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The Athens Reporter

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Store open every after-
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S. A. TAPLIN,
Cor. Main and Elgin Sts.

Vol. XVI. No. 12.

Athens, Leeds County, Ontario, Wednesday, March 21, 1900.

B. Loverin, Prop'r

"Brockville's Biggest Store."

New Goods Keep Pouring In


The results of purchases made months ago, from the manufacturers who will not entertain a repeat order now, no matter how large, at the prices they then sold them at.

Twelve and a half to fifty per cent are the advances now asked for. This may seem ludicrous to the consumer, but it is nevertheless a fact, and we, who are in constant touch with the manufacturing market, know whereof we speak.

Our advice is to make your purchases early to secure the advantage of OLD PRICES.

DRESS SERGES.

- One case New Dress Serges, direct from the makers in Bradford, pure wool and absolutely fast dyes, Navy and Black, hard finished, 43 inches, worth 45c, for 39c
- Extra Heavy Navy and Black Hard Finished Serge, clear twill, worth 50c at least, for 45c
- Choice Hard Finished Twill, 44 inches wide, in Navy and Black, usual value 60c per yard, for 50c
- In other better grades, 45 to 48 inches wide, at 60c and 75c
- Black Figured Dress Goods—Choice designs and most up-to-date materials. 60c and 1.00

"New Idea Pattens"  "New Ideas for Women's Wear"
Spring Designs now in stock. Any pattern. 12 1-2c
A highly instructive Monthly Journal, only 3c per Copy

ROBERT WRIGHT & CO.

Lewis & Patterson WHITE GOODS SALE!

The demand for White Goods is increasing every day, and if you have not yet been here to make your selections, see to it this week.

- Ladies' White Cambric Night Dresses.
- Ladies' Corset Covers, all sizes.
- Ladies' White Skirts.

In justice to yourself, you ought to see our goods.

Table Linens

(New goods at extraordinary prices.)

- 56 inch Damask Table Linen, good heavy quality, all pure linen, only 25c
- 60 inch Damask Table Linens, neat designs, worth 50c, our special, 35c
- 72 inch Damask Table Linens, an extra wide one, on sale now for only 43c

We carry a large lot of Linens, all imported direct, and this enables us to sell them at very close prices. Come and look through our stock

LEWIS & PATTERSON

Telephone 161—BROCKVILLE.

DUNN & Co. PHOTOGRAPHERS

BROCKVILLE
CORNER KING ST.
Our studio is at
Brockville.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

Organization of the First Agricultural Society in Johnstown District—Enterprise of the Pioneers.

"THE farmer is the man that feeds us all" is an old saying and the importance of the truth therein contained has always been recognized by every class of industry. Though our politicians have sometimes simulated an interest in agriculture, and played on the popular feeling for their own advancement, the great mass of the people have always been, and are now, ready to second every movement having for its object the betterment of the condition of the farming community. What is true in this respect to-day was equally true seventy years ago; for when, in 1830, the pioneer farmers of the Johnstown District organized for the promotion of their mutual interests, we find that there were associated with them in the work many who were not directly interested in the object of the society.

This association, known as "The District of Johnstown Agricultural Society," was organized at a meeting held at the home of Mr. Titas in Elizabethtown on the 12th of May, 1830. Mr. Joseph Wiltsie presided over the meeting and Mr. Florence McCarthy filled the office of secretary. A committee consisting of Messrs. J. Gray, John Ketchum, Wm. Buell, Jr., Edward Howard, Henry Sherwood, S. Richards, and Dr. George Breakenridge, drafted and submitted a constitution which included the following clauses: That the annual membership fee be five shillings and a life membership, five pounds; that the annual meeting of the society shall be held in Brockville on the first day of the first quarter sessions in each year; that no member shall be eligible to hold an office in the society unless he be a life member or a subscriber of fifteen shillings per annum.

After the adoption of the constitution, a subscription was opened and in a short time the sum of forty-eight pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence was subscribed by the persons present. The following officers and directors were then provisionally appointed: President—Charles Jones. Vice-Presidents—John Ketchum, George Breakenridge, Justus S. Merwin, George Longley. Treasurer—Benjamin Hamblin. Secretary—Henry Sherwood. Managing Committee—Jos. Wiltsie, Johnathan Lyman, Samuel Halladay, Levi Soper, Peter Bresse, Nicholas Horton, Walter Atkins, Andrew Hird, Henry Burritt, Samuel Hick, Alexander McKee, Richard D. Fraser, Lewis Grant, Alphaeus Jones.

A committee to solicit subscriptions was appointed, composed of the following: James Gray, Edward Howard, James Delong, Nicholas Horton, Joshua Bates, and E. H. Whitmarsh.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to interest the farmers of Grenville in this society. Following this preliminary work, the first annual meeting of the society was held on Saturday, March 14th, 1831, at "Derbyshire's Inn, Farmersville." At this session, the place of annual meeting was changed from Brockville to Farmersville. The following officers, being the first appointed by the fully organized society, were elected:

- President—Joseph Wiltsie.
- Vice presidents—Levi Soper, John Ketchum, Sterling Deming.
- Secretary—Henry Teed.
- Treasurer—Benjamin Hamblin.
- Managing Committee—Wm. Buell, Jr., Israel Knapp, John Deming, Dr. Breakenridge, Joseph K. Hartwell, Nathan Hicock, John G. Booth, Richard Johnson, Hon. Chas. Jones, Johnathan Sexton.

From three to five prizes were offered in each of the following classes. We give the first prize in each, which will serve to show the relative importance attached thereto at that time:

- Best cultivated farm, £3; fields of Indian corn and wheat, each, £2; fields of peas, barley, potatoes, hay, £1 each; entire horse and mare (Upper Canada breed), each, £2; milch cow, £1; bull (kept in county), £8; best boar and brood sow, £1, 10s each; ram, £2; ewe, £1; woollen cloth, £1; butter, 10s; fat ox, £1, 15s; fat hog, 15s.

The treasurer reported the cash on hand to be one hundred and eight pounds.

It was decided to hold the fair and cattle show at Farmersville on the 2nd Tuesday in October.

The following were appointed farm

and crop viewers: John Ketchum, Dr. Breakenridge, John G. Booth, Johnathan Sexton, Richard Johnston, Joseph K. Hartwell, Nathan Hicock. On their report, the following were awarded prizes on farm crops: Levi Soper, Benjamin Hamblin, Henry Teed, Jonas Jones, John Deming, Israel Knapp, Sterling Deming, Rob't Clark, Joseph Wiltsie.

Among the winners of prizes at the fall fair were: Harmonious Algure, Truman Hicock, Harvey Sheldon, Jedediah Wing, Wm. Jones, Wm. Giles, Phillip Wing, James Wiltsie, Daniel Phillips, Hiram Soper.

On the 17th of December of that year, a show of fattened hogs was held at Farmersville, "in the park," at which the exhibit of Harvey Wing was found to be "first best," and that of Eijah Chamberlain, "second best."

Thus ended the first year of the first agricultural society organized in Leeds county, and it was apparently attended with great success. It was just a plain show they held in the fall, altogether devoid of the circus and horse-racing features that characterize a majority of the present day shows; and yet those sturdy pioneers were no doubt satisfied that they had carried out in all fullness the object for which they had organized, viz.: "To aid in effecting the views of the Provincial Legislature for the improvement of Agriculture in the Province."

SMOKELESS POWDER.

The results of using smokeless powder and fighting from behind entrenchments are very graphically described by Julian Ralph, who says:

"But I have no doubt there are men in our army who have never seen a Boer in battle. I know of officers who have only seen one or two in one battle and five or six in another. In engagement after engagement our men have thrown themselves upon the wild movement to do so by a hail of bullets around them, and then have fired away for hours at a time at the noise or the flame of the enemy's fire in trenches which they could not see.

This is true to such an extent that at Modder River there were whole battalions of ours that did not know at the end of the day whether the enemy was north or south of the river; in fact they believed, during the entire battle, that the enemy was on the farther side of the river. Under such circumstances, if we did not pick up some wounded, and take some prisoners as actual, ocular proof of the existence of a flesh and blood enemy we might almost expect the more imaginative of our soldiers to believe that they had been fighting a vapour or an essence.

"They have seen the earth crack apart and vomit flame and bullets; they have heard the hell's chorus of battle; they have seen their comrades fall dead and mangled by their sides; but they have not seen the men who produced the tumult and the damage. This, then, is one of the new conditions of war which has to be taken into account.

"With the introduction of smokeless powder, a foe entrenched, or behind rocks is a foe invisible. And it takes a ten-fold stouter heart to fight an unseen enemy than to combat with a substantial line of flesh and blood beings or a leaping, running target of brown smoke which locates it, if it does not reveal the 'party of the second part.'"

Temperance Lake Honor Roll.

- Fourth—Delmer Hunt, Allen Earl, Third—Willard Burnham.
- Second—Eber Burnham, Clifford Burnham.
- First—Saddie Burnham, Maggie Burnham.

EMMA P. KINCAID, Teacher

Lyn Honor Roll.

- Fourth—Helen Barlow, Joe Bolin, Third Sr.—Alma Stilwell, Clarence McCrady.
- Third Jr.—Jennie Hamilton, Berton Smith.

Second Sr.—Robbie Burns, Grace Stewart, Eddie Willey.

Second Jr.—Willie Purvis, Charlie Burns.

Second Pt. Sr.—Wilson Root, Neilson Brown.

Second Pt. Jr.—Agnis Smith, First Pt. Sr.—Giles Brown, Lena Carpenter.

First Pt. Jr.—Keitha Buell, Sara Jowett.

C. WILSON, M. RHODES, Teachers.

The Star Wardrobe

Is the place for a Nobby Suit, Overcoat or Trousers. Also Fancy Vestings.

Gents' Furnishings

ALWAYS ON HAND.

We give Trading Stamps.

M. J. KEHOE,

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FREE  **DAISY AIR RIFLE**
We give this splendid rifle free to every two dollar package of sweets. Each large package contains two dollars worth of sweets. The rifle is of the best make and latest model, well plated nickel plated, carefully sighted and tested before leaving the factory. It is just the thing for target practice or for shooting cats, rats, sparrows, etc. Return this advertisement with your address and we will send you a rifle free of charge. The owner of a rifle sends us about as often as cats. Our Sweet Pea packages sell themselves. Premium Supply Co., Box A. H., Toronto.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS

LONDON, March 19.—Mafeking is now the centre of interest, as it is evident there must be an interval of delay before Lord Roberts' and Gen. Buller's armies can invade the Transvaal. Dispatches from Pretoria contradict the rumours that the siege of the town has been raised, and there is no direct confirmation of the report that Col. Plumer has reached Pitsani, and that the Boer forces have retired to Rustenburg.

There is reason to fear that Colonel Plumer's Rough Riders will be unable to carry with them the adequate supplies and medical stores for the garrison, even if they succeed in joining Col. Baden-Powell.

For that reason Lord Roberts' announcement that General Methuen on Friday reached Vaal River, near Warrenton, about fifty miles north of Kimberley, and secured the traveling bridge, is welcome news. Lord Kitchener's presence at Kimberley was proof that some large operation was in progress, and as the arrival of the Royal Irish Regiment there on St. Patrick's Day is mentioned incidentally in the press despatches, there is good reason to believe that Col. Peaken's mounted force is an advance guard of a strong infantry column which has been called up from Belmont, De Aar and Capetown. This column may be confronted with several Boer commandos in crossing the Vaal at Fourteen Streams, and it will be barely a quarter of the way from Kimberley to Mafeking.

EFFORTS TO RELIEVE MAFEKING.

Lord Roberts has troops to spare and will probably not take the risk of sending a weak column, especially as Mafeking can be made the base for an effective turning movement of the Boer positions on the Witwater Rand Ridge.

Entirely apart from the urgent necessity for relieving the garrison, which has made such a gallant defence, there is a group of soldiers serving under Baden-Powell whose deliverance is eagerly awaited in London, where they were well known. Among them are Lord Edward Cecil (son of Lord Salisbury), Colonel Hore, Lord Chas. Bentinck, Major Vyogen, Major Anderson, Major Bookey and Capt. Fitzclarence, whose social connections in England are most influential.

The Prime Minister's son will be kept out of prison at Pretoria at all hazards, if Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener can effect their purpose.

The British officers now in Pretoria

have been removed from the prison where Winston Churchill left them to new quarters in the outskirts of the town, under Daspoort Ridge. The reasons for this change are not stated, but it is evident that Lord Roberts' army will have to expose a large number of British prisoners to exceptional danger when Pretoria is invested.

The London press contains many columns of despatches and mail correspondence this morning, but there is little news of real importance. Col. Bethune's flying column which has been operating in the Greytown district, Natal, has seen a four hour fight with the Boers beyond Pomeroy, where they were strongly entrenched. Pomeroy is on the Helpmakar road, leading to Dundee. The position was not carried and the British losses were slight.

BOERS ARE ENTRENCHING

The Boer forces are entrenching on the Biggarsberg Range. About 300 rebels have surrendered to Brigadier-Brabant, near Allwal North, which is now in railway communication with the coast. The Dutch population south of the Orange River is settling down, and the lower half of the Free State is under *pax Britannica*.

British military rule at Bloemfontein is working smoothly, and private property is everywhere respected. Lord Roberts reports the return of the Guards Brigade from Norval's Pont, the surrender of several guns at Belmont and Colesberg, and the gradual disbandment of the Free State forces. The resolutions sent to the Queen by loyal Irishmen at Cape Town, with her message in reply, are striking proofs of the new era of good feeling for which her tact and sympathy have opened a way.

6 a.m.—The military correspondent of the News records an interesting prediction by Lord Wolsley. Bloemfontein, he said many weeks ago, would be occupied on March 15th, and Pretoria, if the Boer resistance was maintained, on May 14th. Lord Wolsley's reputation as a military prophet stands high, so that his guess with regard to the duration of the war in South Africa is of considerable interest.

News from Cape Town indicates that General Methuen has had a sharp engagement at Fourteen Streams, on the north bank of the Vaal River. He succeeded in driving the Boers from their position, and only a few casualties were sustained by the column, which he is leading to Mafeking.

A Pleasant Home.

A call at Mr. Robert Barlow's comfortable, fine residence resulted in a few hours pleasantly spent. Mr. John M. Percival successfully runs about all the branches usually conducted on a good farm. He has made three brooders with accommodation for 150 chickens. He has a strong fancy for fine fowls and honey bees. Mrs. Addie Barlow-Percival has four pupils in oil-painting and water colors. Her rooms are not only richly decorated with paintings but are literally crowded with works of domestic art. And, what is more interesting, she possesses a quiet, easy disposition to entertain, a gentle unassuming manner, and a full share of common sense which has won for her a reputation for fidelity and kindness.—Com.

The farmers have been doing an immense amount of teaming lately. As this is March, the month in which it is possible for good sleighing to be spoiled in the course of a single night, they realize that it would be folly to put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day.

Mrs. C. Brown and Mrs. W. R. Brown left Athens on Tuesday morning for Lethbridge, Alberta, where Mr. Brown had gone about two months ago to prepare for their coming.

A blinking chimney on the house of Mr. B. DeWolfe, Reid street, caused an alarm of fire to be sounded on Sunday evening about 8.30. The services of the fire engine were not required.