TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Fiftieth Year | Ayer, Mass., Saturday, February 23, 1918 | No. 25. Price Four Cents

O. B. Tellinghast
State Librarian
Boston

PEPPERELL

News Items.

Mrs. Walter Lunt went Tuesday morning to Nashua, N. H., to call on her newest little grandson, born last Saturday morning. It is said that Grandma reported that he was a smart, plump little one—and a regular Blake.

Mrs. Fred Bancroft has received a letter from Floyd "somewhere in Europe," and he says that he has not seen a bit of snow since he landed—that the grass is green and the birds are singing, but he prefers the snow and old Pepperell.

Walter Reed came last week Friday on the morning train from the Victory Plant, Squantum, where he is in service of the government, to call on his mother, Mrs. Reed, of Main street. He left on the afternoon train.

Verner Bancroft has been confined at home for a week with measles, and now Audrey has them.

Winnifred S. Boynton joined a medical unit in July in Boston, and was recently transferred to the ordnance department and stationed at the Watertown arsenal. Mr. Boynton is expected home for February 22, and may possibly be able to remain over the week-end.

A food sale, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid society, will be held on Thursday afternoon, February 28, at three o'clock, at R. B. Winship's store at the corner of Main and Cross streets. Committee, Mrs. Winship and Mrs. Frank Robbins.

Edward Johnson was in Boston on business last Wednesday.

The beautiful fern at the public library, that was one of the most noted in the state, got frozen in the recent cold spell. If it ever grows again it will be a long time before it can regain its past condition.

Private Drew of Camp Devens assisted in the music at the Methodist church on last Sunday.

Ralph Willoughby was home from Ayer on Tuesday, having severed his connection with the Proctor Garage, and is employed in the same town on one of the jitney lines.

On Monday night little George Hill and his smaller sister Gladys, coming up the cellar stairs, fell backward, striking the stonework of the cellar wall, badly cutting his head and leaving him unconscious for several hours. It is not known how it happened, but this is the same family that lost two children recently, and sympathy is expressed for the accident.

Harry K. White was lecturer before the Men's club at Grange hall on Tuesday evening. The topic of "Our navy," was illustrated with about fifty slides, representing the ships of the type of the old Constitution to those of more modern type. The very latest were not shown for various reasons. Mr. White pointed out the importance of the navy—not only does the government need men, but it needs boats for their transportation, to carry food and as convoys. He brought home the great need of more ships and those ships quickly. In passing he touched on the home guards, and in the end made a plea for the people of the town to bestir themselves and see that the town was made a clean town—that it was the duty of each to try to have this a no-license town.

Three more of our young men have enlisted for the navy—Fred Tarbell, son of Henry Tarbell; Leslie Parker, son of Wardell Parker, and William Breen, son of Thomas Breen. Donald Jacobs, who recently graduated from the school for ensigns, came home on Tuesday to await orders. He has been assigned to the North Dakota and to report at Norfolk, Va. He leaves home on Saturday morning, and he takes the best wishes for his success from many friends as he has helped himself to his present position.

Liberty measles have invaded the home of Frank Bennett, his wife and one of the two children being sick.

William Channing Appleton, of Boston, passed the week-end with N. W. Appleton at Blakesmere.

The East Village Social club, with twelve members present, held an all-day meeting with Mrs. Appleton on Wednesday. They have finished the quilt and it is said to be a beauty.

Miss Georgianna Maynard, who has a position with Conant & Co., in Littleton, was taken ill a couple of weeks ago with symptoms of appendicitis. On Tuesday morning she was taken to St. Joseph's hospital, Nashua, and on Wednesday morning at ten o'clock she was operated upon. Her father, George Maynard, remained with her until after the operation and she was on the road to recovery. Miss Maynard is a Girl Scout.

William Clapp, of Elm street, who was badly hurt by a fall about eight weeks ago, is able to walk out.

Town Meeting.

The annual town meeting is a thing of history again and an innovation this year was the holding of the regular yearly talk fest in the evening of last Monday, instead of making an all-day job of it. This was explained to be in the interest of the workingmen in order to give them a chance to attend without losing time. It has been the custom in the past to leave this part of the year's work to those directly interested and those having nothing else to do and was usually slimly attended by the working people.

This year there was a very full attendance, nearly three hundred being present, including many ladies, and the new system seemed to meet with general approval.

Another new idea was put to practical operation this year and that was worked out by a committee appointed at the last annual meeting, consisting of seven prominent citizens who would have nothing to do with the spending of the town's money, to confer with all heads of the various departments as to the needs of these departments for the coming year and to make a report of what appropriations were needed to be raised.

This committee held several meetings calling all the heads of departments to appear and explain all wants. After a careful analysis of all these claims and a very close paring down of all to their lowest desirable point, the committee made their report for each department accordingly.

That this was entirely satisfactory was shown by the report being accepted entire without a change in any department, thus saving a lot of time from the old method of debating in open meeting each individual appropriation.

The total amount thus appropriated was a little over $57,000, which does not include various items of special legislation.

A. R. Paull was chosen moderator and handled the gavel very acceptably, although some seemed to think that he decided some close votes very arbitratly, and in one case where he decided a point and his decision being appealed from, it was not sustained by the meeting, but everything passed off very pleasantly and without any wrangling and hard words which have characterized some former meetings.

The report of the selectmen called out a lot of questions as to why they had done this and had not done that, and the replies of the selectmen apparently stifled this criticism, whether it satisfied the critic, or not.

In one case a prominent man had a check presented to him in payment for services, when he says he has not done any such work, and says he is going to return the check to the town. The selectmen had a little difficulty in explaining this action and at the same time uphold their contention that they were very, very careful in handling the town funds.

The article calling for some action in regard to the fire alarm brought out a good deal of discussion and the motion to raise two thousand dollars for a new system was voted down, but an attempt to fix a sum to repair the old system, disclosed a still greater opposition to spending money on that system, disclosed a still greater opposition to spending money on that system, so finally a motion to reconsider the motion to appropriate money for a new system was carried and then the fire chief's motion to raise two thousand dollars for a new system, which he called the compressed air system, was voted.

The article calling for some action in regard to the old North Pepperell schoolhouse was explained by an out-of-town lawyer and a motion to quit claim all right that the town may have to this lot and building to H. K. White was carried unanimously.

In the matter of publishing the list of assessed valuation of the town there appeared some divergance of opinion, but it was carried by a close vote. Then, after most of the other business had been disposed of and many had left the hall, an effort to have this motion reconsidered was lost, so it would appear that the list will be printed in next year's proceedings.

A resolution was offered and passed unanimously, expressing the position of this town in this time of war as being highly patriotic and pledging the utmost help to the president and others in their efforts to win the war for freedom and democracy, and ordering the national flag to be displayed at all times from the town house. As there is no flag for that purpose the selectmen asked how they should meet this expense, when one of the prominent men of the town offered to meet that expense himself and received a hearty vote of thanks therefor.

The meeting was adjourned a little before eleven o'clock, having been in session but a little over three hours, with all the business done as well as usual, thus disproving those who had insisted that it would take all night.

As the article to see if any action would be taken in regard to returning to the old way was laid on the table, it looks as if the new system had come to stay.

Annual Meeting.

The annual parish meeting of the Unitarian church was held on the evening of February 16 in the vestry of the Congregational church. After the bounteous supper was served the business of the parish was taken up. Reports of the various committees were given and were most encouraging, excepting the loss of the church, which had its effect in taking some of the usual merriment from the party assembled. In the electing the officers Mrs. M. G. Green was elected clerk of the parish; Lincoln A. Johnson, treas.; William N. Mault, trustee permanent fund; Chester A. Mills and Mary Maltman, members of parish committee, 3 years. A letter was received and read from the Congregational church, suggesting holding a meeting of committees to consider the amalgamation of the two churches; Mrs. Addison Woodward and Mrs. Leon P. Richardson were elected delegates to May meetings of the Unitarian association. Voted to hold services until July 1 with the people of the Congregational church.

Pennemaquan Camp Fire Entertain.

The Pennemaquan Camp Fire entertained the young folks of the community at a camouflage party last Saturday evening. Since the occasion was so near valentine day the rooms of the Methodist parsonage were artistically decorated with hearts of red and pink, festooned on the walls and in the windows. Much amusement was caused by the appearance of the silent masked figures as they took their places one by one in the parlor. Some very amusing and unique costumes were displayed, the most ingenious perhaps of which was Gertrude Cherry's representation of the Boston Post. Her whole costume was a series of advertisements cut from the Post and decorating the costume in fringe and bonds. Marion Thompson was very original as Valentine—a great deal of work being put into the decoration of many red hearts over her dress. A great many others were well worthy of notice—June, Spring, Liberty, Red Cross nurse, Christmas spirit, two ghosts, a nun, a sunbonnet girl, while among the gentlemen Roger Tune, as George Washington, attracted the most attention, although Glen Parker, as a clown, came in for his share of mention.

Those unmasked formed a committee to guess upon the masked ones and while some of them were easily told, a number only revealed their identity by unmasking.

Games were the order of the evening, the most amusing perhaps being the dress-making class which all the gentlemen, after securing their partners by matching little hand-painted sunbonnet dolls provided by one of the Camp Fire Girls, were invited to join. It was a time of great merriment, as with newspapers and pins, fashion books before them, they fashioned a gown for their fair one. The girls were quite satisfied that whatever occupation may change the future holds many possibilities in the way of men dress-makers of Pepperell. Glen Parker secured the first prize, his gown presenting so many difficult and well adjusted decorations for Sylvester the second, on his princess gown, and Bernard Sherwood, third, because of the neatly adjusted flounce.

Simple refreshments of ice cream and cake were served and all reported a very enjoyable evening. Private Drew of Camp Devens was a guest of the evening. There were about forty present.

Town Meeting.

Article 7. Voted, on motion of Louis P. Shattuck, that the fire alarm system be reconstructed by installing a compressed air system in the Foster street engine house, and also a universal box in the telephone office, and to discontinue all the boxes except the four on Main street, and that the town raise and appropriate the sum of $2000 to pay for the same: $500 to be raised each year of 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921.

Article 8. Voted that the town release and quitclaim unto Harry K. White all its right, title and interest if any in District Schoolhouse No. 4, and the land contiguous thereto, and to authorize Addison Woodward, its treasurer, to execute the necessary deed or instrument to carry this vote into effect.

Article 9. Voted to choose a playground commission—chose Miss Gertrude Carter, Miss Helen Pond, Rev. William H. Beers, Dana O. Merrill and Francis Drumm.

Article 10. Voted that it is the sense of the voters of Pepperell in annual meeting assembled, that the citizens of the town of Pepperell in the present world war and national crisis, stand now as always with all their resources, to support the President of the United States in whatsoever action he may take to preserve the dignity, honor and safety of our country, and that the flag of the United States be displayed upon Pepperell town house at all times for the duration of the war; that a copy of this vote be placed upon the town records by the town clerk. The above resolution was submitted to the meeting by Joseph A. Saunders, who at the same time stated that Rainsford Deware had expressed a wish to present the town of Pepperell with a suitable flag. A unanimous vote of thanks was given by the meeting to Mr. Deware for his generous gift.

Under Article 2 the following appropriations were made:

Water bonds	$5,000.00
Town charges	3,000.00
Board of Health	800.00
Highways	2,700.00
Bridges	400.00
Culverts	100.00
Sidewalks	300.00
Snow paths	1,000.00
Guide boards	25.00
Watering troughs	25.00
Cutting brush	225.00
Fire department including salaries	2,600.00
Hydrant service	2,310.00
Poor department including salaries	5,500.00
Schools, including salaries	17,900.00
Interest	800.00
Police department	1,200.00
Outstanding bills	1,000.00
Moth department	973.33
Tree warden	50.00
Forest fire warden	60.00
Street lights	285.00
Cemetery commissioners	400.00
Hearse up-keep—receipts	
Insurance	375.00
Compensation insurance	300.00
Mothers' pensions, receipts from State and	300.00
State aid	500.00
Soldiers' relief	650.00
Town house	350.00
Playground	100.00
Care of town clock	25.00
Sealer of weights and measures, fees and	50.00
District school nursing	200.00
Memorial day	100.00
Care of common	40.00
Collector's and treasurer's bonds	100.00
Gravel pit	1,200.00
River street repairs	700.00
	$52,931.33

About Town.

A large sleighride party from Lunenburg, who took advantage of the good traveling were week-end guests at the residence of S. Rufus Merrill on Prescott street.

Nearly 150 people crowded Saunders' hall on Wednesday evening to listen to the Vandergrit-Thompson dialog debate, and it is safe to say that none went away disappointed. It was unique, dramatic, humorous, convincing. One man took the part of a lawyer running for the state legislature and came into the office of his friend, the business man, to enlist his support. The business man brings up every conceivable argument against prohibition which the lawyer has to answer. The audience sits by and enjoys profit by it. The arguments were most timely, considering the local fight on the license question. At the close of the meeting it was voted to ask our representatives in Boston, Frank A. Torrey of Groton, and Senator A. W. Colburn, of Dracut, to help the ratification of national prohibition in Massachusetts.

To the Citizens of Pepperell:

A decision of the greatest importance to every American citizen and for the successful prosecution of the war will be made at the polls at Pepperell next Monday when the town votes upon the license question for the coming year.

There is not a man, woman or child, there is not a father, mother, wife or sweetheart who is not vitally interested in the well being of the typical young Americans who are now training in Camp Devens at Ayer.

It is seldom that a community of this size has a responsibility so large thrust upon it and it is indeed a serious responsibility that is been placed upon the shoulders of the voters of the town of Pepperell. It is a matter of most urgent patriotic efficiency that the community be made safe for the soldier and it is the business of every citizen of the town of Pepperell to see that the community is made safe for these young men is made safe for them.

If the voters of the town of Pepperell wish to see the morale of the town preserved they will vote unanimously against the granting of a liquor license. If the voters of the town are heedless of their duties as patriotic loyal American citizens and will permit the continuation of licensed liquor places within the town of Pepperell, they will be doing an injury not only to the young soldiers but to the cause of Democracy.

Prostitution and intemperance are probably the greatest remaining causes of military ineffectiveness due to sickness and must be controlled in the interests both of the soldier and of the public.

Direct responsibility lies upon the voters of the town of Pepperell. It is one which they cannot shirk. The control of vice and excess amongst soldiers is one of the most important measures to the prevention of social diseases, and there be one fact outstanding above others in connection with the maintenance of physical efficiency of an army, it is the fact that the soldier must be safeguarded from the temptations which so with mistaken ideas of good fellowship in the guise of drinking places.

It is the experience of every army and of every army officer that liquor carries in its trail a host of evils; that it is the evil agency through which moral turpitude makes its introduction into the lives not only of the young men of the present generation but even into the second and third generations.

With Pepperell a dry town for the coming year, it will be possible to obtain law and order at their present high standards. Camp Devens today has the honor and distinction of being the cleanest cities morally of any of the other sixteen large cantonments established throughout the country.

With Pepperell a no license town the coming year, it will be much easier for the police force to prevent evils which everywhere have clustered about liquor selling in the vicinity of concentration and mobilization camps.

Licenses do bring immoral women and equally unscrupulous men to your town. Every pay day sees the soldiers beset with temptations too strong for the average man, who for the first time has been away from home and the restraining influences of father, mother and sisters.

We have the unanimous testimony not only of the civilian medical men but the military surgeons that liquor is the greatest ally of immorality and the further testimony that the consequences of the indiscriminating associations that go with liquor are more costly to the soldier than shot or shell.

Brig. Gen. Wood with his large experience in military affairs realizing the very great dangers that exist for the soldier has definitely stated that if the town of Pepperell votes license that he will forbid the soldier from visiting the town of Pepperell. This is by far the strongest possible argument in favor of prohibition. Brig. Gen. Wood is to be congratulated upon the stand that he has taken in regard to the license question. He knows what is best for the soldier and any suggestions offered by him are worthy of the most serious consideration.

The European authorities waited so long before making any real attempt to solve this problem as it related to their soldiers that at the end of the first year and a half, they found the strength and efficiency of their army undermined and wasting away as a result of intemperance and social evils.

Shall we permit this condition to prevail with our young men. I believe not. I have faith in the loyalty and patriotism of the American public and when they realize the serious dangers that follow in the wake of liquor saloons, the uprise to the profession and stamping out of intemperance and social evils

Every saloon, every den of vice and prostitution must be expelled from the various camp zones. The voters of Pepperell will be confronted next Monday with a question that far transcends in importance any question that has come to the polls in their life time. It is not a far cry to say that every mother in the New England states has a true and throbbing interest in the decision which the voters of Pepperell shall make next Monday as to whether or not needless temptations shall be strewn in the paths of the clean-minded son that she has given to the service of his and her country.

Here is the question, "Shall Pepperell defend our defenders" or give aid to the enemy by lowering the fitness of our soldiers?

Pepperell in this election, will tell the American people which side she is on in the war—ours or the enemy's.

It would be no surprise if the authorities were to discover enemy propaganda and enemy money working for License in Pepperell today.

You can do your bit by voting NO in the election on Monday.

P. A. O'Connell, Chairman
Committee on Public Safety.

Red Cross Branch.

At the regular Saturday afternoon meeting February 16 at their rooms on Main street it was reported that 21 pajamas were sent to the Lowell chapter in addition to the articles reported for the month of January in the last week's issue of this paper.

The senior patrol No. 3, Girl Scouts, Mrs. Bowman, leader, have sent in to the president of this branch 4 sweaters, 2 mufflers, 1 helmet and 4 bath robes.

A new line of work has been suggested by the Lowell chapter. "Property bags, to be made of washable material; bright colors preferred. Our quota is 75. These bags are for hospital use and should be made 12x18 inches in size.

The following committee has been chosen to assist in the Junior Red Cross work and will meet Monday afternoons at Main street grammar school between one and two o'clock punctually: Mrs. Qua, Miss Barry, Mrs. Charles Woodward, Mrs. J. Flynn, Mrs. C. D. Hutchinson, chairman.

The folding of surgical dressings will continue every Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and the attention of the members is called to the property bags wanted and contributions of gingham, calico and cretonne solicited for the same.

The grain eaten and spoiled on the farms of the United States by rats and mice would, if saved for the market, return sufficient money to pay the tax bill of all the farmers in the country, state officials of the Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii has great forests of koa or native mahogany trees.

New Advertisement

WANTED.—Women and girls for work. PEPPERELL BRAIDING CO., East Pepperell, Mass.

Do you know that you can make deposits on your

FITCHBURG CO-OPERATIVE BANK

account

AT THE STORE OF

J. J. Barry, Main Street, Ayer

any business day?

A. G. Pollard Co.

THE STORE FOR THRIFTY PEOPLE

New

Spring Cottons

SPECIAL PRICES FOR THE ADVANCE SELLING—Right in Time for February Sewing

Ulster Linen Suiting—34 inches wide, plain colors, in all the desirable shades, per yard	25¢
100 Pieces Diana Nainsook—36 inches wide, extra fine quality; worth 39c. yard, in 10-yard pieces only; special price, a piece	$2.50
Silk and Cotton Foulard Patterns—36 inches wide; a very pretty fabric, for waists and dresses; special price per yard	79¢
Percale Remnants—Just received five cases of extra fine Percale, 36 inches wide, and a large assortment of stripes and small figures, in light and dark; worth 39c.; per yard	19¢
Poplins, Auto-Cords, Beach Cloth—36 inches wide, plain colors only, in all the new shades. Special price per yard	39¢

Rugs and Art Squares

Three hundred and more that are offered at much below their actual worth—the end of the year's clean-up from a big rug manufacturer.

20 Rugs, Velvet, 8¼x10½ ft., in Oriental designs and colors; worth $27.50	$19.00
25 Rugs, Velvets, 9x12 ft., Oriental and floral designs and colors; worth $29.00	$21.00
18 Rugs, 8¼x10½ ft., Seamless Tapestry Brussels, Oriental and floral designs	$17.50, $20
10 Rugs, 6-9x9 ft., Tapestry Brussels Weave, regular price $17.50	$12.98
Mottled Axminster Rugs, 27x54 inches, fancy borders; regular price $3.50	$1.98
Mottled Axminster Rugs, 36x72 inches—Roman borders; worth $5.00, now	$3.79
35 Rugs, size 9x12 ft., Seamless Tapestry Weave, worth $25.00	$17.98
18 Rugs, size 8¼x10½ ft., Good Axminster Weaves; regular price $32.00	$25.00
8 Rugs, 7½x9ft., Seamless Tapestry Brussels, Oriental patterns and colors; $20.00	$15.00
6 Rugs, 6x9 ft., Tapestry Brussels Weave; regular price $12.98	$10.98
27x54 inch Velvet Rugs; Orientals and florals; regular price $2.25	$1.79
22½x36 inch Door Mat size, Good Axminster Rugs; regular price $1.98	$1.49

A. G. Pollard Co.

Geo. H. Brown
RELIABLE CLOTHIER AYER MASS

Overcoats

OF EVERY KIND FOR MEN AND BOYS

We have a large stock of warm, handsome Overcoats suitable for this cold weather. Every man will find here something that is sure to please him. We have the Dressy Overcoat cut 42 inches long, and the Heavy, Long Coat with large storm collars.

The quality of goods and the making of the garment is the usual high grade which this store has always offered its customers. The prices asked are far and away below their present market value. It will pay you to buy an Overcoat now for future needs, as prices on this grade of merchandise bids fair to advance greatly before next season comes around. Think it over.

Men's Fancy Mixture Overcoats
$12.50, $15.00, $18.00, $20.00, $25.00

Boys' Fancy Mixture Overcoats
$8.47, $10.00, $15.00, $18.00

SHEEP-LINED COATS and ULSTERS

Nothing made that is so serviceable and so warm for the money. An ideal coat for any man who is out in all kinds of weather. Prices are away below market values.

Sheep-lined Coats	**$9.00** to **$18.00**
Sheep-lined Ulsters	**$15.00** to **$35.00**

STORM COATS and FUR COATS

Fur Coats in Dogskin, Galloway, and Horsehide; Storm Coats in Montana Buffalo, Astrakhan Cloth and Patrick Cloth, all wind proof and storm proof.

Fur Coats	**$25.00** to **$50.00**
Storm Coats	**$20.00** to **$35.00**

SWEATERS

How about a good Sweater? We have them in plenty—all kinds and all colors. Our prices are less than present wholesale prices for like qualities.

Men's Sweaters	**$1.50** to **$8.00**
Khaki Sweaters	**$5.00** to **$8.00**
Khaki Sleeveless Sweaters	**$3.50** to **$6.50**

WINTER CAPS

Every kind of Winter Caps, both in Cloth and Fur. Also, all kinds of Yarn Toques and Helmets, or Aviation Caps.

Men's Warm Caps	**50¢** to **$1.50**
Boys' Warm Caps	**25¢** to **65¢**
Men's Fur Caps	**$4.00** to **$7.00**
Men's Yarn Toques	**75¢** and **$1.00**
Boys' Yarn Toques	**65¢** and **75¢**
Helmets, or Aviator Caps	**75¢** to **$1.50**
Scarfs and Toques for Women and Girls	**$1.00** to **$2.50**

RUBBER FOOTWEAR

In spite of the scarcity of Rubber Footwear we have a fairly good stock to meet your requirement. We carry the very best qualities to be found in the market. You will find here such makers as

Gold Seal, Red Seal and Goodyear Glove

Heavy Rubber Footwear to be worn with heavy socks and also Felts and Overs are here in plenty. We have a dozen different kinds for you to select from.

New Opening Hours—9 a. m. to 9 p. m.

Agents for LEWANDO'S Laundry and Dyehouse

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 Pepperell Clarion-Advertiser
The Littleton Guidon
The Westford Wardsman
The Harvard Hillside
The Shirley Oracle
The Townsend Tocsin
The Brookline (N. H.) Beacon
The Hollis (N. H.) Homestead

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Ayer, Mass.

Saturday, February 23, 1918.

WESTFORD

Center.

Mrs. H. V. Hildreth's faithful efficiency as leader of the local branch of the Red Cross is well known and we learn this week that her mother, Mrs. William Read, of Graniteville, ably supplements the work with industrious knitting at home. Mrs. Read will be seventy-eight years old in March, and has just completed her fifty-second pair of stockings. We wonder if there are many who can exceed this record.

Mrs. Grace Lumbert Kenney, of Wellesley, is spending the greater part of this week in Westford, the guest of Mrs. J. Herbert Fletcher.

The second in the series of dancing parties for the children following the classes earlier in the season took place in the town hall on Tuesday afternoon. Rain and hard traveling affected the attendance, but a good number enjoyed the afternoon's party. Mrs. Buckshorn, Mrs. Prescott and Miss Ruth Flagg had the care of the afternoon and Fred E. Meyer was the pianist.

The second union service took place at the Congregational church on last Sunday with Rev. Howard A. Lincoln preaching the sermon and Rev. Louis H. Buckshorn in charge of the rest of the service. The two pastors will alternate in preaching during the union services, therefore Mr. Buckshorn will preach on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Wright, of Quincy, are expected guests at H. L. Wright's for over the holiday.

The home guard drill, with inspection, went off nicely at the town hall on Tuesday night. The men acquitted themselves well in the various manoeuvres for the inspecting officer, Capt. Staples, of Boston. Interested spectators in the gallery watched the proceedings with much interest.

John P. Wright, who has been confined to his home with sickness, is much more comfortable.

Miss Bunce's many friends are glad to learn that she is making a good convalescence from her illness. During her absence Miss May Day is in charge of the somewhat limited library service.

J. Henry Colburn is reported as seriously sick.

Tadmuck Club.

An interesting meeting of the Tadmuck club took place Monday afternoon at the Congregational vestry. Miss Howard presided, opening the meeting with patriotic greeting. Letters of appreciation were read from Mrs. Wetmore and Miss Bunce for flowers sent to them while sick in hospital. Special notice of the mid-winter meeting of the State Federation of Women's clubs at Chelsea, February 20, was given. Miss Howard made sympathetic mention of Mrs. Perkins, the club's first secretary, who has so recently met with bereavement in the death of her husband, the late William A. Perkins, at their home in Woodstock, Conn. The names of Misses Alice and Madeline McDonald were accepted into membership.

In place of the annual guest night which was not held this year, the sum of $15 was voted to be given to the Red Cross and $5 to the work for French relief. Mrs. Charles D. Colburn preceded and closed the afternoon's program with enjoyable solos with her daughter Elinor as accompanist.

A roll call of home helps was responded to with helpful variation and originality, after which came the reading of a four-act drama, "Lady Windemere's fan," in charge of the literature and library extension committee, Mrs. William C. Roudenbush, chairman. Those who read the various characters were: Mesdames H. V. Hildreth, H. W. Hildreth, Lincoln, Roudenbush, Wells, Buckshorn, Wheeler, Bartlett and Sutherland and the Misses Howard Drew and Day.

At the next meeting, March 5, Miss Mary G. Balch will be the speaker; subject, "Humor in art."

About Town.

The next meeting of Middlesex-North Pomona Grange will be held on Friday, March 1, in Odd Fellows' hall, Bridge street, Lowell.

At the farmers' institute in Tyngsboro last week Thursday Prof. Thompson presented the question of "Seeds." At the present split prices he advised the home-raising. Many seeds that we have supposed could not be raised, the present high price has proved that we can. In the afternoon, on "Maintaining farm fertility," he contended that rather than pay over five dollars per cord for stable manure delivered on the field, it is more economical to plow in green crops and use chemicals, ready mixed, rather than home mixed. The next institute will be held at the Paige street church in Lowell, on some date not yet fixed in the first week in March. The exact date will be given later. For speakers, John B. Abbott, of Middlesex County Farm Bureau, will be one, the other not decided upon.

Richard Yarnold died at his residence on Texas road, Parkerville, on Monday, of pneumonia. He was a veteran of the civil war.

The water and the ice on the Stony brook at the arch bridge on Stony Brook road, have clogged for priority right of way nearly to the capacity extent of the arches.

How unaccountable on the ground of congestion of freight are car heatless days, and yet wood as fuel can find cars to transport it wherever desired. Please rise and explain you managers or mismanagers of the heatless days.

George C. Moore in the interest of less heatless days is cutting the birch and maple lot between the Lowell road and Stony brook and creating heat for heatless days at the engine at Brookside mills, and wood from Maine is being carried to North Chelmsford and wood from Westford is being carried to mills in Lawrence.

Hon. Herbert E. Fletcher is ill at his home on Oak hill. As a result of this an amendment had to be offered at the recent annual town meeting, electing Capt. Sherman H. Fletcher as moderator as a substitute for the efficient Oak hill Fletcher.

Corn known as No. 1916, raised on the Frank C. Drew farm, has leaped clear over into No. 1918. Such was its efficient productiveness. About 260 farmers live in town, and only 12 raise corn. Fifty years ago there were only about twelve who did not raise corn. Then there was little said about "farming don't pay." No it has got to be a nearly unanimous chorus. The chorus as a corrective to the "don't pay" chorus is "raise more grain."

The Red Cross circle at the Blacksmith's corner met at Mrs. Houghton Osgood's home on last week Thursday. A good deal of work was accomplished and a good many were present. As it was valentine's day and also the birthday of the hostess, ice cream and delicious cakes suitable to the day were served.

Food Conference.

The Middlesex county conference on food supply met at the state house on Tuesday. This conference was called by the Massachusetts Board of Food Administration and the Middlesex County Farm Bureau. The original call was for the conference to be held in Waltham, but was changed to the state house by better convenience of attending. E. Howell Crosby, of Arlington, food administrator for Middlesex county, presided. Among the questions discussed were "Why we should produce more and save our food supply, the task before the United States for 1918." This question was ably discussed by Prof. Carver, of Harvard. "Results of the 1917 campaign in Middlesex county and conclusions as to the future in food production—professionals and amateurs—in food preservation in food conservation." This wide reaching question was opened up and presented to meet facts by John D. Willard, secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Food Administration. "Food production resources of Middlesex county." This question and its twin, "The organization of Middlesex county for food production," was discussed by many volunteer speakers so eager to contribute their "bit" that they were in each other's waiting time.

Back to ye old time farming, with modern machinery was the chorus in unison on the question of more food in Middlesex county and a unanimous backing of the State Board of Agriculture on the bill before the legislature for the right to buy farm machinery—reapers, threshers and tractors. This looks very much like raising our own bread, which the United States Board of Agriculture is urging the south and New England states to do, and we may as well begin this year to take lessons in yoking ourselves into old-fashioned raising our bread for the one emphatic word all over New England this year is "grain."

Graniteville.

Albert B. Clars is quite ill at his home.

The members of Court Graniteville, F. of A., held their regular meeting on last Thursday evening with a good attendance.

Many from here attended the drill and inspection of the Westford company of the state guard that was held in the town hall on Tuesday night.

The local Red Cross held their regular meeting on Wednesday afternoon with the usual large number in attendance. The local auxiliary are now making plans to present every Graniteville boy now serving in the army and navy some useful gift as a token from the friends at home.

Mrs. Mark Palmer has recently returned from a very enjoyable visit spent with friends in Boston.

Mrs. Julia B. Wall visited relatives in Charlestown this week. A nephew, John Horan, of the navy, intends to sail for foreign shores soon.

The heatless Mondays are still in force here and the people are anxiously waiting for the ban to be lifted.

The rains of the early part of the week has caused much of the snow to disappear, and it is hoped that the weather will moderate enough to take the ice with it.

Fred Longley has enrolled in the United States public service reserve, department of labor. It is expected that others of this village will soon follow his example.

Miss Alice Harrington is confined to her home with an attack of the measles.

Forge Village.

Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Goucher held a party at their home on February 14 in honor of Mrs. Lawrence Simes, formerly Miss Eva Hulmes. Military decorations were used, as olive drab figured conspicuously among the guests. A very pleasant evening was spent by all, with a dainty luncheon served at ten o'clock. Mrs. Simes was the recipient of numerous articles of silver from her friends. Her marriage to Private Lawrence Simes of the Ambulance Corps, Camp Devens, took place recently.

The Ladies' Sewing circle will meet on next Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. A. H. Comey, at two o'clock.

Among the many pupils at Cameron school knitting for the Red Cross might be mentioned George Orr, who has just finished a scarf. His brother, Corp. Orr, is on his way to France.

Miss Annie Orr has received a letter from her cousin, Robert J. McBride, of Lowell, who enlisted in the navy and is now on the Battleship St. Louis. It was while on the homeward trip from convoying troop ships over the big pond that the St. Louis was attacked by a submarine. The young fellow says that he has had a thrilling experience during his service in the navy. After another trip across the St. Louis is expected to drydock in Boston for repairs.

The schools closed here on Friday, Washington's birthday, but the mills were in operation.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shaddick recently observed their twenty-second wedding anniversary and entertained a number of friends at dinner. During the evening neighbors called to offer their congratulations.

James Elliot injured one of his toilers while at work in the mills of the Abbot Worsted Company, last Saturday. Seven stitches were necessary to close the cut.

Miss Violet Collins, of Providence, is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Miles Collins, for a few days.

Miss Mildred Parrott is substituting at Cowen & Houghton's in Littleton for a month in the absence of the bookkeeper.

A meeting of the Brownie Scouts was held on Tuesday afternoon under the direction of Mrs. Harwood, of Ayer. The little girls are very enthusiastic over the scout work.

The Girl Scouts met on Tuesday evening with Miss Nelson, Mrs. Harwood, Miss Eaglesfield and Miss Marjorie Cowlody present. Much work was accomplished on the cantata under Miss Eaglesfield's and Miss Cowlody's direction. The scouts decided to buy their own cantata books instead of taking money out from the treasury, which is used to buy thrift stamps with. Rev. Angus Dun had charge of the boys.

A meeting of the Forge Service Unit was held on Tuesday evening and a great deal of work was accomplished. Mrs. Andrews, of Groton, was present and ably assisted.

Pleasantly Surprised.

A very pleasant surprise party was held last Saturday evening at the home of Mrs. Margaret Wilson in honor of her son, George D. Wilson, who is going to Camp Devens on February 26. The young man was presented with a check and a very practical wrist watch by Edmund de la Haye in behalf of the people of the Methodist church of Graniteville. The surprise was a very complete one, for the young man was just half through the process of shaving when the guests arrived. Nearly fifty people were present and spent a very enjoyable evening with music and games. Refreshments were served later by Mrs. George Weaver, Mrs. Joseph Wall and Mrs. Charles Ripley.

George Wilson has been scoutmaster of the Graniteville Boy Scouts for three years and will be greatly missed. His place will be taken by Clarence Dane, assistant scoutmaster. The young man has been closely connected with the Methodist church in Graniteville, where he served as organist for nearly six years. He was also bugler in the Massachusetts state guard. He leaves for Camp Devens with the best wishes of a wide circle of friends.

LITTLETON

News Items.

On account of sickness and inclement weather the installation of officers in the Pride of Nashoba lodge of Odd Ladies has been postponed until July. At the meeting on Monday evening Sister Stapleford and Sister Barteaux served Hooverized refreshments. The names of two candidates were proposed for admission.

Worshippers at the Congregational church were somewhat alarmed by the volume of smoke that issued from the furnace on Sunday morning, but the discovery of the trouble—a loose pipe—led to a prompt remedy, although Deacon W. E. Conant was slightly burned in doing rescue work. The auditorium in the vestry was uncomfortably smoky during the early part of the service, but everyone was thankful that the church edifice was saved, and that conditions were no worse. The presiding minister proved himself master of the situation, and instead of being disturbed he made the circumstances serve of real assistance in the masterly presentation of his message.

A very pretty birthday party at G. Edward Prouty's on last Saturday is reported as having been given in honor of the elder of Mr. Prouty's little boys.

The selectmen have organized with Charles D. Smith as chairman and Langdon Prouty as clerk.

J. W. Dodds' son Richard is sick with chicken-pox.

Allan Stiles cut his hand rather badly last week and was cared for by Dr. J. D. Christie, who found need of a few stitches.

James Ewing was one of the unfortunate persons who fell on the ice recently. The injury received proved to be only strained muscles instead of broken bones, as was feared at first.

Lincoln and Washington birthdays were observed in the grade schools with appropriate exercises on each occasion.

Mrs. Edith Fletcher Griffiths is at home from Springfield for her spring vacation. Her husband, Sergt. Lester W. Griffiths, was also at home from Camp Devens for the Sabbath.

Sunday has been designated "Ratification Sunday" and will be observed in many churches by the discussion of the impending national prohibitory amendment and its proposed ratification by the Massachusetts legislature. At the Baptist church the theme will be "The prohibition movement—the moral wonder of the twentieth century." A new choir of young voices assisted in the morning service last Sunday. A committee was appointed at the C. E. meeting last Sunday evening to make plans for a competitive contest for the improvement of attendance and increase of membership.

Mrs. M. K. Caulkins has been confined to her home for a few days with an attack of tonsilitis.

Many at the Common are already making plans for their gardens next summer and ordering their seed—none too soon.

Mrs. Michael McNamara is quite ill and in care of Dr. Christie.

Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Christie, William Halpin and Ralph Wainwright went to the Royal Arcanum turkey supper on Tuesday night and report it one of the best ever.

Dr. J. N. Murray has been appointed inspector of meats.

Among the recent chicken-pox patients reported are Teddy Leahey and Elizabeth Dodds.

Mrs. Orlando Bowman has been indisposed a few days.

Miss Sarah Priest is expected home from the hospital the first of next week.

Mrs. John A. Kimball had an ill turn last week Saturday night and at time of writing is still confined to her bed.

Ralph W. Conant has returned from his long business trip in South America.

The Dioscuri of literary New England are the Wednesday and Saturday editions of the Boston Evening Transcript. Of interest to those who wish to know that the deepest thinkers of our day are thinking and of what the ablest writers are writing. They are of peculiar interest to the reader, the student, the bookworm—to those men who love knowledge—rather than augment it.

Making Nails.

An excellent illustration of the difference between old and new methods is the ordinary common nail. Formerly the metal was cut into strips and then forged into shape with hammers, and an expert took about one minute and a half for each nail. Today they are made of steel and are lighter and stronger. Strips are cut with steam shears and fed into automatic machines. One man tends three machines, dropping a nail every second.

Childish Deductions.

Mary and her little brother, Billie, were standing in the parlor of a big hotel. Much awed at their luxurious surroundings, they were gazing about, when Billie's glance fell on a picture of Marie Antoinette. Edging up to Mary, he whispered: "Who's that lady?" To which Mary replied in a confidential tone: "Why, she's the one that owns the furniture."

An Acre.

An acre originally meant in both Latin and Anglo-Saxon a field of any size. As a measure of land it was first defined under Edward I of England as the amount that a yoke of oxen could plow in a day. It was under the reign of George IV. that a uniform standard was given to this name 4,800 square yards.

An Immense Diamond.

A big diamond has been found in a mine in Griqualand West (South Africa). The stone is amber colored, and weighs four hundred and forty carats—about a quarter of a pound. Although this is not a record as regards weight, it is the finest that has ever been found in that section of the country.

First Submarine Cable.

The first submarine cable was one that made communication possible between Calais and Boulogne, on one side of the English Channel, and Dover, on the other. This experiment is commented upon by the London Illustrated News in its issue for August 18, 1849.

LONG ISLAND AND NEW YORK

Stretch of Breeze-Swept Sand Has Been Made to Meet the Demands of Every Class.

Long Island is the safety valve and salvation of New York. It is hard to see how the big city could get through a summer without this hundred miles of breeze-swept sand, which it can reach in a few minutes by bridge or tube or ferry, writes Niksah.

It is a matter of endless admiration how Long Island has been made to meet the needs of New Yorkers of every taste and income. It has cheap beaches, where anyone may get a swim for a quarter, and exclusive beaches where $10,000 a year is regarded as poverty. It has sport beaches full of cafes and music, and quiet beaches, where old ladies knit on shady porches. It has millionaire suburbs from which the many are ingeniously excluded; and middle-class suburbs with their neat little cottages, looking like advertisements out of paint catalogs stuck primly in the middle of correct little lawns; and suburbs for those who have just enough money to get out of town in the summer. Most of these latter are situated in the lagoon district between Rockaway beach and the island proper. They stand on stilts in the shallow water, in the midst of wide green salt meadows. They are unpainted, for the most part, but tanned into soft grays and purples by the sea air. They are alive with children and stout fishermen with long poles decorate all the wharves, while the narrow channels between the houses are full of rowboats and little launches. There is more picture and color in this bit of Long Island than in all the rest of it put together.

MORE WORK FOR BUSY BEES

Artificial Comb, Patented by a Woman, Enables Larger Output by the Honey Producers.

Undoubtedly the most important invention ever produced by a woman was the machine for making artificial comb foundation for beehives. The idea was originated by Frances A. Dunham, who patented the contrivance in 1881, says an exchange.

To produce material for comb building is for the bee very expensive. It uses up at least ten times as much of her gathered products, bulk for bulk, as is required for honey making. Hence the obvious economy of providing her with a ready-made comb of beeswax turned out from a machine.

Another advantage is that all the cells of the artificial comb are made of "worker" size, so that the eggs laid in them by the queen bee (the mother of the hive) produce workers only and no idle drones.

The workers build up the cell walls on the "ground-floor" pattern furnished for them, and (barring those used for brood purposes) fill them with honey. Being relieved of the bother and expense of making their own comb foundation, their output of money is proportionately augmented.

Rings and Moons of Saturn.

The most distinctive feature of Saturn is his unique system of rings, writes Albert D. Watson in Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. These are in the plane of Saturn's moons, with the exception of the outermost moon, which is apparently retrograde in motion. The rings consist of meteors.

From the center of the planet to the circumference of its outer ring there are, first, the 36,500 miles of the radius of Saturn. From the surface of the sphere to the inner margin of the inner rings is 9,000 miles. This, which is known as the crepe ring, is 12,500 miles in width and runs into the middle ring which is 17,000 miles wide. Outside the middle ring is a space of 1,000 miles before the outer ring, 10,000 miles wide, is reached.

Saturn has ten moons, only one of which (Titan) is larger than ours. The first four, like our own and some of the moons of Jupiter, have been proven to turn always the same surface towards their primary. As no exception to this rule has been found, it is likely that it obtains in the cases of all moons.

World's Champion Speller.

Prof. David Jones, the world's champion speller, retired on a well-earned pension after schoolteaching for 50 years in Missouri, notes an exchange. For 33 years the champion issued an annual challenge to all comers to spell against him. Many tried to wrest from him his title, but none succeeded.

His record is 15,000 words correctly spelled straight off the reel at one sitting without a single mistake. Professor Jones defeated in spelling contests heads of universities, famous teachers, scholars, authors, and professional proof-readers, and his sideboard is loaded with silver cups and other similar trophies, won all over the country at the once popular "spelling bees." With him spelling is an art, just as music or painting or sculpture is an art with others. He pounces on and treasures a rare and difficult word as eagerly as an enthusiast does on a scarce and elusive butterfly.

Wireless Messages.

A wireless telegraph message can be confused by one who has the same wave length as the transmitting station by sending out meaningless signals of the same wave length. A receiving set must be tuned to the same wave length as its transmitting set, when it will not take up signals of a different wave length.

Water's Passage Through Wood.

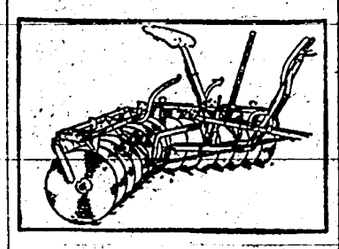
Water passes through real wood when ascending a tree, largely through the last season's growth. With deciduous trees the great demand for water comes in the spring when the young leaves put forth. After that upward sap movement is much less.

In 1916 there were in this country 52,500,000 sheep. In 1916, 49,000,000. A far smaller decrease than in Australia. Meanwhile we are constantly hearing that but for the dog the now declining sheep industry would be in a flourishing condition.

DISK HARROW IS CULTIVATOR

Implement Has No Rival in Cutting Up Plowed Sod Without Lifting It—Is Handy Tool.

The disk harrow is more properly a cultivator than a harrow. It does not give the combing effect of either the spring tooth or the peg. Its action is better described as a cutting up of the soil as one would do it with knives. But by throwing the disk bars



Disk Harrow.

at an angle to the draft so as to make the disks cut anglewise, a sort of light plowing or turning of the soil is effected, which is very advantageous for harrowing in grain which has been sown broadcast by hand.

Nowadays, however, hand broadcasting of grain is not common enough to lend value to this use of the disk. The disk does good work in rough land, and in this connection meets a demand which neither the peg nor the spring can as fully satisfy. The disk harrow has no rival in cutting up a plowed sod without lifting it, and as it can be set to do practically everything any other harrow can do, is a splendid all-around cultivating tool.

HIGH VALUE OF GOOD ROADS

Within Next Two Years $1,000,000 Will Be Spent in Hawaii in Constructing Highways.

Hawaii is awakening to the value of good roads. Within the next two years Honolulu will spend $1,000,000 in road building in the Island of Oahu. Concrete will be extensively used in the work as the Hawaiian has learned the value of permanent construction. American engineers are largely responsible for the character of road building in the territory and for the good streets of the city of Honolulu. Of the latter there are 234 miles within the city proper and, altogether, 474 in the county. Honolulu now has an arrangement with the territorial government whereby that city receives $300,000 a year for the construction of streets and $350,000 for maintenance. There is in the latter figures a lesson for Texas road builders who have a tendency to exhaust all road funds on construction leaving nothing for maintenance.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF PASTURE

As Much as $10 an Acre Can Be Obtained in a Season From Good Land —$5 is Average.

Somebody wants to know the value per season of pasture land. A return as high as $10 an acre can be obtained in a season from good pasture land, but this is above the average. It has been shown possible to produce value in dairy products and beef of $5 to $5.50 an acre in 30 days, but this should not be counted on too confidently. A rental value of really good pasture is $5 a season if restriction is put upon the length of season, or number of cattle.

OILING OF MUCH IMPORTANCE

Lack of Lubrication on Some of Bearings of Machine Will Cause Damage—No Excuse for Neglect.

More damage can be done to a machine in half an hour through lack of oil or grease on some bearings than by a whole season's exposure to the weather, the specialists declare. For this sort of neglect there can be no excuse.

CALF NEEDS GOOD STABLING

Young Animal Demands Plenty of Good Feed, Water and Milk—Variety Is Beneficial.

The fall calf demands food stabling; it demands plenty of good feed and plenty of water and milk. There must be promptness and attention, and the calf feeder must be in sympathy with his charge and be ready to supply variety whenever it can be had.

IS RICHEST OF FERTILIZERS

Hog, Sheep and Chicken Manures Are Most Valuable Because of Concentrated Feed They Eat.

From a direct fertilizing standpoint, hog, sheep and hen manures are the most valuable because of the large proportion of concentrated food fed to such stock. By the same reasoning stall-fed cattle produce the richest dung for fertilizer.

SELECT EGGS FOR SHIPPING

Avoid Those of Thin Shells, Unusually Long or Irregular in Shape—Wrap in Paper.

In selecting eggs for shipping by mail, thin-shelled and unusually long or irregular shaped eggs should be avoided. Each egg should be wrapped in sufficient paper to hold it snugly in its own individual compartment in the container.

Suffers in Silence.

The average millionaire knows how unpopular it is to be rich, but he goes right along and endures the painful responsibilities of wealth, suffering the scorn and calumny of a cruel world in silence, and awaits his vindication beyond the grave.—Houston Post.

The United States again shows its humanity in releasing thousands of tons of corn and oats for export to Finland, where people are starving. An agent of the war board will go with the food to see that none of it gets to Germany.

Watches
Diamonds Jewelry

SPECIAL—Ladies' Bracelet Watches, small size, Waltham $20.00

MILITARY WATCHES ..... $4.25 up
MILITARY RINGS, in Solid Gold and Silver $1.50, $3.50, $6, $8, $10
SOLID GOLD PENDANTS and CHAINS, new lot $1.50 to $35
SOLID GOLD BAR PINS, new lot ..... $1.50 to $18

REPAIRING

BOSTON Winter Street — Homer's — AYER W. Main St.
BOSTON PRICES

Silverwear
Diamonds Pendants Brooches Rings Bracelets
Scarf Pins Cuff Links Military Wrist Watches
Gentlemen's Sets of All Kinds

John H. Sanderson
WATCHMAKER and JEWELER
2 PLEASANT ST. Rear of Fletcher Bros. Store AYER, MASS.

OVERHAULING
HONEST WORK AT HONEST PRICES

There are two highly important points for a man to consider before having his car overhauled.

The first point is to assure himself that the men who are going to work on his car are mechanics expert enough to locate and properly repair all the parts that need attention.

The second point is to convince himself that he can trust the shop to give him an honest accounting of the amount of work that was actually done on the car.

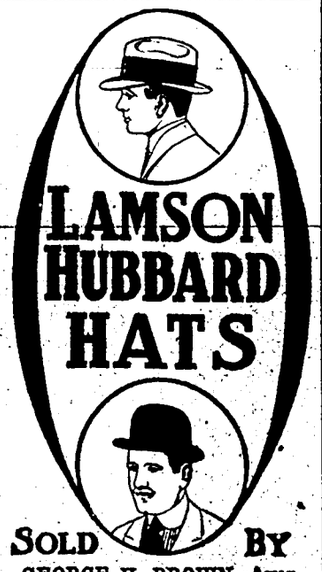
We gladly welcome an investigation on both of these points. We have the facilities, the workmen and the business methods that will more than satisfy all who investigate.

YATES' GARAGE
Maple Street Tel. 157-2 AYER, MASS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court.
To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of CYNTHIA ELLEN LYNCH, sometimes known as CYNTHIA E. LYNCH, late of Shirley in said County, deceased.
Whereas, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by ROBERT J. MUNN who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to him, the executor therein named, without giving a surety on his official bond.
You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-fifth day of February A. D. 1918, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.
And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, and by mailing postpaid, or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.
Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this thirtieth day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.
3t23 F. M. ESTY, Register.

LOST BOOK—In accordance with Chapter 590, Section 40 of the Acts of 1908 and amendments thereto, notice is hereby given that Book No. 2032 has been lost and application has been made for the payment of the amount of deposit represented by said book.
NORTH MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK,
Ralph L. Hastings, Treasurer.
Ayer, Mass., February 6, 1918. 3t23

LOST BOOK—In accordance with Chap. 590, Sec. 40 of the Acts of 1908 and amendments thereto, notice is hereby given that Book No. 9892 has been lost and application has been made for the issuance of a duplicate book.
NORTH MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK,
Ralph L. Hastings, Treasurer.
Ayer, Mass., January 25, 1918. 3t22



Sheriff's Sale

Middlesex, ss.

Ayer, February 8th, A. D. 1918.

Taken on execution and will be sold at Public Auction at my office on East Main Street in said Ayer, **Saturday, March 16th, A. D. 1918, at eight o'clock A. M.,** all the right, title and interest, not exempt by law from attachment or levy on execution, that Harry L. Parker of Fitchburg in the County of Worcester, had on the sixth day of said February, A. D. 1918, at eight o'clock A. M., that being the time the same was seized on execution, or now has in and to the following described Real Estate:

A certain tract of land containing about 15½ acres, more or less, situated in the Southwesterly part of said Townsend, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a wooden fence post, which was formerly called a stake and stones, at the Southeast corner of the farm, formerly owned by Marshall Davis, and being the Southwest corner of land formerly of Samuel Jenkins, and now or late of George Wyman, and at the Northerly side of the premises here described: thence North 56 degrees 20' West as run in the year 1902 and by said Davis farm 415.3 feet to a stake and stones at the Easterly end of a wall; thence South 11 degrees 10' West as run in 1902 and by land of John and Katie Vattes, 369 feet to a stake and stones near the Easterly end of a wall; thence South 56 degrees East as run in 1902 and by land formerly of John Adams, 305.5 feet to a stake and stones for a corner; thence Southerly 12 rods, by said land, to a corner of the wall; thence Easterly 65 rods by the same land to a stone post, formerly called a stake and stones; thence Northerly by land formerly of one Hildreth to a stake and stones, and still continue Northerly by land formerly of Aaron Scales, to a stone post for a corner which is 32 rods from the other stone post; thence about West 29 degrees North as formerly run, the year not being known, and by land of said Wyman, 65 rods to the bound first described.

ALBERT A. FILLEBROWN,
23w Deputy Sheriff.

(34 Years with Frederick Whitney)
Francis J. Perry
CARRIAGE and AUTOMOBILE PAINTING
SIGN PAINTING and LETTERING OF ALL KINDS
Central Avenue AYER, MASS.
Over Wheeler's Blacksmith Shop

SHIRLEY

News Items.

Harry Collyer has given up his position at the President Suspender Company, and has started to work for the Fitchburg Machine Company in Fitchburg.

Union service of the Congregational and Universalist churches at the Congregational church on Sunday. Morning worship at 10.45, with sermon by Rev. D. H. Corley; subject, "The end of the age." Joint session of Sunday school at twelve. Evening service at seven o'clock, with a sermon by Rev. D. H. Corley.

The public schools have closed again this week owing to the shortage of coal.

Leonard Hooper returned home last Sunday from the military camp at Little Silver, N. J., having been transferred to his former place in the Signal Corps at Camp Devens.

Miss Gladys Annis has returned to her school duties in Putney, Vt., the schools there having been closed for eight weeks on account of the shortage of coal.

The dance given by the Girls' Service club in Odd Fellows' hall last Saturday evening was a pleasing social success. Refreshments were served and a goodly number of soldiers were present from Camp Devens as guests. Miss Minnette Zuver, supervisor at the Girls' club, had full charge, assisted by Mrs. Mary L. Lilly and Mrs. Lucy J. Merriman.

Mr. and Mrs. William Porter, of Almeda, Cal., spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Conant. Mr. Porter is a brother of Mrs. Conant, a native of Shirley, and a member of the well-known firm of Porter Bros., largest fruit dealers in this country.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Snow, of Shirley Center, left on Tuesday for Florida, to remain for a couple of months.

Roy Barto, of Lynn, spent the week-end as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Authier at the Brookside. Mr. Barto is a former resident of Shirley and is now working for the General Electric Company in Lynn.

Thomas L. Hazen observed the seventy-fifth anniversary of his birth on Monday by holding an informal reception at his home on Lancaster road from three to six o'clock. About fifty neighbors and friends attended the reception to extend best wishes and congratulations. Mr. Hazen was assisted in receiving by his wife and Miss Helen M. Winslow, and the fragrance of hospitality reigned supreme. In his usual cheerful manner Mr. Hazen received all his guests most cordially. The ushers were the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Wheeler. Dainty refreshments were served. The pourers were Mrs. Frank H. Wheeler and Miss Harriet Winslow. The servers were Miss Salome, of Colorado, assisted by Miss Virginia Wheeler. Mr. Hazen was the recipient of flowers and gifts, including seventy-five pinks from Master Hazen, Junior, Virginia and Harriet Wheeler.

Mrs. Mary W. Hazen entertained the Altrurian club at her home on Thursday afternoon, a large number being present. The president, Mrs. Amy C. Wheeler, opened the meeting with the allegiance to the flag and a song, Mrs. Emma Horton at the piano. Notice was given of a mid-winter meeting of the State Federation to be held at the Broadway theatre in Chelsea on February 20. Mrs. Martha J. Conant was chosen as delegate to this meeting. Papers on "The nation in arms" were given by Mrs. Susan C. Anderson and Mrs. Florence M. Ballou. The members were greatly entertained by an interesting account by Mrs. Flower, wife of Capt. Casper Flower, of Camp Devens, who spoke on "Education in France." Mrs. Flower was well informed on her subject, speaking from personal experience, having been educated in France. The very pleasant gathering adjourned for two weeks.

Center.

Mrs. G. L. Snow spent last week in Boston and vicinity.

John Winn, who has been staying at the home of Miss Millie Parker, moved last week into his house on Burrage street.

Mrs. C. E. Bradford spent last week Wednesday with relatives in Fitchburg.

Miss Margaret Longley, of Boston, spent last week at the home of her mother, Mrs. Abbie Longley.

Robert Farrar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Farrar, at the North, has been reported ill with pneumonia.

M. W. Carey, who was recently removed to the Burbank hospital, Fitchburg, has been pronounced suffering from tuberculosis. Mrs. Carey, who has also been ill, is reported to be gaining.

The icehouses about the Center were filled last week with ice twenty-two inches thick.

Among eight students appearing in a recital at the New England Conservatory of Music, given in Recital hall last Saturday afternoon, Miss Hazel E. Cummings opened the program with the first movement of Beethoven's Pathetique sonata.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Snow expected to start for Florida Monday for a stay of several weeks, but owing to the illness of their son, Ellsworth Snow, their departure was postponed until next Monday.

Robert H. J. Holden attended the annual banquet of the Harvard chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity held at the Hotel Thorndike in Boston last Saturday evening. Richard A. May of Groton was toastmaster and Mr. Holden was one of the after dinner speakers.

Captain William Blair is confined to his new home over the Center store with illnes brought on by old age.

Several from Shirley attended the meeting of the Middlesex-Worcester Pomona Grange held in Littleton last week.

Henry F. Grout has declined a reappointment as janitor of the town hall and as yet nobody has been found to take his place.

There was a small attendance at the meeting of Shirley Grange on Tuesday evening. A short program was given, which included readings by Charles E. Bradford and Miss Helen M. Bradford and songs by the Grange. For the next meeting of the Grange on Tuesday evening, March 5, the first and second degrees are scheduled.

The body of Mrs. Esther Holden of Ayer was brought to the Center and placed in the receiving tomb in the Center cemetery last Saturday afternoon.

HARVARD

News Items.

This Saturday evening Harold Lockwood will be seen in his best at the motion picture show in "Paradise garden," a six-act play. Coming—February 28, "Old homestead."

Bromfield School.

The following is the honor roll of Bromfield school:

Edward Brahman — U. S. Army
Christopher R. Sheehan — Non-commissioned officers' training school, Camp Devens
George McMahon — U. S. Army
Earle A. Turner — Signal Corps, Aviation Section, M. I. T.
Owen A. McNiff — Signal Corps, School of Instruction, Burlington, Vt.
F. Cedric Webster — U. S. Army, Camp Devens
Willard Houghton — U. S. Navy
Sergt. Ellery E. Royal — Ordnance Dept., U. S. Army
Corp. Herbert F. Dickson — U. S. Army, Camp Devens
Arthur Goodearl
Paul Jones — U. S. Army, in France
Paul Sheehan — Chauffeur for Gen. Weigel, U. S. Army
Robert P. Sheehan — American Lumber Unit, Scotland
Sergt. Wilmur Brown — U. S. Army, Camp Greene
Harold H. Whittemore — U. S. Navy
Kenneth W. Whittemore — U. S. Navy
Edward Thomas — U. S. Army, in France
William St. John — U. S. Army, in France
George Goodearl
Leo Madigan — U. S. Navy
Herman S. Thomas — 48th Infantry Band, Newport News, Va.
Richard Crossley — Signal Corps, Camp Devens
Leland Whitney — American Lumber Unit, Scotland
Homer F. Richards — Aviation School
Delano Trott — U. S. Navy

The principal will be glad to be informed of any errors or omissions in the honor roll.

The following program was given by the Literary society on Thursday, in observance of the birthday of George Washington: Singing, "Star Spangled Banner," school; essays, "Washington, the General," Mary E. Sheehan; "Washington, the President," Susan G. Priest; extracts from Washington's farewell address, Mabel Crandell; singing, "American hymn," school; debate, Resolved, "That Washington was of greater benefit to his country than Lincoln," Marjorie Walker, Hazel E. Hardy, affirmative, and Perley St. John and Lloyd Small, negative; singing, "America," school.

The next meeting of the Literary society will be held on Friday afternoon, March 1, at 1.30. The public is cordially invited.

One day recently Mr. Dunlap gave this problem to the pupils: "The average uneducated laborer earns $500 a year for forty years; the average high school graduate earns $1000 a year for forty years. The average high school graduate spends twelve years, 180 days each year, in school. What is the value of a school day?" Every pupil was requested to solve the problem and many seemed much surprised at the answer.

Perley St. John was absent from school three days last week while taking preliminary examinations for West Point.

BROOKLINE, N. H.

News Items.

There was a public food demonstration at the home of Miss Ellen Sawtelle recently, at which about twenty were present.

Walter Farnsworth has moved to the house on Milford street owned by Mr. Bedders.

William Shattuck has been home for a few days recently.

Mrs. Albion Stein has been ill at her home in North Brookline. Her daughter Agnes has been absent from her duties at Milford high school in order to care for her mother.

The Ladies' Aid met recently at the home of Mrs. William Brown and tied a quilt for Mrs. E. C. Shattuck.

Grover Farwell has been home from Newport, R. I., on a seven days' leave of absence.

Andrew Marshall has been at home for a few days recently from Squantum, Mass.

The G. T. C. have sent a box of good things to Luther Maloy, who is stationed at Camp Devens.

Alton Chelbert is the name given to the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Jensen.

Alvin Wheeler nad family, of Milford,—have moved to the Plummer Lawrence place in South Brookline.

Arthur Nye, who is living in Leominster, has been quite ill with typhoid fever.

Miss Mary O'Connell sent the Red Cross sweater which she knit to her uncle, Eugene Lynch, who is in the navy, and she has since received a letter from him extending his thanks to the members of the society. He says it is frosty work these nights standing out on deck, and all those knitted articles are much appreciated by the boys.

Mrs. Thomas Bennett, of Ayer, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Richard Wright.

Peter Bouchard, of Nashua, has been a recent guest in town.

Eugene Lynch, who is serving in the navy, was a guest of his sister, Mrs. P. J. O'Connell on last week Wednesday.

Mrs. William Hughes, who is living in Pepperell this winter, has been calling on friends in town this week.

Herbert Hall, who was reported very ill two weeks ago, is on the gain.

Mrs. David Hobart is on the sick list. Her niece, Mrs. Grace Simpson, is caring for her.

The South Brookline Social club met this week with Mrs. Lizzie Maynard. Light refreshments were served and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent by all. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. Eldorus Shattuck.

Arthur Nye is still in a very serious condition. His father, George Nye, is caring for him.

Friends of Grover Farwell met at Grange hall recently and gave him a reception. He returned to his duties in the navy in Newport, R. I., last week Friday.

Rev. Edward Tuck, of Concord, gave a very interesting lecture on Lincoln at the Methodist church on Monday evening. A quartet consisting of Mrs. Minnie Holcombe, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brown and Harlan Whitcomb, sang "All Hail Dear Columbia" and "My country's flag."

Forrace Hall was a visitor in Nashua on Monday.

Mrs. Addie Tarbell, of Pepperell, is visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Walter Corey.

Peter Charait, of Proctor hill, has gone to Vancouver, where he will be employed in the shipyards.

Mr. and Mrs. John Whitcomb have gone to the home of Mrs. Whitcomb's father in Gardner, Mass. Miss Edna Whitcomb is attending school in New York.

William Lathe, of Lynn, Mass., spent Sunday with his family.

George Cady has been on the sick list.

The ice cutting at the lake has been completed and the workmen have gone to Lake Winnipesaukee to fill the houses there. Edw. Hadley has returned to his home in Cambridge, Mass., and his house here is closed for the remainder of the winter.

Schools closed this week Thursday for a four-weeks' vacation. In spite of the very bad traveling during this winter term the children have attended very regularly and many of them have had to walk long distances.

The Sunbonnets met on last week Friday with Mrs. Alpha Hall to help her celebrate her birthday. Only five were present. Lunch was served and a pleasant afternoon enjoyed by all.

Lawyer Cobleigh, of Nashua, lectured at Daniels' academy building on last week Friday evening, speaking on Red Cross work and the war. He was introduced by Mrs. L. S. Powers, chairman of our local Red Cross society. Mrs. Fred Hall gave a report of the year's work and remarks were made by Rev. George L. Perrin. The speaker was entertained at the home of Miss Ellen Sawtelle.

Rev. and Mrs. George L. Perrin spent the week-end at the home of Miss Ellen Sawtelle.

Harlan Whitcomb spent last week Friday in Milford.

The funeral of the late Verra Barber was held at his home on Townsend hill on last Sunday afternoon. He is survived by a widow and a daughter Alberta.

Rev. Edw. Kelly preached on the parable of the sower last Sunday morning.

At the meeting of the Grange on last week Wednesday evening the following program was given: Solo, Louise Parkey; essay, "The farmer's place in the world war," Eugene Ouelette; song, Louise Parkey and Henry Bailey; discussion, "Shall the clock be turned back one hour?" Grover Farwell gave a very interesting talk on his work in Newport, R. I. During the evening slips of paper were passed around and each person wrote a message to the soldier boys who have gone from here. The articles in the town warrant will be discussed at the next meeting.

LITTLETON

News Items.

Rev. Charles A. S. Dwight, of Berlin, will again occupy the pulpit at the Congregational church on Sunday morning.

Christian Endeavor subject for Sunday evening, "The power of the cross in Asia."

The Woman's club will meet with Mrs. J. M. Hartwell on Monday afternoon. The program will be in charge of Miss Julia S. Conant. Albert F. Conant will give "A review of the years." Mr. Conant has been in business fifty years and has had an especially good opportunity to observe developments in business, science, etc. He is abundantly qualified to present the subject, and the club may be congratulated in securing him for the afternoon. Miss Bristol, of Ayer, who holds an influential position in the Girls' Patriotic league of that town, will describe the activities of that organization. Music will be furnished by Mrs. Alice J. Prouty and Miss Marian Prouty.

Mrs. M. S. Glines, of South Acton, visited her nephew, Dr. J. D. Christie, and Mrs. Christie, recently.

Mrs. A. H. McDonald spent much time of late with her mother, who fell recently, fracturing a hip and a wrist, requiring treatment at the Somerville hospital.

George H. Smith and Herbert Crane have entered the service of the Boston and Maine railroad as passenger brakemen.

A. Heywood Knowlton and Robert E. Bacon, his Harvard room-mate, are expected at Mrs. Knowlton's over Sunday.

Miss Florence B. Bartlett, of Greenfield, was a recent guest of Littleton relatives.

Mrs. J. H. D. Whitcomb assisted her daughter, Mrs. Stewart, in entertaining Worcester friends at a valentine party last week.

Miss Katherine Kimball is at home from library work in Williamstown during the college vacation of two weeks.

Littleton people have the promise of two car loads of coal which may be ready for distribution before this week's issue is circulated.

Thomas Stephens is carefully guarding a bunch of keys that were found in the road not far from his shop. Inquiries have failed to place the owner.

Mrs. Fred C. Hartwell spent Tuesday and Wednesday at her former home in Hillsboro, N. H., this week, going in part to attend musical entertainments.

Leonard Roberts spent last Sunday with his home people in Lowell.

The Massachusetts soldiers' information bureau, besides keeping their records at the state house, is to keep an extension bureau in France for the benefit of the boys abroad and to keep their records more complete and up to date. Those in charge of the bureau would be very glad to have sent them photographs of any new improvements that have taken place in town since the departure of our boys, and will endeavor to see that they reach the boys in France. And in addition, they would be glad to take letters from the clergy of the various churches in town and from officers of the Grange or other societies giving the boys cheering words of the conditions at home. There is nothing in the world that will cheer the soldiers at the front so much as cheerfulness and helpful words from home, and to this end all can contribute. The local committee of the soldiers' information bureau, Mrs. Gertrude F. Houghton, secretary, will be glad to forward letters or they may be sent to the bureau at the state house.

Mrs. George Gardner has spent a few days this past week in Lowell.

Mrs. G. F. Wilde is spending a few days in Boston.

Mr. Peterson of Norwood, who was touring through town, broke the forefinger of his right hand while cranking his automobile, requiring Dr. Christie's services.

The past week has been a very busy one for Dr. Christie. Particularly frequent have been his calls from accidents.

Miss Evelyn Kimball is at home from Athol for two weeks of vacation from school.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Stewart of Worcester with a party of twenty young people are spending the week-end of February 22 at "The Arck" in East Jeffrey.

A letter received by the town people from Mrs. H. B. Priest this week tells of Dr. Priest's assignment at Fort McKinley at Rizal, six miles from Manila and connected with it by electrics. A college, a normal school, a beautiful cement hospital thoroughly equipped and having accommodations for 300 patients are noticeable in this enterprising place. Before the war Fort McKinley was the largest of our forts. The force comprises a colonel, three majors, two captains, one lieutenant, besides one major and one lieutenant in the ambulance force. Theirs was the first transport that has not been ordered to sail two days before and two days after they reached Guam without lights, on account of German raiders, but the raiders have been destroyed so they don't have to live in dark. Dr. Priest's home is in a camp of four rooms with piazza extending all round it. It is well screened, but a few bugs find their way inside. Mrs. Priest has a cook and a young Philippino boy for work around the house. A letter from the doctor will be found in the Ayer column.

Twenty-three adults and three children attended the all-day sewing meeting at Mrs. W. S. Conant's Wednesday. The work was in the interest of the Red Cross society. An appetizing buffet lunch was served at noon. The missionary program in the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. A. F. Conant and Mrs. F. S. Kimball. Devotions were led by Mrs. Thomas Stephens and Mrs. George H. Kimball, Mrs. A. F. Conant and Mrs. C. V. Flagg took leading parts. Mrs. F. S. Kimball spoke on the apportionment and Miss F. A. Sanderson on Mr. Endicott's housewife's plan for food conservation. It was reported that $41.65 was realized from the town meeting dinner.

A quartet will sing at the Congregational church Sunday. An Easter concert is now in preparation by the church quartet.

Mrs. Lander of Bridgeport, Conn., whose husband is at Camp Devens, is staying with Mrs. Clyde Crane a few weeks.

JAPAN ISSUES NEW CURRENCY

Fractional Amounts in Paper Money, Relieving a Great Need, Now in Circulation.

Two recent steps taken by the Japanese government illustrate the difficulties attendant upon the use of subsidiary coin whose metal value is comparatively close to its mint value, states Commerce Reports. Announcement was made recently that paper fractional currency would be issued to the amount of 30,000,000 yen ($14,940,000). Early in November a portion of this issue was put in circulation. The new notes are exchangeable for regular bank notes and are legal tender up to ten yen ($4.98).

More recently the Japanese government has announced three prizes of 1,000 yen, 500 yen and 300 yen for the best designs submitted for a new silver 50-sen piece (24.9 cents). The new coin is to be materially smaller than the one now in circulation.

The present 50-sen piece is 80 per cent pure and weighs 2.7 momme (0.3255 ounce troy). The coin, therefore, contains 0.2604 ounce of pure silver and 0.0651 ounce of copper. At par the money value of the coin is 24.925 cents. This corresponds to 95.7 cents per ounce troy if the value of the copper is disregarded.

For a considerable period the excess of the bullion value over the mint value made it profitable to melt Japanese subsidary coin or ship it to China. The country, as a consequence became denuded of small change, and it was and is extremely difficult to get money changed except through money changers at comparatively high rates. It was no unusual thing to pay ten sen, or even more, to change a five-yen note; and in that case the buyer would receive four one-yen notes and only the fraction less than a yen in subsidiary coin.

JACKIE STUCK TO HIS POST

Fireman on Watch in Engine Room of Torpedoed Ship Commended for Devotion to Duty.

When the United States ship Alcedo was torpedoed last November in the war zone George A. Collier, a second-class fireman of the navy, was on watch in the engine room under instructions as machinist's mate. He was just at that time taking up duties that would mean, if successfully handled, bringing him up another step in the service. The kind of stuff he is made of was shown when just as soon as the torpedo struck and was followed by an explosion he remained cool and knew exactly what to do.

Despite the fact that he was standing in water up to his knees, the sea having rushed in through the rent torn by the torpedo, he stopped the main engine and then deliberately raised the safety valve on the main engine by the hand gear.

Thus, without regard to his own personal safety, and when in the greatest danger of going down with the ship, he stuck to his post and performed his duties. He has been commended for this devotion to duty in a letter written by the secretary of the navy. Fireman Collier is a son of W. T. Collier of Morringsport, La.

Hung It on a Dead Man.

The constable gazed long and thoughtfully at the hole in Mrs. Parkington's parlor window. Then he procured a notebook.

"You 'eard the crash at four o'clock?"

"Four o'clock," echoed the lady.

"You run to the door, but seed nobody?"

"Nobody."

After this question Sherlock could think of no more, so he shut up his book with a snap and walked off dreaming of promotion.

A few minutes later he was back with a full-face smile that was eloquent of triumph.

"Jobs like this 'ere don't take a smart chap long," he remarked. "You're sure it happened at four o'clock, ma'am?"

"Yes; have you caught the culprits?"

"Well, not yet, ma'am," he answered, "but I'm narrowin' it down, all right. It wasn't Bill 'Iggins, cos' 'e was killed by a motor car at 'arf past three."

Fighting in the Air.

Strikingly graphic is the account of a fight in the air, told in a Newfoundlander's letter home.

"Soon after we crossed the lines, which we did at 15,000 (nearly three miles high), I began to have difficulty in keeping up with the formation. As a result Archie picked me out and he certainly made it hot. However, I kept along a bit behind the rest, and was just dropping my bombs over the objective when seven Huns dived down on us. In the scrap that followed I lost all trace of the rest of the formation, so I knew my only chance lay in flying west as fast as I could. Just as I was getting well under way, a Hun came at us. It was exciting. We twisted and turned, dived and climbed, each trying to get the other. Finally he left us."

Height of Women's Shoes.

The British war office forbids from February 1, except under permit from director of raw material, the purchase, sale, or offers to purchase or sell any boots for women with uppers exceeding seven inches in height if of leather or eight inches in height if of any other material. Manufacturers are now forbidden to cut material or uppers exceeding dimensions named.

Depends on the Company.

As to whether one should walk alone, or in company, authorities differ. For instance, Robert Louis Stevenson said that the only way to enjoy a walk is to take it alone. On the other hand, Mark Twain declared that the chief enjoyment of a walk lies, not in the walk itself, but in the talking that accompanies it.

Never rub soap directly on a stain in cotton goods. First wet the cloth and partly wash it out in clear water.

Orchard Information

PROTECT YOUNG FRUIT TREES

Snow Should Be Firmly Packed to Prevent Girdling by Rabbits and Field Mice.

The one and two-year old fruit trees should have the snow firmly packed around each tree, grapevine, currant and gooseberry bush. Unless this is done, the trees may be girdled by rabbits above the snow line and the field mice under the snow.

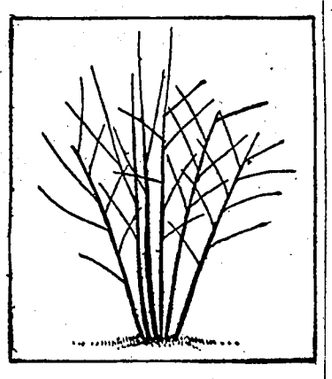
Much the better method is to have each tree and bush wrapped with a strip of tarred paper from six inches below the surface of the ground to 20 inches above the ground. Common brown paper may be used if the better quality cannot be had. It takes but a few minutes to wrap each tree.

Where the winters are severe and the snows deep, the tender bark of the large fruiting trees is often gnawed. The trunk of the tree and often the branches have the greater part of the bark completely destroyed. Field mice are more destructive than the rabbits, as they work under the snow and are much more numerous.

TIME TO PRUNE RASPBERRIES

Work Must Be Done at Two Seasons of Year in Order to Accomplish the Best Results.

Because of its manner of fruit bearing, the black raspberry requires care in its annual pruning; in fact, pruning must be done at two seasons of the year in order to accomplish the best results. The young shoots as they appear from the roots in the spring should be tipped or disbudded when they reach the height of 18 inches. It is better to go over the plantations frequently, making three or four trips in all, in order to tip the canes when they are about the height mentioned, rather than to delay the operation until some of them have reached a height of 2 to 2½ feet. The early pinching or disbudding induces the development of more numerous lateral branches. Shoots which have been allowed to harden and to grow to 2 or 3 feet in height will form few lateral branches. If tipped when 18 inches high, a cane should produce four, five or six lateral branches. If allowed to attain a height of 3 feet and then cut back to 18 inches, it is probable that not more than two or three lateral branches will be formed; and, since these lateral



Typical Raspberry After Pruning.

branches form the fruit-bearing wood of the succeeding season, it is very desirable that the greatest possible number of branches be secured to insure a heavy crop of fruit. It is evident, therefore, that summer pruning predetermines the crop for the succeeding year more than does any other single cultural factor.

The second pruning, which is also important, consists in removing the canes which bore the last crop of fruit. This work can be done at any time after the crop has been harvested, but preferably during the spring following the crop.

DISEASES OF PEACH TREES

Brown Rot and Scab Held Fairly Well in Check by Use of Lime-Sulphur Spray.

Brown rot and scab in peaches have been fairly well held in check in New Jersey by the use of the self-boiled lime-sulphur spray, but the best possible results have not always been obtained because the spray injured the trees in summer, so that growers put off the summer application. Now they have worked out a new preparation which has given satisfaction as a summer fungicide without injuring the trees. It is made by mixing eight pounds of fine dry sulphur with four pounds hydrated lime, dissolving one and one-half ounces of ground glue in three gallons of water, then thoroughly incorporating the two mixtures and diluting the whole with water to make 50 gallons.

RABBIT DAMAGE IN ORCHARD

Given Credit for More Harm Than They Are Guilty of as Rule—Mice Do Most Injury.

Rabbits usually do less damage in orchards than they are credited with. In very young orchards or in nurseries they sometimes cut off the young branches and may occasionally gnaw the bark, but as a rule they do less damage than mice.

Two snow-capped mountains in the island of Hawaii are nearly 14,000 feet from a tropical coast.

Old Coffins Now Valuable.

Old metal coffins that have not seen the light of day for many years adorn a vacant lot that used as a junk yard in Grass Valley, Cal. These grewsome specters lying about on the ground have been the cause of a great deal of interest. Some of these is a bronze affair that is worth several times as much for junk now as it cost when new 30 years ago.

SATIN AND VELVET

Rich Materials Plentiful Despite Threatened Shortage.

Only Thing That Seems to Be Scarce in Paris, Says Correspondent, Is Really Hard Wearing Cloth.

We are threatened with a deficiency of dress material for the coming year, but in the meantime the shops are well supplied with everything but really hard-wearing cloth, writes a Paris correspondent of the London Times. All such things as satins, silks and velvets are to be seen in abundance with many variations on one theme.

Perhaps the most popular material is stamped velvet of various kinds, for coats, evening cloaks, trimming instead of fur, and even for dresses, waistcoats and hats. Satin still is the most popular material for afternoon dresses; it is generally black. Often, now, a bold embroidery design in ivory wool or silk trims a satin tunic and gives it a lighter note and a richer touch. Indeed, embroidery of all kinds promises to come back into fashion. That those who are employed to work on it might do more useful work is an argument that dressmakers do not see; dressmaking in France, they maintain, must be allowed to flourish, not as a luxury, but as a national industry.

Boots are less high in the leg than they were and not many are made altogether of leather. The cloth-topped boot is the one most worn, and the all-suede is among the most fragile. The buckle shoe is worn again at home, and the very high heel is more often seen at home than in the streets, where it is unbecoming and dangerous. The national boot, wherever it has been found, is said to be satisfactory.

Millinery is becoming. Black satin hats with no trimming are worn with neat veils. Brown panne hats and gray panne or satin are good. The small toque grows in favor; the high, heavy crown is dying out. The big picture hat is still in fashion, but, as a rule, a smaller hat is more practical as well as more attractive.

Everyone uses a small bag, in silk or beads or stamped velvet, with mount of tortoise shell or silver, or else a bag of shiny leather on a short strap. This last is more of a purse than a bag and it can be slipped into the small muff or carried in the hand. The long bag which hangs on the arm is pretty, but not practical.

NEAT FEATHER FANCY.

Very neat is the arrangement of this feather fancy on the smart pressed beaver hat, all in black. It is the finishing touch for a tailored costume.

SYSTEM IN WATERING PLANTS

System of Continuous Moistening Found to Be Better Than Drenching of Soil at Stated Intervals.

Plants should not be watered at any old time and in any old way. They may thrive in spite of your method of watering them, but why not care for your plants in the most approved way?

Lucien Daniel, a French botanist, has discovered that young hothouse plants and slips of vegetables, as well as flowers, thrive far better by a system of continuous watering than by drenching the soil at stated periods.

The new method depends upon the law of capillary attractions. Near each plant is placed a jar containing water, into which is dipped one end of a strip of linen or cotton, whose other end lies near the plant. With this uninterrupted supply of water, drop by drop, the plants thrived, greatly outdistancing other plants, which were submitted to an intermittent drenching.

Knitting Skirts Displace Bags.

Knitting skirts are robbing the ubiquitous knitting bags of some of their favor, for with a knitting skirt no one need have need of the bag. These skirts are simple, shirred skirts with large pockets on the hips, quite ample enough to carry yarn, knitting needles and the numerous other accessories that usually go in the knitting bag. The broad crush girdle that fastens at one side relieves the skirt of all possible severity.

Felt and Straw Combination.

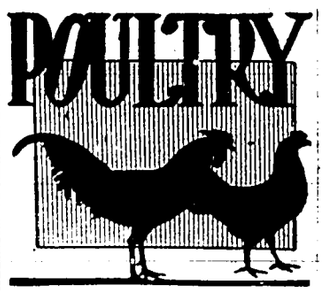
Designers have found felt such a happy combination with straw that this season finds it used in many interesting ways. Felt faces, straws of the Wen Chow variety, and even hatters' plush is used for this purpose. Hatters' plush and for that matter beaver cloth and nap beaver are used for facings and for draped crowns on some of the smart hats evolved so far.

Onions.

Even now few people perfectly realize the beneficial effect that this vegetable has on the system, and it is too often ignored on account of its pungency of flavor and smell. A well-boiled Spanish onion will induce sleep when most other things fail, and on this account alone it should frequently form a supply dish for the brain-weary man or woman of business.

Hawaii has some of the most tropical scenery in the world.

POULTRY



SHOULD RETAIN BEST FOWLS

Patriotic Farmers Who Desire to Do Their Bit Will Find It Wise to Keep Best Layers.

Among farmers generally it is the common practice to sell hens over a year old for poultry when they stop laying in the fall. Under the usual conditions this is good policy, for as a rule only about half the flock lay well enough the second year to be profitable, and the farmer who has pullets enough to replace all his old hens sees no advantage in keeping any of them over.

This year, however, patriotic farmers who desire to do their part to increase the poultry and egg supplies will find it desirable to retain a considerable proportion of the yearling hens, making such addition to their poultry-house equipment as may be necessary to properly accommodate both pullets and hens. Overcrowding must be avoided, as neither pullets nor hens will do their best.

Champion Columbian Plymouth Rock.

BOILED OATS FOR CHICKENS

Favorable Results Obtained by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture—Feed Warm.

Poultry experts in the Pennsylvania department of agriculture report favorable results from feeding boiled oats, and state they are the cheapest poultry food now obtainable. Boiled oats have largely, too, superseded the sprouted oats so much exploited a few years ago, as they are better, safer and less fussy.

To prepare, soak good, heavy oats 12 hours or more (in hot weather or a warm room a fresh lot should be soaked daily), dissolve one tablespoonful of salt in each bucket of water used for this, boil two or three hours and so gauge the amount of water used for soaking that at the finish the water is boiled away. Feed warm but not hot. White Leghorn pullets can have these boiled oats twice daily, say at 10 a. m. and 4 p. m., and all they will eat up clean. For old hens or heavyweight pullets, one feed a day is enough and not too much at that, lest they become too fat on this much-liked feed.

CAREFUL ESTIMATE OF FEED

If Bran and Shorts Are Used Freely in Dry Mash They Will Take Place of Grains.

One is compelled these days to make pretty careful estimates in regard to kinds of feed for chickens. It seems that bran and shorts are cheap as anything on the market. If these are used freely in a dry mash with cornmeal, making the shorts the predominant part, the mixture will largely take the place of cracked grains. It can be fed in self-feeders. It is a good mixture for growing chicks whether or not cracked grains are used, and can profitably be kept before them all the time.

KEEP ONLY THE BEST FOWLS

Owing to High Price of Feed Poultryman Should Cull Out and Dispose of All Runts.

Now that poultry feeds, like all other feeds, are high in price, the poultry keeper should be more careful than ever to cull out and dispose of all runts, weak specimens and those which are in any way deformed. While these are allowed in the flock, they are consuming food and using coop and house room which could be more profitably devoted to strong, more perfect stock.

KEEPING MALES IN SAME PEN

Not Wise Plan to Permit Two Roosters With Hens—Use Them on Alternate Days.

It is not best to allow two males in the same pen together. If it becomes necessary to keep more than one in the same pen, only one should be allowed with the hens the same day. It is a good plan to let one run with the hens and the other one the next day. The male should be kept in a pen by himself when he is not with the hens.

Has Great Specific Gravity.

Mercury has the greatest specific gravity of all liquids, but recently another has been discovered which is also so heavy that stones of all kinds—granite, limestone, quartz, etc., float in it. It is saturated aqueous solution of tung stoporate. Its specific gravity is 3.3, whereas that of ordinary rock does not exceed 2.7. Only a few precious stones have a specific gravity greater than that of this liquid, for which reason it is proposed to employ it for the separation of such stones from masses of broken rock.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

All Advertisements Appear in All the Ten Papers We Publish

"'Tis to the Pen and Press we mortals owe,
All we believe and almost all we know."

Items of local interest are solicited and must always be accompanied by the name of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith, and will always be considered strictly confidential. Kindly mail items soon after the day of occurrence and do not wait unnecessarily.

Saturday, February 23, 1918.

GROTON

News Items.

Mrs. William J. Putnam has returned from a two months' visit with her son George and family in Montclair, N. J.

There was a larger congregation than usual at the Baptist church on Sunday morning and evening to listen to Rev. Arthur Burrows of Boston, who impresses everyone as a wonderful speaker.

Mrs. Gilson of Ayer spoke on her work at Ayer at the meeting of the Alliance, which met at the home of Miss Boutwell on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Robinson of Taunton was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robley over the week-end.

Mrs. Wilbur Tyrrell recently enjoyed a visit with her sister who lives in Brookline.

Mrs. Charles Berry's sister, Mrs. John Moore, of Waltham spent a few days with her last week.

At the last meeting of the Woman's club Mr. Hinchman of the Groton School gave a most interesting talk on "The early English theatre."

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clayton McKean a little son at 8.40 Sunday morning, his weight being 8½ lbs. The little fellow has been named Charles Pollard. The mother and child are doing well.

Mrs. Mabel Branigan was chosen as delegate to attend with Mrs. Marion Torrey, president of the Woman's club, the mid-winter federation meeting which was held in Chelsea on Wednesday.

Among the number from this town who attended the meeting of the Middlesex-Worcester Pomona Grange at Littleton last week Thursday were: George S. Knapp, Mrs. J. E. Messinger, Mrs. Odber S. Folkins and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace A. Brown.

The members of the Woman's club extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend a lecture to be given in the town hall on Saturday evening, March 2, by Lieut.-Com. Thomas Mott Osborne. This is an open meeting and it is hoped that there will be a large audience. Lieut.-Com. Osborne was to have addressed Groton people in December, but was unable to do so, because of a sudden call to Washington, D. C.

There was a pleasant gathering of former Groton residents in Wakefield last week Friday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Cary. The guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Hartt of Newport, N. H., Mrs. Elizabeth Totten and Miss Caroline Hartt of Reading.

The Willing Workers, a club which was organized last October amongst the working people of the Groton School district, with Miss Josie Gainey as president, and Mrs. Rose Davis as secretary, have been running weekly whist parties, the returns to procure comforts for the soldiers. The club has finished its winter's work, each one doing her share willingly and cheerfully with a spirit that manifests itself in the following report: The club has sent out 40 sweaters, 26 pairs of socks, 16 helmets, 16 pairs of wristers, 6 scarfs and 6 boxes to the home boys in France, containg tobacco, cigarettes, candy and other comforts.

Miss Annie M. Jewett and George L. Nutting, of Leominster, were united in marriage on Thursday afternoon, February 14, at two o'clock by Rev. Edward P. Drew, of Worcester. Miss Jewett has been employed in the telephone office in this town for the past ten years. Mr. Nutting has a position with the W. A. Fuller Lumber Company, of Leominster.

Mrs. E. Dexter Howe has been confined to the house with a severe cold for several weeks and under the doctor's care.

It is rumored that Frank Woods has bought a place in California and his Groton residence is for sale.

Lieut. and Mrs. Cole and two young ladies from Tennessee are rooming at the Groton Tea Pot.

Mr. Rogers, an old-time friend of Walter Floyd when he lived in Waltham, who now resides in Philadelphia, was a guest at the Floyd homestead over Washington's birthday. Mr. Rogers is a government inspector of the clothing worn by the soldiers.

Harvey Woods, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Woods, returned from Chester, Pa., last Tuesday, as he expects to be called to Camp Devens in the near future. Fred Woods also expects to go as he has passed the examination.

The Women's branch Alliance of the Unitarian church held their annual Washington's birthday dance in the town hall. Newell's orchestra will furnish the music.

On account of the scarcity of sugar it has been impossible to serve cocoa at the Boutwell School this week.

George Floyd, who has been employed in Hartley's store from a boy in Westford the past two months, spent the week-end at his home.

Mrs. Matilda Gray, of Worcester, a friend of Mrs. Hawkes, who was operated on at Dr. Kilbourne's hospital a few weeks ago, is convalescing.

Mrs. Charlotte Floyd, who has been ill with the shingles, is able to leave the house.

Mrs. Blake, who was formerly Miss Tweed, who [illegible] has been suffering from [illegible] covering.

George Moore [illegible] at the Soldiers' Home, West Street, Ayer.

Here [illegible] in the early part of the [illegible] when it was [illegible] there was a long period when the ground was covered with a thin layer of ice. Later, they had about three inches of snow. At present the mud is deep. They are plowing with oxen, making ready for their early crops.

Mrs. Grace Graves, of Boston, and Mrs. A. J. Dugas, have been recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Adams.

Some interesting figures can be gleaned from the latest report of the United States Department of Agriculture. Few people may realize that there are five head of cattle to every ten people in the country; that is, half a head for every person. A manufacturer states that while this may not seem particularly thrilling, it helps show why steaks are fifty cents a pound and shoes five dollars a pair, which are prices sufficiently thrilling for the average mortal. The figures show that thirty years ago, with more cattle, steak and shoes were just one-half the prices that they are today.

There will be a dancing party in the town hall on Thursday afternoon, February 28, from 3 to 5.30, given by the Girls' Dancing club.

Mrs. John Lawrence has been appointed as chairman of the committee on co-ordination of aid societies.

Alice Eudora Chapman writes from St. Petersburg, Fla., that it is 68° in the shade; strawberries are fine and luscious; mocking birds are in every tree, and that grapefruit and oranges are abundant.

S. Warren Sturgis has been appointed chairman of the committee on food production and consequently to succeed Mr. Hinchman, who is now chairman of the committee on public safety. Inquiries for information in regard to the important work of food production should be made to Mr. Sturgis. The work of production this year will be more urgent than it was last year. Plans should now be made and preparations should be under way for the coming spring.

Mrs. Myron Swallow went to Nashua on Monday to see her son, Guy Swallow, who was sick with laryngitis. He came home with her and is reported much better.

On Thursday afternoon the following program, prepared to render tribute and to extol the memory of Washington, was given at the high school: Singing, school; "Washington's birthday," Myron Breckenridge; "Crown our Washington," Stella Sargent; "Washington in the Hall of Fame," Bertha Patterson; "Commemoration ode," Evelyn Sawtelle; "The memory of Washington," Robert Bates; "Ode to Washington," Charlotte Sibley; singing, school; "Tribute to Washington," Harry Davis; "Washington's statue," Catherine Marshall; "Washington in history," Joseph Cleary; "Some characteristics of Washington," Paul Blood; "To the shade of Washington," Helen O'Sullivan; "Some precepts of Washington," Roy Bennett; "The words of Washington," Dorothy Tyrrell; singing, school.

G. W. C.

The Arts and Crafts department of the Woman's club held its usual weekly meeting at the home of Mrs. Lelia Nutting on Thursday afternoon. It was an experience party. Some time ago it was agreed that each member should earn one dollar and relate in verse the way it was obtained and present it to the department. At this meeting sixteen ladies were present, most of whom were ready with their original poem, divulging the secret of the method used in securing this sum. Many and varied were the ways in which these industrious women were able to meet their obligations, which brought forth many a hearty laugh and word of praise from their guest of honor, the president of the club, Mrs. Marion Torrey.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in a social and profitable way, knitting and other handiwork. Afternoon tea, with fancy wafers and cake, were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Charles Harrington and Mrs. Lelia Nutting. While the refreshments were being served the two oldest members of the department, Mrs. Chestina E. Rork and Mrs. Mary J. Blood, were presented with a birthday cake, which was beautiful to look upon decorated with frosting and cherries and an American flag, which was cut by the chairman of the department and passed. Thus ended the long planned for experience meeting.

As the members were about to depart a cordial invitation was received over the telephone from Mrs. Marion Sargent to spent the following Thursday afternoon with her, which was accepted.

Mrs. Ruth Montgomery of Worcester spent last week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George H. McKee.

Clipping.

The following clipping was taken from the Boston Herald of February 18, and concerns a former master at Groton School:

Arthur Woods, police commissioner of New York city under Mayor Mitchell, has been appointed to direct an American propaganda campaign of world wide dimensions. It will have for its purpose the spreading among the neutrals of the truth about America's role in the war, the informing of the people of Germany of what the United States is fighting for, and lastly, bolstering up the morale of our allies by a thorough knowledge of what this nation is doing to help them.

The post was offered to Mr. Woods a few days ago and he accepted it. It is rumored that he will go to Washington in a few days. He will work with the committee on public information, of which George Creel is the chairman.

It was learned that Mr. Woods has undertaken a great task, nothing less than to combat German propaganda in this direction that has been conducted by the committee on public information and to extend it, taking charge of that branch of the committee's activities. The fourteen principles which President Wilson enunciated as a foundation for a just peace will be spread among all the peoples of the allies and over the rest of the world as well.

There have been reports brought to this country of several observers that the Italian reverse could be attributed in part to the effects of the German propaganda which said that America would not really aid Italy. A part of the American propaganda which Mr. Woods will direct will be to correct this impression.

Mr. Woods will also make a study of the Russian situation with a view to trying to convey to the Russian people a true picture of the democracy of America. This work has been carried on by the committee on public information, which has circulated hundreds of thousands of pamphlets, put up thousands of posters and even conducted moving picture theatres to tell America's story. Mr. Woods will extend the work. Mr. Woods, a native of Boston, is a graduate of from Harvard College.

TOWNSEND

[illegible]

Town Warrant.

The warrant for the annual town meeting to be held in Memorial Hall on Monday, March 4, consisting of 27 articles, is 22 less than last year. Besides the usual regular town meeting articles there are four perpetual care lot funds for cemetery as follows: To accept from Charles Dix the sum of $150 in trust for care of lot known as Daniel Dix, jr., lot, and the income from $50 to be used for care of west half of Ransom C. Watson lot; to accept from the estate of James A. Dix on the sum of $100 in trust for the care of lot known as James A. Dixon lot; to accept under the will of Mrs. Ella H. Ames the sum of $50 in trust to be used for the care of lot known as Ella H. Ames in the West Townsend cemetery; to accept from the estate of Sarah E. Hodge the sum of $100 in trust to be used for the care of Enoch Kidder lot in West cemetery.

Special articles in the warrant include the following:

Art. 2. By request. To vote to increase the salary of each member of Squannacook Engine Co. $5.00 per year.

Art. 12. By request. To vote to make the price of fighting brush fires 28 cents per hour, the same as is now paid for work on the highways.

Art. 13. By request. To raise and appropriate a sum of money sufficient to repair the Eclipse hand engine.

Art. 14. To raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of procuring a service flag for use at Memorial hall, showing the number of men of the town in service in the war.

Art. 15. To vote to instruct the selectmen to cause signs to be placed at each of the several bridges in town indicating the weight of loads which may safely pass over them and appropriate money therefor.

Art. 15. To vote to instruct the board of assessors to abate the tax for the years 1915 and 1916 on the property purchased from Justin C. Hodgman for cemetery purposes.

Art. 17. To raise and appropriate a sum of money to place three additional street lights on Main street, between the residence of Elmer Wallace and the Fessenden mill.

Art. 22. By request of the board of selectmen and 18 other citizens of Brookline, N. H.: To raise and appropriate a sum of money to be used for the permanent improvement of the Brookline road, so called, in this town.

Art. 23. By request. To raise and appropriate the sum of $150 to be used for the addition to the West cemetery.

Art. 24. To vote to take a new general valuation this year and appropriate money therefor.

Art. 25. To accept Chapter 23, General Acts of 1917, entitled an act to provide for the licensing of coffee houses, so called, to take effect in any town at any annual town meeting or any special meeting called for the purpose.

Art. 26. To accept Chapter 254, General Acts of 1917, entitled an act to authorize cities and towns to pay their employees who enlist in the service of the United States the difference between their military and municipal compensation, to take effect from its acceptance in towns by the voters thereof at any regular or special town meeting.

Art. 27. By request of Townsend Hill Improvement society and citizens of Townsend hill to raise and appropriate the sum of $300 for the further extension of the permanent road towards the Brookline town line, commencing at the point where the work was stopped at the foot of Barber hill, so called, providing the state and county each contribute a like amount as theretofore.

Junior Chautauqua Meeting.

The Junior Winter Chautauqua will hold their fifth meeting Monday afternoon, February 25, at 3.30 p. m., in the high school room. "What can boys and girls do to further the good health of their community?" That is the question that will be talked about, acted, recited and in various ways illustrated. At this meeting the following members of the sanitary commission are to have charge of the program: Agnes Waitt, Muriel Gilman, John Smith and Howard Harvey. Folk games will be enjoyed in the evening in the dinner room. New York state has recently introduced into its schools a health club through which personal cleanliness is taught and not only encouraged but checked up every day and week. A report is sent into the state educational officials and very well organized effort is thus made to create a tradition of good health. The Chautauqua clubs are trying to start the right ideas working in the young minds and trust that more intensive work may be taken up by the Townsend schools and the community at large.

HARVARD

News Items.

The Ladies' Picnic club will hold their annual winter picnic at the town hall on Friday evening, March first. Each member is entitled to take a guest. Supper will be served at seven o'clock, and the usual social good time will follow. Miss Annie Reed serves as chairman of the committee on arrangements, and Mrs. A. F. Ripley, for refreshments.

The Congregational society will hold a special meeting on Monday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock at the church parlors to see what action will be taken as to the calling of a pastor to the church. Other matters are also to come before this meeting and a full attendance is requested.

At the meeting of the Congregational Men's club last Sunday evening Raymond Blakney gave a splendid address on "The evolution of internationalism." He was given the closest attention throughout his discourse. Supper was served at seven o'clock with cold ham, rolls, coffee, doughnuts and cheese. It was voted to hold a ladies' night at the regular meeting in April.

The annual meeting of the Harvard Temperance society is to be postponed from February 24 to March 24. This change is made in order to secure Capt. MacKay of Camp Devens, who is one of the best temperance speakers in the country, and the society thought it well worth while to set a date when he could be secured.

Miss Ellis, a trained nurse under state supervision, is to visit the schools hereabout weekly, attending to the general health of the school children.

Last week Friday evening Fred Morsen, one of the most popular actors in the Waters course, spoke and sang with a talk on the piano. He has traveled through all the countries involved and with his songs gave a very interesting [illegible] on this absorbing subject.

Friday evening of this week Uncle O'Reilly will give a vaudeville under the auspices of the W. R. C. She is a wonderful speaker and it is hoped the hall will be crowded to receive her.

[illegible] James Madigan will occupy the parish house [illegible] the little common when [illegible]

E. Cobb is spending this week at "Questend," his summer home on Oak hill, entertaining a party of chiefs of the Boston fire department. He expects to open his house for the season about April [illegible]

[illegible]thy E. West, who has been [illegible] at Becker's college during the winter, has accepted a position in the business house in Worcester, and will take her duties on Monday.

[illegible] Mrs. Macauley have returned from Philadelphia, where they have been spending the cold months, and have opened their farm home overlooking Bare hill pond.

[illegible]ster Winslow B. West gave a birthday party to a few of his school friends on last Saturday. The dining room, where refreshments were served, was decorated with the national colors. A birthday cake, with ice cream, fancy cookies and candy formed an attraction to the young people. Miss Josephine Baker assisted Master West with story-telling, and for the entertainment of the guests Airship favors were given out. Those present were Emerson Hanks, Pauline Lundstrom, [illegible] Cleaves, Genevieve Mead, [illegible] Cleaves, Andrew Haskell, Kenneth Winslow West.

[illegible] Mrs. Asa Walker, of Oak [illegible] entertaining their daughter, Nadine Walker, from Framingham for this week-end.

Grange.

The regular meeting of the Grange held on Tuesday evening was well attended regardless of the severe weather conditions. Supper was served at seven and at eight o'clock the business meeting opened followed by degree work. A committee was appointed to attend to the detail work of the Demonstration school to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week with F. P. Abbott, Emily E. Hersey and S. Henry Waters. This school is to be financed solely by voluntary subscriptions and is to be free to the public. About $45 is still needed to make the school what is desired and it is earnestly requested that every member of the Grange and all others interested will subscribe as they feel they can and leave their donation either with W. J. Kerley or F. J. Wrangham.

The school will open at ten o'clock on Tuesday, February 26, when there will be a series of lectures with practical demonstrations in both halls at the town hall. There will be both a men's and a woman's department. Tuesday evening there will be an illustrated lecture given at eight o'clock with poultry as the subject. On Wednesday at ten o'clock there will be another series of lectures.

One of the features of the school will be the killing, cutting up, salting, curing, etc., of a pig. The programs for these days will be given out this week. Basket lunch will be served at noon on both days.

At the meeting of the Grange to be held on Tuesday evening, March 5, Mr. Nims, of the Worcester County Farm Bureau, will give an illustrated lecture on the work of the boys' and girls' clubs of Massachusetts. The home economics class of this town will demonstrate with cooked food which will be served as a lunch at the close of the meeting. Mr. West, as master, and Miss Hersey, as lecturer of the range, have decided that the young people are entitled to a share of the Grange meeting and will hereafter devote the last forty-five minutes of each meeting as a social time for the young people.

GIRL SCOUTS

Shirley

On Thursday, March 13, at Odd Fellows' hall, there will be a moving picture show with Mary Pickford. This entertainment is to be given under the auspices of the local executive board of Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts of Shirley will sing songs and sell candy and popcorn. A Scout reel of Girl Scouts engaged in some of their activities will be also shown. Shirley only has moving pictures once a week, therefore don't fail to see this unusually fine entertainment.

In the Saturday entertainment given some two weeks ago for the benefit of the Shirley Club House, a group of Girl Scouts took part in the Japanese selection and performed their dance and singing so well that we wish to recognize their kind help.

At the meeting Friday night, Washington's birthday, three girls will make special reports on the life and works of our first president.

South Lancaster

Capt. Parker's troop of young Girl Scouts chose its crest today. Narcissus is the flower and most appropriate at this season. This troop began knitting squares 7 in. by 7 in. for a hospital comforter. They hope by Easter to have it ready to send to France. Narcissus troop has purchased its first thrift stamp.

The officers for the Thistle troop were chosen today: Mary Kelly, chairman; Olive Ancill, sec.; Annie Kelly, treas.

Ayer

Ambulance Co., 301st, will give a minstrel show next Thursday evening at 7.45 o'clock in the town hall of Ayer. This entertainment is under the auspices of the Special Aid society and is being given for the benefit of the Girl Scouts. Tickets are on sale at 25c. and 35c. for reserved seats at the Girls' Club House, the latter may be exchanged for reserved seat tickets on Tuesday and Wednesday between two and four o'clock at Geo. S. Poulius', Main street.

Ayer is evidently fond of minstrel shows, judging from the overflow house at the last one and this Ambulance Co. performance promises to be just as much fun.

Harvard

Moving pictures are popular everywhere. A person may be deaf and unable to enjoy a play, but a movie is just as interesting. So Harvard will have an opportunity to see Mary Pickford on March 14, and not only pictures but singing by the Girl Scouts and candy, real candy, too, and a Scout reel. No matter what the weather, everyone loves to see the old favorite, Mary Pickford.

Groton

Last item but not least. Keep the date, March 4, free, for you will want to hear a fine concert to be given on that evening by native talent and in addition you can hear what the local Girl Scouts can do in the way of singing. They will sing at least six songs; all of the words are written by Girl Scouts, and the music for one of them. Reserve March 4 for this musical feast, and help the Girl Scouts of your town.

Recently a shipment of 3,000,000 pounds of American frozen fish, the largest cargo of the kind ever exported, and destined for the English troops in the trenches, left Boston. It is estimated that this amount of fish would serve just about three meals to the forces in France.

Youthful Mothers.

Some of the world's notables have been born of parents well over thirty years of age. Conversely great numbers of them were born of youthful mothers. Abraham Lincoln's mother was only twenty-five at the time of his birth. Napoleon the Great was born of parents twenty-three and nineteen years of age, respectively. The mother of Pasteur, undoubtedly the greatest genius France has yet produced, was under thirty, as were the mothers of Herbert Spencer, Michael Farraday and John Stuart Mill.

He Who Toils.

The average man does not love work for its own sake. This is a truism, and a truism rather mildly worded, muses an exchange. And yet we are convinced that real laziness, real disinclination to bodily or mental effort, is one of the rarest things in the world. Cases of it are unquestionably known to the medical profession and to the poorhouse authorities, but when the cause is not hookworm or anaemia, it is usually a too enthusiastic thermometer.

New Advertisements.

FOR SALE—Airedale Dog. male. HARLEY S. ALLEN, East Main Street, Ayer. 11*

LOST—Smith & Wesson .38 Revolver; No. [illegible] between Remount Station and Camp Devens. Return to Supply Co., 304th Infantry, Camp Devens. 11*

FOR SALE—Upright Ludwig Piano. Owner going to Iowa. Inquire at SALVATION ARMY HUT, Shirley Road. 11*

HORSES FOR SALE—Three Work Horses just out of hard work. FOLSOM'S FARM, Harvard, Mass. Telephone, Ayer 66-2.

THERE IS NO GERMANY.

Very often we hear it said: "Germany has created Mitteleuropa." This is another mistake. Geographically speaking, Mitteleuropa includes only Central Europe, and Germany's dominion is infinitely farther flung, extending as it does from the west front in France to the British front before Bagdad. If we wish to see things in the light of reality, we must say, for the present, at least, "There is no longer any Germany; instead, there is Pan-Germany." This is an essential assumption if we are to reason justly. The map of Pan-Germany at the beginning of 1917 shows clearly the essential, but all too little known, elements of the present situation, which is characterized by the fact that 78 million Germans, aided by 21 million vassals—Magyars, Slavs and Turks—have reduced to slavery 82 millions of Latins, Slavs and Semites, belonging to 13 different nationalities. Pan-Germany, which has now almost completely reached the limits set by the Pan-German plan of 1911, consists, therefore, of one vast territory containing about 176 million inhabitants and natural resources of the greatest variety.

Lowell made a sad blunder, perhaps, when in his enthusiasm, he wrote that "still at the prophets' feet the nations sit." It is the soothsayer, not the prophet, who is heard nowadays, the diviner, not the divine, says the Bookman. We get our ideas too often from the old mythology and its warring deities, and as we have no power to emulate them in heaven we transfer their atmosphere and attitude to earth. Shall it not be our country's mission to do its share in solving the problem? Shall its inventiveness and spirit of enterprise be confined to mechanics and trade and not advanced to the nobler realm of ethics that shall make democracy safe for itself as the nearest duty? Universal training must not end with the manual of arms. Our young people are to be taught as well certain old-time principles for the art of life as essentials in courses of study. Obedience, reverence, self-control, self-knowledge, the power of character, the positive qualities that make for true living, are no less vital objects of instruction. These determine our country's future to a greater degree than the size of our cities, the number of our mines and mills, our financial strength or territorial growth.

The real Russia is patriotic. It longs for the return of law and order. It watches with bewilderment the present frenzy of the towns, says London Daily Mail. Before long it will assert itself and will find or fashion the weapons for enforcing its will. Not all the army by any means has been ruined by the Soviet. The artillery, the Cossacks, and the cavalry have remained loyal to their country and to their officers and to their traditions throughout. A terrible winter of privation and tumult and suffering lies ahead of Russia, and the agony will be short-lived in proportion to its intensity. The forces that make for reason and national health are gathering strength, and the very viciousness of the new government will tend to work its own cure.

The airplane has wrought so many wonders that now great things by its powerful aid are soberly hoped for. The huge preparations for airplane warfare making by the United States are amply justified. The airplane is an American invention, and while there is nothing to prevent other nations utilizing it to what extent they can, it certinly is the proper thing for Americans to "go them one better," and demonstrate that this country is not a slacker when competition is in progress among the nations to do the most that can be done in war by means of the highway in the air.

Absolutely confident of the armies driving the German hordes from their soil, says New York Herald, the people of France are now beginning the gigantic task of restoration and are also preparing to meet the exigencies by which they will be confronted when peace is declared. Now that the rehabilitation has been outlined it has been discovered that one of the greatest social problems the country will have to deal with after the war is the industrial status of women.

The first number drawn for Hawaii's selective service included two Americans, two Japanese, one Filipino and one Portuguese. Truly, this is a great country, especially in its ability to evolve patriotism from its capacity as a melting pot.

Two thousand Red Cross nurses have been sent abroad and a number enrolled estimated to be sufficient for an army of 1,500,000 men. No one can say that the women of the country are not doing their bit.

Austria may declare war on the United States, it is said, in consequence of our aid to Italy. It will be but a poor bluff when Austria had to send out S O S calls to keep herself from being swamped by the Italian drive.

Why Men Stagnate.

Most men, through set habits and lack of the practice called adaptability, agility, skill, and quick perceptions, are like flies and mosquitoes. That is to say, they seldom go more than a few hundred yards from their homes or occupations. They do not cast off the anchors of their lifelong and hereditary anchorage. The inequalities are in them, not in the opportunities.

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

Sale of Aprons

Made from Light and Medium Colored Percales; Some are Soiled and Some Slightly Damaged from Being Wet

Plain Bungalow Aprons, regular 89c. value ..... 69c.
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Three-piece Suits—Skirt, Waist and Cap to match, regular $1.19 value ..... 89c.

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THE UNIVERSAL CAR
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Agent for Ayer, Groton, Harvard and Shirley
One-Ton Truck Chassis, direct driven worm gear $600
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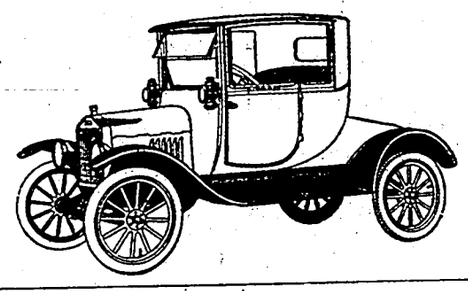
If you anticipate needing a car in the near future don't DELAY your order.



A TRUSTWORTHY PARTY would care for small place or farm (30 acres or more) for the use of or low rent. Address "B," BOX 50, Ayer, Mass. 3t24

FOR SALE—The residence of the late Baron Stow Hager at Littleton Common, Mass., consisting of a two-story and half house with ell, stable and large carriage house and nearly an acre of land; two minutes' walk from store, postoffice and church. Price $3000. Address, MRS. H. S. BLANCHARD, Executrix, 192 Pearl Street, Gardner, Mass. Telephone, Gardner 419-X. 3t22

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THE INVISIBLE BIFOCALS
Afford a comfort which is appreciated by those who want near or far vision in one pair of glasses. They keep your eyes young in looks as well as in usefulness. No line, seam or hump to blur the vision.

F. H. GATHERCOLE
REGISTERED OPTOMETRIST
Mead's Block AYER, MASS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court.

To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of HATTIE T. BLAKE late of Pepperell in said County, deceased.

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

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the fourth day of March A. D. 1918, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

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

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fourteenth day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

3t24 F. M. ESTY, Register.

FOR SALE

A nice ten-room House and Barn on the hill; steam heat; fine location. They are not too plenty at this time, and if you are intending to get a home call and see me. 14tf

THOMAS F. MULLIN
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We want you to know that we keep everything for the convenience and comfort of the smoker. Not only the choicest line of Cigars, Cigarettes and Tobacco, but

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Our Cigars are kept in perfect condition and this is what the particular, critical smoker requires. We handle all the popular brands of Cigars, including the various "National" brands which have proved themselves so deservedly popular.

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Main Street Ayer, Mass.

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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 want?"

Saturday, February 23, 1918.

AYER

News Items.

James F. McMahon and Robert F. McBride, of the navy, were in town on a short furlough the past week.

Supt. Lester Whitcomb of the Ayer Electric Light Company announced on Wednesday morning that the company has plenty of power now for all. The thaw of the past week so increased the water supply of the Connecticut River Company, from which the local company receives its electric power, that there is no longer need for curtailment in the service. Some weeks ago the company, through the national fuel committee asked the public to use less electricity in order to save the coal supply. With the abundance of water now there is no coal required for power and as a result there will be electric power in plenty for the coming months.

The work of the district attorney's office for Middlesex county for the March term will be greatly increased, owing to the assignment for trial of three murder cases, namely, the Parham, Pellegrini and Kazanas cases. These offences have all taken place during the last six weeks, and it is the intention of the district attorney to dispose of them as soon as possible. To that end, they have been assigned for trial during the March sitting, which will begin a week earlier than usual, namely, March 4. The killing with which Kazanas is charged took place in Lowell. The other two cases are from the town of Winchester. A special venire of eighty-five jurors from Middlesex county will be summoned for the week of March 4.

The following rhetoricals were given at the high school on Wednesday: "The courtin'," Edna Mosher; "Where's a boy a'goin'?" Frank Harmon; "Little blue overalls," Mildred Pillman; "L'nuvoi," Lester Robbins; "The brick on the trail," Avis Chandler; "The soldier's reprieve," Maud Briggs; "The knitter," Dorothy Carman; "Katy did," Etta Green; "The revolutionary rising," George Sanderson; "The proposal," Mildred McGuane; "The optimist," Nora Guthrie; "Icarus," Clarence Nixon; "Them Piper young-uns," Helen Stone; "The minister's henhouse," Mary Halleran; "Gentian," Lillian Boiseau; "The race," Gerald Ryan.

At the meeting of the Grange on Wednesday evening, February 27, in Hardy's hall, Alfred H. Wardle will give his famous lecture, "Cape Cod stories"; also, some of his experiences in Y. M. C. A. work among the boys in camp. This lecture will be open to the public and members are requested to be present and bring their friends.

Married on February 9, by Rev. F. B. Crandall, Private William H. Parker, 303rd F. A., and Edna M. Wright, of Auburn, Me.

Christian Science services Sunday, February 24, in Turner's block, corner of Main and Washington streets, at 10.30 a. m. Subject, "Mind." Wednesday evening testimony meeting at 7.30 p. m. The reading room in the same building is open from nine a. m. to nine p. m., except Wednesday, when it closes at six p. m. It is also open Sundays and holidays from one to nine p. m. A writing room for soldiers has been afranged by the Camp Welfare committee of the state in connection with the Christian Science reading room. This is open daily from nine a. m. to nine p. m.

Mary Pickford plays two parts in "Stella Maris," the picture to be exhibited at Page hall theatre on Monday afternoon and evening—one delicate and dainty, and the other, as Unity Blake, uncouth and unlovely, but carrying with it a tremendous amount of pathos. In several scenes, Unity Blake, Mary Pickford causes the feminine audience to reach for its handkerchiefs and enjoy a good cry. Matinee as usual, at two o'clock, with shows in the evening at six and eight o'clock. The program for the other pictures shown during the week will be up to the usual good standard. On Washington's birthday, with matinee at two o'clock, and evening shows at six and eight o'clock, Dustin Farnum will be seen in a seven part picture, "The spy."

Special communications of Caleb Butler lodge of Masons will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings of next week, at each of which the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees will be worked at six o'clock sharp.

A special convocation of Bancroft Royal Arch chapter of Masons will be held on Tuesday evening, February 26, at seven o'clock. Work—Past Master and Most Excellent Master degrees.

Many people have been led to believe by the announcement that the time for filing the federal government returns had been extended to April first that this extension applied also to the returns to the state income tax department. Such, however, is not the fact. March first is the last day for filing the state returns and taxpayers not filing on or before that date are subject to severe penalties.

In this edition an article appears on federal income tax. This matter was put into type before the government granted an extension of time to everybody who is obliged to file these returns. April 1 is now the final day for filing federal returns, and our readers are so advised by Collector Malley. However, writes Collector Malley, returns should be filed at once by every person who can attend to the matter now.

Two heavily loaded coal cars on the east bound freight train No. 2671 jumped the track near Sculley's crossing at about ten o'clock Thursday forenoon. Although the damage was insignificant the derailment caused a great deal of inconvenience and delay to traffic. The three railroad crossings leading to the camp were blocked, as well as both main line tracks. At 1.15 in the afternoon only the west bound track was open, all traffic going over that track. The crossings were all open after the steam derrick and wrecking crew from Fitchburg arrived. Travel over the West Main and Shirley street crossings and Sculley's crossing was diverted through Harvard and Shirley. A brake beam which dropped on the track is given as the cause of the derailment. No one was injured.

At the Baptist church the pastor, Rev. J. W. Thomas, will preach on Sunday morning at 10.45 on "The pattern." The ordinance of baptism will be administered. Sunday school at twelve. Song service at 6.30 in the evening, with preaching at 6.45 by Mr. Wardle, who will take for his subject, "The made-over man." B. Y. P. U. Tuesday evening at 7.30. Midweek prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 7.30.

Married in Ayer, at the White Ribbon House, February 16, by Rev. J. W. Thomas, Henry L. Pattee, a soldier, of Easton, Me., and Blanche D. Long, of Mars Hill, Me.

The following clipping is taken from the Boston Post of February 15: "Lots of people poke fun at police in small towns, but in Ayer Junction recently I observed a display of alertness and quick thinking that would put many a big city 'copper' to shame. Patrolman T. J. Pirone held up an autoist for not having his tail light, one of the kerosene variety, lighted as it should have been. 'Just went out officer,' said the driver of the machine, a smart appearing chap on his way to Boston. 'Did it?' parried the patrolman as he ran for the back of the machine. Patting the tail light with his hand, he observed, 'Mister, that light's not been lighted for an hour. If it had been it would have been warm.' Several citizens smiled as the autoist finally admitted that he had not lighted the lamp at all."

Harbinger lodge, K. of P., celebrated Pythian anniversary night on Monday evening. The meeting was graced by the presence of two representatives of the grand lodge of Maine: Clarence Webber, g.v.c., of Kennebunkport, and John H. Maxwell of Livermore Falls, supreme representative. Following a short business session at seven p. m., there was a fine entertainment and speaking by the grand lodge officers and Harlan P. Knight, p.g.c., of Massachusetts. Charles W. E. Force, a prominent member of Harbinger lodge, also gave a talk on his recent Southern trip. The Maine officials came in the afternoon and were taken on a tour of Camp Devens by automobile by a committee of Harbinger lodge. A buffet lunch was served, followed by cards and dancing, Mrs. Walter C. Winslow furnishing piano accompaniment for the latter pastime. The committee in charge of the entertainment was composed of Frank B. Harmon, George E. Millson, Levi B. Tuttle and Walter C. Winslow.

The music study class of the Woman's club will meet with Mrs. Perkins on Tuesday afternoon, February 26, at 2.30 o'clock.

Bert Ford, the well known Boston American correspondent, who has been covering Camp Devens for his paper since the arrival of the first draft recruits last September, has been assigned to the position of war correspondent somewhere in France for the American. Mr. Ford bade his fellow correspondents good-bye Wednesday night and left for Boston to make preparations for assuming his new duties. He expects to sail for France very soon. Mr. Ford in leaving town had a good word to say for Ayer and its people among whom he made many friends. In justice to him it may be said that his articles on the town have always been very fair in great contrast to reports of some other correspondents.

Misses Alice and Nellie Galvin attended the funeral of their niece, Miss Lillian Marie Galvin, daughter of the late John J. Galvin and Catherine Galvin at Cambridge on Thursday.

The high tide in the Subway has subsided somewhat in the past few days. It was necessary to build a plank walk through the underground passage to enable people to travel through it. No one seems to know where the water comes from. The supposition, however, is that a broken main water pipe is at the bottom of the trouble. The extremely cold weather during the winter has caused the clay bed on which the floor and walls rest to heave, raising the center of the floor and making a large crack the whole distance between the two ends of the structure. Unless this matter is attended to it is feared that serious results may follow.

Lieut. Walter Amacher and wife, who have been stopping at Mrs. Mary J. Simmons, Page street, since last September, received orders this week to leave for Fort Ethan Allen, Winooski, Vt., and they departed for that place last Monday.

The next meeting of the W. C. T. U. will be held at the home of Mrs. Mary Carkin, East Main street, Friday afternoon, March 1, at 2.30 o'clock. Subject for entertainment, "Work among railroad men," under the direction of Mrs. Ida Preble.

The local fuel committee have received word that stores may again be opened on Mondays, but the opening and closing hours will remain the same.

Union Services.

The First Unitarian Parish Church, The Federated Church, St. Andrews' Church, Federation House, West Main and Mechanic streets. At 10.45, morning service. Music: anthem, "Christian, the morn breaks sweetly o'er thee," Shelley; response, "Heaven life," Shelley; offertory duet, "In the cross of Christ I glory," Geibel, Mrs. Beckford and Miss Clark. Harold True Shattuck, organist. Preacher, Rev. Rollin S. Tuttle. At 7.30, evening service. Music by the quartet choir of the First Baptist church of Fitchburg. Rev. J. W. Thomas officiates. Preacher, Rev. William D. Goble, minister, First Baptist church, Fitchburg.

Minstrel Show.

A minstrel show will be given in the town hall on Thursday evening, February 28, by the 301st Ambulance Co., under the auspices of the S. A. S. A. P. for the benefit of the Ayer Girl Scouts. The program commences at 7.45 prompt and tickets can be secured from the Girl Scouts and the S. A. S. A. P. committee. Seats may be reserved by exchanging tickets at Poulius' fruit store on Tuesday and Wednesday from two till four o'clock.

The following is the program:

Overture, "When the Yanks come marching home"
Opening chorus, "Dixie," "Long, long ago," "Mason Dixon line"
"For there's Egypt in your dreamy eyes," Sgt. Carpenter
"I don't want to get well," Pvt. Mackie
"Sweet Emalina my gal," Pvt. Chandler
"Liberty bell," Pvt. Sauter
"Old Erin," Pvt. Kinsella
"Somewhere in France is a lily," Pvt. Bronson
"They go wild over me," Pvt. Blair
Bass solo, Pvt. Goulet
"Some Sunday morning," Pvt. Jandre
"From here to Shanghai," Pvt. Martin
Finale, "Star Spangled Banner"

Interlocutor, Sgt. Graham; end men, Mackie, Blair; premier end men, Chandler, Martin; soloists, Kinsella, Carpenter, Goulet, Jandre, Sauter, Bronson, circle, Coty, Lundergan, Thatcher, Devey, Francis Miller, Hewitt, Kerr, Darbe, Driscoll, Glendeming, Schultz, Smith.

Scene at the Saratoga race tracks.

Camp Notes.

The first increment of the final fifteen percent of the first draft quota will begin to come this Saturday and will continue to arrive until February 28, when the full number of the last quota of 6915 will have reached here. The new recruits will come from New York and all of the New England states, except Vermont. The reason why Vermont is exempt is due to the fact that the voluntary enlistments from that state have equalled its quota for the last contingent, it being a draft regulation that when a state furnishes a sufficient number of men either by draft or voluntary enlistments no more men are required for that quota. The number of men coming from other states have been greatly reduced for the above reason. The quotas sent by the states are Massachusetts 2082, New Hampshire 7, Maine 21, New York 3608, Connecticut 1100 and Rhode Island 97. Of these it is stated that the men from Maine and New Hampshire will be assigned to the Coast Artillery. To the new third training regiment of Engineers 800 of the men of the new draft will be assigned.

The reports of the big trench mortar guns could be very distinctly heard about town on Tuesday. When the reports were first heard many thought there was a big explosion other than that caused by army guns. The true cause was however soon learned.

A second burglary in the 301st Infantry was discovered last Sunday when members of Company G of that regiment found that during the night someone had relieved them of a considerable amount of money.

The experiment with kite photography which was scheduled for last Sunday was indefinitely postponed.

Rt. Rev. Patrick J. Hayes, auxiliary bishop of the New York diocese, and chaplain-general of all catholic army and navy chaplains of the United States forces, visited the camp last week to confer with the catholic chaplains of this division. After the conference he said that Camp Devens undoubtedly ranked as one of the best in the country in facilities for religious benefits for the soldiers and in the number of chaplains assigned to duty. He also commented on the excellent condition of the camp as a whole.

Unofficial opinions have been expressed that the final fifteen percent of the first draft quota, while recruited and inducted into service here, will not become members of the 76th division. It is thought that they will be sent south, probably to Camp Wadsworth, Spartansburg, N. C.

John J. Curley, of Boston, a member of the Headquarters Company, 301st Infantry, convicted by court martial of desertion, was sentenced on last Saturday to three years' imprisonment at Fort Jay, Governor's Island, N. Y. Curley's offence lie in the fact that he was absent without leave from December 8 to January 14.

The order forbidding any soldier from visiting Lowell except those whose homes are in that city has caused great excitement there. The Lowell committee on public safety calls every law-abiding citizen to stand by and see to it that not only this rule is recinded as soon as possible, but that the offenders of the past and the future be given the stiffest kind of correctional treatment. At the executive meeting at city hall, Lowell, last Sunday afternoon the whole matter was carefully discussed and Mayor P. D. Thompson described his visit to General Hodges, the camp commander, last Saturday as well as outlined some private experiences in trying to secure the arrest of bootleggers, whose actions in procuring liquor for soldiers is the sale cause of the ban being placed upon that city. Plans are already under way by the leading citizens of Lowell to do away with this class of offenders so that Lowell may again be open to the soldiers.

Brigadier General J. B. McDonald, of the inspector general's office in Washington, left for Camp Upton, N. Y., Monday, after making a thorough inspection of the camp. He expressed himself as very well satisfied with all conditions at the camp.

The scheduled review of the men of the entire 76th division which was set for Monday was postponed shortly before the time set for the review. No reason was assigned from official sources.

One of the most interesting court martial cases ever held at the camp was opened on Monday. Private John Sanjean, a well-known Cambridge lawyer, author and lecturer, a member of Company E of the 301st Infantry, attached to the Headquarters Company, was on trial on three counts, feigning illness, refusing to obey orders and assault on a non-commissioned officer. Sanjean is represented by civilian counsel, John W. Rorke, a Boston lawyer. The defense is mental defect in the defendant.

James K. Hackett, the famous actor, who was recently appointed director-general in all activities in dramatic and musical fields, arrived at the camp on Monday to begin his work.

Private George Simmons, of Whitman, a member of the mobile ordnance detachment, died of pneumonia at the base hospital on Monday morning.

According to orders issued on Tuesday by Major General Hodges seventy-seven officers are relieved from their present assignments and are "attached" to their commands. At the same time 119 other officers are given permanent assignments. An assignment of an officer means that the officer is regularly appointed to the company pending assignment. The assigned officers, it is believed, will be the ones to go to France with the first fighting section of the division. Some of the officers attached are away from camp attending special schools or doing important special work in the cantonment, while a number have been relieved because they have been chosen for the cavalry camp at Fort Ethan Allen, Winooski, Vt. The list of those attached includes 20 captains, 5 first lieutenants and 52 second lieutenants.

The cost of feeding the 76th division is increasing. It now costs Uncle Sam just 40.62 cents per day to feed each soldier at the camp. When the first recruits came last September the cost per man per day was 38.75 cents.

Jordan, Marsh & Company, of Boston, have sent 150 smileage books to the camp for distribution among the boys.

Passes over Washington's birthday will be good until this week Saturday morning, with the exception of the officers' training school, where it is said that the passes will be good until Sunday night.

The Knights of Columbus are to have a big patriotic celebration at the camp on Washington's birthday. The speaker of the day will be J. E. Burke, supervisor of schools of Boston.

Lieut. Walter Bickford, of Waterville, Me., of the 303rd Field Artillery, is the instructor of ju-jitsu, the noted Japanese athletic art, at the camp.

The total amount of war risk insurance taken out by the national army soldiers at Camp Devens amounts to $246,815,000. It was explained that the showing would have been even greater if so many men had not been transferred to other divisions. Of those who remain 98 percent have taken out insurance. The total policies taken out number 24,855 and the average amount is $8410. Thirteen of the fifty units have attained an average of 100 percent insured. The first $10,000 policy paid by the government to dependents of the men here was turned over to the family of the late Capt. Frank Keaton, of Kingston, N. Y. Capt. Keaton died here at Christmas. Camp Devens leads in the average amount of insurance applied for per man.

Next Saturday the first half of the New York quota of 3600 is due to arrive and the remainder on Monday. All men in the officers' training school are to have four days' vacation from Thursday night to Sunday night.

A large crowd visited the camp on Sunday and enjoyed the drilling of the soldiers who were making final preparations for the grand review which was set to take place on Monday morning.

District Court.

William F. Walsh, a Boston jitney driver, paid a fine of five dollars for driving at night without proper lights, last week Thursday morning.

E. Fred David, of Dracut, was found guilty of violation of the milk law in Westford, and was fined fifty dollars. David is foreman for E. W. Schofield, of Dracut, at the latter's farm in Westford.

William T. Austin and Everett C. Witchi, local jitney drivers, paid fines of five dollars each on Tuesday morning for not having proper lights on their machines during the night season.

Obituary.

The funeral of Mrs. Esther A. Holden took place last Saturday afternoon at one o'clock from the home of her son, Edward J. Holden, Columbia street. The services, which were private, were conducted by Rev. Frank B. Crandall, minister of the Unitarian church. The remains were taken to the Shirley Center cemetery, where they were placed in the receiving tomb.

Mrs. Holden, who died on Thursday evening, February 14, at the home of her son, Edward J. Holden, had nearly reached her ninety-first birthday when death came. She was the daughter of Oliver and Esther Kemp (Page) Jenkins and was born on May 28, 1827, at the Asa Jenkins place, recently the home of John H. Stickney in Shirley Center. She married the late Seth K. Holden on January 1, 1852. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Holden went to live in the cottage on Parker road, Shirley Center, which was their home for sixty years. After the death of her husband in 1912 Mrs. Holden came to Ayer to make her home with her son, with whom she lived until her death.

The deceased is survived by two sons, Edward J., of Ayer, and Herbert E. Holden, of Leominster.

W. C. T. U. Convention.

A good sized gathering attended the convention of the Worcester County North W. C. T. U., which was held at the White Ribbon House, East Main street, on last week Wednesday, with a program given as follows: Morning—Devotions; reports, secretary and treasurer; greetings, Mrs. Alta F. Hollis; business session; "What is my union doing for ratification and membership," president of each union; "A house mother's opportunities," Mrs. Sydna Eldridge. Afternoon—Executive meeting; song service; prayer; report of executive committee; business session; address, "Work of the Y. M. C. A. and the duty of christianity to the soldiers," Mr. Harvey, from Camp Devens; "How can we help the White Ribbon Home," Miss Caroline M. Caswell of the Willard Settlement, Boston; introductions; song, "When the boys come home," ladies' quartet; "Sidelights on the national convention," Mrs. Nellie M. Hutchinson and Mrs. Clara A. Webber, of Leominster; "What next?" symposium for all.

A Letter from the Philippines.

The following letter was received from Dr. Friest who has recently been assigned to the Philippine Islands, and who has taken his family with him to live there. The letter is dated Fort William McKinley, Rizal, P. I., January 13:

We certainly had a fine trip. We went to San Francisco by the southern route, stopping over at Washington and Los Angeles. We had two days in 'Frisco and sailed on Transport Sheridan, December 5. December 12 and 13 we spent at Honolulu. We took an eighty-mile auto trip around the island, which took us through some fine mountain scenery and along the seashore. We passed through acres and acres of pineapple plantations and sugar cane besides seeing cocoanuts, bananas, olives, dates and rice.

From Honolulu to Guam was a journey of thirteen days without sight of land. At Guam we anchored about three miles from the landing as the harbor is very shallow. We anchored near where the Germans blew up the Carmoran rather than have it captured. The island itself is most typical of the tropics. The houses were of only one room, built generally on posts with hens and the family pig underneath. The native transportation was a two wheeled cart drawn by a caribou. Cocoanuts grew wild and were as thick as acorns are with us. We stayed there three days, for we had a lot of freight to unload.

We finally arrived in Manila Friday afternoon, January 4, being a month since we left 'Frisco. Manila is a large city, nearly 300,000, and was very interesting to me. The oldest part of the city is surrounded by a massive stone wall which must be 20 feet high and 40 feet wide at the base. There were a lot of old Spanish buildings mingled in with the more modern American buildings. There seemed to be about equal number of white people, Filipinos and Chinese, with some Japanese mixed in. The caribou cart is even more common than in Guam. They have street cars and automobiles, but the characteristic method of transportation is the two wheeled "galesa," drawn by a small Filipino pony and driven by the owner of the rig, whose livery consists largely of a shirt with the tails hanging out.

I soon found out that I was assigned to Fort McKinley. For quarters we have a house of four large rooms, besides kitchen, bath and servants' quarters. Everyone here has a lot of servants. We have a dandy Chinese cook and Filipino house boy.

The hospital at the post has about 200 beds, though it is not full now. Before the war McKinley was the largest post of the United States. My first assignment is taking charge of the eye, ear, nose and throat department. If I stay here long I shall certainly get good experience in all branches of medicine and surgery.

So far it looks as if we should like here very much. However, it is the middle of winter now (that is it gets down as low as 65° at night). When it gets to be summer it may be a different story.

Please remember us to any Ayer friends who may ask about us.

Sincerely,
Herbert B. Priest

Conscience.

A very strong feeling makes to itself a conscience of its own—has its own piety; just as much as the feeling of the son towards the mother, which will sometimes survive amid the worst fumes of depravity.—Exchange.

Depend on Her.

Mistress (to cook)—"I have some friends coming to dinner today, Mary, so I want you to do your very best." Cook—"You can depend upon me, mum; I've got some friends of me own comin'!"

Test of a Good Husband.

Our position is simply this: That no man is a good husband who doesn't notice when he comes home that the sitting-room curtains have been moved to the dining-room.—Dallas News.

Sand in the Lantern.

If Japanese lanterns have a little sand put in the bottom there will be small danger of their catching fire, as the sand gives weight and holds the candle firm.

Instinct.

Mrs. Van Speederly (gazing at her crying infant)—I wonder what ails it? If it was an automobile I could tell in a minute, but babies are so different.

A Matter of Understanding.

The fellow who doesn't understand how the other fellow succeeds probably can't understand his own lack of success.—Exchange.

Not Then.

The maxim runs: "Put your best foot forward"—but suppose you are being treated by a chiropodist?

Surest Independence.

There is no independence that can be sure but a dependence upon one's self.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Mary Pickford

WILL BE SEEN AT

Page Hall Theatre, Ayer

IN ONE OF HER BEST PICTURES

"STELLA MARIS"

Paying a dual role, MARY PICKFORD will be seen in a new Artcraft picture at Page Hall Theatre on Monday afternoon and evening. Miss Pickford plays the title role of "Stella Maris," in a film version of William J. Locke's celebrated novel, and also interprets the part of Unity Blake, an uncouth character who is introduced as an inmate of an orphan asylum. As Stella Maris, a paralytic heiress, surrounded by every luxury wealth can command, and protected from even the slightest knowledge of worldly things, the comparison with Unity Blake presents a startling contrast. Later, when Stella Maris has her health restored and learns of the poverty, misery and crime existing in the world which her imagination had pictured as idyllic it proves so strong a shock that her life is threatened.

Through an amazing chain of circumstances the two girls—the Ugly Duckling and the delicate and beautiful Stella Maris—love the same man, and then comes a supreme sacrifice, the giving of Unity Blake's life for the man she loves and for Stella Maris. The portrayal of two characters so vastly different by Mary Pickford will probably stand as a wonderful achievement in screen art.

SPECIAL SHOWS ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY WITH MATINEE AT 2 O'CLOCK SHARP

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE MATINEES ON MONDAYS WILL START AT TWO O'CLOCK

MATINEE EVERY DAY AT **3** O'CLOCK *Saturdays and Holidays at* **2** *o'clock*

TWO PERFORMANCES EVERY EVENING—**6** and **8** o'clock

COMING—Monday, March 4—GERALDINE FARRAR in "DEVIL STONE"

Union Cash Market

Ayer, Mass.

SMELTS	18c. lb.
ROAST PORK	27c. lb.
SMOKED SHOULDERS	25c. lb.
FRESH SHOULDERS	25c. lb.
GOOD ROAST BEEF	22c. lb.
RED LILY TOMATO SOUP Known Better,	10c. can
ONIONS	10c. peck; 1c. lb.
GOOD CANNED PEAS	11c.
EXTRA GOOD COFFEE Ground to Order	25c. lb.
SHREDDED WHEAT	13c. pkg.
CORNFLAKES	10c. pkg.

P. Donlon & Co

CHOICE WESTERN BEEF
NATIVE PORK, CHICKENS, FOWLS
LAMB
VEGETABLES
FRUITS
CANDY AND CIGARS
TEAS AND COFFEE
BREAD AND PASTRY
BUTTER, LARD, OLEOBARGARINE

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
Sirloin steaks 35c. lb.

P. Donlon & Co.
Mead's Block AYER, MASS.
Telephone 33

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 of the year in our

CORSET DEPARTMENT

We have just received the new Spring Models in the R. & G., Royal Worcester and Her Majesty Corsets at the following prices:

R. & G. $1, $1.25, $1.50, $2, $2.50
Royal Worcester $1, $1.50, $2, $2.50
Her Majesty..... $1, $1.25, $1.50
Pink Models $1, $1.50, $2.50

BRASSIERES

Hamburg Trimmed and Plain Models; also Tailored Models 50c. and 59c.

H. H. Proctor

PAGE BLOCK - - - - - - - AYER, MASS.

I. G. Dwinell

Dealer in

Hardware

AND

Groceries

Depot Square Ayer, Mass.

Camp Devens Post Cards

We have 45,000 of the very best cards that have been produced. We had authority from Washington for the work and our Mr. Beverly was with the artist to select the subjects when the original negatives were made

The price is 1c. each
$1.00 per hundred

Hill's DRUG STORE
AYER

TOWNSEND

Center.

A well executed plan on the part of the young people of the Methodist church succeeded in surprising their pastor, Rev. Walter Van Kirk, last Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. Turner Goodwin, where he is entertained week-ends. One of the stewards of the church, George L. Eastman, had been invited to take tea with his pastor, after which in the early evening a knock sounded at the door and about twenty-five of the young folks entered, when the first intimation of any plan was made apparent to the surprised pastor. A social evening of pleasantry followed with music and the serving of refreshments. Mr. Van Kirk is a native of Ohio and at present is a student at Boston university. He became pastor of the Methodist church last October, since which time he has greatly endeared himself to the members of his church and the young people, and has also gained many friends in town by his genial, christian personality.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sawin and Mrs. Josie Sawin Greenwood, of Holden, and Miss Gertrude Wells, of Malden, came to attend the funeral of Mr. Barber and remained as guests in the home for a few days.

On last week Thursday evening Miss Flora Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. John Stewart, gave a valentine party at her home. Fifteen young people were present and enjoyed a pleasant evening with music from the Victrola and games suitable for the occasion, which included a hunt for hidden hearts, George Matson winning the prize of a box of candy. Dainty refreshments, including heart cookies, were served by the hostess and a social time enjoyed.

There is soon to be a drive in Townsend for the purchasing of the United States government war saving stamps by the public, and a house to house canvass will be made. The following committee from the Center are to have the matter in charge: Postmaster John Dobson, Supt. Herman Knight and George L. Whitcomb. Notices will also be given out at the meetings of the various organizations and clubs in town relative to this war saving plan. Your country needs every penny which every man, woman and child can save and lend in order to feed, clothe, arm and equip the soldiers and sailors of America. "A country worth fighting for is a country worth saving for." Like liberty bonds these "little baby bonds" have behind them the entire resources of the government and the people of the United States. The apportionment for Townsend in the purchase of these stamps is $35,000.

Mrs. Ruth Weston was recently pleasantly surprised by a visit from her grandson, Robert Lawton, with wife and two children, of Leominster. Mr. Lawton is a member of the mounted police stationed at Camp Devens.

Miss Viola Misner, of Fitchburg, spent the Monday holiday in town.

The Townsend Monday club was entertained Monday afternoon at the home of the president, Mrs. Charles Ross. Miss Emma Southwick, teacher of music in the schools, was the speaker of the afternoon. Her subject, "Folk music of Europe," was intensely interesting. A pleasing variation during her talk was the singing by Mrs. Ross of the different folk songs of the several countries. In closing some of the folk songs of our own country were given, including plantation melodies and our national favorites. Miss Southwick also rendered two fine piano solos. A social hour followed with the serving of refreshments by the hostess.

Lester Spofford, who has been at work in Framingham this winter, has enlisted in the service and has gone to Fort Slocum, N. Y., where he is to train in the heavy artillery.

Miss Nellie Weston is visiting with friends in Boston and vicinity, and Mrs. Mary Blood is taking care of her mother in her absence.

The February meeting of the Birthday club on Tuesday afternoon was held at the home of the president, Mrs. Irving Seaver. Considering the bad traveling there was a good attendance, twenty-three members being present. The afternoon entertainment consisted of a laughable play entitled "Packing the missionary barrel," the following members taking the parts costumed in colonial style: Mrs. Irving Seaver, Mrs. Annie Bliss, Mrs. Elma Gates, Mrs. Emma Clarke, Mrs. Fannie Meade, Mrs. Emma Spencer, Mrs. Emma Lancey, Mrs. Emma Seaver, Miss Swimm and Mrs. Flora Atwood. During the social hour refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. J. Sawyer, Mrs. Grace Wright and Mrs. Seaver.

The board of registrars will meet in the selectmen's room on Saturday, February 23, from twelve at noon to ten in the evening for the purpose of registering those desirous of taking part in the town meeting of March 4.

Edgar Wilson and family, who have been living on the Turnpike road at the Center, have moved this week to the home of his father, Albert Wilson, Bayberry hill.

Death.

The community was saddened last week Thursday afternoon to learn of the death of Vernal Barber, aged 77 years, 2 months, 2 days, a civil war veteran and a life-long resident of Townsend hill. He had been in good health for several years, his immediate sickness lasting about two weeks, and death being caused by complications attending old age with heart disease. He passed away at his farm home where he had always lived, and died in the same room in which he was born. His going was like the "setting of the sun on a clear summer day—the sun that disappears but does not cease to shine."

Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from his late home, his pastor, Rev. A. L. Struthers, of the Congregational church, officiating. Brother comrades from the Townsend Memorial association were present and the American flag was draped over the casket of their comrade who had heard the last roll call. Four of the sons of veterans were bearers: T. James Harvey, Joseph French, William Robinson and Frank Brown. The floral tributes included a pillow from the family, and Charles Stickney of Ayer sang "Beautiful isle of somewhere." "Somewhere with the angels" and "The christian's good night."

The flowers were [illegible] ful, showing the affection [illegible] of relatives, neighbors and friends. Interment was in the family lot in the Hillside cemetery with committal service at the grave by Rev. A. L. Struthers. The flag at the school house on Townsend hill, where the deceased attended when a boy, and where the T. H. I. society held their meetings, of which the departed brother was a member, was placed at half mast during the funeral hour.

Mr. Barber was the son of the late Elisha Dana and Sarah (Day) Barber, and the youngest of a family of five children, and the last one to pass into the beyond. He had always remained at the parental home with the exception of the time he served his country in the war. He was of strong, thrifty New England stock and drank in the spirit of patriotism in his childhood and when the war of the rebellion came he enlisted.

He attended the district school on the hill and the Townsend academy at the Center. Later, he attended Lawrence academy in Groton, receiving a good, practical education. As being an attentive reader and close observer he gathered a large knowledge of men and affairs. He always retained his interest in higher education and was for a number of years a member of the school board.

On September 6, 1886, Mr. Barber was married to Miss Abbie A. Severance, of Townsend hill, and their union was a happy one. They were blessed with one daughter, Alberta Davis Barber. Mrs. Barber has indeed been a loyal helpmeet to her husband and a great blessing in his declining years, and together with her daughter, they have most lovingly cared for the devoted husband and father. Mr. Barber lived a quiet, unassuming life in the town of his nativity, a cooper by trade, and caring for the home farm. He was diligent in business, faithful in the discharge of duty, a kind neighbor, genial in manner and a respected citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber were both charter members of the Townsend Grange and his voice and fraternal friendship will be missed there, where he was a helpful and faithful member for many years.

The deepest sympathy of friends and neighbors is extended to Mrs. Barber and Alberta in their sad bereavement.

West.

W. A. Boutwell, chairman of the war-saving committee for Townsend, has appointed for the other members of the committee Rev. Joseph McKean, Carl B. Willard and Mrs. E. J. Lees, of West Townsend; George Whitcomb, Postmaster Dobson, Supt. Herman C. Knight, Townsend Center, and C. A. Josselyn and Mrs. J. H. Bennett for the Harbor. This committee held a meeting at the Townsend bank on last week Thursday afternoon to discuss plans for a big drive to raise the amount apportioned to Townsend, $35,000, and in order to stimulate public interest this important matter is to be brought before the schools, churches and various organizations in town and later a house-to-house canvass will be carried on by sub-committees, and every effort will be made to show the people that by this method of investment, in laying by a sum, however small, regularly, they are not only saving for themselves but doing their bit to help the government.

Mrs. William W. Webster is caring for an invalid in New Ipswich, N. H.

William M. Lawrence, who is spending the winter with his sister, Mrs. Ernest Phillips, in the south, is visiting in Tampa, Fla., this week.

Mrs. Alexander Reed is attending to the work at the library reading-room Saturday afternoon and evening.

Mrs. Benjamin Seaborn and Mrs. Jennie Flagg, of Ayer; Private Roy Kaddy, of Camp Devens, and Mrs. Rebecca Kaddy, from the Center, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Foster Hamilton, Stevens' hill, last week Friday.

Mrs. George Powers, from Middlebury, a former resident here, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Nellie Newell.

Mrs. Mary Forsythe, who intended returning to her home in Newton on Monday, is detained at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mae Stetson.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson and children, who have spent the winter at the Albert Wilson farm on Bayberry Hill, are returning to the Center, and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Wilson and family, from the Center, are taking their place on the hill.

Word has been received here that Miss Myrtle Hobart, daughter of Mrs. Mary Robbins, has accepted a position as assistant in the McLean asylum in Waverley.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sprague, of Cabot, N. J., have been recent guests of Miss Emily Cutting.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook, who have spent the winter with relatives in Utica, N. Y., have returned to their home here.

Mrs. Clara Hicks is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. C. Winchester, at Squannicook Inn.

The Ladies' Study club will meet on Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. George Adams and the topic of the afternoon will be "England—old and new," in charge of Miss Emma Adams and Mrs. R. S. Ely.

At the evening meeting last Sunday at the Baptist church the audience enjoyed an address in the interest of the Y. M. C. A. work among the soldiers by Dr. E. A. Wheeler, of Atlanta, Ga., who is about to sail for France for a year's service in that line of work. He came here Sunday afternoon from New York to bid farewell to his mother, Mrs. Wheeler, and his sister, Mrs. Joseph McKean, and spent the day with them at the Baptist parsonage. He proved to be a delightful speaker and also a pleasing singer, rendering a solo during the evening service. He has the best wishes of all for success in his chosen field of work.

Miss Belle Lovering, who studies in Fitchburg, is quite ill at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lovering, with the Liberty measles.

Charles Donley, clerk at I. P. Sherman's store, is quite ill at his home with a severe attack of the grippe.

Frank Hamilton, of Worcester, spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Augustus Stevens, of Stevens' hill.

MAY CATCH UP YET

Doctor—What? Troubled with sleeplessness? Eat something before going to bed.

Patient—Why doctor, you once told me never to eat anything before going to bed.

Doctor (with dignity)—Pooh, pooh! That was last year. Science has made enormous strides since then.

The publishers of the Boston Evening Transcript receive a great many letters from distant points requesting back papers containing some article published in The Churchman Afield department of the Saturday Transcript. They frequently are obliged to reply that the demand for such articles has been so great that the edition has been sold out. The only way to be sure of securing what many people call the best religious and church survey published in New England and by far the best published in any daily newspaper in the world is to become a regular subscriber to the Saturday Evening Transcript.

In 1917, there were 265,000 acres of land in Indiana devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane, and this was a ten percent increase over the acreage of the previous year.

New Advertisements

WANTED Ten good Machine's [illegible] on government work. Steady employment. BON [illegible] Fitchburg, Mass. 21tf

$1.00 WILL BE GIVEN to each of seven schoolboys who will deliver copies of the Curtis publications to customers. Only schoolboys—clean, gentlemanly and ambitious—need apply. The $1.00 is in addition to liberal cash credits and many other advantages. Apply to ROGER JOHNSON, High St., Ayer, Mass.

Quick-Acting

The speediest remedy for sick headache, biliousness and indigestion is a dose or two of

BEECHAM'S PILLS

Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c., 25c.

GINSENG MARKET IN CHINA

Depression in Business Reported Past Year, Sale of the Root Being Much Below Normal.

The market for ginseng in Hongkong and the China field generally is depressed, and dealers look for little revival in the trade until well toward Chinese New Year. Usually there is a quickening in the trade as cool weather comes on, but so far the past year, and in spite of the high exchange value of silver which ought to stimulate the trade, the sale of the root has been much below normal, says Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong. Arrivals have been below normal and the demand has not kept pace with the supply. An auction of a lot of American root on consignment recently brought fair prices. Two days later a similar lot of as good if not better root sold for little more than half the price brought by the first lot, and private sales made later were on a still lower level. Uncertain political conditions in the interior of China are given as the chief reason for the present slump in demand, but uncertain financial conditions due to the export of silver and copper coinage from the provinces as well as the existence of piracy and other disorders in some districts have also had material influence.

Sales have been irregular and the market may improve at any time. The root on hand of course will get the benefit of the improvement, while that held in the United States will probably arrive too late to secure full returns. The ginseng business and all similar lines of trade in China are in an uncertain state and little reliance can be placed upon the continuance of any conditions.

FEED FROM FISH AND OFFAL

Material Produced in Form of Meal Believed Valuable for Both Swine and Cattle.

A factory has been started at Ymuiden, at the entrance to the North sea Canal, for transmuting the least desirable fish and fish offal into a satisfactory food for swine, writes Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands. This is considered of double importance—it feeds the swine and also frees articles (maize, for example) usually fed to swine, for other purposes, even for human food.

Spoiled fish have been fed to swine, but with bad effect on the taste of the pork. The new factory, it is stated, makes a "vischmeel" (literally, fish meal) from the material it uses, which product, analysis shows, contains 55 per cent albumen and 12 per cent fat, and also realizes an oil that after suitable purification, could be used in competition with cod-liver oil, or in any case could be very useful as an industrial oil.

It is suggested that besides feeding swine with this new product it be tried with cattle, as a possible aid in the serious situation which now exists in regard to feeding live stock.

The new factory is considered of great importance in scientific circles, and hope is expressed that the government as well as the general public will give it earnest support as a matter of national concern.

Smelt Fishing in New Brunswick.

The smelt fishing season recently opened on the Northumberland strait shores of New Brunswick. Returns show that in the Miramichi district, at and near Chatham, both quality and quantity of fish have been disappointing. The fishermen there are receiving about ten cents a pound, while at Rexton and Richibucto, in Kent county, it is reported they have received as much as 15 cents; the average price is not above 12 cents.

In the recently proclaimed embargo on the export from the Dominion of certain food products, fresh frozen fish is included, but when destined for the United States shipments in fair average quantities are permitted to go forward under indorsement by collectors of customs at ports of exit.

The export of smelts from the Moncton consular district during the 1916-17 season, as shown by consular invoices certified, was 957,989 pounds, valued at $95,805.

Jack's Friend in Need.

The naval class was under signal instruction. Most of them had just come back from leave, and, as a result, to some of the boys in blue the instructor's voice seemed very far away indeed.

"A ship in distress," he was saying, through the room spaces, "has several methods by means of which she can make known her condition to other vessels or home stations. Name one, Binks!"

"The international code signal 'N. C.,'" replied Binks, waking up just in time.

"Right!" said the instructor. "Jenks, name another."

Jenks started out of a dream.

"Eh?" he ejaculated.

"What would you do if you were in distress?" repeated the signal instructor.

"Why," mumbled Jenks, "pawn my watch."

Increased Rates in Norway.

Commercial Attache Erwin W. Thompson reports from Copenhagen, Denmark, that freight and passenger tariffs have been increased from time to time in Norway since the war began, amounting now in all to 80 per cent for first class passengers, 60 per cent for third class passengers, and 100 per cent for all freights except foods and fertilizers.

Harsh Parallel.

"Remember when we were kids? Remember you liked to play with me better than with anybody else?" The millionaire was not effusive. "We have queer tastes when we're young," he observed. "I remember I used to like to play with toads."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The [illegible] heiaus or ancient temples [illegible] worship on the island of Hawaii.

DAIRY FACTS

WHAT MAKES YELLOW BUTTER

Real Source and Nature of Natural Color Found by Dairy Department of Missouri College.

Everybody likes yellow milk and butter, but sometimes the color is absent. This absence is especially noticeable in butter. Chemists investigated the cause of this variation in color as long ago as 1830, but it remained for the dairy department of the University of Missouri college of agriculture to determine the real source and nature of the natural color of dairy products. Three years of investigation not only showed the cause of the natural color but made clear the nature and source of the yellow color that is found in the body fat of cattle. The color in the tallow is exactly the same as that found in butter. Cows that give yellow butter have yellow body fat, while those which give a whiter butter have whiter body fat.

The coloring matter in both cases is carotin, so-called since it was first found in carrots. The yellow color in milk and butter is not made by the animal but comes from the feed. This coloring substance is found in all green leaves, which accounts for the yellow butter in summer. By continued feeding of feeds free from coloring matter it was possible, in the experiments conducted by the Missouri college of agriculture, to obtain white butter from a Jersey cow. As a result of the work a list of feeds that will give yellow butter and those that will not is available.

ABORTION DOES GREAT HARM

Disease Disappears Automatically Provided No New Susceptible Animals Are Added.

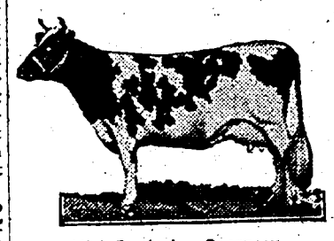
(By H. C. NEVIUS, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colo.)

Contagious abortion does much damage in some herds. It has been found that infected cows do not continue to abort. When it first breaks out in the herd a considerable number usually throw their calves. During the second year the abortions will be less, and the third year the cases will be few. In this way the disease disappears automatically, provided that no new susceptible animals are added to the herd. Disposing of the cows that have aborted and buying new ones usually results in prolonging the disease in the herd. The contagious abortion germs are often spread by the bull, so great care need be exercised in purchasing a sire to make sure that he is free from the contagion and also not to allow him to serve cows that are affected.

GOOD JUDGES OF DAIRY COW

Training Enables Farmer to Make Few Mistakes in Buying Stock and Building Up Herd.

Successful dairymen are nearly always good judges of dairy stock. Training in judging cattle enables one, first, to make few mistakes in buying stock; second, to get better prices for



High-Producing Guernsey.

animals he has to sell; and, third, to breed more skillfully, thus building up a profitable herd in the shortest possible time.

Judging receives such prominence at shows and fairs that the casual observer sometimes carries away the idea that it is a field for experts rather than for the practical farmer. This is an incorrect conclusion. Practically everyone who handles dairy cattle is benefited by studying the art of judging cattle.

WATER NECESSARY FOR COWS

Often Profitable to Use Tank Heaters With Dairy Cattle to Keep Up Good Milk Flow.

Dairy cattle should be given water free from ice. This is necessary if they are to drink freely and often, and the dairy cow must take in plenty of water if she is to keep up her milk flow. It will often pay to use tank heaters with the dairy cattle where it would not pay to use them in the fattening pens, due to the limiting influence which the amount of water taken has upon the amount of fat produced.

BETTER TO RAISE PUREBREDS

Excellent Prices Obtained by Cornell College of Agriculture for Holstein Bulls.

Does it pay to raise purebred stock? The college of agriculture at Cornell recently sold at auction one Holstein bull for $1,500 and three of his brothers for a total of $1,200. The bull who sired these four youngsters cost only $1,200.

After cutting the wick of your lamp, nip a tiny V in the center. It will burn evenly until the next cutting.

Definition of a Gentleman.

A man that is clean inside and out, who neither looks up to the rich nor down on the poor; who can lose without squealing, and can win without bragging; who is considerate of women, children and old people; who is too brave to lie, too generous to cheat, and lets other people have theirs.—Exchange.

Horticultural News

ACT OF RIPENING OF FRUIT

Should Function of Throwing Off Carbon Be Suspended Fruit Dies or Will Dry Up.

Fruits do not act on the air in the same manner as do leaves. Fruits at every stage of their growth, both in light and darkness, suffer a loss of carbon while leaves absorb carbon. The loss of carbon by fruits is essential to their ripening, for should the function of throwing off carbon be suspended (as demonstrated by experiment) the ripening stops and the fruit dies or will dry up on the tree. Fruits which are enclosed in shells ripen, however, as the membranes which form the husks are permeable to the air, the atmosphere within the shell furnishing the same qualities of oxygen and nitrogen as the air we breathe. When fruits are separated from the tree and placed in atmosphere deprived of oxygen they will not ripen, but the power of ripening is only suspended and may be induced to act by placing the fruit in an atmosphere capable of taking carbon from it; but if left too long in the deoxygenated situation it will lose the power of ripening, even though it preserves the same external appearance.

PREVENTING SCALD IS EASY

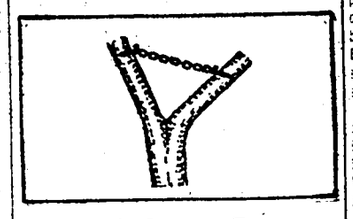
Occasional Renewal of Air of Storage Room Is Recommended by Department of Agriculture.

Apple scald of green and ripe fruit in storage can be entirely and easily prevented by an occasional renewal of the air of the storage room, according to the United States department of agriculture. Apples are living organisms which breathe and, like other living things, have ventilation requirements which, if not met, lead to smothering. Accumulations of carbon dioxide (carbonic acid gas) produced by the apples in storage, the lack of air movement in the storage room, and the depositing of moisture on the fruit are all declared to be factors that may play a part in the production of scald. Experiments indicate that high humidities may be maintained in storage without the development of scald, and prove conclusively that an occasional renewal of the air of the storage room will completely prevent the disease. Scalded fruit is more mealy and poorer in flavor than unscalded. Scald, in addition to rendering the fruit unsightly and reducing its market value, renders the apples extremely susceptible to certain storage rots.

CHAIN BRACE ON APPLE TREE

There Should Be a Swivel So That Screws May Be Tightened to Hold Limb Firmly.

A big fruit crop is likely to mean a good many injured trees from limbs breaking and splitting off under the load of fruit. Propped-up limbs are



Chain Brace on Tree.

the rule in many young orchards around picking time. Where a big tree is heavily burdened it is possible to keep it from splitting by the time-honored device of using lag screws and a chain or the screws and a couple of rods with a turnbuckle. The chain will work just as well, however. There should be a swivel in the chain, corresponding to the turnbuckle, so that the screws may be tightened up and the weakened limb held firmly. The device may be left in place and will be of permanent value.

WATCH CLOSE FOR CLINGERS

Dried-Up, Diseased Fruits That Stick to Branches Carry Disease Over Until Spring.

It is not enough to destroy all of the insect-laden and fungous-disease-infested fruit that drops before or during fruit harvest by feeding same to the hogs, sheep, or other stock. There are quite often dried-up, diseased fruits that cling to the branches, for weeks after harvest-time, which carry the spores (germs) of disease over until spring and then scatter them broadcast by wind, insects, and birds. There is just as much in preventing trouble as curing it.

PREVENT PEACH LEAF CURL

Best Plan Is to Spray Trees While in Dormant Condition—Use Boiled Lime-Sulphur.

The method almost universally in use as a means of preventing peach leaf curl is that of spraying the trees while in the dormant condition. A number of sprays so applied will give almost perfect control, but the one commonly used is boiled lime-sulphur, as it is also effective in controlling the San Jose scale.

Don't Seem Right, Some Way.

"This law is a queer business." "How so?" "They swear a man to tell the truth." "What then?" "And every time he shows signs of doing it, some lawyer objects."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The average man gave up the idea of ever becoming rich long ago. All he hopes for now is to be able to write a check for $10 with absolute confidence that it will go through all right, even if he has made a mistake or two in the subtractions on previous stubs.

CLARK, ALIAS CLARK

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS.

(Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

She had had two manuscripts returned that morning from magazine editors, and just a moment before she had failed to get a seat for the farce she wanted to see.

"Not a seat in the house," the box office man informed her.

Nina was disappointed. She glanced through the casts of characters of several theaters as she passed them to see if she could find out whether there was anything else worth spending a dollar on.

"Oh!" she ejaculated softly, "I wonder if this is the Mr. Clark I crossed on the Lymric with?" She was glancing through the cast of characters for "A Night and a Day" pasted in front of the Triangle theater and noticed the name A. G. Clark. "I'm sure he must be Galvin Clark. Isn't that lucky? I shall write and ask him to tea in the studio."

Meanwhile Nina purchased a seat for the Saturday matinee and felt slightly less discouraged.

When she returned to her studio Nina wrote a short note to Mr. Clark asking him to tea for the following Sunday.

She waited impatiently for matinee time on Saturday.

When A. G. Clark made his appearance Nina gasped. It was not the Galvin Clark whom she knew, but one compellingly different.

"Oh! And I've invited him to tea. Isn't that perfectly awful?"

Now while Nina realized that she had plenty of time to send a message to this Mr. Clark before Sunday morning, she recognized no terrible sin in not doing so.

On Sunday afternoon Nina dressed a trifle more becomingly than she knew she would have to for Galvin Clark.

Her heart fluttered a trifle desperately when she knew A. G. Clark had dropped the copper knocker on her door. If Nina was embarrassed with her guilty conscience, she did not show it.

The good-looking young actor did, however, glance a bit nervously into Nina's brown eyes when she opened the door.

Her start of surprise was well assumed.

"Oh-h!" she bluffed naturally, "you are not MY Mr. Clark. I am so sorry," she said, and cast a wonderful glance into the actor's eyes.

"I'm sorry, too—very sory," laughed A. G. Clark. "I—I just came up to tell you that I'm not YOUR Mr. Clark," he added, by way of prolonging the interview. He remained standing near the door, hoping, however, that he would not have to go right away.

"I have the kettle boiling and English crumpets—all ready for tea," Nina said boldly while inwardly she quaked at her own temerity, "and no one to eat them." With that she sent another glance into Mr. Clark's eyes.

"If that's an invitation," laughed Clark, "I accept happily. I have been desperately lonesome for someone just like you." He colored as he realized how flattering his speech seemed. "I mean," he added quickly, "that we actors don't often meet homey girls." He had put down his hat and walking stick and Nina motioned him to a cozy seat beside her little tea wagon.

"You know," she said with brilliant color flaming into her cheeks, "that I found out in plenty of time to have let you know that you were not MY Mr. Clark. I—I saw the farce yesterday and could have sent a message."

"I say," he laughed, "you're a little bit of 'all right,' as the Britons say. Most girls would have bluffed this thing out." He held out a friendly hand, and Nina put her own in it.

"And most men would have bluffed it out, too. You could so easily have 'thought you had met me' and all that old game," she told him.

While consuming tea and toasted crumpets, the young actor and Nina found much in common to interest them. She even told him of her discouragement regarding some of her stories.

"Later they seemed to lack pep," she said, and a worried little line slanted between the brown eyes.

"If you let me look them over," he suggested, "perhaps I can dust the pepper pot over them. Many times two minds work better than one on certain types of stories."

When finally the moment of parting came and Clark had Nina's promise to join him Wednesday for lunch Nina said laughingly but with a tremor in her voice. "Though you are not MY Mr. Clark—I am very glad you came." And while he still held her hand and would have liked to make the retort that his heart suggested he refrained and said instead:

"You couldn't be as glad as I am if you tried. And we're going to work up those stories and get checks from all the editors and after that we'll write sketches—I have heaps of ideas and need just you to help me."

Nina blushed warmly. He was apparently going to be HER Mr. Clark sooner or later.

Amsterdam Largest City.

Amsterdam is still the largest city in Holland by over 100,000 inhabitants, its population being 628,403 at the beginning of January, 1917, an increase of about 12,000, or 2 per cent, during 1916. This was above the average annual increase of preceding years, on account of war conditions, it is presumed.

Habsburg or Hapsburg?

Habsburg, as it is spelled in the original German, the name being derived from the castle of Habsburg, or Habichtsburg (Hawk's Castle), on the bank of the Aar, in the Swiss Canton of Aargau. In this way it is also spelled in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, but in this country it is generally spelled with a "p."

The largest continuously active volcano in the world is situated on the island of Hawaii.

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The newspaper which makes a secret of its circulation has a good reason for it—but the reason is never the one that is given to the advertiser.

FOOD PROFITS LIMITED TO PRE-WAR AVERAGE

Food Administration Has Full Power To Enforce Says Endicott.

Explains License System.

"The licensing system of the United States Food Administration is a powerful agency for curbing the profits of food dealers and thereby giving the cost of production to the producers and requiring no more than that necessary increase from the consumers," said Henry B. Endicott, Food Administrator of Massachusetts. "It also enables us to enforce processes and practices in the manufacture and distribution of food products which save food and transportation and labor.

"Now the license system, by two fundamental rules which are binding on all licensees, defeats speculation and profiteering. The first rule is that no licensed dealer may have in his possession, either on his own premises or by contract, a greater supply than he will ordinarily use in sixty days. In the case of wheat products the limit is a thirty days' supply. A few exceptions are made for seasonable commodities, but always the burden of proof lies on the person holding the larger supply to be able to show the Food Administration that his holdings are in the public interest.

"The second fundamental rule is that no licensed dealer is allowed to make a larger rate of profit than he was accustomed to make on an even market in the years 1911-12-13 before the war. We get reports of stocks held by practically all dealers of the state and are able to compare them with stocks they were in the habit of holding previous years. We have full authority to put undue supplies on the market at reasonable prices. In the second place, there is no longer any inducement to hold for a rise in the market because, even though the market goes up, the licensee has to sell at only his pre-war profit over his own actual cost; he is not allowed to take advantage of a rise in the market.

"While we do not fix prices, therefore, we do most decidedly control prices by controlling the profits. The value of such control has been abundantly shown in the course of prices of sugar, flour, canned goods. In the last few months if the Food Administration had not limited the profits of sugar dealers to cost plus their pre-war average there is no doubt but that sugar would have gone at retail to 30c. or 50c. a pound. Flour last spring went sky-rocketing up to $15 or $16 a barrel, yet the farmer received on an average of about $1.60 for his wheat. This year, with the farmer getting over $2, the consumer pays about $12 or $13 a barrel for flour.

"We are sometimes asked whether we can do anything with retailers whose business is too small to be licensed. The fact is that the general food control statute gives us practically the same powers over the licensed and unlicensed dealers, except that we do not have the power to revoke their licenses for doing business, but we can do something just about as unpleasant with them, and that is, forbid the wholesalers who are all licensed from selling to the retailer. We are also determining as fast as we can retail prices on the more important foods which are fair for Massachusetts dealers and publish them in the papers. We believe that this will be very effective in holding the retailers to reasonable levels.

"As might be expected, we have had a goodly number of complaints alleging violation of license rules, but I am glad to say that most of them fall down when it comes to proof."

In brief the following, who for the most part have not been required to be licensed hitherto, are included in the new Proclamation, with exceptions as noted below.

(1) Importers and manufacturers of and dealers in feeds for livestock and poultry of practically all kinds, including baled hay, commercial mixed feeds, grain, beans, etc.

(2) Manufacturers of or dealers in malt made from barley or other grains.

(3) Manufacturers of or dealers in peanuts.

(4) All salt water fishermen, whether fishing independently or on shares.

(5) Canners of vegetables and sardines, 500 cases a year.

(6) Manufacturers of tomato soup or catsup, or other tomato products, who are not already licensed.

(7) Manufacturers of alimentary paste.

(8) All millers of wheat or rye, or manufacturers of any products derived from those cereals.

Retailers whose gross sales of food commodities are not more than $100,000 a year, are, however, as before, not to be licensed, even though they handle any of the above mentioned products. Farmers are also exempted as to the products of their own or leased land.

By more recent proclamations, bakers, restaurants, clubs, hotels or other persons manufacturing bakery products for sale, who use three or more barrels of flour a month, are required to be licensed by Feb. 4. All importers and distributors of green coffee are also required to be licensed by Feb. 4. Any persons affected by

Names That Signify Nothing.

Really, what is in a name? Irish stew is little known in Ireland; Roman candles did not originate in Rome; what is known in baseball parlance as a "Texas Leaguer" happens in as many games played outside of the Texas league as those played in it; the Irish daisy is in reality a dandelion; Netherlanders don't make it a custom to pay for their own refreshments while eating and drinking with friends, and thereby make constant what is known as a "Dutch Treat." And so on, for infinite examples.

MARCH 1 LAST DAY FOR FEDERAL RETURNS

Penalties for Income Dodgers Are Severe. Get Your Return in if You Are Liable.

March 1, 1918, is the final day allowed under the Federal Income Tax law for the filing of Federal Income Tax returns. Persons who are required to file returns, under the provisions of law, and who fail to get their returns in on time are subject to severe penalties, as follows:

For making false or fraudulent return, not exceeding $2,000 or not exceeding one year's imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the court, and in addition, 100 per cent. of the tax evaded.

For failing to make return on time, not less than $20 nor more than $1,000, and, in addition, 50 per cent. of the amount of tax due.

If, on account of illness or absence from home you are unable to render your return within the time prescribed by law you may obtain an extension of thirty days if a request therefor is filed with the Collector of your District before the due date of the return. In this request you must state the reason why the return cannot be filed within the time prescribed by law.

Collectors of Internal Revenue are not authorized to grant extensions of more than thirty days, but the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has authority to grant a reasonable extension beyond thirty days in meritorious cases. If you desire an extension of more than thirty days your request should be addressed to the Commissioner and should contain a detailed statement covering the reasons which make it impossible for you to file your return on or before March 1.

The Internal Revenue men are now completing their tour of Massachusetts, during which they were in touch with the people of every city and town. If you failed to get in touch with the deputy which visited your section, it is not too late to get advice. Consult your postmaster as to where the nearest Deputy is now. Get your blank form, study the directions and the requirements as shown thereon, and make your return without fail if your income was sufficient to come within the bounds named in the law.

It is pointed out by Collector Malley that it is fully as important that the people comply with the Federal laws as fully as they are complying with the drafts of men and the conservation of foods and fuel. "The war must be paid for," says Collector Malley. "Congress has as much right to conscript a just portion of income as it has to conscript our boys. The tax for 1917 is designed to reach moderate as well as large incomes, so that all persons who are in financial position to bear a portion of the heavy Government expenses can be assessed in proportion to their ability to pay.

"The man who is barely making a living or barely supporting a family is not affected by the 1917 law. But the man who is able to bear a share of the burden has been reached by the new law and he should accept his responsibility in the same patriotic spirit that our young men have shown in offering themselves for the great purpose of the country in making the world safe for people of all kinds to live and to govern themselves."

This tax is one which recognizes women as on an equal basis with men. The unmarried woman, or the married woman with a salary, must make tax return just the same as any man. Only the woman supporting her mother or other members of her family may take out $2,000 exemption.

Under the law, the head of the family is the one whose earning power contributes to the family's support.

Similarly, a widow with small children to support, can take out $2,000 exemption, and $200 additional exemption for each of her children under 18. Thus it is intended that the law shall work no hardship to women having to struggle to get along. But each must file return if her income is $1,000.

A man whose wife dies, and who is left with small children to support upon a moderate income, may also take full exemption under the new tax law, and also claim $200 exemption for each of his children under 18.

The widower, under the law, is a single man, and must make tax-return accordingly. Married men need not file returns unless they are earning $2,000 or more.

"This is as much a national obligation as the reporting for duty of a man drafted for service with the colors," says John F. Malley, Collector of Internal Revenue. "As it stands it is much a matter of the man or woman's own conscience. It is for him or for her to determine just how far he is liable to the tax. He must figure his own income, and if it reaches the figures named in the law, must make faithful report upon it to the proper authority.

"This tax is distinctly a war measure, and will be in effect during the war.

"This is a people's tax—it reaches right down into the pockets of the small wage-earner; it makes him a partner in the job of winning the war."

What Canals May Accomplish.

It is possible that by the construction of canals we may yet see the day when there will be great fleets away up in the country where once upon a time the highland clans held sway, where Rob Roy Macgregor raided for cattle and fought with the Clan Macfarlane, and where there is still the glamor that was thrown over it by the genius of Sir Walter Scott. If so, it will be one of the most remarkable transformations in the history of any country.

POULTRY FACTS

LEGHORN IS GREAT FORAGER

If There Is Any Scratching in Sight, Whether Garbage Heap or Garden, Bird Will Find It.

The Leghorn, while it is a breed of great merit, should not be confused as the right breed for every man and every place. Put the Leghorn in its proper environment and there is no fowl that will surpass it. On the contrary, if subjected to conditions that are not suitable for it, it will be an endless source of trouble and disappointment. Leghorns are ambitious fowls, tireless foragers. If there is any scratching in sight, whether it be a garbage heap, truck garden, cold frame, manure pile or rose bed, the Leghorn will make strenuous efforts to

White Leghorn Cockerel.

get into it. Therefore the person who would keep a garden for flowers or vegetables had better see to it that his henyard is securely inclosed with wire netting if he expects to raise Leghorns.

If the runs are large enough, Leghorns can be confined within a seven-foot fence. Yet once they develop the habit of "yard-breaking" they will clear this with ease, for they make a practice of half flying and half climbing up the netting.

MAKE HENS WORK FOR LIVING

To Prevent Fowls From Becoming Too Fat It Is Good Plan to Make Them Scratch for Food.

To prevent the hens from becoming fat while consuming enough food for their support and for production they must be made to work for the larger share of the food received by scratching in litter; if this fails to accomplish the desired result, then the food is not balanced. Too much grain may be allowed, and the remedy is to reduce the proportion of grain and give more egg-producing food. The hens should not be overfed at any one meal. Give a moderate allowance in the morning of mixed grain; then let them out on grass or rye pasture. The allowance of green food, such as cabbage, turnip tops and roots, is not because of the nutritious material contained in such foods, as they really are of little value, but they perform excellent service from a dietary standpoint.

SELECTION OF BEST LAYERS

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Urges Poultry Keepers to Save Laying Pullets.

Early hatched pullets, in fact, pullets of any age, are scarcer than ever this fall, and in view of this fact the Pennsylvania department of agriculture is trying to aid poultry keepers meet the deficiency by urging the saving of all the good, old hens for this next year's laying.

The best hens are those still in old plumage, still with red combs and still laying. All such hens are extra good hens and should be marked and used as breeding stock next spring.

SUPPLY EGG-SHELL MATERIAL

Where Not Furnished in Sufficient Quantities There Will Surely Be Less Eggs Laid.

When hens are fed and handled for heavy egg production, and egg-shell material is not furnished in sufficient quantity, there will be fewer eggs laid, and those laid will be too thin-shelled to market safely. The price of one egg will now supply a good layer for a year.

COMB IS A GOOD INDICATOR

If Fowl Is in Good Health It Will Be Bright Red and Firm in Texture.

The comb is a good indicator of the health of a fowl. If the fowl is in good condition the comb will be bright red, and firm in texture. When the comb becomes pale and soft, or turns dark or purple, something is seriously wrong, and the sooner the matter is looked into the better.

Just Pass It On.

Inquisitive people are the funnels of conversation; they do not take in anything for their own use, but merely to pass it to another.—Steele.

Easy Thing to Decide.

Any man may know whether he is wise or foolish. If he is wise he can learn something even from a fool. If he is a fool he won't learn even from a wise man.

RANKS WITH SERGE

Jersey Cloth Staple Fabric for One-Piece Dresses.

Stands Much Wear and Tear and Lends Itself to Either Straight Lines or Draperies.

Wool jersey cloth now ranks with serge as a staple fabric for the development of one-piece dresses. This material has not been on the market many seasons, but it has so much to commend it that its permanent popularity seems assured. As material for a dress for hard wear—that is, for business or traveling—wool jersey cloth hardly has an equal. It stands a great deal of wear and tear and freshening up, and to a business woman that is certainly a strong point.

Then jersey, like serge, seems to lend itself to either straight lines or draperies.

The frock sketched is made of wool jersey cloth, and has the surplice type of bodice which is becoming to most figures. A straight line front is featured, although this is broken at the

Surplice Frock of Jersey Cloth.

waist by the surplice section, which extends into sash ends that tie at the center of the back. The back of the dress runs in one piece to a point well below the waistline, where the skirt is gathered on, with fullness let in to form a moderate side flare. The dress fastens in the center front, fastening being concealed by the surplice bodice.

This dress would be very effective developed in tan or beige color, with collar of green, purple or red broadcloth.

Many surplice bodices are shown in wool jersey. One model recently noted has the bodice reaching exactly to the normal waistline and fitting rather smoothly in the back. The front is cut in conventional surplice style, with ends that loop at the back. The skirt is straight and gathered to the bodice. The dress is collarless, sleeves and neck opening, as well as surplice sash ends, being piped with broadcloth in contrasting color.

VEIL DESIGNS ARE VARIED

Some So Elaborated With Outline or Tracery Embroideries That They Resemble Lace.

While the scroll veil is very popular, it has a rival in the dotted veil. The latter may show the dot in heavy chenille spots, velvet pastelles or in embroideries of silk. Its chief allurement lies in its novelty.

Nearly all the new veils have geometrical or irregular meshes, many of them so elaborated with outline or tracery embroideries as to resemble lace. Dark brown, taupe and gray are favored colors, sometimes overwrought with white or black embroideries.

The veil shapes are almost as varied as the colors and patterns. Some are square, others circular, and there are those that are oblong. Indeed, a good deal of pains has been taken to shape the veil so that it will have an artistic relation to the hat with which it will be ultimately worn.

To Retain Freshness.

The care of the skin is perhaps the most imperative task in keeping up one's appearance. The only way to retain freshness and strength, especially when it is being taxed by daily work, is by careful nourishment and rest. Many persons drink too much coffee, especially those who work hard mentally and feel the need of a "bolstering up" to continue their labor. Milk and food are good substitutes, and a little nourishment taken when one is tired will allay fatigue just as surely as coffee seems to do.

Colors White Shoes.

To make your white kid shoes like new that are past cleaning, get a ten-cent package of dress dye, take one-fourth of the package, put in an old teacup, pour boiling water over the shoes and brush in dye with common vegetable brush. Give them two coats. You can make them any shade to match your suit. A waterproof coat may be given by procuring a cleaning paste the shade of the shoe.

Why, of Course.

For the first time Buddy saw bouillon cups and he wondered why they had two handles on. His little pal said, "Huh, don't you know? When you break off one handle you can use the other."

Roomy.

"I had a wash at the Sailors' home and let my clothes dry on me. They were filled up with another ship's crew."—Halifax Survivor in New York Evening Sun.

WITHIN 120 DAYS OF ENLISTMENT

Soldiers Must Insure Inside Four Months

Under an act of Congress approved Oct. 6, 1917, members of the military forces of the United States, in addition to other privileges, are given the right to take out insurance with the government. This act is being administered by the secretary of the treasury, through the Bureau of War Risk Insurance of the Treasury Department.

Relatives should interest their soldier boys in this insurance and see that he takes it within 120 days of his enlistment.

This article is designed to explain as clearly and briefly as possible some of the essential facts that should be known by the men and women who are applying for war insurance. The questions and answers are based on inquiries that have come to the Treasury from soldiers and sailors.

The necessity of prompt action with regard to this insurance can not be emphasized too strongly. Persons who were in the service on or before Oct. 15, 1917, can not apply for the insurance after Feb. 12, 1918. Those who joined the service after Oct. 15, 1917, have 120 days thereafter in which to apply.

What It Is.

Q. By whom is this insurance offered?

A. By the United States government, as authorized in an act of Congress for that purpose approved Oct. 6, 1917.

Q. What security is back of this contract of insurance?

A. The United States government.

Q. Is it the only protection furnished by the government to its soldiers and sailors?

A. No. The government has provided, in addition, compensation for death or injuries or disease suffered in line of duty.

Insured—Beneficiaries.

Q. Who can be insured?

A. When engaged in active service under the war department or navy department, any of the following can be insured:

(1) Commissioned officers.

(2) Enlisted men (meaning a person, male or female, enlisted, enrolled, or drafted into active service in the military or naval forces of the United States, including non-commissioned and petty officers and members of training camps authorized by law).

(3) Members of the army nurse corps (female) and members of the navy nurse corps (female).

Q. Who can be named as beneficiary?

A. Any one or more of the following may be named: Wife, husband, child, grandchild, brother, sister, adopted brother, adopted sister, stepbrother, stepsister, parent, grandparent, or step-parent of the insured, and parent, grandparent, or step-parent of the insured's wife or husband.

Can Insure 120 Days After Enlistment.

Q. How much can I take?

A. Any amount from $1,000 to $10,000 (in multiples of $500).

Q. For how long will the privilege of taking insurance last?

A. For only 120 days after enlistment or entry into active service unless you were in the service on Oct. 15, 1917, in which event you may apply at any time within 120 days from that date. The last day of which 120 days is Feb. 12, 1918.

Q. How can my premiums be paid?

A. By deduction from your pay, by deduction from any deposit with the government, or paid direct to the bureau by yourself or some one for you. To avoid lapse it is recommended that deduction from pay be authorized.

The Plan of Insurance.

Q. What form of insurance is it?

A. Annual renewable term insurance for the period of the war. Change to the usual forms of insurance on some other plan may be made within five years after the close of the war.

Q. Can I carry my insurance after the war?

A. Yes, in its present form, for a period of five years, but within such five years you must change it to another form which can be done without regard to your then physical condition. No medical examination will be required for the change.

Not Assignable.

Q. Can people to whom I owe money collect such debts out of my insurance

A. No. This insurance can not be attached, assigned, or otherwise taken by creditors.

Q. Does the Government provide automatic insurance?

A. Yes, for those who may be totally and permanently disabled or who may die without having applied before Feb. 12, 1918, the government has provided insurance in amount of $25 per month payable to a wife during her widowhood, child, or widowed mother.

Tragedy of Childhood.

Nothing is more despicable than to deceive a child in any way. Their plastic young minds receive and hold impressions that we can never eradicate, try we ever so hard. In spite of all the grownups can say the little ones never feel the same love and respect for those who have deceived them. Even careless funmaking may leave the scar which nothing can quite eradicate. Do not break a promise to a child, and do not lie to it, even in fun, for the great tragedy of childhood is to lose faith.

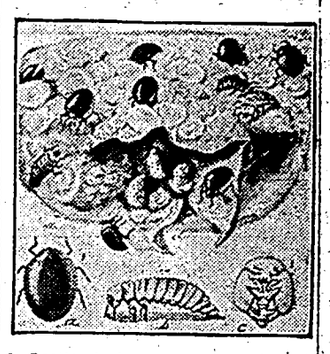
Horticultural Points

SOME COMMON LADY BEETLES

Bugs Are Among Best Friends of Plant Grower as They Feed Upon Various Noxious Insects.

(By W. E. BRITTON, Connecticut State Entomologist.)

The beetles commonly known as lady beetles, "lady birds" "lady bugs" or plant-louse beetles are among the best friends of the farmer or plant grower, because they feed in both larval and adult stages upon plant lice, scale insects and the small larva and eggs of other and larger noxious insects. With the exception of one species, Epilachna borealis Fabr., known as the squash lady beetle, all lady beetles occurring in Connecticut are carnivorous and predatory, feeding on the smaller insects many of which are pests of cultivated plants. Hence we call them beneficial. Dr. S. A. Forbes examined the stomach contents of 39 specimens, and found that one-fourth of their food was composed of plant lice; though they ate some vegetable food such as pollen and spores of fungi, a greater portion of their food consisted of insects.



A, Beetle; b, Larva; c, Pupa; d, Blossom End of Scale-Infested Pear, Showing Beetles and Their Larva Feeding Upon the Scales.

Though many persons are more or less familiar with lady beetles, some are not acquainted with their habits or life histories, and do not, therefore, recognize them as friends.

CROPS TO GROW IN ORCHARD

Ideal Method Is Not to Grow Any Cultivated Crop Between Trees—Some Can Be Grown.

The ideal method of handling the young orchard is not to grow any cultivated crops between the trees at all. This will allow them to be cultivated both ways all during summer, which is very desirable. Carefully done, however, some of the hoed crops, like potatoes, strawberries, cabbage, etc., can be grown without injuring the trees to any great extent. These crops more than pay for the expense of cultivating the trees. Not more than three rows should be placed between two peach rows. When the trees begin to bear fruit, these crops should be left off entirely, except possibly two or three rows of peas between the peach rows.

In no case should the trees be stunted or neglected in any way by growing crops in the orchard. Such crops as corn and grain should be left off entirely as they draw heavily on the soil and rob the trees of both food and moisture.

CULTIVATE ALL FRUIT TREES

While Young They Should Be Given as Much Attention as Any Other Crop on the Farm.

Fruit trees respond as readily and definitely to cultivation as do garden vegetables and grain crops, and, while young, they should be cultivated with as much care as any other crop. Experiments by agricultural scientists have shown that fruits breathe, and that cold storage delays their ripening by causing them to breathe more slowly than when warm. If an orchard is given as much care as grain and other crops—if it be carefully pruned and sprayed and the ground properly cultivated, especially the first year, there will be no disappointment as to yield, both in quantity and quality.

SOME SPRAYING 'DON'TS.'

Don't forget to spray.

Don't spray just for the sake of doing something! At best spraying is only precautionary and must be applied in advance of the expected attack of pests.

Don't neglect the fertility of the soil. Plants must "eat" to live.

Don't expect the plants and trees to take care of themselves; cultivate, prune and spray.

Trees and plants are easily grown, and will make life brighter.

Losses in Battle.

In the campaign in Italy in 1859 rifles were used on both sides, and the proportion of casualties to combatants was at Magenta and Solferino one-eleventh. In the Franco-Prussian war, when both sides were armed with breech-loading rifles, the average proportion of killed and wounded at Worth, Spicheren, Mars-le-Tour, Gravelotte, and Sedan was one-ninth, the heaviest loss being at Mars-le-Tour, where it was one-sixth, and the smallest at Sedan, where it was one-twelfth.

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Change of Address

Subscribers wishing the postoffice address of the paper changed, must send us both the old and new address and also the name of the paper they receive.

Saturday, February 23, 1918.

PEPPERELL

News Items.

Rev. J. B. Lewis will preach at the union service of the Unitarian and Congregational churches on Sunday morning. Sunday schools of both churches will be held at noon. At 6.30 the Forward club will meet in the ladies' parlor. On Tuesday evening the prayer meeting will be held at the parsonage.

A no-license rally will be held in the town hall on Sunday evening at 7.30. Everybody is invited. This meeting is not in the interest of any candidate, party or creed, but it is to consider the best interests of our town. We have been fortunate in securing Lieut. Col. E. K. Massee, judge advocate at Camp Devens, and Chaplain Reynolds of the 303rd regiment as speakers, and several of our prominent citizens may also have a part. The Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts are invited to attend in uniform and will assist in the singing. An orchestra will be present.

Word has been received that Rev. R. W. Drawbridge stayed on the boat while it was being repaired and then went back to New Orleans and then started on the return home, arriving in Belmont the last of the week. The voyage, with its hardships, has improved Mr. Drawbridge's general health.

The children of Mr. Brown, superintendent of the Keyes farm, are having Liberty measles.

The shoe shop that has been running here has closed and one of those interested has gone to Haverhill. It is reported that the power has been sold. Mr. Bailey has returned to Boston.

The W. C. T. U. held a meeting with Mrs. Pond on Main street last week Friday afternoon. In spite of the abominable walking there were members enough present to prosecute the unfinished business and plan new work.

Mrs. Robert Gay has been suffering with the severe colds, but is much better.

Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Beers went Monday to attend a joint meeting of the Home and Foreign Missions in Worcester. The missions have united and are going to make a big campaign for $80,000,000 to be used in different fields, where there is dire need.

On Friday, February 15, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Rodman Blake in a private hospital in Nashua, N. H.

Oliver Thayer came to town over Sunday to see his sister, Miss Anna Thayer.

Miss Beatrice Keith, of Hollis street, is ill with Liberty measles.

Louis Kleinberg went to Boston on Monday to work in Walton's shoe factory.

Harry Grant, night superintendent of the gun-cotton rooms, has taken a room with Mrs. Linville Shattuck, Pleasant street.

Miss Crystal Phelps, of Athol, is at the Methodist parsonage.

Dr. Kittredge, of Nashua, N. H., on Monday, at the home of Rev. D. R. Child, removed the tonsils and adenoids from the throat of little Robert Child, who is just convalescing from scarlet fever.

The present high cost of grain is cutting off the pork supply. Willis Perry having twenty-nine pigs to slaughter on Tuesday.

Rev. P. R. Stratton, a former pastor of the Methodist church, has just resigned his pastorate of the Chester district because of poor health.

The Woman's club met on Tuesday in Saunders' banquet hall. The slush was ankle deep but that did not deter a good sized audience from attending. Miss Georgia Shafer, reader, from the Leland Powers School, Boston, read two acts from "Old lady 31," which were most fascinating. Other selections of poetry and patriotism were given. Two weeks from date the meeting will be held in the town hall—children's day. A delightful program is in hand; one well recommended feature of the entertainment will be the Merrie Players. The meeting is open to the public with an admission for people over twelve years.

Mrs. O. M. Nash went on Wednesday to Chelsea as delegate for the Woman's club at a Federation meeting.

To the delight of the children of the second and third grades Miss Josselyn of Worcester, their teacher, greeted them on Tuesday morning after an enforced absence from an abscess on her left arm.

The pupils of the high school took their major examinations on Monday and Tuesday.

The family of Fred O. Parker received word on last week Thursday that Mrs. Winslow Parker, now with her daughter in Lunenburg, was improving and feeling nicely.

Mrs. J. B. Lewis, assistant guardian of the Paugus Camp Fire Girls; Mrs. W. H. Beers, guardian of the Pennemaquan and Babbatasset Camps, and Miss Clare W. Linscott, a guardian of a Maine camp, attended the Guardians' association in Ayer last Saturday. The association has been formed for the purpose of better organizing the work of the Camp Fire Girls of the cantonment towns. A wonderful work is being done by the Camp Fires and in so organizing the camps a greater strength of purpose and results are expected. Girls all over the world are entering into special war work planned for the camps and already the results have reached big figures. With the hearty co-operation and sanction of President Wilson they expect to go "over the top."

On Monday, in Trinity church, Worcester, were gathered men Methodists from all over New England to hear the plans for the celebration of the centennial of Methodist missionary work. The speakers for foreign work were S. Earl Taylor and Frank M. North, both secretaries on the foreign board; also, Fred B. Fisher, who has just returned from India; D. D. Forsyth, secretary of Home Board; George B. Dean, formerly district superintendent of Worcester district, but now in charge of the evangelistic work in the home mission fields, and E. J. Helms of the Morgan Memorial, spoke for the home field. Bishop Hughes, resident bishop, then gave an address covering both fields. The plan calls for $80,000,000 to be raised in the next five years in order to accommodate the growth of the work, an equal amount to be given each board. Miss McNayr, Mr. Dole, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Beers were present from Pepperell.

At the Methodist church on Sunday morning the theme of the sermon will be "A world-wide vision for the church." There will be no evening service, as the church will join in the mass meeting for no-license at the town hall.

Other Pepperell matter on page one.

THE FATE OF SERBIA.

Serbia is a ruined nation. According to a Geneva newspaper, one-quarter of the population of 3,000,000 which it had in 1914 is dead, either killed in the war or victims of disease or privation. The survivors are permanently weakened. There is no way for the allied or neutral nations to send into Serbia enough food to sustain the people, and the Germans do not care what becomes of them. For Serbia, with her Slavic opposition to Teuton control, has stood in the way of the Pan-German plan for many years. It was on the cards that the country must be abolished, so that Germany would have an easy path to Constantinople and beyond. There seems but one remedy for this situation, one plan by which the Slavs of the Balkan district can be saved from Teuton domination and intrigue—the establishment, under the protection of the allies, of a Slavic state in accordance with plans already outlined by Serb statesmen; a state that will include Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slavonia and part of Istria, with a population of about 10,000,000, able to hold its own against Bulgaria, or Austria, or any single country that might try to break it up, says Detroit News. The Slavs of southeastern Europe seem to understand the necessity for union and to be ready for it. Unless they can combine they are at the mercy of the Prussian program.

We have fed the sea for a "thousand years," but never as we are forced to feed it today; it has become in the last 38 months a place of quiet sepulture for tens of thousands of our fellow countrymen, their graves unmarked except by the flowers of memory. Where is the romance of the sea which lured our seamen, as boys or youths, away from the comfort and security of home? The great adventure has become the great tragedy of maritime history, says London Daily Telegraph. Romance has been overlaid by realities of crime and cruelty, which are, happily, fresh in human experience. The naval bluejacket thought to fight in the open an honorable foe, both sides using legitimate weapons of war, in accordance with the immemorial restraints; instead he is confronted by men who have forgotten the meaning of honor in word and deed, and take pride in striking felon's blows. "Humanity after action," was Nelson's motto; inhumanity before, during and after action is the cry of the Germans.

If a soldier or sailor is injured in such a way that he cannot resume the occupation or trade in which he was engaged before he entered the service, the government of the United States, at its own expense, will re-educate that man to some form of occupation for which he will be capable and which will enable him to spend the remainder of his life in useful work, helpful to himself and contributing to his own happiness. If the government re-educates a disabled man to a new occupation, and he earns money, no matter how much, because of his new occupation and because of his own effort, the government will continue to pay him the full amount he is entitled to for his disability. All that he earns belongs to him in addition to what the government pays him.

More trouble in the enemy naval forces is reported. It is a curious thing that discontent in a military nation usually appears first in the navy. The Russian navy is the latest example of this, the mutinies on the Black sea warships being the first serious forerunners of successful revolutionary movements. Why this should be true is not clear. But possibly it is due to the fact that a warship is a separate unit; and that, once a crew is organized for trouble, it can pretty well pursue its own course, says Montreal Sun. From the outside, it would seem as if a post on the Kiel fleet would be about as tempting a position as exists today in the armed forces of Germany. There is a minimum of danger and a maximum of leisure.

Some parts of the country have been indulging in an electric light jag, and Administrator Garfield's conservation order will have the wholesome effect of inducing them to sober up. There is such a thing as overdoing even in artificial lighting, and downtown sections of many enterprising American cities had arrived at a stage of super-intensity of nocturnal illumination which reminded philosophical observers of Emerson's protest against the abuse of the superlative.

The government will take from the housewife her canned goods, and soldiers are being charged for the sweaters that women give. Such are the ingenious lies that German propaganda scatters broadcast. What slimy, soulless serpents we shelter!

Mobilize all the idle books and fresh magazines, phonograph records, games and other forms of entertainment and instruction. When they are mobilized send them to the cantonment, where they can do their bit for the soldier boys.

Rebeccaites.

In 1843 a band of Welsh rioters made war upon the toll-gates along the highways of a large district. The captain of the rioters and his guard disguised themselves in female attire, and they were called Rebeccaites. This name arose from a gross perversion of a text of Scripture: "And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her . . . let thy seed possess the gate of those who hate them."—Genesis 24:60.

PLANE EVERY 9½ MINUTES.

Somewhere in America there has been erected a one story building devoted to the construction of airplanes, which, so far as we know, is the greatest structure of its kind in existence, the Scientific American states. It reaches 900 feet in one direction and 1,300 feet or say, a quarter of a mile, in the other direction, and the whole of this area is covered by a single roof and constitutes, except for a fire partition wall, a single shop. The layout of the plant upon this vast floor space has been so arranged that the raw materials, in the shape of sawn spruce, brought here mainly from the forests of Oregon, enter the building at one end, and the finished planes leave it at the other end—the material moving from stage to stage and from machine to machine as the work proceeds. Now, if the supply of motors keeps the pace with the output of planes, when the factory is being run to its full capacity, this will mean that a complete airplane could be wheeled out of the factory and take flight in the air, every nine and a half minutes of an eight-hour day. In this building is enough lumber to lay a plank one inch thick and twelve inches wide from Boston to a point 200 miles west of Omaha, Neb. Furthermore, the brick employed in this one story building would be sufficient to build a wall 12 inches thick entirely around the Woolworth building up to a height of 300 feet.

Uncle Sam is now making further demands of the farmers, with a view to next year's returns. He is urging that they increase their production of live stock, especially of cattle and hogs. The reason is that several of our principal allies have almost ceased to produce on these lines. In Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium there are now 33,000,000 fewer head of cattle, sheep and hogs than at the beginning of the war. Meanwhile the decrease in all other countries has amounted to more than 92,000,000 head—a total shrinkage in meat animals alone of 115,000,000 head. So the farmer must not weary in well-doing, but must continue in 1918 the place he set for himself in 1917, says St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press. And meanwhile the housekeeper can greatly help by so planning her meals as to serve more of the foods not suited to export, and less of the foods that could be sent abroad.

When Hannibal's army was encamped in front of Rome the citizens of the Eternal City held an auction—the earliest sale of real estate by that method on record—and showed patriotic confidence in the future of their country by bidding high prices for the ground occupied by the Carthagenian cohorts. The same undaunted spirit prevails in France today. Absolutely confident of driving the Germans from their soil, the people of that indomitable nation are now beginning the gigantic task of restoring the wrecks made by war and preparing for the various exigencies by which they will be confronted when peace is declared. The old proverb, "In time of peace prepare for war," is reversed, and the French, in time of war are preparing for peace.

There was a time when a good young man was regarded as more or less of a mollycoddle. How the viewpoint has changed is emphasized by the fact that the war fund of the Y. M. C. A., whose work in the army and navy is avowedly to preserve and extend moral and religious influences and standards, will amount, after a week's campaign, to over $50,000,000, and that other great religious bodies are working successfully for the same moral ends. And another emphasis is laid upon this important fact by the general outburst of indignation and indignant denials of charges recently brought against the morality of the men in the camps.

The failure of the potato crop in some states is reported on account of poor potato seed, infertile soil and amateur cultivation. They all made for poor crops. Many of the "war gardens" failed for the same reason. Famine stalks in France and Italy, in every land of the allies, except England. The world feels the need for the deliberate mobilization of American farms and gardens.

These are the days when extra care must be taken to prevent fire. Especially is that useful but also dangerous little article, the match, to be used with a never-relaxing vigilance, for a goodly percentage of losses and lives are to be laid to the negligence with which it is habitually handled.

Some of the people who always pay cash and buy where they can get things cheapest instead of trading at one store have had trouble in getting sugar lately. And yet that's what everybody ought to do.

One advantage about enlisting in the navy is that a fellow generally has a clean place to sleep and three square meals a day.

Most Expensive Wood.

The most expensive wood in the world is said to be the boxwood imported from Turkey for the use of engravers. The cost ranges from 4 to 10 cents a square inch for the best grades.—Brooklyn Standard-Union.

Her Ideal.

We heard a young woman say yesterday that her ideal man is one who is smart enough to make money and foolish enough to spend it.—Boston Transcript.

Preserving Flowers.

A method of preserving the natural colors of flowers consists in dusting salicylic acid on the plants as they lie in the press and removing it with a brush when the flowers are quite dry. Red colors in particular are well preserved by this agent. Another method of applying the same preservative is to use a solution of one part of salicylic in fourteen of alcohol by means of blotting-paper or cotton-wool soaked in it and placed above and below the flowers. Powdered boracic acid yields nearly as good results.

Cold, Dry Air Healthful.

Cold, dry air is generally considered healthful and stimulating by medical authorities. Metabolic processes are active, and if the body is properly protected against excessive heat loss, sensations of well-being are dominant. There is little exact physiologic evidence bearing on this condition. Physicians have shown that respiratory infection of rabbits with bacillus bovisepticus (snuffles) is favored by chilling the animals after they have been accustomed to heat.

Early Day Buttons.

The ancients lacked buttons—one wonders, indeed, how they got along without them—but evidently they possessed studs of modern pattern, such as those with which we fasten our cuffs and collars. And, in truth, they did even have a kind of button (though not sewn on), which fastened garments with a pin and hook exactly in the way our brooches and clasp pins operate.—Exchange.

Prefer Irregular Lines.

The straight line is an abomination to the Chinese. They endeavor to avoid it in their streets and buildings, and have banished it completely where country field paths are concerned. They will always substitute a curve wherever possible or they will torture it with a zigzag. To the Chinese mind the straight line is suggestive of death and demons.

The Busy Gaza.

In almost every particular the modern Gaza is an Egyptian rather than a Syrian town. It is full of rich vegetation, and its many glistening minarets show up against the dull green of innumerable olive trees. Gaza is still as of old, a place of trade, of camels and caravans, and its bazaars are loud with traffic and filled with merchandise.

Cleaning Tea Kettle.

To make tea kettles wear twice as long gather a handful of pebbles (size of a walnut), wash nicely and put in tea kettle. The rolling around of pebbles keeps the crust that forms loose, and it easily shakes out from time to time, thus saving the wear of the kettle.

Queen of Hearts.

The name Queen of Hearts, was given in the low countries to Elizabeth, daughter of James I and the unforunate queen of Bohemia. When her fortune was at the lowest ebb she never lost her dignity of spirit, and poverty and distress only rendered her the more an object of admiration.

Must Find Trouble.

There are some people in this world who would not be just sure they were living if they couldn't scrape together a collection of small troubles, either their own or other people's, about which they might feel irritated.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

With the Sages.

A hero is he who taking both reputation and life in his hands, will with perfect urbanity, dare the gibbet and the mob, by the absolute truth of his speech and rectitude of his behavior.—Emerson.

Effect of Odors.

It is stated that strong perfumes have a power to intoxicate and benumb, and workers in the perfume laboratories are occasionally so much affected as to need medical aid.

The Perfect Hostess.

"It's very simple: Comfort and freedom, thoughtfulness without tyranny. A too conscientious hostess can be as great a pest as an overzealous friend."—Delineator.

Combination Is Good.

"We must," says Roger Babson, "have the courage to put merit before wealth." But don't despise the two when combined.—Boston Advertiser.

Bravery.

People glorify all sorts of bravery except the bravery they might show on behalf of their nearest neighbors.—George Eliot.

Fat in Nuts.

The fattest form of food is nuts; almonds contain more than half their weight in easily digestible fat.

Not the Best Way.

One way to be up with the lark is to keep the lark up all night.—Boston Transcript.

Work and Play.

The body requires a holiday, but the mind should be always at work.

A Satisfactory Way.

"We ask Providence for so many things," says a Billville philosopher, "it might be a good idea to bunch 'em—for instance: 'Send all you've got, and we'll do the selecting!'"—Atlanta Constitution.

Speaking and Thinking.

Mrs. Peck—"I always think twice before I speak once." Peck—"Exactly, my dear—but then you are such a quick thinker."

Hot Water Drinking.

A stomach cleansing treatment is often just as important as a rest for the organ, says Wm. Eastman in Physical Culture. The best ordinary method of stomach cleansing is the drinking of a considerable amount of hot water. Not too hot. Just hot enough so that you can drink it with fair rapidity and take a considerable amount into the stomach in a short time. If you will drink a cup of hot water every five minutes until two quarts or more have been consumed, the result will be unfailing.

Soap Berry Tree.

The jaboncello or soap berry tree grows in the humid parts of western Ecuador. It attains a height of about fifty feet and has wide-spreading branches and immense quantities of fruit of the size and shape of cherries. The nearly transparent yellowish skin and pulp surrounding the round black seeds are so saponaceous as to be used instead of soap by many people of Ecuador, being equivalent to more than fifty times their weight of that material.

Etiquette.

There is an ancient saying that "One should never speak of a rope to a man whose father was hanged," and there is a great deal implied in those few words. In effect, is meant that subjects of conversation should be carefully introduced where persons present are not known to a certain extent; that is, that nothing untoward has happened, publicly, at least, that would make any unusual subject apply too openly to anyone especially.

A Huge Shadow.

Shadows, naturally enough are of various sizes, and one can imagine that mountains throw very large shadows indeed. It is said that the peak of Teneriffe, on the largest of the Canary islands, throws such a huge shadow that it stretches as far as 50 miles across the water, partly overlapping some of the other islands.—Christian Science Monitor.

Made a Hit.

A stenographer has devised a novel way of making a hit with her employer, displaying genius that promises great success for her in the business world. When the boss dictates a letter containing a word she does not know how to spell she does not make the usual guess at it. She looks it up in the dictionary.—Kansas City Star.

Feed Two Oceans.

While making measurements of river flow in the upper Mississippi river basins and in the Hudson Bay recently, the United States geological survey discovered that some of the rivers under investigation empty into the Arctic ocean during certain seasons and into the Atlantic ocean at other times.—Popular Science Monthly.

Useful Palm.

In the lowlands of the delta of the Orinoco river the natives build huts suspended between trunks of Mauritia flexuosa, a palm. They also eat its fruits, its farinaceous pith, its saccharine juice, and use the fibers of its leaf stems for making ropes, hammocks, etc.

Tablets of Stone.

The library of the School of the Sons of the Empire, an ancient Chinese university which, it is said, was in existence a thousand years before Christian era, comprises 182 tablets of stone, whereon are carved all the "13 classics," the essence of Chinese culture.

Mushroom Is Old.

The antiquity of the mushroom's establishment in history may be read both in the Bible and the treaties of the Talmud. The manna that saved the Israelites has been identified as a mushroom of commerce, growing in its natural wild condition.

When Nerve Is Necessary.

"One of my ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence." "That took courage." "I think so." "True enough, but you ought to see the lease I signed this year."

What Friendship Is.

Friendship is the transfiguration of service; the creation of a new motive; redeeming life from its drudgery, and sending the pulse-beat of joy into the most trivial task.—Donald Sage Mackay.

Chance for a Genius.

Inventor—"Do you want to buy my newly patented bullet-proof vest?" Financier—"No; but I'd be interested in a soup-proof vest."—Puck.

His System.

Van Speederley—I'd like you to meet my wife, old top. I think that a bold, dashing fellow like you could get her away from me.

Wealth of Love.

We are most of us very lonely in this world; you who have any who love you, cling to them and thank God.—Thackeray.

Knows No Bounds.

Wherever the tree of beneficence takes root, it sends forth branches beyond the sky.—Saadi.

For Beating Rugs.

If you have a carpet or rug to beat, don't hang it up double on the clothes line where the dust from one side is just pounded into the other side. There is a much easier and quicker method. If you have an old bed spring, still on its frame, lay the carpet on it, single thickness. You will find that the dust doesn't fly so much, and you can get the dust out much quicker and easier than when it is beaten on the clothes line.

Feb. 23 **Saturday Sale** Feb. 23

FEATURING CHOICE SPRING LAMB

LEGS OF NICE LAMB 28c. lb. ROASTS OF LAMB 30c.-32c. lb.
BEST LAMB CHOPS 35c. lb. LAMB FOR STEW 20c. lb.
REFINED MUTTON TALLOW, use it instead of Lard or Cooking Oil when Cooking 20c. lb.
Fresh Ox Tails Fresh Pigs' Feet Fresh Honey Comb Tripe
Pot Roasts of Beef ..... 20c., 22c., 24c., 26c., 28c. lb.
Rib Roasts 32c., 35c. lb.
We have the nicest, sweetest, leanest CORNED BEEF of any market in the State—just look it over 20c., 22c., 24c., 26c. lb.
Loins of Pork 27c. lb. Half Loins 28c., 29c. lb.
Fresh Pork Shoulders, from Eastern killed Pigs..... 24c. lb.
Beef Sausage, with 4% cereal, made in our own establishment 25c. lb.
Hamburg, fresh ground, from fresh killed beef..... 20c., 22c. lb.
To introduce our BEEF SAUSAGE and HAMBURG STEAK we make a special price of 37c. for one pound Beef Sausage and one pound Best Hamburg; 47c. value for 37c.
USE DRIED BEEF IN PLACE OF HAM WHENEVER YOU CAN
Sliced Dried Beef, large thin slices 40c. lb.
Sliced Dried Beef for fricasee or with eggs 30c. lb.
SMOKED SHOULDERS, 5 to 7 pounds each..... 27c. lb.
WHOLE HAMS 28c. lb. BEST TUB BUTTER 52c. lb.
Best Compound Lard 27c. lb. Extra Heavy Cream 50c. pint
FRESH WATER FISH received every week—Whitefish, Lake Trout, Pout and Pickerel
OYSTERS received fresh daily; large selected,..... 30c. pint
Waterproof Containers, pint or quart sizes, 2c. each
Smoked Halibut, Salmon, Herring, Whitefish
Bulk Olives 30c. quart Bulk Stuffed Olives 45c. quart
Evaporated Apricots, 23c. value, 19c. lb. Evaporated Peaches 17c. lb.
Fitchburg Market Special Coffee, 38c. value, a Java Blend 33c. lb.
White House Coffee 35c. 1 lb. can Ceylon Tea 55c. lb.
N. B. C. S. S. Butter Crackers 18c. pkg. Goldenrod Sandwich 25c. lb.
Doris 30c. lb. Tokens 25c. lb.
Bakery Department—Cream Doughnuts, extra large, 5c. each, 6 for 25c.
Coffee Rolls 18c. doz. Raisin Brown Bread 12c., 20c. loaf
Fancy Head Lettuce Native Celery Mushrooms Parsley
Native Onions 10 lbs. 35c.
NOTICE—This market will be open until 9.30 Thursday night. Closed all day Friday, Washington's Birthday

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION, License No. G. 23,833

BROCKELMAN BROS.

FITCHBURG MARKET

420 Main Street Telephone 2080 FITCHBURG, MASS.

LUNENBURG

News Items.

The Woman's club observed gentlemen's night on Monday evening and presented a very interesting program. There were plantation songs by a quartet composed of Warren Barter, Misses Annie M. Cameron, Frances Harley and Carl R. Harrington, with Mrs. C. T. Woods at the piano. The main feature of the evening was a most interesting address upon "The negro" by Rev. George C. Gibson, of Newton, who was born and brought up in Georgia, and who has always been associated with colored people. He told of many of their characteristics, their superstitions, etc., and sang some of their songs, perfectly imitating their dialect. At the close of the lecture he showed many pictures. Refreshments were served.

The annual town meeting will be held on Monday, March 4. The selectmen have issued the warrant, which contains twenty-nine articles. It summons the voters to appear at the town hall at 5.30 in the morning, and says the polls will be open for the election of officers at 5.45 and may close at one o'clock in the afternoon. It is quite likely that after the reading of the warrant some of the articles relating to business of the town may be postponed until a later hour.

Deaths.

On last week Friday morning this community was greatly startled when the news came over the wires from Billerica that Mrs. Emma C. Parker, wife of Henry A. Parker, was a victim of pneumonia and had passed into the great beyond during the night. It came as a shock to her many friends in town, who thought there must be some mistake—that it could not be our own dear friend and neighbor—but it proved all too true, and arrangements were made for the funeral to be held in the home at Billerica at noon on Sunday, and then come to Lunenburg, where a service would be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Brown upon arrival. This program was carried out successfully, the family and friends from Billerica coming by auto and the body by auto hearse. Rev. L. A. Whiston, pastor of the Congregational church, conducted the service. Mrs. Whiston and Miss Loraine Hayward sang "Does Jesus care?"

The house was filled with friends and neighbors who testified their love for her by beautiful floral offerings, of which there were a great many. On account of the heavy drifted snow the committal service was held at the house, and the body placed in the receiving tomb, temporarily, after which it will be buried in the family lot in the North cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Parker came to Lunenburg several years ago, bought a pretty home where they lived beloved by their neighbors. They both united with the Congregational church and the Grange. About two years ago Mr. Parker accepted a position in Billerica, and after a time moved his family there, renting their home here. Mrs. Parker frequently came to Lunenburg and the last time she was in town, January 4, she sang at the funeral of an old neighbor, Mrs. Lucina Peabody. She was a beautiful singer, a member of the church choir, where she often sang a solo, one of which was "In the secret of his presence." Mrs. Peabody loved to hear her sing and it was in response to a request made by her some time ago that Mrs. Parker sang at her funeral. Little did any one think that her sweet voice was so soon to be forever hushed on earth, and that she would join the immortal choir before the great white throne in heaven.

Hardly had the community recovered from the startling sensation experienced by the news of the death of Mrs. Parker, when on Saturday afternoon it became known that George F. Tyler, a long-time, respected resident of Lunenburg, had met with a severe accident and had been carried to the Burbank hospital.

About a month ago Thomas Archibald sold his blacksmith shop to Eben H. Mead, who was having it renovated, and the interior torn out, preparatory to changing it into a public garage. Mr. Tyler was engaged in this work. One floor had been removed and he was at work overhead when in some way he fell to the cellar or basement below, a distance of about fifteen feet, striking on one of the old floor joists. Mrs. William M. Harley, his daughter, and Mrs. J. T. Powell were out with their babies when in passing the shop they heard groans, indicating that someone was in great distress. They ran to the shop and upon opening the door found Mr. Tyler lying in the cellar, where he had fallen. They at once summoned help and William and Richard D. Harley and Karl Goodrich came to the rescue and tenderly lifted Mr. Tyler and carried him to his home only a short distance away.

Dr. C. E. Woods was called and he at once saw that the case was a serious one and ordered his removal to the Burbank hospital. There an X-ray was taken, showing that eight ribs on the right side were broken and the lung punctured by the broken bones, and there were other internal injuries, all of which combined to cause his death at one o'clock on Sunday morning.

Mr. Tyler was born at Cranston, R. I., on May 26, 1850. His parents moved to Lunenburg when he was quite young and he has passed nearly all his life here. He had been a useful man, handy and faithful in whatever work he found to do—teaming, driving coach, working on the farm for the late Daniel Putnam for thirteen years, in the store of Warren Lewis & Co., and F. H. Boutwell, and of late years doing carpenter work for S. H. Francis and the Harley Brothers, a part of which was laying some of the floors in the Ritter Memorial library, and which were remarkably well done.

The deceased leaves a widow; one son, Willie F. Tyler; two daughters, Mrs. William M. Harley, and Mrs. George D. Harper, and four grandchildren, of Lunenburg; three sisters and three brothers.

The funeral was held at his late home on Tuesday afternoon, Rev. L. A. Whiston conducting the service, and interment will be in the North cemetery when spring opens. There were many beautiful flowers from relatives and friends, among which were many sprays and set pieces.

A Finnish speaking man dropped dead upon the ice at Whalom on Tuesday afternoon. He had worked all the forenoon, then ate his dinner, smoked his pipe and resumed his ice-cutting at one o'clock. Others working with him said they saw him drop suddenly. They carried him to Sunnyside farm, where the foreman, F. J. Merry, assisted in trying to revive him. Dr. F. M. McMurray, who was called, made a quick trip to the place, but the man was beyond medical aid. Nothing is known of the man except that he went to work for George E. Freeman last week Friday. He said he had no relatives in this country. There was a receipt in his pocket made out to Anti Wirki.

BOXBOROUGH

Church Notes.

Sunday services—Morning worship at eleven o'clock; preacher, Rev. G. M. Missirian, the minister; subject, "Our church and the boys at the front." Sunday school at 12.15. C. E. meeting and evening service at seven o'clock.

A social was held in the vestry last week Friday evening under the auspices of the Ladies' circle. Paul Viets, a son of the former pastor here, gave a very interesting talk on "Some experiences with Dr. Grenfell's unit at Labrador." Margaret Downes and Maria Steele rendered solos, and Ruth Hager played a selection on the piano. Refreshments were served and several games were enjoyed by all who were present. The committee in charge of the evening was composed of Mrs. G. W. Burroughs and Mrs. C. H. Richardson.

On Sunday morning a special collection will be taken for the National Service Commission, to be used directly for the religious welfare of our soldiers and sailors. Please come and help.

New Advertisements.

FOR SALE—Building and lot on West Main Street, three minutes' walk from Depot Square, Ayer. Building 32x75 feet, suitable for store or business purposes. Price right for cash. Inquire of H. J. WEBB, opposite Depot Square, Ayer, Mass.

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