

\$250,000 INCREASE IN WARD 4 ASSESSMENT OVER \$6,000,000

'City Is Showing a Very Healthy Growth' Says Assessment Commissioner Grant—Population Figures Are Not Given at This Time, But Will Be Handed Out Later.

The assessment of ward 4 has increased practically a quarter of a million dollars this year, according to the figures prepared by Assessment Commissioner Grant.

To be exact, the total increase is \$249,110. The most marked increase is in the buildings, there being \$184,700 increase in this during the year.

Total Assessment.

The total assessment is now over six million dollars, the precise figure being \$6,252,491. Last year it reached the total of \$5,924,491.

The population figures are not yet

given as there is so much moving going on at present that it would be impossible to obtain exact figures.

As to Population.

"Our assessment was made during the period when there was a great deal of moving," said Assessment Commissioner Grant. "There were some empty houses that had filled up, and there are some changes. As I say, it was a very restless time, those in attendance consider that he has little chance of recovery."

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PATHTIC SCENE IN THE SANDWICH JAIL

The Aged Mother of Richard Kraft Visits Him in His Cell.

Sandwich, Ont., May 15.—Richard Kraft's aged mother visited him in the county jail, where he is awaiting trial for shooting three men in his attempt to escape from Windsor police headquarters. She clasped her boy in her arms through the bars and sobbed broken-heartedly as she talked to him in German. Mrs. Kraft will be present at the preliminary hearing next Monday, and has arranged for a defence by Barrister Clay. The defence probably will be an attempt to show that there was no intent to murder, but that the man was so nervous that he was irresponsible. The crown merely will produce enough evidence to have the prisoner committed for trial.

A BABY SHOW FOR THE BIG ENGLISH PICNIC

St. George's Society Are Getting Together a List of Sports That Will Prove a Winner.

At a meeting of the sports committee of St. George's Society last evening, ex-ald. John Nutkins was elected chairman of sports, and Edwin Keen vice-chairman.

The programme of sports was discussed, and many events decided upon. There will be a special event for each of the English societies, for which special prizes will be allotted. St. George's of England, Daughters and Maids of England, also the juvenile ladies, will each have their own particular race. In addition to these will be sports for the general public. A baseball match will be arranged between teams from London and St. Thomas, also cricket and golf. Handsome prizes will be forthcoming for the baby show. Parents with large families will also have something extra good.

The picnic will take place on the 22nd of June.

The pillow-fight, which caused lots of amusement last year, will be a feature of the picnic, and there will also be quite a number of side-shows, singing and dancing contests, etc.

Nominations will be called for by the secretary for the queen of beauty contest. The committee have decided that she is to reign supreme on the day of the picnic, and all loyal Englishmen will pay her court.

Entries for the race of the day, the 140 yards dash, open, for which valuable prizes will be given, will have to be forwarded to the secretary of sports on or before the 15th of June. This is to prevent the possibility of a clique of professional runners securing the title, as has happened in previous years.

MRS. SCREATON ISSUES WRIT AGAINST CITY

Corporation Appears To Be Trying to Work Sharp Practice on a Citizen.

Mrs. Katharine Screaton does not propose to tamely submit to the decision of the city council in refusing to compensate her for the value of the land, which the city had appropriated for the purpose of their sidewalk on the corner of Princess avenue and Cartwright street.

The city's sidewalk is in some 20 feet on Mrs. Screaton's property, and on her asking that they move the sidewalk, or make her some compensation for the value of the land, they quietly suggest that they own the land by the length of possession, and refuse to pay a farthing.

Mrs. Screaton says she has been a taxpayer to the city for many years, and complains bitterly of what she claims is very unfair treatment that the city council are measuring out to her.

She has caused a writ to be issued to either make the city move the sidewalk, or pay the value of the land.

The matter could have been settled for a hundred dollars, the cost of which now, before the writ is obtained, will probably be five times that amount.

Building Permits.

Building permits were taken out yesterday morning by William Dean for a one story brick house on Dufferin avenue, \$1,200; Jas. Scott, verandah and alterations, 711, Maitland street, \$150; H. G. Wilson, two story and attic brick veneer house on Dufferin avenue, to cost \$4,000.

JOHN HATTON NOT LIKELY TO RECOVER

Doctors Say It Looks Like Case of Deliberate Attempt at Suicide.

HE HAD BEEN VERY ILL

And Was Only Out of the House a Few Days—Brother Found Him Binding Up Wounds.

The condition of John Hatton, who was taken to Victoria Hospital yesterday afternoon, and had to be placed in the steel cage provided for delirious patients who become dangerous. Hatton's mother, who is 80 years of age, has remained with him ever since he was taken to the hospital.

Looks Like Suicide.

From the nature of the wounds, physicians think that there is little doubt that Hatton made a deliberate attempt to commit suicide. The wound in his chest is one of the most serious, and apparently the thrust was made with the intention of sending the knife blade into the heart.

The blade pierced the heart about half an inch, and the wound bled freely, rendering Hatton very weak from loss of blood.

Hatton, it is stated, had been brooding for some time over an illness. He had only been out of bed a few days, and his brother states, was in a very weak condition.

When his brother entered the store yesterday afternoon, he found Hatton trying to tie up the wound in his forehead. At that time he did not know of the wound about the heart.

Hatton is unmarried, and lived with his mother at 418 Rectory street. He is about 35 years old.

It was stated in the East End this morning on what appears to be very good authority that Mr. John Kendrick was one of the first to discover the plight of John Hatton.

Mr. Kendrick, it is said, told a number of people yesterday that he had seen a man on Dundas street, east, and found Hatton bleeding profusely from a deep wound in the wrist. It appeared to be cut through, and Kendrick hastily closed the wound as tightly as possible and bound it with a towel.

Was Very Despondent.

Another gentleman, a well-known businessman, told The Advertiser this afternoon that Hatton appeared very despondent the other day, complaining of his health, and speaking in a careless manner of his business and things in general. He was advised to take a course of physical culture exercises, and although he was interested, he did not appear confident of the outcome of such a move.

May Have Been Accidental.

It is claimed by some people that such wounds could be inflicted accidentally in cutting sole leather, as a cobbler works with all his strength pulling towards himself, and should the knife slip, his wrist, side and throat might suffer.

TORPEDOES MADE THE STREET MERRY

Box in McCormicks Became Ignited and Aroused the Neighborhood.

The Queen's birthday was prematurely celebrated this morning in front of the McCormick Manufacturing Company's building on Wellington street, about 11 o'clock, when a large-sized box of miniature torpedoes that the firm handle for customers, became ignited in some way and were hastily taken out of the premises and deposited in the middle of the road.

The noise of the explosion, which followed was terrific, while the smoke present all that the small boy could desire. There were soon a large crowd of boys there, and they almost went to the awful waste of such precious torpedoes. The affair was soon ended by a policeman who came along with a pail of water and either killed (or the grief of) the youthful assembly that gazed on.

TRAVELLER SUICIDES.

Toronto, May 14.—Chas. M. Leach, an English traveller who shot himself in the mouth three weeks ago, died at St. Michael's Hospital today. The attempt by Leach on his own life was made in the Rosevale ravine, and the man lay unconscious in the ravine for some hours before being discovered. Leach was a representative of an English Jewellery firm.



LIEUTENANT WOOD LEONARD. Who Won the Montague Allan Cup With "Sir Edward" at the Montreal Horse Show.

NERVY PEDDLER MADE THREATS FRIGHTENED FARMERS' WIVES

Poplar Hill and Vicinity Is Worked Up—Police Are Notified—People Will Likely Treat the Individual to a Dose of Tar and Feathers If He Is Caught.

The residents of Poplar Hill were greatly incensed last Thursday over the abusive manner in which a few peddlers tried to force their wares upon housewives of that vicinity whom they had been visiting in most instances were unprotected.

This same individual, who has been canvassing the above-mentioned neighborhood since last Monday, appeared at the home of Mr. Samuel Jolley, on last Thursday morning. All the male occupants of the house were in to market at the time, and Mrs. Jolley was alone with three young children.

The man presented his wares, where Mrs. Jolley declined to purchase, where the peddler, evidently surmising that the men were all away, became very abusive, and made several violent threats that entailed bodily harm.

Mrs. Jolley, though terrified at the man's manner, never manifested the slightest fear, but maintained her courage and endeavored to baffle the man by going into the house and calling for her husband.

Many Complaints.

This proved effectual, as the peddler ran out and up the road as fast as possible, and has not been seen since.

Complaints have been rife about this very same man, and in nearly every case have been the same. On not being successful in forcing a sale, the man would become insolent and utter insulting remarks.

He is described as being very short and of unkempt appearance, also wearing a Vandyke beard. By his accent he is a foreigner.

The matter has been reported to the county constable, and the offender's lot will be a hard one, should he be captured, and the above allegations are proven against him, as the authorities are bitterly prejudiced against this sort of fraud, but maintained her courage and endeavored to baffle the man by going into the house and calling for her husband.

EX-ALD. GILLEAN WOULD RAISE \$300

To Give the School Children of London a Picnic This Year.

ST. GEORGE'S AFFECTED

Pupils Yesterday Hoisted Red Flag and Wore Red on Their Garments—"Insurrection" Is Spreading.

The red flag of rebellion has been raised now by the pupils of St. George's school.

Of course, it is all on account of the school picnic. Yesterday the flag was hoisted on high, and almost every youngster in the school came decorated with a piece of red ribbon.

Readers of signs say that there was a "blood on the moon," and it foretold a real rebellion among the "kiddies."

Their cause is now being espoused by many citizens. This morning ex-ald. Gillean informed some of the trustees that it was on account of lack of funds that the picnic was not being held, he would guarantee to raise \$300, and have the outing held as usual.

Many Sad Hearts.

From other schools the same story of sad hearts. The youngsters are "sore," because they cannot have their annual picnic, and there are evident signs of relenting on the part of the teachers and trustees who favored cutting the annual holiday off.

Some of them still stoutly maintain that the picnic is off for good this year, but their courage is like that of a small boy whistling in the dark to keep his nerve up.

"There is more talk on account of this picnic than I ever imagined there would be," said Trustee Gammage. "There is a great deal of pressure being brought to bear on us, to hold it. I do not know whether it will be or not."

"If the board have not the funds to hold the picnic, some of us will guarantee to collect \$300 for that purpose," said ex-ald. Gillean. "The kids should have their day out."

FOUR FRANCHISES TO COMPETE WITH

But Engineer Sifton Told Power Committee He Would Hand Over the One He Holds

CITY'S LIGHTING SYSTEM

Incandescent Lights Will Be Used For Street Lighting Instead of Arc Lights.

At the special meeting of the power committee, held yesterday afternoon at which it was decided to let the City Solicitor Meredith on the power and lighting franchises in the city, was read.

It developed from his recitation of the facts that there were really four franchises—the London Electric, the Helena Costume Company, the Power Equipment, and the Sifton franchises, all of which were named in The Advertiser some days ago.

All are valid, the committee decided, and would furnish opposition. The only one from which little or no trouble was to be expected was that of Mr. E. I. Sifton, who stated that he would transfer his franchise to the city if desired. As there is a three months' cancellation clause in the franchise, the city could easily get rid of it, under any circumstances.

Power Equipment Company.

There was some discussion over the power equipment franchise. Mr. Sifton pointed out that the Power Equipment Company transferred only its assets—trucks, wires, etc.—to the Helena Costume Company, the Equipment Company retaining the franchise. That company still existed, and still held that franchise.

Ald. Beattie then read the franchise over, and discovered that one of the clauses of agreement was that if the company did not remove within three months after being notified, all wires not used by the franchise would be forfeited.

Will "Resolute" It Out.

"The Power Equipment Company have not been using its wires for some time," said Ald. Beattie. "I would suggest that a resolution of the council be passed calling upon the company to remove its wires, or forfeit its charter. These wires are now being used by the Helena Costume Company. It would not affect that concern in any way, but it would remove the Power Equipment franchise."

"All the wires of the Power Equipment Company are now down, so far as I know," said Mr. Sifton. "That resolution will do no good, but still it might do no harm to pass it."

"The company has not been operating its franchise for two years," said Mr. Sifton. (Continued on Page Eleven.)

COLT SHED AND THREW DRIVER OUT

Mr. John Collins Figured in a Mishap on Princess Avenue Yesterday Afternoon.

John Collins, formerly proprietor of the Collins House, had a remarkably close call from being seriously injured on Princess avenue yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Collins was driving a colt in a training cart. When an auto came along the animal shied, and threw the driver out. He clung to the lines, and was dragged for some distance before he got the horse stopped.

Several persons who witnessed the affair assisted him to his feet. Mr. Collins complained of feeling very sore about the chest, but was able to get into the cart again and drive home.

KILLED BY RAT'S BITE

Baby Was Bitten While Lying in a Cradle at Ottawa.

Ottawa, May 15.—Blood poisoning, brought on by the bite of a rat, caused the death of little Eugene Jambou, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Jambou, 134 Bessier street.

The rat bit the babe while he was lying in his cradle, and although medical aid was at once summoned, death resulted within a few hours.

DISABILITIES BILL HAS SECOND READING

Premier Asquith in Its Favor But Measure Not Likely to Pass This Session.

London, May 14.—A comprehensive bill for the removal of Roman Catholic disabilities, and providing for an alteration in the accession oaths taken by the British sovereign, was introduced by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland today.

The bill passed its second reading by a vote of 132 to 122, but as it is not a Government measure there is little prospect of finding time to pass it at the present session. The fact that the majority of the House of Commons voted in favor of the measure, however, is regarded as a favorable outlook by the Catholics.

Although similar bills have been debated on many previous occasions, this is the first time that one has passed its second reading.

—Miss Ethel O. Walker, daughter of Mr. William Walker, of 383 Grosvenor street, graduated recently from Christ Hospital, Jersey City Heights, and is at present on a visit with her parents.

LOAD UP CAPITAL ACCOUNT WITH NIAGARA POWER DEFICIT

Scheme Said To Be Now Under Consideration by the Power Committee.

RELIEF ONLY BE TEMPORARY

In the End the People Would Find Themselves Loaded Up With a Tremendous Electrical Debt.

The Niagara power question is still looming large in civic affairs, and there is sufficient material already furnished for several days' and nights' worry for the city fathers.

The power will not be here this December as anticipated. At the last session of the Legislature the time was extended from Dec. 19, 1909, to March 19, 1910, giving three months' grace. By then it is expected that all the transmission lines will be completed, and also the distribution stations, making all arrangements complete for the handling of Niagara power.

The Financial End.

In the meantime the committees of the council are grappling with the financial end of the problem.

As may be readily imagined by the ratepayers it will take some tall financing to make the proposition pay, at least for some considerable time, and that is the great worry of the committee just now.

The sinking fund and interest annually on the transmission line, and distribution station, costing roughly \$1,000,000, will amount to about \$45,000 annually, perhaps more.

This money, as for ordinary debentures, must be provided out of the taxes every year. In other words, the rate will be increased by at least two mills on the dollar, unless the scheme pays its way.

At the present time the sinking fund is being provided out of the tax rate. Over against this will be set the profits of Niagara power, if any. It is now proposed that the sinking fund will not be paid, but will be charged to capital expenditure. That will relieve the council of a considerable obligation for the time being, although it will increase the indebtedness of the city for Niagara power, a very great deal eventually.

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Now Being Considered.

This is the plan so far outlined by the committee, and the engineer so far as can be learned. In this manner it is attempted to get over the financial loss which will accrue in the minds of most experts during the first few years of the city-owned plant.

Thapelle are most important, and will have a direct bearing on the citizens' attitude on the whole question. When these become known, there will be a great deal of discussion in the committee, and in each case the attitude of the committee was somewhat criticised.

Should Pay Its Way.

The disposition of these in charge is to make the proposition pay its way, if not at the present time, at least in the future.

Of course they are compelled to provide the interest and sinking fund out of the general taxation.

Whether or not they will take any deficit out of the general tax rate or charge it up to capital expenditure is for the committee to decide. From what can be learned they have decided to charge the sinking fund to capital expenditure.

Every day adds something to the difficulties of the scheme.

No Improvement.

The condition of Charles Filinton, of West avenue, who was so severely burned at the London foundry on Monday, has not improved, and is not improving, and last night he was removed to Victoria Hospital. The burn is a very serious one, and it is feared that a complication may result. Mr. Filinton is suffering the most intense pain, notwithstanding that everything possible is being done to alleviate his suffering.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—WARMER. FORECASTS.

Toronto, May 15.—8 a.m. shifting to south and southwest; partly fair, showers and local thunderstorms, chiefly tonight and on Sunday. Sunday—Partly fair, with higher temperature.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	Today.	Yesterday.
London	46	47
Victoria	46	46
Windsor	46	46
Winnipeg	46	46
Port Arthur	46	46
Perry Sound	46	46
Quebec	46	46
Montreal	46	46
Ottawa	46	46
Edmonton	46	46
Battleford	46	46
Prince Albert	46	46
Regina	46	46
St. John	46	46
Halifax	46	46

WEATHER NOTES.

The depression which of late has been in the Northwestern States is now moving eastward with increasing energy, and it is expected that Mr. Taft will attend some of the games while staying at his summer home in Beverly.

TAFT GETS SILVER PASS.

Boston, May 14.—President Taft will be a welcome visitor at the Boston National League baseball grounds this summer. Owner George B. Doherty, of the Boston club, has designed a silver special pass for the chief executive, and it is expected that Mr. Taft will attend some of the games while staying at his summer home in Beverly.

Summer Exams.

The summer-term examinations began at the Collegiate Institute yesterday, and will continue every Friday till the holidays. On these examinations depend the class standing of the students during the following term.