

# ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

Ella Wheeler Wilcox was probably the most prolific woman writer of verse this country has ever had. She was fifty-four years old when she died, and she began her writing forty years ago, when she was a fourteen-year-old child in Johnstown Centre, Wis., where she was born.

The first poem she sent out was accepted. By the time she was twenty-nine, when she married Robert M. Wilcox, in 1884, she had had four books of verse published, including "Maurine," a novel in verse, published by Jansen & McClurg, Chicago, and "Poems of Passion," which has remained perhaps the best known of her books, brought out by Bedford, Clarke & Co. after it was refused by her other publisher because of an alleged "immoral tone." Her last book, "The World and I," an autobiography, was published last year. She wrote thirty-one books in all.

Her first paid poem was sold to Frank Leslie's publishing house and netted her \$8, and from that time she had no trouble in making her living with her writing. In telling about the beginning of her success, she once said: "I groped my way up. When I began to write I didn't know a soul connected with the press—not even a country editor. I did

## LESSON FOR CANADA IN THIS



Number of fires per thousand of population in Canada, Great Britain, Australia and foreign countries (cities only) as shown by a report on "Fire waste in Canada," prepared by J. Grove Smith for the Commission on Conservation.

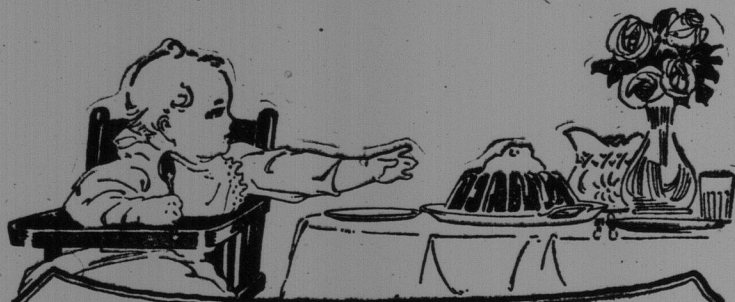
not even know where but two or three well-known literary papers and magazines were published. A little girl of my own age went to a bookstore and copied off the addresses of several of them for me, and I sent out poems to most of them, coolly requesting the editors to send me their papers as pay for the poems if they accepted them. The very first one I sent to responded favorably."

But soon after the auspicious \$8 came from Leslie's there was no trouble in getting a more substantial return than the magazine in which the poem was published. She began to contribute rather regularly for Harper's publications, the Atlantic Monthly, Denarest's Magazine, the Galaxy, the Century, Peterson's Magazine, the New York Sun and many others. Later her regular work for the New York Journal and the Chicago American began.

The very first writing of all which she did was a novel of sixteen pages written when she was eight years old and which she always treasured with great care. From what is known of it, it must have been the flower-born-to-bloom-unseen prototype of "The Little Visitors," filled with human interest and unconscious satire. Perhaps it may yet see the light. The squeezed-up, wearying handwriting was bound in blue paper and sewed together with strong, irregular stitches. Minnie Tighthead was the heroine's name.

Mrs. Wilcox was graduated from the University of Wisconsin. The greater part of her married life was spent at her Connecticut home. Her husband died three years ago.

Among her books are "Sweet Danger," "Poems of Pleasure," "Poems of Power," "Men, Women and Emotions," "Poems of Sentiment," "New Thought Common Sense and What Life Means to Me," "Poems of Progress and New Thought Pastels," "The Art of Being Alive," "Poems of Problems," "A Woman of the World," and others.



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## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

(Toronto Globe)  
Arrangements are now being made by the department of education to put into operation the school attendance act, which was passed at the last session, taking the place of the truancy act. The new law becomes effective on Jan. 1. Major J. P. Cowie is the provincial school attendance officer.

This position was created with the passing of the act to co-ordinate the work of taking steps to insure better school attendance in the province. In many cases in the past the police have had the carrying out of the truancy act, and there was a feeling that if an officer approached a family to inquire as to the delinquency of a child who had been absent there was a stigma attached to it. School attendance officers, under the new act are appointed by the boards of education, and women as well as men may serve.

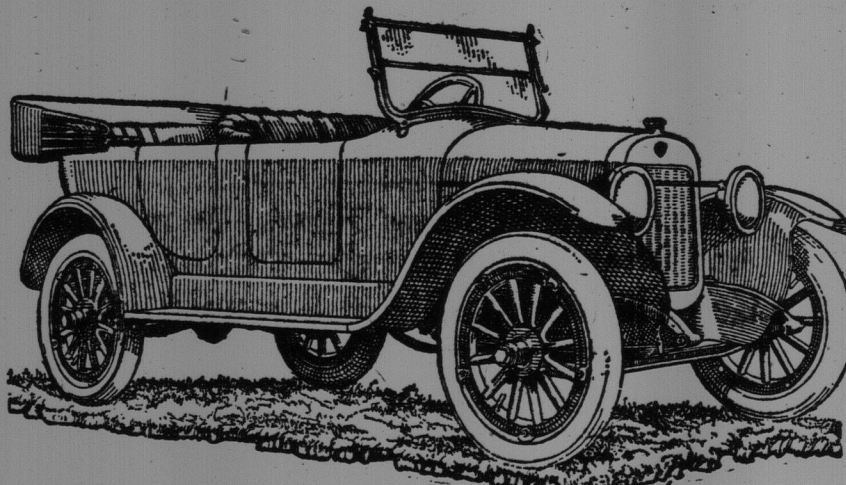
Major Cowie told the Globe yesterday that at present he is getting the organization in shape to take hold on Jan. 1. There are many places in rural Ontario where there have been no truancy officers. They are being requested to comply with the act and appoint some officer.

## THE LATE MRS. JOHN BLACK.

Of the late Mrs. John Black the St. Croix Courier says:—

"Announcement of the death of Mrs. John Black, made last week, caused sincere sorrow in the community, for she was a lady held in high esteem for her

exemplary life, kindly courtesy to all and her constant endeavor in all that made for the betterment of the community in which she lived. Her demise followed a protracted illness of much suffering which she bore with great patience and resignation. For some years Mrs. Black was president of the Women's Association of Christ church and president of the Ladies' Aid of Chipman Memorial Hospital, giving freely of her time and ability to these undertakings."



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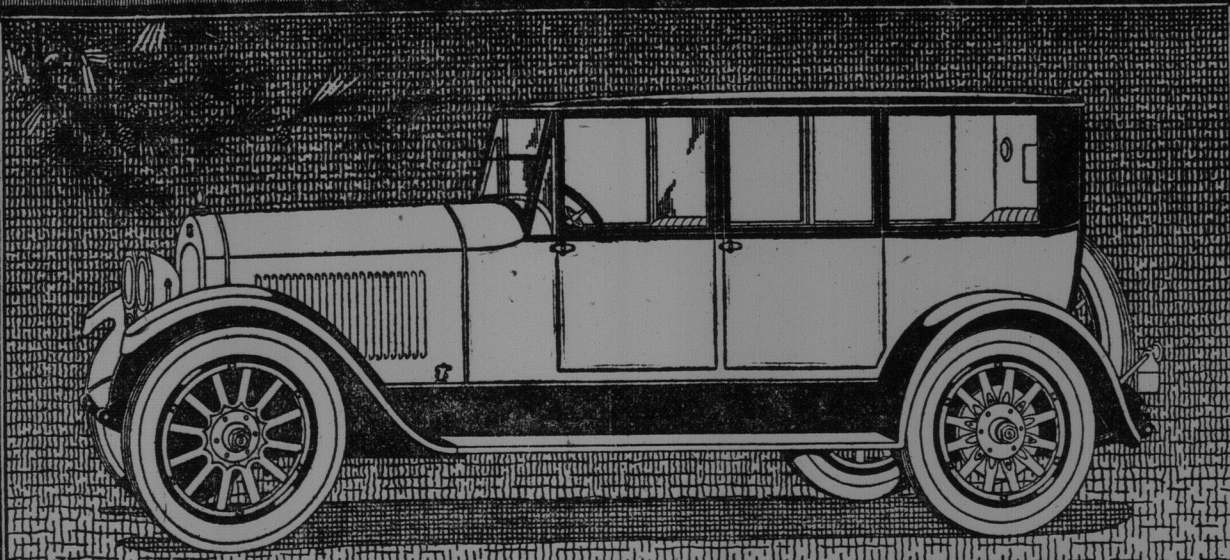
They can tell a volume about that easy casting effect in steering which a new type front axle gives, or that perfectly happy and secure feeling that is experienced when the emergency brake is applied (it's on the transmission shaft), or how the car hugs the road as a result of that masterly new rear axle.

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