

Country Talk.

Stratford.

Rumor has it that there will be considerable building done in the city this spring. Rumor is ominously silent as to how these future buildings will be occupied. There are now 15 vacant stores, and as many houses as one could wag a stick at.

The Stratford Collegiate Institute has re-opened after the Easter holidays and the students are fairly at work again preparing for the various examinations in the different departments. Several students from Owen Sound and other places have arrived and the school has now the largest attendance in its history. The Board and staff are working in harmony, doing all in their power to give our citizens all the advantages of a first class school.

The Stratford junior cricket club, met at the residence of H. M. Johnson on Wednesday evening, and reorganized for the season. The following officers were elected:—Hon. President, W. R. Tiffin; Hon. Vice-Pres., J. E. Croly, M. A.; President, J. A. Macfadden; 1st. Vice, W. S. Watson; 2nd. Vice, S. Deacon; Captain, S. M. Johnson; Treas., R. H. Brotherhood; Secy., F. W. Tiffin. The prospects for cricket this year are supposed to be better than ever and we hope the boys will give a good account of themselves in their matches.

The spring fair was held here on Tuesday last, the number of entries being very large. Below is the prize list:—Imported heavy draught, aged—Chas. Brooks, John Jacobs. Three-years old—Joseph Vance, Murray & Gray. Two years old—D. McFarlane, 1 & 2. Canadian draught—John Nichol. General purpose aged—Chris. Werner, Mark Kelly. Three-years old—Donald Innes, Wm. Roxburg. Carriage horses, aged—Wm. Dunseith. Three-year old—J. H. Shantz. Roadsters, aged—D. W. Clarke. Wm. Steele. Roadsters, standard bred—Ford & Murphy, J. Miller. Three years old—R. Thompson, H. W. Paterson. Two-years old—Joseph Rankin, J. McFarlane. Blood horses—W. Honey, Jos. Saird.

Listowel.

Mr. Reed of the Congregational College of B. N. A., Montreal, has been engaged as pastor of the Congregational church for the summer. Mr. Reed will preach morning and evening next Sunday. The public are cordially invited. The annual meeting of the agricultural and exhibition association was held on Tuesday night last week, when the directors were elected by ballot. R. T. Kemp, Geo. Zilliach, John Scott, Dr. Parke, W. J. Hay, H. B. Morphy and J. Riggs. The directors have not yet held a meeting to elect the balance of the officers. The date of the fall fair this year will probably be the first week in September.

Word has been received that W. A. Rothwell, son of B. B. Rothwell, has passed his final examination for the degree of M. D. at Denver, Colorado. He took a splendid stand first in his class in all subjects and received the Gold Medal. He was chosen to read the Valedictory address of the class of 1890, at the commencement of exercises. He has done honor to himself and to Canada by his brilliant stand. We congratulate him and look for him to make a mark in his profession.

A dividend of twelve per cent. has been declared on the Hess estate and a statement issued showing that a further and final dividend of twelve per cent. will probably be paid in June. The receipts were made up of sale of assets \$14,333, bills receivable \$6,166 and Bricker Furniture \$430. The principal items disbursement were \$6,164 for wages, legal and inspector's costs \$550, and assignee's commission \$1,106.54. The total amount of claims on which the dividend is paid is \$23,770.09.

SPRING FAIR.—The Listowel Spring Fair last Friday was favored with the best of weather and a large turnout of people. The quality of the stock exhibition was, on the whole, undoubtedly unequalled at any other fair in this district. In the Imported Draught Class, there were six horses hard to beat anywhere. In the Standard Thoroughbred and Roadster Classes, our town horses turned out and made an exhibit worth going to some trouble to see. Four finer horses than Oliver Wilkes, Kentucky Star, Corneraker, and Ten Broeck, jr., cannot not be found in any Canadian show. The Judges were John Kemp, Toronto; John Russel, Toronto; John Scott, Stratford. The following is the prize list: Imported heavy draught—With registered pedigrees, six entries, 1st, John Wilkinson's Allan of Clochkie, \$25; 2nd, John Turnbull's Sir Patrick, \$12; 3rd, Collison & Lavan's Try Me, \$6. Imported heavy draught any bred—1st, Jno. Gray's Merrimen, \$12; 2nd, Jno. Gray's Waverly, \$8. Canadian heavy draught any age—1st, Jno. McKeever's French Champion, \$8. Canadian draught 3 years—1st, Jno. Mitchell's Black Galloway, \$5. General purpose, any age—1st, Jno. Nelson's Oxford King, \$8; 2nd, Adam Dinnie's Young Leonowen, \$5. Standard bred—1st, Kidd Bros', Oliver Wilkes, \$10. Thoroughbred bloods, with pedigree—1st, Kidd Bros' Ten Broeck, jr., \$10; 2nd, Thos. Marks' Meteor, jr., \$6. Roadster—1st, T. H. Roll's Kentucky Star, \$8; 2nd, Kidd Bros' Corneraker, \$6.

Grey.

Miss Maggie McNair is at home from the Queen city. We are glad to learn that her health is improving.

Miss Hannah Ball arrived home from Toronto on Monday evening, where she was prosecuting her musical studies for several months.

Quite a quantity of maple sugar and molasses were made during the past two weeks by the farmers on the 14th and 16th concessions.

Wm. Bishop, of Beachville, was here last week. He has got quite comfortably settled in his new home and thinks he will like it very well. Russell Bishop thinks of taking a position on the Grand Trunk railroad. He should do well at that kind of work.

The country roads, which have been simply "fearful" for a long time, nearly all winter, are beginning to dry up nicely now with the incoming of fine spring weather. Beautiful songs of spring are once more heard on every hand on trees and bushes and in the glen, and the native rural Canadian orchestras are once more gratuitously rendering their usual melodies in the evening, on all the ponds and streams in the land. All nature seems to rejoice with the advent of the warm, sunny, April days.

The egg duty proposed by the Americans is causing dismay here among the farmers' wives. There is some talk of a duty of 5 cents per dozen being levied on all Canadian eggs, but it hasn't passed the Senate yet; and as it is strongly opposed in the United States by nearly all classes except a few speculators and grocers, who are already enjoying enormous profits in the egg trade, it is hoped and expected by the thoughtful ones that the measure will not carry. If it does, the hens ought to strike and cease laying. Hen fruit is down already to 7 and 8 cents, and if the proposed duty be put on they will be down to less than 5 cents per dozen.

Elma.

Mrs. Wm. Ward has been seriously ill but is recovering.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were visiting at John Gray's one day last week.

Wm. Medd, of Hullet, has returned to his farm on the 6th con.

The farmers are preparing for seeding. The roads and fields have dried up wonderfully.

John Noble has gone to work at Carthage during the summer. One young lady of Newry will miss him.

Miss Jennie Peebles is very ill this week. It is hoped that with medical aid and careful nursing she will regain her usual health in a few days.

The 10th line was well tracked on Sunday evening by a young couple from Newry. Take care Charles or the people will think you are strayed.

Robert Long, 8th con., is seriously ill with inflammation of the lungs, following la grippe. Mr. Long is one of Elma's oldest and most respected citizens and his many friends hope for his recovery.

DIED.—Last Tuesday another of Elma's oldest and most respected citizens swelled the number of the great majority in the person of Henry Bartja, 16th con. The old gentleman had been ailing for some time past and his demise was not a surprise to those who knew him best. His wife died some years ago. The funeral took place last Thursday and was largely attended. The sorrowing family have the sympathy of their large circle of friends in their bereavement.

Twenty-three pupils wrote at the County Promotion Examination from S. S. No. 2 Elma, and all except one succeeded in passing. The candidates represent the total number attending school in the respective classes for which the exam. was set. The following is the standing:—Promotion to Fifth Class—Lillie Forman 414, Jane Thompson 405, Nellie Newbigging 383, Maria Doudas 311, James Aitchison 309, Jennie Gray 287, To Senior Fourth—Jennie Douglas 261, To Junior Fourth—Ida Keith 261, Edwin Forbes 352, Hattie Jinkling 339, Margie Hamilton 289, Agnes Shearer 284, Alex. Aitchison 275, Robert Cleland. To Senior Third—Chas. Douglas 211, Lena Shearer 226, Joseph Netters 218, Lottie Stewart 216, John Thompson 197, Mabel Turnbull 177, Maggie Burnett 177, Minnie Jinkins 73. Prizes are to be given on Friday next to the first four in each class. THOS. M. WILSON, Teacher.

Brussels.

S. Fear is on the sick list. Harry Dickson left Tuesday for Dakota.

Eddie Crichton was home from Galt for Sunday.

D. C. Roberts and wife spent Sunday in Londonboro.

J. Hargreaves, of Toronto, has been in town nearly all week.

Rev. R. Paul supplied the Harrison Methodist pulpit last Sabbath.

H. L. Jackson spent Sunday in Harrison. Heb's a sturdy boy.

Rev. W. E. Kerr, of Owen Sound, was visiting his father, Rev. J. L. Kerr.

Rev. J. L. Kerr is improving the appearance of his place by a new fence.

Miss Mary Sample has secured a situation as milliner in Comber, Essex Co.

Mrs. Whalton, of Ethel, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. W. A. Calbeck, this week.

T. Ratcliffe, of Donegal, was in town Friday attending the funeral of his niece, Ida Calbeck.

Rev. W. E. Kerr supplied the pulpit of the Methodist church very acceptably last Sunday evening, taking for his text: "No man liveth to himself."

Mrs. Hargreaves, Marian, and the Misses Hargreaves left town for Paisley last Thursday to make their home. We are sorry to lose them from our city.

County Engineer Ainsley, of Wingham, was in town on Monday of last week arranging for the re-planking of the centre of the iron bridge here. Walter Smith is doing the work.

Mrs. Geo. Haycroft and Fannie, and Miss Lizzie Ross left here for Kansas last Wednesday. Mrs. Haycroft has been in poor health for some months and it is hoped the change will prove beneficial to her.

Reeve Graham is shipping 8,000 bushels of oats this week, 4,000 bushels went to Nova Scotia and 4,000 to London, Ontario. Messrs. Stewart & Lowick also sent out 5 cars. Very few buyers handle more produce for export than Brussels.

Last Monday night the store of W. Nightingale & Co. was entered by some party unknown and about \$500 worth of stuff taken. Two very suspicious looking characters were noticed hanging around Monday forenoon and it is supposed they know who visited the premises. Ross and Will would like to get their hands on them.

Friday afternoon of last week, A. R. Smith hitched up his cream-driver to a sulky and went south for an airing. When a couple of miles away from town the animal started kicking, striking Mr. Smith on both limbs, near the knee. He pluckily held on to the reins, however, and was soon out of his dangerous position. He was laid aside from work for several days owing to the accident.

SPRING SHOW.—The annual Spring Show of entire stock in connection with the East Huron Agricultural Society was held on the Grey Branch grounds, on Friday of last week. The day was fine and the roads fairly good, so that keen competition was the result, especially in the imported horses. There were 26 entries in the horse line, and the most of them were splendid animals. The following is the prize list:—

Horses.—Heavy Draught, over 3 years of age, 11 entries, 1st, L. McNeil's "Challenger," Grey; 2nd, P. McEwen's "Rankin Boy," McKillop; 3rd, J. L. Turnbull's "Sir Patrick," Elma. Heavy Draught, under 3 years, 6 entries, 1st, Thos. McLaughlin's "Ayrshire Stamp," Grey; 2nd, Thos. McLaughlin's "Blarnavade," Grey; 3rd, Allan Speir's "Earl Bradabane," Morris. Canadian Draught over 3 years, 1st, Jas. Mitchell's "Black Galloway," Grey. Canadian Draught, under 3 years, 5 entries, 1st, Wm. Polard's "Scotland's Best," McKillop; 2nd, Jno. Stewart's "Young Galloway," Grey; 3rd, Duncan McLaughlin's "What's Wanted," Grey. Carriage, Geo. Whitley's "Maitland," Seaforth. Shire, 1st, Jno. Gray's "Waverly," Elma. Blood, Kidd Bros. "Ten Broeck," Listowel.

BULLS.—Durham, 1st, Rich. Corley's "Lord Elcho," East Wawanosh; 2nd, David Milne's "Perfection," Ethel; 3rd, Jas. Speir's "Baron Craig," Morris.

The judges for heavy horses and bulls were Messrs. Forrest, of Atwood; McDiarmid, of Kinloss, and T. Agnew, of Wingham. For light horses, Messrs. Roe, of Wingham and Atwood, respectively.

Farms for Sale.

Lot 13, Con. 5, Elma, containing 100 acres; price, \$5,000. Also South Half of Lot 2, Con. 6, Elma, containing 50 acres; price, \$1,150.

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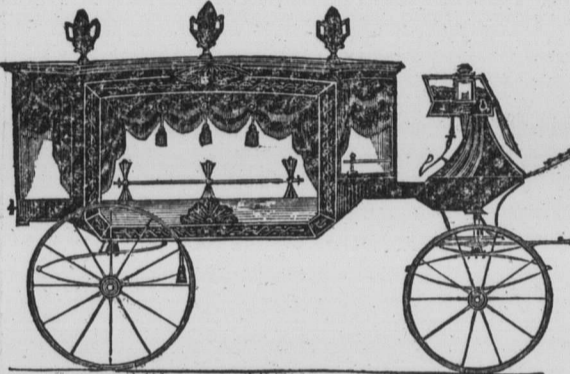
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