

FLOODS SPREADING THROUGH EUROPE

Devastation in France and Hungary Continues—Hurricane Aggravates Situation.

Associated Press Despatch.
Paris, Dec. 31.—The floods in Central Europe continue to spread, notably in Eastern Hungary. There the River Theiss is 25 feet above normal level at Tokay, famous for its wines. The devastation by the waters is being added to by ice masses forming at bridges. These great masses of ice are being demolished by artillery shells, but with some damage to the bridges. Thousands upon thousands of persons driven from their homes, are flocking to cities which are above flood level.
While the situation in France thus far is merely threatening, the rivers, notwithstanding official optimism, continue to rise at a fast rate in the east, and northwards. It is now expected that the peak of the flood will not be reached before Sunday. This is due to the unseasonable weather. The thermometer in Paris remains at 50 degrees Fahrenheit, while in the south at many places it stands at more than 60 degrees.
The flood situation has been complicated by a recurrence of the hurricane which has put the half-restored telegraph system out of commission again. The Eiffel tower wireless aerial again was carried away by the wind, and in consequence of this, the actual state of affairs in the provinces are not fully known.
The situation in Belgium appears to be worse than in France. The Sambré and Meuse rivers have got out of their banks, and much damage has been done in the Charleroi, Namur and Dinant regions. The Belgian railroad services are disorganized.
Meagre despatches from Atlantic and Channel coast towns report a terrible northwesterly gale and mountainous seas. A number of ships are missing or overdue.
The ports are crowded with storm-bound craft. The situation is further complicated by a continuation of prevailing meteorological conditions, so that the new year likely will receive an inauspicious start.

RAIN STILL FALLS.
Associated Press Despatch.
Paris, Dec. 30.—Warm, heavy rains continue in Northern France, but little actual damage has been done in that territory, despite the threatening situation of the last two days. Reports from all places tonight say that the swollen conditions of the rivers and tributary streams make the outlook "very disquieting."
The flood appears to be just at its crest. It continues a little further it will be serious. The Seine must rise three feet yet before Paris itself is menaced, but the suburbs are already feeling the effects of the flood in the streets.

FLOOD 175,000 ACRES.
Budapest, Hungary, Dec. 30.—The flood damage in the Bekes district of Hungary is increasing with 175,000 acres of winter crop land under water and 217 well-stocked farms totally wrecked. The minister of agriculture has gone to the scene.
In some places, however, the waters are beginning to subside. Artillery is being used to break up the masses of ice retaining the floodwaters.

SPAIN IS FLOODED.
Madrid, Dec. 30.—All parts of Spain report torrential rains, accompanied by floods and inundations. No loss of life has been reported so far, but the material damage is great.

MERCER DOING WELL.
Associated Press Despatch.
Brussels, Belgium, Dec. 31.—Cardinal Mercier, recovering from an operation performed on Tuesday, passed a good night, and was able to sleep a few hours. A medical bulletin issued this morning says he was not able to take some liquid food without ill effect. His general condition though still extremely weak, shows improvement.

LEASE SOLD

To the Syndicate Millinery Shops of Canada, Ltd.

We Must Vacate By January 18th

Hudson's Fashion Shoppe, London's favorite apparel shop, closes its door forever on Jan. 18! We're forced to do it—our lease has been sold and we must get out! But in the meantime, because we must sell out every dollar's worth of goods in our store, London women are going to have a bargain treat such as they've never witnessed before. Everything in the store is ruthlessly slashed in price—nothing has escaped.

Startling Reductions Coats and Dresses
Commencing Saturday at 9 a.m.

The finest women's apparel in London—Suits, Coats and Dresses—available at prices never before possible at this time of the season! Be early—you'll be well repaid!

Hudson's Fashion Shop
203 Dundas Street
Opposite Capitol Theatre.

Bell Receives Dollar Salary

City Treasurer James S. Bell received his annual salary from the public utilities commission this morning, and without even a passing regret turned it over to the city. Mr. Bell received the sum of \$1 in cash, and gravely turned over a receipt to the P. U. C. for the amount in full.

AFRICA IS DEFIANT ON ASIATIC ISSUE

Masters in Own House, Minister Says—India Appeals to Britain.

Associated Press Despatch.
Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Dec. 31.—The government of South Africa is going to see that the authorities are masters in their own house, and are not going to be ruled from Calcutta or Delhi, or even from London, declared Mr. T. Boydell, minister of posts and telegraphs and of public works, in a speech here last night.
The minister further declared that the government was not going to be side-tracked by Dr. Abdurrahman, a prominent member of the Indian community of Cape Town, who is at the head of a deputation of Indians from South Africa now in India, urging the government of that country to use its influence to bring about a round table conference with the South African government on questions affecting the Indians in South Africa in connection with restrictions placed upon them by the government of this country. The deputation recently presented a petition to the viceroy of India urging recognition of the rights of the Indians in South Africa.
In an interview shortly after the arrival of the deputation in India, Dr. Abdurrahman said that if the government of India was unable to give aid to the Indians in South Africa they must rouse the self respect of the people of India who could, and must, force the hands of the British government to give it to the Indians in South Africa in the cruel and unjust persecution of the Indians in that country.

PROMISSORY NOTE CAUSES COURT SUIT

Elizabeth Leitch Asks \$921.20 From Roy and Jerry Dorman.

Elizabeth Leitch of Alisa Craig has issued a writ in county court against Roy and Jerry Dorman of the same place, claiming the sum of \$921.20. The claim is against the defendants as the makers of a promissory note made in favor of the plaintiff.
Of the total amount \$890 is the principal and \$121.20 is interest due. Ivey Elliott & Gillanders are appearing for the plaintiff.

BIBLE CLASS ELECTS OFFICERS.

Special to The Advertiser.
Thamesville, Dec. 30.—The adult organized Bible class of the Turin United church elected as officers: Teacher, Mrs. Alex. Richardson; assistant teachers, Mrs. John McAlpine and Mrs. William Gladstone; president, Arthur Woodton; vice-president, Miss Irene Dickson; secretary-treasurer, Harold Dickson; assistant secretary, Frank Cowan. A Membership and Lookout committee of ten members was appointed, and Miss Hazel Cowan and Miss Mabel Gladstone named to take charge of the East and West illustrated paper. Charles Richardson is to be in charge of collections.

JEWEL PRESENTED TO THOMAS ESSERY

Joint Installation of Officers Is Held by Ten Orange Lodges—Communism Is Flayed.

The most outstanding event of the year for local Orangemen was held last night when the officers of the nine lodges were jointly installed at Ulster hall. There was a large number in attendance and a splendid program of addresses featured the evening.
The installation ceremonies were in charge of the district master, Rev. R. D. Mess, who, after opening the lodge, handed over the installation to J. W. Whitby, P.D.M., who officiated, and was assisted by district officers, F. S. Neely, R. B. Fox, A. S. Johnson, J. M. Clouston, J. Worrall, J. T. Jones, P. Baker, W. Savage, and E. Langford.
Owing to the illness of Dean Tucker, who was to be the principal speaker of the evening, T. A. Willis gave an inspiring address on the "History of England."
Right Hon. Bro. J. W. Hibbert, past grand chaplain, also spoke. He commended Rev. Mess on his stand against the Communist party at a recent board of education meeting. "We have no room for the Communist party in the dominion of Canada," he said. "We do not interfere with men thinking but when they support the revolutionary idea and attempt to destroy the empire it is time for us to take a hand."
One of the features of the program was the presentation of the past master's jewel to T. A. Willis by E. T. Essery, dean of the Orange order in London. Mr. Essery also presented a gold watch and chain to Frank S. Neely, past district master. Both men made suitable replies.
On starting a new year last night the members were very optimistic and look forward to a banner year for 1926. During 1925 the order experienced great progress and the membership was greatly increased.
The masters of the various lodges and the lodges which they will lead during 1926 are as follows:
Aghull, 230, J. Fletcher; Byrne, 238, P. Jones; City, 532, William Savage; Hackett, 835, Edward Montclair; Beaver, 2101, James Moore; Nassau, 2102, Charles Hobbs; Langmore, 2525, John Esler; Berkhams, 2569, Dr. McCutcheon; and Pro Patria, 2551, H. M. Craig.

G. L. MINHNICK WILL BE BURIED TOMORROW

Was One of City's Oldest and Best Known Residents.
Tomorrow afternoon the funeral of George L. H. Minhnick, one of the city's oldest and best known residents, who died in a downtown store after a sudden heart attack on Wednesday afternoon, will be held from the family residence, 7 Dundas street, to Woodland cemetery.
The services, which will be private, will be conducted at the home at 2:30 p.m. by Rev. Gilbert Lightbourn.
Mr. Minhnick was in his 85th year. Born in Tavistock, Devonshire, England, he came to Canada 60 years ago with his wife, who predeceased him 12 years ago. Mr. Minhnick was with the Imperial Oil Company here for over 30 years, and was also stationed in Petrolia for a short time. He retired from business some 12 years ago, and made his home with his son, J. R. Minhnick. Another son, George, also a resident of London, survives.
Mr. Minhnick was a staunch Conservative in politics, and took an active interest in political matters for many years. He was one of London's oldest citizens, and was known to hundreds of Londoners, who admired his unfailing cheerfulness and good humor. Mr. Minhnick was a member of Corinthian Masonic lodge.

EAST END CURLERS COMMENCE TOMORROW

Official Opening of London Curling Club Will Be Held at 9:30 a.m.

The official opening of the London curling club will be held New Year's Day at 9:30 a.m. Rev. G. S. Miller, chaplain of the club, and pastor of the Beecher United church, will conduct the devotional exercises in connection with the opening ceremony.
Over sixty names of people desiring to curl have been handed in to the secretary, and as the rink will accommodate only 48 persons at one time, the rule will be "first come, first served."
The officers of the club are: J. McCarty Moore, president; Colin Currie, secretary-treasurer; and J. A. Wright, club manager.

RUMORS OF ERUPTION AT MT. MCKINLEY DENIED

Associated Press Despatch.
Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 31.—Denial of reports that Mount McKinley, about 150 miles north of here, had erupted, was voiced by Henry P. Karstens, superintendent of McKinley National park, in a statement here tonight. "I have made a trip of investigation and find no evidence of disturbance of any description," he declared. "I found no smoke or steam and see no possibility of an eruption. The mountain is solid rock and ice."
"Black clouds are a common occurrence in that vicinity and are of no special significance. The weather in the park is calm and cold. There is no indication of any impending storms locally."

BANK CLEARINGS INCREASE.

Bank clearings for the past week totalled \$2,178,757. This compares favorably with the clearings for the same week in 1924, which totalled \$1,750,152. This shows a substantial increase over last year, amounting to nearly half a million dollars, the exact amount being \$428,605.

Million Threaten To Quit If Rabbi Wise Is Retained

Associated Press Despatch.
New York, Dec. 31.—Unless the resignation of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, as chairman of the United Palestine appeal, is accepted by the executive board, the support of 1,000,000 orthodox Jews will be withdrawn, according to resolutions adopted last night at a meeting of orthodox rabbis and laymen.
While the meeting was in progress and futile efforts were being made to conciliate those in attendance, Dr. Wise issued a statement denying that he had praised the teachings of Jesus, as had been reported.
The executive board of the appeal will meet on Sunday next to act on Dr. Wise's offer to resign.
While he denied the charge in his sermon on Dec. 20 he had praised Christ as a teacher, Dr. Wise last night reaffirmed his conviction that Christ was a historic person—a man, not a God—and a Jew.

CHURCH NEWS

NEW ST. JAMES' SUPPER.
The auditorium of New St. James' Presbyterian church was the scene of a happy gathering recently when the children of the Sunday school and their friends held their annual supper and entertainment. After a delicious supper was served by a committee of ladies under the leadership of Mrs. Thomas Leckie, an interesting program was listened to. Fifty-one prizes for regular attendance at church service and Sunday school during the year were presented by W. D. Beamer and E. M. Seopes.

The program, which was arranged by Miss Jessie Malloch, consisted of choruses by the school and by several young ladies' classes; recitations by Marjorie Davenport and Margaret Walker; a solo by Percy King; a band number by Ivan Seabrook, while a song by Charlie Bingham and Betty Brown brought rounds of applause.
Andrew Robson was chairman, and the close of the entertainment was assisted by Rev. James MacKay, who introduced Santa Claus to the audience. This role was ably impersonated by Russell Walde, who distributed gifts to all.
The Sabbath school orchestra, under the leadership of Leslie Gray and Mrs. Andrew Robson, rendered several much appreciated selections during the program.
CRONYN PRIMARY PARTY.
The children of the primary department and foot roll of Cronyn Memorial Anglican Sunday school enjoyed a delightful Christmas party last night. A wonderful supper was served at tables prettily decorated with holly, crepe paper, balloons and streamers, and the children were colored paper caps. Following the supper a splendid program, consisting of recitations, readings and songs, was given by the children, and the pastor, Rev. Quintin Warner, officiated as chairman. Later in the evening Santa Claus arrived and each pupil picked out a present from his bag. The hall was prettily arranged with a Christmas tree and other suitable decorations for the occasion. The party was given by the mothers' club of the church, of which Mrs. H. C. Legg is the president. About 110 mothers and children attended the affair.

ST. GEORGE'S CONCERT.
The members of the Sunday school of St. George's Presbyterian church held their annual Christmas tree and entertainment last evening. The program included a piano duet by Helen and Margaret Wallace; a chorus, Tripping, by the school; cantata, Christmas Fairies, by the children; marching song, Salute to the Flag, by the school; recitation by Janet Schaefer and little Marion Dixon; dialogue, Sunshine Society, by the older pupils, and a very pretty drill, Star Rays, was a feature of the program, given by ten girls.
The superintendent of the school, Isaac Saul, was the chairman and Rev. Hardie gave the address of the evening. At the close of the event Santa Claus distributed bags of candy, nuts and oranges to the pupils from a beautiful Christmas tree, which was the ornament of the church, was in charge of the program.

KNOX ENTERTAINMENT.
A very successful Christmas entertainment was given in the schoolroom of Knox United church recently. William Waddell was the chairman of the program, which included the welcome greeting by Tom Parker; a recitation by Mrs. Davis Parker and Paul Kemp; piano solos by Walter Blakely, Helen Haylock and W. W. Wyeth, and a "cello selection by G. Quantz, accompanied by his father, E. G. Quantz.

CHRIST CHURCH S. S.
The annual Christmas tree and entertainment of Christ church Sunday school was held recently in the schoolroom. An interesting program was given, including reading by Miss Gwen Harris, "cello solo by Master John Ray, and a dialogue by pupils of the various classes. Miss Kathleen Gunne, who has been in charge of the Junior school for fifteen years, was presented with a table lamp by the teachers and officers of the Sunday school as she is severing her connection with the school. Miss Jennie Thomas made the presentation. The children were given a present from the tree, and oranges and candy were distributed to them as they went home. Canon C. R. Gunne and Superintendent Charles Milligan were in charge.

PIPHANY CONCERT.

There was a large attendance at the Christmas entertainment of the Sunday school of the Church of the Epiphany held recently. Mr. Fysh was the chairman during the program and the following took part: Annie Brown, Margaret Evison, Gladys Birchell, Florence Young, Anne Evison, T. Speckall, Gladys Ashenden, and Miss Taylor. Miss Helen Johnston was the organist.

Each child was given a gift after which special prizes for general proficiency in the Sunday school work were awarded to Allison Wright, Lorraine Wright, Hilda Valle, Alice Bear, Doris Fumagalli and Theodora. A vote of thanks was tendered Joseph

PREMIER OF ALBERTA SEEKING RATE BASIS

Brownlee Coming East For Conference on Coal Situation.
Canadian Press Despatch.
Edmonton, Dec. 30.—Better freight rates on Alberta coal shipments to Ontario points will be discussed by Premier J. E. Brownlee as one of the items of the program for his eastern trip, on which he leaves Thursday morning.

He will meet in Toronto with a committee representing the Ontario government, the Canadian Manufacturers Association, the board of trade and the United Farmers, and will talk over with that committee the possibility of working out a more satisfactory permanent rate basis, with some plan of joint effort in urging it upon the Ottawa authorities.

ACCEPT INVITATION

Tillsonburg Lions Coming to London Booster Night on Jan. 8.
Special to The Advertiser.
Tillsonburg, Dec. 30.—The regular dinner of the Lions club was held last evening. Special music was rendered by the Ronnie Hart orchestra of London. Votes of thanks were extended to the board of trade, town council and all others who contributed to the successful Christmas tree and delivering of hampers.

PARKHILL W. C. T. U.
Parkhill, Dec. 30.—The annual medal contest which was held by the Parkhill W. C. T. U. in the town hall on Friday night was one of the most successful held for some years. The hall was crowded and the efforts of the different contestants brought well merited applause from the appreciative audience.

The round contributed by the high school boys, the folk dance by the high school girls and one of the most successful male quartet added much to the enjoyment of the evening's program.

HENERY AWARDED \$684 WITH COSTS

Judge Finds Plaintiff Not Party to Any Fraudulent Misrepresentation.

William J. Henery was awarded \$684.50 with costs fixed at \$70 in his suit against Garfield Davis for that amount, according to a decision handed down today by His Honor County Judge Talbot Macbeth.
In summing up his reasons for deciding in the plaintiff's favor, Judge Macbeth said:
"There being no evidence that the plaintiff was a party to the alleged fraudulent misrepresentation, the counter-claim against the plaintiff and H. C. Tull is dismissed without costs and without prejudice against any proceedings which may be taken against Tull by the defendant."
Henery sued Davis in county court at the December sittings to recover on a mortgage for \$500 he had on Davis' farm. The sum of \$184.50 interest also was asked.
Davis entered a counter-claim against Henery, alleging fraudulent misrepresentation, claiming that Tull and Henery had told him that certain bonds and gold mine stock were good security when he accepted them as "boot" on the deal.
At the time of the trial the judge made the following comment:
"I don't think this man has any right to a counter-claim. Most of these people will accept anything from a broken down horse to stock in a Brazilian diamond mine, as long as it is 'boot,' and they think they are getting something for nothing."
Winnett, Moorehead & Neely handled the action for the plaintiff, with Gladman & Stanbury appearing for Davis.

ST. GEORGE'S SENIOR S. S.
A happy event took place at St. George's Anglican church parish hall last night when the senior members of the Sunday school held their Christmas entertainment. The event opened with a supper at 6 o'clock and a delightful program followed. E. A. Andrews, superintendent of the school, was the chairman and the Sunday school orchestra furnished the music during the evening.

The program included songs by the school and by several young ladies' classes; recitations by Marjorie Davenport and Margaret Walker; a solo by Percy King; a band number by Ivan Seabrook, while a song by Charlie Bingham and Betty Brown brought rounds of applause.
Andrew Robson was chairman, and the close of the entertainment was assisted by Rev. James MacKay, who introduced Santa Claus to the audience. This role was ably impersonated by Russell Walde, who distributed gifts to all.
The Sabbath school orchestra, under the leadership of Leslie Gray and Mrs. Andrew Robson, rendered several much appreciated selections during the program.

LONDON PREPARES FOR BIG FROLIC

Restaurants and Dance Halls Expect Record Crowds Tonight.

Londoners are preparing to usher in the new year tonight at midnight to the time-honored accompaniment of factory whistles, festive parties and the ear-splitting sounds of kazooks, tin whistles and horns.
For some days proprietors of city restaurants have been turning down applications for reservations for the annual midnight supper parties, and it is certain that country clubs in the surrounding district will be jammed with members and guests when the clock swings around to the midnight hour.
Dance hall proprietors are preparing for record crowds, and if conversations on downtown streets indicate that the every man, woman and child in the city is planning some kind of party.
The only way in which this year's celebration will differ from that of bygone days will be in the ever-lessening supply of liquid refreshment, which was once considered essential to the correct welcoming of the new year.
Tomorrow skating will be a favored sport, followed by curling, skiing, snowshoeing and tobogganing on the university hill.

MARTIN WILL ADDRESS YOUNG FARMERS HERE

Convention To Be Held in Department of Agriculture Office.

Hon. John S. Martin, minister of agriculture for the province of Ontario, will be the chief speaker at a two-day convention of junior farmers' and women's institute members to be held here on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 13 and 14.
The delegates to this convention will attend the daily show being held here at the same time.
The junior farmers' and institute members will meet in the offices of the department of agriculture on the market square.

WATERWAYS HEAD MAY HAVE REMEDY

Fleming to Voice Strong Opposition to Chicago Steal at Convention.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Windsor, Dec. 30.—Strong opposition to the Chicago water steal will be voiced by O. E. Fleming, K.C., president of the Canadian Deep Waterways Association, at the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence tidewater conference, to be held in St. Paul on Jan. 5 and 6. Mr. Fleming has been invited to represent the organization that he has headed for several years.
He is scheduled to speak on the second day of the convention. In his address it is believed that he will spend considerable time discussing the situation brought about by Chicago, and he may propose a remedy that has not been put forward up to the present.

PREACHER IN SNOWBANK MAY LEAD TO LEGAL FIGHT

Canadian Press Despatch.
Kingston, Dec. 30.—An official statement issued this morning on behalf of the Continuing Presbyterian church, conducted service in St. John's church, Pittsburgh, Sunday morning last, following which a fracas occurred, during which Rev. D. T. Lancaster, minister of the church, was carried from the altar and deposited in the snow, states that if Mr. Lancaster had not come to the altar and given orders, which the Presbyterians present felt he had no right to give, there would have been no trouble. The Presbyterians who are interested have consulted their solicitors and the statement says that if Mr. Lancaster takes action for assault a legal battle will follow.

With London's Travellers

News of Interest About Travellers and Their City Organizations.

George W. Price.
Photo by Westlake.
To be the first member in this city to sign the application for charter to the local council of the United Commercial Travellers' Association, when it was first organized four years ago, is the unique distinction held by George W. Price, one of the most striking personalities of the city's drummer population.
Not only is Mr. Price an active devotee to the interests of this association, but he is also a member of the Toronto Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada and for a number of years has been a tireless worker in the interests of the Ontario association.
He has held numerous offices in various travellers' organizations, and in 1921 was unanimously elected as the first past senior councillor of the local council of the U. C. T. A. Two years ago he was honored by the travellers of this city with his appointment to the order's grand executive council of Ontario and Quebec, on which committee he served as the first grand chaplain.

Last year his ability and executive capacity were further recognized with his election to the chairmanship of the high schools of that city, and on his graduation from the collegiate institute he took up telegraphy, a work in which he was especially interested, and for some nine years he was employed with the Canadian Pacific Railway as telegrapher in various stations throughout Canada and the United States.

In 1901, Mr. Price set up in the brokerage business for himself at Woodstock, and for more than ten years he has been actively engaged in that time he was invited by the Imperial Tobacco Company of Montreal to join their sales staff, and for ten years he has been actively connected with that firm. He covered the Western Ontario territory with his headquarters in Toronto for several years.

In union with many other travellers, however, Mr. Price realized the value of making his headquarters in the center of his business, and gave them a permanent residence in London some years ago.
Since coming to the city he has made his presence greatly felt among his travelling associates. Mr. Price is everywhere regarded as a born salesman, and is never more at home than when putting over a "deal." Personality and pep are a drummer's "stock-in-trade," and according to local travellers, he has abundance of both.

Lauda Travelling Men.
"There is no class of men better to work with than the commercial salesman," stated Mr. Price. "Unquestionably, their experience on the road broadens their views and gives them a keen insight into the needs of the other fellow's viewpoint. Consequently there is no one more easy to approach and deal with."

Generally speaking, a salesman today is looked upon by the trade which he calls on as a very reliable source of information, and many ideas of great worth to a merchant are collected and passed along in his daily routine.
"I feel well repaid," continued Mr. Price, "by the splendid friendships which I have formed, for anything which I may have done for our local organization, The U. C. T. A. has done much towards bringing together the members of the various travellers' associations in the city. Since its inception the salesmen have taken a greater interest in the affairs of the city, and as the order grows it will undoubtedly have its influence felt all over the country."

A special service for the commercial travellers of the city will be held in the Metropolitan United church on Sunday evening, Rev. Bruce Hunter will deliver a sermon in keeping with the occasion, which will prove of particular interest to the members of the travelling fraternity.

The majority of London's travellers have spent the last two weeks at home, and as they will be starting out on their regular trips the following day, the service comes at a most opportune time.

Both the U. C. T. and the O. C. T. A. are co-operating to have a given number of representatives at the annual convention, and a hearty invitation is extended to all commercial travellers in the district, whether belonging to these associations or not.

The local U. C. T. council has appointed a strong committee, under the leadership of Fred St. Lawrence, to take charge of their coming membership drive. The London council, with a membership of over 300, is the largest in Eastern Canada, and at present time, although Toronto and Hamilton are out after the honor.

London commercial travellers are already talking of the past year's hope to take in "the city's" centennial next August. They are planning to arrange a monster picnic to be featured with a huge parade. It is their intention to give the centennial committee considerable help, and if these drummers wake up—look out! Their last big day at Port Stanley proved one of the most successful events ever held at a popular resort.

COAL COMPANIES IN HUGE MERGER

Canada Affected But Little as Several Companies Join Hands.

Associated Press Despatch.
New York, Dec. 30.—Formation of the North American Coal corporation for the purpose of combining the Pittsburgh Terminal corporation, the Cleveland and Western Coal and other large properties, some of which are in Canada, was reported under way here today.
Frank E. Taplin, president of the Pittsburgh and West Virginia railway, and also of the Cleveland and Western Coal company, is expected to head the new company, which will have a producing and selling capacity of 15,000,000 tons annually, and represent the first important merger in the bituminous industry in many years.
Other coal properties which may be added to the new corporation include those of the Powhatan Mining company, Standard Coal and Coke company, and Island Creek Coal company, in addition to the properties of the Indiana Coal and Dock company, Duluth; United Coal and Dock company, Milwaukee; Canada Coal company, Limited, with docks at St. John's, and Little Current, and Michipicoten Coal company, Ontario.

The formation of the North American Coal corporation for the purpose of combining the Pittsburgh Terminal corporation, the Cleveland and Western Coal companies, which is reported underway, will have little bearing on the coal situation in Canada, as all the bituminous mining companies are in strained financial circumstances due to their high overhead and have only been mining 50 per cent of their capacity.

During the war when coal prices boomed they went ahead, but since the deflation and because their miners are non-union men and have been paid 100 per cent more than the union wage the companies have felt the strain and the need of a merger.

Two Canadian coal companies mentioned as being participants in the merger are the Canada Coal company and the Michipicoten Coal company.

News Briefs

Washington.—Traffic tangles took a new twist when eighty-three pedestrians were summoned by police for walking across the street in the face of a stop.

SCRUBWOMAN PIANIST.
Galesburg, Ill.—For many years coeds at Knox college music conservatory used to steal into a music room to listen to one of the charwomen play. Lena Fahstad, used her time on the scrubbing floors at the piano. She died yesterday, never having realized the ambition of her youth to become a concert pianist.

PLAYS UNRECOGNIZABLE.
Chicago.—If William Shakespeare happened to drop in at one of his own productions these days he would probably say: "Who in Sam Hill wrote that?" Prof. Hazleton Spencer of Washington state college yesterday told the modern Language Association of America that Shakespeare's plays had been so done over that their author would hardly recognize them.

SIKI LEAVES \$600.
New York.—Battling Siki, Senegalese fighter, who once held the world's light heavyweight championship, and who was murdered in a fight night ago, left an estate valued at \$600.

KEPT A MAN BUSY.
New York.—"Matters have come to such a pass that a man must call his home every day, and wonder if he is whether his family has been murdered or robbed," said Judge Nott, sentencing eight robbers to an aggregate of 135 years penal servitude.

MAY CURE LEPROSY.
Rochester, N. Y.—Nearly half the cases of leprosy which have not passed the six months' stage are cured by the use of chaulmoigric oil, according to Dr. Roger Adams of the University of Illinois.

MAY LIVE 200 YEARS.
New York.—Babies born in 2,000 A.D. may expect to live 200 years in the view of Professor Horatio M. Bryn Mawr, as expressed to the American Sociological Society. Science, he thinks, will accelerate the increasing average length of life.

New York.—Forecast for tonight: Wet or dry.

REVOLUTION PLOT IS UNCOVERED IN GREECE

Extensive Communist Propaganda Scheme Discovered in Army and Navy.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, Dec. 30.—The Greek government has proof of extensive communist propaganda in the army and navy and a plot for revolution in the spring. The Athens correspondent of the Westminster Gazette states. The communists are co-operating with Macedonian agitators and foreign political agents.

Three former premiers—Michalakopoulos, Kafandaridis and Papanastasiou—the correspondent adds, have been deprived of citizenship, mainly because of their role in the revolution in Greece.

NEXT YEAR IS TIC'R YEAR, GOOD OMEN JAPS DECLARE

By RUSSELL KENNEDY.
Tokio, Dec. 30.—It is slightly more confidently than a year ago that Japan now faces the approach of the new year. Nineteen twenty-six is the year of the tiger, which the superstitious believe is a good omen, though it is a hard and times are still the dominant cry, and a note of cautious retrenchment is loudly sounded from all responsible quarters.

huge parade. It is their intention to give the centennial committee considerable help, and if these drummers wake up—look out! Their last big day at Port Stanley proved one of the most successful events ever held at a popular resort.