

Remnants.

Although they have been selling fast we have still a few choice remnants of WALL PAPER left. Secure one and have that room papered before the busy season sets in and prices advance.

E. N. HUNT, 190 Dundas Street.

To Whom She Said "Yes."

However, she persevered; and a hint from her amused father inducing her to introduce story-telling into her routine, they were attracted by her graphic recitals, for she possessed the gift of telling a story well. They received the instruction thus conveyed with great docility. It is true that they sometimes confused what they heard, and that when she asked to find them convinced that Oliver Cromwell not only murdered the king in the tower, but guillotined Louis XVI. It was a great deal of pains to unravel the tangled skein of their ideas; but still, she had gained their ears; they came to her willingly and it was clear not long to convert them into clever scholars, he was certainly instilling a little more knowledge into their minds than they had hitherto stood any chance of obtaining.

"You've got to go back with us this afternoon, Miss Aubrey," said Hyacinthe, unceremoniously, as he began to twist herself into her fur jacket. "I've given you a message for you, but that's all I remember of it."

"Let me help you, it does not look nice to see you struggling with your clothes in the fashion," said Edna, gently pushing down the arms that were raised above the child's head, as if she were going to draw a sack down upon it. Does your sister really want me for anything?"

"On, yes! and so she did yesterday, only you didn't go with her."

"How could I. You brought me no message. I saw nothing of you."

"Oh, that was because the old woman's pig got out of its sty as we were coming through Eastham." Peris explained, "and I gave chase—I and I. You never saw such a pig to run, Miss Aubrey! I say it went over the hedge and through a hole in the hedge, and then across a cabbage-garden! We should have had it there, only I fell over a stump; and it wasn't caught until it had run into a bog, where I left one of my boots—the one with the broken lace—had to hop home the best way could. So you see it wasn't our fault that we weren't here," she complained, added, in conclusion.

"You'll go back with us, Miss Aubrey?" queried her sister. "Edna and I both told us there were no account to show ourselves without you."

Edna was nothing but, for there was always a cordial word for her at The Beeches. Mrs. Erastus, since the day she sat for a picture, merely acknowledged her with the coldest of bows; but the more genial Mrs. Stretby never varied in her welcome.

The Misses Tibbets, anxious first to call on the new-comer, had hinted to dear Mrs. Stretby the surprise that she permitted her daughter to make a companion of Edna Arey, whose mother was only a Frenchwoman and a music-mistress; but Miss Stretby either did not or did not understand them, and they replied that Edna was so nice, it she did not wonder at the girls' so fond of her. That they ought to treat her with discourtesy, the little, obliging young creature, whose crime was her poverty, never gazed the heads of this unwelcome pair, and Edna might have spent half her time at The Beeches if she had had home duties, which her otherwise indulgent mother would not permit her to neglect.

This afternoon, however, she could go there with a clear conscience. Lotty had an important affair on hand; the ironing of a new dress for nine of her waxen dolls, and, promising to be home time to make tea for mamma, Edna, dressed and accompanied her pills.

Mrs. Stretby was at the drawing-room when they entered it, dozing in front of a big fire; but she woke up to inform Edna that the twins that they would find rylene else at the rink, which they were trying for the first time.

Across the grounds, the pretty gothic building, which had been hastily patched up and reared weather-proof, dashed in and faster to share in the amusement. Edna more leisurely followed them, and had anticipated some pleasure in looking on; but as soon as she saw the building, she was waiting for her appearance in a kind of lobby ante-chamber, pounced upon her.

"Then here you are last! Rifles, a pair of skates for Maubrey! Sit down Edna and let him up them. You can't skate? Or did not that? I would could I until noon taught me, and I'm going to teach you. It's quite easy, and jolly. I can tell you."

As it was no use listening, the laughing Edna who had to have the wheeled skates buckled on her feet, and then the impetuous again took possession of her.

"Now give me your skis. Steady! Don't be afraid. And skating backward, she drew Edna into the hall; the suddenly released her, saying:

"There, now all you're to do is to slide forward, first on one foot, and then on the other; you'll learn faster if you're left entirely to yourself, so strike out boldly, just as you see me do."

With the ease and grace of a practiced skater, away went Edna, and when she attempted to follow her example, she found herself on the asphalt. There she sat for a minute or two, in too much confusion to stir; but presently struggling to her feet again, she contrived to get as far as one of the slender columns, that supported the roof, and clinging there, began to look around.

The twins darted by, kissing their hands to her as they went, and at the other end of the hall she saw their sister and Mr. Stretby, the doctor, and his wife—a pleasant, homely young couple—and some gentlemen, who were strangers to her—all engaged in gliding through the figures of a set of quadrilles. They were rinking to the sound of a large self-acting organ, a purchase on which Mr. Stretby very much prided himself, though the works, not being in the best of order, it was not always certain whether the tune it was playing could be "Adeste Fideles" or "The Blue Danube Waltzes."

When Edna's eyes had become accustomed to the scene, she found plenty in it to divert her. Venetia Stretby and her sisters had learned the art of skating long ago in the frontier clime of Canada, and their evolutions were as daring as they were graceful. The quadrille over, they began to circle round the hall, sometimes hand-in-hand, sometimes describing figures of eight and proving themselves adept in everything they attempted. Edna thought that she had never seen them appear to so much advantage, though she could not include Mr. Stretby in her praises.

He went by her, smiling placidly, it is true, but with his tall, angular form drawn up as at attention, and looking as if skates and all had been cut out of one solid piece, and forgotten to be joined.

The strangers, though not unaccustomed to the amusement, were evidently tyros compared with their host and his daughters. One of them, a tall youth, known to our readers already as Ensign Whiting, was rashly skating backwards, in imitation of Edna, whose fearlessness had won his admiration; but the result was not always satisfactory, and his frantic efforts to save himself from the falls that menaced him, his wild grasps at the air, and his look of relief when he succeeded in recovering his equilibrium once more, convulsed Edna with mirth.

His companion, Major Hallis, was even more daring and more unfortunate, for every attempt he made at figure skating ended in a fall. How many times he measured his length on the asphalt it would be difficult to calculate; but still he proved indomitable. No matter how heavily he came to the ground, still laughing and shaking himself, he would rise again and again, and make fresh starts with a perseverance and stoicism that led Edna to ask at last:

"Is he made of flesh and bones like ourselves, or India-rubber?"

The words unconsciously spoken aloud were answered by some one who had approached her unseen.

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AGRICULTURAL SAVINGS AND LOAN COMPANY

Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Directors for the Year 1898.

The directors have much pleasure in presenting to the shareholders the twenty-seventh annual report of the business of the Company.

The profits of the year (including \$2,730 \$9 brought forward from last year) amount to \$51,703 35; and, after providing for interest on borrowed capital, for cost of management, losses and anticipated deficiencies, and applying \$2,000 in reduction of amount charged against the Company's building, two half-yearly dividends of 3 per cent each, amounting with the shareholders' income tax thereon to \$38,612 90, have been paid, leaving a net surplus of \$13,090 45, of which \$10,000 have been placed to reserve fund, and \$3,090 45 carried forward at the credit of profit and loss account to next year.

The directors considered it advisable to write \$2,000 off the amount charged against the Company's building, which now, therefore, remains at \$28,000. The rentals received from the offices and stores, which are now all rented, return a handsome rate of interest on the investment without charging the Company with rent for the offices occupied by them.

During the past year the competition for loans has been very keen and, of course, the rate of interest obtained from the borrowers has been lower. The repayments on mortgages during the year have been very satisfactory.

The books, vouchers, and securities of the Company have received the usual careful audit by the Company's auditors, as set forth in their certificate appended hereto.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. REGAN, President.

London, Jan. 31, 1899.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1898.

To dividends and income tax thereon..... \$38,612 90

To interest on savings bank deposits..... \$18,656 57

To interest on debentures..... 29,983 31

To general expense account, including directors' fees, solicitor's fees, auditors' salaries, etc., and municipal taxes..... 6,704 81

To repairs to company's building..... 642 44

To commission on loans..... 2,695 96

To land inspection..... 1,657 00

To expenses and commission on debentures..... 238 22

To losses to real estate..... 1,024 64

To written off Agricultural Savings and Loan Company's building..... 2,000 00

To transferred to reserve fund..... 10,000 00

To balance carried forward..... 3,090 45

Total..... \$115,311 20

By Balance carried forward..... \$ 3,730 89

By interest earned, etc..... 109,710 10

By rent from company's building..... 1,870 21

Total..... \$115,311 20

ASSETS.

Cash value of mortgages on real estate, etc. \$2,044,002 77

Less retained to pay prior mortgages..... 30,784 66

Loans on company's stock..... \$2,013,218 11

Agricultural Savings and Loan Company's building..... 2,128 32

Rents accrued..... \$6,090 00

Office furniture..... 1,135 25

Cash on hand..... \$ 4,233 30

Cash in banks..... 79,192 23

Total..... \$3,126,407 21

LIABILITIES.

To the public—Savings bank..... \$577,328 12

Current debentures..... 518,040 00

Sterling debentures..... 200,112 29

Interest accrued on debentures..... \$1,105 10

Sundry liabilities..... 625 25

Total..... \$1,304,210 76

To the shareholders—Capital stock..... \$630,200 00

Reserve fund..... 170,000 00

Dividend No. 53, payable Jan. 3, '99..... 18,906 00

Balance of profit and loss account..... 3,090 45

Total..... \$822,196 45

Total..... \$3,126,407 21

C. P. BUTLER, Manager.

We hereby certify that we have audited the accounts of the Agricultural Savings and Loan Company, of London, Ontario, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1898, and find the same correct and in accordance with the above statements and the company's books. We have examined the cash and bank accounts and vouchers monthly, and have carefully checked every entry in the company's ledgers, and we have examined the company's securities and find them in order.

GEO. F. JEWELL, F.C.A. ANDREW DALE, Auditors.

London, Ontario, Jan. 30, 1899.

At the annual meeting held in the Company's building, Thursday, the 16th inst., the following gentlemen were re-elected directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. D. Regan, W. J. Reid, Thomas McCormick, Thomas Beattie, M.P., and Thomas H. Smallman.

At a meeting of the directors subsequently held, Mr. D. Regan was re-elected president and Mr. W. J. Reid was re-elected vice-president.

Soldiers are dispensed in China. They belong chiefly to the coolie classes.

The Dangerous Knife

CANCER ROOTS cannot be removed by the use of any of the various plasters. They only give temporary relief, and in most cases the disease returns in a worse form. We would be glad to send particulars of a painless method which leading physicians are now adopting. The cure is remarkable.

A. L. Stott & Jury, Bowmanville, Ont. (Mention London Advertiser.)

Dominion Trading Stamp Company

Head Offices, 220 Yonge St., Toronto.

SHOWROOMS:

Toronto, 220 Yonge St., Phone 8225.

London, 206 Dundas Street.

Brantford, 148 Colborne Street.

Woodstock, Opera House Block,

Hamilton, 115 King Street East.

St. Catharines, 54 St. Paul Street.

Ottawa, Sun Life Building,

Kingston, 179 Wellington Street.

Brockville, King Street.

Belleville, 311 Front Street.

Peterboro, 434 George Street.

Winnipeg, 282 Main Street,

Guelph, St. George's Square.

Galt, Imperial Block.

Berlin, 50 King Street West.

In 15 cities, 15 showrooms filled with goods—none sold. All exchanged for Trading Stamps that, like bank bills, are transferable, interchangeable, and redeemable at whatever agency presented, no matter where issued or collected.

Thousands of families in all parts of Canada are furnishing their homes ABSOLUTELY FREE OF COST by collecting Blue Trading Stamps.

STAMP BOOKS FREE AT ALL OUR SHOWROOMS.

London Showrooms, 206 Dundas Street.

WESTERN ONTARIO

Mysterious Disappearance of a Duart Man Causing Great Excitement.

Supposed to Have Been Murdered—Counterfeit Money Passed by a Youth in Brantford—Blenheim Man Found Dead in Bed.

Bothwell's town clerk receives a salary of \$12.

W. J. Newbigging, of Mosa, died in California last