

THE WEATHER:
TOMORROW—WINDS AND SNOW.
TODAY—CLOUDY AND COLD.

London Evening Advertiser

4 PAGES OF ROTOGRAVURE,
8 COLORED COMICS, MAGAZINE SECTION,
EVERY SATURDAY.

62ND YEAR. NO. 24458

LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1925. —EIGHTEEN PAGES.

THREE CENTS.

BUSES WILL MAKE UP FOR LOSS OF FRANCHISE

Posta Worker Gets 3 Years For Theft of \$5 From Mails

OLD AND NEW COUNCILS UNITE TO AVERT TROLLEY TIE-UP

Railway Board Unlikely to Step In To Operate Road When Cars Stop Wednesday.

BUS MEN READY

C. A. Kamm To Make Proposition at Special Tuesday Evening Council Meeting.

Mayor Wenig issued a call this morning for a special meeting of the members of both the retiring and incoming council tomorrow evening at 7:30 for the purpose of considering what action to take in view of the London street railway's announcement that it would cease operations entirely on Wednesday at midday.

The street railway will be represented at the meeting, and according to Alderman H. H. Douglass, C. A. Kamm, president of the Metropolitan Bus Lines, will also be in the city with a proposition to the council to put on immediately a complete bus service to take the place of the street cars.

The most likely issue of the special session will be an appeal by the city council to the Ontario railway and municipal board to come in on Thursday morning and take over the road and operate it.

The chances of the railway board doing so, however, are almost negligible. For one thing, the members of the board left Toronto this morning for Port Arthur, and are not expected back in the capital for at least a week or ten days.

Have Had Experience. Even if an application from the city for help reaches them, their experience here in 1920 was such that it is almost certain that they would not be able to operate the road.

On May 5, 1920, the board took possession of the London street railway on the understanding that the board would operate it until a new company should be organized to take over the operation and maintenance, but making no provision for depreciation of the road.

After attempting to carry on under these conditions for twelve days the board reported to the city council that it was impossible to operate the road under the existing fares and left the city.

While in charge of the road the board engaged a firm of accountants to make an independent report on the company's finances, and the result showed clearly, in the opinion of the board, that the existing fare of seven and one-half cents for a quarter would not produce sufficient revenue to operate the railway.

Vice-Chairman A. B. Ingram, of the railway board, stated in the hearing in Toronto on Saturday that such had been the previous experience of the board in London. Under the circumstances it is hardly conceivable that the board would undertake to operate the road, unless a higher rate of fare is allowed them.

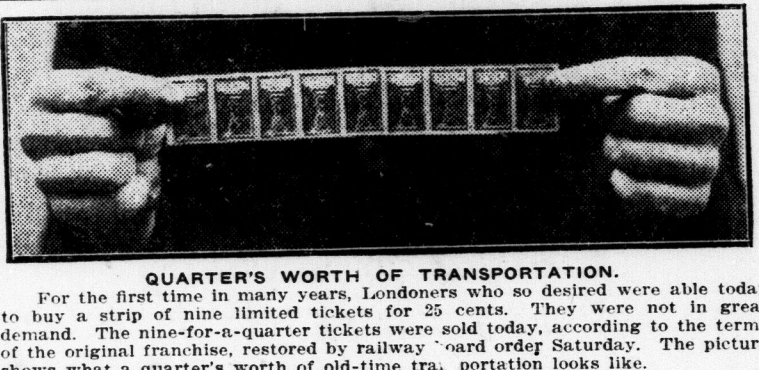
In that case, how much better off would we be, asked Mayor Wenig this morning.

Two Alternatives. With that avenue of approach to the problem closed there appears to be only two other alternatives facing the council. It may move at Tuesday night's meeting to have the board cancel its order, but such a move would place the council in such a ridiculous position before the public that it is hardly likely to be entertained. The only other alternative appears to be to accept the offer of the Metropolitan Bus company to bring a fleet of buses here immediately to take the place of street cars.

It is also within the council's power to authorize the operation of "jitneys" under certain conditions, but the existing regulations regarding insurance on such vehicles is such that few jitney drivers would care to incur the expense necessary to start.

Meanwhile, an industry which pays in wages alone over \$380,000 to London citizens is closing down for an indefinite period. The loss has not yet been estimated.

Nine Tickets For 25 Cents Return



Business Men Fear Tie-Up May Hurt Christmas Trade

Telephone Manager Says Phone Service Will Suffer As Result—Utilities Commission Will Lose Good Customer For Power.

Uptown businessmen today viewed with alarm the prospect of the city being without street railway service after Wednesday. They declared that, without car service, Christmas trade will be greatly cut, many merchants urging that steps be taken to at least tide patrons of the railway over the holiday season.

"Telephone service will be impaired through lack of transportation," declared C. H. Beard of the London office of the Bell Telephone company. "We can't afford to send operators to and from work in taxis. The telephone office will be swamped with calls, as people will not be able to get down town to shop. We would have to keep a complete staff working until midnight while the cars are off."

Will Hurt Trade. "It's a shame," hotly protested John A. Nash, Dundas street jeweler. "It's a very unfair thing to ask the company to operate at a loss. Consider the men who will be thrown out of work. I don't like it. Other merchants say the same thing. If the cars are taken off, it's going to hurt Christmas trade, and settle for this last bill."

Spain is now seeking lasting peace plan.

Asks Other European Countries For Treaty and Will Appeal to America.

Associated Press Despatch. Geneva, Dec. 14.—Existence of a new European peace effort was revealed today when it was learned that Spain has begun negotiations for arbitration treaties with Great Britain, France, Switzerland and Portugal, duplicating those adopted at Locarno between France, Belgium and Germany.

The work of negotiating these treaties has already been greatly advanced. Spain proposes to elaborate similar treaties with other European states and probably later with American countries.

Large Grain Elevator Is Destroyed By Fire

Peterboro, Dec. 13.—A large grain elevator owned by John Douglas of Peterboro was totally destroyed by fire at Fraserville, ten miles from here last night. The elevator which had a capacity of about 100,000 bushels, was almost full of grain, including about 35,000 bushels of wheat. Three freight cars, one partly filled, were also destroyed.

The loss has not yet been estimated.

Persia Assembly Backs New Home of Rulers

Associated Press Despatch. Tehran, Persia, Dec. 12.—The constituent assembly today gave unanimous approval to the amendments to the constitution by which Reza Khan is named shah of Persia, and a new line of rulers, Pahlavi dynasty, taking Reza family name, is established.

Mussolini Saves R. Valentino From Hisses of Italian Public

Associated Press Despatch. Rome, Dec. 13.—The government, with characteristic display of discipline, called a sudden halt to a demonstration of "nationalistic fervor" on the part of groups of youths who had planned to boycott and hiss off the screen a film in which Rudolph Valentino was featured. Valentino has recently been denounced in certain quarters because of the expressed intention to become a citizen of the United States.

Concessions In Hamilton Retain Cars

Council Backed Sixty-Day Agreement To Keep Road Operating.

BUSINESS PROTEST

Merchants Say Abandonment of Service Would Ruin the Christmas Trade.

Special to The Advertiser by Staff Correspondent. Hamilton, Dec. 14.—Hamilton's street railway crisis has been postponed until February at least through acceptance by the city council and the Hamilton Street Railway company of a 60-day agreement, which virtually grants all the concessions which would have been given the company in the permanent franchise agreement, which the electors turned down on Dec. 7.

On Dec. 8 the street railway company served official notice on the city that at midnight on the following Thursday (Dec. 10) the service would be discontinued. This announcement was the cause of emphatic protests from car users, and particularly from the uptown merchants, who saw their Christmas trade in danger of being ruined through the street railway crisis.

The result was that special meetings of the board of control, street railway committee and city council were held last week in a successful effort to avert the crisis until after Christmas. Under the old franchise, which nominally will not expire until 1928, and then only by purchase of the system by the city, the company was limited to a five-cent fare, six tickets for 25 cents, and eight workingmen's tickets for 25 cents. A few years ago, despite an adverse vote by the people, the company was given permission by the city council to charge a straight five-cent fare, which has been in effect ever since.

Dividend to City. Under this agreement also the company was required to pay to the city 8 per cent of all gross receipts and a fixed mileage charge of \$400 per mile of tracks. In recent years the city's percentage amount to about \$25,000 a year and the mileage charge totalled approximately \$7,600.

A few months ago the company approached the city for relief from the terms of this franchise, stating that it could not carry on under existing conditions and that unless relief was granted the system would have to be discontinued. At first an agreement on the basis of the Montreal agreement was planned.

This would have given the city the right to share in profits after the company had earned 8 per cent on its capital value and would have provided for direction of the system by an independent commission.

The agreement which was sent to the people, however, was patterned more after the Ottawa system. It provided for a five-cent fare until 1928, and after that 8 per cent on capital value. In the recent legal proceedings the value of the system was recognized as a basis for any appeal to the railway board for increase or decrease in fares.

Charges Eliminated. All mileage and percentage charges by the city were eliminated, in return for which the company was to spend in five years \$1,100,000 on improvements, including 45 new cars, and to use the cars for service. This agreement was defeated by 12,709 votes to 10,535, a purchase bylaw being beaten badly at the same time.

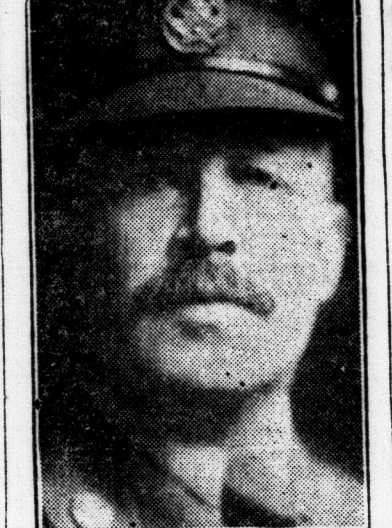
The temporary agreement is a very simple affair. It merely binds the company to continue operation of the street railway system at a five-cent fare, in return for which the city undertakes to negotiate immediately a new agreement which will be submitted to the people for their approval before the expiration of the 60-day agreement.

During the term of the temporary agreement, the company is relieved of all percentage and mileage payments to the city, a concession virtually of \$20,000 to the company.

In the event that a new agreement is not reached, the Ontario railway and municipal board will be asked to step in and operate the system. An application to the board was made prior to the making of this temporary settlement and when this temporary settlement was reached the appeal to the railway board was adjourned sine die.

Negotiations Soon. Negotiations will be commenced this week with the company, but there is yet much doubt as to what further concessions can be made by the company. One demand is that the guarantee of a five-cent fare be continuing for five years and that the city be given the right to purchase the system at the end of any five years for its arbitrated value.

In the defeated agreement the company gave the right to purchase the system at the close of any five-year period, but on the following conditions: In 1929 by payment of 10 per cent over value fixed by arbitration; in 1935 by payment of 7 1/2 per cent over value; in 1941 by payment of 5 per cent over value; in 1947 by payment of 2 1/2 per cent over value; and thereafter by payment of value fixed by arbitration.



MAJOR M. S. BOEHM, who has been re-elected president of the United Empire Loyalists' association of Canada.

BOARD BARS PRESS? IT'S ONLY A THEORY!

Moot Point Given Hoist—Damage Complaint Will Be Probed.

A. R. Cairncross, vice-chairman of the board of education, was without support at the executive committee of the board this morning. He moved to rescind the committee's recommendation to bar the press representatives from its meetings. The committee took the stand that it was a matter for next year's executive committee to decide for itself, since this year's executive decided that it had no good reason to change its policy adopted some months ago.

Though the motion to bar the press still stands on the board minutes, the reporters have been allowed to attend the recent meetings of the committee. T. G. Meredith, board solicitor, advised the securing of a lawyer to defend E. C. Hill, caretaker of Victoria school, co-defendant with the board in the suit for \$100 damages on the part of the parents of Stewart Marsh, 11-year-old boy, whose foot was burned, it is alleged, while playing about the school grounds.

Medina, the Prophet City

Associated Press Despatch. Bombay, India, Dec. 13.—The fall of Medina, the "Prophet City" of Hadjaz, is confirmed through a message received by the Khilafat committee from one of the ministers of Ino Sud, sultan of Nejd.

Medina was captured by the Wahabi tribesmen under the sultan's direction.

SLAVERY DISAPPEARS IN ITALIAN COLONIES

Associated Press Despatch. Rome, Dec. 14.—Slavery has disappeared in all Italian African colonies. The Italian anti-slavery society makes this announcement and adds that 2,500 slaves have been liberated in the last few years. Tripolitania and Cyrenaica are entirely free from slavery, owing to the iron vigilance exercised by the Italian authorities on land and sea.

In Erythraea the last slaves were liberated in 1908, while in Somaliland not only has slavery disappeared, but even domestic servitude is prohibited.

POPE TO STAY IN VATICAN UNTIL CONDITIONS CHANGE

Will Not End Voluntary Retirement While World in Present State—Names Four New Cardinals—Extends Holy Year to Whole World.

Rome, Dec. 14.—Four new cardinals were created at a secret consistory today. They are: Mgr. Bonaventura Cerretti, apostolic nuncio in France; Mgr. Enrico Gasparri, apostolic nuncio in Brazil; Mgr. Patrick O'Donnell, archbishop of Armagh; Mgr. Alessandro Verde, secretary of the congregation of rites.

Cardinal Cerretti was auditor to the apostolic delegation at Washington for several years, and the apostolic delegate to Australia from 1914 to 1917. He expects to visit the United States again in about six months, in order to attend the eucharistic congress at Chicago.

Financial Panic Near In France

People Try To Get Rid of Money As the Franc Sinks Low.

POLITICS HINDERING

Change of Government System—Appointment of Dictator Is Urged.

Associated Press Despatch. Paris, Dec. 14.—France's financial plight daily grows worse, and the public is beginning to show signs of something like a panic which is being heightened by the series of sharp drops in the value of the franc on the exchange market.

That coin now stands at a lower level than it ever has reached before, and every Frenchman who is in possession of any quantity of them is hastening to convert the money into something tangible—houses, diamonds and even raw gold and platinum.

Minister of Finance Loucheur's seven bills with which he hopes to bridge the financial situation, seemingly are disliked by everybody, irrespective of political creed. This dislike is beginning to find outward expression. As an instance the merchants and manufacturers at Carcassonne assembled in solemn convocation and bound themselves to withhold payment of all taxes should M. Loucheur's bills be adopted.

Meanwhile all attempts to speed up a solution of the situation, be it good, bad or indifferent, are being hampered by political considerations. Indeed, it is charged that the root of the whole evil is that what is purely and simply a financial crisis is dominated by political considerations.

The advisory committee to pass on all financial plans, announcement of which was made at the time of the formation of the new Briand ministry, and which made an excellent impression, has vanished, and nothing more is heard of it.

One thing seems certain—that M. Loucheur's principal bill, the revenue bill, which is in the hands of the finance committee of the chamber of deputies, will not pass as it stands. Consequently it is believed either M. Loucheur will withdraw from the ministry, and that there will be a fresh set of proposals, or the bill will be remodelled by the finance committee for M. Loucheur himself.

PASSING YEARS WILL SEE END OF U. S. RUM MENACE

Associated Press Despatch. Washington, Dec. 13.—The coast guard is making "steady and gratifying progress" in breaking up rum-running, and will drive this menace from United States shores in due time, Rear Admiral F. C. Billard, coast guard commander, declared tonight in his annual report, but he warned that it must be prepared for a trying task "for years to come."

ELECTION D. R. O. CHARGED WITH IRREGULAR ACTS

Associated Press Despatch. Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 13.—J. P. Robb, deputy returning officer at Brule in the Peace River riding, has been committed for trial on two charges, that he fraudulently turned over the ballot box papers other than those authorized by the election act, and that he put his name on papers purporting to be ballots.

PARKER GOES TO PRISON FOR STEALING LETTER

Former Employee of Postoffice, in Service 13 Years, Admits Theft.

Trapped by Decoy. "Tampering With Mails Serious," Magistrate's Reply to Plea For Leniency.

Three years in Kingston penitentiary was the sentence imposed by Magistrate Graydon in police court this morning on Frederick Parker, a former employee of the local postoffice staff, when the latter pleaded guilty to removing from the mails a letter containing \$5.

PARKER GOES TO PRISON FOR STEALING LETTER



PETER SMITH. Tomorrow at Ottawa an effort will be made by a deputation to secure release on parole of Peter Smith, provincial treasurer in the Drury government, who is serving three years in Portsmouth penitentiary as a result of the provincial bond scandal.

RELEASE SOUGHT FOR PETER SMITH

Raney, Rankin and Wellington Hay Will Plead at Ottawa.

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, Dec. 14.—W. E. Raney, K.C., former attorney-general of Ontario in the Drury cabinet, Senator Rankin and Wellington Hay, former leader of the Liberal party in the province, will interview Hon. Ernest LaPointe, minister of justice, tomorrow in an effort to secure the release on parole from Portsmouth penitentiary of Peter Smith, provincial treasurer of Ontario during the life of the United Farmer government.

Interviewed this morning, Mr. Raney, who served 14 months of the three years sentence imposed on him by Chief Justice Meredith on his conviction on charges arising out of Ontario bond transactions, under the sentence a fine of \$100,000 must be paid before the former cabinet minister can be given his liberty.

Petitions for his release, signed by thousands of people of Perth and adjoining counties, will be presented to Mr. LaPointe tomorrow.

Interviewed this morning last week, in commenting on Smith's condition, said: "He is a long way under par; he has lost a lot of flesh."

APPOINTMENT MADE.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—In the hope, it is understood of obtaining a parole for Peter Smith, former provincial treasurer of Ontario, now in prison, a delegation from Stratford, Ont., and district is waiting on Hon. Ernest LaPointe tomorrow, Tuesday. The personnel of the delegation is not known at present, but an appointment has been made for the purpose of discussing Mr. Smith's case.

Officials of the federal department of justice would not comment this morning on the case of Peter Smith, but it was considered to be of great interest, pending the receipt of the delegation's demand that Mr. Smith be released on parole for a three-year penitentiary sentence on charges of complicity in irregularities in the handling of provincial bond sales.

MORE FREIGHT MOVING THAN IN DECEMBER, 1924

Canadian Press Despatch. Ottawa, Dec. 13.—A total of 40,442 cars of revenue freight were loaded on Canadian railways during the week ended Dec. 5. This was 3,345 cars less than during the previous week, but 11,795 cars above the loadings for the corresponding week last year. The decline was more or less seasonal, according to the dominion bureau of statistics.

Coal loadings, however, showed a decrease of 2,438 cars, leading in the western division being lighter by 1,375 cars, and in the eastern division by 1,063 cars.

Loadings of merchandise showed a gain of 1,049 cars, and pulpwood a gain of 541 cars.

FEAR WATCHMAN KILLED IN QUARTER MILLION FIRE

Associated Press Despatch. Scranton, Pa., Dec. 14.—Police are seeking a night watchman who, it is feared, was burned to death in a fire which yesterday swept half a business block in this city, causing damage estimated at more than \$250,000. The building was occupied by the Scranton Printing Company.

RELEASING LETTER FOR PETER SMITH

Former Employee of Postoffice, in Service 13 Years, Admits Theft.

Trapped by Decoy. "Tampering With Mails Serious," Magistrate's Reply to Plea For Leniency.

Three years in Kingston penitentiary was the sentence imposed by Magistrate Graydon in police court this morning on Frederick Parker, a former employee of the local postoffice staff, when the latter pleaded guilty to removing from the mails a letter containing \$5.

He had been in the federal service for the past thirteen years. J. G. Glanders, his counsel, told the magistrate, and he had never been in any trouble before. "He has been a living resident of London," said Mr. Glanders. "He is married, and has always been a good citizen up to the present incident, and for this reason, I think the case should be as lenient as possible. It would be a different matter if he had had a police court record."

Mail Theft Serious.

"It is a serious matter to tamper with his majesty's mails," was the reply of the magistrate. "They must be kept inviolate at all times. It is far more serious when a trusted employee tampered with them. Under the circumstances I cannot do other than impose a sentence of three years at Kingston." Crown Attorney A. Judd, in presenting the prosecution, stated that the arrest of Parker on Nov. 20 was the culmination of an investigation into a succession of thefts from mail in the local postoffice. Letters had been disappearing during the working hours of the early shift.

Five one-dollar bills were marked, and their serial numbers taken down. They were then placed in an envelope and addressed to a woman in Cornwall. The letter was shoved through the slot from outside, and then from the inside a watch was kept on each letter that made up the lot inside the wicket.

Theft Discovered. Parker was seen to go to the wicket for the letters, he said, and subsequently he was noticed going into an envelope room. After he came back the Cornwall letter was found to be missing.

He was then asked to show what money he had in his pocket. This disclosed the five one-dollar bills, which resulted in his apprehension.

Parker was arrested some weeks ago and was remanded upon his first appearance in court.

BISHOP OF NEW YORK FAVORS WORLD COURT

Urges U. S. Senate To Heed Public Wishes by Joining Movement.

New York, Dec. 13.—The demand that the senate recognize public opinion of the United States for entry into the world court was voiced today by speakers at a thanksgiving service in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, during the signing of the Locarno treaty.

Both Bishop William F. Manning and Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, declared that a small group of senate irreconcilables cannot prevent the United States from entering the court.

ITALIANS HELP COUNTRY.

Associated Press Despatch. Rome, Dec. 14.—The Stefani agency says the voluntary subscriptions to the payment of the Italian debt to the United States thus far exceeds \$4,050,000.

The Weather

Station	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	64	38	Cloudy
Calgary	51	24	Cloudy
Winnipeg	48	—	Fair
Port Arthur	29	29	Fair
Toronto	29	24	Snow
Montreal	16	16	Fair
Quebec	20	5	Cloudy
Halifax	42	18	Fair

(—) Below zero.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 30; lowest, 20.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 30; lowest, 25.

Sun rises at 7:44 a.m. and sets at 4:41 p.m.

Barometric Readings.

Sunday—5 p.m., 29.12.

Today—8 a.m., 29.28.

NO BIG DEMAND FOR CHEAPER TICKETS

Conductors Say Patrons Not Asking For Seven-and-Nine Strips.

Although street railway conductors have their pockets full of seven and nine for 25 cents ticket strips, street railway patrons are not asking for them, the conductors state.

"When a passenger asks for tickets, we hand them a strip of the five for a quarter tickets," said one conductor, "and they accept them."

"Maybe they don't know that they are entitled to buy them at seven for 25 cents," it was suggested.

"Yes, they do for a lot of them talked to me about it," was the reply. "They all think it is a shame and that the street railway is being persecuted. That's the way it looks to me, too."

"The people are all sore about it and so are the merchants. Several business men rode downtown this morning on my car. The people tell me that they don't mind paying five cents and would even pay four tickets for 25 cents if we gave them a better service."