

THE EMPTY STOCKINGS.

The firelight flickers soft across the floor. And plays among the shadows here and there. As though it sought the lad who comes no more, To let it lay its gold upon his hair.

CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

One again the holy, mysterious and joyous season of Christmas is at hand, and every heart, we trust, is tenderly responsive to its sweet influence.

is getting richer, immensely richer, every day. Is the balance of trade which some economists (so-called) state is against her, really her profit?

We who are residents of this grand County of Victoria—which has shared so bountifully in the prosperity that has blessed all parts of the Dominion of late years—have good cause to be deeply thankful to God.

THE EMPIRE'S TRADE.

It is interesting, in view of the loud talking done by our neighbors to the south and others, about themselves and generally to the detriment of our mother country, to take a glance at the official figures concerning the trade statistics of the world.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Kingston News Printing Company, limited, recently formed out of the old News company, has disposed of its interests to Mr. Newton publisher of the Whistler.

The Mail and Empire is to be commended for the views expressed as follows: "It is stated by one of the organs that a newly-appointed license inspector attended a Conservative Association meeting at Listowel, and took part in politics.

The fight for the revivification of Ops between Mr. Jackson, the present incumbent, and Mr. Jas. H. Hopkins, is taking on strenuous characteristics.

The regular monthly meeting of the local branch of the Woman's Institute was held in the Y.M.C.A. parlour on Friday afternoon, with a fair representation of ladies.

The opening of the Canadian Ice circuit, which comprises Port Perry, Lindsay, Peterboro, Port Hope, Cobourg, Belleville, Napanee, Picton and Kingston, will take place on Jan. 9 and 10 at Port Perry.

OPS COUNCIL LEGISLATORS.

CLOSING OF A BY-ROAD AROUSES A LOT OF INTEREST.

More Wire Fence Bonuses—Other Matters of Interest to Ops Ratepayers.

The final meeting of Ops Council was held on Friday, 15th inst. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of last regular meeting the members produced their personal accounts for the year, and after comparing and examining the same they were, with some other accounts passed, and on motion of Messrs. Hickson and Sluggert, paid, so as to be printed in the treasurer's financial statement.

COMMUNICATIONS.

A letter from the Hon. Minister of Crown Lands and Mines, confirming Mr. Dickson's survey of roadway near Resboro and ordering the payment of his account. A letter from Mrs. H. Hopkins, resigning the office of pathmaster of Beat No. 21, and that of bondsman for the collector.

ELECTION BY-LAW.

The by-law providing for the nomination and election of a Council for 1907 was then passed. Mr. Alex. Simons asked pay for stones taken by pathmasters or road laborers without permission, and was referred to Mr. Beat for settlement of a claim for three dollars for the same.

Mr. B. O'Connell was on motion of Messrs. Sluggert and Hickson allowed a bonus for 60 rods of wire fence, to be built next spring, and John O'Rielly, lot 2, con. 1, was allowed a bonus for 30 rods of wire fence, provided both remove their old fences this winter and build wire fences according to by-law.

On motion of Messrs. Roche and Hickson, commissioners were permitted to apply some of their road appropriations to the payment of wire fence accounts, if necessary.

At the request of Mr. Mahood the time for beginning work on Municipal Drain No. 3 was extended according to the drainage act. S. J. Pope, M.P.P. introduced the Council on his assessment and taxes, saying he was absent at time of Court of Revision or he would have appealed against his assessment, which was much higher than that of his neighbors, and he also found by his tax bill that he and his tenant, Mr. Woodruff were each taxed for the half acre occupied by his lot.

ROAD CLOSING.

During the afternoon session the Council room was crowded with ratepayers interested in the Omeo and Logie roads, which were to be closed. Mr. P. D. Moore appeared on behalf of those opposed to the closing of Omeo road on 8th and 9th cons. and said the Council should be inquiring into a few instances of the large number opposed to the by-law. He thought the matter should be left to the votes of those interested for and against, in the vicinity of the road. The Council said they deemed it to the best interest of the township that all by-roads be closed.

Messrs. D. H. Cornell, Dundas, and Crown, urged that the road be maintained. Mr. Cay said he was in favor of closing by-roads, and that the Council should see that those benefited pay all expenses incurred. The Reeve said that he personally had taken no active part in the matter, his desire, and that of the Council, was to do what was best for the township as a whole. Statute labor had been diverted from the road for past years with a view of closing it. The Council were not acting for the whole township. They intended to deal fairly with all persons directly interested in the road and he assured those present that the costs so far incurred had been paid by Messrs. Roche and Fox. Mr. Stewart, solicitor, said the Council had power to act as they deemed best for the township, that if they desired a vote of the ratepayers on the matter, the vote should be general and not sectional, as Mr. Moore suggested. The by-law received the usual readings and was passed, signed and sealed.

LOGIE BY-ROAD.

Mr. G. H. Hopkins addressed the Council on behalf of Messrs. Haugh, James and Thos. Meagher, who had been paid by Messrs. Roche and Fox. The Council could not close the road in question without considering the rights of those owning park lots adjoining it who might be at a loss if it were closed. Mr. Thos. Meagher addressed the Council on behalf of his father and himself, saying they had thoughtlessly signed a petition to close it, at the urgent request of their neighbor, Mr. Meagher, who wanted a better frontage, but after due consideration they saw that it would injure their property very much if it were closed and limit their frontage.

After discussing in length for some time the following motion was made: Moved by Mr. Sluggert, seconded by Mr. Beat, that further consideration of the Logie road by-law be postponed till regular meeting of Council.—Carried. Mr. Roche moved that Mr. H. Hopkins' resignation be accepted, and that Walter Arksey be accepted as bondsman in his place.—Carried.

Mr. Wm. B. Hill wished to have the agreement between him and the Council settled and papers signed; he had not agreed with the terms of the by-law regarding the water course.

Mr. Hopkins explained the matter fully and said so long as Fee gave his bond of indemnity to the Council it mattered not about the water course. Mr. Fee said he would give it and the by-law was amended in so far as the watercourse is concerned.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

Ops Board of Health presented

their yearly report and also that of Dr. Gillespie, M.H.O., which shows but one case of contagious disease occurring in Ops for the year now closing. The reports were filed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. P. Kennedy, treasurer, handed in his annual statement which was accepted on motion, and at once sent to the printers.

Moved by Mr. Hickson, seconded by Mr. Sluggert, that the decision of the Council, that the lands of Crown Lands near Resboro be filed, and that Mr. Dickson be paid.—Carried.

COLLECTOR'S ROLL.

Mr. Marshall, collector, presented his roll, saying there was about \$500 still out, promised, though not paid. The Council, rather than return the same against the lands of individuals, extended the time a few days to enforce payment if necessary and instructed the collector to return his roll to the treasurer with a detailed statement of status labor and other abatements, and of any lands liable to be returned to the County Treasurer.

SHOT THREE BEARS.

Campbellford Hunter Has Rather Exciting Experience.

A close range encounter with five bears—Mr. and Mrs. Bruin and three husky cubs—was the rather exciting experience of Mr. John McGinn, of Campbellford, quite recently, while he was hunting a few miles back of Havelock. Out of the quintet, he shot three and wounded one.

McGinn is an old hunter—65 years old—but he says that in all his varied and long experience he had no such a streak of luck as this.

As McGinn was running through the woods his keen vision perceived two young bears halfway up a tree. Warily he circled around until he had a favorable opportunity to take a shot. Just as he was about to pour a bit of lead into one of the cubs, three other bears suddenly loomed up big in front of him. They seemed to have guessed what his action boded for their fellows.

McGinn turned his attention to the more immediate danger of the three bears on the ground. He had only eight bullets in his rifle. With one well directed shot he killed mother bear. This had the effect of checking for an instant the advance of brain and his cub. McGinn took another shot and aimed at the daddy bear. He didn't hit the brute in a vital spot, however, and the two turned and fled to the bushes. The hunter didn't follow. The two cubs were coming down the tree.

MERRY WEDDING BELLS.

Wylie-Gilmon.

The marriage took place Dec. 18th of Mr. Hugh Wylie and Miss Elizabeth Gilmon, a popular Uphill couple, the ceremony being performed by Rev. G. B. Welch, B. A., pastor of the Baptist church. Only a few relatives of the bride were present. The newly-married couple left for a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, and other points.

WELSH-HARDING.

Monday evening, Dec. 18th, 1906, a very pretty wedding took place at the residence of Mr. David Ritchie, Blind River, in the presence of a few intimate friends, when Maud Elizabeth Welch, of Kinnmount, and Thomas Harding, also of Kinnmount, was united in the solemn bonds of matrimony by the Rev. T. W. Goodwill. Miss Olive Ritchie acted as bridesmaid and Mr. R. E. Macrimmon, of Sault Ste Marie, ve ably supported the groom. After the ceremony was performed a very tasty supper was served by Mrs. Ritchie. Congratulations.

Railroad Enterprise.

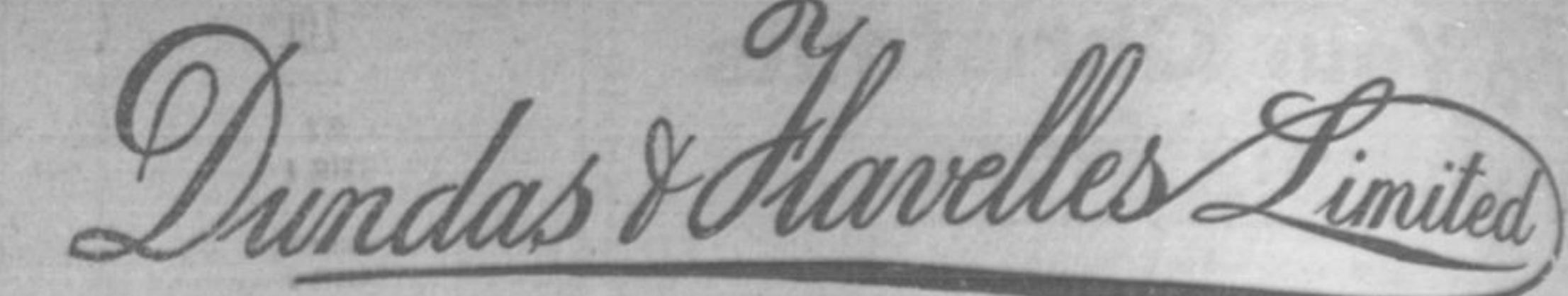
Railroad advertising, which at one time was limited to the publication of time tables and other out-dated data, has kept pace with the advance in other branches of the art in recent years. A western road is now offering "Bags of Oranges Free through the medium of Pacific coast newspapers. Each application is given a little bag of a particular brand of oranges, which is also being widely advertised, and advised how to reach the groves where the fruit is grown. The benefit of the trade is thus shared by the railroad, the towns through which it passes and the orange growers. Railroad advertising has been and will continue to be a potent factor in the building up of the west.

OAKWOOD.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) The Presbyterian Sunday school hold their annual Christmas tree and entertainment on Monday night, Dec 25th. They purpose having another choice cantata entitled, "A Christmas Merry-go-Round," and it promises to be the best yet.

The directors of the Public Library held a meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12th, for the purpose of defining the library and the proposition submitted by Mr. Cummings was accepted. It is proposed to continue the reading room, and the Board secured the whole of Mr. Cummings' office for the purpose. This will make a first class spot, being only two doors from the Public Library, and as the membership is only fifty cents a year a large increase in membership is looked for. The payment of the fee entitles the members to take out three books at a time, and gives all the privileges of the reading room. The Methodist Sunday school hold their Christmas entertainment on Saturday evening, Dec. 23rd. A choice programme is being prepared. Mr. Hill, our popular and capable, is doing a rushing business in cutters these days.

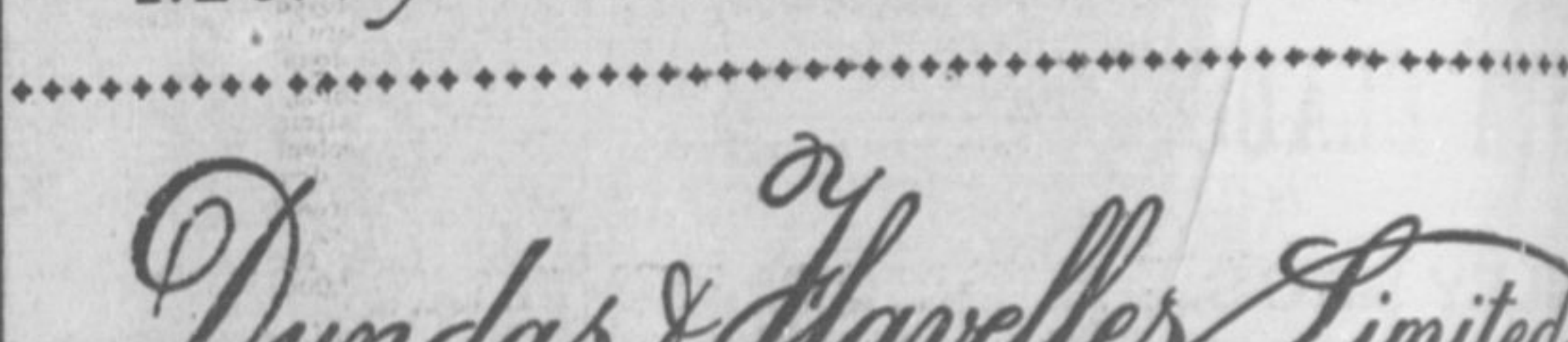
The basket social held at the house of Mr. Lytle a couple of weeks ago was a great success, the receipts being over \$75.00. Everybody seemed to enjoy the evening.



DIRECT IMPORTERS. ESTABLISHED 1860.

Store Closed Christmas Day.

THIS STORE will be closed all day MONDAY, December Twenty-fifth, and we take this opportunity of wishing all our friends A Merry, Merry Christmas.



MARIPOSA COUNCIL DOINGS.

MUCH BUSINESS DEALT WITH—RATEPAYERS ASK FOR REBATES.

Communications Road and Accounts dealt with by Councilors.

Mariposa Council met on Dec. 15, the members being all present and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following communications were read: From W. E. Yarnold, fully endorsing the present location of the proposed outlet for the McArthur drain on Angus McCrimmon's farm.

From Mrs. H. G. Whiteside, practically accepting the terms for the lease of a gravel pit as arranged in January, 1904.

From C. E. Weeks, solicitor for John Dixon, regarding the removal of his fence from off the road allowance.

The Reeve filed a statement to the effect that there is still due Mr. Fred Dames the sum of fifty dollars on the construction of an abutment, lot 18, con. 7, if the work proves satisfactory when completed.

Mr. Swain filed a statement, showing a balance of \$12 still due Mr. Fred Dames on the completion of the abutment at lot 20, con. 6.

Mr. Watson presented a report re the adjustment of money spent on the town line of Reach and Mariposa, which it is shown that the expenditures have been about equal.

The Reeve presented a report of the expenditure of money and stated labor on the boundary line of Brock and Mariposa, which shows a balance of \$15.90 in favor of Mariposa.

Several persons desired rebates on taxes but the Council decided they had no control of the assessment, and the rolls were confirmed by the Court of Revision in June.

Messrs. W. H. McCrimmon and W. Melnis occupied some time discussing the question as to the outlet of the McArthur drain.

The treasurer, after an exceedingly hard day, presented the financial statement for the year, and made the remark that he would not work as hard every day for one year for one million dollars.

Mr. John Martin was on hand with his roll cleaned up in good shape. Mr. Fowler was unable to complete his roll on account of the smallpox outbreak, as some four or five families are still under quarantine.

HARTLEY.

(Special to The Post.) The congregation of Hartley Baptist church will hold their annual anniversary on Wednesday, Dec. 27th, and a special time is looked for. The service will be from 5.30 until 8 o'clock, and will be a fine program of entertainment will be given by local talent, with the assistance of Mrs. C. Bellegem, Peterboro's favorite soloist. Interesting addresses will be delivered by Rev. W. G. Clark, St. Little Britain, J. A. Ferguson, Resboro, and A. J. Farrell, Coburg, which promises to be good. Admission to tea and entertainment, 25c. Children 15c. Come on, we all, come great and small, on Dec. 27th.

Moved by Messrs. McPhaden and Swain, that the report of the commissioners, Messrs. James Taylor and Sardinia Hurdie, in reference to the expenditure of money and status labor on the boundary line of Brock and Mariposa, showing a balance of \$15.90 in favor of Mariposa, be received and adopted.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. Watson and McPhaden, that the report of the commissioners from Brock and Mariposa, as to the adjustment of the expenditure on the boundary of Brock and Brock be received and adopted, and that a by-law be prepared in relation to the divalure at the road at Saugear.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. McPhaden and Swain, that the collection of taxes for the second Monday in January '06, on account of the smallpox outbreak, preventing the collector from completing his roll, and that Mr. Henry Fowler, Jr., be retained as collector for that purpose.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. McPhaden and Swain, that by-law No. 586, appoint deputy returning officers and to provide polling places for the municipal elections to be held Monday, the first day of January, 1906, be received and read a first time.—Carried.

By-law was read the usual number of times, signed and sealed. Moved by Messrs. Watson and Swain, that the report of the engineer, W. E. Yarnold, for cleaning out and maintaining the Peter Campbell drain, be received and adopted, and that a by-law be prepared in accordance with said report.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. Swain and Watson, that the treasurer's financial statement of the receipts and expenditures, the assets and liabilities of the Township of Mariposa, to the 15th day of Dec., 1905, be received as read, and that the clerk get 250 copies printed for distribution.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. Knight and Watson, that the Reeve be authorized to sign an agreement for the construction and maintenance of a drain across the road allowance between lots 15 and 16, con. 4, and also across lots 16 and 17 in con. 4, whereby the Council agree to grant the sum of thirty-five dollars to assist in constructing 45 rods of said drain across John Davidson's farm, and also the sum of twenty-five dollars to assist in building the drain across the road allowance and to build a silt basin on the east side of said road, and also to maintain the silt basin and that part of the drain on the road allowance.—Carried.

Accounts to the amount of \$840 were ordered to be paid, these accounts will appear in the treasurer's financial statement in the course of a few days.

The Council then adjourned sine die. J. B. WELDON, Clerk.

There's a Lesson in This.

It may interest our readers to learn that the recent conviction of Jos. Cooper, of Cambraj, for an offence against the License Act was not secured by an inspector, but the License Department at Toronto, having learned of the laxly evidenced, sent down a special detective, who secured the evidence and laid the charge.

SALE REGISTER.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23rd. — By Elias Bows, auctioneer, on the market, sale of three young horses, a driving mare and good second-hand cutter, the property of W. H. Clendenen. Sale commences at 2 o'clock sharp.—W.

PLEASANT POINT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) The ladies' aid of the Methodist church here gave a concert on the 6th, which was a great success. H. Cameron, of Toronto, acted as soloist. The Lifford drama club gave an extra good play, called "That Rascal Pat." Proceeds \$860.

Miss E. Staples and Mr. W. Thompson were the guests of Mrs. W. H. Bradley, of Bethany, on Dec. 18th.

Miss E. Hannah has returned after visiting friends at Brookville, Miss Cox, of Cavanville, was teaching here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Staples were visiting at Cavanville this week.

OMENGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) The foundation for Xmas shopping is fine as the roads were opened in better state.

Large quantities of stock sold here by Richards and Moore brought good prices.

We have for market for some time, coming to the fore, is proving the life of the post. Look out for the concert on Jan. 1st.

Rev. J. Garbutt conducted the Methodist church on Sunday last and was warmly received. His sermon was thoughtful and powerful, followed on Monday evening by a lecture on the life of John Bunyan during a very pleasant trip across the coast.

The Township Council passed a very satisfactory wind-up meeting on Dec. 15th.

We are in great need of a new Council for the village. This is the prevailing opinion, nothing doing by the public money saving. Nominations on Friday, Dec. 22nd, and have no more Council members appointed by acclamation. Some of our Council were present last Sabbath to hear the Rev. J. H. Whitely speak on local option, and the short course they took at the last sitting.