

Country Talk.

Stratford.

A drum corps is about to be formed in Stratford.

To meet a growing demand and to provide additional facilities to the public the Bank of Montreal has opened a savings bank department in connection with their branch in Stratford. Sums of \$5 and upward may be deposited and interest allowed at current rates.

John E. Hodgson, M.A., Inspector of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, visited the Stratford school on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 13 and 14. He expressed himself highly pleased with everything about the Institute. After his inspection of the school Mr. Hodgson addressed a few words to the trustees, teachers and students in the Assembly hall. He had nothing to find fault with and much to praise. He spoke especially of the work in physical culture he had seen in the Institute and said he found nothing equal to it in any other school in the province. The usual Inspector's holiday was given.

The preliminary meeting to the formation of a new Natural Gas Company was held in Messrs. Mabey & Gearing's office, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 18. A number of prominent gentlemen were present, and we learn that steps will be taken immediately to procure a charter, etc. We understand Mr. Trow, M.P., entering as usual, is taking a leading part in the new move. The enterprise is thought to be deserving of success, and has the best wishes and support of many active citizens. A gentleman who is in correspondence with the drillers and tool-dressers who were employed on the Stratford Natural Gas Co's well, states that he received a letter from one of them, who said he would take stock in a new company. This is encouraging. Stratford may have natural gas yet.

Elma.

David Edgar, con. 8, this township, had a fine sheep worried to death by dogs Sunday night, 16th inst.

John Farrell, who has been renewing old acquaintances for the past week on the 8th con., has returned to his home in Nithburg.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hume returned home Tuesday after spending a couple of days in Palmerston with their daughter, Mrs. T. Whitfield.

Dame Rumor says a fair young lady on the 8th con. is about to enter into a life-long contract with a well-to-do, popular young gentleman, formerly of Elma. We won't mention names.

Will Gray who has been making cheese at Honey Grove for the last number of years is home again under the parental roof, 10th con., after spending a few weeks visiting friends. We welcome you back, Will.

Your correspondent has been given to understand that J. W. Ward has been engaged as teacher of the 8th con. school for 1891. Mr. Shannon having decided to go to school and push his studies. Joe is a pains-taking teacher and will doubtless give good satisfaction to the section.

Robt. Lang's sale on Tuesday, 24th inst., was well attended. Although the day was anything but favorable, cattle and implements sold high. Some of the horses were first-class animals, but there appeared to be no demand for them. The farm was offered for sale at the same time but no offer was made for it. Thos. E. Hay wielded the hammer.

J. Irwin, 10th con., has taken to himself an helpmate to be his companion in future. We think he is wise, as a bachelor's life is not a desirable one. We have found that out ourselves years ago and remedied the evil. John is a good citizen and much respected by all who know him. We hope that he and his companion may long be spared to enjoy the blessedness that flows from the life he has entered upon.

Foot-ball appears to be the raging game for the fall season among the boys, especially among the different schools of our township. We are informed that on Thanksgiving Day a match was played between schools No. 4 and No. 7, which resulted in a victory for the latter by 2 goals to 0. On Saturday, Nov. 15th, a match took place between the previous victorious team and school No. 5, which resulted in a defeat for No. 5 by 1 to 0. We hope the boys will keep up the sport so that we will know which is the victorious school in the township.

We May Expect a ride on the lumber wagon on Xmas day.—To see a rousing election in this township next January.—Several hundred new names added to THE BEE subscription list during the next few weeks.—The Atwood doctors to visit the sick and dying free of charge this fall and the Listowel doctors to drop out of the race.—A number of young couples to be made happy before New Year's.—The highest market price paid for grain in Atwood this winter.—Lots of school entertainments throughout the township.—A great deal more than we get.

A correspondent writes: A happy event occurred at Henry Koch's residence, lot 33, con. 18, on Tuesday, Nov. 18, being the marriage of his third daughter, Katie, to John Alexander Davidson of Mornington. Henry Koch assisted the groom through the trying ordeal, while Miss Elizabeth Davidson performed a like ceremony for the bride. Rev. E. S. Rapert joined the happy couple. The presents were costly and numerous. After the silken knot was tied the guests partook of a goodly repast and then enjoyed themselves until it was time to depart. Miss Koch was highly respected and regarded by all who knew her as a fine young lady. She will be missed very much at home and among her associates, but what is Mr. and Mrs. Koch's loss is John A. Davidson's gain, and John is a fine young man and esteemed by everybody.

Poole.

Miss Mayberry, of Britton, is a guest of Mrs. A. Large.

Rev. D. Rogers, of Atwood, conducted the missionary service here last Sabbath.

An entertainment will be given in the Poole school house, on Friday evening, Dec. 5th. In addition to local talent, Messrs. Munroe and Hamilton, of Milverton, and Thompson, of Millbank, are expected to deliver addresses. Admission 10c.

Turnberry.

Joe McBurney, of Wawanosh, spent Sunday with relatives here.

Revival services have been begun in the Salem Methodist church.

Miss Lang, of Grey, was the guest of Miss Maggie Kitchen last week.

Robert Anderson makes an occasional visit to the 9th con. Object—marriage.

Miss Jennie Campbell has returned from a fortnight's visit to North East-hope and Wellesley.

Mr. Fraser had a five acre field of turnips which yielded an average of 850 bushels per acre. Mr. Fraser has reason to be pleased with his crop as it ranks first in the township, and I believe first in the county.

Ethel.

Miss Kate Ducklow has arrived home from Carthage. She looks well.

Mrs. A. W. Panabaker is on the sick list this week. We are glad to learn that she is on the mend.

The patrons of the Ethel cheese factory sold the balance of this season's cheese to A. McLaren at 9 1/2c per lb. Mr. McLaren says they are without doubt the finest lot of cheese he has handled this season.

Mrs. Robt. Whaley is getting quite strong again and will be able to be removed home in a few days. Dr. Cale deserves much credit for the skillful way in which he performed the operation. Mrs. J. M. Davis is about to undergo a similar operation, and we hope she may be able to withstand it all right, although she is very weak and poorly at present.

Brussels.

Stanley Anderson is on the sick list.

Rev. Hartley, of Bluevale, was in town Tuesday.

Rev. Wm. Torrance, of Gorrie, was in town Tuesday.

Mr. Cooper, of Listowel, was in town several days last week.

Ryall Pelton, of Innerkip, is visiting his sister, Mrs. H. Wilson.

Rev. S. Jones preached in Melville church last Sabbath morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Wilson spent Sunday in Harriston with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Love.

Mrs. Frank Vanstone and her three children returned from a three months' visit to Manitoba last Friday.

A telegram was received by Joseph Clegg, drover, on Thursday, Nov. 20th, informing him of the loss at sea of 36 head of cattle on the steamship "Circe" belonging to him en route to the Old Country. Exporters have big risks to run.

Every merchant should be around his counters to meet his trade and see that they are waited upon and take a hand himself if he can. Nothing pleases a customer more than to have some attention shown by the proprietor of the store.

Martin Y. Farrow, son of postmaster Farrow, of this place, has given up farming in Manitoba and has taken a situation in a Winnipeg store. He had bad luck as a tiller of the soil losing his crops two seasons. We wish him success in his new avocation.

Gideon Perrie, of Grey township, the champion heavy weight athlete of America, has returned home from the Pacific slope, where he has been for the past four years. W. F. Scott, the champion light weight athlete, also returned after a stay of over six years. Both look well and make a pretty heavy team. Perrie being 6 feet, 2 inches in height, and weighing 212 pounds; Scott is 6 feet 3 1/2 inches in height, and weighing 185 pounds. They intend to stay at home during the winter. They were also accompanied east by Mr. Richardson, of Dorchester, county of Middlesex, another noted Canadian athlete.

Last Monday evening the Y. P. C. A. of the Methodist church, had an evening of "Missions." Following is the program: Singing and prayer; reading, Mr. Rodgers; music, Misses Moore; recitation, "The Missionary Doll," Miss Winnie Sellery; music, S. S. choir; reading, Miss May Turnbull; address, Mrs. J. J. Giffin, as the representative of the Woman's Missionary Society; recitation, Miss Lizzie Roddick; music, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Barrett; recitation, Miss Thersa Gery; music, Misses Eva Turnbull and Anne Rivers; address, "Mission Work," Rev. S. Sellery. The President of the Y. P. C. A., George Rodgers, filled the capacity of chairman.

About 5 o'clock last Saturday morning fire started in the rear of the American hotel, which quickly spread, the building being a three storey frame. The next building to it on the south side soon caught and burned so rapidly that nothing could be saved. It was occupied by A. R. Smith, general store. Loss on building \$2,000, on stock \$12,000, with an insurance of \$4,000. The next store, a two storey frame, and one of the largest stores in Brussels, was occupied by A. Strachan, general store. Loss on building, \$3,500. The building was partially insured. Insurance on stock, \$5,900. The next building, a two storey frame, owned and occupied by J. G. Skene as a general store, also went. Loss on building, \$1,500. Stock partially insured. Brussels has been the scene of a number of disastrous fires during the past few years.

Trowbridge.

The Methodists of this place purpose having their anniversary services on Dec. 28th and 29th. Further particulars will be given.

An Epworth League of Christian Endeavor has been organized in the Methodist church here, which promises to be a success. The meetings are largely attended.

Will Catwell occupied the pulpit on Sabbath morning. We were much pleased with the able manner in which he filled the position. He preached a splendid sermon.

Will Jackson left here on Tuesday for Seaford where he intends working in the grist mills with W. H. Code. We wish Will success, and hope the young men will not all leave our neighborhood.

Grey.

Peter Sinclair, Jr., has a large number of potatoes that weigh four pounds each in this season's crop.

The balance of this season's make of cheese of the Morris and Grey factory was sold to Hodgson Bros., of London, for export. There were 450 boxes and the price received was 9 13-16 cts.

Archie Lamont, and Jno. Bishop and son were away for the past two weeks on a deer hunting expedition to Muskoka. They are old hands at the business and are generally successful.

The total amount of taxes to be collected this year amounts to about \$13,700 in round figures. The line between 9th and 10th concessions is the division for the collectors. The northern section man has about \$700 more to collect than his southern neighbor.

Councillor Arch. Hislop has purchased the 100 acre farm on the 13th con., belonging to his uncle, Thos. Hislop, now of Manitoba. Although in need of some attention the property is a good one and in Archie's hands will no doubt be well looked after. A good housekeeper will be one of the essentials.

Report says that a wedding will shortly take place on the 14th con. Samuel won't endure bachelorhood any longer. Although he is usually on the "negative" he holds to the affirmative on the "double blessedness" question, and consequently proposes to secure the substance as well as the shadow.

Sunday morning 16th, Mathew Barker, an old and well-known resident of this township, died, well advanced in years. The funeral took place on Tuesday, 18th inst., the interment being made at Brussels cemetery. The old gentleman was not sick long and it was a matter of surprise to hear of his death.

On Thursday evening, 13th inst., as the threshers were finishing up work at Mrs. Robert Brown's, Thos. Mitchell had the misfortune to fall from the mow down into the stable through a trap door. Robt. Hall, J. Knight and others, ran to Mr. Mitchell's aid, and at first it was thought that the vital spark had fled but on shaking him a little there was a gasp and then regular breathing followed. In the fall of 15 feet Mr. Mitchell's side came in contact with the frame of the trap door and it was simply a miracle that he was not instantly killed. After a brief rest he was able to walk home. Although well up in years and a hard worker all his life Mr. Mitchell is about as wiry as the youngest yet and we hope he will suffer no bad results from the accident.

Hugh Porter had a wood bee on Friday, Nov. 14th, when friends and neighbors all turned out and put in a faithful day's work in the bush cutting a large quantity of wood. Although the day was spent very pleasantly in the bush, a much more pleasant time was spent in the evening, when from about six o'clock until eleven the baggies did not fail to roll in, until seventy people were all enjoying themselves in Mr. and Mrs. Porter's new and commodious residence. At twelve o'clock, supper being on hand, everybody seemed to help themselves to their heart's content and then dancing was resumed, and was kept up until three o'clock in the morning. All departed for their respective homes wishing Mr. and Mrs. Porter success and long life in their new house. Another bee, Hugh!

In the Grey Township case heard at the Court of Chancery last week, in Goderich, before Chancellor Boyd, decision was reserved. The trouble arose over lot 30, con. 16, owned by William Machan. Under the Ditches and Watercourses Act four drains were put through this property in serving other lots requiring it, as did lot 37. The owner demurred and had the farm put on the non-resident roll. In due time, according to law, the property was sold by the County Treasurer for back taxes and the township to save itself purchased it, paying something in the neighborhood of \$100 for the same. The former proprietor then went into the courts, although he could or can at any time have his land back by recouping the municipality for their outlay. Reeve Milne, deputy reeve, Oliver and Bryan and clerk Spence were in attendance at Court the other day and gave evidence. Mr. Spence and the township officials were complimented for the straight, business-like transaction and the general impression is that the decision will be in their favor. J. T. Garrow conducted the case for the township and Mr. Edington, of Stratford, appeared for the plaintiff. People should look up the law and post themselves before they rush into court to ventilate imaginary grievances.

The people of Gorrie, being desirous of having a saw mill established in their village, held a meeting the other night to consider the matter. Two propositions were placed before them for consideration. One was by Mr. Martin, who offered to move his saw and shingle mill to Gorrie for a term of three years, and the other by H. Sanderson, who offered for a bonus of \$500, that he and his brother John would erect a first-class saw mill.

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