

NOTES AND COMMENTS

It is really too hot to write editorial comments, and we have no doubt our subscribers find it hot and "dry" to read them. The powers that be, however, demand that at least we make the effort, even though our grey matter is lazy and befogged, so the least you can do is to read in a forgiving spirit, and refrain from the exertion of criticism. It would not have the slightest effect upon us during dog days, and the critic will have wasted energy worthy of a better cause.

The old-fashioned Civic Holiday seems to be a thing of the past, at least so far as Aylmer is concerned. Time was when this was one of the biggest and best days of the year for our citizens; now it exists merely in name. Yesterday was the date proclaimed by the Mayor for 1916, otherwise we doubt whether half a dozen citizens would ever have remembered that we were entitled to such a holiday. There were no excursions to outside points. The railways may have been ready to grant the usual special rates, but if so, they took no pains to advertise the fact. However, it was perhaps as well that no fuss was made over it this year, which is supposed to be a year of economy and retrenchment. People cannot go away for a holiday without spending considerable money, and with a half-holiday every week during June, July and August, no one should be suffering for an extra holiday.

This 90 to 100 odd degrees of heat day after day and week after week is getting past a joke. And so is the long continued absence of rain. The humid atmosphere takes the energy out of the most ambitious for hard work, while fruits of all kinds are drying up without ripening, and the pasture lands look more like desert land than anything else. The Good Book says that the rain falls alike on the just and the unjust, or words to that effect, but while there have been showers all about us, there has been nothing but a light sprinkle within a radius of four miles of Aylmer during the past five or six weeks. And to make matters worse, one of our oldest inhabitants, who now has nothing to do but watch the weather signs, is credited with saying that we need not expect rain until the equinoctial storms are upon us. Perhaps he is right in his forecasts, but we simply refuse to believe him.

We have several times thrown out hints in this column that auto drivers glide over our excellent streets at a far greater speed than the law allows, and that some day their racing instincts might get them into trouble. Perhaps we have no right to give it away, but we accidentally heard this matter discussed by those who have a right to discuss them, and the conclusion seemed to be that in order to ensure the safety of the public, there seemed nothing for it but to appoint some one to take the numbers of all cars, no matter who is driving them, that go faster than the law allows, and enter charges against the

offenders. Furthermore, it will not be a local man who does the detective work. There, we have given the whole deal away, and it will be no fault of the Express if some of our boys are caught in the act and made to give up some of their hard-earned money that should go for gasoline and repairs.

This is the time of year when the preacher who is a student of human nature does not exceed one hour with any Sunday service. No matter how profound or eloquent a sermon may be preached, the congregation will begin to squirm if they have to stay any longer than the time mentioned. We have often thought it might be wise during July and August to hold but one service, and make it a rousing and interesting one. We believe the attendance would be greater than it now is at the two services. A local minister, a Sunday or two ago, thoughtfully suggested to the men present that they would perhaps find it more comfortable if they removed their coats, and he had hardly finished saying so, when off came the coats of all but the most ultra-modest and perhaps a few who were not wearing fresh linen. But we noticed that the pastor himself did not follow suit. He had the warmest job, and before he was done his collar was pretty well wilted. We see no reason why a preacher should not remove his coat, and if he feels like it, roll up his sleeves also. He is just as much entitled to any comfort obtainable as members of his congregation.

Friday, August 4, will be the second anniversary of the declaration of war, and the Provincial Government has issued a special proclamation calling upon citizens to hold public meetings and express their belief in the righteousness of the cause, and their determination to do all that lies within their power to bring the awful struggle to a victorious end. The proclamation, in part, reads as follows:

"We, therefore, believing it to be right and proper that our people should on that date reaffirm their belief in the righteousness of the cause for which we are fighting, and their inflexible determination to continue the struggle until victory has been achieved, have thought fit by and with the advice of our Executive Council for the Province of Ontario to appoint, and do hereby appoint, the said day to be observed throughout our Province of Ontario in the manner aforesaid:

"And we do hereby urge the calling of public meetings throughout the Province on the date mentioned for the purpose of stimulating the devotion and patriotism of our people and of embodying those sentiments in appropriate resolutions and thereby uniting them effectually for the supreme effort which is necessary to bring to a victorious issue the struggle for the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies."

The Province has done fairly well in response to appeals from French, Serbian, Belgian, Armenian, and Polish organizations; we have raised considerable money for machine guns, aviation, hospital ships, soldiers' comforts, etc. On Trafalgar Day,

Ontario raised \$1,344,000 for the British Red Cross; from September, 1914, to May, 1916, was given \$64,865 to the Canadian Red Cross; the Canadian Patriotic Fund to June 30 last reached approximately \$500,000; in men we have given 147,158, or 3.8 per cent. of the total population as taken from the census of 1911. But we must not stop there. This war must be won, and the Allies, we confidently believe, are now in a position to win it if we keep up our share in men and money. We must at the same time keep up to our capacity in production, both on the farm and in our essential industries. We have faith that Ontario will do this. No one knows when the struggle will end, but there must be no thought of letting up for one moment, until the cruel monster who would dominate the world is whipped so conclusively that he will stay whipped for ever.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Mr. Shaw is improving his property on John Street.

During August the Red Cross Rooms will be open on Fridays only from 4 to 6 o'clock.

Dr. and Mrs. Fear enjoyed a pleasant motor trip last week to Grand Bend.

Arthur Gundry, principal of the Woodstock Collegiate Institute, is visiting his mother, Water Street.

Masters Joe and Gordon Benson, of London, are spending their holidays with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Hodges.

Mr. and Mrs. William Turner and son Tom are spending a couple of weeks' vacation with relatives at Adrian, Mich.

Harvey Street is now undergoing vast improvements. The sidewalk is being moved outside the trees and nicely curbed up.

An officer of the 91st Battalion (Elgin's Own), in a letter home, says the 91st will be broken up to reinforce other units which have suffered at the front.

Hay! Here is a record-breaker. John Timpany, of Colton, has drawn in 225 big loads of hay off 75 acres, an average of three loads to the acre. Can anybody beat that?

To onlookers on Saturday evening, the sight of about a dozen of "dem kids," each trying to stretch his mouth around the outside of a chunk of watermelon, was amusing. They were willing away the time till the theatre opened, and spectators were transported to times on the old plantation with "Happy Nigger Joe."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat announces an advance in the price of the paper from one to two cents. It is the first St. Louis paper to change from the penny basis inaugurated some years ago. "The rentier's law of supply and demand makes just as it controls the cost of shoemaking, needlemaking, or bridgeworking," the Globe-Democrat says. "For several years past the cost of print paper and other essentials of newspaper making have been steadily increasing, and during the eighteen months of the European War these costs have finally soared beyond the horizon of precedents."

"Evergreen Lawn," Luton, the home of Mrs. John Richardson, was the scene of a quiet but pretty wedding on Friday, 28th July, at high noon. The contracting parties were Alta May, youngest daughter of Mrs. (and the late Mr. John) Richardson, and Lieut. Murray C. Abell, M.D.C.M., youngest son of Mr. Gustin Abell, of Malahide. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Kitley, and Mrs. Kitley presided at the piano. The young couple were unattended, and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Earl Richardson. Owing to the recent bereavements in the families, only the immediate relatives and a few near friends witnessed the ceremony. Promptly at noon the bridegroom took his place under an artistic arch of evergreens, ferns and flags, and was followed by the bride, looking sweet and girlish in a frock of white embroidered marquisette, wearing a veil and orange blossoms, and carrying a sheaf bouquet of roses and sweet peas. After congratulations, a dainty luncheon was served by four young ladies. Lieut. and Mrs. Abell left on the 3 o'clock train for Toronto, travelling by boat to Montreal—the bride wearing a black silk dress and becoming white hat. The best wishes of a host of friends follow them. Mrs. Abell will remain in Montreal until Lieut. Abell goes overseas. On Thursday evening a miscellaneous shower was held at the home of Mrs. A. Harrett, Luton, for the bride, and she received many pretty and useful presents from her girl friends, who assembled to wish her much happiness in the future.

Aug. 4, 1914—War Declared

Aug. 4, 1916—Allies Winning

ORGANIZE for Victory!



THE THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR calls for the organized co-operation of every citizen of the Province of Ontario. ALL must help to hasten the day of final triumph. For the sake of those who have made the Great Sacrifice, and of those now overseas or in training, every citizen must give the best service possible. No one need feel "out of it" when the great day of Victory comes, but everyone must qualify now by sharing in the sacrifices which the War demands.

Suggestions for Organization

In many Municipalities there are already active patriotic organizations, such as Recruiting, Red Cross, Soldiers' Aid and Patriotic Fund Committees. In such cases, one of these, or, better still, a joint committee of these and the citizens generally, might undertake to co-operate with the Central Committee at Toronto.

Where there is no active representative organization, it is suggested that one be formed at the earliest moment. It should be non-partisan (in the broadest sense), and represent every interest affected by war conditions.

THRIFT and ECONOMY, and a careful consideration and preparation for our problems are essential if we would meet the present and future needs. For further suggestions and information you are cordially requested to write at once to ALBERT H. ABBOTT, Ph.D., Secretary, Organization of Resources Committee, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

John C. Hendrie

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

Chairman of the Organization of Resources Committee

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