paris, Hamilton, Brantford, Woodstock and London, and for a time the hands of all were full.

THE SCENE OF THE WRECK was appalling. On one part of the bridge was a number of the heaped together, and some of them appeared to be among the partially demolished Pullman occupied a place on the bridge, and appeared to look down in pity upon the sorrowful scene. The dining car stood up almost perpendicular upon its end. The upper end leaned against one of the vast stone piers. The hind wheels of the dining car became detached from the ground, and they were wedged in the iron framework of the bridge. The first-class coach took a complete somersault in the descent, and though it landed right side up it was very nearly demolished. A heap of debris lies at the foot of one of the piers, and a strange conglomeration of iron, twisted and other railway attachments. Engineer Brown stood in his post and passed over in safety, while the foreman jumped and was severely injured that he died. The bridge, formerly of wood, is about 60 feet high, was a SUBSTANTIAL IRON STRUCTURE with massive stone piers, and to avoid even the possibility of an accident was overhauled a week or two ago. It stood the strain for a few years ago of a heavy freight train on which two or three cars had jumped the rails, caused by a broken wheel, and only the heavy dining car broke through the iron truss work after the ties and woodwork were stripped off by the protruding car. The dining car, being mostly constructed of iron, was most impervious to the heat and saw. Standing on the pier, fell, and was pitched to the bottom amongst a mass of broken tables and dishes. Upon the top of all this the cooking furnace was in full running order. The danger of fire was imminent and luckily the first thought of the rescuers was to prevent just worse horror befalling the poor victims crushed beneath. Beneath all one man was edging for help and when taken out was scarcely injured. The strikes of a lady near him were heartrending, but she died before they could rescue her. Two men were sitting together talking, one was killed instantly. The other was rescued, badly but not hopelessly injured. Woodstock was the greatest sufferer. It lost three members of the town council by death, Messrs. Dr. Swan, Francis and Peare, and four others were injured leaving only enough members in the council to form a quorum. The Woodstock contingent were a detachment going to interview the Ontario Government on a municipal matter. There were about 60 persons in the train altogether. A great public funeral of the Woodstock victims was held on Saturday, when some 15,000 persons attended. The wounded are now all doing well. Burial services were held at the Woodstock cemetery on Monday. It appears probable that the unknown woman who was killed in the accident at St. George was Maggie English, formerly of the Marchmont Home in this city.

STEINHOFF & GORDON, Wallaceburg, are manufacturers of staves hoops and bedding and claim to have the largest and best equipped establishment of the kind in Canada. Last year they manufactured 18,000 staves, 5,000,000 hoops and 400,000 sets of bedding.

LOWERING THE LICENSE FEE.

The Council Ought to Make It Less Than \$100. On Thursday afternoon last Reeve Storey received a telegram from Inspector Broderick that the sum fixed by Acton Council to be paid for tavern license in Acton was \$10 higher than the law would allow without a special vote of the ratepayers ratifying the fee.

The matter was looked into by the Reeve and referred to several public citizens for their opinion as to the meaning of the act. The expression was general that the deduction of the Council was a reasonable one, and owing to the complex character of the section governing the matter and also to subsequent conflicting paragraphs it was no reflection upon the Council that such an error should have been made.

Members all present. The Reeve in the chair. The Reeve explained the object of the meeting. The by-law passed on the 20th February fixing the amount to be paid for licenses was then repeated.

A new by-law was then introduced and at this point the following discussion took place as to what price would be inserted in the new by-law:— Dr. Lowry.—I think \$125 would be a fair figure. It would not at that fee appear as if we were trying to make every cent out of the whiskey business the law allows.

Mr. Harvey.—I'm in favor of putting it down to the same price as last year, \$75. That's none too low.

Mr. Speight.—I say make it \$140 by all means. That is no higher than it should be.

Mr. Speight.—If we give them a low license for the hotelkeepers will boast that they have scored on us, and I for one am not in that box.

Dr. Lowry.—It seems to me we are trying to make all we can out of the whiskey business when we have a chance as well as the hotelkeepers.

Mr. Harvey.—The higher we fix the license for the harder they will work to sell. I'm in favor of putting it down to last year's rate.

Dr. Lowry.—I have no interest whatever in the hotelkeeper, but look at the principle of the matter.

Mr. Harvey.—We should look to the hotelkeepers' interests as well as our own. Reeve Storey.—The sentiment of the town is clearly in favor of higher license fees.

Dr. Lowry.—Yes, and many other places are of course higher.

Mr. Speight.—The people generally expressed themselves as glad that the fee was put up to \$150 in the first by-law. This is particularly so with the young men in town, and I think we should make it as high as the law allows.

Dr. Lowry.—Suppose we put it at \$135 to meet the views of all as nearly as possible.

Mr. Speight.—No, I am convinced that \$140 should be the figure.

Mr. Harvey.—That's too high.

Dr. Lowry.—I think we should treat public business conscientiously no matter what outsiders have to say or think. A councilor loses his self esteem if he allows outside interested parties to decide him into bringing in their interests into public business. Do what you think is for the best interests of the municipality you represent and let people say what they please about it.

After some further discussion the following resolution was carried.

Moved by Dr. Lowry, seconded by J. A. Speight, that the by-law to fix the sum to be charged for tavern licenses and limiting the number thereof in this municipality be now read a second and third time and passed and that rule nineteen be suspended for such purposes, and that the blanks in said by-law be filled in with the sum of one hundred and thirty-five dollars, and the number of licenses be limited to three. This will make the total amount to be paid for licenses in Acton \$195. Council then adjourned.

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