

THE WEATHER:
NORTHWEST WINDS, CLOUDY.
THURSDAY—LIGHT SNOW.

61ST YEAR. NO. 23842

LONDON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1923. —FOURTEEN PAGES

"SPORTING GREEN"
ON THE STREET AT 6:00
WITH LATE NEWS.

THREE CENTS.

TWO ESCAPE DEATH AS TRAIN SMASHES TRUCK

Fire Chief Aitken Urges Increase In London's Force

TWO INJURED WHEN TRAIN DEMOLISHES LIGHT TRUCK

H. E. Hamlin and W. Walker
Have Miraculous Escape
From Death.

NOT BADLY HURT

Driver States He Did Not See
Train or Hear Warning
Signal.

H. E. Hamlin, 26, of 666 Maitland street, and W. Walker, 18, of 392 Regent street, were injured and narrowly escaped death at 9 o'clock this morning, when a half-ton truck which they were driving was struck at the C. P. R. Maitland street level crossing by a westbound freight train hauled by engine number 136.

Walker is at his home suffering from shock. He received a severe shaking up as a result of the accident. Hamlin's injuries are slight. He is suffering from a strained leg and bruised head.

At 9 o'clock this morning, Hamlin, who lives a short distance from the level crossing, took out his truck, No. C-12-73, in order to haul coal for the Buchanan Coal Company. Walker was to have worked with him. As they approached the level crossing, Hamlin, who was driving, states he threw the car into low speed. The C. P. R. crossing at Maitland street has no gates, and the only protection afforded motorists is a bell which rings when a train approaches.

When the small truck was struck by the engine the force of the impact was so great that Walker was hurled fifteen feet from the car to the sidewalk. Hamlin was pinned to the car by a broken steering wheel. The car was turned completely around and thrown toward the sidewalk on the west side of Maitland street.

Both men were knocked unconscious. Dr. W. Thompson was summoned by spectators. When he arrived, he administered first aid and ordered the injured man to be taken to their homes.

Speaking to The Advertiser at noon today, Hamlin declared he did not see the train and heard no warning signal. "I always pass Maitland street crossing in low speed. There is no watchman, and I have always contended that if that bell failed to ring a serious accident would be caused. How I escaped death I do not know."

The truck was turned on its side, a twisted mass. The wheels were torn from the axle. The top was battered in, and the windshield smashed to atoms.

Mr. Hamlin claims the warning bell did not ring before he reached the crossing. The truck is not insured.

UNKNOWN MAN MEETS DEATH NEAR PARIS

Canadian Press Despatch.
Brantford, Dec. 26.—The body of an unknown man was found about four miles from Paris on the Canadian National Railway this morning, having been struck by a train while he was walking the track during the night. One leg was severed. An inquest will be held by Coroner Dr. Logie.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.
Today—West to northwest winds; mostly cloudy.

Thursday—East to northeast winds; somewhat lower temperature, with light snow.

Pressure is low over the Maritime Provinces and the Rocky Mountain States, while an area of high pressure and cold weather has come in over the Western Provinces from the northward.

It has been mild and rather unsettled with light snow or rain from Ontario eastward.

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

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	52	34	Cloudy
Calgary	18	10	Snow
Winnipeg	18	6	Clear
Farmington	36	23	Fair
Toronto	36	23	Clear
Kingston	36	23	Cloudy
Ottawa	36	23	Fair
Montreal	36	23	Snow
Quebec	36	23	Snow
Father Point	36	23	Snow
St. John	36	23	Cloudy
Halifax	40	30	Rain

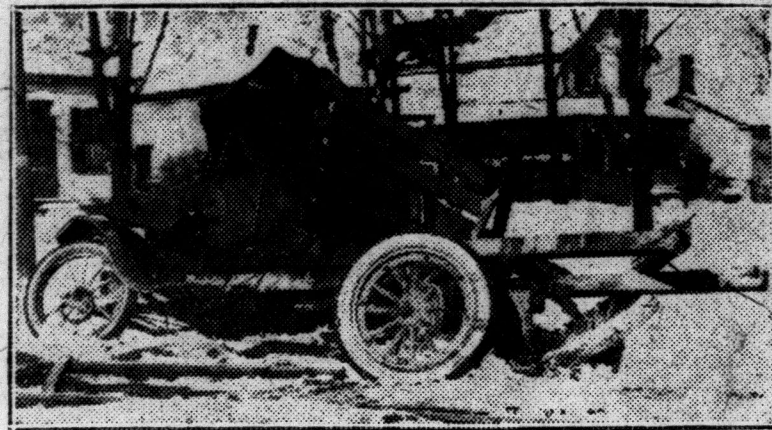
Minus (—) means below zero.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 34; lowest, 25.

The official temperatures for the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 31; lowest, 22.

Barometric Readings.
Today—8 p.m.—29.00.

Wednesday—8 a.m.—29.24.



SMASHED BY C. P. R. FREIGHT TRAIN.
All that is left of a truck, owned by E. H. Hamlin, 666 Maitland street, which was struck at the Maitland street level crossing at nine o'clock this morning by a westbound C. P. R. freight train. Mr. Hamlin and W. Walker, who were in the car at the time of the smash, narrowly escaped death. They were taken to their homes and are not seriously hurt.

FRENCH ABANDON HOPE FOR MISSING AIRSHIP

Fifty Officers and Men Aboard
Giant Dirigible, Reports
Paris Government.

SEARCH CONTINUES

Many Cling to Belief the Craft
May Have Landed in
the Desert.

Associated Press Despatch.
Paris, Dec. 26.—Indications that hope of rescuing the missing airship, Dikmude in African or adjacent waters, is approaching the vanishing point, were seen today in the action of the ministry of marine in issuing the list of fifty officers and men aboard, which is seldom done in France until a craft is considered lost. The government, nevertheless, is spurring on the activities of the air, sea and land searchers, as it is pointed out that a disaster to the airship would not necessarily mean death to the crew, although a landing either of a voluntary or an accidental nature would be dangerous.

Those on board the Dikmude are her staff of four officers, ten officers carried as passengers, and her crew of 36 men, fourteen of whom are specially trained to conduct landing operations.

The airship now has been out more than eight days. She carried eight days' rations, and plenty of water, but only a limited amount of gasoline. The principal hope fostered here is that the Dikmude has landed in the desert from whence it might take days for news to come.

Both men were knocked unconscious. Dr. W. Thompson was summoned by spectators. When he arrived, he administered first aid and ordered the injured man to be taken to their homes.

SID AND CLARENCE ENJOY CHRISTMAS

"Some Feed," Remarks Melbourne Bandit—Topping Is Quiet.

Sid Murrell and Clarence Topping, both being in the county jail on charges of murder, forgot their cares and worries yesterday, and enjoyed Christmas to the full.

Both men were served regular Christmas dinners in their cells. Murrell was more talkative than usual, turnkeys state, and spoke in glowing terms of the feast provided for him.

A friend of the family sent him a roast chicken, while he also had his share of the jail turkey provided by A. E. Silverwood.

"Some feed," quoth Sid. "I wouldn't complain if I had this line of eats every day. Not such bad fellows round here, after all."

Topping spent his usual quiet day, and his empty plate spoke volumes as to how he enjoyed his dinner.

WANTS FEDERAL PROBE OF BANK

William Irvine, M. P., Has
Already Sent in Notices
of Motions.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Parliament has not yet been summoned, but notices of motion are already arriving. Two—the only ones so far—are in relation to the failure of the Home Bank with a view to "discover any weakness in the bank act which may be amended to prevent a similar occurrence, and to devise some means of protecting depositors." The other asks for instruction to the banking committee to continue its investigation into credit in accordance with that committee's recommendations last session.

Christmas Bride Soon a Widow

Associated Press Despatch.
Portsmouth, Ohio, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Agnes Davis, a Christmas bride, saw the first day of her married life turned from joy into grief yesterday when her husband, William Davis, died in a local hospital, the result of having been shot by Garner Vencill, 23. Vencill is in jail.

The shooting occurred in front of a church in New Boston, a suburb of Portsmouth.

URGES CITY NOT TO ACT IN LICENSES

Corporation Solicitor Meredith
Gives Opinion in Milk
Dealers' Case.

FEE ONLY SMALL

A lot of noise was heard during recent months about bringing into the police court those persons living outside the city, who were supplying milk to local dealers, but had failed to pay the one dollar license.

In order to be certain, the opinion of the city solicitor was sought, with the result, city health authorities state, that nothing further will be done about the question. At the time, it was stated that about 25 dealers out of London were involved.

It seems that the city solicitor has handed down his opinion that it would not be expedient for the city to try and collect this money. In any event the authorities state that they are taking no action, and that the question has been closed, to all intents and purposes.

There are still many dealers, outside of the city, who sell their milk to local dealers. More often they do not even come into the city. Local dealers go through the country making the purchases. The claim was advanced that they should be compelled to pay the license in any event, as their milk was consumed in the city although they did not transport it there themselves. The city solicitor has ruled otherwise, however.

POSTOFFICE RUSH BREAKS RECORDS

More Than 1,000 Parcels a Day
Were Handled in Insurance
Department.

Thousands of parcels passed through the local postoffice this Christmas season. Never before have they experienced such a tremendous rush of Christmas mailings, postoffice officials said this morning. Although no official figures are available, it is estimated that in the insurance department alone more than a thousand parcels a day for a period of two weeks were handled.

Yesterday morning, letter carriers were unable to complete their rounds until late in the afternoon, and this morning hundreds of Christmas parcels arriving in the city last Tuesday were delivered.

Associated Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Peter Galloway, 42, farmer, ended his life with a shotgun at his home near here yesterday. He had been despondent since the death ten days ago of his son Arnold, a world war veteran.

"I just can't pass this Christmas Day without Arnold being here," he told Mrs. Galloway, and left the breakfast table to go to an adjoining room. A moment later he shot himself.

W. T. ESSERY, K.C.,

one of the oldest Orangemen in the city, who will speak tonight at the Orange banquet to take place after the installation of the 1924 officers of the Orange lodges in this district.

CHIEF AITKEN URGES MORE FIREMEN ON CITY'S FORCE

Recommends That at Least
Ten Additional Men Be
Secured.

AN EXTRA STATION

Several Taken From Central
Company For North
End.

Continued efficiency in the London fire department will necessitate an increase in the personnel of the force for 1924, Fire Chief John Aitken stated.

This is one of the chief's recommendations for the coming year, stating that at least 10 additional men should be added to the department. The strength of the brigade now stands at 52, including the chief and all officers. The men work on the two-platoon system; platoons change daily, at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and shifts change every six days in order that each man will have 24 hours off duty every 12 days. During the annual vacation period, May 1 until October 31, four temporary men are engaged.

The North London station (No. 4) was re-opened early in the year and Chief Aitken points out that the men required for this branch of service were taken from the central company or other stations. No additional men were hired, however, for this reason.

"This leaves us under-manned," the chief stated, "and we should be brought up to strength as soon as possible. In the case of a big fire we could use more men to man the ladders than we have available."

Chief Aitken explains also that when any sickness in the department is further handicapped, as there are no others to put in their place.

"The city council this year directed the complete motorization of the fire department," said the chief. "That has been done and now they should bring the department personnel up to an equivalent. This should be done to insure rigid efficiency. A shortage of the necessary men will always prove a serious drawback."

It is understood that the fire underwriters of the province still set the standard for a department, at one fireman for every 1,000 population. By this token, the local companies have evidently been under strength throughout 1923, by at least 10 men.

In any event it will be well nigh impossible for the city councilors to 1924 to evade a thorough consideration of this problem. Not only have they to consider the fire underwriters' report, sent on to them from the 1923 council, but they have awaiting them, the now-celebrated Britain report, the exhaustive survey of the fire and other civic departments, conducted last summer, by Dr. Horace L. Brittain and his staff of municipal experts from the Citizens' Research Bureau of Canada.

Numerous recommendations were made, all of which warrant immediate and eventually in most instances, very favorable consideration.

Consumption of fish in London has been nearly 100 per cent greater this year than ever before in local history, according to J. Jenkins of the civic fish market. Mr. Jenkins could give no definite reason for the tremendous increase in the sale of fish locally, but the enormous demand for all varieties of fresh water and sea fish shows that either people consider fish a more healthful food or a more economical substitute for meat.

English people in the city are the big fish consumers, Mr. Jenkins said. It is interesting to note that in almost all cases an Englishman will not buy fresh water fish because, he claims, it has no flavor. According to Mr. Jenkins, when the Englishman becomes accustomed to lake fish, invariably he buys it in preference to salt water fish.

Whitefish is the best seller in the city. During the past year a greater amount of white fish has been sold locally than all other varieties put together, despite the fact that it has jumped from 20 to 28 cents per pound in one year. Smelts, which will be scarce next week, have always been a popular fish in the city. The smelt season lasts for two months, but owing to the mild weather a poor one is looked for.

The last of the fresh water fish was sold in the city last week. From now on until the spring only sea fish, such as halibut and salmon, will be sold at the civic fish market.

CASE IS ADJUDGED.

J. Gules, who it is alleged, has neglected to pay excise taxes due the government, had his case laid over till Feb. 1, when he appeared in court today. Magistrate Graydon took his bail for \$200, this being satisfactory to all parties.

Manager of Civic Market Declares Old Country People Good Customers.

WHITEFISH SELLS BEST

Fresh and Salt Water Varieties
Find Ready Demand
in City.

Consumption of fish in London has been nearly 100 per cent greater this year than ever before in local history, according to J. Jenkins of the civic fish market. Mr. Jenkins could give no definite reason for the tremendous increase in the sale of fish locally, but the enormous demand for all varieties of fresh water and sea fish shows that either people consider fish a more healthful food or a more economical substitute for meat.

English people in the city are the big fish consumers, Mr. Jenkins said. It is interesting to note that in almost all cases an Englishman will not buy fresh water fish because, he claims, it has no flavor. According to Mr. Jenkins, when the Englishman becomes accustomed to lake fish, invariably he buys it in preference to salt water fish.

Whitefish is the best seller in the city. During the past year a greater amount of white fish has been sold locally than all other varieties put together, despite the fact that it has jumped from 20 to 28 cents per pound in one year. Smelts, which will be scarce next week, have always been a popular fish in the city. The smelt season lasts for two months, but owing to the mild weather a poor one is looked for.

The last of the fresh water fish was sold in the city last week. From now on until the spring only sea fish, such as halibut and salmon, will be sold at the civic fish market.

CASE IS ADJUDGED.

J. Gules, who it is alleged, has neglected to pay excise taxes due the government, had his case laid over till Feb. 1, when he appeared in court today. Magistrate Graydon took his bail for \$200, this being satisfactory to all parties.

START "SHORT VACATION."
"Short vacation" at the court house started today and will continue till January 8. All court house offices with the exception of the sheriff's will close at 12 o'clock each day.



CHIEF AITKEN,
who declares London's fire force is at present in need of several more men and recommends an immediate increase.

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AID UNEMPLOYED

Opinion Prevails That Municipalities
Must Shoulder
Whole Burden.

REPLIES RECEIVED

It would seem that the federal and provincial governments as well as the case last winter, are viewing with disfavor the request from London or other municipalities, for financial assistance for unemployment relief purposes.

A communication from the city council to the two administrations was acknowledged and the opinion is general, however, that the governments were through with this sort of undertaking two winters ago.

Certain communities are chiefly responsible for the government's relief last winter to interest itself again materially, it is stated; owing to the fact that these municipalities evidently grasped at the offer as an opportunity to undertake all sorts of public works under the guise of relief work, thereby receiving a substantial bonus.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Fish Becoming Popular Food With Londoners, Sales Double In Year

Manager of Civic Market Declares Old Country People
Good Customers.

WHITEFISH SELLS BEST

Fresh and Salt Water Varieties
Find Ready Demand
in City.

Consumption of fish in London has been nearly 100 per cent greater this year than ever before in local history, according to J. Jenkins of the civic fish market. Mr. Jenkins could give no definite reason for the tremendous increase in the sale of fish locally, but the enormous demand for all varieties of fresh water and sea fish shows that either people consider fish a more healthful food or a more economical substitute for meat.

English people in the city are the big fish consumers, Mr. Jenkins said. It is interesting to note that in almost all cases an Englishman will not buy fresh water fish because, he claims, it has no flavor. According to Mr. Jenkins, when the Englishman becomes accustomed to lake fish, invariably he buys it in preference to salt water fish.

Whitefish is the best seller in the city. During the past year a greater amount of white fish has been sold locally than all other varieties put together, despite the fact that it has jumped from 20 to 28 cents per pound in one year. Smelts, which will be scarce next week, have always been a popular fish in the city. The smelt season lasts for two months, but owing to the mild weather a poor one is looked for.

The last of the fresh water fish was sold in the city last week. From now on until the spring only sea fish, such as halibut and salmon, will be sold at the civic fish market.

CASE IS ADJUDGED.

J. Gules, who it is alleged, has neglected to pay excise taxes due the government, had his case laid over till Feb. 1, when he appeared in court today. Magistrate Graydon took his bail for \$200, this being satisfactory to all parties.

START "SHORT VACATION."
"Short vacation" at the court house started today and will continue till January 8. All court house offices with the exception of the sheriff's will close at 12 o'clock each day.

The Doll Show Is Coming! Ten Prizes For Little Girls With Best Dressed Dolls

The Advertiser Will Hold Doll
Show in January For the
New Dolls.

GET YOUR DOLL READY

Everyone Busy With Frocks
and Hats and Coats To
Keep Dollies Warm.

Have you ever been to a Doll Show?

There are motor shows and fashion shows and dog shows and poultry shows, but never any Doll Shows. And now London is going to have one.

Nothing but dolls — and dolls' clothes.

Every little girl who has been given a doll by the Doll Lady is busy making dresses and coats and hats for her doll, because it's pretty cold weather for just the pretty organdie frock in which the doll arrives.

So in January The Advertiser is going to have a Doll Show for all these little girls and their new dolls.

There will be ten prizes for the best dressed dolls in the show. The dolls, of course, must be those given by the Doll Lady, and the frocks and hats and coats must be made by the little girl who owns the doll.

The Advertiser will tell you more about the details of the Doll Show before the end of the week, but you can start right away to have sewing parties every afternoon to get your dolls ready in time. And then you can invite all your friends to be your guests at the Show. The most wonderful dolls that have ever been made will be there.

DOORS WERE CLOSED.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

Whether Christmas was too much for several citizens of London or not is a matter of question, but let it suffice that when a reporter of The Advertiser made his regular round this morning, out of five places of call three were closed, with the doors locked.

EIGHT TELL MAGISTRATE OF "MERRY" CHRISTMAS

Ten-Dollar Fines Bring Holiday
Session to Close.

PLENTY OF EXTRACT

Excuses Prove To Be Only Fair
and Contestants Are
"Disqualified."

An extra merry Christmas brought on by extra merry drags at numerous black bottles, gave the extra merry men of Chief Birrell an extra lot of work on December 25, 1923.

Eight bibulous gentlemen, one with a fondness for lemon extract, faced the court this morning and drew away to the cells later on, each with a \$10 fine tacked on to his bank account. It was a fair morning for excuses, but facts are facts and as the magistrate stated, he had no discretion in the matter.

The first to face the court barrier was an old-timer who appeared last Monday and was fined \$10 on a drunk charge.

"You back again?" sadly queried the magistrate.

"Yes, sir, but I wasn't very full." "If you were full at all you were guilty," stated the court.

Constable Thompson stated he picked up the offender at King and Talbot streets at 1 a.m.

"He was drinking early," observed the chief.

The constable went on to state the prisoner was leaning up against a mail box for support and when he left the box erected by the government, his feet wouldn't behave.

"Your worship I've got a good job at Chatham. I paid my fine Monday, but I haven't any money left now. If I don't get back to that job right away, I'll lose it," pleaded the accused.

"You were given a chance on Monday. I can't do anything now. I'll have to fine you \$10 and costs on ten days in jail," declared Mr. Graydon.

Weeks or Months.

"Here again, eh?" asked the magistrate as "Pat" a real old-timer bobbed up in the prisoner's box.

"It's three months since I was here last year honor," boldly stated Patrick.

"Out, out," laughed the chief. "You mean three weeks don't you, Pat?"

"No, sir, I'm not guilty of this. Please see page 11, column 6."

SEVERAL APPLY
FOR BRANCH HEAD

Income Vacancy Still Exists in
the City Assessment
Department.

Several applications have been received by City Assessment Commissioner Harry Bennett for the vacancy created in his department by the death several months ago of the late Sam Glass, chief of the income branch of that office.