The Flesherton Advance.

Vol. 54; No. 29 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1934 W. H. Thurston & Son, Proprietors

ROMANCE AND SYMBOL OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

There is an existing manuscript which declares that the Christmas tree was known, perhaps popular, in Etrasbourg, Germany, as early as 1604. And because people like to ascribe beautiful things to their heroes, the Germans have placed the first tree in the house of Martin Luther, but the Weihnachtsbaum (tree of the night of consecration) must be older than Luther. There is a charming folk tale that probably goes back to those indefinite times when fairy stories were born.

"A forester heard a knock at the door of his hut, and, opening it, saw a ragged child. He took the child in and gave him food, and his son, Hans, gave up his bed to the stranger. In the morning the child took leave, and as he went he said: 'You have been kind to me, and I will return your kindness.' So saying, he broke a branch from a fir and planted it in the ground; and it grew into a beautiful tree. 'Each year,' said the stranger, 'this tree shall bear gifts in memory of one to whom you gave food and shelter.' It was the Christ-Child."

In passing the theme, John Macy, the distinguished writer, takes us back an indefinite time to the early years of Christianity in the north. We come to a time in the vague dark ages when Christianity was pushing further and further north and converting the Germanic and Scandinavian heathen from their old gods And we come to a significant episode Winfred, a German missionary, undertook to convert the Druids of Norway. The Druids worshipped the oak and the mistletoe. (Is that perchance in some dire way the origin of our Christmas mistletoe?) Winfred told them that the oak is a perishable thing and the true God is everlasting. To show them he took an axe and began to cut down the sacred oak. As the chips flew, a great wind swept through the woods and the oak fell with a groan, breaking into four pieces. And, behold, just where the oak had stood, was a beautiful painted fir. "That," said the missionary, "Shall henceforth be your tree. It is evergreen and that signifies the everlasting!" The top of the fallen oak and also the idols of wood which were burned in token of submission to Christ, are the origin of the yule log in England and Scotland.

The use of the evergreen as the Christmas tree is no doubt due to the obvious fact that it is alive in winter when other trees are lifeless; also, there is a symbol in the shape of the fir and spruce. The deciduous trees oak and elm, spread at the top. The evergreen rises to a point, aspiring like a church steeple.

"Now we come a little closer to the ultimate roots of our little tree with its lights and trinkets. It is here in our modern house because our ancestors were tree-worshippers. Our pretty Christmas tree, though it does not know it, is a converted heathen. All the old peoples worshipped trees in one way or another; and some of us who do not consider ourselves heathen are tree-worshippers, sometimes forming an almost passionate attachment for a single fine specimen. The old sentimental verse, "Woodman, spare that tree," strikes a note of genuine emotion. Our pagan forebears worshipped the tree with religious fervor, and endowed it with supernatural powers. The Egyptians had their sacred palm with its elaborate cult, which was imported by the Romans and made part of the Saturnalia, a sort of harvest home festival which came, remember, in the middle of December. As there were no palms in Italy, the Romans substituted the fir. Similar tree traditions existed among other peoples, and Christianity came into a world of almost universal tree-worship and brought its own familiar tree images. There are countless tree metaphors. Christ Himself is the Tree of Life; the cross is repeatedly called a tree. Christianity also brought from its Jewish parents a tradition of a lighted tree, for the seven-branched candlestick is a tree in conventionalized form."

Our Christmas tree can be followed much as we know it back into the legends of Germany, where it is lost in shadows. We can start with the Bible and trace the course of the Christian idea down to the time when Christianity with its rich tree symbolism met heathenism and paganism and conquered and absorbed them. Between the two, is a gap which we can bridge only with imagination Without imagination we miss the meaning of Christmas, and everything else. Certainly it is true to the inner spirits of truth to believe that our little tree which delights the children is a gift from the other child and that it is the sign and symbol of the Tree of Life.

Mrs. Carl Atkinson Died Early Monday

Death came silently to Mrs. Carl Atkinson of Victoria Corners early Monday morning after an extended illness of two years suffering, with the past ten months of which she has been bedfast. She bore her suffering with great fortitude and never gave up hope for a complete recovery. Everything that loving hands could do was done in an effort to bring her back to health, but to no avail. She had a bright cheery disposition that suffering could not dim and her passing has been regretted by a wide circle of friends who extend their sympathy to the sorrowing husband and little family.

The late Mrs. Atkinson was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Best of Victoria Corners and was born 41 years ago on the 26th of December. She was married 15 years ago to Mr. Carl Atkinson of Rock Mills and leaves to mourn the loss of a devoted mother, three children, Alma aged 8 Eldon aged 2 and Muriel aged one, besides her sorrowing husband and aged parents.

The funeral takes place this Wednesday afternoon, when service will be held in Inistioge United church at 2 p.m. with interment in Flesherton cemetery.

Birth Rate Falling

One might be led to conclude that the department of statistics at Ottawa had given out its birth rate figures at this time because the Dionne quintuplets had created a false impression that the birth rate in Canada is rising. On the contrary it is falling and in the last five years the drop has been considerable. In 1921, which isn't so long ago, Canada's birthrate was 29.4 which was comparatively high. The rate began dropping with the depression, and has been dropping ever since. Last year it had fallen to 20.94. With Quebec left out, the 1933 rate was 18.9, and even Quebec itself, traditionally prolific, is showing a decline. And its the same nearly everywhere. During recent years the birthrate of England and Wales has fallen from 22.3 to 14.4 per thousand population; the rate of Germany from 25.1 to 14.7. the rate in the registration area of the United States from 24.3 to 16.4. Even in Italy, where Mussolini has been crusading for bigger families, there has been a drop in the birthrate from 30.3 in 1921 to 23.7 in 1933. The French rate is now 16.3.

A HARSH DISMISSAL

The dismissal of John Forgie as governor of the gaol of the county of Simcoe was a harsh proceeding. Mr. Forgie was appointed to this position one year ago after he had disposed of his farm equipment and rented his farm in Sunnidale township. As to the integrity of the man there can be no question and as to his qualifications for the position there have never been any complaints. Before taking up the duties of gaoler, he and his wife who became matron of the gaol took a course of instruction at the Don gaol in Toronto and Mr. Forgie has handled a considerable population in the county penal institution since becoming its head with apparent success. Now he has been cast out and by the terms of the lease of his farm is unable to go back on it for some time.

The position was thrown open by the Hepburn government to provide berth for a party worker in Midland. This dismissal seems to have stirred up more resentment than any other in the county probably because the county council had it under review last week Nothing is surer than that the present gaoler will be quickly ousted in case of a change of government at the next election. — Alliston Herald

DIED

HOLMAN — At her home, 664 Willard Avenue, West Toronto, Monday, December 24th, 1934, Lydia Jane Nicholson, wife of the late Henry Holman, aged 79 years.

Remains resting in William Speers' Chapel, 2926 Dundas street west (near Keele). Service in St. John's Road Baptist Church, Thursday, 2 p.m. Interment Park Lawn Cemetery.

Several beavers have taken up their abode in the Saugeen River on the outskirts of Hanover.

Toronto In Midst Of Election Campaign

Toronto is in the midst of their annual municipal election campaign and 114 men and women were nominated for the various offices to be filled this year. We note that Mr. W. A. Wadsworth is again contesting for the office of Controller for Toronto. He made a great run last year to be defeated by a small majority and should make the grade this year. He is an old Ceylon boy and his many friends here wish him the best of luck in the campaign now in progress. He served for a number of years as Alderman and has a splendid record. Good luck, Bill.

PROTON BOY NOMINATED FOR BANK DIRECTORATE

We note that Mr. Herbert H. Hannam, a Proton township boy, is one of the nominees for the Bank of Canada directorate which is to be formed in January. The holders of the shares in the new bank will vote and elect seven new directors for the board. It is expected that all of the primary industries will be represented and as Mr. Hannam is the only nominee of the agricultural interests his case in eastern Canada is being put before the shareholders. Mr. Hannam is a graduate of the O.A.C. and has been secretary of the U.F.O. for the past year, prior to which he was educational secretary. He was in Europe studying agriculture on a scholarship given by the Carnegie Institute. He is a keen student of economics and was one of the early advocates of the central bank. We wish Herb success in his campaign to have agriculture represented on the Board, believing that he is well fitted to occupy such a position. Agriculture needs a member on the Board.

Hand Made Shingles Lasted A Long Time

On the roof of William R. Harvie's home, Orillia Township, was a shingle roof that withstood the snows and rains of seventy years, Mr. Harvie recalled as workmen completed the task of replacing the old roof by a new one. The shingles were still in fairly good condition. Mr. Harvie said:

"I was only a boy when they laid those shingles, and I don't think there is another shingle roof in this part of the country so old," he said. "They were put down by an Englishman named Robertson and a Scotchman named Fraser, and both are dead long ago. They were handmade shingles, made by my brother John R. Harvie, and Daniel Cotton. Of the four men who made them and laid the roof, only my brother is living."

Heat From Unburnt Coal

Russian cotton growers speed the ripening of their cotton crops by using coal to warm the cotton plants without burning the coal. This is being done at Kazakstan. Obtaining heat from coal without burning is the application of a simple fact of physics that dark colors absorb the heat in the sun's rays better than light colors. The Kazakstan farmers simply spread coal dust lightly over their fields; about 100 pounds to an acre. The darkened surface of the land is a better absorber of heat during the day and reradiates more of it as warmth during the night. The higher average temperature of the land during the growing season, therefore shortens the time necessary for the crop to mature by over a month.

Plenty Of Snow

A heavy snow fall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week filled the sidelines and less travelled roads to such an extent that cars found great difficulty in travelling In some cases the road was blocked entirely for motor traffic. Sleigh travel was real good and the farmers have been using that mode of coming to town. A snow plow is being stationed at Flesherton this winter to keep Highway No. 10 free of snow and several trips were made last week. Only a heavy blow will block the roads this winter and only then for a day or so we hope, while the plow is cleaning the road.

One sure way to make both ends meet, confides the Ottawa Journal, is to tie them together.

Mrs. W. J. Meads Died Sunday Night

Death has been busy during the past week in this vicinity, and among those who passed on was Mrs. W. J. Meads of Flesherton. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late R Oliver of Artemesia and sister of the late John Oliver, ex-Premier of British Columbia. She was born in Huntingham, Derbyshire, England, and came with her parents to Canada in 1870.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband and a family of five children, John and William on the Old Durham Road, Emma, Mrs. James Ferris of Toronto, Robert of Toronto and Joseph at home. One daughter Ella, Mrs. Gibson, died six years ago. There are also two brothers and four sisters, Joseph and James Oliver on the Old Durham Road. Mrs. Robert Dunn of Iron Bridge, Ont., Mrs. John Bell of Nelson, B. C., Mrs. James Vause of Proton, Mrs. James Turner of Laurel.

Thirteen years ago the family moved to Flesherton where they have since resided. Mrs. Meads was active in church work and a regular attendant in the United church until illness prevented her attendance.

The pallbearers were: Dr. E. C. Murray, George McTavish, Frank Duncan, Thos. Fisher, Wm. Miller and Alfred Down. Honorary pallbearers: Chas. Stewart, John McDonald, Dan McTavish, Mark Stewart and John McMillan.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, December 26, when the funeral sermon was preached by her pastor Rev. W. J. Scott from the text "The world passeth away and the lusts thereof, but he who doeth the will of God abideth forever." First John, 2nd chap., verse 17.

Rev. W. J. Scott paid a glowing tribute to the deceased lady and preached what must have been a very comforting sermon from the text quoted above. He voiced the sentiments of the whole community when he praised the very high qualities of motherhood and the virtues of true womanhood, which qualities had been revealed in the family which she has mothered. In every way Mrs. Meads was one of the most highly respected women in town. The Advance voices the whole community in tendering its deep and sincere sympathy with the aged husband whom she leaves behind and to the family who mourn a departed and affectionate mother. The remains were placed in the mortuary chapel in Flesherton cemetery, interment to be made later in Evergreen cemetery, South Line, Artemesia.

Among the beautiful floral tributes were those from the neighbors and the Ladies' Aid of St. John's United church.

Among those who attended the funeral from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Ferris, Mr. Robt. Meads, Jack and Cecil Gibson, all of Toronto. Mr. T. W. Findlay and Pearl and Gordon Gibson of Meaford.

Dundalk In League

Dundalk is taking the place of Markdale in the Semi-Pro Hockey League, recently organized among the young players of this district .who have never played in any organized hockey league. The first game of the season takes place this Friday evening in the Flesherton rink when Dundalk will make their first visit. Flesherton, Proton and Dundalk comprise Group B, the winners to play off for the League championship. Some interesting hockey among these teams is the prospect during the winter. Ceylon will play their home games on Flesherton ice.

When a girl gets married she is no longer under control of her parents, an Ohio judge rules. But how many of the unmarried ones are there these days.

"How did they teach MacPherson to swim?"

"They pinned a five-dollar bill on his bathing suit and threw him into the water."

Moving Pictures

A moving picture entertainment under the auspices of the Presbyterian Sunday school will be given in the old Armstrong jewellery store on Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock. Everybody welcome. Silver collection.

John A. McDonald

(Bulletin Enterprise)

John A. MacDonald, late of the City Registry Office, Toronto, passed away at the Rest Home of Mrs. Warren, Third street, Collingwood, on December 13th. He was the only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lachlan MacDonald, pioneers of Osprey township, and was born there on the 3rd of February, 1860. After attending the Collingwood collegiate institute, during the principalship of the late William Williams, he was a successful teacher for a number of years in various parts of Ontario. Later he removed to Chicago and engaged in the study of law in that city and was on the staff of the leading law firms of Lyman and Jackson and Judge Leeming for many years. Returning to Canada he located in Toronto and entered the law office of Kingsford and Evans and remained until the dissolution of the firm, upon Mr. Kingsford being appointed police magistrate for Toronto. Mr. MacDonald was then offered a position in the City Registry Office by the late Peter Ryan, who was Registrar at that time, and continued there until failing health compelled him to relinquish his duties in February last.

Mr. MacDonald, who was unmarried was predeceased by all the members of his immediate family with the exception of Mrs. Gillespie, of Creemore, who is a sister. He was a Presbyterian in religion and the funeral service, which was held at Mrs. Warren's residence, on Saturday afternoon last, was conducted by Rev. E. C. Currie, B.D., minister of St. Andrew'sPresbyterian Church, Creemore, and was attended by a number of former pupils and old friends of the deceased.

Interment was made in the family plot in McIntyre cemetery where the funeral cortege was met by a considerable number of friends and acquaintances. Rev. Mr. Currie was assisted by Rev. A. G. MacPherson, of McIntyre, in the services at the graveside.

Artemesia Council

Artemesia council held their last meeting for 1934 at Flesherton on the 15th of December, with all the members present, the reeve, J. A. Davis, in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and on motion adopted.

Bylaw 963 appointing Stanley Campbell as School Attendance Officer for 1935 and No. 964 appointing W. Swanton and G. Buchanan as auditors were introduced and passed.

Accounts ordered paid were: The Advance financial statement and other printing $47.75, Municipal World supplies $1.42, treasurer of Markdale $10.92, treasurer of Dundalk $11.67 being division court officers fees for 1934; the clerk $9.95 postage for 1934, the reeve $4.67 for telephone calls Mr. Meldrum $1.34 for telephone calls, R. Purvis $1.00 for telephone calls, F. J. Collinson $3.60 for gravel Mervin Wright $1.00 for gravel, Les Chard for gravel $3.00, Dr. Milne $50.00 for medical attendance to indigents. Pay sheet for expenditure on road was ordered paid: Div. 1 $27.28, Div. 2 $19.27, Div. 3 $11.25, Div. 4 $15.95, refunds on account of error in assessment roll were ordered paid: Mrs. Beaton $3.15, B. McKenzie $4.05, Mrs. McKenzie $6.55, D. Hincks $2.93, Mrs. Spicer $3.60, H. Tucker $11.70, A. S. Muir $9.90, J. Nichol $11.70, D. Stewart $11.25.

Claims for sheep killed were ordered paid: D. Hincks $5.00, J. D. McLeod $11.00, D. Foster $8.00. Sheep valuers, W. J. Beatty $2.00, W. Gibson $2.00, Jos. Watson $4.00. C. Doupe was allowed $5.00 for making detour around Parker's bridge with his threshing machine. The treasurer was ordered to pay all school moneys to school trustees. The Indemnity Insurance was renewed in the Globe Indemnity Company. The reeve was authorized to purchase 30 rods of snow fence for Div. No. 1 and 15 rods for Div. No. 2.

The council adjourned.

Mrs. Jos. Watson Died Christmas Day

Following a lengthy illness caused by heart trouble the death occurred on Tuesday night of a well known resident of Artemesia township in the person of Mrs. Joseph Watson, who resided in Saugeen Junction. While she had been in poor health a long time her death was most unexpected and is sincerely regretted by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

The late Mrs. Watson, who was in her 60th year, was the daughter of the late Malcolm and Jessie McDonald, who were among the pioneers of Artemesia township. She was married 27 years ago to Mr. Jos. Watson of Saugeen Junction who survives. She also leaves one brother, Mr. John McDonald, Flesherton, and one sister, Mrs. Joseph Ferris of Priceville, the only survivors of a family of seven. She was a Presbyterian. The funeral will take place on Thursday afternoon to McNeil's cemetery, Priceville.

REVOLVERS ILLEGAL

Registration of all revolvers and pistols is now compulsory under an additional provision of the Criminal Code.

In announcing the new regulations governing these firearms, Attorney General Roebuck pointed out that it had already been provided that all persons had to have permits to carry weapons " on the persons," and that the new provision calls for registration of revolvers or pistols kept in a house or any premises.

Permits for carrying these weapons had to be secured from the Parliament buildings, Mr. Roebuck stated, but registration had to be made with the Chief of Police or police or police head in every city, town or village; with the High Constable in the Counties of York, Carleton and Lanark, and with the District Inspector of Provincial Police in all other areas.

Records of registration, it was announced, will be forwarded to the Central Registry at Ottawa.

May Vote Out Liquor In Grey And Bruce

Grey and Bruce counties may join Huron and vote on a proposal to place the two counties under the regulations of the Canada Temperance Act and wipe out the beer and wine rooms which have been foisted on these two counties under the new provisions of the Liquor Control Act.

Nearly all the municipalities in the two counties are under local option, but there is the odd town or village where the legal sale has never been voted on. In these places, beverage rooms have been opened up recently and these places are generally denounced as a menace to the dry areas. In some of these towns local option votes are being considered. Now comes a plan to vote the two counties dry.

Alfalfa Seed Production

The total alfalfa seed production in Canada this year has been less than normal, but fortunately is of sufficient quantity to compensate in part, though not entirely, for the unusual shortage of red clover and alsike seed.

Canada's total 1934 alfalfa seed crop is estimated at about 2,000,000 pounds as compared with 2,500,000 pounds in 1933. The greater part of the seed was grown in Ontario and the balance in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Practically all of the Ontario and prairie grown seed is of the hardy variegated strains adaptable to severe winter conditions.

Normal domestic consumption will likely require all the 1934 production of alfalfa and it is also expected that the short crop of red clover seed will be sold out early at high prices.

BATES BURIAL COY
124 Avenue Road, Toronto
DISTINCTIVE FUNERAL SERVICE AT REASONABLE PRICES
PHONES: NIGHT OR DAY— KIngsdale 4344—34
Modern Private Chapel
J. W. Bates Fred Maddocks Richard Maddock, Manager
Formerly of Flesherton