

TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Fifty-first Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, January 4, 1919

No. 18. Price Four Cents

O. D. Tillinghast
State Librarian
Boston

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE DURING 1918

And Wish You

THE BEST AND GLADDEST NEW YEAR EVER DURING 1919

Come in and Know Us

We Want to Know You

Geo. E. Homer

YOUR JEWELER

Main Street

AYER, MASS.

PEPPERELL

News Items.

At the meeting of Acoma Rebekah lodge on Tuesday evening the following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Susie Fredericks, n. g.; Mrs. Elsie Copp, v. g.; Mrs. Florence Fiske, rec. sec.; Miss Anna Sartelle, fin. sec.; Mrs. Effie Robbins, treat.; John Frossard, trustee; Mrs. Gertrude Tarbell and Mrs. Effie Robbins, representatives to the Rebekah Assembly.

The household goods of Ernest Shepard, who moved here a short time ago from St. Albans, Vt., to work with his father, Joseph Shepard, in the mill, were put on the cars, to be shipped back to Vermont this week.

The spur track has been laid onto the Goodenough lumber lot and the lumber recently sawed there by Blanchard & Gould, is being loaded for shipment.

Supt. Hoyer, of the Shattuck Construction Co., whose work here is finished for the present, left town on Friday for his home in Roslindale.

At the meeting of the Special Aid society held at the rooms on Monday afternoon about thirty were present. The resignation of the former chairman, Mrs. N. W. Appleton, was given and accepted. By a unanimous vote Mrs. P. W. Flynn was elected chairman and presided at the business meeting. It was voted to hold a "tag day" on Wednesday, January 8. The entire town will be included in the drive, which is for the benefit of the returning soldiers from camp and overseas. Chester Hamilton was the one designated by the society to have charge of arrangements. Plans were discussed and the Special Aid is to be

In readiness to act with the town officials and citizens in welcoming back the boys from the front. The first banquet is to be given on the arrival of the first contingent of men coming from overseas. In the meantime let everyone be ready for "tag day" next Wednesday.

Harold Farley, who recently received his discharge from the service at Camp Lee, Va., has now taken a position in Baltimore, Md., and left for that city on last Saturday. While visiting his parents he entertained as his guest a young lady whom he introduced as his wife to various parties, but whether seriously or otherwise is left for his friends to find out, as no further announcement has been made.

In a letter received from Ray Soule, dated November 29, from Falmagne, France, he says he hoped to be home by the new year, but has not arrived as yet.

Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Appleton entertained their relative, Lieut. Harry Parker, of Boston and Cohasset, over Christmas. He recently came to Camp Devens with his squad for receiving their discharge from service. They had been stationed on guard duty at the Springfield arsenal.

The annual Christmas celebration for those at the town farm, given by the W. C. T. U., will take place on Thursday afternoon, of next week. Anyone wishing to contribute gifts or articles for the lunch are requested to communicate with the committee, Mrs. Appleton and Mrs. E. F. Harmon; also, in regard to transportation. Edson M. Hackett was recently discharged from the service at Newport News, Va., and returned north. He

came here to visit his relatives, Ray and Walter Hackett, and is at present boarding with his wife at the home of her mother, Mrs. Leary, Groton street.

In all the patriotic history of our town, we think there is no record of any patriot quite as young as one that has lately come to our notice. An eighteen-month-old boy, who is rather frail and considered backward, who does not talk yet, has been noticed to be humming much of late, and those who listened more carefully discovered that he had caught most of the tune of "America," so that anyone could tell what he was trying to sing. It was afterward recalled that he was generally rocked to sleep to the tune of "America," which would explain his familiarity.

A high-class entertainment has been arranged by the Peppereil Men's club for the evening of February 24.

Mrs. Charles B. Shaw returned to Worcester on Thursday afternoon after a few days' visit in town, as the guest of Miss Helen Pond. Mr. Shaw was formerly Miss Dorothy Joslyn, a teacher here, and is at present living in Greensboro, N. C., where her husband is instructor in English at the state normal college. Mrs. Shaw came north a few weeks ago to her old home in Worcester, to visit her relatives.

Miss Ruth Morgan, a Peppereil high school graduate, in a letter to a friend gives an account of the Christmas festivities at the New York hospital, where she is now in charge of the largest medical ward in the babies' department, of over sixty beds. She is leaving the hospital, January 19, and becomes a graduated, registered nurse at the commencement on February 4.

Mrs. Frank Kennedy had her usual large house party Christmas week, and on Friday evening gave a whist party in honor of Lieut. Gerald Shattuck, who was in town for a few days.

Mrs. Lucy Cushing spent Wednesday in Boston, and on her return was so unfortunate as to leave her pocketbook in the ladies' room at the Ayer station, not discovering her loss until she was on the Peppereil train, arriving here at 6.30. The owner valued it as a gift.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Kittredge, of Ayer, spent Sunday with his brother, Ingalls Kittredge, and family, in town.

Letter from Luxembourg.

The following letter, received by Mr. and Mrs. Frederic H. Parker, from their son, after many weeks of anxiety, will be of interest to many: Gilsdorf, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, November 26, 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Appleton entertained their relative, Lieut. Harry Parker, of Boston and Cohasset, over Christmas. He recently came to Camp Devens with his squad for receiving their discharge from service. They had been stationed on guard duty at the Springfield arsenal.

soon as I dug in, I went right to sleep. Strange? No, for on your way to the line you sometimes may start at noon, hike 'till two or three of the following morning; dig in, and go over at day-break. Sometimes you are even too tired to dig in. True, I know.

The barrage started about three, and anyone who has not been in front of the second division's artillery can never realize the noise and the frequency of the fire. It is something like the continuous beating of base drums, only it is the "seventy-fives" about 800 meters back. The barrage started about three, and the Helnie put over his high explosive shells. If you don't believe there is a Maker, you had better, for I've met Him, face to face more than once. Have I prayed? Yes, I've prayed, and didn't have to grope for words either. It did some good, too, for when I was right under me just like a plough. If that thing had gone off—well, I don't know why it didn't. Others that went off, shook the ground, and half buried me up. The smell of Helnie's powder was something new to me, and the high explosive burst, my throat until I thought it was gas. I clapped the old mask on awhile, and then took it off. Very soon a machine gun barrage shipped in to bolster Helnie, as the artillery dislocated him. This was something unheard of to me, and I thought the squad I was in, were coming quite sure. I twisted a grenade out of my pocket, squirmed around, and got the bayonet on, all ready to see him peep over my hole.

It must have been daybreak by that time, for a sergeant came along and said, "Out dig, you are going over in about thirty seconds." That was a relief, for when I saw everybody walking forward as though there was nothing ahead, all fear left me. It was such a change in my mental condition, that I laughed, ate a piece of chocolate, and lit a cigarette as I walked along.

We go over something like this. (The writer here gave a diagram). The top group is a company deployed into four lines of skirmish, at a five-pace interval, with a wave interval of from 20 to 50 paces. The middle group covers quite a space. The two lower groups, each represent a platoon in combat groups, which follow a company. The file columns are about 20 paces apart, and the men 5 or 6 paces from one another. In this and similar formations, is minimum loss from shell and shrapnel. I have seen an American barrage there is nothing to it. Helnie just hauls tail as soon as he hears it, and leaves only machine guns. "Only machine guns" is something, though, for it sure mows the boys down. Their machine gun is a Maxim with improvements. It is very heavy, is mounted on a steel frame, has a large water-cooled jacket, a flash-concealer, and is fed by a long belt of ammunition; and boy! can't she shoot!

On the Champagne front another fellow and I were hopped in a little hole and behind one of the Helnie's narrow gauge tracks with a machine gunner playing for us. You should have heard those things buzz, and every once in a while one would hit one of the rails and go "zee-zee-zing" instead of "zing-um-zing, zing." That was another name I saw in a prayer, too. When you get up from one of those places the small of your back is wet, otherwise known as "cold sweat." The lightning is nothing. It is the thinking and exposure, mixed with hunger and long hikes.

I'm just aching to lay into anyone who likes "Sunny France." It rains all the time, and is muddy everywhere. Not the mud you know about, but a clayish mud, when re-enforced with straw makes your feet weigh ten pounds apiece. Even the woods and fields where you sleep or dig in for the night are muddy. It is at night, in these cursed woods, under a slow torturing shell fire, that one does his thinking. It is then you get the pictures of your "buddies" you saw blown up on the field, and those first-aid croans come to your ears. You have "buddies" real in stories of a prayer, thinking over their life history in a hurry. Well, the first one that wrote that must have been there, for it is true, and wonderful at that. I thought of everything.

You know Aunt H— said I was born under a lucky star, and I guess it must be so for I never got a scratch. But, believe me I'll appreciate home and the U. S. when I get back.

We always advanced so fast the galley and even the artillery couldn't keep up with us, and we have gone over periods of two to five days nothing much to eat, if mother ever asks me what I want for dinner, I'll say, "Put it on. Anything will be good."

I had a "buddy" from Albany named

William Kelley. Kell was a graduate of Fordham, very prominent in the Albany Elks, and an ace in the advertising game. We came through Paris Island together, and were always "bunkies." He got his, the night before the armistice went into effect, the night we crossed the Meuse. We went over a hill into the valley. The hill was wooded, and the night was foggy. Helnie shells were dropping in there everywhere, and the river was almost foaming from them when the 2d Engineers slung the bridges over for us to cross. We faced this hill on the other side which was just a machine gun nest. Kelley got bumped shortly after crossing the creek. The Marines established themselves on the top of the hill and the next morning we heard that orders were out to cease firing at eleven o'clock, and by George! we did.

Now, we have orders for marching right up to the damned old Rhine. We

started the march at a little town called Poutry, near Monzon, two days after the armistice. From there to Motrey Etalle, Belgium. Talk about receptions and gratitude—you should see the Belgians. They had the streets all decorated, and bands and flowers for the major. From Etalle we went to Arlon. We could buy plenty of honey and jam in Belgium. Then we struck Luxembourg, proceeded from there to Reichlange and from there to Colmar. Prince Henri has his bungalow there, and it has any chateau in France all knocked to pieces. The grounds were beautiful. Next, we struck Maesdorf and then here.

Luxembourg people speak both French and German, and use German money. They are as clean as the Belgians; also, their houses, which are larger and more German.

I guess tomorrow will be the first Thanksgiving I had no turkey, but God

knows I have enough to be thankful for so— to eat with the turkey"—unless I get paid tomorrow, which is impossible. About all the money I've had is from selling Luger automatics, belt buckles and Helnie binoculars to the Artillery men, who find the dead riddled before they get far. I'll be "souvenir" enough if I get back. Helnie always carried a jar of butter and honey, mixed, a piece of spiced meat done up in cheese cloth and "ein stuch brot" (bread).

I saw a fellow named McDowell, from Exeter. He is captain in the Artillery. And in the same regiment I saw Lieut. Dick Campbell, of Ipswich, whom I met at Miss Dobson's house party.

Give my love to everyone, and I hope you get this Christmas letter on time. Private Charles F. Parker, 17th Co., 5th Reg. U. S. Marines, 2nd Division.

Getting the Most for your Money

There's a way to do that in clothes buying—and here's the place. The price you spend here for a

Hart Schaffner & Marx
Suit or Overcoat

is as good as a lot more money other places—because of the quality you get. All wool materials; made in the best manner; in stylish suits that waste no fabrics; in models for men and young men. Such clothes are economy because they last longer.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed in these clothes. If you don't think you get it, you get your money back.



HART, SCHAFFNER & MARX SUITS AND OVERCOATS

\$28 to \$38

OTHER MAKES—

\$15 to \$25

Fletcher Bros.

OPPOSITE DEPOT

AYER, MASS.

Geo. H. Brown
RELIABLE CLOTHIER
AYER, MASS.

Overcoats

OF EVERY KIND FOR MEN AND BOYS

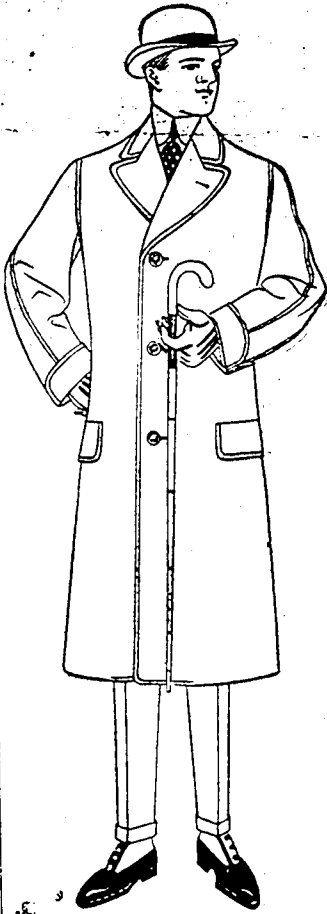
You will find here a large stock of handsome and desirable Overcoats. Every man will find here an Overcoat that will be sure to please him.

Here is the dressy Overcoat in Black or Oxford, with velvet collars, and the attractive Fancy Mixture Overcoats in a variety of styles, all stylish and well tailored. Here also is the long Storm Coats with large storm collars cut 52 inches long.

We are offering all these coats at prices very much under their present market values.

Come in and look them over, as that is the only way you can gain an idea of the superior values we are offering.

Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$15.00 to \$28.00
Black Kersey Overcoats \$22.00 to \$28.00
Oxford Mixture Overcoats \$24.00 to \$35.00



A. G. Pollard Co.

LOWELL'S BIGGEST AND BEST DEPARTMENT STORE

THE GREATEST OF ALL CLEARANCE SALES IN THIS SECTION OF NEW ENGLAND—OUR ANNUAL

January Dept. Clearances

Our every-year bargain exposition—embracing every department of the store—each at its own time—will be broader and more interesting this year than ever. Prices are made to reduce stocks with no thought of profit. Values, therefore, are the best of the year. The Orange Cards will again mark the wonderful price attractions. Don't miss the Department Clearances.

Most Unusual Values in the Ladies' Suit and Garment Section

- LADIES' SUITS, were \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50, and \$60, now \$12.50, \$18.50, \$25.00
- LADIES' COATS, were \$20, \$22.50, \$30, \$32.50, \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50 and \$60, now \$12.50, \$15, \$18.50, \$25, \$30, \$40
- SAMPLE WINTER COATS, were \$65, \$70 and \$75, now \$50
- CHILDREN'S COATS, were \$15, \$18.50, \$22.50 and \$25, now \$5.98, \$7.50, \$10
- LADIES' SERGE AND SATIN DRESSES, were \$12.50, \$15, \$18.50, \$25 and \$30, now \$10, \$12.50, \$15, \$18.50 and \$25
- CHILDREN'S WASH DRESSES, were \$2.98, \$3.98, \$5.00, \$5.98 and \$7.50, now \$1.98, \$2.98, \$3.98 and \$5.00
- FUR COATS, Natural Muskrat Coats, were \$125 and \$175, now \$85 and \$110
- RACCOON COATS, were \$175, \$200, \$250, \$300 and \$350, now \$150, \$175, \$200, \$225, \$275
- EXTRA LARGE HOUSE DRESSES, suitable for large women; sizes 48, 50 and 52; original price \$2.50, now \$1.75
- PLUSH COATS, were \$30, \$40, \$50 and \$75, now \$18.50, \$25, \$30, \$50
- \$5.98 SLIP-ON SWEATERS, now \$2.98
- \$7.00 SLIP-ON SWEATERS, now \$3.98
- \$10.50 SWEATERS, now \$5.00
- \$7.98 SILK FIBRE SWEATERS, now \$3.98

Baskets & Pails.

Are Needed More Than Ever for Carrying Home Your Purchases.

With the new order of things in full force, it is your patriotic duty to "conserve the nation's resources" by carrying home all of your purchases—and here are the baskets and pails to make your duty easy to perform.

And by the way, we have a large variety of wash baskets, waste baskets and all sorts of wash boilers and pails at very small prices which we would be pleased to have you see.

Are Needed More Than Ever for Carrying Home Your Purchases.

With the new order of things in full force, it is your patriotic duty to "conserve the nation's resources" by carrying home all of your purchases—and here are the baskets and pails to make your duty easy to perform.

And by the way, we have a large variety of wash baskets, waste baskets and all sorts of wash boilers and pails at very small prices which we would be pleased to have you see.

Ayer Hardware Co.
Phone 531 Park Street

A. G. Pollard Co.

SHEEP-LINED COATS

Sheep-lined Coats in different lengths, made with Moleskin outside and with large fur collars. Just the coat for a man who is out-of-doors this time of the year. They will interest you—better step in and look them over.

Short Coats \$9.00 to \$20.00
Long Coats \$20.00 to \$35.00

DRIVING and STORM COATS

Heavy garments made of Montana Buffalo Cloth and Astrakhan Cloth; have large storm collars and are storm and wind proof.

\$25.00 to \$35.00

SWEATERS

How about a good Sweater—we have them. All kinds and prices

Men's \$1.50 to \$10.00
Boys' \$1.50 to \$5.00

WINTER CAPS

Every kind of Winter Caps in Cloth or Fur; also, a big line of Yarn Toques for Men and Boys.

Men's Warm Caps \$1.00 to \$2.50
Men's Heavy Golf Caps \$1.00 to \$2.50
Boys' Heavy Golf Caps 75c to \$1.50
Heavy Yarn Toques 75c to \$1.50
Men's Fur Caps \$3.50 to \$7.50

RUBBER FOOTWEAR

We have everything you can possibly need in the way of Rubber Footwear. We carry the best makes and the very best qualities to be found in the country.

Gold Seal Ball Brand
Goodyear Glove

Are you acquainted with the above makes? You will find them here and you will pay no more for them than you are accustomed to pay for the ordinary makes.

Reliable Clothier and Head-to-Toe Outfitter
Geo. H. Brown Ayer, Mass.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher

We publish the following papers: Turner's Public Spirit, Ayer, Mass. The Groton Landmark. The Peppercell-Carlton-Advertiser. The Littleton Guild. The Westford Wardsman. The Harvard Hillside. The Shirley Oracle. The Townsend Toast. The Brookline (N. H.) Beacon. The Hollis (N. H.) Homestead.

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Ayer, Mass., Saturday, January 4, 1919

WESTFORD

Center. Dr. C. A. Blaney and family have moved into his recently purchased home on Boston road.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Wright of Quincy, have been spending part of the Christmas vacation with H. L. Wright.

Mrs. O. V. Wells and two little sons, Huntington and Richard, have been having chicken-pox, these being the only cases in the village.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Wheeler entertained a group of friends at a supper party the last day of the old year, the occasion being Mr. Wheeler's birthday anniversary.

A New Year's dancing party was held in the town hall on Wednesday evening, given by the junior class of Westford academy. The Colonial orchestra of Maynard furnished music for the dancing, and refreshments were served at intermission. Weather and traveling must have affected the attendance somewhat, but the young people report a very pleasant party.

At the New Year services on Sunday at the Congregational church the pastor's subject for the morning service will be "Satisfactions of Life," and at the evening service "Opportunities for the new year." Following the morning service the January communion service will be observed.

The first meeting of the new year for the Tadmuck club will be held on Tuesday afternoon in Library hall. The program for the afternoon will be a lecture by John A. Lower, subject, "The soldier and his books."

The January meeting of the reading circle of the Tadmuck club will be in charge of Mrs. H. V. Hildreth at her home. "Mid-summer night's dream" will be read.

The ice storm New Year's day was a treacherous one for pedestrians, drivers of horse-drawn vehicles or autos. It was beautiful as far as winter scenery was concerned, and probably of benefit to the orchards.

The annual church dinner with roll call and business meeting of the Congregational church takes place on Monday, January 13.

Mrs. Sophia Balseur, an aged lady living on the South road, at the so-called Charles Bicknell place, died the night of the funeral services were held at the home on Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. Rev. O. L. Browney officiating. Interment was in Fairview cemetery. The deceased was eighty-three years of age and death resulted from advanced years. She is survived by a son, Charles, and wife, and two granddaughters, a daughter, Maud, and a daughter, Mrs. Foster, of Peppercell. The bearers at the funeral were Arthur Wilson, Mr. Foster and Hamilton and Nathaniel Whitney.

Miss Elizabeth Kittredge has been housed with a bad cold during part of her vacation period.

The annual meeting of the Red Cross branch will be held on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in Library hall. Election of officers will take place and the annual reports of secretary and treasurer will be given. This is an important meeting and every member is expected to be present.

Deaths.

Mrs. Estella Hunt of Hollis, aged twenty-nine years, died at her home in Plaistow, N. H., Friday last week after a brief illness of influenza, followed by pneumonia. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Hartford of this town, and was educated in the public schools here, and a graduate of Westford academy, and for a number of years was a successful teacher in the schools of Carlisle, Attleboro and Plaistow, N. H.

The deceased is survived by her husband, her father and mother, seven brothers, Alfred W., George H., Jr., Harry C., John L., James B., Archie A., and Leroy C. Hartford, and two sisters, Mrs. Bert Cole of Lowell, and Miss Ida F. Hartford.

Funeral services were held at her late home in Plaistow on Sunday, with Rev. Mr. Morris officiating, and on Monday the body was brought to Westford and services were held at the home of her brother, Alfred W. Hartford at one o'clock. There were many beautiful floral offerings.

A sad feature of the services was that the husband, Mr. Collins, was not able to attend the last rites of funeral and burial, he being confined to his home in Plaistow and afflicted with influenza.

Rev. L. H. Backus was the officiating clergyman and Mrs. George H. Burns of Lowell sang three selections, "Gathering home," "Was it not beyond the river," and "A song of selection." The bearers were James C. Hartford and Bert Cole. Interment was in Fairview cemetery.

About Town.

Robert Deane of Shirley, Mass., was in town on Friday, and was seen at the office of the publisher, where he was engaged in the preparation of his book, "The History of the Town of Shirley, Mass., from its first settlement to the present time." The book is a very interesting and valuable work, and is expected to be published in the near future.

Mrs. Helen Balfour of Shirley, Mass., is recovering from a serious case of pneumonia.

Mrs. H. Lighton G. Osgood has been ill for a long time, but has now recovered from her illness and is able to move to the Lowell hospital for further treatment.

The year 1918 was the largest fire acreage in the history of Massachusetts. With an increased fire prevention system 2553 forest fires were reported and 37,658 acres were burned over at an estimated loss of \$265,627. These figures come from the state forester, who will introduce a bill to the legislature compelling "a clearing of 100 feet in width on all sides of recent cut forests." He maintains that there is a vital connection be-

tween forestry and rain. It certainly looks that way in his case. He attributes the large increase of fires to the dry weather of April and May. Perhaps so and perhaps some other things, but we have had many dry Aprils and Mays and fewer fires. Why not call it increased carelessness. We are so careful while the spell of rain and fires are frequent, but like skating on thin ice, carelessness is no corrective.

The claims of "we won the war" are coming on for meritorious recognition. The last one is from an agricultural paper that claims "The American hog won the war." We haven't seen our way clear for fifty years to take our "hats off" to the triumphs of the hog in war or peace, and while it remains history that rice-fed Japan whipped hoisted Russia we shall continue to keep our hats on.

Now that we have got a pass into the world of war, let us not over-rejoice at what it can do for us. It cannot do what belongs to the individual to do. There must be individual regeneration and reconstruction all along the line of individual living a more stringent self-imposed, self-control leading in the direction of a greater self-sacrificing utility for the principle of "Am I not my brother's keeper?" The peace congress will do much to make it harder to be naughty, but it cannot "Hitch your wagon to a star."

Seth Banister writes of his airplane flights over and into Germany. He is having an enjoyable air and ground view of Germany now that the bullet-dodging season is past. He expects to make a flying visit home before the "total eclipse of the sun, May 29," as per Robert E. Thomas and others.

Lieut. Charles H. Carpenter was in town again last Sunday. At his visit a week ago he was present with relatives at the services at the Unitarian church. He will be remembered as the grandson of the late Abby Hamlin and nephew of Edward A. Hamlin.

Arthur W. Fletcher was in town on Saturday from his camp in South Carolina. As his time was limited he spent most of it at his farm, the Fletcher Cold Spring farm, and returned to Camp on Monday, expecting to remain six months more.

A well-planned and well-equipped surprise party from Westford and Graniteville and the edges of elsewhere lit on Horace Gould's birthday, Monday, after supper. Horace turned 67 and a party of electricity or gas equivalent to enable him to see from whom, and games, plays and frolics were enjoyed.

Almon J. Downing is sawing wood by power for Amos Polly of the Prairie farm on the oak lot on the Rocky Hill road, a little north of the Stony Brook railroad.

New Year's furnished safe skating in the roads, sidewalks and fields.

Forge Village.

Miss Mildred I. Parrott, Lowell, was the week-end guest of Miss Lillian L. Baker.

Corp. J. Hobson, Company E, 301st Engineers, A. E. F., sent the following letter to his mother recently: "Just a line, hoping all at home are in the best of health as I am. Well, the old scrap is over at last and we are on a hike into Germany. I have seen a little of Lorraine and am now in Luxemburg, almost in Fritz's own back-yard. I like these places better than France, but will be glad enough to leave them when the time comes to go home, which I hope will be soon now. Well, dear mother, I must close now, as it is time for a bed. If you don't hear from me for a while don't worry, as I don't get much chance to write while we are hiking."

Miss Marion Lord has accepted a position in the office of Sargent & Sons, Graniteville, and commenced her new duties last Monday.

Miss Rachel Kimball, of the Fitchburg Normal school, is at home for the remainder of the week. Messes Alice Wright, of Cambridge, and Carolyn E. Precious were her guests on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Harrington and little son and Miss Annie L. Cherry, of Somerville, spent the Christmas holiday at the home of Francis Lowther.

Mr. and Mrs. William Weaver and Mr. and Mrs. William Baker and family were entertained over the holiday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gorham of Ayer.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burnett spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Rodgers at the Hollis. Others present were Mrs. Albert E. Jones and Mrs. Laura Jones, of Westford. Mr. and Mrs. James Whitcomb and family were also at the home of the hosts of Mr. and Mrs. William Burnett.

The mill will close on Saturday, January 11, for the purpose of allowing for stock taking.

Mrs. Ellen Strick, wife of Fredrick Strick, of Bradford, Conn., died at her home on Sunday, December 22, and was buried Christmas day. Mrs. Strick had been ill many months. She was a faithful mother for many years, and was a member of the late John H. Strick's church, as well as several children and grand-children and many other relatives.

A son was born on Thursday to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Brown of Groton. Mrs. Brown bore a son, Mrs. John M. Brown.

A little daughter, Edith Turner, was born last week Friday to Mr. and Mrs. John M. Turner of Lowell.

Miss Margaret Baker has been in the hospital for several days at her home in Shirley, Mass., recovering from a serious case of pneumonia.

Mrs. Helen Balfour of Shirley, Mass., is recovering from a serious case of pneumonia.

Mrs. H. Lighton G. Osgood has been ill for a long time, but has now recovered from her illness and is able to move to the Lowell hospital for further treatment.

The year 1918 was the largest fire acreage in the history of Massachusetts. With an increased fire prevention system 2553 forest fires were reported and 37,658 acres were burned over at an estimated loss of \$265,627. These figures come from the state forester, who will introduce a bill to the legislature compelling "a clearing of 100 feet in width on all sides of recent cut forests." He maintains that there is a vital connection be-

Letter from Overseas. Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Elliott have received the following letter from their son, Matthew Jr., now in France. It is the first news they have received of him for over three months, when word came from Washington that he had been wounded. His many friends as well as his parents have been anxiously awaiting news from him. The letter, dated December 9, is as follows:

Just a line to let you know I am here and hope all of you at home are the same. Well, I suppose you are glad the war is over and so am I. We may be home soon. I just sent a letter to Miss Mae Lord, who is a nurse over here. I saw her address in a paper I received and I am glad to know there is a nurse from my home town over here. I see she volunteered to come over. She takes after her father; he was a good sport. He used to tell me in the old depot what he did when he was young.

Well, mother, let me know how Jim is. I never hear from him, but I hope he is well. I am writing this in a French hospital. Am having an awful time trying to speak that language. You ought to hear me asking for something to eat in French. I cannot write very good for I had my hand cut open the other day. I had been poisoning in it, but it will be all right soon.

Well, I will close now, hoping you are all fine. Good-bye and God bless you. Matthew K. Elliott.

"Mattie," as he was familiarly called, enlisted two years ago and was one of the first to go across from his town. He was reported wounded twice, but in his letters home he always made light of his injuries. His brother, James Elliott, is stationed at Fort Slocum, N. Y., where he enlisted in the regular army. Tony Palermo, who is also in the 26th Division in France, has not written home for a long time. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Palermo, are anxiously awaiting news of him.

Graniteville.

Court Westford, M. C. O. F., held a well-attended and interesting meeting in its rooms on last week Thursday evening and finished up the business for the past year. During the session the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. Lena Monahan, c. r.; Miss Isabelle Carpenter, v. c. r.; Albert R. Wall, rec. sec.; Miss Fanny McCarthy, fin. sec.; John A. Healy, treas.; Fred S. Healy, s. c.; Joseph Wall, J. c.; Mrs. Julia Wall, l. s.; Mrs. Elizabeth Healy, o. s.; R. J. McCarthy, C. B. Duvoyer, Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington, trustees; Mrs. Julia B. Wall and Miss Fanny McCarthy, delegates to convention; Mrs. E. Carpenter and J. A. Healy, alternates. The above-named officers will be duly installed the second Thursday evening in January.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Saunders and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Demaris, of Nashua, N. H., have been recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wall.

Mr. and Mrs. William Dewey and daughter, of Springfield, have been recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rafferty, of West Graniteville.

The mills of the Abbot Worsted company were closed for the first three days of the week, but are up at the usual time on Thursday morning.

Both masses in St. Catherine's church last Sunday morning were celebrated by the pastor, Rev. C. P. Heaney, who gave interesting sermons at both services. There were also two masses celebrated on New Year's day, and services were also held in the evening at 7:30.

The members of the local Red Cross met as usual on Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Charles E. Eaton, who has been visiting with relatives in Canada for the past few weeks, has recently returned to her home here.

A watch-night service was held in the M. E. church on Tuesday night and was well attended. There was a community sing, followed by talks by different members of the church. A social hour was held at the sacrament of the Lord's supper and consecration.

Owing to so much time being lost during the gripe epidemic in October the schools here continued to hold sessions every day, as usual.

Private Emile J. Millot, who recently returned from overseas duty with the A. E. F., and who was wounded in both legs and one arm by a shrapnel shell, has related many interesting stories of his experiences while "over there." He will return to Camp Upton, N. Y., this week, as his wounds have not entirely healed and he expects to have an operation performed on his arm soon after his return to camp.

SHIRLEY

News Items.

Edward Thompson, of North Shirley, died about forty-five years, died on Wednesday at the Groton hospital of pneumonia, following influenza. A wife and seven children survive him.

Mrs. A. Livermore Rebekah lodge will install officers for the coming year on Friday evening, January 24.

Stephen Cary, G. A. R. veteran, died at his home with Mrs. Mary Weston on Tuesday by receiving some cold and a number of hours' rest. He was a very well-known friend.

Edward and Mrs. Edward Hughes, with Edward Dorothy, of Providence, R. I., spent a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knowles, Miss Dorothy Johnson, of Beachmont, and Mrs. Mary Johnson, of Shirley, who were in town this week at the Knowles.

The Scouts netted a profit of \$100.00 from their dance in Odd Fellows hall on Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. G. Osgood returned Sunday from their trip to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bradford, of Groton.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. G. Osgood returned Sunday from their trip to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bradford, of Groton.

daughter, Miss Virginia Alice MacEliroy, was united in marriage to Allan Ralph Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Thompson of West Fitchburg. The home was prettily decorated with evergreen and national colors, even the exterior of the home receiving artistic attention. It was a characteristic New England wedding and the blending of the decorations was decidedly harmonious and attractive and gave an atmosphere of loveliness throughout, and the brilliant atmosphere that predominated throughout the evening made the occasion most enjoyable. In fact it might with the wonderful inspiration of the decorations be said to be a most significant and grateful significance.

The best man was Lieut. Donald C. Thompson of the Depot Brigade, Camp Devens, a graduate of Cornell University, and the bridesmaid was Miss Madeline Sutherland of Athol, a cousin of the bride.

Promptly at 3:30 the bridal party descended the stairway of the home to the joyous strains of Lohengrin from an orchestra and presented a particularly attractive appearance as they stood under an arch of evergreen with the bridegroom of old glory. Rev. Frank R. Crandall, pastor of the Unitarian church at Ayer, performed the ceremony, the double ring service being used.

The bride was handsomely gowned in white satin with tulle and lace and pearl trimmings and carried a bouquet of bride roses. The bridesmaid wore a dress of blue silk with silver lace and carried a bouquet of pink roses. The gift of the groom to the bride was a pearl brooch and the gift of the groom to the best man was gold cuff links and the gift of the bride to her bridesmaid was a string of pearls.

The bride, Miss MacEliroy, is well known in Shirley and in fact all adjoining territory and is actively identified with the social life of the town and is decidedly attractive and highly esteemed.

The groom, Allan Ralph Thompson, is a graduate of the Fitchburg High school, class of '13, and has been in the service, being assistant adjutant at the Depot Brigade headquarters, Camp Devens. One week ago he was honorably discharged from the service.

Immediately following the ceremony on Thursday night, about fifty attended the wedding reception, including guests from Fitchburg, Ayer, Athol and Camp Devens. The bridal couple as they were about to leave were showered with confetti and only by an ingenious scheme of the bride, who escaped through a rear door to the auto, while the groom held the attention of his guests, were they able to leave the house without receiving further attention. However, the groom made a hasty exit when his bride was safely seated in the auto and joined her, the auto then speeding off to the honeymoon in New York.

The groom will go into business with his father, John S. Thompson, who is a lace manufacturer at West Fitchburg.

The wedding presents were choice and numerous, consisting of gold, silverware, cut glass, linen, bifocals and many other articles, one special present being a handsome money gift to the bride by the groom's father.

About Town.

Serjt. Irving Brown, who has been doing X-ray work at the base hospital, Camp Devens, has received an honorable discharge and with Mrs. Brown is leaving this week for their home in Boston. Until recently they were keeping house at the Lincoln cottage on Benjamin road.

The new year came in very quietly in Shirley, no public demonstration of any kind being made.

The Shirley club has been offered for the purpose of the organization of women or girls in town who desire to use it as a meeting place.

Mrs. Abide J. Wells was called to Vermont on Monday by the critical illness of an uncle. She will be away from home about ten days.

Mrs. Annes Bouldue and infant daughter are spending the holiday season with relatives and friends in Boston and vicinity.

Misses Dorothy and Marion Jubilee spent Christmas week with their aunt, Mrs. Henry Martin, in Fall River.

Mrs. Charles Hall, wife of Lieut. Hall, left town last Sunday night to make a visit at her home in Minneapolis, stopping in Michigan en route.

Old Shirley chapter, D. A. R., held a meeting on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Ella Lawrence. Owing to illness and other reasons the meeting was a small one, but the evening was pleasantly spent. A fine Christmas tree was decorated by the ladies and gifts were exchanged according to the usual custom of the chapter. There was short entertainment. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. Tombsbury on the fourth Tuesday in February.

The First Parish Branch Alliance will meet Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Pease's block.

Austin V. Fish, U. S. N., returned to Groton, where he has been appointed a one-day furlough attendant with his mother, Mrs. L. J. Edgerton. Mr. Fish has been recommended for Stevens Institute, Hoboken, N. J., and is awaiting orders.

Mrs. E. H. Abot, who has been confined to the house with influenza, is now recovering.

Mr. Shirley's grammar school earned \$100.00 in the sale of Christmas trees, and the pulpit is to be given to the school.

The annual meeting of Tammany Club, of Groton, was held at the home of Mrs. F. J. G. Osgood on Friday evening.

Howard A. White, Secretary-Treasurer, December 14, 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. G. Osgood returned Sunday from their trip to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bradford, of Groton.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. G. Osgood returned Sunday from their trip to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bradford, of Groton.



Cold Weather Coming - Guests Too. Give them a warm greeting with a Perfection Oil Heater. Make the guest room comfortable - without litter, smoke and smell. No need to start the furnace till winter comes in earnest. Preserve your coal till then. Buy a Perfection Oil Heater and a supply of SO-CO-NY OIL, and be prepared for the first chilly days. It saves furnace heat now and supplements it later. One gallon gives 8 hours of satisfying warmth. Perfection Oil Heaters are portable, handsome, easy to light. Sold by hardware and general stores. STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF NEW YORK. STOP and THINK! How few We-Design Stoves you have bought! Go and Buy More!

last Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Graves. Edward R. Thompson, at the North, is ill with pneumonia and was moved to the Groton hospital this week. Some of the other members of the family are ill with the influenza. The Ceter schools opened on Monday, after a Christmas vacation of one week. John Hough, who since his return from overseas service has been an instructor at a training camp in the south, is now stationed at Camp Devens. He was formerly a resident at the North in the house now owned by Hyman Gass. The next meeting of Shirley Grange will be held on Tuesday evening, January 7. At this meeting the installation of officers will take place, and William G. White will be the installing officer. At this meeting the programs for 1919 are to be distributed. A telegram has been received by Mrs. Ida Evans stating that her son Thomas, who has been in service in France, is expected to arrive in this country Sunday. Serjt. John Hartman, who is stationed at Camp Upton, has been home on a five-days' pass. Mrs. Ruby Wood, who is ill at the home of her parents at the North, is suffering from the measles instead of the influenza, as first reported.

New Advertisements. WANTED - 500 Mink and 1000 Muskrat Skins, for which I will pay high prices. H. A. GOODRICH, 55 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, Mass. 7118. FOR SALE OR TO RENT - Short detached house in Fall River. Six-room House with bath and all other modern improvements and two-car garage. RAILY P. SPEAR, Littleton, Mass. 3115. FOR SALE - In Lunenburg, Cottage, 6 rooms and bath; furnace, fireplace, electricity, cemented cellar, fruit, on state road, near postoffice. Low price for quick sale. MRS. IDA BRONKS, Lunenburg, Mass. 7115.

NOTICE. The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the First National Bank of Ayer, will be held at the Banking Rooms, in Ayer, Mass., on Monday, January 13, 1919, at one o'clock P. M. for the purpose of acting upon the following business: To choose a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may come before the meeting. CHARLES A. NORMAND, 4115 Ayer, Mass., December 9, 1918.

STOCKHOLDERS' NOTICE. The annual meeting of the Ayer Junction National Farm Loan Association will be held at Ayer Town Hall, January 14, 1919, at 4:30 o'clock P. M., to elect directors to serve one year, and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting. This is a very important meeting. Please make it a point to attend. Non-stockholders interested in securing First Mortgage Loans at attractive terms are cordially invited.

HOWARD A. WHITE, Secretary-Treasurer, December 14, 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. G. Osgood returned Sunday from their trip to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bradford, of Groton.

Engraved Cards Business and Social Wedding Stationery. Cards Showing STYLES and PRICES Willingly Furnished. Call at PUBLIC SPIRIT OFFICE, AYER and see samples.

Engine Wrong? See us. We can fix it and save you time and trouble. Our prices for repair work of this kind are very liberal. We pride ourselves on doing engine repairs right. We make repairs of all kinds quickly and efficiently. All sorts of autos repaired, no difference what model or make. You can absolutely rely upon repairs made at this garage. And the prices are always reasonable. Cut down your tire expense. Every motorist is aiming to do this nowadays. We can help you. We are agents for the best tires on the market, bar none. Buy your next new tires from us and see. We give satisfaction. HONEST WORK AT HONEST PRICES.

YATES' GARAGE. Maple Street Tel. 157-2 AYER, MASS. Ford Trucks. Mr. Business Man, Contractor, Express Man, Farmer, have you ever studied the economy in using a FORD ONE-TON, WORM-DRIVE TRUCK. It does the work of several horses quicker and better, and costs less than the price of a good pair, and does not eat its head off when not working, and the price is attractive.

CHARLES A. NORMAND, 4115 Ayer, Mass., December 9, 1918. STOCKHOLDERS' NOTICE. The annual meeting of the Ayer Junction National Farm Loan Association will be held at Ayer Town Hall, January 14, 1919, at 4:30 o'clock P. M., to elect directors to serve one year, and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting. This is a very important meeting. Please make it a point to attend. Non-stockholders interested in securing First Mortgage Loans at attractive terms are cordially invited.

K. M. MacLennan. Park Street Phone 336 AYER, MASS. JOHN F. RYAN Electrical Contractor. Bells Blinkers Telegraph Keys Wiring Repairs. SUNBEAM MAZDA LAMPS FOR HOUSE OR AUTOMOBILES. West Street Telephone Connection AYER, MASS.

FIFTY YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL PUBLICATION. OF INTEREST TO Advertisers. The ten papers we publish fully cover the towns of Ayer, Groton, Peppercell, Westford, Littleton, Harvard, Shirley, Townsend, Brookline, N. H. and Hollis, N. H. Advertisements are inserted in all the ten papers and you get results.

TOWNSEND.

Center. At the Congregational church Sunday morning Rev. A. L. Struthers will read...

George Hartford, Jr., of Townsend Hill attended the funeral of his youngest sister held at Westford on Monday...

Charles W. Hildreth spent the holidays with his brother, Henry B. Hildreth...

First-Lieut. Clarence L. Chandler of the Embarkation hospital, Hoffman Island, M. C. U. S. A., and his bride were the recent home guests of his mother, Mrs. Dora Chandler...

The Country club held their postponed Christmas meeting on New Year's day at the home of Mrs. Irving Seaver...

Townsend friends will be interested to know that Lieut. Claude E. Hart, Signal Corp., Aviation, has brought down in the recent war four German airplanes...

Misses Helen Higgins and Esther Bagley, teachers, who have been spending the Christmas vacation at their respective homes in town...

Mrs. C. W. Hildreth spent the week-end and over Sunday in Boston with her daughter, Mrs. Blanche Wheeler...

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitecomb are giving congratulations to the birth of a daughter, Sunday...

At the last meeting of the E. A. Spaulding Rebekah lodge the following officers were elected for the ensuing year...

Private Clarence Sherin and his bride were about to start on their wedding trip he was taken ill with the measles and they are staying at present at the home of his sister, Mrs. Arthur Bliss...

Much sympathy is expressed for Mrs. Jennie and family, who received the sad news this week that her youngest son, Earl Maxwell, had died in service overseas...

Private Wilfred Valcourt has arrived from overseas and Raymond Frye from camp in this country...

Miss Charlotte Struthers is entertaining her Mr. Holyoke college classmate, Miss Edith Parker, of Worcester...

Capt. Warren Barnaby, Mrs. Barnaby and their two children, Barbara and Betty, from Pennsylvania, spent the Christmas season at the Copeland homestead on Townsend hill...

The Christmas family gathering held at the home of Mrs. George Hartford, Mr. and Mrs. George Hartford, who have been visiting Mr. Barnaby's relatives in Brookline, N. H. Miss Sarah Copeland, of Montclair, N. J., and Mrs. Annie Copeland Jordan, of Grafton, were also present at the Copeland Christmas gathering...

Miss Hazel Ballou, of Milford, N. H., spent the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Ballou...

Rev. Victor H. Wachs and family, who spent Christmas week at Elm Lane farm with Mr. and Mrs. Upham, returned last week Friday to Cambridge, where Mr. Wachs will resume his studies at the Boston university...

Everyone is deeply affected in hearing the sad news of the death of Private Frank W. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Miller, who have been anxiously waiting to hear some news from him for several months past...

The funeral services of little Ellen H. Estes are held on last week Thursday afternoon at the home on Brookline street, Rev. A. L. Struthers in charge, Mrs. F. B. Higgins and Miss Hattie Sanders sang "Sometime we'll understand" and "Safe in the arms of Jesus"...

Besides her husband the deceased is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Eva Morse Hill, and three grandchildren, Norman, Alice and Robert, of Millis; also, by two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Day and Miss Fannie Derby, of Leominster...

Erroll Whitney, of the merchant marines, from Norfolk, Va., has been spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Boutelle, of Bayberry hill...

Wagoner Alden A. Sherwin is one of the wounded landed at the debarcation hospital in New York and it is expected that he will be this week among those transferred to Camp Devens...

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Welch, from Lynn, have been visiting his mother, Mrs. Mary Welch, this week...

Ernest G. Wilson has sold the tea route which he recently purchased from Hudson Bay back to Mr. Bray, who was discharged from Camp Devens a few weeks ago...

Mr. and Mrs. Ivers P. Sherwin, who are spending the winter in Atlantic, were at their home here for the holidays...

Misses Annie and Fannie Sanders spent Christmas with relatives in Ayer...

Louis Damon and family, from Ashby, have moved into their new home...

and social meetings, and led a consistent Christian life. The funeral services were in the M. E. church. He leaves a wife and little ten months old child to mourn his loss. His age was 23 years and 6 months...

Keep Tight on Knitting, Please. If the invidious knitting habit has you firmly in its clutches do not struggle to free yourself merely because a peace conference is being held at Versailles and the Kaiser has fled to Holland...

Must be a peaceful as well as a warlike pursuit, as long as we have a standing army in France, which will probably be for two years. It will need socks, sweaters and mufflers. The Red Cross wants everyone to keep on knitting as long as the yarn holds out...

Those who cannot attend the meetings of the Townsend branch of the Red Cross may have work to take home. Shall Townsend be found wanting? Knitting may be secured from Mrs. J. Livingston and refugee garments from Mrs. Flora I. Atwood at the house of Dr. Atwood...

A Soldier's Letter. Corp. Leon S. Marshall, aged nineteen years, of the 102nd U. S. Infantry, 51st Brigade, 28th Division, in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Marshall, says:

Well, I guess you know the news, that the war is over, and you just bet I am glad of it. We were on the line when it stopped, and I stopped right on the dot of eleven o'clock the evening of November 11. We were on the line for two days after the war was over. We slept in a pup tent right out in what was No Man's land. You ought to have seen it the night after war was over—there were all kinds of lights and fires...

Miss Georgiana McKean, of Brattleboro, Vt., who is spending her vacation at the parsonage with her father, Rev. Joseph McKean, is spending a few days in Boston...

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Lancy, of Medford, spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thompson...

Miss Ruth Bennett, from Worcester, has been spending a few days at her home here...

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lovering and her son Richard, who have been quite ill with influenza, are reported as much improved...

Owing to the fear of the influenza the community tree which was to be held in Seminary hall on Christmas night was given up in favor of the usual Sunday school tree in the vestry, in charge of Mrs. Charles Hodgman, with a pleasing program, by the primary department in charge of the Misses Doris Tenney and Gladys Rawson...

The C. S. Homer Christmas tree given to the pupils of the public schools, was held on Tuesday afternoon of last week at the reading-room under the direction of Miss Alice Seaver and her assistants. The tree, trimmed with tinsel and Christmas ornaments, was placed in the center of the library table and surrounded with gifts, and about seventy-five of the children were entertained with ice cream and cake and sent home with their gift and some candy...

The funeral of Mrs. Sarah (Derby) Morse, wife of Lewis E. Morse, was held on Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock from her late home, Rev. A. L. Struthers, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. Mrs. F. B. Higgins and Miss Hattie Sanders sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" and "Safe by Grace"...

Interment was in the Hillside cemetery beside little girl, who died when very young from diphtheria...

Mrs. Morse died from pneumonia Monday morning at the age of seventy years. She came from a large family of thirteen children, and after her marriage to Mr. Morse they came to Townsend about thirty-eight years ago, residing then in the cottage now occupied by F. A. Woods; later, their present home was built, where they have since resided. Their union was blessed with two daughters. Mrs. Morse was a quiet, unassuming woman, fond of reading and music. She was social and kindly in disposition and especially fond of her three grandchildren. She was a faithful member of the Methodist church and constant in her attendance as long as her health would permit. She had also been a member of the Grange for many years...

The deceased was born in Winton, where most of his early life was passed. As a young man he entered the employ of the New Home Sewing Machine Co., serving them for thirty years, fifteen of which were spent in the south, where he held a prominent and responsible position, until about three years ago, when he was compelled by failing health to retire from business and returned to his native town, but spent his winters in the south and at the time of his fatal illness was preparing to start south in a few days...

Mr. Morse was a man of intellect and character, whose genial disposition and kind heart were highly esteemed and loved by every community in which he lived. His devotion to his work and his loving kindness to his brothers and sister makes his loss from the home deeply felt...

His body was taken to Winton on last week Friday for interment in the family lot and a service was held at his former home and a service...

One Reason Girls Steal. This bit of philosophy of a reformed girl was contained in an article in the People's Home Journal on the value of the probation law: "A girl can no more live without a few pleasures and pretty possessions than she can without food. Take it from me, girls don't want to steal. If they knew how to earn things for themselves, they wouldn't be bad. Some day there'll be a way found for girls to earn what they need before they get into trouble, not after. Then the whole world'll be different."

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. ... Mrs. Eliza Tibbets, who has been at her double pneumonia, returned to the home of her mother, Mrs. Susan Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Howard, of Stoneham, were guests there at Christmas...

Mr. Donley, who is ill with the grippe at his home, is improving. C. L. Webster is assisting at Boutwell's store during his absence...

W. C. Winchester, who was called to Newton the first of last week by the death of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Hicks, has returned, and Mrs. Winchester and her mother are expected here as soon as Mrs. Caldwell, who is quite ill with the grippe, is able to be moved...

Miss Georgiana McKean, of Brattleboro, Vt., who is spending her vacation at the parsonage with her father, Rev. Joseph McKean, is spending a few days in Boston...

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Lancy, of Medford, spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thompson...

Miss Ruth Bennett, from Worcester, has been spending a few days at her home here...

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lovering and her son Richard, who have been quite ill with influenza, are reported as much improved...

Owing to the fear of the influenza the community tree which was to be held in Seminary hall on Christmas night was given up in favor of the usual Sunday school tree in the vestry, in charge of Mrs. Charles Hodgman, with a pleasing program, by the primary department in charge of the Misses Doris Tenney and Gladys Rawson...

The C. S. Homer Christmas tree given to the pupils of the public schools, was held on Tuesday afternoon of last week at the reading-room under the direction of Miss Alice Seaver and her assistants. The tree, trimmed with tinsel and Christmas ornaments, was placed in the center of the library table and surrounded with gifts, and about seventy-five of the children were entertained with ice cream and cake and sent home with their gift and some candy...

The funeral of Mrs. Sarah (Derby) Morse, wife of Lewis E. Morse, was held on Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock from her late home, Rev. A. L. Struthers, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. Mrs. F. B. Higgins and Miss Hattie Sanders sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" and "Safe by Grace"...

Interment was in the Hillside cemetery beside little girl, who died when very young from diphtheria...

Mrs. Morse died from pneumonia Monday morning at the age of seventy years. She came from a large family of thirteen children, and after her marriage to Mr. Morse they came to Townsend about thirty-eight years ago, residing then in the cottage now occupied by F. A. Woods; later, their present home was built, where they have since resided. Their union was blessed with two daughters. Mrs. Morse was a quiet, unassuming woman, fond of reading and music. She was social and kindly in disposition and especially fond of her three grandchildren. She was a faithful member of the Methodist church and constant in her attendance as long as her health would permit. She had also been a member of the Grange for many years...

The deceased was born in Winton, where most of his early life was passed. As a young man he entered the employ of the New Home Sewing Machine Co., serving them for thirty years, fifteen of which were spent in the south, where he held a prominent and responsible position, until about three years ago, when he was compelled by failing health to retire from business and returned to his native town, but spent his winters in the south and at the time of his fatal illness was preparing to start south in a few days...

Mr. Morse was a man of intellect and character, whose genial disposition and kind heart were highly esteemed and loved by every community in which he lived. His devotion to his work and his loving kindness to his brothers and sister makes his loss from the home deeply felt...

His body was taken to Winton on last week Friday for interment in the family lot and a service was held at his former home and a service...

What He Didn't Like About Helen. Kenneth's little playmate, Helen, was to have a party. Only girls were to be invited, but Kenneth was unaware of this fact. He longed for an invitation and expected one up to the day of the party. But alas! the invitation didn't come. Downhearted, he said to his mother: "You know, mother, I like Helen, awfully well, but I certainly don't like her ways..."

Wild Canaries Not Yellow. Canaries on their native islands are found in great flocks—striped greenish birds, by no means resembling in color our cage canaries. The yellow canary is a result of selective breeding, and the same may be said, of course, of other cage varieties, such as the humped-back Belgian canary and the "lizard" canary of curious feather-pattern...

District Residents Disfranchised. Residents of the district of Columbia never had the right to vote there for national officials, which would include the president, or on other matters of national concern, after the territory embraced in the district was ceded to the United States and became the seat of the general government...

Good Advice. The man who doesn't worry when he ought to is as bad as the one who worries when he shouldn't. Worrying is bad for the health, but probably not as bad as letting things drift. In case of rain, run for an umbrella. Instead of saying "Don't Worry" the best advice to give man in trouble is "Get Busy."—Thrift Magazine.

His Preference. Alvina had always longed for a dog. One day the nurse announced that if he would pray for it, God might send him a brother or a sister very soon. That night the nurse overheard him saying his prayers. He ended with: "Dear God, I would like a brother or a sister, but if it's just the same to you, I'd lots rather have a dog."

Washing Poor People's Feet. The custom of washing the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday at Whitehall was observed by English sovereigns until the end of the seventeenth century. After that the ceremony was performed on their behalf by the Archbishops of York until the middle of the eighteenth century...

Patriotic Air Roused Her. A Quincy girl returned from a dance recently at about 3 a. m. and could not be awakened for the night. The alarm clock had no effect, nor did repeated calls from members of the family. Her little brother tooted the reveille, but the girl was no soldier. Finally "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played, and to that the patriotic girl immediately responded.—Boston Globe.

Do Your Own Thinking. You can't become a man of mark, a man of real achievement, so long as you are but an echo of other people. You can't possibly progress as you should in your chosen life work. For the highest success demands vigorous, alert, independent thinking. And your thinking is the opposite of this, as revealed by your blind, uncritical assimilation of other people's ideas.

THRIFT AND SAVINGS STAMPS ARE AS GOOD AS GOLD They Should Not Be Cashed Until Maturity People who think that unfilled Thrift Stamp certificates or War Savings cards must be cashed in before January 1, are absolutely wrong. War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamp certificates are as good as gold, whether the certificate or Thrift Stamp card is completely filled or not. Lewis B. Franklin, director of the War Loan Organization, of the United States Treasury Department, says there is a tendency to cash in War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps, because their owners have an idea that completely filled certificates are worth less than unfilled ones. "Hold on to your War Savings Certificates, whether you have one War Savings Stamp or a filled card," advises Mr. Franklin. "There is absolutely no reason for cashing a single Savings Stamp before maturity. The single Savings Stamp will grow in value in the same proportion as your twenty stamps, and the government will redeem it on expiration for \$5, just as it will redeem your twenty Savings stamps for \$100. Thrift cards, even the partially filled, are as good as ever. The Government will continue to sell Thrift Stamps, so that you can fill out these cards and exchange them for the 1919 issue of War Savings Stamps." The 1919 War Savings Stamps will be sold after January 1 the same as were the old War Savings Stamps. The only difference is that these new blue stamps must be pasted in a new certificate, and not used to fill out the old certificate. The old certificates, of course, did not have to be completely filled to entitle every holder to \$5 on maturity for every War Savings Stamp in them.

WHEAT SHOWED SPIRIT OF U. S.

Sacrifice to Ensure Allied Loaf Greatest Single Food Achievement.

SUFFICIENT SUPPLY NOW. All the Nations Will Be Able to Return to Their Normal Supply of White Bread.

Overshadowing all other accomplishments of the American people and the leadership of Food Administration is the history of wheat exports in the past sixteen months. Our wheat export program proved conclusively to the world that America was in this war from start to finish and willing to make any sacrifice that will hasten victory or maintain the health and strength of people overseas, upon whom rested the heaviest weight of our war.

Now that pressure on ocean tonnage is eased by the stopping of large movements of troops to Europe, we may relax our efforts to save wheat. The accumulated surplus in Australia, Argentina and other hitherto inaccessible markets will become available, and probably no more than our normal surplus will have to leave this country. We in America and the nations which have won the world for freedom will be enabled to eat their normal wheat loaf at the common table of the people of democracy.

We entered the past crop year with a wheat supply which gave us only 20,000,000 bushels available for export. When the crop year ended, we had sent 141,000,000 bushels of wheat to Europe. The American people had saved out of their normal consumption 121,000,000 bushels.

A survey of export figures shows that the conservation of flour brought about by the wheatless weeks, wheatless days, substitution in our kitchens our armies and the allies 33,000,000 barrels of white flour—wheat—was able to ship less than 4,500,000 barrels. Before the 1st of December our surplus had gone overseas, and an additional 36,000,000 bushels had been taken from the stock reserved for home consumption and added to the surplus already shipped to the allies. It seemed hardly possible that we could bring our total export since July 1, 1918, to 141,000,000 bushels by July 1. But in January the present British Food Controller, called that unless we could send an additional 75,000,000 bushels he could not take responsibility for assuring his people that they would be fed. The American people responded by sending 85,000,000 bushels of wheat, saved from their home consumption, between the first of the year and the advent of the new crop.

By October 10, 1918, we had already shipped 63,969,305 bushels since July 1. Absolutely the only limitation upon our wheat exports since the latest harvest has been the scarcity of ocean tonnage. If exports continue at the present rate, by July 1 of next year we will have sent more than 237,500,000 bushels to Europe.

Thus we are making good America's pledge that the bread rations of Allied Europe shall be maintained.

A Memorable Achievement of the Titanic Struggle. America saved and sent to Europe in a year of crop failure 141,000,000 bushels of wheat, which saved Europe.

***** A GERMAN HOPE DISPROVED ***** AND ***** A GERMAN FEAR CONFIRMED *****

A statement made by a prominent German official soon after this country was declared in a state of war with Germany + shows that even in the enemy country clear thinking students did not underestimate the strength of the American republic. Only + in his confidence that we could + not land in Europe sufficient + troops to affect the final decision + was this German mistaken. + "I do not fear the American + soldiers," he told a high official + of our government, "because + they cannot arrive in time. What + I fear is the intelligence and de- + votion of one hundred million + original minds and people train- + ed to a faith in individual initia- + tive. The day that these people + pile new and more powerful in out- + ward appearance, the stirred + spiritually, that day is the day + of Germany's doom."

***** Save food Who shares in the struggle Will share in the triumph

***** Fault-Finding. Why should we denounce fault-finding because it is not constructive? All of us are continuously finding fault, more or less, and on our success in finding the fault and destroying it depends mostly our successful develop- + ment. So in the end it appears that + fault-finding is essentially one of our + most constructive activities. One of + our worst faults is the hypocritical + practice of finding fault with fault-finding.—F. H. Young in Providence Journal.

PEACE ADDS TO U. S. FOOD TASK

Europe Needs Nearly Double Last Year's Supplies From America.

ECONOMY MUST CONTINUE. World Survey Shows Sufficient Wheat, But Shortage of Fat—Government's Stimulative Program Justified.

With the return of peace America is confronted by a food problem even harder of solution than that with which we coped in time of war. We have an entirely new world situation in food. It will mean essential changes in our domestic program. But more important than this, it must of necessity require increased export. Last year we shipped 11,820,000 tons of foodstuffs to the European Allies. Had the war continued we would have increased this enormous figure to 17,550,000 tons in the present year. Now, with the responsibility of feeding millions of people liberated from the German yoke, our exports must be brought up to at least 20,000,000 tons—practically the limit of loading capacity at our ports.

The end of the war will create an enormously increased demand for food. Humanity demands that the starving millions freed from Prussian oppression shall have sufficient supplies to assure their return to health and prosperity. If these liberated nations are faced with starvation they cannot establish orderly government. Hunger breeds anarchy in a people. The war to free the world for democracy will be lost after it has been won. America must continue its work of liberation and by sharing its food make democracy safe in the world.

In order to meet this new situation the Food Administration has made a careful survey of the food resources of the world in relation to the total demand. Computing supplies on the basis of the avoidance of waste and war consumption, it is found that wheat and rye may be obtained in sufficient quantities to meet economical world consumption; high protein feed for dairy animals will show a shortage of about 3,000,000 tons, while there will be sufficient supplies of other feeds to allow economical consumption; beans, peas and rice will also be found in sufficient quantities to maintain economy in consumption; there are sufficient supplies of beef to keep pace with the capacity of refrigerating space.

Great Fat Shortage. The most distinct reversal of policy will come with pork and dairy products, vegetable oils, sugar and coffee. Utmost economy will be required in the use of fats and oils, in which there is a world shortage of about 3,000,000,000 pounds. There are sufficient supplies for us to return to our normal sugar consumption if other nations continue their present short rations, or even if their rations are slightly increased. If the European countries, however, are to resume their normal sugar consumption it will be through our continued conservation in order to share with them. There is a surplus of coffee.

Of the world total required to produce these results North America will furnish more than 90 per cent. The United States, including the West Indies, will be in a position to furnish a total of about 20,000,000 tons—against our pre-war exports of about 6,000,000 tons.

The bread grains situation allows the world to abandon the use of substitutes in wheat bread. Large supplies have accumulated in the Argentine, Australia and other hitherto inaccessible markets. A continued high milling percentage, economy of consumption and elimination of waste make it possible for the world to return to a white wheat loaf.

Of all our export possibilities in fats, the largest and most important item is pork. While we cannot supply the world deficiency, we will be able to help it enormously because of the past policies of stimulating production and restraining consumption. The government's policy with regard to stimulating the production of wheat and of pork, the readiest source of fats, is thus amply justified by the situation upon the return of peace.

Famine Specter Still Stalks. The people of the United States must continue care and wise economy in the use of food in order to complete the work of liberating the world. But even with the utmost conservation of production in this country there will be in Europe for the next year or more starvation beyond all human power to allay. In North Russia there are 40,000,000 people to whom food cannot be made accessible this winter. Their transportation is demoralized in complete anarchy. And even if normal transport could be assured their ports of entry would soon be frozen. Millions more who have felt beyond the opposition of war will be beyond reach of assistance.

We must realize that upon our shoulders rests a greater responsibility than we have ever before been asked to assume. We must realize that millions of lives depend absolutely upon the continued service and sacrifice of the American people.

We must realize that the specter of famine abroad now haunts the abundance of our table at home.

Don't Tease Child. Teasing has ruined the disposition of many a child. The parents are not likely to be guilty of such conduct, but older children in the family, or some other relative, may make the child's life utterly miserable by constant teasing. A thoughtful adult, intending to be playful, will keep a child struggling for some object, almost allowing him to get it over and over again, only to thwart the child's purpose, and so causing a wearing irritation.

SAVE MEAT SAVE MONEY

With every roast of meat, poultry, and game, add every baked fish, serve a liberal amount of STUFFING or DRESSING flavored with BELL'S SEASONING. Increase the pleasure and decrease the cost. Ask Grocers for BELL'S SEASONING.



NOTICE. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Townsend National Bank will be held at their Banking Rooms on Monday, January 6, 1919, at ten o'clock A. M., to choose a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

C. E. WILLARD, Cashier. Townsend, Mass., Dec. 9, 1918. 4115

AT STUD Registered Poland-China Bear out of 700-pound and 500-pound sire and dam. Makes a famous cross with Chester White. Improve your herd; don't get to a scrub.

P. H. BABCOCK Telephone 94 Harvard Fruit Farm Harvard, Mass.

Advertisement for Geo. E. Felch Florist, designs a specialty, Ayer, Mass.

Autos for Hire

5- and 7-Passenger Cars Prompt and Efficient Service with Careful Drivers

E. A. Whitney AYER, MASS. Office handy to Railroad Station—ask anyone—they all know Whitney. Telephone 53-2

Piano Tuning

WILMOT B. CLEAVES Phone 20 HARVARD, MASS. Pianos For Sale and Rent 1711*

Ralph H. Wylie DENTIST Barry Building Ayer, Mass. Telephone 15-3

LANGDON PROUTY Insurance Agent and Broker FIRE, LIFE and AUTOMOBILE Tel. 30 LITTLETON, MASS. 1918

FRANK S. BENNETT Successor to ARTHUR FENNER Insurance Agent and Broker Main Street Turner's Bldg. AYER, MASS.

N. A. SPENCER & SON

Wish to call your attention to their stock of

GEMETERY MEMORIALS

which they would be pleased to have intending purchasers inspect and obtain prices.

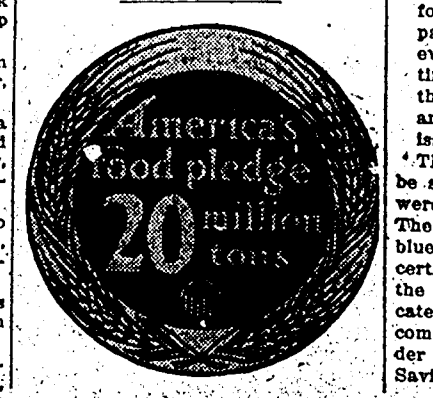
PARK STREET Ayer, Mass.

WARREN A. WINSLOW (Successor to Augustus Lovejoy) Fire Insurance Agent Farms, Dwellings, Furniture and Mercantile Property Written in Strong Companies Washington Street AYER, MASS.

POULTRY WANTED FOWLS, ROASTERS and BROILERS FOR MARKET; Also, PULLETS O. B. OLSEN Townsend Harbor, Mass. Telephone, Peppercell 59-12

E. D. STONE Fire Insurance Agent Automobile and Cordwood Insurance Esther A. Stone, Typewriting Page's Block Ayer, Mass.

HERE IS A CHANCE For someone to purchase a home in the town of Ayer, where it is almost impossible to find a place to live in. A seven-room cottage with bath and steam heat, good location. For further particulars inquire of THOMAS F. MULLIN, Room 3, Bank Building, Ayer.



ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher

Subscribers are urged to keep their subscriptions paid in advance.

The daily labors of the Bee. Awake my soul to industry. Who can observe the careful Ant. And not provide for future waste?

Saturday, January 4, 1919

AYER

News Items. Edward A. Richardson, who has been critically ill with pneumonia for the past week, is reported very low as we go to press.

Mrs. Rachel Barry, of upper Washington street, who has been very ill with the prevailing influenza, is slowly improving. She is under the care of a nurse.

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Osgood went last week Thursday to visit Mrs. Osgood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Lord, in Sullivan, Me., for the week-end and over Sunday, returning home on Tuesday morning. They do not expect Mr. and Mrs. Lord to spend the winter in Ayer, as they have done in the past few years.

Mrs. Ruby Wood, who was taken to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Crockett, in Shirley, from Mrs. H. M. Turner's last week, is recovering from an attack of measles.

An unknown man was struck by an automobile near Hotel Devens last week Friday night, receiving slight bruises. He was able to go on his way without assistance.

The schools opened last Monday morning after the Christmas vacation. The first hospital train coming to Camp Devens arrived on Sunday night from overseas with many wounded soldiers of the country for treatment; the others being able to move about with the aid of crutches or canes. A large number of the returning soldiers were able to go home on visits to relatives for which passes were given.

The Christian Science society is soon to occupy quarters in Carey's block. A room on the second floor is being prepared for the use of the new tenants.

Local telegraph operators were much interested to learn of a further advance in wages which became known Monday. Under the previous order to which the telegraphers throughout the country took decided objection the basis for calculating increased pay, was made by dividing the rate in effect January 1, 1918, by the number of working days in the year, which included generally Sundays and holidays. The new order provides for a raise of thirty cents per hour, retroactive to October 1, 1918. The new order also applies to station agents, but excepts agents whose duties are purely supervisory and those at small non-telegraph stations. The pay raise was ordered by William G. McAduo, director-general of railroads.

A bill has been introduced in congress which provides for the conferment of the rank of captain by brevet on all chairmen of local draft boards, government appeal boards, medical and legal advisory boards; and the rank of first lieutenant by brevet on other members of such boards serving during the war. If this bill becomes a law Ayer will have quite a number more men with military titles.

The new fire alarm whistle has been placed on the town house and will be ready for use as soon as the other parts of the compressed air mechanism which operates the alarm can be installed. It is expected that the new system will be in use soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis LaPointe left town Wednesday to go to New York city, where they took passage for Jacksonville, Fla., by boat, and from there by rail to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where they will spend the winter. Mr. LaPointe bought a lot there last winter and will build this season a bungalow. He says it is a new place, recently opened and is growing fast.

A special communication of Caleb Butler lodge of Masons will be held on Monday evening at 6.30 o'clock, at which the installation of officers will take place. Philip R. Andrew will be the installing officer, assisted by Warren L. Preble as scribe. Installation public to the admitted member having the privilege of inviting two guests. Supper in banquet hall at seven o'clock. Entertainment after the installation services by the Page Concert Company.

The following is the program for the motion picture shows at Page hall theatre next week: Monday, a special public to the admitted member having the privilege of inviting two guests. Supper in banquet hall at seven o'clock. Entertainment after the installation services by the Page Concert Company.

The following is the program for the motion picture shows at Page hall theatre next week: Monday, a special public to the admitted member having the privilege of inviting two guests. Supper in banquet hall at seven o'clock. Entertainment after the installation services by the Page Concert Company.

Bennett and Miss Charlotte Sanderson, while skating on the schoolhouse pond, Sunday, met with a mishap. Miss Sanderson broke through the ice and went in up to her neck in the icy water. It was a very chilly reception until rescued by her brother, "She came up smiling."

Joseph Therault, of Salem, was knocked down by an automobile near the Hotel Devens, West Main street, Sunday, sustaining a broken leg. He was taken to the base hospital for treatment. No blame is attached to the driver of the automobile, whose name was not learned.

Friends in town will be interested to learn that Capt. George W. Anderson, of Cooks and Bakers company of the 15th division at Camp Devens, who went overseas with the division last summer, left France December 16 with his company headed for Germany. Capt. Anderson is a member of Banoroff Royal Arch chapter and is well known among the Masons here in town.

Happy Jack's report for the last week in the year is 130 thrift stamps and 21 war stamps.

Fred H. Jenkins brought a few sprigs of pussy willow into the office, Thursday, which is a sign of an open winter. Pussy willows are not usually found until spring in this climate.

Frank C. Johnson, superintendent of schools, and his son Roger, are sick with influenza.

These officers were elected by the board of trade on Wednesday evening: Harry E. Fisher, pres.; John L. Kennison, v. p.; Frank S. Bennett, clerk; Charles A. Norman, treas.; John R. Murphy, Charles E. Sherwin, F. A. Gathercole, directors. Lunch was served.

Herbert L. Hardy has arrived home from Camp Dix after receiving an honorable discharge from the service. Mr. Hardy served in the construction and mechanical department of the army.

The number of arrests made by the police for the year ending December 31 is 1088, which is the largest in the town's history. The large number of automobile cases coming under the town by-law which went into force a few months ago, is mainly responsible for the high total. The number of such cases was 345, and 61 were arrested for violation of the state auto law, making a total for both classes of complaints 406. The total arrests for the preceding year were 902.

A son was born on December 23 to Capt. and Mrs. Jonathan H. Harwood of Littleton. He has been named Jonathan Hartwell, Jr. Mrs. Harwood was formerly Miss Ruth Fisher, of Ayer.

The Odd Fellows still retain their lead in the whist series with the Knights of Columbus team a close second. The net result of Thursday night's game was about an even break between the two teams.

Dr. B. H. Hopkins, who went overseas last spring with the A. E. F., with the commission of captain, called that he was to leave France last Sunday and is expected to arrive in this country about the middle of next week.

Miss Elizabeth Bennett returned to the Walnut Hill school this week Friday, and Mrs. Jonathan H. Harwood vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Bennett.

There will be services in honor of the holy name in St. Mary's church on Sunday afternoon.

The Woman's Alliance met on Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Herbert Farnsworth. The intention was to have the meeting in a room on the second floor, but the painters had not finished their work there. The time of the meeting was devoted to business and it was a very interesting afternoon. Some plans were made for the dinner to be held on February 22, and the plans for the dedication of the church on Sunday were completed. It promises to be a very interesting occasion. A generous contribution to the Alliance treasury was made by the hostesses in place of the usual refreshments.

The installation of the officers of Ayer Grange, which was to be held on Wednesday evening, has been postponed for two weeks, owing to sickness.

There will be a meeting of Capt. George V. Barrett camp, S. of V., next Thursday evening. This being the first meeting of the year and under the new officers, it is hoped that all members will attend. Lunch will be served.

Dr. Severance Burrage of the U. S. Health Service will speak at the Federal House on Wednesday evening at 7.30 on incidents of a trip to Serbia. Dr. Burrage was a member of the Red Cross Commission which visited that country to find out its needs, and for his efforts was presented with a medal by the Serbian government. Civilians will be welcome at this talk.

Gen. Harry H. Hodges, who led New England's 1st Division in France, visited the camp recently, he having just returned from overseas. He was accompanied by his son, 2d Lieut. Duncan Hodges. Gen. Hodges was commander at the camp for ten months prior to going to France.

The following officers were installed at the meeting of the G. A. R. on Thursday afternoon, the installing officer being William Jubb, past commander of the post: Charles H. Stone, com.; Wesley Hawkes, s. v. c.; J. Everett Woods, j. v. c.; Daniel M. Dickinson, adjt.; Henry C. Sherwin, qm.; Francis Jeffrey, chap.; Hiram S. Clark, m.; Elvina D. Martell, qms.; Charles Craig, o. d.; William Jubb, p. l.

Married in Ayer December 30 by Rev. J. B. Chaffee, Oscar A. Giestead of Sawyer, Wis. Co. A. 36th Machine Gun Battalion, and Miss Mabel H. Nelson of LaGrange, Ill.

The annual meeting of the Unitarian parish, which was to have been held on Wednesday evening, was postponed on account of the weather to next Tuesday evening.

At the Federated church Sunday at 10.30, sacrament service. At twelve, Sunday school; Mr. Traquair leads the Men's class. At 6.30, young people's meeting; installation of officers; John Traquair, leader. Thursday at 7.30, mid-week meeting.

A. W. C. The Woman's club program on Wednesday was in charge of the Topic of the Day department of the club. Mrs. Susan M. Barker was chairman and the other members were unable to be present on account of the slippery walking. The program included "Laud Deo, Whittier's poem, given by Mrs. Barker, who also gave a brief account of the organization of the Girl Scout work and a paper, "What Is Bolshevism." A delegation of the Girl Scouts gave their opening exercises, a demonstration of semaphore signalling and a group of Scout songs.

Memberships Drive a Success. The Red Cross Christmas roll call was a great success, the number of members doubling last year's figures. This gratifying result was due to the good work done by the captains and collectors in making a thorough canvass of the town. In addition to the captains named, Miss Mary Johnson, Frank Bennett, L. H. Cushing and Charles Sherwin canvassed Main street, and Miss Charlotte Sanderson, Mrs. Chasmat, Miss Julia Hooley and Mrs. Sarah B. Barry, Camp Devens. The chairman wishes to thank the captains and collectors and all who in any way contributed to make the Red Cross Christmas roll call so successful.

The following is a condensed list of members secured in the different sections of the town: Miss Markham, West Main street, 71; Mrs. Willis, Park street, 47; A. Richardson, railroad track, Pleasant street, 83; Mrs. Cushing, Pleasant street, 123; T. Mullin, Washington street, 89; Mrs. Traquair, east of Washington street, 147; Mrs. Pillman, Central avenue, 16; Mrs. Sanderson, East Main street, 130; Mrs. Fox, west of Pond street, 61; Miss Leahy, east of Pond street, 41; factories in town, 92; Main street, stores and offices, 118; Camp Devens, Coleman's employees, 104; Camp Devens, Y. M. C. A., Red Cross, Hostess House, etc., 94, a total of 1,204; magazine members 18; sustaining member 1, making a grand total of 1,218.

Peace and Unity Club. The largest crowd that has attended the annual concert at the hall of the Peace and Unity club for many years was present Wednesday evening, when the fifty-sixth anniversary of the emancipation of the colored race from slavery was observed in the town hall. Many white people from Ayer and other towns were present, while the colored people came from all over this section of the state. The concert was given from eight to nine o'clock, consisting of orchestral selections and a cornet solo. Following the concert five o'clock in the morning. Every body had a fine time. Bonnet's orchestra of Leominster furnished music for the evening. A. J. Chester was floor director. He was assisted by C. L. Harris, A. F. Hazard, T. Thomas, A. Chester as aids. Supper was served in the lower hall. The officers of the Peace and Unity club are S. H. Munroe, pres.; W. H. Chester, v. p.; M. C. Chester, sec.; Fred Hazard, treas.

Installation of Officers. On Thursday evening the new officers of Capt. George V. Barrett camp, S. of V., and George V. Barrett well W. R. C., were inducted into office at a joint installation in their quarters in Hardy's hall. The exercises of the installation of the W. R. C. came first, Mrs. Nina E. Lovejoy, past department instituting and installing officer, presided at the ceremony which she was assisted by Mrs. Alice M. Crawford as conductor. Mrs. Lovejoy was installed as treasurer by Mrs. Eileen G. Sawyer, past president of the W. R. C. The installation of the officers of Capt. George V. Barrett camp followed. E. V. Lynde, past commander, George B. McClellan, of Holyoke, past division commander, being in charge. He was assisted by Arthur M. Soule, of Portland, Me., as guide, Mr. Soule being a Y. M. C. A. secretary at Camp Devens and also a past division commander.

James M. Boutwell, the retiring commander, was presented with a past commander's jewel. The presentation was made in behalf of the camp by Mr. Lynds. Mr. Boutwell expressed his thanks for the gift.

The ceremony of installation of both organizations were of the usual very interesting character and were witnessed by a large gathering, including members of the two organizations, George S. Boutwell post and invited guests.

After the installation of the officers of Capt. Lynde's company, at Camp Bassett Dickerman, his newly-installed commander, made a few remarks in which he alluded to the great kindness shown by Mr. Lynds coming here from Holyoke, a distance of 100 miles, in order to install the officers of the camp. Mr. Lynde was invited to do the work by Commander Dickerman, who is an old friend, both being residents of Holyoke prior to Mr. Dickerman coming here to live. At the commander's request the members of the camp gave Mr. Lynde a rousing vote of thanks in recognition of his kindness in coming here.

An interesting program was then given, consisting of vocal solos, by Mrs. Annie G. Carter, remarks by Arthur M. Soule and Rev. John R. Chaffee, readings, with piano accompaniment by Sergeant Waita of Camp Devens, Miss M. E. Allen, of Boston, C. C. Wentworth, v. p.; Mrs. Etta Craig, Mrs. Mary E. Young, Mrs. Margaret McDonald, c. b.; Mrs. Evelyn Cunningham, mus.

S. of V.—S. Bassett Dickerman, c.; Ellis B. Harlow, s. v. c.; Edward O. Richardson, j. v. c.; John W. Wentworth, Herbert H. Proctor, H. Harlow, c. b.; James M. Boutwell, c. o. d.; Edward E. Sawyer, treas.; John R. Chaffee, p. l.; Warren L. Preble, chap.; Henry Waterman, l. g.; George H. B. Clark, o. g.; Holden C. Harlow, mus.

At a short business session previous to the installation exercises of the W. R. C., Mrs. Etta Craig was chosen a delegate to the department convention and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Kyle, alternate. The meetings of the corps have been changed to the first Thursday in each month.

Death. Henry P. Boutelle died at his home in Dorchester on December 23. He was born in Leominster seventy-eight years ago and was employed by the William B. Baking Company, of Fitchburg, for whom he worked many years. During the course of his employment for the firm Mr. Boutelle drove a baker wagon throughout Ayer and other towns in this vicinity and was widely known for his unfailing courtesy and honesty. Later, Mr. Boutelle bought the business, which he continued successfully until he moved to Dorchester twenty years ago, where he engaged in the real estate business.

On January 1, 1865, Mr. Boutelle married Miss Mary D. Pierce, a sister of Oliver K. Pierce, of this place, then known as Groton Junction. Mr. Boutelle was a man of strict integrity and honor and a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Dorchester Congregational church.

The deceased is survived by four daughters, Mrs. H. H. Greene, of Dorchester; Mrs. William W. Lowe, of Fitchburg; Mrs. E. R. Kelley, wife of Dr. E. R. Kelley, state health commissioner, of Boston; Mrs. G. A. Kelley, of Dorchester, and a son, William P. Boutelle, of Dorchester. Another son, Dr. H. C. Boutelle, of Danvers, died about four years ago. The deceased

is also survived by eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held from the late home of the deceased at 1.30 Thursday afternoon of last week, Rev. Dr. Francis performing the services. The undertaker of Boston sang "Home, Land, "Over the hills" and also chanted the Lord's prayer when the religious service was completed. The floral display was expensive and very beautiful. The bearers were William P. Boutelle, a son; the son-in-law, C. A. Kelley, Dr. Eugene R. Kelley, health commissioner for the city of Boston; two grandsons, Ray B. Greene and Carl Boutelle, and Edward O. Richardson, of Ayer, a nephew of the deceased's wife, who filled a vacancy caused by the inability of another relative to be present. The interment took place in Cedar Grove cemetery, Dorchester.

Those attending the funeral from Ayer were O. K. Pierce, Mrs. Lucie S. Richardson and Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Richardson.

Auto Accident. An automobile bus driven by George H. Mollohan, of Lowell, ran down Valerie Bourque, of New Bedford, another bus driver, on the Shirley road, near the camp, Monday evening. Bourque was knocked down and received a cut on the head, which required one week to cure. He was also painfully bruised about the legs. He was taken to the base hospital at the camp, where he received medical attention. Bourque's injuries were not serious. Mollohan at once reported the matter to Chief Beatty.

The injured man, according to the driver of the car, causing the accident, stepped from behind another car directly in the path of the oncoming automobile. Mollohan claims that Bourque admitted that the accident was caused through the fault of the injured man, the car causing the accident, according to its driver, was proceeding at a very moderate rate of speed toward Ayer when the accident happened.

District Court. Judge Atwood has rendered his decision on the inquest on the death of John Galaei, of Shirley, who died as a result of an accident, when an automobile in which he was riding, collided with an electric car on West Main street on Friday night, December 14. After reviewing the evidence given at the inquest, the court finds that no criminal action or negligence of any person or corporation resulted in the said death.

This week Friday morning three auto drivers were arraigned on violation of the town by-law. L. O. Smith pleaded not guilty. He was found guilty and fined \$10, from which he took an appeal. He was ordered to recognize in \$200 sureties for the superior court in Cambridge. Victor Eckberg and Harrison Chickering pleaded guilty and were each fined \$5.

Reported Dead from Wounds. Michael Connors, of Park street, received a telegram from the war department last Saturday stating that his son, Sergt. Joseph M. Connors, was officially reported dead from wounds in France, the death occurring October 3. Mr. Connors received a telegram two weeks ago that his son was severely wounded on October 3. From these facts it is apparent that the young man lived but three days after he received his wounds.

Sergt. Connors is the first Ayer boy to die from wounds in the great war. As soon as the selectmen were informed of the death the flag on the town house building was ordered to be lowered to half-mast in honor of the dead soldier.

Sergt. Connors was born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, twenty years ago. At the age of two years he came to Ayer with his parents to live, where he made his home. Seven years ago he enlisted in the army, later being detailed for duty at the Mexican border, where he served until he went overseas two years ago. He was assigned to the (Yankee) Division west of France, where he was assigned to duty with that division, with which he had served until forced to retire from duty from wounds on October 3.

The young man was well-known in town and was very popular with all who knew him. His death comes as a great shock to his relatives and friends, to whom the sympathy of the entire community is extended in their great loss.

Before entering the military service of the United States Sergt. Connors was employed as a lineman by the telephone company.

Besides his father the deceased leaves a brother, Daniel F. Connors, in California; another, James A. Connors, who is in the military service as a member of the coast artillery at Panama; and Mrs. Connors, nee Margaret Caven, of Clinton, Mrs. Catherine R. Miller, of New York, and Mrs. Theresa Wakefield, of Worcester.

Federation House Notes. Saturday afternoon and evening, at 2.30 and 7.30, motion pictures, Pathé News and George Heban in "One more American."

Sunday evening, at 7.30, religious services for soldiers and civilians; Rev. Ernest Miller, D. D., of Boston, speaker.

Wednesday evening, at 7.30, Dr. Severance Burrage, now of the U. S. health service, formerly member of the Red Cross commission to Balkan states, will speak on "Incidents of a trip to Serbia."

Friday evening, at 7.30, entertainment, social and refreshments for soldiers and their wives.

Camp Notes. An occupational school building erected at the camp by the Red Cross was opened Monday. Here will be taught technical and occupational trades to soldiers maimed by the great war for a happy and useful life, under the direction of the nurses appointed to the work, which has been developed to such degree by the war. Many soldiers began Monday to learn how to make blankets, model clay, carve wood, weave and design patterns for their own handicraft. In addition to art crafts a course in the repair of watches and typewriters will be added. From time to time the work will expand to fill the need of every crippled soldier. It is planned to have the patients in the hospital learn useful work while recuperating, and they will begin on some simple tasks as soon as they are able to sit up in bed when the department has extended its scope through the hospital. A large room and workshop occupies the upper floor and several workshops are located on the lower floor, fitted with looms, tools and supplies for the various trades. A library of new books is no small feature of the new institution.

The passes at Camp Devens are now given more freely to soldiers desiring to go home. The time of the leave of absence granted has also been much extended, some whose homes are within a short distance from the camp being granted furloughs of five days.

Hikes are given the men in the morning, followed by light duties. The men have the rest of the day to themselves.

Bogus Officer Arrested. James W. Devereaux and Lawrence E. Schofield, state police officers, made one of the most important arrests last week Friday at Hotel Devens that have been effected since their assignment to duty here shortly after the camp was opened. The arrested man was a bogus officer who posed as Capt. Clarence W. Robison, infantry, U. S. Army, whom it was discovered was Otto E. Chapman, a grocery clerk in Waco, Texas, who deserted last May from Battery B, 132nd Regiment, Field Artillery, 36th Division.

When arrested he had in his possession a bank book showing a deposit of \$21.00 at the First National bank, Ayer, although according to the bank records there was entered a deposit of \$100, to which the figure "2" had been added by the bogus officer.

Since his desertion the officer, according to his confession after being arrested and stopped at the country impersonating another officer receiving the treatment that an officer should be accorded. He wore, when arrested, an expensive whipcord uniform and high cavalry boots. Suspicion was directed to the alleged officer by a private National Guardsman, an investigation placed him under arrest. He became confused when asked questions that an officer should know. Finally he broke down and confessed.

The prisoner has lived in Fitchburg and Worcester. Recently he went to Lowell and stopped at the American House, and the proprietor of that hotel is looking for six dollars contracted by the would-be officer.

The captive was taken to Camp Devens, where he was placed in the base hospital for treatment.

Baptist Notes. The closing Sunday of 1918 was one of special interest at the Baptist church. The pastor preached at 10.45 "First and last," and in the evening, "Alpha and Omega." Sergt. A. D. Parker sang a solo at the morning service which was much enjoyed.

The Tuesday night meeting was led by Private Hamlin of Lewiston, Me., and some very good notes for the New Year were brought out.

Next Sunday the pastor will speak at 10.45 on "New things." Sunday school at twelve. Praise meeting at 6.45. Preaching at seven. B. Y. P. U. meeting Tuesday at 7.30. Mid-week prayer meeting Thursday at 7.30.

Dr. Peabody at St. Andrew's. The service on Sunday morning at 10.45 at St. Andrew's will be the holy communion. Rev. Angus Dun will preach. At the regular 7.30 evening service Rev. Endicot Peabody, rector of the parish and headmaster of Groton School, will preach.

On Sunday afternoon the second of the pamphlets from the bishop to the people of his diocese will be distributed through the parish. This pamphlet contains daily Bible readings and prayers for individual and family use from Epiphany until Lent. The committee in charge of the "Twenty weeks" of religious renewal in this parish is as follows: Hon. Geo. A. Sanderson, chairman, Robert Irwin, Mrs. Berton Williams, Mrs. William Dudley.

Dedication Sunday—10.45, regular offices and sermon. Preacher, Rev. Frank Randall, the minister. Subject, "The dedication of a church." Church school at twelve.

At 7.30, dedication, evening prayer and sermon. Music: Prelude, "Sweet evening star," from "Tannhauser," organ and solo; solo, "Sun of my soul," Huhn, Mrs. W. S. Beckford; offertory, "Thy will be done," Marston, Mrs. Beckford; collection by Walter S. Lougee; postlude, selected. Dedication by Chaplain John B. W. Day, U. S. A., 35th Machine Gun Battalion. Preacher, Rev. Samuel A. Elliot, D. D., LL. D.; subject, "The new church and the new opportunity."

From three to five o'clock, open house in the vestry by the Ayer Branch Alliance and the Girls' club, music and refreshments.

The public is most cordially invited to these services and to the reception in the afternoon. Seats reserved for men in uniform.

SHIRLEY. Mr. and Mrs. John G. Conant leave the latter part of next week for Orlando, Fla., and will be away for the winter.

The Altruism club met Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Hilda W. Evans. The program was in charge of the music committee.

Mrs. Ernest W. Walker, in company with Mrs. Edwin Gray, of Fitchburg, is spending a few days at the home of Mrs. M. J. Johnson, Boston. Mrs. Edwin Waterbottom is confined to his home with the grippe.

New Advertisements. LOST—December 11, a Cardcase in or around Ayer Depot, containing \$50 in money and papers. Finder will be rewarded by returning same to 28 Pearl Street, Ayer, Mass. 1118.

LOST—A Black Cow handle, answers to name of Beauty. Finder please communicate with WARD & CO., Ayer.

LOST—In the Ladies' waiting-room at the Ayer Station, about six o'clock Wednesday afternoon, January 1, a Black Leather Pocket-book containing a small sum of money and a ticket. Return to Perry G. Fisher, who will be suitably rewarded by returning the same to MRS. L. D. CUSHING, East Pepperell, Mass. R. R. Box No. 1.

Morrill Spence returned to his student duties at college on Wednesday.

The school teachers from this village returned to their various schools on Monday. Warren K. Harrod in Worcester and Mrs. Edith Farnsworth in Springfield.

Miss Helen B. Merrill, of Mr. Vernon N. Verrill, of Ayer, and Miss Esther Stone, of Ayer, were recently married.

Mr. Ryan, electrician, will be at the telephone station—

Boxborough. The individuals which visited us in the fall has come again and taken a much wider field in our village during the past week than the waters of the C. T. Wetherbe household have been sick, four at Mrs. R. A. Stee's, the Harry Wetherbe family, Mr. A. E. Lawrence's, Mrs. Ferra, Ralph Whitcomb and several others. In most cases the attack

E. E. Gray's Weekly Specials ON SALE SATURDAY MORNING Lemons, California Sunkist, per dozen 28¢ Golden Gate Butter, per pound 60¢ Flour, Golden Gate, fancy, 1/2 bbl. sack \$1.55 Peas, Fancy Wisconsin Sweet, per can 15¢ Condensed Milk, Sweetened, International brand, per can 16¢ Red Canned Beans, Libby brand, 3 cans for 25¢ Tomato Catsup, Wagner's, per bottle 13¢ Raisins, Fancy, Seeded, 15-ounce package 15¢ Prunes, California, 90-100, 1918 crop, per pound 13¢ Soap, Export Borax, per bar 5¢ Salmon, Fancy, Pink Alaska, tall can 18¢ Mincemeat, Nonesuch or Grandmother's 2 pkgs. 25¢ Bacon, Fancy Breakfast, per pound 50¢ Peaches, Gray's Fancy Sliced, per can 22¢

E. E. GRAY CO. Main Street Carley's New Block AYER, MASS. Cash Discount Store Now that the time for giving is over, women are beginning to think of something for themselves. January is one of the best months in our CORSET DEPARTMENT We have just received many of the new Spring Models in Royal Worcester, Bon Ton, R. & G. and Nemo Corsets at the following prices: Royal Worcester \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 Bon Ton \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 R. & G. \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 Nemo \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00 Pink Models \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 BRASSIERES Nemo—made in short, medium, stout and tall models, in pink and white \$1.00-\$1.50 Pink Models, brocaded and plain 50c-75c.

H. H. Proctor Main Street Page Block AYER, MASS. is of short duration and no serious cases are known. The schools are closed. The farmers' extension school, for which all preparations had been made to be held here on Tuesday and Wednesday, had to be postponed. There will be no church services on Sunday and the library will not be opened on Saturday. The meeting of the Grange on last week Friday evening was in charge of Mrs. W. H. Forbush and Miss Ethel Mead. An interesting program of readings and recitations was given. The master, Prescott Burroughs, gave an account of the meeting of the State Grange in Springfield, which he attended. Music was furnished by the Grange orchestra. After the program a number not on the program was given by the committee in the lower hall, consisting of delicious refreshments. Mrs. Norman Wetherbe now sits up an hour a day, but her daughter, Mrs. E. L. Barteaux, is quite sick. Their boarder, A. A. Wetherbe, has gone to C. B. Robbins' for the present, leaving E. L. Barteaux to cope with household affairs until a nurse can be obtained.

JOBBING I am equipped to do Light Auto Trucking and General Jobbing; Cools, pools and Vats Cleaned Satisfactorily and guaranteed. 3m17" JOHN E. KEEGAN Tel. 37-3 AYER, MASS. P. Donlon & Co. CHOICE WESTERN BEEF NATIVE PORK, CHICKENS, FOWLS LAMB VEGETABLES FRUITS CANDY AND CIGARS TEAS AND COFFEE BREAD AND PASTRY BUTTER, LARD, OLEOMARGARINE

FRESH FISH AND OYSTERS Every Week Agents for ACME OLEOMARGARINE The finest and best substitute for Butter. Can be used on the table LARD COMPOUND Cheaper than Lard and gives better Results FIRST QUALITY WESTERN BEEF

P. Donlon & Co. Mead's Block AYER, MASS. Telephone 33 47 Views of Camp Devens Made into a handsome SOUVENIR BOOK 11x14 Each book tied with silk cord and enclosed in a tiled envelope. The original photos were made under our personal supervision by the Albertype Co. of New York, with special permit from the War Department at Washington. This is by far the finest collection of pictures of the camp ever made and is a beautiful work of art and souvenir to keep or to send to friends. PRICE \$1.00

Chimneys Cleaned Insurance companies tell us that two-thirds of all the fires are caused by defective chimneys. Why not have your chimney cleaned by a man that has the tools and the know how? If you have a chimney that smokes, I can cure it. ARTHUR M. WINSLOW Washington Street Tel. Co. AYER, MASS. Amos D. Mahony REGISTERED EMBALMER AND FUNERAL DIRECTOR 40 East Main Street AYER Telephone 116-2 DRUG STORE AYER

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Its Entrance Has Been Celebrated for Many Years.

Custom of Calling Originated With Dutch in New York State—Reception by President an Annual Occasion.

THE celebration of the entrance of a New Year has been observed with much ceremony in this country ever since the beginning of our Republic. President Washington was the first to establish the custom, and at his Philadelphia residence, during his first administration, it has been noted that the day was observed with appropriate ceremonies, with a light repast in the afternoon, including a plum cake baked by Martha Washington herself, and some temperance punch, made chiefly of lemons and sugar, minus any intoxicating ingredients.

The custom of New Year's calling originated in this country with the Dutch in New York state. The nature of the day, the clearing off of old accounts and the hopeful beginning of the new trial of life, made New Year's day a day for the interchange of friendly greetings, and in no country more than in this has the friendly visiting crystallized into such a hard and fast business. In the South, in the early days, that and where social life is as delightful and spontaneous in its growth as in the North of the region, New Year's day was formerly observed as the great time for coming out. The debutante burst into blossom on that day, the old housewifery were thrown open, and the social world, like the huge family, met to exchange greetings and good cheer. On New Year's day the observance in Washington takes on the form of diplomatic and political observances, when conveyances from all over the city start moving toward the White House for their occupants to pay their respects to the president and other dignitaries of our government.

When the general custom of celebrating the first of the year by the parading of New Year clubs in fantastic costumes, and similar jollifications began, it is difficult to say, though it does not appear to have antedated the Civil war. As for shooting in the New Year, that seems to have been the custom—and strikingly so in Philadelphia, ever since the revolution.

When John Adams moved into the White House it was so incomplete that there was very little attempt to observe New Year's day at the mansion, for in fact any other elaborate social affair. The celebration, as now observed, began with the administration of President Jefferson. On New Year's day in 1803 it is noted "On Saturday, New Year's day, the president was greeted upon by diplomatic characters, the officers of the government, the members of the legislature, and the citizens generally. There were also present a large number of ladies." In 1804 the report contains the information that "the affair was rendered more agreeable by the accompaniment of the Marine and Italian bands."

At this second Jefferson reception from time after the company had assembled, Colonel Burrows, at the head of the Marine corps, saluted the president, while the band of music played the president's march, went through the usual evolutions in a masterly manner, fired sixteen rounds in platoons, and concluded with a general "feu-de-joie."

Naturally, with Dolly Madison as hostess, the New Year receptions during her husband's administration were brilliant, and at the last one, prior to the burning of the mansion, a guest wrote as follows: "Nothing ever was witnessed in Washington so brilliant and dazzling."

Every president since then has celebrated the dawn of the new year as an occasion for diplomatic courtesies, as well as an opportunity to give the public a chance to visit the White House and shake hands with the president.

First Observed by Romans.

The observance of January 1 as the beginning of the year we borrow from the Romans. The first Christian emperors kept up the custom of New Year's observance, though it tolerated and afforded the opportunity for idolatrous rites, but later the western church opposed three days of penitence and fasting to the pagan celebration of January (A. D. 487). By degrees, however, the church, in the eighth century, abrogated the fast, and the earlier and more congenial social customs were gradually resumed and have continued to the present.

Philosophical Rule the Best. The world is holding its breath at its entrance into a new year. No one is wise enough to foresee what that year is going to hold. It will be a year of surprises, and the only rule for its conduct will be the old philosophical one of hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

Wool of the Llama. The wool of this curious animal is largely in use in Bolivia, where the traveler may see Indian women, sitting before their huts and spinning the wool, while they watch their flocks. These women use hand looms, on which they make blankets and shawls.

Outdoor Exercise. Outdoor exercise is better for health and complexion than almost any medicinal.

A NEW EXPERIENCE



The New Year stood and blinked his eyes. And gazed with wondering surprise Upon a sight so fine and new. He scarcely could believe it true. He gazed again, and still that slight Remained to fill him with delight. Until he asked what might this be. This thing of shining mystery.

NEW YEAR SOON GROWS OLD

Fades and Passes Just as All Things Earthly—Only the Spiritual Endures and Satisfies.

The heart-breaking thing about the New Year is that he becomes old. We run out to meet him today as he arrives rosy-cheeked, and ruddy, stamping his feet, drawing off his gloves, unbuttoning his great coat and shaking off the snowflakes. How buoyant and hopeful he is! He has his pockets full of good things for us, we are sure. How he wins us! How he inspires us! We can do great things with him. He is so different from the old fellow who is gone. Poor Old Year! He got pretty stale toward the last. And then, too, we got so we didn't feel just comfortable with him. He had seen so many of our mistakes and failures. It will be easier to make a new start with him out of the way.

And now for this youngster! We shall keep the past from him. He shall not know a word of it. All his things are new. Ours shall be also, new words, new thoughts, new ways. Good-by, old things.

But even before our New Year's resolutions are all made, the New Year's day grows old. Light the candles, the day is dying. The shadows deepen. Our new New Year already is taking on age. We cannot keep him new, can we keep the new that he brought to us? In the first gloom of the new year we know that we cannot. The guests of the day are gone. The flowers we chose with such care are withering. The tempting feast—fragments. Is there no abiding thing? The old year was like this.

The old year was like it; the new year will be and years and years—all alike. Time is their body; their soul is eternity. And as they come one after the other they bring to us the gifts of their body and the gifts of their soul. The one waxes old and passes; the other endures and satisfies.

Welcome, New Year. Show us your good gifts and help us to choose among them such as you and the other years that come and go can leave with us until the perfect and unending day.

A New Year Reverie

New Year met me somewhat sad; Old Year leaves me tired, Stripped of favorite things I had, Baked of much desired; Yet farther on my road today, God willing, farther on my way.

New Year coming on apace, What have you to give me? Bring you scathe, or bring you grace, Face me with an honest face. You shall not deceive me: Be it good or ill, be it what you will, It needs shall help me on my road— My rugged road to heaven, please God.

—Christina G. Rossetti.

Our high respect for a well-read man is praise enough of literature.—Emerson.

Brazil Now Coffee Center. Arabia formerly supplied the world with coffee; later the West Indies, and then Java took the lead, to be supplanted in turn by Brazil, which now produces about three-quarters of the world's supply and controls the market.

Daily Thought. Our high respect for a well-read man is praise enough of literature.—Emerson.

AT TURN OF ROAD

Beginning of New Year Good Time for Retrospection.

Inspiration for All of Us in Realization That Things Which Worried and Saddened Were Only Trifles.

By WM. GEORGE JORDAN.

THE beginning of the new year is a natural, sharp turn in the road of time. Here we may wisely rest a while, and in the peace and quiet and calm of self-communion see the long stretch of the road of a single twelvemonth. It is built imperishably of short steps of living—from moment to moment.

Many of the purposes for which we labored and struggled, in our narrow, close, selfish absorption, seem petty and puny when seen from the turn of the road. The structure of some effort we thought marble now is shown in its sickening shun as a hasty affair of show and pretense, made of stuff, that could not stand the wear and tear and test of time. It was not built on square lines of character, of the best that was in us. It lacked strength, sincerity, simplicity. The material was made up of policy and selfishness put together on hurried plans. It was a failure; it cannot be rebuilt; but it is worth only a passing regret and a realization of the lesson of its success—at the turn of the road.

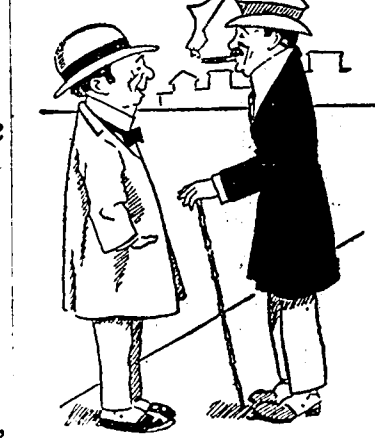
The look backward from the turn of the road should inspire us by making vivid to us how much of what we feared never came to pass. The tyranny of worry, that dominated us and held us for months trembling slaves to a weak fear, that dissipated our energy, dulled our thinking, and darkened our mental vision, at the very hour that should have given us fullest control of our best, is now seen as an enemy to true individual growth. It means a harder fight in the unending battle against worry and grief.

The broader view of life reveals that the only great things in life are trifles; that what pained us most, saddened our hearts, and turned our hopes to ashes were only trifles—cumulating into overwhelming importance. A cruel word, an unkindness, a little misunderstanding may darken a day and separate us from one we love or may petrify us into a mood of doubt and despair. The most joyous moments of life, the high lights in the pictures of memory, may too be only trifles of kindness, fine expressions of love, simple tributes of confidence and trust that make the very heart smile—as we remember.

Nature is constantly giving us new turns of the road. It may be a birthday or some general anniversary in the scale of the year. It may be some red-letter day in the private calendar of our emotions or some date eloquent to us as telling of some joyous "first" or some pathetic "last" time in the sacred diary of the heart. It may be a supreme sorrow, an agonizing sense of loss, the coming of a great joy, the closing of some epoch in our lives, the proving of the actuality of something too awful for us even to have feared, some exultant half-hour that changes irrevocably all our living. These and numberless other days, hours or single moments may bring us alone to—the turn of the road.

Then may come one of those rare moments of life, of fine spiritual discernment, of luminous revelation, of coming to one's highest self, when the sordid, the mean, the temporary, the selfish are stripped in an instant of their garish shams and tinsel. Then the real, the true, the eternal stand out in their majesty, bathed in the splendor and glow of the revealing of truth. In such a spirit the very things of the inspiration of the infinite fill us. We seem born again to new, better and greater things, for we have seen the divine vision—at the turn of the road.

EXPEDIENCY.



"Have you decided on your New Year resolutions?" "Yes, I'm going to give up all my expensive habits." "For how long?" "Until I get my holiday bills paid and can afford them again."

Certainly—Don't Be Too Good. It is morally embarrassing, with New Year's day coming around year after year, to have no bad habits to swear off.

Keep a Few. Reserve a few resolutions for January thirty-first. You may need them.

Would Return It. It was a very hot day and the kind-hearted leeman had given a little girl a piece of ice. A newsboy asked her for it, but she refused to give it up. "Aw shucks!" said the boy. "I'll give it back to you—I only want the juice out of it."—Boston Transcript.

Queer. Said the facetious feller: "A couple of dull kids will make any woman look smart—if they're on her feet."

To the Old Year

By PATIENCE WORTH

We part, oh comrade, reluctantly; Long we have been in the winding way, Troubled, clouded, gray, some, Aye the shadowed way.

Adieu, we part, oh comrade! Adieu! Upon thy way I see thee going. Bended low 'neath thy burden: Weighted, bowing, tired, plodding Heavy footed upon thy newswoman path. What hand shall welcome thee?

Adieu, oh comrade! We part— Thou upon thy way and I upon mine. I have seen thy brothers slain; I have watched thine eyes streaming; I have seen thee stop upon thy way To staunch some bleeding thing. But thou art weary now— Bent and weary, thy steps Are stepped most falteringly.

Adieu! With thee upon thy path, Oh, wilt thou take the memory Of my hand's clasp—the touch Of one brother upon the other's flesh? Oh, wilt thou then turn And smile me back one smile of fellowship?

I see my aged form sink low; I would burden thee not, save of my love; Nor would I hang upon thy brow A garland of glistening green That flasheth scarlet bud. Nay, 'twould be as a skull Wreathed of victor's laurel— A folly-crown upon thy most venerable brow.

Adieu, oh comrade! Upon thy path! The years that come are beckoning me; But I shall recall thy burdens, Thy sorrows, thy tenderess, Aye, and, oh, wilt thou turn upon thy path And smile a smile of fellowship, Oh, parting year?

DOCUMENTARY PROOF.



"What have you there?" "Merely a few New Year resolutions." "I presume you wrote them down so you wouldn't forget them?" "No. My wife made me write them down so she wouldn't forget them."

GOOD RESOLVES FOR WOMEN

Suggestions Pertinent to New Year That Will Make Home More Cheerful and Comfortable.

So many people, in making their New Year resolutions think only of their diets, their characters, and their pocketbooks! Their homes, which, directly or indirectly, influence all these things, are dissociated in their minds with anything pertaining to the New Year and the fresh page that is just turning over. But when each woman stops to think that her home may be made so attractive that her neighbors, without knowing the reason, will want to spend the evenings there; that her children will grow up with higher ideals, and will always keep a beautiful memory of what home means; that she herself will walk with her head well up, and her shoulders back, as she sallies forth to take her place in the world of men, knowing in her heart that her home is as it should be—since home is such a sacred place, shall we not include the word in the list of our desires and strivings? Shall we not resolve to make it worthy of our life and love?

Have you a chair that squeaks as you sit down upon it? Why not mend it? Have you mended that ripped hem in your couch cover? Have you tacked down that loose place in your hall carpet? Are you not tired of looking at your pillows which need recovering? When are you going to get at cleaning off that smoky place on your ceiling? Little repairs like these work wonders in the home. Why not get at them this next week?

Have you a room which does not please you? Why not experiment with the furniture and see if you cannot place it to greater advantage, or so that it will give greater comfort? Often the arrangement of a room is responsible for its lack of charm.

Does your woodwork need repainting? Why not start to paint it a little at a time? In so doing the time spent is never missed and wet paint in small areas is easier to steer around.

Have you too many ornaments in your house? Why not pack some of them in cardboard boxes, and see how you like doing without them? Your rooms would be happier.

Start Life Anew. If your life was not what it should have been last year, leave the old life behind with the old year and start anew.

One Drawback. One of the drawbacks of New Year's resolutions is that it cuts down the batting average for the season.

Daily Thought. When men speak ill of thee, live so that nobody will believe it.—Plato.

When Soft Answer Doesn't "Go." A soft answer turns away wrath except when little Willie's schoolteacher asks Willie what he has in his desk that is causing so much amusement and little Willie's answer is so soft the teacher doesn't understand the first time. There is very little wrath turned away in this case.

NEW YEAR BELLS

Custom of Ringing Them Originated in the Dim Past.

Believed to Have Been First Used About 400 A. D.—Chimes Thought to Be Possessed of Supernatural Power.

ALWAYS, everywhere in our land, we look to the ringing of bells to announce the death of the old year and the birth of the new. Not until we actually hear the bells ringing from the church steeples, somehow, do we really turn to each other and exclaim "Happy New Year!" All of which brings us to the question of why people ring bells. They seem to have figured in the life of man from the beginning of time, and have been used to convey messages of various sorts to those within sound of their alarm.

Among the ancient Greeks those who made the nightly rounds of the camps, and garrisons used to ring a bell at each sentinel box to make sure that the soldier on duty within was awake. They also put bells upon the necks of criminals to warn all people to avoid them. The Romans used bells to announce the hour of the bath.

It is believed that bells were first used in churches about 400 years after the birth of Christ. And by the twelfth century they were in common use in churches all over Europe. Most of these, however, were hand bells, made of thin plates of hammered iron, bent into a four-sided shape and fastened with rivets and bronze. Then gradually as people began to hang the bells in steeples and belfries, they became larger.

In 1734 a huge bell was cast in Moscow, Russia. It is over twenty-one feet in height and diameter and weighs 193 tons. The largest bell in America is in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, at Montreal, and weighs 29,480 pounds.

In all ages and all countries, the material most used in the manufacture of bells has been a mixture of two parts of copper to one of tin, called bronze. At present about thirteen parts of copper are used to four of tin. Bells have been made of iron, steel, gold, silver, brass and even of glass, though when made of glass they have been found too fragile for practical use.

Back in the old days, the people believed that bells possessed supernatural power; by ringing them at certain times, they believed, storms, pestilence and famine could be averted.

THE NEW YEAR.

The New Year—where it leads and whom concerning. We cannot see. We scan the path and full our hearts of yearning.

Of mystery—What will it yield, this lane of sudden turning. To you and me? Grant we may find our share of sunlight streaming.

Of noble worth; Where faith in man shall make life's good deeds seeming.

Give days our toil and give our night sweet dreaming. Give us the heart to tread this way, not knowing. A vale or height; Give us cheer that God, his grace bestowing.

May guide us right; Grant we may love the others with us going. Old Year—Good-Night! —Edith Livingston Smith, in Wisconsin Agriculturist.

NATURE SETS GOOD EXAMPLE

Discard Things That Hinder and Retain Only That Which is Helpful at Dawn of New Year.

Once again the New Year opens its door for us to enter in. The old year is leaving us, and if we are wise we will let him take with him all the impediments that has handicapped us during his reign. We will dismiss the old mistakes and troubles and cruelties, and entering blithely into the New Year, we will begin all over again.

Mother nature has set us an example which we will do well to follow. All the good golden grain, the ripe fruit and all other precious gifts she has permitted us to garner and retain. And then she proceeded to do away with the rubbish. She put her spell upon it and it withered and died, was plowed under, and became the needful fertilizer for another year.

And so all the good and sweet and beautiful things that the old year has given us are permitted to keep. We may hold onto our successes, our helpful experiences, our beautiful memories and the new friendships which have come to us as the gift of the old year, and let go of all the rubbish that might hinder our endeavor in the year that is just opening its door into new and untried ways.

Let us cast off our old garments of doubt and disappointment and failure, and put on the shining garments of hope and faith and courage. Let us draw on all the undreamed of sources within us for a broader outlook, a more determined endeavor and greater accomplishment. Let us possess ourselves of higher ideals of life and its privileges and responsibilities, and a determination to live up to the best there is in us during the days of the coming year. And above all, let us hold fast to our faith in the goodness of God, for so shall we be enabled to go forward, hopeful and unafraid into the unknown and untried ways of the New Year.

Defective Camouflage. "Teacher" had gone to the movies with a bachelor who chose young associates as a sort of camouflage for his own age. The next morning she received the following greeting from one of her pupils: "Oh, teacher, I saw you at the show last night. Was that your papa with you?"

Optimistic Thought. Better be the best of a lowly family than the worst of a noble one.

THE LOST CHANCES



Whenever I am starting out Upon a fresh new year, I always stop to think about The one no longer here, The year that's dead I travel back And let my memory run In contemplation through the stack Of things I could have done.

I check the deeds I meant to do With those I did, and find That I neglected quite a few. Real chances to be kind. I learn the words I meant to say To comfort and to cheer. And yet postponed them for a day, I didn't speak that year.

And then to my disgrace I find That had I paused to smile And do those little actions kind I'd not have lost a mile. I learn now that the chance has gone That I have missed a lot. For all these deeds I could have done As easily as not.

And when at last life is through And all my course is run, In deep regret I shall review The deeds I could have done. And I shall wish I had to tell Where nothing may be hid The many things I could as well Have done, yet never did.

AMONG NEW YEAR'S RICHES

Trials and Suffering a Part of Rich Heritage God Gives to Each of His Children.

Part of the rich heritage that God has planned for you in the New Year is suffering. He will permit in the life of each child of his a portion—just the right portion—of difficulty and trial and temptation. What we see in those trials and temptations will largely determine the riches that will be ours in this year. A Christian layman recently wrote to a friend: "How fine it would be to go out in the opening year of the year, that every fresh circumstance or trial or temptation would prove to have the sweet face of Christ concealed in it, or bursting like a flood of glory through some rift in the cloud and filling with radiance our uplifted faces; so that each new obedience should be but the parting of the curtain, ushering us into new wonders and experiences of his inexhaustible riches and fullness. Old things would then be continually passing away, all things constantly becoming new."

What glories of abounding grace—that the worst Satan can do against the child of God in this New Year only furnishes a fresh opportunity for God to pour out the treasures of his unspeakable gift! The promise to supply every need of ours "according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" is not a promise for the life to come, when all sorrow and sickness and temptation to evil will be at an end, but it is a promise made in full view of every trial and temptation that we shall meet today. Let us then count it all joy when we fall into our difficulties and trials, contentedly remembering that along with each of them we have—Jesus.

FOOD SAVED BY WOMEN MADE VICTORY POSSIBLE

But for the large saving of food by the Women of Massachusetts and other parts of the country, American Armies would still be battling in France, Henry B. Endicott, in a recent statement, declared. He continues: "Without the food the people of the United States sent to Europe, the morale of the allies would have weakened and that of the enemy strengthened." Women continue conservation in their households despite the fact that the war is over. The food administration has supreme confidence they will do this.

The Administration, points to the vital need of conserving everything possible, in order that nothing shall be wasted. The lifting of the regulations places the people of Massachusetts on their honor to help fulfill the promise made to the Allies, the Administration asserts; that food will continue to be shipped until it is no longer needed.

BIG OUTPUT OF WINTER EGGS ASKED FOR

An urgent necessity exists for a large output of eggs this winter. Storage stocks are 21 per cent less than a year ago and are rapidly being consumed.

The United States must share its egg output and its storage eggs with Europe. Importation of Chinese dried eggs stopped in February 1918, and bakers are now using shell eggs, thus adding to demand.

Every farm poultry house in the United States should be made a busy egg factory this winter. Consult your county agent, state experiment station or the U. S. Department of Agriculture for best methods.

Real Merit Manifest. Real merit of any kind cannot long be concealed; it will be discovered, and nothing can deprecate it but a man's exhibiting it himself. It may not always be rewarded as it ought, but it will always be known.—Chesterfield.

Lines to Be Remembered. The pursuit of perfection is the pursuit of sweetness and light. He who works for sweetness and light works to make reason and the will of God prevail.—Matthew Arnold.

Removes Oil. Chloroform will remove machine oil from any garment except a silk one.

Destructive Civil War. Civil war in England lasted from 1842 to 1860—eighteen years—being contemporaneous part of the time with the Thirty Years war, which divided all Germany into two opposing camps. It found the empire with a population of 16,000,000, and left it with less than 6,000,000.

FRENCH SHARE FOOD WITH OUR BOYS

Extend Hospitality of Their Tables Even When Food Must Be Taken From Next Day's Supply.

Invitations extended American soldiers to dine with French families were declined, in many instances a letter to A. C. Ratschsky of the State Food Administration says for the reason that by accepting the boys knew they would be eating food taken from the French people's next meal. "Under such conditions the unselfishness of the French family in offering hospitality to the American doughboys calls for the highest admiration" said Mr. Ratschsky. "That spirit of hospitality should be equalled by our people here."

"Civilian France" says Mr. Ratschsky, "have difficulty in obtaining food supplies which for the most part are needed for the army and for the refugees. The food supply of France, he points out, flows in three directions—first into the military area, second the largest cities and third and last into the rest of the country. "Food production there has been dropping steadily during the past four years, with the work of tilling the soil and gathering harvests left to old men, women and children. Now that the growing season is over the country is dependent upon outside sources for its food supply."

The Food Administration asks, therefore, that the people of Massachusetts feel the necessity of continuing the saving of every particle of food possible for those who need it so much.

REGULATIONS LIFTED FROM EATING PLACES

War-time restrictions placed on the serving of food in restaurants and hotels last October will be removed tomorrow and patrons of the establishments allowed to order food in any amount they desire, an announcement from the office of Food Administrator Henry B. Endicott states.

With the open sugar bowl and all wheat flour already restored, the lifting of the regulations, known as the twelve general orders, now allows the diner to eat as much bread, meat, butter, cheese and other food as he desires. During the period of restrictions consumption of wheat bread had been limited to two ounces a person a meal, butter and cheese was restricted to portions not exceeding one-half ounce, only one kind of meat was allowed, double cream was prohibited and similar regulations placed on favorite items on the menu. All these are now rescinded.

More than half a million persons and four thousand establishments in the state are effected by the removal of the regulations. It was the first time in the history of the state that its residents were asked to abide by such rules. In the two months during which the regulations were in force thousands of pounds of food have been saved; as yet, food administration officials assert to the splendid co-operation between the people and the management of the hotels and restaurants.

In the statement sent to all public eating places by Mr. Endicott added: "I have appreciated more than I can say the constant and generous support which you have given us. I know you will respond promptly to any appeals Mr. Hoover may find necessary before his work is done, and I am sure we shall all take to heart the lessons we have learned in the possibility and importance of avoiding waste."

FOOD SAVED BY WOMEN MADE VICTORY POSSIBLE

But for the large saving of food by the Women of Massachusetts and other parts of the country, American Armies would still be battling in France, Henry B. Endicott, in a recent statement, declared. He continues: "Without the food the people of the United States sent to Europe, the morale of the allies would have weakened and that of the enemy strengthened." Women continue conservation in their households despite the fact that the war is over. The food administration has supreme confidence they will do this.

The Administration, points to the vital need of conserving everything possible, in order that nothing shall be wasted. The lifting of the regulations places the people of Massachusetts on their honor to help fulfill the promise made to the Allies, the Administration asserts; that food will continue to be shipped until it is no longer needed.

BIG OUTPUT OF WINTER EGGS ASKED FOR

An urgent necessity exists for a large output of eggs this winter. Storage stocks are 21 per cent less than a year ago and are rapidly being consumed.

The United States must share its egg output and its storage eggs with Europe. Importation of Chinese dried eggs stopped in February 1918, and bakers are now using shell eggs, thus adding to demand.

Every farm poultry house in the United States should be made a busy egg factory this winter. Consult your county agent, state experiment station or the U. S. Department of Agriculture for best methods.

Real Merit Manifest. Real merit of any kind cannot long be concealed; it will be discovered, and nothing can deprecate it but a man's exhibiting it himself. It may not always be rewarded as it ought, but it will always be known.—Chesterfield.

Lines to Be Remembered. The pursuit of perfection is the pursuit of sweetness and light. He who works for sweetness and light works to make reason and the will of God prevail.—Matthew Arnold.

Removes Oil. Chloroform will remove machine oil from any garment except a silk one.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

This Paper is Sold by W. A. Drummer, East Peppereil Street, Nashua, N. H.

What is the Date on Your Paper? The date with your name is stamped on the margin and shows to what time your subscription is paid also serves as a continuous receipt.

Saturday, January 4, 1919

PEPPERELL

News Items. Miss Augusta Evans, from Watertown, has taken rooms in town the past week with Mrs. H. N. Tower.

The East Village Social club will hold the next meeting with Mrs. E. F. Harmon, High street, Wednesday afternoon, January 8.

The woman's club will meet at 2:30 on Tuesday afternoon, January 7, at 2:45. The program is in charge of the music committee.

Mrs. C. D. Hutchinson, chairman, and will consist of the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the club at 2:45. Mrs. Parker, resident of the club, on "Community singing"; selection by the chorus; piano solo, Miss Esther Robbins; solo, Miss Ruth Walker; selection, ladies' quartet, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Bartlett, Miss Wood and Mrs. Copp; selection, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Copp; selection, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Copp; selection, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Copp.

Announcement has been received of the marriage of Mrs. Susie W. Dort, formerly of this town, to Frank D. Sayer, of Bath, Me., the ceremony taking place in that city on Tuesday, December 17.

Mrs. George Shaw returned Monday from a week's visit with her daughter, Mrs. G. F. Martin, and family, in Worcester. Mr. Shaw also spent Christmas there, returning last week.

Mrs. C. C. Tucker is still with her daughter, Mrs. Paul Maxwell, and family, in Nashua, as both Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell and the child were ill at one time and in the hospital. They are now recovering, although little Elizabeth suffered the after-effects for some time.

Douglas Cherry, of the Motor Transport Corps, while on duty at Camp Upton, N. H., was on a furlough in Worcester, visited his sister, Miss Gertrude Cherry, in town, remaining a part of Friday and Saturday of last week.

About twenty of the young members of the Methodist church society gave a surprise to Miss Ruth Wilson at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Wilson, Friday evening, December 27, the occasion being the birthday of the young lady. The surprise was well planned, and a genuine surprise for the party for whom it was intended, but the guests were well entertained and the evening was passed in a social manner, which included light refreshments at the close.

Cards have been received this week announcing the marriage of Miss Marquerite Drury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Admon C. Drury, of Leonard, N. H., to Lieut. George W. Leonard on December 21. The young bride formerly living in town with her uncle, Walter H. Drury, and has many friends here.

The Misses Cushing and Fairfield, from Wellesey college, have been spending their vacation with Mrs. Lucy Cushing at the Pierce farm.

Mrs. H. N. Tower is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Albert Evers in Newington this week, as a business trip. Miss Evers will be in Nashua, as Mrs. Tower's sister, is keeping house during her absence.

At the meeting of Beacon lodge, I. O. O. F., last week Thursday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Charles J. Card, n. g.; Henry Wilson, v. g.; J. C. Wiley, rec. sec.; L. A. Johnson, fin. sec.; Curtis E. Johnson, trans.; Elmer Nelson, trustee 3 years; C. D. Gilman and L. A. Johnson, representatives to grand lodge. The installation will occur in two weeks from the date of this meeting.

Harold Hayes, who now holds the rank of sergeant-major at Fort Conant, in the coast artillery service, spent about three days at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Hayes, over Christmas. Roscoe Hayes, who was also home from Camp Taylor, where he recently received his discharge, returned to his studies at Dartmouth on Wednesday of last week. Miss Lucinda Jennings, of Milwaukie, N. H., was also a guest for Christmas.

Miss Lucy Adams, of Waltham, Mass., spent Monday for a short visit with her mother, Mrs. Ida Palmer. Miss Adams will be recalled as a school teacher here in the Tabernacle building several years ago. At that time she was married to Mr. Palmer, and the acquaintance has never been broken.

Mrs. M. E. Reed and Mrs. Leslie Reed went to Rochester last week from Monday to Friday, to pass Christmas with Walter Reed and family.

Mrs. Mary Jordan is to spend a month or more visiting relatives in Manchester, N. H., and other cities. In her absence Mrs. Florence Willoughby, who lately returned to town, will act as her housekeeper.

Friends of the Clements family in town hear that they are pleasantly situated in Florida, near Green Cove Springs, and they speak appreciatively of the roses in bloom and the warm weather. So far, however, the winter here in New England is not to be compared with that of last year. We have had only a flurry or two of snow and no zero weather yet.

Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Nash came from Chelsea last week to spend the weekend at their home on Park street, returning Monday.

The Dunstable road farm, and his nephew, Ed, is doing the teaming to the saw mill. The lumber is to be used to enlarge his house on Oak hill, particularly the dining-room, which has proved inadequate to accommodate all his guests at times. It is intended that he will build a new dining room about fifty feet in length. Villa Lorraine will then rank as one of the most commodious summer homes for the auto parties who have already sampled the cuisine and returned for a second visit.

Douglas Dewar spent the weekend from his duties at the naval station, Newport, R. I., returning on Thursday.

Jerry Lorden, who has had two teams in Brookline, N. H., at work at the Fessenden saw mill, recently moved his teaming there as the job is likely to prove a lengthy one. At present the lumber is being cut from a part of the estate formerly belonging to the late J. A. Hall, but it is understood there are other tracts, including one in the deal, which will take five years or more to cut. The power is furnished by the Connecticut Valley Light and Heat Co., from the line running to Milford, N. H.

Miss Lena McGrath has returned to her studies in Wellesey, after a short visit in town over the holidays.

Miss Anne Hamilton, formerly our district nurse, visited in town last week at the home of Mrs. H. N. Tower.

Charles Hill and family, from Billerica, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Robbins on Christmas day. Mr. Robbins had a large dinner party, which included the father of Mr. Robbins, George Robbins, of Hollis road, and his son, Louis Robbins, and family.

The item concerning Eddie Duffey in the Groton items of last week is happily incorrect. He was reported killed in action in France, but a letter was received from him on Monday of this week by Mrs. W. W. Gillespie, which was dated from France December 2. He was then alive and well, busy in the work of field ambulance service, and spoke of riding the well about to take some 500 miles. He sent his new greetings and Christmas cards to all the household.

Miss Elizabeth Hilbert, of Boston, is the new English teacher in the high school, taking the place of Miss Casey, who substituted until the Christmas vacation.

Dr. and Mrs. Cleary, of Springfield, spent the week-end with Mrs. Cleary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Peipe, Groton street.

Mrs. Daniel H. Hardy, who has been in poor health recently, went to the hospital the early part of this month, but could not receive treatment at that time, as the hospital was in quarantine. She is still at her home on River street, although at times confined to her bed. Her many friends, who sympathize with her illness, must be so for active a woman.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Supernault had a house party of their children and families with them over Christmas day. Miss Amelia was at home for the holidays from New York. Mr. Edward Dwyer, with her husband and son, from Lowell, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Supernault and daughter, who reside in town, made up the dinner party.

Miss Jessie Flynn returned to her school duties in East Bridgewater on Monday after her Christmas vacation.

Miss Margaret Boynton, from New Boston, N. H., and Miss Flora, who is a student at the School of Athletics, New Boston, spent their Christmas holiday in town with their mother, Mrs. Ida Boynton.

Red Cross Notes. Workers for the Red Cross society on Wednesday afternoon worked on the garments for the refugees. There being plenty of sewing for all. There is still a demand for the knitted articles, sweaters and socks, and the society has yarn on hand for distribution.

It is hoped the efforts of the Pepperell Brading Company employees will be successful at their dance held in the Opera House this week Friday night, as they have kindly given their proceeds to aid Red Cross work.

In the membership drive recently held, some were not ready to give, and the subscriptions are still coming in and will continue to be received.

The regular monthly business meeting of the executive board, formerly held in the evening, will be held on next Wednesday afternoon in connection with the usual meeting at the rooms.

Church Notes. The Federation of Churches will hold the regular meeting on Sunday morning at the Congregational church at 10:45 under the auspices of the Unitarian society, who furnish the speaker, Rev. John Balizy, of Hudson. The sermon will be followed by a federation communion service. As an expression of good will, at this new year's service, there should be a large attendance. A short Sunday school session will be held after this service.

Last Sunday morning, at the close of his strong and interesting sermon at the Congregational church, Dr. W. W. Lee, of Boston, who was supported by Rev. J. P. Lewis, of Newington, resigned his pastorate here. It is a time to be determined later, but it is believed to be a resignation, and not to the advice of an ecclesiastical council.

The Methodist church will meet with the other churches in the new year's federation service at the Congregational church. There will be a Sunday school at the Methodist church. Epworth league study class at 8:45; evening worship at 7:30, subject, "Kadesh-Barnea." Regular meeting Tuesday evening at 7:30.

of the members of the club on the various committees, as numerous objections are being presented at this moment. The disappearance of the orchestra, as arranged, the 21st Field, as it is called, causing the postponement until Saturday evening, was in itself a bad beginning, but seemed to have no effect on the attendance or at the dance which followed the program, when the orchestra from the Boston hospital, charmed her hearers. The entertainment was sufficiently varied to suit all, and the audience showed their appreciation in a gratifying manner. Miss Frances Fish, whistling soloist, charmed her hearers by her fine talent, which also possessed the attraction for a small place like ours was due to her friend, Miss Wright, formerly of Waltham, who is a member of the club when in town at the home of her parents, and who should be given the credit for the pleasure the audience derived from this opportunity of listening to an artist like Miss Fish.

The soloist of the evening was Miss Ruth Walker, a former resident of Boston, now residing in town with her parents. Her voice, which was known to a Pepperell audience, who always find delight in listening to her, always find a soprano voice of much natural beauty and clearness, and which shows culture and the training. Her selections, in which she was most generous, were "Rose in the Snow," "Good-bye, a French Song," and "The Night has a Thousand Eyes." Miss Mae Merrill accompanied both soloists.

The reader, Miss Florence Flynn, whom Pepperell claims, added to her laurels during the evening by her readings, the first patriotic, entitled "Star Spangled Banner," and the second a humorous selection from one of the books of Joseph Lincoln, entitled "An abandoned 'etopement,'" in the rendering of which the reader was at her best, being particularly apt in all dialect.

A sketch, entitled "A sweetheart for two," was given by Mrs. Maude C. C. Parker. Although the motif was not so unusual or complex, yet the characters portraying each part were so perfectly rendered, and the play so perfectly rendered, that we were abundantly in situations that were simply "funny," it forced every one to the audience, in the rapid action as it progressed. Mrs. Parker, as the aunt of the younger lady, Mrs. Artridge, was sadly hampered, by the difficulty in her audience, by the difficulty in choosing words to express her meaning, generally sitting upon a most awkward substitute. Her endeavor to make herself as attractive as her niece in order to win attention from a suitor was also ludicrous. This scene, impersonated by H. L. Nutter, at first appears in disguise as a recognized by either. His appearance in his true identity, and a letter received by her aunt from her husband whom she supposed dead, brings about a satisfactory climax to all their difficulties. The play as a whole was well appreciated.

At the hour appointed for dancing the floor was well filled with the participants. During the evening, in charge of Miss Doris Durant.

The proceeds of the evening, clear of expenses, will amount to about fifty dollars, which will be turned over to the District Nurses' association, for whose benefit the affair was planned.

Christmas Concert. The Christmas concert which was necessarily postponed from the evening of December 22, was held on December 29 at the Congregational church. C. A. McGraw, superintendent of the Sunday school, presiding.

The program was as follows: Song, school; "The Christmas carols," Amie Geiger and Louise Walker; a hymn for our men; flag salute; union hymn of dedication; gift mangled, during which period the children held gifts in a historic cradle. Beautiful were turned off, showing a beautiful electric star which light was thrown around the manger; carol, choir; hymn; primary department; "A Christmas story," Irene Whitcomb; song; recitation, Lorraine Geiger and Natalie Blake; patriotic song; recitation, little boys; recitation, Gwendolyn Moore; song, Geraldine Rice; recitation, Gwen Parker, Eleanor Rice, Leslie Walker, Elsa Davis, Ruth Pitman, Dorothy Nowell; junior department; "Story of the first Christmas," twenty girls; song, school; recitation, Constantine Parker; story from two fronts; "The Christmas story," Lydia Walter; carol; recitation, responsive reading; address, superintendent; reading, Audrey Burkinshaw; offering for the starving children in bible lands; closing hymn. The offering, with what was brought in the previous Sunday amounted to about forty dollars.

Deaths. The sad news of the death of Frederick E. Rodgers, son of Mr. and Mrs. David F. Rodgers, of this town, was received by them last week. He died having occurred on December 21 at his home in Newbury, N. J., from double pneumonia. The family formation, living in Groton, but have been residents here for a few years past, and the deceased worked for about three years in the Pepperell card shop at 100 State street, Newbury, and for the Acme Paper Co. He left town last September to go to Newbury as a janitor. He was thirty-three years of age and leaves a wife, who came with the remains, arriving here on Christmas morning. They were buried in the receiving tomb in Groton cemetery for interment in the cemetery there. He was a smart, active fellow and leaves a large circle of friends, besides his parents and three brothers, to mourn his early death.

Mrs. Lucy A. Hackett, wife of William H. Hackett, passed away at the home of her son, Ray L. Hackett, on street, Friday evening, December 27, aged sixty-seven years. She was a devoted wife and mother, and had been enjoying good health and her death was due to a complication of diseases. At the time of her death her husband was also quite ill from pleurisy, and as he is well advanced in years he does not rally after the treatment has yielded to the doctor's treatment. They were life-long residents of Taunton and Mrs. Hackett's body was taken there by her son on the early train Monday morning, where services were held in the Tremont Methodist church at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Besides the husband and two sons, Ray and Walter H., of this town, she leaves a son, William, of Taunton, and Charles L. of Chantley, also sixteen grandchildren.

DECLINE OF JUVENILE BOOKS.

A painstaking summary of the production of books for juveniles in the past 25 years shows that in proportion to the total number of all books published there has been a distinct falling off, while the situation when viewed in relation to our increase in population becomes to the writer a matter of "curious" concern. The total output of books in the United States in 1890 was 4,559, of which 408, or about 9 per cent, were juveniles. In 1917 the total was 10,000, of which there were 504 juveniles, or about 5 per cent. It does not follow, however, that the habit of reading is not growing among youths of both sexes, says Portland Oregonian. Ordinary observation and the experience of most librarians would indicate the contrary. The fact would seem to be that the young folks are more discriminating in their tastes, that they are reading the same things that their fathers and mothers are reading, and that the practice of "writing down" to them has consequently become unpopular. There is, after all, a great plenty of books made primarily for grownups which also are pleasing, instructive and inspiring to children of various ages. The happy family is the one which has common freaside interests—and there are many such.

If the daring Italians who made their way into an Austrian naval port and torpedoed a battleship have been captured, they will very likely pay a heavy price for the fame which will carry their names down to posterity as among the heroes of naval history, for the Hunns are not of a caliber to feel such men they would have treated a generous admiration for a courageous enemy. Had the allies captured them with all the consideration due unusual bravery, but in German hands they are likely to feel all that can be inflicted on them by a mean spirit of spiteful revenge.

Two of the torpedo boat destroyers now under construction are to bear the names of naval officers who lost their lives in acts of heroism since the United States entered the war. These are Lieut. Stanton Frederick Kalk, officer of the deck of the Jacob Jones, and Gunner's Mate Osmond Kelley Ingram of the Cassin, torpedoed in European waters. The policy of Secretary Daniels in thus commemorating naval heroes while their fame is yet fresh in mind is to be commended.

The movement to utilize the boy power of the country on the farms is a good one. It will supply much needed labor now, and the knowledge it will impart will last in usefulness long after the war is over. Furthermore, its effect in morale and health in getting the growing generation next to nature's heart will be a vast gain in itself.

Now and then there is an exception, but as a rule every mean, contemptible act, every unworthy motive or deed, every despicable, shameless and unprincipled maneuver which man may now and then attempt in his dealings with his fellows, may be set down to the baleful influence of money.

The unsinkable ship which made a trial voyage across the ocean has returned unsunk. It may still be an experiment, but so far the result is encouraging, and may mean another check to the costly deprecations of the submarine.

The theory that "a man is as old as his arteries" has possibilities. There should be some good fighting material among the numerous gentlemen of fifty and upwards who have delighted society with their grace and endurance in the tango.

The alleged discovery of the Swedish naturalist that the ant is overrated and that its ways are not to be considered in the pursuit of wisdom isn't going to help the sluggard under the new Anti-Loafing law.

If a U-bot should blow up a seashore merry-go-round, or a soda fountain Berlin would rush into print with another glowing account of an enormous victory.

The bolsheviki are considering making labor compulsory. This is going to be a terrible shock to their American admirers.

The most popular of the season's new schemes are those which promise a reasonable supply of money without work.

"Food will win the war," we are repeatedly and authoritatively told, but we expect that soldiers will help some.

It is possible for a fellow to kick up a lot of dust on the highway of life without making very good time.

We have yet to read of a female spy who is not also a beautiful society woman.

Faint hearts never win anything. Hard knocks alone will lick the kaiser.

Music's Value in Home. Music is so general in its inspiring appeal to our better emotions that we cannot afford to neglect its cultivation in the home. Few mothers realize the importance of training and association in this direction. One ventures to say that many men and women have been impelled to right living and accomplishment of high ideals by the intrinsic strain of music that runs like a bright thread of sentiment through the chapter of busy days. Mechanical piano players and other ingenious musical devices threaten less personal participation in a one-time pleasure.

Jan. Friday and Saturday Sale Jan. 3-4

Featuring Excellent Quality Beef from Medium Cattle, at the Usual Low Prices

Table with columns for BEEF, LAMB, and PORK. BEEF items include Pot Roasts (16¢, 18¢, 20¢ lb), Rib Roasts (24¢, 26¢, 28¢ lb), Sirloin Roasts (30¢, 32¢, 35¢ lb). LAMB items include Yearling Fores (12¢, 14¢ lb), Yearling Loins (20¢, 22¢ lb), Yearling Legs (28¢, 32¢ lb). PORK items include Whole Loins (33¢ lb), Roasts (33¢-35¢ lb), Fresh Shoulders (30¢ lb), Smoked Shoulders (32¢ lb).

VEAL. We have a few extra nice Veal to offer at the following prices: Forequarters (14¢, 16¢, 18¢ lb), Loins (20¢-22¢ lb), Legs (30¢-32¢ lb). VEGETABLES—Strictly Fresh. Pascal and Southern Celery, Parsley, Sweet Potatoes, Best Cooking Potatoes (42¢ peck), Native Yellow Onions (10 pounds 24¢), Peas (14¢ can), Sweet Corn (15¢ can), Ripe Tomatoes (13¢ can).

NATIONAL BISCUITS. Now being made up to their pre-war standard of excellence—handy to have on hand. Fifty kinds here to choose from, package or bulk. DEMONSTRATION of White House Coffee. Try some. If you like it buy a pound—38¢. Oysters, Clams, Finnan Haddies, Fresh Fruits, Dried Fruits, Soaps, Butter, Cheese and Eggs.

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION, License No. G. 23,853. Brockelman Bros. Fitchburg Market. 420 Main Street Telephone 2080 Fitchburg, Mass.

PEPPERELL. News Item. Mrs. Leslie W. Smith, of Franklin, spent the week of Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Carter, Park street.

Two churches to Federate. On Tuesday evening two important business meetings were held in the Congregational church by the Congregational and Unitarian societies, one occupying the auditorium and the other the vestry of the church. Both churches voted to accept the report of their committee and both adopted the articles of agreement for a Federated church. This action was taken with enthusiasm after frank discussion.

Have you had the influenza? Tired, Sick and All Run Down? The wonderful tonic properties of our Syrup Hypophosphites Compound. Will set right, increase the appetite and make you feel well again. \$1 per bottle. The DuPaw Pharmacy. George H. DuPaw, Registered Pharmacist. Telephone Connection. EAST PEPPERELL, MASS.

Sell Your Farm. If you want to sell your farm now is the time to list it up. Our unusual service means a sale. Our commission, charges of 5% covers every cost. No charge until sold. No charge to list in our new catalog almost ready for press. And you must get a square deal at our office, open every evening—write, call, or phone today and let us tell you about the "Jewett service."

Jewett Real Estate Co. INC. Park St. Phone NASHUA, N. H. Chalmers Automobiles. NEW AND USED CARS. Shown and Demonstrated at Shattuck's Garage. C. G. HEALD, Dealer. East Pepperell, Mass. 1317.

Poultry Wanted. Am paying 33¢ and 36¢ and upwards for GOOD POULTRY. Call DAVID SAPERSTAN, Lowell 532-N or Pepperell 51-2. Orders can be left with A. A. LAWRENCE, East Pepperell, Mass. DAVID SAPERSTAN.

Union Cash Market. Ayer, Mass. CAR POTATOES JUST ARRIVED. Now is the Time to Buy. ROAST PORK 33c lb. FRESH SHOULDERS 28c lb. GOOD SIRLOIN STEAK 40c lb. BEST SIRLOIN STEAK 50c lb. GOOD ROAST BEEF 25c lb. FORES and LOINS, LAMB 30c lb. CREAM CHEESE 25c lb. BEST CASE EGGS 60c dozen. POTATOES 50c peck. EXTRA GOOD COFFEE 25¢ lb. SHREDDED WHEAT 15c lb.

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 SPENCER ROBBINS late of Acton in said County, deceased: Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the above named estate to FRANK A. PATCH of Littleton in the County of Middlesex, without giving a surety on his bond to be one of the twenty-second day of January A. D. 1919, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, in Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, and the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Harvard Herald, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, on the day at which the same shall be one day, at least, before said Court.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Worcester, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs at law, next of kin, creditors and all other persons interested in the estate of JOHN NEYLAND and JOHN NEYLAND, late of Worcester in said County, deceased: Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the above named estate to WINNIFRED F. NEYLAND of Harvard in said County, without giving a surety on his bond to be one of the twenty-second day of January A. D. 1919, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, in Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, and the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Harvard Herald, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, on the day at which the same shall be one day, at least, before said Court.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Worcester, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs at law, next of kin, creditors and all other persons interested in the estate of JOHN NEYLAND and JOHN NEYLAND, late of Worcester in said County, deceased: Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the above named estate to WINNIFRED F. NEYLAND of Harvard in said County, without giving a surety on his bond to be one of the twenty-second day of January A. D. 1919, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, in Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, and the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Harvard Herald, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, on the day at which the same shall be one day, at least, before said Court.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Worcester, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs at law, next of kin, creditors and all other persons interested in the estate of JOHN NEYLAND and JOHN NEYLAND, late of Worcester in said County, deceased: Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the above named estate to WINNIFRED F. NEYLAND of Harvard in said County, without giving a surety on his bond to be one of the twenty-second day of January A. D. 1919, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, in Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, and the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Harvard Herald, a newspaper published in Ayer, at least before said Court, on the day at which the same shall be one day, at least, before said Court.

Grange Notes. At the regular meeting of Prescott Grange on last week Friday evening the business of the evening took a considerable amount of time. Some considerable amount of time was spent in the election of officers having declined of the elected for the coming year others were elected to fill the places. A short program was given after the business, consisting of piano selections by Miss Lillian Stewart and readings by Miss Florence Flynn. The next meeting will be held on January 10 and will be in charge of the master, Miss Ellen Miller. On January 17, as now arranged, the installation of officers will be held, which will this year be a public installation. Frank T. Marston, past master of Prescott Grange, will be the installing officer.