

MARRIED.  
Yesterdays—Lester... On December 1st at the residence of the bridegroom's parents, Out by Rev. James Webb, Alfred R. Weston, of Kitchener, to Constance Lubomirski of Acton.

DIED.  
Cousin—Alfredo Neri, Child, died Dec. 1st, 1911, John H. Coulton, aged 41 years, formerly of Toronto.

Baby—In London, on December 1st, John Bryan father of Rev. Bryan, of London, Ont., aged 45 years, formerly of London, Ont.

Sister—At the residence of Dr. George E. Scott, 19th December, Mary H. daughter of Rev. Wm. M. MacLean, Savage, of Guelph, Ontario.

The Actor Free Press

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1911.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Oliver Mowat is training for the leadership of the Reform party in Ontario politics. He has held the ground for his party in Ontario, and would make a better leader in the larger field than Lester is—Chicago Guardsmen—Amer.

The Government has instituted proceedings against Miller & Richard, the Doncaster type founders, Barber, Ellis, Patent Iron Works Company, Banting, Ellis & Co., Macdonald, Roger & Co., George Low and J. T. Johnson to recover the amounts paid to Senechal, late superintendent of the Printing Bureau at Ottawa.

A Swedish newspaper, the *Utgivaren*, takes a somewhat novel and striking view of the emigration question. It says that during the past two years \$75,000,000 have left Sweden as emigration. The education of each of those persons cost at least a thousand crowns, about \$700 in wages to Acton's residents, it is claimed to be good and sufficient reason why they should have a voice in the management of the affairs of the municipality. With the object in view of changing the personnel of the Council and securing representation of the representatives of these establishments met the other evening and nominated Messrs. A. O. Headmore and Alan Secord, both of whom through business sense and well qualified to assist in the transaction of municipal business. Ex-Councillor John Kenney was selected as third man.

Concerning the Headship it is generally conceded that Dr. Avery deserves to be continued in that honorable position. He has occupied the office of Chief Magistrate with much satisfaction and in every respect has maintained its dignity. As far as the Free Press can learn there is no probability of opposition to his re-election by condemnation.

Respecting the conduct of the Councillors at present in office it must be said their credit they have fulfilled their special promise of reducing the rate of taxation.

This has been according to a satisfactory degree.

But whether another form of similar government of the municipality could be accomplished with satisfaction to the people is very questionable. It will be seen by the financial statement published elsewhere in this issue, that a comparatively small amount was expended for improvement of streets and sidewalks the past year, and this is particularly true of the sidewalks which in many places did not receive any new paving. If the sidewalks were to receive as economical attention as during the present term for a succession of years Acton's reputation for business and good accommodation to citizens would very soon wane and seriously suffer.

The gravest charge made against the present administration which has come to the care of the Free Press, is that the expenditure of \$164,67 under the head of Pub. Improvement.

It is well known that the greater portion of this amount—more than the entire expenditures on streets and sidewalks was expended in the construction of a new road.

Our citizens all enjoy and appreciate the provision of a park of the extent and beauty of Acton's public square.

No objections to a commercial union are very plain at present; and if this could be agreed upon, all trouble for the future would be obviated. But no matter what the settlement may be, the interference of Britain would do much to further it.

The appointment of Lord Dufferin to the embassy vacated by the death of Lord Lytton is especially noteworthy because it is the appointment of a Liberal to one of the highest and most confidential posts in the gift of a Conservative Ministry. Lord Beaconsfield declared, when he sent Lord Dufferin to St. Petersburg, that he saw no reason why party considerations should be allowed to weigh in the management of the diplomatic service, and this excellent role has been followed ever since, so that Lord Dufferin's abilities and tact have been available in the Viceroyalty of India in the embassy of Rome, and now in the most important of all diplomatic appointments.

The action of the North-West Assembly in refusing by a division of fifteen to nine to allow the prohibition question to go to a popular vote, and in appointing a committee to draft a license measure indicates clearly how they intend to deal with the liquor traffic. Although a majority of the members elected were pledged to a license system, it was contended that the question had not been fought out fairly on its merits, but that the election had been carried upon personal lines. On the other hand, those who wanted to submit the matter to a popular vote were tandem with a desire to shirk responsibility. The prohibitionists need not lose heart, for a license system is not necessarily permanent and can hardly be worse than the old permit system.

The election courts have applied themselves diligently to the heavy task the politicians imposed upon them. More than half the 1909 protests have now been tried, with the result that eight Conservatives, one Independent, and fifteen Liberal seats have been declared vacant. Seventeen petitions against Conservatives and a like number against Liberals have been dismissed. In addition to the eight Conservative constituencies opened by the courts, there are four others which have been vacated for other causes, making in all a total of 28 by-elections already in progress. The way the party conventions are remonstrating members would indicate that the offences are of a trifled nature, or that the judgments of the courts are but lightly regarded.—Mail.

The Statistical Year Book of Canada, compiled by Mr. Synder C. D. Roper, of the statistical branch of the department of Agriculture gives the total area of the Dominion as 3,666,383. In this estimate 147,386 square miles are assigned to water and 3,518,647 to land surface. The table which yields this total is said to be an entirely new one, having been especially prepared, at the request of the compiler of the Year Book, by the Topographical Survey branch of the Department of the Interior. "The measures have all," we are told, "been made anew and checked, and may be depended on, in so far as warranted by the present geographical knowledge of the country." No change will be made in these figures unless based upon new information."

As this is a question which there has been a good deal of discussion, and much difference of opinion, it is satisfactory to record this assurance from what we may regard as the highest official and professional authority.

YOUNG SEALS STARVED TO DEATH.  
Thousands of Them Deprived of Sustenance by the Killing of their Dams.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—Omnibus drivers who received here by the United States revenue cutter *Ramillies*, which returned here yesterday from Bering sea. The drivers say that, with the departure of the steamer southward, an opportunity was given of inspecting the rockeries at Seal Islands, and that more than 10,000 young seals were found dead, apparently from starvation. The indiscriminate slaughter of the seals without regard to sex, it is said, tended, depraved the young seals of their dams and their natural sustenance.

The weather has been rough, and the sea known seal has set Bering Sea.

It is safe to use Phenomenal Worm Powders, as they act only on the worms and do not injure the child.

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