The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1922

SOMETHING TO DO

There's something to do; don't wait,
The moments are flying,
While many a tangled thread
You might be untying.

There's surely some burdened soul
Whose sad you may lighten,
Some darkened and clouded life
For your smiles to brighten.

Some loving word of comfort
For your lips only meant;
Some gracious message of hope
Which the Master hath sent.

—Jessie M. McClure.

Neighborhood News--Town and Country

GEORGETOWN

Georgetown Fire Brigade will hold their 50th annual ball on December 29.

Mrs. H. P. Lawson was at Montreal last week attending the Dominion Convention of the National Council of Women.

The Georgetown Branch of the Women's Institute will meet at the home of Mrs. Ira Vannatter on Wednesday, December 6.

The Women's Society of the Baptist Church will hold a sale of Christmas cakes, puddings, etc., on Saturday, December 16, at 4 o'clock.

Lieut.-Col. B. O. Hooper, at one time manager of the Bank of Hamilton in Georgetown, has been appointed to the post of manager of the main branch of the Bank of Hamilton in Hamilton.

Heath & Davis' buff orpingtons won five prizes at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto.

Premier Drury will address the people here to-night. He will be tendered a public reception. Major Grant will occupy the chair.

At voting on the by-law to loan the Georgetown Foundry Co. the sum of $12,000 for a term of 20 years the vote was as follows: for the by-law, 180; against the by-law, 113; majority in favor, 67.—Herald.

BURLINGTON

The Tuxis Boys of the Methodist Church met last night and plans were arranged for the coming winter.

Rev. Dr. Anderson preached his farewell sermon in Knox Church on Sunday evening, after a pastorate of twenty-one years. It was rather a pathetic farewell.

Miss Eva Blair returned home on Friday from a visit with her sister at Cobalt. During her stay in Northern Ontario she paid a visit to the fire area district.

On Thursday afternoon a most delightful time was spent at the home of Mrs. Chester Pearl, Locust Street, about seventy-five ladies being present. The occasion was a handkerchief shower, given under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church, in aid of the bazaar.

The electors will vote on a proposed by-law to authorize a certain agreement between the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and the Municipal Corporation of Nelson and other municipal corporations, for the construction, equipment, maintenance and operation of a railway from the village of Port Credit to the city of St. Catharines, on municipal election day.—Gazette.

MILTON

Milton High School will hold its Commencement Exercises on Thursday evening, December 21.

The marriage is announced at Los Angeles, California, of Miss Emma McGibbon, of Brampton, only daughter of the late Judge McGibbon, formerly of Milton, to Rev. W. R. Maison, rector of All Saints Church, Los Angeles.

The upper stories of Mrs. J. H. Peacock's block on Main Street are being fitted up for a knitting mill, to be operated by Mr. T. Foster.

The four men who were arrested for alleged pocket picking here last fall fair day, and committed for trial, were tried before Judge Elliot yesterday. Practically the same evidence was given as at their committal. Judgment was reserved.

Last Thursday night the whistle on a new engine attached to a freight train on the C. P. R. got stuck and could not be shut off. The result was that it continued blowing for about an hour, and people all over town were wondering what was the matter.

Mr. A. L. Chambers, who was kicked in the knee by a horse, is able to be out again, though a little lame as yet.

Mrs. Kehr, of Milwaukee, sister of Mrs. T. D. Hume, arrived here on Tuesday to see her mother, Mrs. S. M. Bell, who has been very ill.

Miss Kathleen Hamilton, daughter of Mr. William Hamilton, left on Tuesday of last week to take a course of training at the Toronto General Hospital. Previous to her departure she, as retiring President of the Grace Church Young People's Society, of which she has been a very active and faithful member, at their last meeting, was presented with a club bag.—Champion.

OAKVILLE

In connection with the town water system, it has been shown that it costs 11.14 cents per thousand gallons for pumping. Meters were installed at different places, and it was found that they caused considerable saving in the amount of water used. It is proposed, therefore, to gradually instal meters in every house in Oakville.

Trees that have taken years to grow will not be cut down from Oakville streets with the consent of Reeve Hillmer, Councillors Mair, and other members of the Council if they can prevent it. A pretty strong discussion took place on this subject at Monday's Council meeting, when applications were received from two people, for permission to remove trees from the streets.

Maximum salaries for Oakville teachers have been increased from $1,200 to $1,400 by the Board of Education. The minimum remains the same at $900; but when engaging new teachers, experience and qualifications will be taken into consideration. R. F. Sanderson, principal of the Public School, was given an increase from $2,000 to 2,300, and W. E. Wyndham, High School principal, will receive $3,200.

Big things are being planned for the Oakville band by the committee of citizens who look after the organization. The idea is to replace the old brass instruments gradually, so that in time every instrument will be silver, made by the same manufacturer, with the same tone, so that they will blend perfectly and give one hundred per cent. harmony. Another plan is to have the bandsmen clothed in proper uniforms, well-made, and "snappy," instead of the khaki ones now being worn by the band.—Record.

MUDDLED

Ethel was making her dolly a dress, but she got the sleeves in wrong.

"Change them, dear," said mother.

Ethel burst into tears.

"I cannot," she said, "because I don't know if I have the right sleeve in the wrong place, or the wrong sleeve in the right place!"

The Old Man Meditates on the Pleasures of Memory

Childhood's loved group revisits every scene,
The tangled wood-walk and the tufted green!
Indulgent memory wakes, and lo, they live!
Clothed with far softer hues than light can give.
Thou first, best friend, that Heaven assigns below,
To sooth and sweeten all the cares we know;
Whose glad suggestions still each vain alarm,
When nature fades and life forgets to charm,
Thee would the muse wake! to thee belong
The sage's precept and the poet's song.
What softened views thy magic glass reveals,
As when in ocean sinks the orb of day,
Long on the wave reflected lustres play;
Thy tempered gleams of happiness resigned,
Glance on the darkened mirror of the mind.
The school's lone porch, with revelend mosses gray
Just tells the pensive pilgrim where it lay,
Mute is the bell that rung at peep of dawn,
Quickening my truant feet across the lawn;
Unheard the shout that rent the noon-tide air
When the school clock gave a pause to care.
Up springs, at every step, to claim a tear,
Some little friendship formed and cherished here;
And not the lightest leaf, but trembling teems
With golden visions and romantic dreams.

* * *

Hail! memory, hail! in thy exhaustless mine
From age to age unnumbered treasures shine!
Thought and her shadowy brood thy call obey,
And place and time are subject to thy sway!
Thy pleasures most we feel when most alone;
The only pleasures we can call our own.
Lighter than air, Hope's summer visions die,
If but a floating cloud obscure the sky;
If but a beam of sober Reason play,
Lo, Fancy's fairest frost-work melts away!
But can the wiles of Art, the grasp of Power,
Snatch the rich relics of a well-spend hour?
These, when the trembling spirit wings her flight,
Pour round her path a stream of living light;
And guild those pure and perfect realms of rest,
Where Virtue triumphs, and her sons are blest!

"Well," said Mary, when I read this over to her on Saturday night, "you've gone a long way back to find another of your favorite poems on memory, this time. I know your meditations on the things which occurred when we were young are in your old noddle most of the time, but I didn't think you'd wander away back to the days of Samuel Rogers, the poet. Why, I find he wrote that poem away back in 1792. But, I must confess, it fits in all right. You do have a great time nosing around for memory things and incidents of old times; your own boyhood days and before."

Say, that first snow storm last week just about knocked me out. It caught my old bones where the rheumatis is located, and took most of the grit out of me. Well, I thought, there'll be no "Old Man's" musings this week. I don't feel a bit like writing, and I guess it won't hurt them much if I skip a week. But, Mary, she says, "Now, John, don't give up that way. You don't want to disappoint the folks who like the old things you write. Just when Christmas is coming on, and everybody ought to feel good in anticipation of that happy season from now on." And then she put into my hands my favorite book of poems, "Gleanings from the Poets," and I began to browse through them. 'Twasn't long before I came upon Sam Rogers' section and I read, for the hundredth time, I s'pose, his own favorite, "Pleasures of Memory." Then, I thought to myself, thinks I, here I've been enjoying Sam's reveries about the old home and home surroundings, and the village school, and all, for fifty years, why not just give The Free Press readers the benefit of it and take a few inches of my space in giving them a taste of what I've enjoyed so long. Say, that very idea has done a lot for me in my long life. The more I've tried to do for other folks, the more I've enjoyed life for myself. Well, I've always liked Rogers' poems, if their author was an Englishman, while my folks sprung up in Scotland. He had a good heart and seemed to be able to "get under the skin" of most folks of his day. And he lived a good long life too, just as long as in my very best-feeling days I expect for myself. He was born away back in 1763, and lived, going about doing good, until 1855, ninety-two years.

Well, I did run off at a tangent, didn't I? When I get back to those ancient days I always forget myself and ramble. But, now for a few things more about the old Methodist Church and Sunday School on Church Street.

During the ministry of Rev. John Law, in 1855, during the protracted meetings held in the church, elected three or four years before, there was a noted revival, which stirred the community and a large number of new members were received.

It was about this time the Sunday School was organized. Squire Brown was the first Superintendent. He was the grandfather of the present Superintendent, Mr. A. T. Brown. Mr. Brown continued as Superintendent until 1872, with great acceptance and marked success. In the period between grandfather and grandson the following earnest workers filled this important position: John Speight, W. H. Storey, Eli Snyder, W. P. Brown, H. E. Nelson, Thomas T. Moore, H. P. Moore and Frank Kennedy. Of the seventy years of its history the combined terms in office of Alexander Brown, 18 years, and H. P. Moore, 32 years, covers a full half century. The Sunday School has, during all these years, been a living factor in the success of the church. Most of the official members of the church have been trained in the Sunday School. Thousands of young men and women have gone out from the school to assume the duties of citizenship in Acton and elsewhere, the better fitted for such service because of the training received in the Sunday School.

For many years the Christmas entertainments of this Sunday School were a feature of the holiday events of the community.

The introduction of the Christmas tree added to the interest of these happy events. I can remember the first Christmas tree. Mrs. H. A Record, whose son, Percy, attend the school, was the inspiring genius of this very uncommon adjunct to the Sunday School entertainment. It was a success and greatly enjoyed by those who attended, for there were presents for all who were members of the school. It was no discount to the success of this new feature, that Mrs. Record's store supplied nearly all the presents which decorated the tree, and the Christmas candles as well. That was over fifty years ago, and Mrs. Record in those days had in her store most of the novelties utilized for Christmas gifts, and the prices then were much lower than now prevail. Children were much more easily satisfied and contented with the gifts of Santa Claus than is the case to-day. A 15c leather pocketbook, or a 25c knife, or a 10c drawing slate, or a 20c kaleidoscope, or a 5c doll, a yard of hair ribbon, or a candy canes and a bag of sweets, were more prized in those days, than the expensive skates, hockey boots, toboggans, pearl necklaces, gold watches, toilet sets, bottles of perfume, etc., which are expected in these modern days.

This first Christmas tree and accompanying entertainment was an undoubted success, and it set a precedent for all the future, inasmuch as so long as the Sunday School continued in the old white frame church, on Church Street, there was always thereafter a Christmas tree at the holiday entertainments.

The preparation of the programmes for these Christmas entertainments was a trying experience for the teachers and officers of the school. For a full month or more beforehand two or three nights a week were spent in practicing and rehearsing choruses, solos, duets, recitations, etc. The conduct of the scholars often sorely taxed the patience of the members of the committees at these efforts at preparation. One of the lady teachers told me of her experiences on one of these occasions. The practice was proceeding and when the chorus of one of the Christmas carols was being drilled, the most discordant sound wave heard from some quarter in the old church. Investigation followed and this teacher said she found four boys lying on their stomachs under two of the front side seats. The teacher said she dusted their trousers for them and gave them a lecture they must have remembered. Two at least of this quartette of unruly noisy pranksters are still in town, in public positions, grandfathers now, and keenly interested in the conduct and progress of the present generation of boys and girls. I believe they are both Justices of the Peace now, but I've never seen their commissions, therefore cannot vouch for this.

This old Sunday School in the little white church has on its membership rolls the names of many who have won high positions in the land from ocean to ocean. There are, and have been, ministers, yes, Doctors of Divinity, physicians, lawyers, well-known business men, financiers, teachers, prominent agriculturists, and many elect ladies honored for their good works. This is the result shown by the passing of the years. And during their Sunday School days, those who were then lads and lassie, were no better nor no worse than the average members of the Sunday School classes of to-day in this or any of the other Sunday Schools in town.

I've still a lot of information at my command respecting this old church in the worn old record book which I secured. Next week I think I'll give from its pages a list of the ministers who were stationed as pastors in the old church and the names of prominent men of the connexion who spoke to the congregation on special occasions.

The Old Man

NIAGARA'S GREAT STEEL ARCH

The steel arch bridge across the gorge below Niagara Falls, which took the place of the upper suspension bridge, is one of the longest, if not the very longest steel arch, in the world. Its span is 868 feet, and its rise in the centre, from the level of piers, 150 feet, making its greatest height above the surface of the river 192 feet.

One of the longest steel arches anywhere belongs to a bridge at Oporto, Portugal, where the span is 566 feet. At Garabit in France there is a similar bridge having a span of 543 feet, and a rise in the centre of 170 feet, about twenty feet greater than that of the Niagara bridge.

Boys' Shoes

We have a good line of Boys' School Shoes at very reasonable prices.

REPAIRING

Bring us your repairing. Every job, large or small, carefully attended to.

AGENT FOR THE GLOBE LAUNDRY, GUELPH

T. E. Gibbons - Mill St., Acton

MILL-TO-MAN STORE

Mr. Farmer, Attention!

I am still doing business at the old stand, and am as heretofore paying the highest market price for your Wool, washed or unwashed, coarse or fine, and will allow you an extra cent per lb. if all taken in exchange from my Mill Store. If you still have your wool on hand, better bring it in when you are not busy. I have a list of bargains I am offering, much as Wool Spins at 20c per pair, or $2.25 per dozen pairs) which it will pay you to inspect. I am running 22 lines of Stuff Hose for men, besides Underwear, Overwear, Sweaters, Scarfs, Mitts, Gloves, Suspenders, etc. Bring your good wife along, as I have many lines which will interest her, such as 12 lines of Hose from the heaviest wool to silk, Underwear, Sweaters, Blankets in cotton and wool, Sheetings, Yarns, etc.

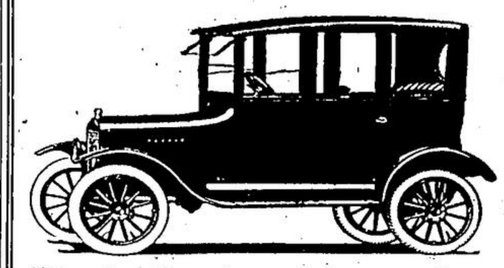
Come in and Effect a Saving on Your Purchases

JOHN McMURCHY, Huttonville, Ontario

"We'll pick you up in our Sedan"

Mary had planned so much on attending the dance that night over at Acton, but a storm was now raging outside and she knew that she must now stay at home. Mary was almost heartbroken in her disappointment, when the phone rang. It was brother Joe: "We'll pick you up in our Sedan," he said, and they were most joyful words to Mary. The Ford Sedan is a remarkable all-weather car. You'll appreciate one more and more as the weather roughens-up. Place your order now and have comfortable winter driving.

Sedan, Completely Equipped, $785.00, F. O. B. Ford, Ont.



H. A. Coxe - Acton, Ont.

Extra Special!
For Christmas

One Splendid Walnut Bedroom Suite

Consisting of: Large Vanity, with full-sized Triplicate Mirrors; Large Dresser, very large mirror, and four drawers; Chiffrobe, good size and very nice design; Bow-foot End Bed, also Bench, Chair or Rocker. Regular price of complete suite, $245.00. Very special at $185.00.

Dining Room Suite

Made of hardwood in figured quarter-cut surface Oak, comprising Buffet with mirror; Round Pedestal Extension Table; 1 Arm Chair, and 5 Side Chairs, upholstered seats, also good-sized China Cabinet. Regular price, $98.50. Extra Special Price, next week, $78.50.

One Dining Room Suite in Solid Oak, Fumed Finish

Buffet, Round Pedestal Extension Table, 1 Arm Chair and 5 Side Chairs, upholstered in Genuine Leather. Regular price, $87.50. Special at $79.75.

FREE DELIVERY TO ACTON.

A small deposit will hold any of these suites, or any other article in this store till Christmas.

Smith's Furniture Store

120-131 Wyndham Street Guelph, Ont. Phone 584

Help burned Ontario over the Winter!

MEN and women of Ontario—it is time that we should all realize the terrible completeness of the fire calamity that devastated Northern Ontario in the early days of October. Fires and calamities we have had before, but never such complete destruction as this.

Over 1,200 square miles laid desolate, town after town nothing but a bleak expanse of ruins, hundreds of farms swept bare, thousands of your fellow citizens "cleaned out" and thrown abruptly back into man's primeval struggle against nature and her grim forces: fire, hunger, ice and the stark northern cold.

Give 1,800 families a fighting chance to get on their feet. Temporary relief must go on. We must not fail the North.

Winter—the relentless foe

Coming as this terrible fire did, in the autumn, with the harvests in, with the townspeople already preparing for the rigors of winter—the complete destruction wrought is the harder to overcome.

Thousands of people at first had literally no place to lay their head, little to wear and nothing to eat. They had to be taken care of at first, somehow, and then, desperately as the days went by, and the cold grew more intense, rough but serviceable standard shacks, 16' x 20', have been replacing tents, old street cars, packing boxes and sheet iron—a regular food supply has been established, and rough clothing is being distributed.

What can a man do with his house a blackened hole in the ground, his barn a charred heap, his work shop a twisted pile of rubbish—and a northern blizzard raging over all?

Temporary Relief Until Spring

In the name of humanity we must see these fellow citizens through until Spring opens up the land and general business activities are resumed. Money must be forthcoming from the citizens of Ontario, from municipalities, industries, societies, public bodies, lodges, churches, etc.—not for rehabilitation or re-establishment, but for the supply of bare necessities, "temporary relief" in fact, to the stricken North.

The Brighter Side of the Picture

Everywhere throughout the fire swept district one hears only a strong, manly note of confidence, of resolution to go forward, to "stick to the country" if body and soul can be held together, to make good once more, to restore the hundreds of burned farms, to rebuild the eight or ten destroyed towns—And it will be done if the stream of temporary relief from Old Ontario does not dry up!

All for One—One for All

Here is a portion of our Province in ruins, and for the sake of the whole Province as well as for its own sake, this section must be restored to prosperity and happiness. We need the North, we need its vigorous, pioneering spirit so one and all, let's "give a hand into the saddle"—and do it NOW.

Money is needed. The Relief Committee can buy in large quantities, get big discounts, and often free gifts of merchandise from the many manufacturers who are generously co-operating with the Committee. The exact needs are now known.

The Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee

has been enlarged and now is thoroughly representative of the Province of Ontario. The Provincial Government is co-operating to the fullest extent and is doing everything that a Government can properly do to assist in temporarily relieving the fire sufferers.

To give immediate relief the Committee must secure actual cash without delay. If each municipality or county would devise some means of raising an amount equal to one half mill on the total assessment the relief can be continued. The raising of relief funds could be undertaken by public spirited citizens, clubs, churches or councils and provides a most deserving cause for Christmas giving. Now it is up to every community in Ontario to help a neighbouring district in its hour of trial. Make cheques payable to—

The Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee, Royal Bank Building, Toronto

COMMITTEE

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