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THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor. DURHAM MAY 2, 1907

SANCTUM SIFTINGS.

Owing to recent changes in the postal system we are compelled to increase the price of subscription to subscribers in the United States to one dollar and fifty cents a year after this date. For some time we have been paying postage on all papers outside of a limit of twenty miles, but this is the first time we have made any difference with our readers in consequence of increased postage. We regret very much to have to do so now, but we hope the arrangement, which evidently hits the local Canadian publishers rather hard, will not be an unmixed evil. A cry has been heard in Canada for years about the inequality of the International postage arrangements, as tons of American matter were carried free in this country against pounds of ours that were carried by the Americans. Moreover the Canadian Mails have been abused in handling a questionable class of American literature that was doing us more harm than good. Whether the increased postage will have a tendency to diminish the circulation of the low class yellow journalism remains to be seen. We do not feel disposed to advocate the shutting out of the better class of American literature, but the matter of making a proper discrimination is hard to decide on either by a government or an individual. Publishers in both countries are similarly affected, and it is a little too soon to come to any definite conclusion as to the wisdom of the change. We simply have to take our medicine and make the best of it for a time. In the meantime, however, we must ask our subscribers on the other side of the line to remit all arrearages at the rate of a dollar a year and future subscriptions at the rate of a dollar and a half. Those who have already paid their subscriptions will get the paper for the full term, though we are losing money in every case after this date. We must also advise subscribers on the other side of the line that all subscriptions not paid in advance before the 20th of the present month will have to be discontinued. We dislike very much to sever the pleasant relationship that has so long existed between us and our American readers for so many years, and under the circumstances we hope the increased subscription will not prove a barrier.

RAILWAY COMMISSION TO BE CALLED.

The Town Council and the C. P. R. Co. have so far been unable to come to an agreement regarding the right of way through the town, and it was decided at a special meeting on Friday night last to bring on the commission to say what should be done to adjust matters.

About two months ago a meeting was held for the purpose. At this meeting Mr. Darling, the C. P. R. Engineer, was present and expressed himself regarding the unpracticability of cutting through the hill and giving us an overhead driveway on the hillside north of the Presbyterian Church. He agreed, however, to make level stopping places on Garafraxa street hill and to put a gate at the crossing to be attended by a watchman. To such concession on the part of the Company the Council agreed and accepted the proposition. Since then the higher officials of the Company have decided to withdraw the promise of their Engineer and instead of gates and a watchman for protection to substitute an electric bell instead, with an open crossing and no watchman.

The matter was thrown open for discussion and some of the citizens favored accepting the proposition of the engineer as signified by a vote on the resolution of Mr. Gilbert McKechnie, but the opposition was too strong and the motion was lost. It was moved, seconded and carried that the whole matter of dealing with the question be left in the hands of the town council, who accordingly took up the work.

As a preliminary step Mayor Calder ascertained from the engineer that the installation of an electric bell was the only proposition the Company had to lay before the Council. This the Council did not feel free to entertain, and it took but a short time to decide on bringing on the Railway Commission by whose decision they would feel disposed to abide, and the matter is still unsettled.

Mr. McWilliams and Dr. Gun made brief addresses in which they expressed themselves as favorable to a bell rather than a gate and attendant watchman.

Principal Allan was decidedly of the opinion that an unprotected level crossing was nothing short of a death trap, and especially so to school children who had to cross the track three four times every day.

Dr. Hutton was of the opinion that the Engineer's estimate of \$200,000 for cutting through the hill was altogether too high and figured out that \$200,000 for cutting through the hill meant a dollar a day for 200,000 days for a man, or at \$4.00 a day for a man and team for 50,000 days or 150 years. The estimated cost seemed to him to be very high, and his position was well taken by the citizens.

As the season is now on when the work should be progressing a decision must be come to at soon, but it hardly seems fair for the Company to back down on the promise of their Engineer and give as a substitute an electric bell which according to the Engineer's statement would cost little or nothing less for installation and maintenance than the installation and maintenance of the gate and watchman.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

The finding of the skeleton to which we refer in this issue causes us to look back to the early days of Durham and ascertain some facts and particulars in regard to its growth and development. For the purpose of getting a few pointers we have interviewed John H. Brown, who came to the farm where the remains were discovered on the 10th of May, 1848. Fifty-nine years will soon have passed into history since the first advent of Mr. Brown, who was then a mere boy of about fourteen summers. He was accompanied by, or rather he accompanied his father, the late Thomas Brown, who died in 1890, and his mother, whose death occurred about twenty years earlier, and whose remains still lie in the old cemetery on top of the hill.

At that early date there was the merest excuse for a road. The trees along the roadway were slashed down and a road that could be travelled with difficulty was cleared out in the centre of the slashed passage. Over this the pioneer settlers made their way as best they could. Mr. Brown was a tanner by trade and was also engaged in shoemaking, and when we tell our readers there was no Durham here at the time, the only places being a shanty and the body of a log house on the lot in question, and no other habitation of any kind between there and "Baldie" Hunter's, up town, they will wonder why a tanner and shoemaker should head for such a spot.

The Government had selected a town site here, and Mr. Brown saw a possibility of future growth. The site extended from South Street north to what is now known as the Durham Road, but neither Durham nor the Durham Road had been surveyed until about the year 1849 or 1850. There were a couple of Vollett families in the

vicinity and also a family named Dooglass, grandfather of Bob Dooglass who went west a few weeks ago, but there was no visible sign of commercial activity, nor was there an industry of any kind to be seen with the exception of the Edge saw-mill, which began operations in 1847. That the young man whose bones were exhumed Friday was killed before this time is evident from the fact that Aaron Vollett, still living in town, helped to whip saw the lumber for his rude coffin. In 1848 the Edge grist mill commenced operations and was a blessing and Godsend to many families who had to carry flour on their backs from Guelph or otherwise do without that necessary article of diet.

"The Saugen" was the name by which the town site was then known, and it was not until after the Durham Road was surveyed and the town site itself surveyed into lots and the appointment of the late George Jackson as land agent here that the name of Durham was suggested. The name was given by Mr. Jackson after the name of his own native town in the north of England, and many of the streets are said to have been named after streets in the same old Cathedral city.

Growth once commenced, the place developed very rapidly and the next few years saw a complete transformation. About the year 1850 the first place in lower town was erected, and some of the younger people will be amazed to learn that that business place was none other than the little shop pulled down last fall to make room for the Lenahan and McIntosh store just recently completed. There was a dwelling up town at the time, the house now occupied by Mrs. Scott, near the Review Office, but the first dwelling erected down town was the residence now occupied by Constable Clark. The butcher shop referred to was built by the late Donald McKenzie and the dwelling just mentioned was erected by his brother, Roderick McKenzie, father of Wm. Lyon McKenzie, who died here a few years ago. It was not long till the Cochrane foundry was built. Joe Allan started a wagon shop in the little frame building still occupied for the same purpose by Mr. Henry Storrey, and by the way Mr. Storrey, who was then but a lad, served his time with this same Joe Allan, whoever he was. Hotels soon came into existence, one being where Dr. Hutton now lives, and it was not long till the "British," up town, came out for business. A store was built by Alexander McNab on the present site of the Knapp House, and shortly after another was started just about where Nichol's tailor shop is now situated.

When Mr. Brown came here the place was a dense wilderness, and he tells us he used to gather maple sap in what is now known as the East Ward and had his camp quite close to where Henry Storrey now lives. This was during the years of 1848 and 1849, and when it is known that such an industry as the Cochrane foundry was operating in full swing about 1856 and the place had developed so as to justify S. L. M. Luke to issue the first copy of the Durham Standard on the 19th of February, 1857, it will not require much further argument to convince our readers that the early days of Durham were the days when Durham had its greatest boom.

For many years the place was isolated from the rest of the world for want of railway facilities, but it was during these days of isolation that some of the citizens accumulated the wealth which made them mere grabbers after lucre, and this greed together with local jealousies and a species of dog-in-the-manger policy retarded the growth of the town for a quarter of a century when no advancement was made notwithstanding the advent of a railway and other advantages for commercial progress.

The few decaying bones which led to this brief research have been entombed for over sixty years and during those years the whole face of nature has been completely changed. Then a young lad of fifteen or sixteen summers, had he lived would now be a comparatively old man and ready for the grave to which his remains might have been consigned with greater solemnity than was manifest at the second burial on Saturday afternoon last.

[Since the foregoing was in type we learn from conversation with some of the oldest inhabitants that there are some errors in it. That we consider one of its best features as further discussion will be sure to grow out of it, and many things may be recorded that would not otherwise have been thought of. Pointers on the early history of the place will be gladly received.—Ed. Chronicle.]

SORE NIPPLES.

A cure may be affected by applying Chamberlain's Salve as soon as the child is done nursing. Wipe it off with a soft cloth before allowing the child to nurse. Many trained nurses use this salve with the best results. Price 25 cents per box. For Sale at Parker's Drug Store.

BURIED SIXTY YEARS.

A Skeleton Disentombed on Friday Last by Mr. John Mitchell While Excavating for Sand.

On Friday forenoon last Mr. John Mitchell made a discovery which caused a little sensation till the mystery was cleared up after considerable enquiry. Opposite the Cement Works, on Garafraxa Street, is an unoccupied lot. On the day in question, Mr. Mitchell started to do a little excavating in the sand, and before he was long at work he came in contact with some lumber, which, on investigation, proved to be a coffin in which was a human skeleton in a fairly good state of preservation. The news went round town in short order, and for a time no one could throw any light on the subject.

The oldest inhabitant was in demand, and Thomas Vollett, who resided here for sixty-six years, had no recollection of any one ever being buried there, and the mystery grew greater and greater. Later Mr. Thomas Smith was interviewed and was able to give a little light on the subject. He came to Durham in 1855, about 52 years ago, and had a distinct recollection of seeing a grave there in those early days, but more than to say it was the body of a young man, he could give no particulars. Mr. J. H. Brown is another of the oldest inhabitants and was able to assist in unravelling the mystery. About fifty-five years ago the property on which the body was found had been purchased by his father from a Mr. Wm. McCalmon. There was a grave there at the time, protected by a few rails, which marked the sacred spot. While Mr. Brown owned the farm the grave was unmolested, but after the property was divided up into town lots the little mound was ploughed over, and has long since been forgotten.

On Saturday morning Constable Clark and Liveryman Caldwell drove down to Varney to interview Mr. John McCalmon, a brother of Wm. McCalmon referred to above. They learned from him that sixty years ago a nephew of his, a boy about fifteen years of age, had been killed by a falling tree and the remains were interred near the spot on the side of the hill. The Town Council decided to give burial to the bones, and all that could be collected were placed in a box and interred in the cemetery on Saturday afternoon.

Some will, no doubt, speak of it as a gruesome sight, but there was nothing there more than a few bones returning to the dust from whence they came and thus responding to the law of nature. It was a dastardly thing however to see some of the irreverent and thoughtless young villains kicking around portions of the remains to show a mistaken spirit of bravado. The writer took the lower jaw to the Chronicle sanctum, where it was viewed with interest by a number of citizens both young and old, and we regretted indeed to part with the relic which we would have taken good care of and prized because of its associations. The town authorities, however, didn't see fit to leave it with us and we gave it up, let us say, with some reluctance to be buried in the Potters' field with the other remains.

To think of all the changes that have taken place since the interment sixty years ago, is food for reflection. Few then living are here to-day to tell the tales of those by-gone years; but we are all going in the same way. In half a century more the mortal remains of most of us will be similar to those of the young man who was gone and forgotten.

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Two profits in a pea-crop,—the peas and the vines,—rich cow-fodder, valuable green manure, high in nitrogen. Now that the pea-bug has quit business in Canada, peas PAY and Pay BIG.

PPP

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Full direction on each bottle

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