

DIED  
Hulse—Student, at Battell's, on the 10th Dec., Etobicoke Hills.  
Burke—At Horby, on the 9th Dec., William Burke, aged 60 years.

## The Acton Free Press.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1889.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Concerning that every one half cent is levied by the school trustees, the rate-payers should exert their interest in school matters by attending the annual meeting and nominating to-day.

A local option is in force in twelve towns and municipalities in Manitoba. There are sixteen incorporated towns and cities in that province, and of those only nine have a liquor license system.

The recent Dominion order with respect to the existing trade in British Columbia has been virtually withdrawn, as what was intended to hurt the United States really injured Canada business.

The Russian government has issued a decree imposing additional limitations upon traffic on the German frontier, making the regulations governing commerce almost prohibitive. A general outcry has been against the new order on both sides of the border line, but it is unlikely that the protest will compel a modification of the edict.

It is almost beginning to look as if the good old-fashioned Canadian winter had become a thing of the past. Recently green Christmases have been the rule, and the result has been almost complete stagnation of business at what should be the busiest time of the year. There has been little in the air this week to suggest that the festive Christmas tide is here.

During the ten months ending with October 1888, 7,068,500 bushels of barley, valued at \$1,16,739, were imported into the United States, compared with 7,136,219 bushels worth \$2,307,615 in the same months of 1888. Nearly the whole of this barley went from Canada. The amount paid into the United States treasury in the form of duties upon barley, during the first ten months of 1888 was \$116,739.

The annual financial statement of this Dominion furnishes a most satisfactory showing. The revenue has increased very largely while the expenditure remains almost stationary. A trifling increase in public debt is much more than offset by the expenditure on public works. The increase in post office savings banks shows that the people of moderate means are in a thriving condition. Canadians all right!—*Progress.*

A new explosive, more potent than dynamite, and perfectly safe to handle, has been invented by a Hungarian, who has sold the secret to the Austrian Government. It is called cerosote, and has been proved terribly destructive when employed in the loading of bombs. With smokeless powder explosives of vast power, and other means of slaughter, the European nations will have a fine time when they go to war with each other. At present, however, it seems as if some of them are afraid and others dare not.

It is gratifying to hear our country spoken well of abroad, and its greatest exports by a friendly press. Alluding to statistical documents lately published, the *Savannah, Ga., Daily News*, comments on the position and prospects of the Dominion. It points out that our area is 3,70,922 square miles, while that of the United States, including Alaska, is but 3,66,000. The fertility of the soil and its adaptability for growing wheat are admitted. Of our natural resources this friendly critic says, the rivers, lakes and offer extraordinary natural facilities for commerce; water power beyond calculation exists for manufacture. There is more iron in Canada than in any other country of the earth, and other good metal and minerals, from gold down, are abundant. The forests are immeasurably vast and contain all varieties of useful wood.

HALTON FARMER'S INSTITUTE.

List of Officers for next Year: Vice-Pres. nearly all the Lower end of the County.

The annual meeting of the Halton County Farmers' Institute was held, at Milton on Friday. The principal business was the election of officers for the coming year as follows:—President, J. D. Wilson, Oakville; First Vice-President, R. L. Lindsey, Georgetown; Second Vice-President, G. H. Kennedy, Georgetown; Secretary-Treasurer, A. W. Peart, Freeman; Directors—Wm. McLeod, B. Standish, F. Reddell, R. D. Warren, editor *Georgetown Herald*; L. Grant, W. Moore, Georgetown; C. P. Preston, Horby; R. Noble, Norval; John Alton, T. Harris, Thos. Agnew, Mairies, Elgin, Thomas Howarth, C. Colman, of Oakville; Henry Robinson, W. C. Beatty, Onondaga; J. A. Watson, Eden Mills; A. C. Macmillan, M. Holmes, Nassauway; John McLaughlin, Dr. Robertson, D. W. Campbell, W. B. Brothers, *Elgin Star*, Milton; W. Fisher, Burlington; George E. Fisher, Frenchville; Col. Campbell, Nelson; George E. Fisher, Wm. Clements and Col. Campbell were appointed delegates to the Central Farmers' Institute in Toronto. It was decided to hold a meeting at Oakville on the 15th of January, and at Georgetown on the 16th of the same month.

### THE EXTRADITION TREATY.

A list of the officers which it proposes to cover.

Watson, Dec. 21.—The proposed new extradition treaty between Great Britain and the United States, omits many of the features which caused the rejection of the former draft treaty by the Senate last spring. The list of offenses which it is proposed to make extraditable is as follows:

Murder, or attempt or conspiracy to murder.

Counterfeiting or altering money, and uttering counterfeit or altered money.

Larceny.

Embezzlement.

Obtaining money or goods under false pretenses.

Burglary.

Arson.

Abduction.

Train-wrecking.

Piracy.

Fraud committed by a bailee, banker, agent, factor, trustee, or member or public officer of any company, made criminal by any law for the time being in force.

This list, it will be seen, covers most of the offenses committed by the fugitives from American justice now sojourning in Canada. Should the treaty be adopted, therefore, the Dominion will no longer be favored with the sort of immigration from across the border which has been so fashionable of late years.

### NEXT YEAR'S COUNCIL.

REFLECTIONS ON TREE PLANTING.  
To the Editor of the Free Press.

Next Monday the ratepayers will be called upon to select the candidates for the Municipal Council for the coming year. In comparison with our previous in last issue we have interviewed the members of the present Council relative to their intentions respecting the future. The result is given below:

Mr. W. H. Sturz, Reeve, says:—I think I have served all the time in the council that you would expect of any member. I have appreciated very much the kindness of the people in year after year placing me in the chair of the Chief Magistrate, but now I am very anxious to be relieved of the position and prefer that the ratepayers elect some other person. I have very kindly thought to inform the people for the reason, however, in every instance when I have advocated improvements of interest to our town they have succeeded my efforts and carried into effect the improvements suggested. Now, however, I will most willingly give place to some other citizen. But, notwithstanding my desire I will not leave the municipality in the lurch, and if no other can be secured to accept the office, I will undertake the position. In this case, however, I would expect the people to stand at my back during the year and elect a council which would work harmoniously together. The community is well aware that for several years I have been anxious to retire from public office and I have sacrificed my time and energy after you only because I have a heartfelt interest in the position and progress of our enterprise town.

Mr. Lovell, I do not desire to enter any contest but if the ratepayers see fit to return me to the Council again I will accept the position and endeavor as in the past to feebly look after public interests. I feel that some citizens must sacrifice themselves in order to transact the business of the municipality and if the people favor me with their confidence I will do my best to serve them. A rumor that I am open for consideration for the Reeveship is entirely groundless. I do not feel myself equal to the position and there again my time will not allow me to give the office the attention it requires. In my opinion Mr. Storey is the man who should occupy that office. He has the experience and is generally acknowledged to possess unusual ability, and his position in life and business work him in a better place than almost any other citizen for the duties of that office. If any inexperienced citizen ever allows himself to be placed in the position he will find the office embraces a great deal more work, time and ability than is generally imagined. No. I am not open for the Reevehip. The business of the Council during the year has been pleasantly transacted and as far as I can learn the public is pretty well satisfied with the year's work.

Corporation Mayor said:—I do not intend to run for councillor for another year. My business demands my whole attention and I cannot in justice to my customers and myself neglect it. A great many of my friends have been pressing me to offer myself for re-election, but I answer them all that under no consideration will I accept office in the council of 1890.

Corporation Mayor—I have no desire to continue in the council. I am not sorry that I entered into the contest last year and won a place on the council board. During the year I have endeavored to do my duty as expected of a public officer and I am sure the ratepayers have nothing to complain of with regard to the conduct of my actions as concerned.

I have spent a good deal of time in the interests of the town and now I think some other citizen should come along and take a share of the responsibility to the community. My relations with the council have been pleasant and agreeable. One thing which deserves me from accepting the position next year is the vast amount of work required of the council—in the future if Acton is going to keep abreast of the times in public improvements. A better system of street lighting must be inaugurated, the street and sidewalk must be largely extended and improved and the new park will require a good deal of attention. I feel that my experience of the past year will be valuable to me as a citizen and if ever I am again in the council I am satisfied that experience will be valuable to myself and the public. For 1890 I am not in the field.

Corporation Mayor—There is one year enough in council business for him at present. I say:—I find that public business requires more attention than I calculated, and I can say my time to better advantage in my own interests. I have during the past year faithfully endeavored to serve the ratepayers to the best of my ability, but to a thankless position as municipal councillor I have to desire to return. Count me out!

From this it will be observed that several vacancies will fill probably occur, and the personnel of the Council will again undergo considerable change.

There is no doubt Mr. Storey will again be returned to the Reeve's chair by acclamation, and it will simplify matters very materially if the council is elected throughout without the turmoil of an election. It is hoped that good honest men who will give public matters due attention will be nominated.

Unfortunately it is too much the case that many of the most upright citizens and business men of good judgment refrain from taking an active part in the designation and general management of town affairs—they look to their own comfort, and the formalized criticism which municipal office life generally engenders. We should like to see the best men the municipality affords placed at the council board, irrespective of all party and creeds.

Designating persons who desire to attain their own ends are apt to raise the cry that this, or that other man, party or institution, is trying to "run the town." Be not blinded by any such worthless nitpicking.

In North America a very small portion of the solar disc was obscured shortly after sunrise, when the eclipse ended, and in Nova Scotia, part of Florida, and in part of Central America only could this portion of the eclipse be seen.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

The total eclipses of the sun on Saturday was not seen in Ontario, first, because of the cold clouds which followed the heavy rain, and secondly, because if the sky had been clear it would not have been visible in this part of the world.

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A Fatal Jump.

WELLESLEY, Dec. 21.—William Foley, a young man 20 years of age, a resident of Welland, was killed while in the act of jumping on a freight train at the Michelin Station here this morning. The unfortunate young man's great failing was drink, and it is supposed he was under the influence of liquor when he was killed. His widowed mother, two brothers and two sisters who are well and favorably known have the heartfelt sympathy of the community.

REFLECTIONS ON TREE PLANTING.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

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