THE CANADIAN CHAMPION.

MILTON, FEB. 11, 1886

THE SUN ON MR. MOWAT.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Sun, kindly devoted another long editorial last week to the task it assumed two week's before of demonstrating the infallibility of Sir John Macdonald and his Ontario lieutenant, the incapacity and want of courage displayed by Mr. Mowat when his legislation was opposed by the Dominion Government, and the gullibility of the CHAMPION in allowing itself to be "misled by accepting popular conceptions of nice legal points." The CHAMPION has for some years almost ignored political discussions and would not have entered into this one had not the Sun, with very questionable judgment, insisted in ventilating perhaps the greatest blunders and worst defeats of Sir John's career, and on having the CHAMPION help it in doing so. Our zealous but not too discreet contemporary made a very damaging admission at the outset last week when it spoke of the opinion that Mr. Mowat had got the better of Sir John as a "popular conception." This undoubtedly did appear to be a rather popular conception in 1883, more popular than the cry "Mowat must go," and the successes of the "little tyrant" since then are not likely, we have made the opinion any less popular.

One of those successes, though the Sun is pleased to call it a defeat, was in the final settlement by the Privy Council of the boundary question. The records show that in 1878, the Dominion and Ontario Governments having decided to leave the question to arbitration and to accept the result as final, orders in Council were passed to that effect. The arbitrators selected were Sir Francis Hincks, Sir Edward Thornton and Chief Justice Harrison, and on August 3rd, 1878, their award was delivered, determining the northern and western boundaries of Ontario. Though the award gave this province less territory than its government had claimed for it, Mr. Mowat accepted it as final, making no admission that his claims for Ontario had not been just, but agreeing to the decision of the tribunal jointly appointed by the two Governments as a matter of good faith. During the next session of the Ontario Legislature an Act was passed ratifying the award; but no such action was taken by the Dominion Parliament. In March, 1880, resolutions were passed by the Legislature of Ontario by a vote of 64 to 1, Mr. Meredith voting with the majority, regretting that the Dominion Government had failed to recognize the award and supporting all proper measures to vindicate the rights of the Province. In the following year similar resolutions were carried by a vote of 77 to 1, Mr. Meredith again assenting. The answer of the Dominion Government to these resolutions was the passing of an Act transferring 39,000 square miles of the territory awarded to Ontario to the Province of Manitoba. This Act being alluded in the address, moved in January, 1882, in reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, in a manner which did not meet with the approval of that doughty champion of provincial rights, Mr. Meredith, the latter, instructed no doubt by his master, Sir John, moved an amendment deprecating attempts to maintain such rights, and he and his loyal followers to the number of 26 voted against an amendment to his amendment. He again, later in the session, stultified himself when resolutions similar in effect to those for which he had voted in the two previous sessions were moved by moving amendments recognizing the right of the Dominion Parliament "to adopt the course which the judgment of its members, sound policy, and the rights of the people of the whole Dominion dictate."

The boundary question was finally settled by the decision of the Privy Council, which was that the award of the arbitrators was correct, and that the 39,000 square miles of territory which Sir John Macdonald had so generously presented to Manitoba belonged to Ontario.

This may have been, as the Sun would have it, a notable victory for Sir John over the incapable and weak-kneed Mr. Mowat, but that as our contemporary truly says, is not the "popular conception" of it.

The decision of the Privy Council in the case of McLaren vs. Caldwell was that the principle embodied in the old Act, which Mr. Mowat's Streams bill merely made more plain in providing compensation, was right and was therefore, in effect, that Sir John was wrong in disallowing the legislation of the Ontario Parliament. That, at least, is the "popular conception" of it, and the Sun is not likely to work any great change in that conception.

The Sun virtually admits that Sir John was off his base when he tried to rob Ontario of its revenue by the passage of the McCarthy Act, which was abortive in everything but in adding largely to the national debt of the Dominion, already large enough in all conscience.

After the experience of the Ontario Government with Mr. Meredith, when that patriotic individual and his followers gave them the "double cross" on the boundary question, it is not to be wondered at that the buncombe resolution quoted by the Sun was looked on with suspicion and voted down, and that Mr. Mowat preferred to look after his license revenue and rescue it from Sir John's clutches, as he did without any assistance from the leader of the Opposition. The "popular conception" of the result of the license Act decision is that it was a disastrous defeat for the great constitutional lawyer, Sir John, and Mr. Meredith's "modest merit" does not appear to be generally appreciated as it is by the Sun.

Our contemporary complains that we showed "too much heat" in our acknowledgment of its first attempt to demonstrate for our benefit the incorrectness of the "popular conception" of the matters referred to above. We can assure the Sun that however heating it may have imagined its rays, in the CHAMPION's case they did nothing more than tickle. The lofty tone the Sun adopts in dealing with the errors of "popular conceptions," and when posing as an oracle for the benefit of journalists who have not had the diversified experience of its itinerant editor, is very amusing. The Sun is very amusing too when it deigns to approve of the independence which it credits the CHAMPION with having displayed in denouncing the course adopted by the Grit Globe, in the Riel matter, and in the very same sentence accuses us of partizanship in daring to speak favourably of Mr. Mowat. But our contemporary is doubly amusing when it enlarges on its own independence *within the lines of a great political party!*

The Sun has given a fair sample of its independence *within party lines* in this discussion in adopting a line of argument which we venture to say would be scouted by any independent journal, outside of party lines, in the Province. Our contemporary showed a tremendous amount of independence in its efforts in party lines recently in raising its bogus "Anti-Scott first" cry in the contest for the mayoralty, when the Tory candidate Cato was an Anti-Scottite. It gave another sample of its independence, when, in the late Wardenship election, the Grit candidate was a pronounced Anti-Scottite and his Tory opponent an equally strong and very prominent prohibitionist. Did the independent-within-party-lines Sun raise the "Anti-Scott first" cry than? or was the burden of its wailings "No Tories need apply?" The "popular conception" of such independence as that of the Sun is that it is kept so strictly within party lines that it is never trotted out except when there is some party end to be served.

THE REFORM MEETING.

(*From Globe Report.*)

MILTON, Feb. 5.—A meeting of Reformers was held this evening in the Town Hall, which, in spite of the inclement weather, was well filled by an audience of the most intelligent people of Milton and vicinity, including a number of ladies.

Dr. Robertson occupied the chair, and first introduced

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON, M. P., who was received with applause. He expressed his pleasure at the public interest shown by the presence of so considerable an audience. It would be a sad thing for the country when the people ceased to take an active, intelligent interest in public affairs. He reminded them that the liberties they now enjoyed should not be lightly esteemed, for they had been gained in dungeons and on battlefields and scaffolds. Continuing this subject further, he referred briefly to those events in English history which mark the progress of liberty, closing with the last Franchise Act passed under the Administration of Gladstone. In the United States, in all English-speaking countries, this progress had been upward and onward. In Canada a substantial progress had been made, but the progress had not been constant and uniform, and measures the reverse of progressive had been passed. British Columbia and Manitoba had been given a representation in the Dominion Parliament far beyond what their population entitled them to, while representation had be wholly denied to the Northwest. There had been extravagance and reckless increase in expenditure and in the public debt, a Pacific Scandal which would forever remain a blot upon the history of Canada, attacks upon Provincial Rights, attacks upon Provincial territory, a Gerrymander Bill which was a scandalous violation of political honor and fair play, by which fifty-six constituencies in Ontario were carved and twisted out the plea of equalization of population, while in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces glaring violations of the rule of equalization were left unheeded. There had been scandalous peculation and betrayal of public trust in the distribution of coal and timber lands in the Northwest, a land policy conceived in the interests of speculators. The Reform party was sometimes charged with having no policy, and if that statement were true that party would be unworthy of the country. "What is the policy of the Reform party?" was the question, which he answered thus:—

We stand pledged to support a measure to reform the Senate and make it a representative body amenable to the people. (Applause.) Today it is a body elected by nomination of the Premier, and vacancies filled one after another by men of one party only, until with seventy-eight members, it has not 15 Reformers, and with a few years more of Tory rule there will not be one representative of a great body of electors composing one-half of the people of this Dominion.

We hold that the expenditure is alarmingly great, that the increase has been abnormal. The expenditure in 1867 was 13½ millions, last year it was 35 millions, an increase of 250 per cent, while during the same period the population has increased only 36 per cent. The Reformers hold that this expenditure should be checked, and that this rapid increase should cease; the debt is alarmingly great, and it has also increased almost to the same extent of 250 per cent. The time has come when this increase must be checked; and this is another plank in the platform.

We hold we should have power to make our own treaties; that it is a scandalous thing that Canada is filled with bank defaulters, when we have no power to surrender to justice, and that rascals of our own find safe refuge in the States by reason of the lack of an extradition treaty. In other treaties our interests are so involved with those of England that delay and failure result.

No honest attempt has been made by the present Government to secure reciprocity with the United States. We pledge ourselves as a party not, of course, to obtain reciprocity, but to make an honest effort to obtain it. (Applause.)

We claim that taxes are unfairly distributed. The poor man should not pay 80 per cent on coarse woolen goods, while the rich man pays 20 per cent, on broadcloth (Applause.) He should not pay a heavy duty on heavy cottons while the rich man pays a light duty on the fine qualities. The day is past for saying very much about the National Policy; because although the taxes were very great, and unnecessarily great when they were imposed, yet no great has been the extravagance of the Government that we are face to face with a deficit of five millions. But we can and will equalize the taxation and make it bear fairly and equally on all classes of the community.

We hold that the Dominion Government should respect the Provincial Rights granted by the constitution; and as a party we pledge ourselves to respect those rights.

We hold that it is the duty of the central Government to protect public property from plunder, to make the most economical use of it, and under no circumstances to dispose of it to political favorites as a reward for political services.

We maintain that the franchise is a civil right; that the constitution gives the control and regulation of civil rights to the Provinces; and that the Act passed by the Dominion Parliament last session was usurpation of the Provincial rights and should be repealed. There should be a land policy in the interest of the settler and not in the interest of the speculator, and steps should be taken to secure the independence of Parliament instead of subverting its independence and making it a venal body, as the present Government is doing. Any one of these issues, Mr. Carlton said, was important enough to go to the polls upon, and with such a policy the Reform party should be able to sweep the country from end to end. He next referred to the Northwest rebellion. He recounted the many fruitless attempts made by the Half-breeds to obtain a settlement of their claims, the coming of Louis Riel, and the tardy action of the Government in issuing a Commission to inquire into the Half-breed claims after the rebellion had actually broken out, and referring to the celebrated article of the Mail admitting that the Half-breeds had grievances and just grounds for complaint. He then dealt with the land grabbers. We have had a vast area of land in the Northwest "scrubbers" unless occupied, but if occupied, cultivated and settled, fit to be the seat of a great empire; and if any plan could be devised by which even our own sons could be placed in the Northwest, instead of drifting away to the United States, it would be an immense benefit to this country. Had the Government dealt with the great question on Conservative principles, it would have been that Canada and the United States are rivals, each having vast domains for settlement. The United States have for years been earnestly a-king to secure settlement of public lands, and so efficiently that even within the speaker's recollection what were formerly great stretches of unoccupied prairie had grown into great states and powerful commonwealths—had so grown by a liberal land policy, inviting the settler and giving him inducements to make his home there. The Canadian Government should have known that it must offer at least equal inducements to the settler, if it expected to compete with so active and powerful a rival. It did not offer such inducements, and the consequence was that our people drifted away from us. The first act of the Government with regard to public domain was in 1879. On May 14, 1879, resolutions were passed setting apart 100,000,000 acres of land as a basis to secure the constitution of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The resolutions povided that the price should not be less than $2 per acre. Here at the very outset was a price fixed 75 cents higher than that fixed by the United States for land equally as good, land which the settler must pass on his way to the Canadian North-west. The regulations of July, 1879, set apart five belt on each side of the supposed line of the C. P. R. Belt A, five miles in width, was placed upon the market at $5 per acre, with no privilege of homesteading. The next, B, 15 miles wide, was offered at $5 per acre, with a privilege of homesteading eight tow in 36, and of pre-empting eight tow in 36, at $2.50 per acre. Belt C, 20 wide, was placed on the market at $3.50 per acre, with similar regulations as to homestead and pre emption. The next belt 20 miles wide, was offered at $3 per acre, with similar regulations as to homestead and pre-emption. The last belt, 50 miles wide, was offered at $1 per acre, the same price being charged for pre-emptions. The result was that within the first 40 miles from the railway Canadian lands were offered at $6, $5, and $3.50, while American lands within a corresponding distance were offered at $2.50 and $1.25. The American Government offered homesteads everywhere. The Canadian Government offered no homesteads in the 1st belt, while in the next belt homesteads of only 80 acres instead of 160. The American Government offered the settler a pre emption along side of his homestead, while this Government allowed the pre-emption of only eight sections in a township. Outside of the belt the Government pursued a different, but an equally unwise policy.

The land was placed at the price of $1 per acre, with a privilege of paying 10 cents per acre down, giving the speculator the opportunity of securing vast tracts of land by the payment of a comparatively small small sum of money with no conditions of settlement. Then came the regulations of the 14th October 1879, reducing the price of land to some extent—the $6 land to $5 the $5 to $4, and the $3.50 to $2, and gave the privilege of homesteading within the inner belt, but left still in force the privilege, so valuable to the speculator, of buying lands by a cash payment of 10 cents per acre. On this the Opposition moved the following resolution:—

1. Resolved, That in the opinion of this House the proper policy with reference to the disposition of the public lands of Canada should be, so far as practicable, to sell such lands to actual settlers only, on reasonable conditions of settlement, and in lots or quantities limited to the area which can be reasonably occupied by a settler; and that the sale of public lands to speculators free from conditions of settlement, is impolitic and calculated to injuriously affect the settlement of the country, by keeping large quantities of land locked up for years, and by obliging the settler thereon ultimately to pay a price much larger than that which is paid into the public treasury for the same.

2. Resolved, That as under the existing regulations respecting the disposal of public lands for the purposes of the Canadian Pacific Railway, large quantities of fertile lands are being offered for sale and sold to speculators at one dollar per acre, for one tenth cash down, and the balance in nine equal annual instalments, with interest at 6 per cent per annum—terms which enable the speculator to obtain control of lands for a cash outlay of ten cents per acre, therefore not only in effect leaning to the speculator, on the part of the Government, nine-tenths of the capital required by speculative investments, but giving rise, as experience shows, to great expense in the keeping of accounts, and to indefinate delays in the realization of the stipulated price; that so long as the system of selling public lands to speculators without conditions of settlement, or restrictions as to quality, is continued the price at which such lands are sold should be paid in full in cash at the time of sale.

On May 25, 1881, a belt 24 miles on each side of the railway was set apart, and within this belt pre-emptions were sold at $2 50 per acre, while eight sections in each township were allowed to be homesteaded. The price of the lands was still much higher than in the United States, and the provisions for homesteading less liberal. It was under these regulations that the colonization plan was adopted. It permitted speculators to purchase townships en bloc at a nominal price of $2 per acre, payable down, with the provision that if within five years they placed 61 settlers upon each township they were to receive a rebate of $1 per acre. Then followed the regulations of Dec. 23, 1881, which went into force in January, 1882, and which are substantially those in force now. Under these regulations the land was divided into four belts. Class A, 24 miles on each side of the railway. Class B, 12 miles on each side of any proj ected line. Class C, all lands south of A and B, and class D all lands south of A and B. Pre emptions in A and B were $2 50 per acre. Pre-emptions in C were placed at $2 50 per acre, double the price of similar land in the States. In class D the price was $2, or 75 cents more than in the United States. By these regulations the colonization companies were placed upon the footing on which they were afterwards wicked. Under Colonization Plan No. 1 lands were granted to these companies on substantially the same plan as he had mentioned. Under Plan 2, No. 2, all the lands in the township might be sold to the companies for $2 cash, with a rebate of $1 per acre if 128 settlers were placed on each township. This plan was protested against by the Opposition in a resolution moved April 12, 1882, which set forth that no middleman should be allowed to come between the country and the settler, and concluded thus:—That in the opinion of this House our aim should be to people the agricultural regions of the North-west with independent freeholders, each cultivating his own farm, and paying therefor nomore than the public treasury receives; and that, save in the case of town plots, or other exceptional cases, the sale of North-west agricultural lands should, as a rule, be made to actual settlers only, on reasonable conditions of settlement, and in quantities limited to the area which can be reasonably occupied by a settler. Of course this resolution was voted down, and under the new plans for Colonization Companies there was a great rush of applicants. Under plan No. 1 there were 257 applications covering 2,301 townships, amounting at 16 sections each township to 23,552 000 acres. Of these applications there were allotted 119 applications for 730 townships, covering 7,321,000 acres. Of these applications the first installment was paid on 26, covering 137 townships, or 1,402,800 acres. The number of townships on which payment was not then due was 305, covering 3,123,000 acres.

SOME OF THE APPLICANTS WERE:

	Townships.
Robert Hay	18½
George Elliott	7
Geo. S. Drew	4
John White	4
C. F. Ferguson	3
P. Valin	2
Thos. Arkell	6
C. C. Colby	6
Senator Almon	12
Sir A. T. Galt	50

As shown by the official return from which these names were taken, many members of Parliament who supported the Government had a pecuniary interest in the carrying out of this colonization scheme. In connection with these grants the expenses of Sir A. T. Galt's trip to the North-west, $1,500, and the expenses of Colonel Dennis, $600, were paid by the Government. The object of the Government in pursuing this policy just before the elections of '82 very obviously was to attach to itself powerful interests, and there is little doubt that the policy succeeded only too well. Now, under Mr. Mackenzie's Government there was this difference—that all these land regulations were made by statute, and were subject to close scrutiny which takes place in Committee of the Whole; but the regulations of which he had spoken were not even submitted to Parliament, but emanated from the Minister of Interior. In all these questions of land policy the Liberals have stood by the settler, and the Conservatives have stood by the speculator. (Applause.) It would easily be understood that a treeless region like the North-west coal lands was of immense value and should be carefully administered, yet these lands had been granted to Government favorites without asking tenders—without an attempt to secure what they were really worth. Again, in '84, pasture lands to the amount of 2,782 000 acres were leased on private applications to favorites of the Government, with no restriction except that no lease was to cover more than 100,000 acres. (Laughter.) The rental was one cent per acre, equal to interest at 7 per cent, on 15 cents, per acre. And the timber leases—oh, the timber leases! Blocks of land, some comprising a township, some covering 50 miles, were scattered about with a lavish hand, the conditions being a rental of $5 per square mile with 5 per cent. upon the value of the timber cut, equal to about 50 cents per thousand feet, and all this was done without public competition. How different was the method pursued by the Ontario Government! The Ontario Government issued advertisements informing people that maps, plans, and all necessary information could be had at the Department of Crown Lands. The timber was sold by auction, without reference to the political proclivities of the buyers—indeed the majority of the purchasers were Conservatives. They were subject to rental of $2 per mile and 75 cents per thousand timber dues. But in addition to this there were the bonuses which each purchaser had to pay. In 1872 and 1872 the Ontario Government sold 6,300 miles for $1,300,000. In 1885 they sold 912 miles for $316,000. Deducting the limits re sold, this made 6,700 miles sold for $1,616,000, over and above the annual rental and dues. (Applause.) The whole proceeding and the prices obtained were in striking contrast to the dealings of the Dominion Government, which he proceeded to describe. The facts, he said, were now revealed for the first time. Last session a friend of his on the Government side (Mr. Hesson) had taken a return for which he (Mr. Charlton) had moved, and placed it on his chair. It comprised 5,000 foolscap pages, and was so large as to be very conspicuous. Mr. Hesson's object was to show that he was wasting the money of the country in causing labor to be expended on such a return. When he was finished he would leave it to the audience to say whether the preparation of the return was a waste of time. This first return was examined by some of his friends, and he was able to give them only the names of some of the applicants.

(Here followed a list of applicants over three columns in length.)

In all 7,500 miles were granted away for $37,500, while the Ontario Government sold 6,700 for $1,616 000. Certain timber limits on Hunter's Island were sold by the Dominion Government for $7,500. They were afterwards disposed of for no less than $650,000, but the sale was cancelled on account of a flaw in the title—the island being in the disputed territory. This policy had not been pursued without protests from the Liberal party. Before the last general elections a motion was made by Mr. Blake condemning the existing mode of granting timber limits, and demanding that public competition should be invited. This motion was made March 27th, 1882. It will be found upon page 278 of Votes and Proceedings 1882, and is as follows:—"Moved by Mr. Blake that it be resolved:

"That in the opinion of this House the existing system of granting timber limits is liable to result in gross abuse and in the cession of valuable interests in the public domain for inadequate consideration to favoured individuals.

"That it is expedient to apply the just principal of public competition to the granting of timber limits." The truth of the charge contained in this motion could not at that time have been doubted by any single member of the House of Commons. The motion was defeated by a strict party vote; 49 Liberal members voting in the affirmative and 106 Conservative members in the negative. There was a law which, under a penalty of $2,000 per day, prohibited a member of parliament from holding any contract or office under the Government. But the system of rewarding supporters with vast timber limits was far more demoralizing than the holding of any number of contracts or offices. (Applause.) Was it to be supposed that a man having such connections with the Government would fail to support them? Corruption was not confined to this branch of the service. Last year there was expended $495,000 for the ostensible purpose of promoting immigration. Of this sum $65,000 was spent in slabs, $81,000 in advertising, $104,000 in travelling expenses, and $27 000 on paper. These payments swamped nearly the whole grant, leaving a little for assisted passages. The fact was it was simply a corruption fund, Mr. Charlton then recounted the strenuous and successful efforts made by the Government to defeat Mr. Cascgrain's Bill, which was intended to put a stop to the demoralizing practice of allowing Government contractors to contribute to election funds. He then took up the question of the national debt. As the Conservatives had a good deal to say about the unfairness of dealing with the gross debt only, he would state the progress of the net debt, giving credit for the assets. In 1867 the net debt was $75,728,000. In July last it was $196,571,000. This was an alarming increase. But in addition to this there were subsidies voted and still to be paid amounting to $9,030,000, a war debt of $3 000,000, an amount chargeable to capital account of $7,725 000, and a deficit of $4,500,000. Then there would be a shrinkage of at least $25,000 000 in connection with the nominal assets of $68,237,000; so that really the net debt amounted to $250,796,000. This was equal to $55 per head, or $11 50 upon every acre of improved land. The session before last, Parliament sitting only 80 days voted away $5 million dollars. In conclusion Mr. Charlton said that he had presented to his hearers nothing except what he could prove by the public record. He had presented a record of waste, extravagance, recklessness, venality, purchase of support, and blunder such as every honest man ought to condemn. Where would all this end? Unless the people became aroused to the true state of affairs there was little hope for the country. Five years more of such government would be ruin. Taxation had been enormously increased; but expenditure had overtaken and outstripped taxation, and any government which succeeded that now in power would have to provide for an enormous deficit. The Government must soon ask the country for its verdict. When that time came, all he asked each elector to do was to exercise his suffrage, not as a partisan, but as a Canadian, and to examine the evidence to learn the truth, and to cast his vote accordingly. (Loud applause.)

MR. AWREY, M.P.P.,

made an able speech, dealing chiefly with the affairs of the Province of Ontario. He reminded the audience that during the fifteen years of the Mowat Administration not a scandal had attached to the Government. He described the desperate efforts made by the Conservative party throughout the whole Dominion to defeat that Government in the elections of 1883, then in the Courts, and finally in the Legislature by attempting to bribe its supporters. Although the Reform Government in the long term of its administration had promoted an immense amount of legislation, very little of it had been opposed by the Conservatives. One of the acts which they described as a terrible outrage was the indemnification of certain returning-officers in Algoma. These officers, in order to prevent the wholesale casting of bogus votes, had insisted upon an oath of qualification being taken. It turned out that the returning-officers had technically violated the law, and an Act was very properly passed to protect them. And the charge upon which the Opposition relied was that the Legislature had intervened to prevent Dr. Dowling, who was the unmistakeable choice of the people of South Renfrew, from being persecuted under the forms of law. The Re-distribution Bill passed by the Ontario Legislature was in pleasing contrast to the gerrymandering of Ontario by the Dominion Parliament; it disturbed no county boundaries, and he defied any man to show him a clause in it which was inserted for a party purpose. He referred to the Ontario Franchise Bill, and pointed out the liberality of its provisions, and its excellent principle that no man, however wealthy, should have more than one vote. Referring to the timber policy of the Government, he pointed out that the average price obtained at their sales was $450 per square mile. He took up the question of the School Readers, and pointed out that the new series was cheaper than any former series except the Gage Readers, which contained much smaller numbers of pages. The history of the Boundary dispute was then clearly and forcibly reviewed. The expenditure of the Province was dealt with, and it was shown that the bulk of the increase was attributable to the greater expenditure made on education and on charitable institutions.

Mr. McCraney, M P., and Mr. Preston addressed the audience, but owing to the lateness of the hour, made only a half reference to some of the principal topics of the day.

Mr. White moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was carried with great enthusiasm, and after three cheers for the Queen the meeting adjourned.

NOT A FAILURE.

Rev. A. E. Russ, of this town, told the representatives of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance who met at Toronto last week that the statement that the Scott Act had been a failure in Halton was a "shameful falsehood." Mr. Russ came to Halton only last summer, and, perhaps, owing to his calling, has not had many opportunities to see just how the Act works. On the night of the 31st December last, however, when on his way home from the watch meeting held at his church, he stood for some time on the street leading to his house while a drunken crowd of young men and boys were passing him on the narrow sidewalk, yelling, swearing and jostling one another, he had ample evidence that the Scott Act was not a failure in the way of encouraging the consumption of whiskey. The drunken yells of the gang met by Mr. Russ that night awoke people a couple of blocks away, and it is not to be wondered at that the reverend gentleman was impressed with the fact that the Scott Act was a success in one way at least.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething. It's value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, Softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to take and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. 23 1yr.

Mr. Healy opposed the election of Mr. O'Shea, the nominee of Mr. Parnell for the vacant seat in Galway, and a serious split in the Nationalist party was threatened, but Mr. Lynch, the nominee of the former withdrew after an interview with Mr. Parnell.

Hamilton, Feb. 4, 1886

GREAT CLEARING SALE

Reductions which Strike to the Very Root of the Truest Economy.

Clothing Demoralized, Prices Paralyzed.

Dry Goods Tumbled, Prices Asphyxiated.

Black Silk now	30c	Factory Cotton now	3c	Men's Pants now	$1 25	Table Napkins now	36c
Colored Satin now	25c	40 in Factory Cotton now	6½c	Men's Pants now	1 50	Linen Towels now	9c
Black Satin now	25c	Thick and Heavy Factory	8½c	Men's Pants now	1 60	White Quilts now	75c
Colored Dress Silks now	62½c	White Cotton	4c	Men's Pants now	1 72	Factory Sheeting now	15c
Black Velveteen now	25c	Yard Wide Cotton	7½c	Men's Pants now	1 87½	Crash Towelling now	8½c

Black All-wool Cashmere now	32c	Grey Flannel now	12½c	Men's Suits, 20 per cent discount.		White Blankets now	$3 65
Black Serge now	25c	Fair Wincey Now	5c			7 lb Blanket now	2 65
Colored Plush now	$1.23	Blue Flannel now	25c	Men's Overcoats, 20 per cent discount.		70 by 88 in. Blanket now	2 65
Black Plush now	1.23	Red Flannel now	12½c			Grey Blankets now	1·00
Colored Silk Velvets now	50c	Orange Flannel now	18c			Bed Comforters now	65

Waist Linings	10c	Green Flannel now	30c	Men's Overcoats now	$3 50	Ladies' Hose now	20c
Skirt Linings	6½c	Scot Flannel now	33½c	Men's Overcoats now	3 98	Ladies' Gloves now	16c
Muslin Linings	5c	Cotton Ticking Now	8½c	Men's Overcoats now	4 00	Fur Trimming now	20c
Black Wiggan	8½c	Straw Ticking now	8½c	Men's Overcoats now	5 50	Ladies' Corsets now	36c
Crinoline Linings	10c	Cotton Denims now	5c	Men's Overcoats now	6 00	Children's Corsets now	45c

Tweed Dress Goods now	10c	Table Linen now	17½c	Boys' Suits all reduced.		Pins now 200 for	1c
Grey Dress Goods now	10c	Grey Holland now	8½c			Pins now 4 for	5c
Melton Dress Goods now	10c	White Sheeting now	20½c			Pins now 3 for	5c
Striped Dress Goods now	13½c	Pillow Cotton now	9½c	Boys' Overcoats all reduced.		Needles now 2 for	5c
Checked Dress Goods now	15c	Towelling now	5c			Tape now 3 for	5c

Pillow Lace now	5c	Colored Ribbons now	5c
Corset Busks now	6c	Spools now 2 for	5c
Handkerchiefs now	5c	Children's Hoods now	5c
Ladies Collars now	4c	Children's Bibs now	5c
Lace Collars now	12½c	Children's Feeders now	5c

Ladies' Lined Kid Mitts reduced to 50c.		Men's White Shirts now	33c
Children's Lined Kid Mitts reduced to 88c.		Men's Connmet Collars now	6½c
Ladies' Josephine Kid Gloves reduced to 50c.		Men's Flannelshirts now	30c
Ladies' $7.00 Fur Caps reduced to $4.00.		Men's Drawers	30c
Heavy quality Nap Cloth reduced to 95c.		Men's Wool Shirts	30c
Velveteens reduced from 10 to 25 per cent.			
Dress Goods worth 50c. reduced to 25c.			
Black Cashmeres reduced 15 to 20 per cent.			
Good Check Wincey 10c., worth 15c.			
Large Wool Clouds 80c., worth 50c.			

PRATT & WATKINS,

16 AND 18 JAMES STREET., HAMILTON.

A. MURRAY & CO.'S

Great Stock-taking Sale.

LOOK AT THIS!

Every piece of Rich Black and Colored Silks at Prime Cost.
Ten Pattern Mantles still unsold; will be sacrificed at Half Price.
All Millinerp reduced to Half Price.
Fifty dozen Alexandre's Kid Gloves, Evening Shades, at 25c. per pair.
Thirty dozen Alexandre's Kid Gloves, two buttons, Dark Colors, at 75c., worth $1.25.
Six hundred Remnants or Dress Goods at less than Half Price.
Look at our Fancy Goods Counter. Tremendous Bargains in Collars, Ribbons, Laces and other attractive articles.
Lots of Odd Lines in every Department, which must be cleared out before the 1st February.

A. MURRAY & CO., 18, 20 AND 22 KING ST. EAST.

The Great Sale of Goods at Cost and Down to Half Price at the Right House

will be continued all through February, so as to close out the Enormous Winter Stock. The Greatly Reduced Prices of Nice Fine All-wool Blankets has made an Immense Run on them; so that Watkins had to order another lot from the mill, which are now offering at the same Extra Cheap Rates. Railway Rugs Down Very Low. The Ladies' and Misses' Mantles have had an Astonishing Sale. The Big Allowances made off them, many of them having been reduced to half price, enticed ladies to buy largely. The Woolen Scarfs and Shawls have been going off fast at large reductions from former prices. 7115 yards of Good Fast Colored Wide Prints in an Immense variety of patterns, well worth 10c. now selling at 7½c. 6785 yards of Good Durable Yard Wide Bleached Shirting, cheap at 10c., selling off at only 7½c. Also Another Lot of 2625 yards of Excellent Prints, the Price of Which was 10c. Reduced New to 6½c. About 75 dozen of Ladies' Excellent Kid Gloves in Various Sizes Frog 5½ to 8. Marked Down From 87½c. to 25c. This is a Rare Chance for the ladies. Flannels in all Useful Colors selling of Very Cheap. Ladies Jersey and Lined Taffate Silk Gloves marked down from 55c. to 35c. Ladies' Gossamer Rubber Mantles reduced from 3.75 to $2. and from $1.75 to $1 25. Men's Cardigan Jackets offering at a great reduction. Ladies' and Gents' and Girls' and Boys' Underclothing of all kinds selling off at an Immense Reduction. Men's Good Serviceable, Well-made Cotton Shirts, Flannel Shirts, Top Shirts, Knitted Shirts all offering very low. Millinery selling off at half price. Black Cashimeres and all other Mourning Goods are greatly reduced in prices. Dress Goods are immensely reduced in prices. Some New Dress Goods are offering at half price. Waterproofs Exceedingly Cheap. Ladies' Mantle and Ulster Cloths are selling off at an immense reduction. Fur trimmings in great variety Immensely Reduced in Prices. Flouncing Puffings, Frillings, all selling off very cheap. Ribbons and Ribbon Velvets marked down in many cases too less than half price. Carpets marked down very low. Your Choice of the Best Five Frame Brussels, made and laid will be given for $1 25 during February. Window Shades offering at one-third off he's prices. Full assortment of Carpets of all kinds from the Cheapest Hemp to the Best Wilton, all selling off exceedingly cheap. Rugs, Mats, Mattings, Cornices and Poles, Window Shades Plain and Decorated, Carpet Sweepers, Stair Rods, all very cheap. Read this by all means. Mind the place is on King street east, ONE DOOR WEST of Hughson Street. The name is

THOMAS C. WATKINS.

G. SMITH'S WINTER SALE.

For the Balance of JANUARY.

Ladies' Dress Goods, Colored Silks all the rush.
Winter Dress Goods clearing off at Wholesale Prices.
Mens' and Boys' Overcoats at Cost Price.
Mens' and Boys' Dress Suits at Cost.
Blankets, Boots & Shoes, Hosiery, Flannels, Felt Overshoes, Ladies' Gloves, Ladies' Mantles at Cost.

ARRIVING DAILY.--Groceries, Crocekry, &c., &c,

The finest Teas in the County at G. Smith's—famed for 60c. Tea.

Bargains, Bargains.

GOOD GOODS AT LOW PRICES

Everything in Winter Coods Reduced.

Children's Wool Hose reduced to 10c.
Ladies' All-wool Hose reduce to 20c.
Ladies' Lined Kid Mitts redu d to 50c.
Children's Lined Kid Mitts reduced to 88c.
Ladies' Josephine Kid Gloves reduced to 50c.
Ladies' $7.00 Fur Caps reduced to $4.00.
Heavy quality Nap Cloth reduced to 95c.
Velveteens reduced from 10 to 25 per cent.
Dress Goods worth 50c. reduced to 25c.
Black Cashmeres reduced 15 to 20 per cent.
Good Check Wincey 10c., worth 15c.
Large Wool Clouds 80c., worth 50c.

Ladies' and Children's Wool Mitts 15c., worth 30c.
Ladies' Wool Cuffs reduced to 12½c.
Ladies' Underwear reduced to 50c.
Boy's Wool Vests reduced to 33c.
Boy's Top Shirts reduced to 45c.
Blankets all reduced.
Comforters all reduced.
Carpets at Special Reductions.
New Embroideries, just received, 2c. and upwards.
New Prints, elegant designs, from 5c. to 20c.
New Shirtings, choice patterns, from 8c. to 15c.
New Ginghams, nice patterns, 10c. per yd.

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