

SENSATIONAL DROP RECORDED IN L. AND P. S. RY. EARNINGS

City's Percentage for This Year Is Only About One-Half What It Was in 1908—City Is Unable to Account for the Unprecedented Drop.

The receipts from the London and Port Stanley Railway show a decided falling off this year.

At the final meeting of the board held at noon the statement of the treasurer was submitted, which showed the total receipts from the railway to be \$15,976.39, as follows:

Rental—\$10,000.
Interest on rental—\$2,500.00.
Percentages from Pere Marquette—\$3,376.39.

The expenditures for the year amounted to \$11,111.11.

The falling off in the percentage on earnings. Last year the city received \$6,706.21, from the Pere Marquette, \$3,226.42 more than this year, or practically double the amount.

Is It Competition?

"I cannot see what has been the cause of this unless competition is seriously affecting the earnings of the road," said Mayor Stevely.

President Stevely read his annual report in which he pointed out that the right to place in a switch had been granted to the M. C. R., and a similar request from the Pere Marquette was now under consideration. New law had been placed on the grounds at Port Stanley at a cost of \$120, which had proved a great convenience. The question of the extension of the line to the Pere Marquette had been taken up, but after some negotiations had been dropped.

Report Was Filed.

On motion of Ald. Saunders the report was received, and ordered placed in the minutes.

A quorum was not present, and the minutes were not read. Those present were Mayor Stevely, President, Ald. Graydon, Ald. Saunders, Mr. A. W. White and Secretary Baker.

STORM SEWERS BADLY NEEDED BYLAW WORTHY OF SUPPORT

All Sections of the City Will Be Benefitted—The Present Sewers Were Never Intended to Carry Off Storm Water.

The storm sewers bylaw is receiving much commendation, and it will probably be carried by a good majority.

No definite plan for the sewers has yet been made. At a recent meeting of the council City Engineer Graydon recommended that an engineer be employed to take levels and make a report as to the most suitable streets for the sewers, and many thought to accept the recommendation, and as a result no definite scheme has been adopted.

Mr. Graydon. "I would have to take numerous levels to find out the most advantageous positions for them. There is no doubt at all that the bylaw should be passed. Mr. Willis Chipman in his report in 1896 or 1897 plainly points out that the sewer system then constructed was not intended for storm water, and we particularly advised against introducing storm water into these sewers. It had to be done in several instances, and the result has not been very satisfactory to the citizens generally."

Mayor Little's Message.

In the final message of Mayor Little to the council of 1909, it contained the following sentence: "The sand from the streets should be kept out, and NO ATTEMPT MADE TO CARRY OFF STORM WATER IN ANY SEWER NOT INTENDED BY THE ENGINEERS TO BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE."

"The present system of sewers was never intended for storm water," said Mr. Willis Chipman to The Advertiser. "It was a hygienic sewer only, and was especially warned against using it for storm water purposes. A less adequate system would be sufficient to take care of storm water. A large quantity of water has been poured into the sewers, and this should not have been done."

Good for London East.

"East London should vote for the storm sewers," said Ald. Graydon, chairman of the board of works, an alderman of long experience. "It will be a great boon to them, and will save the city many thousands of dollars. The rest of the city needs such a system, too, and it will prove of great benefit to all."

MAJOR M'NEIL DIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Was Born at Teller, in London Township, in 1876.

HAD LONDON RELATIVES

Father Left Here Twenty-Eight Years Ago, and Is Now in Government Position in Lansing, Michigan.

The death is announced at Manila, Philippine Islands, of Major John McNeil, a former Londoner, and son of Mr. James McNeil, who left London for Michigan 28 years ago. Mr. McNeil has been connected with the auditor-general's department at Lansing for some years, while his son, the late Major McNeil, had been in the United States army for years, and was a very popular soldier.

The late Major McNeil was born at Teller, London Township, on Aug. 24, 1876, and after a short residence in London with his parents, was taken by them to Colfax, Mich., where the family home is still located.

Mr. Alex. McNeil, of Melbourne, formerly proprietor of the Queen's Hotel, London, is an uncle and Mrs. Wilson, of 219 Simcoe street, is an aunt.

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Christmas Entertainment.

The Christmas entertainment of Knox Church Sunday School, Mr. Thos. Alexander, superintendent, took place on Wednesday evening, and the attendance was very large. Among those who took part in the programme were: Margaret Murray, Mabel Barnard, Minnie Bruce, Ella Pelton, George Wilcox, Stuart Kennedy, Earl Houghton, George Hobbs, Gladys M. Ivory, Albert Cahill, James Watson, Gordon Meek and many others.

Seized With Neuralgia.

Mr. F. L. Wright, of Saginaw, Michigan, a guest at the Griggs House, was seized with an attack of neuralgia of the heart while walking in the corridor of the hotel. Dr. George Wilson was immediately called, and the sufferer was removed to Victoria Hospital in the ambulance. This morning his condition was favorable, and no serious results are anticipated.

BUILDING PERMITS IN CANADA

	Permits, Nov. 1909.	Permits, Nov. 1908.	Inc., P. C.	Dec. P. C.
Berlin, Ont.	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000	200.00	.....
Brantford, Ont.	36,750	22,700	61.25	.....
Calgary, Alta.	211,550	61,700	242.86	.....
Edmonton, Alta.	63,365	89,555	21.29	.....
Port William, Ont.	138,365	36,575	278.30	.....
Halifax, N. S.	104,725	29,750	403.97	.....
Hamilton, Ont.	165,850	165,850	56.35	.....
Lethbridge, Alta.	56,175	.....	.....	.....
London, Ont.	37,475	53,750	21.51	.....
Montreal, Que.	482,940	274,068	78.05	.....
Port Arthur, Ont.	13,250	.....	.....	.....
Regina, Sask.	49,205	9,276	430.45	.....
St. John, N. B.	33,900	18,200	86.26	.....
Sydney, N. S.	103,470	2,000	235.66	.....
Toronto, Ont.	1,940,650	1,278,749	49.05	.....
Vancouver, B. C.	615,829	246,800	77.57	.....
Victoria, B. C.	55,585	104,710	46.91	.....
Winnipeg, Man.	291,900	244,600	19.33	.....
Totals	\$4,353,734	\$2,767,498	57.30	.....

A BRAKEMAN'S CLOSE CALL WAS STRUCK BY A SWITCH

George Lacey, of Burwell Street, Had a Miraculous Escape From Death While Working His Train in the Yards at Kincardine.

George Lacey, a Grand Trunk brakeman living on Burwell street, had a remarkably close call from being killed yesterday at Kincardine, when he was knocked insensible by coming in contact with a switch beside the tracks.

Lacey, together with brakeman Bert Angles, and Engineer George, were engaged in shunting some cars.

Lacey was riding on the rear car of the string and was hanging on to the side.

Struck by Switch.

A building snowstorm was in progress, and he did not notice the switch beside the tracks, with the result that he struck it, and the impact hurled him from the car on which he was riding and he was rendered insensible. Had he been riding on any other car except the last one he would probably have been thrown under the cars and killed.

Missed the Brakeman.

The accident was not discovered until Brakeman Angles and Engineer George missed Lacey and went back to look for him and found him lying in the snow. He was cared for, and by aid by recovered consciousness, and insisted on riding back to the city on the train last night even though he was very badly shaken up. He got in at 2 o'clock this morning.

BRITISH ELECTION ROORBACHS FROM TORONTO CORRESPONDENTS

Liberal Press Makes Merry at the Expense of the Thunderer Which Publishes a Wild and Weird Dispatch as to Loyalty of Foreigners in the West.

London, Dec. 29.—The Liberal press is pulling the leg of the Times. One paper criticises the Times Toronto correspondent for saying: "Pretty plainly the increasing preponderance of foreign population in the Canadian west cannot be kept loyal to the empire unless it is given a bribe in the shape of a tax on the food of the people of Britain." This, it says, is imperial thinking which one may leave the slandered people of Canada to characterize adequately.

Another paper remarks that the Times' mammoth supplement to the glorification of South America, published yesterday, than which place the Times says, few portions of the globe offer richer rewards to the capitalists. It is a hint to the judicious to accelerate that exodus of British capital which turns reformers' lament. Coupled with the Times' glorification of the glorious pride in the fact that British capital has had a great deal to do with the development of Latin America.

Lord Roberts Indorsed.

P. E. Smith, Liverpool, said the people had learned from Blatchford the socialist, what Lord Roberts had been telling his countrymen for three years. There had been a fatal betrayal of the irreducible minimum of national security. We were not safe unless we took more efficient measure of national defence.

Mr. Wyndham, speaking at Chester, asked, "Are you going to trust the question of national defence to those who understand it, or to the playful, pathetic and romantic chancellor of the exchequer?"

John Dillon, at Swinford, said: "If the Government wins and get power to control the Lords, home rule is a certainty."

At Rugby Lord Salisbury said he thought it a pity to have two elected bodies to govern the country. An independent body was wanted with a great sense of responsibility, doing its utmost to interpret the wishes of the country.

Chamberlain Raps Budget.

London, Dec. 29.—Joseph Chamberlain (Continued on Page Six.)

DEATH WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES

Coroner Concludes Investigation Into Death of Frank Nansan.

As a result of a post-mortem examination made yesterday afternoon on Frank E. J. Nansan, son of Bugle Sergeant Nansan, of Wolsley Barracks, Coroner Ferguson has decided that an inquest is unnecessary, as death was due to natural causes.

Dr. C. W. Bolton, who made the post-mortem, thinks the death was due to a convulsion. Deceased was a pupil of St. George's school, and a very bright boy. He was a fine piano player. The funeral was held this afternoon from Wolsley Barracks to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Canon Deyon Hague, of the Memorial Church, conducted the services.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—MILDER.

TORONTO.

Today—Western winds; fine; 30-35 a.m.

Friday—Southwesterly winds; fair and milder.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. S. a.m. Min. Weather.

Victoria 49 32 Cloudy

Calgary 59 34 Fair

Winnipeg 44 34 Fair

Port Arthur 49 33 Cloudy

Perry Sound 49 33 Fair

Toronto 46 32 Clear

Ottawa 44 32 Cloudy

Montreal 42 32 Clear

Quebec 42 32 Clear

Father Point 42 32 Clear

Minus (—) means below zero.

WEATHER NOTES.

Another storm has developed off the Atlantic coast, and northwest gales, with snow, prevail in the Maritime Provinces. The weather continues very cold from Manitoba to New Brunswick, and quite mild in the far west.

Storm signals are displayed along the seaboard.

At 8 o'clock this morning the local observatory registered 7° above zero.



Photo by Frank Cooper.

THE LATE COL. DAWSON.

DEATH FOLLOWED A SEVERE CHILL

Col. M. D. Dawson Passed Away Yesterday as Result of Pneumonia.

ANNIVERSARY OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH

Who Died Nine Years Ago Yesterday—Member of First Brunswick Club.

Lieut.-Col. M. D. Dawson, whose fatal illness was announced in yesterday's Advertiser, died at his home, 288 Princess avenue, yesterday, after suffering for two days from acute pneumonia.

On Monday evening Col. Dawson was down town, in connection with the joint installation of Masonic officers, and took a chill. He became so ill that he was taken to his home in a cab, and rapidly grew worse. All hopes of his recovery were given up yesterday, and his death took place early in the afternoon.

Wife Dead Nine Years.

It is a singular coincidence that Mrs. Dawson died just nine years ago yesterday.

Three sons and two daughters survive: Louis and Melville, of Irvine, Alberta; Charles, of St. Louis; Mrs. Frank McBride, of Calgary, and Mrs. (Dr.) Horace Ferguson, at home.

Col. Dawson was one of the first members of the Brunswick Club, when, in 1876, it grew out of the old Bachelors' Club. Other early members of that time were Edward Paul, James and George Priddy, George D. Wainless, Robert Wallace, Frank and Chas. Leonard, William Elliott and Michael Kew.

The funeral arrangements will not be completed until messages are received from the sons in the west.

Major Oliver, Mr. T. C. Irving and Mr. George Priddy, George D. Wainless, Robert Wallace, Frank and Chas. Leonard, will attend the funeral.

BOY PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT CHARGES

Roy Sanderson Admits Stealing Goods From Local People—Was Remanded.

Roy Sanderson, a youth, who gave his age as 17, and who is believed to have escaped from Mimico about two months ago, pleaded guilty in the police court this morning to stealing a gun worth \$8 from a gunsmith of this city and to stealing brass valued at \$8 from the London Rolling Mills. There is another charge of stealing money and rings from the place of W. O'Brien, of Hyde Park, but this was not proceeded with.

"I will remain your prisoner for a week," the court told Sanderson, "and I am practically certain that the only course is to send you back to the industrial school."

PORT STANLEY COUNCIL

Last Year's Quartette Was Re-elected by Acclamation.

There will be no contest for councilors in Port Stanley, as last year's council was re-elected by acclamation. It consists of Clarence Cromwell, Geo. M. Grimmond, Rudolph Long and Harley Taylor.

There will be a contest for the reeve. Matt. Loney is opposing Reeve W. Jackson, and there are six candidates for school trustees to fill three vacancies.

Those candidates as school trustees are Frank Shephard, W. J. Berry, James Arnell, Geo. Gray, Frank Young and Henry Jolly.

Is Spring Coming?

Heavy Hail, falling on the Hamilton road, called at The Advertiser office today stating that a robin was seen yesterday in his orchard close to his back door. Other people near at hand also saw the bird. Mr. Hull says the robin is making his winter home in a large brush pile in the orchard.

Bank Clearings Increased.

The total bank clearings for the week ending Dec. 26, in the London Clearing House totaled \$1,149,107. For the same period last year, the total was \$1,076,308.

ELECTORS HEARD CANDIDATES IN EAST LONDON LAST NIGHT

New Blood Tell the People What Ought To Be Done, While the Members of Present Civic Bodies Endeavor to Explain Why It Has Not Been Done.

Considering the storm that was raging outside, there was a very fair turnout at the East End Hall last night, when the opening meeting of the municipal campaign took place.

A new feature that everybody welcomed was the presence of three stoves, two of which were provided by Rev. James Bell, of King Street Presbyterian Church. The hall, for once, was warm.

"This is really a filthy hall," said Mr. George Burdick, who was chosen chairman, and there is great danger of the plaster falling down on you. I think our aldermen owe it to us to put this place in proper shape."

Ald. Ferguson Speaks.

Ald. Ferguson spoke first, and said he had lived in London all his life and would consider it the highest honor to be mayor. He hoped Ald. Beattie and himself would always be good friends.

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P. M. PASSENGER BUSINESS SHOWS A BIG FALLING OFF

The Competition of the Southwestern Traction Co. Has Had Its Effect Upon the Pere Marquette Railway—People Prefer Electric Rides.

The passenger business of the Pere Marquette between the city and Port Stanley shows a great falling off during the year.

The city last year received in percentages of the earnings of the P. M. \$6,706.21, while this year they are under \$3,400.

The shrinkage is due altogether to the decline in the passenger business, caused by competition from the Southwestern Traction Company.

Freight Business Normal.

According to Pere Marquette officials, the freight business during the past year has been normal, or rather better than normal. In fact they are handling all the business their terminals will allow them to handle. The decline has not been in freight earnings.

A Great Difference.

There is a great difference in the passenger business handled during the year, however. The city receives ten per cent of all earnings over \$30,000, in addition to a paid rental of \$10,000 a year. This year the earnings must have been \$37,700 above \$30,000, as compared with \$6,700 in 1908.

In other words the difference in earnings amounted to over \$28,000, which was due to passenger service falling off.

Big Falling Off.

At 30 cents per fare, it would mean that the P. M. carried to Port Stanley many thousands less this year than last.

"The freight business was very satisfactory during the past year," said Mr. Young, freight agent of the P. M. "The passenger business has not been so good."

BUILDING IS STILL VERY ACTIVE

According to Canadian Statistics Compiled by the Magazine "Construction."

THE FIGURES FOR LONDON

A Slight Depression Noted, But Operations Are Now Going on at a Satisfactory Rate.

As yet the lateness of the season has, seemingly, had no deterring effect upon operations in the building line. The sound of the hammer and the metallic ring of the trowel resounds throughout the land, and even the section where the severity of the north winds usually lessens the force of activity, the march of progress still remains but little checked. While the mildness of the weather has been instrumental in giving a favorable impetus to late fall developments, the needs of a great growing city are a heavy demand for new accommodations are, in the main, the real motive force in the great upbuilding which is taking place.

The returns for November show a healthy proportionate increase in all phases of the building business. They were issued for new work representing an aggregate value practically doubling that of the same period of last year, and the comparative amounts, as compared with the corresponding figures of the month for the month of 1908, show a gain for the month of 57 per cent, a most remarkable advance for this time of the year.

Only Three Decreases.

Out of the list of eighteen cities reporting, only three decreases are noted and these are so widely divergent in location as to only serve to emphasize the sound situation which still obtains in general. The three cities affected were: Victoria, which suffered a decline of 46 per cent, the first loss registered this year; Edmonton, which falls to equal last year's figures for the month by 21 per cent, and London, which fell behind on the month's work to the extent of 27 per cent.

Aside from these three places, the month was characterized by a series of gains. The largest increase registered was in the case of Regina, which made a phenomenal advance of 450 per cent. Halifax, which appeared in the list for the first time, registered the next second highest gain, that of 463 per cent, and Port William stands the next in order with a substantial increase of 287 per cent.

Gains Are General.

The gains in general are of most gratifying proportions, and only two cities reporting increases, have failed to double their figures by at least one half. Toronto, as usual, looms up with the largest volume of work, having issued permits aggregating in value \$1,840,650, as against \$1,375,749 in November, 1908, which gives the city an increase of 40 per cent. Ontario, in fact, with the exception of London, forged ahead substantially. Berlin registered a 200 per cent gain; Brantford one of 61 per cent, and Hamilton an increase of 57 per cent.

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SCOTT PEOPLE ARE IMPRESSED

Chatham Using Every Endeavor to Take Industry From London.

OFFER HAS BEEN MADE

Big Factory in the Maple City Is at the Disposal of the London Firm If They Will Go There.

The members of the Scott Machine Company, who visited Chatham yesterday and looked over the factory which the city has offered them, there returned last night, and a member of the firm stated to The Advertiser that all the officials of the company were most favorably impressed with the offer.

A meeting of the directors of the company, will be held immediately and the proposition should be taken before them, and the matter will be taken up with representatives of the Chatham council next week.

The Chatham Offer.

"The factory we can get," The Advertiser was told by a member of the firm, "is built of cement and steel. It is large, and splendidly adapted in every way for our needs. As matters stand we must secure larger premises in order to accommodate our business. It is a never better than at the present time, and have work enough ahead for all winter. The Chatham factory is in such shape that we could take possession of it immediately and commence operations."

Chatham Is Busy.

It is known that Chatham is making every effort to secure the company, and their offer is a most tempting one to the London firm.

The manufacturers' committee of the Chatham council has added more new factories to Chatham in the last two years than any city of its size in the country has added, and they are putting up a strong case to the Scott Machine Company.

HORSE RAN AWAY

CUTTER WAS SMASHED

Accident to Outfit Belonging to Scandrett Brothers.

A cutter belonging to Scandrett Brothers was smashed to pieces in a runaway on Dundas street yesterday afternoon at 4:30. The cutter was upset in the street railway tracks at the corner of Dundas and Richmond streets. Henry Bell, the driver, being thrown out. He was not injured. The horse took fright and ran, the cutter striking a hydrant in front of The Advertiser.

Thomas Breen, of Clarence street,

who was reading the bulletin, caught the horse as it ran up onto the sidewalk and prevented further trouble.

A Watchnight Service.

There will be a watchnight service held in the First Congregational Church tomorrow night, commencing at 11 o'clock, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Peatfield.