

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Next Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season. It is known as Ash Wednesday, because in early days it was the custom of penitents to put ashes on their heads as evidence of their penitence.

Although the sun shone brightly on Saturday last it is intimated that the bear was so poor and thin, as the result of the long, hard winter, that there was not enough of him to make a shadow. Let us hope this is the case, as we certainly do not want six weeks more of this kind of weather. February 2nd is called Candlemas Day because in many churches large numbers of candles are burned in the celebration of the purification of the Virgin.

When Germany announced her policy of unrestricted submarine warfare in December, 1916, the Kaiser said England would be brought to her knees by this process within a very short time. Statistics tell us that the tonnage sunk by subs, in December, 1917, was considerably less than in the same month the year previous, and while many hardships have been experienced and losses sustained by the Motherland, she is stronger than ever, and the only thing that brings her to her knees is prayer.

On another page, under the caption, "The Battle in the Mud," we give some idea of what the men endure in getting ready for an attack, and also some of the final work of the Canadians, copied from the New York Times, but we think it better to leave out the grueling details of the fighting. The draftees will not have any such experiences, as the Germans will make their last great effort before they or the American troops are ready. Too many of our boys will have a "rendezvous with death" this spring.

By threats of starvation and death, the long-suffering Germans who recently went on strike have been forced to resume work. Life with us all is so dear that we will endure any ill rather than knowingly suffer death, and there were no doubts on the part of the subdued ones on this point. In A. J. Garden's book "War Lords," which we unfortunately have not to hand at the time of writing this, the Kaiser is quoted, while addressing his troops, words to this effect: "You now belong to me, body and soul, and if called upon to shoot even your father, brother, or other relatives, you are not to hesitate." Such is the power that must be broken before there is any possibility of enduring peace for us.

We recently heard an Aylmer man say that only on two occasions during his long married life had he been able to fool his wife. The first was when he married her, and the second was when he took home a pound of oleomargarine and she did not know the difference between it and butter. It looks as though he will not be able to repeat the latter joke, for news comes that the U. S. Food controller has issued a decree against the shipment of oleo into Canada. It is true that this product is to a limited extent made in Canada, but one of the ingredients in its manufacture is cotton-seed oil, and this also comes entirely from the U. S., consequently there will be none made here until the embargo is lifted, and this may not be long.

Unless every householder exercises the strictest economy, Aylmer will have waterless days in the near future. For the first time in the memory of those living in the vicinity, the Caverly springs, which provide a large part of our water supply, are frozen so solid, and we will have to depend entirely upon the limited supply that gravitates to town from the flowing wells to the north-east. Dr. F. H. Miller, chairman of the Water Commission warns our citizens to use the least quantity necessary, and above all things not to allow taps to run to keep the pipes from freezing. Any user found doing this will

have his or her supply cut off. The Mayor intimates that we postpone taking our annual bath as long as possible. We simply must preserve a sufficient supply for fire-fighting purposes, otherwise every insurance policy in Aylmer would be cancelled. We are sure that every good citizen will heed the request, and conserve every drop of water possible until conditions are improved. We are asked to decrease our ordinary consumption by ninety per cent., which shows how critical is the situation.

Jack Frost is making some great records this winter. Last week the weather man announced that at that time it was the coldest winter in fifty years. Now he tells us that it is the coldest in sixty years, and we believe him. The long-continued cold spell has demoralized business, the railroads have all been tied up, and the amount of fuel required to keep from freezing—more than three times that estimated—has practically exhausted the supply. The hardships have been bad enough in Aylmer, but nothing as compared to other places. An Aylmer visitor from Brantford told the Express the other day that it was not an uncommon thing in that city to find homes without a particle of fuel, and that the inmates were obliged to remain in bed to keep from freezing. The natural gas has helped us out splendidly, but the drain upon it has been too great, and the pressure was so low, that in this office there was not enough heat units to bring the metal used on our typesetting machine up to the proper temperature, and it remained idle for two days. If you find imperfections in the Express this week, you will know how to account for them, as it was impossible to insert many interesting items of news. Like everyone else, we have to make the best of things these days.

Last week we mentioned the death of Lt.-Col. John McCrae, whose poems have brought him fame, and will make the ground, wherever he is laid "forever Canada," and it is certain to be the Mecca of Canadians touring in France, as is that of Scotchmen to the grave of Robert Burns. A memorial service was held in Montreal for him, as he was lecturer in Medicine at McGill University before going overseas. He died in a hospital in Boulogne, from pneumonia, contracted while visiting the different hospitals under his supervision. He was the younger of the two sons of Lt.-Col. McCrae, of Guelph, who raised the 43rd battery, with which four of the Aylmer boys went overseas. It is rather remarkable that the father and his two sons each had the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Three of the greatest of the wartime poets are now in "Flanders Fields," and in each case their verse has been prophetic. Allan Seegar, an American wrote: "But I have a rendezvous with Death, At midnight in some flaming town— When spring trips north again this year, And I to my pledged word am true, I shall not fail that rendezvous." Rupert Brooke, an Englishman, wrote: "If I should die, think only this of me, That there is a corner in a foreign field That is forever England." And John McCrae, a Canadian wrote: Take up your quarrel with the foe, To you from falling hands we throw The Torch—be yours to hold it high; If ye break faith with us who die, We shall not sleep though poppies grow In Flanders' fields.

THE NEW MINISTER

The musical comedy, "The New Minister," to be presented by 60 of our best local talent in the Opera House, on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14th and 15th, under the auspices of the Travel Club and Field Comforts Society, for the purpose of securing funds to make field comforts for our men overseas, promises to be one of the outstanding events in Aylmer's musical history.

As the plot unfolds, the congregation of an ancient church are found choosing a new minister to fill their pulpit. The usual conflicting opinions are given very "freely" and with great energy by members of the church. The old sexton is sure he knows best because he used to be an auctioneer. The choir desires a man who will choose hymns that will meet the voices. The Ladies' Aid and Old Maid's sewing Circle all know best and are not afraid to say so.

The athletic Club must have a ball player, and the wonderfully "wise" Music Committee do "Just as they please afterwards," when the choice is finally made.

The minister proves to be young, good-looking and unmarried. Then the "Cozy-littlehome" aspirants make a strenuous dash for the goal, causing him many an unpleasant and anxious moment.

It's impossible for printer's ink to give anything up an inkling of what this play contains, but there is many a good truth brought out that will be well for all to remember. It has been a huge success in every town where it has been given, and is sure to cure the blues. Remember there are 60 people in the play and it is not the same as the plays of a similar name which have been put on in several of the surrounding churches in this vicinity. This is a real musical comedy on a big scale. Mr. A. H. Francis, of London, who so successfully coached this play in other towns, has been secured to coach and produce it in Aylmer, and it is predicted that its presentation here will be long remembered by the whole-hearted and fun-loving people of this community. Mrs. D. J. McGuire, of London, soprano soloist will assist in Friday evening's entertainment. The reserved seat plan is at Richards' Drug Store. Admission, reserved seats, 50c. General admission 35c and 25c.

GOLDEN WEDDING

1868—1918

Mr. Charles Timpany and Mrs. Timpany (nee Hannah Elizabeth Clarke) celebrated their golden wedding on Tuesday, February 5th, at their lovely home in Aylmer.

A large number of guests, mostly old friends of the family, gathered to do honor to the occasion. The house was tastefully decorated in green and gold.

A dainty dinner was served and a pleasant social time spent as the party talked of old times and places. The honored couple started life together 50 years ago on the old Parlee farm, near Calton. There they spent the first twelve years of their married life, and the following five years on the McCurdy place, subsequently moving to the beautiful farm on the west side of town. Here they spent twenty-four years of their happy married life.

In 1909 they moved to town and have been living quietly since, enjoying a well earned retirement.

Both are looking well and enjoying good health. Mr. Timpany in particular is hale and hearty and takes a keen interest in farm, social and church life. They have both been members of the Baptist church for many years.

The family consists of Mrs. Cornell Thompson, Aylmer; Mr. Lewis Timpany, California; Rev. L. C. Timpany, B. A. India; and Mrs. Gladden B. Vining, Thorndale.

VIENNA

Wedding bells will soon be ringing in our village.

The Ladies' Aid held a fifteen cent tea Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wolfe, which was largely attended, about 100 guests being present. The evening was spent in music and games, after which a sumptuous supper was served. About 2 o'clock the guests departed, all having had a well-spent evening.

Miss Mildred Soper is spending a week with her cousin, Miss Ruby Steinhoff, of Verschoyle.

We are sorry to report that Mr. A. Wedge is confined to the house. Mr. Ernest Dalton, of London, was the guest of Vienna friends on Sunday.

Misses Lenora Austin and Edna Ramsey, of Tillsonburg, are spending a few days with the former's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Watterson.

Several from here attended the cantata at Pt. Burwell on Friday. Miss Barbara Shoebottom was the guest of Miss Aileen McCurdy on Sunday last.

Miss Alice Cartwright is spending a few days with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wedge.

Mrs. Ed. Scruton is spending this week with relatives in Tillsonburg. A large number attended prayer meeting, which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess on Monday evening.

Mr. Owen Soper made a business trip to St. Thomas on Friday. Miss Alva McCurdy, of Stratfordville, spent Sunday at her home here.

Miss Dee MacDonald has returned home after visiting her sister, Mrs. Pethick, of Toronto.

The annual meeting of the Vienna Cheese Co. was held in the town hall on Thursday afternoon last. The past season was a most successful one. The total pounds of milk received was 1,806,590. Total pounds of cheese made, 164,982, average price per lb. 21.16; average yield 1095, which was the largest in the history of the factory. It was decided that a whey butter plant be installed by March 15th. A tribute was paid to Mr. J. F. Stedebaur, the cheesemaker in his success at the cheese convention held in Stratford. On two cheese he scored within two points of perfection, taking 98 points out of a possible 100. The officers elected for 1918 are: Ed. Scruton, Vice-Pres. Directors, M. McAllister, R. Draper, Owen Soper, Ervin Smith and John Laur.

The Bear Has Seen His Shadow

So You will have to prepare for six weeks more of cold weather

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We are prepared to fit you out with a Suit of Clothes ranging in price from \$9.00 to \$25.00

OVERCOATS from \$7.00 to \$25.00

UNDERWEAR at before the war prices

SHOES Men's and Women's. A great many lines we are selling at wholesale prices and below.

SWEATER COATS from \$1.00 to \$6.50.

OVERALLS that are selling in other places at 2.00, for 1.35, 1.50, 1.75

MACKINAW RUBBERS (Lifebuoy Brand) 3.00, 3.35 and \$3.50.

MACKINAW SOX at 60c, 75c, 90c, 1.25, 1.50.

COLD WEATHER CAPS Fur and Wool bands from 75c to \$1.75.

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SCHOOL REPORTS FOR JANUARY

S. S. No. 8, MALAHIDE

Sr. 4—Gladys Vincent. Jr. 4—Locker McConnell, Jean Richardson, Dorothy VanPatter, Delbert Dunn, Murray Welter and Clarke Richardson, even, Hazel Doolittle.

Sr. 3—Carrie Welter. Jr. 3—Mable McKnight, Donald Miller, Pearl Hilliker.

Sr. 2—Ada Carter, Bernice Bowen, Homer McConnell, Hugh Harrett, Billy Dunn.

Sr. 1—Ada McKnight, Elizabeth Westover, Elizabeth Hale.

Primer—Pearl Mitchell, Jessie Mitchell, Vera Walters, Myrtle Hilliker.

Edna McConnell, teacher

S. S. No. 22, MALAHIDE

Sr. 4—Gertrude Teeple, Vinnell Mann, Harold Ackert, Beatrice Thompson.

Jr. 4—Elsie McEown, Wilbert Hollands, Clifford Skinner, Florence Adams, Ray Abell, Wilfred Bingham, Aileen Mann, Ervin Martin.

Jr. 3—Mayden Davis, Stuart Clarke, Helen Adams, Grey Fuller, Ross Gracey, Mary Honeyball.

Class 2—Homer Kenny, Clarence West, Floyd Davies, Albert Martin, Charlie Clark, Russel Teeple, Clarke Thompson.

Sr. 1—Helen Powers, Donald Clark, Audrey Davis.

Primer B—Harold Cattell, Alvah Hollands, Ray Phelps, Kenneth Powers.

Primer A—Evelyn Adams, Jack Smith, absent, Glenn McEown, absent.

M. J. Jamieson, teacher

S. S. No. 6, MALAHIDE

Sr. 4—Ralph Briggs, Lela Briggs, Violet West.

Sr. 3—Merna Baker, Adelaide McKenzie, Ula McKenzie, Vera Baker.

Jr. 3—Muriel Howse, Burton Hilliker, Edna Ellsworth, Irene Soper, Clayton Briggs, Gladys Stacey.

Sr. 2—Leslie Walker, Harvey Lightfoot, Harold Briggs, Edith West, Eva West, equal.

Jr. 2—Beulah Lightfoot, Pearl Walton, Eugene Hilliker.

Sr. Primer—Irene Kilbourne, Vera Hilliker.

Jr. Primer—Mary Walton.

M. Martindale teacher

S. S. No. 18 MALAHIDE

Sr. 4—Neva Sansburn, Nora Brown, Gerrie Firby, Irene Chambers.

Jr. 4—Ethel Kilmer, Annie Pearson, Delmer Laur.

Sr. 3—Mael Fenn, Archie Anderson, Garnet Pearson, Earl Pullin.

Jr. 3—Hazel Noels.

Sr. 2—Shirley Pearson, Wynfred Laur.

Jr. 2—Leslie Pearson, Clinton Kipp, Harold Bowen, Thomas Anderson, Clarence Kickssee.

Class B—Arnold Brown, Class A—Elmer Bowen, Mrs. Chas. A. Bears, teacher

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to extend our thanks to friends and neighbors for the kindness and expressions of sympathy shown us in our recent bereavement.

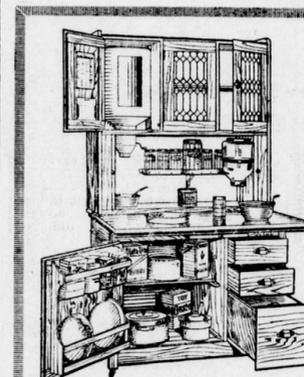
Mrs. Joseph Harp and family

JAFFA

Mrs. R. E. Bowen, of Aylmer, has returned to her home after spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. H. C. Teeple.

Mrs. W. Doolittle is on the sick list. A very enjoyable evening was spent on Wednesday last by the people in the camp in the woods at the home of Mr. Rohrer.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Fleming and daughter, of Yarmouth Centre spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. Shepherd.



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Funeral Directors and Licensed Embalmers

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Mrs. LeR

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J. C.

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