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Society and Fashion Gossip from the Queen City.

The opening of the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday afternoon of Nov. 30th was one of the most notable society events this season. The presence of Lord and Lady Aberdeen was much appreciated and added greatly to the brilliancy of the scene on the floor of the house which presented a most charming picture, and which was photographed by flashlight after the ceremonies had ended. Lord and Lady Aberdeen sat on a raised dais at the right of the throne and were deeply interested in the proceedings. Lady Aberdeen looked like a Queen in heavy duchess rose pink satin, point lace bertha studded with diamonds and caught on the shoulders with pink roses. In her hair flashed a diamond tiara and a small bunch of pink roses rested at the back of her head. Her young daughter Lady Marjory Gordon was dressed in a simple but becoming frock of pink silk. Mrs. Hardy wore black satin, white lace bertha and diamonds. Miss Mowat looked very sweet in pink silk and white lace. Mrs. Blake also appeared in black satin with white lace fishu. Mrs. Edgar was in grey ottoman silk with rose pink velvet on the shoulders. Mrs. G. W. Ross looked well in a handsome gown of grey and pink satin brocade. Mrs. G. B. Smith looked well in a rich black Lyons velvet gown trimmed with jet and pink satin, front diamond ornaments. As one looked up from the scene of loveliness on the floor of the house to the galleries which were also filled with well dressed ladies the picture was most beautiful. It was a noticeable fact that the seats on the Government side of the house were occupied by the most stylish and richly dressed ladies.

Massey Hall was once more fairly well filled on Thursday evening to hear the great Court singer to the Emperor of Germany, Madame Sembrick. Her singing has been looked forward to by many, nor was any one disappointed as was evidenced by the manner in which she was received and appreciated by the very critical audience. The singer looked beautiful in a gown of cerise moire, the skirt of vandyked jetted net with a bodice of jet over cerise and small puffed sleeves of cerise velvet and was particularly becoming to the dark handsome singer. A most excellent array of artists assisted.

At a large and fashionable afternoon tea last week I noticed some exquisite costumes. One admirable turnout was in sapphire cloth with the skirt braided in black and gold. The Russian blouse was adorned in the same manner having a vest of tucked lawn with a narrow edging of astrachan down either side, the waist caught in with a band of silver braid, the sleeves quite small and furnished at the top with braided epaulettes. Another striking costume was a skirt of black cashmere piped with blue velvet, a small coat of cornflower velvet, with large collar and revers of fur, showing a vest of white cambric hemstitched with black silk. Worn with these was a toque of black astrachan, with a knot of velvet and high osprey at the left side, and a dainty muff of cornflower blue velvet tied with a lace bow.

The latest style for a pincushion I saw the other day, and very pretty it was. The cushion twenty-seven inches long and about four inches wide is covered with pink china silk with a full frill of silk sewn all around it. Embroider a piece of fine linen or bolting cloth the same size as the cushion finish the edge with a frill of pretty lace which must be the same width as the silk frill. Fasten the embroidered cover to the cushion with knots of pink baby ribbon at each corner and when finished stand it up across the back of your dressing-case.

Pansy luncheons are quite the most up-to-date things in society. Trim the table with pansies and embroider the napery in the same flower. At the most recent affair, the hostess wore a blue cashmere skirt trimmed with a deep flounce of ecru lace. The girdle was of yellow satin and at the front a bunch of yellow satin loops imitated yellow pansies. The revers were of yellow and cream striped ribbon, and the waist and sleeves were trimmed with ecru lace.

WANTED—We can employ thirty men and women upon salary or commission as agreed to represent us around home. **THE BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE, Brantford.**

Our Ottawa Letter.

OTTAWA, Dec. 6th.—The Centre Toronto victory, viewed from any standpoint, was a signal one for the liberal party. Towards the end of the short but hard-fought contest, the tory hopes climbed high, and spurred them on to make extraordinary efforts to recapture the constituency. As usual, the manner and methods by which the opposition conducted the fight were

far from being honorable or even honest. Tory heeled went so far as to attack the personal character of the successful candidate upon his religious belief, in the desperate endeavor to prejudice him in the regard of those electors who, from scruples were liable to be affected by their whispered insinuations. However, all their slanders, both great and small, did not affect the liberal majority, and despite the vehement shoutings of tory orators, in respect to the Crow's Nest Pass and Drummond Railway matters, the old-time tory constituency again returns a liberal with a fair majority. The customary aftermath of Conservative reflections and condolence with one another contains some particularly funny remarks from Mr. Foster. At the mutual sympathy meeting held when the result of the bye-election, was announced, Mr. Foster, besides the time-worn statements as to the "influences," which won the victory, said a defeat, or a seeming defeat, was oftentimes the opening of the door to victory. There have now been twenty-six of these open-doors to victory rendered available to Foster and his party since the general elections, seven of which were opened in constituencies that were won by Conservative, on the 23rd of June, 1896. They managed by good luck to hold fast to two constituencies, though by greatly reduced majorities, out of the twenty-eight bye-elections that have been held. If Foster's logic holds good then at the present rate of progression along the line of defeats, the tory party can have nothing to complain of in making a very successful march to victory through all these opening doors. But it stands on the same level as the prophetic utterance of the younger Tupper when he said that the present administration could not live out its allotted time, but would cease to exist at the expiration of one year from the time it assumed office. If, however, a long list of bye-election victories is to be taken as any indication of the general sentiment of the country towards Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it must be accepted as emphatically declaring that public opinion is increasingly in favor of the present government.

The Postmaster-General has much to congratulate himself upon of late. Upon his return to the capital last week he found a fitting climax to the satisfaction and pleasure derived from the recent success at Toronto, awaiting him in his department. The post office returns to the department showed that the postal revenue was increasing at an unprecedented rate, the increase in the revenue for the four months ending Oct. 31st last, was \$242,000 over the corresponding four months of 1896. The increases for the past month confirm his estimate that there would be a total increase in the postal revenue approximating the sum of \$750,000, or about five hundred per cent. more than the normal annual increase during the past five years. In fact the returns for all Canada for the present fiscal year to date indicate a steady increase of revenue as well in the villages, as in the large towns and cities—and an increase that is not merely local, but general. Mr. Mulock accepts that fact as one of the most conclusive proofs that Canada is in the better times. The plan which he also is developing, of abolishing the restriction of "Addresses only" on the face of postal cards and allow the printing of advertising designs and other devices thereon, is expected to materially expand the increase in postal revenue. An attempt has been made by opposition writers to condemn the recent reduction in postage rates to the old country, amounting to about \$50,000 for the year, would accrue from the adoption of this new policy. Like all the gloomy prognostications of the tories the results will probably be found in entirely an opposite direction from that which they would secretly rejoice to learn.

It is predicted in well-informed quarters that Canada will receive over 300,000 immigrants during the coming spring and summer. This vast increase in the Dominion immigration figures is solely due to the Klondike craze, the ordinary inducements held out to the intending immigrants, by the government agents in various parts of the world, pale into nothingness before the bright and alluring visions of the yellow metal to be gathered in the great Lone Northland. It is not to be expected that all these gold-seekers will make their permanent home in Canada, but a very large proportion of them will doubtless do so, and settlement of the Northwest will get a decided impetus.

Young Liberals at Maple.
The regular meeting of the Woodbridge and Vaughan Young Liberal Club was held last evening at Maple. The chair was occupied by the president, Mr. Wm. Dalziel, and Mr. H. Hollingshead acted as secretary. The following were among those present from different parts of the district:—Messrs. G. W. High, A. McQuarrie,

J. Kaiser, J. R. Campbell, Frank Smith, N. Shunk, H. Rumble, J. H. Kirby, J. Rumble, L. Richardson, H. Rupert, C. Ham, C. Forsyth, E. B. Caldwell, — Griffith, — Norton, S. Shunk, — Jarrett, A. Shunk.

After the routine business of the club had been transacted, and a few remarks by T. F. McMahon, rousing speeches were delivered by Dr. J. N. Hutchison, and W. J. Hill, the Liberal candidate for West York.

Dr. Hutchison touched on many of the important questions before the day, but spent most of his time on the Educational Question. He stated that one of the charges against the Education Department was that there were too many examinations in connection with the Public, High and Normal Schools. The Dr. showed that whereas there were twenty-seven examinations in 1867, there are now only eleven. Another charge was that the Ontario Government's fees from the candidates going up for examination were too high. The Dr. showed that the fees were exacted merely to cover the cost of the examinations, which was only just and proper. One of the interesting parts of the speech was that in which the noted West York piggy was dealt with. It was clearly shown that Mr. J. W. St. John had made a great mistake in trying to belittle the efforts of the government to make use of the waste provisions from the Mercer Reformatory, the Asylum and the Central Prison.

Mr. Hill, who was enthusiastically received, after expressing his pleasure at being present and listening to the speech of Dr. Hutchison, showed the proud position that Ontario is in today after having been governed for the past twenty-five years by an honest and capable body of statesmen. Mr. Hill dwelt at length upon the question of good roads, and said that if elected to a seat in the Legislature he would advocate the keeping up of a number of leading roads to the city, a part of the expense to be borne by the province, a part by the county, and a part by the municipality through which the roads run.

After votes of thanks to the speakers the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held at Woodbridge on Tuesday, the 4th of January.

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Maple

A meeting was held in the Masonic Hall last Saturday, for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the creditors. It was decided that the stockholders pay one-third of the indebtedness and that the creamery be sold.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Caldwell in the loss of their little son, Cecil, who died on Sunday morning last from pneumonia, aged ten months.

The service at the Methodist church, last Sunday night was so largely attended that the gallery had to be opened to accommodate a number with seats.

Rev. J. W. Stewart is conducting a series of revival services at Edgeley. Preparations are being made for a Christmas song service in the Epworth League to be given on Monday evening Dec. 20th.

This week it is our painful duty to record the death of Mr. Hanna, who died at 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The widow and her little ones have the sympathy of the entire community in their sad bereavement.

Victoria Square

The annual meeting to reorganize the Rifle Club of this place for the season of 1897-98 was held in the sitting room of Meek's hotel on the afternoon of December 4th. In the absence of the president Mr. Walter Scott acted as chairman, and Mr. L. G. Stoutenburgh as secretary. The following were present:—Messrs. J. Lever, Geo. Brown, W. Mustard, T. Reid, C. P. Reid, W. R. Capell, R. Frisby. Owing to the disagreeable afternoon the shoot was postponed. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, W. Scott; Vice-President, W. Mustard; Secy-Treas., L. G. Stoutenburgh. Committee of Management, Messrs. T. Reid, C. P. Reid, J. Lever, G. Brown, W. R. Capell. Team Committee, T. Reid, President and Vice-President. The club meets 1st and 3rd Saturday in the month for regular practice, and intervening Saturday for practice. The club will be pleased to receive any challenges that may be sent them. Visitors always welcome.

MISS E. H. LEGGE
Is prepared to give Lessons in Music at her residence, Jefferson, or at the homes of her pupils.