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the enforced resignation of the Chancellor—an event that caused a world-wide stir.

Since the fall of Bismarck, the development of the empire has been largely the work of the Kaiser, who was determined to be the sole ruler of Germany. Of the offensive and defensive establishment of that country, the naval branch is distinctly his creation. The German navy, which practically began in 1898 with the passage of the first navy law by the Reichstag, has been built upon its insistent recommendations and is directly under his command, without the participation of the federated states. That he does not believe, however, that it can overcome that of Britain is evidenced from the fact that his fleet has since beginning of the war been dormant in the Kiel Canal, and fears to come out and try its strength with the Navy that so anxiously awaits its appearance.

ROUSING PATRIOTIC MEETING TO-NIGHT

Prominent Officers and Citizens to Take Part.

Under the auspices of the 91st Elgin Battalion, a rousing recruiting meeting will be held in the Town Hall at eight o'clock on Thursday night, when appeals for men to fill the ranks of the county unit will be made.

Mayor W. J. Mann will preside. Rev. Mr. Miles, Capt. Edwards, adjutant of the 91st, and probably Lieut.-Col. Greene, O. C. of the unit, will speak. Soloists from church choirs of the town will sing, while the town band will render patriotic selections during the evening.

Under the command of Lieut. Clarke, the 30th Battery will parade the principal streets, headed by the band. The battery has already contributed a large number of men to overseas units, and it is thought likely that a number of others will volunteer following the meeting on Thursday night.

The campaign for men, which has been conducted in Aylmer since Tuesday, has already netted three prominent young men from the town. They are E. L. Haight, L. E. Vincent, and W. W. Wilson.

The 91st Battalion, which is being mobilized in St. Thomas, is rapidly rounding into form, and already is considered by military men to be one of the finest units in the province. Officers confidently anticipate a full complement of men before the unit goes under canvas for the summer training.

DEATH OF SCHOOL INSPECTOR ATKIN.

The passing of Welberne Atkin, at his home in St. Thomas, early on Friday morning last, has touched practically every home in Elgin. For 32 years he had faithfully and capably filled the position of Public School Inspector, and almost every man, woman, and child knew him, and counted him a friend. To-day there are no schools in the province that hold a higher standard than those of Elgin County, and for this enviable position the late Inspector Atkin is responsible. He asked and demanded, when necessary, the best that was in a teacher, and those who were unable or unwilling to come up to his high standard did not remain long in Elgin County.

He knew by name practically every pupil, and his and her advancement was the worthy inspector's greatest anxiety. Never for a moment did he neglect his duty, and no more than justice is done him when we say that there was no more conscientious and painstaking inspector in Ontario.

Some three years ago Mr. Atkin suffered a severe paralytic stroke, from which he never entirely recovered. During the past months he has been fast growing weaker, but he persisted in doing his full duty to the end, and only last week paid a visit to the Aylmer schools.

Deceased, who was the second son of the late Isaac Atkin and Jane (Leeson) Atkin, was born in Yarmouth township in 1856, and received his early education in Malahide. He was a faithful and apt student, and at the age of sixteen began teaching in S.S. 23, Bayham. He also taught at Avon, St. Thomas, and the Toronto Normal, and later became mathematical master of the St. Catharines Collegiate. In 1884 he was appointed school inspector of Elgin County and the same year was married to Miss Luella Graham, who survives him, together with one son, Mr. Berne Atkin, barrister, and a member of the firm at Sault Ste. Marie, of which Premier Hearst is the head; also two daughters, Miss Edith, teacher of languages in Toronto, and Mrs. F. A. Bell, St. Thomas.

The funeral took place on Monday, and was attended by many teachers from the county, all schools being closed as a tribute to deceased.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS

JOHN TYLER.

The tenth President of the United States was John Tyler, who was born in Greenway, Virginia, of English parents. His father was an officer in the Revolutionary War, and a jurist of repute, later becoming a Judge in the Admiralty Court.

The future President graduated from college in 1807, when but 17 years of age, then studied law, and was admitted to the Bar at 19. At 21 he was elected to the Virginia Legislature; at 26 to Congress; at 35 he became Governor of Virginia; and at 37 was a Senator. In the Senate he voted against President Jackson's bill enforcing revenues against South Virginia, and for the resolution censuring Jackson for removing funds from the United States Bank to the States Bank, on which we commented in our sketch of Jackson, the man who introduced the theory now so popular, that to the victor belongs the spoils.

When, later, his state legislature instructed him to vote for the expunging of this censure from the records, he refused, and resigned his seat in the House. He was running mate, as Vice-President, in 1840, with William H. Harrison, who was elected President. The latter only lived one month after his election, and Tyler automatically became President. He at once came into conflict with Congress by vetoing certain financial bills which he considered contrary to the constitution, and all the members of his Cabinet, except Daniel Webster, resigned. The vacancies were filled by States Rights Whigs, though the president was a Democrat.

The most important acts of his administration were a treaty with China and the annexation of Texas, taken from Mexico in 1845. His first wife, Letitia Christian, died in the White House in 1842, leaving him, as a remembrance, five sons and two daughters. At the expiration of his term in 1844, as President, he returned to private life with a new wife, Julia Gardener. In 1861 he was made president of a peace convention to endeavor to settle the differences between the North and the South. Failing in his effort, he served in the Confederate Congress till his death, in Richmond, on January 18th, 1862, following a bilious attack.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Fisher, who was so seriously ill, is now in a fair way to recovery.

Henry Roberts of Toronto is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Roberts.

Mrs. T. F. Young returned home last week after a visit with friends in London.

A severe fire on Sunday evening at Port Burwell destroyed the large livery barns belonging to George Riddell and two warehouses belonging to R. Wright & Sons, hardware merchants. The fire started in the livery stable, but no one knows how. Mr. Riddell's loss will be about \$2,500.

The descent of some twenty-five friends of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Mills, of John Street South, on Monday evening was with the view of helping Mrs. Mills to commemorate her birthday. A very enjoyable time was spent, with games, music, and conversation, supplemented with a splendid lunch. At an early hour the company departed, wishing Mrs. Mills many happy returns of the day.

The men of the 91st Batt., St. Thomas, and next to fill up the ranks of their as, are making a big effort this week. Last Sunday 91st men occupied every church pulpit in St. Thomas, and we note that one of our own boys, Corporal H. V. Mitchell, addressed the congregation at Alma street Presbyterian church, and appealed for recruits.

CARD OF THANKS.

Words cannot express our appreciation of those friends who have shared with us the lonely vigils by the bedside of our husband and father. The waves of sorrow break upon every shore, and we can but hope that friends as true may gather around each one of them should sorrow invade their homes.

MRS. WILLIAM HUGHES,
MRS. CARL CLUTTON.

CARD OF THANKS

On account of ill-health I have withdrawn from the firm of Soper & Karn, Blacksmiths and Horseshoers of this Town, and wish, through your valuable paper, to thank my many friends and customers in Aylmer and vicinity, for their valuable patronage in the past. Although having withdrawn from the firm, my intentions are, as far as my health will permit, to continue to work with my successors, Karn & Shepherd and I can promise the same courtesy and efficiency for my customers with the new firm as has been the custom with us in the past. Thanking you all for past favors,—I remain, your obedient Servant, A. SOPER.

The Big Store Aylmer's Best Stores The General Store

SPRING SHOWING OF

Women's Ready-to-Wear

NO matter how exacting she be Milady's fancy will surely be caught by the new Spring Garments on display in our Cloak Department. The work of some of the best artists is represented here. Garments whose smart lines and faultless tailoring rival the work of the cleverest tailors and such a range of styles and range of colors. An inspection of our stock will prove to you that the **BIG STORE** is sustaining the enviable reputation it has gained for itself in this line.



Coats and Suits

- Women's Sport Coats priced 10 50
- Women's Serge Coats 12 50
- Women's Black Silk Coats 16 50
- Women's Blue Serge Suits 12 50
- Women's Blue Serge Suits 16 50
- Women's Blue Serge Suits 18 00
- Women's Blue Serge Suits 30 00

Fancy Silk, Crepe and Poplin

Fancy Silk, Crepe and Poplins, all colors, priced \$1.00 1.25 and 1.50 per yd.

New Middies and Blouses

New Middies and White Blouses priced from 79c, \$1.00 and \$1.25.

White Marquisette Blouses, convertible collar, all new and beautiful goods, priced \$1.25, 1.50, 1.75, up to 3.00 each.

New Stylish Silks

for Suits and Dresses. We are showing an exceptionally fine range of Silks in all the new weaves and colorings. Though Taffeta is first in favor as the new fashions are being taken from Taffeta periods and the full skirt and pannier fashions demand a silk with

Body and Finish

yet this is a silk season and practically all silk fabrics are selling. But this week in our silk section we are making a special of Black Satin Duchess at \$1.19 a yd. only about 50 yards left and when this is gone the price will be \$1.50 a yard. Last Call.

At The General Store

The Spring weather will demand something warm and dry in footwear. This store has long been recognized as headquarters for Shoes and Rubbers that wear. We have them, we have a good stock of Rubbers of all the best makes including Merchant's and Granley.

- Child's Rubbers, price.... 50c pair.
- Misses " " 55c pair.
- Women's " " 80c pair.
- Boy's " " 75c pair.
- Men's " " 1.10 pair.

We are the sole agents in Aylmer for the celebrated Williams Shoe and every time we sell a pair of Williams Shoe we are sure of a pleased customer. If you cut a Williams Shoe you will find it solid through and through.

- Little Gent's priced..... 1 85
- Youth's " " 2 25 pair.
- Boy's " " 2 75 pair.
- Men's " " 3 75 pair.

The Big Store

Dry Goods, Millinery, Ladies' Ready to Wear, Gent's Furnishings, Clothing, House Furnishings, Hats and Caps

STRATTON & MARTIN

AYLMER'S BEST STORES

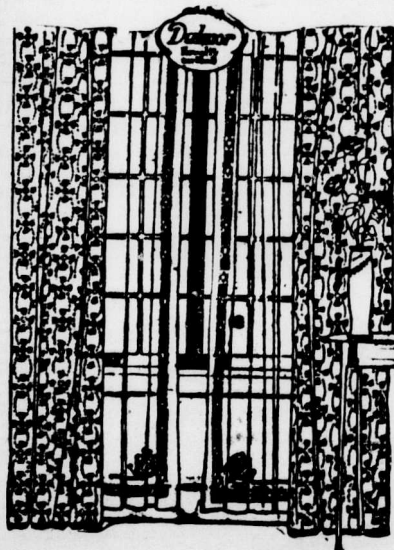
"Honest Goods at Honest Prices"

Highest market prices paid for produce, good to shop at both stores.

The General Store

Dry Goods Groceries Boots & Shoes Hats & Caps Neckwear

Beautiful Curtains and Draperies



As the window hangings either make or mar a room, a great care is necessary in selecting materials that harmonize with the furniture and decorations. If you have a drapery or upholstery problem let us show how inexpensively and attractively it may be solved.

Our large and well-assorted stock comprises goods that are artistic and in good state, and we are always glad to show goods and offer suggestions. Prices too, are attractive and so varied as to suit any purse.

Curtains to Suit any Room

in White, Cream or Linen Colorings

See our Lace-Trimmed White Marquisettes

very suitable for Bedrooms at 40c. and 50c. per yard.

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