

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE.

St. Jude's Church will hold a watch night service at 11 p.m. to-night, when a short New Year's message will be delivered by the pastor.

CANNOT ACT.

Edward Gilmore, who was appointed deputy returning officer for polling subdivision number sixteen in the coming municipal elections has written the city clerk notifying him that it will be impossible for him to fill the office. The writer suggests that returned soldiers be given the preference in these positions.

MR. TURLEY'S ASSISTANT.

A returned naval man, Mr. F. G. Pratt, of the Great War Veterans Association, has been appointed Assistant Organizing Secretary for the Province of Ontario for that body. Mr. Pratt, who has been doing organizing work for the G. W. V. A. in Hamilton, will be Mr. Turley's assistant. Thrilling experiences have fallen to Mr. Pratt's lot while on the high seas. He was at one time wrecked off the coast of Norway.

EXPIRED TERMS.

The terms of Edward L. Gould and George S. Matthews, city council representatives on the Board of Park Management expire on February 1st, 1918 and notification of the expiration of their terms has been made by Secretary William Glover to the city clerk. Both members are eligible for re-appointment. Mr. Gould has been a member of the Board since it was first organized seventeen years ago, and Mr. Matthews has also been a member for a long period of years. Messrs. Frank Cockshutt, Franklin Grobb and William Glover, with Mr. Gould have been members for the past seventeen years.

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To The Editor of The Courier

MAYOR TO AID. JONES.

To the Editor.—I observe that Mr. Ald. Jones in his Mayoralty address has vouchsafed to exaggerate the importance as Chairman of the Railway Committee of the Council, by taking credit for his performance in reference to the inter-switching order before the Dominion Railway Board. It is a fact nevertheless that he acted without even advising me that the matter was being considered and being out of the city, on my return I was appalled to discover that the inter-switching arrangements did not embrace the Street Railway, or such inter-switching as would enable the city to get their coal from the T. H. and B. Railway to the Waterworks, as the G. T. H. Co. had refused such inter-switching arrangements, the result being that hundreds of tons of coal annually consumed at the waterworks had to be carted all the way from the T. H. and B. station to the waterworks, at a great added annual cost for such coal. I at once applied to the Railway Board at Ottawa and had the omissions rectified.

Re the five cent charge on the coal orders. In the Thursday issue of your paper he deliberately, to use a mild term, tried to mislead the public by stating that he hoped "by to-night, I (Bowley) would have changed my attitude in that I was not at knowing as he that I was not at the council meeting in which the order was passed, that as the council had, he included, unanimously passed this five cent charge, they would not be likely to repeal it. Well he got his requisition and only five members were in attendance. No quorum and no repeal. I think for his own self-respect, the least he should do is to retract the better for him.

What won't some men do to obtain public office?
I have the honor to remain,
Yours truly,
J. W. BOWLEY, Mayor.

rounding up eligibles during the campaign conducted in the Ambitious City. The thanks of the League have been cabled to Sergt. Landers now in France, as an appreciation of his services. Sergt. Sam's live wire activities are well known in this city, and many of the 25th were persuaded to don the khaki by his eloquence.

LOCAL DRAFTS HERE

It is probable that among the troops to be stationed here during the winter will be the Brantford Brant county men called in the first draft. The following announcement has been made by the military authorities at the headquarters of the Central Ontario Regiment, Hamilton: Another announcement affecting the first class from Hamilton, is that in all probability only 250 will be called up until after the overseas drafts leave the C. O. R. depot here. It was intended to send some to Brantford and Niagara Falls but indications point to those depots being filled up from their own districts, and so Hamilton draftees not caught in the first call may enjoy a short respite for a few weeks. The last few days before reporting finds many going to the armories to try and enlist with the artillery, but all the artillery depots are at strength, and so those applying turn away disappointed to await the call to join the infantry, more often referred to in military circles as the "gravel crushers."

CITY BEAT HIM TO IT

To ensure a fair distribution of coal among consumers during the present critical shortage, Fuel Controller Macgregor, has written to the mayors of all cities and towns throughout the Dominion suggesting the appointment of an official or commission to supervise the sale of fuel by the local dealers. Such a commission has been received by Mayor Bowley, but the suggestion of the Fuel Controller has been anticipated here, where the coal supply depot at the city hall is fulfilling the suggested functions. "I would suggest," said Mr. Macgregor in his letter, "that you should appoint some one in your municipality, preferably one of your civic officials, whose business it will be to look into every application for coal by any household which is refused by dealers, and if it appears to be a case of actual need, and your office is aware that there is available in store of coal in the hands of any such dealer, such dealer shall forthwith be ordered to meet such emergency, irrespective of whether the applicant in question is a regular customer or not."

"This is the time when team work is absolutely essential, and I am in hopes that if the situation is put squarely before the dealers in your town they will be willing voluntarily to co-operate with us in order to relieve any such cases of emergency that may arise. I shall be obliged if you will indicate the name of any dealer who shows a disposition to disregard the public interest and I will communicate with him direct from here."

KNIGHTS OF THE GRIP.

Members of the Brantford Travellers Club spent Saturday evening at their headquarters, Y.M.C.A. Building. After the executive meeting the members enjoyed a very pleasant and profitable evening in speech and song. Mr. W. H. Whitaker delighted all present with a bright speech, giving his impressions of travellers he has met. Short speeches were also delivered by Mr. Milton Wilkes, Mr. George Miller, Mr. R. F. Mason, D. T. Williamson announced that he had secured Mr. Stewart Lyon, war correspondent and editor of the Toronto Globe, to deliver an address at a luncheon to be held on Saturday next, and that the executive decided to extend an invitation

ALL-NIGHT SKATE

TO-NIGHT

—AT—

Alfred St. Rink

Skate the Old Year Out and the New Year In

Everybody Come and Enjoy a Night's Skate

to the members of Brantford Rotary Club and Business Men's Club of the Y.M.C.A. to be present on that occasion. The members are looking forward to this event with much pleasure, as Mr. Lyons is one of Canada's foremost speakers, and has a very interesting story to tell after spending nearly nine months with the boys at the front.

HUN DEVILS

Are Dealing More Harshness to Belgians

Populace Being Literally Stripped Bare

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, Dec. 31.—A statement issued through the Belgian official information service, indicates that the German authorities in Belgium are dealing with bitter harshness the civilian population of the occupied territory, stripping the country of food necessities and metals. The statement reads: "News leaking through Holland shows that the Belgians are being literally stripped bare by German requisitions extending to the most necessary requisites of life. Large bodies of troops are being rushed to the Flanders front, and on their way they seize cows, milk, and eggs, articles which were already so scarce in Belgium that they were practically reserved for children and invalids. 'This blow comes' on top of very vexatious requisitions, which have in late weeks upset all Belgian 'households.' On October 13, a German edict ordered that a declaration should be made of all shoes, such as walking shoes, sport shoes, ball shoes and slippers of all kinds. Only wooden shoes were excluded. Two weeks later, four out of five of these articles were to be delivered to the Germans. In the meantime wool was seized all round the country. The inhabitants had to give all kinds of wool, pure and mixed, including mattresses and cushions. They had to be replaced by bags of sea grass. According to two private letters from different sources dated at Brussels, at the end of November, 1917, received just now at the Belgian legation, only one change of clothing has been left to the Belgians by the German authorities."

REPRIEVE FOR CALLEJA

A reprieve of two months has been given Carmen Calleja, the Maltese sentenced to be hung on January the 3rd for the murder of a fellow countryman Gio Batta Bonello. The announcement has been made by the Minister of Justice, Ottawa, and word was received in the city by the Rev. Dean Brady this morning. A. H. Boddy, who has been in Toronto and Ottawa working with T. G. Robinson on his case returned to the city last night from the Capital where he was assured that a reprieve was not granted by the Honorable Mr. Justice Master by the day that the Minister of Justice would act. Following his departure from Ottawa the above decision was reached by the Minister of Justice, C. J. Doherty.

A PASTORAL

Is Issued by the Bishop of Huron

The Rt. Rev. David Williams, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, has issued the following Pastoral to the Anglican clergy:

Dear Brethren:—Sunday, Jan. 6th, the Festival of the Epiphany, has been proclaimed as a day of Thanksgiving and Intercession, for ourselves and our Allies, to be observed throughout the British Empire. We have abundant cause for thanksgiving especially in Canada, and in view of the present world situation, we have most solemn reasons for intercession in all matters affecting the well-being and destiny of the Empire, the Church of England has ever been the foremost in practical sacrifice. Let us be foremost in approaching the throne of grace. Will you therefore emphasize these two aspects prominently in the services of the Day.—David Huron.

Eat New Year's dinner at the Artemis Dining Room, Special menu. Brunch, 11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Evening dinner, 5 to 8 p.m. Meals, 75c.

DIED IN CHURCH

Mrs. B. Goodnow, 43 years of age, dropped dead from heart failure yesterday in the First Church of Christ, Kitchener, while the congregation was singing. She is survived by her husband. They went to that city a few days ago from Brantford.



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DALHOUSIE STREET

DESTROYED BY FIRE.

By Courier Leased Wire. Buffalo, Dec. 31.—Fire today burned the Woolworth five and ten-cent store in Main street and spread through the block to Pearl street on the west and Cort street on the south. The total loss was \$125,000. A captain and two firemen were injured when a heavy coating of ice brought down part of the building.

A TOUCH OF THE GREAT WAR

By Courier Leased Wire. Montreal, Dec. 31.—At the St. James Roman Catholic church, corner of St. Catherine and St. Denis, a touch of the great war is given to the congregation in the crib of the Holy Infant, which is placed on view during Christmas time. The crib is guarded by a small reproduction of the famous British tank. The tank

is full of flowers, and is the gift of the soldiers of the Cross of Glory Association in significance of the recent occupation of Jerusalem by British troops.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA