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LONDON, MONDAY, JAN. 1, 1912.

THE NEW YEAR.

"A whisper shoots from the west,
 add this to the rest," here dies an-
 other year, half 1912!

The old year has been, like other
 years, momentous as its hours hasten-
 ed. Perhaps the events of largest im-
 port have taken place in Asia. There
 for the first time a British sovereign
 has appeared before his Indian sub-
 jects in coronation array, and the an-
 nouncement has been made of provin-
 cial self-government in the near fu-
 ture under a light supervision by the
 Imperial administration at Delhi.
 Mutterings have been heard of German
 intentions in the Euphrates valley.
 Close by has arisen a situation of the
 most critical nature in the Russo-
 British occupation of Persia, a danger-
 ous problem bequeathed like a mort-
 gage by the old year to the new.
 Eastward, the vast tracts of Mongolia
 and Chinese Turkestan have been
 broken from the celestial empire and
 become virtually protectorates of Rus-
 si. The Slav Colossus is on the move
 again, and the earth shakes beneath
 its tread.

But the great earthquake of the
 year has been the human upheaval in
 China itself. The revolutionary
 France the long subject nation
 "stamped her strong foot and said she
 would be free." She shook off the
 Manchu and is celebrating the new
 year by a sort of offering of pistols
 to the top-knotted ancestors of old.
 Will the Chinese Revolution be the
 French Revolution of Asia? Will there
 be a "reign of terror"? Will a Napo-
 leon arise? It is unlikely that other
 states will provoke such eventualities
 by ill-judged interference.

If the twentieth century is to be
 Canada's, China, India, and Japan,
 will also play a distinguished role.
 Perhaps the rise of the Asiatic powers,
 making the Pacific highway of traf-
 fic, will be an important factor in the
 building of Canada, which has the ad-
 vantage of fronting three oceans. No
 doubt there are dangers in store for
 our Pacific provinces, and that calls to
 mind again the Canadian navy.

The advance of Asia, which has been
 creeping on with each year since 1894,
 rushed forward like a flood in 1911. So
 it was with the progress of political
 reform in Great Britain. When the
 election of December, 1910, had put a
 veto on the talk of using a royal
 veto in defence of the peers, the decks
 were clear for action. Premier Asquith,
 balked of one reform after another
 since 1906, now put through with mas-
 terly skill his Parliament Bill, which,
 while leaving consultative and sus-
 pensive powers to the Upper House,
 drew the teeth of the reactionary min-
 ority who had dragged the dual coach
 across the path of liberty and
 progress. The woman suffragists at
 once seized the opportunity, and ob-
 tained from the Premier of promise of
 facilities for a measure of partial en-
 franchisement which is almost certain
 to be passed in some form this year.
 The Insurance Bill and other measures
 make 1911 the opening of a new era
 in social reform legislation. Only the
 steady character of the British people
 has prevented the year from being not
 only critical and sensational, but one
 of violent revolution. As it is, it ranks
 with 1832, and not with 1868. It com-
 pleted the work of the Reform Bill,
 and at last the Government of the
 United Kingdom is truly democratic.

In America the most interesting
 political events have been overthrow
 of the Diaz tyranny, and the establish-
 ment of a genuine republic of Mexico,
 and the defeat of the Laurier Govern-
 ment on the reciprocity issue.
 In many countries the past year
 has seen great disturbances and de-
 velopments in the economic sphere.
 Great Britain has recovered from the
 seamen's strike, the dock laborers'
 strike and the general railway strike;
 the year closes darkly with an im-
 mense outlook in the Lancashire cot-
 ton mills. France has witnessed riots
 owing to the high price of foodstuffs,
 an economic condition that has be-
 come worldwide. In New York the

garbage strike last November ended in
 failure. But the real sensations of the
 economic world were the McNamara
 trial and conviction, and the prosecu-
 tion and dissolution of some of the
 great American trusts. It remains to be
 seen what results will flow from these
 events.

While the year was rife with wars
 and rumors of war, particularly the
 Moroccan entanglement, a notable ad-
 vance was made by the cause of peace.
 President Taft, seconded by Sir Ed-
 ward Grey, endeavored, by treaty, to
 make war impossible between the two
 English-speaking nations. Though
 both peoples are plainly strong for the
 ratification of the treaty, the American
 Senate is still hesitating to put the
 final seal upon it and upon a similar
 treaty with France. Morally, however,
 Mr. Taft has done much to end war.

Science has made its chief advance
 in the conquest of the air. The pro-
 gress has been most decided. In the
 arts there were possibly greater losses
 than gains, the abstraction of "Mona
 Lisa" from the Louvre, and the death
 of Israel and Abbey being fresh in
 mind.

The death roll was as heavy as
 usual. Glibber (drowned), Fogazzaro,
 Higginson, Mrs. E. S. Phelps Ward
 were some of the authors lost. Among
 the deceased politicians are the names
 of Sir Charles Dilke, Sir Robert Hart,
 Sir Eldon Gorst, and Premier Stolypin,
 of Russia (assassinated). Warriors
 dead are General Cronje, of Paardeburg
 fame, and Mrs. Carrie Nation. Pro-
 fessor Shimose, the inventor of the
 high explosive used by the Japanese
 in the war with Russia; Thomas Hall,
 an inventor of the typewriter, and
 Joseph Pulitzer, the great American
 newspaperman, are among the dis-
 tinguished dead of 1911.

And now the year itself is dead. A
 moment at 12 o'clock and the date
 had changed as quickly as one stereo-
 type slide is substituted for another.
 So it is almost with the life of a man.
 He flashes into birth, shines or glim-
 mers for a moment, and passes again
 into the dark. A thousand years fare
 no better in the long run than one.

A thousand years in thy sight
 Are like an evening gone.

So runs the old hymn. And yet if the
 past year seem short enough even to
 us, the coming year looks long ahead,
 affords scope for countless achieve-
 ments, welcomes the burdens shuffled
 upon it by the ages and ages gone be-
 fore, and smilingly beckons to be used
 and enjoyed.

SINGERS PROFIT BY PHONO-GRAPH.

[Popular Mechanics.]
 If Caruso, the great tenor, happens
 to lose his voice or become incapacitated
 because of such illness as has
 kept him off the operatic stage the last
 half of two seasons, he will feel con-
 soled by the knowledge that his royalties
 from a phonograph company will
 exceed \$100,000 a year for many years
 to come, while Madame Tietz is grati-
 fied that the same company has re-
 fused to pay her \$1,000 five years ago
 for the very same effort that they are
 now paying her \$25,000 a year for. Then
 the diva is willing to take the lower
 figure outright for her records, but a
 year ago she demanded a bonus of
 \$25,000 besides the royalties, and she
 got it.

THE PRESENTS OF YESTERDAY.

[New York Herald.]
 O where is the present from father,
 The razor that never would rust.
 The neckwear from sister and mother
 (Those patterns of Pileone days)
 O where are the books without number,
 The volumes in vellum bedight,
 The inkstand that never would open,
 The filigree pen that won't write?

O where is the pipe made of meerschaum
 (Its merit lay only in looks),
 That was sent by a friend who was taking
 A twenty-four day trip with Cook's?
 And where are the trinkets of silver,
 The trinkets resembling real gold,
 That have journeyed from each joyous
 season
 To gladden since days of old?

I have them, arrayed in their ribbons,
 These little attentions abhorred,
 And I'll send them again on their errands
 To others as friendship's reward.
 And so they shall travel forever,
 And never again shall we meet,
 Unless fortune grow mean and vindictive,
 And lay them again at my feet.

HE WAITED.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
 There was work of importance he thought
 he would do,
 But he waited awhile,
 And another, perceiving the chance, one
 day,
 Got busy and carried the honors away
 In a praiseworthy style.

He sat in a corner and pined himself,
 For he thought it unfair,
 That another had done what he might
 have done
 And had honor and profit that he might
 have won,
 But the world didn't care.

PESSIMISM.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
 A pessimist is one who receives a pair
 of gloves as a Christmas present, and
 worries because they will soon wear out.

RAN IN THE FAMILY.

[Judge.]
 Mrs. Jenks—Mr. Billington is such a
 nice man, and not at all shy, that I really
 can't understand why he remains a bach-
 elor.

Mrs. Tolker (absentmindedly)—Oh, I
 presume it is hereditary. His father and
 grandfather before him were bachelors,
 probably.

THEIR DESTINATION.

[Judge.]
 Child—Mother, where do autoists go
 when they go on a "joy ride"?
 Mother—Most of them go to the hospi-
 tal, my dear.

ARE THEY ALL HERE?

[Victoria Colonist.]
 A correspondent sends us the follow-
 ing list as his selection of the most
 famous women in history: Semiramis,
 Cleopatra, Hypatia, Sappho, Esther,

Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Madame de
 Maintenon, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen
 of Scots, Catherine of Russia, Catherine
 de Medici, Georges Sand, George Eliot,
 Rosa Bonheur, Charlotte Bronte, Eliza-
 beth Barrett Browning, Florence Night-
 ingale, Madame Curie, and the Dowager
 Empress of China.

BY THE WAY.

[Christian Intelligencer.]
 "What broke up the suffragette par-
 ade?"
 "A shopkeeper hung out a sign an-
 nouncing 5s silks at 1s 11d."

UP IN THE AIR.

[Life.]
 First Aviator—How far is it to the next
 gasoline reservoir?
 Second Aviator—Two graveyards and a
 spiral slide to your left, old man.

A CRITICAL SITUATION.

[Brantford Expositor.]
 The Borden Government will make no
 attempt to amend the tariff during the
 present parliamentary session. And yet
 Canada, according to Tory argument, is
 being drawn closer to the United States
 by five million dollars' worth every
 month. How can Hon. Col. Sam Hughes
 sit in his seat and calmly behold such a
 process of subtle absorption?

A MELANCHOLY TRUTH.

[Ed Howe.]
 When you go back to your old home
 after an absence of ten or fifteen years,

News from Western Ontario

FINE LARGE RINK
OPENS AT INGERSOLL

Mayor and Other Prominent
 Officials Spoke at Big
 Gathering.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
 Ingersoll, Dec. 31.—Public appreciation
 of Ingersoll's new skating and hockey
 rink was evidenced to a striking degree
 at the formal opening last night. The
 skaters, of whom there were several hun-
 dred, many from outside points, were de-
 lighted with the large ice area and the
 building generally, as were also the
 scores of spectators. Capable of furnish-
 ing accommodation for three thousand
 persons, the rink is believed to be large
 enough for all requirements, and with
 over in the past, immense crowds are ex-
 pected during the season.

In the course of the speeches last night,
 the proprietor, Mr. George Massey, was
 complimented for his enterprise and
 heartily cheered by those present.
 In those who spoke during the evening
 were Mayor Mackay, Reeve Fleet, De-
 puty Reeve Walley, T. R. Mayberry, M. L.
 A. and Commissioner George Sutherland.
 The rink will be very brightly lighted for
 hockey purposes, and the current was
 turned on by Mr. Sutherland for the
 electric power and light commission.

TILLSONBURG.
 Tillsonburg, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Ed
 Young and daughter, Ada, of Oshawa,
 visited recently with Mr. Merritt Cross-
 street.

Mrs. (Dr.) Holbrook, of Hamilton,
 is the guest of her parents, Mr. and
 Mrs. H. P. Ostrosky.

Mr. R. Middleton, of St. Thomas, was a
 Tillsonburg visitor recently.

Mrs. W. C. Brown is spending a few
 weeks with relatives in London.

Mrs. R. Hawthorne spent the holi-
 day with friends at Hagersville.

Bob Vance, of Toronto, visited Till-
 sonburg friends recently.

Miss Jennie Thompson is the guest
 of her parents, Mayor and Mrs. J.
 Thompson.

Detective M. Heenan, of St. Thomas,
 was here recently.

Mrs. E. Vance, of Toronto, has re-
 turned after spending a few weeks
 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H.
 Denton.

Miss Audrey Denton is the guest
 of friends at Simcoe.

Fred McIntosh, of Detroit, is the
 guest of friends here.

Miss Ida Haxton, of Toronto, spent
 the holiday with her parents here.

Mr. Spence Reid, of Toronto, is the
 guest of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. J.
 B. Reid.

Mr. Duncan McCallum, of Gladstone,
 spent a few days as the guest of his
 daughter, Mrs. C. N. Dewey.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hare have re-
 turned to Comber after a few days'
 visit here.

Mr. Charles Kerr, of Toronto, is
 spending the holidays with his par-
 ents, Rev. and Mrs. Kerr.

Donald Sutherland, M. P., of Ingersoll,
 was a Tillsonburg visitor yester-
 day.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Flynn, of Toronto,
 are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert
 Ward.

Mr. Albert Jeffrey, of Simcoe, was
 the guest of friends here recently.

W. W. Davis, of Toronto, is the
 guest of his parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hogarth are
 spending New Year's with relatives in
 New York.

Norman Harrison, of Cobalt, is the
 guest of his mother, Mrs. H. Harri-
 son.

Miss Charlotte Sanders, of Orillia, is
 the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs.
 W. H. Sanders.

BOTHWELL.
 Bothwell, Dec. 30.—Miss Mabel Wade
 is spending a few days with her sister,
 Miss Gertrude, of Petrolia.

Wesley Ellwood is visiting in De-
 troit.

Mr. W. Brandy has returned to Lon-
 don after visiting friends here.
 Henry Eberle, of Dresden, is visit-
 ing with relatives in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stanton, of
 London, spent a few days as guests
 of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Randall recently.
 Thomas McAlpine, of Saskatchewan,
 is visiting here.

Miss Hazel Ferguson is visiting in
 Wardsville.
 Fred Roseborough has returned to
 Detroit.
 Thomas Mara, of Detroit, spent the
 holiday at his home here.
 Oswald Crotty, of St. Columbans, is
 visiting with his parents.
 Walter Pink, of London, visited with
 his parents here recently.
 John R. Beamish, of Toronto, visited
 his mother here recently.
 Miss Irene Campbell, of Appin, is
 the guest of Mrs. J. J. Mahan.
 Mr. Hurburt, of Brantford, was the
 guest of Dr. J. Coyne recently.

DESPERATE MEASURES.

[Windsor Record.]
 Before the cost of living can be re-
 duced there must be more intelligent and
 more intensive farming. Right here in
 Essex there are to be found whole fields
 of shocked corn exposed to the elements.
 The weather has been so bad that the
 farmers have not been able to get this
 corn husked and marketed.
 Bushels of potatoes were allowed to lie
 on the ground until they were ruined by
 the frost. Out in the west millions of
 bushels of wheat have not been threshed.
 This is nothing short of rank careles-
 ness. Either the farmers are attempting
 to till farms that are too large for them
 to handle, or they employ wasteful meth-
 ods.

Unless relief comes by way of reduction
 in the cost of living, city consumers will
 be forced to search out suburban prop-
 erty where they can go in for truck gar-
 dening, keeping a cow or so, and raising
 a few chickens.

INDISPUTABLE.

[London Chronicle.]
 "If you stand with your back to the
 south, what have you on your left hand?"
 asked the teacher during the geography
 lesson. The small boy thought, consid-
 ered his hands, and gave the right
 answer. "Fingers, sir," he replied.

KEENEST CONTEST EVER KNOWN IN
DISTRICT BEING FOUGHT OUT
AT RIDGETOWN.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
 Ridgetown, Dec. 30.—The greatest
 excitement prevails regarding local
 option, and the municipal election.
 Everyone is confident of victory. In
 the township the race for reeve is very
 keen.

Mr. E. D. Brien, an old ex-
 perience municipal man, and known far
 and wide for his thoroughbred
 stock, and William E. Galbraith, one
 of the best-known farmers in Kent,
 also government inspectors of fisheries
 along the lake front here, are both
 making a strong run.

The canvassing factory bylaw is of
 special interest, as it means the ex-
 penditure of about \$45,000 here by the
 Dominion Canners in the next two
 years. This is in itself of sufficient
 interest to arouse attention.

However, it appears that almost all
 these are overshadowed by the keen
 fight between the liquor interests and
 the temperance people. With all the
 above-mentioned interests, together
 with the echo of a past election
 securely died out, it is difficult to
 forecast the results.

Mr. Galbraith is holding campaign
 meetings in all parts of the township.
 The local option people had a mass
 meeting last night in the opera house,
 when ex-Mayor Peterson, of Leamington,
 was the speaker. The house was
 filled. On the other hand, the hotels
 are full today, and the interests of
 their position. Two convictions for
 drunkenness were secured before
 Squire McKinley Friday.

PLAINTIFF WON IN
ACTION AT AYLMER

Judge Ermatinger Gives Decision
 in Case Over a Coal
 Stove.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
 Aylmer, Dec. 30.—The only case of
 importance at the division court was
 that of Mrs. Georgia Webster vs. Mar-
 shall A. McArthur, an action for the
 price of a coal stove. Plaintiff and de-
 fendant are residents of South Dor-
 chester. Plaintiff, whose former resi-
 dence was at St. Marys, removed to
 Dorchester early in 1910, and acted as
 housekeeper for Mr. Clark McArthur.

When driving to Springfield with the
 defendant in October of that year for
 the purpose of going to St. Marys, the
 plaintiff claimed that the defendant
 purchased her stove for \$35.

The stove arrived via the M. C. R.
 in December and was taken by defend-
 ant to his house. Shortly afterwards
 the plaintiff asked the defendant if he
 could uncrate and set the stove up,
 when he replied that he did not think
 so. Plaintiff then went to his house
 and set up the stove and asked de-
 fendant to put up the pipes, but he did
 not do so. The stove remained as de-
 fendant's house from December, 1910,
 until early in December, 1911, when
 defendant, without notice to the plain-
 tiff, sent his hired man with the stove
 to plaintiff's home and she refused to
 accept it, and told the man that de-
 fendant had bought the stove and
 he must pay for it. The stove was
 promptly taken back by the defendant
 and left in to yard adjacent to the
 barn and it was remained there.

Plaintiff then sued the defendant for
 the price of the stove and for \$2 for
 making a dress for defendant's niece
 at his request. Part of the evidence
 was conflicting, but Judge Ermatinger
 decided that the plaintiff was entitled
 to recover and gave judgment for the
 amount of her claim with costs. E. A.
 Miller appeared for plaintiff, and W. H.
 Barnum for defendant.

STRATHROY.

Strathroy, Dec. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. A.

F. Brock, of Birmingham, Sask., are
 spending the holidays at their par-
 ental home here.

Miss Helena Frank, of Detroit, is
 visiting at her home here.

Miss Florence Roe, of Detroit, is
 spending the holidays with Mr. and
 Mrs. Jas. J. J. J.

Orval Smith, of Nanton, Alta., is
 visiting friends and relatives here.

Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Morrow, of
 Caledonia, are holidaying at their
 home here.

Mrs. W. J. Curry and daughter, of
 Detroit, are visiting with Mrs. Brod-
 ley, Richmond street.

The marriage will take place on
 New Year's Day of Mr. Gordon Small
 and Miss Margaret McLean, both of
 Strathroy.

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Edgar (formerly
 Miss Carrie Lenfestey), are visiting
 at the home of Mrs. Edgar's father.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bishop, of Law-
 son, Sask., are here on an extended
 visit with friends and relatives.

John E. McIntyre, of Swift Cur-
 rent, Sask., is home for the holidays.

Mrs. Celine Thompson has left on
 an extended visit to Grand Rapids.

Dr. B. Weir, of Auburn, is visiting
 his sisters, the Misses Weir.

Mrs. Wm. Williams, of Toronto, is
 spending the holidays with her par-
 ents, Mr. and Mrs. John Newton.

Cadet Arthur Lindsay, of the Royal
 Military College, Kingston, is home
 for the holidays.

Miss Mamie Campbell, teacher, of
 Essex, is visiting her grandmother,
 Mrs. Mary Campbell, Front street.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Minchiner, of
 Owen Sound, are visiting friends here.

Robert McAlpine is visiting with
 friends here.

Misses Margaret and Helen Berdan
 are spending the holidays with their
 aunt, Mrs. Hugh D. Ross, in Williams.

Mr. A. Demaray, who has been very
 ill from the effects of a paralytic
 stroke, is much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Menish have re-
 turned from their honeymoon trip,
 and have taken up their residence on
 Front street west.

Alex. McIntyre, of Calgary, is visit-
 ing his mother.

H. S. Truman is home from the
 west.

Mrs. James Cameron is receiving
 for the first time since her marriage
 at her home "Inverness Place," on
 Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Miss Zella LaMorte, nurse-in-train-
 ing, of Battle Creek, is spending the
 holidays at her home here.

Miss Ethel Cox, of Detroit, is hol-
 idaying at home.

Music and Drama

Splendid Attraction Today.

Since the days of "The Private Sec-
 retary," "Jane," and "Charles's Aunt,"
 the theatregoers of America have not
 been presented with any product of
 the pen of English farce writers to
 compare with "Dear Old Billy," which
 is the starring vehicle of that eminent
 English character actor, William Haw-
 trey.

Mr. Hawtrey is holding campaign
 meetings in all parts of the township.
 The local option people had a mass
 meeting last night in the opera house,
 when ex-Mayor Peterson, of Leamington,
 was the speaker. The house was
 filled. On the other hand, the hotels
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