

## 1920 January Clearance 1920

A number of LADIES' COATS made from the season's popular Velours, Silvertones and Plushes. These are correct in every detail and contain many of the season's smartest and best selling models.

Ladies' \$20.00 Coats for... \$15.00  
Ladies' \$25.00 Coats for... \$18.75  
Ladies' \$35.00 Coats for... \$26.25  
Ladies' \$45.00 Coats for... \$33.75  
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Men's extra quality Black Dog Coat..... \$35.00  
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### Elastic Knit Underwear at \$1.50

10 dozen only, high grade Elastic Knit Underwear, containing a high percentage of wool. Per garment..... \$1.50.

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Walkers' or Leather Label, standard and union made overalls—the best made and heaviest quality produced in Canada. Blue, black or stripe. \$2.75 per garment. —Compare these prices.

## A. Brown & Co.

PHONE 24

"The Store That Satisfies"

WATFORD

### Annual Meeting of Brooks Telephone

(Alvinston Free Press)

The eighth annual meeting of the Brooks Municipal Telephone System was held in Code's Hall here on Thursday afternoon last and was well attended by the subscribers of the system.

The report of the auditors showed that the system was in a very good financial position regardless of the high costs of material, etc., which are daily doubling and tripling in price, and in fact it was brought out and showed to those present that no other system in Ontario was in a better position both as to service and financial standing. The liabilities over assets are \$617.27, but as the debt has been accruing since the inception of the system, it is not \$1.00 a phone, which can be easily wiped out at the end of the ten year term, which expires in about two years. According to figures the system really owes the township \$9120.48, but as there have been 106 phones installed that are not yet on debenture, it brings the debt down to the figures above.

Addresses were given by the President, R. J. Lucas; Treasurer, T. H. Myers; D. J. McEachern; Herb. Darville, Robert Clarke, and members of Brooks Council, who gave their views on the working of the system. The situation was fully dealt

with and the outcome was that the feeling of the meeting was that they have one of the best systems in the province.

Some minor complaints were lodged against the service, but the manager, Mr. Chapman easily explained matters. One gentleman in the audience thought to create a little disturbance by accusing the Manager of not attending to his phone which was not in working order for four months, while another was out of order since April. They claimed that they had reported the matter to the manager and he had not done anything about it. Mr. Lucas came to the rescue of the manager at this juncture and severely criticized these gentlemen for their lack of principle when they should have reported the matter to the board if their phone had been out of order that long. If they had reported the matter first to the manager and he then did not act within a week or more, they should have sent a notice in writing or otherwise to the President, R. J. Lucas, who would then have seen that it was put in order or know the reason why. He thought these men had little to do to accuse the manager for lack of attention, when they themselves would allow a phone to go that long without notifying the officials in charge. Several other subscribers backed up Mr. Lucas on the subject and stated that it was to their interest as well as anyone else to make the system a success not leave it all to the manager

to do, who is generally always busy on the road repairing phones and lines.

Taken altogether the meeting was a fine spirited one and one of the most successful yet held. The Advisory Board are to be congratulated for their successful year's work.

### P. S. Inspector Conn on the Needs of the Rural School.

I have been asked the question: "What are the outstanding needs of the rural school?" To my mind there is only one answer. The most pressing need of the rural school is a change in the method of administration. In the rural schools under my inspectorial supervision there are 2,687 pupils enrolled and there are 240 trustees; one trustee per 11 pupils. To supervise an expenditure of \$72,333 requires the services of 240 trustees, to say nothing of 160 auditors, and 20 treasurers who are not trustees. Surely a simpler method of administration could be delivered and with great advantage. I am of the opinion that a simpler and more efficient method of administration offers itself in the form of township school boards; one board of trustees to manage the schools in each township.

The plan of administering rural schools by township boards has been endorsed by the two greatest educationists of this continent. The Honorable Horace Mann, the founder of the educational system of United States, said: "I consider the law authorizing townships to be divided into school districts the most unsatisfactory ever enacted in the State of Massachusetts." Dr. Ryerson, the founder of the Educational system of our own Province, said: "I am satisfied the township board is a remedy for many evils and an important step in advance."

In adopting township boards we are not making an experiment. Both systems have been tried in United States and experience there is strongly in favor of township boards. No State that has discarded the district school system, for township boards has ever reverted to the old system; and always there has been marked improvement in educational conditions where township boards have been adopted. It has been their experience that the consolidated school almost invariably follows in the wake of the township board.

There would be these advantages:— It would greatly simplify the school law and proportionally reduce litigation. It would eliminate disputes about section boundaries which is a prolific source of trouble in rural communities. It would reduce the number of school officers. To take a concrete case, I have in mind a township with 482 pupils enrolled where there are 60 trustees; one trustee per 8 pupils. I suggest that 5 trustees could manage the school affairs of this township and with greater efficiency.

There would be a uniform school rate throughout each township. This is just and proper. It is unjust that people in the smaller and weaker sections should be obliged to pay higher rates than their neighbors in the larger and more wealthy sections for a cause so vital to the interests of all. In relation to teachers there would be many benefits. A board would ordinarily have in its employ from 15 to 25 teachers, and would find it advantageous to adopt a salary schedule. This would do much to mitigate one of the greatest evils incidental to our present rural school system—the frequent changing of teachers. It would better the compensation of teachers and thus raise the status of the profession. And as in many cases fewer teachers could be employed to do the same work it would do something toward easing the situation in regard to the scarcity of teachers.

It would secure more efficient supervision. The office work of the Inspector would be materially reduced, and he would consequently be able to spend more time in the schools advising teachers and encouraging school boards to the efficient performance of their manifold duties. With the increased responsibilities the school board becomes a supervisory committee, vigilant and active, ever watching with zealous care the assets trust confided to them in securing for every child in the municipality the best education possible. It would secure improved accommodations and equipment. Local self interest would impel people who are paying a uniform school rate to make efforts to the end that their school house may be as good as others in the township. Not only that, but a board with twenty school buildings in charge would soon learn something about school architecture. As articles of equipment and school supplies could be purchased in quantity there would undoubtedly be an improvement in the matter of equipment. There would be greater flexibility in the administration. Within certain limits parents might send their children to the school most conveniently situated. Over crowding could be relieved by sending the larger pupils to schools with smaller attendance. Fifth classes could be established in schools where there is a demand for them. Schools with small attendance could be closed and the pupils transported to a neighboring school. Consolidated schools could be established with ease where the situation demands them. Moreover, modifications of the curriculum to meet local conditions could be easily and readily made.

The only argument I have heard advanced against township boards is the fact that two townships tried the plan and later reverted to our present system. In this connection we should remember that conditions have changed materially in the past twenty-five years. Improved roads, the telephone, and the automobile have made the townships smaller. Today, everybody in a township knows everybody else. This was not the case when the two township boards were in operation in Ontario; and there was consequently more room for friction and misunderstanding than there is now. The fact that township boards failed twenty-five years ago is therefore no indication that they would fail now.

The proposal for township boards should appeal to those who are advocating consolidated schools. Our present antiquated, cumbersome and inefficient system of rural school administration is the one great obstacle to the development of these schools. To secure the consent of a majority of the ratepayers in each of the five, six or more townships in the territory required for a satisfactory district for a consolidated school is in most cases a hopeless undertaking, with township boards this laborious procedure would be unnecessary. The board would have power to outline a desirable district, submit the proposition to the ratepayers and the matter could be settled with little trouble or delay.

In conclusion I may say that it is a question of co-operation in relation to education in rural schools. If the people of the districts can co-operate to secure better financial returns from their farms surely they can co-operate in securing better educational facilities for their children.

HENRY CONN.

Lambton Co., Ont.

### CHOP STUFF

A Chinese restaurant has been opened in Kingsville.

A local syndicate will build six hundred houses in Sarnia.

Hay sold at \$30 a ton on the Sarnia market last week.

The West Lambton Fair Board will repair the show buildings and enlarge the grounds for next fall's fair.

David Miller, a former resident of Napier, died at Saginaw, Mich., New Year's Day, aged 41 years.

Henry Goodin, a former resident of Enniskillen and Petrolia, died in Detroit last week. He was 82 years old.

W. J. Proctor for 30 years a member of the Sarnia council and for three years Mayor, died on Saturday last after a long illness.

John Marcus of Detroit, well known in Betswell district, has had one of his legs amputated above the knee owing to gangrene.

A Grand Rapids milk dealer was fined \$40.50 for testing sweetness of a can of milk by sticking his finger in and then licking it.

Frank Elliott of East Williams, who was seriously injured by being kicked by a horse last month, died last week in St. Joseph's hospital.

George Brown, who has been village clerk of Wyoming since the death of Mr. H. G. Taylor, has resigned. His successor is Arch. D. Fisher.

The chain of eight "Cash and Carry" stores and three butcher shops in Sarnia and Pt. Edward have been closed owing to the disappearance of the manager.

While hunting rabbits in Thorold township two boys found an old bag in the rear of the Coniagas Reduction Co. plant containing a bar of silver worth \$1,000.

Many Canadian lawn bowlers are to be found on the Florida greens just now. The devotees of the other bowl are handling the express companies' offices here at home.

R. J. Petch, one of the most progressive and highly respected citizens of Wardsville for the past twelve or fourteen years, has sold his flour and feed business to Mr. Weir of Michigan, and has moved to Newbury, where he will continue in the same business.

As Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dykes of Crinan were driving home from Wardsville, their horse was frightened by children playing at the roadside, and the occupants were thrown into the ditch. Mrs. Dykes' shoulder was fractured, while Mr. Dykes escaped uninjured.

There are several cases of smallpox in West Williams township, and the medical health officer of Strathroy has requested all residents of that town to be vaccinated at once.

A man named Melouche on the Sandwich telephone line had his phone removed by the Company because his family "batted in" and listened to conversations. The judge held that the Company did right. This should be a lesson to others.

As a verminifer there is nothing so potent as Mother Graves' Worm Expeller, and it can be given to the most delicate child without fear of injury to the constitution.

The Forest Agricultural Society has a balance of nearly \$200 on hand from last year. The officers elected for 1920 at the annual meeting are: President, R. W. McLaren; 1st Vice-Pres. A. H. Longhead; 2nd Vice-Pres. D. D. Brodie; Sec. Vice-Pres. Robt. Hair; Secretary, E. J. Petty; Treasurer, D. White; Auditors, J. E. Brush and J. M. Mackenzie; Directors, C. Anderson, Sam Bailey, G. W. Beatty, Peter Campbell, Caleb Rawlings, W. J. Skinner and C. W. Stewart of Forest; Earl Brand, John Vivian and D. Whyte Bosanquet; Archie McKinley, J. C. O'Donnell and H. A. Taylor of Plympton; Robert Braundon, Duncan Campbell and Wm. Jones of Warwick.

### P. & W. Agr'l Society Officers for 1920

President—Henry Capes  
1st Vice-Pres.—John G. Brown  
2nd Vice-Pres.—John Richardson  
Sec. Treas.—W. W. Rice  
Directors—Jos. Bryson, Geo. A. Dewar, James E. Smith, S. E. Smaile, Chas. Smith, John F. Donald, John Cantow, W. Wilkinson, R. S. Jardine, O. E. Mcintosh, Wilber Steadman, E. R. Anderson, A. G. Minnelly, D. Ferguson, A. D. Fisher, Dr. S. J. Brent.  
Auditors—J. E. Anderson and W. L. Duncan.

Representatives to Western Fair Association—W. W. Rice and A. D. Fisher.

Mr. Geo. A. Dewar, who has filled the office of Sec. Treas. since the death of the late D. S. Robertson, resigned owing to demands of his own business on his time and attention.

### B. & A. Agricultural Society

The annual meeting was held on Jan. 17. Financial statement showed a credit balance of \$728.20.

The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:

Hon. President—L. W. Oke, M. P. P.  
Hon. Vice-President—Dr. Martyn  
Hon. 2nd Vice-Pres.—D. J. McEachern  
President—H. E. Paull  
Hon. Directors—John L. McKellar, Jos. Tait, Dugald McIntyre, A. D. McLean, Secretary—W. A. Moffatt  
Treasurer—John McCallum  
Directors—James McCallum, Donald McKinley, H. A. Gilroy, J. Hand, W. J. Eader, D. L. Fraser, Jas. H. Johnston, Roy McGregor, Frank Pavey, H. Darville, N. A. McLellan, D. A. McIntyre, W. J. Weed, John McCallum and L. W. Oke.

Messrs. H. Darville and H. E. Paull were appointed delegates to attend the Fair Assn. in Toronto; and D. A. McIntyre and H. A. Gilroy to attend the Western District Fair Assn. in Petrolia.

### SOME BOOTS AND SHOE LORE

How to Polish Footgear When Damp; Trees Should Be Used to Relieve the Pinch.

It sometimes happens that one wishes to polish one's shoes when they are damp. It is impossible then to get a good polish and yet you have not the time to wait until they are thoroughly dry. If a few drops of paraffin are placed on a cloth and this is then rubbed over the leather there will be no trouble. Apply the polish in the usual way thereafter, and the result will be most satisfactory.

If new shoes do not naturally take to polish simply take half a lemon, rub the leather with it, and then stand aside to dry. After this treatment a nice polish may be secured with little effort.

On the first few occasions of polishing new brown shoes apply the polish very liberally. This will secure a handsomely deep tone that will make the shoes very attractive throughout the rest of their "young lives."

It goes without saying that shoe trees should always be used. It pays these days to use a bit of care in preserving the good looks and good shape of one's shoes. A shoe never really well taken care of if shoe trees are not used. Tissue paper may be used for the same purpose it stuffed tightly into the shoes.

If a boot or shoe pinches, try this: While the shoe is on the foot or on a tree, take a small piece of cloth wrung out of very hot water and put this over the part that is giving trouble. The pinching will disappear entirely after this treatment.

### Dotted Fabric.

Dotted fabric is used more and more. We find lovely frocks of dotted muslin. Occasionally point d'esprit is used, especially as a trimming, when it appears in bands, like insertion, or on the edge of ruffles or tucks, like footling. Then there are dotted swiss hats and other dotted white fabrics, the not always soft colored, being effectively used for frocks and blouses, trimming, hats and parasols.

# Don't Cough!

Try

Rexall Cherry Bark  
Cough Syrup

25c 50c \$1.00

or

Rexall Syrup of  
White Pine and Tar

25c 50c

Rexall Cold Tablets  
will break up a cold]

J. W. McLaren

Druggist

Stationer