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—BY—
B. LOVERIN
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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Local Notes

The Dominion Parliament is likely to begin the next session early in January.

Mr. S. Manhard left Athens last week for Seley's Bay, where he enters the employ of the Gilbert Carriage Works as trimmer.

In consequence of the anniversary services in the Presbyterian church, Athens, on Sunday next, 9th inst., the services in the Baptist church are withdrawn.

The Lanark county council will ask from its constituents on January 7th an expression by plebiscite on the question of an industrial home for aged and infirm people.

Mr. M. B. Holmes is at Niagara Falls this week in attendance at the 21st annual meeting of the Ontario Bee keepers' Association, which convenes at that place Dec. 4th, 5th and 6th.

The toll road on the Scotch Line, near Perth, has been thrown open to the public, and the toll gates have been removed. A few years ago some farmers bought the road, collected toll long enough to put it in proper repair, and then made it free.

At a reception held at the rectory, Tyndinaga Reserve, Friday last, Bishop's Mills, coadjutor of Ontario, was initiated as a full member of the Mohawk tribe of Indians. His Indian name is "Shoe rich he waneh," or "the man with large words," the bearer of an important message. The communion service used at Christ church on this occasion was one presented to the tribe by Queen Anne.

Last week Miss L. M. Blackburn severed her connection with the staff of Brockville hospital for the insane and returned to her home in Athens, where she will remain until after the holiday season. During her three years' connection with the hospital her painstaking, efficient services won the esteem of the managers and her uniformly pleasant disposition gained for her the friendship of the staff, so that her departure brought forth many expressions of regret.

A terrible accident occurred at Lanark village a few days ago whereby a boy named Leonard Pye was instantly killed. In company with several other boys he was examining a gun and while handling it the weapon was accidentally discharged the charge striking young Pye in the neck, breaking the spine and killing him instantly. The unfortunate victim was eight years old. Dr. Dwyre of Perth, coroner, was notified but he deemed an inquest unnecessary.

A Successful Entertainment.

The efforts of Principal Massey to entertain an Athens audience on Thursday evening last were highly successful, respecting both the talent and the list of selections presented, as well as the numbers who came out to enjoy the entertainment. Some time before the hour appointed for opening the program, the crowd showed signs of becoming immense, and when all had arrived, the seating capacity of the high school hall was seriously taxed.

Some excellent numbers on the program, which drew from the audience hearty and well merited applause and numerous encores, were rendered by the following local talent: Miss Jessie Taplin, Miss Bertha Pierce and Mrs. S. C. A. Lamb, Athens; Miss Ethel Richards, Frankville, and Mr. Claude Marshall, Toledo. Mrs. A. E. Donovan and Miss M. Green performed the duties of accompanists.

The principal interest in the evening's entertainment centred on the captivating exhibitions of the renowned elocutionist, Mr. Owen A. Smiley of Toronto, who is a native of London, Eng., and whose services Mr. Massey obtained for the occasion at considerable expense. His original patriotic, humorous and ventriloquial selections were enthusiastically received and thoroughly enjoyed, and his brilliant presentation of Tennyson's familiar poem, "The Revenge," stirred a sympathetic chord in the hearts of all present.

At the conclusion of the program, all joined heartily in singing the National Anthem and a well pleased and highly delighted audience departed to their homes.

Mr. Bower Williams of Bedford Mills was a welcome visitor in Athens last week.

In Brockville, on Tuesday of last week, Rev. Mr. Symons at his residence united in marriage Miss Laverna Jackson of Plum Hollow and Mr. John Hamblin of Athens. The Reporter extends congratulations.

Quite a large number of Athenian young people attended the commencement exercises of the Brockville Collegiate Institute on Friday evening last. The entertainment was good, Mr. Smiley proving equally as popular in Brockville as in Athens.

The residents in the vicinity of Beale's Mill will recollect that some months ago the large bridge that spans the creek that is the outlet of Wilts lake was condemned by the reeve of the township and notice was given of the same. The contract for building a new bridge was let to Mr. John Hudson, who has, during the past month, built a substantial bridge, having put into it first class material. The bridge will be a credit to the township.

This is What They Say.

Those who take Hood's Sarsaparilla for scrofula, eczema, eruptions, catarrh, rheumatism or dyspepsia say it cures promptly and permanently, even after all other preparations fail. You may take this medicine with the utmost confidence that it will do you good. What it has done for others you have every reason to believe it will do for you.

Constipation is cured by Hood's Pills. 25c.

Pig Broke Up the Wake.

On Tuesday night a ten-year old crippled son of Mr. James Matthews of Chatham died at the sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. The body was sent to Chatham and on Thursday evening a wake was held. On one of the attendants going into the kitchen he was startled to perceive a luminous glow issuing from a piece of pork. The light was emitted in such a way as to resemble the features of a human being. The wake was broken up and the phenomenon became noised about the neighborhood. Over two hundred people visited the house. The only explanation offered is that the pig during life had access to phosphorus in some form.

Reception at Soperton.

On Wednesday evening of last week, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Frye, Soperton, a reception was held in honor of the return from their wedding tour of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Davis, and those intimate friends who had received invitations for the event, and had been looking forward to an evening's happy enjoyment, were far from being disappointed.

At about eight o'clock some thirty-five guests had arrived, and after an exchange of greetings and earnest expressions of hearty good wishes for the welfare of the newly married couple, all sat down and partook of a richly-laid supper. This portion of the proceedings completed, the company immediately turned their attention to the entertainment provided for the evening, and dancing was indulged in until a late hour.

The rooms were gayly decorated for the occasion with evergreens, ferns and union-jacks, while bouquets of ferns and red berries adorned the dining table, and these added materially to the cheerfulness and good feeling which prevailed throughout the evening. Many tokens of esteem were presented to the young couple, among which were the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Will Sheffield—fruit dish.

Miss D. Sheffield—pair of antique vases.

Miss Ella Sexton—Five o'clock tea-cloth.

Mr. Jesse Green—Parlor lamp.

Mr. Ogle and Miss Nellie Webster—Salad set.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Slack—China tea service.

Miss Addie Murphy—Bread and butter plates.

Mr. Johnson and Miss Morris—Silver fish fork.

Mr. Charlie Dixon—Silver butter-knife and sugar spoon.

Miss May Washburn—Glass tea service.

Mr. H. Richards and Miss Belle Johnson—1 dozen china bread and butter plates.

Mr. Cam. Van Loan—Green and gold glass berry set.

Mr. Clifford Green—Cheese dish.

Miss Elva Green—Cake dish.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Suffel—Table linen.

Miss Miriam Green—Pink silk sofa pillow with point lace doily.

Miss Sadie Stafford—Pair vases.

Miss Anna Wood—Parlor ornament.

Mr. Clarence Halladay—Silver pie knife.

Miss Helena Sheffield—Pair towels.

Miss Stella Steacy—Silver marmalade dish.

The bride was presented by her brothers with a handsome green and gold dinner set. Several friends who were not guests at the reception, sent handsome presents, among whom were:

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Green—Silver sugar and cream service.

Mr. and Mrs. Omer Brown—Chamber set.

Miss Bessie Keene, Kingston—Silver cold meat fork.

Mr. C. E. Lambert—Silver berry spoon.

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According to information emanating from towns where prohibition of the liquor traffic obtains, it would seem that the absence of convivial waters has a pacific effect upon the inhabitants. A resident for eight years of the town of Yarmouth, N. S., says: "The town has 6,000 population, consisting chiefly of French fishermen, who earn a very precarious living; yet yet object poverty, such as one sees in England, is unknown. The poorhouse contains two or three old people who are past work, and whose relatives are dead, and only two policemen are necessary for a straggling settlement two and a half miles long. The goal is practically unused, and the magistrates' visits unnecessary."

Mr. M. H. Eyre, baker, of Athens, had a peculiar experience on Wednesday evening of last week. He was returning home from Frankville and when about a mile on his journey he saw ahead of him what appeared to be two men walking, apparently pedlars with packs. The night was very dark and as he drove on he expected that they would step one side when he overtook them. But the objects proved to be approaching him and when he discovered this and that they were two colts, they were so close that a collision was unavoidable. A shaft of Mr. Eyre's wagon struck one of the colts in the breast and inflicted such a wound that it died in a few minutes. Mr. Eyre, of course, felt great regret at the occurrence and at once hunted up the owner, who proved to be a Mr. Johnston, and reported the accident. Mr. Eyre was rightly considered by the owner to be perfectly blameless in the matter, and the event should prove a warning to those who allow their animals to stray upon the public highway.

A Decrease in Drunkenness.

Investigation of the latest official figures shows that the police and liquor license reports in the aggregate for the province of Ontario again show that the reduction of liquor licenses continues to be accompanied by a diminution of drunkenness. The figures to date show that the commitments for drunkenness for the last five license years, that is 1896 to 1900, inclusive, total 1,920; as against 2,703 for the period of 1891 to 1895, and 4,311 for the previous five years. This decrease in commitments for drunkenness is simultaneous with an increase of at least half a million population. It is accounted for by the great reduction in the number of liquor licenses. Five years ago the total licenses granted was 3,151, or 175 more than last year. The reduction for the previous five years was 409. The total reduction in the liquor licenses from the appalling aggregate in 1874 of 6,185 is to the latest a total of 2,976. This is the extraordinary reduction of 3,209, a cut of more than fifty per cent. At the former period there were, therefore, more than two licenses in existence for every one at the present time. That this has not been in advance of public sentiment is demonstrated, not only by the reduction in the number of commitments for drunkenness, but also by the fact that the total fines for the violation of license laws have steadily decreased.

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