BORN

BROWN—At St. Thomas, on Christmas Day, 1914, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown, a son—Edwin Leroy.

DIED.

HIBKWOOD—In Nelson, on Monday, Jan. 4th, Wm. Sherwood, aged 82 years.

MINO—In Esquesing, on Tuesday, Jan. 5th, William Mino, aged 83 years.

CLARK—On January 6th, at Preston, George A. Clare, M. D., in his 41st year.

VALENTINE—At Georgetown, on Friday, January 1st, Charles Joseph Valentine, aged 38 years.

WRIGHT—At Guelph Hospital, on Sunday, Jan. 3rd, Albert Wright, brother of Joseph Wright, Esquesing, aged 20 years.

DICKSON—At the Manse, Galt, on Sunday, January 10th, Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, B. D., Ph. D., pastor emeritus of Central Presbyterian Church, Galt, in his 78th year.

MOORE—On Wednesday, Jan 6th, at her late residence, 206 Wright Avenue, Toronto, Catherine Stewart, widow of the late William Moore, of the Scotch Block, Esquesing.

The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1915

EDITORIAL NOTES

CANADA suffered heavily in business failures in 1914, having 2,885 failures, with liabilities of $30,732,623, increases of respectively, 38 and 84 per cent. over 1913. In number the record year 1905 was exceeded by 32 per cent. and liabilities were 28 per cent. larger than in the hitherto record year 1904.

THE Canadian war gifts of food for Britain went mostly to the Belgians. The destination was somewhat different from that intended, but it should be more satisfactory to all. It is far better to have the food unneeded in Britain, because of lack of distress, than to have it eagerly devoured there. The story that the Germans secured Canada's gift of flour in Belgium is without foundation.

THE CONVEY for the Wardenship of the County of Halton will be one of the closest we have ever had. The two aspirants are A. H. Forster, of the Star, Reeve of Oakville, and D. Campbell, Reeve of Nassagaweya. Oakville puts up a strong plea for the honor on the ground of right, by order of rotation. Both the aspirants are strong men and popular among their colleagues. Neither will gain the position with more than one vote of a majority.

THE liquor men of London, it is reported, are about to have petitions circulated among the farmers of the district protesting against the cutting off of six hotels in the city, which was authorized by the ratepayers on New Year's day. The argument is that the farmers will lose stabling accommodation. The temperance people, on the other hand, declare that they are prepared to provide accommodation if the hotelmen close up their stables as they threaten.

ONE dollar-fifty wheat has been talked of for some time. This week both here and in Chicago, traders deem $2 not an impossibility, so rapid has been the advance. Never has Europe called so insistently for supplies, and in spite of the big surplus in the Argentine of 130,000,000 bushels, the outlook is for more or less steady advances. Stocks in Western Canada have been pretty well cleaned out. In Ontario farmers are holding out for higher rates, and mills are following suit. Never since the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 has wheat reached this week's levels in January.—Bradstreets.

THE APPEAL made to the British public by the Red Cross Society for the endowment of 1,650 beds in the new Red Cross hospital in London, to be known as the King George Hospital, has met with a splendid response. In less than two weeks since the appeal was made every bed in the institution has been subscribed for by the generous British public. Although all the beds have been provided for money is urgently needed for general furnishing and the immense size of the hospital makes it necessary to appeal for a large fund to be devoted to that purpose. From every part of the British Empire subscriptions have been received by the society for the equipment of this splendid hospital where many of the gallant soldiers from Canada and other parts of the Empire, who may be wounded in the present fight for freedom, will be cared for and restored to health.

THE WEEK has not seen any great changes in the war zone. We have not heard of anything notable in the way of the proposed German dash upon the allies. Indeed the whole German lines have given way a little before the desperation of General Joffre's forces, whose task it was to keep the German army on that front, while General Hindenburg was preparing his great assault upon the Russian lines before Warsaw. The result has been that the plan has proved abortive. The Russians have lost a little ground there, but their lines are unbroken, while they claim to have gained some at Mlawa, where the Germans were approaching Warsaw from the north. The Russians seem to have gained a distinct foothold on the Hungarian side of the Carpathians, both through the Buckowina and the Galician passes. When a week ago it was reported that the German Emperor's guard stayed all war traffic for ten hours to get him to Berlin for an operation, everything was understood to be preparing for that one final onslaught on the lines of the Allies which was to give the determined monarch his crushing and decisive victory. The only thing they could do with him was to get him away because another attempt to get to Dunkirk or Paris was certain to be a final failure. We have heard nothing of His Majesty since excepting the attempt of a fleet of an aeroplanes to cross the channel, and they failed. Earl Kitchener says the war will commence in earnest in May. When the end will come is not prophesied by any reliable military leader.

WAR ORDERS BY MILLIONS

Are Coming to Canadian Manufacturers—Acton Getting Goodly Share

William L. Griffith, secretary to the Lord High Commissioner in London, says in a statement to the press regarding the British purchases of war equipment in Canada:

"In the past few weeks British orders placed in the Dominion have amounted to between $25,000,000 and $30,000,000. The French and Russians have also placed large orders in Canada."

A fair share of orders are coming to Acton. The Acton Tanning Co. now have 6th day and night gangs working on the production of leather for army saddles, bridles, belts, etc.

THE NEW COUNCIL AT WORK

Inaugural Meetings Held Monday Forenoon and Evening

THE STANDING COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The members-elect of the Municipal Council of Acton met at the Council Chamber on Monday morning at eleven o'clock for organization.

The declarations of office were made and the members took their places, as follows:

REEVE—Geo. Hynds.

COUNCILLORS—R. M. McDonald, Alex. Ball, Chas. E. Bailey and W. H. Smith.

The Standing Committees were struck as follows:

FIRE AND LIGHT—Geo. Hynds, Chairman, A. Ball, and R. M. McDonald.

FINANCE—R. M. McDonald, Chairman, A. Ball and the Reeve.

STREETS AND WALKS—A. Ball, Chairman, C. E. Bailey and the Reeve.

TOWN HALL—C. E. Bailey, Chairman, R. M. McDonald and W. H. Smith.

PARK—W. H. Smith, Chairman, C. E. Bailey and A. Ball.

CEMETERY—The Reeve, Chairman, and all members of the Council.

The usual by-law for the appointment of Auditors was read and passed, the auditors appointed being A. E. Nicklin and George R. Agnew, and the remunerations $17.50 each.

Council adjourned to meet at eight o'clock, p. m.

Council resumed at 8 o'clock members present: Geo. Hynds, Reeve, R. M. McDonald, Alex. Ball and C. E. Bailey. Councillor Smith was absent.

The first report of the Committee on Finance presented the following list of accounts and recommended their payment:

HYDRO-ELECTRIC ACCOUNT—	
Hydro-Electric Power Co., supplies	$ 93.50
Hydro-Electric Power Co., supplies	24.52
Ferranti Electric Co., supplies	12.80
Acton Tanning Co., supplies	1.00
Mail and Empire, printing	1.02
Globe Printing Co., printing	1.04
Can. Gen. Elec. Co., supplies	10.47
	$147.45
GENERAL—	
Acton Free Press, printing	$ 8.35
	$155.80

The report was adopted.

A by-law authorizing the Reeve and Treasurer to borrow $6,000 to provide for the current expenses of the Municipal Council and Board of Education for the year, was introduced and passed in regular form.

After general conversation respecting the work of the year the Council adjourned.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO HORSE BREEDING

A Liberal Offer to Assist in Securing Improved Stock

The progress that has been attained in the past in Canadian horse breeding has been due largely to individual effort. To the few who have done so much for the advancement of the industry every credit is due. Through the lack, however, of concerted action and co-operative measures on a large scale amongst the breeders, the business has not progressed as rapidly as could be desired.

The want of proper organization, except in the more favored districts, has prevented the farmers generally from securing and retaining the services of good breeding sires. In a majority of sections, breeders wishing to grade up their horses are forced to use whatever stallions may, by chance, stand for service in their district. Many of these are faulty in conformation and lack in quality, while others, though of a better type, remain, either through insufficient patronage or because of failure to leave colts, but a single season in each district. The fact also that there has been no systematic adherence to the use of one breed suggests another reason for the lack of progress in the breeding of high class animals.

It must be recognized, further, that the owner of a valuable horse, after paying for maintenance, insurance, interest on investment and the expenses entailed in the collection of his fees, has frequently little left from his outlay, particularly in districts where he has to compete with grade and scrub stallions standing for service at a very low fee. As a result, really high class stallions can be maintained only in districts where the breeding of horses has been given serious and progressive attention.

In view of these considerations, the Minister of Agriculture proposes to enter upon a policy which may serve to place the horse breeding industry in Canada in a position comparable to that which it has attained in Great Britain and other European countries. It is believed that by encouraging the organization of breeders' clubs and by enabling such clubs to procure the services of good breeding stallions under favorable financial conditions, the assistance in this direction can best be provided. The encouragement of community breeding will, naturally, of itself, be productive of useful results. The payment to community organizations of a part of the service fee will, it is expected, give a permanent stimulus to the hiring of the best stallions that may be procured and, at the same time, promote the development of a comprehensive movement in the interests of this important national industry.

Stated briefly, the scheme is as follows: The farmers of any district, wishing to work for the betterment of horse breeding, by encouraging the use of sound, individually excellent pure bred sires may form a breeders' club for the purpose of hiring a pure bred stallion for the benefit of the members. These breeders' clubs, by conforming to the various rules and regulations governing this grant may participate in the Federal Assistance given to such clubs. This consists in paying practically 25% of the service fees on a guaranteed number of mares.

THE EXCEPTION

With a view to encourage the breeding of remounts, the portion paid by the Live Stock Branch to Clubs hiring suitable thoroughbred stallions shall be 40% on all mares except thoroughbred mares.

For the booklet on Federal Assistance and all other information address the Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa, Canada.

NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENT

THE new postal arrangement between Canada and Britain which came into effect at the New Year gives Canada half of the income from the periodicals sent by magazine post to this country, while not raising the rate materially.

A NEW ELECTRICIAN ENGAGED

Clarence Blackhall, of Wingham, is the Successful Applicant

WILL COMMENCE THIS WEEK

At a special meeting of the Council last week the fifty-three applications for the position of electrician for the Hydro system in Acton, were considered.

One of the applications most favorably considered was that of Clarence Blackhall, of Wingham. Mr. Blackhall was requested to give a personal interview with the Council. He came to town and the visit resulted in his engagement.

The salary of the new electrician will be $50.00 per month. He will also have charge of the town hall and for this service will receive $100.00 per annum.

Mr Blackhall, though a young man, has had five years of practical experience as an electrician. Part of this time was spent in the service of the electric plant in his home town and part with the Toronto Electric Company and with electric contractors doing wiring in private and public buildings in the city. This varied experience will be valuable in his position in Acton.

CLERKS GET SECOND CHANCE.

Canadian Banks Do Not Dismiss On First Wrong Step.

A few days ago in one of the medium-sized Canadian banks, a 19-year-old clerk was found to have "borrowed" fifty dollars to which he had no title. Technically it was an "embezzlement," and the law of Canada would have sent the lad to prison. But the general manager looked at it another way. He wrote the lad's father, notifying him of the incident, and stating that the management had decided to give the clerk a second chance to "make good" by removing him to an out-of-town branch where his act would not be known except to the local manager. Of course the fifty dollars was returned in instalments from the clerk's salary, but there the incident ended. The theft becomes no barrier to promotion, and remains a close secret with four or five senior officers of the institution.

Instead of this proceeding being pointed to as irregular, it is the common rule in practically all the Canadian banks. Petty infringements occur at intervals in all financial institutions and the discrepancy between the small salaries of bank clerks and the style of living to which they are supposed to adhere forms a constant temptation to overreach their earnings. This is done quite commonly in a manner that at first glance does not look like "embezzlement," but rather like "high financing" applied to petty purposes. As has been divulged in police court more than once during the past year, a clerk in desperate need of money "flies a kite." In other words, he issues a personal check against his empty savings account, and trusts to the friendship of fellow tellers and ledger-keepers to hold the worthless check until such time as he is able to back it with real money. Such a thing violates every rule of the banks and when found out is made a serious matter. Manipulations of this kind are very often responsible for the first black mark on the record of a clerk, but are seldom taken by the bank as a genuine cause for prosecution.

There are cases from time to time in which large sums are stolen when open prosecution becomes a matter of necessity. Here enters the question of making restitution, which is "put up to" the relatives and friends of the guilty clerk. The dislike of publicity is usually sufficient pressure to make any family circle disgorge, or even run into heavy debt to soften down the processes of law. Restitution is regarded as of such importance that most magistrates grant delays to help along the family collection. This arrangement between the court and the bank is sometimes curtly denounced, as when Col. Denison in the Toronto Police Court recently refused to hold the case to oblige the prisoner's wealthy friends, and told the lawyers that he would not become a party to any scheme to curtail the punishment of a crime. In the majority of cases, however, restitution does ameliorate the sentence, and to a large extent, smooths down the anxieties of the victimized institution.

Coal in the Arctics.

Coal can be mined in the Arctics as easily as and much more conveniently than south. Underground work is just as satisfactory there as elsewhere. It is just as warm in the bowels of the earth at Cape Farewell as it is in Pennsylvania, and by storing the winter's output and doubling the number of steamers to freight away this reserve stock during the summer the problem will solve itself.

At Mercy Bay, 600 miles north of Great Slave Lake, McClure, the seeker for the northwest passage, in 1853-4, during the three winters he was frozen up in the region made historical by Franklin's fatal expedition, where in the many channels between the islets he lost all hope of working toward the Pacific, his ships burnsed coal found by search parties before the hapless company abandoned the vessels and started south, in the hope of reaching Canadian Indian settlements, every soul perishing on the way.

To Reform Prison System.

At the next session of Parliament the Minister of Justice will introduce legislation to reform the penitentiary system of to-day, if the study of the subject now in progress can be completed meanwhile. This will affect the system of discipline, classification of convicts, employment of prisoners, and the treatment of the insane.

It is hoped that some system will be found under which convicts can be employed and their earnings applied in part to the attention of their families. In the adoption of such a system care would be taken to provide against any unequal competition with industries outside. In England, it is understood, a method has been devised whereby certain commodities used in the Government service are made by prison labor.

Canada's Big Telescope.

The 72-inch reflecting telescope now under construction for the Canadian Government, a description of which was recently published in these columns, is to be located on Little Saanich Mountain, near Victoria, B.C. This site was chosen after prolonged investigation of atmospheric conditions in different parts of the Dominion, and despite the fact that its selection entails much additional expense for the purchase of land, the construction of a road and other preliminaries, as compared with other sites that were under consideration.

Mr. Stephen's Charity.

The Rothschilds' benefactions are now closely approached by those of Lord Mount Stephen, who built up an enormous fortune out of the development of the Canadian Pacific Railway and other ventures. It is understood that he gives away about $250,000 a year, and that he has enriched charity by at least $6,000,000.

She Backed Out

By EUNICE BLAKE.

Those who know Abraham Buckingham used to call him "the salt of the earth." There were no frills about Abraham. Indeed, it would have been impossible for him to pretend to be anything but a plain merchant whose word was as good as his bond and whose note had never been protested. Abraham was well enough born and had been educated. His plainness consisted in not putting on any airs and in a sort of stolidity that made him respected, if not admired. I was going to say not beloved, but there were persons before whom this stolidity, this matter-of-factness, had suddenly dropped like a mask and revealed a remarkable tender heartedness.

When Abraham turned forty he had become very well off, and it seemed to him that he could afford to bring a wife into his house as well as into his heart, and he looked for one. Forty is about the age when a man takes leave of his youth, but not willingly. He is not likely to take a wife near his own age, but must needs reach down for some young thing with whom he might have mated twenty years before. He fixed his eyes on a girl of eighteen, Anne Hastings, who was much in love with a young scapegrace who had just returned from the Spanish-American war. Ben Bonbright was as dazzling in outward appearance as his name, with a rough rider uniform and rough rider modesty. So far as attractiveness to a young girl is concerned, Abraham had no more show with him than a private in the rear rank would have had with a drum major.

But Abraham knew nothing about his rival, and Anne's mother, who knew a good deal about Ben, didn't propose that Abraham should ever hear of him. She knew that Abraham was a man of sterling worth and would give her daughter a good home.

So Anne was led like a lamb to the slaughter, though in reality the man who married was the one to be pitied, for he was selling his love for a mess of pottage. His heart was not yet old enough to compel or young enough not to make much of the fact that he was (or supposed he was) beloved by a girl of eighteen.

He had been married three years when suddenly an old friend of his wife of whom he had never heard appeared, and the two seemed to be much interested in each other. This old friend was none other than Ben Bonbright, who had gone west the day Anne was married and had stumbled by sheer good luck into a fat mine, which enabled him to return rich.

One day when Anne was hysterical through some temporary ailing and consequently had got out of patience with her husband she out with the whole story about how she had loved Bonbright and had married Abraham instead because her mother wished her to do so. She had no sooner spoken the words than she regretted them, first, because she knew they would cause her husband infinite pain, and, second, because after three years' absence from Ben she was not quite sure that her heart mushed for him the same as it had mushed when she was a girl.

With infinite melancholy Abraham told her that he would not have been a party to such a transaction had he known it, and since she loved Bonbright if not only became him to give her up to the man of her choice, but he loved her so well that he could not stand in the way of her happiness.

Abraham went away and hired a smart lawyer, who made quick work of getting a divorce. All the while Anne went about wishing to tell her husband that she had not meant all she had said, but she didn't think he would believe her denial, and she was too proud to make it. No one can expect another to believe two sides of a story coming from a single person. So Anne made no opposition to the divorce, trying to make herself think that she loved Ben the same as she had once loved him and that happiness with him would be sure after all. But she had lived long enough with a worthy and a refined man to appreciate the difference between him and an unworthy and a coarse one. She stayed right in the same house with her husband to the last minute. He suggested that she go to her mother, but her mother wouldn't receive her, and her husband told her to stay right where she was.

It was all arranged that she should marry Ben the day the decree of divorce was obtained, and Abraham helped her all he was able with the preparations and regretting that he was not a woman so that he could do more, for her mother would have nothing to do with her or her preparations, and she had only Abraham to rely on.

When all was ready Abraham slipped a check for $10,000 in her portemonnaie. About that time a carriage that had been ordered for her drove up to the door, and Abraham made a motion to show her to the door.

But she threw both arms around his neck and burst into passionate sobbing.

He tried to soothe her and asked her what troubled her, but neither succeeded in the one nor got an answer to the other. She just went on with a hysterical sobbing till he said:

"Come, come, little one; your lover is waiting for you!"

"Send him away!" she wailed.

And then the thick skulled man knew what he was very glad to know, and that's the end to the story.

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I have peopled the prairie, and with my aid commerce has laid twin rails of gleaming steel in a gridiron across the continent and stretched a network of copper into the far corners of the globe.

I am the friend of humanity—for I have filled the commoner's life with a hundred comforts denied the king of yesterday.

I have brought clean food, healthful warmth, music, convenience and comfort into a million homes.

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I have scaled the wall of the farmer's isolation and linked him to the world of outer interest.

I build great factories and people them with happy men and women who love the labor I create.

I am a bridge that spans all distance and brings the whole world to your door, ready and eager to buy your wares.

I have made merchant princes out of corner shopkeepers and piled the wealth of a Monte Cristo into the laps of those who know my power.

I find new markets and gather the goods of the world into a handful of printed pages.

I fathered the daily newspaper.

I am either the friend or the foe to competition—so he who finds me first is both lucky and wise.

Where it cost cents to hire me yesterday it costs quarters to-day, and will cost dollars to-morrow. But whosoever uses me had best have sense; for I repay ignorance with loss, and wisdom with the wealth of Croesus.

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I live in every spoken word and printed line—in every thought that moves man to action and every deed that displays character.

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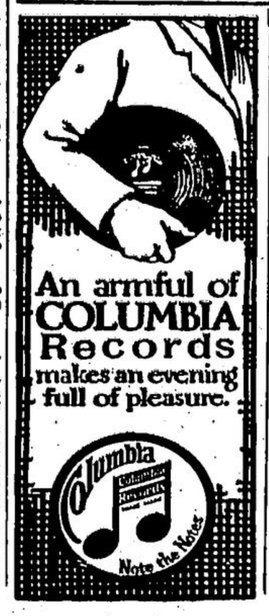

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF

ACTON FALL FAIR

Will be held in the Council Chamber, Acton, on

MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 1915

AT TWO O'CLOCK

To receive the Annual Report, elect the officers for 1915, and transact such other business as may be necessary to consider.

GEO. HAVILL, President. GEO. HYNDS, Secretary.

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