

WENIGE FAILS TO SEE THE NEED OF MORE FIREMEN

MAYOR BELIEVES MORE FIREMEN UNNECESSARY

Wenige Maintains Motorization Should Leave Certain Men Clear at Fires.

WILL CONSIDER IT

While acknowledging that he is not an "expert," Mayor Wenige fails to grasp Fire Chief Aitken's reasoning that the personnel of the fire department should be increased in 1924.

"I can't see it at this moment," the mayor stated. "Of course, I am not an expert, but now that the entire fire department has been motorized I cannot understand why any more men should be required in 1924 than were necessary in 1923.

"For one thing, now that the department has been motorized, it will not be necessary to have any men to hold the horses during a fire. Of course, I realize that I am not an authority in these matters, but I would not favor an increase in such staff, from a consideration of such data as I have now at my command."

Mayor Wenige reminds, however, that the entire fire department situation will receive the utmost consideration of the new council, just as soon as the British report is offered up.

"I expect that the council will deal thoroughly with the fire department at that time," he stated.

It will be recalled that the fire and police departments were under one administration until the result of the individual members of the council petitioned for an investigation of both branches, the entire question was shelved until the British report was received.

PRESENT OF INDIAN PRINCE IS LOST HERE

Bransby Williams, the English Actor, Misses Diamond Pin at Noon.

Bransby Williams, the English actor, appearing here in "Vidocq," at the Grand Theatre, lost one of his most coveted possessions as he entered the Teumseh House this morning, where he is playing the role of a diamond pin given him by an Indian prince. He had worn it on his tie for more than 15 years.

The pin is only worth \$300, but Mr. Williams places a much higher value on it. Mr. Williams did not know it was gone until he felt it during dinner today.

CITY TAKES FINAL STEP TO SECURE LABOR TAX

Concluded from Page 1.

and points out that it would require provincial legislation to permit a change. The question has been debated occasionally by the members of the Ontario Municipal Association at their annual conventions, but nothing definite was ever recommended to the government.

The city council of 1923 asked Dr. Brantford to survey the local situation and he recommended the abolition of this levy. He points out that London secures perhaps as much as \$5,000 or \$6,000 in this manner and he considers that the return does not justify the time and effort expended.

STREET CARS COLLIDE AND FENDERS DAMAGED

Colliding at the corner of Ridout and Horton streets, a Normal street car, in charge of Mortimer James Chaffick, and a Ridout car, in charge of Charles Westman, were slightly damaged yesterday.

The front of both cars was smashed, the fenders bent twisted and the windows shattered. Fortunately no one was injured, the cars having been travelling slowly at the time. The vehicles were switching at the corner when the accident occurred.

MOTORIST FINED \$5 FOR SPEEDING AT CORNER

Clarence Onn, charged with reckless driving, was fined \$5 and costs by Magistrate Graydon today. Onn was driving a car along Bruce street at 30 miles an hour.

"You can't turn a corner that fast," submitted Onn. The magistrate agreed with this, but thought Onn had certainly been moving faster than he should have.

New Toilet Creations

OF COTEY, YARDLEY, HOUBAINT

STRONG'S Drug Store

184 DUNDAS ST.

Children Refuse to Assist In Support of Aged Fathers When Court Comes to Aid

Son and Daughter Appear, Charged Under Parents' Maintenance Act.

GIVEN TWO WEEKS

Payment Must Be Made in That Period or Jail Term Imposed.

Sixty-eight years of age, tottering and feeble, Thomas Robinson has been deserted by his children. Two of them told Magistrate Graydon in police court today that they could not do anything towards the support of the man who worked and slaved for them in their youth. They were through with their father, or they thought they were.

The magistrate, however, disabused their minds of such thoughts and ordered one son, John Robinson, a hotel keeper at Dorchester, that he would either pay \$2 a week towards the support of his old "Dad" or he would go to jail. Robinson said he would go to jail. Robinson said he would go to jail.

The old man who has been ill in St. Joseph's Hospital for four weeks had to be helped to the witness box to give evidence.

Crown Attorney Gillanders, who prosecuted the case under the parents' maintenance act, could barely hear the whispered replies as the old chap told his story, endeavoring with parental love to shield his children as much as possible.

In quavering tones he told Mr. Gillanders of being ill in the hospital. He had no money or property and was dependent on his three children.

Gave Some Aid.

"The girl here and the boy in Kitchener have helped me quite a little," he said. "The one in Dorchester, nothing much. I guess maybe he hasn't got it. I feel sick," he finished, slowly bringing a gnarled old hand to his forehead. "I was well enough to be discharged from hospital, but has no place to go," said Mr. Gillanders. "The home is full at the present time. He had no room for him there. I found out he has a daughter here and a son at Dorchester, but they refuse to help him."

"I got nothing to say about it," declared John Robinson when questioned by the court. "It keeps me busy keeping myself."

"You look a little dazed," said Mr. Graydon. "You ought to be able to do something. Will you take him to Dorchester?"

"No, I had him there before, and he didn't get on with it."

The daughter was then questioned by the court.

"Is it true you have refused to take the old man into your house?"

"Yes."

"He's your father?"

"Yes."

"How much?"

"I can't tell you. I've clothed the man and I've washed for him. I can't do more than I've done. I've given all my life financially, to the fullest extent. My husband works in the car shops. He makes between \$20 and \$25 a week."

She then had given her father over \$100 in the past year. Her father had been boarding with his sister.

"Am I dissatisfied with the treatment I've given him and finds fault with me," she said.

"He's my father and I don't want to say too much."

"Yes, he's your father and you don't want to have anything to do all ought to contribute to his support. What will you do?"

"I haven't got the means to do anything," replied the daughter.

"Haven't you got any suggestions? Do you think he should go to jail?"

"The daughter remained silent."

"Is there any reason why you shouldn't pay \$2 a week towards his support for the next year, supposing he should live that long?" questioned the court.

"I can't promise my husband's earnings."

"Any objection to sending your father to jail as a vagrant?" pursued the magistrate.

No answer.

"He will have to go to jail then as far as you are concerned, eh? All right. John Robinson was then questioned."

Life Is Boss.

Mr. Robinson said his father couldn't get on with his wife.

"Who do you think should get on with him if not his family?" asked the court.

"My wife is boss just as much as I am. It keeps me hustling to make expenses. I'm not going to pay my father off and lose the place if I can help it. My wife is boss. I ain't got anything."

"Your wife is boss in your case and the husband is boss in your sister's case," observed Mr. Graydon.

"You don't look as if you want for anything."

"I'm going to be prepared for my old age," declared Robinson.

"If your father had had the same idea, maybe he would not be here now," opined Mr. Graydon.

"I ain't got nothing," defended Robinson.

"You can pay \$2 a week."

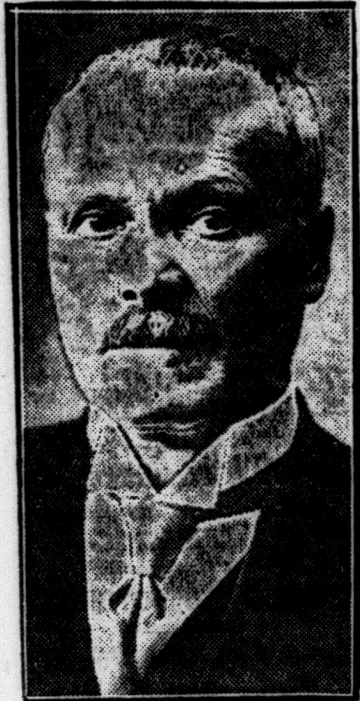
"Yes, this I can do. I'll make an order that you pay him \$2 a week," decided Mr. Graydon.

"I can't pay him."

"All right, perhaps you will go to jail," observed the court, "instead of your father. I think that would be about right. I'll give you 14 days to make the first payment and you will go to jail if you don't pay over the money."

"All right I'll go to jail," declared the son. "My father is just as able to work as I am."

"Nonsense," said Mr. Graydon. "He walks slow and bent here, but he'll go down the street like a two-year old," said the dutiful son.



DR. ERNEST CHAND, who is the president-elect of the Swiss League.

"I'm not making an order in the case of your sister," said Mr. Graydon ignoring the last remark of Robinson. "If your father gets \$2 a week from his sons, and \$1 from the daughter, some provision can be made for him. The brother in Kitchener has apparently done quite a bit for his father, and will doubtless help some more."

"Where will I go?" asked the old man, who apparently did not understand all that was going on.

"I don't know," replied the daughter. "I have made arrangements for a few days to go back to the hospital for a few days, but the poor old chap from the court room."

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LATEST UNION DEVELOPMENT STIRS ENGLAND

Archbishop Says Little Headway Made With the Plans Involving Catholics.

GIVEN PROMINENCE

Associated Press Despatch. London, Dec. 27.—The Archbishop of Canterbury's letter to the dignitaries of the Church of England, in which he says that the question of the reunion of the Anglican and Roman Catholic faiths has made small headway since such a step was advocated at the Lambeth conference of 1920, has made considerable stir in England.

Most of the morning newspapers give the communication first page prominence. Their comments are not very encouraging for the archbishop and other reunionists.

Some of the writers refer sympathetically to Christian union in the abstract and to the desirability of the division, but they separate the professed followers of the founder of Christianity, but they see little hope of practical results from efforts to effect such a reunion in the present circumstances.

The Daily Telegraph says that to most people the prospect of a reunion between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches seems too chimerical to be entertained.

The Morning Post thinks some of the arguments "rather fast and far." This newspaper says it is difficult not to take some alarm at the archbishop's disclosure of the three private conversations of the Archbishop of Canterbury with the Archbishop of York, the Archbishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The last of these conferences, which were held in the presence of Cardinal Mercier and a few Anglicans, was held only a few weeks ago, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is the driving force of the movement, constituted the biggest motor menace in the city.

In American towns they give badges to members of safe drivers' clubs and make the streets safer for pedestrians will be considered by the London Motor Club during the coming year as a sort of subsidiary organization.

Although the number of accidents in London are negligible as compared with those in larger cities, where Roman Catholic clubs have already been formed, C. E. Bernard, secretary of the London Motor Club, believes the suggestion would be for the betterment of traffic conditions in this city.

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Jimmy Defers Wearing Derby

"Jimmy" Bell isn't wearing the "nice black derby" these days. He is keeping it under cover after the first of the year, fearful of the consequences. He is just a trifle wary as to what might happen if he should wear it around New Year's Eve. That is the night when lively passersby are liable to knock it off, he reminds.

CLUBS PROPOSED TO PROMOTE SAFE DRIVING IN LONDON

Would Be Subsidiary Organization of London Motor Club.

EACH GIVEN BADGE

The formation of a Safe Drivers' Club to lessen the possibility of accidents and make the streets safer for pedestrians will be considered by the London Motor Club during the coming year as a sort of subsidiary organization.

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