

Births, Marriages and Deaths are now charged for at the following rates: Births \$1.00, Marriages \$1.00, Deaths \$1.00. Memorial Cards \$1.00. Extra rates for portraits.

BIRTHS

PRICE.—In Memoriam—Wednesday, May 30th, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. Harding Price, a daughter—Bertha Winifred.

MARRIAGE

BENSON COOPER.—On Tuesday, May 29th, 1917, at the home of Mr. James A. Cooper, uncle of the bride, at Hamilton, Mrs. Max, by Rev. W. Ferguson, Rev. Jas. Watson Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Watson Brown, only daughter of Mr. John H. Cooper, late of Action.

MARSHALL SWEETMAN.—At the home of Mrs. Campion, 440 Gerrard St., Toronto, son of the bride, on Saturday, May 26th, 1917, Mr. L. A. Marshall, Minister of Health, Ontario, and Miss Estelle, fifth daughter of Capt. Sweetman, Middlesborough, Yorkshire, England.

DIED

WATKIN.—At Norval, on Tuesday, May 29th, 1917, Robert Watkin, in his 85th year.

MACKENZIE.—At her father's residence, Frederick Street, Acton, on Friday, June 1st, 1917, Margaret Eller Mackenzie, aged 72 years.

VANATTEN.—On Friday, May 26th, 1917, at the residence of Mr. Caldwell, 227 St. George Avenue, Toronto, Ernest Vanatten, aged 72 years.

The Action Free Press.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1917

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT is fixing the prices of an ever-growing list of food products, with a callous disregard of political economy. The speculators and gamblers in foodstuffs are all finding their plans miscarried there.

WOMEN are meeting at various points to study so that they may understand the questions on which they will be required to vote. Men will require to follow their example or the women will take the lead in the advocacy of public questions calculated for the betterment of society.

CANADA is certainly being discovered in these days of stress. The sacrifices which are being made day-to-day in connection with the war are threefold. First, financial; second, domestic; third, spiritual; and those are bringing Canada into world prominence as never before. May our country rise to the opportunities which are on the threshold.

With gratifying persistency the price of flour continues to drop in the great markets of the country. This proves beyond a doubt that the recent inflation was unreasonable and unwarranted by the conditions of supply and demand. The abnormal prices of a few weeks ago were the result of the gambling in margins with the staff of life.

OVER 415,000 men enlisted in Canada 312,000 have gone overseas; and 25,000 remain in Canada. About 75,000 have been rejected, otherwise dropped out. Some have deserted, gone to the United States. The number of discharged in Canada for physical unfitness was about 32,000. Our casualties are about one-third of the number of men sent overseas.

POWER MATTERS have again come into prominence. In the first place the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario has taken over the privately owned Ontario Power Company for \$22,000,000. The project will pass to the Hydro-Electric Commission on the 1st of August. Up to the present time the Hydro-Electric Commission, as far as Niagara power is concerned, has been merely a distributor and not a producer, but now with the Ontario Power Company's plant acquired there will produce Niagara power. It is estimated that \$70,000,000, including the money furnished by the municipalities, are invested in Hydro property in Ontario.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT's proposal to give Home Rule to all Ireland except parts of Ulster was rejected at once by all the Home Rulers, but the alternative proposal for a national convention to meet and, if possible, reach some agreement as to Home Rule was welcomed by the Nationalists as a possible method of reaching a peaceful solution. The Government insisted that this convention should represent every shade of politics, and that leaders in religion and politics should also be included. The scheme is a good one, and follows that successfully adopted in South Africa after the Boer war. It is universally hoped that the outcome will be a peaceful settlement of this long-standing and difficult situation.

RACE TRACK DEVELOPMENTS in the race track gambling situation, which, in different aspects, comes under the jurisdiction of both the provincial and federal governments, have come. Deputations to Ottawa from representatives of the race tracks and the Social Service Congress, and numbers of resolutions are being passed by church assemblies. Representatives of the racing interests waited upon Sir Robert Borden and Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, and offered that if they were allowed to carry out their programme for the present year they would voluntarily close the race tracks under their control for the remaining period of the war. Mr. W. E. Raney, who has been one of the leading assailants of war time race track gambling, does not think much of this offer. "Balancing with the question" is his comment. "The race track men," he says, "in his view, of the alliance" are trying to save what they can and if they are permitted to hold Spring and Fall meetings for 1917 they will have another million or million half of betting-house race-off to their credit.

COL. SIR CHARLES H. MITCHELL, The Soldier Son of Rev. G. A. Mitchell, formerly of Georgetown, is knighted.

Among those in the king's birthday honor list is whose recognition is given for service in fields of endeavour in connection with the war is Lieut.-Col. Charles Hamilton Mitchell, son of Rev. Geo. A. Mitchell, B.A., of Toronto, formerly Methodist minister at Georgetown.

Col. Sir Charles Mitchell went to the war with the first contingent. He is a well-groomed and his career has been a most active and useful one. Early in the week he was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French military authorities.

W. D. GREGORY HAS ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION AS LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR HALTON FOR THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

W. D. Gregory has sent the following letter to the President of Halton Reform Association accepting the nomination:

J. W. Hudmore, Esq., President, County of Halton Reform Association, Bronte, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Hudmore:

At the Reform Convention held at Milton last week, I asked for time to consider the nomination, for the Dominion Parliament, with which the Liberals of Halton honored me. Since then I have conferred with Liberals from various parts of the county

HAMILTON CONFERENCE NOTES.

A former Action Pastor was elected President at Brantford.

Rev. J. A. MacLachlin, M. A., of Grimsby, was elected President of Hamilton Conference last Thursday. The new President was a former pastor of the Methodist Church here. It is rather remarkable that Rev. Geo. W. Barker, of Guelph, another Action pastor, was a very close second in the vote for contested honor.

Rev. Mr. Barker will, in all probability, be elected next year—the General Conference year.

Another office, that of Assistant Secretary of the Conference, is filled by Rev. G. C. Dicker, of Milton, who was Rev. Mr. Action's predecessor here.

An event of unusual interest at the opening session was the sermon and address of Bishop Thomas Nicholson, of the Methodist Church, Chicago. Bishop Nicholson is a Canadian, and entered the ministry here thirty-six years ago. He has won honor and distinction in the United States. The Bishop's sermon at the opening of Conference on Thursday and his address on Friday morning were masterly and helpful. His reception was cordial indeed.

The banquet held by the Laymen's Association on Thursday evening was the most successful of the series held. Over 300 ministers, laymen and ladies participated in the social function. A feature of the evening was the address on "Modern Church Efficiency" by Rev. W. E. Baker, of Brantford. This was a splendid inspiration to do better, greater things in the organization of the church.

The work of the various departments showed gratifying increases in all. The membership is increased and missionary offerings are considerably in advance of last year.

Rev. Dr. Mead gave a splendid report of Social Service and Evangelism and showed that the energetic activities of this department have been effective in accomplishing satisfactory results. There are encouraging prospects that considerable advance in temperance legislation will be effected during the present session of the House of Commons.

The work of the Stationing Committee has been fully as arduous as usual.

We do not know when we shall be called upon to elect a new parliament. The term for which the present parliament was elected has long expired and, objectionable as in many respects a wartime election would be, no further extension should be granted unless by general consent.

We do not make light of the many difficulties which the Government faces.

Not do we question the fact that any Government can be as good as the British administration was with the problems it faced from the conduct of a great war.

This existing government has received

and all the supplies for which it asked and has been voted and all the war measures that it submitted have been passed "with unanimity."

In the early days of the war Sir Robert Borden had an opportunity to render a great public service. He could have invited leaders of the Liberal party to join the Government and share in its work and responsibilities. He might thus have created an administration truly national in its character and as strong as to be able to resist those evil influences to which party governments too often yield. But the golden opportunity was not taken and the Government chose to be partisan rather than national. It is common knowledge that the business of the war was used to swell the party patronage contracts were let through to party supporters and offices were filled with men chosen, not because they possessed special fitness for the work required, but because they were political partisans claiming for reward.

Is it not a wonder that this policy of want of political balance did not bring down the Government?

It has been decided that we must wait until today at Ottawa a government politically bankrupt, which has never given us either leadership or inspiration and which advances only to retreat?

There has seldom been an occasion when we have not been prepared to go farther than it went itself. Purpose and unity are not found in it; and now, having got us into political bog, it finds itself unable to get us out of it longer to administer our affairs.

In the presence of a great danger, party differences must be forgotten, so far as it is possible for us to forget them: We must not place Liberal first or Conservative first, but Canada first. Our policy must be to carry the war to a successful conclusion and we must omit no word or act which will lead to that goal. To me it seems clear that in the crisis that we face, one or two courses must be taken. There must be either a general election followed by the creation of a government with a mandate direct from the people, or a new government composed of men from both parties who have agreed to form it. Whatever action we, as Liberals, take, let us see that it's done from any solid wish or partisan motive.

Yours faithfully,

W. D. Gregory.

Liberal Candidate for Halton in the House of Commons.

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