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DURHAM CHRONICLE
W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

Durham, March 5, 1903.

Three weeks ago, just as we were going to press, we learned of the death of the aged Mr. Alexander McComb, and merely mentioned the fact trusting to learn further particulars from some of the family so as to form a short obituary for our readers. Our feeling is that the old people of this country, particularly those who came in here as pioneers, grew up with the country, and struggled in the early days with the primeval forest, should not pass off unnoticed, and in future we invite the relatives to furnish the information that we may give it to our readers. These notices need not necessarily be all praise of the deceased, which, however deserving, is to our mind, never in good taste. The bare facts and incidents in the earlier days are always readable to the present generation. Because of its historical character, particularly, we gave last week a short sketch of Mrs. Frost, of Owen Sound, and we hope even yet to be furnished with material for an obituary on the late Mr. McComb. The illness and expected death of his widow, Mrs. McComb, is, we presume, a reason we have not been brought into contact with some member of the family.

NORTH GREY ELECTION.

(Saturday Night.)

It is amusing to witness the attempts of the party press to account for the unexpected Conservative victory in the North Grey by-election for the Commons. The "Globe" professes to think that the Liberals lost the seat through over-confidence and lack of organization, and it minimizes the rebuke which the result undoubtedly carries to the Laurier Administration by suggesting that the contest was a sluggish one, centering upon local issues, and that the policy of the Dominion Government was not seriously under discussion. These are the stock reasons which one might expect to be assigned to account for what is undoubtedly a bad body blow to the hopes of the Dominion Liberals in Ontario. The "Mail and Empire" when North Grey a few weeks ago was lost to its party in the provincial by-election, could do nothing but shout "Boodle!" Now, because the constituency has given a verdict of a different description, it attributes the result to wholly opposite causes and says that North Grey has declared with no uncertain sound "that pre-election contracts must be observed and that a Government must be based on a ruling principle rather than slipperiness or opportunism." If this was the meaning of North Grey's verdict on Tuesday, why did the "Mail" not attribute equal intelligence and morality to the constituency as the basis of its verdict in the provincial by-election? The truth of the matter is that the party press on both sides is insincere, and will not, or can not, give the public a frank analysis of the meaning of a political turn over that is admitted to be extraordinary. No matter how the North Grey results may be explained, there can be no doubt that it is not calculated to reassure the Liberals at Ottawa. The "Globe's" idea that the riding was lost through over-confidence is not borne out by the fact that it was visited by three Cabinet Ministers and a host of experienced Liberal campaigners, while

the Conservative candidate relied mainly on his personal efforts and those of local friends. On the other hand, the "Mail" cannot persuade the public that a constituency in which bye-elections have become chronic has suddenly become so virtuous that public interests are the only arguments that would be considered. It is probably true that while local questions and the respective personal qualities of the candidates had much to do with the result, the verdict is an indication that there is a growing apathy among former Liberal voters towards the Ottawa outfit, who, with the exception of Sir William Mulock's splendid administration of the Post Office, are doing nothing to earn the gratitude of Ontario voters. This, of course, does not imply that these people are enamored of the supine, colorless and inane Opposition; but it is quite evident that if the Government were so constituted, or had recently so conducted itself, as to stir enthusiasm, it would not be possible to account for the election of an Opposition candidate, in a close constituency, by a heavy majority, and a bye-election at that, on merely personal or local grounds. A variety of causes may have contributed, and doubtless did contribute, to the smashing rebuff which the Dominion Government received on Tuesday in the only bye-election held within the past year in Ontario. But no one can argue away from the fact that one of these causes must have been indifference and apathy towards the administration. The sources of this indifference would not be hard to find, but perhaps the most noteworthy one is that the free trade fetish, to which a section of the Government is still devoted, at least academically, has fewer friends than ever, even amongst the agriculturists. Mr. Fielding went to North Grey and made low tariff speeches, and the farmers of North Grey answered him with a heavier Conservative or high tariff vote in the townships than ever given previously in the riding. All of which suggests that probably Mr. Tarte knew the mind of the people a good deal better than the men who thought the Liberal party could ignore his views.

THE MAN ON THE STREET.

"A chief's among ye takin' notes. An' faith he'll prent it."—DUMAS.

Last Sunday seemed to be a day of unusual activity at the G. T. R. station here. What with the puffing of the engine, the bumping of the cars, and the rakish sound of the rolling of the wheels on the frozen rails, grating harshly upon the frosty air, the usual quiet of the day of rest was rudely disturbed. At such a station as this Sunday labor would seem to be unnecessary and it is mere pretence to say there is any occasion for it, or that it falls without the prohibition of the Lord's Day Act. While the latter permits "Conveying travellers or His Majesty's Mail by land or by water," the shunting of freight cars in the station yard is not included, and surely is not permissible either as works of necessity or works of charity.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

At a time when so much is being said on Municipal vs. Private ownership of public franchises, and when the subject is being threshed out even in our own town, it becomes highly important that the citizens do some quiet thinking on its various phases. The question should be fairly faced and the two sides discussed quietly but thoroughly. It would seem from the reports of the conference held in New York last week to discuss the various problems connected with the question, that the general results of Municipal ownership have been highly advantageous to the municipalities which have already secured control of their franchises. The percentage of failure has been exceedingly small, and in these the cause was easily traceable to indifference on the part of the civic officials, or to the appointment of incompetent subalterns. In the lighting of our town, better service is undoubtedly desirable, especially in the quality of the light furnished, but if it pays a private company to furnish light or power to a municipality (and it certainly does,) it will surely pay a municipality to furnish its own light and power. At the same time it is only justice to the private company that its plant be taken over at a fair valuation or otherwise disposed of before the larger project is fairly within the range of practical politics. In future issues this aspect of the question may be more fully considered.

CHURCH FADS.

Some of us go to church once a week some once in a while, some not quite so often. When we do go, however, we want to hear the preacher, and not be distracted by sounds that jar our feelings, and sights that mar the harmony of our thoughts. But, Alas! how often do these ugly things obtrude themselves upon our susceptible nerve centres, even in the sacred edifice. Pity, the human organism is so finely strung that the eccentricities of faddists should so irritate and annoy, and pity too, that such faddists cannot restrain their oddities so as not to

impose them upon unwilling spectators. For instance, what more outlandish for a man to do than during divine service to empty a capacious pocket of candy into an equally capacious stomach. What terrible bore the candy muncher is to those who are compelled to hear his constant crunching and see his moving jaw! And yet some men amuse themselves in church by this very thing, to the annoyance of everybody within sight or sound of them. The sweetest gospel message and the finest flow of rhetoric are alike lost upon the reprobate whose mouth is full—not indeed of cursing and bitterness, but of lolly-pops and caramels. Of course, for a somnolent child or for children of larger growth under the influence of a soporific sermon, the practice might be excusable, but for a grown-up man to resort regularly to such pastime in church, as many habitually do, is surely a sign of some infantile propensity, which, for the sake of others, if not for his own, he should indulge sparingly. Another detestable fad of too frequent occurrence, is the paring, scraping and cleaning of ones finger-nails in church. Why this should be done at all, except privately, I cannot tell, but why, in a church during divine service, is a profound mystery to me. It must be a case of bad breeding or absent-mindedness. Not long ago at one of our evening services a worthy church member took out his knife and deliberately began this entertaining operation, not silently and out of sight, as refined persons generally would do, but blaringly and in full view of a large circle of unwilling witnesses. This continued so long that some of us were forced to the conclusion that the task was one of considerable magnitude and to be undertaken only at rare intervals when time was no consideration. One would expect that persons not utterly devoid of the feeling of reverence would be restrained from violating the sacredness of a church by such performances.

How often too, at public entertainments, is the same gross violation of good breeding on exhibition, but here the sacred instinct is not wounded, so that the offence is somewhat mitigated. If persons so offending against good taste and against the moral sense of those whose attention is diverted from the sermon or lecture were to pause and think of the incongruity of their action, they would never again repeat the ugly offence in so obtrusive a fashion. The gratifying of such innocent foibles at church or at public entertainments to the annoyance or discomfort of others, is a breach of etiquette, which stamps the offender as a person of coarse manners and vulgar breeding.

If the Town Council are asleep to their duty to the citizens as regards our streets, let our local Lacrosse sports awake from their slumbers and at once proceed to re-organize the Durham Lacrosse Club which won for themselves in 1902, a name worthy of the respect and commendation of every citizen of the town. Let there be a meeting called, and called so that every citizen who is in favor of the National Game will be duly notified and feel that he is welcome, and a necessary individual to the welfare of the Club. Every citizen should attend that meeting. What gave life to our little town last year in the matter of some place to pass a few hours? We had many strangers who passed their evenings over on the lacrosse grounds, watching the Blue and White preparing themselves for battle with their opposing teams. Is that not worthy of the support of every man, woman and child in Durham as a pleasure point of view. Does it not warrant the support of the townspeople from the fact that when on the lacrosse grounds the young men are not standing on the corners or around the hotels. They have somewhere else to go, something to see. Now officers of the D. L. C. of 1902, awake, call a meeting, let every citizen be notified, and let there be a good management appointed to place a good team on the field for 1903. Allow us to suggest that they also go to the slumbering Aldermen and advocate a Park where the summer evenings can be passed. Don't ask them to light it.

Several times have we been accosted on the street with "Would you please show me your Chief Constable? Now, however, sprightly our worthy Chief is, the only indication he bears of his office is on the front of his cap, the simple word "Police" worked by wire of local manufacture. We certainly agree that our worthy Chief believes in home industry, but could not our Council supply such a notable official with a coat decked with Brass Buttons as a sign of danger to offenders. We will hope by next issue of this renowned sheet to see our chief have added to the pin in his cap, a coat with brass buttons, as a sign of office. It would save the joint of the index finger of many of our citizens.

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TOP CLIFF.

It is some time since this place was heard from, but we are all here yet trying to pull through as well as we can.

A number of young, old and middle aged people are complaining with colds, grip or something else, but all seem to be getting better.

March sets in fairly cold, so we will be looking for it to end mild.

Messrs. McCannel and sister, from Bruce, are visitors at N. McCannel's and other friends this week.

The communion was held in Gaelic in the Presbyterian church last Sunday, and was attended by a small congregation on account of bad roads and other causes that do not belong to professed Christians.

English communion in the Presbyterian church, Priceville, next Sunday at the usual hour in the morning. Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Dromore, will preach on Friday at 11 o'clock, morning. Soiree will be held on Monday, the 16 March. Dromore choir is expected to be in attendance, and Mr. Alex. Bell, Jr., and Mrs. (Rev.) Newton, of Durham, and others have kindly consented to assist in the singing part of the program, so that a good time may be looked for. Rev. Mr. Little, of Holstein, will preach anniversary sermons on Sunday, 15 March, morning and evening, and will wait for the tea meeting on Monday evening. Rev. Finley Matheson, of Chatsworth, will be in attendance also.

We are pleased to hear that Mrs. Reily is getting better.

Married—At the bride's mother, Mrs. Neil McDonald, South Glenelg, on Feb. 18th, by the Rev. Mr. Matheson, Mr. Wm. McLeod, Jr., to Miss Mary Ann McDonald, youngest daughter of the late Neil McDonald, both of Glenelg. The young couple moved to their home next morning with the best wishes of their numerous friends in this locality. The presents given were both costly and numerous.

Mr. Angus McDonald is away to Toronto hospital for treatment for Catarrh, and is getting along there as well as can be expected so far.

Miss McCannel, of No. 1, Normanby, enjoyed herself at the old home here Saturday and Sunday last.

Teacher Dixon makes his way to the academy at 8:30 every morning (Saturdays and Sundays excepted.)

Councillor Sullivan is busy drawing sawlogs and wood to town for the last few weeks.

Mr. Thomson is away down to Hawkesville, County Huron, on business for the last week.

Mr. John McPhail, who had his leg broken three months ago, is just out of bed a few days ago.

Norman McIntyre and Archibald McDonald are chumming cutting wood for the last few days.

John A. McDonald says the roads are bad in some places of Glenelg but the people are very kind.

Mr. John McIntyre, of Bruce, is spending some of his time with friends in this part at present.

Teacher D. McDonald intends to visit friends in Toronto and other parts this week.

Women and Jewels.

Jewels, candy, flowers, man—that is the order of a woman's preferences. Jewels form a magnet of mighty power to the average woman. Even that greatest of all jewels, health, is often ruined in the strenuous efforts to make or save the money to purchase them. If a woman will risk her health to get a coveted gem, then let her fortify herself against the insidious consequences of coughs, colds and bronchial affections by the regular use of Dr. Boschee's German Syrup. It will promptly arrest consumption in its early stages and heal the affected lungs and bronchial tubes and drive the dread disease from the system. It is not a cure-all but it is certain a cure for coughs, colds and all bronchial troubles. You can get this reliable remedy at Darlings Drug Store.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The undersigned having been restored to health by simple means, after suffering for several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease Consumption, is anxious to make known to his fellow sufferers the means of cure. To those who desire it, he will cheerfully send (free of charge) a copy of the prescription used, which they will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Catarrh, Bronchitis and all throat and lung troubles. He hopes all sufferers will try his remedy, as it is invaluable. Those desiring the prescription, which will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing, will please address, Rev. EDWARD A. WILSON Brooklyn New York.

For Sale.

TWO YEAR OLD BLOOD STALLION from "Clear Grit." Dark bay, stands 15 1/2 hands high. Well broken to rein or rig. For further particulars apply to H. WATSON, Priceville Feb'y 26.—2 m.

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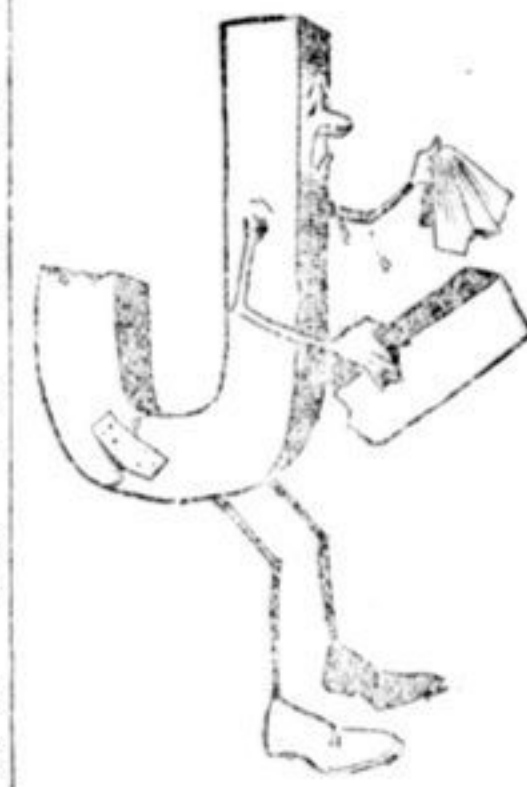
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