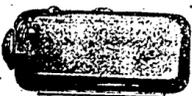


Everything Electrical



Headquarters for

Mazda Lamps

Ever-Ready Flashlights & Batteries

Electric Supplies

Wiring and Repairing

Robert Murphy's Sons Co.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

SALESROOM PARK STREET

Telephone 86-4 AYER, MASS.

First National Bank of Ayer

Savings and Thrift Club

Thrift Club starts Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1916, at 8 a. m., when First Payment will be Due

SAVE 25 CENTS PER WEEK FOR SAVE 50 CENTS PER WEEK FOR SAVE \$1.00 PER WEEK FOR SAVE \$2.00 PER WEEK FOR 50 Weeks

CALL AND LET US EXPLAIN Banking Hours—8 to 3 Saturdays, 8 to 1 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF AYER



Early Shopping

GIVES YOU A BETTER SELECTION OF GOODS

Our Store is Now Prepared for Those Who Want Smart, Sensible, Up-to-the-Minute Gifts

A Few Practical Suggestions:

- FANCY CHINA CUT GLASS SILVERKRAFT WARE TEA WAGONS SMOKER STANDS SEWING TABLES CHILDREN'S FURNITURE

We invite you to do your Christmas Shopping at our store and get the benefit of our anniversary 10 Percent Discount on all purchases during the month of December.

J. J. Barry & Co.

Barry Building Main Street AYER, MASS.

TO-NIGHT

At the Store of J. J. Barry, Main Street, Ayer FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22-5 to 8 o'clock FITCHBURG CO-OPERATIVE BANK Merry Christmas

AYER

News Items. On Christmas day there will be masses at St. Mary's church at 5, 6, 20, 9 and 11 o'clock. The eleven o'clock mass will be high mass, at which will be preached "The meaning and spirit of Christmas." The music will be under the direction of the organist, Miss Madeline McCarthy, and to consist of St. Basil's mass B. The soloist will be Mrs. Lillian Moore. Solos will also be given by William Flynn and Miss Frances King at the mass, and at the benediction of the most blessed sacrament which will immediately follow the mass. The children's choir will sing the Adeste Fidelis and Christmas hymns at the nine o'clock mass. On Christmas day and during the octave a beautiful group of figures representing the events connected with the birth of the Saviour will stand for the veneration of the people and a reminder of the meaning of the coming of the Christ. A mass will be said in Littleton at ten o'clock.

Jenness W. Brown suffered a very severe attack of acute indigestion at his home Thursday forenoon. He is reported much better this Friday morning.

Dr. B. H. Hopkins is sick at his home on Pleasant street, but at last reports was improving.

George T. Burns, of Norfolk, Va., is spending the holidays at his home here.

Among the students at home for the Christmas vacation are Edward H. Dwyer of Dartmouth college, George Webb of Wilbraham academy, Mason Williams of Tilton academy, Ralph Brown of Amherst Agricultural college, and Frank Brown of the University of Pennsylvania.

J. J. Barry, a former manager of the Ayer telephone exchange, has been appointed Lynn district manager for the company. Mr. Barry gave up his position as manager of the local exchange about four years ago to accept a position as manager of the Brockton exchange, which position he held until his appointment to the Lynn district.

Mrs. Lew, who is living with her daughter, Mrs. Mary I. Hazard, has recovered from her recent sickness. Mrs. Lew, although nearly ninety-six years of age is remarkably well for one of her extreme age.

Stephen Ryan, who is a student at the University of Maine, is at home for the holidays and is assisting at the postoffice during the holiday rush of business.

Chief Beatty is having his annual trials in endeavoring to have the law relating to the removing of snow from sidewalks complied with. There are a number of cases now pending in court opening and knowingly disobey the law. Washington street was sadly in need of attention in this respect. Those who strictly attend to the work of clearing the sidewalks naturally complain as though all others should do the same. The dissatisfaction has become so great that there is talk of repealing the law at coming town meeting.

The resignation of Walter Burbank, the world famous botanist, this week to his secretary, Miss Elizabeth Waters, in San Francisco, recalls to the older people of Ayer the early years of his life in this town. He lived with his mother in the house on Park street now occupied by Mrs. Bridget Toehy, and attended our schools about the year 1850.

These officers were chosen at the meeting of the Congregational church on Wednesday evening: Augustus Lovejoy, moderator; Dr. B. H. Hopkins, clerk; Ellis B. Harlow, treasurer; Mrs. M. J. Johnson, secretary; Mrs. E. Evans, deacon; 2 yrs.; Augustus Lovejoy, Dr. B. H. Hopkins, Geo. L. Osgood, prudential com.; Mrs. Nina B. Lovejoy, Mrs. G. G. Osgood, church choir.

Miss Alma Gray, teacher in the eighth grade, concluded her duties this week Friday afternoon and has accepted a similar position in Grand Mere, P. Q. The vacancy caused by Miss Gray's resignation will be filled by Miss May S. Daley, a graduate of Boston university. Miss Daley has been at the school several days, getting in touch with her new work.

The next meeting of the Special Aid society will be held in the lower town hall on Friday afternoon, December 29, at two o'clock. Every member is earnestly asked to be present.

The W. C. T. U. will hold a meeting in the evening at the Baptist church on Friday afternoon, January 5, at 2:30 o'clock. The union is planning to hold a union temperance meeting in Page hall after the Christmas holidays.

Christmas day service at St. Andrew's church will be at nine in the morning. The Sunday school children's Christmas tree will be held on Wednesday afternoon, December 27, at four o'clock.

The heavy snowstorm of last week Friday seriously inconvenienced traffic. More or less delay was experienced by the railroads, both steam and electric, in making regular schedules. The storm caused a bad wreck a few miles west of Worcester on the Boston and Albany railroad, which tied up through traffic over that line to Boston. The trains were all run through Ayer by way of Greenfield, and from here to Boston by way of Worcester. The extra traffic aggravated the inconvenience caused by the storm in disarranging time schedules of the Fitchburg division.

Miss Mildred Sanders, who was graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music last June, and who is now doing advanced musical and dramatic work at the school, had a prominent part in the annual dramatic recitals which were given on successive evenings, December 12, 13 and 14, and before the Copley Society of Boston on Saturday evening, December 17. Her part was that of "Antiope," the simple Dutch maiden in an episode of the story of Knibbe's "The lady's dress," which was first produced at the Royal theatre, London, in 1914, and which had its Boston premiere under direction of Mr. Gilbert, director of the conservatory dramatic department. This amusing little work made a very favorable impression on large audiences, and was well treated by the local dramatic

critics, several of whom especially mentioned Miss Sanders' work. The registrars of voters have arranged these dates for registering for the annual town meeting: Thursday evening, January 18, from 7:30 to 9:30, and Saturday, January 27, from twelve at noon until ten in the evening. Town meeting comes on Monday, February 5.

At the last meeting of Harbinger Temple, Pythian Sisters, these officers were elected: Mrs. Alice E. Fleet, m.o.c.; Mrs. Elsie M. Force, l.o.; Mrs. Lucy Morse, e.g.; Mrs. Alice King, m.; Mrs. Mary Howarth, m.; Mrs. Minnie Fowler, m.; Mrs. Evelyn Cunningham, p.; Miss Miss Davenport, o.g.; Mrs. Alice King, representative to grand lodge; Mrs. Lucy Prescott, alternate; Mrs. Eva Bulkeley, trustee.

Four candidates were nominated, the work being inspected by Miss Maude Hadley, of Waltham, deputy. Refreshments were served. Mrs. Leo J. O'Neill has returned from the Clinton hospital, where she underwent a surgical operation a short time ago, and is doing well.

The schools closed this week Friday afternoon for the annual Christmas vacation. They will re-open on Tuesday morning, January 2, a day later than formerly, owing to the fact that January 1 is this year for the first time a legal holiday.

Joseph E. Donohue has bought the new shop of Lester Carew on Merchants' row. Mr. Donohue has been employed by Mr. Carew for some time past.

It would seem that the town officials would try and have a plow out to clear the gutters on at least one or two or rainstorm following a heavy snowfall. On this week Friday the crossings at the different streets remained miniature lakes, caused by those who have shown no regard to sidewalks and the town plow throwing the snow in the gutter. When a thaw like that of this week comes there is no way for the water to run off and at places it requires a person to wear rubber boots to effect a crossing, and then he would not be sure of getting across without getting his feet wet. Other towns and cities do this and why not Ayer, especially at this season of the year when so many people are out doing their Christmas shopping.

Fires. A fire in the two-tenement house on Park street, the property of the Stone heirs of Littleton, gave the fire department forty-five minutes of strenuous work last week Friday afternoon before the flames were subdued. The department prevented from spreading its usual fast time on account of the raging snowstorm which prevailed. The fire caught in the kitchen of a wooden building which attached to the south side of the main building, which is of brick construction, the fire forming a part of the tenement occupied by George Boisseau and family. The house of the Mr. Boisseau's family were temporarily absent. The blaze was discovered by Mrs. Della Forrest, housekeeper for James Profit, who occupied the other tenement. The fire started from a gas stove at the corner of West and Main streets at 2:15, and the "all out" signal was given at three o'clock. The fire from the second floor in the west wing of the house and burned through into the attic of the main house. At the time the fire department arrived it appeared as if the house would be destroyed, a well directed and prompt attack on the flames, however, prevented the fire from doing any great damage to the main part of the house. The damage to the west wing was considerable, the lower part of the house and furniture being more or less affected by the water dripping through the ceilings from the floors above.

An alarm from box 15 shortly after six o'clock last Saturday evening notified the fire department to a brick blaze in the house of Judge George A. Sanderson on East Main street. The fire caught on the second floor in the west wing of the house and burned through into the attic of the main house. At the time the fire department arrived it appeared as if the house would be destroyed, a well directed and prompt attack on the flames, however, prevented the fire from doing any great damage to the main part of the house. The damage to the west wing was considerable, the lower part of the house and furniture being more or less affected by the water dripping through the ceilings from the floors above.

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The fire department arrived at the scene. It was at first thought that the fire was caused by the explosion of an oil stove on the second floor, as a loud noise was heard just previous to the breaking out of the fire. A careful investigation, however, does not agree with that idea, and the origin of the fire remains a mystery.

An insurance adjuster from Boston was in town this week and went over practically having the fire under control, some one shut the water off on that line at the hydrant. The minutes lost in getting the line into action again gave the flames a renewed start and they began to reer up into the main house. But for its incident the fire engineers are of the opinion that the damage would have been less and the fight to subdue the flames would have been much easier. C. E. Perrin, chief engineer, makes the statement that he will give a reward of twenty-five dollars to anyone who can furnish him with enough evidence to convict the person who disobeys act during the temporary absence of the man stationed at the hydrant at the lower end of the line on East Main street.

LITTLETON

News Items. Rev. W. C. Brown is entertaining a young man from Harvard college during the holidays.

The War Relie association will meet with Mrs. Charles Brown next Thursday afternoon.

Fred Cook on Tufts, Heywood Knowlton from Dartmouth, Warren Hartwell from Utsa, George Hartwell and Norman Bennell from Commercial college, Mary Kimball from Framingham Normal, H. Fairfield sisters and Arla Stone from U. Katherine Kimball from Simons, Robert Hartwell



Geo. H. Brown Overcoats OF EVERY KIND FOR MEN AND BOYS

You will find here a very large stock of handsome and desirable Overcoats. Every man will find here an Overcoat that will be sure to please him. Here is the Dressy Overcoat in Black or Oxford with Velvet Collars and cut 42 inches long. Here is the very attractive Fancy Mixture Overcoat in a variety of styles of fabrics and colorings, all very stylish and well tailored. Here is also the long Storm Coat with the large Storm Collar, cut 52 inches long. We are offering every one of these coats at prices that range from \$2.00 to \$5.00 under the market value today.

Come in and look them over as it is the only way you can be convinced of their superior values.

- Men's Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00 Men's Black Kersey Overcoats \$15.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00 Youths' Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$8.47, \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00 Boys' Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$5.00, \$7.47, \$8.47, \$10.00 and \$12.00

Fur Coats

A good stock of FUR COATS and all at remarkably low prices. We cannot replace them at anything like present prices—Dogskin, Horsehide and Galway Calf, made with heavy quilted linings and with large storm collars. Prices—\$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00 and \$40.00

Winter Caps

Every kind of Winter Caps; also, a good line of Toques and Toques and Scarfs. Remarkably low prices for the qualities offered.

- Men's Warm Caps 50¢ to \$1.50 Men's Golf Caps 50¢ to \$1.25 Boys' Golf Caps 25¢ and 50¢ Toques for Boys or Girls 50¢ Toques and Scarfs \$1.00 to \$2.00 Toques for Children 25¢ and 50¢

Rubber Footwear

We have everything you can possibly need in way of Rubber Footwear to keep your feet dry and warm. We carry the very best makes and the very best qualities to be found in the country. You will find here such makes as GOLD SEAL, RED SEAL and GOODYEAR GLOVE

- Men's Sweaters 50¢ to \$7.00 Boys' Sweaters 98¢ to \$3.00 Children's Sweaters 50¢ to \$2.00

Sweaters

How about a good Sweater? We have them—all kinds and colors.

Calendar Week

Next week will be Calendar Week at this store. As per our custom for many years past, during the coming week we shall present to all customers making purchases at our store, a Beautiful Art Calendar for the year 1917. We are sure that you will like our calendar and you will find it well worth having and keeping. Out-of-town customers who cannot get here will receive one by parcel post upon request.

Store Open on Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

Geo. H. Brown

From Durham Agricultural college, Misses Maud Mitchell from Chelsea, Edith Fletcher from Springfield, Esther McNeill from Malden, Abby McNiff from Cambridge, Hattie Shafter from New Bedford, Evelyn Kimball from Athol, Whitney Caultkins from Boston, and others from school and college are spending the Christmas season with the home people.

Christmas Guests. A family party of sixteen children and grandchildren will celebrate Christmas at Thomas Moore's. The J. H. D. Whitcombs will entertain Mr. Marshall and Miss Belle Marshall of Stow, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Whitcomb of West Acton and Mr. Stewart of Worcester. The George Gardner family of Nashua, N. H., will join the J. H. D. Whitcombs in Christmas festivities. Curtis Drew and family will spend Christmas with the J. N. Murrays and Mrs. Osborn. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Canny will go to Arlington Heights to enjoy Christmas with their son Elmer and family. Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Burr of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Miss Laurice Flagg of Brown university annex will be with the E. A. Flagg. Mrs. A. W. Knowlton and son dine with the H. F. Proctors. Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Ireland of Gardner, Mrs. Harry Hartwell and sons, Mrs. Mary F. Robbins and the George Howards are to be guests of Mrs. J. W. Ireland and the Hibbard family. Mrs. Clarence

Green will be a Christmas guest at her son, Guy Green's. Allan J. Hathaway spends the holidays with his people in Bryant's Pond, Me. Mrs. Amelia Wakeliedt spends the week with friends in Lexington. Miss Mary Marshall and Mrs. Sadie Pierce will be Christmas guests of the Leeds family in Sharon.

Miss Gladys Kimball of Gardner will join her home people Monday and there will be a large gathering of the Allan Kimball families at George A. Kimball's in Westford. The George H. Kimball will dine at F. S. Kimball's and the John A. Kimball families will hold a reunion at the old homestead in the afternoon. Archie Shafter will join the Oscar Shafter family. Mrs. J. S. Whitcomb and the G. M. Lovejoy families hold a reunion at F. B. Newton, the Adams brothers and sisters with their aunts, the Misses Porter of West Acton are to be guests of the N. H. Whitcombs, the J. A. Priest families hold a reunion at F. B. Priest's, Judge and Mrs. Hardy are to be guests of the J. H. Hardy. The Geo. W. Sanderson families have a large reunion at Arthur Blanchard's in West Acton. H. J. Renick goes to his home in Rye, N. H.

The S. B. Hubbards entertained Mr. Hubbard's sons from New York and St. Louis and their wives, also Miss Esther Dodge of Cambridge. The G. W. Proutys have their children and grandchildren at home, the F. C. Hart-

wells entertain the Harry Smiths, Earl Spear welcomes a number of relatives and the P. L. Browns with the H. S. Browns enjoy the hospitality of the Gordon family in Newton. L. W. Bartlett and daughter of Greenfield are with the A. T. Kimball and Mrs. J. A. Kimball.

Grange. Christmas was observed at the Grange Wednesday night. F. H. Hill opened the meeting, but on account of hoarseness retired from the chair and called upon Albert Shedd, who filled the office very acceptably. Mr. Shedd gave a report of the newly formed organization, the Middlesex county farm bureau. Mr. and Mrs. Hill wrote a report of the recent Grange meetings held in Boston, which was read by Miss Augusta Smith. Mrs. Clarence Crosby gave a report of the lectures-elect conference. Mrs. Shedd presented an entertainment given by Miss Florence Hubbard. A soloist, who sang very sweetly, responded to hearty applause. Mr. Kimball played the piano. The Grange was closed with a social and dancing of the young people.

TOWNSEND

Center. Miss Helen Whitcomb, a student from Northford, is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Whitcomb.

The little daughter recently born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Copeland has been named Ruth Copeland.

The funeral of Mrs. Augusta Palfreyman aged eighty years, wife of John Palfreyman of this town, who passed away at the home of her son, Fred Palfreyman, Fitchburg, was held on Monday afternoon at two o'clock in the Congregational church, Rev. A. F. Struthers officiating.

The body of Frank H. Wright, aged fifty-one, who passed away at the Clinton hospital of tuberculosis, was brought to town and funeral services were held from his sister's home, Mrs. Alice Bowley, at 10.30 o'clock Monday.

At the annual meeting of the Squannock Patrol, held at the Congregational parsonage on last Saturday the following officers were elected: Albert Cowland, patrol leader; Ralph Marshall, asst.; Urban Palmer, treasurer; Sherrin Stearns, secretary.

The Ladies' Study club met Monday evening at the reading-room and a very interesting meeting was enjoyed.

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Henry B. Hathaway spent Sunday in Boston, where his wife is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Miss Dorothy Peters, daughter of Mrs. Harry Hobart, has gone to the home of her grandmother, near Keene, N. H., for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Smith have closed their home for the present and have moved to New Boston, N. H., where Mr. Smith is employed.

Mrs. Clarence Elliott, who has been very ill with pneumonia, is reported to be much improved.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Ladies' Literary and Social circle was held on last week Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Harriet Stickney, and in spite of the driving snowstorm there was a good attendance.

The public schools closed for the Christmas vacation Thursday morning, and very interesting exercises were held Wednesday afternoon in Seminary hall with about thirty of the parents and friends in attendance.

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Miss Martha Jones, of Mason, N. H., has arrived at the Squannock Inn, where she will spend the winter.

Edward Moray, of Worcester, is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph MacKean.

LUNENBURG

News Items. Rev. Lionel A. Whiston, of Wisconsin, occupied the pulpit in the Congregational church last Sunday morning.

There will be a Christmas concert in the Congregational church on Sunday evening by the Sunday school, and on Monday evening there will be held the annual festival, Christmas tree and social hour.

The heavy fall of snow last week and the high winds of Saturday necessitated the clearing of the roads and for people who desired to go to church.

All the grade schools in town closed on last week Friday for the customary Christmas vacation. Carols were sung by the seventh and eighth grades in the Center school, and lower grades united in Miss Goodrich's room.

At the business meeting of the Methodist Sunday school the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Lewis H. Harrington, president; Lewis H. Harrington, secretary.

Basketball on Tuesday evening was postponed on account of the preparations for the community Christmas tree and exercises, held on Wednesday evening.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Roper were shocked to learn of the death of Mrs. Roper at her home in Lunenburg on Wednesday night of last week with pneumonia.

William W. Sterlin, a former resident and worthy citizen of this town, died at the Burbank hospital last Saturday evening of pneumonia after only five days' illness.

The Christmas tree of the Baptist Sunday school will be held in the vestry on Monday evening at six o'clock, with appropriate exercises by the children.

George Hayward of New York, Isabel Hayward of Ashburnham, and Russell Hayward of Fitchburg are the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Hayward, of Bayberry.

Rev. Joseph MacKean will preach Sunday morning an appropriate Christmas sermon upon the topic, "The world's great light."

The regular meeting of the Eclipse engine company will be postponed from Monday evening to Saturday evening, December 30.

Oren Powers was a prominent figure in a runaway on Tuesday evening at about five o'clock when the horse he was driving became frightened at the railway station and ran the length of Main street, past the stable, and Mr. Powers was unable to stop him until he reached the schoolhouse, when he succeeded in turning him into the yard.

The Ladies' Mission Circle met on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Mary Tucker, and an interesting program was enjoyed.

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Deacon

How He Took Out the Christmas Mail

by Sewell Ford

MOST things Deacon took as they came, and with great calmness of spirit, for he was an even-tempered old horse, whose disposition a dozen years, filled with the usual allotment of equine adversity, had thoroughly seasoned.

No sooner had they reached Joel's road, where the route began, than Deacon realized the inexperience of the new man. Why, he was actually going to drive right past the Powers' place, and the Powers almost always had mail of some kind, even if it wasn't more than a poultry magazine or a seed catalogue.

All the forenoon and all the afternoon this went on, but when the red sun went down in the frosty west there still remained half a hundred letters and more than a peck of packages to be delivered.

Inside, in the Havertown post office, were a number of men whose frame of mind was worse than Deacon's. One of them was the postmaster himself.

But Deacon would not turn. In the first place, the simultaneous arrival of a three-foot snowfall and the bulk of the Christmas mail was bad enough.

It was a sight of the great pile of packages which made Danny groan deepest. They were more to him than simply so much fourth-class matter, these string-tied boxes and bundles.

And to think, just because of this plaguey rheumatism of his, many of them might not be delivered until the holiday was over with, when they would come lagging along, as stale as firecrackers on the 5th of July!

"There!" said Danny at last, to the office clerk who was to attempt the task, "you stow the packages in just that order and do your best to find where they go."

"Well," Dan Sweeney will add, "it's no more'n he deserves. Old Deacon was a mighty good horse in his day, and mighty knowin'."

So the Christmas mail was finally started out over Route No. 2, Deacon turned an inquiring eye on the raw man, as much as if to ask what was the matter with Danny.

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Prince Albert gives smokers such delight, because

—its flavor is so different and so delightfully good; —it can't bite your tongue; —it can't parch your throat; —you can smoke it as long and as hard as you like without any comeback but real tobacco happiness!

On the reverse side of every Prince Albert package you will read: "PROCESS PATENTED JULY 30th, 1907"

PRINCE ALBERT

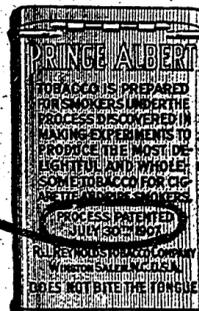
the national joy smoke

in goodness and in pipe satisfaction is all we or its enthusiastic friends ever claimed for it!

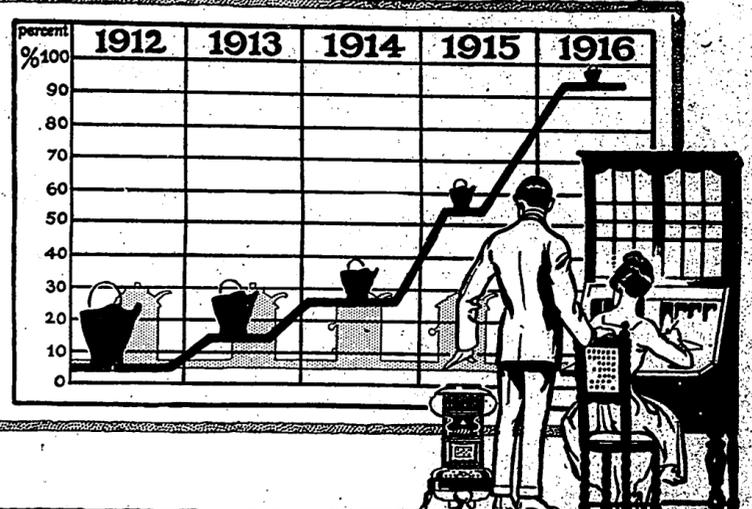
It answers every smoke desire you or any other man ever had! It is so cool and fragrant and appealing to your smokeappetite that you will get chummy with it in a mighty short time!

Will you invest 5c or 10c to prove out our say-so on the national joy smoke?

R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO., Winston-Salem, N. C.



This is the reverse side of the Prince Albert tidy red tin. Read this "Patented Process" message to prove and realize what it means in making Prince Albert so much to your liking.



"Let's see—if a scuttle of coal costs a quarter"—

"THAT same quarter buys about two gallons of SOCONY Kerosene, which will keep a Perfection Oil Heater going full blast for twenty hours. And not a cent's worth of fuel is wasted. The Perfection is on when you need it and off when you don't."

Advertisement for SOCONY KEROSENE. Includes the SOCONY logo and text: "Save money and keep warm. Burn SOCONY KEROSENE. Remember it's SOCONY Kerosene, the Standard Oil Company of New York's best grade of refined Oil. Say SOCONY to the grocer's boy. Look for the SOCONY Sign at your dealer's."

AUGUSTUS LOVEJOY Insurance Agent and Broker. Farm Property written; also all kinds of Property placed in good strong companies. 34 East Main Street, Ayer.

Good First Mortgages on Real Estate. The North Middlesex Savings Bank will take good first mortgages on Real Estate at reasonable rates. Application may be made at its office in Ayer.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher JOHN H. TURNER, Editor

"The daily labors of the Bee, awake my ink and pen, Who can provide the careful Ant, And not observe for future want?"

Subscribers are urged to keep their subscriptions paid in advance.

Saturday, December 23, 1916.

GROTON

News Items. The services at the Congregational church last Sunday were held in the vestry.

At the meeting of the Woman's club on next week Friday, Rev. Endicott Peabody will tell of his visit abroad during his vacation last summer.

Much interest is shown in the community Christmas tree to be held on Sunday afternoon at 5.30 o'clock. The tree will be lighted and a large chorus will sing Christmas carols.

A queer mistake, which many must have noticed in an obituary in these columns last week, made in one place the names of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fernald, read instead, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Whitehill.

A fine black horse at the American Express team arrived last week in exchange for the gray which has been on the route.

Hon. and Mrs. William F. Wharton went last week to their Beacon street home, Boston.

The following is clipped from the Boston Sunday Globe of December 17: Rev. and Mrs. Endicott Peabody of Groton are entertaining at dinner to-morrow night at the Union club before the dance which they later giving at the Hotel Somerset to present their daughter, Miss Margery Peabody.

The closing feature of a program given last week Wednesday evening at Mrs. Winston Churchill's drawing room in Boston, for the benefit of French tuberculosis victims, was a comedy by the late Julian Sturgis, entitled "Picking up the pieces."

On last week Friday evening, which was a stormy night, an auto with passengers Russell Wright and Frank Sullivan, of Peabody, was driving down Main to the back of a sleigh in which James Cleary was driving his sister, Miss Esther, to the station to take the train to Pepperell.

This week brings home the young folks for a part or all of the Christmas vacation. Here are some of them: Misses Ruth Blood, Ada and Selma Bradley, Marguerite and Alice Cleary, Miss Genevieve Harrington, Hazel Gibson, Marian Green, Margery Peabody, Gladys Swallow, Irene Taylor, Helen Wiseman, John and William Bradley, Claude Farwell, D. Wyman Gibson, William and Lawrence Gray, Waldo Green, Lewis M. Knapp, Warren H. Whitehill, Frank A. Woods and Miss Virginia Woods.

At the Baptist church Sunday morning the subject of the sermon will be "The universal influence of Christmas." Sunday school at twelve. The subject of the evening service at 7.30 will be "The first Christmas carol."

There will be special music, including praise and worship. The Christmas tree festivities will be held on this week Saturday evening from 5.30 to 8 o'clock.

Troop 1, B. S. A., held their regular meeting last Saturday evening. Following the opening exercises the evening was devoted to instruction in tying square, reef, sheethead, bowline, fisherman's sheepshead, hitch, clove-hitch and two half hitches knots.

The neighborhood club met on Wednesday with Mrs. Anna Gray. Owing to the near approach of the holiday season there was not a very full attendance. There were Christmas quotations and Mrs. Rork read beautifully an interesting Christmas story, the others were busy with work on the slippers. The meeting closed in the usual way.

All who are interested in the carols to be sung at the Community Christmas tree on Sunday afternoon are asked to be sure to come for practice to the town hall at eight o'clock Saturday evening.

The Groton Sewing school held the annual Christmas party last week Saturday afternoon with their usual good time.

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Moison will have the annual family gathering at their home on Christmas day.

Miss Mary W. Condon is ill with neuritis.

At the Christmas festivities at the Congregational church Saturday evening the C. E. society will provide the entertainment, giving a play and having a number of tableaux.

Mrs. Fannie Forbes and daughters, Gertrude and Helen, are going to Allston for Christmas.

The remains of Joseph Horton were brought from Brimfield for interment in Groton cemetery on Wednesday afternoon.

John H. Sheedy and George E. Meyet have been drawn as jurors for court in Cambridge, beginning January 8.

The service at the Congregational church on Sunday evening at 7.30 o'clock will be largely musical, with the following program: "There shall come forth a star," ladies' chorus; responsive reading; hymn; "There were shepherds," ladies' chorus; prayer; responsive, "Holy night," scripture reading; Christmas song, ladies' chorus; address, Rev. G. M. Howe; hymn. The meeting will be held in the main auditorium. Every-

body cordially invited to come and hear this song service.

Dr. Samuel A. Green, former mayor of Boston, vice president and librarian of the Massachusetts Historical society, has returned to Boston after a long summer and fall season in his native town, Groton. This year he occupied his vacation in this town, his prolonging his stay in the historic town. Dr. Green is in excellent health and remarkably active for a man of eighty-six years.

The Alliance of meetings with Miss Carolyn Boutwell on next week Thursday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock. Miss Boutwell will read a paper, "The history of the First Parish meeting-house of Groton."

We believe that the people of Groton should be particularly interested in the plan of systematic savings as afforded by the Savings and Thrift club now forming at the First National bank of Ayer. Grant W. Shattuck will be pleased to explain to any interested.

Miss Alma Gray, who has been teaching in Ayer, has resigned and accepted a position in a school at Groton. Her school in Grand Mere opens on January 4.

The twenty-ninth annual dinner and roll call of the Congregational church will be held on Wednesday, January 2, at 7.30 o'clock, promptly at twelve o'clock, followed by the roll call and that by the annual business meeting.

The program for the concert and dance to be given by the song club on the evening of January 1, will be as follows: March, "On Wisconsin"; overture, "Poet and peasant"; trombone solo, Leroy Shattuck; song, "The only girl"; descriptive, "A hunting scene" with male chorus; march, "Yacht club"; Neophyte's band; cornet solo, Mrs. Violet J. Beers; finale, "Star Spangled Banner." There will be dancing until midnight.

The band will be augmented by the following soloists: Shattuck, trombone; J. Piper, alto; Mr. Morse, clarinet; Joseph Kyle, cornet. The following have been enrolled as honorary members of the band: Fred Barrows, 2; Barclay H. Fay, \$2; W. Bixby \$1. "A Friend" \$1; previously acknowledged, \$315.50; total, \$324.50.

Mrs. Frank M. Blood returned on Wednesday from a visit to her daughter, Miss Ruth Blood, teacher in Arlington.

The Wheelocks are planning to go to Boston for the winter, leaving their hired men and other help at their Chicopee row home.

There are to be Christmas festivities for the Sunday school children and others at all the churches.

There was a good attendance at the W. R. C. meeting on Tuesday afternoon and there were pleasing exercises suitable for the season. Different devotional readings, and "Holy night" was sung as a duet by Mrs. Gleason and Mrs. Gibson. The joint installation of officers of E. S. Clark post and W. R. C. is to be held on January 18.

Born in Middleboro on December 9, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mahoney (Miss Isabelle Woods). And by Mrs. Anna Barbara Mahoney.

Lawrence academy closed Wednesday for the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. John Bradley will close their house after the Christmas holidays to spend the winter in Boston.

Charles H. Berry has been suffering this week from an attack of asthma. He is getting better, but the first of the week was obliged to have a doctor.

This week brings home the young folks for a part or all of the Christmas vacation. Here are some of them: Misses Ruth Blood, Ada and Selma Bradley, Marguerite and Alice Cleary, Miss Genevieve Harrington, Hazel Gibson, Marian Green, Margery Peabody, Gladys Swallow, Irene Taylor, Helen Wiseman, John and William Bradley, Claude Farwell, D. Wyman Gibson, William and Lawrence Gray, Waldo Green, Lewis M. Knapp, Warren H. Whitehill, Frank A. Woods and Miss Virginia Woods.

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Miss Gertrude reported briefly on the progress of the Junior club. President Ames called attention to several packages of mixed seed which could be purchased after the meeting. Referring to the present status of the project of migratory birds in Canada and the United States he stated that its effectiveness depends upon the passage of the migratory act, which are to be brought before the present congress. In this connection an inquiry by Mr. Howe as to why women in treaty with Mexico, where so many of our birds winter elicited the information that such a treaty had in fact been contemplated but that the Southern neighbor had prevented its negotiation.

President Ames announced the following program: January 15. Public meeting with moving pictures shown by T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary of National Association of Audubon societies.

February 19. Club meeting in care of master and boys from Groton School. Topic, "Birds introduced from foreign countries; hawks."

March 19. Public meeting. Mr. Gors, the famous wren, will sing his remarkable imitation of bird songs.

April 16. Winter observations by Miss Hill, Miss Hutchins and other members of the club. Other speakers, "The birds of the Maine coast" by William P. Wharton.

June 18. Outdoor meeting at the Bigelow camp at East Groton. Subject, "Winters and vireos" by Miss Gerrish.

Miss Gerrish's paper on "Winter birds" took up the common residents of the winter woods, such as the chickadee, whose economic value is fully as great as his appeal to our eyes and ears. Chickadees are great eaters of insect eggs as well as of insects.

The white breasted nuthatch with his nasal yank, yank and his undulating tail, is a quite unmistakable. He is said to have got his name from his habit of wedging nuts and seeds into crevices in the bark. The more crevices the crack the more the nuthatch, seen not infrequently in fall and spring, has a somewhat similar, but much higher, note. The minute kinglets, little more than a inch in length, are with us in the cold weather, though the golden crowned is the only one to remain all winter.

The downy and hairy woodpeckers, similar to the red-breasted nuthatch, are important guardians of the forests, being destroyers of the white pine weevil and many other bark and wood boring beetles.

The northern shrike has a not unmusical song and makes up in part for his killing of useful birds by his destruction of the English sparrow, which he introduced into this country, which raked fiercely during the afternoon comparatively few persons are interested in the magpie good things and the remaining food found ready purchasers.

At a business meeting of the L. A. society on Monday afternoon, about 40 were present. The net profit of \$130 was voted to the church for current expenses.

The village Christmas tree will be held at the hall on Saturday evening. A program will be given by the children.

The regular meeting of the Improvement society was held on Tuesday evening with a small number present. Doubtless owing to the Christmas week with everybody busy.

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spring. Donald Bixby, also employed in Waban, is doing greenhouse work this winter in which he is greatly interested.

Provost Thompson, Dorchester, returning on Sunday evening. He attended the Allied Bazaar on England's day.

Mrs. G. H. Bixby is spending some days this way with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Chapman, of Winchester.

Mrs. Vedder, who has been with her daughter, Mrs. A. W. Lamb, for the past eight weeks, returned to New York on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lacos and their sons, Aristotle and Leonidas, will spend the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Lacos' parents in Bennington, N. H. They will be accompanied by Mr. Lacos' brother, William Lacos, and a cousin.

Miss Katherine Spaulding, who has spent the past five weeks at the home of her brother, H. Spaulding, returned to Townsend on Wednesday.

Miss Evadne Harnum is spending the holidays with her aunt, Mrs. Samuel Richards, of Boston.

Coming on Thursday, Miss Grace Bixby is spending a few days at home but will leave before Christmas.

Mrs. Charles Bixby and daughter Ruth are spending Christmas in West Groton.

The Misses Elsie and Olive Tarbell will be at home from Hanover, N. H., over the holidays.

Going on Tuesday, Homer Harrington visited Mr. and Mrs. West Groton on Thursday noon. He was given an opportunity to visit both Boston and Waltham.

George Harrington has been debarred from work this week by a severe attack of indigestion.

The A. P. Blood house on Main street has been rented by George Fossenden, of Townsend Harbor, who is well-known to many of our people. Mr. Fossenden has sold his home in Townsend and expects to move here about the first of January.

He is now employed here at the leatherboard mill, and his son Charles at a paper mill.

Christmas shopping has been the all important business during the past week and visits to Fitchburg, Boston and elsewhere have been too numerous to mention.

Mr. Kane has taken charge of the sidewalks for the winter and made his first trips with the plow this week.

An interesting feature of last week's sale was an apron made and given by Mrs. Elizabeth. The apron is of fine length and more than a yard in length. It was purchased for considerably more than its market price by Mrs. V. V. of New York, and she accompanied by a letter explaining various personal items of interest.

The fair supper held on last week Friday evening was of the usual excellence in charge of Mrs. George Harrington, but owing to the storm which raged fiercely during the afternoon comparatively few persons are interested in the magpie good things and the remaining food found ready purchasers.

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The Alfred Cobleigh family is enjoying music from a new Victrola.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Littlefield were among the number who attended the State Grange meeting at Tremont Temple; they also were at the Allied Bazaar on Polish day.

Church Notes. Sunday services—Morning worship at eleven o'clock. Preacher, Rev. G. M. Missirian, the minister. Subject, the song of the angels. Sunday school at 10.15.

The Baptist church of West Acton has kindly invited our church to join in a community sing service next Sunday night at seven o'clock. Also, a special concert will be given by the choir under the direction of Mrs. Weeks. If we do have fair weather and good roads on that day there will be made an announcement about the plans going to West Acton on Sunday morning service.

All the children and people in our town are cordially invited by our Sunday school to attend the Christmas tree celebration to be held on Saturday evening, December 23, in the vestry.

The special meeting of the church to hear and act on the report of the committee appointed to revise the constitution and by-laws of the church, held Sunday after the morning service. The report of the committee was accepted and the constitution and by-laws were adopted in full. The question in regard to a change of the name of the church, in article I, will be presented at a meeting to be held on January 4, at the Congregational vestry.

The final decision or report about that will be presented at a meeting to be held on January 4, at the Congregational vestry. The moderator of that special meeting and the members of the committee were: Rev. G. M. Missirian, chairman, Frank W. Dodge and Arthur W. Nelson.

SHIRLEY News Items. The Altrurian club held a social Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Mary W. Hazen, in charge of the directors. Each lady brought her work and also a gift which were exchanged with each other. Miss Grace M. Kilduff presided, calling for all reports from committee, and reading of the minutes of the last meeting. At the roll call each lady responded with a Christmas greeting. Notices of a Christmas banquet were given including a conference buffet luncheon for the music department of the Federated clubs to be held at the Art club on Thursday street, Boston; also, an invitation to a state legislature conference to be held in Allston. The meeting was full of Christmas cheer. The next meeting will be held on January 4, at the Congregational vestry.

HARVARD News Items. Girls at home from school this week for the holidays. Miss Dorothy West, from Framingham Normal; Miss Nancy Harlow, from Ashburnham, and Miss Harry Mason, from Wheaton, have a ten-days' recess.

Miss Dolena Campbell is home from Fitchburg Normal for a few days' recess with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Campbell.

Arthur Brown is stopping for a few days with his aunt, Miss Helen Barnard, from his work in Whitinsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Turner, from Brooklyn, are home with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Turner for the holidays.

The meeting of the Grange on Tuesday evening proved to be a very interesting affair. The subject of the evening was "The Christmas tree." The next meeting will be held on January 2, when the officers-elect will be installed. Lunch will be served.

At the Unitarian church on Sunday, in place of the regular sermon in the morning, the pastor will read Dickens' Christmas carol. Sunday school will be omitted and the children will attend the morning service. The Unitarian churches for the war sufferers. In the evening, at seven o'clock, the sermon subject will be "The personality of Jesus—his place in humanity and his relation to God."

The music study class in connection with the Woman's club held its second meeting Tuesday afternoon, when musical selections from Handel and Haydn were given, and also biographical sketches of the two composers. The next meeting will be on Mozart, under leadership of Miss Anna Scorgie at the home of Mrs. H. B. Royal, in January.

The schools closed on Friday for the Christmas vacation, the teachers all going to their respective homes.

An invitation party will be given by the senior class of Bromfield school next week, which will be held in the building.

Mrs. Horace Pattee is a victim of a severe cold.

Miss Eleanor Warner intends entering the Clinton hospital to train to be a nurse on January 1.

Harry Medd has gone to Worcester to learn the machinist's trade.

Mr. Carlo and family leave this week for New Bedford, where they will make their home with friends for the present.

Miss Anna Blodgett, of Franklin, N. H., has been the guest of Mrs. H. B. Royal this week.

On Friday evening of next week the Woman's Benevolent society of the Congregational church will hold a supper in the lower hall at six and seven o'clock, followed by an entertainment at eight o'clock. Miss Annie Lee will be in charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Savage and Mrs. Catherine Fairbank will spend Christmas in Schenectady, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Savage will return after the holiday week and Mrs. Fairbank will make an extended visit.

The Pomona Grange meeting on Wednesday was well attended by local and visiting members.

A company of twelve were taken to the Still River supper last week Friday evening by Lewis Savage in his motor truck.

On this week Saturday evening there will be a Christmas entertainment for the village people in the Baptist vestry. The children, especially are wanted there, as well as the young people. Edna Flanders, Eleanor Haskell and Vera Willard have the matter in charge and a good time may be expected. The Sunday school vestry on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, instead of in the evening.

Just an Old-Time Merry Christmas to You and Yours

Just an old-time Merry Christmas to you and yours—we wish, Just a Merry Christmas, the merriest of them all. Just a Christmas full of joy, for papa, mama, the girl and the boy, Just the Christmas we all like best—A real old-time Merry Christmas—you know the rest.

May the day be a happy one for each of our patrons, friends and employees, and may the cup of health, happiness and prosperity be filled to its utmost for each and everyone of you in the year ahead.



PLENTY OF GIFTS FOR THE LAST-MINUTE SHOPPERS. Leather Goods, Jewelry, Stationery, Bath Robes, Toilet Articles, Post Cards, Booklets, Handkerchiefs, Aprons, Neckwear

The Boston Store GEO. B. TURNER & SON AYER, MASS.

They Say

Your Pullets must be Roosters if they do not lay when fed on

Town Talk Mash AND Red Comb Scratching

Small supply, all sizes, COAL on hand. First come, first served. At the

Old Red Store A. E. Lawrence, Manager Park St., Ayer

Page's Hall Theatre

THE ONLY MOTION PICTURE THEATRE IN AYER A Motion Picture Theatre that shows the BEST in the Motion Picture World—Ask Those who Attend This Theatre Regularly

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 23—at 8.15 HAPPINESS or POWER—Which do You Choose? See the answer in

The Weakness of Strength

Starring EDMUND BREESE with Ormi Hawley, Bruce and Evelyn Brent in the supporting cast

A Complete Story in Two Reels will also be shown of Underworld Life in the famous

Beatrice Fairfax Serial

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 27, AT 8 O'CLOCK Two Popular Stars, FRANCIS X. BUSHMAN and BEVERLY BAYNE, in a five-act Metro wonderplay

In the Diplomatic Service

The central theme is the unmasking of a foreign official high in the diplomatic service for his duplicity in plotting against this government, while asking and receiving its confidence and its hospitality

Another Lively Episode will be Shown in the Great Serial, The Shielding Shadow

Christmas Shows

AFTERNOON at THREE O'CLOCK EVENING at EIGHT O'CLOCK

The Jockey of Death

A Clean, Wholesome Story of Circus Life, full of thrills and action—in five parts

Other Pictures will be shown, making in all two hours of Pleasing Entertainment

SEATS MAY BE RESERVED FOR EITHER SHOW BY PHONE—8050

one wishes to go he would like to visit her cousin in Winchester, Mass. Miss Vera Willard is at home for the Christmas vacation from her school duties in Lunenburg.

Mrs. Anna Flanders and Miss Haven attended a meeting of the Woman's club in Ayer on Wednesday. Mrs. James M. Read is visiting with friends in Concord, N. H.

BOXBOROUGH

News Items. Mrs. Cora Hartwell is at her brother Albert's home for the winter.

The telephones of Messrs. Dean, Waitt, Hartwell, Poland and Littlefield have been transferred from line 104 to 31 thus making a six party line.

West Groton. Lee Bixby, who has been gaining experience in truck driving during the summer, has gone south for the winter and will continue his work on his employer's farms in Florida. He expects to return to Waban in the

New Advertisement.

FOR SALE—Two Cows, one is fresh and the other to calve in two weeks. R. E. SARGENT, Old Ayer Road, Groton, Mass.

Saturday, December 23, 1916.

AYER

News Items. Miss Hilda Rose has returned to her home in Millbury after a visit with her aunt, Mrs. William Leahy.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Pillman have been visiting relatives in Fall River. Those from Ayer who attended the sessions of the State Grange in Boston last week were Mrs. Jennie Leahy, Miss Alice Leahy and Mrs. Ella E. Hovey, all of whom received the sixth degree, and Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Lovejoy, Mrs. Mary Mills and Mrs. Emma M. Wood.

Miss Alice C. Leahy has begun her course of study at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, where she has been awarded a scholarship.

Miss Alice Galvin and John F. Lynch attended the funeral of John Leo Galvin in Cambridge last Saturday.

In the "Thirty Years Ago" column of the Lowell Courier Citizen of Monday, December 18, there appeared an item stating that one of the successful candidates for admission to the bar was Charles F. Worcester. The termination was held in Lowell. The item has a local interest as the successful applicant is the well-known associate justice of the First District Court of New Hampshire, and a practicing attorney with an office in Ayer for many years. Mr. Worcester and the late Peter Fay, of Lowell, were the only ones who passed the examination out of a group of twenty.

A daughter was born on December 15 to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Legere. Thomas O'Meara is laid up with an injured right hand which he received in a fall while employed in the yard extension work at the south railroad yard last week. Several small bones were broken in the injured member.

St. Paul lodge of Masons conferred the first degree on four candidates at its regular meeting Monday afternoon in Masonic hall. The candidates were Frank W. Barnes, a former conductor on the Fitchburg division, died at his home in North Cambridge on Tuesday. Mr. Barnes was a former resident of Ayer. He retired four years ago after thirty-five years of railroad service on the old Fitchburg railroad and later for the Boston and Maine railroad after the merging of the two roads had taken place. He had the distinction of having charge of the first train to run out of the North station, Boston, after its completion. He served in the navy during the civil war and as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was the first witness at the Monitor and Merrimack. Mr. Barnes was widely known among railroad men and among the very popular. He was prominent in Masonic circles. The deceased was over seventy years of age.

Edward J. Lambert moved on Tuesday from the double tenement house of L. W. Phelps on Shirley street to the Meacham house on the same street.

Christmas tree at the Baptist church on Saturday evening of this week at 7.30. Preaching Sunday morning at 10.45. The pastor, Mr. S. J. Andrew, will be in charge.

The new-born king. Sunday school at twelve. Praise service at six in the evening, with songs and address appropriate to the Christmas season, closing at 7.30. The next meeting Thursday evening at 7.30.

More than 13,000 employees of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company will each participate next week Wednesday in the distribution of an emergency fund to assist them in meeting unusual present expenses. Employees who have been in the service one year or more will receive three weeks' pay. Employees who have been in the service less than one year, but not less than three months, will receive two weeks' pay. No employee will receive more than \$175 and no employee will receive less than three months' service and no general official will in any way share in the payments.

The Ayer Branch Alliance will hold a social afternoon with Mrs. George H. B. Dowling, of the Walnut street, on Thursday, December 28, at 2.30.

Edmund Breesse, the powerful dramatic actor, will be the star in the feature picture at the motion picture show at his theatre. Another feature of five gripping acts of love, ambition and regeneration. Another complete story in two reels in the Beatrice Fairfax serial will also be shown. Besides the International, the animated newspaper that is making a hit. On next Wednesday evening comes the sovereign of the screen, Francis X. Bushman, and the lovely Beverly Bayne in the stirring Metro wonderplay, "In the diplomatic service," a play of five superb acts, presenting a vivid story of love and international politics. Another act that is thrilling. The "Shielding shadow" serial will also be shown; also, the International, On Christmas day there will be two shows of merit, one at three o'clock and another at seven and eight in the evening. The feature picture of these two shows will be "The Jockey of death," a clean, wholesome, and action in five parts. Other pictures will be shown, making a two-hour show of real entertainment.

The Boston and Maine railroad has adopted liquid gas for chawing and switches and frogs instead of common rock salt, which has been in use for many years. The new substance is being tried in the work about the local railroad tracks and gives so far excellent results. After the severe snowstorm of last week it was used and in a very short time the switches and frogs were in perfect working order. A large supply tank is being set up at the depot near the railroad station.

James Bulger went to work on last Monday morning for Wilson & English, of New York, the contractors having the south railroad yard extension work in charge. Bulger runs a gasoline pump which is used to pump water for the use of the large steam shovel which is working on the east end of the yard.

An old lady, thought to be Mrs. Mary E. Dowling, of Walpole, N. H., was found dead by the conductor on the express train due in Ayer at twelve o'clock as he was taking up tickets on the way there from the passenger's car. Her possession was a check signed Helen T. Peak, on the Brookline Trust Company, payable to Miss H. M. Walker, 26 Appleton street. She boarded the train in Boston. Several envelopes with small amounts for presents were also found in her possession. She appeared to be about sixty-five years of age. Miss Beatrice and at time of going to press her positive identification has not been ascertained. The body was taken to Wright's undertaking rooms.



With only a short time to do the Christmas shopping our thoughts naturally turn to Christmas Gifts. What is more practical and more appreciated by the men and boys than some article of wearing apparel? Our Christmas Goods are all in, the newest styles and patterns in Men's and Boys' Clothing, Furnishings, Shoes and Slippers. Come in while the variety is good and let us help you make your selections. Here are a few suggestions:

- Men's and Boys' Suits and Overcoats..... \$10.00 to \$22.00
Mackinaw Coats \$5.00 to \$8.50
Bath Robes \$3.50 to \$6.00
Men's and Ladies' Sweaters \$1.00 to \$7.00
Men's and Ladies' Umbrellas \$1.00 to \$5.00
Men's and Ladies' Slippers and Moccasins 50¢ to \$2.00
Bags and Suit Cases \$1.25 to \$6.00
Neckties of all kinds in Christmas Boxes 25¢ to \$1.00
Arm Bands in Christmas Boxes 25¢ and 50¢
Gloves in Christmas Boxes 25¢ to \$3.50
Braes in Christmas Boxes 25¢ and 50¢
Men's Linen Handkerchiefs, with initial... 15¢, 25¢ and 50¢
Men's Japanette Handkerchiefs, initial.... 10¢ and 15¢
Men's Silk Handkerchiefs, with initial.... 25¢ and 50¢
Combination Necktie and Handkerchief. Sets in Christmas Boxes..... 75¢ and \$1.00

All Kinds of Footwear for Every Member of the Family—Rubber Boots, Overshoes, Rubbers, Etc.

Fletcher Bros. AYER - MASS. Opposite Depot Store Open Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

John I. Haynes died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bartlett on Central avenue, where he had been visiting, last Saturday of phthisis pulmonaris, aged 44 years, 10 months, 17 days. He was a native of Filton, N. Y., and had been here but two weeks. The funeral was held last Saturday at Mr. Bartlett's home, where Rev. J. W. Thomas, of the Baptist church, performed the services. The interment was in Woodlawn cemetery.

Joseph Dugan, a Polish workman employed as a laborer at the coal elevator in the south railroad yard, received severe injuries while at work last Sunday. While pushing the soft coal into the large hopper above, striking him on the head, and knocking him headlong to the bottom of the pit. He was at first thought to be dead, but after a time partially recovered his senses and was taken to the Groton hospital. A severe gash on the forehead was caused either by the blow from the coal or in falling after being struck.

Several Ayer citizens have been recently assessed for stocks, bonds and other evidences of ownership in what is known as intangible property by the local assessors, according to current reports. This is the second time that such a thing has occurred.

The second of a series of card games was held by Division 7, A. O. H., on Tuesday evening.

Work on the south yard extension will be suspended this week Friday night to Tuesday morning in order to enable the employees a Christmas vacation.

At the morning service at the Federated church Mr. Strong will speak on the subject, "The practical side of the incarnation of Jesus." The Sunday school will meet at noon. The meeting of the C. E. society will be omitted. At 5.30 there will be a Sunday school concert in celebration of Christmas eve, held in the church. The seven o'clock hour will be shared with the other churches in a union Christmas service at the Unitarian church. Next Sunday will be Christmas celebration day and the parish will be canvassed for subscriptions for the coming year. Mid-week service in the vestry at 7.30 o'clock on Thursday evening.

All the public schools closed this week Friday for the Christmas vacation, and all will reopen on Tuesday, January 2. The primary grades and grades three and four held Christmas exercises this Friday afternoon.

The National Express Company have had another team on for their Christmas business, which is in charge of S. J. Andrew.

Miss Charlotte Sanderson arrived home Wednesday from the Walnut Hill school, Natick, for a vacation of sixteen days. Bennett Sanderson came this week Friday from the Harvard law school, Cambridge, for a week's vacation.

Monday, January 1, being a legal holiday, all banks will be closed on that date.

Mrs. Howard A. White and son, of Ashby, are guests this week and for Christmas at the home of Mrs. Howard B. White. Mr. White comes from Ashby for Sunday and Christmas, and with his family will join Mrs. White's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert H. Pingree, of Westford, and family, as dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Taft on Christmas.

Judge Sanderson and family are to spend the holiday in West Acton with the Arthur Blanchard family.

The last meeting of the Unitarian Girls' club for the year 1916 was held in Hardy's hall, Tuesday evening, December 19, with Miss Hardy, Mrs. Cushing and Mrs. Hassam as hostesses. The hall was prettily trimmed with red and green Christmas decorations and a Christmas tree which contained mysterious packages that later proved to be both interesting and amusing. After the business meeting the girls were surprised by a visit from Santa Claus, himself, who greeted everyone with his usual jolly manner and distributed the gifts from the tree. A dainty lunch was then served by the hostesses.

There will be only three more rehearsals of the Ayer Musical society before the concert, which will be given about the middle of January, and every member is earnestly solicited to be present at all of the work evenings. The study of expression and finish is now only needed and everyone is expected to assist by their attendance in making a musical success. Now all be present on December 28, in Mr. Robinson's studio in Dickinson's block promptly at eight o'clock.

Joseph W. Bulkeley is confined to his home by illness the past few days.

George Stone was slightly injured at the engine house in the south railroad yard on Monday. Two fingers were badly bruised.

The following letters remained un-called for at the Ayer postoffice for the week ending December 18: Irwin-Boulia, Clinton Hastings, J. B. McKee, Pappas & Habbit.

District Court. Joseph Valcourt, of Townsend, was found guilty last Saturday morning of keeping an unlicensed dog and fined six dollars. The alleged offense occurred in Pepperell, where Valcourt lived prior to going to Townsend a few months ago. Valcourt's defense was that he did not own the dog, the animal coming to his place and hanging around it. The court, however, considered that he came within the meaning of the law, which says the owner or keeper of an unlicensed dog is liable.

George Vereino, of Ayer, was found guilty of larceny and ordered to pay a fine of five dollars Monday morning. The crime was committed when the defendant stole a pair of mittens from the store of George E. Turner & Son last week Friday, while the senior member of the firm was making change for a pair of gloves that Vereino had already bought. The defendant stated to the court that he considered the amount he gave covered the cost of both the mittens and gloves. Mr. Turner notified Chief Deputy Sheriff H. H. Doherty, who was notified and in a very brief time the defendant was in the hands of the law.

Death of Former Resident. Mrs. Jennie E. Parsons Weaver died at her home in Springfield on Monday, December 11, aged sixty-five years, the direct cause of death being pneumonia, although she had suffered for several years with diabetes. Mrs. Weaver was born in Shirley, where she lived until 1865, when she came to this town, then called Groton Junction, with her parents. From here they moved to Clinton. Her father, Mr. James Carleton Parsons, died in Lancaster on June 2, 1909. For several years he was engaged here in the blacking trade. Her mother, Mrs. Albert Weaver, of Springfield, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus E. McKinney, of New York; a brother, Wilfred C. Parsons, of Ayer; a half-brother, and three sisters, Mrs. Henry E. Carter and Mrs. Alice Lang, of Springfield, and Henry B. Parsons, of Clinton.

The funeral was held in Springfield, where the body was cremated. The ashes were brought to Shirley for interment in the Village cemetery. Wilfred C. Parsons, Mrs. Henry E. Carter and Miss Evelyn Sanderson attended the funeral from Ayer.

Lost in the Maze of Boston. "Mabel, I think that silk net tulle that I bought for Helen was a bargain and very pretty don't you?" Mabel must have answered in the affirmative, as she began to talk of the purchases made in Boston in an interesting way, for as they were on an elevated train on their way to North station to take the train for Ayer they found themselves viewing the scenery in Charlestown, near Sullivan square, on last Monday. These two ladies well-known in town had been doing some Christmas shopping early and had evidently been in one or two slightly crowded sections of the city and received one or more jolts to their nervous system and was in a relaxed state of mind, for when North station was reached they were entirely ignorant of the fact. Someone had to have the blame rest on their shoulders and so the buck was passed to the guard, who they claim did not call out the stations on the way. The extra trip did not cost any more for they stayed on the train, made the loop at Sullivan square and a number of those who were wise, and kept their eyes open until they reached North station again. In the hurry and excitement of the station the bundle of silk net tulle, which was the property of another owner, for when the ladies arrived home the bundle was missing and Helen will not know the joy of viewing that nice silk net tulle. The "Holly Heights" section of the hills in mourning for the departed bundle.

Unitarian Church Wins. In the union church fair the Unitarian church was first place with net earnings of \$189.40. The Episcopal church was a close second with \$160.05. The Baptist church was third with \$123.07, and the Federated church fourth with \$104.84.

The books of the treasurer, George H. Hill, show a gross earning for the fair of \$222.26, an increase over the earnings of last year in spite of closing the fair one day earlier this year. The total expenses were \$174.00. The earnings by tables were as follows: Food table—\$129.94, Federated \$24.22, Baptist \$25.91, Episcopal \$21.45.

Fancy work—Episcopal \$59.53, Unitarian \$19.50, Baptist \$17.50, Federated \$27.49. Candy table—Unitarian \$55.64, Baptist \$27.64, Federated \$25.92, Episcopal \$21.45.

Apron table—Episcopal \$25.44, Unitarian \$27.14, Baptist \$25.29, Federated \$24.39. Flower table—Unitarian \$20.75, Episcopal \$8.92, Baptist \$2.32, Federated \$5 cents.

The proceeds of the mystery and popcorn tables, of the tea-room, and of the entertainment were divided equally.

The features of the results are the strong showing of the Unitarian church at all the tables, and the big lead of the Episcopal church at the fancy work table.

The union church fair has now stood the test of the second year. It seems established that the net earnings for each society are larger and the expenses less than in separate fairs. The gain in acquaintance and fellowship has been so great that the fair is demanded as a prominent feature. With the benefit of experience gained in the last two years, next year's fair is assured even greater success.

Annual Meeting. At the annual meeting of the Federated church on Monday evening, December 11, there were reports of the church, Rev. C. Strong, business clerk, Augustus Lovejoy was chosen moderator of the meeting and John Traquair, secretary pro tem. The reports were given as follows: Church, Rev. C. Strong, business committee, F. C. Johnson, treasurer, John Traquair, collector, Miss Minnie H. Evans, Sunday school, Supp. H. J. Hill, Ladies' Benevolent society, Mrs. Hortense Stone, E. society, Warren A. Winslow. The following officers and committees were chosen: John Traquair, treas. Mrs. Grace Dickerson, collector, Mrs. C. Johnson, business com. S. Bassett, Dickerman, Miss Alice C. Leahy, Mrs. Walter C. Sargent, music com. The matter of choosing the educational committee was taken up and voted. This committee was chosen: Frank C. Johnson, president, Mrs. Jennie M. McLean 2 yrs., Chas. H. Hardy 3 yrs.

Verdict Rendered. Doherty Bros' suits against John M. Maloney to recover \$7,536.47, retained the sum of \$20,000.00 collected on executions against the thirteen insurance companies whose policies carried property destroyed in the "Handley Machine" company building fire, March 25, 1915, was begun in the Superior court at Cambridge Tuesday morning and finished Thursday afternoon. It appeared in evidence that the sum retained by Maloney was made up of twenty-five percent of the verdicts and interest, and a portion of the costs of the suits against the insurance companies (referred to as the "fictitious costs" and amounting to \$333.97) and that seventy-five percent of the verdicts and interest, with the remainder of the costs, amounting in all to \$22,205.99, was paid over to Doherty Bros.

Mr. Maloney testified that W. C. Doherty made an adjustment with him on June 15, 1916, by which he was to retain twenty-five percent of the money and on the next day went to Lowell with a certified check for Doherty Bros. in accordance with the adjustment; that then for the first time he saw the money, and he is saying that he had talked it over with his brother, John P. Doherty, who thought it too large. An admitted sheet to that effect was introduced in evidence and Mr. Maloney's testimony was corroborated by his stenographer.

Mr. Maloney testified that at the Lowell interview W. C. Doherty said that he had been advised by several attorneys that a fee of about \$3000.00 was all that Maloney ought to get; that on June 29 he told both Doherty's that, rather than have any trouble

about the matter, he would take \$6,332.97, which they refused to pay and that he had not talked with either of them since that date.

Mr. Maloney also claimed that his services and those of F. J. Maloney were reasonably worth all that he had retained even if no adjustment had been made. He offered in addition to his own testimony and that of F. J. Maloney, the corroborating evidence of eight distinguished lawyers, to wit: Judge Warren H. Wood of Ayer, Major Thomas L. Walsh of Clinton, District Attorney William J. Corcoran of Cambridge, H. Huestis Newton of Everett, Fred J. Daggett of Winthrop, Walter E. Grant of Boston, John E. Harrington of Cambridge, and John J. Shaughnessy of Marlboro.

W. C. Doherty admitted that he had received the adjustment sheet on June 15, 1916, and carried it away with him without any protest, but denied that he had assented to it. He said he did not tell his brother about it for sometime and John P. Doherty said he did not know about the size of the fee until June 27.

Both Doherty's said that Maloney had offered to call his bill \$6,332.97 rather than have any trouble about it. They also testified that Maloney had offered to pay more than \$2,000.00. They introduced the evidence of Willis C. Sibley of Worcester and Frank E. Dunbar and James J. Kirwin of Lowell, whose opinions of the value of Maloney's services ranged between \$3,000.00 and \$4,000.00.

Judge Hardy charged the jury that if they were satisfied that W. C. Doherty had assented to the adjustment of June 15, both parties would be bound by it, but if they were not so satisfied the fictitious costs would be long to the plaintiffs; that the defendant had the right to keep so much of the money he had retained as would be equivalent to a fair and reasonable compensation for the services rendered by him and F. J. Maloney to the plaintiffs; and that they should bring in a verdict for the plaintiffs for the excess, if any, above such compensation as the jury should determine.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs in the sum of \$344.31 (being the amount of the fictitious costs and interest thereon). This verdict shows clearly that while the jury were not satisfied that W. C. Doherty had assented to the adjustment of June 15, they were satisfied that the defendant had no more than a fair and just compensation for the services rendered to the plaintiffs, and that the small amount found for the plaintiffs was due entirely to a misconception of the law. The charge which caused them to believe that they must give the fictitious costs to the plaintiffs unless they were satisfied that W. C. Doherty had assented to the adjustment.

Albert S. Howard of Lowell tried the case for Doherty Bros. and Francis P. Garland of Boston for Maloney.

Unitarian Church Notes. "CHRISTMAS SUNDAY. "Lo! the Son of God is come." 10.45—Regular office, morning prayer and sermon. Music: Prelude, "The holy virgin," Lange; carol, "I heard the bells on Christmas day," Longfellow; "Seven-fold amen," Stainer; "Festival Venite in G," Soltyse; "Worship the new-born king," Williams; carols, "O little town of Bethlehem," Brooks; "Today he joy in every heart," Hosmer; postlude, "The heavens are telling," from "The Creation," Haydn. Organist, Harold True Shattuck; obligato by U. H. Barrows Fred Barrows and George Barrows, Preacher, Rev. Frank B. Randall, the minister; subject, "The Christmas star of hope."

7.00 (union service)—Evening prayer and sermon. Music: Prelude, Large Handel organ and orchestra; carol, "It came upon the midnight clear," Sears; choir carol, "Silent night," quartet; carol, "Little children, wake and listen," choir and children; sacred choral cantata, "The hope of the world," Schnecker; offertory carol, "The first Nowell," traditional; carols, "O little town of Bethlehem," Brooks; "Today he joy in every heart," Hosmer; postlude, organ and orchestra. Organist, Harold True Shattuck; Walter Lougee, cello; Fred Barrows, clarinet; George Barrows, first violin; Geo. H. B. Turner, second violin; Preacher, Rev. J. Selden Strong; subject, "The message of Christmas-tide."

Program of Sacred Cantata. "The Hope of the World" Introductory chorus—"Ring forth, ye bells!" Part I—The Shepherds abiding in the field. a. "Fear not!" b. "It was, and fell in the glowing light."

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 Main Street, Ayer, Mass.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
 OF
REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a mortgage given by the Pepprell Shoe Company, a corporation duly established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and having a usual place of business in Pepperell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, to the Tremont Trust Company, a corporation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dated July 31, 1916, and recorded in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds, South District, Book 4072, Page 295, and duly assigned to the subscriber, and for breach of the conditions of said mortgage, will be sold on Saturday, December 30, 1916, at three o'clock P. M., at public auction held on the premises, viz:

The land in that part of Pepperell called East Pepperell with the buildings thereon, excepting the bicycle house, so-called, which is to be treated as personal property and to be removed by the grantors, situated in the Easterly part of said Pepperell and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the Easterly and Southerly side of Hollis and Nashua Streets, respectively; thence Easterly on said Nashua Street about three hundred and fifty (350) feet to an iron pipe set in the ground to land of H. A. Parker; thence Southerly in a straight line about one hundred and thirty (130) feet by land of said Parker to the Nissittisitt River; thence Westerly by said Nissittisitt River to said Hollis Street, thence Northerly by said Hollis Street about one hundred and twenty (120) feet to the point of beginning, together with the water-power from the dam on the premises of the said grantors, excepting ten (10) horse-power from said dam which is reserved for the use of the grantors, their heirs and assigns forever.

Terms: Cash. Other terms announced at time and place of sale.

EVERETT L. TURNER,
 Assignee of Mortgage.
 Boston, Mass., Dec. 5, 1916.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of JOHN H. WHITCOMB late of Ayer in said County, deceased.

Whereas a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to the Probate Court for probate, and ALFRED A. WHITCOMB who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to him, the executor therein named, without giving a surety on his official bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-seventh day of December, A. D. 1916, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court, and by mailing postpaid, or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

F. M. ESTY, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of GEORGE W. BIGELOW late of Groton in said County, deceased.

Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said GEORGE W. BIGELOW, late of Groton in said County, or to some other suitable person.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-seventh day of December, A. D. 1916, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

F. M. ESTY, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, and all other persons interested in the estate of MARY ELIZABETH BLODGETT late of Groton in said County, deceased.

Whereas a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court for probate, by FRANKLIN FREEMAN, who prays that letters of administration with the will annexed may be issued to him or to some other suitable person, and that letters named in said will having been deceased.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-seventh day of December, A. D. 1916, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court, and by mailing postpaid, or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

F. M. ESTY, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, and all other persons interested in the estate of MARY ELIZABETH BLODGETT late of Groton in said County, deceased.

Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said GEORGE W. BLODGETT of Groton in the County of Middlesex, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the eighth day of January, 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this sixth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

F. M. ESTY, Register.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the subscriber has been duly appointed executor of the will of NOAH PAYSON SMITH late of Pepperell in the County of Middlesex, deceased, testate and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bond and appointing ANNIE F. SMITH, late of Pepperell his agent as the law directs.

All persons having demands upon the estate of said deceased are hereby required to exhibit the same, and all persons indebted to said estate are called upon to make payment to

WALTER F. SMITH, Executor.
 Montclair, N. J.
 Address of Agent
 ANNIE F. SMITH,
 Pepperell, Mass.
 November 25, 1916.

Ralph H. Wylie
 DENTIST
 Barry Bldg. AYER MASS.
 Telephone Connection 3m46

LITTLETON
 News Items.

The program for Christmas at the Common consists of the Christmas Eve service on Saturday evening in the church vestry and Christmas services Sunday morning and evening, with special musical selections for both services including new numbers for the choir, violin selections and vocal solos. "The cry of a child" will be the topic of the morning sermon to the young people, and in the evening "The story that is more than a story."

Mrs. Henrietta Churchill, of Brookline, is visiting her niece, Mrs. Maud K. Caulkins.

Mrs. Louise E. Caulkins went to Medford this week to spend the remainder of the winter with her son, F. J. Caulkins.

Mrs. Arthur Wright, of Aileston, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. William Dods, and family, Great Road.

Clarrissa, the young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Adams, of Goldsmith street, is recovering from a slight attack of pneumonia.

A two-tenement house on Park street, Ayer, belonging to the Stone heirs of Littleton, was quite badly damaged by fire last week Friday.

The Bennett house, on Main street, Ayer, occupied by the Judge Sanderson family, caught fire from an unknown cause last Saturday evening, causing a damage estimated at \$1500. Part of the furniture was removed from the house during the fire and suffered more or less thereby. Mr. Sanderson and his family were in Boston at the time of the fire, and he was in the house. The year of 1916 seems to have been very eventful in the history of Mr. Sanderson's family.

Mrs. Charles A. Kimball has been visiting relatives in Brookline this week.

Mrs. Grace Lawrence has gone to Beach Bluff, where she will enjoy the hospitality of her cousin, Norman Dillingham, and family for a week or more.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Gordon Favor write very pleasantly of their new home and reception by their parishioners in Farmington, Me., where they have found a most congenial society.

The date of the Back-Log club dance has been changed since the calendars were printed. On Christmas night, Monday, December 25, the party will be held in the town hall from eight to twelve o'clock. The Colonial orchestra has been engaged to furnish music.

The Allied Bazaar, held under the auspices of the British Social club in Boston, has proved a magnet of attraction to many thousands. It is declared to be one of the greatest exhibitions ever seen. There were between 30,000 and 40,000 people in attendance on last Saturday.

At the morning service of the Congregational church last Sunday Mrs. Susie Smith sang a very acceptable solo, and Miss Myrtle Fletcher presided at the organ.

There will be a tree and Christmas exercises at the Congregational church vestry this Saturday afternoon.

The West End people met with Mrs. A. W. Knowlton and showed themselves much in earnest over the discussion of the embargo. The subject of the new meetings will be "Social and Union," and neighbors will meet at the residence of Hon. C. A. Kimball.

At the Sunday morning service of the Congregational society a very attractive musical program will be given under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Gardner. A quartet composed of Mesdames Hager and Houghton and Messrs. Gardner and Dods will sing selections from "The Song of the King" by Dudley Buck. The following order of service will be given: Organ prelude, Mrs. Gardner; soprano solo, "Anthem celestial," Adams, sung by Mr. Gardner; prayer, Mrs. Hager; "Jesus," J. C. Barker, sung by Mrs. Hager; sermon; singing, "Adeste Sacerdotes," Dudley Buck, sung by the quartet; benediction.

An indoor range has been provided at the old steam mill near the depot for members of the Rifle club and the first match will be shot on Saturday, December 23. During the winter matches will show up the direction of the Massachusetts Association of N. R. A. clubs, the tournament to be divided into three periods, beginning December 4, and ending April 1, 1917. The prize money will be shot on the outdoor range on December 9 for the National Sportsman trophy were as follows: Priest \$8, Remick \$7, Robbins \$6, Hume \$5, Ames \$6. On Wednesday, January 10, the annual election of officers will take place. Dues for the coming year are payable at this meeting. After the business meeting a supper will be served in the dining-room of the town hall.

Miss Hazel Wainwright returned recently from a visit with her sister in Pittsburg. During her week on the city a surprise party was given in her honor at the home of Mrs. W. A. Bigelow. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vanderford, formerly of Littleton, and now of Sturbridge.

J. A. Wainwright recently returned from the western part of this state with a carload of Jersey, Durham and Holstein cattle. One of the Holstein cows weighs 450 pounds.

Mrs. Hall, Miss Hazel Straight, Mrs. J. A. Wainwright, Joseph Barber, Ralph Wainwright and J. W. Tobin were guests of the Boxborough Grange last week.

The G. M. Lovejoys, from Hanford, Conn., arrived at the home of Mrs. S. Whitcomb's at the Center last week Friday.

The celebration of the Christmas festival at the Unitarian church will begin this afternoon with the Christmas frolic in the vestry from three to five. Following the exercises by the children the decorations will be taken from the tree and it is hoped that Santa Claus will arrive at the good time. At the service of worship on Sunday forenoon there will be special music by the choir and others, and the subject of Rev. O. J. Fairfield's sermon will be "The equality of Jesus—his place in humanity and his relation to God." As Christmas is preeminently the children's festival, the young people are especially much interested, and on the Sunday school service which follows it when the lesson of the day will be presented in songs, recitations and story—taking part. The young people of the Guild will meet at 8.30, will wrap, for a special outdoor service, starting at six o'clock. Many of the houses will be decorated with lights on Christmas eve between six and seven.

On account of the severe storm and the continually drifting snow of last

Saturday Mr. Hartwell postponed the dancing school reception until Monday evening, when winds and weather were more favorable and the drifts had been ploughed and the snow levelled through the untiring efforts of road commissioner and citizens living in the vicinity of streets. Perry's orchestra of Ayer gave a touch to the strings that made the young people enter into the spirit of the occasion. Daintily dressed and neatly slippered the little dancers and their teachers were one could desire, and when the grand march was announced all were ready to fall in line to the leadership of Lucile Gardner and Mrs. E. D. Stone. From nine o'clock until eleven the less privileged adults were admitted to the floor and seemed as happy as their juniors. During the intermission ice cream and cake were served. The presiding patronesses of the evening were Mrs. Charles A. Kimball, Mrs. George Newcomb, Mrs. J. W. Ames and Mrs. F. B. Pratt.

Miss Fannie Mitchell, of Freeport, Me., is visiting with the G. H. Kimball and the F. S. Kimball families in Newtown during her vacation from teaching.

J. H. Kemick is driving a new Ford automobile and assures that he has made another purchase of our local agent.

The Christmas exercises at the West school called out a large number of visitors of various nationalities last week Friday afternoon and proud parents looked on while happy children took part in a pretty Christmas pageant and entered joyfully into the ice cream and cake which were being singing, recitations, folk dancing, etc. There was the most contagious merriment among the children when the jolliest and best-natured Santa Claus appeared in the person of Principal Greenfield, who after a little social time with them unloaded the tree, which was generously laden with refreshments for the young people and their folks alike. The other elementary schools had similar entertainments and for the young people and all began the "Christmas vacation" with brightest hopes and expectations.

George Durkee, one of our oldest citizens, has been quite indisposed.

Michael McNiff has been housed because of a severe cold, which developed into bronchitis. His sister, Mrs. Hugh McDonald, joined the shut-ins last week.

A union meeting of much interest was held in the Congregational church vestry last Sunday evening. Hon. C. A. Kimball presiding. There was congregational singing from the new hymn books, two vocal solos, "The plains of peace" and "The holy city," by George A. Cook, accompanied by Mrs. A. P. Gardner, the pianist; the national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," by Rev. O. J. Fairfield; the scriptural reading and Rev. H. L. Caulkins offered the prayer. Following the responsive readings Mr. Knight introduced the subject of the evening, "The national ideal of liberty." Continuing the general subject, Mr. Caulkins presented the national ideal of religion, Mr. Alvord, the national ideal of morals and Mr. Fairfield, the national ideal of peace. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. C. Alvord.

Many are the stories heard on all sides and a tale of woe in the deep drifts last week, something very unusual for December. Even on the main thoroughfare some vehicles were obliged to remain or be hauled out of the snow. The driver of the cake man had to leave his auto with all its goodies in town over Sunday. The predictions for a severe winter seem to have been well founded.

Congregational Supper.
 The Ladies' Benevolent society of the Congregational church served an excellent supper on Thursday evening. The supper was sufficiently well patronized so that the committee will clear about twenty-nine dollars from supper and entertainment. There were 150 covers and a large percentage of the women present. The menu consisted of cold ham, beans, rolls and a variety of cakes and pies with coffee, which was finely served by an able corps of fifteen waitresses from among the young ladies of the church.

The entertainment at eight o'clock included a piano duet, Misses Anna Keabody and Dorothy Denner; an illustration, "Sabbath School," by Maxwell, Marian, Buss and Jean Campbell; reading, Mrs. Anna Boynton Merrill; violin solo, Howard Shattuck; vocal duet, Mrs. E. H. Bliss and Miss Anna Keabody; reading, Mrs. Amy Shattuck; reading, Mrs. Merrill; vocal duet, E. H. Bliss and O. M. Nash.

The committee were Mrs. George H. Shattuck, Mrs. George E. Shattuck, Mrs. J. A. Thibault and Mrs. Gustaf Anderson.

Death.
 Charles Ward Houghton entered into rest on Friday, December 15, after an illness that confined him to his room about ten days. His health had long been failing and with advancing age he had weakened perceptibly. Throughout the years of increasing infirmity he was comforted by the gentle ministrations of his devoted daughter in the home and the thoughtful attention of his children.

On Monday afternoon funeral obsequies were held over which his pastor, Rev. James C. Alvord, presided. Mrs. L. H. Hager sang the "Song of the King" and "Nearer my God to thee." Besides the scriptural reading, the prayer and the benediction, Mr. Alvord read two beautiful poems, the second being "George Houghton" especially consoling and helpful.

Beneath the sunlit skies and the blanket of pure snow the body was consigned to its resting place. West-land mourned the fragrance of many flowers, the final tribute of love and esteem.

Mr. Houghton was born in Groton on May 18, 1834, and was one of two sons of Joel and Mary Stone Houghton. At the age of four years he was bereft of his father, and early learned to assume responsibility, thus laying the foundation of independence of thought and action in mature years. He attended Groton schools, and as he found opportunity assisted his widowed mother in the support of the family. In young manhood he came to Littleton to help his only brother, James.

Later, on April 10, 1856, he married Miss Louise M. Kimball, and they had three children, two boys and one girl, Mary Louisa, now Mrs. Roland Holt, of Belmont, and James and George, both of whom have died. He occurred nearly twenty-eight years ago.

Through the death of his wife on September 8, 1883, Mr. Houghton was placed in double parental trust of the two young girls. The following year on September 22, he married Miss Abby Frances Hayward, of Ashby, who bestowed upon them the love and kindly care of an own mother. For more than fifty years Mr. and Mrs. Houghton shared life's joys and sorrows. Their home was cheered by

sons and daughters, all of whom survive them, John Hayward, of Gardner; Elioy Ward, of Boston; Sarah Elizabeth, the home; Charles Kimball and Florence Rice (Mrs. William L. Pickard), both of Littleton. A dozen grandchildren have also claimed their love and interest.

Through the exercise of good judgment and careful management Mr. Houghton prospered in his business and on November 1, 1888, retired from farm life. At that time he bought his late home at the Center, and with his family shortly took possession of his new home. Here he and Mrs. Houghton celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a few years ago, when the relatives and friends from far and near enjoyed the hospitality of their genial host and hostess. On January 19, 1915, Mrs. Houghton was called home and Mr. Houghton, although receiving kindest attention and most devoted care, has longed to join her.

A man of few words and little ostentation, he stood for all that was good and upright, and noble. Independent in thought, self-reliant and deliberate in action, his character rested on those basic principles of the Puritan type of manhood that impress one's fellow citizens and endear one to those by whom he is truly known. In his home relations he was most happy, ever thoughtful, considerate and helpful. The same spirit found expression in his gentle courtesy towards his neighbors, by whom he was highly esteemed. In the church of which he was a member he was loyal in attendance, material support, and to the cause of religion he gave as the opportunity offered, with faith in God well founded, and hope in eternal life secure.

His interest in the town centered in its highest welfare, and his place as a citizen was filled with a clean heart and a clear conscience. Truly he has earned the plaudit of the faithful and entered into the joys of this reward.

South Street Christmas Tree.
 The entertainment given by the students of Groton School, under direction of Sub-master Mr. Vahner, which was announced for last Saturday evening, was postponed on account of the snowstorm and consequent hard traveling until Monday evening of this week. At this time about sixty attended and were well rewarded. The entertainment was free to all. Mr. Vahner and a chorus of the Groton students rendered several selections of Christmas music and seven of the students gave a wonderfully beautiful music of the bells. Mr. Mollay from the school, assisted the chorus by accompaniment with a French horn. The program was unusual and of high order, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

There was also a Christmas tree for the children, well decorated through the efforts of a local committee of Mrs. H. H. Houghton, Mrs. J. W. Ames and Walter Sherwood, assisted by others. Fruit and candy bags were brought from the Groton School.

The children also added to the entertainment Christmas carols which were given by Merle and Lillian Gillespie and Mildred Kemp. Bernard Sherwood rendered selections on his guitar and these were Christmas carols by Priscilla Dodge and Arthur Cordeau.

One of the Groton students, Mr. Frothingham, enacted the role of Santa Claus to the great enjoyment of the children, his costume and very jolly manner carrying out the part to perfection. This rounded out and made complete the program of the great public Christmas celebration held here for some years.

The Sunday school is to be continued, we understand, through the holidays, when the students will be absent.

SLAON'S LINIMENT EASES PAIN
 Sloan's Liniment is first thought of mothers for bumps, bruises and sprains that are constantly happening to children. It quickly penetrates and soothes without rubbing. Cleaner and more effective than many plasters or ointments. For rheumatic aches, neuralgia, pain and that grippy soreness after great public Christmas celebration held here for some years.

The Sunday school is to be continued, we understand, through the holidays, when the students will be absent.

New Advertisements
 North Middlesex Savings Bank ANNUAL MEETING
 The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Savings Bank will be held at its Banking House on Tuesday, the second day of January, 1917, at two o'clock P. M., for the election of officers and the transaction of any business that may legally come before the meeting.
 E. A. RICHARDSON, Secretary.
 Ayer, Dec. 23, 1916. 1116

Teamster Wanted
 for our factory. Must be strictly temperate; family man preferred.
 CONANT, HOUGHTON & CO., Inc.
 2115 Littleton, Mass.

Colonial Rugs
 I will take orders now for Holiday Gifts of Hand Weaving—Rugs, Portiers, Pillow and Couch Covers in Fancies and Plain Weaves. Bed-room Sets—Couch and Pillow Cover with two large Rugs, special at \$15, and will be glad to quote prices on working up your own material. Small amount of Shaker Linen Warp on hand for Silk Table Covers. Call or address Mrs. IDA SMITH DREYER, Shaker Village, Ayer, Mass. 3m11

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of ROBERT BLODGETT late of Groton in said County, deceased, intestate.

Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said ROBERT BLODGETT of Groton in the County of Middlesex, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the eighth day of January, 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this sixth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

F. M. ESTY, Register.

CHAS. E. PERRIN
 PLUMBER
 West Street AYER, MASS.



START THE DAY OFF RIGHT

Serve breakfast in a warm room and forget about the furnace until real cold weather comes.

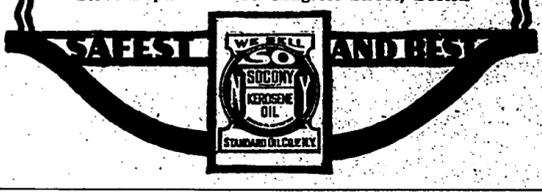
Don't burn coal or wood when you don't really need that kind of heat. Use a

PERFECTION SMOKELESS OIL HEATER

It will keep your whole house warm and make you more comfortable for less money. No fires to build—no coal to carry—no ashes to clean up.

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