

MERLE PARRISH IS HEARD FROM ON HIS BUSINESS TRIP TO PERSIA

Mr. Merle Parrish, cousin of Mr. Bert Parrish, of J. Sutcliffe and Sons, who sailed some time ago for Persia, has forwarded the following letter, which appeared in the Fenelon Falls Gazette:

We left Montreal this morning at four thirty and are now at Quebec, and will leave here sharp at seven o'clock. I am writing now as the last mail I will get to you will be from Father Point.

I have just come aboard after having a really enjoyable visit in Quebec. We got a taxi and drove all around the city. I saw Montcalm's residence of 216 years ago, also the Plains of Abraham where Wolfe and Montcalm fell. It surely is a very interesting city. It requires time to really enjoy the scenery. The fort and all the military fixtures look grand. Little did I think, when going to school that I would ever have the chance to visit these memorable places, or really see the "key to Canada," as the British possession was termed. History is interesting after all but I know it is hard to realize it as a school boy. I would like to have had the boy with me on that trip. They would have taken hold of Canadian history with a new zeal.

The ship is a dandy and we have one quarter and a good bunch of fellows. We will likely reach Glasgow a week from tomorrow. There are about 250 volunteers on now.

York Hotel, Waterloo Rd., London.

Well, we got to London all fine and dandy, and I'm enjoying London very much. We leave here on the P. & O. line for Persia on the steamer Caledonia.

England is somewhat as I expected, as to servants and all that sort of thing. Servants and waiters around the hotel all meet Canadians with a glad eye, but they are not allowed to make free with real Englishmen at all. Had some plum pudding all right, and it would nearly make you drunk.

Say, do you know if the young lads were here they would go crazy laughing at the bloody sights. A railroad engine is about the size of a fanning mill, but goes like the very wind. That engine on the Haliburton line would make three of these here. I am going out driving tomorrow and will see London right and will tell you of the sights when I write again. Talk about hedges and truck farming, this is the place. Half the men lead their horses yet while working them. It looks funny. I saw a big oil painting of King John signing the magna charta, and also got about fifty dollars in gold out of the old Bank of England, the foundation of bankers in the British Empire. My address will be Mohammarah, Persia, via Bombay and Persian Gulf, care of Stick Scott Co.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT FENELON FALLS FOUR BUSINESS HOUSES DESTROYED

FENELON SOLDIERS SAY FAREWELL

Gazette: Citizens of Fenelon Falls felt a sense of safety this week-end when some members of our second contingent were here to say good-bye to near friends and relatives. Messrs. A. Watters, Alex. Northey and Jack Gordon were here in khaki and ready for action. Mr. Gordon is a seasoned "Tommy," and has several service badges to show for his previous work, having served in South Africa and the Sudan. We may say that our own Alex. looks particularly likely to "deliver the goods." Cleanly and strongly built, he will give a good account of himself. Mr. Watters has been connected with the staff of the Bank of British North America for some time past, and we look for a creditable showing from him. Mr. Vernon Lord, of the Engineers, is expected home this week to say good-bye to his folks at the manse.

GET THEIR CHEQUES A WEEK EARLIER

Ottawa, Dec. 11—In order to further the celebration of Christmas, as usual, an order-in-council has been passed by the Government to the effect that all members of the outside civil service be paid on the 22nd instead of the 31st of this month. This means that they will have their monthly cheques available in time for Christmas week. The inside service will, as usual, be paid on the 15th.

OFFICERS WILL RETAIN THEIR RANK

Ottawa, Dec. 9—That all Canadian officers who go to the front and are thus "seconded" as regards commands in the units to which they formerly belonged will retain their rank and resume it over the heads of any junior officers who may have been promoted in their absence, was made clear in a statement made by General Sam Hughes today.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Minister of Militia at a meeting of the Cavalry Association, which he attended today. As a result, General Hughes is making it clear that officers who go to the front will be given brevet rank so as to retain their seniority over any officers junior to them who may be promoted at home during their absence.

DRAWING WATER FOR THEIR STOCK

Reports are coming in of the scarcity of water in this district. Many wells are dry, while farmers are said to be hauling water some distance for their stock. Conditions will not improve unless a rainy period sets in. The creeks are all dry and the river was never so low as it is at present.

OVER \$50,000 IN THREE DAYS

Peterboro, Dec. 11—The missionary fund of Hon. W. T. White, Rev. Father Minahan and Col. W. N. Ponton, to Peterboro on Tuesday night to inaugurate the \$50,000 Patriotic Fund campaign, has borne fruit. Without difficulty the fifty thousand was reached and substantially surpassed in three days, ending this evening. The organized and well directed effort preserved Peterboro's reputation for liberality.

STORES BURNED

J. J. Nevison's harness shop.
F. C. Chambers' planing mill.
W. T. Robson's implement works.
F. C. Taylor's hardware store.

LOSSES SUSTAINED

The stocks in the four stores were practically a total loss. Mr. F. C. Taylor is the heaviest loser.

The business section of Fenelon Falls narrowly escaped destruction last night when the fire spread out four business houses with practically their entire stock. It was a night of suspense and anxiety for the villagers, as it was feared many times that the pretty little village would suffer a blow from which it might not recover.

The fire was discovered about 10.30 o'clock in rear of Taylor's hardware store. It spread with lightning like rapidity, and in a short space of time the structure (which was frame, with galvanized sheeting) was a fiery cauldron. Mr. Taylor or no one else was able to enter the building after the fire started.

The clang of the fire bell aroused the citizens, who rushed out on the streets to the scene of the conflagration, many of them fighting like Trojans to save the village from destruction. Unfortunately, however, some twenty minutes' delay was experienced in getting the fire pump near Brandon's mill in working order. Owing to the presence of anchor ice, the flume supplying water for the pump was empty and the stop logs had to be taken out at the dam in order to again fill it. When the pressure was on, however, good work was done. It was impossible to save Taylor's store, as when the water was ready the building was doomed.

The fire spread to the adjoining business houses of W. T. Robson, F. C. Chambers and J. J. Nevison's and in spite of the brave efforts of the fire fighters these structures with nearly all the contents were totally destroyed. Mr. Robson was able to get a few implements and vehicles out, but the balance of his stock went up in smoke. Mr. Nevison saved some of the contents of his harness shop, and Mr. Chambers rescued some material from his planing mill, but both have suffered heavily.

The heat from the burning buildings was intense, driving the brave fighters back many times. Great difficulty was experienced in saving Northey's brick block, and the fire fighters are deserving of every praise for the splendid work accomplished. This block was only four or five feet away from the fire zone, and on several occasions those battling with the flames almost gave up in despair. The Jordan block, too (brick) had a narrow escape. The Bank of British North America is in this block and the contents, as well as those of other apartments, were all removed to a place of safety.

The citizens battled with the flames until midnight, when they were finally subdued, but not before they had cut a wide swath in the business section of the village. The night was a calm one, but had the high wind of Tuesday night prevailed, the entire village would undoubtedly have been destroyed.

The Post called up Fenelon Falls today, with a view to ascertaining the amount of insurance carried by the firms, but was unable to get the information desired. It is understood, however, that all carried a small insurance, which will not nearly cover the heavy loss sustained.

The burned structures were of frame. Messrs. Robson's and Taylor's being sheeted with galvanized iron.

The property belonged to Mr. G. A. Jordan, of Lindsay, who also owns the store adjoining the burned area occupied by J. B. Kay.

MARRIAGES

MAGHE—HANDLEY—At the home of the bride's parents, Mount Pleasant, on Wednesday, Dec. 2, by the Rev. J. R. Butler, Beatrice Maud Handley, of Cavan Township, to James Magee, of Omemee.

HANNA—McGEE—By Rev. D. Balfour at the residence of the bride's father, Janetville station, on Dec. 9th, Mr. Albert Edward Hanna to Ethel May, daughter of Mr. Magee, all of Manvers.

COBOURG MAN IN GERMAN PRISON

News has reached Cobourg in a mysterious manner of the imprisonment in Berlin by the Germans of Davidson Ketchum, the twenty-year-old son of the late Judge Ketchum, of Cobourg, and for a time assistant organist of St. Andrew's Anglican church, Toronto. The boy, whose mother is at present with her brother, Mr. Farrar Davidson, of Toronto, was studying music in Berlin under the famous Russian, Dr. Lhevinne, when war broke out, and was at once confined in solitary confinement in a cell, having only a tiny window high up in the wall. On his way to this prison he and other British companions narrowly escaped being lynched by the crowd. After spending some time in the solitary cell, he was transferred to a detention camp where he, with five Englishmen, are housed in a shed with insufficient food.

All these prisoners, according to the information received, are suffering greatly from cold and hunger. The relatives of Mr. Ketchum are concerned because he is not physically strong, and cannot endure this confinement for long. The only German who has tried to help him in any way is the boarding house keeper of young Ketchum, who has contrived at odd times to get food to him. His only offence was being a Canadian citizen. The letter telling of this was read recently at a meeting of a Red Cross Society in Toronto, and much comment was made on the fact that while an English student was imprisoned in Berlin, German teachers in Canada were pensioned.

"They have just placed him in a detention camp, similar to those in England or Canada," said Dr. Vogt. "Of course we cannot say if they are as well cared for or not, but at the opening of the war all young men of a certain age were interned immediately."

FRESH AIR NOT COUGH MEDICINE

Washington, Dec. 11—"To cure a cold take a bottle of cough medicine, set it out on a table in the patient's room, open all the windows, and throw the bottle through one of them."

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, former Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, is the author of this prescription which he made public for the first time in a speech here.

"Three-quarters of the children who die are killed by love," said the health expert, in condemning "coddling." Love is the greatest assassin. If a great holocaust should burn down every home we would get rid of tuberculosis. If farmers would burn all barns there would be no tuberculosis among cows. Fresh air, not cough medicine, is needed for cures.

PECULIAR DEATH FROM BLOOD POISONING

On Tuesday of last week Walter McGregor, a well known citizen of Whitby township, died very suddenly. A week before his death he was around and in his usual health. On Friday afternoon he felt a slight trouble in the thumb of his left hand, and that night suffered much pain in the wrist. It was seen that blood poisoning had developed, although no cut or scratch could be located as to the cause. Mr. McGregor's condition became critical, and although he seemed to rally about Wednesday, he sank on Thursday and passed away about midnight.

HOLLINGSWORTH—At 88 William-st., Lindsay, December 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Hollingsworth, a daughter.

SAD DROWNING AT HALIBURTON VICTIM WAS WARDEN OF COUNTY

(Special to The Post.)

Haliburton, Dec. 11—A message was received here this evening that John Maxwell, one of the county's best known residents, was drowned in Kocking Lake.

Mr. Maxwell, who had a contract with the Wood Products Co., of Donald, left his camp for Donald on Dec. 9th, and not returning, a search

party started out to look for him. They found his upturned canoe. The late Mr. Maxwell's sad death has cast a gloom over the whole district. He was reeve of the township and Warden of the County and leaves a family of twelve children. The body was found on Friday, and the funeral will take place on Sunday.

WHITBY MURDER STILL A MYSTERY LATEST THEORY THAT OF JEALOUSY

Whitby, Dec. 13—Provincial Inspector William Greer and Superintendent Tiedale of the Investigating Department of the Grand Trunk Railway at Montreal, after a thirty-six hours' investigation, declared today that they had not yet obtained any trace of the slayer of William Stone, the G.T.R. agent and despatcher, at Whitby Junction, who was murdered at his post of duty early Friday morning.

The authorities are hopeful of apprehending the murderer before the next sitting of the Coroner's jury. Did some disappointed lover, jealous of Stone, who was an attractive and agreeable fellow, commit the deed?

It was learned from a reliable source tonight that this is one theory to which the authorities are giving some attention. The statements of those already examined by Inspector Greer and his co-workers are so positively corroborative along certain lines as to indicate that the slayer of Stone is in Whitby or in hiding in the neighborhood.

ROBBERY THEORY DISCARDED. The police have discarded the theory that robbery was the motive. A gold watch which was supposed to have been taken by the murderer after the shooting had been found in Stone's bedroom at his home, a few blocks distant from the scene of the tragedy.

This revelation was quite in keeping with other features of the case which the police had already inquired into, and which they decided needed no further probing. In this connection the report of the G.T.R. officials showed that the ticket case, the cash drawer, and a glass case for public contributions to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, which contained a few dollars in nickels and dimes, had not been rifled or disturbed.

POSSIBLY JEALOUSY THE MOTIVE. "I can hardly imagine anything more strange than the situation con-

fronting the authorities in this case," declared Inspector Greer when pressed for a statement. "But the investigation so far as it is completed appears to lead up to the question—Was the slayer a jilted lover? At present this appears to be the only phase of the case which remains to be cleared up."

The only new evidence obtained in this connection is based upon the statements of two friends, chums of the victim.

STONE CONTEMPLATED MARRIAGE.

Harry Birmingham, a plumber, told the inspector that Stone had informed him that he was contemplating marrying a young woman living on a farm near Port Huron. Birmingham had understood that Stone had been keeping company with her for two or three years.

"Did he mention when the marriage was to take place?" asked the inspector.

"He told me that he was desirous of bettering his position financially before abandoning single life," replied Birmingham. "In fact, he added that it might be two years before the marriage took place."

James Robinson, a drug clerk, who was a close friend of Stone, stated to the inspector that on one occasion he had jokingly referred to a young woman with whom Stone had been keeping company.

"Don't let that bother you," was the retort of Stone. Apart from this one occasion, Robinson, who says he frequently called on Stone at the station on a friendly visit, never heard him make any references, directly or indirectly, with respect to his social affairs.

SHOT FIRED FROM WAITING ROOM

After interviewing several citizens yesterday, Inspector Greer made a methodical examination of the victim's clothing with a double magnifying glass with a view to getting an idea of the distance from which the

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TRADE CONFINED TO CHRISTMAS GOODS

"Trade is now pretty well confined to Christmas goods, but in many centres this is even not overly brisk," says the Canadian Grocer this week. "The reason is that the retail trade is not buying in the usual quantities this year, lest it should be caught with unseasonable goods when the holidays are over. This leads one to believe that during Christmas week there will be many orders come in from retailers who bought sparingly, and who now find it necessary to replenish their stocks. This course shows the carefulness that is pervading the trade and it means that when the temporary depression has passed these men will be in a good solid position to take advantage of the more hopeful future."

PA TO THE RESCUE

Small Boy (in awed tones)—"Pa, do you know, I looked into the parlor now and what do you think I saw?"
Father—"Can't guess, no boy."
Small Boy—"Why, Sister Polly was sitting on the piano stool and her young man was kneeling in front of her holding her hands like glue."
Father—"Ah, sensible young fellow, that. He was holding her hands to prevent her playing the piano."

MOTHER FOUND HER DAUGHTER

The woman residing in Janetville, who complained a few days ago to Chief Short regarding the disappearance of her thirteen-year-old daughter, has succeeded in finding her at a house near St. Christopher, a small station between Janetville and Nestleton. The girl was taken there by a Lindsay young man.

INJURIES RECEIVED RESULTED IN DEATH

Mr. Geo. Magill, a young man of 34 years, living at Janetville, was buried on Sunday. He got a hurt about a year ago on the guard of his arm by his horses running away. A lump formed, and he was treated by doctors here, but early in September went to Toronto hospital, where they took the arm off up in the shoulder, but it was of no use, as it had turned to cancer. He was a fine young man beloved by all who knew him. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Manvers, showing the esteem in which he was held. He was laid to rest in the Janetville cemetery.



MAIN STREET, FENELON FALLS, WHICH NARROWLY ESCAPED DESTRUCTION LAST NIGHT.