BRANCH LINES WILL BE BLOCKED FOR DAYS

Circulation Last Week
280,190
Daily Average, 46,698

The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

HOME EDITION

53rd YEAR. No. 22980 | THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, CANADA MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 14, 1918. | 96 COLUMNS | PRICE, TWO CENTS.

FIRE DESTROYS U. S. ARMY SUPPLIES

VAST SUPPLIES FOR UNITED STATES ARMY DESTROYED BY FIRE AT GOVT. ARSENAL

Quartermaster-General's Warehouse At Washington Containing Equipment For American Forces Badly Gutted Today.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Army supplies, including $1,000,000 worth of food, was destroyed, quartermaster warehouse ruined and several buildings damaged by a fire today at the Washington barracks, occupied by engineer troops. A large part of the city's fire apparatus was called upon to fight the flames, which were given impetus by the explosion of a quantity of gasoline stored in one part of the big warehouse. After a hard fight of an hour and a half the fire was extinguished. An ordnance building containing a quantity of small arms ammunition was endangered, but soldiers removed what was stored there. The origin of the fire has not been disclosed by officials at the post.

FIREWORKS MARK OPENING MEETING OF 1918 COUNCIL, INSURGENTS BEING TO FORE

Few Changes Made in Striking Committees' Slates, However—Ex-Mayor Wants Industrial Commissioner Under Council—No City Solicitor Named Yet—Motion to Secure Pole Rental from Bell Telephone Company Made.

The 1918 city council got off to a breezy start at 11 o'clock today, when it organized for the year, with the insurgents going full blast. However, there were few changes in the slate of committees published by The Advertiser of Saturday. Ald. O. G. Keene retired from the London and Port Stanley Board to allow Ald. W. A. Wilson a place, and Controller J. M. Moore and Ald. Keene were chosen as the Children's Aid Society's representatives instead of Controller C. H. Merryfield and Ald. Wilson.

Ald. F. E. Harley was elected chairman of the finance committee on the casting vote of Mayor Somerville. Prior to that, he was tied with Ald. Wilson. Controller John M. Moore was unanimously elected chairman of No. 2 committee.

There was quite a rough sea on, nautically speaking. The aldermen took advantage of the opportunity to air all their grouches, to come back to regular conversation, and there was apparently little love lost among the various members. The ruling of Mayor Somerville was questioned on several occasions, but the large majority of the council prevented the insurgent movement from gaining much headway.

The council assembled sharply at 11 o'clock, ex-Mayor H. A. Stevenson was on hand, and introduced Mayor Somerville.

Must Get Coal.

"If there is anything I can do to be of assistance to the council or any of its members, I will gladly do it," said Dr. Stevenson. "There are many vital questions to be dealt with, and you will need to give them much consideration. We had in the past many important matters claiming attention, and we disposed of them in a manner that was satisfactory. There is one question that this council must deal with, and that is the supplying of coal to the citizens. The people have pronounced emphatically on this question, and the council must see to it that citizens get coal.

"I advocated certain changes, and I think the council should deal with them. One of them is to place the commissioner of industry under the control of the city council, not the board of trade. I would take him away from the outside organization altogether. The council is the democratic institution, and should govern. We want no outside influences. That is Prussianism. That was dinned to us when Glaubitz was in our employ. He was always telling us how things were done in Berlin. We got tired of that, and we must do away with all outside influences.

Purchase Supplies Jointly.

"I would suggest a joint committee to purchase supplies for the courthouse and jail. We pay 80 per cent of the cost and we should have two members to deal with the purchases with two members from the county council. I am sure we can save 20 per cent of the cost."

Mayor Somerville then took charge, and asked Rev. Canon Tucker, rector of St. Paul's Cathedral, to open the proceedings with prayer. On the conclusion of this a hearty vote of thanks was tendered him. In reply, Dr. Tucker promised the support, the whole-hearted support of the ministers of London to Mayor Somerville.

His worship then read his inaugural address, which was ordered printed in the minutes, and the various matters therein contained sent to the various committees.

Ald. Ashplant wanted to know if there was a list of unsold debentures, which totalled millions. This will be furnished when the finance committee deals with the questions. A number of communications were sent to committees.

Refuse Wilson's Plea.

Then the striking committee reported, and the rumpus started. Ald. W. A. Wilson, who was placed on No. 1 committee, made declaration about his qualifications for a place on No. 2 committee. Ald. Ashplant and Ald. Manness sympathized with him, and moved that he be transferred. However, the majority of the council refused to hear Wilson's plea, and he was sent to the finance committee.

Continued on Page Three.

COMMONS MUST WAIT ON OVERSEAS COUNT BEFORE ASSEMBLING; MAY BE MARCH SIXTH

Fixing of Exact Date for Parliament Deferred Until All Votes In.

Ottawa, Jan. 14.—In official circles Wednesday, March 6, is given as the earliest possible date on which Parliament is likely to meet, and it may be a week later before the House assembles. The situation is a peculiar one, because of the circumstances that the result of the soldiers' vote is not likely to be known for some time. It is likely that the figures will not be received and added to the home vote until towards the end of the present month. Final election results will probably be announced during the first week of February.

Likely to Await Count.

An authority on constitutional law stated this morning that the Government could fix the date for the opening of Parliament before these results are known, but that it is not likely to do so. The fixing of the exact date on which Parliament will meet is, therefore, almost certain to be deferred until the overseas vote is counted.

It has always been the practice to allow at least 30 days to elapse between the announcement of the date of the assembling of the House and its commencement of business. This would defer the opening at least until the first week in March.

It is too early to predict, with any degree of accuracy, what the sessional program is likely to be. The Government plans are still in a more or less nebulous condition, but they will gradually mature and eventually be introduced in the House in the form of legislation.

TO OUR READERS

Delivery of all editions of The Advertiser has been interfered with on account of demoralized train service. Subscribers will confer a favor by bearing this in mind when they do not receive one or more editions during the past few days. As soon as rail conditions are restored, a regular service will be resumed. In the meantime special arrangements for delivery are being made as far as possible.

EAST AND WEST CONTINENT DIGS OUT OF DRIFTS

60,000 Schoolboys Clearing Snow Piles From Streets of Chicago.

TRAINS ARE MOVING AGAIN

Connections Between Montreal, Toronto and U. S. Being Restored.

Montreal, Jan. 14.—The canceled train service on the Grand Trunk Railway between Montreal and Toronto was resumed today, when snowplows cleared the tracks after hard work.

Te general service running between New York, Ottawa and Quebec points and Montreal, much affected by the blizzard, was also reported to be rapidly approaching the normal this morning.

60,000 SCHOOLBOYS DIGGING OUT CHICAGO.

Chicago, Jan 14.—An army of workers estimated at more than 100,000, including 60,000 schoolboys, today resumed the attack on the great snowdrifts, which for 48 hours tied up railroad traffic in this city and vicinity, and caused what the health authorities termed an alarming shortage of fuel and milk.

As an emergency measure the public schools of the city did not open today, the board of education having decided that the boys could render valuable service in clearing away the snow from the streets, so that vehicles would be able to make deliveries in the residential districts.

Railways Digging Out.

Every one of the 27 steam railroads entering Chicago resumed limited service today, but officials said it would be at least two days before anything like normal passenger schedules could be established, and perhaps a week would elapse before the movement of freight trains could be put back on the same basis as before the storm.

Every ton of coal in the railroad yards was commandeered by County Fuel Administrator Raymond E. Durham, and orders were given to the railroads to divert coal to the most available yard.

The Union stockyards otday began to emerge from the huge piles of snow that covered the pens and the switching tracks within the stockyards area.

RUSS SAILORS SLAY OFFICERS FOR OLD SCORE

Men Who Executed and Exiled Rebels in 1912 Are Slain—Kilia Looted.

London, Jan. 14.—A dispatch to the Times from Odessa describes the disorders at Sebastopol, in which 62 naval officers were killed during two days of butchering, in which the horrors of Kronstadt were re-enacted. It is said that most of those killed were members of the committee which in 1912 under the old regime held an inquiry into the rebellious sailors' revolutionary union which resulted in the execution of many sailors and the exile of others. The affair, apparently forgotten, has now been brought up against those responsible who were regarded as meriting death. It is reported in Odessa that the number of officers killed is greater than 62.

Kilia Looted.

The town of Kilia at the mouth of the Danube, which has been called the Russian Venice, a dispatch to the Times says, was looted during the Christmas holidays by soldiers stationed there, assisted by hoodlums. Much of the town was burned, the rioters firing the buildings after the houses and shops were sacked. The work was done systematically, showing that preparations had been made beforehand.

The population fled in terror. Some crossed into Rumania, while others scattered into the surrounding country where they are destitute. Still others came to Odessa by steamer. The perpetrators of the outrage also came to Odessa, where they were allowed to take trains north without being molested.

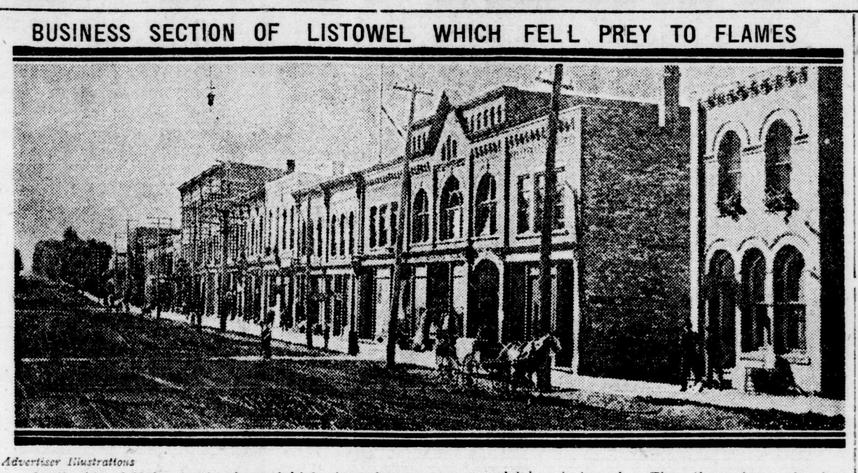
MONSTER CONVENTION OF "DRY" CHAMPIONS CALLED AT TORONTO

Fifteen Hundred Delegates Will Plan Referendum Campaign.

Toronto, Jan. 14.—What will in all probability be the greatest gathering of Ontario prohibitionists and temperance workers ever held in the province will take place on February 26, 27 and 28, when the annual provincial prohibition convention will be held in Massey Hall.

Preparation of plans for the campaign to be conducted previous to the referendum in June, 1914, when the people will be called upon to retain or repeal the liquor regulations already established in the province, is the primary object of the convention. From twelve to fifteen hundred delegates are expected to attend.

BUSINESS SECTION OF LISTOWEL WHICH FELL PREY TO FLAMES



Advertiser Illustrations

South side of Main street, where eight business houses were completely destroyed. The three-story structure shown is Schinbein's Department Store, the largest business house in the town, and which was practically reduced to ashes. The fire started in Koph & Spence's shoe store, and was carried along by the terrific wind until it reached Thompson's general store, next to Schinbein's. Here a fire wall delayed its progress.

NO TRAINS UP BRUCE BRANCH OF G. T. R. UNTIL WEDNESDAY; PARALYSIS BY STORM BROKEN

Side Lines Still Blocked by Snowdrifts, Which for 48 Hours Practically Isolated London, Being Most Complete Railway Tie-up on Record.

Service on the main lines of the Grand Trunk and C. P. R. was resumed early today, and a number of trains left and arrived in city on both lines. On the branch lines trains, snowplows and light engines are still stalled.

Grand Trunk local officials announced at 10 o'clock today that there would likely be no trains on the Huron and Bruce line until Wednesday. The snow piled so deep and packed so hard in the numerous cuts along this branch that nothing remains to do but shovel out miles of the road. Snowplows in vain have tried to force a way through and in some instances have packed the snow so hard that shovelling is the only means left.

Snowplow Stalled.

A snowplow which left Wingham late Saturday afternoon is still imprisoned in a deep cut near Londesboro.

Large gangs of men are being engaged to shovel out the different cuts along this line. Snow fences built in past years along all the worst cuts along the Bruce proved ineffectual in keeping the snow off the tracks.

The last mail to reach the towns along the Huron and Bruce arrived there Friday night. Since then neither papers or mail of any description have reached the towns which are yet completely isolated from the outside world except for telephonic and telegraphic communication.

In years past the expedient of driving in sleighs through to places where mail has arrived may be adopted today in the case of Exeter, Hensall and other places.

Every Man at Work.

At 1 o'clock today Supt. Charles Forrester of the G. T. R. stated that every available locomotive, snowplow and man had been dispatched to different points on the road to relieve the stormbound trains.

From Woodstock word was received that the two stock trains which had been stalled were still held in the snow despite the efforts of two snowplows and three locomotives to relieve them. The stock was removed from the trains, but one pig dying with the cold.

The locomotive of one stock train was completely buried, not even the top of the smokestack showing. The engine had forced its way against the snow so hard that once in it was impossible to back out.

"It is the first time in the history of the Grand Trunk that our main lines have been tied up so completely," said Supt. Forrester. "We have been delayed

Continued on Page Two.

BIG AMERICAN STEAMSHIP TEXAN RAMMED AMIDSHIPS FAR AT SEA

Crew Sends Out S. O. S. Call for Help—Carrying Cargo to France.

Atlantic Port, Jan. 14.—Agents of the American steamship Texan, 14,000 tons, today received advices from naval authorities that she was sinking at sea. The location of the ship was not given. The naval authorities did not state the cause of the Texan's distress, but reports reaching shipping circles here from other sources were that the vessel had been rammed amidships in collision with another ship.

Struck Amidships.

A steamer arriving here today reported that at 4 a.m. she picked up an S. O. S. from the Texan reporting that she had been struck amidships and was sinking. Lifeboats had been lowered. The message from the Texan said: "Good-bye—no more."

The Texan left here recently with a cargo of nitrates bound for a French port. It was said a steamer which had picked up the Texan's S. O. S. calls was hurrying to her assistance, and that the crew of 43 had taken to the boats.

Aft Boat Lost.

The Texan's wireless operator reported that the starboard boats had been lowered, that the aft boat was lost, and that an attempt was being made to lower the forward boat. Oil from the ship's hold was poured on the starboard side in an effort to make sea conditions better for launching the lifeboats.

LISTOWEL FIRE LOSS PLACED AT $200,000

Flames Subdued After All-Day Battle in Blizzard.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Listowel, Ont., Jan. 14.—Latest estimates place the loss by Sundays blaze on Main street at $200,000, partially covered by insurance.

Yesterday evening the fire was finally got under control, volunteer firemen working in relays of twenty until every vestige of fire had been stamped out of the ruins. Beyond a few bruises and frostbites, there were no injuries.

It is understood the burned buildings will be replaced at once by an up-to-date structure.

CANUCKS MAKE FINE RAID ON FOE TRENCHES AROUND LENS

Successful Minor Operations At Two Points Near the Coal City.

London, Jan. 14.—German trenches north of Lens were raided last night by Canadian troops who brought back prisoners, the official statement from Field Marshal Haig today says. Near Mericourt, southeast of Lens, British soldiers were victorious in patrol engagements. The statement reads:

"Canadian troops last night successfully raided the enemy's trenches north of Lens and brought back prisoners. We suffered no casualties. Patrol encounters took place during the night east of Mericourt, resulting in our favor. On the rest of the front the night was quiet."

GODERICH CUT OFF SINCE FRIDAY NIGHT

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Goderich, Ont., Jan. 14.—Saturday was the stormiest day Goderich has seen in many years. A fierce southwest gale was blowing continuously and the snow was drifted in many places above fence tops. Coming on top of a scarcity of fuel much suffering resulted. One of the local coal dealers received a carload of coal the previous day, and all Sunday afternoon one of the town teams was kept busy making deliveries to householders whose fires were out, while plumbers were continually being called up to attend to frozen and burst pipes. Several water-fronts were blown up. Church services were very meagerly attended, and in some cases were cancelled entirely. No trains have come through to Goderich since Friday night and Saturday morning trains out are stilled stalled on the line.

WOOD FLOUR MILLS AT NORWICH BURNED

Brantford, Jan. 14.—The Wood Flour Mills at Norwich, owned by T. L. Wood, formerly of this city, now of Norwich, were totally destroyed with contents on Sunday morning during the blizzard. A crossed electric wire is blamed. The loss will be very heavy, though partial insurance was carried.

Mayor Issues An Appeal for Help

Scores of city homes are without fuel. The severity of the weather has disorganized shipment by rail. Serious consequences may result, unless the situation is handled locally, and at once. Citizens are urged to immediately notify their regular coal dealer if they have more coal than is required for immediate needs. By arrangement made with coal dealers of the city, coal secured in this way will be picked up and supplied in half tons at $5.50 a half ton to homes where they have none, the dealers agreeing to replace amount loaned without charge when the situation is relieved.

It is confidently expected that all citizens who are in a position to help will do so immediately.

C. R. SOMERVILLE,
Mayor.

FUEL SITUATION IN LONDON IS GROWING MORE ACUTE DAILY

Many Have Responded to the Mayor's Appeal to Share Up—Fifty Appeals to Utilities Commission for Assistance—Exhaustion of Coke Supply Has Aggravated Situation.

Coal dealers accessable by telephone today stated that they had received numerous offers from citizens who had a fairly abundant supply of coal on hand to share up with some of their suffering fellow citizens. This is the result of the mayor's appeal, and the dealers state that a great many are taking advantage of this kind offer.

The situation, however, is relieved but little. The already acute situation for those in dire need of fuel has been further aggravated. The utilities commission has been able to relieve the stress of hundreds by securing a small supply of coke for them. This morning they were notified by the City Gas Company that the supply of coke has been exhausted. This leaves the commission with but a small supply of wood on hand to relieve any suffering. At the same time they are being besieged today with appeals for help. This morning no less than 35 called at the office and asked that they be sent a small supply of coke. About half of these may be taken care of before the gas company cuts off the supply entirely. Fifteen others have asked for a supply of wood.

The outlook for coal is not bright. No coal has reached the city since Friday, and no one can tell when a shipment will reache here.

Found Small Supply.

The Webster Fuel Company located a small supply today and appealed to the C. P. R. to see if the company could render any assistance. It had a part of a car of coal which was to have been shipped out to the small

Continued on Page Three.

PETROGRAD EXPECTS FINAL BREACH IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE; CIVIL WAR GROWS

Armistice Is Extended To February 18th, And Peace Negotiations Will Be Resumed At Warsaw After Brief Interval—Heavy Fighting In Russian Interior.

London, Jan. 14.—Warning of the possibility of a final breach in the Russo-German negotiations is the outstanding feature of the current news from Petrograd. In the meantime, according to the correspondent of the Daily Mail in the Russian capital, the armistice had been extended until February 18, and the Russian delegation returns to Petrograd tomorrow, but the peace negotiations will be resumed after an interval at Warsaw.

FIERCE FIGHTING IN RUSS INTERIOR.

London, Jan. 14.—The latest news received in Petrograd, according to a Reuter dispatch from that city, indicates further fighting in the interior of Russia. A newspaper dispatch from Kharkov reports that after the Maximalists opened fire with machine guns, the second Ukrainian regiment surrendered with 7,000 rifles and 13 machine guns. The commander of the regiment was arrested.

Twelve capitalists, residents of Kharkov, were ordered to donate 1,000,000 rubles for the unemployed. The sum was dispensed by the municipality.

Kaledines Moving North.

It is reported that Gen. Kaledines, the Cossack leader, is proceeding toward the north. The city of Ufa, in Eastern Russia, is said to be in the hands of the Bolsheviki, who seized the banks and Government buildings. They are sending forces, including artillery, to Tcheliyabinsk, on the Trans-Siberian Railway, where serious fighting is expected.

Hunger Riots.

Hunger riots have occurred at Kolomna, in the Government of Moscow, resulting in the killing of 12 persons and wounding of 120. The Bolsheviki have occupied the Moscow headquarters of the Union of Zemstvos.

Idle soldiers in Petrograd are journeying to the provinces and bringing back to the capital provisions which they are selling to the inhabitants at exorbitant prices.

FOOD CHANNELS OF ENEMY VIA NEUTRALS GONE

German Imports Choked Off by American Government Prohibition.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—Germany's imports of food have been stopped, not only by prohibition of re-export of food supplies sold to neutrals, but also by allied control of products used in shipping foods grown wholly within those countries, according to consular reports today. Advertisements for German twine appearing recently in Danish papers revealed that exports of preserves to Germany had been shut off because twine used in the packing was sold by the Allies under agreement that it should not be re-exported. German twine had to be obtained before orders could be filled.

Similarly condensed milk shipments were stopped by forbidding re-export of cork tops. Wood eventually was substituted.

All dairy products sold to Germany have been reduced in quantity by shortage of cattle feed which necessitated slaughtering.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 10; lowest, 8 below.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 10; lowest, 3.

TOMORROW—COLD; SNOW.

Toronto Jan. 14—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Today—Southwest winds, fair and cold.

Tuesday—Northeast winds; cold, with a snowfall.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures for the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	44	40	Rain
Calgary	20	0	Clear
Winnipeg	— 2	— 6	Cloudy
Port Arthur	2	— 8	Clear
Parry Sound	6	4	Snow
Port Stanley	8	4	Cloudy
Buffalo	0	10	Cloudy
Toronto	10	8	Fair
Kingston	6	10	Fair
Ottawa	10	8	Cloudy
Montreal	10	10	Snow
Quebec	8	0	Snow
Father Point	14	2	Cloudy

Weather Notes.

The storm has passed away to the northward and the weather is fair and cold throughout the Dominion. A disturbance now in Texas is likely to move to the eastern middle states.

THE BOCHES HATE CLOSE QUARTERS WITH CANADIANS

Dominion Soldiers Completely Outfight the Enemy In Patrol Operations.

MANY RAIDS IN THE WEEK

Fun and Study Go on Amongst Canadians, Despite Continual Fighting.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Jan. 13.—By W. A. Willison, special correspondent of the Canadian Press.)—The week has closed with unusual infantry activity all along the Canadian lines. Since Wednesday's raid, when one of our parties captured two enemy machine guns and other materials, there have been five raids on this front, the Canadians having entered the enemy's lines twice, while the Boche has made three attempts against our positions. Early on Saturday morning, after we had broken into his lines and captured two prisoners, the Huns attacked in three parties of twenty men each. Two of these parties never succeeded in reaching our wire; the third penetrated our trenches, but was driven out again immediately, leaving a bodly wounded prisoner in our hands. The outstanding feature of the raid was the plendid defence put up by one of our sentry groups of three men, who gave the alarm and fought the attackers until only one remained unwounded.

Boches Dislike It.

Last night, after a short, sharp artillery barrage, we raided the enemy lines again, but the Boche had left his battered trenches and retired before our attack. Night after night our patrols have been all over No Man's Land, but the engagements have been few, the enemy retiring as a rule at first sight of our parties. One patroling party of one officer and three men, creeping within five yards of a much stronger enemy group, threw all their bombs into the party, retired into an empty shell hole and sent back for more. The uproar lasted for ten minutes, during which time our patrol could hear the cries of the enemy wounded.

Fun and Study.

While the line has been more active there is no cessation in either entertainments or concerts for the men, or in the educational work being carried on at the University of Vimy Ridge. After months of trial, in which every phase of activity contained in the work of the university has been tested, the institution is a pronounced success. Its work has been carried on both when the division is in and when it is out of the line.

During the last ten days three reading rooms have been opened, thanks to the generosity and co-operation of the Y. M. C. A., which has lent books and tents of their equipment. Applications from university under-graduates or other students for courses in advanced reading has been referred to the central committee in London, which represents the Canadian educational institutions, and the courses have been outlined. An indication of the active interest which the men are taking in the university, is given in the weekly report of one reading-room, which shows an average daily application of 96 for books and pamphlets. The total attendance is 400.

U. S. RETAILERS LAUNCH FAIR PRICE DRIVE

Washington, Jan. 14.—Approximately 75,000 food retailers have signed the food administration's pledge to give their customers fair and moderate prices, with no more than a reasonable profit above cost, in the first week of the drive to enroll 250,000 retailers of food commodities. Full returns have not been tabulated and it is thought as many as 50,000 retailers may have joined the movement.