4 P.M. EDITION

London Advertiser

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41ST YEAR. NO. 17302 THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1904. PRICE TWO CENTS.

PREPARING TO LEAVE MUKDEN

Kuropatkin To Continue Flight Farther North.

CIVILIANS LEAVING THE CITY

Reported From Tokio That Russians Have Massacred Japanese Women and Children.

Berlin, Sept. 9.—A dispatch to the Lokal Anzeiger from Mukden, timed 11:40 a.m. today, says the evacuation of Mukden is now in progress and adds that the Japanese have not yet crossed the River Hun, which flows a few miles south of Mukden.

Wires Still Working.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 9.—A dispatch has been received from Viceroy Alexieff announcing that the railroad and telegraph line between Mukden and Harbin are both uninterrupted.

Mukden, Sept. 7. — Delayed in transmission. — The Russo-Chinese bank at Mukden has been closed and the civil authorities are preparing to leave.

Sounds Incredible.

Tokio, Sept. 9. — 3 p.m. — A private telegram received here says that a small Russian expedition from Kamchatka visited Senshu Island, north of the Island of Hokaido, and in the absence of the men killed, the women and children, and burned the houses. Official information is lacking in regard to this report, which seems incredible.

Oyama Failed.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 9, 1:35 p.m. — The reassuring dispatch of the Associated Press from Mukden filed shortly after midnight is the latest word from the front. It disposes of the many sensational rumors and indicates that Field Marshal Oyama has failed to cut off or seriously interfere with the retreating Russian army, which has now safely arrived at Mukden.

New York, Sept. 8.—From a trustworthy souree the Herald last night received information that two of the biggest steam vessels ever built on this side of the Atlantic, the Minnesota and the Dakota, had been sold by James J. Hill to the Russian Government.

Piled High With Dead.

New York, Sept. 9. — A correspondent of the Herald, describing the battle of Liao Yang, in a long dispatch dated Shan Hai Kwan, Sept. 7, via Tien Tsin, Sept. 8, says of the infantry charges upon the hills held by the Russians: "Their method was to subdivide the companies into parties of 15 or 20, who extend their formation and effect a common rush forward a certain distance, then drop without firing. The result of a series of such sharp rushes is to bring the men to the hilltop unexhausted, though their losses are greater.

"When we rode over the field we saw a scene never to be forgotten. Trenches were heaped full of Russian and Japanese killed, piled one on the other. They covered the paths and even the shelters were full of dead. Over all whirred millions of flies. The hillsides were strewn with dropped rifles, ammunition and clothing, dotted with dead, lying in dreadful, fantastic attitudes, as they fell. Everywhere moved searchers, gathering the corpses and soon on the plain below rose the smoke of fires, where the Japanese dead were burned. We passed through ghastly sights from hill to hill, hearing always the thunder of guns beyond."

Summing up the result of the battle, the correspondent says: "The Japanese scheme has failed in its essential point, for the Russians must have stopped Gen. Kuroki, and I am informed that Russian forces are passing through Mukden for Harbin, implying Gen. Kuropatkin's intention not to resume fighting. This was his intention at all events for the last fortnight.

"It goes to prove that Gen. Kuropatkin has delayed the Japanese advance with a smaller force and inflicted awful damage, while Japan gets two locomotives, four guns, fifteen prisoners and is already finding her difficulties increasing."

AFTER PRINCE'S BODY

Attempt to Exhume Remains of Victor at Pretoria.

Pretoria, Sept. 9. — While Princess Christian was coming to this city from Cape Town to visit the grave of her son, who is buried in the Pretoria Cemetery, some unknown persons dug up the grave. They had reached the coffin, when, it is presumed, they were disturbed. The ghouls fled without the body. The British here are angrily excited over the desecration.

London, Sept. 9.—A dispatch to the Telegraph from Johannesburg says it is unconfirmably reported that the body of Prince Victor was removed The desecration is ascribed to the criminals hoping to obtain a ransom.

ZORRA MYSTERY SOLVED

Young Man Who Disappeared Three Years Ago, Located.

Woodstock, Sept. 9. — The mystery surrounding the strange disappearance of Charles Howlett, a young Englishman, who three years ago suddenly left the farm of Alex. Murray, in West Zorra, has been cleared up. The young man has been located in Brandon, but gives no reason for his sudden leave-taking. He left his employer one afternoon three years ago and no trace of him was ever found until yesterday, when a letter was received here, stating that the young man was in Brandon. The police of Canada and Scotland Yard were communicated with, but as no trace of him was ever found, his friends in Zorra concluded that he had been done away with or else spirited away. After leaving Zorra he went to England, subsequently returning to Canada, but not communicating with his friends here.

ACROSS THE PRAIRIE

Viceregal Party Will Be Escorted by Mounted Police.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 8.—A traveling escort of Mounted Police, under command of Inspector Gilpin Brown, arrived at Regina today to accompany the vice-regal party overland from Edmonton to Prince Albert. They are fully armed, and carry two cars of vehicles and horses for Lord Minto's party. The cavalcade will travel 400 miles across the open prairie.

King Edward has sent Lord Minto colors to be presented to "A" Squadron, R. C. M. C., at Fort Osborne, for services in Africa.

The gubernatorial party will attend the Black Watch Band concert here, having changed their dates for that purpose. Winnipeg is making tremendous preparations in the way of illuminations, etc., for the Minto farewell visit.

SNATCHED FROM DEATH

Engineer Leans From Cowcatcher and Picks Baby Off Track.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Sept. 9.—The two-year old child of Terrance Cummings, of Carbondale, was saved from death today by the bravery and quick action of Engineer Cal. Kimble, who runs the passenger express between Carbondale and Honesdale.

The train was late getting into Carbondale, and as it swept around a curve at high speed Kimble saw not far away a baby sitting in the middle of the track with its back to the train. It paid no heed to the whistle, and seeing that death was inevitable unless the child was rescued Kimble put on the air brakes. It was down grade, and he realized that the train could not stop before in struck the child.

He shouted to his fireman to look after the engine and sprang out on the running board. It took him but a moment to reach the head of the engine and jump down on the pilot; then, flinging himself low down on the cowcatcher and holding to the flagstaff with his legs, he just managed to reach the child in time. He swung the youngster up to safety and the train stopped fifteen feet further on.

ENGINEERS APPOINTED

By R.R. Commission to Build Transcontinental Line.

Ottawa, Sept. 9. — At the close of yesterday's session of the Transcontinental Railway commission, the commissioners announced that they had appointed Mr. M. J. Butler, assistant-chief engineer; Mr. A. E. Doucette, district engineer of the district extending from the boundary line between New Brunswick and Quebec to Clear Lake in the Province of Quebec, and Mr. A. N. Molesworth, district engineer for the district extending from Clear Lake westerly to the Ontario boundary. They have also appointed six engineers to be put in charge of surveying parties, and expect to appoint a number more today. A number of transit men, level men, rod men and chain men, who will be employed on these different parties, have also been selected. Some of the engineers will leave for thir diffrent posts today.

Mr. Butler was engineer of the Montreal locomotive works, the largest of the kind in Canada. He has been highly recommended and has a splendid record.

COMMITTED THEFT OF FIVE HORSES

Arrest at Harrow of Joseph Twamley, a Deserter From No. 1 Company.

A special dispatch to The Advertiser this morning stated that Pte. Jos. Twamley, a member of No. 1 Company, R. C. R., had been placed under arrest at Harrow, Essex County, on a charge of stealing a horse. The dispatch added that when taken to the lockup Twamley admitted the charge on which he was arrested, and confessed also to the thefts of four other horses and rigs, making a total of five offenses, for which he is liable to serve a term in the Provincial Penitentiary. Twamley will be tried at Sandwich, the county seat. All of his depredations were committed in the western part of the Province.

But very little is known of Twamley at the barracks, where he was given a wide berth. He presented himself at the barracks some months ago, and was enlisted for a period of three years. He was supplied with a uniform and all the other accoutrements of a member of No. 1 Company, but he soon got weary of soldiering, and at the end of a week he vanished Nothing more was heard of him until today, when his arrest was effected

Twamley gives Stratford as his home. He is wanted at the barracks for desertion.

SUBMARINE EARTHQUAKE

Disturbance in Pacific Felt at Toronto Observatory.

Toronto, Sept. 9.—On August 28, at 2:05 p.m., the seismograph at Toronto observatory began to record an earthquake, the record showing that at 5:20 p.m. the disturbance was the severest ever recorded on this instrument. On that day it was reported from Los Angeles that great billows rolled ashore although there was practically no wind. These waves are now attributed to have been a submarine earthquake.

SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR

Trades Unions Congress Denounces Ordinance Recently Passed.

Leeds, Eng., Sept. 9. — The trades union congress at its session today unanimously adopted a resolution emphatically protesting against the Government's action in sanctioning the South African labor ordinance, as opposed to the best interests of British workmen at home and abroad, as sanctioning conditions of labor unfit for human beings and as contrary to the anti-slavery traditions of the British Empire.

RUSSIANS LACK DO-OR-DIE SPIRIT

Press Says Lesson Should Be Learned From Japs.

ALEXIEFF BLAMED FOR DEFEAT

Insisted Upon Reinforcements Being Sent to Harbin and Vladivostock, Thus Crippling Kuropatkin.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 9.—1 p.m.—An impenetrable curtain seems to be rung down on the exact situation at the theater of the war. The lack of news here concerning the details of the Russian retreat to Mukden and the movements of the Japanese armies may be described as complete. Even meager reports published in the foreign press are not fully communicated to the Russian papers and for three days practically no newspaper dispatches have been coming through from the front.

Information may be withheld for strategic reasons, but the public is disposed to regard it otherwise, resulting in the circulation of the wildest reports, some of the Russian papers demanding in pretty outspoken fashion the re-organization of the conditions at the front and also demanding that Gen. Kuropatkin be given untrammeled control as commander-in-chief, evidently aiming at Viceroy Alexieff, who is supposed to be responsible for insisting latterly that the reinforcements should go to Vladivostock in view of the probability of early Japanese operation there or at Harbin, thus depriving Kuropatkin of troops which might have turned the scale at Liao Yang. The Russ is especially bold, considering the restrictions placed in the Russian press. It declares that numerical superiority is not enough and that what is needed is some of the do-or-die spirit of the Japanese. The paper quotes the words of Gen. Dragomiroff, former governor-general of Kieff, and authority on military matters, as follows:

"Give me a soldier who is firmly determined to die for his country, and I will guarantee that my tactics will be super-excellent. The man who will lay down his life is terrible. A bullet may stop one such man, but it will not stop a company. It is difficult to fight and more difficult to vanquish them."

The Russ continues: "What we need is an entirely new organization of everything connected directly or indirectly with the military operations. A good deal is admirable, but a good deal also is deplorable. The fact that things have not gone well at the theater of war may be due to the fact that everything is not directed with a single aim, subservient to a single, undivided will. Kuropatkin, now intrusted with the command of the Manchurian army, should be commander-in-chief."

The following dispatch filed at Libau has been received from the captain of the Russian cruiser Ural:

"Have just returned from a 30-days' expedition, raiding the enemy's contraband on the Spanish coast."

The announcement that the water supply of Port Arthur has been cut off does not create particular anxiety here. It is explained that the water of Port Arthur was not good and that the fortress is provided with a large distilling apparatus.

Fall Didn't Wake Him

New York, Sept. 9.—Morris Velencky, 10 years old, of No., 117 Forsyth street, slept on the third-floor fire escape and fell through last night. A crowd was standing about him in the street, when his frightened mother reached there. She picked him up in her arms, and with Policeman Copp, rushed to the drug store.

There Morris opened his eyes and began to cry.

"Why, he just now woke up. He ain't hurt," cried the mother.

"Surt he ain't!" affirmed the policeman, who witnessed the occurrence. Dr. Cotton, from Gouverneur Hospital, looked over the boy and found he was not hurt. Cop Copp reported at the Eldridge street station house that "the fall wasn't hard enough to hurt the boy because it didn't wake him up."

The Russian Flag.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 9. — A law has been gazetted providing that henceforth only ships owned by Russians shall be allowed to fly the Russian flag.

The Minister of the Interior says no reports of extensive anti-Jewish disturbances in several of the Governments of Southwest Russia have been received. The only recent disturbance, it is added, was a small affair at Biela, near Kieff, in which no one was killed.

Chapelle at Rome.

Rome, Sept. 9. — Papal Secretary of State Merry Del Val, who came to Rome today from his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, only for a day, to receive the diplomatic corps, granted an audience to Archbishop Chapelle (the apostolic delegate to Cuba and Porto Rico, and archdiocese of New Orleans), which is a special distinction, audiences being very rare now. The archbishop explained that the object of his visit was to present his homage to the new Pope and to submit the report of his delegation to Cuba and Porto Rico, and of the archdiocese of New Orleans.

Lipton Coming Across.

London, Sept. 9.—Sir Thomas Lipton leaves England at the end of September for St. Louis, where he probably will be the guest of David R. Francis, president of the exposition.

PORT ARTHUR IS LOSING HEART

No More Help To Be Expected From the Fleet.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS SURRENDER

Japanese Capture Junks Laden With Arms and Provisions—Battleship Sevastopol Badly Crippled.

New York, Sept. 9.—The Tokio correspondent of the times says under date of Sept. 8: "Non-official news suggests that the garrison at Port Arthur is much disheartened. The ships in the harbor have ceased seriously to oppose the Japanese reconnoitering vessels, which have thus been enabled to ascertain that the battleship Sevastopol is in a crippled condition, while others are more or less damaged. The number of soldiers surrendering increases.

Seveal junks laden with provisions and ammunition from Che Foo were captured by the blockading fleet on Sept. 2, also eight junks carrying 300 non-combatants from Port Arthur, who were sent to Dalny.

It is noticeable that the Russians have ceased mine clearing operations, which hitherto have been caried on assiduously. The inference is that the Russians have abandoned hope that the remnant of the fleet can escape."

LOSSES WERE 50,000.

Mukden, Wednesday, Sept. 7, via Pekin, Sept. 9.—A correspondent of the Associated Press, who has just returned to Mukden with the Russian rear guard, after having accompanied the army the whole time since the battle of Liao Yang, says the losses on both sides were enormous. As a moderate estimate he places them at 50,000. He confirms the reports that the fighting at Liao Yang recalled in fierceness the sanguinary battles of the American Civil War. Gen. Kuroki's flank movement east of the Russian position precipitated the retreat from Liao Yang. When the Russians left Liao Yang the town was strewn with corpses of the slain.

TRACK JOINTS TAMPERED WITH

Train Goes Through Trestle in South Carolina Killing and Maiming.

Portsmouth, Va., Sept. 9. — At the offices of the Seaboard Air Line today the statement that but three persons were killed, two passengers and the engineer of a freight train, which was following the local. The number of injured is placed at nine or ten. The officials are making every effort to ascertain the number of dead. The accident happened at a trestle just south of Catawaba River in South Carolina, 22 miles south of Monro, N. C.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 9. — The division superintendent's officials of the Seaboard Air Line gives out the following names of the killed: Mrs. T. F. Black, passenger; E. Y. Barksdale, engineer; Ed Roberts, fireman; unknown lady, passenger.

The superintendent's office has received information of the discovery of the evidence that the joints in the track were tampered with, causing the wreck.

WEATHER BULLETIN.

Tomorrow—Fair and Warmer.

London, Friday, Sept. 9.

Sun rises..5:50 a.m. Moon rises..5:22 a.m.
Sun sets...6:40 p.m. Moon sets...6:38 p.m.

Toronto, Sept. 8—8 p.m.

A few scattered showers have occurred today, chiefly in the Maritime Provinces, but the weather in Canada generally has been fine, and warm in Manitoba and the Territories.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 56—64; Calgary, 44—78; Qu'Appelle, 46—68; Winnipeg, 54—74; Port Arthur, 48—58; Parry Sound, 54—64; Toronto, 55—64; Ottawa, 54—60; Montreal, 56—58; Quebec, 48—58; Halifax, 46—64.

FORECASTS.

Friday, Sept. 9—8 a.m.

Today—Fine.

Saturday — Increasing southerly to southwesterly winds; fair and warmer; local showers at night.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	40	40	Cloudy
Winnipeg	54	50	Cloudy
Parry Sound	46	42	Cloudy
Toronto	52	46	Cloudy
Ottawa	50	44	Fair
Montreal	46	42	Fair
Quebec	48	38	Fair
Father Point	44	30	Fair

WEATHER NOTES.

Fine weather everywhere prevails, but a disturbance now developing in the Northwest promises increasing winds over the lakes on Saturday. The outlook is cooler in the west, with local frosts tonight in the Territories.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m Thursday were: Highest, 71°; lowest, 55.5°.

OKU'S HEROIC TRIPLE ASSAULT

Hurled His Men Time and Again at Entrenchments.

A TRAIL OF PROSTRATE MEN

Finally Shaken by the Terrific Attacks Kuropatkin Fell Back From Liao Yang—Success Dear.

London, Sept. 9. — The correspondent of the Times says: "No resource known to modern engineers for field works has been overlooked. It was evident from the outset that Oku's previous successes had caused him to despise the staying-power of the enemy, for without waiting for adequate preparations, he pushed his infantry down to the limit of the standing crops which had not come under the Russians' precautionary sickles.

"The Russian tactics at Liao Yang were a revelation for which Oku had to pay dearly."

Describing the failure of some of the Japanese infantry attacks the correspondent says:

"The Japanese art of war counsels persistency, and they have material that can be persistent. Despite the failure of the first attack on the 30th, the cold gray of morning witnessed another scene of slaughter on the Russian right, as the defenders again hurled back the attack. The Japanese deserved success, but an enfilading fire swept each rush away before the men could even lay hands on the entanglements."

Graphically picturing the ebb and flow conflict on Aug. 31, the correspondent continues: "Oku was growing desperate. From the position of the fifth division it was evident that the tenth division and Kuroki were making no headway, so Oku determined upon the third general assault on that night. Just think of it—a third assault in 24 hours! All day he had been moving reserves up into the firing line, and this assault was but a repetition of previous ones."

"Except at one portion of the line there was gruesome evidence on the following morning to show how like hares in snares the heroic infantry had struggled into the barbed-wire to die—how, blundering in the darkness, sections had thrown themselves down 30 yards from the flaring line of muzzles, whose flashes marked the goal they were never to win; but the first battalion of the Thirty-fourth Regiment, which for 48 hours had been lying in the scrub at the foot of the green glacis on the center hill, broke through the entanglements, and in spite of a flanking fire which swept away group after group, had enough endurance to reach the first trench. What happened there no one knows, but in the morning when we viewed the position Russians and Japanese were lying intermingled waist-deep in the ditch, while from parapet to entanglements perhaps for 150 yards, a thick trail of prostrate khaki told a tale no pen can describe.

"Everywhere again the assault had failed. Divisional telephones told headquarters the desperate news, and the laconic reply was 'Reinforce and assault again before daybreak,' but the curtain had already fallen on the first act of the drama.

"Whether shaken by the repeated attacks, fearful for his left flank, or finding that Kuroki could be held only with difficulty from his communications, Kuropatkin, who was present in person, countenanced a general withdrawal from the positions, and about midnight he fell back to the third line, leaving seven prisoners in the Japanese hands.

"Kuropatkin was beaten, but not routed, by any means. It was thought that the Japanese would occupy Liao Yang immediately, but there were to be 48 hours more of a sanguinary struggle before the withdrawal of Kuropatkin.

Commenting on the foregoing the Times says: "If the Russians still put thier trust in entrenchments, they have learned at all events how to construct them with telling effect. Their artillery also seems to have been skillfully handled. Our correspondent declares in so many words that the Russian tactics as a whole were a revelation, for which General Oku had to pay dearly; yet the history of the war thus far, or, indeed, that of any other war, hardly records anything more heroic than the triple advance of Oku's infantry against most appalling obstacles."

Mukden, Sept. 9. — 12:30 a.m. — All continues quiet at Mukden. All anxiety regarding the Russian transport is over. The Japanese have crossed the Shakhe and are now resting. Only the Russian and Japanese outposts are in direct contact. Thousands of wounded are being sent north.

Baseball Causes a Tragedy.

Des Mones, Iowa, Sept. 9. — Because her husband went to a baseball game despite her protest, Mrs. Charles Evans, of Monterey, has committed suicide by taking poison. Her body, as it fell to the floor struck her 10-months-old daughter, crushing it to death. Evans returned later only to find the bodies.

RUSSIA AND CANADA

Former Makes a Cash Offer to Settle Sealers' Claims.

Ottawa, Sept. 9.—The Minister of Marine this morning stated that the offer of Russia of $46,000 in settlement of the Canadian sealing claims against Russia would probably be accepted. The Russian Government made the offer some time ago and the Canadian sealers will in all likelihood accept it.

ON GOLDWIN SMITH

Times Comments on Proposed Life of Gladstone.

London, Sept. 9. — Quoting Dr. Goldwin Smith's saying at the close of his preface to his political history of the United Kingdom, that the friends who urged the writer to undertake the task know that it has been performed by the hand of extreme old age, the Times says that while it seemed to others the farewell in a long and brilliant literary career, yet the friends to whom he seemed to be apologizing for his late lingering on the stage cannot but rejoice, together with all judicious readers, that the hand of extreme old age has been spared to write his appreciation of the great statesman who was his senior contemporary, and to do so in the full light shed on so memorable a career by the great biograph of Morley.

MANITOBA GOT IT

Rust Prevalent There, But Not as Widespread as Stated.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 9. — C. W. Speers, Dominion immigration inspector, has returned from a trip through the country along the Saskatchewan River, Western and Southern Manitoba, and Eastern Assiniboia, and says that there is practically no rust in the territories, that trouble being confined almost entirely to portions of Southern and Western Manitoba. In the territories the crops are making a splendid showing, and the yield of wheat is expected to average about twenty bushels to the acre. The wheat is all harvested, and is an excellent sample. In Western and Southwestern Manitoba the yield has been seriously affected by rust, though the original estimate was away out. On rich land, where the straw was heavy, the greatest loss was sustained through the grain not maturing.

WILL TRAVEL "SPECIAL"

Preparations for Essex Soldiers Visit to World's Fair.

Windsor, Ont., Sept. 9.—The Twenty-first Essex Regiment will travel over the Michigan Central Railway when the trip to St. Louis is made. The train will be a special and besides the coaches for the men will have a baggage and horse car atached. The train will leave Windsor on Monday morning, Sept. 19, and will arrive in St. Louis the following morning. Elaborate preparations have been made for the reception of the Canadian soldiers there. The regiment will leave St. Louis on Friday night for Chicago where they will be entertained Saturday, returning home on Sunday.

THREW ACID ON CANADIAN GIRL

Ottawa Young Lady Roughly Handled by Strangers

WHILE ON A VISIT TO CHICAGO

Mysterious Attack Puzzles Police, as No Motive for Dastardly Deed Can Be Found.

Chicago, Sept. 9. — Evanston police are puzzled over the motive which prompted two men, surprised at 1 o'clock yesterday morning in the room of Miss Mabel MacPherson, aged 22, who came here from Ottawa, Ont., to throw the contents of a vial of carbolic acid over her face and body, and then escape. A bundle of articles was collected, as though the men wished to suggest robbery as the motive, but the contents of the bundle consisted of articles of such little value that no burglar would trouble with them. Then, too, it is thought that, with burglary as a motive, the acid, which would cause the victim to make outcry, would not have been used.

Miss MacPherson is the sister-in-law of Benjamin F. Crawford, president of the National Biscuit Company.

The first intimation she had of the intruders' presence was when she was awakened by the feeling that someone was near her. Thinking that it was some member of the family, she asked who it was, and was frightened by a man's rough voice, who commanded her to be still or he "would burn her eyes out." For several minutes she was perfectly silent, but as soon as she thought the men had left the room she sprang out of bed to alarm the family. Only one of the intruders had gone, however, and the other, who had been standing in the shadow at the foot of the bed, at once sprang at her, throttling her, and bearing her down upon the bed, at the same time emptied the contents of a large bottle of acid over her.

It is thought that three men were connected with the deed, and that one of them gained entrance to the house during a dinner party, which lasted until 11:30 o'clock.

VICTIM OF CONSPIRACY

Royal Commission to Investigate Case of Adolf Beck.

London, Sept. 9. — The Government has appointed a commission of three members to investigate the case of Adolf Beck, who was identified by the police as a thief, and sentenced to penal servitude. It was believed that he was John Smith, who had been convicted in 1877 of stealing from disreputable women. When the crimes recurred Beck was arrested. His offer to prove that he was not Smith was ruled out by the court, and he was not allowed to prove an unquestionable alibi. It has been openly charged that his conviction was the result of a conspiracy.

Aldermen Hold a Caucus; Discuss Things Important

Want City to Derive Greater Revenue From Licenses.

Increase in Number of Hotels for London Proposed.

Pavements for Principal Streets Favored—More Assistance for the Engineer's Office.

The best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley. The other night the entire city council held a caucus, from which the reporters were carefully excluded, and at which several matters of the utmost importance were discussed. It was the intention, of course, to keep all matters in the dark until they should be brought up at a council meeting, but the deliberations of the caucus have leaked out and are now public property.

By far the most important of the matters under consideration was that which relates to the liquor license holders of London. Of late several of the aldermen have been of the opinion that the city of London is not deriving the amount of money it should from the licensing of places for the sale of liquor, and they are very eager to add to the liquor money which annually falls into the city coffers.

It is pointed out that in London there is about one license to the thousand of population, while in Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, and other Canadian cities, the average is about one license to every six hundred people. Thus it is argued that licenses should be higher in London than in other places, where the liquor men have greater competition.

This sort of argument is said to be altogether outside the question, however, as if the licenses are to be increased it must be through an increase in population, and then only by the Ontario Government. According to the license act, tavern and shop licenses in cities of over 20,000, and less than 40,000, are fixed at $280 per annum. In cities having a population of over 40,000 and less than 150,000, the licenses are issued at $325 per annum, so that liquor licenses at present cost in Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton exactly $45 per year more than in London.

Favor an Increase.

The majority of the aldermen, however, are desirous of increasing the licenses in accordance with the provisions of the act, London's population being now well onto 42,000. This would mean an increase in revenue from the liquor men of about $2,000, but out of this amount the Provincial Government would derive a percentage.

The point, is whether the Government will increase the license fee on the result of a municipal census, or whether it will be guided by the regular census taken by the Government. According to the figures of Assessment Commissioner Grant London's population is well on to 42,000 now, but the official census of 1901, taken by the Dominion Government, gives the population at less that 38,000. This is a point upon which the city council is not clear, and the point has been referred to City Solicitor Meredith for his opinion.

In 1902 the total revenue from all liquor license in London amounted to $13,376 10. Of this sum the city received $2,930 36. It appears that the act also empowers muicipalities to impose a tax bylaw additional to the statutory tax, and in London this amounts to $10 a license on taverns, shops, etc., tataling in 1902 $550.

In Dark on the Matter.

At present nobody around the city hall appears to understand the matter thoroughly, but when City Solicitor Meredith's opinion has been obtained the whole subject will be gone into. If it is found the city has power to deal with the matter of licenses as it sees fit, the council will act at once, but in any contingency it is said the aldermen are determined to see that London's liquor revenue is increased. In this connection it is understood that several of the aldermen are in favor of increasing the number of liquor licenses in London so as to put the city on a par with Hamilton. But this is only talked of as a last resort in case the city finds the Government will not act upon a municipal census, and that the city cannot add to the tax already imposed in addition to the statutory license fee.

Pavements were also discussed at length at the caucus, and it is said that certain of the aldermen are in favor of paving Richmond street, from the custom house to the C. P. R., or further north, with vitrified brick. It is also suggested that such a pavement might be laid to advantage on King street from Richmond to Maitland streets.

The mater of increasing the staff of the engineer's department was also debated, it being recognized by all that in the matter of help, Mr. Graydon has been overlooked for some years. The fact of the matter appears to be that Mr. Graydon is kept busy with minor details, which might be performed by a clerk, instead of allowing him full time to keep an eye on the contractor and see just what they are doing. London is a big place, and is growing rapidly, and that the engineer's department should have more assistance is the opinion of a majority of the aldermen.