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From Neighboring Firesides.

Newsy Budgets by the Reporter's able staff of Correspondents

CHARLESTON LAKE

Miss Bertha Slack, ill for the past two weeks, is better.

Miss Nellie Hudson, very ill, is convalescent.

D. Johnston and daughters, Lansdowne, were recent visitors.

A party at J. Godkin's, in honor of his son, George, who is home from Assinaboia, was much enjoyed on Friday evening.

Our popular teacher, Miss Jennie Eyre, gave a charming school concert the last day of school, which consisted of songs, recitations and dialogues. A recitation, "The Shipwreck," by the teacher, was loudly applauded. A Christmas tree, laden with toys, cards, candy and popcorn for the pupils made some little faces smile, and at the close the pupils presented their teacher with a china cake plate accompanied with an address. We are pleased to know that Miss Eyre is going to remain another year.

CHINA WEDDING

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. J. Slack was the scene of a pleasant gathering on Monday evening, Dec. 29th, when about sixty invited guests assembled to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their marriage. At five o'clock, the happy company repaired to the dining room where they did ample justice to oysters and other good things. The evening was spent in music, dancing, games, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Slack received many presents, both useful and ornamental.

MORTON.

(Held over from Last Week.)

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 24, Miss Bella Gamble, daughter of Mr. David Gamble, of Morton, was united in marriage to Mr. Reginald Bracken, of Seely's Bay, in the presence of a large number of guests. The young couple are highly esteemed, which was testified by the number and value of the presents received.

Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Henderson spent Sunday the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Singleton, Westport.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sheffield and family, of Oak Leaf, spent Christmas with friends here.

Mr. Chas. Dawson has sold his place here to Mrs. Roanthee. Mr. Dawson and family are at present occupying the brick cottage.

The Christmas tree held here was a marked success. The little ones' belief in Santa Claus was strengthened by seeing that mythical gentleman appear in person, though some of the older ones decided that Santa strongly resembled a young man of the neighborhood. It is stated that some of the young ladies had reason, also, to doubt that Santa Claus was exactly what he was represented to be.

DELTA.

Mr. Elmer Dezell, of Ogdensburg, and Misses Fannie and Addie Berney, of Athens, spent their Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Coleman. We are pleased to hear that Miss Addie Berney has been engaged to teach the school at Hard Island.

The Christmas tree and entertainment held here during the holidays was a decided success. Those who took part in the program ably filled the positions assigned to them, and everything passed off pleasantly in the presence of a well filled house.

Visitors during the holidays were: Mrs. R. W. Copeland, of Brockville; J. P. Copeland's; Mr. F. Mott, of Lyn; at J. A. Bell's; Mr. and Mrs. S. Coon, of Athens; at Mr. Stearns Ransom's; Miss Mabel Pierce, of Newboro; at E. A. Pierce's; Albert Stevens and wife at J. P. Copeland's. Mr. R. Hanna, the new teacher, has moved to Delta from Elgin.

The township council consists of A. B. Gallagher, of Portland, reeve; Patrick Murphy and George Morris, of Delta; R. A. Sheldon, of Harlem; E. Willis, of Cranworth, councillors. All were elected by acclamation.

Mr. G. E. Thomas, of Shenandoah, Iowa, was the guest of Miss Aggie Hewitt during the holidays.

Mrs. Wm. Ball, of Richmond, Que., spent the holidays with her many relatives here.

BREAKING RANCH HORSES

Many in this section have purchased ranch horses from the West, and the following article on "breaking" them, written for the Farmer's Advocate by Mr. Charles J. Greene, son of Mr. John A. Greene, of Athens, will no doubt be read with interest.

"Thousands of horses are being brought in every year from the ranches of our great western provinces and put to earning their living on their owner's farms. As most of these have attained an age of from four years upwards

without experiencing the restraints of harness or the sight of farm buildings and machinery, the farmer who has never had any of this kind to handle will perhaps appreciate a little information regarding one tried method of breaking in these animals. I shall attempt to explain how a pair which I purchased this spring were successfully broken in and persuaded to do their share of farm work.

The pair were led home after being lassoed and halter broke by the cow boys in charge of the bunch. The first and most obstinate was a large, lightly-built mare, at least six years old with evidences of some broncho blood in her veins. She had been raising colts on a ranch and knew nothing whatever of harness. First we led her to a piece of breaking and having made a noose on a tethering rope, laid it on the ground in the form of a circle, and the mare was led around until she stepped both front feet into the noose. The rope was then jerked quickly and her feet drawn together and held fast. After a few plunges her feet were pulled sideways as she reared up and the next instant she was down on the ground with a man on her head. The rope was then removed and one front foot drawn up to her body and fastened tightly by winding with a pole strap around the fetlock and forearm. The rope was then attached to the other front foot and the mare allowed to get up. With this apparatus she was thrown several times, till thoroughly subdued, though not a cross or loud word was spoken to her during the whole operation. While in this condition the harness was brought and placed gently on the mare and after an hour of petting, rubbing and walking around, she was hitched as fourth horse to a breaking plow. This we considered the best to hitch her to on the start, for although the traces and whiff-trees were low down, yet in case the animal should kick over them, no serious damage would result. In hitching, care was taken to tie a rope good and short from the halter around the trace buckle in the back-part of the horse beside her. This is important, inasmuch as it prevents the possibility of the new horse swinging out and crowding round in front of the middle team, while a rope into the hame ring of the same horse's harness keeps the broncho in her place. All being ready the outfit was started, with one man to hold the plow and another the lines, and after a few preliminary springs, bolts and frightened kicks, the beast started in to plow a round of prairie breaking with furrows a mile long. By plowing two rounds the first day and three the next, gradually increasing, but by keeping her in the harness every day, a nervous and obstinate animal was converted in two weeks' time into a useful farm horse and was capable of keeping up her end with the best on the outfit.

"The other animal, also a brood mare and about the same age, showed evidences of having been in harness before and as she proved to be an entirely different disposition from the first, the drastic measures employed in the first case were not necessary in introducing her to the plow horse business."

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

The Council met at the town hall, Athens, on Monday, 29th Dec., 1902, at 3.30 o'clock. Members all present. Minutes of last meeting and of present meeting were adopted.

Orders were given on the treasurer as follows: W. Flood, for gravel and work in R. D. 4, \$2.74; Chas. B. Wiltse, bonus for building 90 rods wire fence along the road in R. D. 20, \$22.50; H. C. Phillips, to procure wood for town hall, \$7.00.

Council adjourned till Monday, Jan. 12th, 1903, at eleven o'clock.

R. E. CORNELL, Clerk.

A GOOD RECORD

Following is the report, for 1902, of Elbe cheese factory, of which Mr. Henry Hollingsworth is owner and manufacturer:—

Milk received, 1,731,681 lbs. Cheese produced, 167,853.

Received for cheese, \$17,042.99.

Average price per pound of cheese, 10 1/2/100 cents.

Milk required to make 1 pound of cheese, 10 5/8/100 lbs.

Price per ton of milk to patrons, \$17 5/2/100 cents.

Expense of selling and drawing cheese, scum, and insurance, \$117.39 or 1 3/4 cents per ton of milk, which has not been deducted from the above price per ton.

R. E. CORNELL, Sec'y.

CAINTOWN SCHOOL CLOSING

On Monday, 29th ult., Miss Emma Kincaid, of Caintown, closed up her school after a successful year's work. The trustees and about thirty of the

people of the town gathered to listen to the closing programme and presented the teacher with a handsome silver-initialed ebony mirror and a set of silver knives.

Miss Kincaid will be much missed both in school and among the young people as she now intends leaving for Ottawa to take a course in the normal school there. She carries with her the best wishes of Caintown residents for her success.

MARRIED IN ROCHESTER

Respect the marriage of a former resident of Athens, the Gananoque Journal of last week says:—

Mr. M. E. McArdle, foreman of the cabinet shop at the Canada Cabinet Co., left on the 20th December for Rochester on a rather pleasant mission. While there he was united in marriage to Miss Rohester's fair maidens. The young couple, after a short wedding trip, returned here on Saturday last and are now receiving the congratulations of many friends. The employees of the cabinet company presented Mr. and Mrs. McArdle with a handsome silver tea set, accompanied by an address.

The Vulgar Voice.

What constitutes the vulgar voice? In an article in the London Spectator a writer concludes that this evidence of vulgarity, "springs, like almost all vulgarity, however displayed, chiefly from two causes—an undue love of conspicuousness and an undue fear of the same." The person whose chief aim is to keep himself or herself in the eye of the world rarely makes a remark without desiring that it shall reach the ears of others besides the one directly addressed, and here the peculiarly false sound of the voice is attributed to the absence of singleness of motive. On the other hand, the wavering tone and affected accent of the timid vulgar are ascribed to another form of insincerity—namely, the wish to imitate others with whom one happens to be when they are of a supposedly higher social standing. The attempt is sure to fail and the result only is the suppression of all evidence of the speaker's own personality—in the voice as well as in the manner. Thus sincerity, paramount in all art, is basic in breeding as well, which is the art of life.

Lead Pencil Experiments.

An English statistician was asked how many words could be written with an English lead pencil, and, being determined to answer it, he bought a lead pencil and Scott's "Ivanhoe" and proceeded to copy the latter word by word. He wrote 95,608 words and then was obliged to stop, for the pencil had become so short that he could not use it.

A German statistician who heard of this experiment was dissatisfied with it because all the lead in the pencil was not used on the work, and therefore he bought a pencil and started to copy a long German novel. When the pencil was so short that he could not handle it with his fingers, he attached a holder to it, and it is said that he wrote with this one pencil 400,000 words. Possibly, however, his pencil was longer or the lead in it was of a more durable quality.

Dialled Egotism.

"What's the matter with you?" asked his wife.
"I'm feeling lonely," was the reply.
"Don't you like this town?"
"I don't like this earth."
"What's the objection to it?"
"People are too egotistical. If there's anything I hate it's egotism. And when I see kings going about confidently and doing things wrong, and diplomats trying all sorts of insincere tricks with complete effrontery, and lawyers seeking applause for arguing on the wrong side of a case, and everybody displaying utter selfishness without a blush, I am forced to the conviction that I am the only consistently high toned and moral gentleman on this globe. And it makes me feel lonely."

A Quaint Epitaph.

Here is an epitaph which may be read in an English churchyard attached to Leamington church:
"Here lies the body of Lady O'Looney, great-niece of Burke, commonly called the sublime. She was Bland, passionate and Deeply Religious; also she painted in water colours and sent several pictures to the exhibition. She was the intimate friend of Lady Jones. And of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

He Knew.

A truthful man who has just returned from abroad says he overheard the following dialogue between two fellow passengers. Said one:

"I wonder who that awfully homely woman is?"

"Oh, that's my wife," replied the other.

"How do you know? You're not looking at her?"

"I don't have to."

Two Ways of Putting It.

Oculist (after examination of the eye)—Yes, it is, as I supposed, a case of choroiditis exudativa, accompanied by partial microspia, metamorphopsia and chromatopsia scotomata of singularly regular form.

Young Lady—There! And ma said it was only a sty coming!

Sticky Hair Oil.

Tommy (inquiringly)—Mamma, is this hair oil in this bottle?

Mamma—Mercy, no! That's hair grease.

Tommy (nonchalantly)—I suppose that's why I can't get my hat off.

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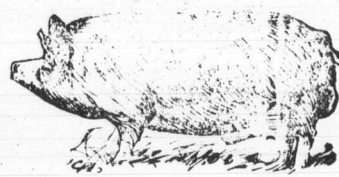
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