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THE ACTON FREE PRESS
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J. H. HACKING, Proprietor.
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JOS H HACKING EDITOR

TUESDAY MORNING JAN. 25, 1877.

Some weeks ago, a petition was started by a few disaffected individuals in the lower part of this county asking the County Council to dismiss Mr. Little from the office of School Inspector, for "tyranny" and "arbitrary conduct." The petition was presented to the Council on Tuesday, and after a careful investigation, it was agreed that the charges were not sustained by facts. We fancy the Council have too high an opinion of Mr. Little's qualifications for the office, to take any action towards his dismissal without having well founded proof of his direction or overstepping of duties.

If there be anyone "unhappy" by reason of having his wishes and ambitions fully gratified, he must be a queer sort of an individual, and one we don't often meet with; and yet our friend of the Georgetown Herald tries to console himself with the belief that Mr. Warren, the recently elected Deputy Reeve, is "unhappy." Mr. Warren was viciously opposed by the Herald. He was elected by an overwhelming majority of the ratepayers of the township, and now, according to Herald logic, is very "unhappy." Queer logic, ain't it? Common folk incline to the belief that the reverse is the true state of the case, and that the unhappiness exists in the Herald office, if anywhere.

The Georgetown Herald, in a clumsy sort of fashion, insinuates that a couple of jobs of printing done by us for the Township of Esquing were sent elsewhere to be executed. The superior manner in which they were done, we presume, leads him to this conclusion. We beg most distinctly to assure him that they were printed entirely in our own office, and under our own personal supervision.

It will become the Editor of the Herald, to flatter himself that he "has not yet set foot upon the threshold of the first stage of biography." A very pretty sentiment, that, so glibly flung out, but how about having had one side of the Herald printed for several months in Hamilton, while it was professedly being done in Georgetown. Perhaps that's the second stage of hypocrisy—not the first.

"Hard Times."

There has been of late a wide extended cry of "hard times." Nevertheless, people are dressed as well as ever, and we notice that the luxuries of life are still used with great freedom. We have not met a single instance of a man giving up the use of tobacco because of the scarcity of money. Our liquor dealers are still largely patronized, although they do not deal in the necessities of life, and seem to be doing a thriving business. They drive faster horses and spend more money than either the butchers or the bakers.

In the matter of dress, tobacco, liquors, and other "luxuries," time appears to be as lively as usual. But when we look into the books of business men and find that people who are constantly using these things make little or no effort to pay their grocer's bills, or their tailors, or shoemakers, or butchers, or bakers, we discover many sad results of the hard times. Our country merchants, who have been doing a thriving business, scarce know how to make both ends meet, simply because they cannot make collections.

Many people who go about crying "hard times" and denouncing the government for the general distress, are themselves robbing creditors of their just dues, and spending what little money they have in wasteful indulgence. A general return to common honesty would, it seems to us, quickly bring about a revival of trade, and a complete banishment of "hard times."

The Long Credit Evil.

If the commercial men of Canada resolve to celebrate the beginning of a New Year by an abandonment of the long credit system they will do the whole country considerable service. Every honest man who has experienced the system will admit that it is an unmitigated evil, on the one hand locking up capital, and on the other, encouraging the reckless incurrence of debt. The opportunity is a splendid one for our Boards of Trade and Chamber of Commerce to show their worth. Let a declaration be drawn up to the effect that the subscribers pledge themselves to adhere to a short credit system—say six days. Let copies be circulated by every Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce in the Dominion. We believe there would be an almost unanimous rush to endorse the action.

Montreal Wilness.

The Trade Prospects of 1877.

There is no reason, says the *Montgomery Times*, why 1877 should not be a prosperous year. Money is abundant and no man need be hampered for the want of it who can give good security. Money-lenders, and chief among them the whole banking fraternity, will probably be somewhat particular about security, both as to quality and quantity. And it is well for their customers, they should be so. Nothing is more injurious than credit dispensed injudiciously. It was bad in the commercial world as indiscriminate benevolence is in a social sphere. If bankers carry steadily out the rules and methods which are the fruit of long experience, their customers are sure to be benefited in the long run. Many a man, to-day, with a load of debt upon his shoulders, and which may be a chain around his neck for life-time, has to baffle, first of all, his own impudence in borrowing, but next, and almost as much, the impudence of a banker in lending. And many a banker, to-day, can look sorrowfully over lock-ups and debts of a permanent character in his books, for which it may be lands, mills, factories or ships, are held as security, and reproach himself that, in the keen strife and competitive eagerness for business of a year or two ago, he allowed himself to be beguiled into parting with his resources on security of a non-mercantile character, or on security at all.

Rumor has it that the Duke Decazes, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, will resign in consequence of a disagreement with his leader, M. Simon.

The Toronto papers unite to oppose the franchise for farmer's sons, but the whole of them are willing to have farmers pay taxes for the Toronto municipal treasury.

It is reported that the Pope is about to submit to the College of Cardinals the question of the expediency of securing the liberty of the conclave which will elect the next Pope.

Mr. Thos. White, of the Montreal *Gazette*, lectured on Protection in London before the Board of Trade, on the 12th inst. A large audience was present.

If Toronto should tax the Parliament Buildings because it protects them from fire, why should it not also levy on the \$5,000,000 supposed to be in the Treasury, because it guards it from thieves? And why should not the back country tax the unsold Crown Lands? If there are to be no exemptions, some queer things will be taxed.

It is rumoured that some changes shortly be made in the Ontario Cabinet. It is impossible for one man to do the work devolving on the Treasurer and Minister of Education. Mr. Crooks, it is understood, will retain the portfolio of Education, and resign the control of the treasury to Mr. Wood. Two names are mentioned in connection with the provincial Secretarieship—those of Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hardy.

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.—We have received the New Dominion Monthly for January. It gives a portrait of Gov. Lefebvre, of Quebec, and a variety of useful, instructive and entertaining matter.

A GOOD HIR.—The meanest and greediest man after a newspaper is the man who is too mean to subscribe. He is always waiting for the latest paper, and it is not two minutes on the owner's premises till he pounces upon it and never lets up until every line is read. Then he will perhaps cast it aside with the remark that he could make a better one himself.—*Exchange*.

HALTON REFORM ASSOCIATION.—It is announced by posters in the public meeting of Reformers of the County of Halton will be held in the town hall, Milton, on Friday, January 26th, at one o'clock p.m., at which addresses will be delivered by G. R. Pattullo, Esq., Secretary of the Ontario Reform Association, Wm. McCrane, M. P. W. D. Lyon, M. P. P. and others.

ARMS FOR TURKEY.—The steamship *Lord Nelson* sailed from New Haven on Tuesday for Constantinople with a cargo of arms and ammunition for the Turkish Government.

POULTRY FAIR.—A very successful and fair Poultry Show was held in Galt last week. It began on Tuesday and continued till Friday. Galt is rapidly becoming the centre of the Ontario Poultry interest, a monthly magazine being published there, devoted to that business, and having a circulation of about 1,000 copies. The interest taken in the show may be judged from the fact that over 1,000 entries were made for competition and visitors attended from distant parts of Canada and the United States.

The Punkin Act in Brant and Oxford.

BRANTFORD, Jan. 19.—The fourth and last day's voting has resulted in favor of the Bill, with the following majorities: Yeas, 510; nays 240. Majority for the bill, 270.

WOODSTOCK, Jan. 19.—At the polls to night the following were the majorities: Yeas, 719; nays, 444. Majority for the bill, 275.

BOARD OF ARTS AND AGRICULTURE.—The time for which Mr. Thomas Stock, of Waterdown, was elected to act as a member of the Board of Arts and Agriculture, representing the seventh district, comprising the counties of Wellington, Waterloo, Halton, Wentworth and the city of Hamilton, recently expired.

The Granger says: "That a majority of Grangers and farmers in Canada are in favor of a free trade policy."

Great insincerity prevails in financial circles and rumors of failure are very prevalent on the streets in Toronto.

Mr. Fleming, M.P.P. for South Waterloo, recently destroyed by fire at St. Catharines will be transferred to Montreal.

A Peterboro schoolboy threw a pen at a comrade named Hillard, and the point striking him in the eye, destroyed the sight.

There are lots who can beat Venner. They write for newspapers, and after a smell of weather they remark "I told you so."

Shortbrook has voted a bonus of \$15,000 to the Canadian Meat & Produce Co. if they will re-commence.

The young man who wrote and asked girl to accept a "bucket" of flowers because a little pale when she said the woodland were it.

"As the day lengthens, So the cold strengthens."

A Deluge in England.

Some idea of the extent of the fall freshets in England may be gathered from the following facts culled from late English papers: In London the streets were rivers of mud. The Thames overflowed its banks near Windsor and Staines, and the lands are flooded for miles. The Isis has so enlarged its boundaries that the Varsity men are boating over the hedges and trees in the classic fields of Oxford. The Derwent, in Derbyshire, has swallowed up sheep and oxen by the score. The Trent, in Nottinghamshire, has destroyed hundreds of acres of wheat. The Ouse, in Huntingdonshire, has half-submerged the town of Godmanchester. The Arun has flooded several factories at Bath and Bristol, and taken bread out of the mouths of hundreds of mechanics who have to stay at home and mop out their cellars. In the mining districts of Cornwall the pumping-machines of many of the mines have been laid up, and the lower part of the town of Rudruth is under water. Such a general deluge has seldom been recorded, and the amount of damage resulting from it is proportionately large.

Official assignees are required to make a return of the expenses of insolvent estates to the Minister of Agriculture, and a form of return is published.

There is much less of obtaining money under false pretence than formerly, probably owing to the difficulty of obtaining money under any pretence.

The Monetary Times is glad to observe that so many leading merchants throughout the provinces are adopting the system of strictly cash sales.

The Toronto Car Wheel Company have called a meeting of their creditors for the twenty-fifth inst., when it is expected the affairs of the Company will show a deficiency.

In the general hospital, Montreal, the operation of cutting out the tongue of a young man named Lewis was performed, in order to get rid of a cancer which threatened the patient's life.

It is stated that five well-known confidence and money men make their headquarters at Detroit, and are regularly engaged in working in coming towns over the Grand Trunk, Great Western, and Canada Southern Railways.

At Brampton station on Friday afternoon, Mary Houstrous, a girl about 14 years old, in attempting to pass through a parted freight train, was caught between the cars and killed almost instantly.

Once more the father of little Charlie Ross has been called from his home on a false report that his boy had been found dead. The heart of sympathizing parents must go out to this sorely afflicted father and the grief-stricken family.

The writ for the election rendered necessary by the death of Mr. Graham, late member for Frontenac in the Local Legislature, has been received at Kingston. The nomination will take place on the 5th of February, and the polling on the 12th.

The Stratford Beacon chronicles an instance of extreme longevity, which appears to be well authenticated. Mrs. Elizabeth Gillespie died on the 11th inst. in the town of Mornington, at the great age of 104 years. She was born in the county of Down, Ireland, in 1773. She left her native land with her son, John Gillespie, in 1846, and found a new home in the township of Mornington, then almost a wilderness.

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Mr. D. T. Fairbairn is the new editor of the *Lucknow Sentinel*.

Mr. Adam Brown, of Hamilton, has been elected President of the Hamilton Board of Trade.

The Granger says: "That a majority of Grangers and farmers in Canada are in favor of a free trade policy."

Preparation for Transport of Troops.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 22.—The European Ambassadors visited Midhat Pasha, Grand Vizier, and Sufet Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to-day, to present their charges d'affaires.

The Marquis of Salisbury left.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—A despatch from St. Petersburg says a grand War Council is to be convened at Kichenev. The Czar and General Ignatius will attend. The announcement must, however, be received with much caution, awaiting confirmation.

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