

THE WEATHER:  
CLOUDY AND COLDER.  
THURSDAY—COLDER.

# London Evening Advertiser

"SPORTING GREEN"  
ON THE STREET AT 5:00  
WITH LATE NEWS.

61ST YEAR, NO. 23878

LONDON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1924.—TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES.

THREE CENTS.

## "SLIM'S" TRIAL NEARS CLOSE; TOPPING FOLLOWS Government Prepares To Submit Liquor Referendum

### WITNESSES STATE NO BULLETS FIRED FROM 'SLIM'S' GUN

Eleven Witnesses Called at Morning Session of Murder Trial—  
Prisoner Will Take Stand and Tell Story of Crime—Case  
Expected To Go To Jury This Afternoon.

PRISONER "SCARED AND HYSTERICAL"

At the opening of this afternoon's session, T. J. Rigney, K.C., asked permission to call Sidney Murrell as a witness.

The murder trial of "Slim" Williams commenced at 9 o'clock this morning in drawing rapidly to a close. The thin, white-faced Melbourne bank robber will probably know his fate before 6 o'clock tonight.

Although Sidney Murrell was found guilty last night of firing the shot that killed Russell Campbell at Melbourne in April, 1921, the law of the land says that any member of a robber band is guilty of murder, even if he does not do the actual killing.

At the last trial of Williams in October 1923, "Slim" told the court that he was present at the robbery and gave a whole history of the affair.

Williams will also take the stand in his own defence this afternoon, possibly about 3:30 and will again tell the story of the ghastly conclusion of the bank robbery.

Eleven witnesses were called by the crown this morning, all with the exception of Mr. McBride, architect, telling of the revolver Williams had when captured.

Several witnesses stated Williams was scared and hysterical and it was proved beyond a doubt that the revolver he carried was never fired during the robbery.

R. E. Campbell declared Williams "was the scariest man I ever saw." The crown will call two more witnesses before Mr. Donahue will put Williams in the box.

That jail officials did not consider Williams as dangerous as Murrell was quite evident. The prisoner walked into the prisoners' dock unshackled and without handcuffs. He was dressed in a neat brown suit and sat with his arms folded across his breast during the entire session.

The same provincial constables who stood guard over Murrell were on hand to look after "Slim."

Fifty-five jurymen were called, three more than in the Murrell trial before a jury was finally selected. Ten of the jurors are farmers, one a clerk in the city and the 12th lives retired in the country.

The jurors, with one exception, are young looking men.

Of the first sixteen jurors called, eight were chosen to try Williams. There were six challenges before the ninth jurymen took his seat. Mr. Donahue challenged four more before S. J. Chadwick of London was sworn.

Mr. Rigney asked B. Cunningham of London to step aside. Thomas L. Scott was agreeable to both crown and defence. He was the 30th juror called.

With eleven men in the jury box, Clerk Edmund Wedd called up the jurors six at a time. He might just as well have called another clerk, as there were 24 more challenges before a panel was secured.

Crown Prosecutor Rigney asked 24 men to step aside, while Mr. Donahue challenged 19.

Following are the jurors as they were chosen:

J. A. Leitch, Moss Township, farmer; Neil Munroe, Metcalfe Township, farmer; Albert Thomas, Westminster Township, farmer; Ernest Howay, West Nisour Township, farmer; Charles A. Shipley, Lobo Township, farmer; Oliver McKern, Metcalfe Township, farmer; George N. Willis, London Township, gentleman; Mitchell Innes, Moss Township, farmer; Arthur Morgan, Adelaide Township, farmer; Sydney J. Chadwick, London, clerk; Thomas L. Scott, London Township, farmer; Merrill West, London Township, farmer.

"We are called upon to continue an inquiry arising out of the murder of Russell Campbell in April, 1921," stated T. J. Rigney, K.C., in opening the case for the crown by an address to the jury.

"You men are chosen from a large number, the others of which, for various reasons, were challenged. The charge is a serious one and you will be called upon to decide it. The hon-

Please See Page 7, Column 1.

### SUMMARY OF TRIAL

Trial of "Slim" Williams opened at 9 o'clock this morning.

Fifty-five jurymen challenged before panel completed: ten farmers, one gentleman, one clerk.

Eleven witnesses were called this morning: H. C. McBride, R. S. McCandless, Dr. Dewar, Dr. Freele, Detective Down, Detective Nickle, John Little, Robert E. Campbell, Charlie Long, John Marr, Robert A. Campbell.

Two more crown witnesses to be heard. Williams will testify. Case may go to jury this afternoon. Crown witnesses have sworn that no shots were fired from Williams' gun.



LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.  
The Hon. Col. Harry Cockshutt, who opened the sixteenth Ontario parliament at Toronto this afternoon.

### MELVIN KERR IS CONVICTED OF HOLD-UP IN DECEMBER

Judge Ross, St. Thomas, Frees  
London Youth on Suspended  
Sentence.

CRITICIZES TESTIMONY

Prisoner Ordered To Report  
Monthly To Inspector Nickle  
and To Dispose of Car.

Special to The Advertiser.

St. Thomas, Feb. 6.—Melvin Kerr, London youth, was found guilty of holding up the M. C. R. ticket agent here in December last, but was released on suspended sentence by Judge Ross today.

In passing judgment on Kerr, Judge Ross expressed his regret at finding him guilty of such a serious charge. He reviewed the evidence, remarking on the black mask which had been found in his possession at the time of his arrest.

"I cannot help but believe that the mask was in your pocket for an improper purpose," said his honor. "I cannot see why a man would also perjure himself so far as to refute Watson's statements."

Good reports were received from Kerr concerning his record. The judge instructed Kerr to report the first of each month to "Chief of Detectives Nickle in London and to dispose of his car."

Frederick S. Coombs, the M. C. R. brakeman, who pleaded guilty to four charges of robbery in police court last week, was fined \$300 and committed to the M. C. R. charge, while sentence was suspended on the remaining three.

Following Coombs' arrest with a party of St. Thomas people in Detroit for shoplifting, about \$1,600 worth of stolen goods was recovered in a raid on his home. Coombs admitted having a craving for tools, and stated that the goods had been taken from cars at the M. C. R. C. P. R. and from McMurtry's hardware store.

First check-up last night indicated that of the normal crew of 55 men 49 had been in the workings, but the final figures announced early today by company officials put the number at 48 and the death list at 41, with seven survivors.

The high-powered electric pumps, rushed here from Duluth, were pumping water from the muddy swamp lake and the mine today, and mining experts said the working and the lake bed must be emptied before it would be possible to enter the mine.

The water from the mine is being dumped into Island Lake a quarter of a mile away. Between this lake and the mine shaft lies the mud lake whose water penetrated the mine workings, causing the worst mining disaster in the history of the Minnesota iron range.

Mining experts said today that the drift of the Millard mine, which is on the Cuyuna range, and produces manganese ore, did not extend under the lake, and they believed the water had worked a subterranean passage to the roof of the mine, and the pressure finally crushed it in the roof.

Melbourne Masons, numbering about 25, gathered in the Grigg House last night to present R. McCandless with a past master's jewel, A. F. & A. M.

Mr. McCandless made a suitable reply to the number of addresses given, which spoke highly of the work he had done in the interests of Melbourne lodge. The presentation came as a pleasant surprise to Mr. McCandless, who was visibly moved by the honor tendered him by his fellow Masons.

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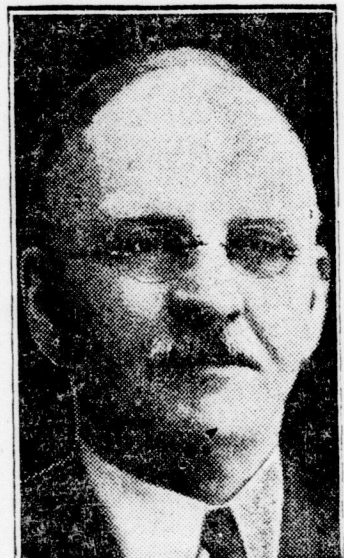
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### Prominent Figures In Parliament Opening



ABOVE ARE SHOWN THE THREE LEADERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, WHOSE GROUP IS EXPECTED TO BE CHOSEN THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION.



RIGHT IS W. E. N. SINCLAIR, LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, WHOSE GROUP IS EXPECTED TO BE CHOSEN THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION.



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### COCKSHUTT OFFICIALLY OPENS ONTARIO'S 16TH LEGISLATURE

Speech From Throne at Opening of Legislature Reveals Many Measures.

PLAN REORGANIZATION

Modification of the Course of Study in Elementary Schools Recommended.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, Feb. 6.—The first session of the sixteenth legislature of the Province of Ontario opened officially this afternoon with all the customary ceremony. After the election of Joseph E. Thompson, M.L.A., as speaker, Lieut.-Governor Cockshutt read the speech from the throne which gives indication of considerable government legislation to be brought down during the session.

Among the various measures which the speech announces to be forthcoming is one to make provision to enable the government to secure an expression of opinion from the people with regard to provincial liquor legislation.

Another is to provide the appointment of a legislative secretary for Northern and Western Ontario. It is understood that this position will be given to Frank Keefer, M.L.A. (Port Arthur).

The speech after reference to legislative in Ontario makes a reference to hydro, saying that the problem of further power development now presents itself. Legislation is announced for modification of the courses of study in elementary schools. The better advertisement of Ontario in the old country and selected immigration with supervision of arrival is also announced.

There will be a committee of the House selected to study the economic end of agriculture and make suggestions for legislative remedies. The government will encourage co-operative marketing of farm products.

Re-organization of the highways department and more encouragement to county and township roads is promised.

Encouragement by means of a bounty on iron ores will be given to mining. Extension of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway into the Lorrain district will be seriously considered. Provision will be made for a separate ministry of health. The speech announces re-organization of the compensation board and its work.

Mr. Shaver, fire victim, improving condition.

Westminster Farmer Tried To Save Horse From Blazing Barn.

The condition of John Shaver, Westminster Township farmer, who was severely burned on Sunday morning in an attempt to save a horse from a blazing barn, was reported by Victoria Hospital authorities this morning to be greatly improved.

Mr. Shaver suffered extensive burns, and on Sunday evening his condition became so serious that he was removed to the hospital. Physicians considered his condition extremely serious on Monday, but during the past two days he has showed signs of improvement.

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### TOPPING'S CASE MAY GO TO GRAND JURY TODAY

Jurors Expected To Bring In a True Bill of Murder.

WILL TAKE EVIDENCE

Miss Viola McNaughton Will Be Questioned This Afternoon.

The wheels of justice may, on occasions, grind slowly, but not at the present winter assembles at the court-house. Two murder trials in three days and a third one scheduled for tomorrow is the record to date.

Immediately the case of "Slim" Williams goes to the jury this afternoon, the evidence in the Clarence Topping murder case will be submitted to the grand jury. That the grand jurors will bring in a true bill against the young Strathroy man is a foregone conclusion and this bill it is expected, will be handed to Mr. Justice Lennox before court is adjourned.

"The Topping murder case will go on," definitely stated Crown Prosecutor Rigney at the noon adjournment today.

The evidence of Miss Viola McNaughton, who was present when Topping shot and fatally wounded his sweetheart Geraldine Durston, will be taken at Victoria Hospital this afternoon. Miss McNaughton was also wounded in the shooting affair which occurred at the home of George Cook, York street on the morning of November 23 last.

D. A. J. Swanson, counsel for Topping, states he will not be ready to proceed with the case before tomorrow afternoon, but a settlement will be arrived at between Messrs. Rigney and Swanson. It is expected.

The crown has summoned a dozen witnesses for the case, while witnesses for the defence are numbered at 15. Mr. Swanson intimated that the defence had a number of surprises for the crown.

KYRO TRAIL RANGER BOYS HOLD SESSION

Ladies of "Y" Auxiliary Serve Supper to Lads at Tuesday's Meeting.

The Kyro trail ranger groups met last night at the Y. M. C. A. for their weekly supper which was served by the ladies of the Y. M. C. A. Auxiliary under the leadership of Mrs. Oliver Keene. Following supper a lively sing-song was enjoyed by all the boys.

Grand Chief Ranger Fred Clark conducted the opening ceremony. The boys then adjourned to their group meetings for Bible study under the leadership of Les Gray, Morley McGregor, Gord Butler, and Gar Elson.

Following their group meetings the boys adjourned to the gymnasium for their physical program, followed by a swim. Next Sunday morning the Kyro meeting will take the form of a Father and Son service, and members of the Kiwanis Club are expected to be in attendance.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.  
Today—Cloudy, with light local snow. Thursday—Northwest winds; cloudy and colder, with local snow flurries.

The depression which was over Indiana yesterday now covers the Great Lakes, and another has developed off Nantucket.

Heavy snowfalls have occurred in Ontario, Quebec and near the Bay of Fundy, while in the West the weather has been fair.

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

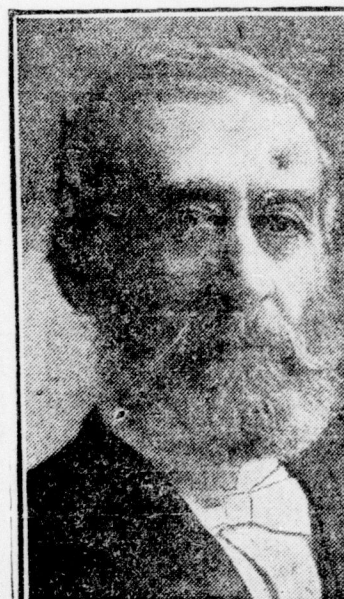
Stations. High. Low. Weather.  
Victoria..... 50 49 Clear  
Calgary..... 49 24 Clear  
Winnipeg..... 0 -13 Clear  
Port Arthur..... 5 -2 Cloudy  
Cochrane..... 4 -2 Snow  
Toronto..... 28 27 Cloudy  
Kingston..... 29 18 Cloudy  
Ottawa..... 16 14 Cloudy  
Montreal..... 14 12 Cloudy  
Quebec..... 14 12 Snow  
St. John..... 13 14 Cloudy  
Halifax..... 23 16 Cloudy

Minus (-) means below zero.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.  
The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 32; lowest, 19.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 34; lowest, 25.

Barometric Readings.  
Tuesday—8 p.m.—29.57.  
Today—8 a.m.—29.57.



F. J. GLACKMEYER, veteran sergeant-at-arms in the Ontario House, who has been in the service of the province since Confederation.

### LAMBETH FARMER FINED FOR CRUELTY

Inspector Tustin Charges Horse Was in Unfit Condition To Work.

Charged with cruelty to animals, a farmer living near Lambeth was today assessed \$10 and costs in police court. Inspector George Tustin of the Humane Society laid the charge.

The farmer had driven a team of horses from his farm to the market square here. When Market Clerk Charles Makor discovered that one was bleeding at both shoulders, he asked Mr. Tustin to investigate.

The farmer insisted on interrupting witnesses and was told by the court to keep quiet several times.