

## Should Make Effort to Attend Meeting

Selection of Candidates For Town Council Monday Night Is Important Matter and Ratepayers and Citizens Should Be Interested.

If you were about to employ a superintendent, foreman, bookkeeper, or some other such official to take charge of your own private business, would you sit back, disinterestedly, and let George, Henry or Bartholomew do the choosing? You're right you wouldn't. You'd be right "on the job" and not only have something to say in the selection of the man, but probably want to do the hiring yourself.

Then why, when it is the town's business is at stake, do the larger number of ratepayers and voters prefer to stay at home and allow the selection of the men who are to control the town's destinies for the following twelve months to be selected by the few? Surely this is not good business. It might just as well be known now as any time. We have heard some criticisms of our Council, but under existing circumstances we do not pay very much attention to it. We have been asked to "write 'em up", but we refuse to be the catspaw. In former articles we have spoken of our sympathy for past Councils, and this week we would add to former statements that if the Councils of the past, present or future appear not up to what may be expected, they are at least taking a great deal more interest in the town's affairs than a good many of those who never attend a nomination or any other Council meeting and criticize.

Come out on Monday night and show that you are interested in the old town and its problems.

### Paving Plans Here

While the approximate cost of the paving operations being dealt with this year with the idea of doing something next spring was known in town last week, the plans and specifications did not arrive until this week and are now in Mayor Murdoch's office. They are quite comprehensive and in order that they may be fully explained to the gathering on nomination night the Mayor is endeavoring to have one of the engineers come up and take charge of this part of the meeting. The engineer will be able to correctly interpret the plans and answer any questions that may chance to be asked. The Chronicle had the opportunity yesterday afternoon of looking over the plans, but we refrain this week from giving out information, this owing to lack of time and not being familiar with the work to be done. We feel that any explanation given these plans should be thorough and well thought out and at this late hour we have neither time nor desire to delve too deeply. There will in all probability be various kinds of wild rumors circulated, but the best and only manner in which one may become familiar with the contemplated road improvements and get his information first-hand is by an attendance at the nomination on Monday evening.

It is to be hoped there will be a good attendance in the meantime the municipal election remains the same as in other years—there is nothing happening. But as there is always a calm before a storm, most anything may happen before Monday.

### A DAILY HEALTH HINT

By a Physician

#### The Prayer of the Stomach

"Do not overload me. I am only the size of your two fists. Do not over-work me. I toil often, as is, for twenty hours a day or more. How would you like to? Do not ask me to digest impossibilities. Remember that you are a human being, not an ostrich. Be sparing with condiments and fiery liquids. I am lined with tender flesh, not with ferro concrete. Do not rush away to work or play as soon as you have filled me. I must have a little peace if I am to do my work properly. If you do this I will serve you faithfully and well all my life—and all yours, which is the same thing."

#### Six Appeal

Teacher: "Correct the sentence, 'It is very rare that I see her.'"  
Jack: "I won't see her no more, her old man bought a car."

## HOLIDAY WAS QUIET; RE-UNIONS POPULAR

Many Visitors Spent Yuletide Season Here While Others From Town Visited Elsewhere—Weather Was Quite Mild, and Sleighting Was Good.

Another Christmas has come and gone but apart from the unusually large number of visitors in town as well as those who left to visit other places, it was just another Sunday for the most of us. While the so-called "flu" has not struck Durham very much yet, there are a lot of colds scattered around and this, too, was another factor in keeping town quiet. Soft weather meant that the intention to have skating on Christmas night had to be revised and the skating called off.

The day was an ideal one and for travel any pleasure was to be had for the asking. The roads were in perfect condition for the wheels or sleighs and all day long the cutters and the autos fraternized on the town streets and set out on the country highways. This seems to be the one day of the year when everyone looks happy whether he is or not, and taken together, Christmas was one great success locally.

Among other interesting happenings during the week were various church or Sunday school entertainments at which Santa Claus visited the children and presented them with gifts.

## 900 Miles Added to Rural Hydro Lines

Fiscal Year Just Closed Was Record One.

Extension of rural hydro lines by 925 miles, was approved during the fiscal year recently closed. Cost figures are not all in, but approximately \$2,250,000 expenditure for construction would be involved, of which the province pays one-half. More than two-thirds of the mileage approved in 1928 was in the Niagara zone. This has been the biggest year in rural hydro development since the passing of legislation in 1920, providing for provincial contribution to cost of rural lines. In 1921 there were 211 miles constructed, and the total increased each year, reaching 875 in 1927. The total rural mileage is now 4,190 and it is estimated that 55 per cent. of the 31,000 consumers are farmers.

Originally the aid extended by the province was 50 per cent. of the cost of primary lines, but since 1924 the Government has paid 50 per cent. of capital cost of installing rural transmission lines and equipment necessary to deliver power from the distribution centre to the boundary of the customer's property. The service is handed through rural power districts, of which here are about 125. In eight years, rural power extension has involved expenditure of about \$8,600,000.

## WOMAN LONG IN ASYLUM FACES MURDER CHARGE

Mrs. Annie Oldham Accused of Poisoning Daughter's Baby.

After more than six years in a Toronto insane asylum, Mrs. Annie Oldham, aged 51, formerly of Mount Albert, will be tried on a charge of murdering her infant grandchild. Mrs. Oldham is alleged to have killed the child on May 15, 1922, by dipping its nipple into strychnine. The baby was only 15 months old. At that time the woman was adjudged insane and was not tried, being taken to the Queen Street Asylum within a few days.

Examined recently by doctors, she was found to have regained her reason. Orders for her trial were issued at the Parliament Buildings, and Crown Attorney Eric Armour now has the necessary papers ready. As the law requires that persons charged with murder must be held in custody until their trial, she will be kept in the asylum, instead of being transferred to the jail.

The baby was the daughter of Mrs. Oldham's 19-year-old daughter.

## OBITUARY

MATTHEW L. DAVIS

Word was received in Durham last week of the death on Sunday, December 16, at his home at Poplar, Manitoulin Island, of Mr. Matthew L. Davis, a native of the Edge Hill vicinity in Glenelg, but for many years living on the Manitoulin Island. Mr. Davis passed away as the result of a paralytic stroke which seized him some four months ago, and though the stroke left him in a weakened condition the end came very suddenly and unexpectedly. He was 70 years of age.

The late Mr. Davis was a son of the late Mr. John Davis, and Mrs. Agnes Davis, the latter, though 93 years of age, still being in good health and making her home with her son, Mr. David Davis in Egremant. Besides his mother and brother David, the deceased is survived by three sisters and four brothers: Mrs. Jesse Knisley, Durham; Mrs. John D. Clark and Mrs. James Heliop at Aberdeen in Bentineck; William and Thomas Davis in Durham; Albert Davis in the West and John Davis, in Manitoulin and only a short distance from the deceased's home.

The late Mr. Davis is survived by a son and daughter, William J., on the homestead, and Mrs. Joseph Noland (Agnes) also on Manitoulin Island and living near the old home. Mrs. Davis, who was a Miss Bailey of Bentineck, predeceased her husband many years ago.

The late Mr. Davis was born on the present Robert Ector farm in Glenelg, but in early manhood went to Manitoulin. With the exception of some of the older residents he was not well known locally, but since leaving here over forty years ago has been a consistent subscriber of The Chronicle and never let his native health disappear entirely from his memory. He had been eminently successful in his vocation as a farmer on the Manitoulin and in his lifetime had succeeded in putting by a tidy sum, but better even than this he was a man who made and retained friendships and his death is regretted by a wide circle of friends.

When the deceased first went to Manitoulin it was in practically its virgin state. Landing at Gore Bay, he was one of the first to take up land near that town when the only roads were "blazes" through the bush and supplies had to be carried out to the different settlements on the back of the purchaser. He was one of the pioneers of Manitoulin Island as his parents were of this part of Ontario and did his part well in the development of this part of the country which today is one of the finest farming districts in the province.

With old friends around his old home vicinity The Chronicle extends sympathy to the family and relatives in their bereavement.

## CHRISTINA MACDONALD

After a long illness borne with great fortitude the death occurred on Christmas day of Miss Christina MacDonald, who passed away at her home on the Durham road about two miles west of Priceville. Miss MacDonald was about 80 years of age, and while ailing for the past several months, her last serious illness was of about seven weeks' duration.

The late Miss MacDonald was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arch MacDonald, well-known in Glenelg Township pioneers, and lived with her brother, Mr. Donald MacDonald, a former well-known school teacher, who had to give up his profession some years ago owing to blindness. Mr. John A. MacDonald of the Edge Hill vicinity in Glenelg, is another brother, and these two are the sole surviving members of the family. The deceased was a resident of Glenelg practically all her life and was a well-known and highly respected citizen. The funeral takes place today to Priceville cemetery.

With the community The Chronicle joins in sympathy to the surviving brothers, but especially Donald, who, deprived of his sight, will feel the loss of his sister very keenly.

## ALLAN PARK HELD GOOD CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A very pleasing entertainment was presented by the pupils and young people of Allan Park last Thursday evening under the supervision of the teacher, Miss Bailey. Despite the terrific storm which prevailed during the evening the school-house was filled to capacity. Mr. George Herd acted as chairman in a very capable and pleasing manner. The programme opened with a chorus entitled, "Welcome" by the pupils. There were many goodly recitations and two very humorous dialogues by the pupils, also a very pretty "Star Drill" by the Little Lads. Messrs. Bill and Harvey Smith, Walter Kennedy and Paul Schmidt provided music. There were two humorous plays presented by the young people: "Sal Hicks with the Allan Park Choir" and "The Much Afflicted Choir" were very impressive features on the programme. The two duets entitled "A Sparking Peggy Jane" and "It's Awful How Some Women's Talk" were greatly applauded by audience. Santa Claus appeared at the appropriate time and after reciting a jolly piece to the children, distributed the gifts from the bountifully laden tree. Mr. Willis, one of the trustees was called upon and gave pleasing remarks, congratulating Miss Bailey, pupils, and young people, on presenting such a splendid entertainment.

"Does your wife turn out a good meal when you're on your camping trip?"  
"Sure; opens a can just as neatly as if she was in her own kitchen."

## Goblers



Turkeys are harder to rear than children sometimes, but they mature earlier, and once they reach maturity there is less chance of them going wrong. W. Freeman with his tremendous flock demonstrates that other than wheat can be raised in Alberta. He gets his greatest returns at a time when Santa Claus is making his heaviest outlays. The farm is at Strathmore, where is also the Canadian Pacific Experimental Farm.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

### Christmas in Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Willett Snell spent the holiday at Hamilton with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Livingston.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hutton of Detroit, are visiting with his mother, Mrs. I. Hutton, and sister Miss Effie Hutton.

Misses May McClockin and Margaret McKenzie, of the Toronto teaching staff are home and visiting at their homes here.

Mrs. M. H. Bailey and son Bert are visiting her parents-in-law in Listowel. Mr. Bailey spent Christmas at his parental home there.

Miss Margaret Lennox spent the holiday at her home at Mount Forest.

Mr. Stewart Pender spent Christmas at his home in Palmerston. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wilson and son, and Mrs. Wilson's father Mr. Hugh Eric spent the holiday with friends in Palmerston.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fine spent Christmas at the latter's home in Mount Forest.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Firth of Brampton are visiting here with Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Wright and with the former's brother Mr. W. Firth who is ill. Mrs. Firth will remain here for a time.

Misses Gertrude and Florence McCallow of Toronto visited with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McCallow, over the week-end.

Mr. Alex. Graham was called to Huntsville this week to attend the funeral of his father who died on Monday.

Messrs. Albert Kress and Royden Burnett are home from Western University at London for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Whitty of Toronto visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lawrence.

Mrs. Fisher and daughter Pearl, of Toronto, spent the holiday with Mr. and Mrs. George Campbell, here, and with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Brigham, at Allan Park.

### GETTIN' HOME

Of all the joys that surge the heart,  
Is the call of Home, where e'er it be,  
Nestling in warmth, and fire light glow,  
Mid the pine trees and greens, now covered with snow—  
Gettin' Home.

Loved ones are coming, o'er the great divide;  
Some in ships, so stately on Ocean wide,  
And up in the sky of azure blue—  
Is that Dad and Jack? The quickest way through  
Gettin' Home?

Say, I wonder what they will have for me?  
Said little Billy:—  
Guess I'll get my great big drum  
And make a noise like the Tom-a-Tum, Tum,  
Serenade them  
Gettin' Home.

The sun is shining, our hearts so gay;  
Tables all set in wonder array,  
Candles, and flowers, to give it a tone  
Wish: sweet spicy things. Just a well-come?  
Gettin' Home.

Stars are watching overhead, supper o'er, curtains drawn,  
Then comes the fiddle, and euphonium,  
The dance, the lilting song, lost magic seeming,  
For by the night, yet wee hours come,  
Oh, the native charm of  
Gettin' Home.

To me, more dear than all the gloss of art,  
Or, the fairest flower, the lily blooming in the sun,  
Can charm, or gladden, the natal morn  
Like, just our loved ones  
Gettin' Home.

—Ann Sutherland Dass, Port Hope.

## WILD ANIMAL LIFE A FOREST NECESSITY

(George Ballard Bowers)

The scientists directing the care and conservation of our national forests have repeatedly issued warnings against the unnecessary destruction of the wild animal life therein, but the general public has given them little consideration. They state that wild animals are as necessary to healthy forest growth as the sun and the rain. Moreover, it is asserted that wild animal life of the forest should be of varied kinds. There should be insect, and seed-eating creatures such as the quail. The forest floor should have chipmunks and gophers. The streams should be filled with fishes and frogs. There should be lizards, too, including the horned toad, the ant-eater of the Southwest.

Birds, both tree and ground, must be maintained in the forests to eat insects that feed upon the bark, leaves and fruit. One type is not enough; in fact, many are necessary to eat the various kinds of insects. The woodpecker searching the limbs and the trunk; the chickadee, the twigs; and the kinglets and warblers, the leaves. Wild burrowing animals are valuable as natural cultivators of the soil, thereby aiding forest growth. Without such cultivation the germination of seed and the growth of young plants would be difficult if not impossible. Ground-burrowers aid in water conservation. The falling rain, instead of flowing away over the forest floor into the streams, drains into the burrows to be conserved in the less compact earth below.

For the continued existence of wild animal life in our forests no less than three conditions must be maintained: Forest wild animals must have safe breeding places adapted to their special needs. The woodpecker is an example. This bird can not exist permanently where there are no dead and rotting trees in which to nest and obtain food.

Many wild creatures require temporary refuges while foraging for food when pressed by their enemies. Hence brush piles, hollow logs and clumps of undergrowth are necessary for the continued existence of such animals. Wild animals of the forests require a constant food supply suited to their particular needs, otherwise they become extinct or migrate.

To maintain these three necessary natural conditions, three influences must be curbed: First, there is the hunter who kills for sport or for the market. Second, forest fires kindled through the carelessness of hunters, smokers, and campers, and deliberately by ignorant cattlemen, believing thereby to increase pasturage, and others who afterward seek employment as fire-fighters. Fire destroys the animals as well as the food supply.

Third, grazing by domestic animals. Sheep, goats and cattle grazing in the forests trample nests of ground birds and their hiding places. They destroy the burrows of ground-inhabiting creatures, too. Few wild animals can compete successfully with the domestic.

Forests without wild animal life lose much of their recreational value. Whenever I go into a forest I hope to be thrilled by the sight of a squirrel in the tree-top, the noisy flight of a quail or by a scurrying lizard. A half-concealed squirrel in the tree-top thrills vastly more than fifty in the park begging for peanuts.

## SCHOLARS ENJOYED CLOSING PROGRAMME

Public School Scene of Delightful Time Last Thursday Afternoon At Which Many Visitors Attended.

The pupils and teachers of the Durham Public School held their annual closing exercises last Thursday afternoon before the school was dismissed for the Christmas holidays. Besides the teachers and pupils the function was attended by the parents and friends and all united in having an excellent afternoon as guests of the school.

For the entertainment the rooms were doubled up and a good programme presented, after which numerous presentations were made to teachers and pupils. It was a real get-together afternoon and was much enjoyed by those who attended.

### Deadly Hygiene

Finally, there is a new story about British efficiency. To the hospital for seamen in London came lately a strange old man whose conversation was unintelligible to the attendants. So they burned his clothes, scrubbed him, shaved him, gave him a bromide and put him to bed. When he woke up the next day it was discovered that he had dropped in to call on a sick friend.

### TEMPERATURES FOR PAST WEEK

	8 a.m.	Max.	Min.
Thursday	23	32	19
Friday	12	21	10
Saturday	12	23	10
Sunday	17	32	14
Monday	22	38	21
Tuesday	32	36	30
Wednesday	30	40	30

### The Weather

During the past week the weather has been quite seasonable, though a little warmer than is usual at this time of the year. Thursday last there was a fall of ten inches of snow that came down and as a result the sleighing was good up to yesterday when it was getting rather thin. Another day of like temperature and most of the snow will be gone on the highways. The barometer has been almost stationary the past week at 29.48 but tonight has dropped back to 29.18.



It is our sincere wish that the coming year will see the Flame of Happiness burn brighter than ever for you—that success, health and contentment will be yours.

The Chronicle