

JUDGMENT RESERVED IN APPEALS OF TWO STORES

MUNICIPAL BOARD HEARS APPEALS AGAINST TAXES

Members of Board Will Inspect Smallman & Ingram's and Kingsmill's.

DESCRIBE BUSINESS

Can the Smallman & Ingram and T. F. Kingsmill stores be classed as departmental stores? The city of London claims they are, while Major Gordon Ingram and T. F. Kingsmill say they aren't. Judgment was reserved on the question this morning by Vice-Chairman A. B. Ingram and Commissioner J. A. Ellis of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, who heard the appeal of the city against the decision of Judge Macbeth, who held the businesses could not be termed under the heading of departmental stores.

At the conclusion of evidence and arguments at 1 o'clock, Mr. Ingram and Mr. Ellis stated they would like to look through the stores themselves on a tour was arranged for 2 o'clock with another session of the court scheduled for 3 o'clock. Secretary Wm. C. Coe, a former Londoner, accompanied the members of the board as secretary.

Two Branches.

T. F. Kingsmill submitted his business was of two branches only, drygoods and furniture. He was upheld in his contention by Mr. Nelson, secretary of the Retail Merchants Association, and by Donald McCrimmon, wholesaler. Harry Nixon, supervisor of the Toronto assessment department, did not agree with the contentions of previous witnesses, and classed Mr. Kingsmill's premises as a departmental store.

A. R. Douglas appeared for Mr. Kingsmill, and J. C. Elliott, K. C., for Smallman & Ingram. Mr. Ingram, in the witness box, stated the store offerings were divided into 50 sections, principally for stock and book-keeping control. The store had not previously been assessed as a departmental store, he declared. Mr. Ingram, questioned by Mr. Elliott, said the business was divided into three departments, drygoods, furniture and candy.

Mr. Nixon, called by T. G. Meredith, who acted for the city in both cases, told of visiting the Smallman store, and of the various articles found for sale. He would call it a departmental store, he declared, although the stock carried was not as large as that of Eaton's or Simpson's in Toronto.

Separate Department. Questioned by Mr. Elliott, Mr. Nixon stated that one electric stove or electric appliances would be an indication of a separate department.

In summing up, counsel for Smallman & Ingram declared there was no evidence whatever as to the store being classed as departmental. One toy wouldn't make a department, neither would one stove. If that were the case every country store would be a departmental store. He submitted that hardware could not be called a branch of the business unless the stock carried could be compared favorably to that carried by a regular hardware merchant. Seventy per cent of the stock carried by Smallman's could be classed as drygoods, Mr. Elliott declared.

Appeals against city assessment by Messrs. C. S. Hymen and Jarvis will be heard by the court this afternoon.

POLICE UNIFORMS WILL BE CHOSEN IN GOOD TIME

The police commission has yet to decide on contracts for police uniforms for the year. The commission met Monday afternoon in the office of Chief Birrell, but came to no decision in the matter, the chief stated today.

BOARD WILL MEET.

The Federal Pension Board will hold a session in the county buildings Wednesday to hear all appeals and grievances regarding soldiers' pensions in this district, it was learned at the courthouse today.

PUPILS DEBATE ON QUESTION OF DEATH SENTENCE

Affirmative Wins on Debate, "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished."

CONTEST IS KEEN

Girls of Commercial Form 3A of the Technical School, arguing that capital punishment should be abolished in Canada, defeated their opponents of Form 5A of the boys' Technical class, in a debate held at the Institute of Musical Art last night. Miss Ruth Brock and Miss Kathleen Ashton spoke for the affirmative, "Resolved, that capital punishment should be abolished." Hugh Cameron and Paul Dawson argued for the negative.

The judges, who found their task of choice a difficult one, included Miss Balfour, C. W. Hone and Miss Louis York.

The pros and cons of the question which is of considerable interest to Londoners at the present on account of the three murder trials which recently took place in this city, were argued at length. Judging from the quality of the debate both teams had spent a great deal of time in preparation, and no argument either for or against the question was missed.

The winners of the debate advanced the argument that hanging was a brutal means of execution, and that when a life was taken in this manner the community and the country at large became equally as guilty as the prisoner they were attempting to punish. In their opinion the executioners themselves, by taking a life, were guilty of murder.

As a means of punishing people charged with a capital offence, the affirmative advanced the argument that a sentence of life imprisonment would offer a chance for reform and an opportunity to earn a livelihood and become a help to the community.

The man who would stoop to murder could under no possible circumstances aid the community, the negative replied. Seldom, if ever, did a murderer entertain the thought of repentance, they declared. The possibility of escape should the prisoner be convicted of a life sentence in place of death, would fill the prisoner with continual hope of freedom, and he would make any possible sacrifice to shake off a prison confinement.

The debate was held under the auspices of the Literary Society of the Technical School.

At the conclusion of the debate the winners of the recent "Better English Contest" were knighted with the order of "Knights of Good English." Musical numbers were provided by Miss Stevens and Miss Nichols.

SUNNY FRANCE COATED WITH SNOW AND ICE

Grip of Winter Holds France Captive—Ties Up Means of Communication.

Associated Press Despatch. Paris, Feb. 26.—Unusually wintry weather is being experienced at present throughout the south of Europe from the Pyrenees to the Alps. Communication by telephone between Paris and Marseilles and between Paris and Nice has been interrupted by storms. At Perpignan, France, the annual fetes were begun in a snowstorm and after the "battle of the flowers" had taken place the remainder of the program was postponed.

There have been heavy snowfalls in the region of Montpellier and one death from the extremely cold weather is reported. At Beziers the frost has done considerable damage to agriculture.

At Nîmes an old man was found frozen to death on the roadside. Heavy falls of snow have occurred in the upper Var department and the mountains behind Nice are snow-covered.

DECORATE OFFICE.

General Manager E. V. Buchanan of the utilities commission was working under difficulties this morning, the decorators having taken charge of his office. Ladders and canvas decorated the room, and the general manager found it necessary to move all his belongings into Mr. Hunt's office in order that the work might be done.



SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN.

An international search is under way for Miss Margaret Boyd, shown above, social service worker, formerly of Owen Sound and Toronto, who disappeared mysteriously from Redondo Beach, California.

FATHER OF CADET WANTS REAL PROBE

Major F. G. Arnold Demands Board of Commission With Initiative and Powers.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Kingston, Feb. 26.—"I have very little to say," said Major F. G. Arnold, D. S. O., who arrived here early this morning from Regina, to take part in the investigation into the affair of his son, ex-Cadet F. M. Arnold at the Royal Military College. "I reached here at 3 o'clock this morning, and have not had time to get in touch with anyone. I will say this, however, that I will not be satisfied with any ordinary royal commission which sits itself down with a cigar in its mouth and waits for people to come to it with statements. I think what the people of this Dominion and at least a large section of the press of the Dominion want is a board of commission which will have power to summon witnesses, compel their attendance and probe this matter to the bottom. If the result of such a board or commission shows affairs at the college to be all right, well and good; if they are shown to be not all right, then I believe the parents who send their sons to the college have the right to know."

"Charges have been made against my son which he denies, and I believe that the press and public of this country should have the fullest knowledge as to the truth or otherwise of these charges. Further than this I cannot say, except that I expect to see Sir Archibald MacDonell today, and I expect a letter from my son today or tomorrow."

SENATE COMMITTEE EXAMINES TELEGRAMS

Messages Sent From Washington to Fall and McLean Are Submitted as Evidence.

Associated Press Despatch. Washington, Feb. 26.—Presented with a sheaf of telegrams sent from Washington to Albert B. Fall and Edward B. McLean, publisher of the Washington Post, at Palm Beach, Fla., the senate oil committee suddenly went into executive session today to examine them. In ordering the hearing room cleared, Chairman Lenroot said that any of the telegrams found to be relevant to the inquiry would be read in public. The telegrams were presented by the divisional superintendents of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies, and apparently numbered several score. Some of them contained hundreds of words.

TROOPERS GIVEN WEEK IN CUSTODY

Toronto Judge Avoids Imprisonment So That Medals May Be Retained.

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, Feb. 26.—One week in custody in the county jail, after which sentence will be suspended, was the penalty handed out this morning by Judge Denton to the seven troopers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons found guilty of assault on their comrade, William Bowen, on February 4.

AGED INDIANS TO FACE SENTENCE FOR STEALING

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, Feb. 26.—Joseph Beauvais, aged 80 years, and August Montmar, aged 70, two Indians from the Iroquois reservation at Caughnawaga, near here, must appear for sentence for stealing a wampum belt given to the Iroquois as a peace offering by the Hurons in 1667, and valued by connoisseurs at from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

This decision was handed down by three justices here yesterday, confirming a conviction obtained in the court of special sessions. The men had been giving themselves out as representing the Iroquois tribe, and had received the belt from the parish priest of Caughnawaga after promising to return it next day. The belt has not yet been returned.

MRS. L. SELFRIDGE DIES.

London, Feb. 26.—Mrs. Lou Selfridge, mother of Harry Gordon Selfridge, proprietor of London's department store, died this morning at the home of her son here.

Around The Schools

HAS ACCIDENT.

Miss Adams, one of the teachers at Victoria School, suffered a broken wrist last Saturday when she slipped on some ice. The accident necessitates her giving up, for the time being, her classes in basketball and folk dancing.

AS USUAL.

Under the direction of Miss Bessie Hardie, one of the teachers of Victoria School, the girls' weekly basketball class of that building will be held this afternoon from 4 to 5 o'clock. Miss Hardie is replacing Miss Adams, who suffered a broken wrist, and according to Principal D. Knight, has proved herself extremely capable in handling both boys and girls, as she knows the game well and thereby gains the approval of the pupils.

"GREAT."

This word is the way in which pupils of Talbot Street School signify their approval of the new lantern recently purchased for the school, and for which every room has been wired. At present, only two rooms are suitable for its use, owing to the lighting, but new blinds will be purchased for the others. Principal Welsh states that the pupils are enthusiastic about it, as any kind of picture from a magazine or elsewhere can be projected on the walls.

GETTING READY.

Once more some of the local schools are getting ready for a visit by out-of-town teachers. Victoria, Riverdale, Lord Roberts, St. George's and Ryerson are preparing for the visit of teachers, who will be in the city on Friday.

OFFICER'S ASSAILANT STILL EVADES CAPTURE

Peter Tomac Believed To Be Headed For International Boundary.

Canadian Press Despatch. Port Arthur, Feb. 25.—Peter Tomac, wanted by the police for wounding Police Sergeant Creasey, last Friday, is believed today, he is making his way towards the international boundary with the intention to cross into Minnesota, where he is said to have relatives.

LONDON WOMEN GLADLY WELCOME MISS CARMICHAEL

President of National Council of Women Is Guest of London Clubs.

WILL SPEAK TONIGHT

Not for a long time has so representative a gathering of London's women been called as that which sat about the luncheon table of the Local Council of Women at the Tecumseh House today at noon. About ninety women were present, representing twenty-five different organizations, all there to do honor to the president of the National Council of Women, Miss Carrie Carmichael.

Miss Carmichael, as president of the organization with which the majority of women's organizations of the country are affiliated, is in a way, the mother of all women's organizations. They are especially proud of her, since she was asked to represent the Dominion government at the International Labor Conference in Geneva. Although she came to London on the invitation of the Local Council of Women, it was at her own request that the invitation was sent. The National president is not so favoring the other cities of Canada, but on account of her close friendship with the late Mrs. H. A. Boomer of this city, she desired to visit the London council.

Mrs. John Ross, president of the London Local Council, who presided over the gathering, referred to the outstanding part which Miss Carmichael had taken in international affairs and pointed to the fact that the visit of Miss Carmichael to the city was the first visit of a National president in an official capacity. A gracious tribute to the guest of honor was made in the form of a bouquet of flowers presented by Mrs. H. A. Boomer in the absence of Mrs. Joseph Marshall, who was to have made the presentation. Mrs. Gordon Wright, briefly on behalf of the Local Council of Women, warmly welcomed Miss Carmichael to the city.

Miss Carmichael addresses an open meeting of the Women's Canadian Club at the Normal School tonight, her subject being "Impressions of the Labor Conference at Geneva."

Attending Luncheon.

The following representative women were present at the luncheon: Hon. Mrs. Shuttleworth King, Mrs. Frank White, Mrs. George Wenige, Mrs. R. A. Prud'homme, Mrs. J. F. Hale, Mrs. George Hall, Mrs. Mina McLeod Stewart of Ottawa, Miss Doris Auden, Miss Beth Pennington, Mrs. C. H. Hill, Miss Ruth Robinson, Mrs. W. Prud'homme, Mrs. Bisset of Rangoon, India; representing the Local Council of Women, Mrs. E. B. Smith, Mrs. Donald McLean, Mrs. Gordon Wright, Miss Macdonald, Mrs. R. A. Prud'homme, Mrs. Alfred Drew, Mrs. Joseph Marshall, representing the citizenship committee, Mrs. A. T. Edwards, Mrs. T. C. Robinson, Mrs. H. H. Winnett, Mrs. Tom Roberts, Mrs. C. S. Hymen, Mrs. Crawford, representing Catholic Women's League, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Robert Burns, Mrs. S. M. Corcoran, Miss Day, representing Loch Lomond Chapter, I. O. O. E., Mrs. Hendry, Mrs. W. R. Waugh and Miss Robertson; Women's Canadian Club, Mrs. W. F. Hughes, Miss Susan Elphinstone, Mrs. Arthur Greenleaf, representing Trafalgar Chapter, Mrs. W. D. Bendle, Mrs. John Laughton and Mrs. M. Logan; representing the Municipal Chapter, I. O. O. E., Mrs. Allan, Mrs. C. T. Campbell and Mrs. Gresham; representing 7th Regiment Chapter, Mrs. Frank Butler, Mrs. J. W. Smith and Mrs. Ralph Miller; representing Alma Daughters, Miss Stella Young, Mrs. A. D. Robertson and Mrs. Ead; representing Soldiers' Wives League, Mrs. J. E. Wylie; representing Lord Roberts Chapter, Mrs. E. H. Johnson and Mrs. A. J. Jordan; representing Harriet Boomer Chapter, Mrs. W. H. Line, Miss Elsie Wood; representing Women's Music Club, Mrs. E. J. Greenway and Mrs. J. Murray; representing Women's Christian Association, Miss C. McIntosh; representing Red Cross Society, Mrs. C. H. Ziegler, Mrs. A. E. Cooper, Mrs. A. J. Fidler; representing Victoria Nurses' Alumnae, Mrs. A. C. Joseph; representing Lord Kitchener Nursing Division, Miss Elin Davis, Mrs. Chas. Hunter and Miss Dodd; representing Victorian Order of Nurses, Mrs. Brynner; representing Union Mothers' Club, Mrs. W. A. Tanner, Mrs. Charles Turner, Mrs. McNeven and Mrs. E. S. Detwiler; representing Sanatorium Club, Mrs. B. C. McCann, Mrs. A. B. Greer; Y. M. C. A. Auxiliary, Mrs. McTavish, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Alexander Henderson; representing Y. W. C. A., Mrs. E. R. Dennis, Mrs. Thomas Rowe and Miss Morton; representing Women Teachers' Guild, Miss Marjorie Tolhurst.

HOUDINI'S ASSISTANT SAYS MODERN SPIRITISM FRAUD

Johnston Carteret, Former Londoner, Tells of Work of Famous Conjuror.

TELLS OF ADVENTURES

Fake Photography Is Explained and Friendship of Sir Conan Doyle Lost.

Modern spiritism is synonymous with quackery, Johnston Carteret, assistant to Houdini, the famous handcuff and trick artist, believes. Carteret took a room at the Tecumseh House last evening and left this morning for Toronto. He is making a brief tour of main Canadian cities pending an engagement in Detroit, where he says he will appear in a special performance conducted by Houdini.

Carteret, who is a young man, obviously of Scotch descent, worked in the McClary Manufacturing Company here several years ago. In 1916 he decided to become a conjuror, having been interested in that vocation for years, and so joined Houdini and his band. Since then he has had many diversified experiences in connection with spiritistic doings.

"Houdini has revealed flagrant instances of fraud," Mr. Carteret said to The Advertiser. "He was originally a confirmed spiritist, but is now as confirmed an unbeliever. I was with him on several of his adventures with mediums."

"Of course I think Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a conscientious and sincere man, but he has been badly gulled. In one scene with Sir Arthur in England, Houdini supplied irrefutable proof that Doyle was a victim of miserable quacks who prey upon his faith and exact big rewards."

"I have photographs of Houdini talking to the spirit of Lincoln, George Washington and Constance, himself. These photos are perfect fakes. Houdini made them to show the public how simple it is to get a picture of a great spirit just by a little trick photography."

Mr. Carteret added that when Houdini showed these photos to Conan Doyle he was complimented on his achievement. Then when the conjuror explained that they were fakes made by himself, Sir Arthur refused to have anything further to do with him. This was during the British writer's trip to America.

"Mr. Houdini makes no pretensions to abnormal talent," Carteret added. "He can apparently cut a human head in half and juggle human beings. This trick is far more subtle and baffling than the trick of producing ghosts. Yet he makes no claims to be gifted with supernatural powers."

On his return trip, Mr. Carteret declared, he would look up several friends in London and try to persuade them to attend the special performance given by Houdini in Detroit the latter part of the week.

HARVESTERS SECURED WORK, SAYS SECRETARY

William Lunn Declares Majority of English Found Employment in Canada.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Feb. 25.—Replying to questions in the House of Commons today, William Lunn, parliamentary secretary to the overseas trade department, said that only a few of the 12,000 who went to Canada from Great Britain for harvesting work had failed to find employment. About 700 who were found to be unfit for farm work were repatriated. It is understood that a certain number of others, although offered work, refused to accept it, but he was unaware of the reasons for their refusal. He stated that about 11,000 of the British harvesters remained in Canada.

Replying to another question, Mr. Lunn said it was the intention of the government to encourage overseas settlement so far as it is conducive to the advantage of the individual settler, and also to the advantage of the empire as a whole.

The overseas settlement committee is giving special consideration to the possibilities of family and group migration.

SOVIET DELEGATION IS COMING TO CANADA

Hon. P. C. Larkin Notices That Russians Have Left England For Ottawa.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—The only official information in the hands of the federal government regarding the Soviet delegation to Canada was received some days ago by the department of trade and commerce, when Hon. P. C. Larkin, Canadian high commissioner in London, notified that he did not intend to accept the Soviet delegation was booked to sail on the Montclair. The department has received no information since then, and it is assumed that the delegation will arrive here very soon.

It is stated here that there are four in the official Soviet party and that they are here to endeavor to establish credits and to secure farm implements and railroad construction supplies. The party have been in London, where conferences were held on matters pertaining to the British-Russian trade.

BEAL ANNOUNCES LOWER ESTIMATES FOR THE "TECH"

Says There Will Be Clearance of \$5,000 For This Year.

SURPLUS FROM 1923

Although Principal H. B. Beal of the Technical School will not make the figures public, it is believed that the surplus from 1923 for the Technical accounts will amount to more than \$7,000 as previously announced. This morning Mr. Beal stated he did not wish the figures made public until after they had been presented to the vocational advisory committee which will meet next Monday night to consider the estimates for 1924. Neither would he divulge the estimated expenditure for this year, although he again declared they would be in the neighborhood of \$95,000, a decrease from last year of \$5,000 and from the tentative estimates of last November of \$17,000.

The surplus that will remain from 1923 will prove a larger factor in keeping the estimates so low, and Mr. Beal is in hopes that low as the figures will be this year, there may, by some means, be a surplus at the end of 1924.

This, however, is almost too much to expect," he stated. "By practicing rigid economy we have been able to acquire a surplus this year and we think we are helping the city considerably reducing our estimates by low those of 1923, which is no small matter when every other estimate submitted by the various bodies, has gone up."

ISSUES WRIT FOR \$500.

I. E. Markle of London Township has issued a county court writ against Victoria Goulding of the same township, through W. C. Fitzgerald. The plaintiff is asking for \$500 and interest from January 31, 1923, with interest at 7 per cent. He claims the money was borrowed from the Home Bank and used in payment on a house by the defendant.

QUEBEC BANK BUILDING IS DAMAGED BY FIRE

Quebec, Feb. 26.—Damage estimated at \$500,000 was caused by a fire which broke out in the Union Bank building this morning in the heart of the business section of the city. The firemen succeeded in preventing the blaze from spreading.

Special Values In Chesterfield Suites

We have just received a number of High-Grade Suites at a big reduction which we are placing on sale at special low prices for quick sale.



TWO ONLY SUITES—Chesterfield and two chairs in high-grade English Tapestry, full Marshall spring construction. A guaranteed suite, complete. To Clear \$125.00

TWO ONLY SUITES—Chesterfield and two chairs in seal brown English mohair—good roomy suites—Marshall springs in good condition and guaranteed construction, suite complete. To Clear \$195.00

ONE ONLY BELGIAN BLUE MOHAIR SUITE—Chesterfield, wing and arm chair. This is an especially good buy. Suite Complete \$195.00

MANY OTHER SUITES TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST.

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