

DURHAM CHRONICLE

W IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor

Thursday, September 14, 1922.

THE SITUATION OUT WEST

We hear great reports of fine crops in the West, but a lengthy article appears in Saturday's Globe that has anything but a rosy appearance. In many places in Alberta the crops are not good. Some places they are actually poor and will scarcely return the seed. The writer of the article in question is Ross Munro, staff correspondent of The Globe. He says that in Calgary men intimately connected with the farming conditions say the total amount of wheat harvested in Alberta should run more than sixty million bushels. Some estimates go as low as fifty-eight million bushels, while the C. P. R. estimate is over 73 million bushels.

Many of the farmers are in debt, the report goes on to say. All are willing, but many are not able to meet their obligations. The trouble is attributed largely to over-expansion in 1918, when wheat went to two dollars a bushel and over. Additional land purchases were then made in the hope and expectation that prices would keep up. Expensive machinery was purchased on time, with little or no payment down. The notes have matured and the money is not in sight to meet them at maturity. The notes bear interest at seven per cent., and as high as 10 or 12 per cent. if allowed to run after due. When times are good people are liable to be optimistic and run into debt, forgetting that the tide may turn before the time for final reckoning.

This spirit of optimism is not confined to the West alone. It is here too; it is everywhere, and a boom of prosperity will act as a boomerang to all who allow themselves to drift with the tide. We are too liable to forget that bad times follow good times just as night follows day. History teaches this and experience has taught many the same lesson.

In the fat years as well as in the lean, there is always need of thrift, but too many forget the necessity. Over expansion in some cases and crop failures in others are the assigned causes of the financial troubles in the West. Yet the people are not complaining. Now, as ever in the past, they have hope in the future, when they'll straighten things away.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Daylight Saving time has been in force this year in places, but the clocks will soon be turned back to standard time. We have no objection to the Daylight Saving time during four or five of the summer months, but when times are different in the same town, or in two nearby towns or cities, it is confusing to the people and little less than a nuisance.

With railroads running on standard time and cities or towns on Daylight Saving time, it keeps a person guessing to know where he is at. It may not be generally known that standard time and sun time do not correspond only at a few places. Here in Durham the standard time is about twenty minutes ahead of sun time, and at places farther west the difference is even greater until we reach the dividing line at Port Arthur.

Many will remember when we had Toronto time, London time, Montreal time, etc., each differing by only a few minutes, but local times were governed by the nearest time centre and even the railway time-tables were indicated in the same way. Forty or fifty years ago the standard time system was adopted and the same time prevailed for seven and a half degrees on each side of certain chosen meridians. Then the extreme eastern limit of each division would be half an hour slower than sun time and the extreme western division half an hour faster. Where the extremes meet the difference between the two standard times is now sixty minutes. At Port Arthur when standard time says 12 o'clock, noon, Fort William time adjoining it says 11 o'clock. At both places the sun time is only 11.30.

Now if Port Arthur were to adopt daylight saving time and put their clocks on an hour, and Fort William to remain at standard time the confusion would be even worse and the clocks of the two adjoining cities would show a difference of two hours. The same difference exists between Detroit and Windsor, separated only by the river.

If daylight saving is to be adopted in future it would be well to have the change made general and avoid confusion.

DON'T BE GULLED

Seldom a week passes without the presence of an agent to dispose of

stuff we neither need nor want. Strange to say, they always find suckers. The shoddy pedlar is an old offender, but he still lives and thrives on an innocent and unsuspecting public. They yield to his blandishments and reflect in sorrow after his departure. The lessons learned have no effect in putting caution into the disappointed buyer. He bites again next time and has the satisfaction of knowing he is again stung. If people sit around with their mouths open waiting to be gulled there doesn't seem to be much use in wasting pity over them. It was only last year a couple of sewing machine agents got in their drag-net work in Durham and vicinity. Now when we mention it, some will remember it with sorrow. A few years ago shoddy pedlars made a fine haul in the adjacent townships, and on another occasion the "steel range" men swooped down on an unsuspecting but gullible public and left sorrow in their wake. In quite recent times other vendors of "useful and necessary" commodities have been anxious about our welfare, and may leave other sorrowing customers.

We have been bitten more than once and know whereof we speak. It is a good thing to be able to say "no" and stick to it, but we sometimes fail. During the past few weeks we have turned down several who were solicitors about our welfare, and our action, so far, has caused no feeling of remorse.

The Chronicle has often warned the public against indiscriminate buying, and again rises to suggest the advisability of dealing with the man you know, preferably the man who lives in your own town and pays taxes into the town treasury.

MORE ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

The schools are again at work with an overcrowded attendance. It is a good sign to see a rising generation to take the places of those who are soon to pass on and out. The High school has an attendance of considerably over a hundred and there is a pressing need for additional room. When the building was erected some five or six years ago it was thought to be large enough for all future requirements. Now the board is face to face with a serious problem and in the very near future provision will have to be made to increase the accommodation. At first, two of the three class-rooms were sufficient, but a third teacher was soon added. This left the Science Room free for the use for which it was intended. More recently, a fourth teacher was needed to meet the growing demands and the Science room had to be used as a classroom. This places a handicap on the teaching of science and will impair the usefulness of the school until further provision is made. At least two additional rooms should be added and the condition will have to be met. This will meet with opposition by part of the community who have been opposed to secondary education.

A CREDITABLE START

The Chesley Enterprise appeared last week as an all-home print, and the initial number under the new form has a very creditable appearance and is a decided improvement on the former sheet. The new paper contains eight pages of six columns, the ideal size, in our opinion, for a local weekly. It requires more work, and costs more to produce a paper all at home, but it is more satisfactory in many ways.

The Chronicle has been an all-home print for over twenty years, and during the greater portion of the time was alone in the field. We are glad to see others following the example we set so long ago. The Walkerton Herald made the advanced step a few weeks ago.

THIS IS STRANGE TALK

(Ottawa Journal.) Miss Agnes McPhail says that in Ontario one no longer sees the beautiful farm buildings of the old days. To the Ontario farmers who have electric lights and telephones in their buildings, who have fine gardens and motor cars, and who have paid off mortgages by the thousands within the past six or seven years, such language will sound strange.

20 YEARS AGO

From The Chronicle File of September 18, 1902.

Another new house is being erected by Mr. J. W. Crawford on George street, near the saw-mill.

On Saturday last Mr. Thomas Allan, Recorder for the A.O.U.W. Lodge here, presented Mrs. John A. Robertson with the society's cheque for \$1,000.00, being the amount for which her late husband held insurance in the Order.

Married.—On Wednesday, the 10th of September, at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. Cunningham Ector, by Rev. William Farquharson, Miss Catharine Ector of Durham to Mr. Henry M. Peter of Toledo.

Born.—In Bentinck, Thursday, September 4, to Mr. and Mrs. George Mighton, a son.

The bricklayers are at work on the Baptist Church.

Mr. A. A. Catton has commenced work on a new residence near the furniture factory.

Mr. Robert Aljoe has purchased a piece of the John A. Munro property adjoining Dr. Jamieson's and will soon erect a residence on it.

We regret to learn that little hope is held out for the recovery of Miss Amy Wright, who has been ill for several months from pulmonary trouble.

The Industrial Exhibition at Toronto is closed and has been a great success financially. The gate receipts are estimated at \$10,000 above those of 1898, regarded as the record year. Last year it was a financial failure and the advisability of closing it up has been seriously considered.

The Globe now talks of a coalition government. This seems to show that Mr. Ross with his majority of one in the House, and a popular majority of 7,000 against him is beginning to feel in reality the insecurity of his position.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 2 TO 9, INCLUSIVE By Royal Proclamation, His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada has designated October 9 as Fire Prevention Day. During the week preceding lessons on fire prevention subjects will be given in every public school, public meetings will be held in many of the larger cities, towns and villages, and the owners and occupants of property everywhere throughout Canada will be counselled to give special attention to the removal of fire hazards from their premises.

Fire waste is one of the most serious economic problems confronting Canada at the present time. The public in general is vitally affected by the tremendous losses annually incurred by fire and the enormous expenditures rendered necessary to adequately protect life and property from its ravages. Seeing that at least eighty-five per cent. of all fires are caused by carelessness and can therefore be prevented, it is the obvious duty of municipal authorities, fire department officials, boards of trade and other representative citizen bodies to bring the matter to the attention of the people.

The duty of municipal authorities to bring to the attention of their citizens all regulations affecting fire safety is evident.

It is to be hoped that Durham this year will not be found wanting in the great campaign to save the lives and properties of the Canadian residents. The Town Council should take up the matter and see that it is properly observed in our schools. Teach the rising generation the danger from a national viewpoint, and we have no doubt that the lessened loss in lives and property from fires caused by carelessness will well repay them for their trouble. When it is learned that Canada's annual property loss from fire is estimated at \$45,000,000, and that an average of over 350 lives are sacrificed each year, it will be readily recognized that the campaign is a most commendable one, and one that should receive the hearty support of every municipal officer throughout the Dominion.

If we knew how many young girls there are in the country, we'd know how many parents there are warning them not to act like flappers.

FORMER PRICEVILLE RESIDENT DIED IN VANCOUVER, B.C.

Word was received at Priceville last week of the death of Mr. William J. Conkey, who passed away in the General Hospital at Vancouver, B.C., on Friday, August 25, at the age of 44 years. Death occurred from a fractured spine, received in a fall two years ago. Mr. Conkey, who has been in the hospital ever since the accident, leaves his mother, Mrs. R. J. Conkey of Priceville, who went out West on the 9th of August to take him to his home in Vancouver, and, with careful nursing, endeavor to restore him, as much as possible under the circumstances, to health and strength again. She, however, only reached his bedside a very short time before he passed away. Besides his mother, Mr. Conkey also leaves four brothers, Thomas and John, of Bulwark, Alberta; Robert, of Priceville and Matthew, of Port William; and two sisters, Beatrice (Mrs. Clarke), of Vancouver and Emma (Mrs. Joseph C. Harrison), of Egremont, to mourn his loss.

The late Mr. Conkey was born and raised at Priceville, where he lived until about seventeen years ago, when he went to Vancouver, where he practiced as a marine and civil engineer. He worked on the construction of the Granville street bridge in 1909, and later spent a long time in harbor survey work.

The funeral took place on Monday, at 2 p.m., which was a joint funeral of Alderman Hoskin and Mr. Conkey, both being members of the I.O.O.F. and L.O.L. Lodges, when representatives of sections of the community joined with the members of the I.O.O.F. and L.O.L. in paying their last respects. The services were held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Pender and Hamilton streets, and the hall was crowded. Hamilton street was lined with those who were unable to gain admittance. The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. J. C. Henderson, assisted by the Rev. Col. G. O. Fallis, E. A. Morden of the Oddfellows and Rev. E. A. Roberts. Rev. Col. Fallis took for his text on "Man was made to mourn." E. A. Morden read the Oddfellows' funeral service and the members deposited sprays of evergreen on the biers of the deceased as a token that their virtues would dwell green in the memories of their comrades.

The funeral procession, which extended over several city blocks, passed along Hastings street and along Main to Mountain View cemetery. The hearse was preceded by automobiles bearing officiating ministers, the wreaths and masses of beautiful flowers. The Aldermen, Mayor and pallbearers followed, and next came cars conveying the relatives of the deceased, members of the two orders and citizens who desired to show their respect for two of the pioneers of British Columbia. At the graveside the services were conducted by the Orange Order and the Rev. E. A. Roberts.

The pallbearers for Mr. Conkey were J. W. Murrell, J. Reid, J. Middleton, Donald McLeod, Jack Ross and Fred Murray.

The services were largely attended by I.O.O.F. and L.O.L. wearing the insignia of their respective lodges.

RUMORED THAT RANEY

MAY ACCEPT JUDGESHIP Regarded by many as a source of strength in the first years of the Drury administration, Hon. W. E. Raney, attorney-general, according to a dispatch from Toronto, is now a rather questionable quantity in view of the approaching general election and there are rumors that he may retire from the U.F.O. ship of state before the appeal to the people

is made. Mr. Raney's enforcement of the Ontario Temperance Act has been upheld by Premier Drury, but he has frequently pointed out that the O.T.A. was not initiated by the U.F.O. Government. It was enforced because it was what the people had voted for and because there could not be another vote of the people on the subject for a number of years. The time for another referendum will be reached within the lifetime of the next Legislature, and when that time comes the policy of the U.F.O. may be somewhat different.

There is a possibility that Mr. Raney may go to the bench, receiving the judgeship rendered vacant by the death of Justice Sutherland. It is understood he would be well content to accept this post.

South Bentinck

(Our own correspondent.) Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, Durham, visited one day last week with the Milligan and Turnbull families. Miss Bessie Mather is teaching in her new school at Campbell's Corners.

The threshing machine is again on the rounds, and the sweet clover will soon be completed.

Mr. Thomas Corbett of Stratford spent the week-end with the Johnston family.

Those who attended the Toronto Exhibition are home again and report a most enjoyable time.

Mr. A. Derby of Durham spent a day last week at his former home here.

The farmers were favored with a few showers of rain lately, which were badly needed and will no doubt promote the fall ploughing.

The scholars are again on the job, no doubt looking forward and wishing for a speedy return of June.

MEAFORD MIRROR SOLD

The Meaford Mirror, established in 1882, and for forty years under the management of the Patterson family, has changed hands, being purchased by Mr. A. S. Thurston, son of Editor Thurston of The Flesher-ton Advance. The new proprietor is an enterprising young man, a practical printer of considerable experience, to which is added an experience of seven or eight years in editorial work on The Farmers' Sun, Toronto. He picks up the editorial quill this week in the lakeside town and will make his bow to the many readers of The Mirror. We are waiting with interest his initial number as editor, proprietor and publisher and wish him every success in his new field of labor.

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