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We Wish Our Readers Happiness and Prosperity in All the Years to Come

SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES LAST WEEK

Interesting Program of Choruses, Songs and Instrumentals Given by Durham High School Pupils.

The High school commencement exercises were given on Thursday evening of last week and were quite interesting and successful. The program was divided into two parts, the first consisting of bright choruses, readings, solos, duets, instrumentals and dances. All did their work well and were listened to by a delighted and appreciative audience. A pleasing number was the presentation of twenty-six certificates by Dr. Grant, and two medals by ex-Principal Allan. The medals were won by George May, the most successful candidate in Second to Third Form. Marjorie Ritchie was the winner in Form Two to Three. The Trustees' Medal given to the Durham pupil who took the highest standing at the Entrance examination went to Robert J. Chalmers, and Dr. Jamieson's Medal, given every year to the pupil in South Grey who takes the highest Entrance standing, was captured by a pupil from Hanover school.

Miss Marjorie Firth gave a reading that was much enjoyed. Miss Katharine Lavelle's piano instrumental, as well as her work as accompanist, in nearly all the musical selections was a valuable part of the entertainment. William Vollett and Martin Lauder furnished a pleasing duet, as did also Miriam and Eben Cameron, and Misses Beulah Stonehouse and M. Bell. Miss Jean Harding, in a unique Dutch dance, gave a beautiful, spectacular number. Nothing gave more delight to the audience than Eben Cameron's negro courtship number and the skit that followed as an encore.

The second part of the program was a play entitled "Aunt Billie from Texas," comprising a cast of about twenty characters. It lasted about an hour and all played their roles well. Albert Kress faked "Aunt Billie" and had the heaviest part of the play. Miss Florence Kress as Janet Grimby had also a heavy part, but was quite equal to the occasion. Sadie Levine turned out to be the real "Aunt Billie" and was a fine character, performing her part with much grace and dignity. The minor parts fitted in well and all were necessary to form the complete play which, perhaps, to the truthful, was more amusing than edifying.

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER COMMENCES JANUARY 7

First Meeting Will Be Held in the Anglican Church Thursday.

The annual week of prayer for 1924 will be held as follows:

Monday, January 7.—In the Anglican Church. Topic: "The Parable of the Soil." Speaker, Rev. W. H. Smith.

Tuesday, January 8.—In the Methodist Church. Topic: "The Parable of the Talents." Speaker, Rev. Mr. Aird.

Wednesday, January 9.—In the Presbyterian Church. Topic: "The Parable of the Great Supper." Speaker, Rev. J. E. Peters.

Thursday, January 10.—In the Baptist Church. Topic: "The Parable of the Good Samaritan." Speaker, Rev. J. H. Whealen.

The meetings will be at 8 o'clock each evening and the offering will be for the Bible Society.

TRINITY CHURCH CONCERT GIVEN TO-MORROW NIGHT

Waterworks Meeting in Hall Tonight Is the Cause.

Trinity church Sunday school entertainment, advertised to be held this Thursday evening, has been postponed until to-morrow (Friday) evening. The change was made on account of a mass meeting to discuss waterworks being advertised for to-night. The Town Council is not responsible for the clashing of dates, as they had arranged their meeting to suit the convenience of a consulting engineer from Toronto, who is to address the waterworks meeting to-night.

The Sunday school entertainment will be good and all who attend to-morrow (Friday) night will be delighted with the program.

TENDERED DANCE IN ARCADE IN HONOR OF DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Whelan Gave Large Dance in Hamilton.

Delightful in its very detail was the recent large dance given by Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Whelan, Hamilton, in honor of their daughter, Miss Norma Whelan, in the Rose room of the Arcade, when one hundred and sixty guests were present. The handsome rooms had been transformed for the occasion, with rich rugs, a wealth of flowers, and inviting chairs and couches, into most attractive and home-like drawing rooms; and the arrangement of the adjacent sitting-rooms conducted to coziness and sociability. Rose-shaded lamps, and tasteful plaques of fruit and flowers on the walls added to the beauty of the decorations. Flowers—a great many of them presentation bouquets to Miss Whelan—were everywhere. Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Whelan and Miss Norma Whelan received their guests at the entrance to the ballroom. Mrs. Whelan wearing a French gown of black georgette. Frocked in a simple but lovely creation of white taffeta, Miss Norma Whelan was charming. A wreath of silver leaves banded her hair and she wore silver slippers. A great profusion of flowers had been sent this popular girl; and they were arranged about the rooms in fragrant masses. The four house guests made a winsome group in their pretty frocks, Miss Ruth Gordon (North Bay) was in periwinkle blue crepe romaine, with bleu and silver lace; and her flowers were lilies, violets and roses. Miss Kaye Gallagher (Toronto), wearing flame-colored georgette and silver. Miss Lillian Ralston (Toronto), had on a charming dress of blue georgette, embroidered in beads; and Miss Nan Lewis wore the beautiful dress in which she made her debut. A seven-piece orchestra provided the dance music. Supper was served in the dining-room at midnight, at small tables prettily decorated, and was a merry affair.

GREY COUNTY PIONEER DIED AT LONDON

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Orchard Passed Away December 11.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Orchard, dearly beloved wife of the late John G. Orchard, passed away at her late residence, 2 Victor street, London, Ontario, on Tuesday, December 11, 1923. The deceased was 76 years, 11 months of age. She was born in the County of Grey, where her early girlhood was spent and then the early part of her married life. She and the late John G. Orchard came to London later, where they started in the coal and wood business, now being carried on by the two sons, John G. Orchard and William T. Orchard. There are six grandchildren, two brothers, John H. Reid of Kamloops, B.C., and Thomas H. Reid of Moosomin, Sask.

The funeral took place on Thursday, December 13, 1923 from the late residence. Interment was made in Woodland cemetery. Rev. J. T. G. Morris and Rev. Dr. Bowley Green conducted the service. Miss Josephine Campbell sang very sweetly, "Forever With the Lord."

Several relatives from out of town attended the funeral, among whom were: Mr. Archie Little, Owen Sound; Mr. Robert Little, Owen Sound; Mr. William Taylor, Barrie; Mrs. Joseph McNally, Durham; Mrs. Thomas Glencross, Durham; Mrs. John Durrant, Mt. Forest; Mr. and Mrs. William Orchard, Mt. Forest; Mr. and Mrs. John Orchard, Holstein; Mr. John Burns, Hamilton.

HOTELS MUST PUT IN ROPES

License Commission To Enforce New Regulation To Letter.

Standard hotels must comply with laws for fire protection and provide fire escapes in order to secure license for next year. Instructions have been sent out to license inspectors who will issue the license and there must be a rope placed in every room above the ground floor and secured on the inside of the window frame so that the occupants may escape in the event of a fire. It is stated that in many hotels such a rope is not provided, but no hotel will receive a license that is not equipped with ropes.

BARRISTER CURREY WAS GIVEN SEND-OFF

Friends of Departing Lawyer Gathered At His Office Thursday and Spent Social Hour.

When it was learned last week that Barrister Currey had decided to leave on Friday for his new home at Newmarket, a move was made by a number of business men when it was hastily decided to meet at his office on Thursday night, where a slight recognition of his merits might be expressed before his departure. Accordingly, about twenty-five assembled about nine o'clock, when Dr. Jamieson was asked to take the chair and set the meeting in motion.

It was a very informal affair, and without any definite pre-arrangements each of the visitors was called on for an address and though the speeches were all short and pithy, each was expressive of goodwill toward Mr. Currey, and of regret to learn of his departure.

At the appropriate time, Mr. W. Irwin was called on and read the address given below and a beautiful gold-headed cane was presented by Mr. D. C. Town.

Mr. Currey in a choice address expressed his thanks to the donors and explained that an opening occurring in his home town had led to his decision to change. He regretted to leave a town where he had always been courteously and well treated, but assured his audience that Durham would always remain as a bright spot in his memory.

The following is the address, to which all present added their names:

Dear Mr. Currey,—We regret to learn of your decision to leave this town and community, but rejoice to know your new home will afford bigger and better opportunities in the discharge of the duties of your professional calling.

Since coming amongst us about four years ago you have proved yourself a good citizen and your conduct and general demeanor has been such as to inspire the public with a confidence in your fidelity. You have from the first been able to adapt yourself to the requirements and conditions of the place; you have taken an interest in affairs generally and particularly in matters pertaining to the welfare of the town as a whole. Your election to the Reeve-ship for the year just closing without opposition from any source is evidence of the public confidence, and to fill the position with honor and credit to yourself and your conferees in office is an evidence of your personal ability in the discharge of a public duty. We are sorry that you could not remain with us and continue in your position at the Council table for another year at least.

We take this opportunity to say "good-by" and to express to you our best wishes for your future prosperity. And further, as an evidence of friendship, and not because of its material value we present you with this cane which we trust you will always cherish as a memento of the years you spent in Durham.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year and prosperity in all the years to come, we are ever yours,

T. M. McFadden, D. C. Town, J. G. Hutton, W. C. Pickering, S. D. Croft, P. Gagnon, P. Ramage, D. B. Jamieson, E. D. McClocklin, F. W. Morlock, D. Jamieson, W. Calder, T. Henderson, J. N. Murdock, H. W. Wilson, J. A. Rowland, W. Irwin, C. A. Robbins, R. Burnett, H. Cross.

THE MEN'S CLASS NEXT SUNDAY

Meets in Veterans' Star Theatre As Usual Next Sunday at 2.30.

At the High school and at some U.F.O. clubs they have been debating the question, "Is the World Growing Better?" There is much to be said on both sides. Not, have we more, nor do we know more, but are we, ourselves, better? Naturally for us there is only one standard for judgment and it is Christian.

This last Sunday of the year is a good time to take stock—of ourselves—and seriously face the question, What direction are we travelling, and what progress are we making? Next Sunday afternoon at 2.30. Come and bring a friend.

METHODIST W. M. S. HELD MONTHLY MEETING

Good Turnout Enjoyed Instructive Program At the Parsonage.

On Thursday, December 20, the monthly meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist church met at the parsonage. A large number of ladies were present and enjoyed an interesting and instructive program prepared by Mrs. Knechtel, Mesdames Wiggins, Wolfe, Moon, Moore, Peters and Miss Cosens discussed the chapter in the Study Book, "Building the Nation," dealing with the immigrants from South-eastern Europe, who have come to dwell in Canada, viz., Poles, Ukrainians, and Doukhobors. Mrs. Sherk reported that a bale of clothing had been sent to the All People's Mission at Hamilton by the Auxiliary, and another to the Indian Mission at Walpole Island by the Mission Band.

The Heralds of the Watch-tower read the latest reports from missionaries in Japan, China, British Columbia and Alberta, and from workers amongst the Italians in Toronto.

An extract from "Ben Hur" describing "The First Christmas" was read by Mrs. McClocklin.

The scripture reading and hymns were in keeping with the subject of the birth of Christ. Mrs. (Dr.) Wolfe and Mrs. Sherk closed with prayer for the mothers of our Missionary fields, after which refreshments were served by Mrs. Peters.

SALES TAX MEASURE IN EFFECT JANUARY 1

No Change Can Be Made in Its Principles Till Parliament Meets.

Sales tax questions were discussed at Friday afternoon's meeting of the Cabinet at Ottawa. Many representatives from various trade organizations throughout the country have been made to Hon. Jacques Bureau, Minister of Customs and Excise, and these were reviewed at Friday's meeting.

Premier King stated Friday night that the sales tax measure as amended will become effective and be endorsed on January 1, and that no change can be made in the legislation until the new session of Parliament, so far as the basic principles of the act are concerned.

The Prime Minister said that the Government must carry out the will of Parliament, which had approved the new tax. He intimated, however, that the Minister of Customs was prepared to consider appeals against the tax, and that, where its operation appeared to work an injustice, effort would be made to remedy this.

It is pointed out that by the measure the Minister responsible for its enforcement is given wide discretionary powers for the purpose of seeing that no injustice is done to the taxpayer, and with its board of appeal the Government is persuaded that the sales tax can be adjusted to the point where those paying it with the minimum of irritation and injustice.

Among the points raised by commercial interests in the past few days in criticism of the amended sales tax was that, if it was an act of Parliament, and could be changed only by an act of Parliament, it was notable that some Orders-in-Council had been passed making material alterations in the act now in force. Officials of the Customs Department reply that none of these alterations affects the principles of the act; they are simply of an interpretative character. No regulation passed or approved by Order-in-Council could in its effect or force exceed the force of the clauses of the act itself.

Canadian newspapers and periodicals probably will receive from the Government some consideration in regard to the disadvantages under which they will be placed by the amended sales tax, which will become effective on January 1 next. As it stands, newspaper exported to the United States pays no sales tax, and United States publishers are able to send their newspapers and periodicals into Canada without the handicap. It was learned that this inequitable position in which Canadian publishers would be placed is to be given serious thought by the Government, with a view to devising some means whereby it may be remedied.

PRESENTED EMPLOYER WITH CLUB BAG

Mr. P. Gagnon, Manager of Durham Furniture Company, Gets Pleasant Surprise From Employees.

While Santa Claus was at large last week distributing geese, neckties and silk stockings to the employees of the Durham Furniture Company, one of his helpers sneaked into Manager Gagnon's private office and dropped one of the best club bags obtainable on the floor, with a tag attached stating that it was a token of the well-wishes of the employees for their popular manager. It is needless to say that the gift was very much appreciated by the recipient and will be one of his treasured possessions for a long time.

This year as in the past, the Company has remembered its employees with gifts at the Yuletide season, and this in turn is not soon forgotten by the recipients. This year every married man received a goose, the single men got neck-ties, and the lady employees silk stockings.

Employees of the Durham Stone and Sand Company, too, were similarly remembered by the company and sent home happy with a big plump goose under one arm.

RECEIVED WELCOME LETTER FROM WESTERN SUBSCRIBER

Mrs. E. J. Anderson Writes From Plenty, Sask.

We were pleased to receive a letter Monday morning from Mrs. E. J. Anderson of Plenty, Sask., and were delighted to learn from herself the way she still appreciates the weekly visits of The Chronicle. She reports very fine weather, with no snow and bright, warm days. She says it seems queer to have summer weather at Christmas and be obliged to use flour to give Santa Claus a realistic appearance. The weather is such that skating and curling are out of the question.

Mrs. Anderson tells us many from there have gone East, some to the Old Country and some to California. From this we infer that some are doing well in the West, or they wouldn't be able to take such delightful holidays.

Mrs. Anderson is a daughter of the late John Lawrence of Hutton Hill and a sister of Mr. Charles Lawrence of this town. She intended to spend Christmas with her mother in Edmonton, where she is now settled.

JOSEPH CAIN'S MOTHER DIED AT WALKERTON

Passed Away On Monday of Last Week After Lengthy Illness.

Following a year's illness of pernicious anaemia, Mrs. John J. Cain, a lady highly esteemed by all who knew her, passed away at her home in the West Ward on Monday afternoon. For the past two months she had been bedfast and though suffering greatly bore it all with Christian fortitude.

The late Mrs. Cain was born in Glenelg Township, one and a half miles east of Durham, 59 years ago, her maiden name was Jane Lindsay. Her younger days were spent in Bentinck, near Allan Park. In June, 1892, she was married, and after a short residence in Hanover she and her husband removed to Hutton Hill, where they farmed for a few years. Twenty-one years ago they removed to Walkerton.

The late Mrs. Cain was an exceptionally kind-hearted and neighborly woman and those who knew her best liked her most. She was a faithful member of Knox church and an active worker in the women's organizations of the church.

Besides her husband, she leaves one son, Joseph, of Durham, and one daughter, Miss Matilda, at home. She leaves also four brothers, Joseph Lindsay, Div. Supt. Great Northern Railway, Superior, Wis.; James Lindsay, Asst. Supt. Great Northern, Seattle, Wash.; Edward Lindsay, Invermay, Sask.; Robert Lindsay, Glenelg, Ont.

The funeral took place Wednesday afternoon from the family home, West Ward, to Walkerton cemetery, and was largely attended. The service was conducted by Rev. W. H. Burgess, pastor of Knox church—Walkerton Telescope.

PRIZE WINNERS MADE HAPPY IN CHRISTMAS DRAWING

Prizes Offered By Local Stores Were Eagerly Sought and Created Much Interest Generally.

Three Durham stores this year offered handsome prizes as stimulants to trade and all report great satisfaction from the experiment. With each dollar's worth purchased, the customer was given either a numbered ticket or a guess on the number of beans in the jar, and the rivalry made good business for all.

In the Cross & Sutherland Hardware, a \$40.00 piano lamp was the prize awarded. The holder of the lucky ticket was Mr. John McLean of town. During the period of the contest he made only one one-dollar purchase and consequently held only one ticket.

D. M. Saunders, Gent's Furnisher, put on a bean-guessing contest and gave away a Borsalino hat, a sweater coat and a pair of gloves, valued at \$7.00, \$5.00 and \$2.00, respectively. On counting the beans it was found there were 4,012 in the jar. Mrs. M. Storrey guessed 4,013, Cecil Paylor 4,010 and Floyd Kearns 4,000, and won the respective prizes.

George S. Burnett, Gent's Furnisher, also had a guessing contest, put on for a valuable club bag which was won by Jack Lauder who guessed 4,316, the exact number being 4,275.

VARNEY CHRISTMAS TREE HELD CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Large Crowd Attended Annual Entertainment of Varney Church.

A successful entertainment was held in the church at Varney on Christmas night when a good program was presented consisting of two choice anthems by the choir, a solo and reading by Miss Katie Kerr, a duet by Misses Janette and Florence Kerr, a solo by Miss Lily McClinton, a recitation by Bert Marshall, and three catchy dialogues. There was also a very spectacular rose drill, beautifully executed by eight girls.

The leading number on the program was a Christmas Phantasy, which took nearly an hour to present.

Rev. Mr. West was an efficient chairman and discharged his duties ably. There was a good attendance and the proceeds amounted to \$38.45.

ON TURNING POINT FOR BETTER SAYS WESTERN VISITOR

Western Canada Due For Good Times Soon, Is His Opinion.

Mr. H. Wilkinson of Edmonton is visiting his sisters-in-law, Mrs. T. G. Davis and Mrs. James Matthews, in town, and his cousin, James Mack of Egremont, his brother-in-law, Will McFadden of Markdale, and numerous other relatives in Egremont. He is a son-in-law of the late William McFadden and has not been East since his marriage in 1910.

We had a brief call from him this morning and felt much interested in his talks about the West, which he feels is on the turning point for better times. The city of Edmonton is recovering from war depression and mismanagement, the improved conditions being largely attributed to C. J. Yorath, the municipal manager in the employ of the city.

FORMER DURHAM RESIDENT IS ELECTED ALDERMAN

Mr. W. D. Mills Elected To Position On St. Catharines Council.

We congratulate our former townsman, Mr. W. D. Mills, on his recent election as alderman in the city of St. Catharines, where he now resides. We hope he may long be spared to enjoy the honors and emoluments of office and we further wish that his work may always do him credit.

LOCAL HOSPITAL THANKS RECENT DONORS FOR KINDNESS

Durham and District Citizens Take Increased Interest in Local Institution.

The Red Cross Memorial Hospital wishes to thank Mrs. John Vessie, Rocky Saugeen, for two excellent feather pillows and a number of jars of preserved fruit.

The community that knows Mrs. Vessie best knows that this good lady keeps Christmas all the year.