

DID HE TAKE STRYCHNINE? FOSTER'S DEATH MAY RESULT

William Street Man Became Violently Ill on the Street—Doctor Says It's a Case of Poisoning—He Came To London From Brantford.

Ervin Foster, of 522 William street, lies at the point of death in Victoria Hospital as a result of what looks like a deliberate attempt to commit suicide early this morning.

Foster is a man about 55 years of age, and lately has been despondent over some money troubles. This morning he left his home about 6:30 o'clock, to go to the shop of Mr. F. Barnett, where he has been employed for the last three years.

When a short distance away from the store he was seized with cramps of the most violent nature, and some people passing carried him into a nearby house, where Dr. Mason was telephoned for.

The doctor diagnosed the case as one of strychnine poisoning and had the patient removed at once to Victoria Hospital, where he has been in

an unconscious condition all day, and but little hope of his recovery is entertained.

Foster is a married man and came here from Brantford several years ago. He is a butcher by trade.

Knows No Reason.

Mrs. Foster, when interviewed by an Advertiser reporter, stated that her husband left their home at 522 William street at a quarter to seven this morning, and that he returned about half past seven suffering from cramps. Dr. Mason had been summoned but had not informed her of the nature of her husband's illness.

She could not believe that it was a case of attempted suicide. Mr. Foster had left the house in the best of spirits and was in the habit of carrying a small amount of a reason for such a rash action.

They had lived in London about four years and their relations had always been most happy.

Asked if her husband ever used drugs of any kind Mrs. Foster said he had not to her knowledge.

Live Hogs Dropped 50 Cents Per Cwt Pork Now Brings Only \$5 Per 100

Very Poor Hay Was Offered for Sale on London Market Today.

"That stuff would drive a sober man to drink," said a local livestockman this morning, as he stood up the numerous loads of very inferior hay which was being offered at top-heavy prices on the market.

Prices ranged from \$17 to \$18 a ton,

and the quality was away below the standard generally offered. As a result sales were none too brisk.

Drop in Pork.

Live hogs dropped 50 cents a hundredweight, selling at \$5, against \$5.50 last week. The Chicago and Buffalo markets have strengthened and it is thought possible that the price may go up again locally.

Only one load of barley was offered for sale, and this went at \$1.40.

100 New Locomotives for G. T. R. Contracts for Coaches Also Placed

Business on the Big Road Is Booming and Prospects Are Bright.

"This doesn't look much like hard times or laying off men," said a Grand Trunk official this morning, as he handed out a circular announcing that the company had just let contracts for 100 new engines of various sizes.

"These machines will cost at least a million and a half dollars," he said, "and they can't get them to us any too soon the way our business has been growing lately."

"The terms of the contract call for delivery before Sept. 1, 1908. These engines, especially the larger ones, will be placed on this division to handle the through freight traffic."

Big Fellows These.

The circular says: "That the following engines have been ordered: 'Twenty Richmond compound condensing engines from the Baldwin Locomotive Works, each engine weighing 161,976 pounds. 'Ten single Mogul engines from the Baldwin locomotive works, each engine weighing 161,976 pounds. 'Ten ten-wheel passenger engines from the Baldwin people, each engine weighing 167,300 pounds. 'Ten switch engines, each weighing 139,500 pounds. 'In addition to the above, the com-

pany have also ordered twenty simple road engines from the Canada Foundry Company for use on the Grand Trunk Pacific."

Bigger Than Ever.

The most noticeable thing in regard to the new engines is that they are all much heavier than the engines now in use. The monster Richmond compound condensing machines will be more than 10 tons heavier than the big Moguls now in use in the freight traffic. They will all be equipped with the latest fuel-saving devices, and will be capable of hauling from 50 to 60 cars at 40 miles an hour.

"Here's another one," said the G. T. R. official, pulling forth a document, showing the details of twenty beautiful new passenger coaches that have just been added to the system.

New Coaches.

The cars are exceedingly neat, and in every respect and detail modern and first-class. The cars are 67 feet 6 inches long, over end sills, and 9 feet 6 inches wide, over the side sills, affording a total seating capacity of 75 passengers.

"They are designed so as to afford the greatest possible strength, having steel platforms and wide vestibules, and are mounted on Grand Trunk standard six-wheel trucks, equipped with steel-tired wheels.

"The interior of the car is a model of beauty, being finished in selected mahogany with inlaid lines and ornaments. Each coach is equipped with patent high-back seats, upholstered in green plush, and each has a smoking compartment capable of accommodating fourteen persons. All are heated by the direct steam heating system, and are lighted with gas.

List of Exemptions Grows Smaller

A large number of exemptions from taxation will expire shortly.

This is the last year for the Columbia Handle Works, and several more will end next year.

Prominent among them will be the McCormick Manufacturing Company, the London Printing and Lithograph-

ing Company, London Bolt and Screw Works, Bennett Furniture Company's property in Rectory street, Seargeant's Planing Mill, London Foundry Company, and D. S. Perrin & Co. There are only three more exemptions, and they expire in 1912, or thereabouts. This will mean a considerable addition to the taxes of the city.

To Cut Off More Heads At Asylum

It was stated today by a gentleman who is in the inner circles of the Conservative party of London, that "the machine" has practically decided on several dismissals of officials at the London Asylum for the Insane.

The transfer of Dr. McCallum to Penetanguishene and the bringing of Dr. Robinson here from Guelph will, it is said, be the excuse for the practical wiping out of Liberal office-holders at the institution.

"It's a case of feed the hungry," said the Conservative quoted. "They have been on the trail for two years now, and they are demanding that

"Billy" Gray's and Major Beattie's promises be fulfilled, namely that all Liberals shall be formed in procession and marched from the asylum gates."

FIRE AT SEA.

Philadelphia, Dec. 2.—Fire was discovered shortly before 10 a.m. in the hold of the British ship Montana, which arrived here early this morning from London. The mine is located in the township of Hartman, con. 1, lot 5, two miles from the C. P. R. and close to Lake Wabigoon. On it have been found some rare samples of gold, copper and silver.

Customs Returns Show Big Increase November Was a Banner Month Here

Increase of \$13,466.54 Reported by Collector Elliott—Business Is Good.

"It was one of the best months we have ever had," said Collector of Customs Elliott, this morning, "and the returns show an increase of \$13,466.54 over November of last year."

Council Will Have \$5,000 Surplus Board of Education Also To the Good

Two Council Committees Have Surpluses—One Committee "In the Hole."

The board of education will have a surplus this year. This is the statement made by one of the members of the board.

The figures could not be obtained as surplus.

R. L. GUNN IS MASONIC SECRETARY

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 2.—Grand Master A. T. Freed, of the Masonic Order, this morning appointed R. L. Gunn, of this city, to act as grand secretary of the order, filling the office made vacant by

"The merchants all report to us that business is good and their largely-increased purchases bear the statement out."

"Last November was considered a first rate month, but the return then were only \$62,366.82, a compared with \$75,833.36."

October was also an exceptionally good month for business also, the returns running up to \$73,343.73.

"These figures do not indicate that conditions are at all unfavorable."

The books are being looked over, but it is expected to be quite a tidy sum.

Both the Collegiate and the public school accounts show surpluses.

The council will also have a surplus this year, the size of which is open to conjecture.

No. 3 committee has a large surplus, and No. 1 committee will finish ahead, but No. 2 will have a small overdraft.

The city council should have \$5,000

Major Hays Collected \$500,000 Taxes Payments Have Been Satisfactory

Only Sum of \$40,815.51 Remains To Be Collected—The Figures.

The third installment of taxes has been paid in, and Major Hays, the tax collector, has received \$44,530, an excess of \$2,730 over the same period last year.

There remains just \$40,815.51 still to be collected. The returns are very gratifying to the city, and they show

the results of the good work performed by Major Hays.

The following are the figures:

Third installment of taxes, \$44,530.00
Payments in 1907, \$41,800.00
Excess of 1907, \$2,730.00

Total taxes on roll for 1907, \$551,382.13

Total paid to date, 499,352.62

Add discounts, 10,157.00

Allowances for certificates, etc., 2,000.00

Total still on rolls to be collected, 40,815.51

Discounts allowed in 1907, \$10,157.00

Discounts allowed in 1906, 9,211.00

Excess in 1907, 946.00

SENT FOR TRIAL ON FRAUD CHARGE MOVE IN BUSINESS SCHOOL CASE

Clinton H. Clark, of Clark's Business College, was sent for trial at the December sessions, which commence on Dec. 10, this morning, after his preliminary hearing on the charge of fraudulently obtaining money from G. T. R. Presnall. Mr. Presnall stated in the witness box that Clark had borrowed \$400 from him and represented that he had security in his school to the amount of \$1,500, as all the desks and equipment were paid for. Mr. Presnall, it seems, learned

afterwards that Mr. Clark had not paid for these things entirely, and demanded payment of his note. Mr. Clark refused, and Presnall had him arrested and charged with fraud. Mr. Matthew J. Brown testified that he had a lien on some of the furniture. P. C. Duhaime, of the Montreal Typing Company, stated that the machines had been simply leased to Mr. Clark, and that since the trouble had occurred they had been taken away. After hearing the evidence his worship committed Mr. Clark for trial.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE ON TODAY

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—The debate on the speech from the throne opens this afternoon, when Mr. Hall, of Peterborough, will move, and Mr. Lanctot, of Richelieu, will second, the address. The two leaders will follow, and the probabilities are that the debate will last for several days; however, that will depend upon circumstances. When a debate of that kind gets on for two or three days it is not easy to stop it, even when the political parties desire to do so.

A RAILWAY RATE WAR

The Grand Trunk and the C. P. R. to Meet Chicago Cut.

Montreal, Dec. 2.—The rate war between Canadian and United States companies entered upon the second phase of its existence today, when a cut rate of \$10 for second-class steamship passengers from Chicago to Atlantic ports became general, and applicable to all eastbound traffic from Chicago.

When the Erie made the cut which precipitated the conflict it was ostensibly to apply to steamship traffic only. It soon widened, however, and doing business at the \$5 cut on through traffic became the rule. The Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk have received the sanction of the Interstate Commerce Commission to make the rate open. The fight will be lively, but it is not considered here that it will be long.

Struck It Rich.

Mr. Wm. Dwyer, of Richmond street north, has made a lucky strike in a mine open in Ontario. The mine is located in the township of Hartman, con. 1, lot 5, two miles from the C. P. R. and close to Lake Wabigoon. On it have been found some rare samples of gold, copper and silver.

SOCIETY THRONGS HALLS OF CONGRESS

First Session of the Sixtieth United States Legislature Opens Today.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The first session of the 60th Congress, convened today and resembled a social function rather than a gathering for the transaction of important business of the country. So great was the demand for an opportunity to see the National Legislature started on its work that the galleries of the House were reserved for the families and friends of members with few places left for the general public unprovided with tickets. In the senate the same conditions prevailed, except that a larger space was kept for those who came without tickets.

Early in the day the place was filled with spectators, and in all the corridors leading to the gallery there were many men and women extending for long distances and many of those people stood for a couple of hours in a vain hope of gaining admission as the more fortunate should become wearied in watching the proceedings, and give up their places. In each of the houses the session was short and the business done was confined to the adoption of formal resolutions notifying the president that congress had assembled, in the swearing-in of new senators and representatives, and in other perfunctory acts that always accompany the organization of a new congress. Both houses adjourned until tomorrow out of respect for the members who died since the last congress.

STEAMERS ARRIVED.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Reported at. From. Bluecher, New York, Hamburg. Arabie, New York, Liverpool. Virginia, New York, Montreal. St. Paul, Southampton, New York. Minnehaha, New York, London. Albatross, New York, New York. Napitan, New York, New York. Canopic, New York, New York. Albatross, New York, New York. Germania, New York, Liverpool.



WARDEN HODGINS
Of the County Council Now in Session.

FRIENDS HONORED MR. E. W. DUMETTE

A Dinner Tendered To Popular City Hotel Man Who Is Leaving London.

Mr. E. W. Dumette, who has been employed at the City Hotel for a long time as wine clerk, was made the recipient of a handsome traveling bag Saturday evening, when a farewell banquet was tendered him at the City Hotel by his fellow-employees.

Mr. Dumette leaves shortly for North Bay where he will engage in the mining business.

A supper for 15 was laid at 11 o'clock, and the merrymaking began.

The presentation address was delivered by Mr. A. Northmore. Mr. Northmore expressed the regrets of those assembled at the departure of their popular friend and co-worker, and stated that he felt confident that Mr. Dumette would make a success of his new venture.

Songs and recitations were rendered by various members of the party, and a royal good time was spent all around.

CLYDE HOTEL TENDERS SUBMITTED TO HEIRS

Time for Filing Has Expired and No More Offers Will Be Received.

Tenders for the sale of the Clyde Hotel have been received by McKillop & Murphy, who are acting for the heirs of the estate left by the late Mr. Richard Watson, and the same have been submitted to the heirs for their approval.

The time for the filing of tenders has expired, and no more offers will be received unless those already at hand fall short of expectations.

DUMPING HERE, SAYS C. M. A.

Are American Manufacturers Unloading Surplus Stock on Canadians?

Toronto, Dec. 2.—That Canada is at present being "used" as a dumping ground by United States manufacturers, is the statement made by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. A circular has been issued by the tariff committee of the association saying that American manufacturers who are forced by the financial stringency to sacrifice their goods are unloading them in Canada on a large and systematic scale. Members are urged to report promptly to the minister of customs any cases of undervaluation that come to their notice.

M. P. TRACKS UNSAFE.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen has filed with the Postmaster-General a complaint against the Missouri Pacific Railway Company for maintaining tracks that are alleged to be unsafe. In view of the fact that the lives of postal employees may be endangered, the Postmaster-General is urged to make an investigation of the charges. The complaint has been referred to the second assistant postmaster-general.

TOMORROW—SNOW FLURRIES.

FORECASTS.
Toronto, Dec. 2-3 a.m.
Fresh northwest wind; fair and cold, with local snow flurries today and on Tuesday.

TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.
Calgary, 30 20 Clear
Winnipeg, 10 10 Clear
Port Arthur, 4 30 Cloudy
Parry Sound, 16 14 Cloudy
Toronto, 20 20 Fair
Ottawa, 20 20 Cloudy
Montreal, 20 16 Cloudy
Quebec, 20 16 Cloudy
Father Point, 20 18 Snow

The first column in the above table records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperatures during the 24 hours previous.

WEATHER NOTES.

The depression which was off the South Atlantic coast on Saturday now covers Cape Breton as an important storm, attended by gales and snow and rain in the Maritime Provinces and in Eastern Quebec. Elsewhere the weather has been fine, and in Albert and British Columbia quite mild.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.

Minimum and maximum temperatures, London, Saturday, 19.5-30; Sunday, 23-32; Victoria, 44-52; Vancouver, 44-52; Edmonton, 33-56; Prince Albert, 16-38; Calgary, 30-38; Regina, 14-33; Winnipeg, 12 below-14; Port Arthur, 14-14; Toronto, 24-34; Ottawa, 16-20; Montreal, 12-20; Quebec, 10-20; Halifax, 24-32.

CANDIDATES ARE VERY SCARCE MUNICIPAL POOL STAGNANT

Nobody as Yet In the Field for the Mayor's Chair—Some Aldermen Say They Have Had Enough—Others Who Will Likely Linger.

Aldermanic candidates are not coming forth in such profusion as it was at one time anticipated, and there is an unnatural quiet about municipal affairs.

Not a candidate to succeed Mayor Judd is as yet announced.

It has been rumored that Ald. Matthews and Ald. Stevely would run, but so far neither has taken any particular interest in the matter, and neither has announced his candidature.

"I will take some time to consider," said Ald. Matthews this morning. "I have not definitely made up my mind about it."

"I will run for the mayorality or nothing," said Ald. Stevely, but he would not announce that he was going to run for mayor.

"There is time enough yet," was his answer.

The candidates for alderman are waiting for the candidates for the mayorality to announce themselves before they come out.

In all probability there will be some changes in the council of 1908.

If Ald. Stevely and Ald. Matthews

run for the mayorality, one of them will be eliminated.

Ald. Beattie some time ago declared that he would not think of running next year.

Ald. Gillen has also stated that this will be his last year.

Ald. Scarlett will probably retire, and Ald. Booth and Ald. Garratt may not face the starter.

Ald. Stevenson has not declared his intentions yet, but it is thought he will run again.

Ald. Cooper is like the poor, "always with you," and he will run for the council as usual.

He did say he would run for the mayorality, but he has said that before, and probably has no intention of doing so.

Ald. Rose and Ald. Saunders will run, and it is likely Ald. Gerry, one of the most popular men in the council, will again run.

There are not many new candidates offering.

The Trades and Labor Council has taken no action as yet, but it is thought that it will endorse a few candidates of its own. Several of the younger men of the labor body are said to be in readiness to run if necessary.

It certainly is a quiet year for municipal politics.

Hotelmen Deny Doped Whisky Stories Which Now Agitate Toronto Trade

Serious Charges Made Against Proprietors in the Latter City.

A letter received by the Toronto license commission and also by several Toronto papers, which published it, has set the Queen City hotelkeepers in a high state of indignation. The letter makes charges of a very serious character against the trade, principally in regard to the "doping" of liquors.

London hotelmen when interviewed today indignantly denied that the conditions pointed out in Toronto prevailed here.

"But if prices are not boosted a little," one man told the reporter, "the hotelman will be compelled to 'dope' the liquor in order to make the business pay. There's no money in selling good liquor at present prices in London."

What the Letter Says.

"I beg to draw your attention," says the writer of the Toronto letter, "as well as the attention of the license commissioners and license inspectors to the quality of the liquors now being sold in several of the hotels in this city, where some of the compounds sold over the bars under the name of whisky are simply vile, and it is not necessary to comment on the condition of the unfortunate victim after taking a few drinks of such concoctions, or compounds, for they are nothing else. I know for a fact that half of the whisky sold over the bars in Toronto is manufactured on the premises, a formula used extensively now Continued on Page Nine.

Thistle Club Bonspiel in January Mr. John Pringle Donates a Trophy

Big Curling Event Will Be One of the Best Ever Held.

It was officially announced today that the Thistle Curling Club will hold a bonspiel in this city on the 14th, 15th and 16th of January next.

It was also announced that Mr. John Pringle, manager of the Bank of Toronto, has donated a handsome silver

trophy, to be known as the Bank of Toronto Cup.

This makes three magnificent trophies for the clubs, as, in addition to the one named, there is the cup given by Mr. John McNece and the one given by Mr. George O'Neill, of the Tecumseh House.

The bonspiel in January will be sure to prove a grand success.

Local curlers are taking to the idea most enthusiastically, and it is assured that they will leave nothing undone which will tend to make the affair all Londoners would have it.

Wallet Missing, But Wasn't Stolen

Mr. A. T. Kelly, the London Township farmer, who, as reported in The Advertiser recently, lost a wallet containing considerable money, has much cause for self-congratulation.

Mr. Kelly, it will be remembered, came in with a load of hay, and hired a man to help unload it. Later the farmer

discovered that he was minus his money, which had been placed in the side pocket of his overcoat.

Suspicion naturally fell upon Mr. Kelly's assistant, but no action was taken.

Upon his return home Mr. Kelly found the wallet on the kitchen table, where he had left it.

December Session of County Council

The December session of the county council opened at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, with Warden Hodgins in the chair, and all members of the council present. County Clerk Robson was

absent, being in Chicago attending the live stock show.

The business of the afternoon will be chiefly given over to appointing committees.

Actual business will begin at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Foolishly Made Love in a Lion's Den

A dispatch from Atlanta, Ga., has the following story of a trainer in Bostick's animal show, which was seen at the Grand here a year ago:

In order to smile at his fiancée, Mercedes Lamonte, Louis Roth, the young German trainer who does an act with the Bostick shows at Ponce de Leon, was careless enough to take his eyes for an instant this afternoon from Atlas, the surliest lion of the collection, and as a result fell his leg being torn by the sharp claws of the beast, which had sprung upon him the moment he was free from his gaze. Just as the lion's claws cut into his flesh Roth saw the flash of a revolver, and Atlas, finding himself again mas-

tered, recoiled under the gaze of Miss Lamonte. She fired the gun in the animal's face.

The pistol shot caused a panic among the big crowd present. As soon as Roth had been rescued Miss Lamonte threw her arms about his neck and said:

"We must marry as once, Louis. I cannot wait longer. This life is too dangerous, too much hazard."

FAR FROM HOME.

London, Dec. 2.—The balloon which, passed over County Antrim, Ireland, yesterday afternoon, has been identified as the French Government airship, La Patrie.