

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, March 20, 84

Our Forests.

Now that wood, and lumber of all kinds find a ready market at high prices, there appears to be a strong temptation for the owners of tracts of forest to shoulder the woodman's axe, and fell the mighty timbers, which have reared their stately forms for ages past. But, it should ever be remembered that this beautiful Canada of ours would present a desolating appearance, were it not dotted here and there, with patches of woodland and forest.

Many parts of our own province, Ontario, have been cruelly dealt with in this respect, while in other parts the farmer still holds, as almost sacred, his ten or twenty acres of ancient forest. A movement has been set on foot by the Ontario Government, which is likely to bear good fruit, but the Government must meet with the co-operation of the farmer who holds in reserve the remainder of the forest.

On every farm, a certain amount of bush is needed for several reasons, for instance, shielding us from the cold, bleak winds of winter; keeping to a level the drifting snow, and men of science tell us that where the forest is recklessly cleared from the land, the springs will cease their accustomed flow, and the ground will become parched and dry.

But, it is not enough, that the farmer must stay his hand, on his ten or twenty acres of bush; he must exclude his horses, cattle, and beasts of all kinds from its spreading branches, if he would have it grow and flourish.

What finer or more valuable property can a farmer possess than a well preserved forest?

Many beautiful groves might be mentioned in our own County which are highly valued by their owners, and among them, that of Mr. Isaac Murray, Lot 26 in the 5th concession of Vaughan deserves special notice. It may be claimed that many people—say those on rented farms—cannot afford to exclude their cattle from the woods on account of the pasture. This may be too true in some cases, but when such can be avoided it should not be thought unworthy of consideration. Keep cattle utterly thereout, and in less than a year the result will be readily seen. All over the earth will rise the lusty saplings, and the grass will be kept from covering the ground by their shade. The object of keeping the grass away is this. Trees receive their nourishment, by a number of little mouths projecting from their roots to near the surface of the ground. A thick coat of grass prevents this action.

But if the forest ground be fenced, instead of a place of desolation, it will be a strong, healthy vegetation, beneficial to the owner as well as the country around him.

Much has been said of late years, by many of our prominent men, and men of good judgement, that, in their opinion, the work of our County Councils, might be done equally as well as at present, with a much smaller number of representatives, and consequently at much less expense to rate-payers. We are glad to notice that this question has been taken up by the Legislature during the past week, and from the stirring and practical speeches of some of the members, we trust the matter will be well ventilated and some means be devised, by which the expense will be greatly lessened.

Mr. Drury, Member for Simcoe, showed that the cost of the Council for that County amounted to no less than \$6000 a year. Considering the hard times this seems very much like extravagance.

All doubts as to the power of Local Legislatures to deal with the Liquor Licenses seem to be removed. In the Dominion Legislature on Tuesday, a resolution was passed suspending the penalties under the McCarthy Act, and referring it to the Privy Council. As the LIBERAL intimated in last issue, Sir John should have consented to this at first, and saved our licensed victuallers from unnecessary trouble and expense.

MAPLE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

It seems almost a necessity, if you want to give notoriety to anything, you must introduce it to the public.

I have no new invention to introduce or special article for sale, but simply to say a word about Maple and what is going on here, which I trust may be worthy a space in your paper. Other villages are furnishing their quota of news, and I don't know why the thriving town of Maple should go unrepresented, unless that it is, she is making her mark independent of the newspapers. Ventilation is good but it must be of the right sort. Much that finds its way into the papers might better be excluded, but as there are varied tastes to be satisfied, it is difficult sometimes to know whether this or that may prove palatable. It should however, be our aim, and trust it shall be mine not simply to attract but impart knowledge. Maple has its history as well as other places, but it is not my purpose to write it. I shall only speak of things as they exist now. First, I notice an air of prosperity about the place. Its buildings are neat, and comfortable, the planting of more shade trees would add greatly to its appearance. Several new buildings were erected last year, and several more are to be added this year, for which preparations are being made, and yet there is much vacant land, we think could, and would be sold and built upon were it thrown into the market at a reasonable rate. Property holders generally put too high a valuation upon their lands to suit intending purchasers, thus virtually turning them away, by which the progress, or advancement of any town or village is retarded. This to my mind is a mistaken idea and should as far as possible be corrected. With an increased number of buildings, a necessity is sure to arise. I allude to the increased risk of fire, which, should it take place, the village is without means to check. We have a weigh scale it is true, but there are more things to weigh than hay and grain. The above matter should be weighed and considered, and immediate steps be taken to provide for such a necessity. It is said in the time of peace is the time to prepare for war. We hope this gentle hint will awaken the residents from slumber. The village shingle mill is in full blast, one wonders where all the logs come from. The planing mill has changed hands, our enterprising townsman Mr. William Jackson having purchased it from Mr. Shunk. He has added to it a grain crusher and also contemplates manufacturing pumps as well, thus you see Maple is moving on. The Butcher keeps plenty of good meat for all comers; the Store keeps a well assorted stock of goods, so that every conceivable want may be satisfied at the very lowest rates. Our Harness Maker is as robust as ever, indicating that he is pushing his business and is well rewarded for so doing. D. Watson has just returned from his wedding trip. Miss Josie Rupert returned from a two week's holiday. The sleighing is disappearing and mud may be looked for at any time. The sidewalks should be shovelled as they will soon be needed.

DOLLAR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Two more weddings have occurred this week, with a prospect of another next week.

Shingle making is now the order of the day. The logs lying on the road frightening horses will soon be gone, thanks to the road overseer for the prompt attention to the matter.

The concert given by friends from Thornhill, Headfort, Buttonville and German Mills in the Zion Church on Tuesday evening, was a success. It is seldom so much and so good an entertainment is given for so small an admission fee. The chair was occupied by the Reeve, the preacher in charge being absent on other duties. It is understood the friends from Thornhill intend giving another concert here to assist in repairing the Church.

The defeated candidate denies being the means of having the Post Office moved across the way, he says it was Mr. Boynton told him it ought to be changed. It is well known that Mr. B. is one of the sureties for the ex-postmaster, and he would not be guilty of such an action, but if he were guilty, it shows the "Adam" like way of blaming others; he took a hint from some one who sent word to ex-M. P. Boulton, and the work has been to the satisfaction of a very small party. But sometimes "birds come home to roost," a word of warning is now given.

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