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Take this page along to our shop for reference. Do so today. It's a day nearer Christmas.

## D. MAGEE'S SONS, LTD.

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SINCE 1859

ST. JOHN

### WEDDINGS.

Halsell-Watters.

A quiet but pretty wedding was celebrated in Trinity Church yesterday morning, when Rev. R. A. Armstrong united in marriage Miss Ruby Halsell Watters and John Frederick Halsell. The bride was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Halsell left on a honeymoon trip to Fredericton, and on their return will reside on Waterloo street.

O'Connell-Hickey.

In Bath, Maine, in St. Mary's Church, on Nov. 17th, Rev. P. A. Gorman united in marriage Miss Helen Pearl Hickey, of this city, and Chas. Robert O'Connell, of Pawtucket, R. I. Mrs. O'Connell is receiving double congratulations, having graduated from the Bath City Hospital on Dec. 10th. She is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Hickey, 14 Sydney street.

### OBITUARY

Mrs. Thomas W. Clark.

Mrs. Thomas W. Clark died yesterday morning at her home, 103 Kingston, West St. John, after an illness of about two weeks. Besides her husband, she is survived by five sons, George W. Clark, Allan H. Clark, Clinton T. Clark, of West St. John, and William S. Clark, of Boston; one daughter, Mrs. Archie Wagar, of Fairville; two brothers, Penton Thomas of Boston and David Thomas, who is residing in the province, and three sisters, Mrs. Mabel Thomas of Boston, Mrs. Annie Sharp of Providence, R. I., and Mrs. Julia McAfee of New York City.

ial will take place on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock.

Mrs. W. H. Lund

Sunday brought a genuine shock to the many friends of W. H. Lund at the news that his talented wife had passed away at the General Public Hospital on Saturday evening.

Mrs. Lund, formerly Miss Mabelle Cole, was born at Bridgewater, N. S. She leaves to mourn, besides her husband, her sorrowing mother, Mrs. Louise Cole, and an infant four days old.

Few St. John young women were better known or more admired than Mrs. Lund, whose sunny nature endeared her to all with whom she came in contact during her ten years' residence in St. John.

Possessed of talents more varied than is the lot of many persons, Mrs. Lund was a musician of a high order and a writer of ability. Her death came under conditions peculiarly sad and deep sympathy will be felt for those bereaved.

As Miss Cole, she was for eight years in the employ of F. G. Spencer, Ltd., and each member of the company, said Mr. Spencer last evening, will feel Mrs. Lund's death as a distinct personal loss.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon from her late residence, 103 Kingston street. The service was conducted by Rev. S. S. Poole, and interment was in Fernhill cemetery.

J. Weston Barnes

The people of Barnesville were greatly shocked when the news was received of the sudden death of J.

Westra Barnes, J. P., which took place on Thursday, at the St. John Public Hospital, where he had gone two weeks ago to undergo an operation; for the first few days he was considered to be doing well, and which made the blow all the more severe to his wife, who only reached his bedside a few hours before his death, he also leaves one daughter, Mrs. J. J. Fowler of Upham and two brothers, Thomas, of Barnesville and George of Hampton.

The late Mr. Barnes will be greatly missed and was a man who never tired of doing kind deeds and his home was the centre of hospitality and social life of the village. He took an active part in all spheres of public life, in politics he was always an ardent observer. He was one of the assessors for Upham parish which office he has filled for many years. He also took a deep interest in the education of the place and has been Secretary of Trustees for over twenty years.

In religious life he was a faithful member of the Church of England, where he held the office of Treasurer, and where his cheerful presence and kindly smile will be greatly missed, and long remembered. While the whole community feel their loss yet the sympathy and prayers go out for the sorrowing widow and daughter who were so suddenly bereft of a most devoted husband and loving father.

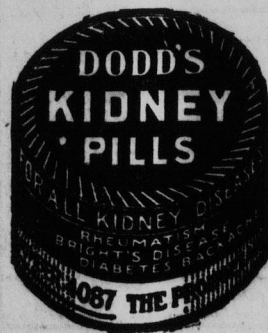
The funeral took place Saturday afternoon and in spite of the storm was very largely attended, the service in the house and church was conducted by the Rev. Albert McLean and

interment was in the family lot beside his son who died five years ago. The late Mr. Barnes was sixty-five years of age.

### FUNERALS.

The funeral of Mrs. W. H. Lund was held yesterday afternoon from her late residence, 15 Horsfield street. Service was conducted by Rev. S. S. Poole and interment was in Fernhill.

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Harkins of Grand Bay was held yesterday from Fairville station on the arrival of the Boston train. Service was conducted by Rev. W. K. Robinson and interment was in Cedar Hill.



### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

#### THE MARRIAGE LAWS.

Editor of The St. John Standard.  
Sir:—In your issue of the 7th inst., there appears an editorial on the above subject. With the general trend of your article and especially its evident intention, many will heartily agree. Our laws governing marriage are no doubt, defective and should be so amended as to place greater safeguards about a matter of so great importance. Lazily here is, no doubt, frequently taken advantage of by designing persons.

Having taken this commendable stand, many will, however, wonder why you turn from the obviously defective laws to place the blame on the Protestant clergy. To many this will not only appear illogical, but entirely unjust. Probably no offense was intended on your part, but there is certainly another side to the question. This I would crave space to briefly set forth.

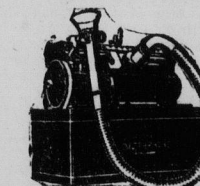
In the first place it is well to bear in mind that the Protestant clergy had nothing whatever to do with the making of our marriage laws and do not approve of them in their present form. I think, however, the exception they try to obey them. Indeed, if they do not they are subject to a heavy fine or imprisonment. They were certainly not framed for the benefit of the ministers.

Again, you are hardly just when you say, "as a rule they (the ministers) do not care." I am sure as a rule they do care and no one but the minister knows how much care he tries to exercise in this matter which belongs to the government, rather than to him. Neither do you seem to consider how easy it is for a minister to be imposed upon by false statements despite all the precautions he may take. If there is any apparent reason why the marriage should not be performed no minister that I know anything about would hesitate to decline it. Indeed, this is not infrequently done.

You touch the vital point when you say, "the couple have been granted a license" (not by the minister, but by the government) "and that is all there is to it as far as he (the minister) is concerned." To be absolutely just this should be "all there is to it" if you had reason to accuse the ministers of marrying people who had not secured a license you would have every reason to complain. But since the government has made the laws and issues a license granting certain persons the right to marry and for which it takes a bond and demands a good round fee, surely it is up to the government to do the investigating as to the fitness of these parties, to whom it sells a license, to marry. Who is the minister that the onus of this duty should be placed on him when the parties come armed with authority under the seal of the government to get married? What is a license for? Has the government which takes the man's money no responsibility in the matter? The parties must get their license before they can go to the minister and the minister has the best opportunity and the best right to make the investigations before the license is issued. Once issued and paid for, it should be what it purports to be—a genuine license to marry. In other words, let the responsibility be placed where it belongs.

Finally, no one will wish to deprive the Roman Catholic church of any credit for the superior attitude on this question which you attribute to her. It is, however, said "we should be just before we are generous." Is it not a fact, that the government receives no fees from R. C. marriages? This considerable revenue is turned from the public treasury into the treasury of the church. This superior position of which you speak is like the virtue which brings its own reward. I make no complaint at this. I do not think Protestant ministers, as a rule, would care if the government ceased to issue marriage licenses. The ministers would probably gain financially. Licensing marriages is an arrangement instituted entirely by the government largely for the sake of revenue and not for the benefit or convenience of the ministers. It sometimes wonder Protestant ministers do not go on strike and refuse to perform marriage until the government so amends the law as to not only protect society at large, as you suggest, but to protect the ministers from such unfair criticism as you have given them.

Sincerely yours,  
F. A. WRIGHTMAN,  
East Florenceville.



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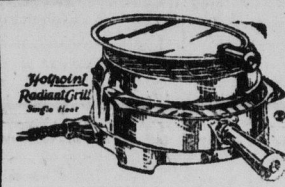
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SEE PAGE 2



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