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# THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

VOL. 61—NO. 3202

DURHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1928

\$2.00 a Year in Canada; \$2.50 in U. S.

## CLARK METALS PLANT PREY TO FLAMES

Early Wednesday Morning Fire Destroyed Unoccupied Building Near C. N. R. Tracks—Cause of Fire Is Unknown.

About 3 o'clock Wednesday morning of this week the building formerly occupied by Clark Metals Limited, and later the Bassick Company, which moved to Listowel some months ago, was discovered to be on fire, and despite the prompt response of the fire brigade with the chemical engine, followed by the fire engine and hose reels, it was seen that the fire had made such headway that little hope was entertained of saving the building. The building was completely gutted and nothing is now standing but the bare walls. We understand that all the machinery had been removed at the time the Bassick Company transferred their plant to Listowel, and the loss will be confined to the building alone, and in the neighborhood of \$3,000.00. We have been indirectly informed that there was no insurance, the policy having lapsed some days ago and had not been renewed. The origin of the fire is a complete mystery.

The fire was first discovered by Mrs. J. Moore, and subsequently by Mr. Ernest Ashley, who is night watchman at the C. N. R., and was noticed by him only when the lights in that part of the town went out and he left the roundhouse to look into the cause. When first seen the fire was confined to a small corner in the south part of the building.

When Mr. Ashley discovered the fire he lost no time in rousing the citizens, but by the time the fire department arrived nothing could be done to save the building and the firemen centred most of their efforts in saving surrounding buildings, in which they were successful.

The plant of the Bassick Company, which was still owned by them, was of cement blocks at the front, and a large addition of frame covered with galvanized iron siding. Once started, it was a hard fire to fight and gained speed so quickly that the three lines of hose turned on it had little effect.

The building had been unoccupied since the company moved out of town, and as most or all of the machinery had been removed the loss will be principally confined to the building alone. The town loses nothing by the fire, as after the original Clark Metals Company went to the wall, the Bassick Company purchased the building from the town in order to take over the charter of the defunct company. The town, of course, is a heavy loser through the original Clark Metals Company failing to pay up their bonds guaranteed by the town, and which will be a liability for some few years.

## SOUTHAMPTON VOTE IMPORTANT TO HYDRO

Council May Decide to Submit Bylaw to Ratepayers—Ontario Hydro Officials Reviewed Situation Last Week.

Southampton will be the initial battleground between the Hydro and the invading United States interests seeking to establish a private ownership power network around Walkerton, Southampton, Port Elgin and Wiarton. Commissioner C. Alfred Maguire and T. J. Hamigan, Secretary of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, visited the disputed power territory last week-end, and as a result of their conferences Southampton Town Council, at its next meeting, will vote on the issue of the submission to the citizens of a Hydro enabling bylaw.

The Council is said to be 100 per cent Hydro and there is thought to be little doubt that the people will have an opportunity to express their desires. Major J. C. Tolmie, former member of the Legislature for Windsor, is Southampton's Mayor.

Hydro believes the invading American interests, despite their purchase of local rights, have no legal foothold in Southampton. And Hydro believes it can offer Southampton citizens power at much more favorable rates anyway.

Southampton, therefore, temporarily will become the key to the Bruce power situation, and a Hydro victory, it is believed, will settle the issue over the county. Nothing can be done in Walkerton until the suit brought against the private power interests by former Town Solicitor Otto E. Klein is disposed of in court. Mr. Klein claims the new company has not the right to sell power, and is even in illegal possession of Walkerton streets.

Upon his return to Toronto Commissioner Maguire reported the situation to be "quite satisfactory" from a power public ownership standpoint.

## LOST DUCKS BY THEFT

Mr. James G. Wilson of Lambton street reports that on last Friday night some thief broke into his poultry house and helped himself to four of his fine ducks. Of late we have read quite a lot in our exchanges about farmers and others losing poultry but there has been very little of this kind of thing going on around Durham that we have heard of. It would be a good thing if some of these sneak thieves could be apprehended and brought before the magistrate. We are sure he would show them little consideration.

**Presumptuous Motorist**  
Angry Motorist: "Some of you pedestrians walk along as if you owned the streets."  
Irate Pedestrian: "Yes, and some of you motorists drive around just as if you owned the car!"



Dr. Malcolm T. McEachern, above, former Canadian, has earned an enviable reputation in the United States. He is the outstanding hospital authority on the continent, being director of hospital activities as associate director of the American College of Surgeons with headquarters at Chicago. He was formerly superintendent of the Vancouver General Hospital.

## MAY PLACE BAN ON ANCIENT CARS

Ontario Government Sees Danger From Worn-Out Motor Vehicles.—No Compulsory Insurance At Present Says Attorney-General.

While Ontario is not going to tackle anything in the line of compulsory insurance for motor cars, a consideration may be given in the near future to the possibility of eliminating from the streets and highways such motor vehicles as are distinctly unsafe or unfit for operation. One or two states across the border have legislation which permits the authorities to rule off the road such cars as ought to be in the junkyard. Ontario has no such provision in the statutes, although there has been a useful campaign of late directed toward insuring that all motor cars in operation are equipped with adequate brakes.

The matter is likely to be subject of discussion in the Legislature, but whether or not action results is something else again, because any drastic proposal will inevitably raise the cry of the "poor man's car". The owner of a dilapidated second hand or third hand "bus" valued at nothing in particular has a vote, just the same as the possessor of a limousine, and governments are prone to regard that aspect.

As far as compulsory insurance is concerned, that is "out" for the present.

"Until the State of Massachusetts has had another year or two of the law, and we see how it is working out, it would be wise for us to go into it slowly," said Hon. W. H. Price. "It involves a great many questions, and most states have not gone as far. Some have adopted the policy of ridding the roads of poor cars. If you are going to insure every car, you want to know what they are like, and it makes a difficult proposition, because the one bought for \$50 or \$100 is usually run by somebody not financially responsible, and who does not feel that he has anything at stake. That car could not be insured and many which should be not."

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HAD RECORD CROWD

Sunday Services Drew Capacity Congregations, and Monday's Fowl Skape and Programme Was Exceptionally Well Attended.

The annual Harvest Home services held in St. Paul's Anglican church, Egremont, on Sunday and Monday, were again most successful, the gatherings this year filling the church building to capacity on all three occasions and as a result the coffers of the treasury were considerably enhanced.

On Sunday the services were taken by the Rev. W. C. Allison of Hanover, one of the outstanding pulpiteres of this part of Ontario, who preached excellent sermons in keeping with the day, to the delight of those in attendance.

The usual Monday evening fowl supper and entertainment had the regular big crowd and from 5 to 8 o'clock the ladies of the congregation were kept busy serving their hot fowl supper, which this year was even better than usual. As in past years there was plenty and to spare.

The after programme, too, was one of the best ever heard in the section, and taken altogether the annual celebration of harvest thanksgiving can not be considered anything but an outstanding success.

The Rector, Rev. E. Hayes, was the chairman, and though he was down for an address, made it very brief in order that the programme might proceed. There were readings by Misses Norma Ferguson, Violet Mervyn and Ruby Morrison, and Messrs. James Ferguson and John Matthews. In solo work, Miss M. Lawrence, Mrs. M. Wilson and Mr. Allan Bell excelled, and a duet by the Misses Lennox was another excellent offering. Instrumental music by Ross Rife, Carmen Queen and Mrs. J. Queen were also highly appreciated.

The address of the evening was by Rev. Mr. Purnell, pastor of Amos Presbyterian church, and was listened to with delight by the audience.

## TOWN'S STREETS BEING REPAIRED

Government Scarifier Has Been Rented and Has Been Doing Good Work.—Only Temporary Job Can Be Done.

During the first of the week the tractor-drawn scarifier of the Provincial Highways Department has been in town engaged in ripping up and dressing down the town's main thoroughfare, Garafraxa Street. It was not before it was needed, and there will have to be a great deal more work done before they are in good shape. Like the Provincial Highways, the continued wet weather this summer has been very hard on dirt roadways.

The present job of repairing can be regarded as nothing more than temporary. Every citizen knows, or should know, that the day of the dirt roadway through towns on the province's main highways are few. Increasing every year, the through motor traffic has made it imperative that something better than gravel must be used in the building of roads if a municipality is not to be kept poor paying for repairs. Even in the open country on the highway it is deemed cheaper to build permanently than to repair continually.

The machine at work this year, though light, has been doing good work, and while not so powerful or efficient as the big steam machine used here two or three years ago, there can be little complaint, and it is generally conceded that if Durham is to put up with dirt roadways for any length of time it would be good business to purchase one of these outfits.

## OMITTED RED CROSS SOCIETY

In our report of the Grey County Championship School Fair last week, no mention was made of the activities of the local branch of the Red Cross Society in catering to the large crowd in town, and more especially in the serving of 400 free meals to the children of the twenty-two schools that had entered the competition here. While we made general reference to the work of the ladies of the town, in order to correct any possible wrong impression, we may now note that no society was more active than the ladies of the Red Cross in helping the town's committee and the officials of the Department of Agriculture in putting over one of the biggest things that has been held in the town in years.



Professor Joseph McCabe, the famous English lecturer and litterateur, styled "the most learned man living today," who says: "Canadian literature I never heard of it. But Canadian science is the greatest in the world." He is at present lecturing in Canada.

## WELL-KNOWN NOVELIST PASSES IN NEW YORK

George Barr McCutcheon Collapses While Attending a Luncheon.

George Barr McCutcheon, whose romantic novels in the "Graustark" style for years have found favor with many thousands of readers, died suddenly while attending a luncheon of the Dutch Treat Club in the Hotel Martiniere on Tuesday. He was 61 and had been in ill-health two years. Death was due to heart disease.

The luncheon, a regular Tuesday affair, was attended by many writers, magazine and newspaper editors and others of the professional world, which Mr. McCutcheon moved in, including some of his close friends.

He was in good spirits. Speaking lightly of the diet restrictions imposed upon him by the condition of his health, he offered his dessert, an eclaire, to the others, but called for a second cup of coffee with the explanation that he was not permitted to have it at home.

A few moments later he arose and walked into the smoking room. There hotel attendants found him in a fainting condition. He died before a physician could be summoned.

Only a few days ago Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon established residence on East 63rd street. Mrs. McCutcheon was confined there by illness at the time of her husband's death. Word of it was carried her by family friends, Charles Hanson Towne, editor of Harpers' Bazaar, temporarily took charge of the author's affairs.

The following is a bishop's description of the kind of preaching sometimes addressed to fashionable congregations: "Brethren, unless you repent, in a measure, and be converted, as it were, you will, I regret to say, be damned to some extent."



Capt. Rev. Frank G. Forster, who died in Chicago on Thursday as the result of heart failure. Born in Ireland, he came to Canada with his family 45 years ago, and was sent as a missionary to the west in 1890. He was active in the recruiting of the 209th Western Battalion at the outbreak of the war and went overseas as chaplain of this unit. He was for some time padre at Witley camp, and early in 1918 served in France with the 8th Infantry Battalion of the First Canadian Division, generally known as the "Little Black Devils" to whom he was padre until the end of the war.

## CELEBRATED 41ST DATE OF WEDDING

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. John Vollett Gathered at Their Home to Present Congratulations.—Pleasant Evening Spent in Home of Esteemed Couple.

Last Friday evening, the 19th, the forty-first anniversary of the wedding day of Mr. and Mrs. John Vollett was fittingly celebrated in their home on Garafraxa street when friends, neighbors and relatives, to the number of upwards of 50, gathered to join with them in the celebration of the happy event. It was a jolly crowd and the festivities continued until well on in the morning.

It was on the 19th of October, 1887, that John Vollett of Bentinck and Elizabeth Jamieson of Normanby were made man and wife, the ceremony being performed in Holstein. Following their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Vollett came to Durham and have since resided here, being among our most esteemed residents.

In the early evening they were surprised by the arrival of a number of their friends and neighbors, and shortly afterward Mr. and Mrs. Vollett were escorted to the parlor of their home when an address indicative of the regard in which they were held was read by Mayor Murdoch, and at the proper time Mr. W. C. Vollett presented the bride and groom of 41 years ago with a beautiful floor lamp. Though somewhat taken back by the effusiveness of the address and the plaudits of their friends, Mr. Vollett on behalf of himself and wife properly thanked them for their thoughtfulness and good wishes, requesting that the company take possession of their home for the evening. The remainder of the night was given over to cards and dancing, and most pleasantly spent.

Following is the address:

To Mr. and Mrs. John Vollett,  
Dear Friends:—It is with great pleasure that we, a few of your friends, are gathered here tonight to spend a few pleasant hours on the eve of your forty-first anniversary of married life, which, judging from your surroundings and pleasant greetings and smiles to your friends at all times has been a most pleasant experience. We sincerely wish you many more happy years together. We would ask you to accept this small token as a remembrance of the many pleasant hours we have spent together.

An absent-minded grocer called on his old friend, the family doctor, one evening. They chatted for a couple of hours, and as the grocer rose to go, the doctor asked: "Family all well, I suppose?"  
"Good heavens!" exclaimed his visitor, "that reminds me. My wife is in a fit."

The local Chapter of the I.O.D.E. gave a military bridge in the Town Hall Tuesday night, at which 32 tables were in play. Other attractions no doubt kept many away from the event, as it was expected that at least 50 tables would be required to take care of the crowd. The prizes, a deck of playing cards each, were won by Mrs. Gibson of Paisley, and Messrs. Clarence McGirr and J. B. Duffield of town.

"How much are yer fish, Mr. Goldstein?"  
"Eight cents a pound, Mrs. O'Brien."  
"I'll take two of them. How much will they be?"  
"Let's see. Eight pounds—eight times eight are eighty-eight. Take 'em for seventy-five cents, Mrs. O'Brien."  
"Thank ye, Mr. Goldstein. I'll do that. You're always good to the Irish—I'll say that for ye."  
And the trade was closed.



Sir Campbell Stuart, who denies the statement current in Japan that he will be the first Canadian minister to Tokio. The suggestion may have emanated from the Japanese government, it is said.

## NORTHERN DEER ARRIVED LAST WEEK

Dr. D. C. MacKenzie of Fort Francis Presented Local Zoo With Three Animals—All Are Very Tame and Will Be Valuable Addition.

The Jamieson zoo at Wilder's Lake had its population increased by three last week when two buck deer and one fawn arrived from Fort Francis. These were sent Dr. Jamieson by Dr. D. C. MacKenzie, an old Durham boy and commander of the famous Bull Moose battalion in the Great War. All the animals stood the journey well and were taken to the park immediately on arrival.

We have no inside information regarding the park, but we understand that there will be some changes over there this fall. The two elk have proven a washout. To begin with the old buck killed Billy the deer some two years ago, and then killed his young buck offspring. Mrs. Elk then proceeded to get herself tangled up in the fence and broke her neck and the net result is that the elk family has dwindled down to two bucks, father and son. There seems little chance of getting them sufficiently domesticated to be even civil, let alone tame, and it is likely they will be done away with this fall.

Where there were originally two bison, there are now four, the pioneers having raised two calves, both of them bulls. It is the intention to get rid of the two youngsters this fall, we believe, though it will be necessary to receive permission from the Dominion Government before destroying or disposing of them.

This summer a number of Hungarian pheasants were turned loose in the enclosure and the latest report is that they are staying around pretty well and evidently appreciate being fed.

Open to the public for some time, the park has been closed for the past year or so, for the usual reason that part of the public could not let well enough alone and abused the privilege. Now with an attendant constantly on the scene and the proper notices posted around the grounds there is not nearly so much trouble as formerly.

## TOWN CLERK VOLLETT 86 YEARS YESTERDAY

Veteran Official of Town For Many Years Still Able to Attend Duties in His Office on George Street.

Yesterday was the 86th birthday of Mr. W. B. Vollett, Durham's veteran Town Clerk, but one would not guess it to see him going to work each morning. Promptly at 8 o'clock his office is open and stays open until 12, when Mr. Vollett goes to dinner. He is no hour and a half luncheonist and promptly at 1 o'clock is back on the job again to carry on until 6. Town Council nights Mr. Vollett is out with the rest of them and stays until all the business is over and then retires to his home.

From home to office must be nearly half a mile, but he walks it always four, sometimes six and oftener times a day. Tuesday's Toronto Globe had an account of Judge F. M. Morson of that city being busy on his 76th birthday, and is one of the two remaining county judges still living to receive their appointments from the late Sir John A. Macdonald.

Seventy-six, and worked on his birthday! That's a good record, too, but ten years ago when Durham's veteran Town Clerk was only 76 years of age—well, he was fresh enough to play football. But here's long life and prosperity to both of them—may they reach the century.

## WALKERTON PAPER HAD CLOSE CALL

"Telescope" Premises Visited by Fire Early Monday Morning, But Fortunately Blaze Was Soon Under Control.

Editor Pense of the Walkerton Telescope had a narrow escape from having his premises destroyed by fire early on Monday morning of this week. About 5 o'clock a resident living in an apartment over The Telescope office, noticed smoke and an investigation showed that the floor in the printing office was on fire. An alarm was turned in and the blaze extinguished before more than a portion of the floor, some paper stock and other contents to the value of \$350 were destroyed.

The fire was caused from an overheated furnace pipe used to heat the apartment above and it is very fortunate that the blaze was noticed when it was and before it had attained any size.

## GAVE MILITARY BRIDGE

The local Chapter of the I.O.D.E. gave a military bridge in the Town Hall Tuesday night, at which 32 tables were in play. Other attractions no doubt kept many away from the event, as it was expected that at least 50 tables would be required to take care of the crowd. The prizes, a deck of playing cards each, were won by Mrs. Gibson of Paisley, and Messrs. Clarence McGirr and J. B. Duffield of town.

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And the trade was closed.



Robert Urhskov Christensen, Danish journalist, above, has toiled in mines and on the harvest fields during the past three months in Canada to secure first-hand material on immigration conditions for his newspaper in Denmark.

## IMPRESSIVE SERVICE FOR LATE DAVID R. ROSS

Remains of Father of Mrs. J. A. Rowland of This Town Interred in North Embro Cemetery Last Saturday Afternoon.

With a gathering of the leading citizens of the county, as well as of hundreds of his friends and neighbors of a long and useful life, David Robert Ross, for over 50 years an outstanding figure of the village of Embro, was borne to his last resting place on Saturday afternoon, when his remains were interred in the North Embro Cemetery.

The funeral service was held in the Knox United church, Embro, which was his lifelong church home, and which was filled to capacity with mourners. The service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. D. McIntosh, assisted by Rev. A. Laing, Ebenezer Church, Embro, and Rev. C. M. Campbell of Embro Presbyterian church.

## Eloquent Tribute Paid

Mr. McIntosh paid eloquent tribute to the life work of Mr. Ross in support of his church, for the cause of temperance, in the Village and County Council and in political affairs, holding him up as the model of the highest type of citizenship.

The pall bearers were five nephews, John Ross, Gilbert Ross, Gordon Ross, Robert Ross, H. M. Munroe, and a cousin, Crandall Munroe. David R. Ross, who died on Wednesday at the age of 81 years was one of the outstanding figures in the public life of the Zorras for the greater part of his life. He was born on Scotia Farm, near Embro, and early in life went into the milling business in the village, where he remained in business until 20 years ago. His parents were pioneer settlers of the district, and the Ross home became the centre of much of the community life of the early days.

## Public Activities

As a young man, Mr. Ross became an officer in the Oxford Rifles, and for some years was Captain in command of the Highland Company at Embro. For many years he served in the Village Council as Councillor and later as Reeve of Embro, and was prominent as a County Councillor. One of his chief interests was in the cause of prohibition, and he had a wide reputation as a temperance orator and organizer. He was for years President of the North Oxford Prohibition Union, a position he held at the time of his death.

## Staunch Liberal Supporter

In politics Mr. Ross was a Liberal of the old school, which made North Oxford famous as the cradle of Liberalism. He was a firm disciple of the principles and policies of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and in successive elections in the riding he was prominent as a Liberal worker and campaign speaker.

Mr. Ross is survived by three sons, and two daughters: Brig-Gen. John Ross, Regina, Sask., O. C. of the Military District there; Robert Ross of London; James Ross of Montreal; Mrs. J. A. Rowland of Durham; and Miss Norma Ross at home. One brother, Dr. James Ross of Jennings, Alta., and three sisters, Mrs. Adam Bell, Tavistock; Mrs. William Huggins of Manitoba, and Mrs. Fred Johnston of Fernie, B. C., also survive. His wife predeceased him in 1901.

"I asked her if I could see her home."  
"And what did she say?"  
"She said she would send me a picture of it."

## TEMPERATURES FOR PAST WEEK

	8 a.m.	Max.	Min.
Thursday	59	68	53
Friday	51	54	50
Saturday	40	46	39
Sunday	45	58	42
Monday	52	64	48
Tuesday	43	59	43
Wednesday	40	46	39

## The Weather

There was a total of 2.72, or approximately two inches and three-quarters of rain here during the past week. Commencing at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon the rain continued until 10 o'clock Saturday morning. Thursday's fall was half an inch. Friday 1.40 inches, and Saturday 23 inches. The weather became colder on Saturday, was nice and bright on Sunday and on Monday 2.2 inches more rain fell, followed by 10 inches yesterday. The barometer registers 29 flat this Wednesday evening.