

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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The Imperial Parliament has been prorogued until the 8th of February, to meet then for the despatch of urgent and important business.

Brother Jonathan can do almost everything, but by this time he must be convinced that the election of a President is a little out of his line.

Dr Schlemann announces the discovery on the site of ancient Troy, of the tombs of Agamemnon, Cassandra, and Polyxena, and their companions, who were killed by Clytemnestra and Egisclus.

The President of the New York State Working men's Assembly estimates the number of working men out of employment in New York City at 45,000. He asserts that many families are on the verge of starvation, and that the situation is becoming desperate.

The construction train on the H. and N. W. R. Y. reached Milton on Thursday. A great deal of interest is manifested in the prospect of soon having the road open for through travel. The Milton and Bronte stage makes two trips daily now.

The Brentford Council have decided to go on and obtain a special Act incorporating Brentford as a city. The Engineer thinks the only hope to be secured besides the name, will be the increasing of taxes, for extra official salaries.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute in London, England, Rev. Donald Fraser read a paper on Canada in which he spoke in glowing terms of the country, its climate, resources and political system. In the discussion which followed, the Dominion was characterized as being the foremost of Great Britain's colonies.

Hon. George Brown has been before the Court of Queen's Bench in Toronto, charged with contempt of Court, for publishing in the Globe a strong article criticising and denouncing Judge Wilson because of some severe language used respecting him in reference to the "big pistol" letter in the libel suit of Shipson vs. Wilkinson. Mr. Brown, although accompanied into court by two counsel, defended himself very vigorously. The decision will be by Chief Justice Harrison. Judgment is to be rendered between Christmas and the beginning of the new year.

ACTON.

While we are not able to boast of any very extensive building operations in Acton during the past season, it is nevertheless satisfactory to note that quite a perceptible progress has been made towards filling up the vacant lots. Last year we figured up the cost of the new buildings at about \$30,000, but this year's total will fall considerably short of that sum, owing no doubt mainly to the prevailing stagnation in all kinds of business throughout the country. We hoped to have had the pleasure of recording this year a considerable addition to our manufacturing industries, but this hope is not realized—a fact not to be wondered at, seeing that Canadian manufacturers have almost universally been curtailing instead of increasing their operations, and that scarcely any new manufactories have been established in the Dominion. We feel satisfied, however, that with a revival of business, the favorable location and other inducements which can be offered for the establishment of additional manufacturing enterprises here, will not much longer be overlooked. The building operations this year comprise quite a number of private dwellings; the handsome brick church commenced last fall by the Methodist denomination, has been completed this season at a total cost of about \$7,000; a beautiful brick church has been erected by the Congregationalists, and is being rapidly pushed forward to completion; Mr. D. McNair has built an imposing red brick store and dwelling adjoining two stories, with mansard roof, at a cost of about \$3,000; Mr. E. J. Matthews a frame grocery store; Mr. E. Baker an addition to his iron stove shop; a number of improvements and additions to dwellings and places of business have been made during the season. We believe that the building operations of Acton will at least bear favorable comparison with any other municipality in this county. Progress of a much more extensive and substantial character is expected during the coming year.

THE EASTERN MUDDLE

Promising Aspect of the Conference.

AN AGREEMENT EFFECTED.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12. The Conference of plenipotentiaries here is resulting in reconciliation. LONDON, Dec. 12.—A despatch from Constantinople to the Reuter Telegram Company, says: At an informal meeting of the plenipotentiaries held at the Russian Embassy yesterday, there was an interchange of views which is understood to have been a favorable augury for a peaceful result of the Conference.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—A despatch from Constantinople says: At the preliminary meeting of the Conference yesterday, under the Presidency of General Ignatieff, Russian Ambassador, the Plenipotentiaries commenced by discussing questions concerning Servia and Montenegro, and agreed on the following points, which will be officially sanctioned later: The Conference admitted the expediency of the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier, to be determined by an international meeting at Ragusa. It would comprise an addition of eleven districts (all named to Montenegro, the Prince of Montenegro would go to Constantinople to do homage to the Sultan for the new territories conceded to him.

The Conference admitted that Serbian territory should be evacuated by the Turks. Prisoners on both sides are to be returned and the armistice prolonged until the conclusion of peace. It was further agreed that the valley of the Drina should be considered as the western frontier of Servia, this rectification implying the definite cession of Little Szwarnik to Servia. Those first results confirm the expectation of an understanding between the Powers.

Gen. Ignatieff, in the last interview with the Marquis of Salisbury, is reported to have declared that he would accept the occupation of Belgrade by a neutral State such as Belgium or Switzerland.

REWARD OFFERED.—Mrs. Maria Dunlap, of Lockport, N. Y., offers a reward of \$1,000 to anyone who will bring home to her the living body of her husband, Hon. Robert Dunlap, who has been missing since the fifteenth day of November last, and has been traced to London. The missing man was partially insane at the time of his disappearance. He is 60 years of age, six feet in height, grey beard and hair, bronzed complexion; wore a black frock coat, a federal blue overcoat, dark pants and undershirt, and blue vest, all well worn. He is supposed to be in Canada.

A Sad Tragedy in Stratford. A second Gilmour tragedy has happened in this Province. The abortion case in point happened in Stratford last week. From the evidence given before a coroner's jury, it appears that the unfortunate victim, Matilda Willis, was, a few days ago, at all appearances, a healthy and prepossessing girl in the bloom of womanhood. She came to Stratford with two friends to be married to a young man named Worth, who resides in Mitchell, and who promised to meet them at the station and accompany them. But he didn't. The reason alleged for Worth not accompanying his intended bride to Stratford, was that his people were opposed to the match. This seems, however, to have been a mere ruse to get rid of the unfortunate girl, who he had seduced. Finding that her seducer had made her his dupe, her grief was unexpressible. She had fondly hoped that one united to him who might be able to lift up her head again in society. She refused to return to Mitchell with her friends, but visited a medical man who afterwards attended her at the hotel at which she was stopping. The treatment she received resulted in her death, and there is little doubt but what it was another foul case of abortion. The suffering of the poor girl, mental and bodily, during her last hours, were intense. Had the miserable wretch who, under promise of marriage, robbed her of that which is woman's brightest ornament, stood by her bedside and witnessed her last agonies, his heart, if even made of flint, would have melted. After an exhaustive hearing of the case the jury returned a verdict "That the girl, Matilda Willis, came to her death in consequence of an abortion, and that Dr. Lucas was guilty of murder." The doctor was at once arrested, and is now in jail to await his trial at the next Assizes. A warrant has been issued for the apprehension of Worth, the supposed seducer of the girl.

THE LINCOLN ELECTION TRIAL.—Although the judges who are trying the Lincoln (local) election petition will not be able for some time yet to make their report to the Speaker, their recent decision declares that Mr. Charles Rykert was not legally elected, a sufficient amount of bribery and other corrupt practices having been proved to convince the Court that it was to these illegal acts Mr. Rykert owed the slender majority by which he was returned. The retributory charges against Captain Neelon have been abandoned. This narrows the whole question now at issue to the scrutiny of votes. The contention before the Registrar is still pending, the result so far arrived at being that Capt. Neelon has a majority of thirteen.

The Dunkin Act.

A petition was presented to the Wellington County Council on the 6th, to submit the Dunkin Act to the ratepayers. Mr. J. Hallat, on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers, Mr. J. P. McMillan, and Mr. Chas. E. Robinson, addressed the Council in opposition to the prayer of the petition. The committee appointed by the County Council to consider the petition reported adversely to it. On being put to the Council the report was adopted by a majority of 27 to 4. The friends of temperance intend trying again.

In Huron, a petition, containing the signatures of 4,000 electors was submitted to the County Council, asking them to submit the Dunkin Act to a vote of the County. A counter petition, containing 2,660 signatures, was also presented. The Council, on a division, refused, by a majority of seven, to submit the bill by law.

The County Council of Perth have decided, by a majority, not to take any action towards submitting the Dunkin Act to the electors.

The County Council of Bruce has thrown out the Dunkin Act by law on its third reading by a majority of two.

Oxford County will vote on the Dunkin Bill January 17th.

The Dunkin Act will be voted upon in Kingston on the 4th of January.

Dunkin Bill and a school controversy fill the Brampton papers.

Woodstock's new buildings for 1876 are valued at \$170,000, and include two churches, a tannery, three flouring mills, an elevator, several factories, and a registry office.

Esqueving Council.

The Council met on the 1st inst., pursuant to adjournment. The Reeve in the chair. All the members present. On motion, the Treasurer was authorized to pay Nelson Standish \$6.50 for grading road on the creek line and clearing out the jam in the creek; Robert Bessey \$5 for building a stone culvert between the 6th and 7th concessions; Mr. Deveraux \$12 for building a culvert on the road opposite Lot 18, on the 7th line, and the account of D. Williams for lumber used in repairing bridges amounting to \$14.17.

On motion of Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, leave was granted to introduce a by-law to appoint returning officers, and to provide places for holding the Municipal Elections. The said by-law was read a first, second and third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Wrigglesworth, the Treasurer was authorized to refund Mr. McEnery the sum of \$73.43 for lumber furnished by him from time to time for repair of bridges during the year 1877, and also \$10.45 to Thos. Chisholm for a like purpose.

On motion of Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Wrigglesworth, the Treasurer was authorized to refund Mr. McEnery the sum of \$10, advanced by him in part payment of the cost of the passage of Archibald Walker to Scotland, the Council of Erin having advanced \$15 for the same purpose.—Carried.

Mr. Wrigglesworth moved, seconded by Mr. McEnery, that Mrs. Abbott receive \$4 a week for the support and maintenance of Isaac Cooper until further orders.—Carried.

Mr. McEnery moved, seconded by Mr. Wrigglesworth, that Mr. Lindsay be requested to make inquiries in Toronto as to the possibility of having Isaac Cooper removed to a hospital or other institution where incurables are maintained.

Mr. Warren and Lindsay were appointed a committee to examine the allowance for road on Lots 5 and 6, 1st con., also the allowance for road, Lot 15, 2d con., and report to this Council.

The Treasurer was authorized to pay James Moore \$3, being two-thirds of the sum of \$9, which was also paid by dogs; also to pay Duncan Clarke \$9 for the maintenance of Archibald Walker; also to pay in connection with the Municipal Elections, the following sums, viz: To each Returning Officer, \$4; Poll Clerk, \$2; each Constable, \$1.50; and the necessary sums for Election Blanks and Ballot Papers.

Mr. Wrigglesworth moved, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, that \$4 each be paid by the Treasurer to the Reeve and each of the members of this Council for services as Road Commissioners during the past year.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, that the Treasurer of this municipality be authorized to pay to the Treasurer of the County of Halton the amount of the Municipal Loan Fund and its interest up to the 1st of November, 1876, in terms of By Law No. 282, appropriating said money in liquidation of the portion of the indebtedness of Esqueving to the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway, and the Great Valley Railway, as follows: The sum of \$6,985.50, being the levy for the years 1874, '75 and '76, and also \$223.73, and the interest to accrue thereon from date, to be applied by said County Treasurer in reduction of the levy for said railway for the year 1877; also \$7,175.87, to be applied in payment of Esqueving's share of the Credit Valley rate for the years 1876, 1877 and 1878, together with the interest to accrue thereon until the rates for 1877 and 1878 respectively become due and payable, and also the sum of \$45.10 to be similarly appropriated and paid over to the said treasurer in reduction of the annual levy to the said Credit Valley Railway, the latter sum being one month's interest on the said fund, from the first of November to the first of December instant, and which is hereby added to the amount originally appropriated to the said Credit Valley Railway in liquidation of the said indebtedness, the whole sum to which Esqueving is entitled from the Municipal Loan Fund, together with the interest up to the 1st of December, 1876, being \$12,430.21, and that the seal of the corporation be attached to the resolution.—Carried.

The Council then adjourned.

The funeral of the unrecognized victims of the Brooklyn Theatre fire, numbering one hundred, took place at one o'clock on Saturday, and notwithstanding the intense cold was witnessed by crowds of people. The remains were buried in a large circular trench in Greenwood Cemetery, and the funeral services were conducted by ministers of the Episcopal, Baptist and Unitarian Churches.

Governor Caron of Quebec, is at the point of death.

Judge Macdonald, of Guelph, has been elected President of the Ontario Rifle Association.

The United States Senate yesterday adopted an amendment providing that electors shall vote at Presidential elections *in vivo* instead of by ballot.

Who is to be next President? Answers to this question are would be thankfully received by the people of the United States.

Sub-Inspector Dickson, of the Mounted Police, son of the late Charles Dickson, is said to be preparing a book on the Northwest.

A woman living at Cayson, Que., murdered her two little children Tuesday. She is supposed to be afflicted with insanity.

Six thousand dollars have been subscribed in Brooklyn in aid of the sufferers by the fire. Performances are being given in the Montreal theatres in aid of the same fund.

The following, from the Collingwood Bulletin, is timely: As the time for the municipal elections draws near, the canvassing becomes more various. It has become so customary to ask people for their votes that a candidate can scarcely look for success unless he engages in a personal canvass. And yet the practice of canvassing is very objectionable one, and full of great evil. If there were no canvassing there would be very little bribery or improper influences at elections. It seems to be almost necessary, however, under existing circumstances, for if your opponent makes a vigorous canvass, and you make none, your opponent will be very likely to win the seat. Some of our best councillors are the poorest canvassers, and some of them utterly refuse to canvass at all. It is in behalf of these we speak: let their interests not be neglected because they do not ask for votes—they are the very men we want in our councils.

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SECOND BROS.

GROCERIES, CHINA, Glassware, Hardware, &c.

CHINA DEPARTMENT. Gent's Mottled Mustache Cups and Saucers, Ladies' Mottled Cups and Saucers, Children's Mottled Cups and Saucers, Glass and China Mugs, mottled, all colors, Flower Vases, Glass Pitchers, Preservative Dishes, Celery Glasses, Globets, Tumblers, Pickle Jars, Wine-Glasses, Glass Sets, Sick Cups and Ecodors, Lamps, Lanterns, Everything in Granite Ware, Everything beautiful in endless variety.

GROCERIES

Canned Peaches, Plums, Gooseberries, Blackberries, Cherries, Peas, Preserves, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Lobsters, Salmon, Sardines, Clams, Oysters, Fruits, Raisins, Currants, Figs, Nuts, Biscuits, Confectionery and Hoop.

The Largest and Cheapest Stock of Teas ever brought into Acton.