

Uxbridge Merchants Have Purchased Shaw Store, Business and Block

An important business change is announced this week. The Shaw Store, largest dry goods premises in Stouffville has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Spofford of Uxbridge, and will be operated under the firm name of Spofford & Co. It is rather singular that this old established business operated under this same name and carried on here from 1889 until around 1910. However there is no connection that we know of between the founders of this corner store business and the new owners who will take over during the last week of April.

Mrs. Spofford, member of the new firm, is a daughter of the late J. F. Browncombe of Uxbridge, and is thoroughly versed in the dry goods business. Mr. Spofford, too, is a business, and a public spirited citizen in the northern town. The new owners will be welcomed by the people of Stouffville and district.

The Shaw block which the new firm also acquire was built in 1890 by Messrs. Sangster, Sanders and Williamson, three well known community men of their day. Six months after its completion Mr. Spofford took it over, and the corner has always been recognized as the centre for town trade. The late W. H. Shaw who succeeded Mr. Spofford maintained the traditions of the store and held the right to be called the leading merchant. After his untimely death Mrs. Shaw and her sister, Miss Waters, carried on the business most of the time until they sold to the present purchasers, except for a few years when W. E. Carswell was here.

When the transfer of the business is made the last week of April, the store will be closed for several days during alterations and improvements to the building. A grand opening will be duly announced, and will be an occasion for the trading public to foregather as they did in years gone by.

Mrs. W. H. Shaw and Miss Waters will continue to reside in the residence at the rear of the block until fall at least, but after that their plans are not complete.

Tarr Farm South of Town Changes Hands

The Nathan Tarr farm at lot 31, concession 9, Markham has been sold to an Agincourt gardener who will take possession on April 10. The new owner has purchased most of the stock and implements.

This well known property has recently been worked by Mr. Tarr's son, Roy, who is giving up owing to ill health. The property contains 100 acres, has a stream and pasture land, with most of the place workable. The barn is modernly equipped with steel stanchions and water bowls. It has been in the Tarr family for nearly 40 years, and was known as the John Ramer place.

Second Uxbridge Farmer Dies in "the Harness"

Thomas Wilson Stricken Doing Chores and Expires Suddenly

Following the death of George Wilson in Uxbridge township just a week previously when he dropped dead doing chores on the farm, Thomas Wilson, living two miles north of Goodwood, came in from the stables and said he felt ill. His wife, assisted him to lie down, but he expired immediately. Death was due to a stroke. The two men were not related, although their surnames were the same, and the manner of their death strangely similar. They were also much the same age.

Thomas Wilson who died on Wednesday last week resided for about 20 years on the farm two miles north of Goodwood, and was 76 years of age. He had been doing the chores all winter and went about his duties on the day of his death as usual. When he unexpectedly came in to the house saying that he felt ill, Mrs. Wilson aided him to lie down when he passed away without uttering a word.

Deceased was a native born Ontarian, and besides his wife is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Warren Beach, Mrs. Michael Oak, Pearl and Eric, both married and living in Toronto. The three sons are Elwin, Gervis, and Glen.

The funeral on Friday afternoon proceeded to Goodwood cemetery for interment.

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced of Phyllis M. Bethena Davis, youngest daughter of Mrs. Davis and the late John A. Davis, to Trp. Ross M. Rolls of Camp Borden, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Rolls, Scarborough Bluffs. The marriage to take place in Stouffville, April 1st.

Capt. Roy Brown Dies Suddenly

One whom we were pleased to call "a Stouffville farmer," Capt. A. Roy Brown, famous airman of the last war, died suddenly at his farm home at Bethesda on Thursday evening last. Although in rather



delicate health Capt. Brown was active all the time, and his sudden death came as a tremendous shock. Only Mrs. Brown was in the home with her husband when the sudden end came.

Fifty years of age A. Roy Brown was a native of Carlton Place. He was an airman in the Great War and was credited with shooting down Baron von Richthofen's German ace. He himself suffered 27 fractures.

A few years ago Capt. and Mrs. Brown purchased the well known Fred March farm on the 6th concession of Whitchurch, and have steadily improved its broad acres.

A frequent visitor to the office of this paper Capt. Brown's interest in the district was steadily mounting, and his interest in live stock was equally keen.

Besides his wife, two daughters in the R.C.A.F. (W.D.) and one son are the sole survivors of the family. Interment was made in Aurora cemetery.

Red Cross Drive Over \$3000 Mark

Stouffville and district reached the splendid total of \$3,022 up to Wednesday noon in the Red Cross drive and only two or three lists of collectors have completed their canvases.

"It is a rare thing to find anyone who does not give something," said a canvasser at the office of T. B. Rae who is receiving the returns.

The objective for Stouffville and district is \$3,900, and if those who have not contributed maintain the good work the high goal set will be reached. Next week the Tribune will begin to publish the names of the donors as further acknowledgment that their gift has reached headquarters.

AFTERNOON SALE REALIZES \$7,500

Stock and implements sold at the Edward Taylor estate sale in Uxbridge township at Garabaldi on Tuesday for \$5,500 and a 50-acre pasture land with buildings brought an additional \$1,500. The sale was a grand success and Mrs. Taylor is delighted. The International Tractor, steel tires, brought \$440 going to Marshall Connor. Sam Bacon, a neighbor, bought the pasture land. Bred sows went for \$50 and sucking pigs \$6.50. Auctioneer Farmer wielded the baton.

PARTICIPATED IN RESCUE AT SEA.

Ordinance Telegraphist Harold Good is visiting his parents at the Brierbush enjoying a 28 day furlough. Harold is with the crew of the corvette Hepatica which gained the headlines recently when it rescued a helpless tanker crippled by a terrific storm off the east coast. Harold participated in the heroic rescue of the crew from aboard the crippled ship.

COMPETING IN BIG TOURNAMENT

Three rinks of local curlers skipped by Messrs. Harry Brillinger, Wm. Armstrong and M. E. Watts are in Toronto this week competing in the Royal Canadians Bonspiel. The Brillinger and Watts rinks were ousted on Monday after stiff competition with Sask. and Ontario rinks, while the Armstrong aggregation won both their games and continued today.

Dog Tax Swells Treasury by \$200

Believed to be the highest receipts for dog licenses ever collected in Stouffville, Constable Ira Rusnell reports having collected this year a cool \$200. This sum will be further slightly increased as still more dogs are brought into the town.

It would appear that good times bring more dogs to the community, as people do not mind spending \$2 or \$4 as the case may be to have a dog companion, or a playmate for their children. Whether as small as a sausage or as big as a pony the license fee is just the same, or they may be gray with age or only a few weeks old (pups) there is no escape from the dog tax, and the good showing indicates that the constable has been doing his duty in collecting the necessary amount.

SUCCUMBS TO LONG ILLNESS

Born at Glasgow over 82 years ago John S. Latcham died on Tuesday of this week at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George Cain, West Hill. His demise followed a long period of ill health. Mr. Latcham was an industrious man and was highly regarded in the district. His father was a blacksmith, and was born in England.

John Latcham married Annie

Plan Distribution of Ration Book No. 4

Plans for distribution of Ration Book No. 4 are almost complete and local ration boards all over the country are preparing for the gigantic task of seeing that 12,000,000 Canadians get their books on time and in good order. Although the actual distribution dates will vary in the different municipalities, the whole job will be accomplished during the week of March 26 to April 1. Accordingly it is important that consumers watch their local newspapers for the announcement of the distribution dates in their locality.

As in earlier campaigns, distribution is to be effected by means of centres opened strategically in different cities, towns, villages and townships. The whereabouts of these centres will be advertised well in advance of the opening of the distribution campaign.

Hutchinson and the couple took up farming in his home district. Mrs. Latcham predeceased her husband by several years, but there survives a family of three daughters and three sons, namely, Miss Eva Latcham, (Nellie), Mrs. Geo. Cain and (Olive), Mrs. Burnham, also Cecil, Edgar and Arthur Latcham.

For some years prior to his death Mr. Latcham lived in Goodwood.

Thieves Steal Safe from Former Coal Office

Believed to be the work of amateur thieves from Toronto, the safe from S. W. Hastings' former coal office at the station was taken on Sunday night or early Monday morning and carried to a spot on the 7th concession of Whitchurch where it was cracked open, but yielded nothing.

The thieves also ransacked the office of the Stouffville Planing Mill, but they seemingly took nothing, although a valuable tire and other articles might have been had. The safe in the planing mill was also left untouched.

Proof that the thieves were mere

amateurs lies in the fact that it could have been seen with half an eye that the office was not in use, yet they went to a great deal of trouble to load the unused safe weighing half a ton into the rear of a car and taking it to the country for breaking up. Strangely enough, they opened it in front of the Hutchinson farm and only a short distance from the Hastings farm. People in the Hutchinson home heard the operation, but did not realize what was going on until they found the cracked safe Monday morning.

Constable Rusnell, Constable Ben Gayman and Sergt. Sid Barraclough are investigating.

Jehovah Witnesses Instruct Local School Children

Representatives of the Jehovah Witnesses made a visit to the Public School in town on Monday, and the matter was brought to the attention of the Board of Education Monday evening. It served to open up the whole issue of religious instruction in the school, but since the issue is rather complicated no action was reached.

Vice-Chairman A. G. Thompson, presided and piloted the board through a long list of business, and the hour was late when the religious instruction issue came up. There is a strange statute, which provides that clergymen may visit the school, but it does not permit their entrance there any old time, and it is for the Board of Education to lay down certain rules for such visitors to follow. Some ministers do not even approve of religious instruction in the schools at all.

It is being urged on the members of the Board of Education that they require local clergy to get together

and co-operate their work along some systematic form of instruction, instead of the present haphazard method employed. As it is any minister may drop in and give a talk, never knowing what the previous visitor spoke on. If Sunday Schools had no planned program of instruction their influence would not be as far reaching as it is now.

Unless the Board take immediate action to lay down some ruling on this issue it will fast become intolerable.

The idea that the Board of Education cannot control this matter is not the right attitude to take. We believe they have all the power they need to deal with the situation.

Stouffville has a preponderance of religious denominations and now that the Jehovah Witnesses is added to the numbers claiming the right to instruct the children at the school, it is a matter for serious thought.

Disastrous Fire Sweeps the Altona Grist Mill

One of the most disastrous fires to occur in the local district broke out 6.30 on Friday morning and demolished the entire building and contents of the Altona grist mill, owned and operated by Mr. Earl Howsam. The huge frame structure was built a hundred years ago. First intimation Mr. Howsam had that the place was on fire came from a neighbor, David Crosier who saw smoke ushering from the building and promptly summoned Mr. Howsam.

"When I rushed from the house to the mill and opened the door, the whole place seemed to go up in an explosion," Mr. Howsam told The Tribune.

Stouffville fire brigade was summoned but the building was doomed from the start, and all that could be done was to stand by and protect adjacent buildings.

In addition to the total loss of the mill, the place contained valuable elevators, grinders, and other machinery. In addition three car loads of grain were burned, large quantities of oil cake, bran, and other feeds. There was nothing rescued from the building, and the loss will be severe. Buildings and contents were estimated to be worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000 with

much of the materials, especially the machinery unobtainable today. The mill was wired for Delco lighting some years ago and this was turned into hydro later. Hydro inspector passed the Delco wiring as satisfactory for Hydro, but whether the fire started from electric wires can only be guessed at. The origin is a mystery. No one was in the mill after 6.30 the evening before the fire.

Mr. Howsam purchased the place 17 years ago from Mr. H. McIntosh and has enjoyed an excellent business. He remodelled the building in 1930.

The Altona Mill was erected a hundred years ago or more and was known as the Resor Mill, serving a large area of country in the pioneer days. At one time it was operated entirely by water power which more recently became an auxiliary power.

Like the burning of Troy the demolition of this old landmark at Altona is to be greatly regretted, aside from its historic interest, the wiping out of the mill will be keenly felt by the farmers who had their grist ground there. Mills are becoming increasingly scarce and may continue this way forcing more and more farmers to install small choppers of their own.

C.N.R. Station Saved by Firefighters; Brigade Answers Two Calls in One Day

The local fire brigade answered two calls on Monday within five hours, and in both cases made record runs to the scene of trouble.

The first alarm about 4 o'clock sent the fire fighters to the home of Mr. Tilman Hoover, Albert street, but the flames had been subdued and little damage was caused to the home. However, Mrs. Hoover suffered severe burns, and was removed to the Brierbush in the ambulance. It appears she had been burning some rubbish, when her clothing caught fire. She ran out doors and was first seen by Mr. Ben Talbot employee at the Gold Fish Supply plant. The alarm was sent in from the office and Mr. Talbot rushed over and rendered first aid. Medical examination showed a severe burn on the elbow, while Mrs. Hoover's hair was completely singed. Her condition is said to be not serious from the terrifying ordeal. Mr. Talbot saw Mrs. Hoover rush from the house fighting the fire from her clothing. The back of her sweater coat was in flames, he said.

Between eight and nine o'clock in the evening a second alarm went in for a fire at the C.N.R. station. The blaze was in the freight shed and had gained such headway that Howard Haines, employee at the Machine & Tool Works saw the flames through the factory window and hastily gave the alarm. The brigade was on the spot in four minutes. It took a few tons of water to subdue the fire, which had it been given another ten minutes might have wiped out the whole station.

Examination leads to the belief that the fire started from the outside of the building at the north end and eat its way into the freight shed where a quantity of wood was piled. A spark from an engine may have caused the trouble.

Gravel Hill Project Likely to Start Soon

Bylaw Passed in Whitchurch Adopting Summer Assessment

No questions were asked when Clerk John Crawford told the Whitchurch township council that the county tax rate would be increased this year by one half mill on the local assessment, as a result of the increase of some \$80,000 in County Council expenditure.

Deputy Reeve Lorne Evans informed the meeting on Saturday at Vandonf that an Ontario Land Surveyor is being engaged to survey the gravel hill district on the east townline three miles north of Stouffville, and when his report is received it will then be in order to advertise for tenders to remove the great gravel deposits there.

Mr. Evans was reporting on a meeting held in Toronto at the time of the Good Roads Convention when the two councils (Uxbridge and Whitchurch) or their representatives met to consider removing the big hill and recovering the gravel for use by the two municipalities.

When the survey is made the two councils will convene in joint session to arrange for tenders. The government subsidy on the work will be received as on any other township road project.

The bylaw setting forth the new time for taking the township assessment was passed and F. Cummings again named assessor therein. He will be required to begin his assessment on April 1st and return the roll on Oct. 1st. This assessment shall be the basis on which the taxes are to be collected the following year. It will enable the tax bills to be issued earlier, and if council so decides, to permit a discount for early payment.

The clerk was instructed to place an order for 5,000 feet of snow fence and 400 posts. Fencing is 8c. per foot and posts 6 1/2c. each. Reeve Leary said it was the policy to add to the stock of fencing each year.

Failing to receive his resignation a resolution was passed cancelling the employment of Robert Windsor as township constable.

The township only has one hospital case which is a new low, while relief for elderly people costs was \$135.66.

R. W. Andrews, auditor, presented his report of the audit for 1943, showing the township in a healthy financial condition, and free from any debenture debt. A lengthy discussion on Clergy Reserves was entered into, all of which indicated the difficulty of distributing the funds to the schools on anything like equitable basis. Since the sum that might be derived by any one section is small the whole thing was viewed as a "headache."

Reeve, Geo. Leary presided over the meeting, members present being Deputy Reeve Evans and Councilors Harper and Logan.

Markham Juniors Are Eliminated

Taking a 6-4 decision over Markham Juniors in their second game of their home and home series on Monday night, Kingston Vics swept the series 17-10.

Goals by Moore and Fowler for Kingston late in the third period gave the boys from the limestone city the victory and advanced them into the O.H.A. Junior 'B' semi-final series.

Markham led into the first half of the second period and although Kingston a little later forged ahead, the home boys came right back and tied the score 4-4 in 11:05 in the final round.

Fowler turned the hat trick for Kingston, getting three goals, while Gibson accounted for two for Markham.

Kingston now meets Barrie Colts. An exhibition game is likely to be played between Markham and Richmond Hill to at least partially settle the argument as to whether the Hill had the "stuff" to have right fully continued in the play-offs.

Buried from Home Where Born 82 Years Ago

One of Markham Township's oldest farmers, Robert Bruce died at the Brierbush Hospital on Sunday morning, March 12. He was 82 years of age last June, and was born in the very house from which his remains were taken to their last resting place on Wednesday afternoon following the funeral service conducted by Rev. J. Orr, pastor of Melville church. In fact the aged man was born in the room where his funeral bier was prepared.

Robert was the eldest son born to Robert Bruce and Janet Dickson, his mother's people having founded the Dickson Hill Mills. In 1885 Robert married Frances Case and continued to work the home acres as he had done since boyhood, while his brother Alex. D. focussed his attention on the mill always an active industry on the Bruce acres.

Mr. Bruce's wife died in Sept. 1943, and two of their daughters and one son also predeceased Mr. Bruce, namely Mrs. Herbert Hood, Mrs. David Neil, and Wm. Bruce. Surviving is one son, R. A. Bruce operating the homestead farm, also there survives ten grandchildren, also one brother, Mr. A. D. Bruce and one sister, Miss Janet Bruce.

The funeral to Melville cemetery was attended by many friends Wednesday afternoon. Interment was made at Melville cemetery.

Farmers Consent is Sought for a Special Tax

One-Fifth of Mill Wanted for the Federation of Agriculture

A public meeting will shortly be called in Whitchurch Township to lay plans for canvassing the farmers to secure their consent to be taxed one-fifth of a mill on the local assessment and the proceeds therefrom to be used outright by the Federation of Agriculture.

The scheme was unfolded by Deputy Reeve L.P. Evans at the Whitchurch council meeting on Saturday. It is proposed to organize through the school sections by first calling together the trustees.

It will be necessary to secure the signature of the individual farmer before the municipal council can assess the farm land of that individual for the one-fifth mill. A farmer who refuses to give his consent cannot be taxed.

It is estimated that the one-fifth of a mill taxation on a \$10,000 assessment will cost the farmer about \$1, and as it has long been contended that they must have a strong organization to fight the battle of the farmers before our governments, this is the means to raise a strong financial set-up such as it is, contended labor groups possess.

"Mission to Moscow," which was to appear at the Stanley, has been cancelled owing to unfavorable comment, the theatre manager announces.