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CITY AND DISTRICT NEWS.

Mr. T. J. Cahill, of South London, left for Toronto to-day to spend a few holidays. Miss A. Fogarty, of 601 Maitland street, is at present visiting in Parkhill and Goderich. Miss Nellie Moore, of North Dakota, is spending the winter with her sister, Mrs. E. L. Eddy. Mr. H. S. Northwood, of Chatham, has purchased an interest in the St. Boniface woolen mills. Dog thieves are becoming numerous around the city, and in every case they display good taste. Holiday excursions began yesterday, and there was a very noticeable increase in passenger traffic in consequence. A house occupied by a Mrs. O'Connell near Maitland street was burned to the ground on Tuesday. Nothing was saved. Almor B. Mead, jeweller, Windsor, has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. They will not lose much. The elections to fill the vacancies in the Legislature for North Norfolk and South Norfolk have been fixed for Friday, Jan. 23, nominating a week earlier. The North Norfolk Liberal Convention on Tuesday nominated Mr. E. C. Carpenter for the seat in the Legislature left vacant by the death of Mr. J. B. Freeman. Col. Tracy has received a very neat holiday card from the St. John, N. B., Fusiliers, worded:—"We of ours wish you of yours a happy Christmas and a good New Year." It is rumored that the office made vacant by the resignation of Capt. Fox, of the Twenty-first Infantry, will be offered to Capt. Butler, of Walkerville, late of the Seventh Battalion, of this city. The Atlantic Express from the West was about three hours late yesterday, partly owing to a broken wheel on a freight train preceding it near Stratford. The St. Louis from the east was also three hours late. Detectives Ward and Graham went out to Westminster Tuesday night, and arrested Robert McAuliffe for stealing oats from W. I. Spetteguy. He will come before Squire Jarvis on Friday, having been admitted to bail in the meantime. Thomas Johnson, the Swede, who fell off the Erie express at Komoria a few days ago, will be released from the Hospital Monday next. He does not know how the accident happened. Emanuel Struble, who has been in the hardware business with his father on Jefferson avenue, Detroit, for the past ten years, has severed his connection with the firm, to organize the Windsor Collar & Cuff Company. The new firm will manufacture water-proof collars, cuffs, etc., for the Canadian trade. Early Tuesday morning the house belonging to the station agent of the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway at Ruthven, was burned to the ground. The building was heated by natural gas, and in some manner the pipes melted and the walls caught fire. The family had a narrow escape from being burned up. Vital statistics for this year show that the natural increase in the city's population was 105. Births were 557; deaths, 450; Marriages numbered 320. City Clerk Abbott is strongly of opinion that there are many births and marriages, particularly the former, which are never registered, because in the majority of cases no one can be made responsible. A. A. Grant, the man arrested on a charge of fraud, appeared at the Police Court yesterday, and was sent for trial. In March he will be charged with the same. Hehorn for \$25, and afterwards came in and asked for the loan of it to show to a gentleman whom he was canvassing to purchase one. He got the map, sold it again for \$25, and left the city. As a token of the good feeling that exists between employer and employe, C. S. Hyman, Esq., presented an old and faithful employe of C. S. Hyman & Co. with a gold watch, valued at \$400, on the occasion of his twenty-ninth birthday. The residents on Richmond street know John as Hyman's teamster. St. Thomas Times.—The Southern Loan Company have instructed their solicitor to foreclose the mortgage they hold on the southern Counties' fair grounds, amounting with interest to about \$4,000. It comes into the company's hands it is possible it will be leased as a race course by a new turf club which it is proposed to form, and that if the Fair is continued it will be sub-let to the Southern Counties' Fair Association for that purpose. The Sunday School of All Saints' Chapel had a very successful treat Tuesday evening. The affair was held in the Hamilton Road School, and was largely attended by the children and teachers and friends. Miss Penney, of the Memorial Church, with her band of little workers, and several of the Mission School children, provided the programme, which consisted of choruses, songs, dialogues and recitations. The affair was well arranged, and proved very interesting. Rev. Canon Richardson presided, and at the close of the proceedings gave a short address, showing the encouraging growth and condition of the school. Mr. W. Wright, superintendent, and the teachers afterward distributed to each scholar a supply of treatables from a well-filled Christmas tree. Festivities at this season of the year make great demands upon time, yet many of the members of St. John the Evangelist Parish Club found it convenient to attend the regular meeting Tuesday night, the programme being a debate upon a resolution—That the American declaration of independence was justifiable—but for some unexplained reason the members to whom the affair was assigned the negative of the question failed to appear. Nothing daunted, however, those present decided upon proceeding with the debate. Mr. R. J. C. Webb, in an able and effective manner, set forth the claims of the American people to the freedom of government which they struggled so earnestly to win. Afterwards the different opinions formed by those present were enunciated, and this extempore test proved that the debating powers of many members of the Club were far above the average. The decision of the presiding officer, Mr. S. Woolverton, accorded the victory to the affirmative. For the convenience of the public, Mr. De la Hooke's office will be open on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning for the sale of reduced fare and other tickets.

Mr. Colquhoun's Explanation. To the Editor of the Free Press. DEAR SIR.—Your issues of last night and to-day, under the head of "Election Notes," contain a statement that is entirely gratuitous and misleading, and no doubt given to your reporter for the purpose of injuring Mr. E. Parnell's candidature, that he had given Council No. 19, O. C. F., an oyster supper, and the inference is that he had done so for the purpose of securing votes. I wish to state the facts: Refreshments were served by a committee under the chairmanship of Friend Parnell, who threw all the energy into it that he usually shows in connection with all matters concerning our Council. The committee consisted of Friends Pritchett, Hessel, Smith, West and Chapman; and but for a delay occurring over which the committee had no control we would have supplied your reporter with a reliable item. Hoping, in fair play, you will insert the above, I remain, yours respectfully, H. N. T. COLQUHOUN, Chief Councillor, Council No. 19, London, Dec. 31, 1890.

The Milk Inspection. To the Editor of the Free Press. SIR.—Will you please correct a mistake made in the milk report on Saturday? I find my name in the second-class, reading thus—Edward Smith, Westminster, herd clean and good condition; sells to Chas. McMurray, whose percentage of butter fat is 3.75. My name should appear in the first class, and read thus—Herd clean and in good condition; sells to E. W. Gould. The sample was taken from his wagon, and the percentage of butter fat was 4.04. By inserting the above in your valuable paper you will oblige, yours respectfully, Wholesale milk dealer, Westminster, A. WINDRIM.

Not the City List Meant. To the Editor of the Free Press. SIR.—My attention has been directed to a letter in your issue of to-day signed "A Constant Reader," in which complaint is made that the writer's name was omitted from the voters' list for 1890, and that his belief was that the list was intended. As compiler of the voters' list for the city of London for this year I felt that such an accusation (if the writer had reference to the city list) was both unjust and untrue. I have been pleased, upon inquiry, to learn that your correspondent had reference to the voters' list of London, but of an adjoining municipality in which he resides. Electors of the city might, however, naturally infer from the wording of "A Constant Reader's" letter that the complaint was made concerning their own list, hence this reply. By the publication of which you will oblige, yours, etc., C. A. KINGSTON, Asst. City Clerk, London, Dec. 30, 1890.

Rev. Mr. Courtice to "A Constant Reader." To the Editor of the Free Press. With your kind permission for space I will make brief reply to my unknown correspondent. DEAR SIR.—If you wish to carry on any lengthened correspondence with me on this matter you must sign your proper name and display your identity to the public, as I have from the first. Ambushed warriors may do for Indian warfare, but not for intelligent discussion. I am glad that you find two of my replies satisfactory, as you only complain of two out of the four. I think that I may conclude from your letter that the other replies were sufficient to make you be understood. And about the third question and the reply to it, viz., concerning the total abstainers making the liquor business respectable, it was such a peculiar question that I hardly knew how to answer it, because I did not think that the total abstainers were responsible in the matter. A friend suggested that you meant for us to help make the business respectable by taking a drink occasionally. Well, that might pass for a joke, but I presumed that you were not joking. I now find that the gist of your thought was that temperance societies might be placed in language and designate licensed places as "hell-holes," and this tends to make them disreputable. Now, I have just two straight remarks to make:—1st. I am no advocate of intemperate or harsh language. I believe in strong statements at times. 2nd. The names of places would not be called out, and names if they were not the homes of such hard, heart-rending scenes. As to question four, and the reply to it, you plead that the provision for public accommodation made by the licensee constitutes a vested right. On this point I make just two remarks:—1st. In making a plea for reduction we are distinctly seeking to get rid of the places that make no adequate provision for public accommodation, and do no legitimate public trade in that way. This reduction can take place and make no appreciable difference to the provision for public accommodation in the quality. With such places, according to your own admission, there can be no plea of vested right. 2nd. When total prohibition comes before us, affecting the places providing meals, beds, &c., then we will deal with the question of public accommodation and vested right. Just here let me say, to the citizens who are not acquainted with the law, that the license grants the privilege of selling liquor so that persons not licensed cannot sell, but the license does not grant the privilege of keeping beds or serving meals. Beds and meals and stables will be needed when licenses are abolished. Now, I will offer a word or two on points where we differ:—1st. In reference to convictions in London South, you showing makes the case still stronger for no licenses in residence sections, when you say that only two residences were arrested. In mentioning ten arrests I just took the word of the Chief of Police and I admit his correctness. 2nd. In reference to "drunken homes," I spoke of drunkards' homes, when I estimated them at 300. The basis of the estimate was present before the Council and you don't say it. The police are perfectly correct in their action, but I presume that they mean homes—4-grade drunkards' homes—are other homes to which drunkards' homes suffering, too, but home

FREE PRESS CORRESPONDENCE.

fund and interest thereon. Doubtless correct enough, but as the citizens required the new schools not an item subject to criticism. Then again, when the estimates of 1889 were prepared, it was found that the Board had a surplus of about \$2,500, and this lessened the requisition for 1889 by that sum below its normal level. This year the accounts were practically square, and so our whole requirements had to be put in the taxes. Another point which requires attention is the fact that in former years the Board received from London South pupils quite a considerable revenue, but now as citizens' children, they enter free. The Board, of course, have to obtain an addition to the municipal fund to make up this withdrawal, but as London South pays rates for this purpose which go to the city, the ratepayers of the original city do not pay more, but probably less, by reason of the change. The only difference is that it makes the estimate of the Board look larger than in 1889. The removal of all these items leaves but a little over one-fifth of the original sum, and when the charge is thus reduced I have no fear but that the citizens will easily understand that in the increased staff, promotion of teachers and introduction of a correct system of heating and ventilation, the Board will give full value for a merely nominal increase in expenditure. I could go into facts and figures to demonstrate exactly why an increase of school room was required, with its consequent increase of teachers, and why the Board introduced the Smead system of heating and ventilation, but as the Mayor and Aldermen granted moneys for the additions to the schools, they can hardly attack us on these points. Besides these increases some slight increases of salaries have been made, amounting in all to not over \$1,200, spread over nearly fifty teachers. The great bulk of the increases have proceeded on a fixed system and I have been made with the view of retaining on the staff our experienced teachers instead of continually changing for new and untried ones. The letter has drawn out much longer than I expected but I cannot help stating that the Board of 1890 have accomplished the feat of completing the schools within the amount obtained from the Council. The statement of expenditure published includes everything, I believe, except \$1,000 due Smead & Co., and I take same into account when I announce the above fact. The fact is, the Board of 1890 has done its duty and the Council should not endeavor to blacken the Board but attend strictly to business and explain their own position. They speak as if the Board was an entirely irresponsible body. Well, 12 are elected by the same voters as the Aldermen, while the other six are appointed by the Council. Surely the 12 elected by the people are selected for a certain purpose and the Aldermen have no right as Aldermen to criticise our actions unfairly. ALBERT O. JEFFERY.

THE QUEEN'S LATEST OFFER. A Free Education or One Year's Travel in Europe. In the Queen's "Word Contest," which the publishers of that magazine announce as the last one they will ever offer, a free education consisting of a three years' course in any Canadian or American Seminary or College, including all expenses, tuition and board, to be paid by the publishers of the Queen, or one year's travel in Europe, all expenses to be paid by the person to be named in the largest list of words, which will be given to the person to be named in the Queen's Word Contest. The Queen's Word Contest has been made a Canadian word contest.

Aldermen vs. Trustees. To the Editor of the Free Press. SIR.—As the Mayor and Aldermen have their wholly undivided attention to the election of the last divided to elect the members of Education Board, I have the honor to inform you that the Council of Education have elected by ballot their 1890-91 members. Now I will offer a word or two on points where we differ:—1st. In reference to convictions in London South, you showing makes the case still stronger for no licenses in residence sections, when you say that only two residences were arrested. In mentioning ten arrests I just took the word of the Chief of Police and I admit his correctness. 2nd. In reference to "drunken homes," I spoke of drunkards' homes, when I estimated them at 300. The basis of the estimate was present before the Council and you don't say it. The police are perfectly correct in their action, but I presume that they mean homes—4-grade drunkards' homes—are other homes to which drunkards' homes suffering, too, but home

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