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AUSTIN G. L. TRIBUTE, EDITOR AND PROP.

The Passing of a Menace

Like everything else, economy is a very good thing in its place. The national cry is to save. People are asked not to be extravagant; municipalities are expected to keep a tight hold on public monies. Yet the village has bought and erected a large fire-escape from the auditorium of the town hall. Was it a wise thing—this spending of public money?

Well, rather! If ever a village council deserved commendation, the present one does. No one has anything particularly favourable to say about the architecture of the Athens town hall, and many declare it was planned upside down. No thought was given to fire exits, and until last week when the new fire-escape was erected, the gloom of an impending holocaust hung over the village. The possibilities were terrible. Now the danger to life is greatly reduced. By stepping through a door on the south east side of the hall, one may walk down iron stairs to the ground—and safety.

The capacity of the auditorium is about seven hundred. In the event of a fire occurring behind the scenes, the new fire-escape and the stairs should allow the entire audience to reach the street in a few minutes.

Last week we were advised that an increase in the cost of paper would take effect at once. The war has been slowly forcing the one-dollar weekly cut of existence. The Reporter at present is one dollar a year in advance; but with increases in every detail of production, the price is becoming pitifully inadequate. An editorial in the Toronto Globe said that even before the war, the one dollar rate for a newspaper was not a success and that it was bound to go. To-day, the Reporter is one of the very few remaining dollar weeklies.

The fire-escape on the town hall is really an evidence of a waking up. After the war, we may expect electric power. Small towns that keep apace with the times are not so very bad places to live in.

Newspaper Expenses (Toronto Mail)

The Sherbrooke Record figures out that newsprint has advanced 30 to 60 per cent, press rollers, 33 per cent, stereo paper 47 per cent, postage 33 per cent, twine 125 per cent, and telegraphic news 100 per cent during the war. Increasing costs are forcing newspaper publishers to ask themselves why newspapers should not, like other commodities, sell at prices at least meeting the cost.
The weekly paper is touched in the same proportion as the daily, in fact has to pay from three to four dollars per ton more for their print paper. The daily secures its supply in large rolls, while the weekly, owing to the paper being cut into sheets, have to procure it wrapped in bundles, the additional charge being for the cutting, wrapping, binding rope, etc.

War Tax on Skating Tickets.

Considerable inconvenience was expected for the holders of season skating tickets on account of the necessity of always having to buy a war tax ticket every time on entering the rink. This is now remedied as the Provincial treasurer announced that a war tax of ten per cent of the value of the ticket may be paid when purchasing the same. On these tickets no war tax need be paid. The usual amusement tax ticket must be used in connection with all tickets except the above described season tickets.—Exchange.

Gordon Brown Training in England

Gordon Brown, of Caintown, now in England with the Canadian artillery, recently wrote a very interesting letter to his cousin, Mrs. H. R. Kowiton, of Athens. He tells of receiving some parcels safely although rough usage in transportation had battered them considerably. His letter goes on:

"I have a slight cold again, in fact I have never been quite free from one but that is not very surprising when you consider the change from Canadian winter to this damp, foggy, frosty weather. Many have had colds. We all have wet feet. Probably it is just as well that we are getting used to mud and wet here as there is lots of it at the front at this time of year.

"We have about 120 horses in the cattery now, just about our full complement. We are getting more of our other equipment all the time. We have had some inspections lately and are rapidly getting into shape. We have had no firing practice here yet—will have to have some before we leave England. As to when we leave, no one knows yet. It will likely be some time about the middle of January. I heard we might be stationed at Armentieres for a while—garrison duty or something. It is likely the whole 4th Artillery Division will go at the same time—that is the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Brigades.

"I was detailed the other day to go with our quartermaster sergeant to Liphook, about nine miles, to get some supplies. We took lunches, and went on transport with a couple of drivers and teams—were gone the whole day, and passed through some very interesting country. About four miles from camp there is a large hemispherical hollow in the hills called the Punch Bowl. The road runs about half way around the rim of this. This road, by the way, is clean and paved all the way—one of the main roads from London to Portsmouth. There are many such roads all over England, Wales, and Scotland. By the roadside on the rim of the Punch Bowl is a stone erected on the spot where a man was murdered by drunken sailors a few hundred years ago. These men were caught and hung on a gibbet on the hillside above where the remains were left hanging—a warning to others. Where that gibbet once stood there now stands a stone pillar surmounted by a cross and circle. It is called the Gibbet of Hindhead. Hindhead, just beyond, is a very pretty village with a good sized modern hotel (Hotel Moorlands) and several old fashioned taverns. Some of these taverns bring to mind the days when people could not read, and when the name of the place was pictured on a sign. They often have both name and pictures now—names such as 'The Red Lion,' 'The Seven Thorns,' 'The Setting Sun,' etc. We also passed through Bramshott Camp which is only about seven miles from Witley Camp—mostly Canadian infantry, also has a hospital."

PLUM HOLLOW

Jan. 11
Miss Eliza Percival has returned from Watertown, N. Y.

Mr. Percy Gifford has moved to Spring Valley where he will run a cheese factory this coming summer.

Mr. C. Kilborn is ill with pneumonia, Miss Green (nurse) is caring for him.

Mrs. Charles Tackaberry is ill with grippe.

Word was received here on Sunday evening of the very serious illness of Mrs. Percy Gifford.

Mr. Lett Kilborn has been confined to his home through illness.

On Thursday evening the ladies of the Mitchell's Ladies Aid with their husbands and families and a few invited friends held a social evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dowden. The night was very cold but over 50 were present. The evening was spent in games and music, a short programme of readings and music after which a very dainty lunch was served by the ladies.

The Montreal Morning Daily Mail and the Evening News Company which recently suspended publication has been re-organized and the paper will continue to be published by the new company, being managed and edited by Messrs. M. E. Nickols and B. A. McNab.

CHARLESTON

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Kavanaugh are visiting friends at Lyn.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Tye, Lyndhurst, have taken up residence at Oak Leaf cheese factory.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Heffernan entertained a few friends on Friday evening.

Mrs. Botsford received a letter on Monday from her son, Gerald. He stated that he had just returned from a two weeks practice at rifle range and on his return found a large quantity of mail and several pairs of good things from home awaiting him.

The concert which had to be postponed till Tuesday evening was a great success. The school-house was filled and the program was all that could be desired. A tree was laden with good things for the children and they in turn presented the teacher with an address and a brush and comb set. The musical part of the program was in the hands of Mrs. M. J. Kavanaugh, B. Slack and Miss Troy. S. Godwin occupied the chair. The proceeds go for patriotic purposes.

H. Webster attended the Green—Singleton wedding at Lyndhurst on Wednesday evening.

Deep regret is felt here over the death at Montreal of Mrs. (Dr) Ed. Giles, who made many friends here last summer and all were looking forward to her returning to Cedar Park in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Beale entertained a number of friends at progressive euchre on Friday evening and a very enjoyable time was spent. The prizes were won by Mrs. M. Hudson, Mrs. R. Foster, S. Godkin and E. King.

W. J. Slack, Lyn, was a visitor here for the past few days.

Mr. W. Eyre, who has been ill, has recovered.

Charleston members of the Athens Young People's club attended the party at the clubrooms at Athens on Friday evening.

Coffee has advanced from 2 to 2 1/2c a pound.

JUNETOWN

Jan. 15
Miss Janet Ferguson spent the week end in Brockville with her niece Mrs. Charles Walker.

Miss Mary Purvis, left on Sunday for Pasadena, California, where she will spend the winter with her brother, W. J. Purvis and family.

Mrs. J. A. Herbison and Mrs. Sandy Ferguson spent one day last week in Brockville.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baile, visited relatives in Lansdowne on Friday.

Miss Orna Mulvaugh, Athens spent the week end at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Ferguson and Miss Irene were recent visitors at Mr. Wallace Griers, Tilley.

Rev. Mr. Usher and Miss Usher, Athens, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Manhard and Mr. and Mrs. George Herbison, Purvis Street, were recent visitors at Mr. Jacob Warren's.

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For application forms apply to the Deputy Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA
OCTOBER 7th, 1916.

GREAT CLEARING SALE

Saturday, January 20th we start our annual great clearing sale. People that have attended our previous sales know what a clearing sale means here and the great bargains they are getting.

Nothing reserved---every Winter Garment must go. Men's and Boys' Suits, Overcoats, Reefers, Odd Pants, Underwear, Coat Sweaters, Gloves, Caps, etc.

The above must be turned into money no matter what it cost us to accomplish our object. We need the ready cash, and we are going to give you great inducement to part with your money that it will pay you to buy now and put it away for next winter.

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