

**BORN**  
HOWMAN—In Esquimaux, on Saturday, March 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Howman, a son.

**MARRIED**  
HENDERSON—At the residence of the bride's mother, Miss Emma, on Saturday, 17th March, by Rev. C. D. Draper, John Henderson, son of Mr. John Henderson, of the late W. A. Stewart, all of Acton.

**DIED**  
ATKIN—In Esquimaux, on Thursday, March 11th, Thomas Atkins, in his 84th year.

**NUMBERS**—On Sunday, March 14th, at his late residence, 131 Howard Avenue, Toronto, Charles Nicholas, in his 73rd year.

**COOK**—At the home of her son, G. W. Cook, 234 Fifth Street, Grand Rapids, Mich., on Saturday, 14th March, Mary Elliott, widow of the late Thomas Cook, Acton, in her 82nd year.

**VALLEY**—On Friday, March 12th, at her residence, 272 W. 12th Avenue, Toronto, Elizabeth Green, widow of the late William M. M. Elliott, of Hampton, in her 70th year.

### The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1915

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

**HIS GEORGE FORTER**, in the House of Commons debate on the Budget, on Monday, administered a rebuke to those who would force on an election during the war. This will probably put the question at rest for the present year at least.

**FRED KITCHENER** gave a brief review of the war situation in the House of Lords on Monday. Referring to the Canadian division, he said: "They have shown their metal and received the warm commendation of the British people. It is to the credit of the high spirit and bravery with which they have performed their part."

**DR. FARMER'S** message of the United States is the author of an important book on the war from the American standpoint, which has just been issued. It discloses the war in a way intensely interesting to Canadians. He contends that the attitude of the United States in this war is wrong; that the United States was just as much bound to protect Belgium neutrally as was England. He places on Germany the entire blame for the violation of Belgium.

**FRED KITCHENER** is stirring up the people of the Empire on the evils of the liquor traffic and its effect on the operations of the war. In the House of Lords on Monday he contended that the people of the United Kingdom with the alternative of "Sobriety and Victory" or "Inebriety and Defeat." He denounced the excessive drinking as one of the causes of his failure to secure war supplies for the year. The country, he said, did not equal the country's necessities or fulfil expectations. "The supply of material for the next two or three months is causing me serious anxiety," he said. When Kitchener speaks thus the people throughout the Empire will surely take notice.

**IT IS** clearly every Briton's duty to have a share in providing for the needs of the Empire at this critical time. R. H. Howe, C. E., concludes an illustrative article on "Food Supplies in War Time," being one of a series of Oxford Pamphlets, after pointing out that Great Britain might hold out a year if actually blockaded by saying: "Warfare, in my belief, will prove, in this crisis, not unworthy to be countenanced of those who are heroically defending British homes and hearts on the fields of France. They will do their duty by working their utmost—often under grave difficulties—to maintain and, if possible, increase the produce of their farms, not because it is (as in fact it will be) profitable to do so, but because it is the desire, no less than the duty, of every Briton, each in his own sphere, to do his part to help his country in the time of her dire need." It is not every Canadian a Briton in heart and sympathy, if not by actual birth.

**THE ADVISE** given in the most recent announcement of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa to back our land produce more, cannot be over-emphasized. Millions of bushels rather than the cultivation of excessive acreage, should be Canada's aim. Improved production is only possible by the use of good, pure seed and scientific and knowledgeable attention to the requirements of each kind of farming as in all other objects in life, the best instructor, but just as fertilizer help the soil, so does acquiring the results of experience made by others make the road easier to the farmer than to be a novice. It is not so much necessary for thoroughness and earnestness as now when the markets of the world are wider open, when they are being shifted and former occupants are being obliged to leave. It is to be noted that the best placed upon the agricultural community. It is a task it is asked to undertake for self-interest and to make the Empire more self-sufficient. It is the duty of patriotic and production, for the success of which the best of the white race and the best of the world are being put to the test. It is a task it is asked to undertake for self-interest and to make the Empire more self-sufficient. It is the duty of patriotic and production, for the success of which the best of the white race and the best of the world are being put to the test.

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I get well and quite cheerful in the work before us. There will be some tough experiences before we finish this job, but I hope to be spared to join you all again after the war is over. Love to all the family and kind regards to other friends.

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FRAN. No. 11182,  
The Canadian Contingent,  
British Expeditionary Force,  
4th Bde., 1st Infantry Brigade,  
A. Company, in France.

#### OBITUARY

**CHARLES NICHOLS**  
Just three weeks after the death of his partner in life, Mr. Charles Nichols passed away at his home, 131 Howard Avenue, Toronto. He had been in poor health for some time but his death on Sunday was unexpected. This second bereavement coming so soon after the death of their daughter, Fred and Katie, who are the sole survivors of the home. Sincere sympathy is extended to them by their friends here. Mr. Nichols was the founder of the Grand Hotel, Toronto, and was an industry which prospered under his management. He lived in Milton for many years. It was while in business that he married Miss Margaret Campbell, his life wife. They moved to Toronto in 1881. The late Mr. Nichols was in his 73rd year. He was a Liberal in politics and an elder in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, for a number of years. He was a prominent Mason, being affiliated with St. George's Lodge, No. 4, in Toronto, for many years. Mrs. Charles Nichols, of New York, a sister, survives him.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. John Cameron, Mr. Robert Cameron and Mr. John Bell attended from Acton.

**Miss Thomas Cook, Sr.**  
The death of Mother Cook took place at the home of her son, G. W. Cook, Grand Rapids, Mich., on Saturday, March 6th, in her eighty-third year. She had been falling ill winter but was able to be about the house and attend Church and Sunday School up to Christmas. These services always afforded her great pleasure and she faithfully attended as long as her strength permitted. On February 18th she suffered a slight stroke of apoplexy and on March 2nd another and a severe one. From this she did not rally and her spirit was released from the feeble body on Saturday afternoon, 6th inst. Mary Cook was the daughter of Michael and Isabella Willard and was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1832. She came to Canada with her parents when 19 years of age and they settled on lot 11, town line, Esquimaux, about four miles from Acton, at that time a small hamlet. For five years she grew from a few buildings when it was called Adamsville until it became the flourishing town it was fifty years ago when she went to live with her son in Esquimaux. Her father was a miller and lived in or near Acton. In 1853 she married the late Thomas Cook and a few years after their marriage they moved to the farm which her parents had cleared. Later they moved to Acton. She was the mother of ten children, five of whom survive: Christopher, George, Wesley and Richard in Grand Rapids; Thomas in Esquimaux, and Harris at Jackson, Mich. During her long life she was a devoted Christian and was lovingly cared for by her son and his wife who constantly ministered to her comfort. The funeral on Tuesday, 6th inst., was private and was conducted by her pastor, Rev. W. Chapman of the Second Methodist Church. Her remains were laid to rest in Fulton Street Cemetery, Esquimaux, carried to the grave by four sons and two grandsons. Verily, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

#### "THE MARCH TO THE BATTLE FIELDS" OR "CANADA'S MEN ON THE WAY"

This is the title given a picture that for many years to come will be highly prized. It is a photographic reproduction showing the 22,000 men of Canada's first contingent leaving camp and on the march to join the Continental forces. It shows some of the white tents and the marching men. It is a most inspiring sight. The size is 20 x 48 inches, all ready for framing. This picture is sure to be a popular souvenir of the war as far as Canada is concerned. It is owned by The Family Herald and Weekly Mail, of Montreal, and a copy is being presented to all subscribers to that great national weekly newspaper. The Family Herald, Montreal, whom subscription of one dollar a year is required from this date for a limited period.

**WHEN LIFE IS NICH**  
Life is rich and in proportion to what we find in the world, but in proportion to what we find in ourselves. Unpleasant happenings on the soul are as likely to another as to be bliss. The wealth we enjoy, deep thoughts, high resolve and loving purposes, these enrich life.

Wholeness is often nearer when we stoop than when we soar.—Wordsworth.

#### A DELIGHTFUL SOCIAL EVENING

##### Highly Interesting Address by Rev. C. W. Barker, of Guelph

Words of satisfaction and commendation were tendered in the office of the Ladies Aid Society in the Methodist School Room last Thursday night on the part of those who were there. This, an account both of the excellence of the programme given and the abundance and excellence of the concert of the well-filled plates and cups provided.

Rev. C. W. Barker, pastor, was in charge and conducted the various numbers with excellent comments. A solo, "Mother's Prayer," by Miss Pearl Baker, who made her first appearance in this role, was well calculated to thrill reverence for aged motherhood. Little Miss Lily Adams rendered two solos in her sweet girlish voice, very acceptably accompanied on the piano by Miss A. Uren, who added a gentle solo which made a graceful filling to the songs. Master Frank Clark sang two, while the singing continued with a solo which if trained, will make him a useful contributor to such gatherings.

Mr. A. T. Brown gave an excellent reading on the planting of a malachite mine, a reading showing the value of the gospel which widely applied can do in discovering depths of good hidden under the roughest exterior.

Mr. C. D. Draper on his program gave several pairs of selections of various types, grave and gay in sentiment as well as purely musical all of which were manifestly enjoyed.

The main item of the evening was an address by Rev. C. W. Barker, of Dublin St., Guelph, a former much-esteemed pastor. In speaking with the people in the audience and later those of the evening Mr. Barker could make no mistake as to the warmth of welcome, though nearly six years have elapsed since his pastorate here. He took for his subject "Our Contribution to the National Spirit." Of course the war was naturally the inspiration of the topic, as it is now always in evidence. The war our country is giving of her young men and her treasure in order to maintain the nation's sense of honor was highly commended. Not least even this being an accompaniment of pain at the prospect of possible disaster. He instanced the stirring of his soul recently as past his home strolled the troops at drill in Guelph in a line for each other. He was struck by the single land, one of whom was our own John L. Moore, and at the rear of which was one of his young men from Woodstock, by whose side was one of the young men from his Guelph church. The sadness of it was that while thrilled by the nobility of the offering for service there is the going forth to be food for powder for such a awful war. He deplored the thought of Canada becoming given over to military purposes when it is done, not that he would have Britain sever from the path she took in defense of right and honor, but on the deplorable influence of the times unless great watch is kept over the soul. We are apt even to greet our destruction of life on the other side. Every day life, war or no war, calls for our highest efforts on behalf of our country. Abolish the liquor business, have some of the spirit of great which makes these awful "blood-scandals" possible. He thought that the two types of industry have done already for the soldier boys was dealt with in his latest sermon. A true Christian spirit will develop a true national spirit and thus have all on a sound basis.

A letter was read to the ladies of the Ladies Aid Society as a result of the function.

#### Acton Soldiers in the Trenches in France

##### Aquitted Themselves with Credit and were Praised by their Officers

**HARRY HARWOOD PLATOON SERGEANT**  
Major Ballantine, of Georgetown, in command of the Halton soldiers of the First Overseas Contingent of the British Expeditionary Force, writes the First Post as follows:

In Flanders, February 22nd, 1915.

Acton Post Office.

Dear Mother: A report on the Acton boys in my command may be of some interest to you.

"A" Company had its first experience in the trenches at 11 o'clock last week and all acquitted themselves like soldiers and all came out smiling.

All of the Acton volunteers are in No. 1 Platoon of my company and they are a credit to the company.

Harwood has been appointed Platoon Sergeant and has proved himself a very efficient and reliable non-commissioned officer and one worthy of the greatest confidence of his officers.

All are well and "playing the game" like men. In the trenches the conduct of our battalion was very satisfactory and the General whose brigade we were attached to complimented us very highly and said we would like very much to have us as his first battalion.

We are permitted to tell you the names of that brigade and general you would consider this a high compliment indeed.

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Yours sincerely,  
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#### Eramosa Loses Third Reeve in Five Months

##### Wm. Parkinson, Elected March 1st to Succeed the late Reeve Black, Died on Tuesday

**REEVE McABB DIED IN OCTOBER**  
On Monday, March 1st, Wm. Parkinson, was elected Reeve of Eramosa, to succeed Reeve James Black, who died suddenly on the 6th February. On Tuesday of this week Mr. Parkinson died very suddenly at his own home.

He had been in Eramosa in business in the forenoon and during the afternoon had assisted in killing some fogs. When he had finished he was about to enter the house he collapsed on the doorstep and before assistance could reach him he had expired.

A remarkably fact in connection with this death is that he is the third Reeve of the Township of Eramosa to die in less than five months. Reeve Chas. McNabb died on the 20th October last after a short illness and James Black was elected to fill the vacancy. He was re-elected in January, at the County Council session and died suddenly at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, following an operation on the 6th February. Another election was held on Monday, March 1st, and Wm. Parkinson was elected Reeve by a majority of seven. He never had a chance to even sit in the Township Council meeting.

He was the son of the late James Parkinson, of Eramosa, and was about forty-two years of age, and was known as one of the most prosperous and best farmers in the township. He leaves a widow and three small children, also three brothers and two sisters. The sudden death has caused profound sorrow in the community.

#### HALTON COUNTY SCHOOL FAIRS

##### Two to be Held this year, one at Nelson, the other at Hornby

The Ontario Department of Agriculture proposes conducting two school fairs in Halton County during 1915. These will be under the supervision of the District Representative in co-operation with the School Inspectors, teachers, parents and pupils.

The object of the school fair is to awaken the younger, and older generation too, to the pleasures and possibilities of rural life. Pupils are given seed of different kinds which they take home and plant according to directions. During the summer these plots are inspected and prizes awarded for the care of the plot. In the fall a fair will be held at which all schools will compete and where the pupils exhibit the products from their plots.

This is the boys' and girls' Agricultural Society and is managed by the boys and girls. A committee of three pupils is elected in each school and the chairman of each committee represents that school on the school fair board. This board meets and elects the officers for the district. They also manage the school fair under the direction of the District Representative.

This year there is to be a fair at Nelson Village, taking in the rural schools of the old survey and Hornby of the County Township. Another fair will be held at Hornby where school sections No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, of Esquimaux and 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, of Esquimaux and 11, 12, 13, and 14, of Esquimaux will compete.

The opening of the school fairs will be started immediately.

#### FROM FRENCH BATTLE FIELDS

##### Interesting Letter from Pte. Fred Wills, of Acton, to his Mother

The following letter from Pte. Fred Wills written to his mother on Sunday, February 21st, and received on Monday, will be read with much interest inasmuch as it is the first letter received here from one of our own boys who is on the firing line with the Canadian Contingent in France.

Dear Mother: I received your welcome letter last night after we had come out of the trenches. We went in on Friday for 24 hours and were posted in three or four trenches—two hours on and four hours off. All we had to do was to have an eye on the enemy, and if we saw any of them moving about take a shot at them. It is great. The trenches are only about 300 yards from us. The men there were whistling over to us.

We had a great experience last night as we were moving out of the trench to the road in rear when the Germans sent up a flare light and before we could count three they were firing on us. But we were all fortunate enough to escape. It was very exciting for the moment.

Boards fever has broken out in the Canadian Contingent and the orders to-day say we will not be sent back again to the trenches for the present.

I enjoyed the experience all right and we've had our lapses of five.

I cannot tell you where we are, but we are in the trenches. Billy Lee and I are buddies and will stand together. Billy had a narrow escape last night when we were coming out. A bullet passed his head by only a few inches. I was behind Billy and they were whistling over us also. On the right of the trench where we were the Germans were shelling yesterday. A few of the regulars were killed and wounded.

Some of the towers around us are in ruins. Some of the beautiful churches have been destroyed. It is a shame.

I get well and quite cheerful in the work before us. There will be some tough experiences before we finish this job, but I hope to be spared to join you all again after the war is over. Love to all the family and kind regards to other friends.

Your loving son,  
FRAN. No. 11182,  
The Canadian Contingent,  
British Expeditionary Force,  
4th Bde., 1st Infantry Brigade,  
A. Company, in France.

#### OBITUARY

**CHARLES NICHOLS**  
Just three weeks after the death of his partner in life, Mr. Charles Nichols passed away at his home, 131 Howard Avenue, Toronto. He had been in poor health for some time but his death on Sunday was unexpected. This second bereavement coming so soon after the death of their daughter, Fred and Katie, who are the sole survivors of the home. Sincere sympathy is extended to them by their friends here. Mr. Nichols was the founder of the Grand Hotel, Toronto, and was an industry which prospered under his management. He lived in Milton for many years. It was while in business that he married Miss Margaret Campbell, his life wife. They moved to Toronto in 1881. The late Mr. Nichols was in his 73rd year. He was a Liberal in politics and an elder in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, for a number of years. He was a prominent Mason, being affiliated with St. George's Lodge, No. 4, in Toronto, for many years. Mrs. Charles Nichols, of New York, a sister, survives him.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. John Cameron, Mr. Robert Cameron and Mr. John Bell attended from Acton.

**Miss Thomas Cook, Sr.**  
The death of Mother Cook took place at the home of her son, G. W. Cook, Grand Rapids, Mich., on Saturday, March 6th, in her eighty-third year. She had been falling ill winter but was able to be about the house and attend Church and Sunday School up to Christmas. These services always afforded her great pleasure and she faithfully attended as long as her strength permitted. On February 18th she suffered a slight stroke of apoplexy and on March 2nd another and a severe one. From this she did not rally and her spirit was released from the feeble body on Saturday afternoon, 6th inst. Mary Cook was the daughter of Michael and Isabella Willard and was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1832. She came to Canada with her parents when 19 years of age and they settled on lot 11, town line, Esquimaux, about four miles from Acton, at that time a small hamlet. For five years she grew from a few buildings when it was called Adamsville until it became the flourishing town it was fifty years ago when she went to live with her son in Esquimaux. Her father was a miller and lived in or near Acton. In 1853 she married the late Thomas Cook and a few years after their marriage they moved to the farm which her parents had cleared. Later they moved to Acton. She was the mother of ten children, five of whom survive: Christopher, George, Wesley and Richard in Grand Rapids; Thomas in Esquimaux, and Harris at Jackson, Mich. During her long life she was a devoted Christian and was lovingly cared for by her son and his wife who constantly ministered to her comfort. The funeral on Tuesday, 6th inst., was private and was conducted by her pastor, Rev. W. Chapman of the Second Methodist Church. Her remains were laid to rest in Fulton Street Cemetery, Esquimaux, carried to the grave by four sons and two grandsons. Verily, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

#### "THE MARCH TO THE BATTLE FIELDS" OR "CANADA'S MEN ON THE WAY"

This is the title given a picture that for many years to come will be highly prized. It is a photographic reproduction showing the 22,000 men of Canada's first contingent leaving camp and on the march to join the Continental forces. It shows some of the white tents and the marching men. It is a most inspiring sight. The size is 20 x 48 inches, all ready for framing. This picture is sure to be a popular souvenir of the war as far as Canada is concerned. It is owned by The Family Herald and Weekly Mail, of Montreal, and a copy is being presented to all subscribers to that great national weekly newspaper. The Family Herald, Montreal, whom subscription of one dollar a year is required from this date for a limited period.

**WHEN LIFE IS NICH**  
Life is rich and in proportion to what we find in the world, but in proportion to what we find in ourselves. Unpleasant happenings on the soul are as likely to another as to be bliss. The wealth we enjoy, deep thoughts, high resolve and loving purposes, these enrich life.

Wholeness is often nearer when we stoop than when we soar.—Wordsworth.

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