

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths are inserted in this column without charge. In Memoriam Notices, one and one per line additional for poetry.

DIED

HARE — In Milton on Wednesday, December 22nd, 1943, Martha Lavery, wife of Robert James Hare, in her 90th year.

JONES — At the home of her daughter Mrs. Bert Dredge, Esqueping Township, on Saturday, December 18th, 1943, Elizabeth McKersie, widow of the late John Jones.

STOKOE — In Hamilton General Hospital, on Friday, December 17th, 1943, William H. Stokoe, husband of the late Mary Elizabeth Bentley, and brother of Mrs. John McGowan, Trafalgar, Mrs. F. Ashbury and Mrs. W. Birdsall, Toronto, and father of William Stokoe, Hamilton.

CARDS OF THANKS

Mrs. R. D. Salter wishes to extend grateful appreciation and thanks to friends, neighbors and School Section No. 7, for kindness and flowers in her recent bereavement.

I wish to thank our neighbors, friends and the staff of Milton Hospital for their thoughtfulness during my recent illness.

M. D. CLARK

Brevities

—Just another week left in 1943. —Merry Christmas from this corner. —Looks like a white Christmas, after all.

—Be sure to send in your holiday visitors for our personal column or tell us about your visit elsewhere.

—Mr. Harry Robertson received a letter from his son Harold, stating he expected to be coming home soon.

—Monday was the shortest day in the year but we'll bet to-morrow is the longest to many of the youngsters.

—Mr. Chas. Readhead, president of the Halton Mutual Fire Insurance Company entertained the Directors to a Turkey Dinner at Acton one evening last week.

—It is indeed an honor to have the Christmas service on Saturday broadcast over a national network from CBC and originating in Grace Anglican Church, Milton.

—The following were the winning numbers at the S.O.E. draw: 1st prize 921; 2nd prize 248; 3rd prize 550; 4th prize 318; 5th prize 818; 6th prize 70; 7th prize 960; 8th prize 253.

—At the meeting of Milton Council on Tuesday evening accounts amounting to \$8,474.53 were passed for payment. Miss Walker, Public Health Nurse addressed Council regarding her work in Milton.

—Farmers report that trespassers have been helping themselves to Christmas trees and in some cases have taken valuable trees. This helping yourself to the property of others is hardly in keeping with the Christmas spirit.

Red Cross Items

The annual meeting of the local branch of the Red Cross will be held in the Legion Hall on Monday, January 10th at three o'clock when everybody will be welcome.

The Red Cross Christmas tree was a huge success, proceeds amounting to \$181.00. We wish to thank every person who helped. Joan Johnson won the doll.

DO'S AND DON'TS LISTED BY BBC

LONDON (CP)—It turned out after all that the reported clean-up of BBC radio programmes had been a little exaggerated. A few days after the report on a wide, new list of BBC don'ts appeared, the BBC put the matter straight:—

There is no ban on jokes on American soldiers, the southern American accent, the home guard, the police, the women's services, drinking or the singing of "nostalgic" songs.

"As for the black market, we think that that is too serious a matter to joke about and we do not allow any undue gloating about the bombing of German cities," a BBC official said. "We do our best to see that officers are not constantly referred to as the 'blimps' and ordinary soldiers as illiterates."

The ban on jazzing the classics remains.

RACING IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW (CP)—Horse races were held here for the first time since the beginning of the war. Thousands of Moscovites thronged the Hippodrome track and many record-breaking performances were given by horses of pure Russian and Russo-American stock bred and trained at State and collective horse-breeding farms.

GUARD KENYA'S WATER

NAIROBI (CP)—About a hundred picked natives are being trained to guard the quality and quantity of water throughout Kenya. They will work under the orders of honorary water wardens.

Entered into Rest

MRS. ROBERT JAMES HARE

One of Milton's oldest and best known citizens, Mrs. Robert James Hare, passed away Wednesday, December 22nd in her 90th year. She spent all of her life but two years in Milton and was very active in work in St. Paul's United Church. She was the daughter of Thomas Lavery and Charlotte Erwin. Surviving her are her husband, Robert James Hare, two daughters, Mrs. S. W. Hann, of Toronto, Mrs. Frank Crawford of Milton, and one son, Rev. Ross R. Hare, of Springfield. Funeral services were held in St. Paul's Church, Thursday, December 23rd at 2.30 p.m.

HARRIS KEITH LE RICHE

Veteran of the last war serving from January, 1916 until the end, Harris Keith Le Riche of Omagh passed away on December 15th at the age of 50 years. Mr. Le Riche was a farmer in the Omagh district and has resided here since April 1910. He was born at Garden Island, Ontario, a son of the late Hugh and Phyllis Le Riche. Prior to the war he was on the caretaking staff of the Central Technical School in Toronto. He took an active interest in community affairs, was a school trustee, and warden of the church. In the war of 1914-18 he was at Cologne and served with the army of occupation. Mr. Le Riche was a member of L. O. L. 165, Hornby, and attended Christ Church, Anglican. Married in 1916, he is survived by his wife, three sons, two brothers and two sisters. To all of these, sympathy of many friends goes out. The funeral on Sunday, December 12th, was in charge of the Rev. Edward Rigby and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. The pallbearers were Clifford Beaty, Stanley Beaty, Clifford Robinson, Frank Thompson, Bert Livermore and Jack Kernolian.

SOME SUGGESTED FREEDOMS

Before this freedom business gets completely hackneyed, we'd like to weigh in with our own list. If the post-war Utopia is really going to be free, here are some of the items we are going to suggest:

- Freedom from crab grass. Freedom from complicated income tax forms. Freedom from individuals who do not identify themselves when they start a telephone conversation. Freedom from bridge partners who bid no trump with only two suits stopped. Freedom from Frank Sinatra. Freedom from home movies of people you never heard of. Freedom from the common cold. Freedom from the home gardeners who fib about the size of their tomatoes. Freedom from pictures of masked wrestlers and Hollywood starlets in bathing suits that never get wet. Freedom from "second features." Freedom from restaurants that still hide the sugar. Freedom from women in slacks (war workers excepted). Freedom from having other people's ideas of freedom rammed down our throats.—Columbus Dispatch.

POLISH LANDSCAPE PAINTER IS IMPRESSED BY CANADA

After seeing Jasper National Park, Mount Robson, and Prince Albert National Park, Rafal Malczewski, Polish artist, says that Canada is a magnificent country for the painter. He was in Winnipeg on his way to Ottawa, with water colours painted in Western Canada, chiefly in the Rockies, which remind him of his native Carpathians. Accompanied by his wife, he cycled over mountain trails to Medicine Lake in Jasper; visited the Columbia icefield, as guest of J. A. Wood, Park Superintendent, painted the Angel Glacier of Mount Edith Cavell, stretches of the Athabasca River, Mount Robson and other scenes familiar to pre-war visitors. The Canadian landscape impressed Mr. Malczewski, as did the people. Kindness and friendliness are unfeeling, he says, and democracy is real. In the winter of 1939, the Malczewskis fled before the Nazis, footing it through the mountains of Czechoslovakia into Hungary, then through Italy into France, thence to Portugal and Brazil, eventually coming to Canada. In Canada Mrs. Malczewski learned of the death of a sister in a concentration camp, but the fate of other members of their families remains unknown.

LABOR M. P. URGES WIDE EMPIRE TRADE

LONDON (CP)—Emmanuel Shinwell, Labor M.P., advocates increased Empire trade as a means of developing Britain's post-war exports and says: "This avenue of expanding trade must be used to the highest if we are to maintain a fairly high standard of living." "We must produce the goods the dominions and colonies need," he told a recent meeting, "and in turn be ready to take from them what they must sell. This can be done without tariffs or any other form of fiscal restriction."

Weekly War Commentary

By FRANK LOWE Canadian Press Staff Writer

That intangible but essential attribute to victory—the initiative—apparently has been secured by the Allies in the Southwest Pacific.

There, where for two long years small forces have been holding the Japanese, the time for attack on a large scale has arrived, and it would seem from the developments on New Britain, the Gilberts and Marshalls and other islands, that the time is not being wasted.

With bold, sure strokes Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his staff have sent their forces surging against the numerically superior Japanese in devastating and successful combined operations—apparently aimed at the reduction of Rabaul as an enemy fortress.

And it seems the move will culminate in just that as Australian and United States fighting men in that sector supreme in the air, and unchallenged on the sea, are slowly gaining the upper hand on land.

It is quite a change, too. It seems only a short while ago that Australia was girding herself to repel an invasion—and the only orders those fighting men had were to hold, at any cost, and to retreat no further.

Philippines Next

Now they are advancing, headed for Rabaul and eventually the Philippines. They won't get there in a hurry and the path will be studded with bitter battles, but the movement seems destined to achieve its objective.

That objective, of course, is not just to gain the prestige of having taken back some Pacific Islands. It has the cold, military objective of smashing a chain which Japan early in the war forged round Australia and thus kept Allied power from getting at her newly won empire.

Once the island links of this chain have been broken, and Rabaul taken, the first step toward Tokyo may be said to have been completed.

For Rabaul, with its satellite strongholds strategically scattered on surrounding islands, is the king link in this chain that has been Japan's foremost barrier against direct attack.

Once it is gone there will still be thousands of miles of sea separating Tokyo from Allied vengeance, but the sea lanes leading there will be easier for the United Nations to control than for the Japanese grand fleet.

Four days after landing in the Arava sector, the United States invasion forces—troops of the 6th army—had occupied the entire Cape Merkus peninsula. This gave them complete control of the three-mile neck of land flanking the Arava harbor on the southwest coast of the big island and leading toward the site of the presently unserviceable air strip.

Meanwhile on the second Southwest Pacific land front across the Vitiaz Straits, Australians pressed northward along the shore of the Huon peninsula of New Guinea.

Germans Stopped

On the Russian front, Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's 1st Ukraine army appears to have halted Marshal Fritz Von Manstein's tank offensive in the Kiev bulge. Henry Casidy, Associated Press correspondent in Moscow, reports that Gen. Vatutin's army "has won a defensive victory as important as some of its offensive victories."

The Germans gained the important rail cities of Zhitomar and Koresten and the highway junction of Radomysl in prolonged and expensive armor assaults, but failed to achieve a major breakthrough. The fighting in the area which was of a desperate nature and on a large scale for weeks, appears to have dwindled to scouting operations.

President Roosevelt has returned to Washington from his conferences with Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Stalin and President Ionu of Turkey and revealed a Nazi plot in Teheran against the Big Three of the United Nations had been foiled. The President gave no details of the plot but said there must have been 100 or more German agents in Teheran.

The plot had been discovered by the Russians, the President said, and as a result he had moved to the Russian Embassy. The British Embassy was next door so none of the three principals had to go through the streets for their momentous conference.

However, while the Nazis failed to harm any of the leaders, pneumonia laid the British Prime Minister low and he still is confined to his bed somewhere in the Middle East. Even pneumonia failed to keep the dynamic Churchill idle, however, and he has insisted on directing Britain's war effort from his sickbed.

French in Italy

From Algiers comes word that French troops have taken their place in the Italian fighting lines. Thus for the first time since Nov. 11, 1918, troops of the four great allies of the First Great War—Britain, the United States, France and Italy—are fighting side by side against the Germans.

The French troops are said to be splendidly equipped with the most modern weapons. They trained in North Africa.

Letters to the Editor

R. R. No. 1, Thornloe

Dear FREE PRESS: Now that the weather is so severe in this country particularly, and my old body is one that can't take it, I have a bit more time for the occasional friendly letter.

All summer we have an excellent mail service, delivered out on the Rural Routes by auto, within an hour of its arrival by train. But when real winter sets in, like it has done the past week, with continued storms to block all the side roads and concessions, with bitter cold, the cars become useless, then our couriers have to go back to the horses and have a covered cab built on their sleigh, with room in front for a tinsy stove. A comfortable seat is usually part of the interior. Our man uses a single car seat and his route is 34 miles so its a long trip, six days per week, usually taking him about eight hours.

He has a regular noon stopping place, where he has dinner, rests and feeds his team and during very bad, stormy weather, often changes horses. This week, owing to the change over coming rather sudden, he apparently wasn't prepared and we've missed two days mail. It's rather an annoyance, because mail always seems so important, either to send or receive, but will soon be corrected and become regular. After the roads filling up with continued storms, then it turned bitter cold. Thermometer dipping to 30 below and the following morning down to 46 below. It's not easy to take outside, but by continually firing day and night, we've been able to keep it out.

We're among the fortunate ones having a good big pile of nice dry wood, so it's no hardship to keep warm inside.

From my perusal of a number of rural and farm papers, seed grain is a question that's occupying a great many minds just now. It seems to be scarce in a great many localities, in the south end of the province. Halton needs some thousands of bushels.

We farmers in the North are blessed this year with good crops and of exceptional good quality. Just now three local power driven seed cleaning plants that I know of are running at capacity, cleaning farmers' own requirements, also that which is being prepared for sale and export. One plant, our local one in Earlton, has already shipped one car of 2000 bushels and the price was 90c per bush, bags included, F.O.B. here. It seems rather a big price, \$2.70 per bag, but when one counts the price at the farm, \$1.50 per cwt. or three bush, then hauling to cleaner, 8c per cwt. for cleaning and grading, about 20% loss or scrap, 18 cents each for new bags, then the loading and tagging, one feels they have earned the difference.

It's expected about 8 or 10 car loads will be available from Earlton alone. Our farmer boy, Wilfred, has been hauling all his grain and having it cleaned. Then he says he knows positively just what he has and what he needs for both seed and feed.

He went into poultry this year in a moderate way, and is using more grain than formerly. He says cleaning and grading pays good dividends both for grain and mash feeding. Then the proper ingredients according to formula can be incorporated. In spite of the bitter cold, our flock are producing over 30% and are only six month pullets, with a dozen yearlings. So many conditions enter into the successful handling of a poultry flock. Comfortable, well lighted and ventilated quarters, kept clean and vermin proof, with good feed, and plenty of drink. We're fortunate in having plenty of skim milk and find they use more milk than water. Demand for eggs is keen, so we have no trouble with what surplus we have. Home this time of year, takes some. Now that winter has set in, bush work has taken on more importance. Prominence is being given in all the papers and magazines. Most of the radio programs reserve space to tell of its importance, and peculiar to say, it's farmers who are expected to rally to the call. A farmer has to be the countries' most experienced man. When the need develops, he is supposed to be available with slight training, to perform any type of work and be available when the call comes. So farmers can be somewhat proud they are such an honored and much sought class.

We're fortunate in the country area to be so free of the Flu, that is so prevalent so many places. The towns and villages haven't escaped but that's where people congregate, which seems to encourage its spread. Now I must close so my letter won't become too long. To all my readers, to my many friends, and to The Editor and His Staff of THE ACTON FREE PRESS a Merry Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Cordially Yours R. W. JOHNSON.

MERGER FAVORED

LONDON (CP)—A merger of two church organizations—the Ecclesiastical Commission and Queen Anne's Bounty—which between them have an income of approximately \$25,000,000 yearly, has been recommended by the financial commission of the Church of England Assembly.

Christmas Greetings

As we approach the fifth wartime Christmas, let us do so in a spirit of confidence and optimism, tempered by the knowledge that there is a big task yet to be done.

We would do well to pause in our festivities and give solemn thought to the spiritual significance of Christmas and the unfortunate peoples of war-torn lands.

Let us give ourselves to the task with renewed zeal and determination so that Victory will be hastened and peace and good-will will supplant aggression and brutality.

In this spirit and with this hope, I take this opportunity of again extending sincere greetings to the citizens of Milton, wherever they may be.

As we go forward in the New Year may we all grasp the great responsibilities and opportunities of the post-war era when we will be called upon to make our contribution to the building of a Better Canada and a Happier World.

GEO. H. DAWSON, Mayor of Milton

WISHING MY MANY PATRONS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR J. Mountain BARBER SHOP

BELL BROTHERS MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Arnold's Fish and Chip Shop WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR

NOTICE Re Stores Closing Monday The following stores will be Closed on Boxing Day, Monday, December 27th

Volume T... TORO... Ontario... activity... In an... for the... replace C... by Mitch... Lt.-Col... the provin... for some... eral week... ded he wi... province's... Ontario H... nada. Earlier... that the... lished for... ion of O... Ontario re... "I believ... ely satisfi... can be pr... fairly sh... "We were... a propert... take into... culties." Members... School T... voted in f... teachers'... along the... eration he... Out of f... voted in fa... while 361... As a resu... ed that P... province's... be asked to... sion of the... authorize f... sional orga... Objects o... vance the... ario, raise t... obtain con... teachers to... increase pu... Liberals... have reaffi... ion to exte... ment head... Drew, but... the necessi... sible govern... There wa... the August... at a recent... the Progres... istration "in... compromise... ert Laurier, and Frank... oka-Ontario... caucus whic... former Prem... attend the r... ing. Mr. H... ber for Elgi... eral and alr... tends to sup... Drinkers... had another... starting Jan... obtain only... pared with... 40 ounces. In an annou... Clair Gord... Control Boar... would be no... and beer rati... NAZIS S... LONDON... British naval... men to escap... them to Ger... the ship was... Commons was... Secretary Sir... sentences imp... many. Sir James... charged with... the merchant... the leader of... ended to dea... years penal s... to varying t... The German... death sentenc... HAD LOOS... Possession... gasoline coup... coupons and... preserves coup... of Welland, \$6... in jail recent... through an int... ing the gas co... resale in Onta... said it was on... black market... the Niagara P...