

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
Published every Thursday Morning
11 for Annual in Advance

Acton Free Press
S. W. GALBRAITH, Editor

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 20, 1878.

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OLD NEWSPAPERS.

The Toronto *Globe* and *Leader* lately devoted a considerable space to describing a couple of old newspapers which had been sent to them by subscribers. The *Globe's* old paper was a copy of the London *Times*, dated March 11th, 1809, and the *Leader's* was a copy of another newspaper, a few years older than the *Times*. It is our turn next. We have in our possession a copy of the *St. James's Gazette; or, the British Evening Post*, dated Thursday February 21, 1755, which was published in St. James, Eng. It is yellow with age, and the paper is of a coarser and stronger quality than is used for printing newspapers now. The newspaper consists of four pages, four columns to the page, and is about half the size of the *Free Press*. The type used is the composition of long primer size, and is nice and clear as the type used in the present age. There are a great number of communications in the paper, but no local or editorial news. A letter from London, Eng., says: "Before this year 1764, the duties of import and export amounted to about £1,500,000 sterling in this King's reign; and that during the year they have produced upwards of two millions. A proof of the increase of our trade." An attempted robbery, near Boston, Mass., in which the would-be robbers were killed, occupies a prominent position on the third page. The paper has news from all parts of the world, being inserted in the shape of communications. The advertisements are set up the same as the reading matter, and all are started with a large initial letter. To place this aged paper beside one of our country local papers of the present day, there is as much difference as night from day, and yet, when the *Chronicle* was printed, it was, no doubt, considered one of the best newspapers. It is wonderful to see what strides journalism has made during the past century, and it causes us to wonder if, a century hence, it will be as much ahead of us now as we are ahead of the times when the *St. James's Chronicle* was printed.

OUR POSTAL FACILITIES.

A petition, addressed to the Postmaster General, is going around the Village, and is receiving a large number of signatures, the object being to secure four mails per day, instead of two, as at present. That the business of the Village is hindered, on account of their only being two mails a day, there is no doubt, and owing to our position and trade, we have not the requisite postal facilities. Villages to the east and west of us have two mails daily from the east and west, and Acton, whose trade is vastly superior to some of these, has only been accorded one mail daily from the east and west. Although we are only 36 miles from Toronto, it takes three days to receive a reply, whereas, if we had two mails each way, we could receive a reply the same day as sent. Acton has a population of between 900 and 1000, and this, of itself, should insure us better postal communication than we have at present. Besides this, both the population and business of the Village are increasing, so that it is not a privilege but a right which we ask for. The want of better postal communication has long been felt by the people of this Village, and the business of the place demands it, so that we are certain the Postmaster General will give the petition the consideration which it deserves.

J. E. McGarvin, druggist, Acton

LORD DUFFERIN'S SUCCESSOR.

It turns out that there was no foundation for the rumor that Lord Dufferin was to remain in Canada as Governor-General for another year. The Imperial Government was anxious that he should do so, but he has fully made up his mind to return to England in September. The home authorities seem to be at a loss to find anybody to take his place. The Duke of Manchester has been spoken of in this connection more than anybody else, and the Earl of Carnarvon has been looked upon in some quarters as a likely man. The name of Prince Arthur has also been mentioned. The appointment of a Prince would be rather a new departure. He is a trifle young, perhaps being only twenty-seven; but he will grow out of that, and anyway the duties of the post are not very difficult of performance, being almost nominal although, of course, important. The appointment of a real Prince of the blood, who by the way, is a single man, and in receipt of \$75,000 a year from Parliament, would be looked upon with much pleasure by one class of the community at any rate—the ladies.

RIOTING IN QUEBEC.

Quebec was in a state of uproar on Wednesday, the 12th inst., the strikers having risen in a mass, and rioting and plundering prevailed throughout the day, the city being for a time powerless to quell the mob, and it was not until after the Riot Act had been read and the military and police forces opened fire upon the crowd that they gave way. The result was some loss of life and much bloodshed, several being severely wounded. There ought to be some more speedy way of quelling these mobs and preventing their fiendish work than Quebec or Montreal seem to possess.

Editorial Notes.

The United States Senate has agreed to an amendment to the Sandusky Civil Appropriation Bill appropriating five and half millions to start a Socialistic party, and amounted to about 28,000. The First and Second Regiments were under arms all day, but never left their armories. Only twenty police were on the picket grounds, and not a single arrest was made. The progress of the affair led to start a Socialistic party, and amounted to about 28,000. The

peaceable manner in which the demonstration was conducted will be a great point for the Socialists there, and it is believed will lead to a victory for their ticket at the next municipal election. They already have one alderman a Communist, elected last fall.

—Ice Creamery C. W. Hill.

The backbone of the strike of cotton operatives in Lancashire has been broken, and a large number of the employees are disposed to resume work on the terms proposed by the employers—a reduction of ten per cent. It is not stated whether this settlement was brought about by compromising arrangement, that more favorable terms would be given when trade improved—a common mode of settlement of late years—or whether it was a voluntary break down of those on strike. It is probable, however, that hunger had begun to pinch the men, and that, though suffering, they have seen what reason had failed to point out to them. It is very fortunate for England that the principles of Communism have never taken deep root in the minds of the working classes, and in this way we may account for the comparative peaceful progress and settlement of a dangerous movement.

The Communists in Chicago.

The Communists made a grand display in Chicago on the 16th inst. They formed in procession at about 10 o'clock, and marched through the principal streets with red flags and Suci distic emblems. About 8,000 marched in the procession, and 25,000 more took part in the exercises at the picnic grounds. The procession was headed by the Lehr and Weid Verein, carrying about 200 rifles. They wore blue and white uniforms, and with thorough disciplining and glittering bayonets made a soldierly appearance. The Bohemian sharp shooters, forty muskets, also formed out. The affair was the most brilliant as well as the largest picnic Chicago ever saw. Speeches were made by Parsons, Boleslavski and Thomsen in English, Bohemian and Norwegian. Paul Grettkan, the German agitator, also spoke. The First and Second Regiments were under arms all day, but never left their armories. Only twenty police were on the picket grounds, and not a single arrest was made. The progress of the affair led to start a Socialistic party, and amounted to about 28,000. The

Maharajah of Kochi, India, has arrived in London. He is making a twelve months' tour of Europe and after a two months' stay in London will visit the principal manufacturing towns in England.

Hulm's friends are quiet confident that he will win the sculling race with Morris at Halton, Pennsylvania, to day. The betting, which is understood to be a sort of barometer by which to predict the result, is in favour of the Canadian.

The statement prepared by the Special Committee of the financial condition of the city of Oshawa for presentation to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shows the debt of the city to be \$2,157,309. This is about \$90 per head of the population.

During a big thunder storm which passed over Port Hope recently, the monument to Gen. Baird, the hero of the storming of Settipataki, which was erected on a hill between Grief and Gowrie, at a cost of over £4,000 in 1822, was shattered by lightning.

The lunatic Murray, who attacked the Hon. Mr. Blake at Ottawa some time ago, applied to the Ottawa Chief Constable on Tuesday, T. R. Having been in Guelph on Tuesday, and wishing to return on the evening train, I arrived at the Guelph station five minutes before the train was due, and tried to obtain a ticket, but the office being closed, I could not get one. After trying every way to secure a ticket, but failing to do so, as the ticket office was closed until after the train moved off, I had to get on without one. Draper, the conductor, asked me for my ticket, when I explained to him about the office being closed, but he would not listen to any common argument, but demanded forty-six cents, which I did not have with me, having spent all but forty cents (the fare from Guelph to Acton) in Guelph. I handed this to him, and he handed me back fourteen cents, keeping twenty-six cents, which we said would carry me to Rockwood, when I could obtain a ticket to Acton for fifteen cents. Leaving the station at Rockwood, I also found it closed, and so I got on the train again without a ticket. Draper knew that the ticket office was closed, and when he found me on the train again he stopped it to put me off. I gave him the fourteen cents and promised him the remaining six cents when I reached Acton, and refused to get off the train. He did not attempt to put me off, but started the train again, and when I reached Acton I saw a friend who gave him the extra money. Altogether Draper used me in a manner unbecoming a gentleman. I would like to know how long the public is to be pestered with such an individual as Draper, as he is certainly not a gentleman conductor. Of course, the Company is partly to blame for putting me in such an uncomfortable position before a traveling public, but I think that after explaining the matter to Draper, and him knowing that I could get not a ticket, he might have been a little more civil to me than he was.

Yours &c.,

CAN. COR. CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

Acton, June 19, 1878.

J. E. McGarvin, druggist, Acton.

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