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DAVID J. GIBSON.

Delivered Daily

MT. ELGIN

Mr. Eugene Duffy is home from the Detroit Dental College for the Xmas holidays. Mr. Palmer Willis, of St. George, is calling on old friends here this week.

Miss Jennet Price, of Bishop Bethane College, is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents.

Mr. Harry Pervis, of Hamilton, is the guest of the Misses Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Huggill is visiting friends at Salford.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kenney, Mr. Wm. Kenney and John A. Walker, of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. James Kenney, of Delray, Mich., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kenney, of St. Clair, Mich., and Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, of Tilsburg, are visiting at Mr. Thomas Buckle's.

Miss Maggie Anderson, our popular dress maker, is spending her holidays in Ingersoll.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Hadcock and family, spent Xmas at Mr. Harry Vann's, Ingersoll.

Mr. Fred Johnson and sister, Mabel, of Sarnia, are the guests of Miss Ella Phillips.

Mr. Dennis Hadcock, of Brantford, spent New Year's here.

Mrs. Clark Harris, of Marlette, is visiting friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Nagle and Lou Douglas, spent New Year's at Mr. Reuben Smith's.

Mr. and Mrs. Vann, of Ingersoll, spent New Year's with Mrs. Vann's mother, Mrs. Hadcock.

Election excitement over; now for the new town hall, electric cars and new side walks.

NORTH OXFORD.

Council met on Thursday, 31st December, 1896. Members present, W. Coyle, reeve; F. Eoster, E. A. Nichols. Former minutes read and signed by reeve.

The following accounts were passed: Colin Moore, gravel ac., \$15.76; Mortimore Leplar, gravel ac., \$10.38; Andrew Howland, gravel ac., \$7.16; S. Thorndyke, spikes, \$1.50; Jas. Ruddick, cleaning out ditch, 50c.; W. C. Bell, lumber ac., \$17.78; Municipal Road, \$5.40; W. P. Cook, gravel ac., \$15.90; Dr. Carroll, \$1.20; Reeve's percentage on County moneys, \$8.90; John Stephenson, for one sheep killed by dogs, \$4; H. E. Revell, salary as collector, \$60; Joseph Couch, dog tax refunded, \$1.

Council of 1896 then adjourned.

RICHARD SELDON, Clerk.

BANNER

Our town is still booming and we hope the people of this neighborhood will turn out and help to keep the ball rolling.

Mr. Eckardt has started on a year's labor in our school, training up all the children the way they should go.

Miss Head, of London, who has been spending a few days among friends in this neighborhood, returned home on Monday.

Miss Maud Johnston, who has been visiting at her home, returned to Petrolia on Monday.

Owing to dark night and muddy roads, Prof. Wilson did not have as full a hall as his art deserved, as he is a professional in his show and no mistake.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

List of Meetings to be Held this Week at St. Paul's Church.

The following is the list of subjects, during the Week of Prayer. Each service will begin at 8 o'clock.

Wednesday, 6th.—Nations and their rulers. Prayers for sovereigns and rulers, and for all that are in authority; that cruelty and oppression may cease; that protection may be extended to the Armenian Christians, the Studentists, and all who are suffering grievously for Christ's sake. That all the momentous events happening among the nations of the earth may only tend to the more rapid growth of the Kingdom of Christ.—1 Kings 3:5-10; Prov. 13:34; 16:12; Jonah 3:5-10; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; James 2:8-9.

Thursday, 7th.—"Missions, Home and Foreign."

Friday, Jan. 8th.—Families and schools. Thanksgiving for families bound together by the love of Christ; for the earnest work carried on by many students in our universities and colleges. Eph. 4:31-32; 5:1-2; Col. 3:18-22; Deut. 6:5-9; Pa. 119:9-12; 102:28; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15. Prayer that parents may more constantly seek to bring up their children in the fear and love of God; that greater prominence may be given in Christian households to the study of God's word and to united prayer; that a special blessing may be outpoured upon universities, colleges and schools, and that the religious teaching given in them may be thoroughly scriptural; that Sabbath Schools may increasingly become nurseries for God's kingdom.

The present system of beginning the new year with Jan. 1 was adopted in Scotland A. D. 1600.

LOCAL CHEESE OUTPUT.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE CHEESE ASSOCIATION.

The Local Prices and Cable Fluctuations—The Production of 1896 a Little over That of 1895.

The London Cheese Association have prepared a statement of the cheese sold during the past year, together with the quantity, prices and cable quotations for the corresponding dates in the years 1895, 1894 and 1893. The latter year saw the best prices. The cable was 54s 6d at the opening, and at the close 55s, while during the year the lowest cable price was 45s 6d. In 1894 the price at the opening of the market was 55s. Prices fluctuated greatly during the year, going as low as 45s, a difference of 10s, and closed at 51s. In 1895 the market opened with prices in England quoted at 47s. For the first two meetings no cheese was sold, but as the prices declined, sales became heavier, the holders fearing a further decline. The present year opened with prices low—41s for white and 45s 6d for colored. Prices declined steadily until June 27, after which date they rose steadily. On Oct. 31, the price for both white and colored was 51s, and this price continued until the market closed on Dec. 19. The total sales this year were 36,349 boxes, against 27,452 last year, 40,336 in 1894, and 31,114 in 1893. The following is a comparative statement for the last two years.

No sales were made on the following dates of 1896: June 20, Aug. 22, Sept. 19, Oct. 31. In the year 1895 there were 8 days off upon which no cheese was sold. The year started in with two off days in May, followed by another one in July. There was one in September, three in succession in November, and one in December.

Date	Sales	Price
May 4	40	8 3/4
May 16	50	8 3/4
May 23	1,037	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
May 30	1,474	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
June 6	2,887	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
June 13	1,306	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
June 27	1,798	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
July 4	2,338	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
July 11	2,350	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
July 18	1,785	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
July 25	1,765	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Aug 1	1,176	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Aug 8	1,129	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Aug 15	960	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Aug 22	1,409	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Aug 29	1,048	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Sept 5	2,250	6 3/4 to 7 1/2
Sept 12	40	8 3/4
Sept 19	1,113	10 3/4 to 10 1/2
Oct 6	3,688	9 3/4 to 10 1/2
Oct 13	1,050	10 3/4 to 10 1/2
Oct 20	960	10 3/4 to 10 1/2
Oct 27	470	10 3/4 to 10 1/2
Nov 3	100	9 3/4 to 9 3/4
Nov 10	400	9 3/4 to 9 3/4
Nov 17	180	9 3/4 to 9 3/4
Nov 24	1,385	9 3/4 to 9 3/4

Date	Sales	Price
May	1,760	6 3/4 to 6 3/4
June	1,136	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
July	1,744	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
Aug	850	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
Sept	1,040	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
Oct	259	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
Nov	225	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
Dec	1,586	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
1895	100	7 1/2 to 7 1/2
1896	600	7 3/4 to 8 1/2
1897	1,275	8 1/2 to 8 1/2
1898	340	9 1/8 to 9 1/8
1899	190	9 1/8 to 9 1/8
1900	200	9 1/8 to 9 1/8
1901	85	8 3/4 to 8 3/4
1902	65	8 3/4 to 8 3/4

A resolution was passed at the last meeting of the directors as follows: "That in future bulletins be sent to those only who have signified their intention of joining the market either by letter or by signing the rules and by-laws of the association."

FAIRGROUND

A very pleasant event occurred at the residence of Mr. John Brown, it being the marriage of his second daughter, Sarah, to E. L. Stausell, of Frogmore. The bride was assisted by her sister, Maggie, while Arthur Griffin assisted the groom. Rev. Mr. Wood performed the ceremony.

Mr. George Williams of the North West is the guest of his parents.

Mrs. Blimber—You certainly have your family disposition. None of you could ever agree with anybody. Mr. Blimber—I don't know about that. I had an uncle once who was eaten by cannibals. I never heard that they made any complaint.

Mabel—How many engagement rings did you bring back from the seashore. Gertrude—None. Mabel—Why, how did that happen? Gertrude—Unluckily, I got in with the same crowd that I met last year.

She—You saw the Count of Brasse, did you? Now, tell me, don't you think he is a striking personage? He—Yes, I do. I had not been introduced to him an hour when he struck me for a loan of \$10.

The New Year in Sparta was celebrated by the consecration of youths to military services.

INGERSOLL MARKETS.

The market reports in THE CHRONICLE are corrected every day just before going to press and can be relied upon as being correct.

White wheat per bushels, standard	87 1/2 to 81
Red fall wheat	30 to 35
Spring wheat	80 to 85
Barley	32 to 35
Peas	42 to 45
Oats	17 to 18
Corn	45 to 50
Bran per ton	9 00 to 11 00
Shorts	11 00 to 12 00
Potatoes, per bag	30 to 35
Onions	60 to 70
Beaves, live weight	3 00 to 3 50
Live hogs, per cwt	10 00 to 11 00
Dressed hogs	11 00 to 12 00
Beef by the quarter	11 00 to 12 00
Lamb and mutton	11 00 to 12 00
Flour, new process, 100 lb	11 00 to 12 00
Oatmeal, roller	11 00 to 12 00
Cornmeal	11 00 to 12 00
Apples per bag	11 00 to 12 00
Dried apples per	11 00 to 12 00
Butter per lb	11 00 to 12 00
Creamery, per	11 00 to 12 00
Eggs	11 00 to 12 00
Ducks per	11 00 to 12 00
Chickens	11 00 to 12 00
Geese	11 00 to 12 00
Turkeys	11 00 to 12 00
Swine	11 00 to 12 00



"Romney, look in that upper drawer. You made a mistake in writing Mr.—or—Mr. Murray a letter. You're getting so deuced careless I believe you're in love, upon my soul."

Romney colored and stuck his pen behind his ear.

"Yes, sir, I guess I did. I meant to send it to Mr. Dupont about 'His Aunt's Legacy.' Here's the gentleman's play, sir."

Oh, that unknown man named Dupont—how Tom envied and hated him in that moment! He took the manuscript like one only half awake. He heard Mr. Plunket murmur an apology and briskly wish him good afternoon. Still he lingered, looking down at the roll of paper.

"Do you think I could get it accepted anywhere? Or could I improve it?" he asked, and something in his face moved the manager to a little pity and patience.

"I looked through it. The first scene sold me it wouldn't do. You want the truth, and I'll give it to you—sentiment be hanged! It's fairly good as far as style goes. You might turn it into a novel. But we want action—we want life—and warning to his subject Mr. Plunket threw one ponderous leg over the arm of his chair. "We want situations—quiet, but so subtly and intensely weighted with interest that a crowded house holds its breath to see them develop. If you can't do that—and it's very evident you can't—write a realistic drama. I couldn't use it, of course, but you'll find a manager who'll take it off your hands fast enough."

"Stun your audience with daring leaps into real running water, so that the leading man comes before the curtain incased in rubber, diffusing a dampness that makes the orchestra leader sneeze, or thrill them with mine explosions, or real engines, or bridges that move. There's money in work of this sort on the Bowery. Talk about the injustice of managers to native talent! Booh, all of it. Are we fools? I'd give almost any amount today for a society drama written by an American dealing in mastery style with some of our pertinent social questions and holding a true, sympathetic love interest. Or give me a startling psychological study with plenty of fire, give me a comedy that with a laugh tears off the mask of society, give me a play delicate as a miniature, or give me one painted in bold splashes and those splashes like blood, and I'll find a place for each of them sooner or later. I can get precious few of them from Americans, I can tell you. It would be better if nine-tenths of our aspiring dramatists threw their pens in the river, went home and settled down to a quiet existence mending shoes. To be frank—I say it, my dear fellow, for your own good—for stuff such as you have there, prettily phrased, but tame as a flannel rabbit, I have no use."



"Do you think I could get it accepted anywhere?"

As Tom passed again through the empty theater the sense of shock departed. A live ache leaped within him. He walked on, not heeding or caring where his steps led him. His throat was dry, a burning sob far down in it that the man in him beat back. He had been a fool, then? An egotistical dreamer?

Oh, the languor of helplessness, the taunting pain of overthrow and loss, the repugnance to the necessary effort of readjusting his conception of himself and his life! Those who have known this feeling have tasted for one moment the kernel of despair.

"How can I tell Virginia?" was his weary thought.

CHAPTER II.

A square room of goodly size, the broad windows opening on a low balcony and beyond the shining panes Chelsea square. It was large enough to meet the requirements of dining and sitting room, the high walls bearing the faded decoration of an earlier period. The stained floor from which the polished long departed, once knew the swiftness of the feet of the young, had been sipped on the early balcony, used carriage step at the pressure of the foot.

But this was no longer a house was a place, a city had craved the suburbs, for any one of the sugar...

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