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GENERAL NEWS

Some 12,000 employees of the C. P. and Grand Trunk systems have gone to the front since the war started.

Dr. Bedford was on Friday elected president of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, to succeed the late John D. Archbold.

The Toronto Council of Women last week adopted a resolution declining to pay more than 25 cents a pound for turkeys.

At North Sydney, lately, M. J. C. was fined \$10 or one month's imprisonment for creating a wireless outfit. It is a crime to install or operate any such plant without license from the Minister of the Naval Service.

The Roman Catholic cathedral at Quebec City, Seven Islands, P. Q., on the north shore, with the bishop's palace and the convent of the French nuns, were destroyed by fire early Friday after the explosion of a gas tank at the bishop's palace. One man lost his life in the conflagration.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State of Ohio, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for every false statement made by him or by any other person connected with the use of the name of FRANK J. CHENEY.

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what his administration officials had been describing as his course, President Wilson on the 19th instant, dispatched an appeal to all the belligerents to observe truces of twelve hours, actually beginning at 11 a. m. and ending at 11 p. m. on the 20th, and there is to be no truce on the 21st. This latter restriction goes into effect immediately the bill is passed.

Nordin School Pupils Finish Half Term with Entertainment

The semi-annual examination was held at the Nordin school on Friday afternoon, Dec. 22nd, with a good attendance of visitors. The classes were reviewed on the work of the term and acquitted themselves very creditably. After the review was completed, the following program was carried out:

Habemus-A Game of Letters-14 pupils. A Little Speech-Arthur Taylor. Dialogue-Christmas Greetings-Stella Edmonds, Hazel Taylor and Sigrid Jansson.

Recitation-A Voice for Santa Claus-Pr. Julia Taylor. Recitation-Christmas Cheer-Wilfred Ryan. Chorus-When we Kait-Pupils.

Recitation-A Xmas Toast-Wilfred Ryan. Recitation-Setting Traps-Stella Edmonds. Recitation-The Conceited Grasshopper-Sigrid Jansson.

Dialogue-The Xmas Tree-10 pupils. Recitation-What I want-Sam Howe. Recitation-If Santa Claus Was Poor-Gordon Sullivan.

Recitation-HB's Xmas-Alexis Taylor. Recitation-My Dollie-Jan. Nowe. Recitation-A Boy's Wish-Joe Taylor.

Promptly at 2.45 p. m. Santa Claus made his appearance, and was received by the children singing "Santa Claus is a Jolly Man." He distributed small gifts to each pupil and visited to the intense gratification and amusement of each.

Recitation-When Santa Claus Comes-Pr. Julia Taylor. Recitation-A Little Boy's Wish-Vincent DeWolfe.

Recitation-The New Milton-Norman Russell. Recitation-My Dollie-Francoise Tobin.

Recitation-A Child's Xmas Prayer-Muriel Russell. Dialogue and Chorus-A Merry Xmas Day-Muriel Russell and Florence DeWolfe, chorists by school.

Recitation-Remembering Pa-Raymond Roy. Recitation-A Boy who was Natched or What Charlie Found in His Stocking-Gordon Sullivan.

Recitation-The Xmas Bargain Counter-Helen Hedeman. Recitation-Papa's Girl-Winnie DeWolfe.

Recitation-A Letter from Santa Claus-Elizabeth Taylor. Recitation-Looks Like Pa-Wilfred Ryan.

Recitation-Our Flag-Muriel Russell. Recitation-Santa Claus's Message-Francoise Tobin. Dialogue-A Hole in Dollie's Stocking-Winnie DeWolfe.

Recitation-Bright Stockings-Norman Taylor. The teacher, Miss Sophie E. Prichard, was remembered by her pupils with a few valuable and beautiful gifts.

There were addresses by visitors and the meeting closed with God Save the King.

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LOCAL NEWS

Among the returned soldiers who came across on S. S. Northland to Halifax were Sapper William Ezzard, Sussex, N. B., and Pte. Norman Renale, Bathurst, N. B.

NORTH SHORE CASUALTIES Seriously Ill: Alex. Carlson, Black Point, Restigouche County.

NO COUNCIL MEETING There was no council meeting last Thursday night. Only two or three of the members attended.

A YULETIDE STORK The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Malley, Chatham Head, was brightened by the arrival of a baby daughter on the afternoon of the 23rd inst.

MATCHETT-SHERRARD At the Manse, Redbank, Thursday evening, Dec. 21st, Miss Sadie Elizabeth Sherrard of Nelson, was married to George Ellsworth Matchett of Sunny Corner, Rev. J. P. McCurdy, B. A., was the officiating clergyman. The couple were entertained. They will reside at Redbank.

THE 132nd TO THE FRONT Recent letters from members of the 132nd Battalion in England so far on the 28th ult. the first draft of some 200 men left for France on Dec. 24, another draft of about 200 men left for the front and the last letter dated Dec. 10th says they are only about 100 men of the 132nd left in England. It is understood that these are now part of the 132nd, with whom they will also soon be in the trenches.

DERBY SUPERIOR SCHOOL REPORT

Following are the names of the pupils making the highest average in the Elementary Department: Grade VI-Margaret Crocker, Emily Parker, Marion Malby, Grace VII-Flora Russell, I. Willie Murphy. Grade VIII-Zella Parker, I. Gladys Anderson, I. Ella Parker, I.

Grade IX-Frances Malby, I. A. Gray, Stephen, I. Katie Hart, I. Grade X-Bessie MacEachern, I. May Fleet, I. Wilson Miller, I. Grade XI-Warren Fleet. The half yearly public examination was held on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 21st. The different grades were examined in reading and spelling, geography, history, arithmetic, grammar, arithmetic, etc. After the two departments united to carry on a very interesting program consisting of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc. There were a number of visitors present who expressed themselves well pleased with the work of the school at the progress of the scholars.

A WHITE CHRISTMAS

The services of the Presbyterian church, Sunday evening, were held in St. James Hall, and the young people of the Sabbath School took a very prominent and important part. The regular church choir was introduced by a musical contingent from the Sabbath School.

The audience was large, entirely filling the spacious hall. In addition to the regular Christmas music, there were several extra choruses, all of which was very well rendered.

After the opening exercises, and an address by the pastor, Master Jack Nicholson gave an address on the origin of the "White" Christmas. He ascribed it to a custom that obtained at the court of the great Emperor Kublai Khan, who reigned in Peking from 1260 to 1295.

A. D. over what is now Mongolia, the Chinese Republic, Tibet, part of French Indo China, Corea, all of the Russian empire but a few of the western provinces, Persia, Afghanistan and Baluchistan, etc. It was on his birthday the emperor dressed in white, were worn to bring a white gift—anything at all, but a white charger down to a pile of a handful of rice, so long as it was white, the Emperor regarded the gifts of all with equal favor.

As the latter subjects of Kublai remembered their beneficent master, so we, having much greater cause, should keep the birthday of the Saviour by giving rather than receiving.

The different classes, with music and recitations between, then filed past the platform and deposited their gifts, all wrapped in white, in a large white box, that will be sent to the little children rescued from the street and being supported by the Social Service department of the Presbyterian church.

Rev. Mr. MacArthur spoke of the great importance of the Social Service work of the church. Last year 18 children had been cared for. This was only a small part of the work that could have been done had funds been available. In three years the Department had run in debt some \$32,000, but had not covered near all the work that was waiting to be done.

Mr. MacArthur impressed upon the little ones who had brought their gifts that they were helping many less fortunate children, and that they were an integral part of the Presbyterian church and its work.

A good collection for the work was given by the adults in the audience at the close of the service.

Before the close, the pastor announced that the children who had so generously given up their annual Xmas tree and treat, would have a treat after all—on New Year's night—when both the Sabbath Schools of the congregation will unite in St. James' Hall for the usual annual Xmas entertainment.

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