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The Athens Reporter

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Athens, Leeds County, Ontario, Wednesday, November 30, 1904.

G. F. Donnelley, Publisher

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Room wanted at once! Christmas goods crowding in and calling for space. Too many jackets—that's the whole story as far as we're concerned. Your interest comes now. Don't worry about our loss, come along and save a few dollars on your new jacket. Just think of it! \$6.50 jackets for \$3.90, some \$7.50 ones for \$5.00, \$9.50 for \$7.50, and so on. Come now for first choice—they'll go fast.

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TWENTY TWEED JACKETS—Medium light or dark mixed tweeds, semi or loose back, roll collar and reverses, double breasted, new sleeve, regular price \$6.00 and \$6.50 for \$3.90.	TWEED JACKETS—Light mixture trimmed with plain broad cloth, tight fitting back, collar, cuffs and dark shoulder straps of plain broad cloth, regular price \$9.50 for \$7.50.
\$7.50 for \$5.00	\$12.50 for \$10.00
FAWN COVERET CLOTH JACKETS—Loose back, roll collar and reverses, fly front, made with the latest sleeve, very neat and good, reg. price \$7.50 for \$5.00.	FAWN BEAVER JACKETS—Tight fitting back with solid stitched collar and cuffs, fly front, semi-fitted, a very stylish coat, regular price \$12.50 for \$10.00.

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TRIP TO THE WEST

Editor of the Athens Reporter:
Dear Sir,—Please favor me with space for another article descriptive of my trip to the West. Before taking this trip, I labored under the impression that prairie was alike the world over, but I had not gone far from Winnipeg before I was convinced that I was mistaken with regard to that matter. Some was high, some low, while some parts were perfectly level, some perfectly free from timber while some had quite a quantity of young timber growing on it.

The Yorkton district is a very nice rolling country. For five or six miles it is all improved and fenced with wire fence, but the houses are far apart on account of the farms being so large, generally from 640 to 1000 acres. At a distance of nine miles east of Yorkton I found H. L. Kerr, a Greenbush boy. He and his family are comfortably settled on 320 acres of excellent land with a good house and stable, both of frame, and a very large log granary. He also has six good horses and also has all the necessary implements for working his farm. I thought it was quite encouraging, as four years ago his house was only the second one for a number of miles. But the best of all, he is now surrounded by the best of Ontario neighbors. In a circuit of three miles I became acquainted with no less than twelve pushing, enterprising young Ontario farmers, each one settled on a 160 acre farm. Each one is living without a helpmate of the opposite sex to share their joys and pleasures in that wonderful country, as ladies are as scarce there as money is in Ontario. The rule that holds good in the Yorkton District holds good in the rest of that part of the West.

I notice that the farmers were supplied with implements in many cases far superior to the Ontario farmers, especially seeders, which sow a sweep of twelve feet and are worked by four horses. Binders, too, are larger than in Ontario, generally cutting eight feet, and last, but not least, is the great Case threshing outfit, which costs the nice little sum of \$4000. Its entire length is 53 feet, the height is 10 ft. 8 in. and the width to correspond. It is propelled by a ponderous traction engine with as much ease, apparently, as a lady would a little baby wagon. The outfit is worked by nine men. When the engine pulls up to stacks of grain, two men place three sheaves of grain for the hind wheels to rest on, two others place the feeder, one puts the bagger in position, three others walk out with the belt, another puts the blower in place, and they are threshing in a great deal less time than it has taken me to write it. It is incredible how fast they will thresh. The band cutters are six, three playing over each sheaf with almost lightning speed while the sheaves are going up to the cylinder. After the grain is cleaned it passes to the extreme top of the machine and is weighed. If the grain is going to the elevator, a wagon is backed in and receives the grain; if it is to be stored on the farm, the grain is bagged, and it takes three teams and wagons to take it one half mile.

The writer was an eye witness to threshing 400 bushels an hour and in one instance 450 bushels per hour. The land has run up from \$3 per acre to \$15 now in four years. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, I remain yours,
RICHARD KERR.

Memorial Service

On Sunday morning, in the Methodist church, the Rev. S. J. Hughes conducted a service in memory of the late M. R. Bates of Elbe Mills. The choral and congregational singing was appropriate to the occasion. Mr. Hughes sketched briefly the life of deceased and then spoke most impressively from Proverbs 10, 7—"The memory of the just is blessed, but the name of the wicked shall rot." To many, the memory of deceased was fragrant with good deeds and kindly help in time of need, and particularly was his loss felt and his memory revered by those grandchildren who had found in him a kind, patient, loving benefactor. The desire manifested by many, who acquire wealth by questionable pursuits, to have their name and memory perpetuated was pointed out, and the importance of leading such a just life as shall accomplish this end was strongly emphasized.

The Reporter to January '06 for \$1.00.

UNDERBIDDING

Editor of Athens Reporter
Knowing that your paper is open to contributions relative to school matters, allow me to state a few observations in regard to the ever fervid subject of "Teachers' Salaries."

I shall begin by stating the cause that has led me to discuss this subject openly. In our county, teachers of a few years' standing have been incessantly urging the question of better salaries. As yet we are not beyond others in this work. But what is our consternation now when students of the Athens Model School apply wholesale over the county for the very best schools, in fact, for all, and at salaries long steps below the ones to which we have attained, and from which salaries it will take them years to rise to satisfactory ones.

This business becomes all the more unscrupulous when we see them underbidding with not even a necessary mention of the fact to the teacher underbid; when, perhaps, that one has honorably earned a raise. These conditions surround the trustee, and what are they to do? I am the trustee's friend. I do not condemn his actions under circumstances like these. He is holding public money; how shall he spend it? Shall he re-engage his teacher at a fair salary when, no doubt, just as scholarly products will do the work for less?

Here, it seems to me, is where the blame comes right home to the teachers as a professional body. Why can we not work as a body—not as sordid, grasping individuals.

I have in mind a class of teachers who have gradually brought salaries up until, confronted by the common instances recited above, they just as gradually and as surely leave our county and turn to the West, where all are one on this question.

Now, should this be? Is our education worth less to the alert, active and receptive Leeds County boy, eager for distinction in the arena of life, than it is to the Western parisi-Canadian, or, as some of our Easterners would term him, the boy from away back?

I have in mind a large number of the schools of this county which is undergoing a change of masters, and in many cases, I regret to say, the salaries have been lowered without a particle of reason for the same, and many of the changes have come by reason of the failure of the trustees to meet the polite demand of the late teacher in regard to better pay.

In our county, we have a First Class Professional teacher in a school where a year before a Second got a higher salary. There are poor reasons for anything like this.

In another town—and bear in mind I am not going out of our county for these facts—the trustees have exchanged a highly recommended Second Class Professional lady teacher of Junior work for a gentleman who would teach for less. This is the more deplorable since it is generally conceded that ladies are more successful in such branches.

The last instance that I shall cite is one where still another of the A.M.S. class figures. A lady with a Second Class Non Professional underbids a \$260 teacher and offers her services for \$230.

Indeed, the situation is getting so low that we need another Thomas Hood to "Sing the Song of Chalk and Brush."

I sometimes wonder how a teacher can believe in the greatness and value of the occupation and then go out and offer to carry it on for two or three hundred a year.

I do not wish to criticize anyone but the offending ones, and it is entirely unnecessary for the others to take up the cause for them.

I believe that these things are done in a secret way, contrary to the teachings of the Model Principal, and no doubt urged on by anxious parents. But they ought not to be. Short hours ought not to be indicative of short funds. Students ought to know the value of time, and it ought not to be thought that because a father could support a family of thirteen ragged boys and girls on a dollar a day that teachers can survive on the same with no incumbrances.

A. TEACHER.

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BROCKVILLE

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