

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Much interest is manifested among the legal fraternity and Court officials as to who will succeed the late Judge Ermatinger as Judge of Elgin County. There are, we understand, many applicants for the desirable position, among whom are four members of the bar in St. Thomas. The Chamber of Commerce of that city has asked the Government to appoint a resident of the county, meaning St. Thomas, and Sir Lomer Gouin, Minister of Justice, has promised to give the request due consideration. If the Express were to make a forecast we would name Duncan Ross, of Strathroy, as the most likely applicant. The position should be filled without delay, as many matters of legal necessity remain in abeyance.

It is now certain that complete census returns for the Dominion will show the population of Canada to be considerably less than 9,000,000. This is to say the least, rather disappointing, as the population in 1911 was 7,204,838. The small increase just about equals the number of immigrants that have come to Canada in the last decade, and shows that the natural birth rate is not up to the mark, also that the exodus has been large. The new Government will doubtless realize the importance of giving careful attention to its immigration policy, and do everything possible to encourage Canadians to remain as citizens in the land of their birth. Canada has the quality all right, but we can also stand more quantity.

The crisis in Ireland's affairs seems to have been safely passed for the present at least, and there is great rejoicing in Great Britain. By a small majority the Dail has endorsed the treaty, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of De Valera and his fiery colleagues. De Valera quickly resigned as President, and he was at once proposed as a candidate for the same position. On a close vote, however, he was defeated, and Arthur Griffith, that tried and true advocate of all that is best for Ireland, is now at the head of the Government, with a good Cabinet behind him. The deposed firebrand President and his followers threatened to split the Dail by withdrawing, but wiser counsel finally prevailed, and the promise is given that they will not obstruct the new Government, but reserve the right for free criticism. It has been evident for some time that the Irish people as a whole were in favor of the treaty, but up to the very end the followers of Valera refused to carry out their wishes.

Garage owners very much object to the tax of one cent a gallon which the Ontario Government proposes to place on gasoline. They claim that the situation with them is the most serious in the history of the automobile industry, and instead of adding more taxes, they should be lessened. To meet the decreasing demand for motor cars and in order to stimulate business, manufacturers are making every effort by improvements and reduction in prices to help dealers, and they fear that the imposition of a gasoline tax will only increase their difficulties. A strong deputation is being arranged to meet the Premier and place their difficulties before him. Car owners will of course wish them all success, but do not seem to be doing so much worrying as the dealers. The proposed tax would greatly increase the revenue of the Province, and it is not likely that such a tax would seriously effect the purchase of gasoline. It means a cent a gallon increase, but the Standard Oil Company has accustomed motorists to little things like that.

Up at Parry Sound a Slav immigrant discouraged and out of work, conceived the idea that it would be more comfortable for him to spend the winter season in jail. With this end in view he secured an iron bar, and before he could be stopped, had demolished twenty-one panes of plate glass on the main street of the town. Questioned as to why he went into the window-smashing business on the wholesale plan, he said he wanted to go to jail for a long time. The Magistrate seems to have been an accommodating sort of official, and granted his request by sentencing the Slav to forty years' imprisonment. Certain of our exchanges are wondering what sentence would have been imposed had the charge been manslaughter. At all events the punishment appears to be out of all proportion to the crime, and should be brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice, even though the unfortunate prisoner is an immigrant of low mentality, who should never have been allowed to land in Canada. At the same time the convicting magistrate might also be examined as to his qualifications to occupy so important a position.

The annual convention of the Western Ontario Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, to be held at Woodstock, on Thursday and Friday of next week, promises to be of special interest. One of the features will be the discussion of a resolution to be presented to the Government, if favorably considered, making it compulsory for the people to use their franchise, and also to make it illegal for a person to mark his or her ballot at municipal elections for less than the full number of aldermen required. The object is of course, to eliminate the unpopular and unfair "plumper" vote. Just how such a law could be enforced is not quite clear to us. The ballot as now constituted is supposed to enable the voter to cast his vote for a candidate or candidates, according to his own desire and judgment, and no one is supposed to have knowledge as to whom he votes for. It is quite possible that he may not care to endorse the full compliment of names required, and it would be going altogether too far to compel a man to vote for some one whom he does not feel is a competent or proper person to represent his municipality. If such a law as is advocated is enacted, we might as well do away with the ballot paper altogether, and return to the old system of voting. H. M. Hambidge and J. P. Coyle are to represent the local Chamber of Commerce at Woodstock, and they will no doubt give the question their careful consideration before the convention opens.

After twelve years of municipal experience, A. A. McIntyre, the retiring Mayor of Peterborough, has a firm conviction that the present system is little better than a farce, and that the business of a municipality would be conducted more efficiently and more economically by a Commission. Mr. McIntyre is not the only one holding this view. It has been advocated on more than one occasion in Aylmer, and many citizens would like to see it tried out. We notice this is a live issue with the new Council at St. Thomas. Mr. McIntyre's argument is as follows: "I haven't any doubt but that one man could do the city's administrative or managerial work more efficiently, economically and successfully than it is done now by the 10 men whom the people elect," said the Mayor. "If the ratepayers would consider the city's business in something of the light of a manufacturing business, they might be able to see more clearly the advantages of commission or city manager systems. A lot of time is wasted on the Council method of doing business. One Alderman is thinking more of some little work in his district than of greater needs in another part of the city. These are only some of the weaknesses of the system we are clinging to. It is clumsy and inelastic, and every man who has seen it work from the inside must be convinced that there is a great deal of room and need for improvement."

Mr. Dan Conrad deserves the thanks of the people of Aylmer and vicinity in his efforts to provide the right kind of theatrical attractions for their entertainment. Last week he took a big financial risk in bringing to Aylmer a talented company that had just held the boards successfully in one of the larger Toronto theatres. It was one of the cleanest and best performances ever presented to a local audience, and we are glad to say was fairly well patronized. We hope Dan had a surplus left after paying expenses, but we doubt it. However, he is sufficiently encouraged to book several other first-class attractions to appear here during the winter months, and there is little doubt that seats will sell more readily. While on this subject it might not be out of place to direct the attention of the Mayor and Council to the condition of our town hall, where all such entertainments are necessarily held. The walls and interior generally presents rather a dilapidated appearance, many years having apparently elapsed since the decorating has been renewed. The building is certainly no credit to a live, up-to-date town such as Aylmer. It does not seem unreasonable either to suggest that the old-fashioned and most uncomfortable seats in the auditorium should be scrapped, and opera chairs substituted so that patrons may enjoy an entertainment with some degree of comfort. We are sure that our citizens would be glad to have the Council make an inspection, not forgetting to look over the dressing rooms en route.

Stock Taking



Gives you these
Big Values
Look at them! See them!
Men's Suits \$15
Hundreds **\$20.**
to **\$25.**
choose from **\$35.**

Boy's Overcoats, \$5 and up
Men's Overcoats, \$10 and up
The Biggest Values of the season

Alterations Extra.

Cash Prices Only

Mens Felt Hats Kings, Newports, Bergs, Etc. going at \$2 and up.	Bath robes and house coats at cost.	Work Mitts from 75c to \$2.00
Boys Underwear Fleece lined per garment 50c	Mens Sweaters Pure wool, big reductions	Cashmere Sox Wearwell Cashmere at 50c
Overalls \$1.50	Work Shirts, \$1.00	Work Sox 4 pr. for \$1.00

Stock Taking compels us to reduce our stock in many lines. Everyone of these values are worth while. These prices mean a loss to us, hence they must be cash. We couldn't do otherwise, could we? Yours for real service.

LEESON BROS.

The Store for real values

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CARD OF THANKS

It was a most pleasant surprise to me, when a few days ago the Box holders on my rural route No. 1 Aylmer, made me a present of over 100 bushels of oats and corn, and I wish to thank them through the Express. I cannot find words to fully express my appreciation of their kindness.
Jas. Rogers

MANN & McCLENNAN

Stock Taking Prices On Groceries

Sugar, pure cane, 100 lbs. Cash	\$7.50
Dominion Canners, Tomato Soup, 2 for	25c
Dominion Canners, Sauer Kraut	15c
13 Soap, unlucky for dirt, large and good	\$1.00
13 for	25c
Prunes, large size, 2 lbs. for	25c
Bacon, machine sliced, selected, lb.	30c
Cooked Ham, machine sliced, lb. lots	48c
Raisins, seeded or seedless, lb.	25c
Syrup, 3 bbls. bulk, best yet, lb.	8c
Peanut Butter, extra quality, lb.	22c
Toilet Paper, rolls or pads, 3 for	25c
Lamp Chimneys, special, at	15c
Lantern Globes, either style, 2 for	25c
Sodas McCormick, best, full lb.	16c

WODEHOUSES' STOCK FOOD, best and purest on the market. See government reports. Special kinds to make the hens lay. We want the Eggs. Call and see Wodehouse's Stock Foods.

Our Regular Stock, not old goods or job lines. Just good honest goods at stock taking prices. Best yet.

Sweaters, Men's sizes, grey or fancy, at \$1.99
Overshoes, 1 buckle, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 only \$1.99
Underwear, grey, part wool, Penman's \$1.00
Caps, heavy, new goods, \$1.50 and \$2.00, and \$1.19

Heavy Work Pants, all at Cost Price, \$4 & \$4.50

STAPLES

Towelling, good quality, med. shade at 19c
500 yds. Ticking, 4 patterns, good value at ???
300 yds. 40 in. grey cotton, heavy and fine, and strong, at 24c
Wide flannellettes, white or fancy stripes at 25c
Remnants of Dry Goods from stock taking Snaps.
2 only Men's Dark Grey Ulsters, \$31.00 for \$24.19

SHOES AND RUBBERS—No old stock to offer. New goods, bought for cash at the lowest prices. Every pair guaranteed. Several odd pairs to clear at cost or under. 1 pair A. H. Rubbers, equal to 2 pair any other.

Aylmer is Or Indoor

A meeting of the Basketball and Indoor Baseball I held in the town hall last Schedules were drawn season. There will be three games Tuesday and Thursday n basketball at 7 o'clock; I ball at 7.45 and Senior b 8.30. This should provide interesting evening's sport ball and baseball fans. Indoor baseball is mak here and promises to be interesting schedule for the fast and evenly matched playing, namely—The Shc Bankers and Carnations.

- Firemen
- Carnation
- Shoes
- Bankers
- Irquois
- Ogmahs
- Yambics
- Jr. H. S.
- H. S.
- I. W. W.
- Clerks
- Bankers

St. Pa

METHODIST

Rev. H. T. Ferguson,
Choir Director an
Chas. Howey,
Supt. Church Sch
Anger.

NEXT S!

- 10 a.m.—Fellowship
- 11 a.m.—The Pastor
- "The Laid Down
- 3 p. m.—Sunday !
- 7 p.m.—The Pastor
- The Story of Tv
- Monday, 8 p.m.—E
- Social and Liler

Midweek Service—

Teacher Training

EVERYBODY

Baptist

(Rev. W. A. A

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Sunday

- 10.15—Mission Ba
- 11 a.m.—Morning
- from Romans 1
- 3 p.m.—Bible S
- One more add
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- record.
- 7 p.m.—Evening
- Song Service. S
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Monday 8 p.m.—
Wed. Meeting f
Friday this wee
all members
Church parlor

E. C. Monteith,
Mrs. E. H. Smii