

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Spinners should urge that the rest of our Canadian soldiers be hurried home as fast as possible. It is reported from England that our soldiers are still marrying English girls at a rate of five hundred a week.

We are now told that never in the life time of the present generation will prices come down to the level of those prevailing when the war started. Hope is held out, however, that the prices may come down gradually to within twenty-five or thirty per cent. above those in 1914. They cannot start on the down grade any too soon to suit us.

After considerable opposition Parliament has decreed that the speed limit for automobiles will in future be twenty miles an hour in villages, towns and cities and twenty-five miles in the country. This looks like unwise legislation to us and it will be interesting to note whether or not there will be an increase in the number of accidents in proportion to the increased speed.

The leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislative Assembly is to receive a salary of \$5,000 a year in future. The duties of the position must mean a great sacrifice of personal time and interests, requires extreme watchfulness of the Government, and must be filled by a man of unusual ability. We do not see how anyone can reasonably object to such a man receiving a fair remuneration for his services.

A bill is now before the House of Commons that the second Monday in November hereafter shall be observed as Thanksgiving Day in Canada, in commemoration of the signing of the armistice. This bill is the outcome of recommendations to the Government of various organizations, and so far as public opinion has been expressed, the movement meets with endorsement. No day could be more fittingly set apart on which to rejoice and give thanks.

The Swiss city of Geneva has been given the honor of being the future home of the League of Nations. This distinction seems to be a reward to Switzerland for retaining her neutrality through trying circumstances. The Huns did their best to drag the little Alpine republic into the struggle and their resistance was the cause of much suffering and privation to the inhabitants. Through Switzerland remaining neutral thousands upon thousands in the prison camps were provided with food with old which they would have starved.

This republic also allowed itself to be in effect a transfer station for those so severely wounded or disabled that they were permanently disabled from taking further part in the fighting, thus somewhat relieving the agony and distress of war. The decision, therefore, that Geneva shall be the meeting place of the Peace Association, should meet with general approval.

Jack Miner, the great friend of birds and animals, in an address at the National Conference on "Game and Wild Life," made a strong appeal for the robin, which many thoughtless people seek to destroy because it sometimes gets more than its fair share from the cherry tree. Among other things Mr. Miner gave the following: "Now what good is the robin? Everyone knows the robin. A boy came along the road with a .23 rifle, saw a robin sitting there and killed it. I went over and picked the robin up. Two cutworms were squirming on the ground, the robin had them in his beak. I held the bird up, and two more fell out of his mouth. Remember one cutworm will cut down five tomato plants in a night. The cutworm does his work and then hides under the soil; Mr. Robin comes hopping along, picks in there and pulls him out—and turns him into a robin. If anyone tells you that a robin will destroy one hundred cutworms in a day, take it from him that it is true."

The speech of premier Lloyd George in the House of Commons, in which he broke with Lord Northcliffe, was the signal for a battle royal between these intellectual giants. The latter quickly took up the challenge, and through his syndicate of newspapers, opened the guns with the avowed intention of destroying the popular little Welsh man politically. Although Northcliffe is rated in many quarters the strongest man in England, he will have no easy victory if he wins at all. The editor of the London Observer who was formerly a close friend of Lord Northcliffe, but is now a devoted supporter of the Premier, says that Lloyd George is the one outstanding man of power and predicts that he will continue for many years to come as leader of the nation, and probably the world leader as well. He is also of the opinion that in the event of Northcliffe getting the worst of the encounter, it will see his finish as a proprietor of syndicated newspapers. The battle of these giants will be watched with no small degree of interest.

The new School Attendance Act seems to be an improvement on the old Truancy Act. It places author-

ity for the enforcement of school attendance entirely from school boards, which now have the power to employ and pay school attendance officers. Thus the trustees have direct control of the whole situation, which will doubtless result in a more careful oversight of children who fail to attend school regularly. Another good clause in the Act is that women may be appointed as Truancy Officers. This will be found advisable in many localities. Another feature of the Act is the provision made for the appointment of a provincial school attendance officer. It will not be his part to interfere with the local enforcement of the law, but where local officers meet with difficulty of any sort he may be called on for advice and assistance. His special duties will be the enforcement of school attendance laws in unorganized districts. Where settlements fail to provide schools or teachers, or otherwise neglect their duty toward the children of the district, the provincial officer is given power to step in and do all the things that local authorities have power to do, but have neglected. The new measure makes no change with regard to the compulsory school age, which remains as before, from 8 to 14 years.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Miss L. Vaughn, is visiting Mrs. W. Millard.
Mrs. W. H. Finch spent a few days with her son, Charles, in Brantford.
Miss Edith McCausland, of London, is visiting her mother, Mrs. E. McCausland, Pine street.
Misses Winnie and Leah Miller, of London, spent Easter with their grandmother, Mrs. Stephen Pound, and other relatives.

The Young Women's Mission Circle of the Aylmer Baptist church will hold a Food Sale and Rummage Sale in the Council Chamber, on Saturday, May 3rd, commencing at 11 a.m.

The name of Pte. Fred Roberts, of London, is among the list of those just returned home on the Olympic. He is a former Aylmer resident and enlisted from here, being employed in the Condenser. His brother, Arthur, was killed in action.

At the annual meeting of the Western Ontario Bowling Association, held at London Tuesday, the dates of the annual tournament were set from July 21 to July 24. Mr. E. C. Monteith, of this place, was elected a member of the tournament committee.

The Easter assembly of the Bachelors and Benedicts of Aylmer, Tuesday evening, was the most enjoyable and successful of the series held this season. Guest swere present from all near by cities and towns, and all enjoyed the excellent music provided by Fintel's six-piece orchestra, of Detroit. From 12 to 1 o'clock the dancers adjourned to the Brown House, where a delightful banquet was served by Mr. and Mrs. Rawson in their usual capable style. The committee are to be congratulated on the complete arrangements which made the affair such a success.

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Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Elliott spent the week end with their daughter, Dr. Annie Tanner, Woodstock.

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The Misses Gertie and Lena Mills have returned home after visiting relatives in Ingersoll.

Special Easter services were held in all the Aylmer churches last Sunday, and special musical numbers were rendered by the choirs. The full programs were published in last week's Express, so that we will not repeat the different numbers this week. All the services were thoroughly enjoyed.

Miss V. Gale spent Good Friday at her home in London.

Football practice at High School grounds on Thursday evening at 7.15 sharp. Let's have a good turn-out.

Mr. Carl Connor left on Saturday for his farm near Weyburn, Sask., where he will spend the summer.

Mr. A. E. Maguire is assisting his brother, Henry, at Kinglake with his farm work for a while, on account of his brother being in poor health.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph, of Virginia, are visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dunnett. Captain and Mrs. Dunnett, of St. Thomas, also spent Easter at the home of the former's parents.

Messrs James and Gordon Thompson, of Brantford, spent a few days in town this week combining business with pleasure.

The Misses Dunlop, of Toronto, and Charles Dunlop, of the Ottawa Valley, spent Easter with their parents, Rev. J. C. and Mrs. Dunlop.

Relatives in Aylmer have been advised of the death of Mrs. Joseph MacLachlan, which occurred at her home in Crosswell, Michigan, on Monday, after five weeks illness from influenza, followed by pneumonia. Deceased, whose maiden name was Alice Barton, lived up to the time of her marriage in Springfield. Besides her husband, one son and daughter are left to mourn her loss.

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