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THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

DURHAM, JANUARY 24, 1907

(Toronto Saturday Night.)

Hon George W. Ross, ex-Premier of Ontario has been appointed to the Senate of Canada, and he will soon make a name for himself as an orator at the national capital. The country has missed much—and his fame more—by his not having been making speeches in that place these half dozen years past.

There is some trouble about the succession. A new leader for the Liberal party in the province has to be chosen, although at present there is not much for him to lead. The new man, it seems, will be chosen by the caucus in the Legislature, in which case it is safe to predict that he will not be a new man at all, but a second-hand man, slightly soiled in the late unlamented administration. If choice is left to the caucus, the Liberal members will never have the courage to pass over Mr. Harcourt as he sits among them with his sad, wise air. Mr. Ross has gone up higher at a moment when the easiest way to choose a successor is through the caucus, and the easiest choice of the caucus is Mr. Harcourt, for the session of the Legislature is but a week away. Let us call it settled. Then, as the provincial elections will take place next year—if not this—the leader who goes through the coming session may as well remain on the job. This gives the province another campaign with the Gagey scandal, the Four Norths, the Pritchett revelations, West Elgin, as the battle cries, for Premier Whitney associates Mr. Harcourt with these events as much as he did Mr. Ross. Leader Harcourt will never be able to ask a question of the Government about any matter whatever, but clinging to the answer will come a lot of information that every Liberal in the province longs to forget.

It is argued that there is no precedent in the British system for the choosing of a leader otherwise than by caucus of the Parliamentary party. Even so, what of it? There were no precedents under the British system for the events that have brought about the present condition of affairs. Men who would sacrifice nothing for the party, but who clung desperately to office and sacrificed the party, its reputation, its honorable history, its prospects for years to come—cared nothing for British precedent then, and should not find shelter in it now. The Globe wired enquiries as to how the new leader should be chosen, to

such Liberal members of the Legislature as were within easy reach by telegram on Monday. More than two-thirds of the constituencies of the province are without Liberal representatives, and only a few of this little band could be reached. Mr. Harcourt replied warily, but you can gather what he thinks, as does Mr. E. J. B. Pense, that the choice should be left to the little Daniel's band in the Legislature. Mr. George P. Graham thinks that the caucus should choose the leader, "with the advice and counsel of the party in the various sections of the province." Without a convention this advice and counsel will amount to nothing. D. J. McDougall and Geo. S. May of Ottawa, C. N. Smith of the Soo, Daniel Reed of Wentworth, L. J. Labrosse of Prescott, also think the choice should be left to the caucus. A. G. Mackay of Owen Sound, M. G. Cameron of West Huron, John A. Auld of South Essex are in favor of holding a convention and allowing the whole Province to take a hand in choosing a permanent leader—even though a house leader be chosen by caucus to captain the team during the coming session. These three men speak the mind of every Liberal one meets except those who hold office and on whose shoulders rests the blame for the fix the party is now in.

But there is nobody to call a convention—nobody to do anything—for the men who run the party are the men who have ruined the party, and they are not going to condemn themselves, turn themselves out, hand over the direction of affairs to a wholly new set of men. So, if there is to be a reformation, the demand for it must arise with a loud noise from the ranks.

CLASSIC CITY CHRONICLES.

(By W. J. Blakeston.)

The annual banquet given by the retiring chairman of the School Board to the members of the Board and male principals took place on Monday evening of this week at the Sparta restaurant. This year there was an unusual interest attached to the banquet as the chairman, Dr. Rankin, was a successful candidate for municipal honors hence has left the School Board of which important body he has been a valued member for some time.

The banquet was an exceedingly pleasant and successful affair. The speeches, that followed excellent menu served by the Grecian caterers, all centered around the educational interests of our city and nation. The consensus of opinion was that the teachers should be men and women of forceful and upright character. It was also contended that in order to ensure successful results that strong, watchful discipline and sound ethical training were as necessary as tact and skill in the more direct instruction on the subjects of the public school program. It was strenuously asserted by one speaker that a teacher who exercises a careful and close scrutiny over the habits and conduct of the pupils even if he lacked in skilful impartation of knowledge, was to be preferred to one whose pedagogics were modern, but whose discipline was weak. Pupils do not imitate the teacher as much as they imitate one another. Evil communications corrupt good manners in school as well as in the social world, and therefore the teacher should be on the alert to prevent indolence, carelessness, indifference deceit and immorality on the part of the pupil not so much for the sake of the individual as for the class as a whole. All the modern equipment that can be gathered within the four walls of a school room cannot make up for the lack of the vitalizing force of a wide-awake, up-to-date, vigilant Master. One speaker remarked that "The teacher is the nation builder," because the majority of parents seem to have relegated the training of their offspring to the public school teachers. This is a tremendous responsibility to put upon the shoulders of teachers, but of course they are well paid for it. As I heard one man say not long ago "The civil engineer gets \$1500 a year for laying a good foundation in our streets and the head teacher of our largest public school gets \$900 for the same time for laying the foundation of our nation." But I am not casting any reflections on the salaries paid in the Classic City as the teachers here are paid better than they are in any other city of its size in Ontario. However, I am getting away from my subject. Mr. G. W. Slaughter, principal of Romeo school struck a note in his speech which found a responsive chord in the mind of all the principals present. In the toasts to the "Learned Professions," Mr. Slaughter noted that the teachers were not included and he strongly deprecated the omission as he claimed that the teachers of Ont. had as much right to be classed with the learned professions as doctors and lawyers. It was a distinction without a difference. If teaching isn't a profession what is it? The point was well taken and we believe demands consideration. The banquet ended with a hearty toast to "Our Host," which brought forth a humorous reply from the worthy Dr. Atter singing "Auld Lang Syne" the jolly company dispersed to their homes which they reached at the early hour of 2 a. m.

In thinking over the speeches given at the foregoing banquet your scribe has since come to the conclusion that a public school teacher needs to be an "all round" or "many sided" man to measure up to the standard required by the public. He should possess the shrewdness of a lawyer, the penetration of a judge, the ability of a railroad manager, the urbanity of an insurance agent the persuasiveness of a merchant, the patience of an inventor, the wisdom of a philosopher, the exactness of a chemist, the vigilance of a sentinel, the persistence of a book-agent, the originality of a novelist, the veracity of a Washington, the morals of a clergyman, the strength of a giant, the nerve of an aeronaut, the manners of a Chesterfield, the industry of an Edison, the tact of a general, the resourcefulness of a tramp, the foresight of a prophet, the wit of an Irishman, the voice of an angel, the temper of a saint and, "be gosh," the salary of a Governor-General (?????)

SCHOOL INSPECTORS

Are Instructed by the Department to be Careful in Their Enforcement of the "Minimum Equipment" Clause.

(Toronto-Star.)

When the Education Department issued instructions to school inspectors to see that all schools have the "minimum equipment" at least, the intention was that the improvement should be brought about gradually. It seems that some of the inspectors have failed to grasp the fact that some time was to be allowed for changes, and, as a consequence, rural trustees have feared that they must incur a large and immediate expense.

The Minister of Education has now issued a circular to inspectors, in which he deals with the question. Referring to the original circular, it says: "It cannot be too generally understood that, while the details provide the basis for the inspector's grading, he is directed in the same circular "to use his judgment in securing them, having due regard to the interests of education, the capabilities of the present premises, and the financial competency of the Boards." At a time when the Department is requiring a minimum equipment, and, in some cases, a considerable increase of the teachers' salaries, the Inspector, I venture to suggest, cannot be too careful in enforcing his suggestions. Not all the desirable and practicable improvements can be secured in a short time. In many cases it will take years before the condition of the schools will become satisfactory, and at first the Inspector should secure the changes that are of prime importance."

The circular goes on to warn inspectors to investigate any cases wherein canvassing agents may have induced trustees to buy supplies in excess of the requirements, at exorbitant prices. It has been reported to the Department that agents have been able to impose on trustees in this way by working on their fear of losing the Government grant. "As far as possible," continues the circular, "inspectors should also see that no favoritism is shown to any firm furnishing school supplies, but that free and fair competition is allowed to all in order that trustees may have the full benefit thereof, both as to prices and to quality of materials offered."

The document ends up by again referring to the latitude which is to be allowed in regard to Boards which are really unable to comply with the regulations at once. In the previous circular, inspectors were directed, when satisfied that a Board is too poor to comply with the requirements, to extend at their discretion the time for providing the equipment to the summer of 1908. "Under present conditions," the new circular says, "especially in view of the misunderstandings that have arisen in connection with the educational reforms introduced during the present year, it will be well for you to construe the foregoing provision with judicious liberality."

Havoc by Storm in Niagara Gorge

(Special to the Mail and Empire)

Niagara Falls, Ont., Jan. 20.—A most terrific gale has prevailed here since midnight. Thousands of dollars of damage has been done to boat-houses and launches along the upper river. The water in the upper river has been unusually high. The Three Sister Islands have been submerged all day. Down in the gorge the docks of the Maid of the Mist and the small buildings have been carried away. The water has washed over the abutments of the upper steel arch bridge, and the tunnel portals have been under water.

The greatest damage has been done to the Niagara Gorge Railway. About two miles of the roadbed, ties, rails, poles and feeders have been swept into the rapids, the damage amounting to many thousands of dollars. The road will be shut down for months, in all likelihood. To-night a portion of the roadbed below the whirlpool is under water, so that the damage cannot be fully estimated.

Chief Engineer Harper, of the Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power and Manufacturing Company, was carried 50 feet from a platform across several tracks. He is severely hurt about the back. Two or three launches were carried over the Falls.

The power works on this side were flooded.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Grey and Bruce Mutual Fire Ins. Co. will be held in Miller's Hall, Hanover, on Saturday, the 26th day of January, 1907, commencing at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. DUNCAN CAMPBELL, Mgr. 10th January, 1907.—2t.

Corner Concerns.

Mr. Tom Bartman, of your town, was out locking at the Hillis farm last week with a view to renting it, but as Sunday's storm had blown down some of the fences and the buildings are somewhat out of repair, and the loose stones have not been picked for some years may cause him to re-consider the rash act of undertaking so much hard work.

Our young people look forward with much pleasure to spending Thursday evening at the Rectory with Rev. and Mrs. Bice. Mr. and Mrs. Bice are held in high esteem by all in this part no matter which denomination they belong to. Their social qualities and hospitality are also much admired.

Mrs. Annie Dennett had a very successful wood cutting bee on Friday. About twenty-four were present and two teams hauling it to the door.

Your Hutton Hill correspondent says she is entirely above the use of slang phrases, or rather she says she "draws the line." We said in our last budget that we considered her the very pink of perfection, and we won't go back on it yet even if she has to use a little slang to inform us that she doesn't believe in the use of it. We are also pleased to stand corrected on her assurance that all the other girls on the line are as clever as herself. We are very, very sorry that we did them the injustice of underestimating them, and would kindly advise them when the next Pie Social occurs at Hutton Hill to draw the line again and stay away from those blamed gambling concerns or they may learn slang or some other sporting language that would be unbecoming to young ladies.

Sunday's storm was the worst of the season. It left a good bit of repairing to be done to buildings and wind mills. Fences were also laid low in many places.

Mr. Beatty, of Berkeley, horse buyer, spent Tuesday night with Mr. Robt. Barbour on his way to the Mt. Forest Horse Fair. Many of our farmers also took horses down to sell. Both parties like to transact business where there is competition, of course it is a long way to go but it is good for Mt. Forest. Do you suppose the Durham Board of Trade would feel angry when they wake up if the Farmers' Institute or the Farmers' Association would establish a horse fair in Durham. When the C. P. H. is completed it would be a desirable place for a fair.

Married, in Port Arthur, on Jan. 9, Miss Martha Lawrence, daughter of Geo. Lawrence, to Mr. Sylvester Bishop, of the same place. Congratulations.

Maplewood cemetery meeting was held week before last. The financial statement showed it to be in good standing. Mr. Wm. Grant was re-appointed caretaker.

Mr. Clark, of Varney, with his steam wood cutter, has been doing some good work on our line. Miss Ethel McCallum started on the return trip to Roland, Man., on Friday. She will visit friends in Orangeville, Brampton and other places along the way.

Twenty Bankers, No Printers.

The Ohio Penitentiary News, for many years a famous and flourishing daily paper published by convicts, has suspended publication, for the very good reason that there is not left in that big penal institution a single man who can handle type. There is not a printer in the Ohio Penitentiary. Bankers are there in plenty. More than 20 are there, and more are on the way. Several convict banks might be operated, with men to spare. Enough lawyers are there to take care of an enormous amount of legal business. Doctors, Brokers and other "eminently respectable" citizens are not lacking. Business men, farmers, mechanics and representatives of almost every other department of industrial activity are common there. But there is not one printer. The fact throws new light on a character that has long been commonly misjudged. The printer-to-day is a home-owner. He is of fixed employment and is the head of a family. He is—and always was—far above the average man in information and intelligence.

If you are Constipated, dull, or bilious, or have a sallow lifeless complexion, try Lax-ets just once to see what they will do for you. Lax-ets are little toothsome Candy tablets—nice to eat, nice in effect. No gripping, no pain. Just a gentle laxative effect that is pleasing desirable, Handy for the vest pocket or purse, Lax-ets meet every desire. Lax-ets come to you in beautiful lithographed metal boxes at 5 cents and 25 cents. Sold by McFarlane & Co.

NOTICE TO TRESPASSERS.

All persons are warned not to trespass on the following lots with dogs, guns or otherwise, for the purpose of hunting or prosecutions will follow:—

- Abraham Crutchley, No. 62, 3rd Con. E. G. R.; No. 3, 4th Con. S. D. R.
- Wm. Wall, No. 3, 4th Con. S. D. R.
- Thos. McGirr, No. 61 and 62, 2nd Con. E. G. R.
- John Bell, No. 67, 3rd Con. E. G. R.; No. 3 and 4, 1st Con. N. D. R.
- Chris Firth No. 5, 1st Con. N. D. R.
- Wm Young No. 3 Con. 1, S. D. R.; No. 6, Con. 1, N. D. R.

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- Fancy Velvet and Fancy House Shoes

We are preparing for spring trade and have not room to carry winter goods over.

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Soon as the new year begins, we commence clearing the decks for stocktaking, and with that in mind we are offering exceptional values. The more goods we sell, the less work we'll have stocktaking.

OVERCOATS YOU NEED

It's friendly of us to urge you to buy Overcoats. They give you a good investment, a handsome garment and plenty of comfort. If you're likely to need a new one, now's your chance to buy to advantage.

MEN'S CLOTHING

A good chance to pick up a bargain in Clothing. We have too many Suits and the witer weights must be got out now.

MEN'S UNDERWEAR

You'll need heavy Underwear for about four months longer. Buy now and get the good of it. We can save you money on it.

SEE WHAT YOU NEED IN THIS LIST

They're priced to your advantage.

- Men's Caps, Men's Ties, Men's Mufflers,
- Men's Boots, Men's Rubbers,
- Ladies' Caps, Ladies' Shoes.

LADIES' SKIRTS

In different weights, black and grey tweeds, as well as the smooth finished cloths. Some very handsome styles, very attractively priced.

LADIES' FURS

Jackets, Caps, Neck Pieces, not many left and nothing wrong with the qualities in anyway. Styles are correct too. We're being liberal with them.

In fact in almost any line you can pick up some stocktaking bargains.

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