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Dipping into the past...

150 YEARS AGO

Thursday, June 25, 1863

??rom the Orangeville Sun:

The quarterly examination of the children attending the Orangeville Common School will take place in the school-room, Bythia St., on Monday next at ten o'clock. We trust that a large number of the supporters of this school will make it convenient to attend, as their presence would greatly emulate the little ones in their studies.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVAL ? The teachers and children connected with the Church of England Sunday School in this village held their First Annual Festival on Wednesday (St. John's Day) on which occasion the pupils were address and examined by the Rev. Mr. Henderson; and considering the short time that has elapsed since the establishment of the school, they showed considerable proficiency. The examination over, a large number of prizes were given to the most deserving after which the scholars sang some select pieces and then retired for refreshments ? an abundant supply of which was furnished by the ladies connected with the Church.

WELL DONE PEEL ? The county has again nobly done its duty and despite the most extraordinary efforts of the Ministerialists, re-elected the Hon. John Hillyard Cameron by a majority twice as large as he obtained in 1861.

NORTH WELLINGTON ELECTION ? The final results for this riding give Dr. Parker a large majority. Various causes, disheartening to the Conservative party, combined to produce this unfavorable result. The following was the vote at the close of the poll on the second day: Parker 2,643 Clarke 2,181, majority for Parker 462.

THE WAR NEWS ? The operations of the armies of Lee and Hooker have not been of the important character which might have been expected from the news in our last issue. There has been no engagement up to this date involving any portion of Hooker's army except cavalry skirmishes and reconnaissances. The Confederates still hold the country of Southern Pennsylvania and are said to be fortifying Hagerstown. The main body of Gen. Lee's army, it is now ascertained, is in the Shenandoah Valley. The indications are that the real design of the Confederates is to make an attack on Washington. The crisis of the campaign is yet to come. The beleaguered cities of Port Hudson and Vicksburg are not yet taken: but unless a diversion is made by Gen. Johnston they must eventually succumb to the Federal forces.

125 YEARS AGO

Thursday, June 21, 1888

??t its meeting Friday evening last, Shelburne Village Council received a communication from the Ontario Pump Co., which revived the old question of a water supply for Shelburne. It was discussed at intervals throughout sessions of Council. At one time a resolution having its for its object the putting in of three tanks was drawn up, moved and seconded, but it was not put to the council and consequently was not adopted. The following resolution was finally adopted: Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Madill, that this council take immediate steps to procure the passage of a bylaw to raise an amount in the neighbourhood of $20,000 to procure water supply for fire and domestic purposes and also for drainage; said amount to extended over a period of 30 years.

Says the Shelbure Economist editorially, noting that the council will meet again tomorrow evening: ?We shall not venture an opinion regarding this new move on the part of the council until we see the bylaw and have an understanding as to what the nature of the scheme will be. One thing is certain, something will have to be done to procure an efficient supply of water for Shelburne; otherwise we may have a fiery visitation no less serious than that which the people of Chesley had been called upon to endure.?

??he Alliston correspondent to the Beeton World furnishes the following piece of information which may be of interest to parents, teachers and pupils: ?A case, which has been in court for a year, particularly interesting to?Alliston, has just be decided by Mr. Justice Armour. A lady teacher in Ramsay Township suspended a boy for misconduct ? disobedience ? until he offered an apology. She was backed by the trustees and the ?old man' backed the boy by applying for a mandamus to compel his attendance. The judge dismissed the application, ordered the ?old man' to pay all the costs, and gave him some good advice. He (the judge) thought the teacher and trustees were right and in the interests of the boy the father ought to have him acknowledge he was wrong in what he did and go quietly back to school.?

??n a letter published by the Shelburne Economist dated June 16, D. C. Ross, of No 7 Com.?36th Regt., reported on the current militia camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

?We picked up companies No. 2 and 8 at Orangeville and the rest at Cardwell Junction and Bolton, arrived at the Union Station, Toronto, at 12 o'clock, and marched to the Yonge Street wharf, where the new steamer Cibola was waiting for us. When we started all the staff of engineers mounted the engine bridge and watched every motion of the engine in case it heated. The volunteers spent their time in buying oranges and lemonade, as the Scott Act was in force in regard to ?fusel oil' to the disappointment of many. In two hours' time we arrived at Niagara, marched to our campground, hoisted the boarding houses, received our blankets and had everything trim by sundown. After gunfire the usual amusements were indulged in, viz, speech-making, upsetting tents, running the guards, etc. Next morning military discipline commenced in earnest. This is the strictest camp ever held here, but all the boys of No. 7 stand the drill well. We noticed the familiar face of Shelburne's merchant prince on the parade ground the other morning. Our two cooks are Jim Murray and Matt Lawlor. Frank Cowles looks like a chinaman; Doc. Harrison has a blistered nose; Steve Kennedy is lame; Mack Bell looks like a big Indian; Andy McKibbon says he doesn't get enough to eat. When we receive word about the lacrosse match we gave the boys three time three and a tiger. We go to the targets next week to shoot for a silver medal. No. 7 will try to get it and if we don't succeed it will not be our fault. We will arrive home a week from today when you will hear all the news.

100 YEARS AGO

Thursday, June 19, 1913

??eports the Beeton World: Mr. W. J. Bemrose's team of work horses were pasturing in a field adjoining the Agricultural Grounds the day of the celebration, and when the aeroplane passed over them in the first flight they were so badly scared that they jumped over the fence onto the road and struck off at a lively gait. They must have kept it up for some time, as the next day, when Mr. Bemrose went in search of them, he found that they had gone through Hockley. From there, he traced them to Mono Mills and, being unable to get any tidings of them beyond that point, he returned home. The following morning they came home of their own accord, accompanied by a strange horse.

??eports the Alliston Herald: the decision of council last week to cure the exuberance of boys and young men in town has had an almost incredible effect. There is no unseemly conduct on the streets just now and the lamps on the bandstand have not been molested lately. The streets have been used by bicyclists since one young fellow was assessed $1 and costs for using the sidewalks. There has not been a known instance of bird's nest robbery during the week and a number of nests have been faithfully watched by townsmen who were ready to prosecute the first boy seen molesting them. The decision to put an unknown constable on the trail of recklessness has been proved to be a wise one.

??t the morning session of Toronto Methodist Conference on Friday last, J. W. Flavelle championed underpaid ministers. He moved several drastic recommendations in presenting the report of the committee on Ministers' salaries. Many ministers were suffering from their meagre salaries being in arrears. One had only been paid $20 in three months. Orangeville District was the worst offender with arrears of $2920. Toronto Central District was the best, with salary arrears of only $60.85. The conference decided to call for the organization of a salaries' committee in every district, which must report annually, also that ministers' salaries be paid monthly.

??he Better Farming Special, which is now touring CPR lines in Ontario, visited Shelburne on Friday last. The special consists of two cars loaded with object lessons in better farming and are in charge of Frank Herns, Chief Dairy Inspector for Western Ontario. One of the most striking object lessons is afforded in two samples of oats. One of these samples if the Tartar King. This variety has large, plump kernels and weighs 48 pounds per bushel. Alongside is a sample of Danbeney Oats. These are flatter, more open-faced and weighs only 30 pounds per bushel, yet there is 12% more food value in Danbeney oats than Tartar King, due to the thick, coarse hull of the Tartar King. That farmers are not getting the highest return from the land in sowing grain separately is shown by tubes filled with grain representing the yield from different mixtures and grain sown separately. The grain in the tube representing a mixture of one bushel of barley with one bushel of oats stands four inches above any other mixture or single variety. The beneficial effects of under-drainage is illustrated by a chart showing the returns from 26 farmers who have put in complete under-drainage systems. The drained land gave an increase over un-drained land as follows: corn, 24 bushels, oats 23, barley 18, peas 10 bushels. All 26 farmers testify that the cost of putting in the drainage system was paid for in increased crops in one to two years. The livestock car contains the very best specimens of the different breeds most popular in Ontario.

50 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, June 19, 1963

The recently created Dufferin Historical Society, which has its headquarters in Shelburne, is in need of old clothes ? particularly top hats, jackets and women's fancy dresses; also buggies and democrats ? one three-seater and two or three two-seaters. Society president Jim Westlake explained that they were entering an exhibit in the Orangeville Centennial Parade in cooperation with many Women's Institutes. ?This is all in the hope of making more money for the new County Museum.? Dufferin County gave the society a boost with a grant of $600, but the expense of erecting the Museum Log House in Shelburne's Hyland Park, will be large, even with a considerable amount of donated labour.

10 YEARS AGO

Friday, June 20, 2003

??espite its purchasing policy, Dufferin County Council has agreed to bypass the tendering process and spend more than $440,000 to retain the services of R. J. Burnside, consulting engineers, for work on the Orangeville South Arterial Road. When Shelburne Mayor Ed Crewson asked Roads Committee Chairman John Oosterhoff whether the expenditure had been tendered, the East Luther Grand Valley Reeve responded that the Council had agreed to hire the firm because of their knowledge in the field.