

THE ACTON FREE PRESS. Published Every Thursday Morning. \$1 Per Annum in Advance. Acton Free Press. JOS. H. HARRISON, EDITOR.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 20, 1876.

It is reported that the equity made by the Committee on the Depression of Trade will cost the county about \$2,000. We fancy it will be a very difficult thing to convince any man of ordinary discernment that value has been given to the country for any such expenditure. The evidence taken is to be published and distributed throughout the country, but when all this is done a good many people will be inclined to enquire, how much the trade of the country has been benefited by the whole proceeding. Will it put a single cent in the pocket of the manufacturer, or make one merchant a dollar richer? No doubt much valuable information has been gained, but who will undertake to come down to particulars and show us what new light has been thrown on any commercial question? The causes which led to the depression were just as well known by business men before the Committee sat as they are known now. The cure will come in the ordinary course of business, and the entire House of Commons, if constituted a committee, cannot hurry it a single hour, or make it more effectual when it does come.

The prevailing opinion of those who have made financial affairs a study, is that the commercial depression which has been so universal in its effects during the past two years, has now reached bottom, and that hereafter business generally will boom up. While we have witnessed such a period of disaster to commercial houses of old standing in neighboring countries, and in adjoining provinces, it is shown by statistics that Ontario has stood the strain remarkably well, and that our failures have been comparatively much less serious than was generally supposed. In fact, the substantial prosperity of the country has really not been shaken to any appreciable degree. The annual trade circular of Messrs. Dunn & Wiman furnishes a comprehensive view of the situation, giving hopeful indications for the future. We trust the realities will prove the correctness of the indications. Business men, at all events, are taking a hopeful view of the approaching season's trade. Let all unite in helping to increase trade activity, and general prosperity will inevitably follow.

We have received the first number of the Orangeville Daily Advertiser. It is a neat little sheet, and we have no doubt it will be well conducted. From the experience gained in several years' publication of the Weekly Advertiser in that town, we presume that Mr. Monro knows what he is about in this venturing on a daily issue, and it strikes us that Orangeville is rather too small a town to warrant the enterprise. We would be glad to hear of its permanent success.

TORONTO EVENING TELEGRAM.—We see it announced that this new paper has made its appearance, though we have not yet been favored with a copy. The publisher is Mr. J. Ross Robertson, of the old Toronto Telegraph. If this new venture continues to have the merits the Telegraph possessed, it will be sure to become the most popular paper in Toronto.

England has declined to request the return of the \$10,000,000 overpaid in Alabama claims, but we notice that a few very few American newspapers are saying that it ought to be returned. Unfortunately public conscience is de-latched on the other side, and Congress is full of thieves. There are no signs of recantation there yet. Meanwhile, after the other is found out in pecuniary blame is the last victim. His steel is said to be \$64,000.

Mr. Thomas Scatcherd, M. P. for North Middlesex, died early on Saturday, at Ottawa.

Sir John Glover, the new Governor of Newfoundland, arrived at Halifax on Saturday, from England.

A Blue Ball Convention was held at the Walker House, Toronto, on the 7th inst., when George Sleeman, of Guelph, was elected President.

HALTON COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Debitures will not be Given up without a Fight. An special meeting of the County Council, convened by the Warden, was held in the court house, Milton, on Thursday, the 6th inst. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Warden read a letter from the solicitors of the H. & N. Railway Co., as follows: John Waddle, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—As the municipal council of the County of Halton declined at their recent meeting to deliver up the county debentures to the trustees, in terms of the Act and By-law, we are instructed to proceed to compel their delivery unless we hear from you by return mail that you are prepared to deliver them up.

Yours faithfully, RESERVE, WALTER & HURON, Hamilton, 23rd March, 1876. The Warden stated that he had visited Toronto, and took the advice of eminent counsel as to the course it was advisable for the council to pursue respecting the foregoing correspondence, and was told the council should pass a By-law to fortify the position taken and prevent the Warden being compelled to surrender the debentures by main force.

Dear Sir,—In view of the course pursued by the municipal council of the County of Halton, at their recent meeting, I beg to withdraw the proposal contained in my letter to you of 18th January last, that the corporation of the County of Halton, or any of the municipalities included in the group, should be bound to issue under the By-law, bonds of \$25,000 to this Railway Company should have the option of acquiring the debentures or a portion of the debentures issued under the By-law, on such terms as may be agreed upon.

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Report of the Committee on the Trade Depression.

The parliamentary committee which was appointed several weeks ago, completed their enquiries on Tuesday last week, and reported the result, at great length. The following is a condensation of the report: It points out that the causes which produced the depression in the commerce of the country are, in the opinion of the Committee, beyond legislative control. The committee report that they have examined persons on the lumber and coal trade, the refining of sugar, the manufacture of agricultural implements, of saws, stoves, and gas-fittings, the manufacture of leather, of boots and shoes, of steam engines, of slate quarries, of cotton and woolen fabrics, and of ship-building. They regret that they have not been able to go over the whole ground embraced in the order of reference, and they are therefore unable to submit to the House all the information necessary to a consideration of the subject. The enquiry has, however, been sufficiently broad to enable them to point out with a considerable degree of accuracy the causes which have immediately operated to produce the present depression in the commerce of the country and in some branches of its manufacturing and mining industry these causes are quite beyond legislative control in this country. This stagnation in commerce seems to be universal, as there is not a port at the present time from which ships may be freighted at remunerative rates.

The dullness in the lumber trade in Canada is caused by a diminution of the demand in England and the United States, and by its having almost ceased in the West Indies and South America. The New England market is now to a considerable extent supplied with superior lumber from the forests of Michigan and Wisconsin. The duty imposed upon the Canadian lumber entering the United States has enabled the Michigan lumbermen to compete in the Eastern market. But the principal cause of the depression in the trade is the diminished consumption in every country where Canadian lumber has hitherto found a market. The quantity of lumber now being manufactured in Canada will not exceed 50 per cent of what was produced in 1872-73.

The report goes on to say that the mercantile classes, as shown by the returns furnished by official assignees, have felt much more the depression than any others. The system of credit has been a fruitful source of mischief to mercantile men. The excess in value of imports over exports seems indicative of inflation. As it is easy to obtain credit in England, many small wholesale dealers boldly enter that market and buy. The result is that the importers in this country, the agents of the country to purchase, and the inevitable consequences are failure and ruin. The commercial recklessness is largely indulged in because the merchants know that if anything is gained it flows into their own pockets, while, if there are losses, they are sustained by their creditors who are unable to sell to persons who had little or no capital. They condemn protection on the ground that, when certain interests are protected so, as to become money making ones, capital is diverted from its natural channels into special and speculative ones. The business system is deranged and the attendant evils follow in train, consequently the Committee believe that the freest and most unrestricted is the best for any country.

Though sugar refining was not incident to the investigation, it was enquired into for the purpose of ascertaining some information concerning it. The Committee have decided that further protection would cause the consumer to suffer. Protection would but put money into the pockets of the refiners at the expense of the people, as has been shown to be the case in the States. The Committee, therefore, recommend no change with regard to the sugar refining industry.

The Committee believe the manufacturers of agricultural implements are in a good condition and thrifty; and so with those of knitted woollen goods. They report that, as the Canadian manufacturers of cloth and tweeds can produce them as cheaply as the English and Scotch manufacturers can make theirs, that the former do not ask for protection, except from fraud, as some of their competitors are said to use woollen and other materials. They cheapen cloth and assist in making the competition very severe. Native manufacturers are manufacturing sound goods and relying upon them to command sales. Though the system of reciprocal duties might be defensible as a piece of diplomacy, it cannot for a moment be approved on economical grounds. The Committee think that because that policy is adopted at Washington, Canada is by no means called upon to follow it. They find that high protection is with the interests of the few, and enhances the price of living to the mass of consumers, and, therefore, they cannot approve of, believing as they do that a liberal commercial policy is the best of all. They condemn all legislative interference in commerce. They think there should be no restraints whatever, and that the policy

GENERAL NEWS.

Navigation is now open in Toronto. Several vessels left that harbor Saturday morning.

Thirty thousand colliers are on strike in Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, in England.

The steamer Teutonia from Rio with the Emperor of Brazil on board has arrived at New York.

The largest, handsomest, cheapest and best assortment of crockery—10 different patterns of China Tea Sets—at Second Base.

A mad ox got-loose in Belleville on Saturday, and knocked down a man named Duncan, injuring him severely.

The debt of Toronto is placed at \$5,000,000, upon which interest has to be paid to the amount of over \$500,000.

The Government buildings used as a boarding house at Fort Francis was destroyed by fire on the 27th of March.

The Ottawa Free Press says that Louis Reil, of Manitoba, notoriety, is an inmate of the Asylum of Montreal a confined lunatic.

Mr. D. Stewart, of Esquimaux, a highly respected farmer, father of T. J. Stewart, of the Herald, died on Thursday, 6th inst., after a short illness.

The Great Western has issued a new time-table which came into force Monday. By the new arrangement two extra fast trains each way will be put on the Toronto branch.

Alexander Mackie, proprietor of the Headford Mills, in the township of Markham, near Richmond Hill, was accidentally drowned on Friday, while in the act of letting the water off at the waste gate of his mill dam. He was a married man, but had no family.

Some time since, while driving from Galt to Berlin, Dr. Whiting was thrown over an embankment at Freeport, Waterloo Township, and considerably injured. At the recent assizes in Berlin, he recovered \$150 damages and costs from the municipality.

The authorities of the Great Western Railway have issued instructions prohibiting persons walking upon the track or in any way trespassing upon their grounds. On Thursday a prominent merchant of Hamilton was fined \$2 for taking a walk on the track last Sunday.

At the recent assizes in Berlin, Mrs. Haspington obtained a verdict of \$2,375 for herself and children against the Grand Trunk Railway, for the death of her husband, who was run into by an engine and killed, while driving across the G. T. R. track between Waterloo and Berlin some time since.

One of the girl operators at Crane's paper mill, Watfield, Mass., suffered a severe attack of lockjaw one day last week, in which the jaws were set for more than an hour. The attending physician gave it as his opinion that the disease was the result of a long and daily practice of chewing gum, and that the young lady persists in chewing the article, a fatal return of the disease may be expected.

Church building operations in Toronto promise to be brisk during the coming season. No less than five new ones are to be erected, as follows:—Central Presbyterian, East Presbyterian, Church of Ascension, St. Philip's and Western Congregational. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Bathurst street, is to be pulled down and re-erected on a magnificent scale at immense cost.

All churches are in the western portion of the city, excepting East Presbyterian.

James Seaton was killed on Friday, near Priceville, by a falling tree; on the same day Henry Cunningham fell into a cattle guard on the Grand Trunk near Parkhill and died soon after being taken out, and Alex. Mackie was drowned in his mill race near Richmond Hill; on Saturday Wm. Dowe, who had been run over by a train at London, died from his injuries; and yesterday a Miss King, of Toronto, and James Black, of Hamilton, both died suddenly from heart disease.

MILTON. Mr. W. D. Lyon having resigned the Reevehip of Milton, nomination to fill the vacancy was held on Monday. Mr. Francis Barclay, merchant, and Dr. C. Freeman were proposed. Polling takes place on Monday next. J. E. Harrison was at the same time elected by acclamation to fill the vacancy in the Council caused by the resignation of Mr. Barclay.

A meeting of the creditors of D. C. Watson took place before the Assignee, at his office, Milton, last week, when a number of the creditors were present. The insolvent was examined closely by some of the creditors as to what became of his property, which was a satisfactory answer to the same. In fact it is alleged that any estate may have passed through the Assignee's hands. D. Mc Gillen appeared on behalf of the Insolvent.—News.

Spring Show in Milton, to-morrow, (Friday). Credit Valley Railway. The Finance Committee of Toronto City Council have agreed to recommend the Council to submit a By-law to the people granting \$125,000 in aid of the Railway. This is half the amount asked for by the Railway Company.

MARRIED.

At Wesleyan Parsonage, Georgetown, on Tuesday, April 11th, by the Rev. Mr. Mills, Mr. Wm. Prentice, of New Toronto, to Miss Sarah Standish, of Esquimaux.

At his residence, near Glenwilliam, on Thursday, April 6th, David Starbuck, a native of Tyrone, Ireland, in the 61th year of his age.

At Erin Village, on the 6th inst., of inflammation, Joseph A. Irving, Esq., son of the late Jas. Irving, Esq., of Esquimaux, aged 21 years and 8 months. Deeply regretted.

Ernie Corda.—(GUELPH AND CHESTERBURG).—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected foods, Mr. Ernie has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle poisons are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame.—Guelph Spectator. Sold only in packets labeled—“James Ernie & Co., Homeopathic Chemist, 48, Threadneedle Street, and 170, Fidelity Lane, London.”

ACTON MARKET. Flour \$2 00 to 2 50 White Wheat 1 00 to 1 03 Treacle 0 35 to 1 00 Spring Wheat 0 55 to 0 60 Oats 0 35 to 0 40 Peas 0 65 to 0 65 Potatoes, per bag 0 55 to 0 60 Apples, per bush 1 00 to 0 60 Onions, per bush 0 22 to 0 00 Eggs, 0 12 to 0 14 Dressed Hogs 8 25 to 0 00 Hay, per ton 12 00 to 14 00 Lamb-kins, 0 50 to 0 80 Pigs 0 15 to 0 16 Tallow 0 07 1/2 to 0 08 Bacon 0 10 to 0 00 Ham 0 12 to 0 14 Shoulder 0 10 to 0 12

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. BOQUET. BROOCHES. A new style of Brooch for holding Flowers, keeps them nice and fresh all day. Call and see them at PRINCLE'S Jewelry Store GUELPH, Guelph, April 15, 1876. STOVES. TINWARE! If you want a Boss COOKING STOVE or PARLOR STOVE, go to WILSON & JOHNSON'S. Always in stock, Stoves, Stove Trimmings, Tin, Sheet-Iron and Japanned Ware. Particular attention paid to REAVETROUGHING. Stencelling and Jobbing done on the shortest notice. Cotton Rags, Copper, Brass, Iron and other produce taken in exchange. Call and See Us. Remember the stand, one door west of the Canada Glove Works, MILL STREET, ACTON. W. R. WILSON. I. P. JOHNSON. Acton, April 11, 1876. BALSAM SHADE TREES. Any quantity of young Balsam can be had from the undersigned, on lot No. 22, 7th con. Nassauwaga, or will be delivered at Acton or elsewhere, from ten to fifty cents each, according to size. Orders may be left at the Free Press office. JOHN BENNETT, March 27, 1876.

GOLDEN LION.

J. D. WILLIAMSON & CO., CORNER Wyndham & McDonnell Sts., GUELPH. Largest and Best Dry Goods House in Western Ontario. EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS. DRESS GOODS AND PRINTS. White and Grey Cottons cheaper than any other house; Twenty Bales just received. Another Large Lot of those wonderfully low priced Black Lustrés just in, at 25c, worth 37c. In each and every line of the Dry Goods Trade we Challenge Competition.

OUR PRICES ARE CLOSE, OUR VARIETY EXTENSIVE, OUR STYLES SUPERB. All who want the Latest Fashions. All who want the Best Value for their money. All who like to be Treated with the Greatest Courtesy and Attention. GO TO THE GOLDEN LION. CARPET ROOM. CONTAINS A VERY LARGE VARIETY OF Brussels, Tapestry, Hemp, and Wool Carpets. Designs most tasteful; prices very low. GIVE US A CALL. Guelph, April 18, 1876.

HURRAH FOR THE ELEPHANT. Grand Display Spring Clothing \$10,000 WORTH OF NEW CLOTHING JUST TO HAND. Suits from \$6.00 up. Boys' Suits from \$2.50 up. CALL AND SEE THEM. Also just to hand 15 CASES OF NEW FELT HATS, Direct from the manufacturers, English, Canadian and American styles, bought very cheap, and to be sold likewise. Our stock of Shirts, Collars, Cuffs, Bows, Scarfs and Gloves Cannot be surpassed for elegance and cheapness. An inspection is invited. All goods warranted as represented. WM. RUTHERFORD & CO., No. 31, Lower Wyndham Street, Guelph. April 12, 1876.

HARROWS AND CULTIVATORS. PUBLIC NOTICE. I hereby give notice to all parties selling Collard's Patent Iron Harrows and Cultivators without my permission that they hold themselves liable to be prosecuted, as I have the sole right for the townships of Esquimaux, Nassauwaga, and north half of Trafalgar. Any person wishing to purchase the above implements can be supplied by applying at my warehouses and feed store, in Georgetown, or from my authorized agents: J. C. DEVEREAUX, Georgetown, April 11, 1876. 42-3\*

REWARD. The party who took a Buffalo Robo from a sleigh in the shed connected with the Royal Exchange Hotel, on the 24th of March, is hereby warned that a reward of \$5 is offered for its recovery, and as he is truly well known, it would be better for him to return the Robo to the owner without delay. The guaranty name is printed on the Robo in four places, so there is no excuse for keeping it. If it is not returned at once the above reward will be given to the person who knows where it is, and will inform. Save arrest by returning it. THOS. CAMPBELL, Acton, April 11, 1876.

FEED STORE. The subscribers beg to announce to farmers and others, that they have opened a warehouse on Main Street, Georgetown, next the brick scale, where they will keep always in stock the most desirable kind of Farming Implements. Also in connection, they have opened a FEED STORE, where will always be kept a large stock of flour, feed and seeds, of various descriptions. J. C. DEVEREAUX, GEORGETOWN, Manager. Georgetown, April 12, 1876.

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