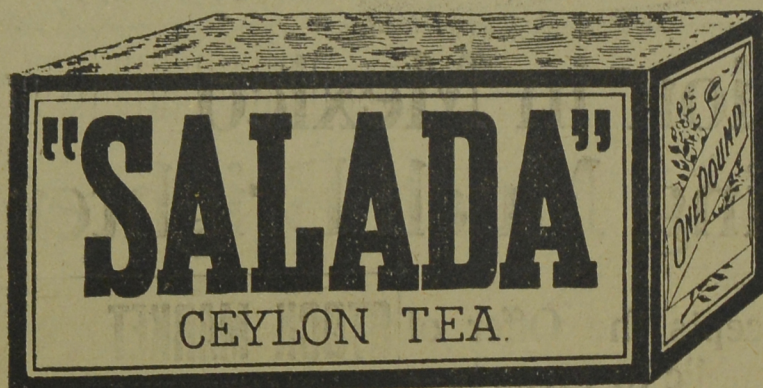


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## FROM THE RURAL DISTRICTS

### JOHNSON SETTLEMENT.

Johnson Settlement, April 22—Not seeing any items from this settlement for some time I think it only fair for you to give us a few inches of space in your valuable paper.

The roads are very poor as there is a very poor or no road law for winter roads and if a man has to go over a road, he goes if he can, if not, go back and wait for the spring sun to melt the drifts. The road from Canterbury to Temple has been snowed up for four months and is not opened up yet. If A. R. Gould can complete the Valley R.R. with the additional ten thousand a mile more, the people think the government may give this snowed-up district a winter snow-plow.

Mr. Archie Collicott and Mr. J. Wright started to go to Canterbury today and were obliged to turn back on account of the snow.

Mr. A. Collicott has a fine-looking

Clyde mare.

Mr. Asa Johnson has got two fine Percheron colts. They are hard to beat for size and beauty.

Mr. Elijah Johnson is cleaning up his grain for his seed. He has fine oats. He got the seed from the Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Asa Johnson is making railroad ties for W. T. Hatfield. He expects to haul them out next winter.

Mr. J. Collicott and Mr. Elmer Dow are trying hard to get their year's wood hauled before farming comes on.

Mr. Frank Tompkins has finished sawing wood for Mr. A. Collicott.

Mr. J. Wright is sawing his wood by hand.

Mr. Allen Collicott was out to Canterbury to meet Miss L. Foster Saturday evening.

Mr. Asa Johnson was to Toronto last week. He says there is a good market there for potatoes.

Mr. Daggett was at Canterbury on Saturday advising the farmers to buy the material and mix their own phosphate as it would be far cheaper.

The brown tail moth men were through our settlement last week but they had to come on snowshoes.

Brantford Courier:—While at luncheon in New York, Andrew Carnegie, in taking some silver from his pocket dropped a dime. At once he went on his hands and knees to look for the coin under the table and not only found it but also an additional five cent piece into the bargain. Well, fifty per cent in a few seconds isn't bad, even for a multi-millionaire.

## REFUSED TO MARRY HIS STENOGRAPHER

(Toronto News)

Claiming that she "lost other opportunities in life" through her alleged lover's indecision and dilatoriness in putting off their wedding-day, and in finally refusing to marry her, Miss May Davis, is suing George Wettlaufer in the Jury Assize Court, for fifteen thousand dollars, by way of pain and compensation. The action is being heard by Mr. Justice Latchford.

According to the lady's story as outlined in the statement of claim, she was engaged as stenographer and bookkeeper by Mr. Wettlaufer in Buffalo, in 1906. Relations were very pleasant, culminating in August or September in an alleged agreement of marriage. The date of the happy event, however, was not fixed at that time.

"Two or three years ago" continues the statement, "the defendant moved to Toronto, leaving the plaintiff in Buffalo. He is said to have visited her, however, from time to time and "discussed the approaching marriage."

### REFUSED TO MARRY.

Matters still being in an indefinite state up to a few months ago Miss Davis came to Toronto and pressed to have the date set. Mr. Wettlaufer then "utterly and absolutely" refused to carry out the alleged agreement. Hence the present action.

Mr. Wettlaufer in his defence, denies any promise to marry. Further he declares that on November 8th 1908, Miss Davis signed a document, which "released and discharged him of any form or claim for breach of promise." This alleged release named a consideration of \$700 and purports to protect the defendant from all "action or actions, cause or causes of action, suits, debts, sums, of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, special ties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, extents, executions, and all claims whatever in law or equity."

ONLY A BLUFF.

In reply to this defence Miss Davis through her counsel, comes back, with the statement that this lengthy agreement was given to satisfy a brother of Mr. Wettlaufer. She admits that she received one hundred dollars but declares the release was not to be binding, and that Wettlaufer repeated his promise of marriage after the alleged release.

Before the main issue was discussed the question of the validity of the alleged release was gone into by the court. The principal witness on this point was Mr. McAvorn, of Buffalo the lawyer who acted for Mr. Wettlaufer. He declared that he paid the plaintiff one hundred dollars "at the time she signed the release."

"What was the money paid for?" asked counsel for the defendant.

"To release from all claims for breach of promise."

The witness admitted that the plaintiff was under 21 years of age, when the agreement was first arrived at, but added that she came to his office after her 21st birthday.

"I then explained the whole thing to her, and yet her to bring her certificate of baptism to show her age."

### SHE HAD NO LAWYER

"Did Miss Davis have an attorney to advise her about this release?" asked counsel for Miss Davis.

"She did not."

"And you knew she was hard up, so you gave her \$100 and took chances?"

"I did."

"You knew her father was living in Buffalo?"

"Yes."

"Did you advise her to consult him before signing this release?"

"I did not."

The case is continuing this afternoon.



### SONG OF SPRINGTIME

By Bliss Carman.

A dwellers in the dust, arise,  
My little brothers of the field,  
And put the sleep out of your eye!  
Your death-doom is repealed.

Lift all your golden faces now,  
You dandelions in the ground!  
You quince and thorn and apple  
bough,  
Your foreheads are unbound.

O dwellers in the frost awake,  
My little brothers of the mould.  
It is time to forth and slake  
Your being as of old.

You frogs and newts and creatures  
small  
In the prevailing urge of Spring,  
Who taught you in the early fall  
To guess so glad a thing?

From every swale your watery notes,  
Piercing the rainy cedar lands,  
Proclaim your tiny silver throats  
Are loosened of their bands.

O dwellers in the desperate dark,  
My brothers of the mortal birth,  
Is there no whisper bids you mark  
The Easter of the earth?

Let the great flood of Spring's return  
Float every fear away, and know  
We are all fellows of the fern  
And children of the snow.

—From "The Green Book of the  
Bards."



Prince Rupert News:—A noisy public meeting crowded St. Andrew's hall to the doors on Thursday evening. It was a bedlam which everybody admitted was the result of too much politics in the militia. There were less than a dozen speakers, nearly all of them Conservative and there was a lot of dirty Tory jargon thrown into the issue. Tory bossism stuck out prominently in every phase of the meeting's proceedings. The meeting at least gave the casual observer plenty of evidence of the influence of the Tory boss in the disbandment of Earl Grey's Rifles.

Duelph Mercury:—The Duke of Connaught is going to make a tour of western Ontario and included in the trip is the laying of several corner stones. In fact the Duke is doing so much in this line of work that it might save complications for him to take out a union card with the stone mason's union.

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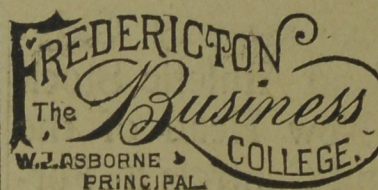
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