

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We fully expected to have the list of successful candidates at the recent entrance examinations for this week's issue, but have not received them. For some reason or other Aylmer seems to be the last school reported in this section every year.

An Ottawa despatch says "Pr. Burwell is receiving every attention at the hands of the Public Works Department, and before fall will be made a receiving port at which vessels of eighteen feet draft can call. Two jetties are being built and dredging carried on with a view to enabling the port to compete with Cleveland and Buffalo, the one 170 and the other 120 miles distant." Just wait until we get the new Electric road running to Port, and then you will see things go there by land as well as by water.

Ever since we first heard the saying "The good die young" we have had an idea that our time on this earth was very limited, but when a woman can go through the accidents which befell Mrs. R. Wampler, of Dublin Indiana and live to be a hundred years old, we begin to take hope, notwithstanding our goodness. This old lady died only a few days ago. At the age of six years she fell from a picket fence and broke her finger. In 1852 she broke her ankle, in 1865 she fell down cellar and broke her collar bone and three ribs. In 1885 in a runaway, while returning from church, she was thrown from a vehicle, and her right hip broken, in 1888 she slipped and fell on the pavement, breaking her left hip, in 1892 she broke her left leg at the knee, in 1896 she fell from a tree breaking her left arm. In 1898 she fell out of bed, breaking her right arm, and in 1900 she broke her right hip for the second time.

At a special meeting of the council, held on Monday evening last, it was decided to proceed with the extension of the Water works, and the introduction of a thorough domestic service for the town, in accordance with by-law passed last year. The session was a long one, and the question was thoroughly and calmly discussed from all points. The council were not unanimous in their opinions regarding the wells as a source of supply, Messrs. Pierce and Price dissenting on those grounds. We have no doubt however, about them falling into line now and giving the present scheme a fair test, in compliance with the vote of the ratepayers and the majority of the council. They have backed up their honest opinion to the last, but have shown no disposition to be pure obstructionists, which is a mean kind of opposition, which neither of them would stoop to. Personally we have every confidence in the success of the present scheme, and the ample supply of water, but if it should fail at any time, we can fall back on the filtering scheme without any serious loss of present expenditure. Let us consider the question as closed, and all work together to make the domestic water service of Aylmer a success financially and in every other way.

We paid three dollars a few weeks ago, for the honor of having our name put down as a member of the bowling club, and we would willingly give ten if we could recall the act. Up-to-date we have never seen a ball rolled, now we never expect to. We wouldn't be found dead inside a ten acre field with any member of the teams who went to St. Thomas, let alone associating with them on the bowling green in life. Just think of it, 39 to 5 and 34 to 6 in favor of St. Thomas, a town that we have whipped in almost every imaginable game, within the memory of man. The boys say "anyway we had a good time, learned something, and were treated like princes by the St. Thomas boys. All we have to say in reply is, that it don't take much to give some people a good time. Of course they must have learned something, as they evidently didn't know anything about the game when they left home. We should say they learned a whole heap, and of course the St. Thomas team would do all in their power to heal their broken spirits so they could get at them again. There is one redeeming feature about it, they did have shame enough to remain in the city until after dark, before venturing home, and have been meek as Moses ever since. Out of respect to their families and friends, we refrain from giving the names of any member of the team. Some particulars of the game are gradually coming out and we may mention them in next week's issue.

Family Re-Union.

There is nothing more pleasant and enjoyable in this world probably than the family re-union - which take place occasionally, after a separation of many years and there has been none in this section which has passed off more pleasantly than that of the Beemer family which took place at the old homestead on Thursday last. There was only one vacant chair among the direct members of the family, Mrs. Samuel Sullivan, of Nebraska was not able to come owing to the illness of her husband. Father and mother, the late squire John W. Beemer and wife were not there, having long since passed to their reward, but their memory will never fade from the minds of their children, ten of whom were gathered together on Thursday last under the friendly and familiar roof of the old home at Cedar Grove, where so many happy days of childhood were spent and from which they have most of them been separated for many years. Those present were Mrs. Arnold, Aylmer; Mrs. Neil McLean, Chicago; Mrs. Chas. Kaiser, Nevada; Mrs. T. A. Kirpatrick; Rodney; Robert, of Lapeer, Mich.; Wallace Alice, Carry and Minnie at home.

Other relatives present were John Beemer, police magistrate, Simcoe; Mrs. Robt. Beemer, Mich.; Mrs. J. Patterson, Cowal; the Misses Arnold and Miss Edna Kirpatrick, N. McLean and F. W. Kirkpatrick.

The tables were spread on the lawn under the old pine and cedar trees, and not only presented a beautiful appearance, but were loaded with good things. The Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes were greatly in evidence in the decorations. After dinner, with Dr. Clark as chairman a number of speeches were made, Mr. Beemer, of Simcoe being the principle speaker, after which an hour or so was spent in social enjoyment, games, and recalling incidents of the long ago. The company was photographed by Mr. Charlton, and he took several groups which in all human probability it will be impossible to ever get again. The members of the family remained for several days, and had a happy time together. No family in this section is more respected than the Beemer family and we join with their many other friends in extending congratulations on the successful reunion held last week.

Cricket.

The Aylmer cricket team left on Monday last for their annual tour and on that day met and defeated the Wolseley Barracks team by an innings and 46 runs. Horstead carried off the honors for Aylmer, putting together 63 runs without giving a chance, before he was unfortunately run out. Jimmie White 18, C. Paupst 17, and E. A. Coughell 10 were the others to reach double figures by good play.

E. A. Coughell bowled magnificently the first innings, securing 6 wickets for 12 runs, while Godbold, our other crack bowler, took 4 wickets for nine runs. The boys report that the Barracks team are about the best fellows that could be thought of to make it pleasant for their guests. The full score was as follows:-

W. F. Kingston, b. Clarkson.....	9
J. White, b. Scanlon.....	18
J. Horstead, run out.....	63
E. A. Coughell, c. Williams, b. Scanlon	10
D. Godbold, b. Williams.....	9
C. Paupst, b. Clarkson.....	17
G. O'Dell, b. Clarkson.....	2
E. C. Monteith, b. Williams.....	1
G. W. Bingham, b. Williams.....	9
Dr. Smith, c. and b. Williams.....	5
G. B. Smith, not out.....	0
Extras.....	2

Total.....136

WOLSELEY BARRACKS FIRST INNINGS.

Beals, b. Coughell.....	6
Scanlon, b. Godbold.....	2
Dr. Williams, b. Coughell.....	7
Clarkson, b. Godbold.....	0
Col. Young, b. Coughell.....	0
Dunlevy, b. Godbold.....	0
Unlake, b. Godbold.....	0
H. Kirtler, b. Coughell.....	4
McFadden, b. Coughell.....	0
Farnsworth, not out.....	0
G. Kirtler, b. Coughell.....	0
Extras.....	1

Total.....22

BARRACKS-SECOND INNINGS.

Farnsworth, c. Monteith, b. Coughell	1
Beals, b. Godbold.....	0
Scanlon, b. Coughell.....	12
Dr. Williams, c. Smith, b. Godbold.....	6
Clarkson, c. G. B. Smith, b. Godbold.....	3
Col. Young, c. O'Dell, b. Godbold.....	11
Dunlevy, b. Bingham.....	14
Unlake, not out.....	11
G. Kirtler, c. O'Dell, b. Bingham.....	0
H. Kirtler, b. Godbold.....	0
McFadden, b. Godbold.....	0
Extras.....	5

Total.....78

FOREST VS. AYLMER.

On Tuesday the boys met the strong Forest team, and although the rain prevented the game from being played out, it gave

another evidence of the strength of the Aylmer team at the bat. When the game was called they had 194 runs to their credit for 9 wickets, of this number Godbold contributed 101, not out, Horstead 21, Coughell 21 and Dr. Smith 18 not out. When the latter went to bat, the score was 144, and the Dr. played a beautiful game making 18 runs off his own bat, and assisting in making the score 194, just an even 50 runs without the loss of a wicket. Good for the Dr. Godbold gave as fine an exhibition of batting in the putting together of his century as has ever been seen in Western Ontario. Unfortunately E. A. Coughell sprained his ankle so severely that he had to return home, and the team will be deprived of his valuable services during the balance of the trip, which will weaken them considerably in both bowling and batting. The full score was as follows:

J. W. White, run out.....	7
G. B. Smith, run out.....	1
J. Horstead, b. Wilkinson.....	21
D. Godbold, not out.....	101
E. A. Coughell, l. b. w.....	21
C. Paupst, run out.....	6
G. O'Dell, c. and b. Walters.....	1
G. Bingham, b. Walters.....	2
H. Hollinshead, b. Walters.....	3
W. Kingston, d. Meredith.....	6
Dr. Smith, not out.....	18
Byes.....	7

Total.....194

CLEVELAND VS. AYLMER.

A telegram received just before going to press says that Aylmer won the game by seven wickets, but gave no particulars.

MARRIED.

BRUCE-BROWN.—At the Baptist parsonage, Port Burwell, June 23, by Rev. J. Harry King, James Bruce to Nada L. Brown, both of Malahide.

MCQUIGGAN-CHALK.—At the residence of John Chalk, Calton, on the 10th inst., by Rev. J. Harry King, Chas. W. McQuiggan to Grace R. Chalk, of Calton.

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FRENCH CRIMINALS.

BANISHMENT FOR LIFE METED OUT TO HABITUAL OFFENDERS.

They Are Sent Either to French Guiana or the Isle of Pines, the latter a Coral Fringed Paradise in the South Pacific.

The other day I read an account of a young fellow of 21 who was convicted for the twenty-eighth time as a drunk and disorderly. The poor wretch openly boasted in court that he intended to break the record previously held, I believe, by the late unlamented Jane Cakobrend, who was convicted more than 400 times of the same offense.

In the many prisons I have myself visited I have found exactly the same deplorable state of affairs with regard to theft, burglary and kindred crimes. In one English prison, for instance, I saw a man about 40 who had spent nearly 30 years of his life in reformatories and prisons. His family was most respectable, and he had had every assistance, but it was no use. He was a crook, and he simply couldn't go straight. To punish these miserable people with terms of imprisonment and then let them loose to commit new crimes—practically their only possible chance of getting bread and butter—is about as sensible as it would be to discharge a scarlet fever patient from a hospital during the scaling period of the disease. Yet year after year we go blundering along, knowing perfectly well that our reformatories and prisons are simply academies of crime, centers of infection from which the moral disease is unceasingly spread.

Now, this is one of those things which they manage to do a great deal better in France, and how they do it is what I propose to tell here. A pickpocket, a professional beggar or a habitual "drunk and disorderly" is brought up for his or her fourth or fifth conviction. It is proved beyond doubt that he or she is incapable of performing the duties and therefore of exercising the rights of a free citizen. Sentence is passed for the last time, a term of imprisonment is imposed which is really a preparation for the new life which the honest cases, the piece of human refuse, is to lead.

"At the expiration of your sentence you will be placed in relegation," says the judge.

That means banishment for life. The criminal never sees his old haunts, never mixes with his old companions again save in exile. It will no longer be possible for him to commit crime or to contaminate the society which has now finished with him. Moreover, he has got to work, and if he won't do it he will find his food cut down and himself in a prison, which is made just about as uncomfortable for him as it can be.

France possesses two of these dumping grounds for human refuse, as they may justly be called. One is French Guiana, which is about one of the best places in the world to get out of and stop away from. The other is the Isle of Pines, which is a coral fringed paradise far away in the south Pacific, one of the most beautiful spots ever trodden by human feet or darkened by the presence of human crime.

It is on the Isle of Pines that the first process of compulsory reformation begins. The hard cases are lodged in barracks, fed and taught, possibly for the first time in their lives, how to do useful work.

Their working day is about seven hours and a half, and from what I have seen of them they are well treated, well fed and by no means overworked. Of course very few of them know anything about a trade. Their only idea in life has been to loaf from the cradle to the grave. Those who can never be made into workmen or workwomen are put on the fields, farms and coffee plantations. Others are taught trades, and gradually the aimless, shiftless loafer of the slums becomes a more or less skilful carpenter, blacksmith, wheelwright or stonemason. The women work in the fields just as the free peasant women do in France or taught straw plaiting, hatmaking and that kind of work.

Those who conduct themselves well and really try to work can earn a few sous a day. Half their earnings is saved for them by the government against the day of partial release. The other half they are allowed to spend on little luxuries which of course always take the form of something to eat or drink or smoke.

All this time they are under what is practically prison discipline, and it is wonderful how quickly this shapes the body and blocks out of the streets into the decent industrious workman, who knows that good work and good behavior will win him comparative freedom and the right to live a really pleasant life than he could ever have led as a criminal in France.

At length, for those who have been proved capable of a certain amount of regeneration, arrives the day when they pass from "collective" to "individual" relegation. In other words, they are permitted to leave the barracks and the labor gang and seek such employment as they can get in the colony.

If they have learned a trade, they may practice it. There are, indeed, cases where a honest case in France has become an employer of labor in the colony. Others go into domestic service, and some get minor posts under the administration. I met one mild eyed old gentleman in the Isle of Pines who was employed as secretary to the government. He kept the accounts of the island in order and amused his leisure by the compilation of the history of the penal colony.

He was a doctor of letters of the university in Paris, a man of great intellectual power, but absolutely no moral control. In France he had lost office after office, taken to drink, then to begging and petty thieving. Under our system he would have been in and out of prison, dodging the police meanwhile till he starved to death under a railway arch or let himself drop out of human sight in the Thames. Here he was living a quiet, healthy, useful life in an exquisite climate without a care on his mind, save perhaps the memory of what he had been.

As a rule when reformed hard cases have reached a position like this there is no reason why they should ever want for the necessities or even the comforts of life again. There are, in fact, only two things they may not do. They must not leave the colony, and they must not marry. In former times marriage was permitted, and those who were married before banishment were allowed to come together again in the colony, but now the government has most wisely put a stop to this, wherefore the French criminal does not increase and multiply as the English one does.

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