

Dipping into the past...

150 YEARS AGO

Thursday, September 1, 1864

From The Sun, Orangeville, compliments of Dufferin County Museum and Archives:

DEBATING SOCIETY ? On Friday evening last a number of our most respectable and intelligent young men met at Bell's hotel, for the purpose of organizing a Debating and Mutual Improvement Society. On motion of Mr. J. Pattullo, Mr. T. Davidson was called to the chair, a position he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the meeting. After briefly explaining the object of the meeting, the chairman called upon those present to proceed to business, and on motion made a seconded, the company organized itself into a Debating and Mutual Improvement Society.

THE TRAM CONVENTION ? On the 31st. inst., in accordance with the invitation of the Village Council, by circulars sent to the Reeves and Councillors of Brampton, Chinguacousy, Caledon, Mono, Mulmur, Garafraxa, and Melancthon, requisitioning them to meet in this village, in order to devise some way of improving the communications of this important and rapidly rising section of the country, a convention was held in the large hall in the rear of Bell's Hotel. The chairman called the proprietor of this journal to open out the question, as he called it. Although a stranger in the convention we endeavored to show the advantages of the tramway in preference to a gravel road ? with its probable costs. The meeting ended with the passage of a motion favouring the macadamizing of the Centre Road between Orangeville and Brampton. Thus it will be seen that the meeting ended in smoke, as might have been expected.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION ? The Democratic Convention, now in session at Chicago, yesterday nominated Gen. G. V. McClellan, as a candidate for the United States Presidency at the next election.

THE INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE ? Today, a conference of delegates from Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island meets at Charlottetown, in the latter province, for the purpose of maturing a plan for the union of the Provinces. No readier or better means of securing unity of action and thought on federation among the great minds of the different colonies than a convention could have been adopted, and we are happy to find that all of the Legislatures will be represented at it. Composed of the ablest statesmen of the four Provinces, the action of the convention, whether favorable or adverse to federation, will greatly influence public opinion on the question either one way or the other, and result in either adopting or rejection of the measure by the different Legislatures. But to the Canadian people more particularly will the decision of the conference be fraught with interest. Our Ministry, though pledged to federation as a principle, may be said to have no definite policy on the subject, and the shape and consistency of any policy they may yet adopt almost entirely depends on the decision of the conference.

If the delegates present thereat agree to a general federation of the British North American Provinces, the Canadian ministry would adopt this as its policy on the question; but should the Maritime Provinces merely decide upon a union of themselves, excluding Canada, then the Canadian government would be compelled to abandon federation altogether, or consent itself with the application of the principle to the Canadas alone ? a movement which many are disposed to view with prejudice, and a strong party would doubtless raise to oppose.

We are not of those who believe that there exists any difference between Canada and the Maritime Provinces that would lead each to choose a separate federation rather than unite in one, and we have too much confidence in the ability and integrity of the conference to think that it would arrive at any other conclusion than that mutual advantages would result to all the colonies from the consolidation of their power and wealth under one general government. Their geographical position and commercial relations point to the necessity of a union between them, while a powerful republic on their borders, threatening to absorb them in detail, unless united to resist its encroachments, shows that for purposes of defense, if from no higher motive they should form one nation. But there is nothing that we can see to prevent them from becoming members of the same federation. Springing into existence under the fostering care of the Imperial Government, they are members of the same family, and though each has its own laws and institutions, a family likeness prevails throughout the whole, rendering their assimilation, even were it necessary, a matter of no great difficulty. Their manner of raising revenues by tariffs and collecting customs, differs not in principle, though the rates in some of the provinces are higher than in others, and it is believed that , with a federal government to arrange the whole, a uniform rate of tariff on imports, etc., satisfactory to all sections, could be agreed on, and the prosperity of all the provinces greatly enhanced. Subject now to political turmoil and sectional strife, they would, under federal rule, enter upon a new existence, and each section having its legislature to look after its local interests, and all a general government to manage the revenue, the militia and matters of a general character, we could not fancy a happier or better governed people.

125 YEARS AGO

Thursday, September 5, 1889

Messrs. W. B. and John Jelly had a gang of men at work all last week searching for more bones belonging to the mammoth skeleton. On Thursday they found three ribs and on Friday an immense tooth, which weighs 16 3/4 pounds. It measures 17 inches around the bottom and 33 inches in length. The proprietors will exhibit the skeleton at the London Exhibition commencing on the third of September. It will also be exhibited during the second week of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

At noon on Monday a fire broke out in the outbuildings of Robert McKeown, in the rear of the offices of the Division Court Clerk and Police Magistrate in Orangeville. The fire spread rapidly to the stables of the magistrate and from thence to the building occupied by the Dufferin Tarpaulin Company which, with the stock, was almost totally destroyed. The books of the Division and Police Courts were all saved. The office of the G. N. W. Telegraph Co., was in imminent danger but escaped with small loss. Cause of the fire is unknown.

On Friday last a rather striking and amusing affair took place in Orangeville. On the morning train there arrived from Credit Forks a man and woman who appeared to be on terms sufficiently friendly to induce the conclusion that they were man and wife, but subsequent developments did not bear out this Christian construction. The pair were pursued by another man from the Forks who claimed that the woman was his wife. He brought the couple to bay near the Court House and subsequently Police Magistrate Pattullo endeavoured to settle the mixed matter. The woman refused to go back with her husband, and the latter agreed to leave her to her fate if he received \$12.50. The matter was finally settled by the payment of \$5.75, the husband receiving \$5 cash and 75 cents going towards the costs. The money was paid by the rather singular daughter of Eve.

100 YEARS AGO

Thursday, September 3, 1914

The detachment of 36th Regiment volunteers for active service overseas had a 12-mile march from their quarters in Ravina Rink in West Toronto to the Long Branch Rifle Ranges on Wednesday, August 19, and while there received orders to proceed to Quebec Thursday at 10 a.m. They entrained at the CNR in East Toronto, accompanied by the 12th York Rangers, and departed at noon. The 36th detachment, 224 strong, is commanded by Major Graham. They travelled by CNR to Ottawa and thence by CNQ to Quebec City and thence by the Quebec and Lac St. John Railway to the camp at Valcartier. The camp is situated on the River Valcartier. A great deal of preparation was needed to get the camp in shape. The ground had to be cleared, roads built, extra railway sidings put in, water supply secured, measures taken for sanitation, etc. The camp is enormous and troops are arriving daily, all being outfitted with new equipment and inoculated for typhoid. A thorough medical examination will be made before the men for the first force to go are finally chosen.

The CPR will run the following extra passenger train service on its Owen Sound branch during the Toronto Exhibition. On September 3 and 8 a special will leave Flesherton at 6:15 a.m. and Shelburne at 7:38, arriving in Toronto at 10:30. On September 2 and 7 a special train will leave Parkdale station at 10 p.m., arriving in Shelburne at 12:40 a.m. Specials from and to Mount Forest on the Teeswater branch, connecting with the Flesherton specials at Orangeville, will be run on the same days.

75 YEARS AGO

Thursday, September 7, 1939

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced on Sunday that Britain had declared war against Germany. Later in the day France followed suit when there was no response to demands that the Germans withdraw from Poland, which Germany invaded on Friday of last week. On Monday evening King George VI spoke by radio. He began his address: "In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

For the second time in the lives of most of us, we are at war. Over and over again, we have tried to find a peaceful way out of the differences between ourselves and those who are now our enemies; but it has been in vain. We have been forced into a conflict, for we are called, with our allies, to meet the challenge of a principle, which, if it were to prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world. ... Such a principle, stripped of all disguise, is surely the mere primitive doctrine that might is right."

50 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, September 2, 1964

Bob Stewart, manager of the district Rural Hydro Area, has announced that construction will start Monday on a 200-foot

communications tower on the top of Primrose Hill, east of Shelburne. It will replace the old antenna at Melancthon and will have a range of 40 miles to mobile units and 100 miles in the provincial network.

10 YEARS AGO

Friday, September 5, 2004

Ontario Premier Ernie Eves has announced plans for a provincial election on October 2.

Staff of the Town of Orangeville officially unveiled a new brand identity to members of Council and area residents. The process of designing the new logo, at a cost of \$25,000, began in January.