The Acton Free Press.

Forty-ninth Year—No. 35. THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1924 ACTON, ONTARIO, CANADA THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1924 Single Copies—Five Cents

THE METHODIST CHURCH
ACTON

REV. CHAS. HACKETT, Pastor
Parsonage—Willow St.

11.00 a. m.—The Minister. Subject: "A Wise Admonition."
2.30 p. m.—Sunday School.
7.00 p. m.—The Minister. Subject: "The Mind of Christ."

EVERYBODY WELCOME

PRESBYTERIAN
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON

Minister—Rev. A. C. Stewart, M. A.
Manse—Willow Street

11.00 a. m.—The Minister. Subject, "Election According to Christ."
3.00 p. m.—Sunday School.
3.45 p. m.—Bible Class. Study in Matthew, Chapter V.
7.00 p. m.—The Minister. Subject: "Power."

Strangers having address with the ushers will be called upon by the Pastor.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Special Notices

Advertisements in this column 2 cents per word. Minimum charge, 30c per insertion.

FOUND

A man's raincoat. Owner may have same by calling at FREE PRESS OFFICE.

PIGS FOR SALE

A number of young pigs, about 70 lbs. Apply to
WM. FOSTER,
Phone 98r22. Lot 2, 4th Line, Erin.

FOR SALE

1 six h. p. Gilson engine, style G, mounted on 6 h. p. steel truck, with saw attachment, and belt tightener, complete. Will sell right.
W. KILTY,
Acton, Ontario.

WANTED

Local Agent for an old established Life Insurance Company, either full or part time, experience not necessary. Excellent contract to the party appointed to this position. Reply to
33-2 BOX 15, FREE PRESS.

CLEARING AUCTION SALE

James Cooper will hold a clearing sale of Farm Stock and Implements at lot 21, concession 6, Nassagaweya, on Friday, March 14, at one o'clock sharp.
R. J. KERR, Auctioneer.
C. O. Plank, Clerk.

AGENTS WANTED

To sell made-to-measure Men's Shirts and genuine English Raincoats, direct from manufacturers to wearer. Experience unnecessary. Easy to earn $7 to $15 per day. Write for full particulars to
BILTMORE SHIRT COMPANY,
33-3 232 McGill Street, Montreal.

FARMS FOR SALE

45 Farms in the counties of Halton and Wellington varying from 40 to 300 acres. Let us send you our list. A number of homes and business places in Acton for sale.
Fire and Life Insurance. Money to Loan.
J. A. SMITH,
Real Estate Agent,
Phone 105 Acton, Ont.

FARM FOR SALE

Farm, 122 acres, lot 3, concession 1, Erin, stone barn, 60x54, with good comfortable stabling underneath, and other outbuildings. Large stone house, comfortable. Two good flowing spring creeks, and two wells. Fall plowing done. Farm is in good state of cultivation. Arrangements may be made for purchase of 75 acres with all buildings. For price and terms, apply to
ALEX. CRIPPS,
29-4 R. R. No. 1, Acton.

SURPLUS
AUCTION SALE
IN ERIN TOWNSHIP

The undersigned has received instructions from
MORDEN KAISER
to sell by Public Auction at lot 8, 5th line, Erin township, on
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1924
at one o'clock sharp, the following:

HORSES—Brown mare, 10 years old, good in all harness; bay mare, 9 years old, good driver, suitable for women or children to drive.

CATTLE—White cow, 3 years, bred January 20, milking well; red cow, 5 years, bred January 10, milking well; red cow, 6 years, bred August 8; red cow, 3 years, bred February 10, with calf at foot; red cow, 4 years, bred January 15, milking well; red cow, 6 years, bred January 20, milking well; red cow, 4 years, due March 20; 2 heifers, 2 years, good beef; 4 heifers, 1 year, good beef; 4 steers, rising 2 years, good for beef ring; 4 steers rising 1 year; 3 November calves.

PIGS—1 Yorkshire sow, with 5 pigs, fit to wean; 10 Yorkshire hogs ready for market, if not previously sold.

GRAIN—Quantity of seed peas; 5 bushels government inspected red clover seed.

Positively No Reserve

TERMS—10 months' credit on furnishing approved joint notes. 5% off for cash. Seed peas, clover seed and fat hogs, cash.

R. J. KERR, Auctioneer,
Phone 36, Acton.

WONDERLAND

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29
"Pioneer Trails"

The story of the West of '49, when sturdy adventurers, lured on by gold, faced perils of truckless wastes to blaze paths for civilization to come. The most pulsating story of the early West that has ever been screened, with an all star cast. Just a drama full of romance, intrigue and love extraordinary. Comedy, "The Orphans."

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
"In the Name of the Law"

You ought to be arrested if you miss this thundering, dynamic photo drama. The greatest thrift sermon ever delivered on the screen, and not a bit preachy. Universally endorsed by bankers and business men. Comedy, "The Monkey Farm."

J. A. McCLURE & SON

With the Approach of Spring come
Lovely New Cottons

GAY and colorful as Spring herself, are the new Cotton Fabrics. They are so beautiful in color and design, many of them will make as lovely frocks as silk. Following the Spring vogue for simple boyish frocks, it would be very easy to make smart little dresses out of these new Cotton Fabrics at very little expense and with very little trouble. The loveliest of the Spring Fabrics are

Dotted Swiss Voiles at 75c Yard
Fancy Check Crepes at 85c Yard.
Ratines with Woven Silk Checks, $1.25
Voiles, in Many Patterns, at 55c

IN THE NEW SPRING GINGHAMS, COLOR AND DESIGN WEAVE STRIKINGLY ORIGINAL EFFECTS

Your new cotton frocks; rompers for the children, school frocks, and house frocks for Spring and Summer days—so many things can be made right now, and so many crisp, new fabrics in attractive new designs are ready for selection. Splendid values for the new season at 25c and 35c a yard.

THESE SPECIALS ARE WORTH A MAIL ORDER

Undermuslins for Spring and Summer, and household needables can be made up so easily now, before house-cleaning and outdoor duties call for a great deal of time.

Nainsook, soft and fine, just the thing for lingerie for both kiddies and grown-ups. Three special prices 35c, 45c and 75c.

Fine Mercerized Mulls in all the dainty colors liked for lingerie, as well as white. Special value at 50c.

Plisse Crepes, a dainty mercerized texture, in white and in plain colors as well, also in printed designs. Extra special at, per yard, 59c.

Butterfly Crepes in lingerie shades, and also in white. Value special at, per yard, 39c.

Bleached Cottons, 36 inches wide, a value special at, per yard, 25c.

Bleached Sheeting, two specials, 72 and 80 inches wide, at 75c and $1.00 yard.

White Flannelette, a special in 35-inch width at 25c yard; another in 27-inch width at 19c yard.

Curtain Scrim, a great value special at, five yards for 95c.

D. E. Macdonald & Bros., Ltd.
Guelph's Leading and Largest Store

Week-end Specials

ASSORTED CHOCOLATES

Assorted Chocolates, in Hard and Soft Centres. Week-end Special Price 32c lb.

ORANGE SLICES

A clear barley candy with a pure orange flavor. Regularly 40c lb. Week-end Special 29c lb.

SMILES 'N' CHUCKLES

Just arrived, a fresh shipment of Smiles 'N' Chuckles, the Finest Chocolates on the market.

ICE CREAM

We carry a full line of Ice Cream Bricks, also Bulk Ice Cream. We will deliver to any home in town.

Mill Street
Acton
H. WILES

FOOTWEAR
Sale of Left-Overs

Children's Slippers, to clear, regular 75c, for 50c.

Women's Felt Slippers, $1.50, for $1.15; $2.35 fur bound, for $1.50.

Women's Felt Boots, with leather foxing, $3.00 for $2.55.

Women's Indian Moccasins, fur bound, boudoir style, $1.50, for $1.15.

Women's Boudoir Slippers, with heel, black, red and brown, for $1.15.

Buckskin Moccasins, regular $2.25, sale price $1.23.

Women's hightop boots, French heels, to clear at $1.25.

These are real good Boots, all kid and patent leather, $4.00 to $5.00.

Women's Boots, sizes 3, 4, 5 Former sale price $3.35, for $2.25.

Women's Spats, in fawn and grey and black, regular price $1.25, for 89c.

Women's Goloshes, sizes 5, 5½ and 6½. Regular $4.75. At $3.95.

Men's Goodyear welts, black and brown, heavy and light soles. Sale price $4.85.

Men's Goodyear Oxfords, black and brown calf, up-to-date style, $5.50 for $4.85.

Men's Real Work Shoes, $4.25 for $3.75; $4.50 for $3.95; $5.00 for $4.45.

Boys Heavy School Shoes, $3.50 for $2.95, sizes 1 to 5; 11 to 13, $2.45.

Misses School Shoes in tan and black, for $2.50 and $2.35.

Rubbers, infants, 70c; children's, 80c; misses', 90c; women's, $1.00; boys', $1.15; men's, $1.25.

A liberal discount will be given on any goods you buy.

THE WHOLE STOCK IS ON SALE

A good Suitcase for $1.50.

HARRY HARRISON, the Shoe Man
Where Quality Counts We Win Deal Here, It Will Pay You

News of Local Import

Parliament to Open

The third session of the 14th Parliament of Canada will be opened with the usual ceremony this (Thursday) afternoon, by His Excellency, Baron Byng of Vimy, Governor-General of Canada.

How About It?

If you are one of those who have not yet sent along the necessary for your Pass Pass subscription renewal, we would ask you to give the matter your immediate attention. The amount involved may seem small to you, but that is all the more reason why there should be no difficulty experienced in letting us have it promptly. Thank you.

Keeping the Sidewalks Clear

The people of Acton deserve credit for their promptitude and painstaking efforts in clearing the sidewalks of snow after the successive storms last week. Generally they have been cleared off well down to the cement walk. A few careless people, who appear to have little regard for pedestrians' comfort, or for the asthetic in appearance, have been satisfied with a narrow track "as crooked as a dog's hind leg."

Incipient Fire at Russell DeForest's

Five minutes before twelve noon on Saturday the fire bell rang out an alarm. The scene of the fire was the rooms in rear of the old Stephenson blacksmith shop on Main Street, now occupied by John R. Watson as a barn, occupied by Russell DeForest and family. The fire was in the roof twelve inches or so from the cement tile used as a chimney. Fortunately a few pails of water subdued the flames. Five or ten dollars will cover the loss. The Fire Brigade responded promptly, but they did not find it necessary to lay a line of hose.

High Opinion of George Hynds

We omitted in our last issue to make reference to the death of our old and highly esteemed friend, Mr. George Hynds, of Acton. No person could meet the deceased without feeling that he was talking to a real man, a gentleman in every sense of the word, and it seems strange to think that for him life's journey is ended. Milton Lawn Bowlers, especially will feel his death very keenly, as he was a good, clean sport, and played the game not only with great enthusiasm, but in a real sportsmanlike manner. Actonmethinks, will not be the same now that a man like Mr. Hynds has gone from their midst, for in every way he was a citizen worthy of the name.—Milton Reformer.

The Hydro Shop for Service

At the meeting of the Hydro Commission last Thursday evening the matter of service to the hundreds of users of electric current in town, through the Hydro Shop, was given careful and favorable consideration. It was arranged to have the Hydro Shop open, and in charge of Miss B. H. Speight, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Comission, on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons, and on Friday and Saturday evenings. Supplies, lamps and fixtures may be secured, orders given for installations or for electrical articles not in stock, and information upon any matters relative to work undertaken by the Commission for their patrons. All callers will be given courteous attention and their orders carefully filled.

Another Factory Desires to Locate Here

A letter addressed to Acton Board of Trade from a Toronto manufacturer, enquires as to the inducements this municipality is prepared to offer for the location in Acton of a plant for the purpose of manufacturing aluminum cooking utensils. The writer says he has been connected with one of the largest and most successful concerns for the past twelve years; and knows there is a large outlook in this line. He further states that it was intended by responsible parties to erect a factory in Toronto, but taxes, etc., would bring the overhead very high, and this has prompted them to look in other directions. Information as to what Acton is prepared to do in the matter of inducements will be welcomed. The letter states that regular employment would be provided for between 50 and 60 men and girls, for which local residents could be used.

Another Social Evening by the Hewetson Employees

Last Friday evening the employees of the Hewetson Co. at Acton held another of their social evenings in the town hall. The programme comprised the following numbers: Stump speech, by H. V. Kenyon; vocal solo, by Ernest Coles; dialogue, "Hyron's Accident;" duett by Miss Olive McLaughlin and Mr. Rudolph Spellvogel; a dialogue, "Interviewing Servant Girls;" solo by Miss Viola Waller; solo by Mr. Taylor; another dialogue; vocal solo, by Mr. Lewis; a minstrel jazz band, with H. V. Kenyon wielding the baton; H. Rigby in character songs, which took down the house with applause; a reading, by H. V. Kenyon; and J. E. Langevin's Broadway Chorus. The accompanists for the evening were Miss Hazel Mason, Mr. Sault and Mr. H. Rigby. Mr. F. E. McCleary very ably performed the duties of chairman After the programme a bountiful lunch was provided by the ladies, and after the lunch music was providing for dancing by Rigby's Orchestra.

Ex-Councillor Harrison in Stalled Train

While on a business trip in the east last week, Mr. C. H. Harrison took the Canadian National train at Ottawa on Wednesday at 12.05 noon, for Montreal. When the train reached Cushing Junction, about half way between the two cities, it stalled in a big snow bank, from which it could not be extricated for hours. Big engines and snow plows endeavored to release the train, but in vain. It was finally released by snowshovellers next forenoon, and reached Montreal at 11.30 Thursday. The schedule time for the trip is about three hours. The twenty-three hours on the train were rather strenuous for the passengers. These included a couple of members of Parliament, the Ottawa hockey team, en route for Montreal for one of the league games; an infant babe, and the general passengers. There were no sleeping coaches on the train. The buffet car was cleaned out of provisions at the noon meal, and supper and breakfast were looked forward to with considerable anxiety. A quartette of stalwart hockeyists volunteered to trek through the big drifts to a farm house a couple of miles away for milk for the babe, and such other provisions as were available. There they were successful and the company thankfully broke their fast with pork and beans and similar substantials.

Another Successful Anniversary

Masterly Sermons by Prof. Curr, of McMaster University, at the Baptist Church

EXCELLENT MUSIC BY THE CHOIR ASSISTED BY BAPTIST QUARTETTE FROM GUELPH, AND MRS. BESSEY, OF GEORGETOWN

Rev. W. H. Howard and his congregation may well feel gratified with the success which attended the anniversary services in the Baptist Church last Sunday. The weather was bright and bracing throughout the day and large congregations assembled, both morning and evening.

Rev. H. S. Curr, M. A., B. D., D. Litt., of McMaster University, Toronto, was the eloquent preacher of the day. The professor is a Scotchman, a graduate of Edinburgh University, who came to Canada five years ago, and has since occupied an honored position on the professoriate of the Baptist University in Toronto.

Prof. Curr's discourses were of a type such as would naturally be expected from a man of scholarship and culture. They were different in construction and phraseology to the average sermon of a pastor, whose viewpoint is necessarily from a different angle. In his introduction he said he was gratified to be present on this anniversary occasion, and was feelingly touched at the token of Christian fellowship manifested by the presence of the pastor and congregation of the Methodist Church.

The morning sermon was based on 2 Cor. 12: 9, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my affirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." This is a hard saying, said the preacher, but Paul was proud to boast of all his weaknesses. He found legitimate food for pride. Hypochondriac glories in their illnesses and ailments, because of their unholy pleasure in pain for pain's sake. This is abnormal and unnatural. The Apostle did not stand in that category. His mind was natural, and he set an example for every man who desired to get the best out of life. There was nothing in the Apostle's words to cause astonishment or despair. He pictured the experiences of his own life. His words are as applicable to your pains and infirmities as to his own. There is no warrant in his words for encouraging anything which would interfere with the comfort of life. The Apostle thought only of his usefulness. Thrice he prayed to God that his "thorn in the flesh" might be taken away, that he might be more useful. The mind is fascinated by Paul's experiences. He exults in it all, that the power of Christ might be magnified. Paul boasted in his handicaps because he knew that but for them his usefulness would be minimized. He exulted and gloried in his limitations. The incarnation of Christ, and His sufferings on the cross, when God assumed these limitations, were supreme manifestations of divinity. In the presence of the limitations, the barriers, and the handicaps, which you cannot change, you have the contribution of power, and strength and goodness. We are born for service, not for the fulfilment of our own desires.

The evening discourse caused the 116th Psalm to come into the limelight in an impressive manner. The text was the 12th and 13th verses. This Psalm, the preacher said, is an exhortation of a soul which has passed from darkness into light. A proof of the supreme greatness of the Psalm is found in the fact that it is anonymous. It has a wonderful adaptability. It may be used by all people, of all nationalities, at all times, therefore it is a universal Psalm, giving expression to the heart in praise and prayer to God. The Psalmist first asks the question, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Then he answers his own question, by the answer we know that the Psalmist is not adhering to the old Mosaic law. It teaches us to offer sacrifices to God to show our appreciation of his gratitude; but the Psalmist says that he will ask and receive more mercies from the Lord, even the cup of salvation. We are apt to think upon the Psalmist as a selfish man, seeing that he says he will show his gratitude by asking for more. This is our mistake. We read the Bible in a vague way, understanding very little of the truth to be found in it. We should challenge the Psalmist at this point, and not let it pass. The deepest thought in man is his thought of God. A man's conception of God determines his character; he cannot rise higher than his thought of God. "What think ye of your Maker?" This is indeed a serious question, when our thought of God dominates and controls our whole life. God's goodness we assume, as the coming of the morning sun or the darkness of the night. We honor God by so doing. Does this not show honor to God's justice? Christ commands us to give where we do not expect to receive anything in return. If this is the standard set for us by God, will God do less? Quality should always be considered greater than quantity. The quality of God's goodness is as large as the quantity. If we know God as the Psalmist did, we would accept this thought and show our gratitude by asking for more. We falsely imagine that we can gain God's favor by our good works, by exchange, and barter. We try to buy God's mercy, but we cannot. "The gift of God is eternal life?" It cannot be bought. We cannot gain, win, buy or secure by effort God's mercy. We must simply accept it. Man seek God through fear, intellectual dissatisfaction, the thought that the world is vain; some seek but they know not why, and some seek to show their gratitude. Gods owns all; we cannot do Him a favor. "The cattle upon a thousand hills are His." The method to show our appreciation is by accepting something, not giving. We can accept the cup of salvation, which is offered to every thirsty soul, and may be had for the taking. The perseverence of saints is made up of new beginnings. Thus we show our gratitude to God for all His benefits towards us, by new beginnings, and by accepting the cup of salvation.

In his discourses there were many eloquent passages, and a logical sequence which was impressive and inspiring.

There were large congregations at both services, especially in the evening, when the congregation of the Presbyterian Church assembled in such large numbers that the capacity of the church was taxed to accommodate the assembly.

Rev. C. Hackett assisted the pastor at the morning service and Rev. Mr. Stewart in the evening.

The choir was assisted in the musical service by Mrs. E. Bessey, of Georgetown, who sang solos, both morning and evening, and the male quartette of the Baptist Church, Guelph, Messrs. C. Racher, R. J. Stewart, I. A. Johnson and F. Dawson.

Rev. Mr. Howard announced that it was the intention to have the church re-decorated inside and painted outside during the coming summer.

Social and Personal

Mr. Ernest Coles spent the week-end at Blair.

Miss Clara E. Moore visited relatives in Guelph on Tuesday.

Mr. R. J. Hamshaw visited friends at Hamilton last week.

Miss Myrtle Dills, of Toronto, was home over the week-end.

Miss Frances Hurst was home from Toronto for the week-end.

Mr. Fred Maddock, of Toronto, was in town over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McLean spent a few days this week in Lindsay.

Miss Olive Mowat, of Toronto, spent the week-end at her home here.

Mrs. Thomas P. Watkins spent the week-end with friends in Norval.

Messrs. H. Sutcliffe and L. McDonald spent the week-end in Toronto.

Mr. William H. Miller spent the week-end with friends in Waterloo.

Mr. Stephen Guest, of the Toronto Star, visited his home here last week.

Miss Margaret J. Macdonald was home from Toronto over the week-end.

Miss Emma Robinson is spending a couple of weeks at her home at Kenilworth.

Mr. William McDonald, who has been seriously ill, is now slowly recovering.

Messrs. Rudolph Spielvogel and Ray Agnew spent the week-end with Toronto friends.

Mr. T. Johnson, of Guelph, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. W. Coles, Church Street.

Mr. Charles Hymon and Miss Marguerite are spending the week with friends in Galt.

Mr. John Barr, who has been confined to the house for five weeks with eczema, is improving now.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Price, of Cooksville, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, 7th line, last week.

Mr. Samuel Worden, of Georgetown, attended the anniversary services in his old home church last Sunday.

Rev. Prof. Curr, of Toronto, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Plank during his stay in town.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nicklin spent the week-end in Guelph with their son, Mr. H. S. Nicklin, and Mrs. Nicklin.

Mrs. and Misses Richardson, of Brampton, attended the social evening held by the Hewetson employees on Friday evening.

Misses Minnie and Beatrice Blair, Lake Avenue, entertained a number of their friends at a house party on Wednesday evening.

Miss Alice Johnstone, who was operated on last week for appendicitis at Guelph General Hospital, is making good progress toward recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gamble, Acton, and Mrs. Thomas Gamble and Mrs. W. Laird, Walkerville, attended the funeral of little Betty Eakins, Toronto, on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lappin and Mrs. James Wilds, Jr., attended the funeral of Miss Elva May Dobbie at Georgetown last week.

Mrs. Fred Mucloan and Master Billy, who have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Johnstone for several weeks, will leave shortly for the new home at Chesley.

Mr. Albert E. Gurney, of Port Arthur, spent Saturday with Acton friends. His boyhood and early manhood were lived here, and he has kindly feelings for the old town.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Williamson and daughter, of Toronto, who have been spending a month or so in California, arrived here on Saturday to spend a few days in the parental homes.

Mrs. Fred Wright and son arrived safely home from England after her six months' visit with friends there last Friday evening. There was much rejoicing by the re-united family.

Rev. C. Hackett is in Toronto this week attending the celebration of the Japanese Jubilee of Methodist Missionary Work in that country, in Massey Hall. Among the speakers are Rev. H. Takazawa, of Tokyo; Rev. M. Futo, of Kobe, and Rev. Daniel Norman, D. D., of Japan.

Barn Destroyed in Erin Township

It Belonged to Philip Reid, Fifth Line. Six Hogs and Implements were Lost

A destructive fire broke out in the bank barn of Philip Reid, lot 8, fifth line, Erin, known as the Wanless farm, last Sunday night about ten o'clock.

There was no means of fighting the fire, and the splendid bank barn, with its contents, was totally destroyed. Owing to the great depth of snow it was difficult for the many neighbors to reach the scene of the fire. The nearest neighbors, who arrived promptly, to assist Mr. and Mrs. Reid, succeeded in getting out the horses and cattle from the stables, and part of the implements from the floor above. Six hogs were destroyed, with the barn, as well as a quantity of hay, grain and straw.

If the wind had been blowing it would have been difficult to save the driving shed, a few yards away from the burning building.

The barn and contents were partially covered by insurance.

The origin of the fire is unknown. It was an hour and a half after Mr. and Mrs. Reid had been out to the stable milking, and doing the evening chores, before the fire broke out.

The loss is a serious one to Mr. and Mrs. Reid, who came from Toronto three years ago to better their position. By hard work and self-denying effort, with duties quite unfamiliar to them, they did their best to make a permanent home for themselves and their large family of little ones. This catastrophe has set them back in their endeavor, with very serious loss.

—The Globe says last week's snow storm was the worst and most general experienced in fifty years.

Dr. Farmer Writes from South America

His Party Has Enjoyable Twelve-Day Sea Voyage from New York to Dio de Janerio

INTERESTING STEAMSHIP EXPERIENCES, AND VISITS WITH CANADIANS AT RIO

Dr. T. D. J. Farmer, K. C., barrister of this town, who spends the winter months travelling in more temperate climes and residing for several months at those points, is always generous in his contributions to these columns. His letters are invariably of a most interesting and informative character, and our readers greatly enjoy them. The following article, sent from Rio de Janerio, Brazil, about the middle of January, is one of the best he has contributed:

To the Editor of
THE ACTON FREE PRESS:

On previous occasions I have written you from the far West, from some of the entangled chancelleries of war-torn Europe, or from some semi-tropical island of the not very distant seas. To-day it is my privilege to communicate with the home land from much more remote scenes and places than ever before, from those far away southern centres of Latin-American civilization beyond the equator where Spain and Portugal once ruled supreme and the languages of these are still predominant, where revolutions are frequent, governments unstable, and the national currencies, consequently, in a continuous state of change and depression.

I left New York on January 5, on the Government - owned Munson line steamer, "Pan America"—a floating palace in the way of modern equipment, in comparison with any ocean travel I had ever experienced before. The state-rooms of this fine new boat resembled the rooms of a modern fashionable hotel in their elegant fittings and comforts, with all the old-time crowded cabin trappings of a generation ago entirely eliminated, and the dining-room, to the epicure, a dream of delight.

We were only two days out from New York when all winter clothing had to be abandoned and only the very lightest summer apparel worn. Contrary to expectations we at first steered straight out to sea, just as if the vessel were heading for Europe, and only took a southerly course when far east of and away beyond the Bermuda line. We saw no land whatever until the Brazilian promontory of Pernambuco by day, and its lights by night, appeared to our right twenty miles or so to the west, with a flotilla of small fishing craft tossing here and there about us, pursuing their daily calling.

The Munson line appeared to be most solicitous all the way down concerning the entertainment of its guests. Games and pastimes of every kind are provided at evening as well as by day for the amusement of both young and old. A fine large canvas swimming tank on the rear deck was established a few days out of New York, where water sports of all kinds might be indulged in.

The most up-to-date movies are thrown nightly for an hour or more, also on the rear deck, beneath the balmy charm of a bright southern moon and sky. One of North America's famous pugilists, Walter Lodge, was a fellow passenger on his way to Buenos Aires to contest there for the southern championship. A fine platform and prize ring were improvised and enough amateur boxing talent gathered from among the officers and crew to enable this amiable, and willing professional fighter to entertain the guests with exhibitions of his pugilistic skill. But to the neophyte like myself, by far the most exciting and interesting event of the trip was the invasion of King Neptune's domain at the equator on January 13, and the trial by that outraged monarch of the deep, of the many culprits who had ventured there without the royal permission.

The penalties and punishments meted out by the ocean king and his court were various and embraced every offender, both male and female. Lathering of the face with a white-wash brush dipped in a barrel of soft soap, the involuntary eating of an appetizing-looking sugar-coated cake, but of soap inside, the cracking and spilling of raw eggs over the head, a forced drink of vinegar, and a final toss into the nearby eight-foot-deep water tank, seemed to be the most usual form of punishment inflicted, although there were other forfeitures and penalties to fit each crime and to suit the various individual offences.

But, here I am at Rio de Janeiro, the great Brazilian capital of 1,500,000 people, where good old Don Pedro held imperial sway until 1889, where the inhabitants are still proud and jealous of their Portuguese language, and where there are many who still regret the change of dynasty and the banishment of the old imperial family, looking, as they do, on these hot-blooded southern-European races as too impetuous for any but monarchical rule. In spite of the comfort and elegant appointments of our boat, we were all glad to get ashore after twelve days of continual sea-life and to enjoy a ramble about this interesting old city and its environments amid what were to us new and strange conditions, ideas, customs and people.

On approaching the Brazilian capital from the water one observes an aerial railway running high above one, connecting by cable the peaks of some of the surrounding mountains. To gratify my curiosity I took this trip through the air the first afternoon I arrived, and was well rewarded on reaching the summit of the highest of the nearest of these peaks, known as Sugar Loaf. Far away below me, and as far as the eye could reach, there stretched a panorama of verdant island, jutting rock, shining bay, and minaretted city, unsurpassed anywhere else in the world, with little Nictheroy, the capital of the State of Rio across the harbor in the distance. A motor drive through and all around Rio de Janerio in the due car of one of the head officials of the local Tramway, Light & Power Company, who had been our fellow-passenger from New York, revealed many inspiring sights. Perhaps the most magnificent and memorable of all these was the enjoyable old palace and wide-spreading grounds of the former Empress, reminding one of the great country-seat of the Marlboroughs at Woodstock in England—and with a bamboo avenue to drive under, unsurpassed in all my travels. And just reverting for a moment to the great company to which our kind entertainer belonged, let me mention that it is an entirely Canadian concern, furnishing the Brazilian

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News of Local Import

U. F. O. Monthly Meeting

The U. F. O. and U. F. W. O. will hold their regular monthly meeting on Friday evening, February 29, at the home of Mr. Hugh McCutcheon, second line. There will be a good programme.

Shrove Tuesday Entertainment

In St. Alban's Parish Hall on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, at 8.15 p. m. A good varied programme will be staged, consisting of musical numbers, by several members of the Band, the Presbyterian and St. Alban's Quartettes, monologues, readings, etc., which will be followed by refreshments. Admission 25c. Everybody welcome.

"Oh, the Snow, the Beautiful Snow"

It has been an interesting pastime for many this week to stroll about town to view the biggest snow banks along the sidewalks. The high ones vary from four to ten feet. The people in the rural districts assert, however, that folks in town don't know much about real snow banks, for they have them twelve to twenty feet high.

An Easter Cantata

The choir of the Methodist Church is arranging for an Easter Cantata, to be given at Eastertide. Citizens will remember the splendid cantata rendered by this choir two years ago. The membership now is just as strong and efficient, and with Mr. Amos Mason, the leader, as director, a real musical treat is assured.

Chicken Stealing in Trafalgar

Chicken thieves are still busy in this district. James Duncan and Thomas Allison, of Trafalgar, recently lost 150 hens. Marks of a truck were seen outside of both places. These robberies may throw some light on many recent raids where fowl were taken without people in nearby houses being aroused. All indications point to the use of sulphur fumes for making the chickens stupid. After a dose of the fumes had been administered the hens could easily be taken from their roosts without making an outcry.—Reformer.

A Tough Experience

Two enthusiastic hockey fans from R. R. No. 6 walked in from the country on Tuesday night to attend the game between Guelph and Brantford. Having spent all available funds to purchase tickets at the rink, they were without the wherewithal to put up at a hotel for the night, and were obliged to hit the trail for home, six miles out in the country, in the face of the worst blizzard of the year. They floundered through the immense drifts, losing their way several times, but finally arrived at their destination at six o'clock in the morning, pretty nearly all in, but in time to do the morning chores.—Mercury.

Engineer Nicklin's Big Year at Guelph

The Guelph Mercury in reporting the activities in the matter of road and drain construction in the Royal City says: "1923 was the greatest year Guelph ever had so far as local improvements are concerned, the expenditure totalling $248,661.11. New roads and storm drains cost the city $127,269.48; resurfacing roads, $88,756.81; domestic sewers, $29,639.82, and sidewalks about $4,008." Mr. Harold S. Nicklin, the City Engineer, who is the son of our fellow-citizen, A. E. Nicklin, J. P., certainly had a busy experience for his first year in full charge of these important and extensive improvements.

Snow Plow Tore up Platform

A section of the three-inch plank platform at the Canadian National Railway station was ruthlessly torn up on Saturday afternoon by a railway snow plow. The engine and plow were going east and had passed the station some distance, to the easterly section of the platform, which had not been cleared of snow since the big storm. Thinking the platform had been passed, the operator let down the wings of the plow to clear the snow farther back from the rails. Immediately there was a ripping and crashing and in a jiffy about twenty-five feet of the platform was torn up and reduced to kindling wood. Parts of this wooden platform are badly worn and decayed. A new cement or brick platform in the spring would be a decided improvement.

The Flowers Went Astray

On Saturday evening a box of beautiful flowers from Guelph was received at the Presbyterian Church. The officials, thinking some kind friend had generously donated them for the adornment of the sanctuary, used them for beautifying the church for the Sunday morning service. At the Baptist anniversary service on Sunday morning visitors remarked upon the absence of flowers for which this congregation has always been noted on special occasions. Members of the church answered that they had ordered flowers from Guelph, but they had not been received. It was finally ascertained that the flowers at Knox Church were the consignment intended for the Baptist Church, and some one had blundered. When this information was ascertained the fragrant carnations and beautiful daffodils were promptly transferred to the Baptist Church. It is a further incident in the peculiar tangle that the Presbyterian congregation attended the Baptist anniversary service in the evening and together the congregations enjoyed the fragrance and beauty of the flowers which had gone astray.

New Library at Alliston

The sprightly little town of Alliston, over in Simcoe County, with a population of 1,400, officially opened last week a fine $6,000 library. Its erection was undertaken by the Women's Institute of the town, as a memorial to the fallen heroes in the great war, and they have already raised the bulk of the cost by their indefatigable efforts. The Herald says the new library building is incidentally a monument to the persistent efforts of the dozen or so women who constitute the working forces of the Women's Institute, in the face of odds often discouraging. The building was opened with a golden key by Alliston's illustrious son, Dr. F. G. Banting, who presented a beautiful oil painting of an old-time sugar bush, which was placed in position over the mantle of the fire place. Hon. Mr. Ferguson, Premier of the Province, in a congratulatory letter, commended the Women's Institute highly. Mr. W. O. Carson, Superintendent of Public Libraries for Ontario, assisted at the opening and was unqualified in his praise of the new building. He said the building was equal, if not superior to Carnegie library buildings, which had cost $7,000. Mr. Carson promised an addition of 300 volumes as a permanent loan from the Government. The Alliston people are justly proud of their new library.