

A SONG OF WINTER

Sing a song of winter, When coldest weather comes, Four and twenty snowbirds Picking up the crumbs; When the crumbs are eaten, The birds fly to a tree; Isn't that a pretty sight For anyone to see? Then one snowy morning They find a sheaf of wheat That some one who loves them Hangs out for them to eat. And do you know the reason Why they are served that way? It is meant for them to have A Valentine to-day. —Mary Starck.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Issue of The Free Press of February 17th, 1916

Petitions are being circulated in Berlin to have its German name changed. Turnips continue to be delivered in large quantities. Fifteen cents per bushel is now being paid.

The mercury dropped to the lowest point this winter on Sunday evening, when the thermometer registered 24 below zero.

Mr. Lewis Atkinson of Cedar Creek farm, fourth line, has purchased the lively business of Mr. A. McCann, who takes the farm.

Over fifty members of the Epworth League, King's Orderles and Sunday School Orchestra had an enjoyable sleighride to Milton to visit the Milton League. The Acton young people contributed an excellent program.

The stock judging course at the Boardmore stock farm was well attended and the course proved very interesting.

Since the opening of the war, about 125 men have enlisted in Acton or from Acton.

Mr. Bye, of Mt. Dennis, formerly of Acton, is with the Pioneers in England; his son, Joe, is at Salonica; and Willie is with the 80th Battalion at Picton.

The following have done the khaki since last Thursday: Joseph Laycock, James Loulett, Ernest Perryman, E. B. McKinnon, C. E. Herrington, A. R. Madman, Fred Creemore, Kipling Puffer.

DIED

McEACHERN—At St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, on Friday, February 11, 1916, Theresa Ursula Neville, wife of Malcolm McEachern, in her 28th year.

Persian Balm—There is nothing like it for creating and preserving a lovely complexion. Cooling, soothing, it soothes and dispels all roughness or chafe caused by weather conditions. Delicately fragrant, it adds exquisite charm to the most finished appearance. Dainty women inevitably choose Persian Balm. A velvety smooth lotion, it makes the skin rose-leaf in texture. Recommended also to soften and whiten the hands. Truly a peerless toilet requisite for every woman.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

Shown in Annual Report of Sun Life Assurance Co. Just Released

Definite signs of an improvement in general business conditions can be gathered from the 25th Annual Report of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada just released for publication by Arthur B. Wood, President and Managing Director. The statement reflects the strength and stability of life insurance; a voluntary co-operative movement which for generations has stood every test, and which appears on Page Three of this issue.

Life insurance companies' annual statements, always considered barometers of general business conditions in the territories they operate in, have been accurate indicators during the depression and since 1933 have shown, in no uncertain terms, that general business is making headway.

The Sun Life's financial statement for 1935 shows still further strengthening and improvement, just as the report for 1934 showed progress over 1933, the year the depression reached its low point.

Assets of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada stood at an all-time high at the year-end, an increase of forty-one million dollars for 1935, and are now over seven hundred and seven million dollars.

The Bond Account increased from one hundred and sixty-two million dollars to two hundred and eighteen million dollars and is now over thirty per cent. of the assets. Profits from redemption or sale of securities during the year was over five million dollars. Cash in banks was approximately twenty-one million dollars. During 1935 the policy loans repayments took a decided upward turn which definitely indicates a return to better times. These cash repayments on loans exceeded any previous year in the history of the company and were twenty-four per cent. greater than 1931. Investment income showed a notable increase over 1934, while expenses were further reduced and by insurance yardstick the report is an excellent one and encouraging for future prospects.

WHERE?

Junior—"Say, Dad, can I ask a question?" Dad—"I suppose so—let's have it."

Junior—"Where is the wind when it doesn't blow?"

JUST PRAISE

Customer—Satisfied? Certainly I'm satisfied. I've nothing but praise for you.

Teller—Then I suppose it's not much good my sending the bill in again, sir?

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for Acton Free Press GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

I am beginning to think minor aches and pains can cause more acute discomforts than major ones. For instance, here am I with nothing seriously wrong at all, but yet I am aching here in misery, with nine toes and two heels just tingling with chilblains and eight fingers and one thumb as painful as can be with frost bite! Added to that, the muscles of my neck are stiff and aching through getting a nasty job in a car.

The chilblains, of course, are a result of the cold spell and getting too close to the fire. The frost bite is a result of my own foolish independence. It was a lovely day yesterday, so I told Partner I would drive to town instead of him taking time from his work to go. So off Prince was hitched to the cutter and I started off, quite glad to have the lines in my hands once more.

For a few yards all went well; then my hands began to get cold—and then they got colder and colder and colder, until they reached that stage at which one could quite easily dance with pain. Daughter was with me and took the lines, but by that time the damage was done, although I did not know my fingers were frost-bitten until they thawed out to-day. But now I know—indeed yes—and with nine bruises at the end of my fingers, I can't possibly use a typewriter to-day.

But still, it might have been worse. King Winter, I find, is fond of practical jokes. For instance, yesterday I saw a man with the most bibulous looking nose—and he the elder of a church! Of course I presumed the appearance of his nose was the result of frost-bite—one should at least give a dignitary of a church the benefit of the doubt!

Another of Winter's practical jokes yesterday was to freeze my thinking apparatus so that when I got home I found myself minus flour and tea. We had cocoa and coffee in the house, and a product made from roasted wheat, all of which we tried in turn, but last of all I found that life without tea couldn't be tolerated, so now young 'n' me have gone a begging. What should we do without neighbors?

Oh dear, but what a week it has been and how hard it has been to get any real heat in the house. With such a gale blowing we were afraid to stoke up any more in case of the chimney catching fire. These old fashioned chimneys may be picturesque, but chimneys five feet wide have a way of getting lined crooked, which sometimes only needs a spark to set it blazing for hours. We have had one such experience and we would rather be a little cold than risk another. Did I say a "little" cold? How about this? One night in the wee sma' hours, I kicked my cold hot-water bottle out of bed. At six o'clock Partner picked it up from the floor—frozen. Yes, our bedroom was a little cold!

But still, we really had nothing to grumble about. One neighbor, for instance, had stovepipes and chimney catch fire, while she was alone in the house. But she kept her head and, without any help, put out the fire in both the pipes and the chimney. Another has to haul water for a large number of cattle and would that be a cold job? "Well—you figure it out!" another neighbor had most of his water pipes burst.

Our lane, for nearly a month, has been un navigable, but just lately several persons have tried to drive in, so Partner thought he had better try digging it out. He got it about half done, and that same night the wind got up once more and filled up the lane all over again. Just another of King Winter's pranks! And doesn't he like to pile up snow in the most awkward places? One of our biggest drifts is right in front of the watering-trough, which means Partner has to dig a passage-way nearly every day.

Weather such as we have just experienced is pretty hard on the nerves of country people, whose houses generally get the full benefit of every wind that blows. Most country houses have too many doors, and with a high wind blowing, when one door opens the rest blow shut.

We look through the windows—there is, if they are not completely frosted over—and the wind and the driven snow go swirling by, carrying about an odd shingle or two every now and then. Anxious mothers watch for children coming from school and we see the odd car on the road and wonder if the owner will ever get home. We dislike to see our men go out in the storm to do chores and we dislike still more to go out ourselves. All these things contribute to a state of high nervous tension and the only remedy I know of is to get down to a real big job—preferably one not too far away from the fire—and sufficiently interesting to absorb our attention to the exclusion of weather conditions. And then perhaps, when the job is done you find to your surprise the wind has dropped and the mercury risen and that you are still alive and little the worse after the weatherman's rough treatment—except, perhaps, for a touch of frost-bite and a few chilblains. After all, the weather is reasonable and characteristic of the country. Wasn't it Kipling who called Canada "Our Lady of the Snows"? And who, since Christmas, dare say that he was wrong?

Slats' Diary By OLIVER N. WARREN

Sunday: Pa bent & doant seem to be able to xirixate himself off his nose—paper photo even when in the busmen of the family. This a. m. Ma sed she made a kake that is a poem & Pa replide well I expect I'm xpected to be the waist basket.

Tuesday: Last wk. teacher told are class to each rite a pome for today & I pome—I took Jane out a 'diaz & cold cold was the breeze, Jane sed to me your anky-freze seems turned to anky-squeas; Jane ditted like it none two well.

Wednesday: A boy from the country got 1 on a midfishen at the opey house last nite who was gotten aigs and etc out of a hat. You cant get aigs without no hens can you sed the majkhen to the boy & the rippy was shure can—we got thriles dix & geet & ganders all so. Every body left.

Thursday: I & Pa was at the grocery store buyen sum shugar & etc. The groceie man sed he had to be a prize riter as Pa was wachen the scales. The lile wate champ? sed Pa. I ditted sed the jook but his thore sum whatra.

Friday: Bilsters litle bruther cum to skool for the 1st time yester day & when he got home Bilsters Ma sed him whas did he lern & he sed considerable but hede haft to go agen tomorrow. Bilsters fokes sed it was funny but I dont see how cum.

Saturday: At skool yester day p. m. a P. T. A. puyten was tryen out are elosed on observing at the black board. She sed me for a No. & I sed 36 wich she writ 82. 55 sed Jake. less see you chance that.

TO CLEAN BOTTLES

Egg shells should not be thrown away. Wash them, see that they are thoroughly dry, and store them in an air-tight tin until they are needed. They are admirable for cleaning bottles. Crush the shells to a powder, put a liberal supply in the bottle to be cleaned, add soap flakes and a little warm water, and shake well. Rinse first with warm water and then with clear cold water which will remove all traces of dirt and discoloration. Leave the bottle upside down to drain.

ALTERATIONS

A little boy was asked by his Sunday School teacher why a certain part of the church was called the altar.

"Because it is where people change their names," he promptly answered.

Toothache and neuralgia are instantly relieved with Douglas' Egyptian Liniment. A quick, sure remedy. Also recommended for burns, sprains, sores and inflammation.

Saddest Spot in Mexico

The saddest spot in Mexico is the Hill of Belia in the old colonial city of Queretaro, where the Mexican independence movement was born. Its one monument, a crude stone chapel, memorializes the death of one soldier, and the fall of another. On the ground now covered by the chapel, Maximilian I of Mexico, and his two generals, Miramon and Mejia, faced the firing squad, and a volley of musketry sounded the last tattoo for the empire. In Porfirio Diaz' day, Franz Josef, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, built the chapel above the soil where his brother died. It was intended that the European empire would permanently maintain the chapel as a memorial to the men who had died for an empire in North America. The World war intervened. Neglected by Austria, the chapel was stripped by vandals. Within three granite tablets mark the death of the Mexican empire; an altar stripped of its hangings is mute testimony to the fate of Franz Josef.

"The Place of Killing"

Bulawayo, which is the largest town in Rhodesia, South Africa, literally translated means "the place of killing." The famous Indaba tree, under which judgement was rendered, still stands on the grounds of the government house. From the site may be seen the hills of Timbati-Indaba, where executions and timed suicides took place in accord with royal decree. Cecil Rhodes, whose unearned status stands in the main street, lies buried at his request amid the Matopos hills, 27 miles from Bulawayo.

Woods Hold Fast

Just 60 miles from Berlin, at Vetschau, live one of the most curious folk of all Europe, a small colony of Wends who still speak the language of their ancestors rather than German and wear the costumes of centuries ago. On Sundays the women dress in elaborate headgear, an enormous lace apron over their skirts, and ride solemnly off to church on their bicycles. Village fasses are also good boatman, propelling the flat-bottomed punts of the country expertly along canals.

Ancient Tunnel in Hungary

An ancient tunnel 25 kilometers long, which is believed to date back to the Tatar invasion, was discovered near the formerly Hungarian town of Szatmar. Although the authorities were aware of the existence of such a tunnel, there were no details known about its length or direction. A man who accidentally discovered the entrance explored the tunnel and emerged in Szecshobavka.

The Avocado

The avocado is a native of the West Indies and Central America. It is the only species of this order cultivated for the fruit. The fruit is unusual in that the flesh has a high fat content, 10 per cent on an average. The water content is 81 per cent, and the carbohydrates 7 per cent. The fuel value is high, 312 calories per pound.

ANNUAL REPORT OF GOODYEAR OF CANADA

Profits Higher and Excellent Liquid Position Shown for the Past Year

An increase of \$16,362.82 in net profit, an earned surplus of \$7,457,590.14, a high ratio of assets to liabilities, an excellent liquid position were revealed in the financial statement of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of Canada, Limited and subsidiary companies for the year ended December 31st 1935, presented by the President, C. H. Carlisle, at the annual meeting here to-day.

Current and working assets, with inventories entered below prevailing market prices, stood at \$8,913,597.02, as against current liabilities of \$429,769.97. Cash on hand totalled \$664,379.64, and the total cash, call loans and government bonds was \$3,639,545.08, equivalent to 8.447 times the total current liabilities. Total working capital, after deducting all current liabilities including accounts payable and tax reserves, amounted to \$8,483,827.05. This represents a decrease of \$1,299,571.53, largely accounted for by the fact that during the year 7% preferred stock to the par value of \$7,187,500.00 was redeemed and only \$6,000,000.00 of the new 5% preferred stock issued.

Referring to taxation, Mr. Carlisle said: "We wish to again draw to the attention of the shareholders the extra tax burden imposed upon industry. For the year 1935 the total taxes paid by our company or accrued amounted to \$32,181.97." He continued: "Your company maintained its leading position in the Canadian market during 1935. It enters 1936 with adequate finances, inventories considerably below prevailing market prices, plant and equipment well depreciated. These factors, plus a loyal and efficient organization, a policy of quality and service and a public preference for its products indicate that your company will continue to occupy a dominant position in the Canadian rubber industry."

Purpose is one of the outstanding qualities of character and which colors personality with an unmistakable sheen. It draws everything worthwhile in life to it. Sincerity is manifest in action, associations are richer, will-power is increased, self-confidence developed, memory is more retentive, concentration easier—all from the inception of one thing—Purpose.

WEAKENED

With a screech of brakes the New York to Chicago train came to a sudden stop. Passengers, hurried from their seats in the third car, were scrambling about excitedly when a conductor rushed in.

"Everything's all right," he shouted. "Somebody pulled the emergency cord and the brakes took hold too quickly. The last car has left the rails. No one's hurt," he assured them. "But we'll be delayed about three hours."

"Good gracious!" exclaimed a young man. "Three hours and I'm to be married. The conductor owing about and regarded the young man angrily. "Say," he demanded, "are you the bird who pulled that cord?"

Home Treatment For Bladder Weakness Brings Swift Relief

While serious, if neglected, it is now ordinarily an easy matter to quickly relieve Bladder Weakness and Irritation. Pains in Back and down through groin, frequent daily annoyance and troublesome nights—by the pleasant home use of the Dr. Goodwin's "Uretalax," which any druggist will furnish on definite promise of money back on first box purchased, if results are not fully satisfactory. No matter how stubborn, or troublesome your case may be, you can easily prove the value of "Uretalax" in a few days' time. Start "the test to-day and you may look for improvement inside of 24 hours.

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TIME TABLES

Table with columns for routes (e.g., AT ACTON, GOING EAST, GOING WEST) and times for various services.

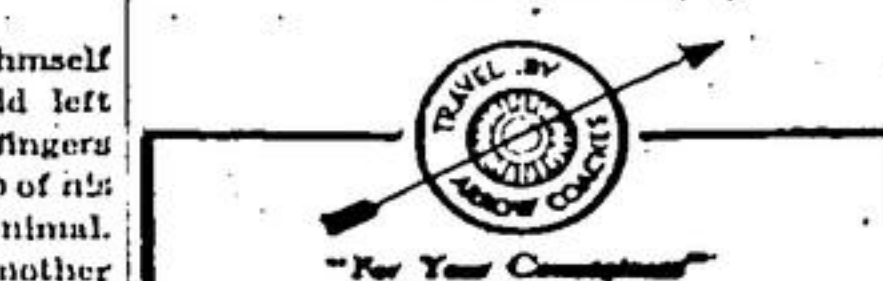


Table for LEAVE WESTBOUND and LEAVE EASTBOUND with times for various routes. Includes a note: 'ITINERARIES PLANNED TO ALL POINTS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES & MEXICO'.

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