

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

We wish all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Remember the many blessings and comforts you have all enjoyed during 1921 and forget the discouragements and discomforts experienced. Canada has come through the war and inevitable hard times following just a little better than any other country. Let us face the new year with courage and determination, and by united effort great things may be accomplished.

We are told that the epidemic of bronchial colds suffered by so many of our citizens, and which have been found so difficult to get rid of, is caused by the changeable weather. The advice of physicians is that when you feel chilly go home and take the usual precautions and thus head off more serious trouble. In nine cases out of ten if the above simple advice is followed, a few days will find you as good as new.

We regret that we were unable to accept the kind invitation of the Hydro Commission to be present at the official opening of the great power plant at Chippewa yesterday. The Chippewa Canal is one of the world's greatest engineering feats and we all rejoice that it has been carried through to a successful completion, notwithstanding the great obstacles that had to be overcome, the delays caused by the war and other unavoidable circumstances. The increase in electrical energy for Canada will be more than a million horse power per annum, and one cubic foot of water will, we are told, produce 30 horse power per annum. In view of this it should not be necessary to so conserve power in Aylmer that our street lights cannot be turned on when darkness settles upon us, as has been the case recently.

## A REVIEW OF IRISH HISTORY

In view of the present anxiety for permanent peace between Great Britain and Ireland, with the scale hanging in the balance, the following historical retrospect of the relations between these two countries should be of interest to readers of the Express:

In 1115 Ireland, the historians say, was presented by Pope Herdian to Henry II. of England, the consideration being the payment of certain revenues to the Holy See. To implement the papal mandate Henry had to engage in a series of little wars, but as Ireland had for centuries been divided by petty kings and clans quarrelling among themselves, its conquest presented no serious difficulties. Henry deposed the kings and chiefs who refused to acknowledge his mandate and bestowed their lands upon his friends, Norman, English and Scotch.

In 1641 the Irish revolted and many Protestants were killed. Disorders continued for some years, England being occupied with the struggle between the old feudal order and the rising business classes. Then, when Cromwell was master of England, he invaded Ireland, and re-established British sovereignty, punishing the natives with considerable severity. In Ulster most of the land was confiscated and Protestants were established there. During the second English revolution the Catholics and Protestants of Ireland again took sides and the triumph of the Orange party in 1692 was accomplished by heavy punishment of the Catholics. Thereafter, for over a century, there was much organization of secret societies and abortive plotting against English rule, culminating 1798 in a rather serious revolt. This was put down without much trouble, punishment mostly taking the form of deportation to British colonies.

In 1800-1 the Act of Union was adopted and the Irish parliament, which had had an intermittent existence for centuries, was abolished, the Irish people being granted the right to send representatives to the British Parliament. This act made no recognition of Irish nationality and it was claimed by many Irishmen that the Irish Parliament was bribed or cajoled to con-

sent to its own demise. An agitation to have the Act of Union repealed was immediately begun, and in 1803 the Emmet insurrection broke out, and came to nought. Agitations, however continued.

In 1829 the British Government, in deference to Irish sentiment, granted the emancipation of the Roman Catholic church, and nine years later compromised the "tithe war."

In 1834 O'Connell became a leading figure in the agitation for the real of union and his movement ended in the disastrous revolution of 1848. After this famine diverted Irish attention from political matters and for some years the agitations were of a desultory and spasmodic character. This was the period of the great emigration and in the later fifties and early sixties the Fenian organizations in Ireland, the United States and other countries brought the Irish question prominently before the world again.

British statesmen began to show a new interest in Irish affairs, and in 1869 Gladstone put through the British Parliament the Church Disestablishment Act in Ireland and held out hopes of land reforms. Next year Irishmen of various religious and political beliefs united to form the Home Government Association, the object of which was declared to be "the obtaining of a distinct Parliament for Ireland to regulate her internal affairs, while leaving to the Imperial Parliament all questions affecting the colonies, foreign relations and the stability of the empire." Its first leader was Isaac Butts, and it shortly won a number of by-elections. In 1873 its name was changed to the Irish Home Rule League, and in the general election of 1874 it secured the return of 60 Home Rulers, who formed a new party in the House of Commons. Next year Parnell began his obstructionist tactics in Parliament, forcing public attention on Irish questions. A few years later, being elected president of the Irish Land League, Parnell raised the land question to the dignity of the main issue.

In 1880 Ireland elected 68 Home Rulers, but William Shaw, who had succeeded Butts as president of the Home Rule League, left the Home Rule party because he thought Parnell was too radical. Thereupon Parnell and his friends formed the Irish National League, combining the aims of Home Rulers and Land Leaguers. The new organization extended its influence and in 1885 the Nationalists won 85 out of 103 Irish seats. Parnell found himself at the head of a party holding the balance of power in the British Parliament.

In this situation Gladstone introduced the home rule bill of 1886, and caused a realignment of parties in Britain. The Irish party accepted the bill, but 93 Liberals took the name of Liberal-Unionists and formed an alliance with the Conservatives to defeat it. When the ballot was taken the bill was killed by 343 to 313.

In the elections following the Conservatives and Unionists were elected to office by a majority of 113 seats, but the Nationalists captured 84 of the 103 Irish seats, and the Irish question still held the stage. In the next few years Parnell's power grew in Ireland and in Britain, but in 1890 he was named as co-respondent in a divorce case and this alienated a large number of his followers. Gladstone threw him over on the moral ground and brought pressure to bear on the Nationalist party to reject his leadership. Stricken by grief following the year, the great "Uncrowned King" of Ireland went to his grave. The Irish party split on this issue, a moiety remaining loyal to Parnell, and it was some years before the Nationalists were again united as a political force. Meantime, however, the British Parliament had carried out a number of important land reforms in Ireland.

In 1892 the Liberals were back in power at Westminster with a majority of 40, and the next year Gladstone carried another home rule bill through the House of Commons by 301 to 267, but it thrown out by the House of Lords.

Gladstone resigned and Lord Roseberry formed a Government, supporting home rule in principle. But with dissension among the Irish and the Liberals now lukewarm, Roseberry contented himself with extending the

scope of the Irish Land Purchase Acts and also of the Local Government Acts applying to Ireland.

In 1895 a Conservative Government came back to office and the home rule movement languished until 1900, when under the impulse of the situation created by the Boer war, the quarrelling factions united and with John Redmond as their leader, elected 81 Nationalists, pledged to a program of obstruction until home rule was achieved.

Under Redmond the Irish movement made considerable gains. The British Government voted large sums to enable the Irish farmer to acquire freehold land and in general Irish land legislation gave the farmer opportunities that are not available to the British farmer. Asquith finally overcame the opposition of the House of Lords and placed on the statute books a Home Rule Act, fairly acceptable to the Nationalists and the British Unionists. But meanwhile new difficulties had arisen—Ulster repudiated the Home Rule Act, and the Sinn Fein movement developed in Southern Ireland, undermining the Nationalist party. Presently Ulster was raising volunteers to resist the application of the Home Rule Act.

Then the Great War broke out and the opportunity was lost to satisfy the national aspirations of that time by the measure of home rule insured by the bill actually on the statute book. On the one hand were the Ulster "diehards," led by Sir Edward Carson who went so far as to threaten armed rebellion. On the other were the Sinn Fein irreconcilables, committed to a republic, whose power gained as the war progressed until every vestige of the Nationalist or Home Rule party was swept out of existence. The worst blow of all for Ireland and Britain at this time was the death of the patriot statesman, John Redmond, who had formally pledged the support of Nationalist Ireland to the cause of the allies. Recent developments are so fresh in the public mind as to make recapitulation unnecessary.

## Fight in Aylmer For the Reeve's Seat

### Mayor and Council by Acclamation

Mayor—E. A. Miller

Councillors—Geo. Sears, Edgar Thayer, Geo. Trim, Wm. Lanyon, Aleck Connor, Thomas Martindale.

For Reeve—Wm. Mills and Oscar McKenney.

The ratepayers will vote for Reeve next Monday, January 2nd, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

#### Water & Light Commissioner

Dr. F. H. Miller.

#### The Nominations

Town Clerk, D. C. Davis, presided at the Nomination Meeting on Monday night last and names of ratepayers were received from 7.30 to 8.30 o'clock. The following were nominated:

#### For Mayor

Geo. Sears, by D. McLean and D. T. Augustine.

Thomas Wooster, W. H. Wegenast and I. D. Price.

E. A. Miller, C. Sinclair, A. W. Pierce, A. W. Pierce, J. P. Strong, T. Martindale.

Oscar McKenney, G. E. Harp, D. J. Teeple.

Dr. F. H. Miller, H. E. Freeman, D. J. Teeple.

Edgar Thayer, Dan McLean, Geo. Sears.

H. H. Wright, O. McKenney, Aylmer Ellsworth.

#### For Reeve

Oscar McKenney—R. H. Lindsay, Wm. Ford.

Geo. E. Harp—E. C. Matthews, and O. McKenney.

W. H. Mills—Dan McLean, Geo. Sears.

#### For Councillors

E. D. Bowlby—C. Sinclair, C. Parker, G. E. Thayer—A. W. Pierce, C. Parker.

Geo. Trim—A. W. Pierce, C. Parker, Geo. Sears—A. W. Pierce, C. Parker.

Joseph Davis—A. W. Pierce, C. Parker, W. J. Mann—A. W. Pierce, C. Parker.

Herbert Freeman—G. E. Harp, L. VanEvery.

Aleck Connor—A. W. Pierce, G. Harp.

*To Our Friends:*

*May Happiness and Prosperity attend You throughout the coming year.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*The G. R. Christie Company*

## Clearing Specials for this Week!

### These Should Appeal to You:

2 only Men's Sheep-Lined Work Coats, to clear at	\$9.45
3 only, Men's \$10 value Mackinaw Coats, to clear at	\$7.85
6 Pure Wool Canuckinaw Coats, \$12.50 and \$15 values, to clear at	\$10.95
1 only, Man's Heavy Lined Freize Reefer, \$20.00 value to clear at	\$12.50
1 only Man's Leather Lined Frieze Reefer, \$20.00 value, to clear at	\$12.50
39 pairs Men's Odd Pants, regular \$4.50 to \$6, values to clear at	\$3.79
9 Child's Overcoats, 3 to 8 year sizes, values to \$9.00 values, to clear at	\$3.95
1 only, Man's Lounging House Robe, \$8.00 value	\$4.98
2 Men's Smoking Coats, \$12 to \$14 value, to clear at	\$9.85
2 only, Men's Lounging Robes, \$14 and \$15 values, to clear at	\$10.95

At the time of writing this adv't. all above lines are in stock, but these prices should clear them out with a rush. So come in at once. These prices are for CASH ONLY.

## CHRISTIE'S

The Store for Best Values

costly.

Hydro, however, was a paying proposition and the local commission were ending the year with a surplus of \$2,000 on hand and \$6,000 invested in Ontario Hydro 6 per cent. bonds. Our Hydro system cost the town \$26,000 to install and in the four years of operation \$18,845 of this amount has been paid off. Our first domestic rate was 5c. per kilowatt hour. This year it was reduced to 5c. and a second reduction was secured a few months ago which brought the rate down to 4c. This rate is confined exclusively to residential service and Dr. Miller fully expects that our rate will be reduced

to 3c. during next year. Commercial rates have not been changed nor are they likely to be at present. It was explained that the charge for power by the Hydro Commission, is based on the highest peak load for 20 minutes during each month. So that all power consumed during the rest of the month practically costs us nothing. The peak load always occurs on Saturday night. Dr. Miller strongly recommended our citizens to use electrical appliances in the homes and claimed electricity at present rates was more economical than gas.

Reeve W. H. Mills gave a general

Continued on Page Ten

## STAR THEATRE

THE HOME OF GOOD PICTURES

Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 28 and 29

Basil King's Powerful Drama of the unseen world

"Earthbound"

Comedy with Bobby Vernon and Vera Steadman, in

"Going Through the Rye"

Pictorial

Admission - 30c and 15c

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 30 and 31

Frank Mayo

in

"A Hero of Romance in Colorado"

Comedy and Pictorial

Monday and Tuesday, January 2 and 3

Charles Ray

in

"A Village Sleuth"

Charlie Chaplin Comedy and Pictorial

Admission, 22c and 11c

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METHOD  
Rev. H. T. Fergus  
Choir Director  
Chas. Howey  
Supt. Church  
Anger.

NEXT

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10 a.m.—Fellows

11 a.m.—The Pas

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7 p. m.—The Pa

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Epworth League

New Year

Midweek Service

Teacher Training

EVERYBODY

Trinity An

Rev. C. A. M

Rectory, ' Mrs. Maude Can

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11 a.m.—Morning

Communion.

3 p.m.—Sunday

Class.

7 p.m.—Evening

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Monday 8 p.m.—

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Mrs. E. H. Smith

ADDITION

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Mrs. C. E. Clarke

Mr. and Mrs.

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Mr. Roy Benne

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