

TWO

FIRST REPORTED AS KILLED, BUT WRITES THAT HE IS UNHURT

Gunner L. C. Tobias' Letter Contradicts Rumors.

IS STILL WITH HIS GUN

But Had Hairbreadth Escape From High Explosive Shell.

The English mail which came to the home of P. C. Tobias at 331 Colborne street, carried a strange account of rumor and fact that first reported his son, Gunner Lionel C. Tobias, of the 44th Battery, as killed in action, and later a letter from the boy himself proved that he was well, although somewhat splattered with mud that went up in showers from the shells that exploded about his battery.

A letter came from Capt. Stanton of the 4th Canadian Divisional Artillery, telling Mr. Tobias that his son had been killed in action, and paying a warm tribute to the valor of the young man. Capt. Stanton had evidently heard of Gunner Tobias' supposed death and wrote while in England.

But as he read the letter Mr. Tobias was not downhearted, because lying on the table were three other letters, all of them from his son. The last one was dated two days after the letter from Capt. Stanton, so that there was no question about the young Londoner being alive. He related his experiences, one of which was a high explosive shell struck close by in the Somme fighting.

Since early in December Mr. Tobias had been troubled by constant reports of his son's death. No definite information was received until the letter from Capt. Stanton came. It was a day earlier than the one from Gunner Tobias, but would have been felt that there was no hope.

Gunner Tobias qualified as an officer in this city, but went straight to the ranks when he could not secure a commission. He has been in many hot places, and as Gunner Tobias said, is performing the bravest service and holding a high place in the regard of his comrades.

ONE QUESTION ON CARDS PREVENTING MANY FROM SIGNING AS THEY DESIRE

Men Do Not Want to Give Up "Present Positions" Without Assurances.

If there is a failure to respond to the call of national service, as requested on the registration cards, it may be blamed on the defective information requested as to whether a man is prepared to give up his "present position" and take one elsewhere at the same salary.

Many men are refusing to reply to this question, because they feel that they might be moved from their present homes at considerable expense and with no assurance that their new position would be held for them. These men are not "slackers" in any sense of the word, but they know that only certain men in each community would be selected, and they do not intend to volunteer to make a sacrifice while others shirk responsibility.

It was said on good authority today that many workmen would sign the cards, volunteering to do what they could, were it not for the prospect that they would be removed from their homes, while single men would be permitted to stay.

One citizen stated that he had written his firm asking if his position would be guaranteed were he to sign, and to the vexed question he is awaiting a reply.

The advertiser has received one letter from "Sandpaper," in which he asks for information as to whether a man is prepared to give up his "present position" and take one elsewhere at the same salary. The Government should clearly state what the matter is asking questions which are confusing is the opinion of many.

FACE FASHIONS THIS YEAR

Demand That the Complexion Be Made Clear and Clean, and Nothing Aids the Skin Like Stuart's Calcium Wafers.

All styles of dress this year make it necessary that every woman remove pimples, blotches, etc. The condition is brought about by reason of the fact that the colors used and style of hair dress throw the face in a position of prominence that will make pimples, etc., very hideous if they exist.



The impurities arising in the body are thrown off in four ways, through the pores of the skin, the lungs, the kidneys and bowels. In only a short time you will find the entire system free from marks of blood impurity.

The fresh, red, rosy hue of the blood flowing freely close to the skin will give you the complexion you desire. Obtain a box from any druggist anywhere. Price, 50 cents.

Free Trial Coupon

F. A. Stuart Company, 343 Stuart Building, Marshall, Mich. Send me at once, by return mail, a free trial package of Stuart's Calcium Wafers.

EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INCREASE CITY REVENUE BY OTHER MEANS THAN BY TAXATION

Mayor, in Inaugural Address, Urges Economy, Centralization and Co-operation — Says Council Must Be Prepared To Do Everything Necessary For Those Doing the Fighting.

Mayor H. A. Stevenson has prepared his inaugural address, which he will deliver to the city council on Monday morning, and copies were secured today. In it he outlines his program for the year.

He draws attention to the increase in expenditure during the past few years. The city taxes amounted last year to \$2,442,467, and the debt to \$7,729,000. This situation should give the citizens pause. Every means should be adopted to raise the revenue other than by taxation, and expenditures must be decreased. The limit of taxation for all expenditures, exclusive of school taxes and local improvements, has been reached, and the council must live within that limit, and decrease it if possible. The police, license, market, franchise and utilities departments are the revenue-producing departments, and the revenue must be taken to increase the revenue from them.

He takes his vote as a mandate from the people to inaugurate a program of economy, centralization and co-operation. He suggested that provision be made in the City of London bill for clauses giving the council authority to go ahead with this work as soon as possible.

Centralization Needed. Co-operation between the departments is urged. Centralization is the thing, and the council must be prepared to get all the department heads together to see if a system more efficient and economical cannot be worked out. A discussion of the estimates will take place at an early date. The growth of the city debt should be seriously discussed. The procedure by-law, providing for two committees, should be adopted as a matter of fact.

Day labor has been shown to be a success, the sum of \$19,139 being saved by the city engineer's department last year. The council should be prepared to allow the city engineer to tender on all work. He urges that the street watering and garbage departments be placed under the control of the city engineer. The question of the collection of leave must be dealt with. He urges all committees to give heads of departments control over their departments.

Provision should be made for the termination of the contract with Chipman & Power for supervision of storm sewer construction, and that this work be done by the city engineer's department.

The War. Speaking of the war, the mayor says: "The terrible war is not yet over. As loyal subjects of His Majesty the King."

FIRE DEPARTMENT BEGINS NEW YEAR VERY QUIETLY

First Time in History That Initial Week Has Brought No Fires.

For the first time in the history of the local fire department six days have passed from the commencement of the New Year without an alarm being turned in. Not since the night of December 29, last year, have the firemen been called to their posts.

The fighting of winter fires is always attended with additional danger and the life of a fireman, hazardous as his occupation is at any time, is doubly in danger in the winter fire that this city ever experienced was the Sterling shoe factory fire of January 4, 1904, when Chief John A. Rose met his death, being buried beneath a falling wall.

The firemen at this conflagration fought for 14 hours in a below-zero temperature. Several of the firemen were frozen to the ladders and it was necessary to cut their clothing away to free them.

The other big midwinter fires that have happened in the city are the Dundas Centre Methodist Church fire on February 16, 1895, Congregational Church and Hall on February 12, 1904, Masonic Temple on February 23, 1900, and the Hobbs Hardware, February 9, 1899.

TWO LONDON MEN AMONG EW ARRIVAL AT QUEBEC

Twelve returned soldiers whose homes are in Western Ontario are now en route to Quebec. They are members of the party that landed from the Ontario at Halifax on January 2.

Two of the party are Londoners: J. G. Whalen, 471 Elizabeth street; C. D. Milner, 37 Balliol street.

Other members of the party are: J. Green, 285 Railway avenue, Stratford; J. P. Sles, 93 East Gougeon street, Stratford; George Strickland, 2100, 1st London street, Kitchener; J. O. Whalen, Cedarville P. O., Mount Forest; G. Watkins, Chatham; E. M. Wilson, 1000, 1st London street, Kitchener; C. G. Potter, Watford; J. H. Nicholls, 53 Broadway street, Woodstock; J. W. Howe, 289 Goyan street, Windsor.

The time of their arrival here will be announced later.

ONLY THREE CASES FOR SUPREME COURT SITTING

Only three cases will be tried at the local sittings of the supreme court which open here on Monday. Sir William Mulock, chief justice of the exchequer court of Ontario, is slated to preside.

Four cases were entered, but one, James vs. Jones, was withdrawn today. The case was one against a chiropractor.

An action for unpaid damages has been entered against Richard Atkinson, a farmer of Biddulph Township, by Frances Agnes Pritchett and James McCormick, executors of the estate of Edward Pritchett. Atkinson was acquitted on a charge of manslaughter at the fall assizes. Pritchett died as a result of injuries received when struck by an automobile driven by Atkinson.

Helen Irwin is bringing an action against her husband, Frederick T. Irwin, to have a court order issued compelling him to pay her a monthly allowance. At the fall assizes, Irwin brought an action against Walter Irwin, charging him with alienation of his wife's affection. Irwin was acquitted and Mrs. Irwin exonerated. She claims that she has not been able to live with her husband since the trial.

William Harrison vs. Robert Hueston & Sons, is an action for \$1,000 damages. Harrison, a retired farmer, claims that he was run down by a team of horses driven by an employee of Robert Hueston & Sons. He claims to have lost the use of his right arm and the power of speech because of the accident.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect the Head. Because of its tonic and laxative effect, Laxative Quinine can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVES & Co., Toronto, Ont.

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EARLY AUDITOR'S REPORT WOULD SAVE CITY MONEY

If Made in February, Three Months' Interest Would Be Made.

A means of saving money to the city would be the presentation of the city auditor's report in February or March at least. According to city officials, the delay in the preparation of the report is because of the loss of considerable money.

The council must borrow money for current expenses from the beginning of the year until the taxes are paid. The first instalment is not due until August 1, so that for seven months the city must borrow. The rate of interest is necessarily high, and the city has to pay the shot.

It would be possible to collect the taxes by May 1, provided the auditor's report was ready. In that way, three months' interest on a large sum of money could be saved.

It is expected that the council will give this matter some consideration.

"I think it would be possible to get the rolls ready in time to collect the taxes on May 1, provided the auditor's report was prepared in time," said City Clerk Baker. "We would have our part of it ready."

LONDON SUPPOSED CENTRE OF AMERICAN ROMANCE

Illinois Couple Said to Have Married Here—Who Was Minister?

Considerable interest is displayed in Detroit and Chicago, in a supposed romance in which Miss Mary A. Smith and J. E. Whipple are said to have played the leading parts in this city.

On Tuesday, December 17th, a man registered at the Griggs House, giving his name as J. Whipple of Oak Park, Illinois.

Miss Mary A. Smith also registered there, giving her address as Waukegan, Illinois.

According to reports the couple were married here, although inquiries by The Advertiser failed to locate any minister who had performed the ceremony.

This Miss Smith is said to be the one who attracted attention in Chicago, when she received \$10,000 a year for her services as a housekeeper in that city, while Mr. Whipple is said to be a wealthy businessman.

The couple left the Griggs House on Tuesday morning. Nothing was heard of the matter until reports from Detroit led to the discovery of the supposed romance.

At the city hall, where all marriages are registered, the names of the couple do not appear in the records. Inquiry in other places failed to discover whether or not the couple were married.

In conversation with persons at the Griggs House, it was stated that they were going to Buffalo to spend a few days, and then would go to Florida for the winter.

Mr. Whipple is described as quite an old man, considerably stooped, and had little to say. Miss Smith was much younger, and quite attractive.

They occupied rooms 49 and 50 at the Griggs House, during their stay in the city.

This was their second trip to London, having come here earlier in the fall.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Less Than in 1915, But Still Show a Healthy Demand.

The real estate returns for the year 1916 are not so good as for 1915, but at the same time, there is a healthy demand, and conditions are not at all discouraging.

During the year, there were 56 transfers. The assessed value was \$97,621, while the consideration was \$1,247,338. The assessment was 73.5 per cent of the selling price.

In 1915, there were 951 transfers considered, and the assessment was 72.7 per cent.

The demand for property has been better during the past few months than during the earlier part of the year. The prospects for a still greater sale in 1917 are good.

December showed a fine increase in sales, and the consideration was \$1,063,300, and the consideration 74.5 per cent of the selling price. For a same period of 1915 there were 72 transfers.

The assessment was 72 per cent of the selling price. "This is a healthy demand for real estate," said Assessment Commissioner Grainger.

SAYS TEMPERATURE WILL PAY IF ADVERTISED

One Proprietor Says He Will Prove It—Another Likely to Close Doors.

At least one more local hotel is expected to close its doors in the near future, unless negotiations now under way for sale of the property prove successful. In the event of the sale, the present business will be continued.

The Richmond House bar is being converted into a tobacco store, and will be occupied as such as soon as alterations are completed.

The other local hotels are expected to be doing as well as could be expected under prohibition. Not one of them has failed.

Proprietor, who recently assumed management of one of the small hotels, states that he is making money, and says that he will show in the course of a few months that a paying proposition can be made in the hotel business. His motto is good service at all times, and lots of advertising.

He has entered upon an extensive advertising campaign, and says there is no reason why the hotel business, even during prohibition conditions, should not be a paying proposition.

Judge McWatt at Sarnia, sentenced a young Blackbird, the Indian who was charged with robbing the Walpole Island postoffice of registered mail, to 10 years.

E. G. Crick, who enlisted with the 1st Signal Section at Sarnia, is reported to be a son of the captain of the Queen Elizabeth.

Royal Durritt, son of D. B. Durritt, Stratford, has been a brigadier general, according to word received in the city yesterday.

THE SWISS GOVERNMENT is issuing a 15 per cent loan of 100,000,000 francs, (thirty million francs of which will be used in repaying the first war loan of five per cent, due on February 25).

Sudden rise of Dutch and German rivers have caused serious floods in Saxony and Limbourg.

The Japanese foreign office announces that it has no knowledge of the consignments of rifles being shipped to Mexico by the Kotohira Maru, as reported here recently.

The Kotohira Maru cleared from Yokohama on January 2 for Salina Cruz, Mexico. A dispatch from Tokio says it was carrying 100,000 rifles.

ROSTINE APULINO REDO, said to be a wealthy candy maker of Montreal, has been arrested in Patterson, N. J., on the charge of forging a check for \$10,000, which was cashed at the Bank of Montreal.

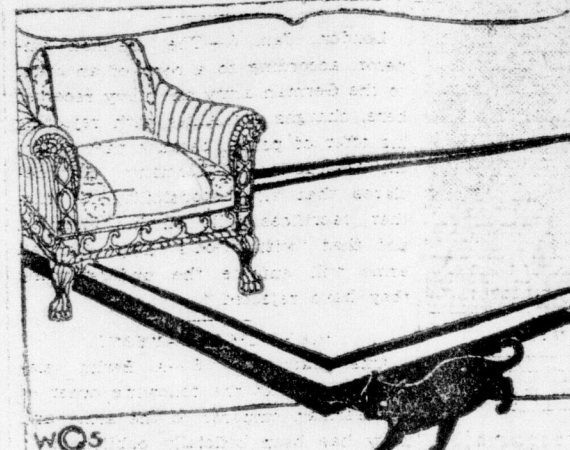
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Save One-Third On Work of Furniture Reupholstering Now



This is just another special inducement to enable us to keep our staff of upholsterers employed from now until the spring rush opens up. Just as soon as sufficient work is taken to keep us busy until the regular spring work begins regular prices will again be charged.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED—As none but skilled workmen are employed by us, we confidently state that there will be no disappointment in this work, and absolute satisfaction is guaranteed.

This is an opportunity which comes but once a season, and it is well worth your while to inspect your furniture, and if any renewals are needed have us send a man, who will give estimate on cost of same. We will also call for your furniture and deliver when finished free of charge.

Third Off for January Work

This includes the reupholstering of all kinds of furniture, making slip covers for chairs, sofas, couches, etc., covering bedroom boxes, corner seats, reed chairs, etc. Sufficient work for January will be taken at one-third less than regular prices. If you desire an estimate on any work we will be pleased to send a man, who will give you the exact cost of work.

Special Values in Furniture Coverings

See our special values in Tapestry Coverings in some excellent color combinations of brown and blue, green and brown, rose and green, terra tan, blue and brown, blue and tan, also blue and green; all 50 inches wide. At \$2.00 yard

NEW COVERINGS AT \$3.00 YARD.

A new shipment of Fine Tapestry Coverings in beautiful designs and colors, heavy quality, colors of rose, blue and green, brown and green, blue and tan, olive and tan and brown and rose; 50 inches wide. Only \$3.00 yard

January Prices for Ladies' Tailoring

Order your spring suit now and save \$5.00 to \$6.00 on the making. A limited number of orders will be taken for between-seasons' work. Suits made for \$25.00, \$27.00 and \$30.00, now \$20.00, \$22.00 and \$24.00.

ORDER YOURS EARLY.

A full stock of Black and Navy Blue English Worsted Suitings now in stock.

12 1/2c Clearance of Art Sateens 12 1/2c

About 250 yards in this lot to be cleared at a price that means a quick sale. These sateens are excellent qualities in very good designs and colors, being the sorting up of our regular selling range, all broken lines that we are not repeating, suitable for comforters, box coverings, cushions, etc.; regular 18c, 20c and 25c. For 12 1/2c one piece only, regular 35c. Sale 12 1/2c

BATting SPECIAL—For those making comforters from above line of sateens, we offer the remaining case of our No. 1 Griggs Pure Long Fibre Cotton Batting at the special price of 35c, or three for \$1.00

REGULAR NUMBERS IN COMFORT FILLING are as follows: MAISH BATting for downy comforters, 6x7 feet, three pounds weight \$1.50

S. & I. Satisfactory Batting, 6x7 feet, two pounds weight 90c

Full-Size Comfort Batts, No. 1 grade filling. 35c to \$1.25

Other sizes in Batts for all purposes 12 1/2c to 25c bunch

PURE WOOL BATting, thoroughly scoured and cleaned, only a limited supply at this price, one-pound bunch 75c

18-Inch Club Bag, \$5.49

Our Special Leather Club Bag, made of walrus grain leather, double handles, covered frame, leather corners, full leather lined; regular today \$8.50. Special at \$5.49

\$8.75 line, made of walrus grain leather, three-piece style, leather-covered frame, heavy double handles, brass lock and bolts, full leather lined, with pockets. Special... \$8.75

Suitcases, \$1.50 to \$3.75

Suitcases covered with strong fibre leather corners, brass lock and bolts, strong handle, fancy lining, 22, 24 and 26 inches. Price \$1.50, \$1.65 and \$1.75

\$4.25 Steamer Trunk, heavy waterproof canvas covered, strong brass lock and bolts, heavy corners and clamps, fancy lining, with compartment tray, 32 inches \$4.25

Special line of Bags at 75c to \$25.00

Buster Suitcases for children's school books at 79c

LUNCHEON, 3 to 5:30. Cold Chicken, French Bread and Butter, Cup of Tea or Coffee...25c

Lettuce Salad Sandwich...10c

Cortese Orchestra Saturday Afternoon.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS

WESTERN ONTARIO

Alex. Barrow, well-known Sarnia merchant, died yesterday in his 73rd year.

The Women's Patriotic League of South Sarnia has sent \$485 pairs of socks overseas in a year.

An investigation into the liquor case against Charles Palmer, who was dismissed from his position as a constable, has been opened.

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