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Ontario Curlers Meet in Toronto January 6th ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE PRELIMINARIES OF THE SCOTTISH TOUR.

Toronto Star: The representatives of the Ontario Curling Association on the team of Canadians to visit Scotland, met yesterday afternoon at National Club.

Several matters of detail were discussed by the team, and it was decided that the team assemble in Toronto on Wednesday, January 6th, arrange their rinks, and have a friendly game with the executive of the association during the afternoon at the Granite Rink.

DEATH OF MRS. McFADDEN, FORMERLY OF CARIFF. We regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Robt. McFadden, formerly of Cardiff township.

Disastrous Fire Occurs At Canadian "Soo"

HUSSEY BLOCK IS DESTROYED AND A MAN LOSES HIS LIFE.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Dec. 28.—Another disastrous fire visited the Canadian Soo at three o'clock yesterday morning, by which the handsome Hussey block was completely destroyed, and the Coronation block adjoining badly damaged.

One man, Alex. Kemp, aged 65, is believed to have perished in the flames. He concluded a carpenter shop in the basement, and has not been heard from since, although his coat and hat, which he wore one hour earlier, were found. He entered the building at two o'clock Sunday morning in an intoxicated condition.

The business places burned are: Caron's large confectionery store, insurance \$1,200; Parlow's second hand store; Kemp's carpenter shop; St. James' Hall, meeting place of all local Catholic societies.

On the lower floor of the Coronation block, Bemrose's large clothing stock is almost a complete loss, and on the floor above the lodge room of Bessemer Lodge, I.O.O.F., was badly damaged.

The cause of the fire, which started in the confectionery store, is unknown, but those nearby say it followed an explosion. Yesterday search has been kept up for the missing man, Kemp, but in vain, although the ruins have been, practically, searched.

Mr. John Hay, Pleasant Point Is Recovering

WELL-KNOWN GENTLEMAN IS IMPROVING FROM SERIOUS INJURIES.

The many friends in town and country of Mr. John Hay, the well-known proprietor of the popular summer resort at Pleasant Point, will be pleased to hear that he is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Mr. Hay was brought to the Ross Hospital last week as the result of injuries received in the accident that occurred while he was doing some log hauling on his farm near Pleasant Point. Mr. Hay, while driving had the ill-luck to slip and fall, and the horses drew a large log right across his body. A broken hip and injuries to the thigh were the results of the accident and the injured man was brought to the hospital here.

Enquiry at the hospital lately elicited the fact that Mr. Hay is progressing nicely, and that he will recover without serious disability. The injury was so serious that it was feared that Mr. Hay might be permanently crippled, but happily there seems to be little possibility of such misfortune, as he is making steady progress towards a complete recovery.

Christmas Devotions At St. Mary's Church

LARGE CONGREGATIONS ATTENDED THE THREE MASSES—SPECIA MUSIC BY THE CHOIR.

At St. Mary's church Christmas a.m., notwithstanding the damaged condition of the church, the usual Christmas masses and devotions took place. At the five and half past ten o'clock masses the choir sang Loesch's mass in F, the solos being taken by the Misses Ella Brady, Mary Flurey, Nettie O'Boyle and Mrs. Catho, and the bass solos by Mr. Jack Hurley.

Identity of Walter G. Causes Legal Action

CASE ARISING OUT OF SPEED EVENTS AT FALL FAIR BEFORE JUDGE WELLES, PETERBORO.

The case referred to below will be of general interest as several horse men were affected by the awarding of the prize money in the case now being tried in the court at Peterboro. The Peterboro Examiner says: The horsemen of Peterborough are interested in the civil case which was heard recently before His Honor Judge Weller. The owner of Holland Boy and manager of Hazel Bell, are suing the Peterborough Agricultural Society for money which was paid to Mr. Hodgins, Orillia, manager of Walter G., the horse that was protested by them under the suspicion that he was Little Hector, or in any event that the horse was not the one claimed to be. Hazel Bell and Holland Boy started with the Orillia horse on the first day of the races at the Peterborough Fair last fall in the 220 class, and owing to the fact that the Walter G. was protested, first and second money, respectively is claimed for them.

Dr. Johnston, president of the Peterborough Turf Club, and chairman of the speed committee for the exhibition directorate, and Mr. Martin Connors, the starter at the races, testified at the hearing of the suit yesterday that they notified Secretary Hall, of the Agricultural Society, that Walter G. was under protest, and instructed his not to pay Hodgins any money pending the outcome of the protest. It is alleged that Mr. Hall, acting under instruction of President Leary of the Agricultural Society, paid the money over to Hodgins.

The Peterborough Turf Club was given authority to settle the protest by the National Trotting Association, under whose rules the races were conducted. The track of the fair grounds is an association track. The protest was decided against Hodgins and in view of this the above mentioned parties decided to sue for the money, which they claim is legally theirs.

Mr. George W. Hutton appeared for the plaintiffs; Mr. F. D. Kerr for defendants, and Mr. Tudhope, of Orillia, for Mr. Hodgins. His Honor dismissed the case until after the Christmas holidays.

TRAINMAN KNEW SIGNAL.

(From Harper's Weekly.) One day a complaint was received that a valuable cow had been killed on a certain day and by a certain engine. The case was referred to the proper department, but reference to the files showed that the engineer had failed to report such an accident. Accordingly he was sent for and asked why he had omitted to report the matter.

"I didn't know I hurt the cow," he said. "Then you remember hitting her?" "Yes, and I slowed up as she rolled over on her back; but she waved her feet for me to go ahead, and so I concluded she was all right."

"HIS MONEY IS SOON PARTED." (From Letters of a Remittance Man, by W. H. P. Jarvis, in December Canada West.)

"Jenkins is a scoundrel and I am an ass. I am now convinced that he persuaded me to pay twice the value of my farm to the end that he might share in the profits of the agent selling; and that he refrained from telling me the better course in the cultivation of the same, as its proper working would entail efforts on us all, and that finally, still unsatisfied, he betrayed me still further into the purchase from a rascally agent, the land such as any man may have for the asking in this country. It fairly staggers one's trust in humanity. Here I am without a sou, robbed and deserted by him I trusted as a friend."

"Nor do I gain a word of sympathy." DISHES THAT ARE DIFFERENT. There are many times when the housekeeper who expects company wants to set before her guests something that is a little different, but which she can make herself without the apparatus of a professional caterer. The recipes given below are easy to make for a person of average knowledge of cookery, and do not require so much effort that the hostess need tire herself. They are not too elaborate, but depart from those of the cook books:

Pineapple Eggs.—Soak the contents of half a box of gelatine in water, and when dissolved add a cupful of grated pineapple (canned or otherwise), and the juice of one lemon, a cupful of boiling water, and a cupful of sugar; strain and set away to harden. As soon as the hardening process begins, whip quickly with an egg-beater and fold in the whites of five eggs. Mould in eggshells and serve in any fanciful way.

EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES ALL OF SOUTHERN ITALY

Three Provinces Swept And City Ruined MANY THOUSANDS DIE Dead and Dying Litter the Streets And People Flee in Terror (Special to The Free Press.)

Rome, Dec. 29.—The three provinces of Cosenza, Catanzaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or "the toe of the boot," were devastated yesterday by an earthquake, the far-reaching effects of which were felt almost through the entire country. The town of Messina, in Sicily, was partially destroyed, and Catania was inundated. In Messina hundreds of houses have fallen, and many persons have been killed.

The fate of entire regions within the zone of the earthquake is unknown, but reports received here up to a late hour last night indicate that the havoc has been great, and the destruction to life and property more terrible than Italy has experienced in many years. The uncertainty of the situation has filled all Italians with the deepest distress, for they still have fear that the day may come when that part of the country, which seems to have been most blessed by nature, will be destroyed by the blind forces of that same nature which nearly nineteen centuries ago overwhelmed Pompeii and Herculaneum.

All reports show that the present catastrophe embraces a larger area than the earthquake in 1905. The tidal wave which followed the earthshocks, on the eastern coast of Sicily sunk vessels and inundated the lower part of Catania. It is known that a number of people were killed in that place. The rushing waters carried everything before them and caused an indescribable confusion.

The Italian Government has proceeded energetically to concentrate at the points of greatest need troops and engineers. Members of the red cross were despatch to various places, and camps and provisions were immediately prepared, all available railway lines and warships being used for their transport.

The city of Messina has suffered probably more than any other place, the latest information coming indirectly from that quarter stating that two-thirds of the town was destroyed and several thousand persons killed. The steamers Washington and Montebello, which were in the harbor later, proceeded to Catania, loaded with injured, who were so stupefied by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come. Five steamers left Catania for Messina, to assist in removing the injured from that place.

Cardinal Nava, Archbishop of Catania, exhorted the people to be calm. He promised that the body of St. Agatha should be carried around in procession. St. Agatha is regarded as the special deliverer from all scourges. While the number of deaths at that place is not believed now to be large, there were several tragic occurrences. Among the children swept away by the tidal wave was a boy 15 months old, who was torn from the arms of his mother. The mother, too, was overcome by the force of the water and lost consciousness, but her body was caught by a railing and remained there until she was rescued. Midnight reports state that Reggio, the capital of the Province of Reggio di Calabria, eight miles from Messina, on the opposite side of the strait, had met the same fate as Messina, but these reports have not been confirmed owing to the lack of telegraphic facilities.

Outside Nominations In Provincial Towns

THIRTY-SIX MAYORS AND REEVES ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.

Municipal nominations were held throughout Ontario yesterday, the feature being the small number of elections by acclamation, candidates for the various offices being plentiful almost everywhere. There are not many important questions coming before the electors in the way of by-laws compared with last year, except that some ninety odd municipalities will vote on the local option question. Following is a list of the mayors elected: D. McLachlan, Arnprior; C. Krug, Chesley; G. Sutherland, Ingersoll; A. Loersch, Listowel; W. S. Hall, L'Orignal; J. W. Horsley, Meaford; J. de W. Randa, Niagara; R. Rankin, North Bay; W. S. Davis, Oakville; C. Hopewell, Ottawa; H. Rush, Peterborough; I. Matthews, Port Arthur; M. Mullen, Preston; J. P. Henry, Ridgetown; W. Edwards, Rockland; J. E. Hayes, Seaford; G. Geddes, St. Thomas; M. Sawtell, Woodstock.

The following Reeves were elected by acclamation: H. C. Melin, Ayr; J. W. Gage, Barton; J. F. Dawson, Ernestown; J. A. French, Glanford; E. Meekey, Matilda; A. E. Baker, Merrickville; M. Ryan, Newburgh; E. Norman, Osprey; G. A. Wallace, Pilkington; J. H. Smith, Port Colborne; W. H. Pugsley, Richmond Hill; G. Teller, South Dumfries; Dyoux, South Easthope; J. H. McKay, Tiverton; A. P. Potter, Tottenham; L. Boyce, Walkworth; W. Ronald, West Williams; J. J. Wilkinson, Woolwich.

—His many friends will regret the slowness with which Mr. A. Skinner Colborne-st., is recovering from the injury received a week ago. Mr. Skinner, who is well and favorably known by a wide circle, was entering his home a week ago yesterday, when he slipped on the doorstep, falling over backwards against the stone foundation. He received a nasty wound on the back of his head and was rendered unconscious for a few hours. The unfortunate gentleman, on account of his advancing years, is not progressing as rapidly towards complete cure as his friends desire. The Free Press joins with the town citizens in wishing Mr. Skinner a speedy recovery from the effects of his accident.

Church Going Advised For Both Young and Old

EVEN IF SERMONS ARE ONLY PLATITUDES, CHURCH-GOING IS PROFITABLE.

(Detroit Free Press.) Why go to church when the sermon bores us and the minister presents the same old platitudes Sunday after Sunday? Why not give Sunday to its first purpose, "the rest day for slaves," as the old Babylonian king appointed it? What good does church-going do us when we think our own thoughts through an uninteresting address on dead issues?

Well, there's one reason in that last "why." If we received no other benefit, gained no spiritual uplift, it has been good for us to have had that half hour's mental indwelling, something perhaps, that we would not have had under our own roof. It is good to get into a quiet, devotional atmosphere even if the message from the pulpit falls on dull ears. That may be our own fault; so other listeners it may bring aid and comfort.

Makes One Feel Better. It is pleasant to see the faces of our acquaintances around us and so exchange a word of greeting with them. In cities this means less to us than in the country, where, perhaps, the assembling under the church roof is the one social opportunity of the week. We note the new hats and "who's there," and listen to the melo-organ music, and somehow feel benefitted, though it might be hard to explain why, unless we quoted the rustic philosopher who, when asked what good church-going did him when there was no visible evidence of its influence in his conduct, he said: "You see my shirt? Yes; well, it's clean, but you see no signs of soap and water, do you? Same way with going to church. Does you good, but you can't tell why."

Duty the Mainpring. If we were honest with ourselves we would admit we go to church more from sense of duty than from any real pleasure in it. You know we always speak of our "religious duties" and our "social pleasures." Few can say with an enthusiastic little friend of mine, "I love it! I love it! I love

every word of the service, the music, the chants, the sermon. I always get calmed and strengthened if I can go to church, every Sunday." To an emotional nature there is a sensuous pleasure, not entirely devotional in character, in church-going. The "dim religious light," the subdued yet thrilling organ tones, the frou-frou of silks, the faint odor of mixed perfumes and perhaps incense, the luxuriously cushioned seats appeal to our artistic side. We could not feel the same in a bare and barnlike building, in garish light, and with music that rasps the cultivated ear like a buzz-saw. And let the minister rant and pound the pulpit cushions, and preach disturbing sermons, and we soon decide there is nothing in church-going for us.

The clergy complain of lack of church attendance. And yet, when one considers the prevalence of churches, it must be admitted that a goodly portion of the community hear the gospel, or at least help pay for its preaching. It is the correct thing to go to church; aside from that it is a good habit. Really, it is more of a habit—a habit easy to get out of—than we like to admit. Public opinion makes up what we call common sense morality. It rep-

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resents approved sentiment; and public opinion favors church-going as the outward evidence of a leaning toward the higher and more spiritual things of life and time. "The best people," that is, those who represent the soundest and most reputable part of the community, go to church. We show ourselves in good company when we join them. True, the church often masks sinners and hypocrites—for a time at least. But that is not the church's fault. None of us can say in what moment we may prove false to everything we truly honor and respect. Let us judge the backsliders leniently, nor let their bad example bring that which is good in itself into disrepute.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. When a pipe from a lavatory basin or bath becomes clogged with soap and soda, mix and force down the pipe. Leave for half an hour or more, then pour down a kettle of boiling water and flush afterward with plenty of warm water. And Ananias stood forth. This is said to have been so that some modern liars could stand first, second and third.—Exchange.