

Local News and Personal Items

John Buxton and son Harry of Deerville were pleasant callers at The Observer office on Monday.

Buy your coats, iron and steel bedsteads, mattresses, springs etc., at Carr's and save money.

Sugar and molasses are both almost unobtainable in St. John at present but we look for sugar to be more plentiful later.

Rev. J. E. Whitham, who enlisted in Woodstock in the fall of 1916, and was then the popular pastor of a church at Glassville, is now in a hospital in France undergoing an operation for nasal and throat trouble.

A few days ago G. O. Orser received a letter from the Secretary of State for War which conveyed this message: "The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."

Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Orser, and family wish to thank their neighbours and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown in the recent bereavement the family has suffered. They also thank the writers of many letters that have come to them filled with comfort and help.

Do not forget the Halifax sufferers. The members of the local committee will be calling on you for contributions of cash, bedding and clothing. Anyone overlooked by the collectors please leave your contribution with J. E. McCallum at the post office.

The supper and sale given by the Ladies Aid of the Church of England was fully up to the excellent standard which the people have learned to expect from this annual event. Owing to the severe weather the supper was postponed to Saturday night, but notwithstanding the attendance was very good. The total proceeds amounted to \$125. The rector and others interested wish to thank the people who patronized and assisted in the work.

Edward Boulier of Phair finally pleaded guilty to manslaughter, at court at Houlton last week, for the fatal shooting of his sister-in-law Mrs. Emma Manuel last spring. He was discharged by Justice Spear on his personal recognizance after sentence had been suspended. Dr. Foster C. Tyson, superintendent of the Maine Insane Asylum at Augusta had testified that it was possible for a man to do such as Boulier did in a state of "somnambulism or uncontrollable impulse," whatever those things may be. —Fort Fairfield Review

George B. Orser started on Monday for Halifax to assist in the work of rebuilding.

Expect a car of middlings and bran to arrive this week. Can quote prices cheaper than present wholesale prices if taken from the car. Shaw Bros., Victoria.

The Queen Insurance Company offers the security of the largest and wealthiest fire office in the world. J. T. Carr is agent. Rates no higher than the small tariff companies.

There will be Church of England service and Holy Communion in Burt's Hall on Christmas morning at 11 o'clock. As usual the collection will be given as a Christmas gift to the rector.

The train from Woodstock was two hours late in reaching North Devon the other night. The train got stuck in a snowbank at Shewan, between Millville and Old Newburg Junction, and the train crew had to shovel it out.

The quarterly meeting of the Baptist church was held at Union Corner this week. A great deal of help and inspiration was derived from these meetings. Some of the visiting clergymen and delegates were Rev. E. C. Jenkins, Florenceville; Rev. J. E. Wilson, Frank L. Atherton, Fred Sanborn, Woodstock; Rev. L. E. Vanwart, Coldstream; E. C. Morgan, Hartland, and Mr. Margison of Jacksonton. At the closing service Rev. M. C. Orchard, a returned missionary, gave a stirring address on his work in the mission field and of the life and help being given to the people of India.

It is hoped that the Rural Life Conference to be held at the Fish-er Vocational School, Woodstock, on Wednesday afternoon and evening, January 9 during the week of the Teachers' Winter Short Course, will be well attended by school officers, parents of school children, members of Women's Institutes and ratepayers generally throughout the western part of the Province. The object is to discuss problems relating to rural improvement, especially in so far as education has an influence, and to arouse among the people a greater interest in the school as a local power. Those who attend this conference travelling on the railroad may buy single first class tickets with standard certificates and such certificates when properly filled out and signed by the secretary at the conference, will be honored by the station agent at Woodstock for return. Those attending the conference are required to register at the first session.

A Painful Experience

By SADIE OLCOTT

A number of maiden ladies sitting over their teacups began to talk of those incidents trifling in themselves, but which have caused the separation of lovers. This led to a narration of experiences. Miss Dartmore said that she had broken with a lover because she had invited him to dinner and, instead of appearing in evening dress, he had worn a business suit. Miss Winters confessed that she had shown temper while playing tennis with a man who would doubtless have proposed to her. He had sent a ball that struck her on the nose, drawing blood that had stained a newly laundered skirt. There were other omissions, mishaps and displays of natural imperfections which lovers do not expect to find in each other and which had the parties been wedded, would not have been considered of the slightest consequence.

One lady of the party, still young enough to repair any such damage, sat mutely listening to these recitals, wearing the while a woebegone countenance. Being asked if she had not had such an experience, she admitted that she had, but she had suffered so severely in consequence that she could not bear to talk about it. Every one present urged her to tell the story, promising sympathy, and all were sure that she could not herself in anyway have been at fault. Being finally persuaded, she spoke as follows:

"In my girlhood I always favored boys older than myself, and since I have been grown I have admired not youths who talk of trivial subjects, but men of caliber. Professor Poincaré caught my fancy by his dignified appearance and the depth of his understanding. I first saw him at a lecture he delivered on 'Antiquity of Literature.' It seemed to me that every word he uttered weighed a ton. The party I was with remained after the lecture, and I was introduced. I shall never forget the courtesy bow with which he greeted me, and my heart fluttered at the look of admiration he gave me.

"The very next day I was informed by one of the ladies of the party with whom I had attended the lecture that Professor Poincaré desired to know me, and she asked permission to bring him to call upon me. Of course I assented and, I admit, counted the days, almost the hours, till he came. He was very formal, but this only added to the admiration I felt for him. During the rest of our acquaintance he never unkindly, but always treated me with the most profound reverence, which at times melted to tenderness.

"Aware that it would be fatal for me to make a display of my shallowness, I contented myself with leading him to speak on ponderous subjects, then listened, with my eyes fixed upon him in rapt admiration, though I confess I seldom understood what he was saying. Occasionally when a glimmer of his meaning permeated my dull brain I would venture some question pertaining to the subject whereupon he would kindly say that what I failed to grasp had passed many of the strongest intellects, and he would then enter upon an explanation that would drown me in a sea of unintelligible-ness.

"My admirer was twenty years older than I, but that only added reverence to the love I felt for him.

"I cannot refer to the evening he proposed to me without emotion." Here the speaker wiped away a tear. "We were in the drawing room, lighted by lamps with shades of various hues. I was sitting on a sofa, he in an easy chair directly before me. He took my hand in his and—"

The narrative was interrupted by a flood of tears.

"Never mind the proposal, dear," said several ladies at once. "It's too affecting. Pass on to what caused the separation."

The speaker composed herself, wiped away her tears and proceeded: "We had been engaged a month. I had introduced Professor Poincaré to my friends, proud of him and his learning. One day we went shopping together. Among other things my fiancé bought was an alarm clock. He said he wished to put in a few hours of study before breakfast and needed to be awakened. The clerk showed us how to set it and gave us a specimen of the alarm, which was loud enough to wake the dead. My fiancé concluded to take it home himself since he needed it the next morning, so he put it in his coat pocket. Among the passengers I recognized several of my acquaintances. So proud of my capture was I and so desirous of showing off his learning that I led him to talk on an abstract subject. Those who were near enough to hear what he said were listening intently when—"

The speaker's sobs burst forth again, shaking her utterance.

"Poor thing! Calm yourself!" came from the listeners, while one curious lady cried impatiently, "Stop your sniveling and go on!" Finally the denouement came:

"The alarm clock in his pocket went off."

Nothing was heard for a time but the speaker's sobs till a lady asked: "Did it ring very long?"

"Forever," gasped the narrator.

"Then what?"

"When we left the car, both red as beets, I cried, 'You old fool, why didn't you have it sent home?'"



Useful Gifts!

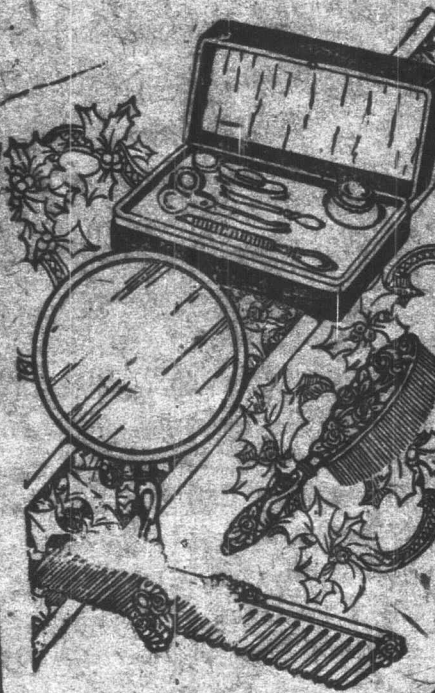
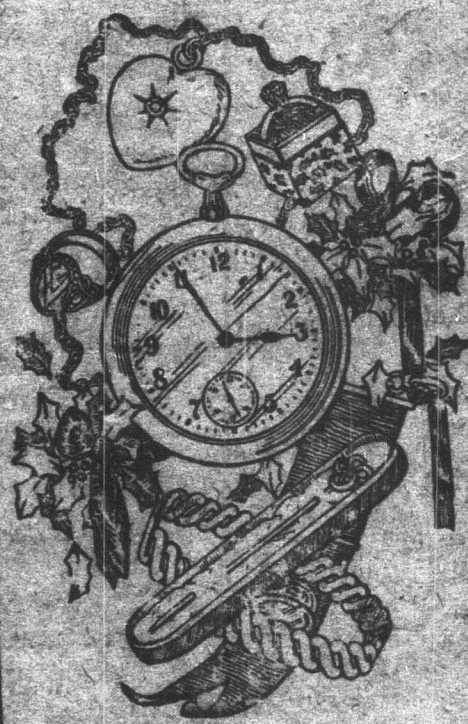
Nothing is more acceptable for a Xmas Present than a piece of nice Furniture. We have

Dining Tables, and Chairs, China Cabinets, Dressers and Commodes, Reed Rockers, plain and upholstered Oak Rockers, Parlor Suits and Writing Desks.

Also, Ties, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Scarfs, Fancy Dishes and many other useful articles.

F. F. PLUMER

Furniture Dry Goods Groceries
Hagerman's Block, End-of-the-Bridge



The Finest Display

of Limoges and Nippon China, Wedgewood, Cut Glass, Table Silver, Jewelry, Toilet Cases ever seen in this town is now open for your inspection. Come in and see the lovely things.

Our lovely stock of Cut Glass, China, Silver and Jewelry is attracting much attention. You are invited to join the crowd at this store.

The stock is really too large, we fear, and the price of every article is marked very low, for we MUST sell the goods. Bargain prices at the very start and right up to Christmas Eve.

Violette the Jeweler

Great Bargains

1 Second-Hand Thresher
1 Gray-Dort Touring Car
(Driven 5000 miles)

Waterloo Boy Engines all sizes; none better
Stylish Pungs My show room is full, ready for delivery at once

Frank Hagerman

Agent Frost and Wood Machinery of all kinds

Potash Fertilizer

1500 tons of 3-6-5 brand

Secured for New Brunswick by the Department of Agriculture to prevent exportation to potato sections in U. S. A.

Fertilizers are scarce and an adequate supply will not be obtained.

Transportation difficulties grow worse during the winter.

Order early and be prepared for the planting season.

A large amount of the above has already been sold and the balance can be had by anyone upon the following terms:—

Laid down in car-load lots at any station in New Brunswick. Draft will accompany bill of lading.

Fertilizer in bags or barrels.

For information write

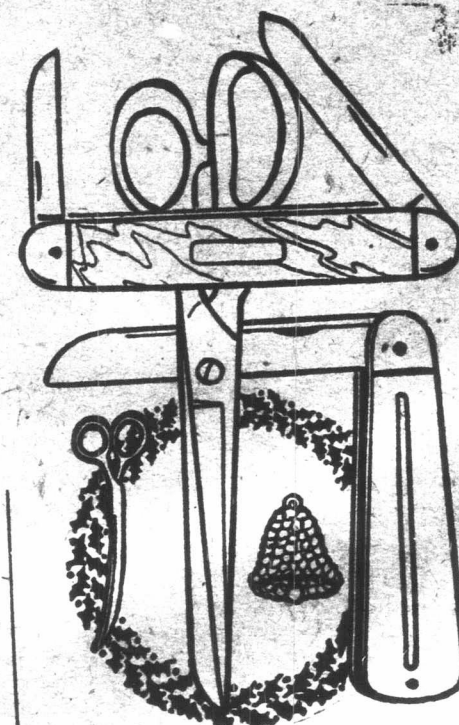
CHAS. M. SHAW,
Hartland.

M. A. MACLEOD,
Sussex

N. B. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Fredericton

Value Gifts!

At this store may be purchased gifts of useful value, such as the times demands, for instance:



Gem Safety Razor

Gillets

Pyrex Cook Dishes

Ever-Ready Flashlights

Rayo Lamps

Hall Lamps

Carving Sets

Community Silver

(Patrician Pattern)

Hand Sleds

Skates

C. R. DeWITT Dealer in Everything Worth while in **HARDWARE**