

WILLIAMS ARRIVES IN CITY PREPARED TO TELL ALL

Melbourne Bank Bandit Confident He Can Prove Innocence—Health Improved.

WRITING SONGS NOW

"I Never Dreamed I'd Ever Get Jammed Up Like This," He Tells Reporter.

"Something has got to happen this time. If I travel these tracks back to Kingston, why it will be all right. If I have to stay in London till the end comes—well—that can't be helped either."

"If I'm guilty of murder, I should pay for it. I would expect to pay for it. I'm not though, and I can prove it."

The speaker was Henry Jack "Slim" Williams, Melbourne bank robber, who opened his heart to an Advertiser representative as the International Limited clicked off the miles between Woodstock and London Saturday night.

Very few people in the dimly-lit smoker realized that the young chap who shared the double seat at the forward end of the car with two husky police companions, was no other than the famous Melbourne bank robber, who was being hurried to London, to once more face a judge and jury on a murder charge.

Some Sensation.

"Gee, I'm glad to see you," said Williams, half rising from his seat and offering his free right hand.

"You're looking better. How do you feel?" asked the reporter.

"You couldn't expect a man to feel very good, going up against what I am next week," parried Slim. "Say boy, it's some sensation sitting in that prisoner's box. You haven't any idea what it's like?"

"How does it feel?"

"Just get yourself in the mess I'm in and you'll know fast enough," replied Williams.

"You're looking a lot better than you did last October. You were feeling pretty sick then, weren't you?"

"Yes, I was. I'm better now though, although I weigh just the same, 130 pounds."

"How old are you now, Slim?"

"Just 25," smiled Williams, taking off his blue-peeked cap. "Look at those gray hairs. My head is full of them. I got some of them at the war, but I collected a lot at Kingston."

"How is everything at Kingston?"

"Just so-so. I saw Red Ryan the other day. I wasn't talking to him. He had some experience, didn't he?"

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BACK IN LONDON.

"Slim" Williams, under guard, arrived in this city from Kingston early Saturday night. He is now in the county jail awaiting trial for murder. He told an Advertiser reporter that he felt sure he would prove his innocence.

to get it all off my mind, and then maybe I can rest.

"Say, if I ever get out of Kingston I'm going to Montreal and then to New York. That's the place to go, the boys tell me, and that's where I'll make tracks for. I won't stay there long. I want to get back to Australia. It seems a long way off now, but maybe I'll get home some day. I'm glad I've got no folks here. I wouldn't want them to know what a fix I'm in."

"Guess I'm counting my chickens before they are hatched, eh? I'm a long way from being out of this jam, but what's the use? I got to take my medicine, and I'm going to take it with a smile, even if the worst does happen. I'm not afraid, and they can't make me afraid to die. I seen too many fellows die in France to be afraid to go. That may sound funny to you, but it's God's truth."

Williams remained silent for a few minutes, gazing steadily out of the window. Some twinkling lights flashed into view and he jerked back into his seat.

"What lights are those?" he asked.

Prepares For Trip.

"Must be Ingersoll," answered County Constable James Gumb.

County Constable Ed. Guest, to whom Williams was handcuffed, began preparing for the trip from train to jail.

"Yes, I guess we'll soon be there," said "Slim," stretching his legs to the clanking of leg irons, which were placed on him at Kingston. "I wish the trial was over. I'll have to sit in that box with curious people staring at me and when we get out we'll be going to sell them and make some money."

"Send them along to us and we will publish them for you," promised the reporter.

"I'll write them out and send them to you if the jailer will let me. I think they are pretty good," declared Williams with the brightest of bright smiles.

Picks Up Courage.

"Slim" seemed to pick up courage as the train thundered past the lights of Dorchester. He gave the conductor a smiling welcome as that official came forward to state London East was but a few minutes away.

"Good-bye, Slim," said that bluff and hearty official, clasping the prisoner by the hand. "Luck to you, my boy. I brought you up last time from Kingston."

"Thanks," replied Williams. "I'll need all the luck in the world."

County Constable Gumb helped the prisoner into his heavy blue overcoat and asked him if he would like to finish a couple of doughnuts, the sole remains of the evening lunch.

"No thanks, but I would like a drink of water. Nothing like a drink of good, pure water, is there?" Just gave me a drink and I'll be all set for the trip to jail. Where do we get off?"

"We stop at London East. Everything has been arranged. I was talking to the operator at Woodstock," replied the genial conductor. "I guess we are just about at the station now."

Stops at East London.

The train slowed down and came to a halt amid screeching brakes. The coach stopped directly in front of the Rectory street crossing, and after shaking hands with The Advertiser man, Williams took short steps down the smoker to the clatter of steel chains.

"Good-bye," he said. "Don't forget to tell them that Mr. Gumb and Mr. Guest are the best fellows in the world. They couldn't have been better than they were. Did I tell you that Mr. Rigney (crown prosecutor) got on with us at Kingston? He spoke to me and gave me a smile."

"All right, I'll be careful I won't slip," went on "Slim," as he half stumbled from the train steps.

"Are you the right boy?" came the voice of Governor Byron Dawson out of the dark. The jailer was on hand with a big closed car backed up against the East London station.

"Hullo, governor, going to give us a ride down town?" asked The Advertiser.

"I should say not," came back the governor. "We are going to be full up on this trip."

The car shot away with Williams waving a farewell with his free hand. The trip to the jail was made in record time, and almost before the train had puffed to a stop in the main station Williams was safe in the big cell formerly occupied by his bandit companion, Sid Murrell. Sid is confined in a smaller adjoining cell and will be able to talk to Williams, whose old home at the Mid-dlesex Castle is occupied by Clarence Topping.

RYKOFF IS NAMED AS SUCCESSOR TO NIKOLAI LENINE

Becomes Head of Federal Council Commissars, Dominant Soviet Body.

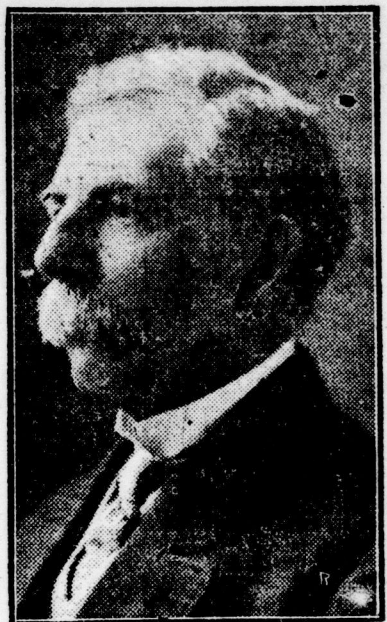
HAS FOUR ASSISTANTS

Associated Press Despatch.

Moscow, Feb. 3.—Official announcement of the appointment of Alexis Ivanovitch Rykoff as chairman of the federal council of commissaries, in succession to the late Nikolai Lenine, as the head of this dominant body was made yesterday.

Ivanovitch Rykoff will have four assistants, Leo Kamenoff, who also is chairman of the council of labor and defence; M. Thurpa, commissar of food supplies and chairman of the state planning commission; M. Churbar, chairman of the Ukraine council of commissars, and M. Orkalsvili, member of Georgia.

There are ten other federal commissars.



MR. JUSTICE LENNOX, who will preside at the three murder trials this week, taking the place of Mr. Justice Riddell.

Lord Chancellor Refuses Salary

Gives Use of Official Residence To Lord Cave.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Feb. 3.—The London Sunday Express states that Lord Haldane, lord chancellor in the Labor government, does not propose to draw his salary of £10,000 annually as lord chancellor, but will merely draw £6,000 as lord of appeal. He will also leave the official residence, to which he is entitled, in the occupation of Lord Cave, who was chancellor in the Baldwin ministry.

RAILWAY BOARD TO MEET FEB. 26

Several Assessment Hearings Slated For Session in This City.

The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board meets here Tuesday, February 26. The session will open at 10 a.m. at the Middlesex county courthouse, City Clerk Sam Baker announced.

Several assessment hearings are slated, including the appeal by the Smallman and Ingram and T. P. Kingsmill companies against the recent judgment handed down by Judge Talbot Macbeth that they should be subjected to an increased business assessment as departmental stores.

Messrs. Hyman and Jarvis are also appealing against the ruling of the court of revision, respecting debatable phases of their income assessment.

From the opinion of City Assessment Commissioner Harry Bennett, it would not be unexpected if the city council directed him to also appeal against the ruling by Judge Macbeth that the C. N. R. express department is not eligible for business assessment.

ATTORNEY ADJOURNED IN RESTAURANT CASE

Harry Crostus Claimed Free Meals, But One of Owners Calls Him a Nuisance.

Has a attorney for a restaurant owner the right to take his meals at a restaurant without paying for them?

This rather odd question confronted Magistrate A. H. M. Graydon at police court this morning, when Harry Crostus was charged with interfering with the operation of a local cafe.

Crostus, it is alleged, was given power of attorney by Mrs. Crostus and Mrs. Harris, two women who had entered partnership in a local eating establishment. It was necessary for him to sign checks, and, according to the charges, he refused to do so.

One of the owners of the restaurant, however, claimed that he was making a nuisance of himself.

A. R. Douglas, who appeared for Crostus, asked the adjournment be granted for a week. He explained the situation and declared that, in his opinion, Crostus should not be compelled to pay for any meals he took at the restaurant in question. Many other angles to the situation had to be taken account of, however, Mr. Douglas adding he was issuing a writ to wind up the partnership between the two women.

Owing to the complexity of things involved in the charge and the nature of the partnership which existed between the owners the court granted an adjournment.

DELEGATES FROM CITY INVITED TO MEETING

Urban School Trustees To Convene in Kingston From Feb. 26 to 29.

W. A. Tanner, secretary of the board of education, has received a letter from C. F. McBride, secretary of the Urban School Trustees' Association, announcing the annual convention of the association at Kingston from Feb. 26 to 29 inclusive.

The letter asks that delegates from the London Board of Education be sent to the convention, and Mr. Tanner states that it is probable that four or five London delegates will attend.

The delegates will be entertained at a twilight luncheon by the faculty of Queen's University on the opening day of the convention.

COMMITTEE TO MEET.

The audit committee of the board of education will meet tomorrow morning to pass on the board's accounts preparatory to the board.

TWO DIVERS WORK IN VAN TO LOCATE BODY OF CHALLIS

Hunt For Jack Challis Continues Throughout Saturday and Sunday.

HUNDREDS WATCH

After three days of diving and a week of grappling with iron bars by members of the fire department in the Thames, the body of little Jack Challis still remains hidden below the ice and water. The firemen, who were on the spot soon after the accident, and who labored from daylight to dark for three days, were aided on Friday, Saturday and Sunday by divers, who in their full equipment were better able to cope with the situation.

On Friday and Saturday Thomas James of 145 Bruce street, an experienced diver, donned the diver's uniform at considerable risk, owing to the fact that he had been gassed overseas, and made several descents. Sunday afternoon Mark H. Berry of 176 Richmond street, who has seven years of diving to his credit, and who has been for some years with the Lord Towing and Wrecking Company of Sarnia, and with a wrecking company at Port Colborne, made three or four descents, and on the first occasion stood under water more than half an hour.

Meets Accident.

He was unfortunate in falling on his line just as he entered the water the first time, pinching it badly, which caused some delay. He traversed thoroughly the spot where the boy fell in, and would have been able to do more but for the fact that he lost one of his heavy iron boots out in the middle of the river. This was about 5 o'clock, and as it was impossible to get another immediately, he was forced to abandon the work for the day.

Mr. Berry was accompanied by his father, Captain Berry, who was for more than 30 years a diver, and who, though past 70 years of age, always mans the air pump when his boys go under water. Five or six hundred people witnessed the efforts of the diver on Sunday afternoon in spite of the wintry weather. They remained until the last shoe called a halt to the day's work. There was a great deal of favorable comment on the work of the diver under the very disagreeable weather conditions existing.

Weather permitting, Berry will resume his operations today. If it is freezing hard it is not likely he will go under.

Suit Is Loaned.

The diving suit and equipment worn by the divers was obtained through the courtesy of the Lord Towing and Wrecking Company of Sarnia. The Advertiser, after it was apparent that all other means of finding the body were not likely to be successful.

Edward Challis, father of the drowned boy, expressed his gratitude for the work done by everyone concerned on behalf of his boy. He said: "Whether my boy is found or not, I can never say how much I am thankful to everyone for the work they have done. Everyone, the mayor, the firemen, the divers and the chaps who manned the air pump have been wonderful."

A pair of black woolen mittens similar to those worn by the boy were found yesterday afternoon at the dam. It was thought at first that they belonged to the lost boy, Mrs. Challis, however, said they were not his.

Mary Berry would have gone down again two, but was called away on business early this morning, and will not be back until the end of the week. It is expected that by tomorrow the body could rise to the surface. The men of the fire department continued their efforts today on the ice in spite of the bleak weather. During the searching operations there has been some trenchant criticism by many bystanders on the position of the city in such cases as these. It is felt that there should be a diving suit, a pontoon from which the diver could descend, and a couple of reliable men to man the air pump. It is also pointed out that there are quite a few men living permanently in the city who are perfectly capable of doing any diving that might be necessary. They might be retained and their expenses paid by the city.

HAYDEN IS AGAINST DISMISSING OFFICIAL

Urges Fair Hearing For Relief Inspector McCallum in Bureau Plans.

Ald. Edmund Hayden insists that the city council is not going to relieve any city official or employee of his duties "just to make a position vacant for some one else."

Appropos of proposal to inaugurate a "confidential relief bureau," Ald. Hayden agrees that the move would be desirable but he is not in favor of any suggestion to take the control of the city's share of the finances, from the hands of Relief Inspector McCallum or in fact from any of the city authorities involved now in that work.

Inspector McCallum is not performing his duties," let the council remove him. Ald. Hayden stated. "But let him have a fair hearing. We are not going to throw him out with my vote just on hearsay or to get a job for some one else."

MEMBERS TO DISCUSS SCHOOL PLAN TONIGHT

Deputation of Last Ratepayers Will Oppose Converting Tech. Into High School.

Tonight's meeting of the vocational advisory committee of the board of education promises to be one of the most interesting in the history of that body.

Prominent on the agenda, and one that will probably occupied the greater part of the evening, is the discussion on the conversion of the Technical High School into a Vocational Collegiate, as suggested at a special meeting of the board in order to relieve the secondary school congestion.

Dr. F. W. Merchant, inspector of education, is expected in the city on Wednesday in order to conduct an investigation as to the feasibility of the plan.

Ratepayers of East London, however, are strenuously opposed to any such plan and feel that they are entitled to a new collegiate. As a result of an indignation meeting held last week, a strong deputation will visit the vocational committee tonight, and urge them to combat the scheme.

TOTAL MOUNTING.

The February building record is steadily mounting, with permits issued to date, from the first of the month for work estimated at \$11,200.

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The London Fruit Growers' Association will meet at the department of agriculture office Thursday afternoon and will be addressed by Prof. Bell on "fertilizers for orchards."

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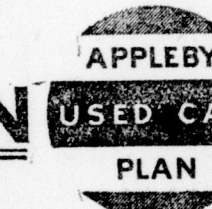
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