

## COME NOW READY TO SELL STREET RAILWAY

### U. S. Flier Reported To Be Lost In Northern Seas

#### CITY AND COMPANY OPEN NEGOTIATION ON RAILWAY PRICE

President Currie States Definitely That He Is Ready To Arrange Sale of London Street Railway—"I Am Here For That Purpose."

#### MAYOR REPRESENTS CITY IN CONFERENCE

Currie Says Price Will Be Based On Actual Property Values, With No Allowance Demanded For Goodwill—New Agreement If Purchase Fails.

Actual negotiations for the possible purchase of the London Street Railway Corporation are in progress this afternoon, Mayor George Wenige representing the city council with authorization to bring back the company's price.

Charles Currie, street railway president, informed The Advertiser definitely at noon today, following a lengthy conference of company officials, that he was in the city for that specific purpose—to talk purchase with the city's representatives.

#### ARBITRATION OR AGREEMENT.

Before nightfall it should be decided whether the people are going to escape arbitration costs, in the event of a purchase, or whether a reasonable price is going to be available for consideration at the next municipal election.

"As I stated to the mayor during my recent visit, I am here to talk purchase with the city," the president stated to The Advertiser. "I said at that time that I would be back prepared to offer a proposition. That was reported in your paper and was correct. I am here today for that purpose."

#### Conference This Morning.

Attending in the city during the night, the president conferred throughout the morning with Richard G. Ivey, vice-president, General Manager C. B. King, Secretary Tait, and Harry Humston, superintendent. As would be anticipated, he declined to even hint at the company's probable offer before his session with Mayor Wenige this afternoon.

The president and vice-president submitted the interesting explanation at noon, however, that the figure mentioned by Ald. John Green at a recent session of the city council—\$1,250,000—and supposed to have been the company's offer before the members of the Ontario cabinet, was in fact, Sir Adam Beck's own valuation of the street railway holdings.

Explanation as to what actually transpired last spring when Premier Ferguson received the company representatives and Sir Adam Beck's case, was forthcoming from Vice-President Ivey, who related that Sir Adam had asked if they would accept that figure. But no acceptance was given and at no time was Sir Adam Beck or anyone else authorized to come back to the city council with a price.

It is surmised that the \$1,425,000 figure was arrived at by taking the hydro valuation of 1913, about \$1,300,000 and adding to it the increased valuation of improvements, said by the company to be about \$200,000, minus depreciation, placed by the company at about \$35,000 per annum.

**\$1,000,000 Seems Unlikely.**  
From President Currie's attitude at noon there seems little hope that Mayor Wenige is going to come back to the council with a \$1,000,000 proposition, as has been anticipated. While he declined to comment upon the possibility that the Beck figure of \$1,425,000 might be lowered, the president did scout the \$1,000,000 possibility.

The company authorities submit also that the Bunnell report never set a \$900,000 valuation upon the road. Mr. Ivey recalled that the sum of \$2,600,000 was mentioned, but claimed that the \$900,000 proposal had its origin from some person on the public platform. President Currie stated that he did not know just what Bunnell had recommended.

While ready and willing to reach an agreement with the city as to price by means of arbitration, the company is more inclined to favor arbitration proceedings. President Currie stated that cost of such arbitrations, in accordance with bylaws, would be as nothing when compared with the Toronto costs. In all, the proceedings should be concluded within 60 days, probably less.

#### Base Price on Actual Value.

"We do not want to get anything from the people that is not due us," the president stated. "We ask a fair price. We ask only the true value of our road. What is its present value, the roadbed, overhead construction, paving allowances, rail, rolling stock, buildings, etc.? That is the question."

"We want nothing for good will. Sir Adam Beck tried to make out before the Ontario cabinet that we were trying to capitalize on the five-year fare, but such was not the truth. We are not trying to capitalize on that. We merely ask what the road is worth, and if the city council thinks that our price is too excessive to send to the people, we are more than willing to arbitrate. Let valuations be brought in and the cost will not be very much, and the company must stand its share."

Should negotiations with the council fail, either by arbitration or otherwise and no purchase is made before March 8, 1925, and the company's franchise automatically extends over to 1930, a new agreement will be presented.

#### The Puzzle Since 1919

1919.

Hydro valuations, under the direction of Sir Adam Beck, placed a valuation of more than \$1,300,000 on the road. The street railway claims that it did not agree to this or any other price. Nothing transpired.

1922.

Engineer Bunnell brought in a maximum price of \$900,000 and with estimated costs of rehabilitation, bringing the grand total for initial expenditure to \$2,600,000, with provision for 5-cent fare. Sir Adam Beck had authorization to bring in a price from the company. Sir Adam Beck reduced the fare to 4 cents in public addresses during the campaign. The ratemakers, by a majority of about 400, rejected the proposed purchase under these conditions.

1923.

Sir Adam Beck was authorized to secure a purchase price from the company, and submitted to the city council the sum of \$1,400,000. This price was since repudiated by the company officials. In the meanwhile the council, under Mayor Wenige, considered the price far too excessive to even send to the people.

1924.

Preliminary negotiations were held before the members of the Ontario cabinet. Sir Adam Beck threatened legislation in the legislature to reduce the 5-cent fare to seven and nine tickets for 25 cents.

This legislation was enacted at the recent session of the House, and becomes effective March 8, 1925.

Company authorities acknowledged today that the sum of \$1,425,000 had been mentioned at the cabinet meeting, but insist that Sir Adam brought in the price, and they never agreed to it, then or since.

#### TIRES ARE PUNCTURED FROM BROKEN BOTTLE

#### Warrant Is Therefore Issued For Arrest of James Fisher.

Last Sunday night some person threw a bottle on the pavement at Horton and Richmond streets, which proved to be expensive for several motorists, who had tires on their cars punctured. Motorcycle Officers Nutty and Leach proceeded to the spot, and from information received summoned Wm. Burton and James Fisher to court. Burton appeared this morning and declared Fisher had thrown the bottle on the street. His evidence was corroborated by another witness, who declared "Fisher was the man that threw the bottle, and it was sick done."

The case against Burton was dismissed, while Fisher failed to make an appearance. His case was adjourned till tomorrow, and if he does not appear, a warrant for his arrest will be issued, the magistrate intimated.



LATE HERBERT MCCLURE.  
Toronto music teacher, who was shot dead in broad daylight on a busy thoroughfare recently by W. A. Steadman. A jury has just found Steadman "not guilty" of murder, claiming him insane.

#### SHAREHOLDERS MUST PAY TODAY

Bailiffs Will Be Used From Now On, Says Home Bank Liquidator.

Special to The Advertiser.

Toronto, April 1.—This is a day of reckoning for Home Bank shareholders. It is the last day of execution which was granted by the court to all shareholders of the bank who did not dispute their liability. Immediate action will now be taken against those who have failed to take advantage of the period of grace allowed. Numerous last-minute payments are being made throughout the day.

"We are going after them in dead earnest," J. E. Weldon, co-liquidator of the bank, told The Advertiser today. "They were granted a generous stay of procedure. Now they must pay the price."

Mr. Weldon went on to explain that the court had registered a judgment against the shareholders, and they had entered them as contributors, and granted a stay of proceedings until today. Those who had not fulfilled their obligations were now liable for action in the same way as ordinary debtors would be.

"It is a case for the sheriff and the bailiffs from now on," Mr. Weldon declared. "And the ones who suffer have only themselves to blame."

He pointed out in this connection that from time on the owners of Home Bank shares will not only be subject to double liability, but in addition they will be forced to face interest charges and full costs. Double liability did not mean that double the face value of the stock must be paid in.

"There are quite a few persons who seem to have the wrong idea about this," he said. "This morning two women have remitted twice as much as they should. All they are liable for is enough money to cover the face value of their stock. The double idea comes in that they have already paid out the purchase value of their holdings, and now they must put up a sum equal to the face value."

#### Handsomeness Prizes Await Forest Essay Winners

Hon. Charles Stewart Will Give Silver Cup to Winning School.

The boys and girls who are writing essays on "Save the Forest Week" in the competition which The Advertiser is conducting in co-operation with the minister of the interior have a chance of winning some very fine prizes.

As first prize in The Advertiser's contest is the new type, made by the Marconi Company, and it is supplemented by numerous cash prizes.

As the grand prize for the best essay in Canada the department of the interior is giving a Marconiphone III, a splendid new set just put on the market and representing the last word in engineering skill.

The Advertiser has also received word from Ottawa that Hon. Charles Stewart, minister of the interior, will present a handsome cup to the school last attended by the winner of the grand prize.

The competition is open to all Advertiser readers under sixteen years of age. Essays must reach The Advertiser office by midnight on Saturday. Each essay must be not more than five hundred words in length and must be accompanied by the writer's certificate of age, signed by parent, clergyman or school teacher.

#### U. S. FLIER ON WORLD ROUND TRIP IS MISSING

Fishing Boats Search For Major Martin in Stormy Northern Seas.

#### NO TRACE FOUND BUT ONE OBSTACLE

Intrepid Airman Left Chignik Yesterday in Great Snow Blizzard.

Associated Press Despatch.

Seattle, Wash., May 1.—Radio advices received at 5 a.m. today from the Alaskan peninsula stated no trace has been found of Major Frederick L. Martin in the Biplane, which left Chignik yesterday for Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island. Fishing boats are searching for the missing plane.

False Pass, Unimak Island, May 1.—(By wireless from Bremerton, for the safety of Frederick L. Martin, commanding a U. S. army squadron encircling the globe, who left Chignik, Alaska at 11:10 for Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island, and who was not reported passing any point up to 6:00 o'clock tonight, (Wednesday).)

#### WORST STORM KNOWN.

False Pass, May 1.—Residents at the small cannery station here located on the south eastern point of Unimak Island, near Ikatun Bay have just passed through the worst five days ever known for this period of the year. The North Pacific ocean has been lashed by terrific gales, the wind frequently reaching a velocity of 100 miles an hour. The air at the wireless station has been filled all day with snow blown from the mountainsides and neighboring peaks.

The residents all believed that a mistake was made attempting the 400-mile flight from Chignik to Dutch Harbor during the gale.

#### DOUGLASS FULL OF PRUNES, ALD. G. DRAKE REPEATS

Ald. Gordon Drake revives his contention of 1923, to wit, that "Ald. Douglass is full of prunes."

"He says that I voted for the annexed case," Ald. Drake explained today. "He's full of prunes. I never voted for it during the entire nine years that it has been tossed about in the city council. If the city hall records show that I did, they are wrong."

#### FIRE LET OUT.

Fires in the city hall were out this morning for the first time since early in October, according to Jack McNamara, sergeant-at-arms. Little complaint was registered by the employees, and it is likely the supply of fuel on hand will be reserved for next year.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS REPUTATION FOR HUMOR

Members of the board of works met until after 6 o'clock yesterday. The majority of them came back as spectators at the finance committee later in the evening, flocking about the board.

"What are you fellows doing here anyhow?" Ald. Drake asked Ald. Allan Towne.

"Tuesday night we go to Loew's and on Wednesday night we drop in here," was the response from the chairman of the finance committee. "There is some humor here you know."

#### LONDON ENGINE SUPPLY CO. FILES BANKRUPTCY PAPER

The London Engine and Supply Company have filed papers in bankruptcy in the office of Edmund Weld, official receiver, at the court house.

The Bank of Montreal, listed as the main creditor, has put in a request that F. W. Raymond be appointed custodian.

#### COURT OPENS IN JUNE

Sheriff Graham has posted notice in the court house stating that the county court general sessions will be held on June 3. No cases have yet been set down for trial in the office of clerk of the court Edmund Weld.

#### EAST END IS SAID TO BE CHOICE FOR COLLEGIATE

City Treasurer Announces City Is Able To Finance One School.

#### EAST LONDON LOCATION IS REPORTED TO BE FAVORITE IN CIVIC CIRCLES.

From their present attitude it seems evident that the majority of the members of the city council will refuse to support the "one high school" project, unless they have definite assurance from the board of education that the new structure will be constructed in East London.

It is generally conceded that a majority of the councillors will favor the construction of one school during 1924, particularly in view of the assurance from the city treasurer that the carrying charges for the year can be met by the school board, with no effect on the tax rate as an overdraft.

But the chief and practically only obstacle in the way of progress now is, and is generally acknowledged, is the question of location, and Mayor George Wenige was outspoken last night when he stated that the choice of location would influence his vote.

#### May Disagree.

While members of the council have not been so bold in their announcements, perhaps, it is safely gathered that their views are the same as the mayor's in one respect—that location would influence their vote—although they may disagree with him as to the feasibility of the location.

The point is stressed by members of the council that South London has a branch high school, such as it may be, while the East London collegiate is an East London building in name only, not in location, as it is but half a block removed from the central collegiate.

The opinion was freely expressed by city officials today that East London will be the choice of the council and more than likely of the school board, although they are unwilling to comment upon the advisability of the move.

#### Finance One School.

City Treasurer James Bell gave positive final assurance today that the board of education would be able to finance the contemplated \$275,000 debt issue, in view of the conclusion that it would not be imperative to issue the debentures before next September.

This money will be obtainable from the school board surplus of 1923, the treasurer stated definitely, adding that the returns from the payment of fees for county pupils at the local high schools have exceeded all original expectations, leaving the school board in better shape financially than was suspected when the trustees first opened negotiations with the mayor and aldermen.

"It would not be necessary to issue the debentures before September," the treasurer stated. "I do not believe that the school board contemplates a start before that time, even if the council grants the request for one school. Carrying charges for the remainder of the year would run about \$3,000 or \$4,000."

#### SEVENTY-FIVE WORKERS TAKEN ON BY RAILWAY

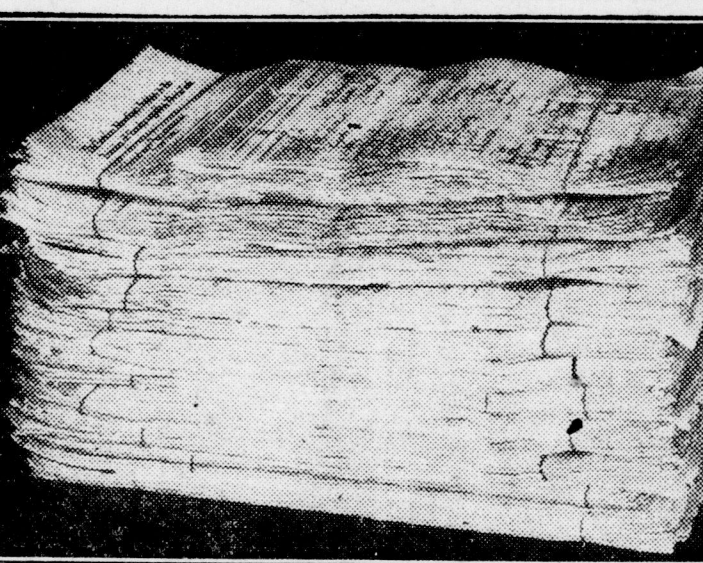
New Gangs Will Assist in Clearing Tracks of the C. N. R.

Seventy-five additional men to the maintenance of way men on the C. N. R. commenced work this morning while several gang foremen were also taken on.

The men will assist in the clearing of the tracks while the laying of rail is now under construction between this point and Glenora. The work here is being rapidly proceeded with and will be completed inside of two weeks.

The remaining 50 men were placed at work on the eastern lines.

#### The Petition For Coal



OVER 27,000 NAMES GO TO OTTAWA.

The petition to the Premier of Canada which The Advertiser introduced asking for action in the Alberta coal situation has been forwarded to Ottawa for presentation in the House of Commons. The picture above shows the pile of signed sheets. The petition has approximately 27,800 signatures, of which 20,400 are from Ontario and 7,400 from Alberta. The campaign in Alberta was conducted chiefly by T. S. Eranson, secretary-treasurer of the Drumheller Board of Trade. The 27,800 signatures represent over 300 points in Ontario and nearly 200 in Alberta. If all the sheets of the petition were fastened together the signatures would stretch a quarter of a mile.

#### IF ANTIS ARE SUPPORTED CHURCH UNION IS KILLED



FIRE CHIEF JOHN AITKEN.

who came under the mayor's fire again last night through a charge that he exercised personal spleen when he refused to hire a son of Deputy Chief John Scott.

#### PLANS ARE MATURING FOR ORIENTAL EVENT

London Ceremonies Planning Big Commemorial On May 24.

With only a few weeks remaining before the Orientals from all over Canada and the United States invade London on the morning of the 24th 10,000 strong, all committees in charge of preparations are speeding things up and expect to have the final plans complete by the end of the week.

Special badges will be issued to all the visiting Orientals, while the freedom of the city will be extended to them by Mayor Wenige.

In the evening the 150 candidates will receive their degree at the hands of the St. Catharines degree team, who are coming to London.

#### CROWD ATTENDS.

Canadian Press Despatch.  
Ottawa, May 1.—The second day's session of the House of Commons. Please See Page 2, Column 4.

#### Council Session Held Last Night

Authorized the addition of ten men to the fire department.

Fresh charges were levelled at Fire Chief Aitken by Mayor Wenige.

Charges of interference were levelled at the mayor's door by Ald. Douglass.

The school board was told to decide the high school location.

Banking credit was extended to the London & Port Stanley Railway commissioners.

Second demand for summer season to the lake May 1 was registered.

Dunlop Rubber Company received contract for 1,000 feet of hose.

#### SAYS HE IS RIGHT ON FIRE DEPT. DISPUTE

Mayor Denies Charge of Ald. Douglass That He Has Interfered.

#### ALREADY A MEMBER

Wenige Declares That Deputy Chief Scott's Son Has Right To Hold Position.

Mayor George Wenige and Chairman Leonard Douglass, chairman of the finance committee, are at loggerheads, following last night's stormy session and fire department fracas.

The mayor charges that Ald. Douglass has fallen a victim to the appeals of the "political gangsters" at party headquarters.

"In 1923, Ald. Douglass was a pure 'obstructionist' in certain instances," Mayor Wenige said today. "But since the beginning of the year until quite recently he appeared to leave politics out of the question. Now it looks as though he is doing the bidding of the gang at headquarters."

Mayor Wenige denies the charge from Ald. Douglass and other members of the committee, that he has interfered with the duties of Fire Chief John Aitken. He declares that he brought a question of importance to the chairman of the committee having jurisdiction over the department in question.

The latest fire department dispute was precipitated a day or so ago when Chief John Aitken declined to hire a son of Deputy Chief Scott.

Ald. Douglass stated last night that the mayor had called him to report that the chief had refused to hire a man because he did not like his father. This was interference on the mayor's part, some members of the finance committee concluded last night.

Mayor Wenige declares that Deputy Chief Scott's son has as much right to hold a position with the fire department as Fire Chief Aitken's brother. He could see no difference in principle himself, hence the complaint.

Members of the committee recall that the British report recommends that the department refrain from hiring relatives of men already in the service.

Already a Member.

It is explained that one of Deputy Chief Scott's sons is already a member of the department, as is a brother of Fire Chief Aitken, the latter having been elevated to the head of the department.

Contrary to the mayor's attitude, the majority of the members of the committee, assumed the stand last night, that it made no difference to them who was hired, just as long as the chief was boss and efficiency prevailed. It was recommended that he hire ten men as soon as possible, and please see page 12, column 6.

#### The Weather

FORECASTS.  
Today—Fresh to strong north wind; fair and cool.

Friday—Fresh westerly wind; a few scattered showers, but mostly fair, with much the same temperature.

The disturbance which was centered in Kentucky yesterday has moved to the Upper St. Lawrence Valley and New England.

Rain fell yesterday in Southern Ontario, and is now falling in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

The weather is fair from Ontario westward.

#### TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 3 a.m. today were:

| Station      | High | Low | Weather |
|--------------|------|-----|---------|
| Victoria     | 59   | 42  | Clear   |
| Calgary      | 50   | 40  | Fair    |
| Winnipeg     | 53   | 35  | Clear   |
| Port Arthur  | 46   | 26  | Fair    |
| Perry Sound  | 58   | 32  | Fair    |
| Toronto      | 50   | 38  | Fair    |
| Kingston     | 54   | 45  | Cloudy  |
| Ottawa       | 56   | 42  | Cloudy  |
| Montreal     | 62   | 46  | Rain    |
| Quebec       | 56   | 40  | Rain    |
| Father Point | 62   | 35  | Cloudy  |
| St. John     | 56   | 49  | Cloudy  |
| Halifax      | 56   | 35  | Cloudy  |

#### LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 3 o'clock last night were: Highest, 53; lowest, 40.

The official temperatures for the 13 hours previous to 3 a.m. today were: Highest, 49; lowest, 33.

Barometric Readings.  
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—49.32.  
Today, 8 a.m.—28.86.