

THE WEATHER:
NORTHERLY WINDS, FAIR AND COLD.
TUESDAY—FAIR.

London Evening Advertiser

GOOD NEWS
IN THE WANT ADS TODAY
ON PAGE 14.

THREE CENTS.

61ST YEAR. NO. 23924

LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1924.—SIXTEEN PAGES.

JUDGMENT RESERVED IN TOPPING APPEAL CASE

City Council Finishes Year With Over \$10,000 Surplus

SWANSON IS URGED TO PRESENT APPEAL TO OTTAWA BOARD

Chief Justice Latchford States No Interference Noted To Warrant Finding Any Miscarriage of Justice—Swanson Denies He Desired To Change Plea Because He Felt Defence Was Failing.

DID NOT ANNOUNCE CLIENT'S CHANGE

Canadian Press Despatch.
Toronto, March 31.—The second divisional court, Chief Justice Latchford presiding, this morning reserved judgment on the application by D. A. J. Swanson, representing Clarence Topping, for a new trial. "Topping is sentenced to be hanged on April 10 for the murder of London in November of Geraldine Durston. The court suggested that Mr. Swanson should telegraph to the department of justice for the mental examination of Topping suggested by the trial judge to be made at once. E. Bayley, K.C., deputy attorney general, for the crown, stated that he had written the department calling attention to the imminence of the execution.

Urges Examination.

"It is only proper," said Chief Justice Latchford, "that the examination should be made. The question is whether what occurred at the trial was such an interference with the administration of justice that it would warrant us saying there was a miscarriage of justice. In my view, it was not. I shall have to consult my colleagues."

At the opening of argument, Mr. Swanson abandoned all grounds of appeal except that as to the refusal of the trial judge to direct an issue as to whether the accused was of the time of the trial unit, by reason of insanity, to take his trial. Mr. Swanson said that he had put questions as to Topping's present condition to Dr. C. Howland at the trial at the beginning of the defense and "the trial judge had at once definitely refused to allow him to go into this, saying that he had elected to stand trial and he could not blow hot and cold."

Mr. Justice Orde—Having that in your mind, what authority had you to go on?

Mr. Swanson—You are questioning my motives.

Mr. Justice Orde—If he was insane at the trial, what authority had you to go on at all?

Mr. Swanson—It may have been a fault on the part of counsel, but I submit it cannot reflect upon the defendant.

Another Course.

Chief Justice Latchford—You felt that your defence was failing, and you took the other course?

Mr. Swanson—That is what was the case. The court pressed him as to whether Topping had been able to instruct him for the defence. Mr. Swanson said that there was some doubt in his mind as to the value of the instructions received, and these had increased during the trial to a point where he decided that he was no longer able to receive instructions from him. Mr. Justice Hodgins said that if he had been sincere he might have withdrawn from the case at that point, instead of which he was right on with it. It was pointed out that he did not communicate to the trial judge his opinion as to a change in his client's condition.

The Weather

FORECASTS.

Today.—Fresh northerly winds; fair and cold.
Tuesday.—Fair; stationary or a little higher temperature.
The storm which was centered in Iowa on Saturday has passed to the high pressure with low temperature from the West has spread over the Great Lakes and Middle States.

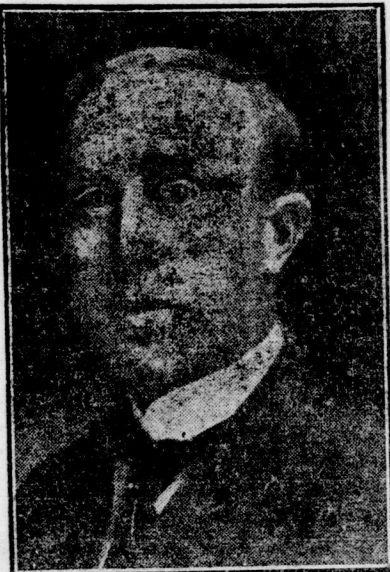
Temperatures.

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

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	44	42	Cloudy
Calgary	30	18	Fair
Winnipeg	26	10	Clear
Port Arthur	29	6	Fair
Edmonton	14	-10	Clear
Toronto	38	12	Clear
Kingston	38	12	Fair
Ottawa	38	12	Fair
Montreal	39	16	Fair
Quebec	34	26	Cloudy
St. John	36	32	Cloudy
Halifax	36	32	Cloudy
Minneapolis	36	22	Cloudy

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 40; lowest, 22.
The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 22; lowest, 17.
Barometric Readings.
Tuesday—8 p.m., 29.67.
Today—8 a.m., 29.22.



H. B. BEAL, chairman of the educationalists division in the city drive to aid the poor and needy. Mr. Beal is an ardent supporter of welfare work.

POSTMEN FEEL ISSUE WILL MEET AGREEMENT

London Employees Express the Opinion No Strike Will Result.

PREPARED TO ACT

Civil Service Commission Will Proceed With Salary Revision.

"We don't think that there will be a strike of the postal workers," was the statement given out by the men this morning. "It is true that we had a representative at the mass meeting in Toronto last night and that the subject of a strike was dealt with, but that does not mean that a strike will take place. It does mean, though, that if the government at Ottawa does not take action soon regarding the upward revision of postal workers' salaries, then there will certainly be Dominion-wide action on the part of postal workers."

The last official word that has been received by the men was a message to the effect that the civil service commission had been instructed by the federal government to proceed with the salary revision of postal workers, that it would be retroactive to April 1, and that the work of the commission would be under way by April 15.

Regarding the criticism of the civil service commission and the resolution brought forward by some of the workers expressing a lack of confidence in the commission, this was thrown out for the reason that the civil service commission acts only as directed by the government and London postal workers feel that there is nothing to be gained by antagonizing that body when it merely carries out the commands of the government.

Of the 150 men who would be affected by a strike in London, 96 per cent are organized and in thorough sympathy with the workers. They make no secret of the fact that they are just a little impatient as to the outcome of the negotiations, and say that though they are not talking fight or strike they are like other branches, ready for action should the necessity arise.

CALLS MEETING.

Superintendent C. E. Forrester of the C. N. R. has called a meeting of the heads of the various departments for this evening in his office to discuss means whereby the employees of the railroad might contribute to the Welfare Fund.

M'GRATH'S PARTY POWER GROWING

New Group To Try and Achieve Peaceable Change to an Independent Republic.

Dublin, March 31.—Joseph McGrath's new group, the constitutional republican party, will occupy an important place in the Dail Eireann, according to the special correspondents in Dublin. It will be in close touch with Liam Tobin, chief of the army mutineers, and his friends, the writers say.

Its establishment as the kernel of the republican opposition will reduce the Free State government's majority in the Dail by from eight to ten votes, and should the extreme republicans, who have hitherto refused to take their seats, abandon that attitude, and join McGrath's party, the government would be in the minority.

The new party's form of republicanism will be a strictly constitutional one, not aiming at an immediate breach with Great Britain, but endeavoring by use of constitutional machinery to achieve peaceable transition to an independent republic.

THIEVES MAKE FUTILE SEARCH FOR NARCOTICS

Canadian Press Despatch.
Brantford, March 31.—Lough's drug store here was entered over the weekend, apparently by searchers for narcotic drugs, since \$40 in the cash till was left there, while shelves and bottles were moved around in a search for what proved unobtainable. The Ontario Lunch was not so fortunate, as \$46 was stolen from a "secret" hiding place.

Big Contest Ends Tonight; Race For Prizes Is Close

Special Staff Is Employed To Handle Great Flood of Subscriptions.

LAST-MINUTE WORK

Candidates in Rural District May Continue Drive Until Monday Night.

At 10 o'clock this evening The Advertiser \$20,000 contest will be concluded and the doors of the contest department locked. At the same time more than 100 loyal supporters of The Advertiser will breath relief, for the campaign has been a trying one. The awards were so worth-while and the commission on subscriptions so profitable that many candidates put all their vigor into the contest. The end will bring a much-needed rest to many.

Candidates are so close in the standing that the number of subscriptions brought in before 10 o'clock today will probably determine the prize winners. That is why one final Herculean effort is required.

A great flood of subscriptions is expected by the contest manager this afternoon and he has augmented the staff to take care of them. Realizing that so much depends on their success in getting a ready-determined number today, candidates, in several instances, are taking the whole day off.

Candidates outside the city, please note! You have the privilege of working up to the last minute tonight, then mailing all your subscriptions to The Advertiser Contest Department. All such subscriptions may not reach us until tomorrow afternoon or night, but all such returns will be protected by the auditors in the final count.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT, assistant secretary of the U.S. navy, whose resignation is demanded in a resolution drawn up today by Senator Dill, and presented to the oil committee.

CENTRAL IRELAND BRIDGES TOTALLY DESTROYED

Associated Press Despatch.
Belfast, March 31.—A number of bridges on the main road between Longford and Athlone in Central Ireland, were blown up last night and the roads were blocked with felled trees. The republicans disclaim responsibility for the destruction.



E. V. BUCHANAN, chairman of the public service division in London's United Welfare Drive, who is ready to start the campaign to place his division well above its objective.

FLOOD CONDITIONS GROWING WORSE

Ohio Valley Towns Are in Imminent Danger as Waters Rise.

Associated Press Despatch.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 31.—Flood waters of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, swollen by rains and melted snow from the mountain regions of western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, were sweeping westward through the Ohio valley today. A stage of 41 feet was expected by noon at Wheeling, which would submerge the district fronting the river bank.

Streets in most of the Pittsburg district bordering the rivers were inundated, some to a depth of six or seven feet Sunday when both the rivers left their channels. A stage of 23.2 feet, seven feet above the flood stage, was recorded, the highest in eleven years. Much damage was done to industrial plants and at many operations will be suspended until repairs are made. The flood waters were receding today.

MAYOR WANTS TO MAKE SURE OF LOWERRATES

Advises That Caution Be Exercised Before Installing Fire Hall Switchboard.

In support of his argument against the installation of a new electric switchboard at the central fire station, Mayor Wenige submits that the British report advises that the advisability of such expenditure at this time should be carefully considered if there is no positive assurance from the fire underwriters' association that local rates would be lowered as a direct result.

Mayor Wenige recalls that the underwriters advised the city council in 1924 that the rates would not be lowered in spite of this and other changes. In view of this he would cut the proposed expenditure, \$16,000, from the estimates.

SIX C. N. R. FREIGHT CARS ARE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Six freight cars of the C. N. R. standing on the crippled storage tracks in the sand pit, London East, were destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon, leaving only the trucks. The origin of the fire is not known and the flames had made great headway before being noticed.

The cars, valued in the neighborhood of \$600 each, were waiting removal to the carshops for repairs. The fire was checked when the blaze, after sweeping down the line of cars, reached a steel coal car.

Lew Tyler's Wives

—the story of a lovable ne'er-do-well—
By WALLACE IRWIN
—has begun in The Advertiser as a daily serial.
READ IT TODAY!

London's Welfare Campaign To Be Launched Tomorrow With \$125,000 As Objective

Workers Will Rally Tonight To Complete Plans For Great Work.

ALL URGED TO WORK

"Every Citizen's Something" Is Slogan of Those Engaged in Work.

Tomorrow marks the opening of the fifth annual campaign of the United Welfare Fund, and with final preparations completed the 150 or more volunteer workers are meeting at dinner at the Tecumseh House this evening to receive final instructions before commencing their canvass tomorrow morning. At tonight's dinner and at every subsequent meeting during the week the workers will be the guests of public-spirited citizens so that not one cent of money contributed to the welfare fund will be expended in this direction.

A great majority of those who make up the team organization this year are veterans of previous campaigns who realize that their objective can be obtained only as they succeed in giving every resident of London a chance of becoming a contributor to the fund. They are prepared to put a great deal of conscientious effort into their work and citizens would do well to remember that these men are giving of their valuable time and work without reward of any kind, merely because they are determined to see that every child or older person in London needs the fact that it is not necessary for contributors to donate the whole of their subscription in cash at the present time. It is possible and even desirable that they spread their payments over 12 months, by which arrangement they will not find their contribution in any sense a burden.

Of tonight's meeting in addition to the team workers will be attended by the general campaign organization including the chairmen of the individual divisions, public services division, wholesale division, retail division, and banks and financial offices division, will be addressed by Rev. J. Bruce Hunter, pastor of the Methodist Church, who will have a message of encouragement and help for those upon whose efforts the success of the campaign will depend.

Canvassing in every division will commence bright and early Tuesday morning and from present indications it is probable that a large portion of the fund will be successfully raised by Wednesday night.

Court Fines Are Bigger In 1924

Sum of \$7,263.50 Has Been Collected Since January 1.

Police court fines and fees during 1924 are still mounting steadily over 1923, according to the first quarterly statement from City Treasurer James Bell.

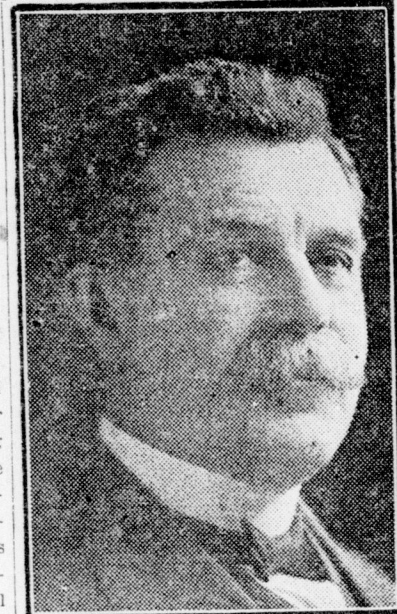
Since the first of the year the sum of \$7,263.50 has been gathered in at the Carling street station, as compared with the sum of \$6,080.10 for the corresponding period of 1923. The police department brought in a surplus last year while receipts exceeded expectations. It appears as though this record will be eclipsed this year, welcome news to those who would keep the tax rate down.

GREER SAYS SOLUTION WILL BE HARD TO GET

Chairman of Board of Works Amused at Suggestion of Personal Liability.

A solution of the street railway situation as it involves the payment of the Richmond street track allowance is going to be difficult to find, Ald John Greer, chairman of the board of works, pointed out. At least, until after the council has fully considered the refusal of the Ontario Legislature to ratify the 1923 resolution whereby the company was to pay its share of the cost in ten annual instalments.

Ald. Greer was much amused over the report that "certain people were of the opinion that individual members of last year's council should be held financially liable" if the company refused to pay, and insisted that the city adhere to its agreement.



JAMES GRAY, chairman of the retail division in the United Welfare Drive, who is an energetic supporter and worker for this cause.

MONTH'S FIRE LOSSES \$7,000

Department Responds to 21 Alarms in March—378 Inspections Made.

Fire losses for the month of March amounted to approximately \$7,000, according to fire statistics compiled Saturday. This figure is about the same as for the month of February. The greatest loss during this month resulted at the C. S. Hyman tannery when fire caused damage to the extent of about \$5,000.

Alarms registered at the central hall numbered 21. One was a false alarm and the other was a test run. Box alarms amounted to two while 17 were received by phone. The other two alarms were verbal.

Inspections conducted by the firemen during the month totalled 378 and in the majority of cases the condition of the premises was found to be good. There were 24 buildings ordered to be cleaned up and on the second inspection conditions were improved in all except four. On the third inspection only two failed to measure up to the standard.

DECORATION DAY PLANS RAPIDLY MATURING

C. E. F. Returned Chapter, Under Mrs. J. B. Dunlevy, Fostering Move.

Taking for their motto, "Lest We Forget," the C. E. F. Returned Chapter, of which Mrs. J. B. Dunlevy is regent, are making rapid strides for the holding of Decoration Day in this city on Sunday, June 15, and in which they hope to have the various patriotic organizations take an active part.

Working in conjunction with the G. W. V. A., they plan to decorate the graves of all soldiers buried in London cemeteries. It is likely, according to Mrs. Dunlevy, that a big parade will be in connection with the affair.

"It is only right," declared Mrs. Dunlevy, "that we should keep fresh in our memory the untold sacrifices these men paid, and we hope to stimulate country-wide interest in Decoration Day, which will probably be celebrated yearly in the cities of the Dominion in the future."

COAL PETITION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED

All signed Alberta coal petition forms should now be returned to The Advertiser office as quickly as possible. Arrangements are being made to present the petition to the premier on the floor of the House of Commons within the course of a few days.

Both Ontario and Alberta members, in supporting the petition, will urge its purpose of immediate and definite action by the present session of parliament.

TREASURER PRESENTS HIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Surplus For London During the Past Year Is Placed at \$10,700.

EXPLAINS INCREASE

Majority of Spending Bodies Lived Well Within Surplus.

The London city council of 1923 finished the year with a surplus in the neighborhood of \$10,700, according to City Treasurer James Bell, his first official statement.

This record is considered remarkable in view of the fact that many thousands of dollars were expended last year by Mayor Wenige and his colleagues for which no provision had been made in the tax rate, 34.7 mills, a decrease of two points upon the previous year.

This increase has been possible through various ways. The board of works finished with a substantial surplus, as did the police department. The hospital trust came through with flying colors, and under a new regime, prior to the last municipal election also absorbed a deficit of several thousands from 1922.

The majority of the spending bodies have lived within their estimates, while \$1.1 was available as the remainder of the usual appropriation set aside for remissions of taxes, etc. During the year the city treasurer also absorbed a deficit of several thousands from 1922.

All these have been swept aside, however, with the latest announcement from the city treasurer.

SUFFERS BROKEN ANKLE IN FALL ON HOUSE STEP

Miss Edith Barter Will Be Confined to St. Joseph's Hospital For Some Days.

Falling on the step of her home at 65 Byron avenue this morning about 8 o'clock, Miss Edith Barter was removed to St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from a broken ankle. Miss Barter, who is employed as a stenographer at the London Printing and Lithographing Company, was leaving her home on her way to work, and had just stepped out when the unfortunate accident occurred.

Dr. R. C. Annet was called and removed her to the hospital in his car. She will be confined to the hospital for several days.

INSTALLATION OF C. N. R. BLOCK SYSTEM STARTS

New Signals Between Here and Komoka Will Prevent Rear-End Collisions.

Work has already been started by the C. N. R. to install the block signal system on this division between Komoka and London, according to an announcement made today. Fifteen or more men are employed in this work composed for the greater part of electricians of the maintenance-of-way department.

Under this system it will be impossible for more than one train to be in motion in one block at a time, and rear-end collisions are prevented.