

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916.

WE CELEBRATE THE SPUD.

The spud, the murrhy, the Irish apple, the lowly potato is coming into its own! What with soaring prices of all foodstuffs, and potatoes selling by the dozen instead of the peck, the humble tuber is taking its place with hen-fruit, alligator pears, turkey steak and nightingale's tongues among the viands of the gods.

All over the highlands to the north of Belleville, and among the Oak Hills we may expect potato kings to rise up, with high-power automobiles in their farmyards, and diamonds in their crowns. One jubilant plutocrat from Pancake Hill in Huntingdon township informed The Ontario that he had five hundred bags of potatoes that he grew on his farm this year!

The deserted farms, that we heard so much about a half-a-dozen years ago in North Hastings, are becoming potato ranches; and soon, if the prices keep up, these potato ranches will become the landed estates of new-made nabobs. Among our local celebrities we may look for such appropriate titles as Sir William Tuber, Bart., Baron Murphy and the Duke of Spud.

In New Brunswick we read how old, stony works of farms are being tilled and the profitable tuber is taking the place of the prolific weed.

The farmers of Maine are not growing this year, for two things are making them happy. One is that they have had one of the best potato crops on record, and the other is that they are receiving fabulous prices for those potatoes. One farmer sold out his crop for \$62,000 and another for \$88,000. In the first week of November 1896, Maine farmers sold their potatoes for eighty cents a barrel. They thought they were doing pretty well in 1901 when they received \$1.65 a barrel, and in 1911 they chuckled because they sold for \$1.90 but in the Fall of 1916 they have been selling for \$4 to \$4.35 a barrel.

In Michigan there's a potato boom almost as exciting as Edmonton real estate, Calgary oil or Porcupine gold stocks were in the recent past.

In Colorado and Montana potato-raising has become a science, ranchmen vying with one another in the production of great, long, evenly shaped potatoes which they wrap in colored paper and sell in fancy packets to hotels and buyers for railroad dining cars.

If you are rich and can afford to look the potato in the eye these days, you've a great deal to be thankful for, but even then you've got to look with respect.

THE FOOD HOG WE HAVE ALWAYS WITH US.

A loaf of bread is worth the amount of good it will do the eater. A dozen eggs are worth the amount of nourishment they contain. A quart of milk is worth the amount of bone and sinew it will build up.

Food values no not fluctuate. Only prices fluctuate.

The loaf of bread for which you now pay fourteen cents does you no more good than the bread you formerly purchased for ten cents.

Butter for which you pay fifty cents a brick will butter no more bread than that for which you paid twenty cents, once upon a time.

Yet there are people who contend there is no wrong in storing up foodstuffs while there is plenty and selling them at a high profit when famine stalks or threatens to stalk in the land and the war is multiplying costs, charges and prices.

A fire some weeks ago in a cold-storage plant at Lindsay is said to have destroyed more than a quarter of a million dollars' worth of cheese, butter and eggs. What patriotic purpose did the proprietors have in the accumulation and monopolising of all this food?

Food hogs are not modern in development. They had them in the days of wise old Solomon. But in those days men who cornered food were cursed for their unrighteousness. Now we appoint them to positions in the Dominion and Provincial cabinets.

Listen to Solomon, the maker of proverbs—you can find his words in the Bible; eleventh chapter of Proverbs, 26th verse:

"He that withholdeth corn, the people

shall curse him; but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it."

AN INVULNERABLE COMBINATION.

In warfare it is laid down as a fundamental principle that "the full power of an army can be exerted only when all its parts act in close combination." This applies not only on the firing line but throughout the whole national organization. Away back at the base—in Britain and here in Canada—it is equally true. In the furnishing of supplies and munitions there must be the same close combination of effort.

In Great Britain and France men and women are laboring to increase the daily output of shells so that the striking power of the army shall be maintained at maximum efficiency. In Canada, too, men and women are working for the same end.

But with all this we have not done enough. The war has lasted over two years and the time has arrived when every ounce of energy must be thrown into the balance. Germany is making her last desperate stand. Man for man and gun for gun Germany is outclassed. Men, money and munitions will accomplish the final result. Today the Allies have the men, and proof of that is seen in the frantic efforts of Germany to recruit fresh armies to take the places of those who have fallen in the mad assaults on the western front. Britain is maintaining her premier position as the money power of the world. The call now is for munitions, more and more munitions as the war goes on.

The efforts of the Imperial Munitions Board to increase the output of the Canadian shell factories is worthy of every support and co-operation that the public can give. By the dilution of male labor that can be accomplished. It is simply the application of untrained labor, under the direction of skilled labor, to the operation in shell factories. The need for shells is undeniably great, and in the days that are coming this need will increase. It is the duty of the people of Canada to supply that need. Shall we be found wanting in the day of trial?

The lecture was reported for "Varsity" by a former talented student of Belleville High School who is now a member of the editorial staff of "Varsity."

As is customary once during the fall term the Alumni took charge of the programme at the Women's Literary Society last Thursday. Miss Walker, who occupied the chair, stated that the aim of this practice is to form a link between the graduates and undergraduates.

Madame Rochat then gave a most interesting and inspiring talk on her trip through France last summer. Very vividly she pointed out the French spirit, which is national rather than individual. We can scarcely conceive of the significance "patrie" carries to the ear of the French, brought up as they have been in constant danger from foreign attacks. Paris is the same, yet not the same as it was before the war. The streets and buildings still exist, but the foreigners are gone, the art galleries are closed, and men in uniform are to be seen everywhere. The streets are continually the scenes of pathetic war incidents. Every man in France is a soldier and every family is in mourning; yet there is no personal sense of sorrow, but a great national sense which fills one with humility. The Frenchman now makes no comment on circumstances, just simply narrates facts.

Mme. Rochat then touched on the achievements of the women of France, which were evinced by the well-kept fields and vineyards, and the unusually heavy crop of wheat in Normandy. In one place she was entertained by a woman who after eleven hours work per day in the city, walked one and a half miles to take care of a market garden. At the beginning of the war there was no trained nurses in France. Now they are numerous and the nursing is of a very high standard.

Just before the Somme advance, Mme. Rochat was working in a foyer near Verdun. Here some 11,000 soldiers used to come each day. A noticeable characteristic was their love of collecting bouquets, and adding them to their 24-h pack. These bouquets varied in form from German helmets to rescued kittens and birds. The men seemed to experience some difficulty in finding a name for these good women who fed them so well, and acted as general information bureaus. They usually called them "mademoiselle," "tante," or "grand mere" as age seemed to justify.

After July, Mme. Rochat obtained permission to enter the war zone. Here she visited two large prison camps. The difficulty of guarding the prisoners is greatly diminished by the use of large dogs, "Ambusc," a term frequently heard in France, was explained by Mme. Rochat as meaning a man who has sought out for himself an easy job behind the lines. At the beginning of the war there were many such, but the scorn shown for them is so great that now none are to be found.

All the French people have given up their savings of gold and are proud to hold certificates stating the fact. A visit to the war orphanages was another interesting privilege. Here the children are open for adoption, but it is a strict rule that they may not be taken out of the coun-

try. Instead they are trained to become useful citizens for the France of the future.

At the close of the talk which was very much appreciated, vocal quartets were rendered by Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Page and Miss Parlow. These added greatly to the enjoyment of the meeting.

Letters to The Editor.

WOULD GIVE SOMETHING MORE TANGIBLE

Editor Ontario, Belleville, Dec. 15.

After reading the very able letter of Mr. Scantlebury concerning Melburn Sprague, re reception on his arrival home in such a battered condition, I would say to give him a rousing reception, certainly on the lines laid down, but I for one would give him something more tangible in the way of a generous purse made up by subscription by the citizens of Belleville. Get a committee to canvass the city for the purpose. He has given all but his life itself for King and country and deserves the best we can give him. Hoping for spontaneous action, I am yours, Thanking you for space in your valuable journal.

One Whose Only Boy Has Been Doing His Bit For Two Years.

FRANK PALMER.

Driver Frank Palmer, of Corbyville, an artilleryman at Barriefield and Kingston, died yesterday at Kingston General Hospital. He was born in Corbyville in 1890 and was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Palmer of that place. Before enlisting in 1915 he was employed by the Belleville Hardware Company. He was single and a Presbyterian. Besides his parents he leaves four brothers—James E., Rochester; Arthur C., now in France; S. B. of Corbyville, who has been relieved from Barriefield for the winter, and Allan C. in France with the C.E.F. Three sisters, of whom one is Mrs. James Tierney of Belleville also survive. One brother J. J. Palmer was killed in action in France a few months ago.

The body of the late Pte. F. Palmer arrived here at three o'clock this afternoon, and was taken to Corbyville to his late home.

MRS. PERCY MITCHELL'S DEATH

Mrs. Percy Mitchell passed away this morning at the family residence 28 Cedar Street, after a week's illness with pneumonia. Deceased whose maiden name was Kathleen Allison was twenty-five years of age and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allison of Clive, Alberta. She was born in Minnesota. Besides her husband and one son aged five months, and her parents, she leaves three sisters and two brothers—Mrs. Bate-man, Spring Valley, Minnesota; Miss Esther Allison, Clive, Alberta; Mrs. Scott of Calgary; William Allison of Clive, Alberta and Ezra Allison of British Columbia.

The late Mrs. Mitchell was a Presbyterian and a member of John St. Presbyterian church.

MR. CALDER'S PROMOTION

Improve Your Complexion. Get your blood pure, keep the liver active and the bowels regular, and disfiguring pimples and unsightly blotches will disappear from the face. For improving the complexion and putting the blood in good order BEECHAM'S PILLS are safer, better and surer than cosmetics. They eliminate poisonous matters from the system, strengthen the organs and purify the blood—bring the health-glow to the cheeks, brighten the eyes, improve and Beautify the Skin.

MADAME ROCHAT TELLS OF FRANCE. Former Madoc Lady Tells of Interesting Tour Through the War Zone. We are indebted to "Varsity," the newspaper of the undergraduates of Toronto university, for the following interesting report of a travel talk by Madame Rochat at the Victoria Women's Literary Society.

Letters to The Editor. WOULD GIVE SOMETHING MORE TANGIBLE. Editor Ontario, Belleville, Dec. 15. After reading the very able letter of Mr. Scantlebury concerning Melburn Sprague, re reception on his arrival home in such a battered condition, I would say to give him a rousing reception, certainly on the lines laid down, but I for one would give him something more tangible in the way of a generous purse made up by subscription by the citizens of Belleville.

ROSSMORE RED CROSS REMEMBER SOLDIER BOYS IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND. The ladies of Rossmore Red Cross Society on Wednesday afternoon held a tea at the home of their convener, Mrs. Norman Post. A good number attended and the proceeds go toward buying hospital supplies to be sent to France. Great interest was taken in a box of Red Cross supplies ready to be shipped, also a number of soldier socks and with each pair a Christmas card and present to be sent direct to the trenches. This is the fourth box to be sent from Rossmore. These will be shipped to their destinations in a few days in parting all extended to Mrs. Post thanks for her kindness in opening her home for the occasion. May there be many more such gatherings, where social interview may be combined with work.

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MR. CALDER'S PROMOTION. Mr. A. B. Calder has been appointed Assistant General Passenger Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway with offices at Montreal. The appointment takes effect January 1, 1917. Already there are four assistant passenger agents, but the growth of passenger traffic has made it necessary that another be appointed. Mr. Calder is well known in Winnipeg and Western Canada, and has been connected with the C.P.R. since the early days of construction. He joined the staff of the company on construction work, and in October, 1888 he entered the Winnipeg office as ticket clerk. In 1889 he was made ticket agent at Tacoma. After gaining experience as Travelling Passenger Agent at San Francisco and Seattle he was appointed to the position of General Agent at Seattle in 1904. In 1910 he was made General Agent at Chicago. Leaving Chicago he returned to Winnipeg for a time where he performed special work until his present appointment.

BELLEVILLE MAN STORM CENTER. J. W. Matheson, Formerly With the G.T.R. Here Causes Political Tempest in Nova Scotia. It is not generally known here that the resignation of John Stanfield, member of parliament for Colchester N.S. and chief whip of the Conservative party at Ottawa, was due to the appointment of a Belleville man, but such is the case.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Lesson XIV.—Fourth Quarter, For Dec. 31, 1916. THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES. Text of the Lesson, Rev. xvi, 6-14. Quarterly Review—Memory Verses 12-14—Golden Text, Rev. xvi, 17. Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

Lesson I.—A plot that failed, Acts xiii, 14-24. Golden Text, Jer. 1, 19. "I am with thee, saith Jehovah, to destroy thee." All the purposes and plots of men against God and His people will in due time fail and come to naught, but every purpose of the Lord will stand. The greatest verse in this lesson to me is verse 11, the visit of the Lord Jesus and His wonderful personal message: "Be of good cheer, Paul!"

Lesson II.—Paul before Felix, Acts xxiv, 10-21. Golden Text, Acts xiii, 16. "Herein I also exercise myself to have a conscience void of offense toward God and men always." A man who believes God fully is able to be meek under strong persecution, especially after a direct message from the Lord Jesus.

Lesson III.—The appeal to Caesar, Acts xxv, 1-12. Golden Text, Matt. 7, 25. "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher and the servant as his Lord." The devil and his followers are persistent persecutors, and as he has the power of death (Heb. 11, 14), he uses it liberally, but only with God's permission.

Lesson IV.—Paul's defense before Agrippa, Acts xxvi, 1, 24-32. Golden Text, Acts xxvi, 19. "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." A splendid opportunity to testify before earth's dignitaries, and Paul certainly did improve it, and all who heard it might have become the Lord's people if they had been willing.

Lesson V.—The voyage, Acts xxvii, 13-26. Golden Text, Ps. xxxvii, 5. "Commit thy way unto Jehovah; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass." This voyage is suggestive of the voyage of life, which is often very stormy, but if we can truly say of Him, "Those I am and whom I serve," we should also add, "I believe God; that it shall be even as it was told me" (verses 23-25).

Lesson VI.—Shipwrecked on Malta, Acts xxviii, 38; xxviii, 10. Golden Text, Ps. xxxiv, 22. "Jehovah redeemeth the soul of His servants, and none of them that take refuge in Him shall be condemned." One man brought good cheer to 275 others because he had a message from heaven. He also brought tidings of the Living God and His salvation to the people of Malta. Let us be such messengers.

Lesson VII.—World's temperance Sunday, Rom. xiv, 13 to xv, 8. Golden Text, Rom. xiv, 21. "It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth." The first thing for any kind of sinner is to be born again, redeemed by grace (Rom. iii, 19, 24). Thus because of the judgment seat of Christ for all His redeemed (xiv, 7-12) we must live unto Him, not to self.

Lesson VIII.—From Malta to Rome, Acts xxviii, 11-31. Golden Text, Rom. 4, 14. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Whether in Jerusalem, or on shipboard, or at Malta, or in Caesar's household, Paul could honestly say, "I am debtor; I am ready; I am not ashamed" (Rom. 1, 14-16), and it was always the kingdom and the Lord Jesus (xxviii, 23, 31).

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