

43RD YEAR NO. 18037

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**Bennett's Secure Control
of Grand Opera House****Will Book Both Syndicate and
Independent Attractions—
Mr. Stewart Remains.**

The Grand Opera House lease has changed hands. Fitzpatrick & Stewart, who have controlled it from the 1st of September, 1906, drop out, and the lease goes to the Bennett's Theatrical Enterprises Company, which controls vaudeville theaters in London, Ottawa, Montreal and which will build a vaudeville theater in Hamilton shortly.

Mr. John R. Stewart will remain in the position of manager of the house.

The change in leasehold effects a change in the bookings of the theater. For five years up till Sept. 1 of last year, Klaw & Erlanger, better known as the hub of the big theatrical syndicate, controlled the bookings. Then Mr. J. B. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Stewart's partner, arranged with the Shuberts to book for the house.

The arrangement proved most unsatisfactory to Manager Stewart, and the theater-going public of London. The attractions were few and far between, though it must be admitted that those which did visit London were of a very high class. In five months the Shuberts booked in only five attractions—Aubrey Bourgeois in "The Greater Love," Virginia Harned in "The Love-Letter," Postock's animal circus, Eddie Foy with "The Earl and the Girl," "The Stolen Story," and tonight and tomorrow night "The Flower Girl."

Chevalier and Guilbert and Digby Bell were booked in by Manager Stewart and were syndicate attractions.

Beginning Feb. 1, the syndicate attractions will again play the Grand, and it is safe to say that the bookings will be more satisfactory than they have been for some time.

London being the only town in Canada in which the Shuberts had a theater, they sent attractions here only when they could profitably do so by breaking long jumps. It was expected that the Toronto house would be opened long ere this, but the work has been delayed.

It is understood, however, that the Bennett people will make an endeavor to play both the Shubert and syndicate attractions here. It is said they anticipate no opposition along this line from Klaw & Erlanger, and the Shuberts are quite willing that this should be done.

It is acknowledged that there is not room for another theater in London, and that it is merely a dog in the manger policy for either independent or the syndicate to seek to bar out the attractions of the other.

The Bennett syndicate apparently intend to go into the theatrical business in Canada in earnest. They are credited with an intention of securing both dramatic and vaudeville houses in all the important centers in Canada. London was Mr. C. W. Bennett's first ground in vaudeville, and now the firm is about to try its luck in a dramatic house here. That the effort will prove a successful one, all who know the men behind the Bennett syndicate are ready to admit.

It is understood that Bennett's has secured an option on the Grand Opera House, and that it will only be a matter of time until the property will fall into the hands of the company.

Under the new lessees the Grand is to be lifted to a standard it never in the past attained.

It is understood that it will be improved in every manner possible without interfering with the attractions.

Londoners will be pleased to learn that Manager Stewart is to remain at the Grand. During his five years' residence in London he has made very many friends, who would be very sorry to hear of his leaving the city.

The Grand Opera House Company met today to ratify the transfer of the lease to Bennett's.

REASURE-HUNTERS' FOILED**Ocean Sweeps Away Pier Leading to
\$1,500,000 Gold.**

Mexico City, Jan. 15.—According to a dispatch from Guadalajara, hope of securing the \$1,500,000 gold buried in the hull of the steamer Golden Gate, sunk on the Colima coast in 1861, is at an end for at least a year. The 250-foot pier built from the beach to the wreck, with necessary equipment, built by persons who undertook to regain the treasure, has been swept into the ocean by the storm of last week.

**SHAH'S BROTHER
TRIES SUICIDE****Second Son of the Late Persian
Monarch Takes a Dose
of Opium.**

Paris, Jan. 15.—A special dispatch received here from Teheran says that Malik Mansour Mirza, the second son of the late Shah, made an unsuccessful attempt yesterday to commit suicide by taking opium.

Malik Mansour Mirza, according to recent advice from Teheran, created a scene in the death chamber of his father, and was ordered out of the room by his brother, the present Shah. There has been considerable speculation concerning the ultimate fate of Malik. Two other brothers have not been on good terms for a long time past.

**Coghlan's Body
Cast Ashore.**

New York, Jan. 15.—A dispatch to the Times from Galveston says: A report reached here last night that the body of the late Charles Coghlan, the English playwright and actor, which has been lost since the great storm of Sept. 8, 1906, had been found in its metallic coffin on the mainland in an out-of-the-way place by hunters. The hunters came across the casket almost buried in the marsh, and hidden by weeds. Coghlan died here while on tour, playing in "The Royal Box," and the casket was placed in a vault pending removal to New York for interment. The casket was swept away by the flood. Search for it was kept up for a year, and the Actors' Club had a standing reward for its recovery for nearly three years.

A WESTERN SUICIDE**A Former Wingham Man Reported to
Have Taken His Life.**

Edmonton, Jan. 15.—A blacksmith, George Robertson, aged 30 years, committed suicide on Sunday morning. He was a former resident of Wingham, Ont.

CONSTABLES ARE IDLE**County Police Have Had Nothing To Do
for Some Time.**

Never in the history of Middlesex County has there been so few complaints, and such a scarcity of arrests at this season of the year, as at present. Not a complaint has been received by the county officials in several weeks, and there has been but one arrest in the county in nearly two months. There have been as many as twelve county prisoners in the jail at one time. At present there are none. The fact speaks well for the prosperity of the county, for prosperity and crime do not, as a rule, go together.

**FORMER LONDONER
KILLED IN WEST****John H. Anderson Victim of Acci-
dental Shooting at Dids-
bury, Alberta.**

News was received in this city yesterday of the death by accidental shooting at Didsbury, Alberta, of Mr. John Harvey Noble Anderson, formerly of this city and of Alisa Craig. Mr. Anderson was a son of Dr. J. R. Anderson, of the latter place. No particulars of the accident have yet been received in London or Alisa Craig.

Mr. Anderson was employed at one time in the wholesale of W. E. Saunders & Co., here, and he took a course later in the School of Pharmacy at Toronto. At one time he was a traveler for Parke, Davis & Co., and as such was well known to the pharmaceutical trade of Ontario. In London, Toronto, Parkhill, as well as in Alisa Craig, he was a general favorite. He is survived by his father and mother, one sister, Miss Belle Anderson, Alisa Craig, at present a student in the London Medical School, and Howard Anderson, formerly accountant for the International Harvester Company, now located in the west.

The remains are being brought to Alisa Craig for interment by Mr. R. Anderson, and will arrive there this afternoon.

**MURDERER MACRI
PAYS PENALTY****Winnipeg Italian Goes to Gallows
Protesting His Innocence
to the Last.**

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 15.—Macri, the Italian, was hanged in the yard at the provincial jail here this morning at 9 o'clock for the murder of a fellow-countryman, named Romanelli, on Yonge street, this city, last spring, the final appeal for a reprieve having failed. So far as can be learned, Macri until the last denied having caused the death of Romanelli. The sheriff had a score of applications to fill the hanging man's job.

**TRACK ELEVATION
TO BE TAKEN UP****Negotiations With the G. T. R.
Will Shortly Be Resumed.****DUTIES OF RAILWAY COMMITTEE****Misunderstanding Among Some of the
Aldermen—The Extension of the
Trunk Sewers.**

Mayor Judd stated today that it is his intention to reopen negotiations at once with the Grand Trunk Railway for the elevation of the company's tracks from Ridout street as far east as it is possible for the elevation to be carried, which will be to Adelaide street.

"We will find out what the company intends doing," his worship said.

The newly-appointed railway committee will have the conducting of the negotiations. There appears to have been a serious misunderstanding amongst the aldermen as to what the duties of the railway committee will be. Some were of the opinion that No. 1 committee will meet the Grand Trunk and talk over the reopened negotiations when they are resumed, and that the railway committee will merely attend to the works which were undertaken last year.

The mayor says this impression is erroneous. No. 1 committee will not deal with the trunk sewer matter. The railway committee will attend to this.

The Sewer Extension.
Chairman Matthews of the board of works, spent an hour or more with City Engineer Graydon this morning mapping out plans for carrying on the works of the year.

In the first place the chairman suggested to the engineer that plans be at once prepared for all sections of the main trunk sewer extension, so that all the works may be begun at the same time.

The chairman also figures on getting intelligent bids from contractors outside London, and that the contractors may know what they are doing, borings will be made by the city engineer's department to ascertain the class of ground through which the sewers will run.

Ald. Matthews also gave orders to have a fence built at the foot of Richmond street, to prevent persons driving over the embankment into the river. A report is also to be made on the condition of Grey street west, the dead end of which is said to be unprotected.

**LABOR APPROVES
GOVT.'S POLICY****The Trades Congress Favors Mr.
Lemieux's Measure Re Strikes
and Lockouts.**

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, minister of labor, received a delegation today from the Trades and Labor Congress of the Dominion. The congress was represented by Alphonse Verreille, M. P., president; James Simpson, vice-president; P. M. Draper, secretary, and J. G. O'Donohue, solicitor. Several resolutions, which were adopted by the congress, were presented to the ministers. One of the resolutions was in favor of a separate portfolio for the minister of labor. Another resolution, referring to the strike at the coal mines at Leithbridge, protested against the Mounted Police being used in labor disputes where no breach of the peace or demonstration against property had taken place.

A resolution was presented which favored the establishment of industrial technical schools throughout the Dominion.

As to the letter carriers, it was held that the minimum pay should be \$300 per annum on the expiration of three years' service.

In reference to the fair wage clause in Government contracts, an amendment was asked so that the fair-wage officer could see the books of any officer under suspicion.

The congress approves of the general principles of the Lord's Day act, but it was asked to be amended so that a man who worked only eight hours ought not to be called upon on Sunday.

Another resolution protested against assisted passages or bonuses to emigrants. Hindus, it was held, should be excluded from Canada.

The delegation approved of the bill of Hon. Mr. Lemieux in reference to lockouts and strikes in connection with public utilities, with the exception of sections 62 and 63, which they asked to be eliminated from the bill. Section 62 provides that no employer can dismiss a man or declare a lockout, because he belongs to a trades union. Section 63 provides that members of trades unions cannot refuse to work with non-union men. This is what the delegation objects to, and to be logical they asked that the other be struck out.

MENACED BY LAVA

Honolulu, Jan. 15.—A new outbreak is reported at Mauna Loa. A fourth stream of lava is now flowing toward Kona, a health resort inland from Kalakaua Bay, Hawaii.

MUNICIPAL FIGURES—No. 14**ALD. SCARLETT.****MAYOR HINTS THAT THE OFFER
OF BELL COMPANY IS NOT FINAL**

According to statements made by Mayor Judd today, there is every reason to believe that the city does not accept as final the Bell Company's statement that there will be no reduction in telephone rates in this city.

His worship was very guarded in his statements, but to The Advertiser he hinted that there will be something doing along this line shortly.

One thing is certain, his worship is not budging on receiving any cash sum from the Bell Company this year, which means that either the Bell Company will cut the rates to secure an exclusive franchise, or an agreement will be made by the city with the independent, and an attempt will be made to force the Bell people by competition to cut the rates.

**RATES NOT LIKELY
TO BE ADVANCED**

Insurance Men Say Competition Too Keen to Let Them Force Hand of London Insurers.

A Special dispatch to The Advertiser from Toronto says:

"Insurance men here state that there is little likelihood of rates going up in London on account of the limited water supply.

"Competition, they say, is too keen to enable them to force the hands of London insurers.

"Any drastic action, it is feared, would drive business into the hands of non-tariff companies."

**CAR WORKS LIBRARY
SUCCESSFUL YEAR****Membership Now Numbers 170—
Fred J. Rodgers President
for 1907.**

The ninth annual meeting of the G. T. R. Car Works Library Association was held last evening in the spacious reading-room of the association, a large number of the members being present. The president, Mr. J. Loughlin, was in the chair.

THE WEATHER.**TOMORROW—COLDER.**
Toronto, Jan. 14-8 p.m.
Moderate snowfalls have occurred in the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys, and a few light showers of snow or rain in Ontario. The weather remains extremely cold throughout the Western Provinces and British Columbia.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Atlin, 6-20; Vancouver, 4-24; Kamloops, 20 below-14 below; Edmonton, 46 below-22 below; Calgary, 14 below-22 below; On. Appleton, 34 below-24 below; Winnipeg, 30 below-20 below; Port Arthur, zero-6; Parry Sound, 14-26; Toronto, 22-35; Ottawa, 8-18; Montreal, 6-18; Quebec, 2-14; St. John, 6-30; Halifax, 14-20.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Monday were: Highest, 36°; lowest, 22° above zero.

FORECASTS.

Tuesday, Jan. 15-8 p.m.
Fresh northerly to northwesterly winds; mostly fair and much colder; local snow flurries.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Winnipeg	9	-38	Clear
Port Arthur	22	-24	Cloudy
Parry Sound	9	4	Fair
Toronto	20	20	Cloudy
Ottawa	14	16	Cloudy
Montreal	18	16	Cloudy
Quebec	14	12	Cloudy
Father Point	12	10	Cloudy

WEATHER NOTES.

Moderate snowfalls have occurred in the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys, and snow and rain in the Maritime Provinces. The great western cold wave has now spread as far east as Lake Superior. At the same time it is beginning to diminish.

DETROIT, Jan. 14.—Forecast: Lower Michigan—Partly cloudy and colder on Tuesday; cold wave at night. Wednesday fair, colder in east portion; fresh to brisk northwest winds.**SMALLPOX AGAIN APPEARS HERE;
DOMESTIC IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL****Supposed to Have Contracted
Disease While Visiting Rela-
tives at Oil Springs.**

The smallpox hospital down the river has another occupant. This time it is Miss Beatrice Willoughby, aged 16, who has been working as a servant in a family on Central avenue.

For two weeks the patient has been under surveillance, but the health department of the city kept the news from the press.

Miss Willoughby has been working in the city for a year or more, and at Christmas time she went home to visit her parents, who reside in Oil Springs. Upon her return to this city she took ill, and her physician, fearing smallpox, called in Dr. Hutchinson, the medical health officer, who is a specialist in this line.

After his diagnosis, Dr. Hutchinson was not quite sure as to the presence of the disease, but he took every precaution to prevent the spread of smallpox if it should manifest itself. He communicated with Dr. Clements, the health officer of Oil Springs, who informed him that there was smallpox in the family of the Willoughby girl. Dr. Hutchinson thereupon had the patient removed to the isolation hospital, and Mrs. Vatcher, who has nursed for Continued on page eight.

BIG ELECTRIC MERGER**California Power, Light and Heat Mon-
opoly on a \$2,500,000 Basis.**

San Francisco, Jan. 15.—A financial deal, involving the merger of the Western Electric and the Western Power Companies, which furnish power, light and heat to all the cities and towns in Northern and Central California, is being conducted by the Goulds and Edwin E. Hawley, in the east, and John Martin and Eugene De Sabio, of California.

The Great Western Power Company was recently incorporated in California with a capital of \$25,000,000, as the operating company of the Western Power Company of New Jersey, a holding company, with \$18,000,000 authorized capital stock. Edwin Hawley is president. Bonds valued at \$25,000,000 have been issued in New York, it is said, to finance the proposed merger.

**GOOD NEWS FOR
LETTER-CARRIERS****Hon. Mr. Lemieux Announces
That Their Salaries Will
Be Increased.**

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—The Hon. Mr. Lemieux announced today that he would increase the letter-carriers' salary and favored an eight-hour day on public works.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked the labor delegates to be very sure of facts before pressing resolutions and charges against the Hindus because, after all, Hindus were British subjects.

**HON. MR. COMEAU
GOES TO SENATE****Member of the Nova Scotia Cab-
inet Called to the Upper
House.**

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—A. H. Comeau, a member of the Nova Scotia Government without portfolio, has been called to the senate. This leaves one vacancy for Nova Scotia.

The Hon. A. H. Comeau is member for Digby. He was born Sept. 26, 1860, and is of French parentage. Mr. Comeau was educated at Digby, N. S., and Weymouth. He was elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1890, and has been returned at every election since. Mr. Comeau is a merchant.

**WILL BOARD HAND
OVER A SURPLUS?****Said Waterworks Board Will Not
Turn Cash to City
This Year.**

It is said that the water commissioners will take good care that this year there will be no surplus to hand over to the city.

Whether the cut in rates of last year will be continued is problematical. If the commission is left to its own resources to add to the present supply of water, it will have its hands full, and will have no chance to reduce the rates.

Last year's cut of 10 per cent was not permanent, it is understood. It was only to be continued so long as the finances warranted the commission so doing, and if a surplus sufficient to warrant a greater reduction were in sight, then the people were to get the benefit of it. One thing is certain, Mayor Judd expects no surplus from the commission.

The real surplus handed over last year amounted to about \$6,000.

AGAIN TO THE FRONT

Mr. Vivian Reeve advertised for a coral crescent pin that was lost at the travelers' ball on Friday night. The Advertiser was the means of returning it to the owner, Miss Merritt, of 575 Queen's avenue, was the finder.

**ANOTHER GIANT STEEL COMPANY
SEEKING A SITE IN CANADA**

Windsor, Ont., Jan. 15.—Promoters from Harvey, Illinois, are here looking for a site, on which, they say, they will establish a big manufacturing plant if the United States Steel Company carries out what it is believed to be its intention, to build near Sandwich. The Harvey people decline to say just what their industry will be, but this is known to be some kind of plant using large quantities of steel. They are negotiating conditionally with John Curry for a 1,200-acre tract.

**PARTY CAUCUS MAY
CHOOSE LEADER****Such a Method Favored by
Prominent Liberals.****OTHERS FOR A CONVENTION****Leader Need Not of Necessity Be in
the House Now, Says
Mr. Graham.**

Toronto, Jan. 15.—There is considerable speculation here as to who will succeed the Hon. Mr. Ross as leader of the Ontario Liberals. That the strongest man will be chosen from amongst the many strong men eligible for the position goes without saying, and just now there are splendid opportunities for vigorous, aggressive leadership.

Mr. Whitney is making mistakes that are bound to count heavily against him at the polls. The three-fifths majority clause in the local option law has raised an extremely ugly feeling among Conservative temperance men. The mining policy in the north is bitterly resented. Instead of spending money freely on colonization roads the Government is multiplying fat offices in Toronto. The friends of hundreds of beheaded J.P.s, branded as scoundrels and unfit for service by the Premier himself, are waiting quietly for revenge on the man who on the morning after election declared he owed much of his success to Liberal voters, and pledged himself against the very spoils policy he afterwards put in force.

Convention or Caucus.

Prominent Liberal members of the Legislature have been asked their opinion as to whether a permanent leader should be chosen by a caucus of the members or by a general convention of the party in the Province. Some of the answers follow:

Hon. Richard Harcourt (Monck)—I do not think that a convention will be called. No one in the Legislature seeks the vacant post. The members of the Opposition are united and sanguine as to the future. They will without friction or discord choose a leader, and the cause of Liberalism, which is always the cause of the people, on the floor of the House and elsewhere, as always heretofore will not lack able champions.

John A. Auld (South Essex)—I think the whole Province should have a say in selecting a permanent leader.

E. J. B. Penne (Kingston)—The party in the Legislature may be trusted to select its own leader. Members who had sufficient strength and individuality to win against the fierce and unjust tide of the general election are of a stamp to respect the best interests of Liberalism and of the country. But if the party at large desires a convention its representatives in the House would welcome it, for several expedient considerations, apart from the personal choice under consideration.

Favors Delegates.

A. G. MacKay (North Grey)—I think Liberals should act democratically and somewhat radically. Therefore a leader should be chosen by delegates selected by all Liberals in the Province, even if such leader could not be elected so as to lead at the coming session. Leader so elected would have a tremendous send-off on the outset as being selected by the whole party. This would give the leader great confidence, and would shut off the cry that he was selected by only a portion.

Mr. George P. Graham (Brockville)—The Liberal members of the Legislature, as is the custom, will probably select a leader when the House meets, armed undoubtedly with advice and counsel from the party in the various sections of the Province. He need not of necessity be a member of the Legislature, but whoever the choice he will have a loyal following.

PENNSYLVANIA FLOODS**Waters About Pittsburgh Steadily Rising
and Warnings Are Out.**

Pittsburg, Jan. 15.—Flood warnings were sent out late last night by the local weather bureau, stating that a stage of 22 feet will be reached by the rivers this morning. Early this morning rain was falling along the headwaters of the Allegheny, and about the city, which will have a tendency to further increase the amount of water.

The crest of the flood early this morning was at Freeports and McKeesport. Both the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers are contributing to the rise. Police officials here and at Allegheny City were asked to warn residents in the lower sections of the city.

Advices received last night that very heavy rains had fallen at the confluence on the Youghiogheny, and at Johnstown, on the Conemaugh, with flood stages in both rivers, led to the flood warnings.