

**BOARD OF TRADE WILL
TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS
TO PROTECT MERCHANTS**

Meeting to Memorialize
Government to Estab-
lish Parcel Post Zone
For Western Ontario.

HAVE HANDICAP

Reported Establishment of
Provincial Zone Gives
Monopoly to the Toronto
Firms.

CAN UNDERSELL

Transportation Facilities
of New System Would
Give Them Wonderful
Advantage.

In an effort to secure justice for
London merchants and wholesalers
from the postoffice department, Acting
President E. C. Mitchell will call a
meeting of the board of trade to
memorialize the Government to make
London and Western Ontario a separate
"zone" when the new Canadian
parcel post goes into effect.

While no definite announcement has
yet been made by the postal depart-
ment as to the location of the "zones,"
it has been declared, on authoritative
information from the "inside" at Otta-
wa that the entire Province of Ontario
will be made a parcel post zone. It is
to be secured, if possible, a revision of this
decision that the board of trade will
be called together.

Monopoly to Toronto
With the same postal rates applica-
ble to all parts of the province, Tor-
onto mail order houses would have a
practical monopoly of the Western
Ontario merchandising field. With the
volume of business these concerns are
now doing they would be enabled to
cut prices far below Western Ontario
merchants, and with a single zone
postal rate would be able to deliver
their goods to their customer's door.

Unfair discrimination could well be
charged by the merchants in London
and Western Ontario if the expected
prayer of the board of trade is not
heeded by the department at Ottawa.
Without some restrictions, such as the
creation of a special zone for Western
Ontario that would insure for the mer-
chants of this section at least an "even
break" on the lower transportation
cost question, the inauguration of the
parcel post would be tantamount to
the creation of an iron-bound monopoly
of Western Ontario's trade for the
larger mail-order houses of the provin-
cial capital.

President To Call Meeting.
"We certainly will take action to see
if we cannot secure justice for London
and Western Ontario," declared Acting
President Mitchell of the board of
trade to The Advertiser. "I will call a
meeting of the executive immediately,
and we will secure such information
we can on the subject in order that a
report can be presented to the board
at the earliest opportunity, and con-
sidered action taken to see if a separate
zone cannot be secured for this city."

At the London postoffice the infor-
mation was handed out yesterday that
so far as local officials were aware, no
policy of the creation of zones had yet
been decided on at Ottawa. So far as
the local authorities were aware, ac-
cording to their own statements, nothing
is known locally as to when the
new branch of the postoffice depart-
ment will be inaugurated, or what
the rates and zones will be.

**POWERFUL BLAST
NEARLY CAUSED
DEATH OF SIX MEN**

Were Quarter of Mile Away
Waiting to Take Snap Shots
of Explosion.

GOT AWAY JUST IN TIME

Rocks Covered Place on Which
They Had Stood and Stones
Struck Them.

[Canadian Press.]
Kingston, Jan. 8.—The powerful blast
set off in Fort Henry Hill yesterday
afternoon by Fallon Bros., caseway
contractors, for the purpose of making
a new roadway to the military camp
ground on Barfield Heights, nearly
killed half a dozen young men who
were stationed a quarter of a mile
away with cameras pointed ready for
the upheaval. With E. H. Pease, Gov-
ernment engineer, they had only time
to get away before rocks covered the
place where they were standing. Sev-
eral of them were struck by falling
stones. The roadway was blocked and
telephone poles and wires in the vicinity
were torn down. Two more blasts
are to be set off, but deeper drilling
will be done and dynamite used.

GOING AFTER LAW BREAKERS.
Albany, N.Y., Jan. 8.—Proceedings
against all real estate companies
transacting a banking business al-
leged to be in violation of law, will
be instituted by Attorney General
Carmody. This announcement was
made today by the attorney general.

Young Man Whose
Body Was Found
Beside Sidewalk



ORLOFF FALKNER

**YOUNG MAN DIES
SUDDENLY WHILE
ON HIS WAY HOME**

Sudden Hemorrhage Causes the
Death of Oiliff Falkner on
Sidewalk.

FIREMAN FINDS THE BODY

G. T. R. Employee Made Grew-
some Discovery at Early Hour
This Morning.

Orloff L. Falkner, 21 years old, of
507 Ontario street, was found lying face
downwards in the snow beside the side-
walk on Ontario street, between
Queen's and Dufferin avenues, by D.
W. Gould, a G. T. R. fireman, at 1:40
o'clock this morning.

Gould immediately phoned for the
motor ambulance. When it arrived on
the scene, Falkner was dead, but the
body was still warm. The remains
were taken to the police station, and
later removed to Geo. E. Logan's un-
der-taking-rooms, where they were
viewed by Coroner Dr. McLaren. An
inquest was ordered.

Deid of Hemorrhage.
It was first thought by the coroner
that Falkner had been a victim of
foul play, but a careful examination
showed that the young man had died
as the result of a hemorrhage.
Falkner resided with his mother,
Mrs. Jennie Falkner, who conducted a
grocery business at 507 Ontario street,
and had been engaged as a clerk in the
store. His father, James Falkner, died
only 18 months ago.

Coming From Club.
He left the house at 8 o'clock last
night for the Ramblers' Club on Dun-
das street east, of which he had been
a member for five years, and also pres-
ident several years ago. It was on his
way home that death resulted.
The family is at a loss to account for
the sudden death. While not strong,
he was of a healthy constitution. He
had been at work as usual yesterday.
The news of the death came as a great
shock to the mother.

One sister, Mrs. Stevenson, of De-
troit, survives.

**PARCELS POST MAY
COME NEXT SPRING**

Sir William MacKenzie Says No
Agreement Has Been Reached
With the Railroads.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Jan. 8.—The Government
may not be able to inaugurate parcels
post as early as expected. Sir William
MacKenzie, who is here with Sir Ed-
mund Walker, of the Bank of Com-
merce, and G. H. Shaw, Canadian
Northern traffic manager, said that
there has been no agreement as yet
with the railroads upon the rates at
which parcel mail will be carried, and
he did not expect that there would be
an understanding reached before next
spring.

Sir William would not say whether
or not the Canadian Northern would
approach Parliament this session for
further financial assistance.

Referring to the probability of the
western freight rate case going against
the railways, Sir William said:
"Do the people want the country to
be ruined. There never was a country
in the stage of development that Canada
is in today that was so well treated by
the railways as is the Canadian West."
Sir William MacKenzie said: "We are
carrying the mails at present at a loss,
and implied that the railways could not
be expected to accept the rates."

Former Londoner
Who Dies in Detroit
After Thugs' Attack



"RODDIE" SEMPLE

**HON. HANNA MAY
BE PREMIER IF
VACANCY OCCURS**

Plenty of Opposition But He Is
Choice of The Rank
and File.

FRICITION IN THE CABINET

Toronto Telegram Discusses Pos-
sibilities, if Sir James Cannot
Retain Position.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Toronto, Jan. 8.—An interesting article
on the possible successor to Sir James
Whitney, if unfortunately he is unable
to retain the premiership, appears in the
Toronto Telegram. In addition to being a
great admirer of Sir James Whitney, is an
ardent supporter of Hon. Mr. Beck. The
article confirms what has already been
frequently said that Mr. Beck would not
serve under Mr. Hanna. The item in
full reads:
"There is as much debate as to who
will succeed Sir James Whitney as pre-
mier, as there is concern over his illness.
Who will it be is something everybody
is asking, and only a few dare any an-
swer."
"Among the rank and file of the party
following the name of Hon. W. J. Hanna
is favored, but others favor Hon. Adam
Beck, and still others, Hon. W. H. Hearst.
Many of the best friends of the party
shake their heads knowingly when Hon.
W. J. Hanna is suggested. That would
mean more than one cabinet break.
Others shake their head when the name
of Adam Beck is suggested, because
that too would mean a break.
"For a long time there has been
friction in the cabinet, and Hon. Adam
Beck has given it a wide berth for this
reason. This, at least, is charged
against the cabinet by Hon. Mr. Beck's
friends, who would like to see him suc-
ceed to the leadership of the party, be-
cause he has had sufficient strength to
force the Ontario Cabinet into action
when it was most unwilling to go. The
sift of the last session of the Legis-
lature cannot be forgotten by even those
charitably disposed towards Hon. W. J.
Hanna, and rubbing it in during the
coming session will not increase the
glory of Hon. Mr. Hanna, while it will
not help party. The leadership is a
matter for the party caucus, and while
there is opposition, there is a strong
feeling among the members that Hon.
W. J. Hanna will be called into the
leader's shoes as soon as they are
vacant."

THE WEATHER.
TOMORROW — CLOUDY AND TURN-
ING COLDER.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES
The following were
the highest and low-
est temperatures re-
corded in London for
the twelve hours
preceding 8 a.m. to-
day: Highest, 34;
lowest, 30.
The official tem-
perature for the
twelve hours pre-
ceding 8 p.m. last
night were: High-
est, 33; lowest, 28.
Forecasts.
South and west winds, cloudy and mild,
with local showers of rain or sleet.
Friday: Cloudy and turning cold.
London, Ont. Jan. 8.
High Low Weather
Victoria 46 42 Cloudy
Winnipeg 30 18 Cloudy
Port Arthur 35 24 Cloudy
Perry Sound 32 20 Cloudy
Toronto 36 32 Rain
Ottawa 32 18 Snow

A very decided change has occurred
since yesterday in the distribution of
pressure over the continent. The barom-
eter is now quite low over the Great
Lakes and is rising in the western pro-
vinces with northerly winds. The weather
continues mild in Ontario and moderately
cold in Quebec and the Maritime prov-
inces.

**MRS. SPARLING TO
DEMAND TRIAL TO
CLEAR HER NAME**

Says Dr. Macgregor Did Not
Kill Her Husband
and Sons.

BLAMES VILLAGE GOSSIP

Declares Her Family Died From
Natural Causes And Not
From Foul Play.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Sarnia, Jan. 7.—If I am going to in-
sist that I be brought to trial, so that
my name may be cleared of the stain
that has been placed on it, Dr. Mac-
gregor is innocent. A great injustice
has been done him. My husband and
my sons died from natural causes.
They were not murdered. As God is
my judge, the evil that has been done
will have to be righted. The right
will prevail. They cannot side-
track me. They must bring me to
trial, and clear my name.

Has Nothing to Conceal.
So spoke Mrs. Carrie Sparling at
her home in Port Huron. As she re-
viewed the details of the sensational
case, which resulted in Dr. Robert A.
Macgregor, of Uby, formerly of Lon-
don, Ontario, being sent to prison for
life.

A reporter visited the Sparling
home today, and for nearly an hour
listened to the story told by the wo-
man. There was no hesitation in her
speech or manner. No questions were
Continued on Page Eleven.

**DRILLERS FIND
NATURAL GAS
NEAR DELAWARE**

If Discovery Pans Out London
May Have Another Source
of Supply.

WERE DRILLING FOR OIL

Sinking of Machinery Into the
"Pocket" Released Unknown
Supply of Gas.

Natural gas has been struck in Canadoc
Township, on the farm of Richard Leth-
an, about a mile west of the village of
Delaware. Whether the gas is of good
quality or is there in paying quantities
has not yet been determined, and will
probably not be known for a day or so.
If it is found to be of good quality and
suitable for commercial purposes it is
possible that it may be piped to Lon-
don, but nothing definite in this con-
nection will be known until it is seen
whether or not the flow is sufficient to jus-
tify such action.

Oil was being sought when the dis-
covery was made. Drillers began to probe
for oil on the Lethan farm about the
middle of December, and this week at a
depth of 2,640 feet their drill encoun-
tered what appeared to be a sort of
pocket in the earth and sank. It has not
yet been recovered, and efforts are being
made this afternoon to bring it to the
surface so that the flow of gas may have
been vented. It will then be possible to
determine whether or not the gas is there
in sufficient quantity to be tried to com-
mercial uses.

**MARTIAL LAW FOR REGINA
PROBABLE FOR FRIDAY NEXT**

City Thoroughly Alarmed by Threats of
Violence From "Unemployed Gang"
---Writer of Threatening Letter Gone

[Canadian Press.]
Regina, Jan. 8.—Late last night, it
was reported that in view of the
acute labor situation and repeated
threats of violence emanating from
the leader of the "unemployed gang,"
Regina will probably be under mar-
tial law Friday night. Superintendent
McGibbon of the R.N.W.M.P. has
offered to send a detachment to
patrol the city. The city is thor-
oughly alarmed and a movement is
on foot to call a mass meeting of
citizens to discuss the situation.

Miner Is To Be Arrested.
Threatening the city of Regina with
fire and violence within four days if
work is not immediately found for
the "unemployed gang," a letter
signed by Jack Miner, the alleged
leader of the gang, was read aloud
in the police office and every man on
the force has been supplied with a
description of Miner, with instruc-
tions to place him under arrest on
sight.

Though the local police scout the
idea that the city is in actual dan-
ger, the letter created the wildest ex-
citement. Mayor Martin has issued
a statement calling upon the unem-
ployed in the city to meet him at
conference with a view to forming
some plan to relieve the labor situa-
tion.

**Falling Ice Hits
Officer's Helmet**

Policeman Has Close Call From Seri-
ous Injury This Morning.

P. C. Roy Monteith at 4:15 this morn-
ing had a narrow escape from serious
injury when an immense icicle hanging
from the eaves of a building at King
and Richmond streets, fell, crushing in
his helmet and badly bruising his shoul-
der. Had it not been that Monteith was
standing close to the building there is
little doubt but that he would have been
much more seriously hurt.

**Ex-London Doctor
Declared Innocent
by Mrs. Sparling**

DR. ROBERT MACGREGOR.

**MEAT "FAMINE"
AND HIGH PRICES
FOR LONDONERS**

Purchase of Western Ontario Beef
For Montreal Means Big
Shortage.

BREEDERS BUYING TOO

Western Men Help to Drain
Peninsula of Available
Cattle.

London looks forward to a meat
famine in the spring due to buyers
snapping up all the best beef in
Western Ontario for future shipment
to Montreal in May. Buying for
future shipment to the extent it is
now being carried on is a new idea,
but the growing scarcity of beef
cattle has made it necessary to insure
a supply for British and eastern mar-
kets by contracting for heaves long
before they are ready to kill.

Least fall the removal of the Amer-
ican duty on meat fairly cleaned up
all the beef in Western Ontario.
Western Canada buyers also bought
up a great many animals for breed-
ing purposes for the west, where the
western farmers are again going into
cattle-breeding on extensive scales.
As a result there is very little beef
in this district and with eastern buy-
ers contracting in advance for it all,
there seems no way to avert a local
meat famine.

All over Western Ontario buyers
are reported to be buying for May
shipments and just where London
beef-eaters will get off at next spring
is a matter for conjecture.

Inquest Tonight.—The inquest into
the death of Alex. McDonald, the aged
Piccadilly street resident, who was
struck and killed by a street car on
the night of Jan. 2 at William street
and Central avenue, will be held at 8
o'clock tonight.

**"RODDIE" SEMPLE DIES IN
DETROIT AS A RESULT OF
BEING BEATEN BY THUGS**

Well-Known London Man Succumbs in
Hospital After Being Found Battered
in His Room.

**RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT
COULD NOT NAME ASSAILANTS**

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Detroit, Jan. 8.—Robert Semple, aged 41, died in St. Mary's
Hospital today from injuries received Dec. 15.

Little is known of him in Detroit, the only clue to his resi-
dence being a letter found in his pocket dated March 9, 1913, in
London, and signed "Brother."

In Detroit he had been boarding at 19 Abbott street.

Semple was found unconscious at first in the Abbott street
house on Dec. 15 with his eyes blackened and his head battered.
He was sent to the hospital where he regained consciousness,
but was unable to tell how his injuries were received.

The police feel certain that he was assaulted by footpads, as
there have been several holdups in that vicinity recently.

Robert Semple was well-known in London. A few years ago
he conducted a tailoring business here. He was nicknamed
"Roddie" by all who knew him. When a resident of London he
lived on Grey street between Wellington and Waterloo.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Semple, of this
city, and four brothers, Joe, of Chicago; Hugh, Jack and Dan, of
London, and two sisters, Jean, of Toronto, and Mrs. R. McNeil, of
this city. His parents are both dead.

He had resided in Detroit for some time.

The body will arrive in London late this afternoon, and inter-
ment will take place at a local cemetery.

**PREMIER HAD GOOD NIGHT'S REST BUT
CONTINUES WEAK**

No Definite Improvement Could
Be Reported By His
Physicians.

IS ANXIOUS TO GET HOME

Mentally Clear, He Converses
About Details of Office
Affairs.

[Canadian Press.]
New York, N.Y., Jan. 8.—While ob-
viously anxious to announce that the
condition of Sir James Whitney,
prime minister of Ontario, has shown
a definite improvement. Dr. Pyne,
after the regular consultation with
Dr. Hermann Biggs, this morning,
could do no better than state by bul-
letin at 11 o'clock that the patient
had enjoyed a night of undisturbed
sleep, adding the most important re-
servation that Sir James still con-
tinued weak.

Since Monday, Sir James has been
practically his old self mentally at
all times and has conversed about his
affairs from time to time. As some-
things dealing with his office details
that were left unfinished when he
started on the vacation which has
brought him to New York and to
death's door here, occur to him, he
has asked questions, but has always
been satisfied with the replies made.
Sir James still enjoys his food,
light meats and easily digested vege-
tables forming his principal diet. Or
course this has been supplemented
by drugs, aimed to accelerate the
steady action of his heart. While
these have to be administered Sir
James' condition must be considered
as critical and it is even a question
as to whether they are not necessary
to keep him alive.

The one worry that Sir James has
disclosed is his dislike for hotel life,
and the desire to get home to Tor-
onto manifests itself constantly.

The prime minister fell asleep last
night about 11 o'clock after a day in
which no change in his condition
could be noticed.

This morning he awakened about
five and his nurse was so satisfied
with the action of his heart. While
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**FIRST ACCIDENT DUE
TO THE CAVE-IN**

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Wingham, Jan. 8.—The first accident in
connection with the cave-in on the road
in Morris Township occurred yesterday
afternoon when Frank Casmore, one of
the teamsters, got too close to the edge
of the hole and fell in. He was buried
to the shoulders and would have gone
under the surface had his fellow work-
men not come to the rescue. Some frozen
stones gave Casmore a hand hold, and
he was pulled out no worse for his ex-
perience.