

BUDGET ANNOUNCES LOWER TAXES IN BRITAIN

Chief Aitken Decides Not To Probe Saturday's \$200,000 Fire

WON'T PROBE FIRE IN JONES PLANT; CAUSE MYSTERY

Three Firemen Have Narrow Escape From Serious Injury or Death.

HELMETS CRUSHED

Chief Aitken Suspects Incendiarism, But Declines to Make Definite Statement.

Chief John Aitken does not intend to institute a probe into the \$200,000 fire, which destroyed the H. Jones & Son printing plant Saturday night, he informed The Advertiser today.

The origin of the fire remains a mystery. Neither Fire Chief Aitken nor J. Jones, son of the lithographer, would venture an answer to the query: "How did it start?" though some are inclined to think that it was of incendiary origin, and that it was not a simple case of carelessness.

Chief Aitken stated, "The fire had gained a great start when we arrived. It started the fire Sunday, but was not determined to the cause."

He knows of no probe that will be made, and I am not planning one."

Chief Aitken replied to a question from The Advertiser, as to the likelihood of an investigation.

No Explosives There.

He has not the faintest idea as to how the blaze started," Mr. Jones declared. "I am as much at sea as you are."

He said that the matter stands today just as it was. He has no doubt that it was incendiary, but he is not sure. He is not sure as to what exploded, for I am positive there was nothing of a combustible nature in the corner of the building where the explosion occurred."

All our combustibles, including kerosene, gasoline and benzol, were in a safe away from the building. The pumps were in a concrete room, and are intact. I am hoping that developments will reveal the cause of the blaze. The adjutants may be able to find something when they make their investigation. You can say that the matter stands today just as it stood yesterday; that I have not the slightest idea how the fire started, but that I am hoping something may be discovered later."

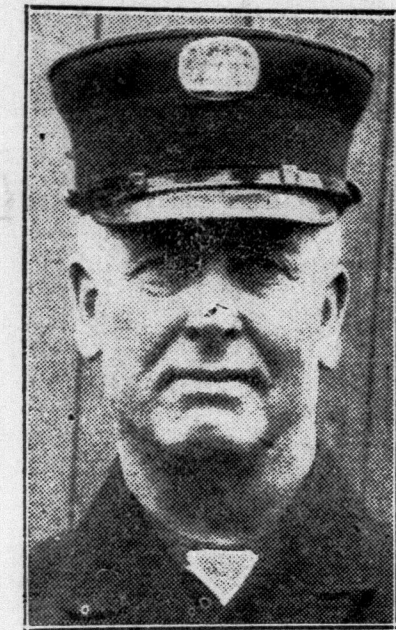
Firemen's Close Call.

Three firemen today owe their lives to a bale of paper, they said. They are Capt. Charles Ferguson, 175 Maitland street, of No. 5 Hall; Lieut. Stanley Scruby, 241 Lorne avenue, of No. 2 Hall, and Fireman George Gower, 244 Oakdale avenue, of No. 2 Hall. They were struck by falling timber when part of the roof caved in.

"Only a bale of paper, which caught the roof as it fell, protected us from the full force of the blow," Captain Ferguson stated. "Scruby and I were closer to the west wall than Gower. As a result, he was hurt more than we were. He was hit by a big beam of wood, and was buried. We thought he was dead. We called to him. Then we heard him answer: 'I'm all right.' He crawled out from under the ruins in a few minutes. The fire-fighter's back also was injured."

"We did not expect that portion of the roof to fall in. We had been warned to keep away from another part of the roof, as it was only hanging by a thread."

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PLANS CAMPAIGN TO BREAK UP FAKE VETERANS' CLUBS

Justice and Postoffice Departments in U. S. Will Take Action.

GATHER EVIDENCE

Special to The Advertiser.

Washington, April 16.—Spurious war veterans' organizations and publications, preying upon the sympathies of the American public, are to be driven out of existence by the combined forces of the justice and postoffice departments, it was learned here today.

Aggressive investigations by the two departments during the past few months, with the aid of commercial and advertising organizations have practically completed the chains of evidence necessary to federal prosecutions.

A quick clean-up campaign, with many arrests, is imminent.



NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH.

The Advertiser illustrations show the three firemen who narrowly escaped death at the \$200,000 fire at the H. J. Jones & Sons' plant Saturday night, when a portion of the roof fell on them. Only a bale of paper and the stout helmets they wore saved their lives. On the left is Captain Charles Ferguson of No. 5 Hall; in the centre, Fireman George Gower of No. 2 Hall; and on the right, Lieutenant Stanley Scruby, also of No. 2 Hall. Both Ferguson and Scruby had their helmets smashed by falling timber; while Gower was buried beneath the debris, and stunned, when hit by a heavy beam.



REDUCE BEER TAX A PENNY A PINT IN GREAT BRITAIN

Corporations Profits Tax Is Cut Fifty Per Cent After June 30.

SUGAR NOT TOUCHED

Associated Press Despatch.

London, April 16.—Stanley Baldwin, chancellor of the exchequer, making his budget statement before a crowded chamber in the House of Commons today said the past year's surplus of £101,000,000 had gone to reduction of the debt. The financial year just closed, had become steadily better as it proceeded. Trade at home and abroad had improved and unemployment had diminished considerably.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Baldwin, referring in his budget statement today to the U. S. debt, said he hoped shortly to settle the form of bonds to be given in replacement of the demand obligations.

Last year's surplus the chancellor said, came about, through the best of all possible causes, namely, the reduction of the expenditure including £27,000,000 for the nation's fighting services and £55,000,000 for civil expenses.

The ordinary estimates for 1923-24 are £421,000,000 as compared with £473,000,000 last year. Mr. Baldwin said it was not intended to provide any margin for supplementary estimates.

He estimated the total expenditure for the coming financial year at £416,615,000. The total revenue for the new year on the basis of the existing taxation is estimated at £532,650,000, leaving a surplus of slightly more than £23,000,000.

The chancellor of the exchequer announced that the corporation tax would be reduced by one-half and the income tax reduced from five shillings to four shillings sixpence on the pound sterling.

There will be no reduction in the sugar tax, the chancellor declared, but he hoped that the condition of the world markets would permit such reduction at an early date.

Cut in Beer Tax.

A cut was announced in the duty on beer so as to allow a reduction of a penny per pint in the retail price. The total debt weight debt, which on March 31, 1922 was £7,773,000,000 was given at £7,773,000,000 on March 31 last, but the chancellor stated that the effective reduction in the debt amounted to £149,000,000.

The only external debts outstanding are to the United States and Canada. The amount of outstanding Canadian dollar debt is practically equivalent to the amount of Canadian sterling bonds held by Great Britain. The chancellor anticipated that these two debts would be set off against one another. A year ago the external debt stood at £1,000,000,000, and at the end of March last at £1,155,000,000.

NATIONALISTS FAVORED.

Associated Press Despatch.

Constantinople, April 16.—The coming elections seem likely to result in a complete walkover for the Nationalist government candidate, as not a single opposition candidate has yet entered the lists.

Girls Are Leading In First Returns of Spelling Match

Winners From Chesley Avenue In Preliminary Round—Summary of Groups, Arrangements and Prizes

Are girls better spellers than boys?

It looks that way. The Advertiser's big spelling match in the city schools is under way, and in the first returns from the battle which came in this morning, the girls have it all over the boys by more than two to one.

To Chesley Avenue School, under Principal E. E. Gibbs, in the South East group goes the honor of first completing the preliminary round. Chesley avenue has picked its best spellers in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8, and in the next stage of the match these best spellers will compete with the winners in Aberdeen and Ealing to pick the best in the group.

Here are the winners from Chesley Avenue as reported by Principal E. E. Gibbs. The girls are well in the lead, and the boys in the other schools will have to buck up for the honor of their sex.

GRADE 5.

Vivian Pook, Vordo Bezze, Dorothy Hill, Sylvia Hill, Marjorie Westland, Charlotte Simpson, Ruby Charlton, Gertrude Hughes, Della Moyer.

GRADE 7.

Donald Patterson, Edward Wilson, Wilfred Patterson, Floyd Calk, Douglas Wood, Dorothy Benbow, John Lane, Eleanor Westhead, Frances Parker, Evelyn Smith, Alice Barned, Lena Adams, Gretta Bragg, Olive Huston, Irene Anderson, William Harrison.

GRADE 6.

Bernice Fountain, Ruby Gwalchmai, Beta Poole, Violet Williams, Estelle Northey, Margaret Cleary, Fred Maudeley, Kathleen Adams, Charlie Armstrong, Margaret Ross, Bernice Risher, Ellen Purdy, Jack Daniels, Harold Peters, Frances Sumner, Jack Heathfield.

GRADE 5.

Fred Carswell, Jean Kiborn, Kathleen Adams, Loran Webb, Rose Henry, Fred Hyatt, Charlie McIntosh, Dorothy Jervis, Doris Macrow, Ross Smith, Marion North, Jean Macdonald, Marguerite Barnard, Lorne Curcove.

Here is a summary of the arrangements of the spelling match and the list of the 160 prizes which The Advertiser is offering to the girls and boys who win.

No Obligations.

There are, of course, no conditions imposed by The Advertiser. The competition is open to every pupil in all the grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the city. It is not necessary to be an Advertiser subscriber, and no requests or obligations of any description will be suggested either during or after the match.

The public school officials have divided the city into four big groups for the match.

These are as follows:

SOUTHEAST GROUP.
Aberdeen, Chesley and Ealing.
SOUTHWEST GROUP.
Tucumseh, Wortley, Victoria, Riverview and Simcoe.

A Deserted Baby Found In Ottawa

Unable To Identify Child Left on Lawn.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, April 16.—A baby boy, about two months old, was found last evening lying on the lawn in front of a Slater street residence. Efforts to identify the child were futile.

Associated Press Despatch.

Rawalpindi, British India, April 16.—Awakened at night by the howling of his dogs, Major Ellis, temporary commander at Kohat, a town in the Punjab, found his wife dead with her throat cut, while his 15-year-old daughter had disappeared. The girl is believed to have been abducted by Afridi raiders after they had committed the murder. Troops have scoured the countryside, but in vain.

Two British officers, Major Anderson and Major Orr, were shot dead a few days ago in the same neighborhood by unknown assailants.

SUES FOR LANDS.

Hyland Oke, of this city, issued a supreme court writ this morning against Alvin Charles Twiddy and Alice Twiddy of London Township to obtain possession of certain lands in Westminster, which he claims is being unlawfully retained by the defendants. The plaintiff asks for \$40 costs. The writ was issued by Tennent & Tennent.



MISS JOSEPHINE MORKIN.

Popular London girl, prominent in business circles, whose marriage to W. Frederick Stambach, of this city, was solemnized at 8 o'clock this morning in St. Peter's Cathedral, Rev. Monsignor McKoon officiating. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morkin of this city. She was the winner in her district in The Advertiser trip contest some years ago, when the prize was a trip to San Francisco, by way of the Canadian west.

CITY BUS OWNERS WILL NOT RENEW LONDON SERVICE

Amending Bylaw Proves No Inducement to Local Drivers.

The amending of the "bus bylaw" to allow the Knollwood Park "bus" to carry more passengers than it has seating capacity for is no inducement for the fourteen owners to again operate their cars on the city streets, after more than two months of inactivity, one well-known owner stated this morning.

Even if they were allowed to carry capacity loads the liability insurance they would have to carry, coupled with the depreciation on their cars and operating expenses, would be such a heavy burden that the "buses" could not be operated profitably, the owner further asserted.

Competition Too Much.

Pointing out that Ald. Drake has been urging the purchase of two buses by the city to take care of the east end traffic, he declared that if the alderman's plans were carried out, individual owner. The Hamilton road and the Ridout street routes were the only two lines on which passenger buses have been operated with a profit, the driver declared.

"The public will suffer through the 'buses' having to be taken from the streets," another driver declared. "In the summer people will be flocking to Springbank, and the street railway company will have to compete with his car for passengers. Some of the owners have announced their intentions of running between London and Ottawa during the summer months. They hope to realize a little money on their investment, so that the car will not be a total loss. One or two drivers have removed the body from their cars and are now engaged in the cartage business."

Still Possess Cars.

Most of the bus owners are still in possession of their cars, because they cannot find a market for them. Some of the owners have announced their intentions of running between London and Ottawa during the summer months. They hope to realize a little money on their investment, so that the car will not be a total loss. One or two drivers have removed the body from their cars and are now engaged in the cartage business."

SEVEN HUNDRED CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

In all there are over 800 awards to be won, totalling well over \$1,000 in value. The Advertiser is glad that all its prizes are to be supplied by a London merchant, John A. Nash, M. J. Jeweler, and you may see them now for yourself in his fine, big window on Dundas street.

Announcement of the winners in round one will be made in The Advertiser just as quickly as they are sent in every day this week.

WATCH FOR THE NAMES AND PICTURES OF THE WINNING GIRLS AND BOYS.

CASSELMAN WILL SIT NEAR CONSERVATIVES

To Be Placed Between the Independents and Ferguson Followers.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, April 16.—The speaker of the legislature completed arrangements this morning whereby W. H. Casselman, Dundas, who on Friday asked to be placed on the Opposition side, will be seated next to M. M. MacBride, Brantford, on the right flank of the rear row of Conservatives. Mr. Casselman will hereafter sit between the Independents and the Conservatives. The new arrangement puts the rear row of Conservatives along a seat to fill the vacant one caused by the death of R. A. Fowler.

ALBERTA ENGINEER TO SPEAK.

G. R. Pratt, chief engineer of the Alberta government, will address a meeting under the auspices of the Canadian Club and the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in the collegiate auditorium, on "Alberta's Coal Resources and the Quality and Methods of Use of Alberta Coal." The meeting will be open to the public, and there will be no admission charge.

CONSERVATIVES DEFER CHOOSING THEIR CHAMPION

Local Leaders Will Get Together and Canvass the Prospects.

LABOR MEN BUSY

Central Body To Meet Friday Night To Select Standard-Bearer.

The Conservatives will defer the choice of their heavyweight for the political finals until some day next week. There is no need for immediate haste and bustle, they think, and in the meanwhile they purpose preparing and running through the brush. They may even consider uncut timber, they hint today.

Members of the executive gathered for an informal party Saturday discussing at noticeable length the recent developments and speculating much upon coming events. As a matter of fact, there was little else to do but interchange opinion—and naturally enough opinion was divided to the extreme.

It was ruled that the local adherents assemble in special session next week. It was first thought advisable to meet Friday evening next, following the Western Ontario session, when the presence of visiting dignitaries and the "big guns" from capital headquarters might have its psychological effect upon the troops. This proposal was discarded, however, as the committee estimated "that there would be sufficient to do on Friday night, and that the greater portion of the day it would seem."

Leaders to Confer.

Until after the local "pow-wow" then little progress, if any, will be noted. When the association meets officers and special committees will be elected for the season and upon the new executive will be shouldered the responsibility for setting a date for the conventional rally—in other words, set the stage.

Ex-R. Dennis, president of the Western Ontario Association, as well as the London association, announced to The Advertiser that he will relinquish his position with the latter body at least. It is his belief, however, that the remaining personnel of the committees will not be materially changed.

Members of the central Labor body will convene in regular session Friday night next. Appreciating the well-established fact that none of the political groups have an abundance of time to fritter away, the Labor chiefs will set their convention date at this scheduled session.

After a cursory survey of the situation, it would appear that Dr. London, is the logical choice for the Labor delegates stress the fact that their candidate is always elected on the floor of the convention, and not in secret sessions behind closed doors.

Stevenson Likely.

Members of the party executive have already voiced unofficial approval of his candidacy, and he has already expressed willingness to serve should they pass favorably upon his record in the legislature.

During the past few days there has been a murmur of dissatisfaction, the claim being that London has not received a square deal from the Drury administration, but the Labor whips brand this as propaganda emanating from the Conservative encampment, tended to create confusion and mistrust among the Labor forces.

Dr. Stevenson's way, however, has been a narrow one, and higher street railway fares and increased gas rates has been extended as a "deplorable" example of how the member from London was to serve despite the fact that he was sitting on the government benches. The Labor chiefs state that any government does not necessarily support every private bill introduced by it because he opposes it.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.

Today—Fresh westerly to northwest. Dry winds; mostly fair, not much change in temperature.

Tuesday—Fair with stationary or slightly higher temperature.

Moderate depressions are situated in the Ottawa Valley and off the New England coast, and pressure is highest over Manitoba and the northwest states. Snow and rain have occurred over the greater part of Ontario, also in Quebec and the southwestern portion of the Maritime Provinces. In the west the weather has been fine and for the most part very mild.

Stations—High Low Weather
Victoria..... 50 30 Fair
Calgary..... 42 20 Clear
Winnipeg..... 41 20 Cloudy
Port Arthur..... 41 20 Cloudy
Soo..... 32 24 Cloudy
Toronto..... 45 34 Cloudy
Kingston..... 33 34 Cloudy
Ottawa..... 40 30 Cloudy
Montreal..... 44 32 Snow
Quebec..... 40 32 Fair
Father Point..... 36 22 Cloudy
St. John..... 40 26 Snow
Halifax..... 41 25 Snow

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 52; lowest, 42.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 3 a.m. today were: Highest, 42; lowest, 31.

Barometric Readings.

Sunday—8 p.m., 29.07.

Today—8 a.m., 29.06.

Buckshee!

Everyone has a warm spot in his heart for the boys in khaki, and here's a chance to express it.

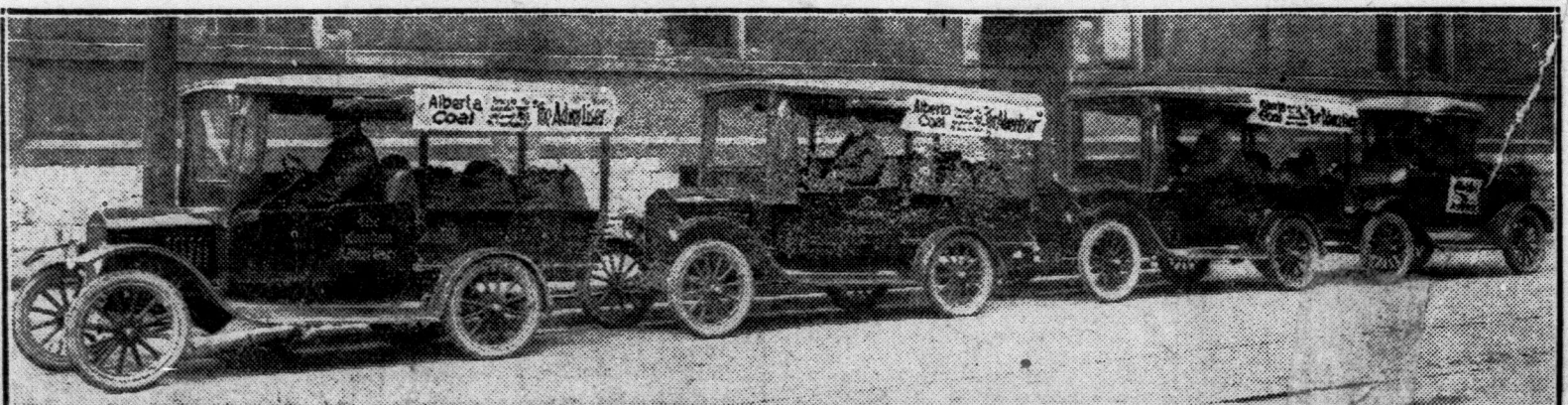
"Buckshee" is the help of a pal when you're in hard luck.

In the big fire at Tucumseh Barracks last Thursday night a number of the boys of the R. C. R. lost all their savings and personal property—everything they own except their pluck.

A little boost just now for the men who were pals to all of us in trying times will help a lot.

The Advertiser has opened a "Buckshee Bag" to give you your chance to express yourself. Send your money to The Advertiser under any name you wish. The total will be given to Col. C. H. Hill to distribute among the boys who most need it.

The complete list of the "Buckshee Bag" will be published later the week.



DELIVERING ALBERTA COAL TO 100 LONDON HOMES.

Here are four of The Advertiser's motor trucks loaded up with sacks of Alberta coal from the shipment which The Advertiser brought to London early last week. These trucks will deliver sacks of coal to the 100 London homes listed on Page Two of this edition. Over five hundred applications for coal have followed The Advertiser's offer of Saturday afternoon, and The Advertiser regrets exceedingly that the list must be considered closed at the hundred mark. Delivery is taking place today and tomorrow, and the experiences of those who try the coal at home will be published in The Advertiser as promptly as they are received. There are, of course, no obligations imposed on those who receive the coal.