

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

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CHATHAM ONT. THURSDAY AUGUST 22, 1907.

NO. 201

THE RELIABLE STORE Thomas Stone & Son THE RELIABLE STORE

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3 cts. 5 cts. 7 cts.

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### Big Lace Sale

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## MEETING OF WATER BOARD

To Be Held in Harrison Hall This Afternoon At 1.30.

Commissioners Will Deal With Matter of The Gas Contracts

There will be a meeting of the Water Commissioners this afternoon for the purpose of considering what is best to do with regard to the natural gas contracts for the Waterworks Department. This is the matter which was drawn attention to in yesterday afternoon's edition of The Planet.

Since the appearance of this article, there has been considerable comment on the action of the Commissioners in letting the gas contract so hurriedly, and it is to be hoped that the matter will be either rectified or properly explained at this afternoon's meeting of the Board. So far but one excuse has been offered, which is to the effect that the Maple City Oil and Gas Company were not yet ready to lay their mains, and the Water Board wanted to take advantage of cheap fuel for the Waterworks as soon as possible. The public are, however, still wondering why it was necessary to call a special meeting so hurriedly, without any previous announcement. It was also rather peculiar that the newspapers were not notified when such an important matter was to be dealt with.

The citizens will watch with interest for the results of this afternoon's meeting.

### GRAND BALL

A successful and largely attended Grand Ball was held last evening in the rooms above Brown & Crosby's billiard hall on King St. East. Everything passed off very nicely, and Messrs. Brown and Crosby are being congratulated on the success of the event.

Miss Ella Brent, of Detroit, carried off the first prize for the cake walk. The music was supplied by R. A. Murphy's orchestra.

### CUT HIS LIP

Harry Salisbury, an employee at the mill of John Piggott & Sons, met with a somewhat serious accident this morning. He was taking the boards from the planer, and, in so doing, allowed a small piece to fall back into one of the knives. It was immediately thrown out, and in striking the young man in the face, it cut a deep gash in his upper lip and inflicted a nasty wound on the side of his face which necessitated several stitches.

### EDDY CASE CLOSED.

Chandler Claims "Next Friends" Have Nothing to Gain.

Concord, N. H., Aug. 22.—A sudden though not wholly unexpected ending of the masters hearing in connection with the suit in equity brought by relatives for an accounting of the property of Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, leader of the Christian Science faith, came in the Superior Court room here yesterday, when Wm. E. Chandler, senior counsel for the relatives of the "next friends" announced to the board of masters that they had filed a motion with the Superior Court to dismiss their action.

The suit was brought on the ground that Mrs. Eddy being incompetent on account of age and infirmities to manage her own affairs, was the victim of persons associated with her in Christian Science work who were named as defendants.

Three masters were appointed by the Superior Court to determine the question of Mrs. Eddy's competency. The reason for the petition for dismissal, as stated by Mr. Chandler, was the belief that the success along the lines desired could not be obtained and the unprofitableness of any immediate result of a decision in favor of the "next friends" in the exact sense as now framed, compared with the burdens and disadvantages to be endured both before and after such a decision.

Gen. Frank S. Streeter, counsel for Mrs. Eddy, objected to a dismissal of the case before the question of competency had been decided by the masters as to the possibility that after Mrs. Eddy's death attempts might be made on behalf of the "next friends" to break her will, in which he intimated provisions had been made for carrying on the work in which she is interested.

The masters decided, however, that under the instructions given by the court, they could not proceed after the filing of a motion with the court to dismiss the case, and announced that they would so report.

With the termination of the proceedings before the masters the case reverts to the Superior Court on the question of decision to dismiss the original suit. There is little doubt among those interested that Judge Chamberlain, before whom the action was brought, will grant the motion.

## A Record Breaking Throng Patronize Howard Picnic At Beautiful Rondeau Park

A Great Day of Unalloyed Pleasure—Mr. P. H. Bowyer, M. P. P., Outlines Plans, Present and Prospective, For the Benefit of "Kent County's Natural Playground"

NEIL WATSON'S NOVEL TEST FOR LOCAL POLITICIANS

H. S. Clements M. P. Advocates Greater Consideration For The Agriculturist—Messrs D. A. Gordon and R. L. Gosnell Also Deliver Addresses

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Erieau, Aug. 22.—"There have been more people on the Park to-day than in any other one day in its history."

Such was the declaration of Mr. Isaac Gardner, the veteran superintendent of Rondeau Park, who for over a decade has presided over the destinies of the great Government reserve, in a brief interview with The Planet correspondent, towards the conclusion of yesterday's mammoth annual picnic of Howard township.

From sunrise to sunset—and even thereafter—the picnickers poured in the shade and under the trees. Men, women and children seemed to form a happy cosmopolitan community of pleasure-seekers and pleasure-finders.

The Howard township annual picnic is unique. Fifteen years ago, as Mr. D. A. Gordon, M. P., pointed out in the course of his address, the picnic consisted of a modest outing of the members of the Township Council and occasionally a few of their friends. The picnic then tallied some twenty visitors. Yesterday, according to Mr. Gardner, totalled something like seven thousand. It has become the township's civic holiday.

"Howard township," said ex-Warden W. C. Sutton, chairman of the Board of Lands, Commissioners of East Kent, "as in respect to its picnic, an object lesson to rural communities. The cities and towns—and sometimes the villages—have their official civic holidays, but, so far as I am aware, Howard is the first rural municipality to adopt a similar system. Other townships—aye, and counties, too—might well take example from the success experienced here, and have their reserves annually declare a day of civic rest and recreation."

Fittingly, the beautiful Provincial Park—"the natural playground of Kent County," as Mr. P. H. Bowyer, M. P. P., called it—was, as usual, the scene of the picnic. The day was ideal. Long ago the promoters of the Howard picnic formed a coalition with the Weather Man, and the compact has always been loyally kept.

Accordingly, from the time the date was set, the good people of the district all laid and perfected their plans. Weary mothers and housewives toiled long into the previous night, cooking dainty menus and preparing appetizing devices; energetic sons busied themselves polishing up their turn-outs; dutiful daughters only deserted co-operation in the work of luncheon-making to put the finishing touches on their gowns and furbelows for the Howard picnic is somewhat of a dress parade, and the more sedate but equally enthusiastic heads of homes, from time to time, gave timely warning as to the hour when the caravan would start, and when all must be in readiness.

Not a few at the hour early. A well-founded rumor had got abroad to the effect that the justly celebrated pig was to be "greased" shortly before sunrise by the immaculate clerks of the Molson's Bank in Ridgeway. A keen desire was evidenced to see how both parties to the transaction would behave. The porcine was known to be especially athletic and the "greasers" were said to be worthy competitors to the quadruped. As a matter of fact, the details of the operation seemed to be shrouded in deep mystery. Beyond the fact that the pig eventually made its appearance cloaked in dripping and the fact that the Ridgeway tailors received several rush orders for new fall suits, comparatively little is known, but the wise ones, who occupied reserved seats on the grand stand, say the show was worth seeing.

The day's sports started early and included all the usual athletic features and a couple of baseball games, in both of which the umpires miraculously escaped annihilation. Luncheon was an entirely individual affair. Everybody dined where and how they wished—in the arbors, on the benches, on the sward or sand, in the rigs and under the rigs. In numerous cases, of course, the roasted chicken was found picturesquely imbedded in an unholy alliance with the onion salad, and the

lemonade got hopelessly interchanged with the dish-water. These, however, are little matters at the Howard picnic. All had the time of their lives.

During the day—and particularly in the evening—excellent dance music was contributed by the Blenheim orchestra. Devotees of the terpsichorean art, however, were handicapped by the unfortunate persistence of the lookers-on. The musicians had a delightful dance program and the floor had been well prepared, but the thoughtless crowding against the comfort and accommodation of the would-be dancers.

The afternoon was largely devoted to speech-making. Mr. Hiram McLarty, Reeve of the township, presided, and in a few well-chosen words extended cordial greeting to the assembled thousands.

Mr. David A. Gordon, M. P., for East Kent, was the first speaker. Mr. Gordon spoke on strong patriotic lines. Canadians, he believed, were now beginning to realize the nationhood of their country. This was the era of Canadian nationalism, and Mr. Gordon urged the adoption of a "higher standard of ideals by its people."

Mr. Herbert S. Clements, M. P., for West Kent, advocated a measure of protection for the agriculturist equal to that granted to the manufacturers. He endorsed Mr. Gordon's observations for Canada's present and future, deprecated the prevailing spirit of hide-bound partyism and urged the people to unite upon some progressive and national policy. Mr. Clements believed that an electric railway was necessary to give the people of the district easy access to the Park, and suggested to Mr. Gordon and Mr. Bowyer the advisability of turning their energies in that direction.

The popular legislative member for East Kent, Mr. Philip H. Bowyer, got a cordial reception. He, too, deplored the fact that the Park was at present so difficult of access, but assured the gathering that the characteristic enterprise of the people of Kent would eventually surmount this difficulty. At present, he remarked, Messrs. Gordon, Willson, Smith, Stewart and Hamilton—all Kent County men—were working toward this end. It had been his (Mr. Bowyer's) privilege to assist in the furthering of the project.

Only last week he wrote the Hon. J. M. Gibson, President of the Hamilton Catering Co., a company which planned in the near future to construct or take over a series of suburban lines, laying bare him the advantages of a road through East Kent reaching the Park. The previous day he had received an acknowledgment from Mr. Gibson, stating that representatives of the company, if its present plans were culminated, would visit the locality and inspect the district to be served, with a view of building the road.

Referring further to the Park, Mr. Bowyer eulogized the Honorable Frank Cochrane for his active interest and enterprise he had displayed in investigating its needs. He intimated the annual expenditure of from \$5,000 to \$8,000, the improvement and repainting of the pavilion, the erection of the casino, the supplying of new seats, tables and benches, the regravelling of the road and the new pier. There was also considerable dredging in prospect.

Speaking of the new pier, Mr. Bowyer said the intention was to supplement the present outer and inner piers with what he termed a "low dock" for row boats and a land dock to connect therewith. For this work the Government had consented to extend the time limit for completion imposed upon the contractors. Mr. Bowyer alluded to the condition of the Park. The Councils of the two townships decided to ask \$300 Government aid towards their improvement. Although nowhere before had public money been granted for a municipal road, Mr. Bowyer was gratified to state that his appeal on behalf of the Township had been met by the Government with remarkable generosity. The Township had asked for \$300. The Government had granted \$500. This money was now at the disposal of

## WAS KILLED) RAIDING DIVE

A Fallen Woman Shoots Prominent Citizen of Wiarton.

Law Appears Powerless to Avenge Gilbert's Killing.

Warton, Aug. 22.—This city is still in a state of great excitement on account of the shooting and killing of Philip Gilbert by Agnes Thomas, alias Mrs. Reid, a woman of ill-fame, at 10 o'clock Tuesday evening.

The woman, together with a girl named "Stella," who occupied the tent of ill-fame on the outskirts of this city, which was attacked by Gilbert and a crowd, he had organized, are being held by the police.

If a charge of self-defence can be substituted by Agnes Thomas, or if it cannot be proven that she fired the shot, the two women will go free and the taking of the life of one of this town's most prominent citizens will go unavenged.

Either one of these pleas may be entered by the prisoner. It is said that Gilbert, who is a moral man, instigated the raid on the tent, struck the Thomas woman after the two females had been rotten-egged and the tent torn down from above them. It is reported that the shot, which entered Gilbert's heart and killed him instantly, was fired immediately after the blow which felled the woman to the ground.

A 32-calibre revolver was taken from the Thomas woman on her arrest, which immediately followed the fatal shooting.

Her companion in crime, the girl named Stella, was taken into custody and found unarmed.

The women are not strangers in Warton nor indeed in the vicinity. Two years ago they pitched their tent at Bear-Mile Point, and the Township of Eglar, later, their presence there a long time. In fact, they were routed out of the township it was by intimidation from Wiarton, which had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Philip Gilbert was one who had laid a complaint against them, with this result.

Last Friday they returned to town and pitched their tent in the outskirts of the north ward, and life in that section had become intolerable to the residents and they decided to take the law in their own hands, which was, under all the circumstances, thoroughly justifiable, but which was unfortunately carried out with fatal results.

Just how many were in the raid is not known. It is claimed the women were both drunk at the time. Philip Gilbert was English by birth and was a constable for years in South Africa. He had lived about 30 years in Warton. Gilbert was an honest and law-abiding citizen and his sad death is sincerely regretted by everyone who knew him.

Immediately after the shooting the mayor swore in about thirty special constables, as he thought there might be men in the tent. The arrest was then made.

It is said that Agnes Thomas came out and warned the men that she would shoot, and shot into the air, and that her arm was hit by a club, and one of the shots intended for the air accidentally hit poor Gilbert and went through his heart.

The coroner's inquest last night resulted in the following verdict being given:

We, the jury, find that Philip Gilbert came to his death from a bullet from a pistol fired while in the hands of Agnes Thomas.

Stella Lamont goes free. The hearing of the Thomas woman will be held at 10 o'clock this morning.

The funeral of the victim, Philip Gilbert, takes place at 3 o'clock today.

**Cleaning Firms.** San Francisco, Aug. 22.—Mayor Taylor began his promised cleaning of the municipal departments by sending a notification of their removal from office to four police commissioners. The communication scored the commission for failure to remove Chief of Police Dinan, who, Mayor Taylor declared, is incompetent and lacking in character. The commissioners, after a secret conference, announced that they would not recognize any power except the court.

**Pope Considers Japs.** Rome, Aug. 22.—The press declares that as a result of the Japanese mission to the Vatican, Japan will send an accredited minister to the Holy See and that the Pope will appoint a permanent apostolic delegate to Japan. The pontiff has accepted from a Japanese of high position the gift of a building site in Tokio upon which there will be constructed a Benedictine church and monastery.

Mrs. Joseph Fouchonne, of Lowe street, returned home yesterday from St. Joseph's Hospital, after a month's of typhoid fever.

Creeds are but the clothes of religion.

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6 Bars Surprise Soap, 25c.  
Fine Assortment Mixed Biscuits, 3 lbs. for 25c.  
15c. Packages Force, 10c. each.  
12 Bars Judd's Soap, 25c.  
Fine Table Syrup, 50c. a gallon.  
2 lbs. Camp Land, 25c.  
1 lb. Package Seeded Raisins, 12c.  
Cooking Figs, 4c. per lb.  
1 lb. Tins Sunlight Baking Powder, 10c.  
Canned, 9c. per can.  
Cooked Beef, Ham, Jellied Hock, also Smoked Hams, Bacon, Shoulders, and Bologna.  
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