

## The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1854.

We observe by the Fredericton papers that the rate-payers of the County of York, intend to try for an Incorporation under the Municipal Act.—Why have they not done it before? Will some one tell us? Are they asleep? Have they lost their reason? York is one of the oldest Counties in the Province, one of the most influential and one of the most intelligent too. It used to speak a loud voice in the exposure of Toryism and Family Compactism. Reform and Responsibility to the people were first preached by York men. They kept it before the people. What has become of York Liberalism? Where is the old spirit of ten years ago? Has faction or jealousy smothered it? Carleton was made out of one of the ribs of York. And yet, here the people do the peoples' work, while in York, an old, worn out faction rules the County in all Parish matters. Even Victoria is ahead of her. She made an effort to throw off her yoke—and it is a light one compared to the yoke that Carleton used to bear, and that York now bears. But it did not suit the men who intended to hoodwink the people by the passing of the Municipal Bill, that it should be adopted if it was possible to prevent it. If it was, why not make the law plain? And beyond all, why require a two-thirds vote? Why allow a minority of one over one-third of a County, a faction, the fag end of a Compact, to rule the rest. They are not the people. They are or wish to be thought a distinct or better race, better flesh and blood. If they think so, let them act upon their conviction. There is no other free part of the world where a minority can dictate to a majority in this way. Men of York, remember this. Remember that you must not lose a vote. Every vote polled against you counts two. Every friendly vote unpolled for you counts one. Let every man that has a vote remember this.—Are you fit to govern yourselves or not? If you are not, you can say so by voting against the adoption of the Act. If you are, vote for it. But don't stop there. Work for it. Talk for it. Agitate for it. Fight for it in every lawful, Constitutional way. Keep it before the people. Your enemies will strain every nerve to defeat you. Falsehood, misrepresentation, deception, craft and cunning of all kinds will be resorted to. Heed it not or if you do heed it, do for the purpose of meeting it. You will be told that your taxes will be increased.—This is false, and your opponents well know it.—You will be told to wait a short time until you get a better law, or until the Parishes are incorporated. Any thing to deceive, to mislead you. Get this first. Incorporate the County while you can. Make sure of it. There is no difficulty about it, if you go the right way to work. Call meetings, discuss the question. Light will do it no harm.—Darkness will. The more it is known, the better it is understood, better will the people like it. Invite its opponents to Public discussions upon the subject. Let them send their clever men to dispute the ground. They won't come. They dare not. They know better. If they had a single clever man among them he would tell them to be quiet. That would be his advice. They tried to get up a cry against it on the ground of taxation years ago, and they succeeded. Their hirelings succeeded for a while. But it is too late now. We in this County have worked it out, why cannot you in York? We have lessened our taxes and honorably discharged our obligations, and got our County out of debt entirely? Why cannot you do the same thing in York? We know how much money we pay now, and what we pay it for, and we settle our own accounts. Why cannot you in York. We have proved that there are men in the County Parishes fit to do the public business, who do not belong to the Compact. How is it with you—Have the Compact all the talent in your County? It is generally believed here that they have none at all, how is it? Are you fit to do your own work? We ask again. We feel a warm interest in this matter. We remember the struggle we had here, and we earnestly long to see a spirit of enterprise and progress growing up in the County. There is nothing like self-government to produce it. Keep it before the people, tax-payers of York. There will be old women at the head of your business just so long as the old system is tolerated. Take the matter into your own hands.

We write these remarks with the hope of doing some good. We have a large number of subscribers in York, and we write for them. Let every man of them lend this paper to his neighbor. Let him read it. It may help him to understand the subject. Now for A LONG PULL, A STRONG PULL, AND A PULL ALTOGETHER.

We are happy to find that our remarks upon the state of our farming interests have given much satisfaction to several intelligent persons, who understand the subject. "A farmer" in Brighton writes, "he hopes we will give the farmers a part of our paper as heretofore, and the benefit of our own remarks upon our state of improvement, &c." We can assure our respected friend, we shall do so. We go in for improvement. We shall circulate the best available information; and we shall from time to time, in our editorial columns, give the result of our own experience, and that of our neighbors, in all matters of Agricultural interest. We regret that the crowded state of our columns, and matters of general interest prevent our continuing our remarks upon the subject to-day. We got warm upon the Corporation question, and said more than we intended to. But it was too important to be slighted.

Fears were entertained that the drought has done much damage to our farming interests. But from all that we can learn, the crops are better than was expected a month ago they would have been. Providence has smiled upon us in a wonderful manner this year. How happy is our lot, when compared with that of millions of our fellow-creatures.

We have only room to say a few words about the Public health. We are happy to be able to say that it is improving in the Province generally, as well as here at home. The St. John and Fredericton papers bears this testimony. But though it gives us pleasure to say this, we cannot say that we have said Europe. We must not forget the disease when it has left us. As sure as we allow filth to accumulate among us, so sure will the disease return to us at some future time—and it may be sooner than we expect. Now is the time to prepare for the future. Let us get into the habit of being clean, while we can. The Cholera thrives upon filth. See how they managed it in Fredericton. They enforced the strictest sanitary regulations immediately upon its appearance, and they escaped. In St. John, on the contrary, they were made to do that to any great extent, as the filth had accumulated for years, and they could not remove it at once. We ought to learn a lesson from these two cases. Besides this, it is a real comfort to be clean. If any man doubts it, let him try for a week if he can. We have plenty of room, good water and any quantity of it, pure air, and every other convenience—let us have a clean village.—We can do it, if we try. Suppose we try it.

It is pleasing even to an Editor to receive a word of encouragement now and then, and we thank our friends who have lately expressed their satisfaction at our endeavors to do our duty and please them. Now is not the time to desert our post. Progress is our motto.

**FIRE.**—The Tanery of S. Parsons & Son which was newly built, and fitted up at a great expense, (much the largest and best we believe in the Province,) was totally destroyed by fire, on the night of the 14th, which must be almost ruinous to its enterprising owners. They had we understand, a heavy stock of hides and leather on hand. No insurance.

The Editor of the Woodstock Journal, in an article headed "Cholera," says: "It appears that no power exists with our general or local authorities to appoint a Board of health." This is an error the Municipal Council are by law a Board of Health, with full powers to appoint Health Officers to make rules to prevent and abate nuisances and to take such other measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of disease.—*Head Quart.*

## Communications.

## Victoria County, General Sessions.

July Term, 1854.

Continued.

17. The Grand Jurors during their deliberation on the County accounts, felt the necessity of their having legal advice respecting their duties under the law, and the state of facts which they found to exist, as well as information thereon; and which the Court and the Clerk were either unable or unwilling to afford them. In this dilemma the Grand Jury requested Mr. B. W. Hammond to attend them in their room, and render them such assistance and services in his power, as would enable them to discharge their duty on the Audit of the County accounts with credit to themselves, and in justice to all parties interested therein. Mr. Hammond did attend the Jurors on their request, and has rendered them valuable assistance; and for which they take this public manner to express their thanks.

18. The Grand Jurors were astonished at the remarks which fell from the Chairman of the Court this morning, on the course which the Jurors had seen fit thus to adopt. They assert it to be Law that, the oath of secrecy administered to them, extends only to the criminal business that may come before them. That in the Audit of the County accounts, and matters of County Assessment they are not under the control and dictation of the Court, but by Law, are invested with power superior to that of the Court; inasmuch, as no County account can be legally paid, and County Assessment legally made by the Court, without first receiving the allowance and approbation of the Grand Jury.—And the Grand Jurors assert their right to pursue such course, and to have such advice and assistance respecting these matters as they in their judgment shall deem most desirable to advance Public Justice.

19. The Grand Jurors cannot refrain from the remark, that this improper encroachment by the Court, on their own peculiar ground, is not calculated to remove from the Public mind that suspicion of wrong-doing which is entertained against the Court.—And they indignantly repel the accusation made against them by the Chairman of having acted illegally and improperly in this matter. They assert the right to be guided in the investigation of these matters by their own judgments; and deny in the strongest language that the Court possesses any right or power to dictate to them the course they shall adopt in their deliberation and audit, or to prescribe to them what legal adviser they shall consult on these subjects. And that when these matters are under consideration, they will have in their Jury room whomsoever they choose to invite.

The Grand Jury have nothing further to report. They request that this their Report may be published in some newspaper generally circulated thro' this County; and they request to be discharged.

D. W. PICKETT, Foreman.  
Grand Jury Room  
July 8th, 1854

## AUDITORS' REPORT.

Report of the Auditor of County Accounts for the County of Victoria, for July Sessions, 1854:

The Auditor, after examining the papers and records of proceedings of the last two special sessions, as laid before the Grand Jury, to make an Audit of the accounts from, begs leave to state, that from such papers and records he can make no proper audit of the County Accounts. He would further state, that if papers without name and often without date are put in for returns, and such irregularity and want of system be in future pursued as have been hitherto, it will always be impossible to make a proper audit.

EDWARD EATON,  
Auditor.

Grand Falls, July 8, 1854.

GRAND FALLS, August 9, 54.

MR. EDITOR.—I send you a copy of the Grand Jury's Report at our last General Sessions. The Court, I understand, declined according to the request of the Jurors, that it should be published on the ground, that 'no fund was placed at their disposal to pay for such publication.' I am not aware that it is usual to pay Printers for such things.—Should it be so, however, I think no objection would be made by Jurors to pay for the general circulation through the press of information so much desired by the people of the County, and so anxiously withheld from them by those who assume the power to do so. The Foreman and a majority of the Jurors, seeing this disinclination on the part of the Court, have lately requested me to get their Report published; and I send it to you with such request.

A few explanations may be necessary to make the Report understandable by those not conversant with our County matters.

By the Audit in January last, and which was a Herculean labour of the Auditor, Mr. Eaton, some £400, appeared to be due the County from previous Assessments, in the hands of, and to be accounted for by several Collectors, and Magistrates with whom collectors had left accounts for legal proceedings. In view of this large sum the then Grand Jury refused to approve of any assessment, and recommended to the Court that stringent and effective measures should be adopted, to get in the several balances making the gross sum above stated. What the Court did in this matter may be readily gathered from the Nov. report of the Auditor, and the Jurors Report, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 17.

The matter referred to in No. 15, is simply this. On the examination of a man charged with Larceny, the Clerk of the Peace attended, and though the article stolen was sworn to be of the value of £6 10s. yet the Clerk advised the examining Magistrate that he could legally admit the party to

bail; and that the Court of General Sessions had jurisdiction over the case. The party was bailed, and the trial had before the late Sessions where the Jury found a verdict of 'Guilty.' The Counsel for the party, Mr. Rainsford, moved in arrest of Judgment, that the law limited the jurisdiction of the Court to cases where the value of the property stolen did not exceed £5. The witness for the prosecution, on the trial valued the article stolen (his watch) at £6 10s. On further argument, the Court came to the conclusion that they had proceeded in a matter over which they had not jurisdiction, and discharged the party! What makes this case unfortunate is, that the crime was fully proven, and the party is a notorious offender.

Of the matters referred to in the three last Nos. of the Report, it is necessary to remark that, on Friday I had been all day with the Jurors when deliberating on the state of the County. Objections had been taken to this by some persons having accounts which they wished to be allowed by the Jurors. Complaint was privately made to the Chairman of the Court, who was easily convinced that the Jurors were acting illegally and contrary to their oath. On Saturday morning, the Grand Jurors were arraigned before the Court, and received from the chairman a learnedly severe castigation for their conduct in allowing any person in their room without the leave of the Court; telling them that, in doing so, they had violated their oath.—and that 'the Clerk of the Court was the only legal adviser they should consult. A constable was then placed in charge of the Jury Room door with instructions to permit no person to enter the room without a ticket of admission from the Court! Jurors excepted.—The Jurors became alarmed at this view of their conduct taken by the Chairman, and the Foreman came to me with a statement of the remarks, and for advice. I gave him my opinion that the Court were in error respecting the law, and offered, if the Jurors requested it, to attend them as I had done the day before. I did not know that the constable had received the instructions mentioned, until after the Court adjourned;—perhaps it is as well I did not. However, the Foreman and Jurors consulted me in my office during Saturday upon such matters as they thought necessary. It is this interference by the Court with the rights and conduct of the Jurors on the Audit of the County Accounts which called forth the remarks in the latter paragraphs of their report.

Take it all-together, and it was somewhat a very funny Court of General Sessions. A Dickens or a Thackeray might describe it, and a Hogarth or a Cruickshank might paint it; but it would bother them considerably to do the subject justice! So utterly incapable to the orderly and decent discharge of the Public business of the County did this Court of ours shew itself at the late Sessions, that even Mr. Justice Rice declared himself as being almost persuaded to go in for Municipalities.

Yours,  
B. W. HAMMOND.

## Provincial Parliament.

**THE SPEECH.**—The Governor General's Speech delivered yesterday at the opening of the Reformed Parliament is remarkable for the unusual variety of important topics which it embraces. Lord Elgin says:—That some changes in the constitution of the Legislative Council seem to be imperatively required.—That the final and conclusive adjustment of the Clergy Reserves should take place without delay.—That there are questions affecting properties held under the Seigniorial Tenure which cannot be kept in suspense without detriment to the interests both of the Seigniors and Censitaires.—That the Municipal Institutions of Lower Canada should be assimilated to those of Upper Canada.—And recommends a reduction of the Tariff. The expression adjustment of the Clergy Reserves will of course be too vague for many honorable members, and may be made the rock upon which it will be once more attempted to shipwreck the Ministry. We are surprised that the Speech makes no allusion either to the dissolution of the late Parliament or the Union of the Provinces.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

WEDNESDAY, 6th September, 1854.

His Excellency the Governor General, at 3 o'clock p. m., this day, proceeded in state to the Legislative Council Chamber, and having taken his seat upon the Throne, commanded the attendance of the Legislative Assembly. The members of that body preceded by their Speaker, the Hon. L. V. Sicotte, speedily appeared at the Bar. The Hon. L. V. Sicotte informed His Excellency that the choice of the Assembly had fallen upon him, to be their Speaker, and he craved for the members the customary Parliamentary privileges. After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following.