

THE CHRONICLE.

DURHAM, August 25th 1898.

The Constable Bill passed its second reading on Friday night last, by a majority of six. Before the vote was taken Mr. Whitney raised a point of order to the effect that the eight members should not be allowed to vote, against whose seats petitions in which the right of constables to vote was an issue, were pending. The Speaker ruled otherwise however and the second reading was carried, the eight members voting with the Government.

By the support of eight members whom the Conservatives say are not members, the Government has a majority of six. Had the Speaker ruled otherwise they would be in a minority of two.

If as Mr. Hardy and his supporters claim that it is legal for poll constables to vote, why call a special session to make it legal again? If they have no doubt of its legality they should have no fear of the decision of the Judges in the appeals now pending.

The object of the Constable Bill, as the Attorney-General declared was to help the Government out of a hole, and to maintain them in office. With a majority of six, and a certainty as to the legality of the Constable vote, what should they be afraid of? What had the Government to fear? Why meet anyway to pass retro-active or retrospective legislation. If not to manacle the electors and gag the judges, as a member of the Opposition quaintly puts it.

Mr. J. T. Garrow, of West Huron, representative of the returning officer and poll constables argues on the moral and legal right of constables to vote. Conservatives are willing to grant the moral right, and let the judges decide on the legal.

Mr. Foy of South Toronto is already a strong man in the Conservative ranks. He has also shown himself to be versed in politics and law, a good reasoner and a logical debater. Dr. Pyne of East Toronto is also an active man. In fact it is conceded on all sides that the Ontario Opposition has some first class men, and the present Hardy Administration should they be retained in office, will be forced to respect the Opposition.

Durham according to law is entitled to three licensed hotels. Two have already secured the license while the third is unsettled, that granted the British being revoked by the decision of Judge Creasor.

Very few citizens in the first place thought the license would go to the British, the commissioners themselves, it is said, favored the Central on the ground of being better located, better equipped and more modern in arrangement. However, when they met, the two outsiders, Mr. Poehlman and Mr. Phalen, over ruled the resident member of the Board, Mr. Caldwell, and promised the license to the British on condition that certain repairs be made and a suitable tenant provided. These conditions were complied with and the license granted accordingly.

Through some irregularity however growing out of a "transfer of the application" the question was further pressed before Judge Creasor whose reading of the law, led to a revocation of the license. The Up Town petitioned for a license to be granted to the Central and though sixty-six names appeared on the petition, or eighty per cent of the electorate, their will was ignored by the outside Commissioners and action deferred until the 29th, when if a petition satisfactory to the Commissioners is presented, the license will be given to the British.

The "down towners" do not assume a dictatorial spirit to the residents up town as to which house should receive the license, but when the will of eighty per cent as expressed by their petition is ignored by autocratic appointees of the Government they feel it a duty to come to their relief and assist them out of the difficulty. Nor is it the Conservatives that regard this as a grievance as the Liberals feel that the Commissioners have exercised a high handed authority in opposing the popular will. It is time for a change, and their resignation is in order.

The town of Newmarket is indignant over the cutting off of a license to the North American Hotel there,

and Inspector Hughes is the subject of some strange comment. The following paragraph from a Toronto daily carries its own explanation:—"The feeling is hottest against Inspector Hughes, and there are strange rumors whispered around town. A few put the action down to the inspector's rigid temperance views, but a rumor which was heard from a variety of sources that \$500 changed hands on the deal would bear explanation. The story further goes that Inspector Hughes practically controlled the commissioners; that the hotelkeepers of the town, combining against the North American, got up this purse—and, "a man from St. Catharines" was found to approach the inspector. This is a sample of tales that are heard on every side."

The feeling in the minds of New Market Liberals is much the same as that expressed by some of them in Durham over our license tempest. Mr. Frank Irwin, of Sharon, spoke as follows:—"I have been a Liberal all my life, my father was and my son is, but I say this, that if this affair is not fixed up, much as I regret to say it, I cannot cast a Government vote, nor will my son, and all the influence I can bring to bear will be utilized in the same direction. Davis will never, under these circumstances, get my vote, and if there was an election in the fall, he would be defeated to a dead certainty. His own party is up against him. I do not consider the inspector a man fit for the position, nor for that matter, the commissioners either."

The propriety of building granolithic sidewalks up the Durham hill is to our mind a subject of grave doubt. When first we heard the matter spoken of we were quite in favor of the project, but having heard many who know give their experiences of their slippery and absolutely dangerous character we are forced to the conclusion that they are not "just the thing." But the people demand them, the Council is willing to acquiesce in their demand and the work is in progress. Would it not be well to give the granolithic a trial by placing it on one side only for the present year. The bed on the other side if put down properly could easily be covered with cement should experience prove it wise to do so, and should it be decided not to put on the covering later, the solid gravel with good cement facings will in a short time make an admirable walk. A gentleman in our office a few days ago thinks the citizens will be sorry only once for putting granolithic walks on the hill.

The plebiscite campaign is still going on. Preparations for voting on the 29th of Sept. are being made on both sides. Many of the temperance party, from lack of confidence in the subsequent results appear to show an indifference in the matter, and for that reason may never appear at the polls.

For years the agitation for prohibitory legislation has been pressed. The leader of the present Government before returned to power promised prohibition, if the people wanted it, and the wanting or not wanting of it is to be tested by the plebiscite vote. This will cost the country between two and three hundred thousand dollars. The cost will be the same, vote or no vote, therefore, whatever may be the outcome it is the duty of every elector to cast his ballot conscientiously and let the result of the vote show whether or not a prohibitory law is wanted. For a temperance advocate to stand aloof, simply because the result may not come up to his idea, to say the least, shows a lack of backbone.

A few weeks ago, a report was circulated that Dr. Allison, of Sackville College, Methodist, had expressed strongly anti-temperance views and had recommended the Methodist body not to support the Methodist Plebiscite. The report was some what premature, however, and the Dr. under his own signature writes to the Halifax "Herald" denying the charges that were made against him. He says:—"My chief statement was an inference drawn generally from the history of prohibitory legislation to the effect that the mere enactment of such legislation had not in itself power to sweep away the saloon, and that the assumption that prohibition and the annihilation of the liquor traffic are convertible terms is not warranted by facts. In support of this statement or inference I referred to two instances coming under my own observation but I made no such assertion as that prohibition had everywhere been a failure nor did I ask such a question as "When on earth has prohibition succeeded? I did not refer to the Scott Act, directly or indirectly, and drew no inferences from "the moral sup-

port" or want of moral support accorded it by the people. I did not refer in any way to Maine, and therefore could not have drawn the suggested parallel between her experience and that of New Brunswick in a possible future. I did not say or imply that the country needs no more prohibitive laws." This gives a flat denial to the charges imputed to Dr. Allison, and forbids the use of his name as a representative Methodist in opposition to temperance sentiment. He further says "What I did say and repeat now was that a prohibitive law, unsupported by a powerful force of moral sentiment might be a curse rather than a blessing. I did not say that I could not recommend the great body of the Methodist Church to vote for Prohibition and certainly did not intend to say anything that could possibly have been construed to have such a meaning." Further he adds:—"I frankly admit that my own mind was not free from doubt as to whether or not the country was ripe for prohibition, but such was my antipathy to the liquor traffic and desire for its destruction that I intended to give prohibition "the benefit of the doubt" and vote "yes" at the plebiscite poll." These opinions are taken from the pen of Dr. Allison himself and no person can remain further in doubt as to his position on the plebiscite.

The License Muddle.

To THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.

It has been stated that the application of Mr. George Ryan for a tavern license in respect of the Central Hotel has been finally disposed of by the Board at their last meeting and it is either the British or nothing.

Such is not the case. Without the certificate signed by the required number of the electors for the British, the Commissioners cannot grant a license to that hotel, and when the matter comes before the Board again, the only application in the absence of such certificate of the Electors, that can be entertained is the one for the Central, and the Act makes provision for a reconsideration of refused applications.

It may have been intended on the part of the Commissioners in refusing the Central application to test the feeling, or rather, the calibre of the electors, but in view of all the circumstances, it is quite unlikely, should the electors stand firm, and refuse to back down on their former position in this matter, that the Commissioners will further oppose the will and wishes of the people, or allow any personal prejudices or "sympathy" they may have had, to stand in the way of their duty in that regard.

It has been stated further that an action has been threatened against the Commissioners unless they grant the British the license, but it is absurd to imagine that the Commissioners have been acting from "fear" in that direction.

Yours truly,
C. A. BATSON.
Durham, August, 22nd, 1898.

VARNEY.

A couple of our boys go west very frequently. They say they are trying to capture a Fox but it is quite an undertaking.

Mr. Clark has his chopping mill about completed so there will be no growling about who will carry the bags now.

Mr. and Mrs. James Eden were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. Eden one day last week.

Mrs. Thos. Allan has been visiting friends at the Soo this last few weeks.

Mr. Alex. Sirrs and his daughter Mabel of the Soo are visiting in and around Varney.

Mrs. Gadd while going to town the other day happened with what might have been a serious accident. The front coupling of the buggy gave way, throwing her on the dash board and hurting both her arms.

The Eden Bros. commenced work on Mrs. Gray's house this week which will add greatly to its appearance when finished.

There was another little dish washer arrived at Mr. Bob Pettigrew's last Thursday morning.

The young man that has been throwing stones at a neighbor's house of late had better look out as the law will be put in force.

SACKETT'S CORNERS.

The weather still continues dry and the hum of the threshing machine can be heard from morn till night.

We are sorry to hear that Dr. Sneith, of Dromore, is sick. We hope to hear of his recovery soon as his services are of too much value to be dispersed with.

Miss Maud Haw, of Toronto, also Mrs. D. Ferguson and family, of

Durham, are visiting at Mr. George Sackett's this week.

Mr. George Sackett has taken an independent fit and has dug a well convenient to his house. No more public wells for George.

Don't Be Alarmed

Because a "specialist" has told you that you cannot be cured, No matter how long you have suffered with indigestion or constipation or how often you may have been told your case was chronic or incurable if you persist in the use of Sloan's Indian Tonic you will soon be as healthy as ever you were. All up-to-date dealers sell it. \$1.00 bottle lasts six weeks.

Fall Fair.

SOUTH GREY—DURHAM, SEPT. 27 & 28. ARCH. MCKENZIE, Secretary. Industrial, Toronto, Aug. 29-Sept. 10. Western, London, Sept. 8-17. Northern, Walkerton, Sept. 14-15. North Grey, Owen Sound, Sept. 20-22. Great Northern, Collingwood, Sept. 20-23. Holland, Chatsworth, Sept. 22-23. East Grey, Flesherton, Sept. 22-23. Central, Walter's Falls, Sept. 27-28. Centre Bruce, Paisley, Sept. 27-28. Northwestern, Goderich, Sept. 27-29. Glenelg, Markdale, Sept. 15-16. Arran, Tara, Oct. 4-5. Sydenham, Bothwell's Corners, Oct. 4-5. Euphrasia, Rocklyn, Oct. 5. Derby, Kilsyth, Oct. 6-7.

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can be overcome in almost all cases by the use of Scott's Emulsion of Cod-Liver Oil and the Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda. While it is a scientific fact that cod-liver oil is the most digestible oil in existence, in

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Of Blankets, Holland Tweeds Yarn, Ready-made Clothing, etc. May be had in exchange for Wool.

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S. Scott.

THRILLING STORY

HOW ESCAPE OF COLONEL M AND HIS SOLDIERS.

By a British Officer, who was Afflicted by the Ice Floe. Awful Experience of a Party Who Were Caught on the Ice when the Ice Broke.

the many stories of the perils of frozen North and the perils of the ice at the time of year when the rivers begins to break, Colonel Alexander Man, of the British Army, relates one of the most thrilling of the Colonies:

was back in the Seventies (that is myself in Yingtze, the port of Manchuria. On passing the bar of Muren, on the way to Yingtze, I was impressed by the solitude that reigns every hand. It is not until the river has steered north for about an hour to a point where the stream is making quite a sharp bend westward, returns on an eastern course, then starts almost due southward; it is not, I say, until one reaches this spot that one sees anything of the presence of human life, perhaps, a stretch of nets, or the of a fisher family standing on the bank, or perched on some knoll overlooking the river. But the scene changes suddenly. Across the horizon marked out by the course of the river there looms a forest of masts and spars of junks and lorchas ranged for five deep off the rough wharves and lie the European craft with their tires, with struck yards and booms. As the ship is brought into the berth which is left vacant by the imperial custom house, returns naturally from the setting sun and glances toward the well-built buildings that at length one beholds this little known country stretches away for a thousand miles—mountain and valley, lake and river, until it touches the mighty face to face with the

FRONTIER OF SIBERIA.

Yingtze, referred to contemptuously by the Shanghai people as a "heavenly paradise," is certainly not impossible. It is a kind of scratch collection of flat-roofed, somber-colored, six-story buildings; and yet it contains banks, shops, and warehouses whose aggregate value than many pretentious settlements seen elsewhere.

the mile-wide river surges past—stream, hemmed in by high banks of bare alluvial soil, red by straggling trees and tiny villages, surrounded by walls of earth, strange stillness of the air suggests the Egyptian desert, or the of Saskatchewan. Such is the aspect. In winter, however, the scene is entirely changed, and the Arctic situation of the place is itself known. The mighty river is to flow, and becomes transformed into stupendous masses of ice a thick. These great masses, piled in ridges at the bend of the river, each right out to the ocean, and arrested there by the series of foam-topped breakers. In the terrible winter days the erstwhile dusty plain receives a vast supply of ice, and the low-pitched roofs, with their gloomy walls, look like patches in the gleaming landscape. Of course, river traffic disappears altogether; even the light vessels outside the bar sends her spar-casts off from her moorings, and drifts away. All influx of water merchandise, whether foreign or domestic, ceases entirely; and yet the city of Yingtze is in no way abandoned; the barque and the schooner are replaced by the cart and the pack; and now from Mergen and Kirin on the west, and from Ning-hua and Kirin on the east, HUGH CONVOYS OF GRAIN, opium, and ginseng struggle through the northern passes and go toward their destination in the

happened one day that a Government consignment of specie had to be dispatched westward, and as there were no brigands on the watch the military officials suggested that an escort of military police should accompany the party. Accordingly at daybreak one morning a quartet of open sleds left Yingtze, having in addition a couple of Manchurian troopers mounted on each and a small contingent of two files of smart auxiliaries stationed on the shafts. An hour later this consignment was followed by the commander, accompanied by a European and a good specimen of the Manchurian mounted officer. Being named they overtook the carts and they had gone very far, but not far enough when the Government consignment had approached a village, said to be the probable location of the reported bandits. Nothing, however, was to be seen. The road was declared perfectly safe by the advance runner, and we started on our journey. In less than an hour we were in "open" weather there was a heavy snow during winter