

EAST LAMBTON'S MEMBER

Mr. W. E. Elliott, Ottawa correspondent, writing in the Free Press says:

One of the surprises of December 6th last was the triumph of the Farmers' party in East Lambton. When a member of the standing and personal popularity of Joseph E. Armstrong has worked up a Conservative majority from 46 in 1904 to 984 in 1917, it comes with a bit of a shock to see a complete change of front come about so suddenly. On the very night that Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen was speaking in Petrolia, December 3, on behalf of Mr. Armstrong, local Progressives had the temerity to predict a majority of 1,000 for Fansher. They were not quite correct. The majority proved to be 1,005.

Still East Lambton has always been fighting ground, unlike the west riding of the county, which had a consistent Liberal record up to the late election. The first federal member for the east riding, as constituted in 1882, was J. H. Fairbank, Liberal. George Moncrieff, Conservative won the next two contests. John Fraser, Liberal, went in "with Laurier" in 1896. O. Simmons regained the seat for the Conservatives in 1900, and J. E. Armstrong, successful in a bye-election in February, 1904, kept it there until last December.

One of the pleasant features of the campaign was the cordial feeling that existed between Armstrong and Fansher as personal friends. They met from time to time as they toured the riding, and there was never a personality from the platform of either. At Watford, early in November, when Sir Henry Drayton spoke in Mr. Armstrong's interests, Mr. Fansher and one of his lieutenants were interested auditors at the meeting, and afterwards held an entirely good-natured argument with the then finance minister in the lobby of the local hotel.

"Here is Fansher, one of my best friends, out campaigning against me," said Mr. Armstrong, as he introduced an acquaintance to his opponent.

"Well," said Mr. Fansher, in his quiet way, "we have decided to try out this thing and we are going to see it through."

The convention which chose Mr. Fansher was one of those composed in part of delegates from urban municipalities. Quite a number of town polling sub-divisions sent representatives, though a great many did not, and although every town in the riding later gave Mr. Armstrong a majority, yet the Progressive candidate did fairly well there, too. Every township in East Lambton, as well as the Village of Arkona, gave Fansher a majority. On the other hand, Alvinston, Bothwell, Dresden, Forest, Oil Springs, Thamesville, Thedford and Watford stood by the Conservative banner, and Petrolia, Mr. Armstrong's home town, gave a majority of 848 for Fansher to overcome.

It is only fair to conclude that, while East Lambton is strongly organized, from a U. F. O. standpoint Mr. Fansher owes much to personal standing. His own township of Euphemie gave him 685 votes out of 870. The member farms 350 acres near Florence—land which has been in the family for four generations, since Grandfather Fansher came from New York state as one of the first pioneers in Euphemie, a hundred years ago. As the acreage may indicate, he carries quite a lot of cattle, but claims no specialty in any line, pretty much the general run of mixed farming. As an O. A. C. graduate, it may be assumed he does a good job.

He has been active in the Lambton Corn Growers' Association and was president for three years. Naturally, he has been a worker in the U. F. O. and took part in the campaign of 1919, when the provincial constituency elected Leslie W. Oke. Though a keen follower and participant in county affairs he has not been an office-holder, barring the trifling exception of service as auditor in Euphemie. Perhaps it is due to pressure of private and public business but it must be here recorded that the new member, though young and personally attractive, is unmarried.

Mr. Fansher is known at home as a good speaker, and is expected to give a good account of himself when he takes the floor in the House of Commons.

**Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA**

LOOK AT YOUR LABEL

PETROLEA

Mrs. J. J. Fisher, formerly of Petrolia died recently at her home in Brantford. While in Petrolia Mr. Fisher was foreman of the paintshop of the wagon works.

The butcher shop which was conducted during the winter months in a portion of Ed. Hopper's implement shop by Ed. Rose will be discontinued as from next Saturday. Mr. Rose will return to his former business of drover which he has followed for years.

Miss Ina Drope, was struck by an auto owned by George O'Neil, manager of the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, and driven by his chauffeur. Miss Drope was on her way home from work Wednesday evening and as she stepped off a street car the auto knocked her down, rendering her unconscious. After a treatment in a doctor's office, she was taken to the hospital. It is expected that Miss Drope will be able to return to her home here next week, to recuperate with her mother, Mrs. Alfred Drope.

The Men's Brotherhood held a very enjoyable "At Home" in the Methodist Church Tuesday evening. It was the first social gathering of the brotherhood, recently instituted by the pastor, Rev. J. D. Richardson, and was largely attended. The chair was occupied by T. H. Speight, the president. An interesting and attractive program of music was given, and there were addresses by B. A. McLeod, vice-president; by F. H. Gilroy, leader and instructor of the brotherhood, and by Rev. J. D. Richardson, the honorary president. A delightful social hour followed.

Drillers expected home in the near future are John Brookes and Tom Paul from Borneo, Dutch East Indies, Jay Zimmer from Sarawak, British Borneo; Mr. and Mrs. George Peat and Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson are leaving Egypt shortly for Petrolia. Among those leaving shortly for other fields are James Miller, George Miller and David Holmes for Alberta, to drill for Imperial Oil Ltd., Fred Cameron left for Rollo, B.C., recently. Wynn Merrill, left for Negritia, Peru, on Monday on a three years contract as machinist for the Imperial Oil Co.

FOREST

FORD, the car with a magneto, never held up for weak storage battery.—R. Morningstar. 17f-tf

A very enjoyable evening was spent on Thursday evening, March 16, by the members of W. O. W. and their friends. A good program of songs, recitations, etc., was provided by the following: Songs by Sovs, Barnes, Corlett and Ray, speeches by Sovs, Wilson, Walker, Bell and Shepherd and recitations by the Misses Florence and Jessie Lane, Evelyn Padgham, Rossana Gray and Lizzie Vennear. The rest of the evening was spent in games and a dainty lunch was served by the ladies.

The Irish Supper given by the Ladies' Aid of St. James Church in the basement of the church on Friday evening, March 17th, was a successful event. A large number was present at this annual supper. The tables were most artistically decorated with green candles and other decorations of an Irish nature. The fish pond and candy booth did a good business. Music was furnished during the hours of dinner by Misses Effie Marsh, Jessie Steele, Marguerite English, Susie Smith and Margaret Muxworthy, also an orchestra composed of R. Duncan, H. Morris, W. Beatty, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dunlop. The total proceeds amounted to \$180.

A special meeting of the Forest Amateur Athletic Association, was held in Christ Church, schoolroom, on Friday evening. There was a good turnout of members. The President, Rev. A. R. E. Garrett, presided. It was decided to donate the baseball suits to the local ball team. Proceedings were also started for the holding of the Annual Easter Ball, on Monday evening, April 17th. The soccer team have decided to withdraw from the London District and enter in the Sarnia district league and play for the Sarnia Observer Shield. The teams in this league will be Petrolia, Sarnia, Wallaceburg and Forest. A canvass will be made shortly to secure new members for the Association.

How does your Subscription stand?

FOUR KILLED BY BOILER EXPLOSION

Port Huron and Sarnia Shaken and Much Damage Done.

Port Huron, March 26.—Four men were killed and the lives of scores of others were imperilled when the boiler of the Sarnia-Port Huron ferry Omar D. Conger blew up as the vessel was being moved to her dock at 2.22 this afternoon. The victims were all members of the ferryboat's crew. The force of the explosion rocked the whole city, wrecking several buildings and causing damage estimated at \$300,000. The boat immediately sank in a cloud of steam, and now lies with a small part of her upper works, a mass of splinters, above water. A youth, who was on the near-by wharf, is missing, and pedestrians on streets adjacent were thrown to the pavement when the blast occurred.

The boiler of the Conger soared through the deck, sailed across an intervening space of 100 yards and practically demolished a frame house on Quay street, while the radiator was projected for a distance of 700 feet, crashing through the side of the frame undertaking establishment of A. Falk, where a funeral service was in progress. One of the mourners, Mrs. James Goddard, had her collar bone broken, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Biddlecombe, also mourners, received bruises.

The house on which the boiler landed was soon ablaze, and the fire department was called. Other incipient fires, caused by fallen electric wires in the streets adjacent to the explosion, were also checked. The police turned out at emergency strength and patrolled the vicinity. Poles were down in great number and crowds had to be kept from flocking to the ferry dock. East Watford street was almost impassable for

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many hours on account of the debris and the police diverted all traffic.

Scores of Sarnia residents aboard the ferry City of Cheboygan had a narrow escape. At the time of the accident the City of Cheboygan was entering the mouth of the Black River from Sarnia. The presence of mind of her officers avoided a panic as debris came hurtling down all around the boat. Many Sarnia citizens who were standing on the dock of the Sarnia-Port Huron Ferry Company waiting to take the ferry boat to the Imperial City narrowly escaped death and serious injury. A number were badly shaken up and others suffered considerably from shock.

It is estimated that the damage done altogether is about \$300,000. The ferry company carried no insurance on the boat it is believed.

The cause of the blast is a mystery. The boiler, it is officially stated, was inspected three weeks ago. The boat was partially burned about 20 years ago and rebuilt.

The new patterns in wall-paper are very attractive. Would be pleased to show them, whether you desire to paper or not. Prices are reasonable.

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A Prime Dressing for Wounds.—In some factories and workshops carbolic acid is kept for use in cauterizing wounds and cuts sustained by the workmen. Far better to keep on hand a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It is just as quick in action and does not scar the skin or burn the flesh.

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