

INCOME AND SALES TAXES LIKELY TO BE CUT

"God Bless My Pal Slim" Are Sidney Murrell's Last Words

TWO DIE TOGETHER WITH EQUAL PLUCK BEFORE SUNRISE

Sidney Murrell and Clarence Topping Mount Scaffold With Composure at 5:30 o'Clock and Are Pronounced Dead Ten Minutes Later.

TRAP RELEASED BEFORE PRAYER IS UTTERED

Murrell Expresses Gratitude to Friends and Officials—Tells Clergyman That He Does Not Know Whether He Shot Russell Campbell.

With neither fear nor bravado, Sidney Murrell and Clarence Topping walked together to the gallows in the county jail yard this morning and paid with their lives for the crime of murder.

The two men stood side by side on the narrow platform, facing south, a few seconds after 5:30, and at 5:31 exactly the hangman released the trap which sent them simultaneously into eternity.

Hangman Ellis conducted the final arrangements so rapidly that Rev. Quinton Warner, the attending clergyman, had no opportunity to repeat the Lord's Prayer, which customarily marks the end.

The only words spoken, apart from the hangman's brief instruction, came from Sidney Murrell. As he stood on the scaffold in the last minute of his life on earth he said in a clear voice: "God bless my old partner Slim."

Clarence Topping said nothing, either before leaving his cell or on the scaffold. His bearing, like Sidney Murrell's, was composed, but he showed some embarrassment in the slightly hasty manner in which he was taken down by the hangman at 5:45 and removed from the place of execution.

Entered the Cell at 5:27.

At 5:27 a.m., the hangman, accompanied by Sheriff Donald Graham, Jail Governor Byron Dawson, and several guards entered the common cell where both prisoners awaited his coming.

"Are the newspaper representatives here?" asked Murrell. On being informed that on order of the hangman representatives of the press were in another portion of the jail, Murrell seemed disappointed, but made a short statement.

"I wish to thank the newspapers and the staff for all their kindness, and what they have done for me," he said. "The time has come for me to leave this world. Good luck and God bless you boys."

Hangman Ellis then proceeded to adjust the heavy leather straps to the wrists of the two men, who stood with arms crossed behind their backs. The short march to the scaffold in the middle yard of the jail began. South to the east yard of the jail, and from thence to the middle yard, through the rear gate which has not been opened since Marion "Peg-Leg" Brown was hanged over twenty years ago, the death party walked. Both Murrell and Topping smiled as they passed the small group of men who were to witness the execution.

Escorted by Guards.

Each of the condemned was supported by his right arm on the prisoner's left. To all outward appearance the support was unnecessary. Murrell and his escort mounded the eighteen steps of the scaffold first, followed by Topping. Arthur Ellis walked immediately behind Topping, followed by Rev. Quinton Warner, spiritual adviser, who wore a surplice. Sheriff Graham and Governor Dawson, who brought up the rear, did not mount the scaffold, but stood facing the steps on the ground.

The hangman placed the two men in position, facing the south, with Murrell on Topping's left. "Right in the center, please," he said casually, as though making an every-day request.

The hangman first placed the black cap on Sidney Murrell. The cap is simply a large square of black cloth which is placed over the head concealing the face and falling to the shoulders. Over the cap was placed the noose, a slim rope of about one-half inch diameter, made of fine woven hemp. The knot of the noose was placed behind the left ear.

No Prayer Uttered.

The same adjustments followed for Topping and then before the clergyman began the Lord's prayer, Hangman Ellis stepped quickly to the east side of the scaffold and pulled the lever which dropped the floor of the platform and sent the two men to death together.

With a clatter as of a slamming door, which could be heard by those gathered on Thames street the drop fell. In the dead silence that immediately followed a long sigh escaped from the enclosed space beneath the scaffold, coupled with a stifled moan. A robin on the jail wall ten feet away trilled a few notes, which was interrupted by Hangman Ellis' request: "Everybody leave the yard, please."

Nine minutes later according to the jail physician both Murrell and

Topping were dead. Murrell lived one minute after Topping died. Both men suffered a complete dislocation of the cervical vertebrae; a broken neck, death being swift and painless.

Hangman Was Unconcerned.

Hangman Ellis entered the condemned cell about 5:20 a.m., carrying two tumblers, the contents of which were for the prisoners. In each glass was a substantial amount of whiskey and morphine prepared by the jail physician. Ellis, who is a short man of about 50 years, wore a full dress suit, and walked with a short quick step. He wore gold rimmed glasses, and seemed unconcerned with his duty.

Official Notice Of Execution

Official notice to the public that the executions had taken place was given in the form of a written communication posted on the main court house door before 8:30 this morning.

The notice reads as follows:

"This is to declare that the execution of Sidney Ernest Murrell and Clarence Topping was duly carried out at 5:40 a.m., Thursday, April 10.

"(Signed) D. A. GRAHAM, Sheriff.

"B. L. DAWSON, Jail Governor.

"JAS. D. WILSON, Jail Surgeon."

Murrell and Topping were dressed in their prison clothes and did not wear prison garb. Trousers of dark material, shoes and socks, dark colored shirts, with sleeves rolled, and neck band turned in, constituted their attire.

As they passed to the gallows, aside from a sidelong glance and smile to the press representatives, both condemned men looked straight ahead.

"This was no faltering on the scaffold was reached. Topping wore a grin, while Murrell smiled to mask the haunted look in his eyes.

Those who witnessed the execution were astonished at the celerity shown by the hangman.

It was only a few seconds before he pulled the wooden upright lever, which released a scantling in the floor of the platform, allowing the two doors to fall downward, precipitating Murrell and Topping to the open space below. The scantling struck the earth with a clatter. The scaffold was enclosed below by matched boarding, while the eastern end was shrouded in canvas, to provide ingress for the prison physician. During the execution a white frost covered the gallows, and the prisoners' footprints were plainly distinguishable after they had expired their crimes.

Surrounded by Guards.

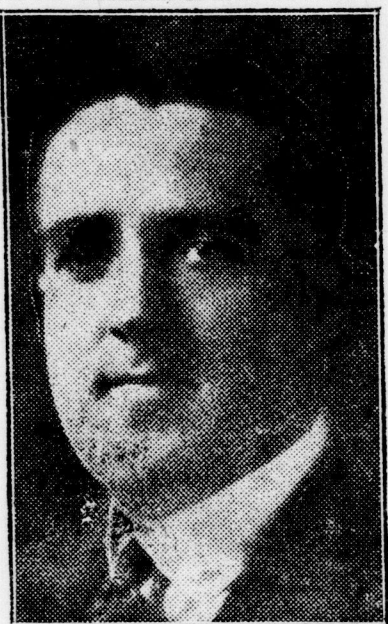
A few minutes before 5:30 o'clock, newspaper representatives and others who were to witness the execution were permitted to enter the jail by the south door, the entire building being surrounded by uniformed police officers, in charge of Inspector Lucas and Sergeant William Middaugh. There were seventeen in the death party, including the two who were to pay the penalty. These included Sheriff Graham, Governor Dawson, Hangman Ellis, Provincial Officers Stratton of Middlesex, and Devin of Elgin County, Rev. Quinton Warner, Constable A. J. Wharton, Dr. J. Wilson, Dr. J. C. Wilson, Constable Walter Harper, of the local police force, who arrested Topping, and jail watchmen. Constable Harper was not in uniform.

At 7 o'clock, shortly after Hangman Ellis had departed from the jail for the C. P. R. station via taxi, the jurors assembled by Coroner J. C. Wilson assembled to view the bodies of the hanged men.

The Jury's Verdict.

They then retired to Sheriff Graham's office, where they brought in a verdict. That Sidney Murrell and Clarence Topping came to their deaths by hanging, in accordance with the sentence of the court. Following are the names of the eleven jurors who acted jointly on both cases: Robert G. Ross, P. W. Bice, T. W. Thomas, John A. Hughes, William Richmond, Alex Brown, Wilfred Brennan, Richard J. Morgan, Percy Ashton, Robert Robertson and George Lorich. On concluding the

Please See Page 4, Columns 1 and 2.



OLIVER FRANCIS MCCLARY, prominent young businessman of London, and a keen supporter of clean sport, who died yesterday following a brief illness.

DR. F. G. BANTING HONORED IN N. Y.

Discoverer of Insulin Made an Honorary Life Member of Lawyers' Club.

Associated Press Despatch.

New York, April 10.—An honorary life membership in the Lawyers' Club has been conferred upon Dr. Frederick G. Banting, Canadian physician and discoverer of insulin. The honor was conferred at a luncheon at the club yesterday. Dr. Charles H. Best, who co-operated in the discovery of insulin, was a guest.

In conferring the honor, President Robert C. Mores said:

"For a man of comparatively few years, his accomplishments have been great. His fame in the discovery of insulin has spread throughout the civilized world and his service to humanity is recognized by all."

RESOLUTION REQUESTS UNION BILL PASSAGE

District Unions Meet in St. Andrew's Hall—Legislature Censured.

At a mass meeting held yesterday in St. Andrew's Hall of the representatives of every district of Western Ontario, which was fully attended by Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists, two resolutions dealing with the present situation of church union were passed.

The first asked the federal government to pass the church union bill without any undue delay, and the other was in the nature of a censure of the Ontario Legislature for its amendment of the union bill as proposed by the private bills committee.

The resolutions were arranged for Sunday evening in St. Andrew's Church in London at 8:30, and next Sunday every minister of the three churches in Western Ontario will preach on "Spiritual Liberty" in relation to the action of the provincial House.

Mother Watches Sunrise As Son Pays For His Crime

Mrs. Murrell Rises Early and Prepares Breakfast For Husband.

FIRST TO AWAKEN

Standing before a window in a little home on Clarence street, a mother raised the blind to let the soft, warm rays of sun find their way into a home filled with sorrow. Her son, a few minutes before, had paid for his wrongdoing with his life.

Perhaps as she stood there alone in the fresh sunlight, Mrs. Murrell's heart held memories of long ago, when she cared for a sleep in his little cradle, a baby boy, whom she hoped some day would be a blessing and help to her, consoling comfort that springs eternal in the heart of every mother. And now the very quietness of early dawn struck fear into her heart, and the sickening realization of the thing which had happened.

There was no sound in that moment of a mother's tragedy. It was the silence of prayer, the silence of death, the silence of eternity.

The Murrell home from outside appearances betrayed no signs of what had happened.

House leader of the Labor government, who admitted in the House of Commons that no government in Britain would hope to impose a capital levy without the full consent of the electorate.

DID P. SMITH GET \$1,000 BILLS WHEN HERD SOLD?

Question Is Being Asked by Many People Around Stratford.

PELLATT A PURCHASER

Former Provincial Treasurer Will Leave For Toronto Tonight.

Special to The Advertiser.

Stratford, April 10.—Could the large sums of money said to have been deposited in the Stratford branch of the Bank of Toronto by Hon. Peter Smith at the close of the year 1919 have been receipts from his sale at Clover Bar Stock Farm? This is the question uppermost in the minds of Stratford people, following the evidence given yesterday by Edwin McMillan, former ledgerkeeper and teller in the city bank. Did any of the buyers at the sale make a large legal tender, with one-thousand or five-hundred dollar bills?

Mr. Smith is expected to go to Toronto tonight.

G. L. McHattie may not make the trip until later.

As near as can be learned, Hon. Peter Smith realized close to \$15,000 on the sale of his famous cattle between Nov. 11 and Dec. 10 in the same year, 1919. This is the period in which Edwin McMillan claimed the former provincial treasurer deposited large sums of money.

The big sale took place on Dec. 10, and this day 47 head of purebred Holstein Friesian cattle were sold at a price about \$10,185. Three prominent buyers were Sir Henry Pellatt of Toronto, Robert Cooper, ex-M. L. of Welland, and A. C. Matthews of Stratford. Sir Henry bought five head at a total cost of \$1,685. For one animal, Anle Abbecker Wayne 2nd, Robert Cooper paid \$625. A. C. Matthews bought three at \$865.

Added information given by one farmer, who was in close touch with Mr. Smith at the time, was that private sales of stock were started as early as Nov. 1, which were said to have brought the total of sales close to \$15,000.

Whether or not this money was that referred to by Edwin McMillan before the public accounts committee when he told of large deposits made by Mr. Smith around the close of 1919, remains unanswered at present.

STINNES IS DYING IN BERLIN HOME

Germany's Leading Industrial Magnate Given But Few Hours To Live.

Associated Press Despatch.

Berlin, April 10.—The condition of Hugo Stinnes was viewed this afternoon as hopeless as the result of an added complication in the nature of double pneumonia. The industrial magnate is conscious, and is said to be resigned to the impending end.

Berlin, April 10.—Eclipsing reparations and all else as a topic of discussion, the outcome of the critical illness of Hugo Stinnes, leading industrial magnate, is being awaited with painful suspense throughout Germany.

The best medical brains of the country have been brought to bear on the case. The physicians and surgeons in attendance are none too sanguine over the result, but slight improvement was reported in a bulletin from the sick-room last night.

Herr Stinnes has undergone three major surgical operations, and is with difficulty holding his own against the ravages of a violent fever, which attacked him in his weakened condition two days ago.

The first of the three operations had been the removal of gallstones, and his premature attempt to sit up and care for some of the details of his business to which he has always attended in person.

ENGINEER NEAR TELLS CLUB OF PROFESSION

At a meeting of the Adanac Club in the Y. M. C. A. last night, City Engineer Near gave a talk on "Engineering."

Following the address the members decided that the club should enter a team in the "Y" Indoor Baseball House League. It was also arranged that the Boy's Club should take an active part in the big "Y" circus to be held on April 24 and 25.

The following members were present: E. Speiran, E. Bouchner, J. Pritchett, W. Smith, H. Siden, R. R. J. Barr, M. Noble, W. H. Spearman.

LAXITY IN HANDLING COAL TO BE PROBED

School Board Will Deal With Charges at Meeting This Afternoon.

Amongst other things which will occupy the time of the school trustees at this afternoon's meeting will be an investigation instigated by certain members of the board into the method of handling the coal supply, and how much, if any, was lost to the schools by what they claim is a neglect to weigh the coal on the city scales.

According to their statements several carloads of coal have been delivered to the schools on an order which they say was one carload only.

The trustees who are held responsible by the iconoclasts for this course declare that the whole matter is the outcome of a mistake. Some members of the committee say they did not hear the order given for one car, and others say it may have been given.

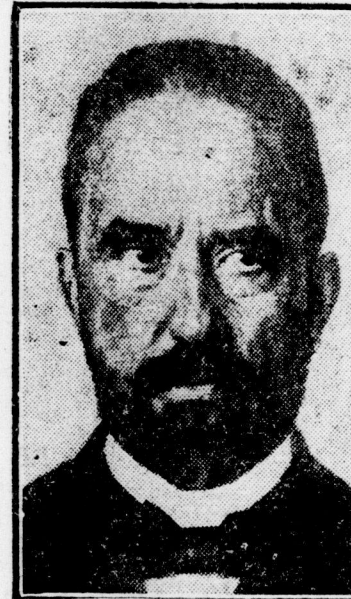
LONDON NEWSBOYS' CLUB FORMS TWO NEW GROUPS

The "Rinkydinks" and the "Hamrocks" were the two new newsboys' groups organized at their last night's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. Fred Warren and Charlie March were chosen for the leaders.

The newsboys hold their meetings on Wednesday night when they attend gym class and spend a while in the swimming pool. Following their athletics they adjourn for Bible study. There are now five such groups and it is expected that more will be formed.

OFFICE NEARLY READY.

Building Inspector A. M. Piper reports that the new registry office, King street west, will be ready for occupancy on or about May 1. It is expected that all effects from the old building will then be transferred in view of the council's desire to sell the latter property as soon as possible.



HUGO STINNES, Germany's leading industrial magnate, who is dying at his home in Berlin. Stinnes developed double pneumonia following a surgical operation, and today his physicians abandoned all hope for his recovery.

FOREIGNER INTOXICATED RUNS AMUK WITH AN AXE

John Heyyeks, a Russian, Is Remanded For Week by Magistrate.

SMASHES FURNITURE

Declares He Was Crazy Drunk at the Time of His Outbreak.

Crazed from a few drinks of poisonous liquor, John Heyyeks, 41, a Russian, ran wild yesterday afternoon with a heavy axe, threatened the lives of two companions, and smashed the furniture and doors of a house belonging to Anna Myrskii to pieces. When police called the man was glowing over the damage he had done, and did not regain his senses until hours after he was locked in the cells.

In police court this morning, Heyyeks, through an interpreter, said he could not remember the incident. He stated he was crazy drunk, but denied having used the axe. Just before going on the rampage, Heyyeks took \$75 from another Russian, after menacing him. The latter screamed and ran to safety, while the temporarily insane man broke up \$50 worth of furniture.

Reeling all over the sidewalk, Heyyeks approached Mrs. Myrskii's home at 29 William street at 5 o'clock. He found the axe in the woodshed and began breaking in the doors. Mrs. Myrskii ran out to safety, while a crowd, attracted by the noise, gathered about the place.

Several Russians gave evidence, in police court. A rather comic touch was given the hearings when Magistrate A. H. M. Graydon asked the prisoner if he could speak English. "No, I can't speak English," Heyyeks returned, while the spectators guffawed.

Some difficulty was entertained in making the witnesses understand what they were there for, owing to their ignorance of the language. Finally a little Russian girl, aged 5, volunteered to act as an interpreter and translated the evidence very satisfactorily.

The court asked Heyyeks if he could make good the damage, and the prisoner said he couldn't. He claimed he was penniless, and only \$20 of the money stolen by Heyyeks was recovered, however, it was hard to understand what had become of the remainder. The prisoner himself was at a loss to explain what he had done with it.

Magistrate Graydon decided to remand the case, the prisoner pending an inquiry into the affair.

ROBB WILL PRESENT BALANCED BUDGET

Acting Finance Minister Is Expected To Announce Cut in Income Tax.

CHANGES IN TARIFF

Most Hopeful Financial Statement in Years Expected This Afternoon.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, April 10.—The budget speech being delivered by Hon. J. A. Robb, acting minister of finance, this afternoon, is awaited with interest that has not been equalled since the luxury taxes were brought down. Presenting his maiden budget in the absence of the veteran of finance, Right Hon. W. S. Fielding, Mr. Robb is being looked to for deliverance that may be far-reaching in its effect on political affiliations in the Dominion.

Following the declaration in the speech from the throne that there would be reductions in taxes on the instruments of production in the primary industries, there has been an expectation that there would be a cut in the tariff, particularly on agricultural implements. More recently this expectation has been varied by a suggestion that the sales tax would be reduced; but in the last week opinion has again veered round to anticipation of tariff reduction, as well as some diminution of the sales tax.

Underlying the speculation as to tariff changes has been the fact that the government is in a minority in the House if the various opposition parties should unite.

The announcement in the speech from the throne was welcomed by the Progressive group and met with condemnation from only a small group in the government ranks. The Progressives have repeatedly indicated that they wanted a general reduction in the tariff rather than special reduction in agricultural implements, and just on the eve of the budget the Progressive leader, Robert Forke, has come out with a declaration for the removal of the protection from the tariff.

Forke Makes Declaration.

Much interest centers, therefore, around the question whether the government will go far enough to obtain Progressive support, and again raises the question what attitude will be assumed by Andrew McMaster, who last year crossed the floor because he regarded the budget as protectionist.

Apart from the tariff there is expectation that there will be a lightening of the income tax burden. This issue has been made acute by the action of the United States congress in reducing income taxes in that country, and it has been held that to maintain a higher scale of income taxes in Canada would tend to force across the line would have a strong tendency to increase the exodus.

In finance, Mr. Robb is expected to present the most hopeful statement which has been listened to by Parliament since before the war. The balancing of the budget is understood to be one of the features of this phase of the budget speech, and the latter structure available to the public while this will be possible it will not be achieved without some difficulty.

Figures for the complete year, end of the year, will be given.

Please See Page 4, Column 8.

THIRTY-ONE VICTORIA NURSES TO GRADUATE

Annual Exercises Will Be Held May 21, Hospital Officials Announce.

The 1924 nurses' graduating class of Victoria Hospital is announced, while the date for the exercises have been set for May 21. This year's class is quite large and 31 will receive their diplomas and medals.

They are: L. Truesdale, H. Huston, H. G. Horton, Z. McMaster, L. Denny, G. E. James, L. Fife, M. Douglass, K. R. Brown, V. Holtzman, K. L. Hyatt, M. Taylor, R. Keillor, L. Cade, M. Young, G. Johnston, E. Dyer, E. Brown, M. Yule, J. Brooks, L. Gardiner, I. Urquhart, H. Babb, E. Wilson, H. Laur, H. McQueen, I. Kingsley, A. Crookes, J. Kerr, E. Beattie, and M. Walker.

MAYOR STILL SEEKING FULL-TIME MAGISTRATE

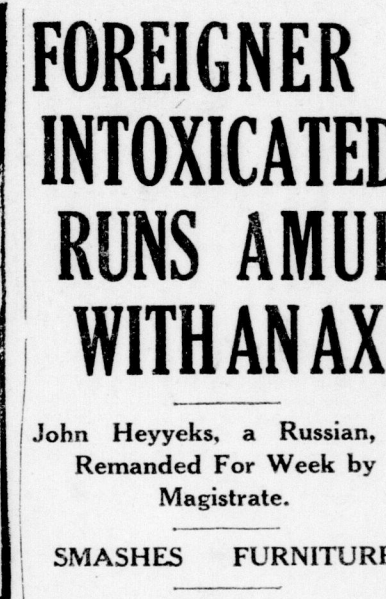
Will Move That Permission Be Sought From the Attorney-General's Department.

Members of the city council made no provision in the estimates for the appointment of a full-time police magistrate.

This does not discourage Mayor George Wenige, who announces that at the next regular session of the finance committee he will move that the London city council appeal to Attorney-General Nickle's department for permission to inaugurate this change.

The mayor believes that the majority of the council will move, as well as the general public. Although no provision was made in the estimates for another \$1,000 as probable increased pay for the post, the mayor is confident that the funds would be available before the termination of the year.

The first step would be to secure the approval of the government, and even this would suffice the mayor for the present.



HON. W. S. FIELDING, minister of finance in the King government, whose wide experience and ability in national finances has no doubt been a guide in the framing of the budget to the presented in the House of Commons this afternoon.

CITY TAX DEPT. LAUNCHES "CLEAN UP" CAMPAIGN

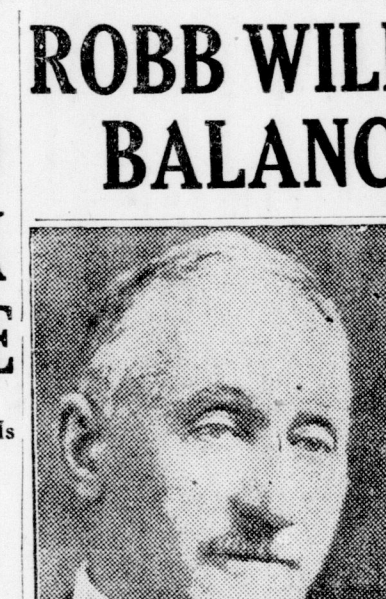
The city's tax collecting department has launched its campaign to "clean up" outstanding accounts.

One delinquent, whose taxes for two years past have not been received, faces action in the division court Friday, according to a report from city officials.

Other cases will follow, it is promised.

WILL OUTLINE SCHEME.

Residents on Wellington street, from Horton street to the bridge, will assemble in the Simcoe Street School at 7:30 p.m. tonight when Mayor Wenige and City Engineer Near will outline their boulevard and paving scheme for that thoroughfare.



HON. J. A. ROBB, acting minister of finance, who will present the budget of the King government in the House of Commons this afternoon. The proposals outlined in the budget will be the subject of debate in the House for some days.

HELP OF BRITAIN SOUGHT IN PROBE

Newfoundland Premier Asks Colonial Office To Select Commissioner.

Canadian Press Despatch.

St. John's, Nfld., April 10.—Premier Warren announced yesterday that Newfoundland has decided to request the British colonial office to select a commissioner to conduct a new investigation of government departments recently decided upon by the cabinet.

When the government last year undertook an inquiry into charges against Sir Richard Squires, former premier, and other members of his administration, no Newfoundland jurist was found willing to preside, and Thomas Hollis Walker, recorder of Derby, England, was appointed by the colonial office at the request of this government.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.

Today—West-
erly winds; fine.
Friday—North-
west winds; fair
and slightly cool-
er.

A moderate
depression is centered
this morning
near James
Bay, and pressure
is high over the
western and southern portions
of the continent. The weather has been
rather cool over the Dominion, with
light snow in Northern Ontario and
showers in Southern Ontario and Que-
bec.

Temperatures.

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

Stations	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	54	44	Cloudy
Calgary	46	22	Cloudy
Winnipeg	36	12	Fair
Port Arthur	38	16	Fair
S. S. Marie	34	24	Fair
Cochrane	36	20	Cloudy
Toronto	42	31	Clear
Kingston	46	34	Fair
Ottawa	46	32	Fair
Montreal	44	32	Fair
Quebec	38	32	Cloudy
St. John	48	32	Fair
Halifax	50	32	Clear

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recorded in London during the
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The official temperatures for the
12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today
were: Highest, 41; lowest, 28.

Barometric Readings.

Wednesday—8 p.m.—29.93.
Today—8 a.m.—29.11.



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