

THE ACTON FREE PRESS. Published Every Thursday Morning. J. H. HACKING, Proprietor. \$1 Per Annum in Advance.

Acton Free Press. JOS. H. HACKING, EDITOR. THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 8, 1877.

"Where is Acton?" This issue of the FREE PRESS will doubtless fall into the hands of many persons who don't know where Acton is situated. For the benefit of such, we may say that the village is slightly located near the northern part of the county of Halton, in the township of Esqueving, on the Grand Trunk railway, 33 miles west of Toronto and 13 east of Guelph. It is surrounded by a fine agricultural district, and is the centre of trade for a great extent of country, occupied by a thrifty and well-to-do class of farmers, large portions of the wealthy townships of Esqueving, Erin, Eastmoss and Nassagaweya, being immediately tributary, while the enterprising which characterizes our merchants finds its reward in the large volume of business attracted to the place. A branch of the Credit river runs through the village, furnishing a fair supply of water for industrial purposes, and also affording splendid fishing and skating in the winter seasons. The handsome shade trees which line its principal streets, the romantic scenery, and tasteful residences, render it an attractive place in the summer time. The village was incorporated as a separate municipality in 1873, and the first Council elected the following January, with Mr. W. H. Storey as Reeve. The population is estimated at 1000. Our notes of the various industries, as published in other columns, will convey a fair impression of the business transacted here. Our people, however, are alive to the desirability of having the manufacturing operations very largely increased, and are prepared to offer valuable inducements to secure that object. Manufacturers seeking a desirable place to locate are invited to direct their attention to Acton. Substantial bonuses could no doubt be secured by men of the right stamp.

The Farmers' Sons Bill. Here is what the London Advertiser says: "For some reason or other the Toronto Globe is 'down' on the measure to give votes to farmers' sons. The Globe's injudicious hostility places the Government in an awkward position. If they go on with the Bill, the Globe influence with some of the members of the House may be sufficient to defeat the Bill and the government at the same time. On the other hand, if they withdraw it because of Globe hostility, it will immediately be said, and not without show of reason, that the Government of the country might as well be handed over to the Globe first as last. Under these circumstances, the Government, as it seems to us, have no alternative but to go on with their measure, whatever the consequences, unless they desire the impression to go abroad that they live, move and have their being in the Globe, than which no impression could be more damaging to the Government."

Belford Bros. Books. We have received from Messrs. Belford Bros., Publishers, Toronto, through Mr. J. C. Hill, bookseller, Acton, a copy of each of the following named books—handily bound: THE DETECTIVE AND THE SOMNAMBULIST. By Allan Pinkerton. Finely illustrated. Belford Bros. Publishers, Toronto. For sale by J. C. Hill, Acton. Price \$1.00. This is a handsomely printed and well bound book of 240 pages, written in a very interesting style by Mr. Pinkerton, the celebrated Chicago detective. In the preface, the author says: "The incidents in these cases have all actually occurred as related." MADCAP VIOLET, BY WILLIAM BLACK. Belford Bros. Publishers; for sale by J. C. Hill, Acton. Price \$1.25. This is a work of superior merit, and will, we are sure, find favor with those who appreciate in fiction the true picture of real life, with its smiles and tears, sunlight and shadow, piety and pathos. It is a book which reaches the hearts of the reader. It is published in elegant style, as all Belford's publications are, and is fully up to the excellent reputation in that respect they have already established.

A MAN-WORLD AND ITS INHABITANTS. By an amateur Lunatic. Belford Bros. Publishers. For sale by J. C. Hill, Acton. 318 pages. The author of the above feigned insanity and was incarcerated in a lunatic asylum, whence he gathered notes for his book. It is written in good style. THE HOME BOOK. By Toronto Ladies. Belford Bros., Publishers. For sale by J. C. Hill, Acton. This is a handsome book of 380 pages, printed on fine heavy paper, and well bound. It is compiled from Recipes contributed by ladies of Toronto and other cities and towns. Published for the benefit of the Hospital for sick children. It should be in every family.

ACTON.

Its Manufacturing and Commercial Interests, etc.

(Continued from first page.) Nicklin's Flour Mills. The early history of this mill dates back nearly fifty years, when this entire section of Ontario was but little more than reclaimed from the primeval forest, and while it was still the haunts of the red man, and the refuge of wild animals. The first mill was built by the Rev. Ezra Adams, one of our sturdy pioneer missionaries, who with two brothers, were the earliest settlers here. The rough uncouth millstones were for a number of years driven by a clumsy paddle wheel, and machinery with wooden gearing. About 1842 it was purchased by Mr. Robert Swan, and a few years later by Mr. John Nicklin, father of the present proprietors, who carried it on a short time, then rented it for two years to Messrs. Wm. & Simon Plewes. During this time considerable improvements had been made and more modern machinery introduced. In 1850, Messrs. B. & E. Nicklin took possession of the mill with the adjoining farm, property, and have managed it ever since. The entire building was destroyed by fire on the 10th November, 1866, scarcely anything being saved, and there was no insurance on it. With characteristic pluck and energy, the brothers immediately set to work to rebuild, and with the assistance of a number of neighbors who freely lent their aid, new timbers were very soon brought in and the structure was ready for the machinery within a few weeks. In four months, the mill was again in full operation. The principal business done here is in grinding and retail flouring the average consumption of wheat being about 2000 bushels a month. The machinery is driven by either steam or water power, and sometimes both when water is scarce. The engine is 20 horse power, with locomotive boiler. The mill has a good reputation for producing a superior quality of flour.

Tolton's Flour Mills. These mills, although not in the corporation, are close by, and to all intents and purposes, belong to Acton. They were established 24 years ago by Messrs. Morrison & Robinson, who were succeeded by Messrs. Armstrong & Smith. The property was purchased about seven years ago by Messrs. G. & E. Tolton, the present proprietors. Besides doing a large custom business, the mill turns out about 10,000 barrels of flour annually for exportation, and consumes from 50,000 to 60,000 bushels of wheat. It is run by water power, employs six hands, and makes a very fine quality of flour. Messrs. Tolton have also purchased during the past season 30,000 bushels of barley and 12,000 bushels of peas for exportation.

The Acton Plow Company's Works.

The Stephenson plow, manufactured by this company, has been before the Canadian public since 1864, and so popular had it become, that the facilities for supplying the demand were found altogether too limited. Hence a company was formed in 1875 with a paid up capital of \$10,000 to enlarge the premises and procure the necessary machinery to carry on the operations on a very much more extensive scale. The establishment is now fully equipped with every necessary appliance of which machinery is capable, including steam engines, furnaces, lathes, planers, and other smaller implements—facilities for turning out 2000 to 3000 plows annually—at the lowest minimum of cost, viz. \$50. The stockholders are Messrs. Sydney Smith, Eli Snyder, Wm. Stephenson, C. S. Smith and N. McGarvin, of whom S. Smith is President, E. Snyder Treasurer, and Dr. McGarvin Secretary. The plow is patented in Canada and the United States. It has received a large number of local and provincial prizes, and won its crowning victory at the Centennial Exhibition where it took a diploma of the highest merit and the medal of the Commission. A recent change in the organization of the company will have the effect of infusing more life and energy into the management of the works, and arrangements are now being effected for "pushing things" with greater spirit than heretofore. It is probable that the concern will shortly introduce and manufacture other farming implements as well. As to the merits of the plow, we can scarcely do better than copy the following remarks from the Boston Journal of Commerce, which were recently written for that paper by the Philadelphia correspondent on the Exhibition grounds: "ACTON GROW COMPANY—THE STEPHENSON & S. PLOW. Among the numerous improvements of the day those upon agricultural instruments are neither the least ingenious nor the least numerous, and this venerable old plow rejoices in a renewal of its youth

which makes it much more efficient than it ever was before. Of course, Yankee ingenuity has brought out some most valuable plows in plowing, but the gain of almost no amount is to be had in the Stephenson Plow, shown by the Acton Plow Company, of Acton, Ontario, Canada, was undoubtedly the best, as upon inquiry it appeared that the best of the exhibition, the company showed a single and double frame plows provided with steel land slides and mould boards. In these plows the share, instead of being made as usual, with a socket, is manufactured from a solid piece, having a shank which enters a solid wrought iron socket, forged on the end of the standard. Hence the share will wear longer, keep firmer in its place, and can be laid with less trouble than any other plow in the market. It is so socketed in the frame, that the extreme simplicity of its construction it can be made of any desired length, width or thickness on the land side without altering any other part of the plow; and it can be set to or from land by simply heating the shank and bending it in the desired direction without loosening bolts or nuts or taking the plow apart. The coulters is made with a round shank which enables it to be set readily in any direction, and to be raised or lowered from land, erect or slanting backwards. The latter position is of great advantage, as it obviates the chocking up of the plow by weeds or grasses. The plow can be regulated in any soil by a screw placed at the head of the plow which raises and lowers the land side and alters the plow to run on the whole sole plate or bottom, even after it has been greily worn. Here are other improvements especially adapted to the plow with the land side which the proper adjustment of a new sole plate is secured."

John Coates' Stave, Heading and Coping Factory, and Coping. This concern is of considerable importance. The stave and shingle business was carried on several years by Messrs. Edward and John Moore, who sold out to Mr. Coates in November, 1875. The latter has since introduced a machine for making turned heading, and has also removed his copage to new premises adjoining the factory. One thousand copers are annually manufactured into staves and heading, and a large quantity of pine and cedar into shingles. The factory contains a good deal of expensive machinery, driven by a 12-horse power steam engine, and employs eight hands. The operation of the several machines is very interesting, the carrying of the log of wood into the staves being the work of but a few seconds, while the dexterity with which a pine block is manipulated into shingles is amusing. The staves and heading are shipped long distances, being in great demand, owing to their superior quality. In the copage six hands are usually employed, who turn out about 20,000 barrels annually.

M. & J. Speight's Wagon and Blacksmith Shop. Until a few years ago these old established concerns were carried on in partnership, but since the dissolution, John Speight has managed the wood work and Michael Speight the blacksmithing. John Speight is one of our oldest settlers, having come here about 30 years ago and established a wagon and cabinet business. Some years ago, owing to the keen competition from the extensive cabinet factories, he allowed that branch of his business to cease operations, and he has since confined his attention mainly to manufacturing of farm wagons and sleighs, and the Undertaking business. For the proper conducting of the latter, he has recently supplied himself with a handsome and costly hearse and other equipments. Besides the turning out of a large quantity of new work, a good deal of jobbing of various kinds is done at this shop.

The blacksmithing business carried on by Michael Speight has been in operation about 20 years. The old shop was abandoned five years ago, and an entirely new one built close by. A steam engine was introduced, and the work carried on more extensively than formerly. A good many wagons, sleighs, harnesses and other implements are turned out annually, besides doing an extensive jobbing business. Most of the heavy work is done by the aid of machinery operated by the steam engine.

James Ryder's Carriage Works. Mr. Ryder commenced business as a blacksmith in Acton, in 1854 in partnership with Mr. Lightfoot. At the end of four years the partnership was dissolved, and three years later Mr. Ryder bought out the concern. Some six years ago the shop was destroyed by fire, resulting in a loss of \$800, which was only \$150 insurance. He rebuilt and carried on the manufacture of wagons in connection with Wm. Grant, for a short time. The wood work shop was built in 1874 and an addition to it in 1875. A large business has been done here during the past three or four years. Sixty rigs were turned out last year, most of which were of the better class of light carriages, including some exceedingly handsome and stylish ones. Twenty others have been made up this winter, and

nearly all sold. This establishment is rapidly growing into one of our most extensive and important in the county, and it has a well-earned reputation for its superior class of work.

Brown & Hall's Shingle and Lumber Mills. The shingle factory has been in operation about twelve years. Was started by Mr. Sydney Smith, and purchased some four years ago by Messrs. Brown & Hall. It is usually run seven months in the year, during which time about 450,000 feet of logs are manufactured into 3,000,000 square of shingles. The machinery comprises a 16-horse power engine and a shingle machine complete. The saw mill belonging to the same firm has been in operation about four years. In the usual seven months running time, they cut 750,000 feet of lumber. It has a large steam engine and other necessary machinery.

T. Ebbage's Sash and Door Factory and Planing Mills. Mr. Ebbage commenced business here some fourteen years ago, the principal line being at that time the manufacture of pumps and cabinet ware. The concern was established about twenty years ago by Mr. John Ross, who previously had carried on a similar business in Guelph. At the expiration of three or four years, he sold out to Erasmus Hall and Daniel Shook from whom it was purchased by Mr. Ebbage. Some five years ago Mr. Ebbage turned his attention to the manufacture of window sash, panel doors, mouldings and other building requisites, with the planing and dressing of lumber. For this purpose he has recently introduced a large quantity of machinery, including a planer and moulder, a shaper, tenoning, moulding, and planing machines, a circular and scroll saws, turning lathe, and other necessary implements, valued at about \$3000. The machinery is driven by a 12-horse power steam engine. The main building is 24 by 72 feet, two stories. Besides the work done in the shop, Mr. Ebbage takes contracts for the erection of buildings, and for furnishing the necessary materials.

McGarvin & Smith's Lime Works. "Canada Lime works," situated a short distance east of the corporation limits, close to the track of the Grand Trunk railway, are probably carried on quite as extensively as any similar operations in Ontario, while the quality of the lime produced is scarce equalled by any for building purposes. They were established by Messrs. D. C. Robertson and W. Laidlaw in 1872, and purchased a couple of years since by Dr. McGarvin and C. S. Smith. There are four kilns with a capacity of 1200 bushels a day. The work is carried on about eight months in each year, employing from 8 to 10 hands night and day. Wages amount to \$325 a month. The capital invested is \$16,000. Large quantities of lime are shipped east and west on the Grand Trunk almost daily. The quarry is estimated to be the best in Canada, the quantity of stone being almost unlimited, and easy of access.

Other Industries. The spice at our disposal being now almost fully occupied, we are compelled to summarize the balance of our notes very briefly. Hugh Cameron's sawery has been in his possession three years. It turns out about 60 barrels of potash annually, worth about \$2000. Anthony Stephenson, general blacksmith. Peter McCann, carpenter, joiner, and undertaker. John Cameron, builder. B. & E. Nicklin, bakers and confectioners. Galloway Bros., bakers and confectioners. R. Creech, harness-maker and dealer in trunks, etc. E. K. Cook, harness-maker, etc. Robert Fisher, manufacturer and dealer in tinware and stoves. Wilson & Johnson, manufacturers and dealers in tinware and stoves. Charles W. Hill, photographer. Crane & Son, manufacturers and dealers in boots and shoes. John Kenney & Son, manufacturers and dealers in boots and shoes. D. Maloney, Alex. Grant and P. Kelly, boot and shoemakers. Dickson & McNab, tailors and clothiers. J. McArthur, tailor. George Hynds, watchmaker and jeweller. Joseph P. Allan, livery stable keeper. Hanson Adams, livery stable keeper and capitalist. Chas. Cameron, pork dealer and packer. Oliver Lozier, plasterer. Mies Carter, music teacher. Dickey & Story, butchers. Wm. Worden, butcher. Geo. Lovens, barber.

The FREE PRESS was established on the 24 of July, 1875, by J. H. Hacking. Its course is an independent and enterprising local newspaper, has won for it a very large constituency of hearty sup-

porters. The office is amply supplied with first-class material for doing every description of job printing in a superior manner, and quite a large business is being done.

Acton has six churches—Presbyterian, Methodist, Church of England, Baptist, Congregationalist, and Disciples. Two hotels—The Dominion, kept by Mr. Robt Agnew, and the Rossin House, by Mr. Thos H. Campbell. A Temperance Hall and a strong Division of Sons of Temperance. A Masonic Lodge in good working order, with a large number of members. Montreal telegraph office—Jan. Matthews, agent. Dominion telegraph office—John P. Secord, agent.

Mercantile. Christie, Henderson & Co., dry goods, etc. Secord Bros, groceries and hardware. G. M. Scott, dry goods and groceries. J. W. Mann, dry goods and groceries. Dickson & McNab, dry goods and clothing. Mrs. Secord, fancy goods and varieties. C. T. Hill, groceries, etc. George Yonem, groceries and hardware. John C. Hill, books & stationery. Mrs. McNair, dry goods and millinery. Geo. E. Morrow, drugs and stationery. J. Henry Smith, dealer in furniture. Geo. Hynds, dealer in watches and jewellery.

Professional. N. McGarvin, physician. R. Morrow, physician. W. H. Levey, physician. S. L. Peir, dentist. James Matthews, conveyancer. David Henderson, conveyancer.

NEWS ITEMS. The Dominion Parliament opens in Ottawa to-day. Amputation in the English timber trade is reported.

R. T. Easton, of Ottawa, suicided at Watertown, N. Y., Saturday. He had been gambling. Ontario County votes on the Dunkin Act on the 27th of February. The passage of the Dunkin Act by-law in Oxford county cost the temperance people about \$1,300.

A motion was carried in the York County Council authorizing the submission of the Dunkin Act to the ratepayers of the County of York. Eight new churches have been erected by the Methodist body in the County of Essex, during the last eighteen months, and two are now building.

England has 140 daily papers, 84 of them morning journals, 19 of which are published at London. Paris has 51 dailies. The Dunkin Act contest is progressing in a lively manner in Prince Edward County. The friends of the Bill promise a large majority.

The Council of Simcoe County, Ont. has by a vote of 42 to 6, decided not to submit the Dunkin Act to the popular vote. James Dillon, a boy, was killed on the G. T. R. track at Toronto, on Saturday. He, with other boys, was attempting to get on a moving train.

A fire in the locomotive body of the Pennsylvania railroad, Trenton, N. J., Sunday, damaged eight locomotives. Loss about \$80,000 to \$100,000. Dr. Dio Lewis lectured in Hamilton on alcohol and tobacco. He held that no total abstainer could consistently use tobacco.

The unemployed laborers in New York have resolved to petition the Legislature to proceed with public works. It is said there are 55,000 out of work through the stoppage of these works. Maloney's gambling house, Toronto, was visited by the police Friday night, and the owners and 24 players arrested. One Gegg jumped from a window and broke a leg. Eight of the principals were fined \$50 and costs or three months; the rest were discharged.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. CONVERSATION. The Ladies' Aid Society of St. Alban's Church intend holding a Conversation in Mr. Henry Smith's Hall, on Monday evening next, Feb. 12th, commencing at 7 o'clock. Music, readings, and a fishing pond, will be among the amusements of the evening. Refreshments will be provided, and a collection made in aid of the parsonage fund. The public are cordially invited. Acton, Feb. 6, 1877. 32-1t

TO BREEDERS. The young thoroughbred Durham Bull "Duke of Kent," bred by Mr. Stone, of Guelph, out of the imported cow "Sultana the 7th," by "3d Duke of Springwood," (see 3d vol. Canadian Herd Book) will serve cows on the premises of the undersigned, lot 24, loc. Esqueving. Terms—For Durhams \$5; Grades \$2. ALEX. WALDIE, Esqueving, Feb. 1, 1877. 31-3u

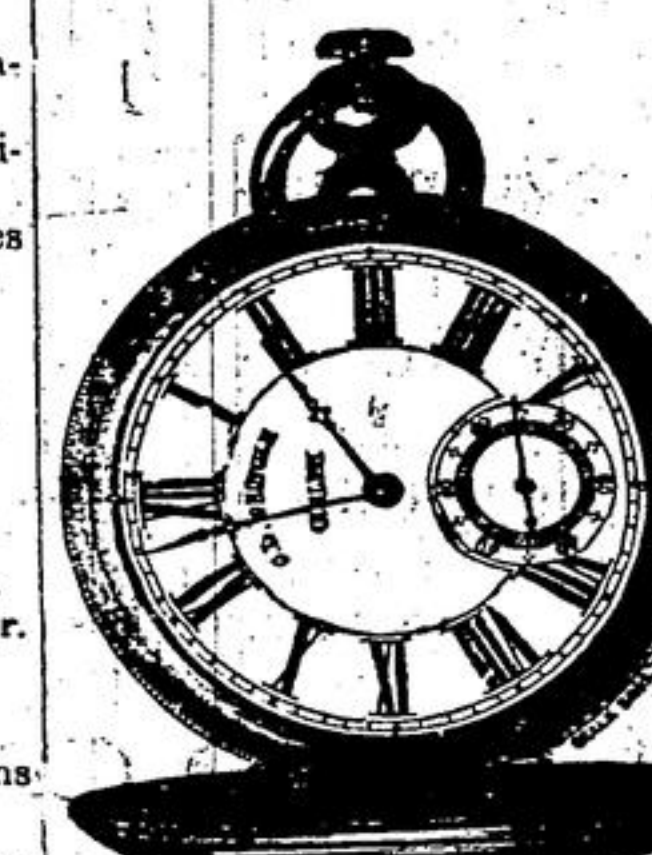
NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CASH FOR WHEAT. Any quantity of good merchantable wheat wanted at the Acton steam mill, for which the highest market price will be paid in cash. B. & E. NICKLIN. Acton, Feb. 7, 1877. 32-1t

GLENLAWSON MILLS, ACTON. G. & E. TOLTON. Propose hereafter doing a strictly cash business. All flour and feed must be paid for on delivery, or at least within one month. All accounts now due must be paid before the 10th of February next. G. & E. TOLTON. Acton, Jan. 24, 1877. 30-4t

TO BREEDERS. The young Berkshire Boar "Wellington Chief," bred by Geo. Huld, of Guelph, has been purchased by me and will be kept for service on my premises adjoining this village. This animal is of imported stock with first-class pedigree. Terms \$1.00, to be paid at time of service. C. S. SMITH. Acton, Dec. 18, 1876. 26-1t

G. D. PRINGLE. Watches, Clocks and Jewellery. To get Repaired. THE FINEST SELECTION OF JEWELLERY, THE LATEST STYLES IN JEWELLERY, AND THE BEST STOCK OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS. Will always be seen at GEORGE HYNDS' Jewellery Store, Acton. February 7, 1876.



No more Auctions AT PRESENT. I am so busy with Watches to repair that I have concluded to have no more Auctions for a few weeks. All goods will still be sold At a Special Discount of 25 per cent. Lots of Watches to select from. This is a bona-fide cheap sale. No Reasonable Offer Refused. G. D. PRINGLE. Guelph, Jan. 12, 1877.

TOYS AND Fancy Goods. Selling off at Auction Prices. CHEAP. Books, Anderson's Cheap Bookstore. On the East side of Wynnham Street, GUELPH.

PORK! PORK!! Charles Cameron is prepared to pay the Highest Market Price for 50 tons of Good Pork. Call and see him at the Old Stand on Main Street. Acton, Nov. 30th, 1876. 22-3u

GEORGE HYNDS, Watchmaker and Jeweller, POST OFFICE STORE, ACTON, ONT. My work is all giving satisfaction, and you will find this is the place to bring your Watches, Clocks and Jewellery. To get Repaired. THE FINEST SELECTION OF JEWELLERY, THE LATEST STYLES IN JEWELLERY, AND THE BEST STOCK OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS. Will always be seen at GEORGE HYNDS' Jewellery Store, Acton. February 7, 1876.

GREAT CLEARING SALE. On account of certain anticipated changes in business, and in order to reduce their stock preparatory to such change, the undersigned have decided to offer Special Inducements to Cash Buyers. DRY GOODS, FLANNELS, Winceys and other Staple Goods. To be disposed of at cost price and under. A large and varied assortment of HATS AND CAPS. Of the latest styles to be rushed off at reduced rates. Also GENTS' UNDERCLOTHING AND FURNISHINGS. Parties desirous of supplying themselves with a cheap suit will find that now is the time to buy. DICKSON & McNAB. Acton, February 7, 1876.

Lumber, Lath and Shingles FOR SALE. The undersigned have for sale at their mills in Acton a large quantity of all kinds of Pine and Hemlock Lumber. Pine Shingles and Lath. Shingles of the best quality for only \$1.70 per square. GUMMING MACHINE. We have just introduced a new Gumming Machine, and are prepared to gum Drag or Cross-cut Saws. BROWN & HALL. Acton, Dec. 12, 1876. 24-3m

SPEYSIDE Shingle, Stave and HEADING MILLS. Any parties wanting Shingles would do well to give us a call. We will always have on hand a good supply of No. 1 and No. 2 Shingles. Best quality No. 1 Shingles \$1.70 per square. No. 2, 70 cents per square. P. & H. SAYERS. Speyside, Dec. 13, 1876. 24-6m

JAS. MATTHEWS, ACTON. CLERK 4TH DIVISION COURT, COUNTY OF HALTON. Conveyancer, Commissioner in Q. S. Fire Insurance Agent, Life Insurance Agent, Issuer of Marriage Licenses, Agent Money to Loan or Borrow, Agent Montreal Telegraph Co., Debts Collected on Commission, and General Agent, &c., &c. Parties investing their business with me will be satisfactorily dealt with. Office at the Post Office, Acton. \$5 to \$20 Samples worth 10c. See STINSON & Co., Portland, Maine.

BEST PHOTOGRAPHS in the County, at The Ontario Photograph Gallery. For Beauty of Finish and Brilliance in Tone, they cannot be surpassed. COPYING & ENLARGING. In all its branches, in the best style of the art, done on the shortest notice and at reasonable rates. Also a splendid stock of Mouldings and Picture Frames kept on hand and made to order. A call is solicited and you will be convinced that this is the place to get photographs. Yours respectfully, C. W. HILL, Acton, Dec. 5, 1876.

Books, Anderson's Cheap Bookstore. On the East side of Wynnham Street, GUELPH. PORK! PORK!! Charles Cameron is prepared to pay the Highest Market Price for 50 tons of Good Pork. Call and see him at the Old Stand on Main Street. Acton, Nov. 30th, 1876. 22-3u

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