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NINETY-NINE YEARS OLD MRS. SHORTT'S ADDRESS

Mrs. Margaret Smith, Collin's Bay, Born on Oct. 18th, 1821.

In City Hall, Friday Evening, With Regard to Mothers' Pensions.

"If I am spared until Monday, which is Thanksgiving day, I will be ninety-nine years of age," said Mrs. Margaret Smith, widow of the late Darius Smith, to a Whig representative who called at her home at Collins Bay on Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Smith, who has almost completed five score years, is indeed a remarkable woman. She is exceptionally well, and enjoys talking to her many friends who often drop in to visit her. Were it not for the fact that her eyesight is somewhat failing, she would still continue to read the daily papers. Even now, she is able to read any article which has larger print than the newspaper. She is well versed in what is going on, as her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Van Laven, with whom she resides reads to her.

On Friday afternoon, the Whig man found Mrs. Smith dozing in her arm chair on the verandah in front of her home. After she awakened, with the assistance of her cane, she made her way into the living room, where she told many interesting things which occurred during her life time.

Mrs. Smith is the widow of the late Darius Smith, who was superintendent of light houses for many years. She was born in the township of Ernestown, Oct. 18th, 1821, being the oldest daughter of the late Timothy Allen, who was a local preacher. The Allen family consisted of seven boys and two girls, of whom Mrs. Smith is the only surviving member. On July 11th, 1848, she was married by Rev. C. R. Allison at Cataract. Her husband lived until 1880. She remained at her home near Wilton until she was sixteen years of age, and then left for the States to complete her education for a school teacher. For seven years after returning from the States, she taught school. Her first school was in the fourth township in the township of Ernestown, and her last school was on the Highlands (near Westbrooke).

It was very difficult for the children to get to school. From childhood, Mrs. Smith was very fond of horses and loved to ride so that she could travel to and from school on horseback. It was all woods in those days, and the trip to school was very hard. The trustees in those days did not pay big salaries for school teachers, which is shown in the fact that Mrs. Smith only obtained \$5 a month for her services. In her first school there were thirty scholars. When asked about where the teachers boarded, she stated that the parents of the scholars were obliged to board and lodge her. The teacher would stay with the farmers, who sent their children to school, for the period of one week, and then move on to another home. Mrs. Smith stated that the Bolts and the Harkers were among her scholars. School opened at nine o'clock in the morning and closed at four, the same as now. One of her schools was only a block away, but later a frame school was built, and later on a stone building was erected.

There were no railroads in the early days, and the only way to get to Kingston was on a lumber wagon. Many and many a time Mrs. Smith rode to Kingston on a lumber wagon, and when she arrived in the city would find that her elbows were badly bruised, as a result of her passage.

Since she was seventeen years of age she has attended the Methodist church and Sunday school. When a child, she used to jump on her horse and ride to the church services. In the early days many people were too poor to contribute to the minister's salary in money, and she can well remember her father, who was a steward in the Methodist church, going around to the farmers to collect produce, which was given to the preacher to tide him over the winter.

In the early days, Mrs. Smith remembers the cooking of the meals in front of the big fireplace. It was a common occurrence to roast a goose or bake bread in front of the big open fire.

Her family consists of three daughters, Mrs. (Rev.) Ferguson, mother of Mrs. (Rev.) A. W. Stewart, Harrowsmith; Mrs. T. F. Van Laven, and Mrs. W. E. Grass, Collins Bay. All her sons died. There are thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Mrs. Smith voted when she was ninety-eight years of age.

She remarked that the Whig had been coming into her home all her life, and she would be very lonesome without it.

The Whig, as well as her many friends, congratulated Mrs. Smith on attaining the age of ninety-nine, and hope that she will be spared to pass the century mark.

The Evangelistic Services. The evangelistic services at the Pentecostal Tabernacle, Queen and Barrie streets, are progressing with growing interest. Numbers are coming into the city from various points in the country and surrounding towns. Afternoon services are announced for Sunday and all the coming week, with the special services continuing every night.

Evangelist A. H. Argus is to speak to-morrow night on "Will Jesus Come Again? When Will He Come? How Will He Come?"

Races Thanksgiving Day. Monday's programme will give the harness horse contingent their last chance of the season to look over the good ones. The card is a 2.15 pace and trot, a 2.25 trot, and a 2.50 pace, and among the starters will be "Mayaine," "Slippery L," Maud E. H., "Dolly Patch," "K. L. Lambert," "Spier Oloot," "Bernard McKinney," "Billy Patch," "Laura Pointer" and a string of others in the van, too numerous to give in detail. A word to the wise is sufficient. Come and see them step.

Horse races at the fair grounds, Monday, 2 o'clock sharp. Admission 50 cents. Autos free.

Kingston debutantes are good. Buy them. Amounts from \$100 to \$1,000. A woman always agrees with a man whose opinions are the same as her own.

You get a quality tea when you buy Charm.

Mrs. Adam Shortt, Ottawa, vice-chairman of the Mothers' Pensions Commission for Ontario, arrived in the city at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, and was met by Mrs. Bruce Taylor whose guest she will be during her stay in the city. At 7 p.m. a meeting of the Kingston committee took place to elect a local chairman, treasurer and secretary and Mrs. Shortt presided. Those elected were: Mrs. R. Bruce Taylor, chairman, C. J. Graham, vice-chairman, Rev. J. R. Fairfull, secretary. Mrs. Bruce Taylor presided at a meeting in the city hall at 8 p.m. who gave an exhaustive statement upon the work of the pension board and explained clearly the Mothers' Allowance Act, passed at the last meeting of the Ontario legislature. The first province to adopt this legislation was Manitoba and Ontario is the second. These are the only provinces in which provision is made for widows and children. In time the other provinces will undoubtedly follow. Mrs. Shortt explained that the money grant was in reality a payment to the mother for the care of her children. It was not a charity, but was paid by the government for the work she was doing for the state as an employee of the government. If the mother proves to be unfit to do this work, the allowance would be withdrawn. Owing to the flood of applications following the announcement, it has been impossible to strike a schedule of rates and of particular cases, and the commission was, therefore, placed under the necessity of striking a flat rate to go into effect immediately, pending the further investigation of the circumstances surrounding all cases. It was hoped that by January something more definite would be arrived at. Those responsible for passing the act felt that it was better to err on the side of liberality than on the side of parsimony. It was estimated that the first year's payments would aggregate slightly over the million, the province bearing the cost of administration, and the allowances being equally divided between the province and the municipalities.

Mrs. Shortt briefly outlined the workings of the act, and directed all to the local committee and the members of the Kingston committee. Application blanks may be obtained at the city hall. A special investigator is employed in each locality in order to facilitate the work of the commission. The question of women with illegitimate children was one that required special treatment. For instance, if a woman with illegitimate children married and the children were accepted by the husband she would be eligible under the act in the event of his death. Another class was the deserted mother who did not benefit under the act. The commission had no discretionary powers in such cases. Wives with husbands in prison did not benefit, but if the husband is in an asylum they do benefit. As a matter of fact there are but three classes of mothers really eligible under the act as at present constituted. They are bona fide widows with two or more children under fourteen years, mothers whose husbands are in asylums, and wives of disabled men.

Mrs. Shortt gave some idea of the cost of the proper administration of the widows allowances law. It will require sixteen permanent investigators for the province at a salary of \$1,500, and in addition a number of temporary investigators. She hoped that the local organization might be ready to undertake its work immediately in order that those entitled to the benefits might profit by them at the earliest possible date. Mrs. Shortt left this morning for Ottawa. Capt. W. Fairfull will receive applications for Kingston's widows for the local committee.

Try the best package tea—Charm.

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LATE MAGAZINES FOR SUNDAY READING

November Pictorial Review—just out — beginning the new novel by Kathleen Norris. Peoples, Ainslee's, Blue Book, Smith's, Motion Picture, Classic, Picture Play.

Music Sale To-day Popular Numbers Two For 25c.

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Newman & Shaw

"The Always Busy Store"

THE MAN ON WATCH

The Kingston police are to learn "first aid"—probably in order to help drunks to their homes.

Clergymen must not become dancing masters says a parson, who objects to the men of the cloth encouraging the young people to flock to church halls to do their dancing instead of to dancing halls. Well, what is wrong about it?

People are told not to light their furnaces in October. But in saving coal, they may be shortening their lives. The country is "dry," so let the houses be likewise.

After all, R. J. Bushell knows more about this fair business than we amateurs. He stily cannot choose the dates he would like.

The city council in changing the G.W.V.A. tag day date heard only the plaintiff and not the defendant.

It is to be hoped that the U.F.O. government will not double up the law court jobs at a time when employment is scarce.

The supposed nitro-glycerine found in the penitentiary may be only some beer from the old Fisher brewery that the guards missed lapping up.

Kingston's population this year, like church attendance, has decreased. Judging by the attendance at the summer ball games, however, we thought we were a more largely populated town.

Queen's footballers are something like the long-suffering Armenians. They are so accustomed to take beatings that to win a game might give them nervous prostration.

Now that it has become known that only churches and charities can hold games of chance to make money, the fair directors will perhaps rest satisfied that there are some within our own gates who can "fleece" the people as our good mayor says. The churches may con-

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Many men would suffer from dyspepsia if they were compelled to eat their own words. —THE TOWN WATCHMAN. Charm tea is economical tea. More cups to the pound.