

THE LIBERAL

Established 1878

AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT RICHMOND HILL
THE LIBERAL PRINTING CO., LTD.

J. Eachern Smith, Manager

Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association

Subscription \$1.50 per year — To the United States \$2.00

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THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1930

PENSION AMENDMENTS

Increased benefits for the veterans as provided for in the proposed changes in the pensions act brought down in parliament have been received with approval by the people of Canada who wish to see full justice done to those who suffered injuries and impaired health in the World War. That it is also approved by the ex-soldiers themselves is evident from the following comment by Mr. MacIntyre Hood, Dominion Secretary of the Canadian Legion. In his capacity as editor of the Oshawa Daily Times he writes:—

"The draft of the proposed pension amendments has been hailed with the greatest of satisfaction by war veterans from every part of Canada, and by the people of the country generally. This is apparent from the tone of editorial comments which have appeared in the press in the last two days. It provides for far-reaching changes in pension regulations and procedure, and will be of inestimable benefit to many war veterans and their dependents who have been suffering hardships because of the old act and the manner in which it was administered."

WEED SITUATION SERIOUS

In a recent conference of weed inspectors, A. R. G. Smith, of New Hamburg, District Weed Inspector of Western Ontario, declared: "We are slow to comprehend the serious situation that confronts us. It is necessary that we have the hearty co-operation of the press and public opinion to assist in reducing the possibility of a greater spread of weeds, especially those designated 'Noxious' and under the ban of the Ontario Weed Control Act. Weeds are going to beat us if we do not awaken to the seriousness of the situation. For instance the perennial sow thistle is now in every county of Ontario." All inspectors are asked to have a thorough inspection made at once. They are also urged to make their position definable as "weed advisors" in place of "inspectors" in the ordinary sense of the word.

WHEN TEACHERS GOT FIFTY CENTS A MONTH

It's a far cry from the salary of a woman teacher in Ontario a century ago to the salaries enjoyed by teachers today for the documentary evidence has come to light which shows that 50 cents a month plus board was all that girl teachers could hope for a hundred years ago.

The document in question is a copy of the contract between Miss Ellen Tracy and the school board of a section in Uxbridge township. The contract is in the possession of Col. W. C. Michell, supervising principal of Toronto collegiates, her grandson and was found recently among the papers of the teacher.

The contract incidentally reveals the old plan by which the teacher used to board around in the homes of the pupils. Any homes which did not wish to board her could avoid doing so by paying her five shillings a week.

It is to be noted that in those days the parents subscribed for the teacher's salary, as evidently there was no school rate. Presumably, those with the largest families would be expected to subscribe the most.

This lady discontinued her teaching on her marriage to William Henry Michell, well-known through Ontario County as a conveyancer and surveyor. Her descendants and relatives engaged in educational work are: Professor Robin Michell, of Madison University, Wisconsin, a grandson; Professor Frederick Tracy of the University of Toronto, a nephew; Charles A. Michell, connected with Shaw's Schools, Toronto, a grandson, and Lieut.-Col. Michell.

The exact text of this century-old contract with its ancient spelling is as follows:

"Article of agreement made and concluded this 1st day of June, 1835, between Miss Ellen Tracy, School Mistress of the one part, and the undersigned on the other part. Now the conditions of this agreement is such—the said Miss Tracy agrees to teach a school in Forsythe School House on lot No. 4, 2nd Concession of Uxbridge, for the Term of three months for Six Shillings New York Currency per Quarter and board with the Scholars of such as wish to have her board with them and those that wish to pay her board she will board herself for Five Shillings NYC. per week. She will teach reading, writing and sewing and keep such order in her school as she hopes will satisfy her employers. The pay will be required the first day of February, 1836."

Bedding Plants

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Sad Drowning Claims Two Young Lives



In a drowning accident, north of Oak Ridges last Friday, George Zeigler (2), aged 13 and his brother Louis (1), aged 10, were drowned in a pond and Ali Hansen (3), aged 11, escaped a similar fate through the prompt and courageous action of John Irving (4), aged 13, who swam to the rescue.

The tragedy took place on Friday afternoon at 4.15 and to terminate what started out to be a "nature study" excursion.

The accident occurred on what is known as "Boyles Pond," just north of the Schomberg Junction. The pond lies back from Yonge Street and is about 100 feet wide. It has no inlet nor outlet and is formed from the drainings of the surrounding farms. The pond in the middle is about 15 ft deep, full of weeds.

George and Louis Zeigler, with the Hanson boy, were with some more chums playing around the pond. Discovering a canoe on the shore, the three boys pushed it out into the pond and climbed in. They paddled out to the centre of the pond, shouting gleefully to their playmates on the shore. On reaching the middle something happened and the canoe upset.

None of the boys could swim and they fought desperately to cling to the overturned boat, shouting for help

at the same time.

John Irving was on the shore, dressing, having been in for a swim. He dove into the water and headed for the boat. The boys by this time were nearly exhausted by their frantic efforts to clutch the canoe, which rolled over and over from their weight. Young Irving, on reaching the spot, grabbed Hanson as he was going down and helped him to hang onto the canoe. The Zeigler boys had already gone down twice and were going down for the third time when Irving reached them.

Don Paxton of Schomberg Junction appeared on the scene with grappling hooks and with the aid of Constable Sid Barraclough and Traffic Officer William Reid, located the bodies after dragging for some 45 minutes. Dr. D. Williams and Coroner C. W. Devans were called and pronounced life extinct.

The young victims were carried to their graves by eight of their former playmates on Sunday afternoon. The interment took place in Aurora Cemetery after services in the St. John's Church.

A large number of mourners gathered at the services and the graveside. Rev. W. S. Wrixon, of King, conducted the simple and impressive service.

Newtonbrook

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Smith, of Toronto, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Street.

Mr. Edward Bellsmith has returned home from Mono Road.

Mrs. Harry Smith was called to the bedside of her father, Mr. Carson, of Teston, who is very ill. We are glad to report that Mr. Carson has somewhat improved.

Mr. Allen Young left last Tuesday evening with a Geological Survey party under the leadership of Dr. E. M. Burwash. They will explore the region around Sturgeon Lake in the Lake of the Woods District.

A special Empire Day sermon was delivered by Rev. E. R. Young in the Newtonbrook United Church on Sunday morning from the text "Am I my brother's keeper?" Mr. Young pointed out that life principles that were true for individuals were also true for nations. Something new had appeared in the way Britain treated her colonies and has helped several of them to become real nations so that the British Empire to-day is really a commonwealth of Nations bound together by ties of loyalty, sympathy and mutual understanding. Britain through her noble Consuls, has brought great blessing, justice and peace to many sections of the earth and is the only nation that is not exploiting the natives under its power. Empire Day has grown out of Victoria Day and there are many still alive who are ever ready to pay respect and affection to the memory of the great Queen, who, by the beauty of her character and the sincerity of her sympathy for her people and for every good cause, found such a large place in the hearts of her subjects. Individuals, who will have their way, no matter who may be brushed aside and crushed, soon develop hatred, quarrels and death. This is also true of nations. It is in such things as the League of Nations that we see the promise of peace and good will on earth and the British Empire is both the best support to-day

of the League of Nations and an example of how that League may work.

The choir sang Kipling's Recessional and Miss Irene Smith contributed a solo. In the evening Mrs. Pilgrim sang a special solo. Mr. Young's evening subject was the missionary work that is being done in Africa by the United Church of Canada. They have a flourishing cause in Angola.

On Wednesday evening, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Steele, of Steele's Corners Miss Clara Steele was married to Mr. Austin Coomer of Willowdale. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. R. Young.

Mrs. George Benham met with a painful accident last week whereby two of her ribs were fractured. She is reported to be doing nicely now.

The nineteen hundredth anniversary of Pentecost will be the subject of the discourses in the Newtonbrook United Church next Sunday. Let everyone who can attend Church.

The Women's Missionary Society of Lansing has invited the members of the Newtonbrook W.M.S. to visit their society on Thursday afternoon, June the 5th.

A five year-old Orillia girl, who had been suffering severe pain, was taken to the hospital where a wire nail was found in her stomach.

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