4 P.M. EDITION

London Advertiser

ADVERTISING stimulates and regulates the demand for the supply.

41ST YEAR. NO. 17173 THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1904. PRICE TWO CENTS.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF KING ALFONSO OF SPAIN

Spanish Anarchists Attempt His Life While Royal Party Was Leaving the Exhibition at Barcelona.

A PETARD EXPLODED, TWO PEASANTS BEING INJURED

Madrid, April 7. — An official telegram from Barcelona states that as King Alfonso was leaving the exhibition a petard exploded, injuring two peasants. One arrest was made.

The news of the attempt on the life of King Alfonso by the explosion of a bomb as he was leaving the exhibition at Barcelona, produced the deepest impression here. King Victor Emmanuel immediately personally telegraphed to the Spanish King his warmest congratulations on his escape.

The papal secretary of state, Cardinal Merry Del Val, when informed of the attempt hastened with the news to the Pope, who exclaimed: "Poor, misguided souls. There is no excuse for their crime." The Pope then instructed the papal secretary to telegraph the Pontiff's congratulations to King Alfonso on his escape.

King Alfonso arrived at Barcelona yesterday for a fortnight's visit to Catalonia. He was accompanied by Premier Maura and War Minister Linares and a numerous suite. The visit of the king to Barcelona, which is the hold of republicanism, caused the greatest disquietude in Spanish official quarters, as it was feared the Republicans and Socialists would vent on the King their hatred of the Premier, whose strong measures in dealing with the strike rioters had made him very unpopular.

THE NEWS AT LONDON.

London, April 7. — The Spanish embassy here has not received any information in regard to the attempt made upon the life of King Alfonso at Barcelona, owing to the strict censorship in Spain. The details may be delayed. The newspapers of London accept the brief official announcement from Barcelona as an acknowledgment of an attempt to assassinate the King by the explosion of a bomb, and as a realization of the fears of the authorities that the King was running into serious danger by a visit to the headquarters of anarchist activity in Spain.

GUILTY STAINS IN GEORGE'S HOME

Telling Evidence Against Suspect in Windsor Case.

POLICE BELIEVE HIM THE MAN

Hatchet in His House Shows Marks That Look Like Blood—Has a Bad Record.

Windsor, Ont., April 7.—Chief Wills, of the Windsor police force, says he is almost certain that the police have, in the person of Jonathan George, the man who killed aged Mrs. Eliza Williams in her residence on McDougall street, Windsor. Since the man's arrest at an early hour yesterday morning and the police have been securing evidence against him, and last evening the chief announced that he is well satisfied with what he has discovered so far.

A shirt with some dark stains upon the sleeves, a hatchet which shows particles of blood or some other dark colored material upon the head and a receipt with bloody marks upon the paper are among some of the articles the police unearthed in George's shanty after his arrest. Officer Maitre also discovered some stains upon a door which may be dried blood, and the door is now at police headquarters with the other articles which will be used as evidence against the accused.

So far George is the only man known to the police who could have had a motive for murdering the old woman. He was her tenant, and the house he occupied, was in the rear of the Williams home. It is claimed by the police that George had trouble with his landlady and that she asked Bailiff Millard, of Windsor, to compel George to leave the house. She said that he had not paid his rent and that she wished to secure the house for another tenant. The receipt for rent which bears bloodstains, certified that George had paid his rent up to March 23, but it is not known when the receipt was written.

The prisoner, who is an aged colored man, has had trouble before with the authorities, and came close to being hanged at Sandwich. He was convicted of an assault upon a colored woman about 37 years ago and sentenced to death. Afterwards the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, and after he had served seven years in Kingston he was pardoned, as there was some doubt as to his being the guilty party. Since that time he has lived in Windsor, making a living at draying and odd jobs about the city. He had $2 in his possession when arrested and when asked by the police how he secured the money he claimed to have earned it. He gave the names of several men for whom he had worked, but Chief Wills says that these people deny that George has worked for them for several months.

The remains of Mrs. Williams were removed to O'Dell's morgue where a post-mortem examination was conducted by Dr. G. R. Cruickshank. It was found that the whole front part of the skull had been crushed, the wounds having been made by blows from some blunt instrument, any one of which was sufficient to cause death.

Coroner LaBelle empaneled a jury and after viewing the remains the inquest was adjourned until next Tuesday.

George is still a prisoner at the Windsor police station, and today the county crown attorney will submit the evidence so far collected against George, and in all probability he will be remanded to prison until after the finding of the coroner's jury.

A FATAL DUEL.

Huntington, W. Va., April 7. — John McFarland, chief of police of North Fork, and J. A. Ballard, a lumber merchant and capitalist, are dead as a result of a pistol duel which followed the Republican district convention at North Fork. The contest for the gubernatorial nomination caused the duel. The two men were supporters of rival candidates. They met on leaving the convention hall. The lie was passed and the shooting followed, each being killed.

THE OPEN DOOR.

Paris, April 7. — It was learned in official quarters today that the Anglo-French colonial treaty about to be signed will contain a clause having the effect of establishing the open door in Morocco and Egypt.

CONCENTRATING UPON THE YALU

Jap Supply Ships Land Their Cargoes Safely.

DESPITE THE RUSSIAN FORTS

Admiral Makaroff Raises Togo's Fireships and Will Use Them Against the Enemy.

Tokio, April 7, 2 p.m. — A dispatch from Seoul, Korea, says that the Japanese supply steamers are safely entering the estuary of the Yalu River and are landing their cargoes at various points on the Korean shore. It is presumed here that the movement of these supply steamers is covered by Japanese gunboats. If this is true, the Russian forts erected upon the Chinese side of the Yalu River are evidently not effective.

According to reliable Korean reports the American mines at Unsan and the English mines at Gwendolen are safely guarded by detachments of Japanese troops.

AGAINST AN ALLIANCE.

St. Petersburg, April 7. — The Russ in an editorial inveighs against that section of the Russian press which is proposing an alliance of Russia, Germany and France, against what is termed the yellow and Anglo-Saxon peril, economic and political.

"Why not," the editorial asks, "follow the example of France and England and boldly undertake to reconcile differences which now seems hopelessly entangled? Then, it would be shown how few they are and what benefit would come from an alliance between us and America, against the more grave and common enemy, Germany. This may be the real coalition of the future."

RUSSIANS USE JAP SHIPS.

St. Petersburg, April 7. — A dispatch from Port Arthur describes how the cruisers Bayan and Novik during the attack on Port Arthur on March 27 covered the torpedo-boat destroyer Silni, which was aground, from the enemy's fire, hauling her off the shoal and bringing her back to port. It further describes how subsequently the whole Russian fleet sailed out of the harbor and formed line of battle ready to accept a combat, which the Japanese declined.

Three of the Japanese fireships sunk in attempts to block the harbor have been raised and towed into the harbor of Port Arthur, where they are being armed with rapid fire guns for service against the enemy.

ALL WANT MORE TIME

The Railway Committee Grants Extension to Many Places.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, April 7. — The first business meeting of the railway committee was held today. A bill to extend the time for the construction of the eastern section of the British Columbia Southern Railway, and also to extend the time for constructing branches and connecting lines, was adopted.

A bill to revise and amend the acts respecting the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal passed the committee. The time for commencing the work was extended three years and competition seven years.

Mr. MacKie had charge of the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal bill. It asked for an extension of time. The time for commencing the work was extended for two years, making it 1906, and the time for completion was also extended two years, making it 1912.

The time for construction of the Atlantic and Northwest Railway was also extended. The Ottawa, Northern and Western Railway Company got five years within which to complete its extensions and branches. An extension of time was also given to the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Railway.

An act to incorporate the Pontiac and Interprovincial Railway Company was adopted.

The committee did a big day's work in three-quarters of an hour.

ST. PIERRE NOT FOR SALE.

Paris, April 7. — Owing to the reports that France contemplates the disposal of the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, the foreign office desires the Associated Press to authoritatively state that the disposal of the islands is not contemplated to any country whatever.

THE WAR NEWS.

A well-nigh impenetrable veil continues to hide operations by both land and sea in the Far East. Vague unofficial reports declare both Russians and Japs to be in the vicinity of the Yalu. First one and then the other is reported as being victorious in trivial skirmishes. The Russians are supposed to be strongly entrenched on the north bank of the river and await the Jap onslaught. New Chwang, which has just been visited by Kuropatkin, is hurrying preparations for an early attack by the Japanese. A fleet of the Mikado's transports has been seen heading for the Wiju, and a London Times correspondent says the Jap fleets are split up, part watching Port Arthur and part patrolling the Korean coasts. This same correspondent came across the Russ cruiser Bayan thirty miles out of Port Arthur. If this report be correct Togo's blockade is proving of little use.

INDIAN SPECIAL WRECKED

Uncle Sam's Bucks in a Fatal Smash-Up in Illinois.

Maywood, Ill., April 7. — Sixty-three Indian in a special car en route to Washington to see President Roosevelt, were smashed into by a mail train two miles west of here today during a fog. Three of the Indians were instantly killed, three were fatally injured, and twenty others were more or less seriously hurt. The Indians who were not pinned in the wreck fled in a panic across the prairie.

The trains which collided were the Oregon express and a fast mail on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. The express train was run into by the mail train. Both trains were eastbound. Physicians were promptly hurried to the scene. As soon as possible the injured were taken to Maywood and Chicago.

All the victims of the wreck were Indians.

PRESENTED TO THE MIKADO.

Tokio, April 7. — Lieut.-Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton, Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Nicholson, and Col. Jas. A. L. Haldane, the three British officers who will be attached to the Japanese army during the war, were received in private audience by the Emperor today. The British minister, Sir Claude MacDonald, made the presentations.

WAS ALMOST A DOUBLE TRAGEDY

A St. Catharines Man Shoots His Wife and Himself—Both May Die.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 6. — A special from North Tonawanda says: One of the most sensational shootings known to the Tonawandas occurred here late this afternoon, when Frank Gibson, of St. Catharines, Ont., shot his wife, May Shanlon Gibson, and then fired two bullets into his own breast.

The shooting took place at the home of Burton Eckers, of 26 Allen street, Gratwick, a suburb of this city, while the Eckers family was eating supper at 5 o'clock. Mr. Gibson has been living in St. Catharines, Ont., during the last three weeks, while his wife remained with her sister, Mrs. Burton Eckers, in Gratwick. About 3 o'clock this afternoon Gibson reached the home of the Eckers family, where he found his wife. He endeavored to persuade his wife to accompany him to Canada, but she refused, saying that if he would come to North Tonawanda she would live with him, but otherwise she would not. About 5 o'clock the Eckers family and Mrs. Gibson sat down to supper, but Mr. Gibson refused to participate in the luncheon.

During the conversation with her sister at the supper table, Mrs. Gibson said: "I will never live with him again."

Gibson, who was in the adjoining room, heard the remark, and dashed towards his wife with a drawn revolver. Two shots were fired at his wife, and one at his sister-in-law, Mrs. Eckers. The third bullet missed its mark, while the others penetrated the body of Mrs. Gibson, one passing through the apex of the heart. The other bullet went through the right hip.

At this Gibson turned the revolver towards himself and sent two balls into his own body. One bullet entered her right breast and passed to the left of his heart, while the second penetrated his body about eight inches above the first.

After shooting himself, Gibson endeavored to escape. However, his wound weakened him immediately and he fell prostrate to the ground at the side of the Eckers house. He was carried into the Eckers house and medical aid was summoned. Later he was placed under arrest and removed to a hospital. The wounds of both Mr. and Mrs. Gibson are considered fatal, the doctors stating tonight that both will die.

Gibson confessed to the attempted murder and suicide.

KILLED BY FALLING TREE.

Arnprior, April 7. — Paul Young, one of McLachlin Bros.' employes, was accidentally killed Tuesday by the falling of a tree while at work in one of their camps at Brule Lake. Deceased, who was in his 22nd year and unmarried, came to this country from England some years ago, and had for some time made this town his home. His remains will be interred in the cemetery here.

BRUTAL ATTACK ON LITTLE BOY

Ten-Year-Old Lad Hung Up by His Arm to a Tree.

THEN STRIPPED OF CLOTHING

His Pet Dog Guides Rescue Party to the Scene—Police After the Criminal.

Welland, April 7.—A large apple tree in an orchard near Port Robinson was the scene of an attempted murder Tuesday afternoon. Jack, the 10-year-old son of J. W. Chambers, a farmer living near the village, was picked up from the door of his home by an unknown man, carried quickly to a remote part of the orchard, hung by one arm to a tree, stripped of his clothing and left to perish. His pet dog saved his life. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon the little lad went out into the yard to pick up some kindling wood, when he was suddenly pounced upon by a stranger who had been in hiding behind a chicken coop, which is situated about 30 feet from the house. The lad, who was held face downwards, was carried hurriedly to the back of an apple orchard, about 500 yards from the house, crying vainly for help and frightened almost into hysterics. His pet dog followed, snapping viciously at the heels of the kidnapper, who paid no attention to these attacks, being provided with a pair of long boots. The tree to which the victim was brought was one of great size. The trunk was partly decayed and hollow. About six feet from the ground was a hole, while some inches higher was a similar aperature, although perhaps a few inches larger. Raising the child into the air, the man forced the arm of the little fellow through the top hole, and, seizing the hand from beneath, drew it out through the lower hole, thus leaving the child suspended by the arm. His next act was to pull the clothing off the child from the waist down. Then, grabbing the shirt and sweater worn by his victim, he rolled both as tightly as possible around the neck, thus leaving the entire body of the child exposed to the raw, cold wind. During the entire proceedings the boy was not permitted to get a glance at the villain's face, and not a word was spoken, but as the fellow turned to leave he remarked: "You are one of the two boys who left my barn door open. When I catch the other fellow I'll come and take you down." He then made off towards the Grand Trunk Railway, leaving the boy apparently to die, his calls for help being made vain by the prevailing wind. The mother wondered that her boy did not return, but thought he was playing in the barn. About 5:30 p.m. a search was started, and after some time the curious actions of the dog attracted the attention of the searchers. Going ahead with joyful bounds the animal brought the mother to the scene of the crime. The little lad, who was almost unconscious and blue from exposure, was taken down and restoratives administered. It is thought he will recover.

The Ontario police were notified, and they now are hot on the trial of the perpetrator, who is still believed to be in the vicinity.

A SAD ACCIDENT

An Amherstburg Man Accidentally Shoots and Kills His Son.

Amherstburg, April 7.—A sad fatality occurred near here late Tuesday afternoon, when Mr. J. Cornwall, a resident of this place, accidentally shot his 13-year-old boy while duck hunting. Father and son had two boats between them, and in stepping from one to the other Mr. Cornwall's gun was accidentally discharged into his son's abdomen.

MR. CONMEE NOMINATED

Liberal Convention at Port Arthur Give Him Unanimous Support.

Port Arthur, April 6. — The largest Liberal convention ever held in this district met here today. One hundred and twenty-one duly accredited delegates were present. Every part of the constituency was represented. The meeting was called to nominate a Liberal candidate for the new constituency of Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

For some time three names have been mentioned as possible candidates, Messrs. Walter Ross, of Rat Portage; James Murphy, of Fort William, and James Conmee, of Port Arthur. Messrs. Ross and Murphy withdrew and Mr. Conmee was given the unanimous nomination, the entire meeting rising to their feet and cheering for the candidate.

WEATHER BULLETIN.

TOMORROW—MILD, SOME SHOWERS.

London, Thursday, April 7.

Sun rises..5:49 a.m. Moon rises..1:16 a.m.
Sun sets...6:51 p.m. Moon sets..11:15 a.m.

Toronto, April 6—8 p.m.

Showers are occurring tonight in the lake region and light snowfalls in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Elsewhere the weather is fine.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Port Simpson, 32—42; Dawson, 10—40; Victoria, 40—50; Calgary, 30—42; Qu'Appelle, 28—28; Winnipeg, 14—28; Port Arthur, 32—36; Parry Sound, 30—52; Toronto, 30—47; Ottawa, 30—48; Montreal, 32—50; Quebec, 32—34; St. John, N. B., 32—50; Halifax, 30—50.

FORECASTS.

Thursday, April 7—8 a.m.

Mostly fair and mild until Friday forenoon, then showery.

TEMPERTURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	24	22	Fair
Winnipeg	26	22	Snow
Parry Sound	34	32	Cloudy
Toronto	42	36	Cloudy
Ottawa	34	34	Rain
Montreal	34	32	Rain
Quebec	30	28	Cloudy
Father Point	30	26	Cloudy

WEATHER NOTES.

Conditions are generally disturbed, the outlook being unsettled and mild in Ontario and Quebec.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Wednesday, were: Highest, 51°; lowest, 30°.

Mr. Harcourt Accedes to Representations of London

Ten On the Board of Education, One To Be from the Separate Schools.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, April 7. — Hon. R. B. Harcourt, Minister of Education, informed The Advertiser today that he had acceded to the representations made to him by the London Public School Board, and has reframed sections of the proposed education bill so as to meet the wishes of London. The bill now provides for the election from all cities under 50,000 of nine members, and one appointee from the separate school board, the vote to be taken from the city at large as is now done in electing aldermen.

The clause which made it necessary that before the act should be put into force the city council must first pass a bylaw to that effect, has also been eliminated. As the bill now stands the trustees are absolutely free of the council.

In the bill as at first proposed it was laid down that in cities like London there should be 12 trustees elected and two appointees from the separate school board.

Personal Reasons Actuate Abuse of the City Engineer

So Says Mr. Graydon in Regard to Statements of Mr. Jones.

Engineer Graydon laughed today when told of the nice things that had been said about him at the meeting in West London last night.

"I am not anxious to rush into print in this matter," he said, "but I must say that Mr. Jones made certain remarks at the meeting which are absolutely untrue. One of these remarks was that the breakwater now is not in as good condition as it was before amalagamation. I say it is 50 per cent better now than then, viewing the embankment from any standpoint.

"Last night this gentleman stated that despite my assertions that the embankment had been raised several feet, it was not raised 15 inches. This is on Douglass avenue. Today I had Foreman Evans dig down to the old level, and in the lowest places, there were 15 inches of new earth. And this after the embankment had been driven on and packed down for a long time. At least there must have been two feet added to it to show such a depth as this now. The man who did the work was Mr. Moir, of Cotton & Moir, contractors, of West London, and he can bear testimony that I speak the truth. All along Douglass avenue from one to two feet has been added to the height of the breakwater, and along by Tecumseh Park we put on from four to five feet.

"North of Blackfrairs bridge in 1902 we built a new breakwater 619 feet long, at a cost of $1,645 45."

Mr. Graydon also says that in thus making such a bitter attack upon him Mr. Jones was actuated by personal reasons. The engineer says that Mr. Jones put up two houses on Mount Pleasant avenue, and he wanted the city to fill in a big ditch on the street. Mr. Graydon was unable to do this at the time, and the engineer says Jones flew off the handle about it.

The engineer further says that though Jones is very anxious to have the city pay for a new breakwater, he is not ready to do anything toward the good work himself. The West Londoner, it appears, owns a couple of lots at the foot of the Wharncliffe road, a portion of which are now valueless because the breakwater cuts them off, and they lie now between the breakwater and the river, with no way of getting at them. The city asked Mr. Jones if he would allow the men building the breakwater to take earth from these lots for filling purposes, but Mr. Jones, according to Mr. Graydon, refused to do so, unless he were given 15c or 25c a load—the engineer doesn't remember which—for the earth. Mr. Graydon says that if Mr. Jones is so anxious to have a good breakwater, he should be ready to do a little himself, and not seek to shoulder the whole burden onto the city.

The deputation which went to Toronto to oppose the Strathroy and Western Counties Railway bill have returned to this city.

Inspector McCallum has issued twenty summonses for statute labor delinquents.

There will be a special meeting of No. 1 committee of the city council Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock to consider the estimates. At this meeting the committee will make every effort to cut down the figures so that a 23-mill rate may be struck. Yesterday Chairman Judd sent a letter, very much to the point, to the Public Library board, calling the attention of the members to the fact that the library estimates were this year over $400 more than last year, and suggesting that this sum be struck off so that the tax rate may be kept as in 1903. The board, of course, are not asking for within $200 of what the half-mill, which the law allows them, would bring in, but the aldermen feel that there is no good and valid reason for asking more money for library purposes this year.

PRESSING FOR A GRANT

Dr. Routledge Urging Government Aid for a Breakwater.

Favorable Action Expected — Will Mean Much to West London.

At the mass meeting in West London last night the statement was made that Dr. Routledge, M. P. P. for East Middlesex, had promised that the Ontario Government would bear a portion of the cost of a new breakwater for West London.

Today The Advertiser's correspondent wires that Dr. Routledge is pressing the Government for a grant, and expects a favorable answer. If the member for East Middlesex is successful in this endeavor, it will mean much to West London, and no doubt will ere long result in a permanent breakwater being erected, which will afford the village ample protection from floods.

VERY LARGE FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Lizzie Winters took place yesterday from the family residence, Hyde Park, to the Presbyterian Church, where services were conducted by Rev. Messrs. Rhodes and Wylie. The interment was made at Hyde Park Cemetery. The funeral was one of the most largely attended in the district for some years.

BILLS AGAINST BURDELL

"Texas" Mixed Up in Three Cases of Burglary.

Action of Grand Jury—Bench Warrant for the Fugitive.

The grand jury brought in four true bills against "Texas" Burdell at the assizes this morning. There were two bills against him on charges of shopbreaking at Glencoe, one for the burglary of the Obernesser Hotel and one for jail-breaking. A bench warrant will be issued on each of the above charges in which a true bill has been returned.

A jury was impaneled for the case of the Arscott rendering works, but the attention of the court has been given all morning to the Downie vs. Martyn case, and which was resumed this afternoon.

DEATH OF MRS. JOHN NOBLE.

The death occurred this morning of Mrs. John Noble, sen., of London Township, at the age of 83 years. Mrs. Noble had resided on the same farm for 65 years. The funeral will be held from the residence of her son, Mr. John Noble, lot 27, concession 9, London Township, on Saturday.

PREMIER ROSS SENDS HIS REPLY

Says Prohibition Is the Only Efficient Remedy.

DEPUTATION TO MEET AGAIN

The Duty of the Government to Consider What Other Means Are Available.

Toronto, April 6. — Premier Ross delivered his answer to the temperance deputation this afternoon, as promised. Following is the text of the reply:

"My Dear Sir,—In reply to the deputation which I had the honor of receiving yesterday, I desire to express my concurrence in the view presented by the different speakers that nothing short of the prohibition of the sale of liquors in hotels and the strict control over sales for purposes generally recognized as proper and legitimate, would fully protect society from the evil effects of excessive drinking, so far as legislation can be invoked, for that purpose.

"Your decided preference for such a measure as against amendments of the license laws I understand to mean that you do not favor at present any other form of temperance legislation.

"If the Government is unable to give the measure desired this session, it will be our duty to consider what means are available for further action.

Yours truly, G. W. ROSS."

The above letter explains itself as the reply to the deputation which waited on Premier Ross on Monday last. The deputation consisted of a number of Methodist and Baptist clergymen and some laymen, and the Premier announced that for greater accuracy he would put his reply in writing and send it to the Rev. J. A. Rankin, president of the Toronto Methodist Conference, who had introduced the deputation.

Mr. Rankin received the letter about 4 p.m. yesterday. He then consulted as many members of the deputation as he could reach, and they all agreed with him that the document should be given to the press.

In answer to a question as to his views on the reply, Mr. Rankin declined to express an opinion, but stated that the members of the deputation would meet next Monday morning at 10:30 in Wesley buildings, Richmond street west, to consider the reply and discuss what further action should be taken.

A deputation of Presbyterian ministers waited on the Premier yesterday and urged him to bring forward a temperance measure similar to that which he first presented to the Liberal caucus. They held that there were many people in the Presbyterian community who would not vote the whole prohibition ticket, but wanted the element of personal gain taken out of the liquor traffic. The matter was informally discussed by those present and the Premier gave no decisive answer to the deputation.

PROSPECTS SATISFACTORY

Southwestern Traction Company's Shareholders Meet.

Encouraging Statement of Manager Welch—Work Starts Soon.

There was a much-pleased gathering yesterday afternoon in the offices of the Southwestern Traction Company. A meeting of the shareholders was held, and the agreement entered into by the manager, Mr. A. E. Welch, when he was in England, was ratified.

Numerous shareholders were present from a distance and general satisfaction in the present prospect was expressed. The work of building, Mr. Welch assured them, would go on at once, and he explained in detail the steps that led up to the calling of this meeting in the letter in which he had said:

"The directors take very great pleasure in announcing to the shareholders that in spite of the stringency in the money market caused by the war, arrangements have been satisfactorily concluded in England for the financing of the road, and that contracts for the construction of the first 30 miles have been signed, sealed and delivered — work to commence at once.

"The first installment of construction money is now in a bank in London here, and the actual work of building will be started the moment the ground is in shape for working.

"In the meantime surveys will be made and other necessary preparations for building will be promptly gone on with in order that no more time may be lost.

"The directors would draw attention to the fact that this company is the only one, of the many companies chartered by the Ontario Government in 1902 and 1903, that has done a stroke of work, and while shareholders may possibly have felt that the directors were slow in commencing, it should be borne in mind that this company is the only one that has commenced at all, and it is quite expected that, now we are able to restart in earnest, no let-up will occur until the whole 160 miles of road is completed.

"In any event the strongest endeavors will be made to get ahead as far and fast as possible."

HOSPITALS ASK INCREASE

London Institution Interested in Request Made to Premier Ross.

A large deputation representing the majority of the hospitals in the Province waited on Premier Ross on Wednesday, and requested that the grant from the Government be increased from $110,000 to $120,000, and that the act be so amended that hospitals may be able to increase their rates for patients to more than 40 cents per day without liability of losing the Government grant, as the present act stipulates. The grounds on which the retaining patients has risen to 80 cents per quest is made are that the cost of maintenance, accidents are more numerous, and the number of patients has greatly increased, owing to the increase in population.

Among the deputation were Adam Beck, M.P.P., London; Rev. Dr. McLeod, Barrie; Messrs. J. Billings and George Rutherford, Hamilton; Dr. O'Reilly, Fred Roper and Dr. Ferguson, Toronto; James McLaughlin, Guelph; Dr. Donald Robertson, Ottawa; Drs. Wainwright and Sullivan, St. Michael's, Toronto.

The Premier promised to consider the matter, and agreed with what had been said.