

THE WEATHER:
SHOWERS, STRONG WINDS.
TUESDAY—SNOW, COLDER.

London Evening Advertiser

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

61ST YEAR. NO. 23816

LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1923. —EIGHTEEN PAGES.

THREE CENTS.

TOPPING SORBS WHEN TOL SWEETHEART IS DEAD

Hon. Manning Doherty Chosen President of Northern Life

TO CHARGE TOPPING WITH MURDER AFTER SWEETHEART DEATH

Prisoner Sobs Bitterly When Told Geraldine Durston Died Saturday.

THE GIRL'S STORY

Victim Gives Her Own Version of Tragedy in York Street House.

Clarence Topping, who will on Friday be formally charged with murder as the result of the death of his sweetheart, Geraldine Durston, who Topping admits shooting in a signed confession, now in the hands of the crown attorney, broke down completely and sobbed convulsively when informed for the first time this morning that Miss Durston had died from the wounds he inflicted with his 25-calibre revolver at 318 York street early Friday morning.

The news of the girl's death was conveyed to Topping by Byron Dawson, governor of the Middlesex County Jail, where Topping occupies a lonely cell away from the other prisoners.

"How did you sleep, Topping?" were the first words of the governor as he entered the cell of the self-confessed murderer.

"Not so bad at times," was the reply.

Told of Girl's Death.

"Do you know that the girl is dead?" continued the head of the jail.

"No. Is that so?" asked Topping.

"Which one?"

"Miss Durston," informed Governor Dawson.

Topping, who was sitting at the table in his cell, broke into wild and convulsive sobbing. He buried his head in his hands, resting his elbows on the table. Governor Dawson stayed with the prisoner and repented youth for a minute and then quietly left the cell. Topping did not look up, but continued to sob brokenly.

The news of Miss Durston's death was conveyed to Topping at 10:30 this morning, and the young man remained in his cell until the noon hour, when he ate a hearty meal. This afternoon he is reported as sitting in his cell crushed in demeanor.

J. A. Gillanders, acting for the crown attorney, stated this morning that no formal charge of murder would be laid against Topping till he appeared in police court Friday morning.

Topping has received but two visitors since he was taken to the jail Friday morning. His uncle and father visited him Sunday, but they were not allowed to discuss the shooting with the prisoner.

Cheerful to End.

Though the hand of death was upon her, Geraldine Durston retained the same cheerfulness until a few minutes before she passed away at Victoria Hospital Saturday afternoon at 4:45 o'clock. Harboring no bitterness or resentment toward her assassin, or at least outwardly showing no evidence of it, the pretty young victim died in spite of the efforts of four house surgeons, who were in constant attendance with her during the afternoon.

When it was made known by an operation Saturday noon that Geraldine suffered with peritonitis, or inflammation of the abdominal organs in the abdomen due to perforation of the intestines by the two bullets, surgeons who tried to save her, sensed the inevitable; that her

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THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.

Today—Showers; strong winds or gales from the southwest tonight.

Tuesday—Strong winds or gales from the west and northwest, and turning colder, with local snow flurries.

A fairly pronounced disturbance is moving eastward across Lake Superior, and another is centered off Sable Island, while an area of high pressure and cold weather has come in over Saskatchewan from the northward.

The weather is unsettled 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..... 50..... 40..... Fair

Calgary..... 40..... 30..... Fair

Winnipeg..... 32..... 20..... Cloudy

Fort Arthur..... 30..... 20..... Snow

Perry Sound..... 40..... 30..... Cloudy

Toronto..... 42..... 35..... Rain

Kingston..... 38..... 26..... Cloudy

Ottawa..... 32..... 22..... Rain

Montreal..... 32..... 22..... Clear

Quebec..... 32..... 20..... Cloudy

Pointe..... 46..... 32..... Cloudy

St. John..... 52..... 38..... Clear

Halifax..... 48..... 38..... Cloudy

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 44; lowest, 23.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 45; lowest, 40.

Barometric Readings.

Sunday—8 p.m.—28.94.

Today—8 a.m.—28.76.

GIRL GROWS WORSE WHEN TOLD CHUM HAD DIED

Miss Viola McNaughton Suffers Severe Shock as Result of News.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Well Meaning Girl Friend Evaded Vigilance of Hospital Nurses.

When a well-meaning girl friend of Viola McNaughton, who lies at Victoria Hospital suffering with a gunshot wound of the chest, informed her Sunday night that her chum, Geraldine Durston, had succumbed to injuries received at the hands of Clarence Topping, who shot her down in her boarding-house Friday morning, she lessened the girl's chances for recovery. Evading the vigilance of hospital attendants who were anxious to prevent such an occurrence the girl friend rashly broke the news to Viola which even her mother dared not reveal owing to her serious condition.

As soon as she was made aware that her fellow-victim of the unrequited love tragedy was dead a change was noted in the condition of Miss McNaughton and Sunday's improvement was set at naught. Her pulse became worse and she broke down completely with the shock of knowing that Geraldine Durston was gone and she must now fight her battle with death alone. As a result of the reaction no visitors will be allowed to the bedside of the girl excepting her mother or brother.

Put Up Game Fight.

In a private room on one of the hospital wards Viola is gamely striving to live with all members of the staff working hard to help her achieve this object. With the same desperate spirit which prompted her to rush to the assistance of her chum, who was in the grip of a death-dealing lover, Miss McNaughton is gamely hanging on to the threads of life.

From her own lips was revealed the story of her effort to frustrate Clarence Topping when he fatally shot Geraldine Durston at her boarding-house last Friday. After one revolver bullet had found its mark in the body of her chum, Miss McNaughton was now with Topping, the second bullet mutilating her right

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SERIOUSLY BURNED WHEN LAMP EXPLODES

Mrs. Ida Leathorne in Victoria Hospital From Accident at the Gore.

Attempting to blow out an oil lamp at her home, The Gore, Hamilton road, three miles east of London, last Saturday night, Mrs. Ida Leathorne, aged 47, suffered severe burns, and is now in Victoria Hospital in a serious condition. The lamp exploded, from some unknown cause, spreading blazing oil over Mrs. Leathorne's body, causing severe burns to her head, face, chest and arms.

Prompt action by her daughter, who was present, and who wrapped a heavy overcoat about her mother, succeeded in extinguishing the flames and saving the victim from a terrible death. Mrs. Leathorne, who is a deaf mute, was brought to Victoria Hospital on Sunday afternoon, and is under the care of Dr. E. M. Copeland.

This afternoon her condition was reported by the hospital physicians to be unchanged.

ENGINEER WILL SUBMIT REPORT ON VACATIONS

At a meeting of the board of works tomorrow, City Engineer W. F. Near will submit his report relative to vacations given city employees in other municipalities.

The finance committee meets in regular session Wednesday to clear up all outstanding business before the election.

THE MAYOR OF LONDON

"I cannot be too emphatic in congratulating London's splendid daily on the occasion of its 60th birthday.

"Under the present management, The Advertiser has proven itself as good as any other journal of its class in North America, and I am not resorting to empty flattery when I say that, in my opinion, it is the most constructive and progressive newspaper in this part of the country.

"The Advertiser's policy, so long as I have been a subscriber, has always been in the interest of worth-while things whether social, industrial or political. Lively and essentially readable it gives the news of the day in a thoroughly reliable and authoritative manner.

"The Advertiser deserves the support of every man and woman in Western Ontario regardless of political leanings. It is entitled to that support on merit alone.

"May you enjoy another sixty years of prosperity founded on the interests of the community as you have in the past.

"GEORGE WENIGER."

Lovely Children



BERT MCGREGOR. Scores of Lovely Children are reaching The Advertiser these days in the search for the Loveliest Child. Here is Bert McGregor, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. McGregor, 332 Burwell street, London.

HUNDREDS OF MINERS ENTOMBED

Explosion Occurs in Large Coal Mine at West Frankfort, Ill.

SEVEN BURNED

Associated Press Despatch. Herrin, Ill., Nov. 26.—Five bodies have been taken from the Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin Coal Mine, and sixty are presumed to be entombed at the entrance where the explosion occurred.

Associated Press Despatch. Chicago, Nov. 26.—Twenty-five men are unaccounted for out of a total of 922, after the explosion this morning in the Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin Coal Company's mine near West Frankfort, Illinois, the largest mine in the state and possibly in the world, according to advices to George B. Harrington, president of the company.

Seven men were reported burned, two seriously.

URGES ENFORCEMENT OF FAIR WAGE CLAUSE

Deputation of Hamilton Labor Officials Wait On Premier Ferguson.

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, Nov. 26.—Urging that the government take immediate steps to enforce the fair wage clause in all government contracts and all other contracts in which the government might be interested through the bonus system, a deputation of Hamilton labor officials headed by Dr. L. Carr waited on Premier Ferguson this morning.

The deputation stated that the fair wage clause was not being enforced on the Oakville bridge construction or on other works in various parts of the province now being carried out.

"I told the deputation that I was sympathetic to their request," stated the premier following the interview. "I will look into the whole matter, although I believe in the principle of paying the prevailing wage of the district in which the work is being done."

VICTIMS OF ELEVATOR MISHAP ARE IMPROVING

The condition of Fred Zoeller and Alec Thompson, employees of the Seaman-Kent factory of West Lorne, where they suffered an accident in an elevator shaft several weeks ago, was reported by St. Joseph Hospital authorities this morning to be steadily improving. It is expected that both men will be able to leave the hospital at the end of this week.

WORLD'S LONGEST CABLE IS LANDED AT HAVRE

Associated Press Despatch. Havre, France, Nov. 26.—The new Franco-American cable, said to be the longest in the world, was landed safely yesterday by the cable steamer Stephan. The line will be in operation in a few days.

DOHERTY IS CHOSEN HEAD OF NORTHERN LIFE INS. CO.

S. C. Tweed of Waterloo and Senator Laird on Directorate.

NO AMALGAMATION

Business of Books of Company Now Totals Over \$32,000,000.

Following a meeting of the board of directors of the Northern Life Assurance Company of Canada this afternoon, it was announced that Hon. Manning Doherty of Toronto, S. C. Tweed of Waterloo, and Senator H. W. Laird of Regina, have been elected to the board.

The new directors are all prominently identified with a number of Canadian insurance companies. Hon. S. M. Doherty, who has been elected president of the company, is vice-president of the Reinsurance Company of Canada and a director of the Ontario Equitable Life.

S. C. Tweed, who has been appointed managing-director of the company, is also president and managing-director of the Ontario Equitable Life and vice-president of the Merchants Casualty Company.

Senator H. W. Laird is vice-president of the Ontario Equitable Life and the Reinsurance Company of Canada.

He was also officially stated that all question of the control of the company is now definitely settled. This sets at rest all rumors regarding the proposed sale of the company or its amalgamation with any other company.

The soundness of the financial position of the Northern Life at the present time is attested by the fact that its assets amount to \$4,800,000 and that its surplus as regards policyholders amounts to \$700,000. The business on the books of the company now totals \$32,000,000.

CLAIM RUM-RUNNERS FIRED ON OFFICERS

Facts Will Be Submitted in United States Protest to Great Britain.

Associated Press Despatch. New York, N. Y., Nov. 26.—The crew of the laden schooner Tomako after her capture yesterday afternoon about six miles off the Jersey shore, threatened a coastguard boarding officer and attempted a dash to sea, after firing her machine guns at the cutters Seneca and Lexington. These additional facts were divulged in an official report made today to the collector of the port, who was investigating. The affair, it is reported, might bring formal protest from the British government.

GENOA ARCHBISHOP ILL

Associated Press Despatch. Genoa, Nov. 26.—Mgr. Sismori, archbishop of Genoa, is dangerously ill. He received the last rites Saturday.

SEES MORE FACTORIES IN INDUSTRIAL AREA

Chairman of Commission Says Several Prospects Are in View.

IN NEED OF FUNDS

Work Has Been Hampered Through Lack of Definite Appropriation.

With proper effort extended, American and Canadian industries can be induced to locate branch plants in London's industrial area, East London, Mr. Cater stated today.

As chairman of the industrial area commission, he has at his disposal considerable funds with regard to this subject, and he gives assurance today that several likely prospects are in view.

"Even greater effort should be expended next year," he stated. "We have some good prospects. We have not been asleep this year, and more real work has been accomplished by my colleagues than any year since the industrial area was purchased by the city."

The commission has always been handicapped through the lack of funds, but there is a move on foot to have a certain appropriation set aside in the 1924 estimates for this body.



LONDON'S YOUNGER PARLIAMENTARIANS.

On the left is shown Frank M. Adams, who, together with Hartley Upshall, shown on the right, will represent London at the third annual Older Boys' Parliament to be held in Toronto on December 26, 27 and 28. These boys were elected by local C. S. E. T. voters on Saturday evening. Mr. Adams received 133 votes and Mr. Upshall 104. Both young men had a majority of 50 votes over their nearest opponent.

POCOCK CHALLENGES AND TALLANT ACCEPTS

Candidates For Public Utilities To Meet Tonight in Verbal Duel.

BUYING OUTSIDE

Philip Pocock Promises To Answer Charges When Tallant Repeats Them.

A challenge to place all the facts before the people in the matter of the Public Utilities Commission purchasing goods of a certain kind outside of London has been issued by Philip Pocock, who says he would like D. J. Tallant to get on the public platform and bring out everything in connection with his statements made at the Central Collegiate the other night.

Mr. Pocock, who has been on the commission for fourteen years, and is seeking re-election, said that if Mr. Tallant really wanted the matter gone into, he would be pleased to answer all questions and prove that the commission had reasons for severing business relations with the local firm in question. He would, if necessary, give the inside history of the affair.

Referring to the matter of the pay lists, Mr. Pocock said he did not think it good business to make them public. Although the commission was a public body, the fact that everyone knew the other person's salary did not make for harmonious relations between the employees.

Work Satisfactory.

The statement by Mr. Tallant that the commission was a one-man commission drew the comment from Mr. Pocock that if this was the case, it was a perfect example of commission government which the mayor and his followers are advocating for the city. He stated, however, that Gen. Manager E. V. Buchanan but followed out the orders of the commission in every respect, even to the hiring of men. In the latter case it is worked out this way, he explained.

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MONTEAL GETS 14 INS. OF SNOW

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, Nov. 26.—Constituting city record in fifty years, fourteen inches and a half inches of snow fell in this city and district between Friday night and Sunday evening.

While no serious damage is reported, the breaking of tree branches and their fall on lighting and telephone wires caused inconvenience in some sections.

ANNOUNCES INSURANCE ON MAIL SENT TO IRELAND

According to notice given this morning from the London post office by Postmaster T. C. Duncan, arrangements have now been made whereby parcels addressed to northern Ireland and the Irish Free State may be insured under the same terms and conditions as apply to parcels to Great Britain. Parcel post insurance rates for Great Britain came into effect several weeks ago.



HEADS BACONIANS.

Rev. W. R. McIntosh, minister of the King Street Presbyterian Church, was elected president of the London Baconian Club for 1924 at the annual election of officers on Saturday night. This club which is the oldest purely intellectual club in the Dominion with over forty years of active services, is strictly limited to forty members.

YOUNGER MUSICIANS ENTERTAIN ROTARIANS

Today's Program Arranged by A. D. Jordan and Charles E. Wheeler.

The Rotary Club program was provided today by a group of the most talented of the younger musicians of the city and arranged under the direction of Rotarians A. D. Jordan and Charles E. Wheeler. There were three soloists, Miss Marjorie Thompson, contralto; A. L. Christian, tenor, and Fred Knapp, baritone, each being forced to accede to an encore A. Brahms "Valse" and the dance music from "Rosamund" were played by Mr. Douglas Petherstone, a leading violinist of the city, and remaining numbers of the program were given by Mr. Cecil Magone, a recent comer to the city and who proved most versatile. His contribution to the program was the telling of several humorous stories, a solo, and finally "The Rosary," rendered as a cornet solo. In addition to a most enthusiastic reception of each artist, a formal vote of thanks was reported among Rotary programs, and with the music excellent and the attendance unusually large, the meeting was considered a splendid success.

SITUATION IN SHEFFIELD.

London, Nov. 26.—The political position in Sheffield, as described by a non-partisan special correspondent, possesses features not to be found elsewhere so far. In this city of cutlery and armour plate, triangular contests virtually are certain in six out of the seven divisions. The three parties are resolved to exhaust the full possibilities of the situation.

The Labour party and Tory party largely are on the defensive.

Labour last year gained three seats, and intends to make a huge bid for three more this election. The Conservatives also hold three seats, and intend to place Cecil Wilson, a Labour member for the Attercliffe division, as a capitalist, prominently associated with a famous gold and silver reeling.

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ARTHUR T. LITTLE

"Let me congratulate The Advertiser both on attaining its sixtieth birthday and on its present degree of excellence as a newspaper.

"The Advertiser's progress in the past year places it in the front rank of national newspapers.

"ARTHUR T. LITTLE."