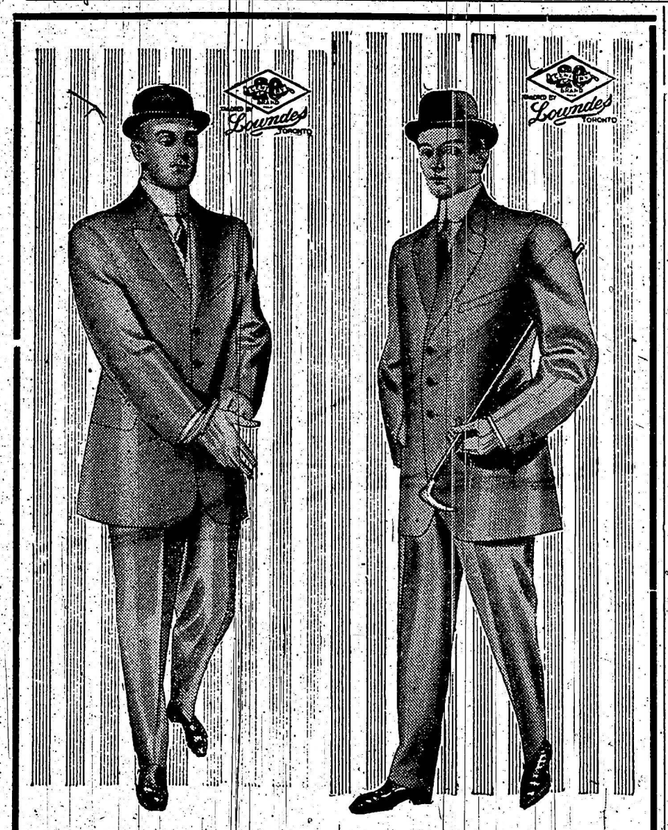

NEW SPRING SUITS

New Cloths, New Tailoring Ideas, Forty Styles to choose from and no fancy prices---$10, $12, $18 and $20.

I guarantee you a fit every time.

P. J. Thompson.

LOOK! LISTEN!

Was the cry all over Town when a car load of the Genuine **FROST WIRE** was unloaded by our dray men, Wilson and Gibson, at Hugh Knott's Implement Shop on Monday last. Fresh from the Frost Wire Factory, Hamilton, where it was drawn, galvanized, coiled, rolled, and delivered almost red hot. So now is the time to get your Wire House ready for spring. Call and examine it and you will buy no other.

HUGH KNOTT, - Agent, Markdale

Mrs. Sproule Acts Upon Convictions.

(From the Family Herald and Weekly Star.)

Among the public hostesses at Ottawa, there are none who usually come into greater prominence than the wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, for she resides in public quarters, is always within very close range of the hustle and bustle of public life at the Capital, and is expected to do, and does, a great deal of official entertaining. Immediately after her husband assumed office upon the opening of the recently concluded session, Mrs. T. S. Sproule, the present lady of the Speaker's quarters on the House of Commons' side of Parliament House, came into general public prominence on account of the announcement that at no festivities in the Speaker's quarters during her regime would intoxicating beverages of any description be served or allowed. Mrs. Sproule, who is by conviction, and has has been all her life, a total abstainer, is deeply impressed with the desirability of abolishing wines, etc., from social functions, and is convinced that the drinking habit would soon die out if it were frowned down in the highest social circles. It was only natural, consequently, that she should signalize her accession to her present dignified position in official society by acting upon her convictions. It will be remembered that when the decision of the wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons on this point was announced through the press, that resolutions were passed by meetings of the W. C. T. U., and other temperance bodies all over Canada complimenting her upon her action; but it must not be supposed that the other side did not make itself felt. As a matter of fact, many personal friends, and more acquaintances, warned her that she would lose caste if she persisted in the new order of things. Some suggested that if she had wines served at her table and contented herself with banishing strong liquor and malted beverages that she would accomplish her purpose without creating offence; others expressed the opinion that if she had claret cup and champagne served that the principle she stood for would be preserved and the public desire gratified. But though a quiet woman of a decidedly retiring nature, Mrs. Sproule showed that she was in earnest and had a will of her own. Not one guest in the Speaker's quarters during the session had a sip of anything stronger than tea. More than that, wine jellies and punches were prohibited, and in spite of the chef's protest, whenever English plum pudding appeared on a dinner menu it was never accompanied by the traditional brandy sauce. In spite of her stand as a temperance supporter, and notwithstanding her character as a retiring home woman, Mrs. Sproule has maintained her official position with considerable success, excelling as a hostess when a goodly proportion of the guests included friends she had made in Ottawa during the many years (thirty-two) that her husband has represented East Grey in Parliament. Among her intimates the lady of the Speaker's quarters is very much beloved, and at Markdale, where her home is, she is one of the most popular women of the place. Mrs. Sproule's father, Mr. W. K. Flesher, represented East Grey in Parliament for some years, being succeeded by Dr. Sproule, who the following year became his son-in-law. In religion, the Speaker and his wife are Methodists, and close adherents of that church.

Don't be surprised if you have an attack of rheumatism this spring. Just rub the affected parts freely with Chamberlain's Liniment and it will soon disappear. Sold by R. L. Stephen.

THE PAPAL GUARDS.

The Most Unique and Striking Army In the World.

The most singular and striking body of trained soldiers serving under any potentate is that which garrisons the Pope's palace in Rome. From the silver-casqued Noble Guards, the Swiss Halbordiers in doublet and ruff, down to the Palatine Guards in shako and the Pontificial Gendarmes in bearskin, they form a distinctive feature of the papal court and a befitting setting to a mediaeval picture. Their gorgeous or quaint uniforms, glancing helmets, flashing arms, glittering breastplates — like the black velvet doublets, ruffs and rapiers of the gentlemen-in-waiting—are in perfect artistic harmony with their surroundings, from which they receive and on which they bestow that correlative fitness of the Vatican, although the presence of these troopers and foreign mercenaries, morally speaking, is an anomaly and an anachronism.

This singular little army of a spiritual potentate consists of noble Roman volunteers, burgher civic guards and Italian or foreign mercenaries, and comprises four companies, differently armed, uniformed and officered, and each possessing a distinct history of its own and a separate organization.

First in dignity and antiquity come the Noble Guards, in their scarlet tunics, golden epaulets and silver helmets. Raised in 1485 under the name of Light Horsemen, they were formed into two squadrons; and many years later, in 1555, their strength was increased by the addition of 100 free lances, chosen exclusively from the scion of noble houses who could show a sufficient number of quarterings. The two corps were reorgnazed and united into one by Pope Pius VII. in 1801, when, after the stress and storm of the great French revolution, he had righted the ship of St. Peter. These noble guardsmen mount guard in the ante-chamber of his holiness' private apartment, and escort the Pope when he drives out. They now number 69 all told, under the command of a lieutenant-general.

The Swiss Guards, who rank next in precedence, were first enrolled by the fighting Pope Julius II., and subsequently, during the 17th and 18th centuries, three companies were added to the original one. After many vicissitudes, they were finally reduced to one company, which musters 122 men of all ranks, commanded by a captain ranking as colonel. The other two corps of household troops—namely the Palatine or Palace Guards and Pontificial Gendarmes—are far more modern, and do not possess the same stirring traditions. They are chiefly employed in church ceremonies, conjointly with the gendarmes, to maintain order among the crowds who throng St. Peter's on such occasions; and they are called out about once a month to drill or to mount guard. They number 170 men of all ranks, and are all volunteers, providing their own uniform and receiving a small annual allowance for incidental expenses.

The Pontificial Gendarmes—though last in precedence, by no means the least in appearance of the four pontificial corps—were raised in 1816 to replace the French military police instituted by Napoleon I., and, like the Irish military constabulary, were charged with the protection of persons and property throughout the whole papal states. Reduced in numbers and duties, they now muster but 96 men and officers, and perform police duties within the Vatican at state ceremonies, as on the occasion of the present Pope's jubilee, and act in conjunction with the Palatine Guards in keeping order within St. Peter's.

Finger Arithmetic.

The earliest way of counting was by means of the fingers, and in the picture writing of the ancients the drawing of an open hand invariably signified the numeral V. Some nations, indeed, even went so far as to make their week consist of five days. A few tribes were not content to count solely by the fingers alone and added their toes as well. The Aztecs, for example, counted in multiples of twenty and had twenty days in their months. The Roman notation consisted of a ten fingered system, and the X used to signify ten is, after all, only two V's placed point to point or apex to apex, the V typifying five.

Mamma's Definition.

The family was grouped around the library table when the little son looked up from his book and asked:

"Papa, what is an egotist?"

"An egotist," the father answered, "is a man who thinks he is cleverer than any one else."

But the mother, laughing coldly, appended:

"No, my son, that is not quite right. An egotist is a man who says he is cleverer than any one else — every man thinks he is."

Pure Milk Law.

England's pure food law requires that every can of condensed milk must contain a label visible to the purchaser on which are the words "Machine skimmed milk" or "Skimmed milk." Dr. J. F. Coutes now suggests to the British Local Government that cans of condensed skimmed milk should be labeled, "Skimmed milk; unfit for infants." He has made a special study of the subject.

Cats In Ancient Egypt.

The ancient Egyptians treated cats with great distinction. It was a crime to kill them, and when they died they received a public burial, at which the people mourned, having first shaved off their eyebrows as a token of sorrow. The most prominent cats were upon death embalmed in drugs and spices, and cat mummies have been found side by side with those of kings.

His Hat Joke.

After greeting in the street the other day one of two friends, who was supposed to be a wit, said to the other:

"Say, old man, have you heard about the young lady who poured a jug of water into a straw hat?"

"No," replied his friend.

"Neither have I," said the wit as he walked away, "it hasn't leaked out yet."—London Tit-Bits.

GOT A FULL VOTE.

Even Though They Had to Go to Jail to Secure It.

That they had some rather advanced ideas as to the means of "getting out the vote" in New England a century ago is shown by an extract from Dr. Banks' "History of Marthas Vineyard." The voting, which occurred in 1807, was on the question of the removal of the county seat.

Extraordinary means were taken to get out a full vote in Edgartown. The sailing of ships was delayed for weeks so that their crews might vote, and on the day of the town meeting it was found that the contest between the two factions was to be close.

Some one suggested that there were several voters who, unfortunately deprived of their liberty, were languishing in the town jail, and if the jailer would kindly allow them to step across the street and vote it would consume but a few moments of the time the prisoners owed to the county. The jailer did not feel that he had the right to allow a general jail delivery even for such a worthy object, although it might save Edgartown.

It was then proposed that the ballot box be carried over to the gentlemen who were incarcerated. The point was then raised that all ballots must be cast in open meeting and in the presence of the election officials. Nevertheless astute minds found a way out of this awkward dilemma. A motion was made and carried that the meeting adjourn to the jail. There the ballot box was carried to the door of each prisoner's cell, and the imprisoned voters reached through the bars and deposited their ballots.

A BIBLE VERSE.

It Surprised the Boy Who Boasted of His Wonderful Memory.

A boy who had won a prize for learning Scripture verses and was greatly elated thereby was asked by a minister if it took him a long time to commit them.

"Oh, no," said the boy boastfully; "I can learn any verse in the Bible in five minutes."

"Can you, indeed? And will you learn one for me?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then in five minutes from now I would like very much to hear you repeat this verse," said the minister, handing him the book and pointing out the ninth verse of the eighth chapter of Esther:

"'Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month—that is, the month Sivan—on the three and twentieth day thereof, and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants and the deputies and rulers of the provinces, which are from India unto Ethiopia, a hundred, twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing and according to their language.'"

The boy entered on his task with confidence, but at the end of an hour could not repeat it without a mistake and had to fearfully acknowledge himself defeated.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Tricky Lions.

Some of the most dangerous tricks of animals are those of simulating kindness. Charles Montague in "Tales of a Nomad" says that hyenas often follow lions and finish a carcass the moment the lions have left it. Sometimes, however, the hyenas are too eager and steal bits of meat while the lions are still at their meal.

"I have been told that the lion rids himself of the nuisance in the following way: He throws a piece of meat aside. When the lion is looking the other way the hyena dodges in and rushes off with the meat. Presently the lion throws another piece of meat, this time a little nearer. The hyena takes that also. At last the lion throws a piece very near indeed. The hyena, having become reckless, makes a dash at this also, but the lion wheels round and lays him low with a pat of his paw and a growl of annoyance."

Showed Him the Point.

A large crowd which collected on Broadway attracted the attention of two commercial travelers just back in New York. Joining it, they discovered that a safe was being raised to the fifteenth floor of a building and that the crowd was careful to stand outside the roped fence. "That's a good advertisement for my business," remarked one of the drummers, who is interested in the sale of airships. His companion admitted he didn't see the point. "Well, look at the sign, 'Danger below!' Then look up in the air. Danger below, safe above. Moral, take an airship."—New York Tribune.

Carefree Bohemians.

"How would you like to go to a bohemian supper? Lot of literary people and all that, you know."

"No; the bohemians are too free and easy for me. Last time I went they ran out of cheese and spread the sandwiches with library paste."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Conflicting Precedents.

A man can't always regulate himself according to history. There was Samson, who lost his life because he had his hair cut, and Absalom because he didn't.—Smart Set Magazine.

Her Victim.

Nell—You are simply making a fool of young Mr. Saphedde. Belle—Oh, well, I'm probably only saving some other girl the trouble.—Philadelphia Record.

Damages Awarded Husband and Wife.

Former Markdale Girl, Miss Etta Beattie, now Mrs. G. I. Willis, Injured in Street Car Accident, Awarded $2000, and Mr. Willis $1,200.

(From Vancouver Paper.)

A verdict of $1,200 for the husband and $2,000 for the wife was rendered by the jury yesterday afternoon in the action brought by Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Willis against the B.C. Electric Railway Company. The evidence showed that Mrs. Willlis (formerly Miss Etta Beattie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Beattie, of Markdale) had been riding in a Kitsilano car on December 2, 1911, when it collided with another car near the Granville Street Bridge. The violence of the impact threw Mrs. Willis against an opposite seat, personal injury and hysteria followed, and the medical evidence went to show that she has not yet fully recovered.

As a consequence of the accident Mr. Willis claimed that he had been put to expenses amounting $939 for medical and nurses' expenses and for a trip to California, which the doctors had ordered for his wife. He stated that they had only been married six weeks at the time, and he also asked for damages for the loss of the comfort and enjoyment of his home.

The company admitted liability and paid $300 into court. The jury gave a verdict of $3,200, of which $2,000 is to go to Mrs. Willis for suffering and injury and $1,200 to Mr. Willis for expenses and inconvenience.

Messrs. Geo. E. McCrossan and A. M. Harper appeared for the plaintiffs and Hon. A. E. Phillips, K. C., for the defendant company.

Red Anchor Cough Cure will relieve your cough. Try it and if not satisfied we will refund your money. 25c. at Turner's Drug Store.

Out of a list of 77 applicants for the position of town foreman, building and plumbing inspector of Galt, Mr. Thomas R. Allison, of Toronto, was given the position.

A very costly and elegant gift has been presented to St. Andrew's church, Wellington, by Mr. W. P. Niles, in loving memory of his late father, in the form of a solid brass lectern and a solid brass prayer desk.

Lachlan Currie, the last white boy born in the township of Nottawasaga, died at his home recently, aged seventy-four years. His parents were natives of Islay, Scotland, and came to Nottawasaga about 1836.

A report from Stratford states that there have been 23 changes in that Presbytery in seven years. Ten have been twice vacant, ten once vacant, and one charge three times in the seven years, nothing unusual in the Presbyterian Church.

WHY HE WAS LATE.

"What made you so late?"

"I met Smithson."

"Well, that is no reason why you should be an hour late getting home to supper."

"I know, but I asked him how he was feeling, and he insisted on telling me about his stomach trouble."

"Did you tell him to take Chamberlain's Tablets?"

"Sure, that is what he needs." Sold by R. L. Stephen.

KAISER BANS DRAMA.

He Thinks It Will Carry Pernicious Social Doctrines.

Wilhelm II. of Germany has announced that in future no dramatic production will be financed or encouraged by himself or his family. The Kaiser gives no reason for his action, but it is supposed he resents the fact that German opera now opens its doors to real thinkers, many of whom are opposed to his ideas about military glory. One English critic explains the Emperor's stand of the stage as follows:

"In Germany, although desperate and partly successful efforts are made to stifle thought, or rather to throttle those who seek to utter thoughts subversive of the present system of tyranny, the theatre has already played a valuable part in the dissemination of ideas. Indeed, ever since the production of Ludwig Fulda's play founded on the story of the King and the fraudulent tailors, some of the German dramatists have used their great weapon in one form or another as a means of attack on the Empire of blood and iron that causes huge mischief to the Germans and their neighbors. If I were a despot I should coax the drama and chain the drama, and would support lavishly the theatre so long as it preached conventional views of royalty, loyalty, patriotism, religion, and morality, and have a censorship of fiercest vigor at the same time and permit no evasions by means of semi-private performances. And, of course, I should fail, fail utterly in the long run, since it is as difficult to chain thought as to carry water in a sieve. The Hohenzollerns may wisely indicate their wrath with drama by refusing to finance plays or to be associated officially with a form of art capable of spreading in an effective manner ideas destructive of the existing system."

Additional Locals.

Mrs. A. LeGard, of Chatsworth, visited friends here on Saturday.

If you want to please Andy Smith, patronize his shaving parlor, and you'll be pleased.

Walter Briggs, of Paisley, has been transferred to Guelph as G. T. R. station agent, while Mr. Hays, of Guelph, goes to Longwood.

Change of Address. Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new p.o. address.

Both the Canadian and American Soo canals opened on Wednesday for the season of 1912 and navigation will be in full operation by the end of this week.

It is very noticeable how many of the houses in town look as if they have been painted with Ramsay's Paints. They have that air of finement about them that shows superiority. We see these paints at the store of Hill Bros.

A California woman who intends to deliver the most delightful lectures on "The Home Beautiful" is now in the Divorce Court trying to get rid of her third husband. Neither lectures or third husbands are ideal ingredients for beautiful homes.

Next Sunday will be Field Day in Grey County under the auspices of the Temperance Alliance organization. Mr. J. H. Hales, barrister, of Toronto, will occupy the pulpit of the Markdale Methodist Church in the evening and speak at the Berkeley Presbyterian Church in the afternoon.

"My little son had a very severe cold. I was recommended to try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and before a small bottle was finished he was as well as ever," writes Mrs. H. Sikes, 29 Dowling Street, Sydney, Australia. This remedy is for sale by R. L. Stephen.

By using Campbell's Varnish Stain Graining process you can produce a fine effect over an old discolored floor. First apply the Ground Color, then the Surface, going over it with the Graining Roller; finish with Campbell's Varnish Stain, in Oak or any desired shade. It works like a charm. Ask Hill Bros. about it.

You will look a good while before you find a better medicine for coughs and colds than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It not only gives relief—it cures. Try it when you have a cough or cold, and you are certain to be pleased with the prompt cure which it will effect. For sale by R. L. Stephen.

This week Mr. [illegible] succeeds Mr. [illegible] as agent for the Dominion Express Company. Mr. Armour [illegible] the company [illegible] years, and we [illegible] was for [illegible] years foreman of the C. P. R. freight shed here and was popular.

DON'T FORGET the BIG celebration in Shelburne on May 24th. There will be [illegible] horse races for which the following have entered as follows: [illegible] trot or pace, purse, $[illegible]; 2.30 trot or pace, $[illegible]; 2.50 trot or pace, $[illegible]; [illegible] football match [illegible] 2 or more days play, and [illegible] 1 or more clubs [illegible] an additional $[illegible] will be given. For particulars address J. Watson, Sec.

The town of [illegible] is very much alive to [illegible] securing a [illegible] conditions [illegible] town turned [illegible] request of the [illegible] proclamation [illegible] accumulations [illegible] private property [illegible] yards. The [illegible] from such conditions [illegible] be salutary [illegible] plan is worthy [illegible] other towns.

Notice.

Any citizen who wishes [illegible] nection with [illegible] water system, [illegible] requested to make application now to the undersigned, as [illegible] may not be available later [illegible] in the season.

J. C. SHUTT,
Commissioner.

A Hot Summer.

Prof. Hicks predicts that the summer of 1912 will be a hot one, and that a drought will extend over the southern belt of states next season. June will be marked with rainstorms and electrical disturbances. The rains of July will not be of general character. The moisture, it is predicted, in many places will fall far short of the requirements of growing crops. Extreme warmth will have relief July 14. Another cool spell will follow July 28. Rainfall will be insufficient and central and western regions will suffer from serious drought.