

Interesting Items

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. John Biglow, on Dec. 11, a daughter.

Mr. Wm. Towriss recently paid a visit to Garretton friends.

Miss Florence Willson is home from Queen's for the holidays.

Mr. W. A. Lewis, Brockville, was a recent visitor in the village.

Miss Usher left this week for Bedford Mills.

Miss Leita Arnold has returned from a visit with Toronto friends.

Mrs. M. H. Moore returned on Friday from a trip to Arnprior.

Mrs. S. C. A. Lamb was a visitor in Brockville this week.

Mrs. Simes, Brockville, has been spending a few days in Athens.

—Fresh oysters, fruit and confectionery, at Miss Addison's.

Mrs. E. Taylor spent the day in the county-town.

Mr. Alex. Campo, of Smith's Falls, was in Athens on Monday.

Mr. Claude Coon, student at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, is home on vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Parish spent a couple of days in Brockville this week.

New Hymnals.
New Methodist Hymn Books now on sale at H. R. Knowlton's.

Mr. Robert Blair, of Stratcona, is spending a few days with friends here.

Douglas Johnston, Clarence Rowson, and Kenneth Blancher are home from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, Toronto.

Jno. Hughes, who died in Kingston on Sunday, was the father of Mayor Hughes, of that city, and of Mrs. A. W. Merriman, Elgin.

Miss Georgia Mitchell, Frankville, has been here for a few days visiting Miss Ina Hause.

A number of new volumes have been added to the list at the Public Library.

The fuel situation has been considerably improved by the arrival of several carloads of coal.

Little Frank Robinson had to have his fractured arm reset a few days ago.

While working at a sawing-machine at his home, Robert Shaw had one finger amputated, and his hand badly cut.

Special services in the Holiness Movement church came to a close Sunday evening. The attendance was gratifying.

Mrs. M. A. Johnston has returned from Soperton, where she has spent the past two months.

A Brockville paper contains the announcement of the engagement of Captain Bernard T. McGhie, C.A.M.C., Kingston, Ont., and Miss Myrtle Avery, of Junetown, Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Kilborn, natives of this section and for many years residents of this place, are back from the west and are revisiting the town, guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Stevens.

Mrs. A. U. Williams, Watertown, is here on a visit to her sister, Miss A. Hunt. Miss Florence Williams, student at Victoria College, Toronto, is also here for vacation.

D. Abrahams and F. Brayman returned Saturday night from a visit to the Soldiers' Convalescent Hospital in Kingston.

The banns were published in this parish on Sunday of the coming marriage of Gertrude Emmeline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Johnson, Oak Leaf, to Dr. Thomas R. Whaley, of Alsask, Saskatchewan, which is to take place the latter part of the month.

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Services Appreciated

On Monday evening, December 10, a congregational meeting was held in the Presbyterian church. An impromptu program consisting of singing, dialogues, recitations, etc., was given by the children, who afterwards enjoyed the Christmas Tree surprises.

The silver collection taken was given to the Mission Band for their thank-offering.

Master Bryce Sheffield, on behalf of the Band presented Miss Usher, the president, with a casserole, while Miss Nina Mulvena read the address in which she not only expressed the sentiment of the Band but also of the adult church members. Miss Usher responded in appropriate words.

Miss Usher organized the "For Others" Mission Band three years ago, and has been a most competent faithful, and energetic president, endeavoring at all times to instill in the minds of her followers a deep interest in mission work and a proper conception of its real value. The practical side of the work was not overlooked, as the Band met many Saturdays at her home and not only enjoyed a social hour but also learned to sew while making quilts, etc., for use in the mission fields. Miss Usher has filled a place in the hearts of her co-workers here which will be difficult to replace.

Another feature of the evening was a surprise for Mr. Thompson in the way of an appreciative address by Mrs. A. Robeson, who for years has been secretary of the Sunday school. Mr. Thompson has for about 25 years been superintendent, giving his services so unselfishly and manifesting in every way a deep interest in the welfare of the school and its members.

Whenever an effort has been put forth for any worthy purpose, either by mission band, Sunday school, guild, or church, Mr. Thompson was there with an approving, encouraging smile, a willing heart and an open purse. These things have been heartily appreciated by the members of each class.

Mr. Thompson, in an address, read by him to Mr. Usher expressed the deep regret of the church in the breaking of ties which have been formed in the last four years during Mr. Usher's stay here. He also expressed the appreciation of the congregation for its pastor's untiring efforts in behalf of the church, no phase of the work being too small to receive his devoted, kindly, and unselfish attention. Mr. and Miss Usher left for their new field of labor carrying with them the very best wishes of each member of the Athens Presbyterian church.

A Correction.

Last week we referred to the resignation of Mr. Lloyd Willson, Kingston, from the service of the Merchants' Bank to take a new position. As our information was not altogether correct in detail, the following will be of interest: Mr. Willson, who has been accountant in the Kingston branch of the Merchants' Bank for the past two years, has accepted the position of secretary-treasurer of the Kingston Light, Heat and Power Company, which is now a branch of the Hydro-Electric.

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LIMITS OF THE AIRPLANE.

Fliers as Big as Ocean Liners Are an Impossibility.

I am not one of those who entertain extravagant ideas concerning the future of the airplane. All sorts of ridiculous notions are afloat, largely fathered by people of lively imagination and of limited information. I do not believe that all transportation in future will be through the air. The airplane will not supplant the railroad, the trolley car or the motorcar. It will merely be another agency for performing a similar kind of work.

There are certain things that it will do better than the railroad or the motorcar, and its use will therefore be limited to these, for we must realize at the start that the airplane has decided limitations. We see numerous pictures today of aircraft as large as ocean liners, but these are merely vain imaginings. We shall have no airplanes as large as the Lusitania.

Any one who understands the fundamentals of air mechanics will immediately understand why this is so. The airplane is built essentially upon the same principles as a bird. It has the same flying capabilities as a bird and precisely the same limitations. The best flier among birds is the hummingbird, and certain insects, which are much smaller, such as the dragon fly, are also wonderful fliers. It is a law of nature that the larger the bird the poorer its flying ability.

There are excellent mechanical reasons for this. The main one is that as a bird increases in size its weight increases at a much greater rate than the area of its wings. Thus if a bird doubles its size it would need, to lift itself in the air, not twice as much power, but eight times as much—that is, its weight increases as its cube, whereas the area of the wings increases as its square. This is the principle that limits the size of birds, and it is also the principle that limits the size of airplanes, which fly just as birds fly. Each increase in size demands a much greater proportional increase in motive power, the result being that we have to add so enormously to the weight that the airplane soon reaches a size where it cannot leave the ground.—From Interview With Orville Wright by Burton J. Hendrick in Harper's Magazine.

WHY THEY FAILED.

Both Were Caretakers, and One Should Have Been a Promoter.

In the American Magazine is an article entitled "Are You a Caretaker or a Promoter?" in which a writer describes how he and a friend went into partnership and failed miserably. "As I look back on that day," he says, "I wonder that we did not see the end of our enterprise from the day of its beginning, for there could be only one possible end. To be sure, Calkins and I worked for the Universal company for years. We knew all its methods, all its trade secrets, all the possible pitfalls in the road of such an enterprise. We had kindred tastes and abilities; we were hard workers and simple livers; we were both ambitious and both singularly agreed in matters of business policy.

"We saw all these factors and counted them as great strength. The amazing thing is that we failed to see in them at the very outset a fatal weakness, for Calkins and I were too much agreed. Our tastes and abilities were altogether too similar. What Calkins could do well I could do equally well. The things he was afraid of I was afraid of too.

"At watching expenses and arranging for prompt deliveries we were both efficient beyond complaint. But neither of us had any taste or ability for jumping out into the field and dragging business in by the hair. I had never completely recovered from the setback to my confidence which my youthful breakup had administered. And, as for Calkins, he was completely lost the minute he got ten feet away from his own desk."

Infinitesimal Webs.

Mexico, the land of Montezuma, prickly pears, sand, volcanoes, earthquakes, wars, revolutions, intrigues, etc., has many sub-tropical wonders both in vegetable and animal life. Among these latter is a species of spider so minute that its legs cannot be seen without a glass. This little arachnid weaves a web so wonderfully minute that it takes 40 of them to equal a common hair in magnitude.

Near to Treason.

Misprision of treason is an expression rarely heard in this country, but it has a very definite meaning in the laws of the United States. It consists in concealing the treasonable acts of others and is classed as a crime not much less than treason itself. It may be committed by citizens of the country or aliens who enjoy the protection of American law.

The Best Way.

"There's one sure way of getting promoted."
"What is it?"
"To do your work so well that the firm can't afford to keep a man of your ability in an inconspicuous place."

Edging Close to the Truth.

A farmer who understood human nature said, "If you want your boy to stay at home don't bear too hard on the grindstone when he turns the crank."

Do not accustom yourself to consider debt only an inconvenience. You will find it a calamity.

FAMILY FRIENDS.

Fine Food For Thought in a Bequest Made by Justice Lamar.

In the will of the late Justice Lamar of the United States supreme court there was one very unusual legacy. He bequeathed his friendships to his family.

"To my family," the will runs, "I bequeath friendships many and numerous in the hope that they will be cherished and continued. True friendships are the most valuable of our earthly possessions, more precious than gold, more enduring than marble palaces, more important than fame. * * *

As Henry Drummond has well said, 'Friendship is the nearest thing we know to what religion is.' The family that inherits such wealth is truly rich. But it is a legacy that must be used if it would be preserved. Friendships cannot be locked away in safes or lent to historical exhibits and museums. Like love and faith and courage, they belong to that intangible treasure of the soul that must be kept from destruction by constant service. It is not alone material things that 'rust doth corrupt.'

How many of us have let slip through busy or careless fingers the beautiful and glowing friendships of our youth? We did not mean to do it. Indeed, we have often regretted the loss until, as the years pass, the regret gradually fades away. And if that is true of our own friends how far more true of our fathers' friends! Yet there have been families where friendships have passed down from father to son for several generations.

There is food for thought here. How many fathers are building up fine and loyal and serviceable friendships that they can with pride and gratitude bequeath to their sons? How many mothers are storing up like treasures for their daughters? The question does not end there. How many young people of today are fitting themselves to receive such legacies? How many in all the varied and urgent calls of life are heeding the challenge to make themselves worthy of friendships by being loyal and fine tempered and generous friends themselves?

"A man that hath friends," the old Book of Wisdom declares, "must show himself friendly;" and again, "Thine own friend and thy father's friend for-sake not."

Fogs Bewilder Birds.

It is a curious thing that, though human beings are utterly bewildered in a dense fog, most animals find their way through it without much difficulty. A horse will trot along in its right direction as though the air were perfectly clear, and not only that, but will take the right turning at the right moment if it is at all accustomed to the road. A human being would take any turning but the right one. Birds, on the other hand, are utterly bewildered by fogs. Pigeons, for instance, will remain motionless all day long, half asleep, huddled up in their pigeon houses. Chickens and poultry of all kinds won't stir all the time a heavy fog is about. Birds of all kinds, as a matter of fact, seem helpless during foggy weather.

What America Has Proved.

America has proved that it is practicable to elevate the mass of mankind—that portion which in Europe is called the laboring or lower class—to raise them to self respect, to make them competent to act a part in the great right and great duty of self government, and she has proved that this may be done by education and the diffusion of knowledge. She holds out an example a thousand times more encouraging than ever was presented before to those nine-tenths of the human race who are born without hereditary fortune or hereditary rank.

Have Thou Moderation.

"Have thou moderation in all things; keep thyself from wild joy and from wailing sorrow; strive to hold thy soul in harmony and concord, like the strings of a well tuned harp," said Pythagoras. "To possess a sane outlook on life is a prime requisite for living long," says Dr. C. H. Lerrigo in the New York Outlook. "Serenity, courage, poise, determination, all are important factors. It may be that there is a physiologic center which controls the ageing of the body, as is claimed, but even so we may be sure that it reacts to these psychic influences."

He Told Her.

A middle aged governess on arriving at a new situation was formally introduced to the family, and the next morning Master Tom, the hopeful of the family, said to her, "Miss Parker, are you Leghorn or Cochon China?" "Why do you ask such an extraordinary question?" she asked.

"Because," answered the boy, "I heard dad say to mummy after you left the room last night that you were no longer a chicken."

Disconcerting.

A prominent English clergyman once congratulated an old lady on her bravery in fighting her way to church against a terrible tempest, but received the disconcerting reply, "My husband gets so cross grained after meals that I have to get out of his way, so I might as well go to church."

From an Economical Viewpoint.

"Do you believe in early marriages?" "Yes. With the cost of living where it is now I'm inclined to the belief that the sooner the girls are married off the better."

The price of true success is patient toil. Never give up until you have tried every means to attain your end.

Final Appeal Judge Gives Ruling on Exemption of Farmers

Mr. Justice Duff (the Final Court of Appeal) Declares it is Essential that there shall be No Diminution in Agricultural Production.

(Published by authority of Director of Public Information, Ottawa.)

Hon. Mr. Justice Duff gave judgment on December 6th, in the first test case brought before him, as Central Appeal Judge (the final court of appeal), for the exemption of a farmer. The appeal was made by W. H. Rowntree in respect of his son, W. J. Rowntree, from the decision of Local Tribunal, Ontario, No. 421, which refused a claim for exemption. The son was stated to be an experienced farm hand, who had been working on the farm continuously for the past seven years, and ever since leaving school. He lives and works with his father, who owns a farm of 150 acres near Weston, Ontario. With the exception of a younger brother, he is the only male help of the father on the farm. The father is a man of advanced years.

In granting the man exemption "until he ceases to be employed in agricultural labor," Mr. Justice Duff said:

"The Military Service Act does not deal with the subject of the exemption of persons engaged in the agricultural industry; and the question which it is my duty to decide is whether the applicant being and having been, as above mentioned, habitually and effectively engaged in agriculture and in labor essential to the carrying on of agricultural production, ought to be exempted under the provisions of the Military Service Act.

"These two propositions are indisputable:

"(1) In order that the military power of the allies may be adequately sustained, it is essential that in this country and under the present conditions, there should be no diminution in agricultural production.

"(2) The supply of competent labor available for the purpose of agricultural production is not abundant, but actually is deficient.

"The proper conclusion appears to be that the applicant, a competent person, who had been habitually and effectively engaged in labor essential to such production, ought not to be withdrawn from it.

"It is perhaps unnecessary to say that such exemptions are not granted as concessions on account of personal hardship, still less as a favor to a class. The sole ground of them is that the national interest is the better served by keeping these men at home. The supreme necessity (upon the existence of which, as its preamble shows, this policy of the Military Service Act is founded) that leads the State to take men by compulsion and put them in the fighting line requires that men shall be kept at home who are engaged in work essential to enable the State to maintain the full efficiency of the combatant forces, and whose places cannot be taken by others not within the class called out."

Ottawa, Dec. 8, 1917.

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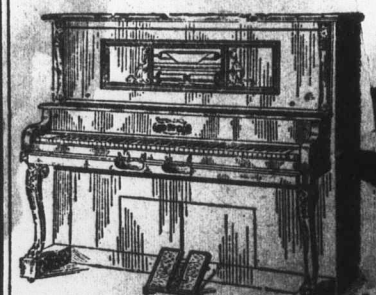
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