

# TRAIN PLUNGES THROUGH BRIDGE CARRYING 35 TO DEATH

## CITY APPEALS DECISION OF COURT OF REVISION

### Objects to Reduced Assessment of Street Railway Company, Downtown Merchants. MEETING IS CALLED

Members of Court Asked To Explain To Civic Finance Committee.

Official protest has been registered against yesterday's ruling by the London court of revision concerning the London Street Railway Company and two downtown merchants—Smallman & Ingram and the Kingshill Company.

It is possible that the city council will appeal to the county judge against these decisions. At a noon conference with City Clerk Samuel Baker and Assessment Commissioner H. J. Bennett, the mayor stated that a joint meeting be held with the members of the court of revision and the finance committee in attendance. In any event, the question will be brought before Monday's session of the city council.

Mayor Wenige charges that the members of the court of revision are not functioning, and that favors are being granted to no citizens. Commissioner Bennett doubled the street railway assessment, but the court seemed it fitting yesterday to reduce this to half, setting forth the plea that it would be too drastic to increase such a vast increase in one stroke. They suggest spreading the increase over a period of years.

Mayor Wenige objects, suggesting that it would be expedient to back over twenty-year period during which the company's assessment has remained unaltered.

At first the company's representative claimed that the city was empowered to assess its property only at scrap value. This contention was not supported with proof, however, the commissioner states, and the mayor wanted to know today if the company will sell upon the same understanding.

Another peculiar thing about the matter, Commissioner Bennett remarks, is that the company is not claiming exemption from taxation for poles, wires, etc., but subsequently evoked willingness to accept assessment upon one-half of the value. He adds that London should be in no different position than other Ontario municipalities, where the street railway corporations are assessed within the provisions of the statutes.

What is a Department Store? What constitutes a department store? This is a question which evidently puzzles the members of the court of revision. The assessment of the increased business assessment placed this year by Commissioner Bennett in two instances, Smallman & Ingram and Kingshill. The sum which the city would lose in these instances would reach, roughly, a total of \$5,000 or \$6,000, the commissioner explains.

The court of revision has not given any opinion as to whether Commissioner Bennett's additional levy upon Smallman & Ingram is justified.

TO CONTINUE PUBLICATION OF BRITISH LABOR ORGAN

Associated Press Despatch. London, Sept. 28.—Publication of the Daily Herald, the leading Labor organ, will be continued until the end of the year at least. A decision on this effect was arrived at yesterday at a joint meeting of the Labor Party and Trades Union Congress executives.

The Daily Herald was about to go out of existence owing to financial difficulties, but was given a lease of life by the Trades Union Congress at Plymouth a few weeks ago.

DEVON PEOPLE COMPLAIN OF POACHING BY FRENCH

Associated Press Despatch. London, Sept. 28.—An Anglo-French incident which, however, is not likely to involve diplomatic action has occurred on the Devon coast, where the fishermen for some time have been complaining of poaching by French trawlers. A British cruiser yesterday steamed into Brixham, conveying three French trawlers, which, it is claimed, were caught in the act of poaching.

Lloyd George Thinks that Poincare's victory in the Ruhr will ultimately cost France dearly. He believes that the German people will come back, whatever diplomatic agreements may be made.

Lloyd George has written a brilliant analysis of the situation for The Advertiser. Read it tomorrow afternoon.

PROMULGATES DECREE COVERING TRADE PACT

Associated Press Despatch. Paris, Sept. 28.—The decree promulgating the Franco-Canadian commercial convention, which was signed last December, has just been published by the government here. The agreement provides for "most favored nation" treatment reciprocal between Canada and France, with certain exceptions stipulated.

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### DR. R. A. WAUD

Dr. Waud, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, has just perfected an electrical device for recording pulse tension, which is expected to prove of great value in medical diagnosis of certain cases.

Builders expect to be busy until after Christmas

Report 1923 To Be One of the Best Building Years London Has Ever Known.

COST NOT DROPPING

"This year has been a very busy and successful one in London from the point of view of the contractor doing residential work and building private houses," said Sid Jones, exchange, "There has been more work of this kind in London this year than in any previous year. As to what next year will bring, it is impossible to say. I think the housing situation in London is relieved now and that 1924 will see much less house building."

As to costs, Mr. Jones said: "I expect prices for 1924 will not alter materially from those prevailing. This year's prices have been much the same as in 1922, and I see nothing to make them less in 1924."

At last night's meeting of the members of the Builders' Exchange, it was noticeable that the general outlook was optimistic. Two members who had just returned from the States spoke of the exceptionally high wages being paid there to skilled labor. "The average price paid in the States," they said, "is \$3 a day and in Toronto, \$4, and this the members of the London Exchange have been receiving."

In London the wage of the plasterer is \$3 a day and in Toronto, \$4, and this the members of the London Exchange have been receiving.

Commercial contractors in the city report that 1923 has been a busy year with a large amount of building. Most of them are booked up with enough work to last until Christmas or New Year.

As to next year, they say that most of the factories in London which provided work this year are nearly complete, or finished, and that the unemployment for some years, and none just now. They all hold that there cannot be any great reduction of building costs next year, as neither labor costs nor material costs seem inclined to come down.

Some of them even said they expected building costs to remain stationary for some years, and none of them saw any prospect of a reduction. Here are the rates of building labor for 1922 and 1923 in London, according to the rates agreed upon between the men and the employers:

Bricklayers—1922, 90 cents an hour; 1923, 65 cents an hour; Carpenters—1922, 65 cents an hour; 1923, 70 cents an hour; Plasterers—1922, 65 cents an hour; 1923, 65 cents an hour; Plumbers—1922, 70 cents an hour; 1923, 40 to 50 cents an hour; 1923, 40 to 50 cents an hour.

In all these cases the best men at their work have been receiving slightly more than the price named in the agreement both in 1922 and in 1923.

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He has enlisted the services of the local police in his search. He gives the address as 355 Langlois avenue, Windsor.

TO VISIT DISTRICT CORPS

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