

TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Forty-Seventh Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, January 9, 1915

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AYER, MASS.

HARVARD.

News Items.

Kent T. Royal, while here on his two-weeks' vacation from Colby college, entertained for a few days his friend, Miss Lillian Fogg, of Freeport, Me.

Preparations for the coming extension school to be held at the town hall, January 13-22, are going merrily forward and all seem to be interested in this event which bids fair to be a grand success.

The annual ball given by the Harvard Complementary club is to be held on Thursday evening, January 14, in town hall. Music by Newell's orchestra; Clifford L. Russell, floor director. Supper will be furnished by the ladies of the Unitarian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton O. Stone, of Enosburg Falls, Vt., were in town last week calling on old acquaintances and making their stay with Mrs. Dadmun in Still River.

Those interested in the schools of the town will learn with regret that Miss Katherine Janes, our efficient primary teacher, is to close her service here this week to begin work on Monday, in the public schools in Westfield, where she has superior advantages and will also be nearer her home town of Easthampton.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Brooks, for several years residents here, have gone to Winchester for a few months' stay, but hope to be back in Harvard for the summer months.

While visiting in Albany, N. Y., last week with his cousins, Elery E. Royal and the pleasure of attending the annual inaugural ball given in honor of the governor of New York state in Albany, N. Y.

Mrs. Julia Sawyer Bailey, of Medfield, with her little girl, visited the week-end and over Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Shores.

A party of the pupils of Bromfield school enjoyed a straw-ride to Bolton on Thursday evening of last week, attending the dance given in that place. Mrs. S. M. Farnsworth and Mrs. Arthur T. West went as chaperones for the party. Walter Farnsworth took them over with his team. Others attended in single teams, making in all a party of twenty-eight. They enjoyed their evening very much.

Irving E. Morse, with his father, Henry Morse, left here on Tuesday for Boston, from where they sail for Norway, Va., expecting to be gone about three months. They have relatives in that place and are anticipating their stay there with a good deal of pleasure.

Members of the chemical company responded to a bad chimney fire at the home of Edgar Chimes early on Thursday morning. With hand chemicals the fire was extinguished before any serious damage was done.

L. Kingston Savage, who purchased the ice business of the late George E. Bagster, has purchased of William Viles the very desirable building lot on the hill overlooking Bear Hill pond on what is known as the Bolton road. The land lies between the property of Dr. Paul Thorndike and the reservoir grounds of Stanley B. Hildreth. He has a large force of men at work laying foundation for a spacious, up-to-date icehouse, capable of covering 60,000 cakes. Mr. Savage reasons that ice can be handled with less expense in winter and once placed in a situation easy of access, and on good roads, saves much valuable time in delivering.

Woman's Club.

The Harvard Woman's club held their regular meeting on Monday afternoon at the Congregational church and were most interested in having with them as the speaker of the afternoon Mrs. Maud Wood Park, secretary of the Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government, who in a very charming manner addressed the audience on "The woman movement the world around."

Mrs. Park was graduated with highest honors from Radcliffe in 1898 and has been interested in the woman movement and in settlement work ever since her college days. She has spent two years in travel in the Orient and in study of the conditions affecting women in different countries, and obtained much valuable data because she was able to meet the women of the East in their secluded quarters where visitors are not usually admitted. She told in a very convincing manner how at first in years gone by women were not allowed freedom in religion, then they were barred from education which was meant for man alone—it having been considered most shocking and even immoral for a girl to go to college or to wish to study any profession. Even now, one of the reasons given by the Chinese for binding the baby girls' feet is that when they become women their feet will be so small and useless that they cannot go about so much. So for this reason women are allowed to hobble about on feet from two to four inches long for fear that they might lose some womanly virtue in becoming an interested, knowing, thinking

being in this human race or a helpful citizen of this vast world. But as it usually the way some one was keen enough to see that woman should rightfully have access to a good education and after a great struggle she did she was allowed to enter the different professions—then more struggling and in some states she was allowed suffrage in different degrees.

If our country has been so long in giving women their full rights as citizens is it any wonder that other countries are not so far up on the ladder of civilization should hold their women in such subjection? Mrs. Park said that it seemed to be fair that women should be classed as rational human beings instead of simply belonging to a woman's aid society. Undoubtedly after another prolonged struggle equal suffrage will come to Massachusetts. This does not mean that all women are equal, but it is right for those women who do not wish to vote to hinder those who do? Very likely, before many years, it will not seem any more strange to think of women voting equally with men that it seems now to think of women receiving education equally with the other sex, although it did seem so shocking and immoral to our ancestors. Equal suffrage is democracy true to itself.

During the business session of this meeting it was voted to insert an article in the town warrant, to investigate the feasibility of a water supply for this town. After the address of the afternoon the meeting was in the hands of the hospitality committee who served a very appetizing lunch in their usual efficient manner.

By unanimous vote of the directors the next meeting of the club will be held on January 11, instead of on January 18. The civic committee desire that all come prepared for the discussion of the water supply question which will follow the paper on current events.

Grange.

Harvard Grange installed its officers for the year 1915 at their regular meeting on Tuesday evening, Millard Sawyer, of Groton, assisted by Mrs. Henry W. Robbins, of Ayer Grange, acted in the efficient capacity of installing officers. The officers installed were as follows: Benjamin S. Keyes, m. r. A. A. Reed, p.; West, l.; George Tooker, s. t.; Clarence Beard, asst. stow.; W. J. Kerley, chap.; John B. Harlow, treas.; Henry A. Knight, sec.; Frederick Wrangham, g. k.; Elsie Knight, Pomona; Ruth M. Head, Flora; Mildred E. Morse, Ceres; Ruth M. Peters, l. a. s. Dr. Austin Peters and S. Henry Waters, ex. com. Committees for the year were also appointed. The feast committee for the year are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Thayer, Frank Abbot, Miss Mary Abbot Harold Tooker and Pauline Harlow. The literary committee is composed of Benjamin S. Keyes, Arthur T. West, Miss F. J. Amesbury, C. S. Bodwell and Mrs. E. M. Ripley.

The next regular meeting is to be held on Tuesday evening, January 19, at which time the first and second degrees will be conferred on a class. The degree team masters appointed are S. Henry Waters for the men and Mrs. Etta M. Ripley for the ladies.

Church Notes.

At the Congregational church on Sunday morning the usual service for public worship will be held. The pastor will preach, taking as the theme of his sermon, "Up to standard." The choir, under the direction of Mr. West, will sing "The Lord is my shepherd." At the next meeting on the 23rd psalm. Messrs. West and Schultz, with Miss Parker, will sing the trio and Miss Madeline Parker will sing the solo. The bible school will meet as usual at twelve o'clock. The new courses of study begun last Sunday seem to meet the needs of the school exactly. There is a class and a welcome for everyone.

The C. E. meeting is at seven o'clock. The subject for Sunday evening is "Our denominational boards and our relations to them." Miss S. A. Davis will have charge. There will be special music.

At the last meeting of the Monday class a paper on current events was read by Mrs. Savage. Other parts were taken by N. A. Dill, Miss Hatfield, N. Farwell and Miss S. L. Jones. At the next meeting special papers will be read covering the principal characters and events of the whole revolutionary period from Lexington to Yorktown.

The service of worship will be held in the Unitarian church on Sunday morning at 10.45. The sermon by the pastor will be the third in the "Be fair" series; subject, "Be fair to the socialist." Under the direction of H. A. Thayer the ladies' chorus will sing "Art thou O God," by Brown. Everybody more than welcome.

The usual session of the Sunday school will be held at twelve o'clock. On account of the removal of Mrs. H. H. Putnam to Alston for the winter, a new teacher had to be secured for the ladies' class and fortunately Mrs. Gertrude C. Whitney has taken the place. A graduate of Smith college, and subsequently engaged in social work, Mrs. Whitney is especially well fitted to make the class, as it has been under Mrs. Putnam, interesting and helpful.

New library books will soon be purchased for circulation among the younger members of the school. Plans for another indoor picnic will soon be taken up.

On Wednesday evening, January 27, and all day Thursday, January 28, the Worcester Conference of Unitarian and other christian churches will be in session at the Unitarian church in Fitchburg. Rev. William Sullivan, the noted prophet of the denomination, will be the preacher Wednesday evening.

The Unitarian Men's club held its regular meeting in the lower town hall Sunday evening. Another oyster stew was served by the supper committee and was very much enjoyed. After lunch the members listened to an interesting address by Dr. Austin Peters on the "Foot and mouth disease," after which Clifford Russell of this town gave a very fine talk on "Cooperation of apple growers," a subject that is becoming very popular among our business farmers.

Successful Concert.

The old folks concert given by the Ladies' Benevolent society at the town hall on Thursday evening was a decided successful affair, about 225 attending. Messrs. Kerley, Murchie and Foss acted as ushers, Fred Wrangham as lithering man and Masters Kenneth West and Raymond Kinsman as pages. While all did credit to themselves it may be said without partiality to any that the readings of Miss Amaden, the solo work of Miss Mildred Sanders, A. H. Turner, Miss Josephine Baker and Mr. Thayer were very much appreciated. The costuming of those who took part were also extremely fine and showed lots of work and care in arrangement. Mrs. Dill, Miss Hersey and Miss Estlin Priest had their part to attend to and deserve credit. The stage setting was in charge of A. T. West and added greatly to the arrangements. Mrs. H. A. Thayer served as the pianist for the evening.

Extension School.

Regarding the extension school to be held here this month the committee wish to say for those driving in from the outer districts that a lunch can be obtained at the tea room every day during the week. The secretary is in receipt of a letter from Rev. J. N. Pardee, of Bolton, which will prove of interest to those planning to attend.

Referring to your inquiry I will say that the extension school to be held in Bolton is of a different character from the one held here. It will deal with subjects somewhat different from those of the general community life—such as farm management, sanitation, education and co-operation. I wish to congratulate you upon securing such a school as we had last winter. I know how to characterize it briefly. Dealing with every day problems of the farmer and the home-maker, the training of students, the experience what they are talking about, there was not a dull moment. Many of the sessions. The home economics course proved to be one of absorbing interest to the students. Although the school began with a blizzard raging and the mercury continuing to drop, the attendance during the week proved the attractiveness of the instruction offered. Every cent repaid for facing the storms. In every respect the school was a success. Yours cannot fail to be. Very truly yours, J. N. PARDEE.

Still River.

Frank Sprague, J. R. Bigelow and C. J. Merrifield have filled their ice-houses with fine ice from Still River. Chester Willard began to fill his ice-house on Wednesday from Cranberry pond, but the thaw of that night and Thursday put a stop to it until it turns cold again.

Miss Emma Butterfield, of Ayer, has come to stay with her aunt, Mrs. Hannah Harrod, and help care for her.

Mrs. Adeline Turner has gone to the Curtis home in Harvard to spend the winter.

Thursday afternoon Mrs. W. V. Viles entertained the Birthday Club.

The Woman's Mission Circle met with Mrs. Abbie Dadmun on Tuesday afternoon.

Miss Edna Robinson has been visiting a sister in Hudson.

BOXBOROUGH.

News Items.

Mrs. Arthur Nelson's mother and sister from Greenwood were weekend guests at her home.

Burpee C. Steele and Edgar Mead begin their term as jurors next Monday.

The school began Monday after an unusually pleasant vacation. The fine sleighing, coasting and skating and beautiful moonlight evenings made ideal conditions for holiday festivities.

Miss Florence Hilton is now located at Littlefield Wetherbee's, quite near her school, and Miss Sprague is boarding in West Acton.

The annual church meeting was held Wednesday.

Mrs. Sizer of Hartford, Conn., came to Littlefield farm the middle of last week, her husband coming for the week-end. On Monday, accompanied by Mrs. Earle Littlefield, they returned by auto to Hartford, where Mrs. Littlefield will remain for some time.

Miss Marjorie Shattuck, having arrived at the "sweet sixteen" milestone in her life celebrated the event

Overcoat Weather

The cold wave has come. It makes every man think of having warm, comfortable clothes. Here are a few of our many cold weather suggestions:

MACKINAWs for Men and \$5.00 to OVERCOATS, genuine Irish Friezes, \$12.00 to FUR COATS—Special Values Boys, all sizes, good patterns \$8.50 Chinchillas, Fancy Black Cheviots \$24.00 \$18, \$20, \$22, \$24

WINTER GLOVES 25¢ to \$2.50
SWEATERS and JERSEYS \$2.00 to \$7.00
WINTER UNDERWEAR Shirts and Drawers 50¢ to \$1.50

All Kinds of Footwear—Rubber Boots, Overshoes Felts, Rubbers, Etc.

Anything not right, we make right

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AYER, MASS.

WOOLEN SHIRTS \$1.00 to \$2.50
WINTER CAPS & TOQUES 50¢ to \$2.50
Flannel Night Gowns Mufflers and Woolen Socks

by giving a birthday party to her young friends December 31.

We are sorry to learn from Charles Waitt that his brother's health is very poor and giving his friends much concern.

Miss Gertrude Reop of Nova Scotia is visiting her uncle, Ernest Barreau, on going to his barn last Saturday morning John Griffin found his horse dead, which means quite a loss to him.

The many branches of handicraft are receiving considerable attention from the ladies here this winter. Besides the beautiful work in weaving done by Mrs. Shattuck others are working in basketry, embroidery, etc., and Mrs. Charles Sherry has a class in bead work. Knitting for the Belgians has revived that industry and rug making also gets attention.

A wedding of interest here was that of Miss Helen Dustan of Worcester to Mr. Buswell of St. Johnsbury, Vt., at Millford, N. H., on New Year's eve. Miss Dustan taught school here in No. 4 district. Miss Ethel Mead with whom she boarded while teaching attended the wedding.

Another wedding on the same evening is also interesting as the groom, Clinton Wetherbee, of Stow, has many relatives here. He married Miss Isabelle Coffey of East Boston, who has been a frequent visitor at Mrs. Chas. Libbie's.

John Coffey's youngest daughter is sick with threatened pneumonia. Dr. Royal is in attendance. The eldest daughter of S. D. Salmon, 3d, has also been sick with tonsillitis.

SHIRLEY.

News Items. E. W. Winterbottom is confined to his home with frost-bitten feet.

The Church Debt society will meet with Mrs. Fred Brown at the Brookside on next Tuesday evening.

Emlin Eisner, five years of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Eisner, of the wild road, is confined to home with diphtheria.

Wilbur Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Nelson, who resides in the Munson house, who was operated upon a short time ago for abscess on the brain, is gradually sinking and his condition is critical.

Many patrons of the public library were disappointed on Wednesday afternoon to find the door locked and all kinds of rumors were circulated. The real facts were that the janitor, Mr. Winterbottom, was confined to his home with sickness and consequently unable to light the fires and at the last moment it was decided to lock the doors.

Center.

Mrs. J. C. Ayers, who has been confined to her home with illness is slowly improving.

Forrest B. Wing, who has been laid up with a sprained ankle at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Adams, has recovered sufficiently to return to Harvard university on Wednesday.

Miss Mary McCusker, of Waltham, who has been teaching the Center grammar school, gave up her position this week for a more satisfactory one elsewhere. Another teacher has been secured to fill her place.

The Shirley Branch Alliance met on Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lindenber on Lancaster road.

HOLLIS, N. H.

About Town.

Fred Whitney of Waltham, Mass., was in town the past week. He was formerly employed on the farm once owned by Miss Abbie Flagg.

William J. Gates has purchased the black horse and buggy formerly owned by Fred Snow.

The work of cutting the brown-tails and destroying the gypsies on the highways is in progress. The work is in charge of Francis Cave with his assistants.

Mrs. Flora Ord is assisting in the telephone office. Work is very dull where she has been employed in the Waltham watch factory and thousands of hands have been laid off indefinitely.

George Stickney and little son of Waltham, Mass., were in town on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Fred Mead and son have returned from their visit in Worcester, Mass.

Many Hollis friends of George A. Burge of Nashua attended his funeral on Sunday.

Miss Belle I. Gilman, who has been

in Nashua for sometime past, went South for the winter with her friend, Miss Olive Clement.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

When cooking new potatoes to which mint has been added, they usually turn a bad color. This can be prevented by cooking the potatoes first and, when strained, placing a

sprig of mint on the top, closing the lid lightly. The steam absorbs the flavor and the potatoes are kept a good color.

Two drops of camphor on your toothbrush will give your mouth the freshest, cleanest feeling imaginable, and will make your gums rosy and absolutely prevent anything like cold sores or affections on your tongue.

Stains on white flannel can sometimes be removed by rubbing them with glycerine and yolk of eggs mixed in equal quantities. Spread on the stain, leave for half an hour, then wash the garments as usual.

The smallest donation ever accepted by the conscience fund has been accepted in Washington—one cent for a stolen box of matches.



Overcoat Comfort

Every man should own one of our warm, heavy Coats to resist this wintry weather. We have many splendid garments to show you. If you want a handsome, comfortable Overcoat, Storm Coat, Fur-lined Coat or Fur Coat, and you want to get the greatest possible value for your money, you will find it here.

Please remember that this Home of Good Clothes stands for the best of everything in its lines.

MEN'S REGULAR OVERCOATS \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
MEN'S FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
BOYS' FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS \$5.00, \$7.47, \$8.47 and \$10.00

FUR OUTSIDE COATS

Many kinds of fur and all at extremely low prices for the quality of fur—Dogskin, Horskide, Calfskin and Angoras—all made with large storm collars and heavy quilted linings.

\$20.00, \$25.00, \$30.00 and \$35.00

HEAVY DRIVING COATS

Many kinds of Storm-proof Coats, all made large and long, with wide storm collars. They are made of Oxford Freize, Astrakhan and Montana Buffalo Cloth. They are storm and wind proof.

\$12.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00

SHEEP LINED COATS

The outside is made of Corduroy, Moleskin or Leather, all lined with Heavy Sheep Pelts. Some have Corduroy Collars and some have a Fur Collar. Also Duck and Corduroy Coats with Heavy Blanket Linings.

Corduroy, Sheep-lined.... \$5.50 to \$8.00
Leather and Corduroy, reversible.... \$5.00
Blanket-lined Coats..... \$2.50 to \$5.00
Sheep-lined Ulsters, 52 inches long \$12.00 to \$18.00

MACKINAWs

Handsome and popular garments at prices lower than you usually find for same quality.

Men's Mackinaws... \$4.00 to \$8.50
Boys' Mackinaws \$4.50 and \$5.00

FUR LINED OVERCOATS

There is solid comfort in one of our Fur-lined Coats for the man who is obliged to be out-of-doors in all sorts of weather. The shell, or the outside, is made of Kersey or Astrakhan, and the fur lining is Dogskin or Muskrat. The collars are of Muskrat or Persian Lamb.

\$30.00, \$35.00, \$50.00 and \$60.00

WINTER UNDERWEAR

Everything a man or boy may need in the way of Warm Underwear.

Men's Double-breasted, fleece-lined, the celebrated High Rock goods..... 50¢
Men's Derby Ribbed Underwear..... 50¢
Men's Heavy Cotton and Wool..... 50¢
Men's Wool Underwear, the celebrated Glastonbury Mills' make.... \$1.00 to \$1.50
Wright's Health Fleece Underwear: 75¢ and 85¢
Men's Union Suits, in Heavy Derby Ribbed goods in many kinds... \$1.00 to \$3.00
Boys' Fleece-lined Underwear.... 25¢ to 50¢
Boys' Wool Underwear..... 50¢
Boys' Union Suits..... 50¢ to \$1.25

SWEATERS

All the popular styles and colors. Some great values for the prices asked.

Men's Sweaters... \$1.00 to \$6.00
Boys' Sweaters... 50¢ to \$2.00
Children's Sweaters 50¢ to \$2.00

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

Saturday, January 9, 1915.

WESTFORD.

Center. Ephraim A. Stevens, formerly of Westford and Chelmsford, died at his home in Mountain View, Cal., December 27, aged 81 yrs. 9 mos. 10 days.

Quite inadvertently omitted from the committee in charge of the firemen's ball last week was the name of S. B. Watson, who so pleasantly and efficiently sustained his full share of responsibility for the many details that went to make up that successful affair.

George W. Goode, who was formerly a well-known resident of our village, has recently lost his father by death.

Miss Bertha H. Norris, a former popular teacher at the academy, was an over Sunday guest in town last week greeting many old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Connell announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Mae, to Clarence Warren Brown, of Littleton.

Wesley Hawkes, jr., met with an unfortunate accident while playing basketball at the academy gymnasium last Saturday, breaking one of the smaller bones in his right hand. Leon Hildreth also sustained the muscles of his shoulder, requiring the attention of a physician.

The dancing class, with Miss Elsie Grant, teacher, are planning a pretty complimentary ball for February 10, at the town hall for which Poole's orchestra has been secured.

The name of the little son recently born to Dr. and Mrs. O. V. Wells, is Richard Orion Wells.

Irving P. Wright's Westford friends will be very sorry to hear of the serious trouble that he has been having with his eyesight at his home at Sebago Lake, Me. He has been receiving special hospital treatment for threatened blindness, but with some improvement at last reports.

A holiday wedding that took their many friends by surprise was that of Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens Warren, of Westford, and James L. Kimball, of Boston. They were quietly married on last week Thursday evening by Rev. David Wallace. As Mrs. Warren had planned to close her Westford home for the winter months, and she and Mr. Kimball had taken apartments in Lowell, where they went on Saturday, the marriage was not announced until their departure.

The annual appraisal and dinner to the town officers took place at the town farm on Monday. The appraisers this year were David Deason, Fred Blodgett and L. W. Wheeler, who had in performing their duty everything well kept and in the best of order. The matron, Mrs. Harvey W. Barnes, and her assistants, served a fine turkey dinner. Just at present there are three inmates at the farm.

The Edward M. Abbot hose company held their regular monthly supper and business meeting at their headquarters at Boston road Tuesday evening. Mrs. Emily M. Blodgett catered and served an appetizing supper. Reports from the recent firemen's ball did not show any enrichment of the treasury, but compensation balanced by the social success of the affair.

Edson G. Boynton, of Medfield, has been a recent visitor at his old home at Chamberlin's Corner. He was also among those present at the recent Middlesex Ponona Grange meeting, Lowell, last week Friday greeting old friends.

Services appropriate to the new year were held morning and evening at the Congregational church on last Sunday. The service of communion was observed at the close of the morning service. Those in charge of the music, Miss Hazel B. Hartford, Mrs. William R. Taylor, Mrs. Charles H. Wright and Miss E. C. Wright, furnished a good musical program for the day.

Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the Westford Board of Trade took place at the Cavalry Association building Wednesday evening. At the election of officers Capt. S. H. Fletcher was chosen president in place of Hon. Edward Fisher, who has served so efficiently in that capacity. This change was at his special request. The other officers are P. Henry Harrington, v. p.; Chas. L. Hildreth, sec.; L. W. Wheeler, treas. and col.; Edward Fisher, Edward Hanley, A. R. Wall and H. V. Hildreth, ex. com.

Two versatile entertainers, Mr. Bartlett and assistant of Boston, furnished a varied entertainment of musical numbers, story telling, etc., combined with some well placed local hits, causing much merriment.

A collation of sandwiches, doughnuts, cheese and coffee was served. Several new members were added to this live wire organization, bringing the membership well toward one hundred.

Tadmek Club.

The regular meeting of the Tadmek club took place in Library hall on Tuesday afternoon with a good attendance of the members present. An unfortunate occurrence was the non-appearance of the speaker, David J. Hickey, who was to speak on "The fool and his money." Mr. Hickey spoke most acceptably before the club last season and desired another ap-

pointment for this season and his non-appearance was most disappointing. The club showed its resourcefulness by calling to order and after disposing of some matters of business, Miss Clara A. Smith, vice-president, read a timely and worth while article in her clear and pleasing style on "Belgium, the innocent bystander," taken from the Geographical Magazine.

The club has accepted an invitation for five members to be present in Pepperell on their presidents' day, January 19, and furnish part of the entertainment. The membership limit of the club was voted abolished.

The next meeting, January 19, promises to be most attractive, when Mrs. G. F. Hubbard will lecture on "Old-time flowers and gardens."

About Town.

The first farmers' institute of the season held by Middlesex North will be held at the town hall sometime the last of January, the date and speaker to be announced as soon as arrangements are made.

Pheasants are feeding on the lawn tennis court at the Old Oaken Bucket farm. There are no shot guns in that vicinity to disturb their docility.

Middlesex North Ponona Grange, at the new year meeting, discussed "What can we do this year to beautify and improve our homes?" Andrew J. Bolles, of Chelmsford, Grange, read a stirring paper on the subject and several others were stirred to contribute five-minute thoughts. The question of a printed program had its annual come up for disagreement, and as usual by an emphatic vote refused, going on record as the only Ponona in the state without a printed program. The afternoon was open and installation of the newly-elected officers by Mrs. Thompson, of the State Grange took place. Mrs. F. L. Roberts, of Lowell, entertained in song and Mrs. Gilmore in recitation.

Several large lots of apples in town have been sold and some small lots of large apples have been sold to Boston prices according to rumor. Quotations are averaging up to fifty cents per bushel at the door.

Alister McDougall, the bright one of Amherst college, who has developed the ability to travel niter and yon in illustrating agriculture and giving addresses, was in town on Sunday and added one to the congregation of the Unitarian church. He has proved a useful graduate of Westford academy.

One of those everybody-pleased sociables was held in the vestry of the Unitarian church on Friday evening of last week. What got tied at 28 points, Mrs. A. H. Sutherland and Mrs. Willard N. Mills doing the tying. In entertainment Miss Julia H. Fletcher appeared in piano solo; song, with piano accompaniment, Frank Johnson and Gertrude Hamlin, duet, Miss Marjory Seavey and Gertrude Hamlin; college songs, with Miss Hazel Hartford at the piano. The committee in charge, Mrs. Eben Prescott, Mrs. Charles Hamlin, Mrs. Henry Fletcher.

The Ladies' Sewing Circle and Branch Alliance of the Unitarian church will hold the next meeting on Thursday, January 14, at which time Mrs. Eben Prescott will speak on "The influence of theology on the progress of medical science."

A carload of lumber has arrived for W. R. Taylor's new home. We shall soon hear the sound of hammers. He has had excavated on Francis hill a large well to furnish water for his home. Water was struck at the distance of five feet, which is pretty good for an unusually dry season. A good supply of water is certainly assured.

George Howard, of Bound Brook, N. J., who has been making a visit at the S. L. Taylor home, returned this week. The W. C. T. U. met on Wednesday afternoon at the spacious and hospitable home of Mrs. George Walker. Owing to the slippery walking not as many were present as usual, but those who came had a delightful time. Mrs. Jeanette Wright presided and the usual business was transacted. At the close of the meeting a social time was enjoyed and Mrs. Walker, assisted by Miss Moreland and Mrs. Bert Walker, served a delicious repast. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Blaney.

The adult class in the Sunday school of the Unitarian church is gaining in attendance. The study of ancient religions, with Rev. Julian R. Pennington as teacher, has proved a resourceful and entertaining feature. The West Chelmsford Benevolent society will hold its monthly social in the vestry of the village church on Wednesday evening, January 13. Mrs. Thomas Brown will lead.

Graniteville.

Both masses in St. Catherine's church last Sunday morning were celebrated by Rev. Edward C. Mitchell who delivered strong and forceful sermons on "Temperance." A special car left North Chelmsford at 6.30 in the evening for those who wished to attend the union service of the Holy Name societies held in the Sacred Heart church, Lowell. Many of the men parishioners of St. Catherine's church took advantage of the opportunity and attended the services and were well repaid for the trip.

The regular meeting of Court Graniteville, F. of A., was held in their rooms on last week Thursday night. Considerable business of importance was transacted and the newly-elected officers duly installed for the ensuing term.

J. Austin Healy, with his fast pacer "Dolly C" took second prize in the free-for-all horse race held on the Merrimack river on last Saturday afternoon. Austin usually lands first prize in such events, but better luck is expected in the future.

The members of the A. R. Choate hose company held their regular meeting in the firehouse on last Monday night, during which business of a routine order was transacted.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McLennon, of Lynn, have been recent visitors here.

Death.

John Hall, an old and respected resident, died at his home in West Graniteville early last week Friday afternoon at the age of eighty-two years. The deceased followed the position as gardener for many years. He was honest and faithful in all his dealings and beloved by all who knew him. The funeral services were held from the house on last Sunday afternoon and were well attended. The services were conducted by Rev. A. Earl Kerjahan, pastor of the M. E. church, and the singing was by the M. E. church quartet composed of William DeRoehn, Albert Blanchard, Stephen Gardell and George Wilson, who sang very feelingly "Gathering home" and "The Christian's good night." There were many beautiful floral tributes. The members of the quartet acted as bearers. Burial was in Fairview cemetery, Westford.

Historical.

The following were the heads of families in Westford in the year 1730, one year after the town was chartered:

- Samuel Adams, Edward Burt, Joseph Keyes, Jr., Andrew Spaulding, Jacob Wink, Jonas Fletcher, William Proctor, Jonathan Fletcher, William Fletcher, Jr., Joseph Hildreth, Thomas Reed, Joseph Fletcher, John Spaulding, Timothy Spaulding, Josiah Burge, David Burge, Paul Fletcher, Capt. James Prescott, James Prescott, Eben Prescott, Eben Prescott, Thomas Head, Abner Kent, Benjamin Butterfield, John Butterfield, William Proctor, William Proctor, Tabitha Burge, John Burge, Josiah Head, Rev. Willard Hall, Julia Head, Joseph Underwood, Henry Wright, William Proctor, Elizabeth Burge, Joseph Butterfield, William Proctor, Ebenezer Wright, Jr., Jonas Chelmsford, Samuel Proctor, John Reed, John Reed, Benjamin Robbins, Elias Foster, William Proctor, Moses Foster, William Fletcher, Ist., Sarah Proctor, Joseph Butterfield, Jr., Samuel Fletcher, Josiah Fletcher, Widow Elizabeth Fletcher, Ephraim Craft, Sally Proctor, Amos Davis, Jonathan Reed, Jonathan Reed, Timothy Spaulding, James Brown, Jonathan Proctor, Hugh Smith, Thomas Dutton, John Proctor, Joseph Hildreth, Jr., Ephraim Hildreth, Jr., Joseph Hildreth, Ephraim Hildreth, John Proctor, Jonas Proctor, Thomas Robbins, Joseph Temple, Aaron Parker, Joseph Proctor, Samuel Proctor, Joanna Kibler, Ebenezer Hildreth, Thomas Barry, Water Powers, Ephraim Chandler, Simon Humble, Thomas Proctor, Ezekiel Proctor.

Edward Bates' home is owned by Fred L. Snow. Mrs. Mary Bates, his wife, was the first female school teacher in Westford.

Joseph Keyes, Jr.'s place is now the home of Henry O. B. Keyes.

Andrew Spaulding lived at the Morrison place.

Jacob Wright's home is on the Groton road and the house was built in 1717.

Jonas Fletcher's farm was what is now the home of Bradley Wright.

William Chandler's home is where Miss Dutton lives at Brookside, built by William Chandler's father, William Chandler, built in 1688, an ancestral home of the writer.

Jonathan Fletcher lived where the Horan family lived, called the Bradstreet place.

William Fletcher, 2d, lived where Samuel Taylor lives—the house near the bridge.

Thomas Reed lived where is now the Polley place.

Joseph Keyes, sr., lived where is now the Trueworthy Keyes place on Francis hill.

Joseph Fletcher lived on the Clarence Decatur farm, now called the Capt. Pelatiah Fletcher home.

John Combs lived in the large house near Westford depot, opposite the old grist mill.

Timothy Spaulding's home was west of the Cold Spring farm barn on the Graniteville road.

Josiah Burge lived on the farm of William Pollock, a little east of his buildings. The farm once included the land to and around the Burge pond, a pond with neither inlet or outlet. The farm ran most up to Westford Center and included the L. W. Wheeler place and was the home of Rev. Willard Hall. The Burge farm was another ancestral home of the writer.

Paul Fletcher lived on the Graniteville road, the Prescotts and Reeds lived at Forge Village, Aquila and Joseph Underwood lived on the east side of the Center farms nearby.

Members of the Butterfields lived near Chamberlin's Corner; the Hildreths lived on the Prospect hill road to Parker Village.

Aaron Parker lived where George Hutchins lived; the Proctors nearby Parker Village on the Littleton road.

Ephraim Chandler lived at Flushing pond. Samuel Proctor was the ancestor, also his son Thomas, of Gov. Redfield Proctor and Gov. Fletcher Dutton Proctor of Vermont.

William Fletcher, 1st, was an ancestor of Capt. Sherman H. Fletcher, Miss Emily and Mrs. Geo. T. Day and the writer. The old 200-year-house was burned two years ago. Samuel Fletcher, jr., lived on the Calvin Howard farm and was the ancestor of the Littleton Fletchers. Samuel Fletcher lived at the foot of

Nubanusuck pond, the home and farm owned by George C. Moore. Thomas Dutton lived on the Coolidge farm on the Graniteville road from the Center. He was the ancestor of B. F. Dutton, one of the founders of the Houghton & Dutton Co., Boston, by the way of his son John.

Another very old house is on the property of H. E. Fletcher Co., built by William Blodgett, who was succeeded by his son, William Blodgett, and sold in 1778 to David and Jonathan Fletcher, remaining in the Fletcher family ever since. Wm. H. Lynde, Lowell, Mass.

LITTLETON.

News Items. A son, James Haywood, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver W. Hartwell, of Albany, N. Y., Christmas morning.

The Congregationalist of this week contains an account of Rev. James C. Alvord's installation and a picture of the new pastor of the Congregational church in Littleton.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Johnson and son Frederick and, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kimball attended the installation of officers in Caleb Butler lodge of Masons in Ayer on Monday evening. A turkey supper was served and an excellent entertainment was given by the Commonwealth (Concert Company, of Boston, assisted by Miss Flora M. Haviland, reader, of Boston.

Miss White's dancing class for children opened last Saturday afternoon and several of the little people enjoyed their first lesson.

Rev. James C. Alvord has recently installed a telephone at the Congregational parsonage and his call is 42-4.

Nahum H. Whitcomb has been drawn on the grand jury which holds its session in Cambridge.

The Alliance will hold a food sale in the Unitarian vestry this week Saturday afternoon, beginning at 2:30 o'clock.

Charles Bartz, of Ayer, has wired the John A. Kimball barn and connections for electric lights will soon be made.

The Daniel Gage Company of Lowell filed the North Littleton icehouse last week and have been at work on Forge pond.

Guy W. Greene's automobile slewed, turned completely around and dashed against the stone wall opposite Mrs. John A. Kimball's house Tuesday morning. A wheel was demolished and the steering gear was thrown out of commission in consequence. No one was injured and Mr. Greene continued his conveyance of passengers in another car almost uninterrupted.

Rev. J. C. Alvord will give a lecture in the Congregational vestry tomorrow evening on "The Marathi mission of India," illustrated by seventy stereoscopic pictures.

Rep. Charles A. Kimball went to Boston on Wednesday to take his seat in the senate. Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Eben Prescott and Miss Martha H. Kimball attended the inauguration of Gov. D. I. Walsh at the State House.

Mrs. Alvord entertained her Sunday school class of young women at the parsonage on Friday afternoon. A short time was devoted to business and a pleasant social was a prominent feature of the afternoon.

The high school entertainment given in the town hall last week Friday evening drew a good audience and with the hearty commendation of the public. Most of those who took part were amateurs and appeared for the first time on the stage. The diamond disk phonograph gave much satisfaction to all who heard it. Proceeds netted amounted to about fifty dollars.

Stacy C. Bates and Harry Barker are enrolled as students at Amherst Agricultural college for the winter term.

Guest evening at the Woman's club will be Tuesday evening. Mr. Edward H. Chandler will address the company on "Who is the good citizen?" Mr. Chandler was a classmate of Rev. J. C. Alvord at Andover Theological seminary and the two men have ever since been intimate friends. Tickets for guests can be obtained of the treasurer, Mrs. Nellie F. Conant, and Miss M. H. Kimball.

The service at the Unitarian church tomorrow morning will be devoted to the cause of temperance as advanced by workers along many practical lines that are bringing results of great promise. Montgomery M. Goodwin, the field secretary of the Antislavery league will be present to tell of the work of that organization in this state. It is hoped that a good number may be present at this service. There will be no evening meeting.

Worthy of Praise. A daring and heroic deed of a young Littleton lad has recently come to our notice. A short time ago Ellsworth Bonnell, a son of George Bonnell, and his little playmate, Margaret Stineford, were playing on the mill pond near Hartwell & Hosmer's ice-house, when Margaret, not knowing the danger, ventured onto the thin ice near the ice run and broke through. Ellsworth, who was not far behind her, heard the ice break, and seeing her danger, reached out, seized her hand and pulled her onto the thicker ice and carried her safe to the shore never for a moment realizing that he had done anything unusual or worthy of praise. It was only when asked where his little playmate had gone that he gave the first intimation of what had happened and little by little the whole story of his thrilling experience was modestly related by this young hero of scarcely ten years.

LUNENBURG.

News Items. Friday, January 1, marked the forty-seventh anniversary of the marriage of Samuel Smith and Miss Sarah Ballou, which they celebrated. It was the writer who was talking tea with Mrs. Mary Nickelson, who now owns and occupies the house in which they were married. The house has been somewhat remodelled, but still it is the same building and same sit-

ing-room in which they plighted their troth forty-seven years ago.

There was a very pretty quiet wedding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Warren at high noon on Friday, January 7, when their eldest daughter, Miss Grace Esther, became the bride of Karl Flavius Goodrich, of Fitchburg. They expect to make their home in Fitchburg. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Francis E. Webster, of Waltham.

Sunday, January 3, was a "red letter day" for both churches here. The pastors preached sermons appropriate for the beginning of the new year; after which new members were received—four young men in the Methodist church and seven young ladies in the Congregational church, two by letter from other churches and five by confession of faith and the ordinance of baptism administered to two. This service was followed by communion. There was a large attendance and it was a very impressive scene when so many young people publicly acknowledged their faith in and allegiance to the Heavenly Father.

In the evening, beginning the week of prayer, union services were held in the Congregational vestry and was led by Miss Blanche Whitcomb of the Epworth league. It was attended by a large number, both congregations being well represented, and nearly everyone taking some part, thus making it a very interesting and profitable meeting. On Sunday evening, January 10, the union service will be in the Methodist chapel and the leader will be Miss Ethel Emerson, and the subject "Who is on the Lord's side?"

All the schools in town are now in session, the high school opening last week after the holiday vacation, and the grades this week Monday morning. Several teachers from New Jersey, who spent the holidays with their parents, returned to their posts in time to take up their work on Monday morning. Mrs. and Mrs. George F. Moody and Miss Lilla Lancy, at Ridgewood, Miss Rosalie Watson at Montclair and Mrs. Mary H. Putnam at Perth Amboy.

Representatives of the electric light board replaced all the street lamps with new ones last week. The little transformer building on the lower common, which has been such an eyesore to some of those living in its immediate vicinity, was also removed on Monday morning.

The water board started the pumping test of the wells in Carr's meadow on last week Thursday, since which time it has been going on continuously, night and day, at the rate of 120 gallons per minute. Every day samples of the water are sent to the state hospital in Boston to be sure of its purity. People here who have visited the wells and seen the water are much pleased with it and say that it seems very nice, clear, pure and cold. Everyone in town will be glad if this proves successful.

The Junior C. E. society had a meeting in the Congregational vestry on last week Thursday at which Miss Eliza Munroe, county superintendent of Junior C. E. work, and Miss Nellie Jewett and Willa Hardy tested the proficiency of the society and were much pleased with the result. All the juniors passed the test most satisfactorily, the majority of them reaching 100.

L. W. C. The Woman's club met in the Congregational vestry on Friday afternoon of last week. Mrs. Nettie Barter presided. There were forty-two ladies in attendance. The hostesses were Mrs. William Hayward, Mrs. William Hill and Miss May Allen, all of Flat Hill. Reports of committees were heard, especially upon relief work. Mrs. Cross read letters she had received, acknowledging the receipt of the Belgium relief packages of clothing, money and hospital stores. Mrs. Harrington reported the delivering of a well filled Christmas tree to one needy family in our own town. A committee to look after and relieve, if possible, cases of the worthy poor in town, consists of Mrs. Carl E. Brown, chairman, Mrs. C. P. Dickinson, treasurer, Mrs. S. H. Francis, Mrs. Alfred Noon and Mrs. J. L. Harrington. Any one having second-hand or out-grown clothing which they would like to contribute for this purpose can leave it with any one of these ladies as they already know of several places in town where they can use such garments of all sizes, and any one knowing of needy ones in town may report them to any member of this committee.

The club has held one food sale to aid in providing the funds necessary to carry on this relief work and is to hold another this week for the same purpose.

After the business had all been attended to the club was ready for the program, which in this case was a debate upon the question: Resolved, That the country woman of today has many advantages over the woman of the city. Mrs. C. E. Woods and Mrs. Ellen S. Parker spoke for the affirmative and Mrs. F. S. Francis and Mrs. C. E. Brown for the negative. They were most interesting and entertaining, each one advancing good, sound arguments with many sparkles of wit and repartee sufficient to keep the audience in wonderfully good humor and all the time expecting something and in this they were not disappointed. The judges were Mrs. Frederic Cross, Mrs. Edward Spencer and Miss Ethel Emerson, who in giving their decision said they found it a very difficult matter to determine which side should have the verdict, as each one had done so well, but by a very close margin they considered the affirmative the winner.

Of course, everyone present was satisfied that the negative was arguing against their own convictions and all the more appreciated the efforts they had made in striving to uphold that side in so bright and sparkling a manner.

New Advertisements. FOR SALE—Six Banded Plymouth Rock Cockerels from best laying strain cock in Massachusetts. Price \$2.00 each. F. L. AVERY, Old South Home, Ayer, Mass.

PIGS FOR SALE—Two weeks old. Apply to C. W. DREW, Littleton, Mass.

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Happy New Year!

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COME IN AND LOOK OVER OUR STOCK We carry an excellent and extensive line of Silverware, Cut Glass, Chafing Dishes and Coffee Percolators at reasonable prices; also, Clocks, Lamps, Pictures and other articles that are needed in every home.

We invite your inspection and assure you that it is no trouble to show goods.

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This offer is good for January and February, but by buying a coupon now at 50 cents, which is refunded at the time of sitting, will be good any time in 1915, excepting November and December.

This is a bona fide offer and the work is first class. Anyone intending to have photos taken now or later on, graduates or others, will do well to accept this offer by calling or sending money order for 50 cents, or check, to enable you to benefit by this offer later.

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SHIRLEY GASH MARKET

I wish to thank each and every one for the kind interest and appreciation of the business which they have done with me during the year just ended. Please accept my good wishes for a successful and prosperous year in 1915, and again I thank you for your past favors and kindness. Cordially yours. CHAS. A. MCCARTHY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To all persons interested in the estate of OLIVE A. HOSLEY late of Ayer in said County, deceased. Whereas ELISHA D. STONE the administrator of the estate of said deceased, has presented for allowance, the account of his administration upon the estate of said deceased. You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County, on the twelfth day of January A. D. 1915, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed. And said administrator is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to all persons interested in the estate of said deceased, at least before the said Court, or by publishing the same in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, and to publish 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 fifteenth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen. 216 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

SHIRLEY.

News Items.

A large audience was present at the Congregational church on last Sunday to listen to the new year sermon of the pastor, G. E. Woodman, which was particularly fine and the subject of much favorable comment.

J. C. Ayer lodge, A. O. U. W., will hold its regular meeting on Monday evening, when officers for the ensuing year will be installed. Refreshments will be served.

Miss Rosa Buckheim spent a few days in Boston the first of the week.

Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker, pastor of the Shirley Universalist church for the past nine years, has accepted a call to become pastor of the Universalist church in Reading, Pa., and will commence the duties of his new pastorate about the middle of this month.

Stanley F. White returned to Yale college on Tuesday after spending a three-weeks' vacation at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. White.

Arthur N. Herson returned Wednesday to Duluth, Minn., to resume his duties at that place as the manager of a large mill.

Miss May Jones, of Boston, arrived on Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Allen for a visit.

Mrs. Clementine McMichael is confined to her room with sickness at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elmer H. Allen.

About thirty young people, consisting of high school pupils and their friends, enjoyed a sleigh ride to Leominster last Saturday evening, attended the moving picture show and returned home about the midnight hour. Misses Ruth Carter and Mabel Osborne were the chaperones.

The Matrons' Aid meet next Tuesday with Mrs. Luther Holden at Elm cottage.

Fred Holden, of Shrewsbury, spent last Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Holden.

The King's Daughters met with Mrs. Helen McCoy on Tuesday evening.

We are pleased to report that Mrs. Charles W. Marshall, who has been seriously ill at her home on Center road, is partially gaining the use of her limbs. The Boston specialist, assisted by the attending physician, Dr. Charles J. Pierce, diagnosed Mrs. Marshall's case as paralysis. Mrs. Marshall has responded to the treatment for that trouble in a manner that has exceeded the expectations of both physicians, so much so, that they are already contemplating that Mrs. Marshall will gain to such an extent that she will be in condition by the time the summer season arrives to walk around her flower gardens. The anticipation is most certainly well founded as Mrs. Marshall is now able to walk a few steps without the aid of her crutches.

Shirley Grange held its regular meeting at the town hall on Tuesday evening. An oyster supper was served and the evening proved most delightful from a social standpoint. The following officers were duly installed by the installing officers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Johnson, of Leominster: Harry N. Brown, m.; Thomas Evans, o.; Josie Dunn, lec.; Earl Graves, stew.; Horace Harris, asst. stew.; Bessie A. Buxton, chap.; C. A. Bradford, treas.; George F. Buxton, sec.; Elmer Wilkins, E. K.; Mabel Graves, Ceres; Carrie Bradford, Pomona; Mrs. Jennie Bradford, Flora; Lydia Woods, I. a. s.

Charles W. Marshall picked from his garden last September a bunch of cucumbers and placed them in his billiard room exposed to the light and sun. In looking over the lot this week for the first time since placing them there he found them all apparently in good condition, one in particular being green and smooth and in as good condition as when placed there, not having shrunk a particle. Mr. Marshall's lemon tree which is also kept in the billiard room, and which is about a dozen years old, has grown a monster lemon which drops in circumference, one in this week and is eleven inches in circumference, weighing ten and a quarter ounces, and is a luscious appearing fruit in every way. Both these freaks can be seen at Mr. Marshall's place by anyone who cares to take the trouble to pay a visit.

Mrs. McMichael was stricken suddenly with pneumonia at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Allen, on Wednesday. Her grandson, Dr. McMichael, of Malden, in company with a trained nurse, arrived at the Allen home on Wednesday evening to give constant professional treatment.

Frederonian lodge, I. O. O. F., will install their officers next Thursday evening for the ensuing year. Refreshments will be served.

The Ladies' Aid of the Universalist church will hold a food sale in the vestry on Wednesday afternoon, January 13, sale to commence at four o'clock.

Miss Elaine Love is visiting relatives in Boston and Everett.

Herbert E. Lawrence, who has been confined to his home for about a month with injuries sustained by a fall, seems to remain about the same with a slight change for the better this week. Mrs. Lawrence's wife, is now ill with gastric stomach trouble. A trained nurse is in attendance, and Miss Rena Churchhill has arrived at the home to assist during the sickness.

Rev. G. E. Woodman will give a stereopticon lecture on Alaska at the Congregational church on Sunday evening.

The Brotherhood of the Congregational church will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday evening, January 12. Supper will be served at 6:30 o'clock, followed with an address by Hon. Frederick Fosdick, of Fitchburg.

Death. Miss Leah Gertrude Meader, aged twenty years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pliny W. Meader, of Leominster, and niece of Mrs. George Wells of this town, shot herself at her home last Monday evening shortly after six o'clock, death resulting fourteen minutes later.

Miss Meader will be remembered by many of the townspeople, having with her mother, made her home for a time with her aunt, Mrs. Wells, while her father was in the west, having gone there for a change of climate owing to his ill health.

Miss Meader was in her room on Monday evening studying, she having entered the freshman class of the high school last September, and being anxious to keep up with her studies put much work in her study which had impaired her health. Becoming despondent she resorted to this rash act.

Her father and brother, who were just entering the house from work, heard the shot, and with her mother, ran quickly into the room to find her lying on the bed, the loaded revolver by her side, the bullet having pierced the brain and lodged in the skull. Dr. A. H. Pierce was at once called, he notified Dr. F. H. Thompson, medical examiner, who pronounced it a suicide owing to despondency.

Miss Meader was born in Huntington, Vt., on April 30, 1894. She was of a sunny disposition and had a large number of friends. She leaves besides her parents, one brother, Lloyd Colby Meader. The funeral was held at the home of her mother, Mrs. M. W. Longley, Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock. The bearers were her brother and three cousins, Clayton, Stanley and Leslie Wells of Shirley.

Supper and Roll Call.

The Shirley Congregational church held its seventeenth annual supper and roll call on Wednesday evening in the church vestry. A chicken pie supper was served at 6:30 under the direction of Mrs. Alice L. Wright, chairman, assisted by Miss Martha Hunter, Mrs. Helen McCoy, Mrs. Jennie S. Knowles, Mrs. Stella Snell, Miss S. S. Knowles, Mrs. Leona Lee, Nina Holbrook and Miss Leona Lee. About eighty-five were present to enjoy the feast.

At the close of the supper hour Rev. G. E. Woodman was chosen as moderator and the church clerk, Miss Mary A. Park, read the records of the last meeting which were accepted. The reports of the various officers and organizations were given. The clerk's report showed that the church membership was 93, 32 males and 61 females, with 17 non-residents. Two were added during the year by letter and two had removed.

The report of the Sunday school superintendent, Miss Alice F. Howe, showed that the Sunday school was in a flourishing condition. Miss Martha Hunter, secretary of the Ladies' Circle was most encouraging, demonstrating that good, practical work had been done during the past year.

Mrs. Bessie Collier reported as the president of the C. E. society that the society was in fine condition, with much interest being evinced. Miss Leona Lee reported for the King's Daughters that they had endeavored, though small in numbers, to send cheer to the sick, aged and shut-ins during the past year.

E. Thornton Clark, president of the Brotherhood, reported that good speakers had been provided during the year and the members had shown concern for the welfare of the society.

Rev. G. E. Woodman reported for the Congregational choir that the boys had apparently enjoyed the work and while no meetings had been held of late, he hoped to soon revive the interest.

The following officers were elected to serve during the coming year: Miss Mary Park, clerk and treas.; Joseph H. McClellan, Sunday school sup.; Miss Alice F. Howe, asst. sup.; John G. Conant, church committee; J. G. Stanley Wells, C. Russell Miner, Paul Woodman and Wesley Eisner.

It was voted to send letters of greeting to Mrs. Martha Scott and Roy Joseph Torrey, and a letter of sympathy to Elmer H. Allen. Votes of thanks were extended to the Ladies' Circle and also to the choir for services rendered during the past year.

Royally Entertained.

The industrial school boys who are attendants at the Congregational church, were given their annual entertainment in the church vestry on last week Friday evening, forty-three boys being present under the supervision of school officers, E. Thornton Clark, F. H. Fowler, John Beach and Roy Birchstead. A bountiful and appetizing supper was served at 6:30 o'clock under the direction of Miss Mary A. Park, Miss M. A. Woodman, Mrs. Clara H. Miner, Mrs. Minnie L. Allen, Mrs. Sarah Stevenson and Mrs. Helen McCoy. Those who assisted in the general entertainment program of the evening were Rev. G. E. Woodman, John G. Conant, John M. Stevenson, C. B. Bush and Walter Knowles.

Games and music were most heartily enjoyed and the evening as a whole proved most delightful for the boys. As the hour for disbanding drew near new year greetings were exchanged and the boys, wishing to show their appreciation for the generous hospitality accorded them during the evening, gave three rousing cheers for the pastor, Mr. Woodman, and the ladies who assisted in the preparation of the supper.

The success of the evening was primarily due to Mr. Woodman, who was instrumental in planning and terminating the affair of the evening, which was successful from all points of view.

Interesting Meeting.

The Men's club of the Universalist church held its regular monthly meeting in the church vestry on Monday evening. About forty were present. The following new members were received into the club: George Emerson, Ralph Livingston, Charles A. Ford and Fred Sabell, making a roster of thirty-eight members. At the close of the business session the following debate was argued at length: "Shall we maintain a high school in Shirley?" George W. Balch, Walter Badstuber, Harry H. Lynch, Arthur C. Annis and Austin Fish were for the affirmative and Ezekiel Wilson, G. M. Ballou, John H. Will, Arthur E. Felch and Harry O. Bangs spoke for the negative side. The debate commenced shortly after eight o'clock and lasted until 10:15, and proved most interesting.

Both sides had secured some good logical points and entered into the debate with much enthusiasm. The judges were Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker, Lewis W. Parsons and David L. Lindenberg, who decided in favor of the affirmative side. The president of the club, J. Edwin Pomfret, presided during the evening and a clam chowder was served at the close of the debate.

Center.

Miss Margaret Longley, who has been spending a ten-days' vacation at the home of her mother, Mrs. M. W. Longley, returned on Monday to Bryant and Stratton's business college. Miss Christine G. Longley, who has also been enjoying a two-weeks' vacation, returned on Monday to the Worcester School of Domestic Science.

At the next meeting of the Matrons' Aid society, Tuesday, January 12, the election of officers for the year 1915 will be held.

Miss Marion L. Holden, who has been having a two-weeks' vacation at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holden, returned to Green-wood on Sunday.

Miss Ruth M. Graves was a guest of Miss Adelaide Wiel in Maynard last week Thursday.

Mrs. Charles Longley returned home on last Saturday after a short visit in Millbury at the home of Charlie Longley.

Robert J. Evans returned on Saturday to Bowdoin college after a short vacation spent at the home of his mother, Mrs. J. W. Evans.

Mousa Sawabini, who was several years ago employed at the home of Howard Fuller, was a guest at the home of Frank J. Lawton over the week-end. Mr. Sawabini now holds an excellent position in the store of William Filene's Sons in Boston.

Miss Vera Bradford returned on Tuesday to Emerson College of Oratory after a three-weeks' Christmas vacation spent at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bradford.

The Girls' Sewing Guild held a pleasant meeting on last Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. E. Barnard.

Mrs. Grace E. Winslow has been appointed executrix of the estate of her mother, the late Mrs. Elizabeth Woodhead.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton J. Lovell, of Henniker, N. H., spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Barnard.

Clarence Clark, of Nashua, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Graves over the week-end.

Miss Florence Adams, who has been enjoying a short vacation at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Adams, returned this week to her duties at Mt. Holyoke college.

Fred Holden, of Shrewsbury, was a guest on Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther E. Holden.

Misses May and Edith Frary returned to Lynn last week after spending a short vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Frary, at the East.

Robert H. J. Holden returned on Sunday to Harvard university after spending a ten-days' vacation at the home of his mother, Mrs. Hattie P. Holden, on Horsepond road.

Miss Harriet Winslow, of Center road, is recovering rapidly from the effects of her recent operation. The trained-nurse, Miss Lyons, returned to Boston on Monday.

Miss Ruth M. Graves returned on Sunday to Royalston after spending a short vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Graves.

A party of sixteen young people enjoyed a sleighing party to Townsend on New Year's eve, where they were served an excellent luncheon at the Park hotel, and where they watched the old year out. Those who went were Vera, Carrie, Helen and Lewis Bradford, Christine G. Margaret and Howard M. Longley, Earl and Ralph Graves, Stanley F. White, Lucy Proctor, Mildred Evans, Robert H. J. Holden, Molly J. Jones, Forrest B. Wing and Walter Silvia.

C. S. Griswold, of Groton School, conducted the service at Trinity chapel last Sunday afternoon. Mr. Parson, of Groton School, will conduct the services on Sunday afternoon at 3:15. The Sunday school classes which have been having a short vacation, will meet immediately after the service.

Miss Mildred Evans returned to Fitchburg Normal school, and John Groat returned to Fitchburg high school on Monday after a ten-days' vacation.

Forrest B. Wing, of Roxbury, who has been spending the past week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Adams, sprained his ankle quite badly last Saturday while skating on C. B. Lawton's meadow. He was unable to return to his work at Harvard university on Monday as he had intended, being confined to the house for several days with the injury.

The snow and rain of the past few weeks have done a great deal toward relieving the conditions of the water supply about the Center and many are now able to give up carrying water. It is hoped, however, that this will not keep the people of the Center from carrying forward their efforts for some common water supply, in order that the situation may be met successfully when it arises again next year.

Clipping.

In last Saturday evening's Transcript appears a review of Percy Mackaye's latest book, "Poems of the present hour," which consists of a collection of poems by him on subjects connected with the present European situation. The Transcript says: "Exactly what Dr. Elliot stands for as a great publicist, Mr. Mackaye stands for as a poet. The difference is, and it is a great difference when you realize it, that the wisdom of Dr. Elliot, severe and unemotional, is expressed imaginatively and with passion in these poems. Where so many flash points of the very first order, only writing verse that touches upon the incidents and causes of the war, Mr. Mackaye has proven himself gen-

uinely inspired by the war and given us its most distinctive collection of poetry. But the second section of this volume, dedicated to peace, reaffirms the high quality of the poet's achievement; among these are poems which have pushed the poet a long way forward in the ranks of contemporary American poets."

STOP THE CHILD'S COLDS-THEY OFTEN RESULT SERIOUSLY.

Colds, Croup and Whooping Cough are children's ailments which need immediate attention. The after-effects are often most serious. Don't take the risk-you don't have to. Dr. King's New Discovery checks the cold, soothes the cough, kills the germs and allows Nature to do her healing work. 50c. at your druggist. Buy a bottle today.

New Advertisements

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law and all other persons interested in the estate of JENNIE A. BYRAM late of Shirley in said County, deceased:

Whereas, MILLEDGE C. SHORT, administrator of the estate of said deceased, has presented to said Court his petition for license to sell at public auction the whole of two parcels of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of debts, the amount to which the said estate is entitled under the will and charges of administration, and for other reasons set forth in said petition. You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County, on the twenty-sixth day of January, A. D. 1915, 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, Massachusetts, on the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, and by mailing postpaid or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen. 3117 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law and all other persons interested in the estate of CHARLES S. WYMAN late of Fitchburg in said County, deceased:

Whereas, RICHARD J. McELROY, administrator of the estate of said deceased, has presented to said Court his petition for license to sell at private sale, in accordance with the terms set forth in said petition, or upon such terms as may be adjudged proper, the real estate of said deceased for the purpose of distribution.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-sixth day of January, A. D. 1915, 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, Massachusetts, on the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, and by mailing postpaid or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen. 3117 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of JULIA A. LITCHFIELD 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, and the executrix therein named, with- out giving a surety on her official bond, has presented to said Court her petition for license to sell at private sale, in accordance with the terms set forth in said petition, or upon such terms as may be adjudged proper, the real estate of said deceased for the purpose of distribution.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-sixth day of January, A. D. 1915, 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, Massachusetts, on 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 sixth day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen. 3117 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of CATHERINE JOSEPHINE GURLEY 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, and the executrix therein named, with- out giving a surety on her official bond, has presented to said Court her petition for license to sell at private sale, in accordance with the terms set forth in said petition, or upon such terms as may be adjudged proper, the real estate of said deceased for the purpose of distribution.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-sixth day of January, A. D. 1915, 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, Massachusetts, on 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 sixth day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen. 3117 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law and all other persons interested in the estate of SHIRLEY S. PARKHURST late of Shirley in said County, deceased:

Whereas, GEORGE H. AYER, administrator of the estate of said deceased, has presented to said Court his petition for license to sell at private sale, in accordance with the terms set forth in said petition, or upon such terms as may be adjudged proper, the whole of a certain parcel of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of debts and charges of administration, and for other reasons set forth in said petition.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County, on the eighteenth day of January, A. D. 1915, 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 ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to each person interested in the estate fourteen days, at least, before the said Court, or by publishing the same weeks in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, Massachusetts, on the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court.



A Business Romance

The Story of a Berry and a Brand In Seven Chapters.

Relating How Theories Based on the Foundation-Stone of Right Merchandizing Have Made Good.

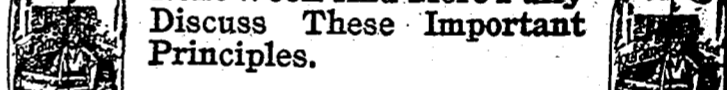
CHAPTER ONE

Our books have been closed for 1914, the most successful year that this business has enjoyed. This record proves that three theories fearlessly carried out have made good in actual performance. Yet at the very pinnacle of success it behooves any organization to exercise even greater vigilance for the future.

The three theories referred to are—

- 1st. That the public would in time respect and respond to a different method of coffee distribution when the benefits of so doing became understood.
2nd. That by eliminating expensive containers and spending the money thus saved in the purchase of higher grades of raw coffees than had heretofore been generally used, a coffee of such superior quality could be produced that the coffee loving public would appreciate it and demand it.
3rd. That by frequent distributions of Fresh Roasted La Touraine in the whole berry to your Grocer to be ground by him for you at the time you buy it, we could assure you the highest degree of Freshness, an attainment impossible with ground Coffee packed in tin cans.

Our Story Will Continue In This Paper Next Week And More Fully Discuss These Important Principles.



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DRUGGIST Main Street Ayer, Mass. Central Avenue Ayer, Mass. 25% Discount on All Papers and Stationery

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To all persons interested in the estate of SARAH H. READING late of Townsend in said County, deceased: Whereas, H. ALONZO BLOOD, the executor of the will of said deceased, has presented for allowance, the account of his administration upon the estate of said deceased, you are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County, on the twenty-third day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed. And said executor is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to all persons interested in the estate fourteen days at least before said Court, or by publishing the same once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, Massachusetts, on 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.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

GEORGE H. D. TURNER, Publisher JOHN E. TURNER, Editor

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

Subscribers are urged to keep their subscriptions paid in advance.

Saturday, January 9, 1915.

GROTON.

News Items. The Boston Post of Monday contained this item: "One face that is missed at the office of the Massachusetts Historical society is that of the venerable Dr. Samuel Abbott Green, Boston's oldest living mayor. For some time he has been a familiar figure at the society rooms, but falling health forces him to give up his duties there. He seldom goes to the office now. Instead he must be content with sitting the greater part of his time in his armchair at his apartments in the Canterbury hotel. His secretary does the greater part of his business. All of his life the doctor has been a strong sympathizer with children and has done much for them."

At the Baptist church on Sunday Rev. William Breckenridge, pastor, will preach in the morning at 10.30 on the subject, "Christ the end of the law," and in the evening at seven o'clock on "A taste of honey and its results, or saved by intercession."

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Louis H. Shepley of this town, to Miss Gertrude Grady, of Clinton. Mr. Shepley is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Shepley, of Groton.

At the Baptist church on Wednesday the annual business meeting, dinner and roll call was well attended, being larger than in some years. Between seventy and eighty sat down to dinner. The church officers will remain practically the same as in the past year.

The Ladies' Benevolent society of the Congregational church hold their next church social with supper and entertainment on Thursday evening, January 21.

Martin Brennan, of Pleasant street, is a patient at the Groton hospital, where he underwent an operation for hernia on Wednesday.

Mortimer Earle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Earle, of the Martin Pond road, who has been for several weeks at a hospital in Boston for operations of much skill, had a basket last Sunday. It was hoped that he was getting better so that he would be able to return home, but this will necessitate a further delay.

Many in Groton heard with deep regret of the death of Thomas Leary of Pepperell, who passed away at eight o'clock Wednesday morning at the hospital in Nashua, N. H., where he had undergone an operation for appendicitis. The regret and sympathy here extends largely to Miss Marguerite Cleary, a Groton young lady, teacher at Gilbertsville, who was Mr. Leary's fiancée.

Kennie Fletcher finished filling his leechhouse from Cady pond Wednesday afternoon.

Some from Chippewee road beside the farmers near Baddock, including J. B. Raddin, of the Lowell reception home, have been harvesting ice from Baddock.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Wheelock entertained a party of their young friends last Saturday evening.

Died in North Brookfield on January 4, Sarah Frances Eaton, widow of John S. Cooke, in the seventy-ninth year of her age. Mrs. Cooke will be remembered by many in Groton as the teacher of music at the academy and the organist at the Congregational church. She was of a pleasant sunny disposition and endeared herself to all who knew her.

The regular January meeting of the Groton Bird club will be held on Monday evening at eight o'clock in the lower town hall. Frederic H. Kennard will give an account of his trip into the wilds of Florida, and will show many interesting photographic views. He will also speak briefly of his great success in attracting and protecting birds on his own estate in Newton.

J. E. Hynes returned to Boston on Sunday after a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hynes over the holidays. He expects to fill a position in South Dakota in June after he finishes his education.

Mrs. Sarah Frances (Eaton) Cooke died at North Brookfield on January 4, aged seventy-three years. She was the widow of John Stevens Cooke, and attended school at Lawrence academy in the year 1851.

On Friday, January 1, Miss Lucy B. Raddin was given a new year's party by friends in Everett. After an evening of what a chafing dish supper was served. The table was decorated with red carnations and appropriate place cards and favors. Special guests were Miss Rae T. Clough of The Dalles, Oregon, who is spending the winter in the east, and Miss Florence Finley, of Haverhill.

The meeting in the lower town hall on January 25, with Mrs. Vorce, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Miss Livingstone, of New York, as speakers, is for women only. A large audience is hoped for. No woman should fail to hear Miss Livingstone tell of her experience and courageous fight. Do not lose her message. The meeting opens promptly at 2.30 in the afternoon of January 25.

The Reading club met with Mrs. Frank A. Torrey on Wednesday afternoon.

The current events department of the Woman's club met with Mrs. W. B. Warren on Tuesday afternoon, January 19, at 2.30. The day and hour of meeting was changed by vote from Fridays to Tuesdays, and from three o'clock to 2.30.

winter, did not receive the Neighborhood club, she only gave her permission that her house be used by the club for their new year's party. The members provided the supper and the entertainment; the waiters being young ladies of the Neighborhood families. Mrs. Harriman came on the train that evening to attend the party as a guest. All the rest of the report was correct. Members feel that the credit of the evening's fine success belongs largely to Mrs. Lorretta Graves, who was most active in planning the party and carrying it out.

Born on Monday, January 4, a son to Mr. and Mrs. David E. Murphy.

Born on Tuesday, January 5, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Freeman.

Shadrack Evans, who has not been well since an operation for ulcers of the stomach several months ago, is better and able to ride out.

Fred Reynolds is occupying the cottage on Pleasant street where the late Mr. and Mrs. Holmes used to live.

Mrs. F. L. Howes, of Still street, Brookline, and Riverdale farm, Groton, gave a fine Christmas tree celebration last Sunday evening to the Riverdale employees who greatly appreciated her kind thoughtfulness.

Mrs. Brewster, a friend of Mrs. Howes, assisted her at this gathering. A fine lot of pickered shown at Hodgman's market caught the eye of passers-by or visitors at the market on Tuesday. There were fifty-five of them with a total weight of forty-four pounds, all taken through the leg, but caught on Monday made by the party, Fred Porter, George Tuttle, Fred Torrey and Grant Shattuck, who went over to Sudbury to try their luck at winter fishing.

The Hook and Thimble club met this week Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Belcher.

James A. Bailey, sr., father of James A. Bailey of the old Ayer road, died at his home in Arlington on Sunday, January 3, at the age of seventy-eight years. Mr. Bailey had suffered from blood poisoning, making necessary an amputation of his leg, which he survived but a short time.

The following is the list of Middlesex Rebekah officers installed on Tuesday evening by Mrs. Kate Dunlap and suite of Pepperell: Mrs. Alice M. Woods, n. g.; Mrs. Hannah B. Mitchell, v. g.; Mrs. Janet P. Wood, f. s.; Mrs. Mary E. Shattuck, treas.; Miss Clarissa Coburn, warden; Miss Mabel M. Souther, con.; Miss Fannie E. Woods, chap.; Mrs. Alice L. Rockwood, r. s. n. g.; Mrs. Lura F. Adams, l. s. n. g.; Mrs. Arline D. Bishop, r. s. v. g.; Mrs. Minnie L. Hodgman, l. s. v. g.; Mrs. Florence Souther, i. g.; Edward A. Shattuck, o. g.; Miss Lois M. Wright, p. n. g. The installation exercises were most satisfactory. Light refreshments were served at the close.

Miss Lizzie Longley is reported as improving from her illness.

The annual meeting of the village improvement section of the Woman's club will be held with Mrs. Bruce on Monday afternoon, January 11, at 2.30 o'clock. The election of officers for the ensuing year will take place.

Miss Kathleen Dunphy is substituting for Miss Jennie Longley at the Chaplin primary. Miss Longley takes leave of absence on account of the illness of her sister, Miss Lizzie Longley.

Clipping. The following is taken from a very beautiful and interesting tribute to the friend printed in the Everett Herald and Republican of December 18. Those here in Groton, who became acquainted with Mr. Nichols and family will read with interest and admiration for his character these extracts from the article: A brief notice of his life appeared in the Landmark the week of its occurrence.

"Everett J. Nichols, son of the late Joseph E. and Lucetta (Corbett) Nichols, was born on January 12, 1857, in the house on Elm street where his grandfather lived and died. He graduated from the grammar school in 1874, and in 1878, from the Institute of Technology as a civil engineer."

"He spent a dozen years or so in the middle west engaged in water works, sewer and railroad construction, chiefly the latter, having a place in Minneapolis where he made his home. Early in 1889 he came back to his old home here on account of the serious illness of his father, being responsible for the maintenance of the best he had attained. His father died in 1891. In the meanwhile his wife, who had come east with their two children, died; also, his younger brother, Arthur, who passed away, leaving three children. Under these conditions feeling that his duty was to his wife and children, he sacrificed his prospects of advancement in the west, the foundation for which he had been laying for years in hard, exacting work."

"In 1894 he married his brother's widow, and one child, Hope, was born of this union. His deceased brother's children were brought into his home and under his wise care and guidance became to all extents and purposes the only father they ever knew. For the last sixteen years of his life he was in the employ of the Massachusetts Highway Commission. Four years ago last summer the disease that finally proved fatal, first laid its ruthless hand upon him, and for two years more he was virtually confined to his house except for an occasional auto ride."

"In November, 1912, he moved to Groton on account of his health, believing the country air better for him. During all these years he bore his cross and its burden was such few are called upon to bear, calmly, patiently without complaint, without rebelling at his lot, without envy of others more fortunate, but with courage and good cheer, he grew to be a wonder and a hero to those who knew his physical condition. He fought a valiant fight against fate, leading himself his forlorn hope, day after day and through many long, lonely, almost bedless nights."

"He lost the physical fight, but won a great moral victory, passing on suddenly, peacefully at his Groton home on December 10. The funeral was held at the home of his brother, Chas. C. Nichols, Rev. R. Perry Bush officiating. Into his mouth now that he is gone one may well put the words of Healey:

In the full clutch of circumstance I have witnessed your brief career Under the badge of chance My head is bowed but unbowed. It matters not how short the gate. How charged with punishments the I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul."

"Mr. Nichols was loyal to his family, his home and his friends, inflexible in his honesty and unswerving in his integrity. He never used intoxicating liquors nor tobacco and he never swore, yet he was not prudish, but was kindly tolerant of the habits of others. He was of old New England stock and possessed to a marked degree the qualities and virtues which we attribute to that race of men and women."

L. A. S. On Thursday afternoon the L. A. society held its annual meeting with the president, thirteen active, one associate and three new members being present; also the pastor and a guest of the hostess, Mrs. K. L. Spaulding of Townsend.

The officers elected as follows: Mrs. H. Spaulding, pres.; Mrs. J. L. Bixby, v. p.; Mrs. A. W. Lamb, sec.; Mrs. F. M. Briggs, treas.; Mrs. E. C. Harrington, Mrs. G. H. Bixby, Mrs. A. L. Harrington, directors.

The following standing committees were elected: Mrs. C. L. Roy, Mrs. W. M. Kimball, Mrs. A. L. Harrington, Mrs. G. Strand, Mrs. M. C. Carley, social; Mrs. C. L. Roy, Mrs. W. M. Kimball, Mrs. George Dodge, Mrs. A. W. Lamb, Mrs. Woolaver, entertainment. Mrs. W. M. Kimball was appointed a special committee for Christmas work with the privilege of choosing her assistants.

New members elected were Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. McCarty and Miss Lizzie Jarvis, as active, and Mrs. Woolaver as associate members. Mrs. W. V. Bixby also joins this year as an active member. At the close of the business meeting refreshments were served and the members departed feeling themselves once more launched upon a year of endeavor.

Joint Installation. The joint installation of the officers of E. S. Clark post and E. S. Clark W. R. C. was held on Tuesday afternoon, January 5. G. G. Tarbell, of Pepperell, was the post installing officer. All the officers of this corps, except the chaplain, James Moore, of Littleton, who was not able to attend. Charles H. Torrey, adjutant, came from Concord especially for the installation. Two other veterans accompanied Mr. Tarbell from Pepperell; also, his daughter, Miss Tarbell, Comrade Augustus Lovjoy, of George S. Bennett, was also present as a guest. Mrs. Janet Wood, assisted by Mrs. Lura Adams, installed the W. R. C. officers.

Everything of the afternoon exercises passed off smoothly and in a most desirable manner. Mrs. Garcia, of East Boston, and Mrs. Balcom, of Harvard, members of this corps, came especially to attend the installation. Music was furnished by the Grange orchestra. All remarks were brief, limited by the commander to five minutes. Light refreshments were served and an early adjournment was made.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Miss Isabel Woods to Frank Mahoney at Middleboro on Thursday evening, December 31. Miss Woods, who is a Groton girl, has been a matron at the Middleboro sanatorium for the past two years or more. Mr. Mahoney, formerly of Pepperell, is foreman of a large farm in Middleboro. Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney will go to housekeeping in Middleboro.

Annual Dinner and Roll Call. The annual church dinner, with roll call and business meeting at the Congregational church was held on Wednesday, January 6, with the best success. The responses were given at the roll call, 43 of these being given in person. This was a fuller attendance than for several years past and all present were cordial and happy in the social intercourse. A printed pamphlet, giving reports of the different church officers and benevolences was handed to each one seated at dinner, also a folder with the printed copies for the mid-week prayer and conference meetings to be held this year. The church membership decreased by one death in 1914 and received eight new members, making a total gain of seven during the past year.

At a business meeting a committee was chosen with Henry W. Whiting as chairman to see about making the proposed changes and improvements in the inside church arrangements. The officers of the church remain nearly the same as last year. The state police requirements have been complied with and the streets repaired, staunch and firm, and will be the cause of no further anxiety as to its falling. All present seemed to look forward with courage to another year.

West Groton. The Misses Elsie and Olive Tarbell of Hanover, N. H., were holiday guests at their home in this village.

Mrs. Frank Worster and daughters of Fitchburg recently visited Mrs. M. E. Williams, Mrs. Worster's mother.

It has been learned that Mrs. Clinton Boutelle is quite seriously ill and that she has received advice or been under observation at Clinton hospital. At this date nothing more definite is known.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lamb with their niece, Miss Ruth Austin, and guest, Miss Catherine Heath, attended the theatre in Boston on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bixby, Mrs. C. E. Bixby, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Bixby and Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Webber at Caleb Butler lodge in Ayer on Monday evening.

Little Mear, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Bixby, has been afflicted with canker in the mouth and throat during the past week and for a few days was a very sick boy. His physician pronounced it the worst case of his kind in his experience. It was caused by the cutting of double teeth.

Mrs. Lucy Mitchell has recovered nicely from her attack of pneumonia which yielded very quickly to treatment. She is now able to sit up every day.

Mr. Trask, superintendent of Groton town farm, desired, through the medium of this paper, to express his appreciation of the kindness of various organizations and individuals, both in Groton and in West Groton, who helped to make the Christmas time brighter and happier to those in his charge.

The whist party given in lower town hall by the West Groton Gun club on New Year's eve, called out an attendance of more than fifty. Twelve tables were arranged and at the close of an interesting game prizes were awarded as follows: First prize for ladies, a sewing table, Miss Ruth Kane; first prize for men a leather pocketbook, Timothy Connolly; booby prizes, a box of clothespins and shoe strings, Miss Annabel Doherty and William Woods, respectively. Refreshments consisting of cake in variety, wafers and coffee were served by the committee in charge.

At the I. O. O. F. M. C. installation of Squannacook lodge on Thursday evening the chairs were filled as follows: W. W. Westcott, m. g.; G. L. Woolaver, v. g.; R. W. Harrington, l. g.; Andrew Blood, p. m.; E. K. Harrington, chap. and lec.; John Robinson, elec. sec.; Matthew Robinson, com.; E. F. Sleeper, treas.; H. Spaulding, per. sec.; F. E. Harrington, var. The names of the several supporters have not been ascertained. Light refreshments were served at the close of the installation exercises.

Roll Call and Supper. The roll call supper was held on Wednesday evening, Mrs. Matthew Robinson, chairman in place of Mrs. C. E. Harrington, who was unable to serve. The supper maintained the usual excellent standard of West Groton suppers and the tables were taxed beyond their full seating capacity. In the business meeting following, Mr. Trowbridge, the pastor, spoke of the various improvements it had been his pleasure to witness here during the past year of his pastorate. Electric lighting, a water system, a new modern school building, an increase of homes and of business prosperity. He expressed his appreciation of the interest shown in the church and its various auxiliary societies of the year accomplished and his faith in the "yet to be" of both church and community.

An interesting feature of the preliminary service was the burning of the parsonage mortgage and its accompanying note by the church officers. Verses composed by the pastor for the occasion were read by the president of the Ladies' Aid society, which has been largely instrumental in paying the mortgage.

Geo. H. Bixby was chosen moderator of the business meeting and the following officers were elected: Geo. H. Bixby, v. p. and treas.; C. L. Roy, clerk; A. H. Thompson, collector; A. H. Thompson, A. W. Lamb and C. L. Roy, assessors; H. Lamb, E. K. Harrington and Clinton Boutelle, trustees; A. W. Lamb, Clinton Boutelle and A. F. Cottrell, trustees of Eliza Blood fund; Mrs. J. P. Trowbridge, S. S. S. Interesting reports were read by the various secretaries.

The Mary Frances sewing class will meet with the director, Miss Henrietta Ewings, next week Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Thomas Stephens spent the week-end with her daughter and family in Marblehead.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Brackett and son, of Greenwich, Conn., were Sunday guests of Supt. and Mrs. Frank H. Hill. Mr. Brackett was formerly supervisor of drawing in our town schools and is now supervisor of drawing in the Greenwich schools.

The missionary meeting of the United Workers, scheduled for Wednesday of this week, was postponed just one week, and will be held at Mrs. George W. Canney's. This change was made to accommodate several members of the C. W. who were unable to attend the lecture by Mrs. Pinkham on woman suffrage on Wednesday of this week.

Mrs. Mary Reed, of Danvers, is staying with her niece, Mrs. George Bonnell, who has been indisposed for a few weeks.

Mrs. Lucy A. Pickard was the ever Sunday guest of her daughter, Miss Mabelle Pickard, of Ayer.

Ralph Hill spent last week with his uncle in Portland, Me., and returned on Monday to his professional duties in Southbridge.

On Tuesday last Mrs. J. C. Alvord addressed the Thursday class of Cambridge. The how and why of dressing for women.

Wallace B. Conant, of Concord, was in town for the installation and spent the week-end with his home people.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Conant welcomed as week-end visitors their son, Ralph W. Conant, and family, of W. Vermont.

Mrs. Harold Hisey of Watertown, spent a few days last week with her mother, Mrs. J. H. Kimball.

Robert Fairbanks, who has long represented the Fairbanks Scales Company on the continent of Europe, was the guest of his sister, Mrs. J. Alvord, last week Friday.

Mrs. James D. Christie has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hartwell in Worcester and the E. A. Coxes in Barre, returning home on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Holmes, of Newton, were the welcome Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Stone.

Mrs. Abbie Tuttle is spending a few weeks with her brother, Frank Stone.

The grade schools opened for the winter term on Monday. College students and teachers returned to their books the first of this week. During the holiday vacation they have enjoyed many card parties and sleigh-rides with an occasional dance.

Roger Priest took a party on a sleigh-ride on Thursday night of last week.

Edward Tetro, while skating last week Friday, fell and broke his collar bone. It was not until the following day that the fracture was discovered, when Dr. Christie was called.

Evelyn Ewings is gaining slowly. She has the disabled limb in a plaster cast and can now sit up in a chair.

Those who attended the Alliance meeting last week Friday afternoon speak very enthusiastically of Miss

News Items. Rev. J. C. Alvord spent the day on Tuesday in Boston with his friend, Osborne Leach, of Danvers.

Alan Stiles continues to improve, but is still confined to his room.

Evelyn Ewings, who sustained a bad strain while coasting two weeks ago, is convalescent. Her foot and ankle rest now in a plaster cast so that she is able to sit in her chair instead of maintaining the reclining posture.

Miss Kate Neagle, who has been housed with an injured finger, is doing very well.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Henry Barker are spending the winter months in Florida.

Littleton. The grade schools opened for the winter term on Monday. College students and teachers returned to their books the first of this week. During the holiday vacation they have enjoyed many card parties and sleigh-rides with an occasional dance.

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Mr. and Mrs. John H. Connell announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Mae, to Clarence Warren Brown, of Littleton.

The parish dinner and meeting of the Congregational society scheduled in the calendar for January 13, has been changed to Saturday, January 16, to accommodate some of the men who could attend on no other day. Dinner will be served at 12.30. Prompt attendance is requested in order that there be plenty of time for the business of the afternoon.

The missionary meeting of the United Workers will be held at Mrs. George W. Canney's on Wednesday afternoon, January 13.

We are very happy to report a decided improvement in Petr Smith's condition this week and hope that it may be the beginning of steady and rapid progress.

Mrs. Sherman Jewett continues to lose ground at present.

Miss Lucy Adams enjoyed the hospitality of Miss Mary Marshall through the week-end.

Mrs. Charles W. Houghton is reported sick with a heavy lung cold.

The new officers of Littleton Grange were installed Wednesday evening in the presence of a hundred members and guests from neighboring granges. An oyster supper with appetizing delicacies was served by Mrs. C. A. Kimball and assistants. Past masters J. Kimball, Calvin Howard and Geo. H. Cash in a very clever speech by R. T. Barrow. At the next meeting the Grange will hold a costume party.

An attentive audience listened with intense interest to the lecture on "Life and customs in Japan," given Tuesday evening before the Yecum. Jinji G. Kasai, the speaker, illustrated his lecture well by showing a group of beautiful pictures.

Miss Lillian Robinson is teaching one of the district schools of Palmer.

Miss Eleanor Hill is visiting in Dover and will come to Groton, Me., for visit with her aunt.

Much interest is appearing in the forthcoming revival of "Pop G. my heart," by Miss Marion Horton Clarke to be given in town hall, Monday, January 18. The genial Irish comedy is sufficiently entertaining in itself and Miss Clarke's impersonations need to be seen and heard to be appreciated.

The mid-week service of the Baptist church next week will be held at Everett Kimball's at the West End. All are invited to join in this service. Meetings of this kind contribute much in their way to the welfare of the community. Thursday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

Hon. C. A. Kimball has received his appointment to the chairmanship of the engrossed bills committee, to membership on the street railways and the committee on agriculture.

Miss Catherine Allan, of Malden, succeeded Miss May Howley as teacher of the third and fourth grades in the Union school.

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The Boston Store GEOB TURNER & SON AYER, MASS.

START A NEW BOOK TODAY!

BLANKETS

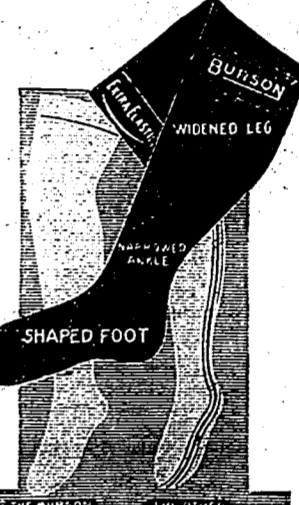
NOW IS THE TIME TO SUPPLY YOUR WANTS

Heavy Cotton Blankets, White and Gray 79c, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.49

Nashua Woolnap Blankets, the finest wool finished cotton Blankets made, soft and fleecy, colors white and gray \$1.75, \$1.98, \$2.50 and \$2.98

Wool Blankets, heavy weight, substantial, with pretty borders, full size, colors white and gray \$3.98, \$4.25, \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.50

Comfortables, full sizes and filled generously with clean cotton \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.98, \$2.50 and \$3.50



Burson Fashioned Hose

are knit into shape stitch by stitch without a seam, the life-like form cannot be worn or washed out.

The shape gives style; the smoothness of no seams gives comfort.

Enjoy these Burson extras—they cost no more.

We carry a full line of Burson Hosiery in regular and out-sizes at 25c, 35c and 50c

Geo. B. Turner & Son

Cora Warren's presentation of her school work in domestic science among the children of the North End in Boston. Miss Warren is deeply interested in teaching and has developed methods that place her in the ranks of the profession. Opportunity is open wide in every phase of her teaching and we are confident that it seldom escapes her quick intellect and ready hand.

Ice harvesting is at its height this week. From all the local ponds a large amount of unusually good ice has been taken measuring 11, 12 and 13 inches in thickness. Sledding has been perfect and other conditions have generally favored the harvesting. With few exceptions the farmers in every part of the town have filled their icehouses.

King's Daughters' Meeting. At the annual meeting of the Forgetting-ole of King's Daughters, held at Mrs. J. W. Ireland's on Tuesday afternoon, the officers were re-elected: Mrs. N. H. Whitcomb, pres.; Mrs. V. T. Eaton and Mrs. F. S. Pinger, vice pres.; Mrs. C. F. Watts, sec.; Mrs. A. A. Knowlton, treas. There was a large attendance and deep interest in the reports was manifested.

Mrs. Knowlton reported most encouraging of the money expended and present financial condition of the society, and paid a glowing and well deserved tribute to the memory of Mrs. Nellie F. Johnson, whose services as president, and untiring efforts in the cause represented by the society, have rendered her name immortal. Mrs. Knowlton, Mrs. Austin Kimball and Miss Elizabeth Thacher were chosen a committee to draw up resolutions on the death of Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. S. B. Hubbard reported interestingly and with much enthusiasm the address recently given on the Frances Willard Settlement work in Boston by Mrs. Robinson.

Mrs. Mary Ireland will have charge of the birthdays for January, February and March.

The new year of the King's Daughters' circle opens very auspiciously and the loyal workers continue to enjoy the sympathy and co-operation of the entire community in their most commendable object.

Interesting Address. If there is any argument in numbers, Littleton women are at least interested in woman suffrage since there was a large audience to listen to Mrs. Pinkham, who ably discussed the subject at a meeting held with Mrs. J. M. Hartwell on Wednesday afternoon. The speaker, a charming lady in her personality, gave a clear, convincing and attractive presentation of the subject, producing the usual arguments and dwelling strongly upon the necessity of suffrage from an industrial point of view. Mrs. Pinkham lived for many years in Colorado, where with her father and her mother, she enjoyed the free use of the ballot, maintained her dignity and neglected none of the duties of home. Mrs. Pinkham was gratified

with the sympathy of her listeners and urged that speakers from the suffrage league in Boston be granted an audience at the meetings of local organizations. She was earnest, sincere and enthusiastic, but not over urgent in her suggestions. The militant spirit she thinks has been in many cases over emphasized, and methods pursued in the interest of suffrage have not infrequently been misrepresented. She and her associates would therefore meet and influence women by sane and legitimate methods, working for what they believe is the greatest good of all concerned. E. P. Wilcox kindly conveyed the West End ladies to and from the meeting. A committee was chosen to further the cause of woman suffrage.

BROOKLINE, N. H. News Item. The old town meeting house, the oldest in Hillsboro county, was burned to the ground on this week Friday morning. The fire broke out at three o'clock. Owing to the scarcity of water the fire department was unable to assist with the apparatus and a bucket brigade was formed. It being necessary to carry the water a long distance. The building was erected in 1757. It had not been used for a meeting house for a long time. Some time ago it was proposed to repair the building and restore it as nearly as possible to its original condition. The cause of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to have been caused by a lamp. The loss at this writing is unknown.

James G. Powell, who recently celebrated his ninety-third birthday in Providence, enjoyed the distinction of being the only democrat in

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

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 occurrence and do not wait unnecessarily.

All Advertisements Appear in All the Ten Papers We Publish

"This to the Pen and Press we mortals owe. All we believe and almost all we know."

Saturday, January 9, 1916.

AYER.

News Items.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Bennett gave a dinner party on last Saturday evening to Miss Charlotte and Bennett Sanderson. Those present were Miss Storch and Robert Miller of Fitchburg, Robert Harwood of Littleton, Julian Lovejoy of Hartford, Conn., Marion E. Farnsworth, Lewellyn and Helen Savage and Elizabeth Bennett. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed with delicious refreshments served by host and hostess.

Miss Pearl Carley, who is visiting with her uncle, Dr. Frank Wenner, in Washington, D. C., was given a yellow luncheon on last Monday by Dr. and Mrs. Wenner on her twentieth birthday. Mrs. Carley painted the decorated place cards for the affair, which was a very enjoyable occasion. Last week, during the unusual cold spell in Washington, she was skating on the tidal basin which Miss Carley attended on one evening, where more than 2000 skaters were on the ice, all carrying Japanese lanterns, with music by the United States Marine band. She says it was a wonderful sight.

An entertainment showing views of London will be given with the new stereograph lantern at St. Andrew's on Friday evening, January 8, at 7:30 o'clock.

Arrangements have been completed by Paulus Brothers for the appearance shortly of Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild to present the one-act playlet, "For Me a Joyful Good-fellow." It is one of Mr. Fairchild's own and best writings, inspired by the well-known farce of the same title by "Life." The stage setting will be more elaborate than usually seen in Ayer. Through the courtesy of J. J. Barry Company a special display of furniture and mountings will be used for this production from their handsome new store on Main street.

A regular communication of St. Paul lodge of Masons will be held on Monday, January 11. Work—Entered Apprentice degree. Dinner will be served at one.

The Woman's Alliance will hold a social afternoon with Mrs. Lyman Clark on Friday afternoon, January 8, at 2:30 o'clock.

Loyal Middlesex lodge, I. O. O. F. M. U., elected these officers at the last meeting: Charles G. Dyke, n. g.; Philip J. Potter, v. g.; Joseph E. Messinger, chap.; Lucius E. Waverley, p. m.; Joseph E. Hart, s. s.; Wallace J. Clarke, w. l. S. Knox, s. g.

Bert K. Tweedie has moved into the house on Fletcher street vacated by A. J. Downing. Mr. Downing has moved into the house on East Main street recently occupied by Frank Balcom and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Lovejoy attended the meeting of the Middlesex County Association G. A. R. and W. R. C. in Malden last week.

Waldo Blood has moved into the new house, so-called, on Lewiston street.

Among those from here who attended the banquet at the M. E. church in Grandville on Thursday night were: George Crockett, Alice Luddington, Mrs. George Luddington and Mrs. Harry Larkin.

Mrs. John Harland and daughter Elizabeth, of Buffalo, N. Y., are visiting at the home of Thomas Griffin, of Harvard.

Howard B. White, president of the First National bank, attended the inauguration of Governor Rolland H. Spradling at Concord, N. H., on Thursday.

There will be a union meeting in the Baptist church on Sunday evening at which Mrs. Katherine L. Stevenson, a prominent leader in temperance work, will be the speaker.

The fire of Friday morning will lose the Ayer Variety store until the insurance is adjusted. Next week there will be a closing out sale of damaged goods. Water for bargains.

While the Hartwell hose wagon is being repaired its place will be taken by Charles E. Perlin's automobile truck, which is kept fully equipped and ready for service at five at a moment's notice.

Joseph P. Mullin still remains critically ill at his home on Pleasant street.

Herbert A. Childs and Miss Alexina Mackie, both of Ayer, were married at the Baptist parsonage on Thursday evening by Rev. J. W. Thomas.

The Unitarian Women's Alliance met on Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Ida C. Perkins. An appropriation was made to the church and to the A. U. A. After the business there was a brief reading, "Flags in Sunday schools," followed by a social hour during which light refreshments were served.

The Unitarian Sunday school had a very pleasant party on Christmas eve. A supper was served and a tree loaded with gifts was enjoyed. Last Sunday the school elected these officers: Mrs. Susan M. Barker, supt.; Mrs. Lois E. Porter, asst. supt.; Mrs. Alice Butterfield, sec.

The W. C. T. U. has been fortunate in securing the state president, Mrs. Katherine Lent Stevenson, of Boston, to speak at the union temperance meeting to be held in the Baptist church on Sunday evening at 6:30 o'clock. Mrs. Stevenson comes highly recommended as a speaker of much ability and cannot fail to arouse great enthusiasm in the temperance cause. It is hoped the people will avail themselves of the privilege of listening to

this noted speaker and there will be a large attendance.

Helen, the little daughter of James H. O'Connell, West street, is getting along nicely from an attack of pneumonia.

At the annual parish meeting of the Unitarian church on Wednesday evening the reports showed the financial condition on a good basis. These officers were elected: H. M. Beverly, clerk; George H. Hill, treas.; Dr. H. Priest, Herbert Farnsworth and I. G. Dwinell, parish com.; Mrs. Robert Murphy, col.; Miss Elmer Mark, Miss Madollin Whitney and Mrs. W. E. Beckford, music com.

The woman suffrage committee met on Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Theodore Barry. Some plans were made for a future general meeting and for smaller gatherings at homes.

The Social Gathering will hold a business meeting at the home of Mrs. Lyman Clark on Tuesday afternoon, January 12, at three o'clock.

Paulus Bros. will present a headliner at Saturday's moving picture show, "The lost mail sack," in two parts. The rest of the show will consist of "Jim," a Selig drama, "The love of Pierre Lacrosse" and "The fickleness of Sweedie," the last named being a farce comedy. In addition to the above there will be a good vaudeville act by two of Boston's footlight favorites at both shows. The matinee will be at three o'clock and the evening show at eight sharp.

The Loyal Temperance Legion meetings will be discontinued through the winter.

We called upon Henry A. Goodrich, of Fitchburg, on Wednesday, who is in his eighty-fifth year and is in the enjoyment of good health for one so advanced in life. Mr. Goodrich commenced business in Fitchburg sixty years ago and was the only business man in Worcester county, north of Worcester, that carried on a hat, fur and furnishing store. He occupied the store in Spaulding's building, next to Harlow & Parsons, and carried on the clothing and goods' furnishing for about three years, ending here in 1877, thirty-eight years ago, and leaving in 1880.

Charles Bartz is wiring the Charles Kimball barn and Guy Green's garage in Littleton.

Edward Lawton, a former selectman of Ayer, was in town on Wednesday calling on friends. Mr. Lawton is engaged in the real-estate business in Boston with an office at 18 Tremont street. He and his family are now living in Arlington Heights. The condition of John O'Connor, who was seriously injured last week in Bar Mills, N. C., is reported to be much improved and his early recovery is now looked for.

Rev. J. S. Strong, of Amherst, became the pastor of the Congregational church on January 11. He is stopping at Miss Green's on Washington street at present. His former pastorate was in Hampton, N. H.

A regular communication of Caleb Butler lodge of Masons will be held on Monday evening, Work—Master Mason degree. Lunch.

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Girls' club was held at the home of Miss Elmer Clark last Wednesday evening. These officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. May Fletcher, pres.; Mrs. Nina Winfrey, sec.; Miss Lucy Wyman, treas.; Mrs. Stella Farnsworth, entodian; Mrs. Callie Murphy, hospitality committee.

At the Congregational church on Sunday morning at 10:45, the subject of the sermon will be "The choice of losses." Sunday school at twelve. C. E. meeting at 5:45 in the evening. The evening service will be omitted in the interest of a union temperance meeting at the Baptist church.

The Ladies of the Congregational church will serve a supper in the vestry of the church on Wednesday evening, January 12, at 6:30 o'clock. A social hour will follow, after which an entertainment will be given.

The following letters remained on file for the Ayer postoffice for the week ending Friday: Mrs. George W. James, Henry, Benjamin Leavitt, Fred Johnson, Fred G. May, Joseph P. Wheeler.

Fire. A two-alarm fire broke out in the barber shop in the Public Spirit building, on the second floor, at 12:20 this week Friday morning and for a time assumed dangerous proportions. The alarms were sounded by Frederick T. Auld, linotype operator in the Public Spirit office, who was at work at the time the fire was discovered. The fire badly damaged the part of the building where it had its origin and spread to the stock room of Huntley S. Turner, job printer, who resides in the rear of the second floor. When the firemen arrived the interior of the building at the southwest corner was a mass of roaring flames, and although two powerful streams of water were poured in there it was several minutes before the flames were put out. The smoke rolled through the windows and the corners of the building in huge, stifling wreaths and in a short time it was practically impossible for anyone to enter the building.

The efficient work of the firemen, however, had its effect and before long it was possible to fight the fire from inside the building. Two extra streams of water were applied and in a short time the fire was under control.

The greatest damage was caused by water. This is especially true with regard to the Ayer Variety store and the jewelry store of Herbert J. Webb on the ground floor, which, although they escaped the fire entirely, were damaged by the water which poured through the ceilings from the floor above. Mr. Williams, the owner of the Variety store, sustained considerable loss. The water also poured into the Public Spirit office, where preparations were under way for getting out the usual weekly edition of the paper, but fortunately not enough damage was done to materially affect the work which went on Friday morning as though nothing had happened.

The job printing office of Huntley S. Turner is running, although the proprietor is somewhat handicapped

by loss of stock, but will soon be running at full capacity. The Variety store is closed, while Mr. Webb is still on hand in his jewelry store, although he sustained considerable loss of stock.

J. E. Teller, the proprietor of the barber shop, who was in his place of business at the time, was severely burned on both hands and was treated by Dr. L. D. Sullivan.

According to Mr. Teller's story the fire started from a gasoline heater which he uses in his business. He had procured a new burner which was to replace the old one, using a candle for light. Thinking that the gasoline tank was empty he opened the valve, when to his great surprise a quantity of the liquid rushed out and was instantly ignited by the heated candle. In a few seconds the interior of the room was a mass of flames. Mr. Teller had on gloves which became saturated with the gasoline and before he had time to escape the gloves caught fire, burning his hands severely. In spite of his sufferings he rushed down stairs to the Public Spirit office, where he found Frederick T. Auld, who promptly sounded the alarm.

The firemen again showed that they were wide awake, although the fire happened when most people are in bed. To show their promptness it may be said that they had a bucket of water on the building sometime before the alarm had stopped sounding. To them great credit is due for their valued work in stopping the spread of the fire.

Huntley S. Turner's loss, on his stock of paper, after taking an inventory, is \$1800.

Board of Trade.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Wednesday evening at its rooms in Dickinson's block, Washington street. The election of officers was postponed until Wednesday evening, January 12. The question box proved very interesting as usual and the various subjects on the slips of paper drawn from the box brought out many interesting facts relative to them. One of the subjects discussed was a proposed farmers' extension school for Ayer. Frank C. Johnson, superintendent of schools, explained the matter at length, giving full details of the working of these schools which are now established in different places and proving satisfactory. Such a school, if adopted, would be a part of the curriculum of the high school and studies could be taken up in connection with other branches. The school pays two-thirds of the salary of the teacher in this school. The subject was discussed in an informal way.

Officers Installed.

The annual installation of the officers of Caleb Butler lodge, always one of the finest events of the winter, took place in Masonic hall on Monday evening, January 8. The members and guests to the number of over 100 gathered in the assembly hall and shortly after seven o'clock, led by the retiring master, Dr. B. H. Hopkins, and Mrs. Hopkins, marched to the dining hall, and enjoyed the turkey supper served by Caterer Lenz. The company returned to the assembly hall and joined the lodge exercises and altogether filled the large room. The exercises opened with the introduction of the installing officer, Warren L. Preble, who, before beginning the formal work, presented the retiring master, Dr. B. H. Hopkins, with a past master's jewel.

The work of the installation was conducted by Mr. Preble in a very efficient and dignified manner, perfect and excellent in every detail. He was ably assisted by J. G. Dwinell as marshal. Both men are past masters of this lodge.

These officers were installed: Philip R. Andrews, m. s.; Harrison E. Evans, w. m.; Frederick Ruston, w. g.; George B. Bixby, treas.; Elson H. Bigelow, sec.; Stephen N. Lougee, chap.; Warren L. Preble, marshal; Charles E. Berlin, s. d.; Ellis B. Harlow, l. d.; Ernest H. Allen, s. p.; Kimball W. Hill, l. s.; Herbert B. Priest, l. s.; Holden G. Harlow, granitic; Ell W. Carley, Tyler.

The meeting was then put in charge of the newly-elected master who declared a brief intermission. At its close Mr. Andrews introduced the entertainers of the evening, the Commonwealth Concrete Company and Boston, Miss. Bora Mae Hayward, of Boston. There were six members of the concert company: Mrs. Cecelia Soprano; Miss Vivian Covey, contralto; Mr. Mowry, tenor; Mr. Perry, baritone; Mr. Lyons, second tenor; Mr. Rollins, bass. The selections were varied and excellent, the solos of Mrs. Hayward being greatly enjoyed and the concert was a success.

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The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Wednesday evening at its rooms in Dickinson's block, Washington street. The election of officers was postponed until Wednesday evening, January 12. The question box proved very interesting as usual and the various subjects on the slips of paper drawn from the box brought out many interesting facts relative to them. One of the subjects discussed was a proposed farmers' extension school for Ayer. Frank C. Johnson, superintendent of schools, explained the matter at length, giving full details of the working of these schools which are now established in different places and proving satisfactory. Such a school, if adopted, would be a part of the curriculum of the high school and studies could be taken up in connection with other branches. The school pays two-thirds of the salary of the teacher in this school. The subject was discussed in an informal way.

to. At the close of his speech he was loudly applauded.

The speaker was introduced by J. J. Munro, the president of the club, who made a brief address of welcome to the gathering. The program of the evening was in charge of Mr. Munro and was as follows:

Introductory remarks by the president; address, Atty. George T. Dominis, Worcester; vocal solo, James Bond; trio, Mrs. Ida Hawkins, Thomas Black and A. W. Moffitt, on the band, mandolin and guitar; vocal solo, singing Miss I. G. Hazard, piano accompanist; piano solo, Miss Jennison; vocal solo, Mrs. B. H. Hopkins; vocal solo, Mrs. Ida Hawkins; cornet and trombone quartet, Leo and Arthur Bissonnet; xylophone solo, Thomas Black; vocal solo, Miss Wolff; selection by orchestra.

After the concert President Munro thanked those who attended and hoped to see them all again in 1916. The grand march was then in order, after which came dancing, the dance order containing thirty-six numbers.

The floor was in charge of A. J. Chester, who was assisted by C. C. Harris, H. W. Hazard, W. H. Chester and G. E. Twine. The committee of arrangements was Mrs. F. A. Chester, Mrs. E. Twine, Mrs. G. R. Hazard, D. F. Rogers, S. H. Piper. The officers of the Peace and Unity club are: J. J. Munro, pres.; Sherman Munro, v. p.; F. H. Hazard, treas.; Miss M. G. Chester, sec.; Mrs. A. M. Munroe, asst. sec.; S. Piper, chap. A turkey supper was served during intermission.

In addition to the colored people present there were in attendance a large number of spectators, as usual.

An Excellent Opportunity.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company announces that arrangements have been made by which the employees of the Bell System who have been two years or more in the service and who so desire may purchase stock of the Company for \$110 per share on easy terms of payment. No employee can purchase more than one share for \$300 of annual wages he receives nor more than ten shares whatever his wages. The terms of payment will be two dollars per share per month, beginning with March, 1915, and the quarterly dividends paid on the stock will go towards paying for it after deducting interest at four percent per annum on the unpaid balances.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has paid eight percent dividends for seven years and it is calculated that dividends at this rate and the two dollars per share per month payments by employees will pay for the stock in full by November, 1918. Any employee who so desires can after March 1, 1917, but not before, pay in the balance of his stock and receive his stock certificate.

Should an employee leave the service or die before his stock is fully paid for, the amount he has paid in plus the accumulated dividends (less four percent interest) will be paid back.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company is the parent company of the Bell Telephone System which operates or connects with eight and a half million telephone stations throughout the United States. It has about 60,000 stockholders and 160,000 employees. Its issued capital is nearly \$25,000,000 and its quoted stock exchanges at about \$118 per share.

The company makes it plain that no employee is under any obligation to buy any stock, but it is believed that a considerable number of employees will take advantage of this opportunity to save a little money every month and invest it in the business.

District Court.

George Jordan told a pitiful story in court on Monday morning when he was arraigned for vagrancy. He was taken into custody in Groton by Chief DeLoach and held until the next morning. Jordan said that he had been fifteen years of age and never had what might be properly termed a home. He never saw his parents and for the past few years has been wandering aimlessly about doing such work as he might find to do. He had no friends or money and during the winter he had to keep all the time to keep from freezing. Added to this hardship he was without food or proper clothing.

Jordan wanted to go somewhere for the winter, where he might be free from his sufferings. Judge Atwood directed that he might go to the state farm which is being built to appeal to Jordan. After the court had stated that he would recommend his release as soon as spring came, and that he would be properly treated there Jordan bridged and was willing to go to Bridgewater under the above conditions.

Bennie Simonds and B. Balasky, both of Littleton, were found guilty of overloading a horse and in court on this week Friday morning each was fined five dollars, which they paid. They were arrested by Chief Beatty Thursday afternoon near Gilson's Corner, so-called, about a mile east of the town.

Dangers of Drinking Water.

The board of health has received a letter from Dr. Charles E. Simpson, state inspector of health, calling attention to the dangers of drinking water from unusual sources during this time of inefficient rainfall. Dr. Simpson considers it to be the duty of the local board of health to warn the people to look carefully to any possible source of pollution to such wells or springs that they may be saved from infection to typhoid or diarrhoeal diseases. That if there seems to be any danger they should boil the water and apply to you for advice. If any public supply or spring or water supply company finds itself short of water or in danger of shortage it should apply at once to the state department of health for advice. An additional supply, unless such action has already been taken.

It is essential that suspected cases of typhoid fever and dysentery be promptly reported.

Warmly Praised.

W. W. Colton, city forester of Newton, was warmly praised by Mayor Childs in the latter's inaugural ad-

dress of that city. The mayor severely criticized Mr. Colton's predecessor who was removed from office when Mr. Colton, who had been city forester of Fitchburg, was appointed last June. This is what the mayor said of Mr. Colton: "In June there was a change in the forestry department. Mr. Bucknam resigned, and if this were a novel, right here, there would be inserted a row of asterisks. W. W. Colton, who was city forester of Fitchburg and is now city forester of Ayer, was appointed. He knows the forestry and he has two essential qualifications for a public official engaged in this line of work." Mr. Colton was a forester here previous to going to Fitchburg.

Recent Visitors.

Recent visitors in town included Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hillery and daughter Marguerite at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hillery; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bigelow and daughter Marjorie, of Greenfield, and Miss Natalie Bigelow, of the Framingham Normal school, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bigelow; Mrs. T. J. Harris, of Wilmar, S. D., and Miss Carrie Wilson, of Lawrence, at the home of Mrs. Hannah C. Chapin; Dr. George Blood, of Fall River, at the home of George G. Puffer; Newton D. Cole, of Palm Beach, Fla., at the home of his son, Milan P. Cole; Ralph W. Nixon, of South Chelmsford, at the home of his mother, Mrs. A. S. Nixon; Dr. Ezra S. Fisk, of Providence, R. I., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Carley; Miss Ruth Hill, of Boston, at the home of Mrs. A. C. Woods; Mrs. S. C. Dix, of Westboro; Oliver and Galen Proctor, of Townsend, and Mrs. Helen Cruikshank, of Medford, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Proctor; Mrs. Lois Porter, Mrs. Julia Allen, Mrs. Alice Parkhurst, of West Groton, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Burgess.

A. W. C.

The large number who attended the regular meeting of the Ayer Woman's club on January 8, enjoyed a program of great interest. The first part, in charge of Mrs. Daisy Beckford, was as follows:

Piano solo, Beethoven in A-flat, Chopin; Violin solos, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Arletto, A. D'Ambrósio; Reading, Miss Helen Lovejoy, Pomeroy; Vocal solo, Emma Thomas; Vocal solo, Emma Thomas; Vocal solo, Emma Thomas.

After a short intermission for social intercourse an English comedy, "Mrs. Willis' will," was presented under the direction of Mrs. Carrie Murphy. The following ladies composed the cast: Mrs. Daisy Beckford, Mrs. Harriet Bixby, Mrs. Blanche Whitney, Mrs. Juliette Allen, Mrs. Austin Lawrence.

The president read an urgent appeal from Queen Elizabeth, of Belgium, for help for her people who are suffering greatly during the severe weather. Notice was given of the first meeting of the art section to be held with Miss Esther Stone on Friday evening, January 8.

The sewing school opens its winter's work on Saturday afternoon, January 9, at 2:30 in the town hall. Children who have attended before are always invited to bring their books so that they may be properly ranked.

The club wishes to extend its thanks to those who provided entertainment for members of the Tufts college Glee club on the night of their concert here.

Triple Installation.

The annual public triple installation exercises of the officers of Geo. S. Boutwell post, G. A. R., Woman's Relief Corps and Capt. George V. Barrett camp, S. of V., took place in Grand Army hall on Thursday evening at eight o'clock. These exercises are always interesting and attract a very large number of people both in the organizations named and their invited guests. It is doubtful, however, if there was an occasion of its kind more interesting than the one on Thursday evening. The work was performed in a manner that drew much praise from the visiting members of the three orders, everything being of the highest quality, every thing passing off in the business-like way which is characteristic of these occasions.

The installing officer, of George S. Boutwell post was Stephen N. Lougee, past commander, who performed the duty in his usual able and impressive way. He was assisted by James J. O'Brien, past commander, who aided materially in the good work.

Mrs. Annie G. Shattuck, of Fitchburg, past department president, assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Kyle, of Ayer, as conductor, acted as installing officer for the Woman's Relief Corps and did fine work as did her assistant.

H. H. Hale, past division commander, of Hudson, was the installing officer of the Sons of Veterans and performed his work in a manner that won for him hearty applause at its conclusion. He was assisted by P. E. Graves, past division commander, also of Hudson, who acted as guide and gave efficient service.

After the exercises remarks were made by Stephen N. Lougee, past commander of George S. Boutwell post; Past Division Commanders Hale and Graves of Hudson, Rev. Mr. Strong, pastor of the Congregational church, and others. The meeting closed with all singing "America."

Previous to the installation exercises supper was served in the vestry of the Congregational church to a large number by ladies connected with the W. R. C. Mrs. Mary Beverly in charge. The following were the officers installed:

G. A. R.—Hiram S. Clark, com.; Henry Leavitt, s. v. c.; Orlando P. Robinson, v. v. c.; Charles E. Craig, o. d.; Henry C. Sherwin, pm.; Augustus Lovejoy, sur.; J. Everett Woods, o. g.; Stephen N. Lougee, chap. and p. l.; Daniel H. Dickinson, adj.; Charles H. Stone, s. m.; Elletta D. Martell, g. m. s.

W. R. C.—Mrs. Ellen G. Sawyer, pres.; Mrs. Charlotte H. Knox, s. v. p.; Mrs. Ida C. Boutwell, v. p.; Miss Willie M. Beverly, sec.; Mrs. Nina E. Lovejoy, treas.; Mrs. Augusta D. Scruton, chap.; Mrs. Alice M. Crawford, cond.; Mrs. Etta Craig, g. r.; Mrs. Lucie S. Richardson, p. l.; Mrs. Louise P. Kennison, press. cor.; Mrs. Evelyn Cunningham, mur.; Mrs. Jessie Craw-

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Ceaseless Study Demanded of Bay State Legislators

ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR WALSH

Urges Immediate Emergency Appropriation For Supplying Unemployed With Work—State Finances Should Be Handled by Budget System—Taxation an All-Important Question—Urges Public Inquiry as to Telephone and Telegraph Rates—Transportation, Biennial Elections, Agriculture and Other Important Questions Are Given Due Consideration

Following is the inaugural message, in part, of Governor David I. Walsh to the two branches of the legislature of Massachusetts:

Gentlemen of the General Court: We meet this year under somewhat unusual conditions and are confronted by problems that call for our utmost diligence and most careful thought.

A tremendous conflict is raging beyond and upon the seas, with consequences already seriously felt within our own borders and likely to be increasingly felt. Unemployment with its inevitable concomitants of suffering and crime has risen above the normal level; the confidence of investors in hitherto stable investments, rudely shaken many months ago, has not yet been restored; the purchasing power of many workers is seriously reduced and we have furthermore in the near future to expect and provide for an unprecedented influx of immigrants from the devastated fields and ruined industries of the old world.

To avert an aggravated congestion of our cities, to utilize the newcomers and our own under-employed in developing our neglected natural resources and opening new avenues of employment, and to continue to improve the conditions of labor without crippling the industries upon which remunerative employment must depend—these are some of the special tasks which confront us, while as usual there are before us serious problems relating to the promotion of the public health, the extension of educational advantages, and the development of our commerce demanding our ceaseless study. The work that lies before us is arduous and exacting, but it offers to faithful and devoted effort great opportunities and service to the commonwealth.

Relief For the Unemployed
First of all, I ask your immediate action to solve as far as a solution is within our power the pressing problem of the unemployed.

By a coincidence which seems to me clearly providential, the legislation of preceding years has made surprisingly simple and easy the task of supplying a very large measure of relief, and that not only without any ultimate burden upon the taxpayers, but with direct and indirect results of great financial, physical and moral advantage to the entire commonwealth.

By chapter 759 of the acts of 1913, amended by chapter 596 of the last session, a board composed of the boards of health and agriculture, acting jointly, has been given authority and a small appropriation to begin the task of reclaiming the large freshwater swamps and marshes in eastern Massachusetts, which, although in natural fertility and ease of cultivation far surpass most of the land now under cultivation within the state, are now practically valueless, and cannot, from the nature of the engineering problems involved and the dispersion of ownership, be reclaimed by private enterprise.

Surveys and studies of various tracts have been made, and all is now ready for immediate action. Much of these wetlands consists of open meadows, requiring for reclamation suitable machinery but a relatively small amount of unskilled hand labor. There are, however, great wooded swamps where the conditions are reversed; where a large amount of unskilled labor can be employed to advantage in the winter. If you at once—within a week if possible—pass an emergency appropriation of not less than \$50,000, thereby providing the board with the means of taking over not less than a thousand acres of such land, establishing workmen's camps, cutting the wood and timber, and preparing it for market, and also authorize the employment, as an emergency measure, of laborers at a moderate monthly wage, with board and lodging—giving preference, if you will, to men with dependent families—several thousand men if need be can be given work for the next few months, with mutual advantage to themselves and the commonwealth, preserving at the same time their self-respect, avoiding the pauperizing tendencies of gratuitous relief, and lessening the strain upon the finances of our charitable organizations.

State Finances
This year again I urge you to exercise the utmost care, not only in authorizing appropriations for new and special undertakings, but also in making those appropriations required by existing legislation. While a not inconsiderable portion of our existing financial burden has been brought upon us by the desire of various local-

ities, as expressed by their representatives, to secure local improvements at the expense of the commonwealth, by far the major part of the enormous increase in the state tax and debt in the past ten years has been brought about by the needs of a rapidly growing industrial state and the rapid advance of humanitarianism in government. The people demand more of the government than ever before.

During the financial year just closed we expended for the protection of public health \$600,000; for educational purposes, \$1,877,000; for the construction and maintenance of highways, \$2,300,000; for the care of the sick, the poor, the insane and the defective, \$5,635,000; and for the restraint of delinquents, \$2,314,000.

There may be some significance in the fact that for several years our charitable and correctional expenses have approximated the amount of the state tax, which at once brings up the question of the wisdom of trusting the expenditure of this immense sum to unpaid commissions—a policy that would never be tolerated by private enterprise. I submit for your careful consideration the advisability of a complete reorganization of the state board of charity along the lines of the new state department of health.

The estimated expenses, under existing laws, for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1915, are \$19,469,095. The estimated revenue is \$9,289,000. The amounts asked for this year by the various departments, boards, commissions and trustees for special purposes, such as new buildings and improvements, total \$2,629,893.

There is much to criticize in our methods of finance. The state has been meeting from the tax levy expenses that should be met by the issuance of bonds. The legislature has prescribed one theory of financing for cities and towns, while following an entirely different one for the commonwealth.

Budget System
I believe that the proper and only businesslike way of handling the state finances is by the so-called budget system. The estimates of the various commissions, boards and departments, both for regular expenses and for special purposes, should be submitted to the governor as the responsible head of the administration, who, after investigation by the commission on economy and efficiency, should transmit to the legislature a definite, detailed budget showing precisely which items were approved and which were disallowed or reduced by the governor. The budget system would not only locate responsibility but would add much to the economy and efficiency with which plans are made for future work.

Taxation
It is believed by thoughtful men that the great political controversies of the future in this country will be waged over questions of taxation.

As much injustice to the average citizen can be perpetrated through a bad system of taxation as through any other evil of government. Last year some progress was made which must be considered notable in contrast with the inertia of former years. Much more remains to be accomplished before our plan of adjusting the public burdens will be fair to the taxpayer, and before we have brought our tax laws up to the standard of the more advanced states.

We still impose double taxation upon certain forms of "intangible" property, affording a plausible excuse for wholesale tax dodging, which the present plan of assessment has proved wholly inadequate to check.

Last year the legislature provided for the exemption of certain securities from taxation upon proof to the tax commissioner that the property on which they are based is "already taxed." The application of such a rule to the case just cited would have relieved the note holders of a large share of their just liability without providing for a just assessment of the physical property or doing justice to the taxpayers of Lawrence.

I therefore recommend:

1. That this law of last year be so amended as to provide that the tax commissioner be supplied with proof that the tangible property has been adequately taxed as a prerequisite to registration.
2. That full returns of taxable property be made compulsory.
3. That with every deed conveying real estate there shall be filed under oath a statement of the true consideration for the conveyance.
4. That upon discovery of any property that has escaped taxation a tax shall be assessed upon it not only the current year but for each of the five years preceding.
5. That the commissioner be given adequate power and facilities to revise and correct local assessments and to remove incompetent local assessors, and also—
(a) To order revaluations in any city or town.
(b) To cause the state department itself to make such a revaluation.
(c) To value as a whole the property and franchises of widely extended businesses and industries, such as railroad and telephone companies, and to assign to each city and town the proportion of the whole value to be taxed by such city or town, and the actual value at which it is to be assessed.
(d) To equalize local assessments of property for the purpose of establishing an equitable basis for assigning to each municipality its share of the direct state tax.

Cost of the Public Service Commission
I must repeat, with added emphasis if possible, my last year's protest against the law which relieved the

transportation and telephone and telegraph companies—already favored by the exemption of much of their physical property from local taxation—from defraying the cost of the public service commission, thereby adding nearly \$200,000 annually to the state tax. The sole question is whether these companies, rather than other public service corporations, are entitled to this exemption from taxation at the expense of all the other taxpayers of the commonwealth; and this question I am sure should be answered in the negative.

Telephone and Telegraph Companies
I again urge the transfer of the supervision and regulation of telephone and telegraph companies from the public service commission to the gas and electric light commission. Both of these public utilities have to do with the use of electric lines, and therefore present many similar problems.

The questions suggested involve such important principles of public policy, the activities of the companies so intimately concern the necessities and convenience of the entire commonwealth, and they exercise for the most part so complete a monopoly of the service, that I urgently recommend that a thorough public inquiry be had as to telephone and telegraph rates and service in this commonwealth.

Railroads
The condition of the Boston and Maine railroad is the gravest question in our ever-present transportation problem. The railroad system still remains in its unstable state, whereby the stockholders of the Boston and Maine railroad have but a small equity in the whole Boston and Maine system. The fluctuations in railroad prosperity thus fall with crushing weight upon a very small portion, when, with a sound financial structure, the weight would be borne equally by the whole.

About 80 percent of the Boston and Maine system is comprised of roads leased to the Boston and Maine railroad upon terms out of proportion to its present financial condition. For several years past it has been paying dividends without earning them. During the year ending July 1, 1914, it paid no dividends and failed to earn the amount of its fixed charges, showing a deficit of \$2,044,742.

It is obvious to any intelligent citizen that all of these losses cannot continue to fall upon the stockholders of the Boston and Maine railroad without precipitating an undesirable disintegration of our distinctively New England transportation system. The disjoining of this railroad system would not only be harmful to the public interest of New England, but would be especially harmful to the component parts of the system itself.

I have reason to believe that many of the parties directly interested in this situation realize their responsibility and are now working out a plan of reorganization which may put this railroad system upon a firm ground.

Election Matters
A year's experience leaves me more firmly convinced than ever that Massachusetts ought to hold a constitutional convention, which she has not had for more than half a century. A large part of our time, both in and out of the legislature, is engrossed with discussion and agitation concerning great policies which will not down and will not be settled until the judgment of the electorate is obtained upon them.

I suggest, as the questions most persistently pressing for constitutional authority, the following:

1. The initiative, the referendum and the recall of elective officers.
2. Biennial elections.
3. The short ballot, with concentration of power and responsibility in the governor.
4. The abolition of the executive council and enlarging the powers of the lieutenant governor.
5. Woman suffrage.
6. Rights of cities and towns to deal in necessities of life in times of public distress.
7. Government by majority.
8. The right of the governor to veto specific items in appropriation bills.
9. Homestead legislation, whereby the commonwealth may help people of small means to acquire homes of their own.
10. Revision of the taxation system.
11. The making of workmen's compensation compulsory.
12. Enabling citizens in certain cases to cast their ballots without attending the polls in person.
13. Proportional representation.
14. Empowering the legislature to make regulations for the commission of officers of the militia.

Biennial Elections
It is impossible for those who have not been in the public service to realize how much its efficiency is impaired by the necessity of making ready for and participating in the struggle of annual elections. The actual loss of time is great, but the unrest, distraction and diversion of thought from the channels of public service cause a still greater loss in the value of the public servant. The executive officers scarcely become acquainted with their duties before they are obliged to enter upon an elaborate campaign to defend themselves against attack and oftentimes partisan abuse, and, perhaps, are turned out of office before they have had an opportunity to prove their capacity, or to put in operation the principles or reforms upon the advocacy of which they may have been elected.

and giving them an opportunity to pass judgment upon acts of their servants as often as necessary, but if we had the initiative and referendum and the recall we should have the means of controlling the recalcitrant official or legislature, and I believe it would then be of great advantage to the commonwealth to have less frequent elections.

Woman Suffrage
It is a settled principle of the American democracy that when a large element of the community demands the submission to the people of a proposed law or change in their form of government they are entitled to the judgment of the whole electorate. Therefore, I recommend the submission to the people of the state of an amendment to the constitution providing for woman suffrage.

Initiative and Referendum
In any program of reform the most fundamental policy must always be that which seeks to give the people greater control of their own government. When new conditions and a long train of abuses have made it difficult and often impossible for public opinion to control the government, or even clearly to make itself manifest, it is time for a change in some of our political processes which will make the political power absolutely amenable to the popular will.

The Democratic party, the Progressive party and the progressive Republicans have advocated the initiative and referendum in Massachusetts for a number of years. It does not embody a new principle, but is merely a device for carrying into effect the old principle laid down by our forefathers in the bill of rights in the constitution of this commonwealth.

I therefore earnestly recommend the passage this year of an amendment to the constitution which will permit us to adopt the so-called initiative and referendum.

Election Law Reforms
Commendable progress was made last year in correcting the defects which long experience has disclosed in our election laws, notably in the abolition of party enrollment; the creation of an election court above the reach of local politics; the adoption of the English plan of unseating and disqualifying candidates when corrupt practices have been used in their behalf; and the prohibition of undue large campaign contributions from individuals, whether candidates or their supporters. But you will note that these reforms in no way lessen the demand for heavy campaign expenditures by parties and candidates.

In itself a serious and growing evil, however legitimate the objects for which the expense is incurred, the additional provisions, imperatively needed before another election are accordingly these:

First—Some form of penalizing the neglect to exercise the right and duty of suffrage. There are several feasible methods by which we could compel the voters to exercise the vital civic duty of casting their ballots.

I do not urge any particular method, but I do urge that some method be devised which will remove from politics the corrupting necessity of raising large campaign funds for the purpose of getting out the vote.

Second—An official campaign bulletin of information to the voters should be supplied by the state, containing not only arguments for and against measures submitted to the people, but also an impartial opportunity for statements regarding qualifications of all candidates entitled to a place on the official ballot.

Third—There should be an ample provision, at public expense, of meeting places for the discussion of political principles and issues.

Fourth—Free conveyance to the polls should be supplied for cases of physical incapacity only. All private expenditures for the purpose should be brought under the penal provisions of the corrupt practices act.

Local Self-Government
I believe that as far as possible every local community should be left to govern itself. Local self-government can only be as good as the citizens make it; but the remedy, when our municipalities are unfortunately suffering from poor administration, is not state control.

I therefore recommend that the power to grant and regulate liquor licenses, and to control their police force, be restored to the people of Fall River.

On similar grounds, and in accordance with the suggestion of the civil service commission, I recommend the taking away from that commission the power to approve or reject appointees of the mayor of the city of Boston.

Agriculture
The condition of the agricultural industry of Massachusetts is still on the whole extremely unsatisfactory. Notwithstanding a marked improvement in some special branches of fruit-raising and market gardening, mixed or general farming, so-called, is not on the whole profitable and there is a general feeling that a comfortable living cannot be made upon a New England farm without a large working capital. Our farmers as a class are disheartened and their children as they grow up still leave the farm at the first opportunity for more promising fields of industry.

There are in Massachusetts 105 cities and towns of over 5000 population which should afford an unrivaled market for every kind of farm and dairy produce. It is the government's business to find out the causes of this depressing condition.

Better Distribution of Farm Products
The one great factor which has made farming unprofitable in Massa-

achusetts, as well as in other parts of New England, is the expense of getting farm products into the cities at a reasonably low cost for transportation. In this respect I believe the transportation by trolley should be fostered and encouraged by public authority, to the end that the producing farmer, as well as the consuming laborer or mechanic who resides in the city, could obtain an advantage that cannot be had under present conditions.

Reorganization of the Board
I recognize, as all familiar with the facts must do, the value and importance of the work accomplished by the state board of agriculture and the Massachusetts agricultural college in recent years. I still am of the opinion, however, that the present organization of the board is unwieldy and out of date; that the plan is not well adapted to promote the most possible development of our neglected agricultural resources for the benefit of consumer and producer alike.

I therefore recommend the reorganization of the board on the model last year adopted for the board of health, concentrating executive functions in a responsible commissioner of agriculture adequately paid for his entire time, and assisted by an advisory council of moderate size compensated fairly but not extravagantly for the time actually given to the work of the department. All the present subsidiary boards should be placed under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of agriculture, as analogous departments have been made responsible to the health commissioner.

Milk
In recent years the public unrest at the constant advance in the price of milk has been very marked. Suspicion and discontent pervade the discussion of the milk question. While the price to the consumer is mounting higher and higher year by year the number of cows in Massachusetts is steadily growing less. The milk situation is so important that we should know the truth about it as soon as possible. I therefore recommend that a commission of three competent citizens be appointed forthwith to inquire into all the facts pertaining to the situation, with power to summon witnesses and papers and to administer oaths; and report their findings to the legislature, with such remedies as they deem feasible, not later than the 1st of next April, so that the present legislature may act upon them.

The Needs of the Western Counties
I commend to your careful study the report of the recess commission created to consider the needs of the western counties. I especially approve the advice of the commission as to the changes that should be made in the "small towns act;" the general placing of thoroughfares under the expert care of the highway commission; and the issue of \$2,000,000 in bonds to provide for the immediate completion of the main arteries of travel in these counties. Instead of continuing the piecemeal construction of unconnected portions, which, while the missing links are unimproved, give the farmers little if any better means than at present for transporting their produce to market.

In any event I must protest against obliging the commonwealth to begin the experiment of public ownership of transportation facilities by building and operating lines which private capital will not undertake because of the certainty that they cannot pay. Let us begin with a paying proposition if we are to venture at all in this untried field.

Prison Reform
The first step that must be taken to secure any adequate reform of the long-standing and generally acknowledged defects in our prison system is unquestionably the placing of all the county penal institutions under the care of the state. The grouping of cities and towns in counties, with a quasi-federal government intermediate between the municipality and the state, is a superannuated product of the days of slow and costly communication, and at its best is now a needless and power-wasting cogwheel in the governmental machine.

Notwithstanding the gradual extension of state supervision and control of criminals during the last fifty years, it still remains true that nearly half the prison population is in the county jails, where no adequate classification is possible even if attempted.

The remedy is so plain and so inexpensive that it seems entirely feasible to enact the necessary legislation early enough in the session to allow a comprehensive plan of classification to be devised and put in operation during the present year.

Another obvious reform is the sale of the Charlestown prison and the application of the proceeds to the establishment of a model state prison in some thinly settled region where prison labor could be utilized in reclamation work, agriculture and other ways more beneficial to the prisoners and profitable for the commonwealth than any available in the present location. That both the state and the prisoners may reap the full advantage of such applications of their labor it is essential that diligence and efficiency should be recognized by a carefully guarded provision for a small wage.

Reorganization of Prison Commission
The present organization of the prison commission is not sufficiently effective. An anomalous condition exists in that the chairman and only salaried member of the board is practically but its executive agent, in all matters which are brought to

the attention of the prison commission, each member has authority and responsibility equal to that of the chairman, but not the same familiarity with the work.

I therefore recommend a reorganization of the prison commission with a single commissioner having power to appoint two or more deputies. The present parole board of five members could well be reduced to three.

I recommend further that imprisonment, except for treason and capital offenses, be made indeterminate. The office of trial justice should be abolished.

Interstate Industrial Competition
In recent years Massachusetts has been constantly raising the level of conditions under which our working people have been obliged to perform their labor. The resulting increased efficiency of the workers has offset the loss in the hours of their labor. But there must come a time when the cost of improved conditions of health and safety and short hours of labor will exceed the increased efficiency which is produced thereby. We have not yet reached that point, but we shall always be approaching it so long as we continue to improve the condition of labor in Massachusetts.

I recommend that provision be made for an investigation with authority—First, to find out the exact facts as to whether or not our industries are at a disadvantage because of our humanitarian laws.
Second, to inquire into the power of congress in this regard, and if it is found to exist, to urge congress to exercise that authority for the benefit of the people of all the states.

Savings Bank Life Insurance
The savings bank insurance law of 1907 has now passed the experimental stage in operation, and has amply demonstrated the wisdom of its enactment.

This is a matter of great and far-reaching significance to our wage-earning population, and I urge upon every employer a knowledge of the opportunities offered under this Massachusetts plan. Therefore, I recommend an increase in the amount of the appropriation for the savings bank insurance department in order that a thorough and systematic campaign of education may be entered upon, under the supervision of the trustees of the general insurance guaranty fund, to the end that the benefits of the system shall be extended to every man, woman and child in the commonwealth.

I further recommend the enactment of legislation permitting each savings and insurance bank to issue policies of insurance in any amount up to but not exceeding \$1000 on any one life.

Education
I bespeak your most careful consideration of the plans for an extended system of free scholarships and university extension that will be laid before you; and, what seems to me still more important, I urge you to consider whether special provision for the systematic training of high school teachers for our smaller cities and towns should not be at once installed in our normal school system.

Let us provide for the boys and girls of our rural towns, and for those sent into the workshops and factories at an early age, educational correspondence courses.
Massachusetts should give, through its own correspondence schools, free lecture courses, departmental demonstration work, and other methods of university extension, all that private schools now supply to those able to pay for special instruction.

Legislative Reference and Drafting Bureau
In the supply of useful information to the legislature the employes of the state library have done the best they could with their appropriations and their opportunities. But I recommend that this work be organized upon a much more efficient and enlarged basis, including a provision for expert assistance in the drafting of bills.

A drafting department in connection with the legislative reference library would be of immeasurable usefulness to our state government.

To repeat, the two specific measures by which legislation can be greatly improved are—

1. The establishment of a legislative reference library, with a competent library force to furnish to the legislators all kinds of information relating to proposed measures.
2. The establishment of a drafting bureau, which may be called upon by members or committees of the legislature to put in correct form measures that are desired, so that they may be drawn with reference to previous legislation and existing decisions of the courts.

Conclusion
Senators and Representatives: I am aware that I have now pressed upon your attention a large number of matters of importance; but I beg you to notice that few if any of them can be considered partisan in character, but are such as have to do impartially with the interests of the entire commonwealth.

In conclusion, I urge you not to forget the general welfare of the people of our state—those millions who never appear before a legislative committee, not because they are without interest or unconcerned about public questions, but because they are busily engaged in the struggle for a livelihood.

Let us not forget that they have temporarily delegated the business of their government to you and to me, and that they expect us to be on guard to protect their rights and to be concerned first to last about all those matters which will promote their happiness and prosperity.

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—OF—
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BOTH FOOT PRESSURE AND HAND PRESSURE
These machines press and cut off the butts at one operation with the raffa in place near the top of the bunch ready to tie and cut off with small knife on top of the clamp. The butts when cut drop through an opening in the top of table into box or basket.
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Start Right
Start the new year right by using flour that is right for all kinds of cooking. We are the agents for the celebrated **Ceresota** and **Gold Medal Flours**—none better. We also carry in stock a full line of **Small Groceries** which are always fresh. Anything in the line of the **National Biscuit Company's** products will also be found fresh and nice here as we always have a good stock to select from on hand. Come in and look around and give us a trial order. That is the only real way to get acquainted with us and the line of goods we carry.
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MADAM GREENWOOD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court.
To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of JOHN W. LEAHY, late of Shirley in said County, deceased, Intestate.
Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to **GEORGE S. KEARSE**, of Waltham in said County, or to some other suitable person;
You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the fourteenth day of January A. D. 1915, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.
And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court.
Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, Justice of said Court, this twenty-third day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.
W. E. ROGERS, Registrar.

WANTED—Salesman and Collector for an established installment business in Ayer and surrounding towns. To a man with team, willing to work, permanent position and good pay will be given. Apply at once, stating age and experience, to **SALESMAN**, Turner's Public Spirit Office, Ayer, Mass. 3117
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the subscriber has been duly appointed executor of the will of **SAMUEL A. DERSON**, late of Shirley, in the County of Middlesex, deceased. State and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bond, as the law directs.
All persons having demands upon the estate of said deceased are hereby required to exhibit the same, and all persons indebted to said estate are called upon to make payment to
ANNIE J. ANDERSON, Executrix.
Shirley, Mass., Dec. 22, 1914. 3117
KEROSENE OIL TANK WITH PUMP FOR SALE—Will hold 50 gallons. Cheap for cash. Apply at Public Spirit Office, Ayer, Mass.

N. A. SPENNER & SON

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

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They have never shown a larger and better stock of good things for the Holidays.

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A Splendid Assortment of CANDY AND SUNSHINE COOKIES That will melt in your mouth.

We will give you a good trade in

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we have some that we are going to sell at some price within the next ten days.

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ROAST PORK 14c. lb

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A Nice Assortment of

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SHAFTING, BELTING, PULLEYS, ETC., FOR SALE—Cheap for cash. All in good condition. Apply to Turner's Public Spirit Office, Ayer, Mass.

TOWNSEND.

Center. Remember the annual meeting of the Congregational church...

At the Congregational church Sunday morning, Rev. A. L. Struther's topic will be "Changing human nature."

Former parishioners of the Rev. B. A. Willmott will be pleased to learn of the new year's gift he received from the people of his church in Quincy.

North Star lodge, I. O. O. F., elected the following officers for the coming year at their recent business meeting:

Friday afternoon, January 1, after the Rev. George R. Moody had started out to make new year calls on some of the shut-ins of his parish, he slipped on the sidewalk on Bow street...

The passing of the old year and the coming of the new was celebrated by several gatherings and sleighing parties. Thursday afternoon a party of sixteen young people came from Shirley and was entertained by Landlord D. W. Farrar at the Park hotel...

Friday afternoon some young people from the paper box factory at Fitchburg spent a jolly afternoon and were served a chicken supper at the Park hotel. Friday evening the sleighing party were the guests of Proprietor Farrar from West Groton and supper was served, after which Victrola dancing enjoyed by some, while others passed the time socially and playing whist.

New Year's eve Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Struthers entertained at the parsonage the young people who are at home from college and normal school and teachers, also the young people from the high and grammar schools. A pleasant evening was passed gathered around the yule log made bright with red electric lights, thus making the occasion attractive and suggestive of the new season. As the hour was striking twelve, new year resolutions were seemingly drawn from the first and read by the different ones present. Final adieux were not said until the new year had a good start and the host and hostess had received good wishes from their happy guests.

Friday afternoon a few friends and neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Agnes Woods to observe with her the new year's day. The afternoon was spent in merry conversation and the reading of witty and serious new year resolutions by those present. Mrs. Angie Lang also gave a humorous reading entitled, "The minister's coffee and cake were served by the hostess. As the guests departed they exchanged new year's greetings and thanked the hostess for the enjoyable afternoon.

Friday evening a jolly little party of Masters Stanley and Donald Fessenden's mates met at their home. The time was spent playing games and listening to Victrola music. Refreshments were served and about ten o'clock the merry little folks departed wishing Stanley and Donald a happy new year.

The "Jolly eight" from Townsend enjoyed a delightful sleigh ride to Ashby New Year's evening. After partaking of a delicious supper served at the Ashby Inn the party repaired to the First Parish hall, where they made merry with music and dancing. The ride home "by the light of all its silvery moon" was pronounced by all to be the happy climax of the evening's pleasure.

During the Christmas and New Year season the pupils of the grammar school sent dolls and other toys to the Children's hospital, Boston. The dolls were purchased with some of the money made at their recent fair. They also visited some of the shut-ins here singing carols and leaving a gift of good cheer.

Miss Alberta Barber has been ill again with neuralgia.

The funeral of Mrs. Harris, who passed away at South row, Saturday, was held at her daughter's home in Fitchburg, on Monday. The interment was in New York state.

The Equal Suffrage league met with the vice-president, Mrs. Emma J. Lees, at West Townsend on Friday afternoon, January 8, at two o'clock.

Mrs. Eugene A. Flagg, who has been seriously ill for some time, was taken to the Lowell General hospital last Saturday in R. G. Fessenden's automobile. On Monday she underwent an operation and died on Thursday, at the age of sixty-two years. The funeral services will be held at the Congregational church on Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Friends are invited without further notice.

John N. Going still remains very ill. His sister-in-law, Mrs. Agnes Goring of Rochester, N. H., visited him this past week.

Chief Piper was called New Year's eve to a stubborn chimney fire at the home of Henry J. Miller requiring the attention of the firemen for several hours as the fire had gained headway through the wall and ceiling.

At the inauguration of New Hampshire's newly-elected governor, Roland H. Spaulding, at Concord, N. H., Thursday, January 7, the following friends from the Center attended by invitation: Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Fessenden, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Fessenden, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Flarity, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Lancy and Mrs. George

Gates. Mr. Gates being unable to be present, Mrs. Gates was accompanied by their son, Christie Gates, of Waltham, Mr. and Mrs. George Page of Pawtucket, R. I., joined the party on their way at Ayer.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Erten attended the funeral of Mrs. Van Erten's father, Peter Hoff, at Waterford, N. Y., Thursday, January 7.

Charles W. Hildreth attended the funeral of his nephew's wife, Mrs. Fred Bent, held at her late home, 39 Flske avenue, Lynn, on Friday afternoon, January 8.

Joint Installation. The Phoebe Weston Farmer tent, D. of V., and the Anson D. Fessenden camp, S. of V., held a joint installation in Oddfellows' hall, Tuesday evening, January 5. The installing officer for the D. of V. was Miss Ruth Tucker of Fitchburg tent. The following officers were installed:

Hattie Cook, pres.; Pearl Woods, s. v.; Flora Watkins, J. v.; Ellen Richards, chap.; Elnora Smith, treas.; Mary Taylor, p. l.; Ella Wilson, Hattie O'Brien, Abbie Shattuck, tent

Harvey, sec.; Florence Quinn, sec.; Alice Bowley, guide; Estlin, Evelyn Sanders, Hattie Sanders, Annie Dow, color bearers; Flora Atwood, guard; Hattie Spaulding, asst. guard.

The installing officer for the S. of V. was Frank J. Donahue of Boston, division commander, assisted by E. A. Holmes, div. guide. The following officers were installed:

George Fessenden, com.; Harold Parker, s. v.; T. J. Harvey, J. v.; A. N. Fessenden, p. l.; A. N. Fessenden, Frank Brown, W. L. Bruce, camp council; W. L. Bruce, chap.; John Albert, sec.; R. G. Fessenden, treas.; Albert L. Dow, guide; Frank Brown, c. b.; Leon Z. Watkins, i. g.; Ralph Bush, o. g.

In the early evening a brief informal reception to Frank J. Donahue, division commander, and E. A. Holmes, division treasurer, was held at the S. of V. hall at the home of A. N. Fessenden. Mr. Holmes being an exceptionally fine singer, kindly favored the company present with several selections. His singing again later in the evening at Oddfellows' hall was thoroughly enjoyed by all and received hearty applause. After installation an excellent oyster supper was served.

West. Miss Lottie Hobart has returned from Waltham, where she has been visiting relatives.

Mr. Walsh and family from the Center have moved into the Wilder house in Josselynville recently vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Barry.

Herman Lawrence is taking a vacation from his duties at Boutwell's store.

A number of cases of whooping cough are reported in town, among them being Lawrence and Priscilla Welch, Doris Tenney, Gilbert and Curtis Richards and several others are under suspicion of having it.

The Townsend Equal Suffrage league will be entertained by Mrs. Emma J. Lees at her home on Friday afternoon at two o'clock.

It was a matter of much interest to the friends of John Manchester, a former resident here, to learn that he has been elected city marshal at his new home in Franklin, N. H.

Electric lights were installed this week at the home of Mrs. Frank Farnsworth.

Lucy Reynolds is the latest reported victim of whooping cough.

John Eldredge has entered the employ of the Belgrade Rug Co.

The Ladies' Baptist Benevolent society met on Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Lucy A. Lawrence for an all-day session. A dinner was served at noon with eleven present and at the business meeting in the afternoon Mrs. Fred A. Patch was appointed secretary pro tem in place of Mrs. Boynton, who was unable to be present, and the regular monthly business with reports of committees, etc., was transacted.

Harry Streeter, of Waltham, visited relatives in town last week.

Miss Freda Jodery has returned to the home in Concord after a few days' visit to the home of her father, Amos Jodery.

Mrs. Lees is in receipt of a letter thanking those who helped the L. A. S. of the Unitarian society in knitting for the Belgians this fall, which were recently sent to the aid of the Belgians.

The following officers and committees of the West Townsend Brotherhood commenced their six-months' term of service on Sunday: George A. Seaver, pres.; Mervin W. Ware, v. p.; Herman L. Stickney, sec.; Ashbel H. Streeter, treas.; Rev. Joseph McKean, teacher; committees—Jan Rusk, Abbott Hodgman, Frank Boutelle, Warren Elliott and Alexander Reed, social; Duncan Rusk, Ashbel Streeter and Abbott Hodgman, visiting; Justin Hodgman, Mervin Ware and William W. Webster, membership; Herman L. Stickney, Mervin Ware and Charles Hodgman, boys; Ian Rusk, Alexander Reed and Dr. R. S. Ely, personal interest.

The Ladies' Whist club was entertained on last week Thursday afternoon at the home of the president, Mrs. Emma J. Lees, as the reading-room was closed on account of the repairs to the stove.

Miss Georgianna McKean, who spent her Christmas vacation with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Joseph McKean, returned to her school in Brattleboro, Vt., last Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Lucy A. Lawrence has been spending a few days with her brother, Daniel C. Taylor.

Miss Ella Wood has been spending a few days in Mason, N. H.

Mr. Day, recently employed at the granite quarry, has been confined to his room at F. G. Smith's for several days with a severe cut on his foot which he received while assisting in harvesting ice at Walker pond last week.

Mrs. Fred A. Patch visiting in Fitchburg last Saturday and Miss Helen Plummer and Miss Agnes Thompson assisted in the postoffice.

HOLLIS, N. H.

Mrs. William W. Webster returned on Sunday afternoon to her home in Josselynville from a visit with relatives in Cambridge.

The week of prayer has been observed at the Baptist church here with a service every evening except Saturday.

The social committee of the Brotherhood met with Mrs. R. S. Ely on Wednesday evening of last week with eight present and completed plans for the annual banquet which is to be held at the Baptist vestries on next Tuesday evening. A chicken pie supper will be served and it is expected that Rev. S. D. Ringrose, of the Highland Baptist church, Fitchburg, will be the speaker, and special music will be enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Reed and son Kenneth returned last week from Lyndonville, Vt., where they spent the holidays.

Miss Boss has returned to the home of Miss M. E. Tower after a few weeks' visit in Boston and vicinity.

Charles and Sara Hosley, of Bayberry hill, visited relatives in Lancaster on last week Friday.

Miss Helen Plummer has resumed her studies at the Fitchburg Normal school after a week's vacation with her relatives in Sonerville.

Lawrence Welch is confined to his home with the whooping cough.

Herbert Bowen, of Fitchburg, has been spending a few days with his sister, Mrs. Clarence Webster.

Duncan Rusk has been on the sick list, suffering from a severe cold.

Miss Grace Seaver, of Arlington, a former resident here, called upon friends in town on last week Friday.

Fred Richards has purchased the Herman Wood house from Charles Farwell and moved his family there. Mr. Wood has left town.

The prayer meeting committee of the Y. P. S. C. E. met at the home of Miss Alice Seaver on last week Friday evening and arranged the topics for the coming six months and the topic cards are expected this week. The regular business meeting of the society was postponed until next week on account of the week of prayer.

The Belgrade rug factory was closed a few days after the extreme cold snap last week on account of frozen water pipes.

The library books were distributed from the reading-room on last Saturday in charge of the custodian, Miss Alice Seaver, the stove having been repaired.

Twenty-four of the children of the public schools enjoyed a sleighride to Fitchburg with Abbott Hodgman as pilot on last Saturday, starting at noon and returning at 6:30. They were accompanied by two of the teachers, Miss Tower and Miss Reed.

The Ladies' Study club will meet at the reading room on Monday evening with the president, Mrs. E. J. Lees, in charge. "Mexico's government and present condition" was the subject.

Mrs. Mervin Hodgman will entertain the Birthday club from the Center at the reading-room on Thursday afternoon, January 14.

News Items. Miss Juliet Gilson, who has been a missionary in India for a great many years, has come to the home of her brother, Charles Russell, for a visit.

On last week Thursday evening there was a reception and watch meeting at the Congregational church. Refreshments were served after the reception and previous to the watch meeting. There was a large attendance.

Mrs. George Faulkner, of Milford, spent new year's day at the home of her mother, Mrs. Carrie Whitcomb.

Mattie Betterly has returned from a week's vacation spent in Worcester.

Alexander l'Ecuyer and son Herman went to Fitchburg to spend new year's day at the home of George Nye.

On last week Tuesday a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward O'Heeran.

Charles Russell and son Kenneth were visitors at the home of Clarence Russell last week Wednesday and Thursday.

On last week Wednesday a conference of masters and lecturers of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges of Hillsboro county was held in Milford.

Clarence Russell has bought the James Segee place which adjoins his property.

The new history of the town by Judge Edward E. Parker are now on sale in town. The books are beautiful and interesting and contain pictures of places and persons of great interest.

The installation of Grange officers for 1915 will take place on the evening of January 13. The installing officer will be Clarence R. Russell assisted by Miss Elancho Hall and Miss Mattie Kent. Edna Hall and Ethel Taylor having been elected to serve as secretary and lady assistant steward, respectively, and having refused to serve, Hattie Pierce and Minnie Maxwell were elected to fill their places.

Mrs. Harry Powers has been visiting her mother in Pepperell this week.

Fred Farnsworth and family with Charles Gilson and Matthew Burko left for Florida on last Thursday morning.

Mrs. Maud Greeley and her mother, Mrs. Edward Taylor, spent last Thursday at Milford.

Rev. Mr. Bennett was a visitor at the home of Mrs. Josephine Stiles from Sunday to Wednesday of last week. On Sunday he preached at the Congregational church.

Hamlin Sanford of Windham spent Saturday and Sunday with his sister, Mrs. Clark Barnaby.

Members of a Swedish sleigh club in Pittsburg, Pa., have agreed to exchange eggs as Christmas presents this year.

Hens are Queens at the present price of eggs. To secure an abundance of eggs use Pratt's Poultry Regulator. This greatest egg producer insures "royal" profits to you now.

A. E. Lawrence & Son, East Pepperell, Shattuck Store Co., Conant Bros., Wright & Fletcher, Ayer, Groton, Shirley, Westford, Gale, Dickson & Co., Conant & Co., Clarence Stickney, C. W. Lane, Harvard Littleton, West Townsend, Townsend Harbor.

WATCH STOPPED MAN MAD. FITCH FIXED IT MAN GLAD. Twenty-five Years' Experience. JAS. P. FITCH, JEWELER. Main Street Ayer.

Now Is The Best Time to buy a Farm—prices will be higher in the spring. We have them—all sizes, kinds and prices—in the following towns: Littleton, Boxborough, Harvard, Westford, Groton, Ayer, Shirley, Pepperell, Townsend and Lunenburg. Bliss Farm Agency, R. P. HARRIMAN, Mgr., 89 East Main Street, AYER, MASS.

Every Woman Can Use BEECHAM'S PILLS. and ought to use occasionally, a proper remedy for the headache, backache, languor, nervousness and depression to which she may be subject. These troubles and others are symptoms of debility and poor circulation caused by indigestion or constipation. CHAS. E. PERRIN, West Street, Telephone 96-4, AYER, MASS.

Who Pays for the Ads? Who gets the money? Some are asking whether the money spent in advertising does not add to the cost of living. Does it increase the cost of living? Advertising is a method of marketing. Judiciously used, it operates to the advantage of both seller and buyer. For the volume of business that it produces, it is the cheapest agency known, and that is why it has grown to such prodigious proportions. But does the consumer pay? Only as he pays for the labor and material that go into an article and for the cost of marketing and distribution. It is an overhead charge, and if it were not there, its place would be taken by something vastly more expensive. A drop of ink does the work of a salesman. Who pays? Well, here is the paradox. The consumer both pays and profits more than he pays, for without advertising he would pay more than he does for his advertised goods.

L. SHERWIN & CO. LUCKY is the man who has any Groceries Hardware Paints, Etc. Hams Shoulders AND Bacon Satisfied is he who has us do it for him. Always a Good Supply of Staple Goods on Hand. Harlow & Parsons, Tel. 130, Provision.

GEO. E. FEICH FLORIST. AYER, MASS.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR IN ADVANCE

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

Change of Address Postoffice address of both the old and new address and also the name of the paper they receive.

Saturday, January 9, 1915.

PEPPERELL

News Items. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Heald returned here last week from Melrose, where she has been visiting since Thanksgiving with relatives.

Miss Mildred Lewis returned on Monday to her duties as teacher in Brookline, N. J., having spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lewis, on High street.

Mrs. Sarah E. P. Tucker is recovering from a severe attack of indigestion, aggravated by a cold, from which she has been suffering for the past two weeks.

James McFarland, of Sussex, New Brunswick, spent a few days of last week with his mother, Mrs. William Marshall, of Pleasant street.

Doris Hartwell, who has been at the home of her parents on Brookline street for the holidays, returned to Barre on Sunday, where she is teaching.

Mrs. Anna Nutting is making an extended visit with friends in Shirley.

Miss Carrie Foskett, of Newtonville, stopped over Sunday to visit her friend, Mrs. Robbins, at J. J. Willoughby's, being on her way home from Reed's Ferry, N. H., where she spent the holidays.

Everyone was glad to hear the whistle of the Nashua River paper mill on Monday morning. This mill had been shut down since Christmas, as well as the Champion card shop, the latter shop continuing closed this week. Someone remarked it had seemed like two weeks of Sundays in town.

The dance held by the M. K. club at the Opera house on New year's eve was not especially well attended. A sleighing party from out-of-town, which was expected, failed to arrive for some reason.

John S. Marshall, of Franklin street, who was obliged to give up his work at the Pepperell card shop about four weeks ago, on account of a bronchial trouble, was taken critically ill last week with a complication of bronchial and heart troubles. His daughter, Mrs. Francis Lawrence, came from Ashuelot, N. H., arriving on Friday. His son Spurgeon, from Boston, also came for Saturday and Sunday. At last reports Mr. Marshall is quite comfortable, owing to the good nursing of Mrs. Marshall, but is still seriously sick.

Ernest Robbins made a short visit of a few hours on Saturday with his mother, Mrs. Florence Robbins. He had spent the holidays with relatives in New Ipswich and was returning to East Greenwich, R. I., where he is employed.

Mrs. Jennie Hazen has been spending a few days following the holidays with Mrs. George F. Martin in Worcester.

Mrs. E. M. Hoyt came from Lawrence last week, summoned by news of the critical condition of her brother, J. S. Marshall. Her daughter, Mrs. Herbert O'Neil, accompanied her. Mrs. William Marshall left at her home on Highland street on Friday of last week, receiving injuries to the hip which have confined her to her room. She has been in ill health for some time and has suffered from dizzy spells, which it is thought, might have been the cause of the fall. It was at first feared that the bone was broken, but later examination by her physician revealed only a badly strained condition of the joint, which may, however, prove troublesome for some time.

Mrs. Arthur Larkin spent last week Friday and Saturday in Worcester. She was the guest of Rev. C. F. Crathern, the occasion being the seventy-fifth birthday anniversary of Mr. Crathern's mother, Mrs. Tarbell.

Edward Harrison returned to his studies at New York university on January 1.

The Camp-fire Girls held their regular meeting last week Friday evening, enjoying a "hike" by moonlight to John Boynton's bungalow. Anna Boynton who is assistant guardian, accompanied them and acted as hostess. Each one was provided with lunch which was supplemented by food, cooked at a fire outside in regulation style.

The members of the East Village Social club will hold their next meeting with Mrs. James Attridge on Brookline street, the date being postponed from Wednesday to Thursday, January 14. The subject will be "Suffrage."

Miss Marlon Nash, of Mt. Holyoke college, a friend and classmate of Margaret Boynton, spent the weekend at her home, both returning to their studies on Wednesday.

Several of the young ladies who are teaching out-of-town, left this week. Miss Anna Blood went to New York on Sunday afternoon. Mae Merriam to Mt. Ida school, and Kathryn Carter to Providence, R. I.

Charles D. Robinson left town on Saturday for Newport, R. I., after spending the holidays at the home of his relatives, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Appleton.

One of the pleasantest manifestations of Christmas spirit was by chance omitted from our columns last week. This was the little village

some of the ladies. In particular, three small Christmas trees were ornamented and fruited by gifts and carried to three families where there were children who would otherwise have been neglected by reason of illness and misfortune. In one family the children had never had a tree. Mrs. Appleton, in her brilliant red costume, as Mrs. Santa Claus, went about the village several days of Christmas week distributing these and other gifts, the costume winning the approval of all the children on the street and in the homes to which she brought cheer.

At attendance at the meeting of the Ready Workers at the home of Mrs. Frank Farley on Thursday evening of last week was rather small, owing to the bad walking. A pleasant social evening was passed with work and refreshments served by the hostess. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. John Fredericks, Foster street, on Thursday evening, January 14.

Mrs. L. G. Robbins attended a meeting of the Alpha Association of Past Noble Grands held in Fitchburg on Tuesday of this week.

Little Miss Winslip, better known as the two-pound baby, is commencing to gain on that weight and also is beginning to manage her own small head and limbs somewhat. The little atom seems to have quite a tenacious grip on life in spite of the many predictions to the contrary.

Mrs. Daniel Hardy spent the week of Christmas to new year's in Boston with her husband, coming to Ayer to attend the annual ball, returning here on Saturday.

Thomas Leary, aged twenty-three years, died at St. Joseph's hospital at Nashua, on Wednesday morning, January 6, as the result of an operation for appendicitis performed on the evening of the 4th. He was a young man much liked by all who knew him, a fine upright character, with a very pleasant manner. He was machine tender in the mill for a few years and for the past year has been clerk in the store of E. E. Tarbell, making himself useful by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leary of Groton street, by three brothers and two sisters. Services were held at St. Joseph's church Friday morning at nine o'clock.

The Woman's club met at the Congregational vestry, January 5. The early part of the meeting was in the hands of the Conservation committee. Mrs. Heald speaking on what other clubs had done for the "Protection of birds" and what she was in hopes could be done here later on. Mrs. Maxwell spoke on what their club at Oak Hill was doing for the birds. Following this was a piano solo by Miss Mabel Howe; a talk by Mrs. W. D. Spaulding on "Life on a houseboat"; Mrs. C. H. Miller, Deaham in her "Notes by the way" gave a very interesting account of her trip through Vermont and Canada as far as Quebec, describing that city minutely.

The annual meeting of the L. B. S. of the Congregational church was held in their rooms on December 21. A large number were present. The following officers were elected: Miss Ellen Miller, pres.; Mrs. H. N. Tower, Mrs. C. H. Miller, vice-pres.; Mrs. R. H. Blood, sec.; Mrs. L. R. Qua, treas.; Mrs. W. F. Dennen, directress; Mrs. Harmon, Miss Lewis, Miss Clara M. Shattuck, relief committee. The meeting of this society will be held the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Aid society, with a selection of officers was held at the ladies' rooms at the Methodist church on Wednesday afternoon, January 6. There was a very good attendance, about thirty members and friends partaking of a fine supper of escalloped oysters and assorted cake. The result of the meeting was as follows: Mrs. Jerry Annis, pres.; Mrs. J. N. Andrews, vice-pres.; Mrs. George Pierce, sec.; Mrs. Elmer Weston, treas. The board of managers were Mrs. James McMurray, Mrs. Frank Farley, Mrs. John Martin, Mrs. G. Kimball, Mrs. E. E. Handley, Miss H. L. Lawrence, Mrs. George Jenks, Mrs. Herbert Wilson, Mrs. Alice Parker, Mrs. F. B. Simmons, Mrs. Margaret Sylvester, Mrs. Nellie Guttererson, Mrs. W. G. Smalley, Mrs. E. G. Rowell, board of managers.

The Church Federation services held at the Congregational church on last Sunday morning brought out a good sized audience. Harry W. Kimball, of Boston, a friend and classmate of Rev. J. B. Lewis, made a most interesting address, his ability being handled in a manner in which he handled a difficult subject. There was special music by a double quartet.

Mrs. E. L. Tarbell has so far recovered from her injury that she was able to preside at the organ at the Congregational church last Sunday.

Miss Anna Blood addressed the senior classes of the Congregational Sunday school during the session Sunday noon, describing the work among the young Jewish girls in New York city in which she, with many others, was working evenings.

Joseph Davis and family spent New Year's day with relatives at Beachmont.

Mrs. Kate Dunlap, deputy of this district, with her suite, went to Groton on Tuesday evening to install the officers of Middlesex lodge. The members of the suite were Anna Sartelle, marshal; Nellie Guttererson, warden; Susie Dort, treas.; Idella Annis, sec.; Mary Blood, guardian; Gertrude Tarbell, chaplain. The seven ladies were conveyed in one of Durant's big large sleighs and report a fine drive and a pleasant occasion. A collation of sandwiches, cake, coffee and fruit was served by the Groton lodge. The meeting was held in Grange hall and was largely attended.

Mrs. M. E. Swasey spent a few days in Boston this week, going on Thursday.

Mrs. Harriet Hale has been quite ill this week, confined to her home on Foster street.

Mrs. Thomas Byrnes and little son returned to Derry, N. H., on Monday after a two weeks' visit with her parents.

E. S. Grenache had the pony which was recently purchased by him hitched into a little rig to match his size, one day last week. The outfit attracted considerable attention as it was driven about Railroad street and the square by little Georgie Dillion of Manchester, N. H., who was visiting Mrs. Grenache.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Tarbell were weekend guests with friends in Mill-ford, N. H.

Mrs. Arthur Bartlett and infant daughter returned home from Gardiner on Saturday, where she had been spending the holidays. Little Geneve stayed with her grandparents for a longer visit.

Ice cutting on Blake's pond was resumed this week, although they were obliged to stop one day on account of surface water. Charles and Frank Messer, are operating there, instead of Louis Bernard as reported last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Linville Shattuck were presented with a gift at Christmas time which they prize very highly. At a Christmas party held at the home of Mr. Shattuck's mother, Mrs. Carlotta F. Shattuck, of South Brookline, the aged lady presented each of the three children—Linville Shattuck, Eldorus Shattuck, who resides with her, and Thomas Ross of Jamaica Plain—also her grandson, Gerald Shattuck, with a very handsome and elaborate silk quilt. The accomplishment of such a number by a lady eighty-seven years of age, is no small feat.

E. S. Grenache's colt Justice was entered in class B for the races held on the Merrimac river track near Lowell, Saturday. It was driven by Amos Mahoney and won first money in competition with other horses of longer record, one quarter being made in thirty-three seconds.

Kathleen Rouse and Gladys O'Neal entered the Lowell Commercial college on Monday.

Mrs. Emma Babidge, a relative of the late Dr. Babidge, and formerly a resident here, is the guest of relatives and friends in town.

Many of the students who have been spending the holiday vacation at their homes left this week to resume their studies. Dana Merrill returned to Amherst Monday and Karl Newhall to Boston university; Arthur Tower and Gerald Shattuck returned to Dartmouth, Tuesday, and M. Adele Boynton to Mt. Ida college.

Alice Lawson spent part of her vacation with her maternal aunt, Mrs. Secker, on Townsend street.

Robert, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodman Blais, celebrated his first birthday on Wednesday, January 7. He received many gifts, including a finely ornamented birthday cake.

William H. Mansfield, the well-known Railroad square druggist, was taken suddenly ill on Wednesday afternoon, the nature of the attack being similar to that which he suffered more than two years ago, being the result of an attack of less degree of severity. Dr. Qua was summoned to the unconscious man at the New Prescott, where the attack occurred. After he revived and regained consciousness he was taken by auto to the Kilbourn hospital at Groton, where he was last reported as resting comfortably.

Miss Hope Davison came from Boston during the holidays, opening her cozy little house on Townsend street for a week's rest from her duties as teacher.

The warm rain of Wednesday night finished the fine sleighing of the preceding days and everyone was skating and sliding again Thursday morning.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Messer on Sunday morning, January 3.

Miss Ann Murray has returned from a visit at her sister's, Mrs. George Mahoney, of Middleboro, during the holidays.

Mrs. William A. Chapman, who fell near her home on Shirley street on December 21, breaking her hip, suffered a paralytic shock on Wednesday, December 23, which has caused her condition to become more critical. She is unable to take much nourishment and is gradually failing. Her daughter, a former marriage, Mrs. Putnam, was summoned from her home near Boston, and is assisting in caring for her with daily calls of the district nurse, and help from Mrs. W. E. Chapman at whose home she is. Miss Annie Gilson is also assisting them.

Poisonous Bite.

News of the critical condition of James Starr at Green Cove Springs, Fla., as the result of a poisonous bite, was lately received in town. Mr. and Mrs. Starr left town last fall to spend the winter in Florida as usual. It is understood that Mr. Starr was engaged in pruning his trees and a tarantula or other poisonous insect struck him on the face. In a very short time he became so overcome that he only reached the house with difficulty. The poison acted so rapidly that the muscles of the throat became almost immediately paralyzed, making it extremely difficult for the physician to give an antidote. His verdict was that if the medicine worked quickly enough to keep Mr. Starr alive twenty-four hours he had a chance to recover, although the paralyzed condition might last for some time. The twenty-four hours had elapsed before the news was sent and Mr. Starr was living, so his many friends here hope for the best.

Forward Club Meet.

About thirty-five young folks connected with the Forward club, enjoyed a pleasant evening at the home of Mrs. N. P. Smith on Wednesday of last week, the hostess being Caroline Harrison, granddaughter of Mr. Smith. The affair was planned in honor of her brother, Edward Harrison, who has been spending his holiday there from New York. It was at first planned as a "hike" and proved to be very pleasant enough, causing many to transfer their ideas to riding. Everyone, however, went provided with something to assuage appetites gained by walking or driving, and the result

was a most bountiful and promiscuous lot of refreshments. The hostess served hot cocoa. Games and songs and pleasant chat made the evening pass all too soon. The team in the moon waited, however, to light the home, although he was obliged to stay up rather late to do so.

Club Celebrates a Birthday.

The East Village club held a well-attended meeting at the home of Mrs. A. H. Raymond on Wednesday afternoon, December 30. It was a double event, being the regular meeting of the club and a celebration of the birthday of the hostess. Discovering this latter fact the members united in a little surprise which took the form of the presentation of a very handsome cake plate. Mr. N. W. Appleton made the presentation in a very apt manner, to which Mrs. Raymond very feelingly responded. The plate bore a very fine birthday cake, presented by Miss Jordan, the president of the club, and was prettily decorated with cut flowers. Mrs. Raymond also received numerous other gifts and many postcards from absent friends. The program consisted of readings and songs by the club with Miss Gertrude Nokes, accompanist. One of the small visitors present pleased everyone by singing two little songs in her finest manner. This was little Esther Martin. The hostess served a fine collation of cake, wafers and cocoa to her guests.

Wedding.

The marriage of Frank Mahoney, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mahoney, of Middleboro, and Miss Isabel Woods, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Woods, of Groton, occurred at Middleboro on New Year's day. Both parties are well known here, the groom being a native of Pepperell and residing here until the removal of the family to Middleboro, where he has a position at the state sanatorium. Miss Woods has many acquaintances in town, through her association with her sister, Miss L. D. Woods, the milliner. She has been connected with the state sanatorium also for the past two years as assistant matron.

The ceremony was solemnized at the Catholic chapel, the resident priest officiating. After an informal reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Mahoney, the couple took a short trip, arriving here in Pepperell the following day. They were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Mahoney at their home on Townsend street until Monday afternoon, when they returned to Middleboro. They will reside in a cottage they have taken near the sanatorium.

Reception.

A fine large gathering, under the auspices of the W. C. T. U., celebrated the birthday of the inmates of the town farm, as has been their custom for several years, on Friday, New Year's day. There were many guests present, beside the members of the W. C. T. U., among them the three pastors, all uniting in making it an afternoon to remember through singing and prayer. There were also readings of pretty and useful articles provided for distribution and such quantities of cakes and oranges that much was left to be enjoyed by those at the farm later. Mrs. Hutchinson favored the company with a fine solo, which was especially enjoyed, as her voice has been missed during the holidays. Mr. Martin, who charmed her hearers as much by her nice manners as by her very sweet little voice. Mrs. A. F. Parker gave one of the most amusing readings which was appreciated as her readings always have been. Miss Anna Peabody, niece of Rev. J. B. Lewis, was the organist. Mrs. John Martin accompanying her little daughter. Everyone tried to give pleasure to others and thereby gained much for themselves.

Historic Commemoration.

A social and commemorative meeting was held by the W. C. T. U. at the home of Mrs. N. W. Appleton on Wednesday afternoon, January 6, the occasion being the celebration of Washington's wedding day. There were present eighteen members and two guests, Mrs. Charles M. Gage and Mrs. Emma Babidge. The program was carefully arranged, consisting of appropriate vocal selections by Mrs. C. D. Hutchinson with Mrs. Gage, accompanist, and Mrs. H. N. Tower recited a poem descriptive of the wedding day they were met to commemorate. During the reception which followed, Mendelssohn's wedding march was rendered. The refreshments consisted of fruit cake, brides' cake and delicious coffee.

The national colors were displayed for a fitting adornment of the rooms and to enhance the sentiment of the meeting.

Everyone pronounced the afternoon a decidedly artistic affair, as well as an innovation which should be perpetuated and the thanks of the company are due the hostess with whom the idea originated.

Red Cross Branch.

On October 27, Prudence Wright chapter, D. A. R., called a special meeting to discuss the work of the Red Cross society which was being done all over the country to supply the needs and to relieve the distress caused by the war in Europe and to see what action could be taken as to the work in Pepperell. A committee was then chosen, consisting of Mrs. H. N. Tower, Mrs. W. N. Mault and Mrs. N. M. R. Guttererson to bring the matter before the various organizations in town relative to their cooperation and thus forming a Pepperell Red Cross branch and securing funds with which to purchase the necessary materials for the work.

Early in November a proposition for work was suggested by Mrs. W. H. Merrill, whose cousin, Mrs. C. Mitchell Dewey, living in Compaigne, France, had made her home there in a hospital under the English Red Cross. This chateau is about forty miles from Paris and within four miles of the firing line, and garments were constantly being needed for the wounded soldiers. Mrs. Dewey had given her, through her sister in New York city, thousands of yards of outing flannel for her needs. Some of

this material was offered to Pepperell if the ladies would make it into garments for this hospital. This appeal was brought before the Woman's club and the sewing circles of the churches and a meeting arranged for in the vestry of the Orthodox church on November 16, a notice of which was given from the pulpits of the different churches on the Sunday before.

This meeting was enthusiastically attended by the ladies, of the town and all the material first sent was cut into garments that afternoon and given out to finish. A second supply of material was sent later, besides purchasing some more in town. Two other meetings were held and before Christmas arrived the work was entirely completed and resulted in the ladies having sent off three large boxes of garments.

The articles sent amounted to 257 garments, of which 193 were cut and made, 19 given and 42 purchased. Over forty dollars were donated by the different organizations and interested people in town, which fund was expended for extra material, thread, buttons, etc., yarn for knitting, express charges and the purchase of three and a half dozen of hose, gloves, shirts and underwear, all of which merchandise was bought at cost. This committee wishes to thank all societies and everyone, who helped to make this work a success.

Church Notes.

At the annual meeting of the Unitarian Sunday school on January 3, the following officers were elected: Mrs. Addison Woodward, sup.; Rev. D. R. Child, asst. sup.; Fred Tarbell, treas.; Audrey Burkinshaw, rec. sec.; Irene Whitcomb, organist; Leslie Parker, asst. organist; Chester Shattuck, librarian; Mrs. E. B. Heald, asst. lib.; Barrett Jacobs, organ bower; Rodney Brown, penny collector.

The L. S. C. Branch Alliance of Unitarian church will hold an all day conference at the home of Mrs. Lincoln Johnson on Friday, January 15, at 10:30. Bux lunch.

"Our needs" and "Our opportunities" were the topics at the Congregational church last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for the week of prayer. On Thursday evening a meeting was held in North Pepperell.

The pastor, Rev. John B. Lewis, will preach in the Congregational church next Sunday morning and evening.

The warrant is posted for the annual church meeting to be held on Thursday, January 14, at 10:30 a. m. This is an important meeting with reports of all officers and committees, the choice of new officers and methods of financial support.

The Young Men's club, composed of members of Mr. Lewis' Sunday school class, will hold a social Saturday evening with Lloyd Bancroft on Heading street.

"America's opportunity" will be the subject at the Methodist church next Sunday morning.

At seven in the evening there will be a praise service and preaching upon the subject, "My father's house."

The bright hour service of the Epworth league will be held at six o'clock. Subject, "Good news, new news to old news." Leader, Miss Carrie Sylvester.

The service for prayer and worship will be held on Tuesday evening at 7:30.

There will be a meeting of the financial committee on Monday evening, January 11, at 7:45.

At the regular monthly meeting of the First Parish Men's club last Tuesday Arthur M. Knapp, of West Newton, gave a very interesting talk on "Japan and the far east." Mr. Knapp had been in Japan for twenty years and had made two long trips across the Pacific ocean, as well as a journey across Siberia and Russia. For ten years he was editor of the only American newspaper in the Orient. He emphasized the Japanese respect and friendship for the United States and declared utterly foolish and wrong all speculations of war between the two countries.

An interesting candle-light service was held in the Unitarian church last Sunday evening. The service was specially musical, including antiphons by the regular choir and a solo by Miss Wright. Rev. D. R. Child gave a ten-minute address, taking as his topic, "They prepared a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

The attendance of men at the church services of many denominations is less than that of women, and often very small. While recognizing the splendid assistance of many women and some men, there is a growing belief that the church will never be what it should be unless it receives the earnest, loyal support of a large number of men. With this in view, next Sunday has been appointed as men's Sunday at the Unitarian church. This experiment is made in order that those who are out of the habit of church-going may have assurance that other men will be present in fair number, and also, that while receiving benefit, all may learn to give of the best that is in them for the common good of the community.

HOLLIS, N. H.

About Town. Edward S. Cave's son-in-law, Mr. Farley, of Ponemah, N. H., has recently purchased a 1915 Ford touring car.

The Pomona Orange meeting will be held in Grange hall next Thursday, January 14. The topic for discussion will be "Small state grange start an educational fund for our young men and women?" Speakers on the question are Francis K. Sweetser, C. P. Brown, Albert Wetmore and C. A. Colburn. The rest of the program will consist of essays, readings, recitations and music. A dinner will be served in charge of Mr. and Mrs. J. Powers. All patrons are earnestly requested for food for the dinner as in previous years all fourth degree members are expected to attend this meeting.

At the Grange meeting Tuesday evening the Grange officers were installed by Fred Dudley of Reed's Ferry, assisted by his two daughters, Doris and Elizabeth. They performed

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their duties in a very pleasing and satisfactory manner. The articles used in the home were represented very fully; there were fourteen of them, including "Bridal Veil flour" and "Toasted corn flakes" of which all are so well acquainted. The short farce was also much enjoyed. A very delicious oyster supper was served under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Brown and D. Fred Pierce.

C. Fred Worcester remains about the same not a great deal of change either way.

Willis C. Hardy attended the inauguration of Governor Spaulding in Concord, N. H., on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mayo celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary at their new home on the depot road, Friday evening, January 1.

Word recently received from the Van Dykes and the Greenleaves, who are enjoying Southern climate, was very encouraging. At both places they were sitting on their verandas enjoying themselves. Miss Van Dyke said the temperature there was 82°. The Greenleaves were quite old and nuts from their farm and sent some pecan nuts that were raised on their farm to some of their Hollis friends who said they were fine, the best they had ever eaten, being very large and sweet.

Wilbur Marshall, the mail man, is driving a new horse on his route.

Richard Hardy has been a recent visitor at Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Dean's.

John A. Colburn has a new black horse. He recently had the horse he had owned for several years laid away. It had gone to be quite old and had been a very faithful creature. This horse had been owned for many years by the late Rev. Mr. Gerould and was a great pet of the family.

D. Fred Pierce filled his iceboxes on Friday of last week, as did also the several neighbors in that locality.

The H. H. S. basketball team played the Wilton H. S. in Hollis town hall on Friday evening of last week. The Hollis boys defeated their opponents with the score of 98 to 11.

Miss Mildred French returned to Wheaton college on Tuesday, after spending the Christmas vacation with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Robert French.

Fred Snow and family moved to Nashua the past week, after having lived for sometime in the house owned by Dr. G. S. Hazard on Nashua street. Their goods were moved in an auto truck.

Selectman Edward S. Cave was on the sick list the past week. Mrs. Cave, who has been afflicted with a broken ankle, was attacked with a severe heart trouble on Monday. They were both better at time of this writing.

Mr. Shattuck of Pepperell, who has been employed at Henry A. Wilson's for a short time, has completed his work there and gone to Amherst to attend the State Agricultural college, where he will take up the course of poultry raising.

Miss Annie B. Newton has returned to resume her duties as primary school teacher, after spending the Christmas vacation with relatives in South Ashburnham, Mass.

Fred Dudley and two daughters who did the installing of the Grange officers on Tuesday evening spent the night at Charles E. Hardy's, returning home Wednesday morning.

Death. George A. Burge, who died in Nashua, December 30, was born in this town March 5, 1842, son of the late Cyrus and Joanna (Cummings) Burge of ancestry that he could trace back to old English families. Following an educational fund for our young men and women?" Speakers on the question are Francis K. Sweetser, C. P. Brown, Albert Wetmore and C. A. Colburn. The rest of the program will consist of essays, readings, recitations and music. A dinner will be served in charge of Mr. and Mrs. J. Powers. All patrons are earnestly requested for food for the dinner as in previous years all fourth degree members are expected to attend this meeting.

After a short residence in the South following the war he was for twenty years an auctioneer in his native town. During that time he was postmaster ten years, selectman, town treasurer and town clerk. He first went to Nashua in 1884, then to Boston, where he remained several years, returning to Nashua.

His wife, who was Annie W. Chickering, of Somerville, Mass., died by a few years ago, after an ideal wedded life of more than forty years. One of the two sons survive, George C. Burge, now of Chicago, who has been with his father since his accident; three brothers, Cyrus F. of Hollis, Edward A. of Chicago and Charles H. of Topeka, Kan., and one sister, Miss Abbie Burge of Chicago, who was also with her brother at the time of his death.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at the First Congregational church, Rev. Dr. G. E. Soper, assisted by Rev. Daniel I. Gross, officiating. There was a most fitting number of floral tributes.

New Advertisements.

Registration of Voters

The Board of Registrars of Voters will be in session in the Selectmen's Room, Town Hall Building, for the purpose of registering voters and correcting the list of voters, Saturday, January 9, 7:30 to 9:30 P. M., Saturday, January 16, 7:30 to 9:30 P. M., Saturday, January 23, 12 M. to 10 P. M.

Registration will close at 10 P. M., Saturday, January 23, and no names will be added to the voting list after that date until after the next election, except the names of voters examined as to their qualifications between the preceding 30th day of April and the close of registration, or to correct a clerical error or mistake.

Persons wishing to register should bring a tax bill or a notice from the Collector of Taxes to show that they have been assessed for the year 1914. Naturalized citizens wishing to register must show their certificate of naturalization.

PETER B. MURPHY, FRANK J. MALONEY, LOUIS H. CUSHING, GUY B. REMICK, Registrars of Voters.

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