

WILL BE OLD BOYS' REUNION THIS SUMMER

# OFFICERS ALL RETURN TO DUTY

## The London Advertiser

PRISONER ACQUITTED OF SHOOTING CHARGE

LAST EDITION

51st YEAR. No 21186

Tomorrow's Weather—Fair.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1914. TWELVE PAGES

Sun Rises 6:16—Sun Sets 6:33.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

Resignations In Army Due to Misconstruction of Orders—All Quiet at Belfast—Goderich Man Killed by Buzz Saw—Strathroy Man Dies in Sarnia Police Cells—Veteran Member of Fire Department Resigns.

### JUDGE ACQUITS FOREIGNERS ON TWO CHARGES

Finds Gun That Wounded Hydro Men Might Have Been Fired Accidentally.

### CENSORS THE WITNESSES

Says All Were Drinking and Resistance Could Not Be Placed on Testimony.

### PRISONER BEWILDERED

After Discharge He Follows the Constable Back to Cells.

"Not guilty" was the verdict this morning of Judge Elliot in the case of Rocco Melle, the foreigner charged with shooting with intent to kill, two hydro electric linemen, Hector Miller and William Skingsley, as the result of a shooting affray in the Hotel Harrison bar. A few moments later Melle walked from the courtroom, a free man. He shook hands with his counsel, E. W. M. Flock, and a number of his countrymen who were in the courtroom also moved forward to greet him. He nodded to them with a smile as he passed out to take up again the ordinary round of life after facing for several weeks the prospect of life imprisonment, which is the maximum penalty for the crime with which he was charged.

Witnesses Had Been Drinking. In giving judgment, Judge Elliot stated that after careful deliberation, he had come to the conclusion that it would be dangerous for him to convict the prisoner on the evidence of the witnesses examined at the trial on Saturday. All of those concerned in the shooting admitted having been drinking from seven o'clock that evening until the time of the row, he said, and that being the case he believed that they were not in a condition to tell with any degree of accuracy what occurred.

Guilty of Carrying Weapon. It was true that the prisoner was guilty of carrying an unlawful weapon, but the mere fact of that offence did not justify him in convicting him of the charge against him, conviction on which would render him liable to imprisonment for life. He warned the prisoner against the repetition of the offence of carrying a concealed weapon.

Parties must know that it is against the laws of this country to carry any concealed weapon, such as a revolver or a knife upon their persons," he said. He told the prisoner that should he be found carrying a revolver again, it would be known that he was carrying it for a purpose.

Was Discharged Accidentally. In discharging the prisoner, his honor remarked that it was quite possible that the revolver was discharged during the melee which occurred without any intention on the prisoner's part of doing bodily harm to anybody.

The prisoner took his acquittal quietly. He stood up in the dock when the judge addressed him, but it is doubtful if he understood the purport of the words addressed to him, as his knowledge of English is slight, requiring the services of an interpreter during his trial.

Started Back to Cells. When County Constable Northgraves opened the prisoner's box to allow him to go free, he turned to accompany the constable, evidently thinking that he was going back to the cells. When his counsel advanced and shook hands with him, however, he realized that he was no longer a prisoner, and walked across the courtroom and out the door, a free man.

ORANGE RESOLUTIONS. [Canadian Press.] Fort William, March 23.—Two resolutions, one to Premier Asquith, protesting against the home rule bill, and the other to Sir Edward Carson, congratulating him upon the fact that he has taken, were sent by Fort William Orangemen Saturday.

### THE WEATHER.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London for the 24 hours preceding 8 p.m. yesterday: Highest, 36 above; lowest, 22 above. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today: Highest, 30 above; lowest, 21 above.

TOMORROW—FAIR. Toronto, March 23—8 a.m. Forecast.

Today—Moderate to fresh winds, west-erly; fair. Tuesday—Fair, with about the same temperature.

Temperatures. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today: High. Low. Weather. Victoria ..... 54 42 Cloudy. Calgary ..... 18 30 Cloudy. Winnipeg ..... 39 8 Clear. Port Arthur ..... 25 12 Clear. Perry Sound ..... 26 16 Snow. Toronto ..... 35 28 Cloudy. Ottawa ..... 30 12 Cloudy. Montreal ..... 32 14 Clear. Quebec ..... 28 10 Cloudy. Father Point ..... 24 19 Snow.

Weather Notes. Shallow barometric depressions are at present following each other with great rapidity across the continent. The weather is fair and cold throughout the Dominion.

### TO DROP DYNAMITE BOMBS ON TORREON

Villa Tells His Plan and Advises Neutral Zone Outside City—This Is Agreed To—Rebel Leader Confident.

[Canadian Press.] Mexico City, March 23.—It is conceded at the war department that the rebels and federals will engage in an early fight for the possession of Torreón, and it is announced here that Villa, a town two hours' ride from Torreón, has been agreed upon as the neutral point for foreigners and non-combatants. Villa is adjacent to the Hacienda of the same name belonging to James Brown Potter.

Villa's Suggestion. It is stated that an outside point has been selected as a place of refuge for non-combatants, because of representations made by Gen. Francisco Villa, the rebel commander, who explained that as he intended to employ dynamite, dropping it from aeroplanes, a neutral zone within the federal lines would necessarily be a dangerous locality in spite of any agreement.

March Nearing End. Bermejillo, Durango, Mexico (constitutional field base), March 23.—Marked by sharp brushes with the enemy, Gen. Francisco Villa's spectacular march against Torreón, which began last Friday, was nearing an end today. Only a few haciendas and suburban towns remained between his army of 12,000 and the actual city of Torreón. At no point does the rebel leader expect to meet strong resistance, unless it be at Lerdo. Reports are that a more or less formidable garrison of federals has been placed by Gen. Refugio Valasco at Lerdo, to check the constitutionalists.

Cerro La Pila, a huge mountain, which is supposed to be fortified by the federals, is the only other matter of concern to the rebel leader.

Play-Work So Far. Villa is confident that only a few more hours and little fighting will pass before his army is investing Torreón proper. The skirmishes which the rebels have already engaged in have been more like play than a part of war. They have seemingly depended on cavalry charges against the federal outposts.

In this little city the route was disastrous for Valasco's troops, they having lost 106 dead in one of the cavalry charges over 17 miles of desert into the heart of Bermejillo, where the rebels finally halted.

No Fighting Yet. El Paso, Texas, March 23.—Published reports that the rebels began an attack on Gomez Palacio and Lerdo, important suburbs of Torreón, yesterday, were without official confirmation early today, either here or in Juarez. The last word received, at 1 a.m. today, when the Juarez telegraph closed, was that there had been no fighting.

Elaborate Fortifications. Bermejillo, Mexico, March 23.—Officers from the extreme front returned today after viewing some of the Federal fortifications through field glasses. They reported that the defenses were elaborate so that troops might move from trench to trench without exposing themselves. Fresh earth was said to mark the lurking places of the enemy's big guns. Some of the barb wire entanglements were visible. Troops continued to pour into Bermejillo from the north today. Nearly all the supplies from Yermo are now here.

### CHARGES CONTRACTOR WITH POINTING GUN

Maitland Street Man Alleges He Was Ordered From Building at Point of Revolver.

Alleging that he pointed a loaded revolver at his head, Charles E. Young has laid information with the police against Richard L. Frost, one of the contractors engaged in the erection of the McCormick building in East London. A summons has been issued and he will appear on Thursday to answer to the charge. Young, who lives at 536 Maitland street, was taking a Sunday afternoon walk in East London, and took occasion to visit the McCormick building. He was standing behind the building used by the contractors and architects, when a man, claiming to be Frost, stepped to the window and ordered him away. He held in his hand a revolver of the 32-calibre variety which he pointed at him. Young complied with his demand, but decided to communicate with the police. Meeting P. C. Noonan, he told him of the occurrence and together they went back to the shack.

Frost was there, and in a drawer was found the revolver fully loaded. It is said that Frost claimed the revolver was not loaded when he pointed it at Young. P. C. Noonan communicated the facts to police headquarters and a summons was issued this morning.

### GODERICH MAN THROWN ON SAW MUTILATED AND KILLED

Stephen Deeves Had His Face Cut Off and Chest Split—The Accident Was Caused by a Frightened Team of Horses.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Goderich, March 23.—A terrible accident happened this morning at Dungan-ton when Stephen Deeves was instantly killed. Mr. Deeves, who was running a portable saw, was engaged in cutting a pile of poles. A neighbor, who was going to help him, was putting his horse away, when the horse got frightened at the en-

### SCHOOL ARCHITECT MAY BE APPOINTED

Building Committee of Board to Take Matter Under Consideration Today.

### SALARY AND COMMISSION

Trustee Silverwood's Plan to Give \$2,000 and 3 Per Cent On All Work Over \$50,000.

The building committee of the board of education will meet this afternoon to consider the appointment of a school architect. The board, at a recent session, went on record as approving of the principle of appointing such an official, and it was left to the committee to work out the details and see if such action might be taken without infringing on the moral or legal rights of architects who may now have school work under way.

Trustee A. E. Silverwood, who is the present father of the school architect idea, suggested to the board that the architect be paid a salary of \$2,000, and 3 per cent commission on all construction work over \$50,000. Other trustees, however, thought that some better salary arrangements might be arrived at, as no sum was stipulated when the board approved of Trustee Silverwood's plan.

The committee this afternoon will also let contracts for the wrecking of the old Aberdeen school. The brick that will be obtained in this way will be used for the additions to Princess avenue school. The committee may also consider the competitive plans for the new South London school. The Ontario Society of Architects has passed judgment on the plans and selected the one it deems the best, and the trustees will receive the report of the society.

### ARRESTED AS DRUNK STRATHROY MAN IN SARNIA CELLS DIES

Richard Sherman Had Doctor's Attention on Sunday, But Was Not Removed to the Hospital.

Sarnia, March 23.—Cast into the cells here on Saturday afternoon in a supposed state of intoxication, Richard Sherman, aged about 40 years, whose home is believed to be about two miles from Strathroy, died this morning at a quarter to 6 o'clock.

On Saturday he was arrested after falling from a verandah on Dervine and Christine streets, and was placed in the cells. Sunday morning the police realized he was sick and sent for a doctor, who found he had bad cuts on the forehead and nose, a black eye and that his left leg was sprained. The injuries were attended to, but it was found necessary to recall the doctor two or three times during the day and following night. An attendant was on hand to look after the man, who was not removed to a hospital. There were people in the cell with Sherman when he died.

In the pockets of the man were found a membership card of the Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 52, a "boilemakers' union card, Lodge 44, and a letter from his wife in Strathroy.

A post-mortem will be held to discover the cause of death, the following being picked as jurymen for the inquest: William Scott, Charles Cook, L. V. Peters, John Burnett, James Lucas, C. Yates, William Lumb, John Knowles and James Moore. The coroner is Dr. A. M. Hayes.

### WOMAN FIRES THREE SHOTS AT THE JUDGES

[Canadian Press.] Parish, March 23.—Three shots from a revolver were fired at the judges sitting in the sixth chamber of the palace of justice today by a woman whose identity was not established. The authorities, after her arrest, declared that the woman apparently was mentally unbalanced.

### CONSPICUOUS IN EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE ULSTER SITUATION



PREMIER ASQUITH. FIELD MARSHAL FRENCH.

### Old Boys' Reunion This Summer Sure

Member of Home Guard Executive Declares That Event Will Be Staged, Despite Refusal of \$5,000 Civic Grant as Demanded.

An Old Boys' reunion will be held in London during the coming summer. This is the decision of a majority of the executive of the home guard, according to a member of that body, and tonight the executive will meet in the city hall to perfect plans for going ahead with the preparations.

The association put in a requisition to the board of control recently for \$5,000 to assist in paying for the proposed reunion, following the action of the council in cutting off the principal source of revenue by refusing to allow the use of the market for carnival shows, but the controllers decided that a grant of \$1,000 would be the limit.

President Dr. H. R. Abbott and other members of the executive were naturally greatly disappointed at the action of the controllers, and it seemed practically certain, for some days, that the reunion project would be dropped, at least so far as the present executive was concerned. However, the matter has been more fully considered, and a member of the executive told The Advertiser today that the reunion would be positively gone on with.

The present plan is to place the shows in Queen's Park. Although the revenue with the shows in that location will not, it is anticipated, be as large as if the amusements were downtown, it is hoped to so draw up public interest that large crowds will be attracted to the east end site. After having turned down the market proposition, the controllers and aldermen are expected to take more than usual interest in making the reunion a success, and several have already volunteered to go out and collect money to make up the amount that will be lost in show receipts by reason of the market being refused.

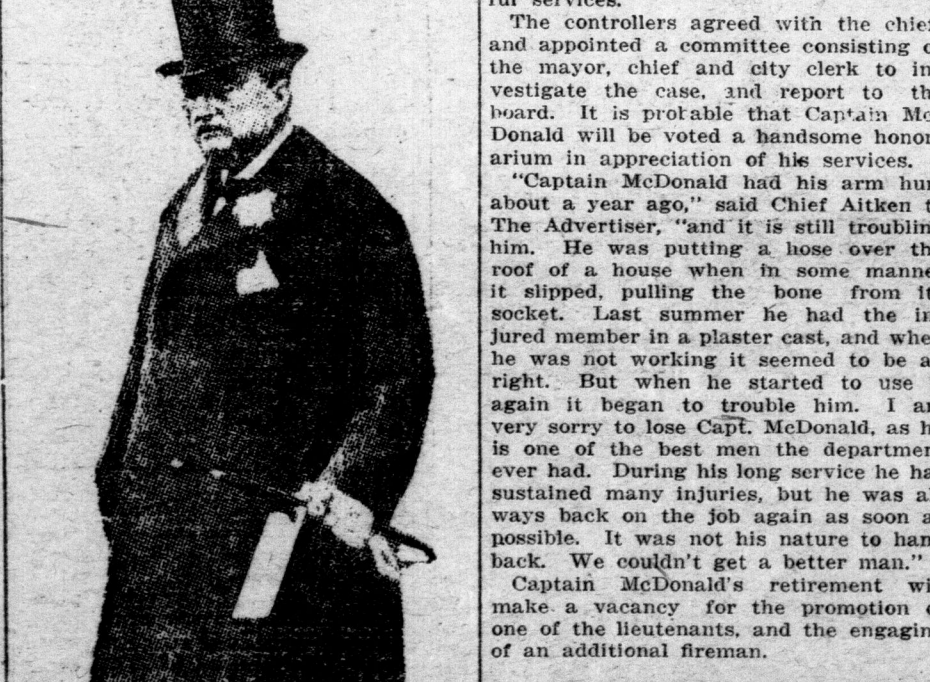
In addition to the shows at the park, a tentative program calls for street parades, agricultural exhibits, including pumpkin and hay markets, and other exciting features.

### ORANGEMEN TO DISCUSS ULSTER SITUATION

Local Lodges Will Have Special Meetings Tonight to Consider Question.

Special meetings of the Orange lodges of the city are being held this evening, at which it is frankly admitted the Ulster dispute will be the chief subject of discussion. Thirty or forty Orangemen have already, it is stated on good authority, offered their services to the defence of Ulster, but their names have not been disclosed by other local sympathizers through the fear of some action being taken by the secret service department to prevent their passage to Ireland if the services are needed.

### PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE HOME RULE FIGHT



JOHN REDMOND, leader of the Irish Nationalists, who in all probability will be prime minister if an Irish Parliament is established in Dublin.

### RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING SAYS ASQUITH

All Have Returned to Duty—Possible Cause of Trouble Was Wrong Construction Placed by General Paget on Orders.

### PREMIER EXPLAIN IN COMMONS

[Canadian Press.] London, March 23.—"Misunderstanding" was the keynote of Premier Asquith's explanation of the crisis brought about by the resignations of army officers when their regiments were ordered to prepare to proceed to Ulster. In the House of Commons today the Prime Minister made it clear that officers and men of the British army refusing to obey orders in connection with the opposition of Ulster to the introduction of home rule for Ireland were liable to dismissal. Details of the revolt of the army officers against service in Ulster had been awaited with strained expectation by the whole country. Only brief statements were forthcoming from the Secretary of War and the Premier and the gist of these was that the whole affair was due to "misunderstanding," and that all the officers had now returned to their duty.

As far as the ministers' statements can be interpreted, the "misunderstanding" arose through General Sir Paget placing a wrong construction on the orders given him by the war office, and telling his subordinates they were to be employed in quelling an uprising in Ulster.

The number of officers who resigned their commission, how widespread was the dissatisfaction in the army and other Col. Seely was desirously jeered during his explanation. Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the Opposition, had stated that "nothing could save the army now except a declaration that officers were not to be compelled to engage in civil war against their wish." He demanded more detail, and when he said that officers refusing to serve against Ulster were only doing their duty, the labor members shouted "how about strikes?"

Cannot Depend on Army. The whole affair is generally accepted as demonstrating that the army cannot be counted upon to fight Sir Edward Carson's volunteers if such a contingency should arise. Opposition politicians declare that it is the compulsion home rule project and express their belief that the Government may soon relinquish office by its own choice.

London, March 23.—The interest in the disaffection in the army arising out of the newest phase of the home rule situation was displayed in the House of Commons this afternoon, when the House was crowded to listen to a statement from Col. Seely, secretary of state for war.

The communication made by Col. Seely was very brief and utterly vague. The gist of it was that some officers had informed Gen. Sir Arthur Paget, commander-in-chief in Ireland, that they could not serve in certain eventualities. There was, he said, a misunderstanding, and these officers had been ordered to rejoin their regiments.

Mr. Law added: "The Opposition always has held the view that the coercion of Ulster is an operation no government has the right to ask the army to undertake, and in our view, an officer who refuses is only fulfilling his duty."

"It will be difficult for the Prime Minister to convince the House that, with or without the House Eleven.

### BENTON WAS STABBED, NOT SHOT BY PISTOLS

According to Report by British Consul, Received at Washington Embassy.

[Canadian Press.] Washington, March 23.—British Consul Perceval's official report on the killing of William S. Benton by General Villa at Juarez, received at the Embassy here today, says: "No pistol shots were fired in the fight which ended in the ranchman's death, leaving the inference that he was stabbed."

### LITTLE GIRL ASLEEP SMOTHERED BY A CAT

[Canadian Press.] Winnipeg, Man., March 23.—While Elizabeth Snider, aged nine months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. U. L. Snider, this city, was sleeping in a cradle on the front verandah, a big cat, a household pet, stretched itself across the infant's face. When the mother came out the child was smothered and life extinct.

### Just Some Spring Thoughts From the Staff Futurist

"Spring, spring, beautiful spring," that's the way the old-time, old-time, perfectly harmless, though a trifle erratic, spring poets used to begin their panegyrics about this time of the year. Just about the age when they commenced to break away from parental restraint and refuse to take the usual mixture of joy and sadness. He expressed the hope that last night's cold spell would deter the spring poets from their annual invasion of his sanctum for a few days more, but he couldn't get a better man."

Captain McDonald's retirement will make a vacancy for the promotion of one of the lieutenants, and the engaging of an additional freeman.

### STREET CAR DELAYS

Yesterday's Records of "Holds-ups" at Level Crossings.

Line	Time
G.T.R.—Richmond	3:25-3:28 p.m. 3 min.
G.T.R.—Richmond	3:04-3:08 p.m. 4 min.
G.T.R.—Rectory	1:55-2:04 p.m. 5 min.
G.T.R.—Rectory	10:15-10:24 a.m. 5 min.
G.T.R.—Rectory	11:24-11:28 a.m. 4 min.
G.T.R.—Rectory	9:49-9:57 p.m. 8 min.
G.T.R.—Richmond	7:45-7:50 p.m. 5 min.
G.T.R.—Richmond	7:21-7:24 p.m. 3 min.
G.T.R.—Richmond	8:31-8:34 p.m. 3 min.

Two spring robins on a lamp-post and war clouds looming in Ulster. A black cat crossing our path and a cop on the corner. Grapefruits grow in Bermuda.