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Our Ottawa Letter.

The very substantial prospect that a large proportion of the American export grain traffic will, in the not far distant future, be permanently diverted from New York City and from Buffalo to the St. Lawrence river route with its terminal at Montreal, is arousing the most intense interest not only in the cities likely to be most vitally interested, but at the capital of the Republic among the legislators thereof. Already the pinch is beginning to make itself felt and more than one piece of legislation will be presented at the next sitting of Congress. There is, for instance, a proposal to subsidize American built vessels trading upon the Upper Lakes; there is a proposal to build a ship canal across the State of New York, from Lake Ontario to the Hudson River, and so forth. Our rivals for the transcontinental trade are becoming desperate, and there appears to be excellent ground for their nervous apprehension for already the tide is turning against them. Last year, for example, there were 50,000,000 bushels of wheat exported from New York, but for the first ten months of this year there has been less than 23,000,000 bushels. On the other hand the same ten months in Montreal shows a bigger business than the whole of 1898, in spite of the handicap caused by the withdrawal of so many carriers by the Imperial authorities for war transportation.

KILLING THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLD-EN EGG.

Though the warning has been sounded time and time again, the dishonest apple-packer, who is most certainly ruining the Canadian trade with Great Britain in this particular line, has not ceased from his evil ways. I have referred to this matter more than once in the past, but it is of such tremendous importance that I venture to take space to quote from the Toronto Globe's London correspondent, who is in close touch with the British market, and has personal knowledge of the knowledge hereof he speaks. "It is most discouraging," he writes "to learn that the packing of apples so far received this season from Canada is again in many cases dishonest. Two or three layers of very fine fruit are put at each end of the barrel, and the remainder is trash. As has often been pointed out before, every person who buys a barrel of such fruit is

A GOOD CUSTOMER SPOILED.

It cannot be too strongly stated and should be brought home by every possible means to those interested in the Canadian produce business that the thing above all others which the Englishman never forgives is being cheated in this way by fair appearances, and the shortest and sharpest road the ruin of Canadian trade with this country is to allow such dishonest practices to flourish unchecked. The Commissioners of the Department of Agriculture, who have been on this side from time to time would tell and doubtless have not failed to do so of many promising openings for Canadian produce which have been lost in this way. One might have thought that after the manner in which the apple business was ventilated in the Canadian Parliament and press we should have heard no more about it, and yet here it bobs up at the very beginning of the next season. It is simply disgraceful that one rascal should in this way endanger the business of perhaps a score of honest dealers, and curtail the profits of producers all over the Dominion.

ANOTHER MARE'S NEST DESTROYED.

It will be remembered that intense indignation was simulated some months ago by a section of the Opposition press because of the alleged outrages which were being permitted, if not actually encouraged, by the Minister of Public Works, upon the settlers on Anticosti Island and had any injustice been done and no heed given to complaints thereof, there would undoubtedly have been neglect at least on the part of some one whether Minister or subordinate, but far worse was alleged. The poor victims were not French and they were Methodists, so it was said, and therefore Mr. Tarte was persecuting them for this double crime—or blunder which is worse—their nationality and their creed. So exercised did they become in the matter that at least one annual Conference was persuaded to pass resolutions about it while the Montreal conference took the story so seriously that they appealed to the Government to investigate. This was quickly agreed to and the Government sent their own President—Rev. Dr. Griffith—to look into the matter and report. That gentleman has returned and reports himself "thoroughly satisfied with the result of his visit." He considers that there is a

"GOOD CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT

as a result of the negotiations now pending and he reports the settlers in a very reasonable state of mind and readily disposed to agree to any fair terms." This is the Montreal Star's report so there can be no suspicion of its

being biased in favor of the Minister. Thus does another nice little election fabrication come to an untimely end.

From across the seas too, come words for our much abused Minister of Public Works, the writer this time being an absolute stranger and a Conservative at that. A special London cable to the Toronto Globe on Wednesday reads as follows:—"Referring to Hon. Mr. Tarte's attitude regarding the Canadian contingent The Cardig Daily Mail, an influential Conservative organ, has a long and earnest leading article to-day. Mr. Tarte's attitude is held to be most loyal and proper. The article concludes by strongly scoring the Opposition papers of Canada for reflections cast upon a body of colonists which Britain holds in high honor. Ottawa, Dec. 2, 1899.

Markham Council.

The council met in Victoria Hall, Unionville, at 10 a. m., on Tuesday, Nov. 21st.

Members all present. Reeve Lawrie in the chair.

Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Summerfeldt—Eckardt—that the treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay Edward Kirk \$2.00, being two-thirds the value of one lamb killed by dog or dogs.—Carried.

Quantz—Dimma—that the treasurer be authorized to pay the following claims for sheep killed and injured by dog or dogs:

Henry Stover, 1 ewe killed . . . \$ 4 00

Daniel Ramer, 4 lambs injured . . . 8 00

—Carried.

Dimma—Eckardt—that the treasurer pay the following accounts:

J. C. Steele, repairs . . . \$ 0 50

W. H. Ratcliffe, plank & culvert 12 38

A. McPherson, iron plates . . . 4 40

Jas. Wellman, repairs . . . 1 00

Tp. of Whitechurch, grader 3 dys 6 75

Jas. Wellman, drawing material 4 50

R. Jarvis, repairs . . . 5 50

Jas. Thomas, repairs . . . 5 00

D. & G. Harrington, lumber . . . 207 83

A. Heise, cedar and repairs . . . 11 00

—Carried.

Quantz—Eckardt—that the reeve be a commissioner to repair large bridge between lots 15 and 16, con. 10.—Carried.

Dimma—Summerfeldt—that Mr. Eckardt be commissioner to repair bridge opposite lot 10, con. 6.—Carried.

Quantz—Eckardt—that the treas. pay the following Yonge St. accounts for Aug., Sept., Oct. and part of Nov.:

Ed. Martin, 1 toise stone . . . \$ 6 50

Wm. Hood, 3 toise stone . . . 21 00

Isaac Reaman, 1 toise stone . . . 6 00

W. Eyer, 4 toise stone . . . 22 50

Wm. Chatterley, 13 days' work . . . 13 00

Michael Conley, 2 days' work . . . 2 00

" " breaking stone . . . 22 50

Wm. Chatterley, breaking stone 10 00

Michael Heron, breaking stone . . . 10 00

G. Charlton, gravel . . . 2 80

L. Innes & Sons, plank, &c. . . 17 18

T. Hopper, cutting weeds . . . 1 00

Ed. Martin, 1 toise stone . . . 6 50

Jno. Steele, 1 toise stone . . . 6 50

Wm. Chatterley, 20 days' work . . . 20 00

Naughton Bros., plank . . . 7 00

Michael Heron, breaking stone . . . 5 00

Wm. Hopper, breaking stone . . . 5 00

Wm. Chatterley, 27 days' work . . . 27 00

M. Conley, 23 days' work . . . 23 00

W. Chatterley, 23 days' work horse and cart . . . 46 00

—Carried.

Quantz—Dimma—that the mover and Hy. Bond be commissioners to repair railing on Road Div. No. 14.—Carried.

Dimma—Eckardt—that the treas. pay Franklin Stiver \$5, being two-thirds the value of 1 sheep killed by dog or dogs.—Carried.

Dimma—Eckardt—that the reeve is hereby appointed commissioner to repair 3 culverts between lots 20 and 21, cons. 9 and 10; also to fill washout at Bigfoot bridge.—Carried.

Eckardt—Summerfeldt—that when this council adjourns it stands adjourned until Friday, Dec. 15.—Carried.

Mr. Quantz asked leave to introduce By-Law No. 576, to provide for holding elections for 1900. Leave granted.

By-law was passed and the seal attached thereto.

Council then adjourned.

Maple

Last Thursday evening a large number of the villagers met at the Richardson House to spend a sociable evening previous to the departure of Mrs. Richardson, who is expected to leave here shortly to reside in Toronto. After a few games Mr. Leeds Richardson was called upon to act as chairman. He made a short speech and then called on Miss Morrison and Mr. L. Keffer to come forward. An address was read by the former and Mr. Keffer presented Mrs. Richardson with a lovely gold ring, set with three opals, as a token of remembrance from those present. Dr. Sisley replied in suitable terms for Mrs. Richardson and he was followed by Rev. E. Dymond who made a short speech. A duet by Misses Keffer and McDonald, contributed to the enjoyment of the evening. About fifty-five guests sat down to a bounteous repast

provided by the ladies. The party broke up about midnight.

Lovers of music may expect another treat as the Eckardt Concert Company intend to give a concert in the Masonic Hall on Saturday evening, Dec. 9.

An effort is being made to organize a literary and debating society in this place.

Over fifty new volumes have been added to the public library here.

Mr. A. B. Davidson, P. S. I., paid his half-yearly official visit to the public school on Monday.

Carrville

Many are suffering from severe coughs and colds lately.

The bell-ringers were in the village on Monday night.

Miss Maggie Wood has returned home.

Miss Ethel Appleton is at present at Springbrook, Markham.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Grainger are the proud parents of a bright baby boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Grainger of Finch's Corners, Mrs. J. Nixon of Teston, and Mrs. G. Wood were in Greenfield on Sunday visiting their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Grainger.

Miss Porter has sent in her resignation, partially owing to ill-health. It has been accepted.

The Methodist Sunday school purpose recognizing the approaching holidays by having a Christmas Tree and Entertainment.

An amateur photographer has been spending the past three weeks in the town. His collection of pictures and snap-shots is an interesting one and large, comprising some most ludicrous ones of citizens and others.

East York Liberals.

The annual meeting of the East York Reform Association was held at Unionville on Monday of this week. The hall was filled with representatives from every part of the riding, and more than ordinary interest was taken in the business which came before the meeting. Mr. E. H. Wilson, President for the past year occupied the chair. One of the liveliest discussions of the afternoon was the result of a proposition to change the mode of nominating candidates for Dominion or Provincial elections. The notice of motion made a year ago was to nominate by means of a certain number of delegates from each polling-sub-division instead of the present custom by mass-meeting. Much was said in support of each system, but as it was shown that mass-meetings had proven satisfactory in East York the majority decided not to make any change at the present time.

During the afternoon good speeches were made by Mr. John Richardson, the Local Member, H. H. Cook, Esq., and others. The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President, Mr. Grant, Barrister, East Toronto;

1st Vice-Pres. W. D. Reesor.

2nd Vice-Pres., L. Annis.

3rd Vice-Pres., Mr. Ormerod.

4th Vice-Pres., Mr. Britnell.

Sec'y-Treas., J. L. McCulloch.

Auditors, J. B. Gould, J. C. Clark.

Division Court

His Honor, Judge Morgan, presided at Division Court held here on Saturday. The eight cases which came before him occupied most of the day. Several of the cases were so complicated that it was difficult to decide with positive justice, while the disagreeable part of several others was in settling disputes among members of the same family. The following are the cases:

Kennersley vs. Mager and Kelly Estate. The Primary Creditor garnished \$29 ordered to be paid into court at October sitting. No defence. Judgment and costs for Primary Creditor.

Graham vs. Londery, P. D., and Hart, Gar. Judgment against Garnishee for \$78.50. Adjourned as between Primary Creditor and Primary Debtor on account of illness of the former.

Cox vs. Ball—Reaman, garnishee, claim, \$42.80 for money advanced for a bicycle. Judgment against P. D. for whole amount, and against garnishee for \$20 in the hands of the latter.

Mulock vs. Mulock and Mulock—Claim of \$100 for breach of contract for keep of a horse. Judgment for defendants without costs.

Morgasson vs. Dollery—Claim of \$20.25 for milking cows 81 days at 25 a day. Judgment for defendant without costs.

Munshaw vs. Dollery—Claim of \$99 for 16½ months wages. Judgment for plaintiff for \$30 and costs of court only.

Topper vs. Fisher—Claim for \$10 for balance of purchase of horse &c. Judgment for plaintiff \$8 and costs including one witness.

Smith vs. Burling, P. D., and Marsh, Garnishee—Note and interest \$19.05. Judgment against Primary Debtor and garnishee.

The next court will be held on Thursday, the 11th of January.