

Bethel, Maryland and the beginning charged
for the services of the Bethel Methodist
Church, Bethel, Maryland, \$100. per
line extra for postage.

MARRIED

DUNN ANDREW.—At Burnbank, Kan.,
Wednesday, December 24th, 1916, by
Rev. John L. Dunn, Agnes Montgomery,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew
Andrew, of Burnbank, formerly of Acton,
to John T. H. Nixon, also of Burnbank.

DIED

MATTHEWS.—At Toronto General Hospital,
on Sunday, December 24th, 1916, Ada
Grant, wife of J. Chester Matthews,
Deputy Postmaster, Acton, aged 52
years.

IN MEMORIAM

SAVILL.—In loving memory of our darling
wife Noel, who died December 29th, 1914,
aged 1 year.

God sent me a fragrant blossom;
From His paradise above,
And I thanked him much that morning
For the fragrance of His love.

But when the summer ended,
And winter swept the skies,
God took our radiant blossom,
To bloom in Paradise.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold SAVILL.

The Action Free Press.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1917

EDITORIAL NOTES

SIR THOMAS WHITE announces the re-commencement of the national Thrift campaign which was interrupted by his trip to England. During the past three months the Finance Minister will tour the country with a series of speeches advocating thrift. Sir Herbert Ames and W. E. Nickle, M.P., will assist the Finance Minister in his legislative and other duties during session.

SINCE for the time being all differences of opinion or politics, it is the obvious duty of every individual, to do his best to make the National War-power Legislature as complete as is humanly possible. The cards go to every man from 16 to 65 years of age. The Government required each one to be filled up. The Government speaks in this for the whole Dominion, which needs full detailed information as it never needed it before and may never need again. Every loyal citizen will support the scheme.

THE ORENS OF GERMANY to discuss peace has excited world-wide attention, and upon our statesmen who have had to give an answer, grave responsibility has rested. All the nations of the Entente have reached the same conclusion. We desire peace but it must be a well-grounded peace with proper guarantees. These guarantees do not appear to us to be forthcoming and so, as we entered the war for a great and worthy purpose, we cannot relinquish the war till our worthy cause is attained. Our leaders tell us that it will not be until well on in the year that we shall attain our full strength. Therefore, although we are a peace-loving people, we must still pursue the task we have undertaken to defend the rights of the weak and suffering.

EVERY DAY brings new evidence of the vast improvement resulting from the operation of the Ontario Temperance Act. During the year 1915, the city of Toronto averaged 214 arrests for drunkenness per week. Since September 1915 the average has been less than 51 per week. The reduction is not only in drunkenness but in general offenses. In two months the total arrests by the police were more than 1700 less than during the corresponding two months of the former year. In the city of Hamilton drunkenness is at its mean per cent. of what it was. In London, the reduction has been 65 per cent. In some cases there has been a still better showing. Thousands of men have ceased coming home drunk; thousands of families are better supplied. Business men testify to the increased efficiency of their employees; provision stores; grocery stores, drygoods stores are doing a better business.

NEWS FROM WESTINGHOUSE

BARRACKS

Items of Interest Respecting Our Boys in the 154th Battalion

The letter from Lieut. Koenig, in France, is last Friday's issue, was read with interest by our boys.

Regret to report that Sergt. Sivick, hoper spent Christmas in hospital with the mumps.

The writer has been sent to the New Hospital C. M. R. Barracks suffering from pleurisy.

On Thursday, Dec. 21st, the N. C. O. class presented Sergt. A. J. Smethurst with a fine set of carvings in case. The Sergt. had charge of the class during its course.

On Friday, Dec. 22nd, a pleasing event took place in the recreation room when R. Co. presented Major G. O. Brown, their Company Commander, with a beautiful velvet and coffee set on a silver mounted salver tray. Major Brown in testing terms thanked the men for their kind remembrance.

D. Co. presented Lieut. Hart with a fine parlor chair on the occasion of his marriage.

Thanks are tendered the donor of Victoria records made through Pta. M. Soper.

The Battalion was given a holiday on New Year's day. Special fare was served to them in the evening.

Corpl. S. Parry, of Acton, passed his examination in the N. C. O. class and is now a fully qualified Sergt. Congratulations, Sergt. Parry.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to the Frank Parry.

LIMEHOUSE

Several families in the village watched the passing of the old year on Sunday night.

School began Wednesday morning. The public school children may soon be running down the fifth line and the high school students beginning to learn the 3-7-5 plan.

A union meeting of the G.F.C. will be held next Tuesday evening in the sixth little church where it is expected Georgetown Guild will be present. Everybody welcome.

Good sleighing accompanied both of the festivals this season.

Miss Winnie and Eddie Irvin returned to the city on Tuesday.

Miss Irvin has returned after the Christmas vacation.

Mr. Thomas Gowdy, recently returned from the West, is visiting his brother William.

Miss Jessie Gerrin spent the vacation with her mother.

Miss Ethelia Newton is visiting friends in Canada.

WELCOME TO OUR WAR HEROES

Cordial Reception of Citizens to
Sergt. Gould and Pte. Ward
Last Thursday

GOLD WATCHES WERE PRESENTED

There is no lessening of interest by our citizens in their welcome to our invalid soldiers returning from the battle front.

Every soldier who has returned to town has been accorded a whole-hearted reception and the civic welcome tandem. Sergt. W. J. Gould and Pte. W. H. Ward as the town hall last Thursday evening was full of vim and patriotic enthusiasm.

Members of the Reception Committee and the Action Troop of Boy Scouts escorted the guests of the evening from Sergt. Gould's residence and Acton Citizens' Band played a welcoming number as they approached the town hall.

Reverend Hynds occupied the chair and after one of his characteristically interesting speeches called the "returned soldiers to the front of the platform. Mr. A. J. Mackintosh, B. A., and H. P. Moore, J.P., then presented Sergt. Gould and Pte. Ward each with a gold watch on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Acton in recognition of their splendid services at the front.

Both the soldiers made capital speeches, rehearsing in very interesting detail the varied experiences they had gone through, especially in their engagements in France and Belgium.... Both had spent long terms in hospitals and were still under the care of the military doctors.

Rev. C. H. E. Smith and J. C. Wilson followed with appropriate words of welcome to the returned soldiers and administration for their courageous and intrepid services.

The meeting concluded with the National Anthem.

OBITUARY

Mrs. J. C. Ferris Matthews

The death of Mrs. J. Chester Matthews at Toronto General Hospital on Sunday morning brought keen sorrow to her devoted husband and to the hearts of many friends. Mrs. Matthews had been in poor health for some time. An ailment of the heart followed repeated attacks of inflammatory rheumatism. She was in the hospital at Guelph for several weeks and died much later after returning home.

Later she was taken to the hospital at Toronto. After much suffering death came peacefully and with great resignation and Christian fortitude she met the call. Her husband and other friends were with her constantly and her sister, Mrs. Robt. Cox of Rockvale, Colorado, arrived on Saturday afternoon and spent several precious hours with her prior to her demise. Mrs. Matthews was Ada Grant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grant, and wife of Gilfoyle Gough, Glenmargravine, South Wales, thirty-two years ago. Nearly thirty years ago with her parents she removed to Colorado, where her father, being an expert miner, was a mine superintendent. She was the oldest of eight daughters and two sons, and here is the first death in the family. She was married to Mr. Matthews in September, 1904, when he was a mine clerk with the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. Prior to removing to Acton in April, 1911, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews resided at Canon City and at Denver, Colo. One child is left, James, who is ten years old. Mrs. Matthews was a woman of very fine character. By her unselfish nature she endeared herself to all. She was a fine Christian and used her talents in good works. She was a member of the Methodist Church and for several years was a member of the choir. The remains were brought from Toronto on Monday morning and on Tuesday the funeral service was held at the home of Postmaster Matthews, Rev. H. W. Avison, M.A., H.D., officiated and was assisted by Rev. Mr. Wilson. Mr. Matthews and James and Mrs. Cox left by the 2:21 train for their former home in Colorado and interment will be made at Canon City. Master James will remain in Deaver, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Matthews. Much sympathy is felt here for the bereaved husband and friends of the family.

Mrs. James Moore, Esq.

After three short days of illness, on the 19th December, 1916, death removed one of our most respected and highly esteemed residents, in the person of Margaret Head, widow of the late James Moore, of Mount Pleasant Farm, Erasmia—the lady had just returned home after visiting her daughters in Acton and was looking forward to spending her Christmas with the family at the home of her daughters, Mrs. Fred Cooper. She was a daughter of the late John Head and was born at Port Colborne, in 1888. In 1887 she was joined in holy matrimony to her late husband, who predeceased her one year and ten months. There is a happy home indeed. Eight children blessed the home, two sons and six daughters, all of whom are living and reside within a radius of five miles of the old home. All of them were at their mother's bedside before the sad news was availed. They are: Mrs. George Wilds, Acton; Joseph of Rockwood; Mrs. John Brown, Garroway Corners; Mrs. J. H. Denby, and Mrs. A. T. Mann, Acton; Mrs. Fred Cooper, Ewarton, and Japan on the homestead. Mrs. Moore was one of a family of six brothers and two sisters: Robert, William and John and Mrs. Charles Ready, of Booth Saginaw, Mich., and Mrs. David Ready, of Old City, Pa., survive. Deceased was a life-long member of the Methodist Church and always loved its services. She was a member of the Ladies Aid. Almost her last words were repeating passages from the scriptures she revered. She was one of the kindest of neighbors. She was always away in full fruition of a life of usefulness and will always be remembered with kindliest feelings and love by those who knew her. Truly her children rise and call her blessed.

ADELINE STAFFORD

The remains of Mrs. Adeline Stafford, third daughter of Alva Stafford, of St. Thomas, who spent his boyhood days in Acton, were brought here for interment on New Year's day. Miss Stafford had resided for a time with her aunt in Guelph, but this fall went to her father's home at St. Thomas. She was a bright young woman, twenty-four years old. An affliction of the lungs was her ailment. Her father and her uncle, Mr. Cyrus Stafford, accompanied the remains to Acton. Interment took place in Fairview Cemetery.

The small cortesee service, life, the greater service.

MEMBERS OF THE RED CROSS FUND

Miss Cassie McPhail, New York, sends a New Year's Contribution

The following interesting note was received on New Year's Day from Miss Cassie McPhail, New York, who was for a number of years an esteemed member of the teaching staff of Acton schools:

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am taking the liberty of sending you \$10 for the funds of your Red Cross Society. My sister and I have been contributing to the Red Cross Society for many years now and feel close to the channel through which it goes when placed with your Red Cross Society.

I have full pride of Acton for its liberal and especially proud of our brave Canadian boys who have proved themselves so nobly at the front. Much as I long for peace I should hate to have Germany dictate terms to the Allies.

Kind regards and wishes for a Happy New Year to you all.

Very sincerely,

CASSIE MCPHAIL
408 West 16th St.,
New York, Dec. 30th, 1916.

TWO BRAVE CHILDREN

Boy and Girl Had Terrible Experience With a Cougar.

The remarkable exploit of an 11-year-old boy and an eight-year-old girl in fighting off a full-grown cougar at Cowichan, B.C., and their wonderful gallantry in each protecting the other when the cougar seemed to have one of the children at bay, has given rise to movement on Vancouver Island for recognition from some national society that honors valor and self-sacrifice. The provincial game warden received a copy of the girl's own story.

The story of the girl, Dorcas Ashburn, follows:

"At about 1:30 p.m. I left our house to go down to a pasture to catch our saddle pony," Anthony Farmer, aged eight, accompanied me. When about half a mile from the house we saw a large panther crouching on a rock. We both tried to run but the panther sprang on me, and I fell face downward. The animal remained on my back and began purring. I called to Anthony to run home and save himself, but he called to me to lie down. He then jumped from a small tree directly on the panther knocking it off my back and I got up. The panther turned and struck Anthony with its paw in the face tearing his nose and cheek. Anthony fell to the ground and the panther with the bridle and bit him and scratched his back with its claws and torn the back of his scalp with its teeth. Anthony called to me to run, but I did not. I then attacked the panther with the bridle, and beat it, and got my right arm into its mouth. The panther ran with me with my fingers nailed in its mouth through the right arm above the elbow and scratched my hands and body and tore my clothes.

"I succeeded in driving it off the boy and it stood up on its hind quarters and fought me, but finally turned and ran away. The boy was covered with blood and badly hurt, and I assisted him to run home."

The document is accompanied by a statement from Charles Martin, who witnessed the affair, and Dr. Stokes, who attended the children.

The cougar measured seven feet from nose to tip of tail and weighed 75 pounds.

Ontario Flags in the Abbey.

A battalion of Canadian Infantry

a few days ago marched from Waterloo Station to Westminster Abbey, where the colors of the Ontario regiment were displayed in the care of the dean and chapter. The ceremony took place immediately after the morning service.

A procession, formed of the choir, the dean (Bishop Ryde), the Rev. L. H. Nixon (provost), the Rev. J. H. Prentiss (vicar), the Rev. J. L. Linton, Hutchinson and Jacob bearing the colors, advanced to the chancel steps, accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Sam Sharpe, Major Smith, Major Cooke, Major Every, and Capt. Wesley McConnell. The hymn, "God, Our Father, in Ages Past," was sung in the choir. The organ recital was by the dean and laid on the altar to be afterwards grouped with other flags round the Wolfe monument.

The dean addressing the men of whom there were many hundreds present said: "You have deposited in our keeping the flag of our country and the country's honor, and in your breasts, sons of the great Dominion, is deposited a noble share in the honorable task of preserving and vindicating the liberty of the great Empire of Britain and its dominions, and in the spot where our fathers have stood, Sovereigns were crowned amid the plaudits of his loyal people. Here he was seated in the Coronation chair; here he received into his hands the orb of Empire surrounded by the heralds of the British Empire."

"This, then, is the very heart of that great Empire for which you are called and privileged to bear arms. God preserve you in the coming hours of danger; God give you victory, in the day of battle, and send you back, safe and sound, to your loved ones.

"The document is signed by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, Rev. Mr. Matthews and James and Mrs. Cox left by the 2:21 train for their former home in Colorado and interment will be made at Canon City. Master James will remain in Deaver, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Matthews.

Much sympathy is felt here for the bereaved husband and friends of the family.

Our Glasses!

Our Glasses relieve eyestrain and headaches.

The consequence is clear vision. If your eyes are weak and strained see us without delay. Eye glasses complete or finest gold-filled spectacles per pair \$3.25. Special lenses extra.

A MEMORABLE SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE

Installation of Officer and Presentation to the Rotiring Superintendent

The service in the Methodist Sunday School last Sunday afternoon was of an unusual character and had several very interesting features. It was the last day of the rotiring superintendent in office, after thirty years of service, and this naturally attracted a large attendance.

The Christmas offering for missions, "The White Gifts to King Jesus," reached \$21.70, bringing the school's missionary giving for the year up to \$163.44.

The presentation of framed diplomas to the ten graduates from the primary department was an interesting feature. The graduates were: Margaret Moore, Emma Little, Ivy Priscilla, Sarah Croft, Roy Johnston, Leslie Gregory, Norman DeForest, Charlie Joyce, Wesley Kelly and Herbert Bryan. In addition to the diplomas each was presented with a neatly bound and inscribed copy of the Bible.

The installation of the officers and teachers for the year 1917 was an impressive service. Mr. Frank Kennedy, the new Superintendent, briefly but very effectively addressed the school.

At 10 a.m. which was not on the program, and which was absolutely unexpected by the superintendent, Mr. H. P. Moore, was the presentation to him of a most expressive and interesting address in testimony of his thirty years' service as Superintendent of the school. Accompanying the address, which was prepared and read by Mr. John B. Colquitt, historical secretary, was a handsome gold-headed cane, which was presented by Mr. A. E. Nickle, J. P., Associate Superintendent, on behalf of the present and past committees of management. The cane bears the inscription: "Presented to H. P. Moore, Superintendent, Acton Methodist Sunday School, 1887-1916."

Mr. Moore feelingly replied expressing cordial thanks for the kind words and valuable gift. He then gave a brief résumé of the thirty years spent as the superintendent's desk, spoke of the blessings and benefits he had received, thanked the school for their long-continued confidence, co-operation, forbearance and love, and bade farewell to the new Superintendent with similar support and consideration.

Mrs. Bertie Smith, chorister, sang a solo and Rev. Mr. Avison, the pastor, gave a succinct preview of the services for 1917.

There is almost sure to be some stir among the heartstrings when the mail has a long face.

HENDERSON & CO.

Acton, Ont.

Preparatory to Stock-taking we will this week commence our Annual January Sale of Remnants. Lines in which shades, sizes, etc., are broken.