

FIRE TRAPS FOUR IN NEW YORK ROOMING HOUSE

Will Council Engage Detectives To 'Shadow' Local Police?

SLEUTHS FROM OUTSIDE OFFER THEIR SERVICES TO PROBE CITY POLICE

Mayor Has Communication From Canadian Detective Agency Willing To Send Operatives Here If 'Council Committee Will Work With Them.

AGREE TO "DELIVER GOODS" IN SIX WEEKS

Outside "experts" to investigate the police department? This is a question that Mayor Wenigke stated to The Advertiser at noon today would be submitted to the members of the city council in due course, intimating quite frankly that he would be guided to a large extent by their answer.

His worship revealed a communication from a Canadian detective agency (the name is withheld at the mayor's request), offering its services prior to the contemplated probe of the local police administration. "This letter will go to the city council for consideration," Mayor Wenigke stated decisively. "In their request for a contract the private operatives proffer their services with seeming confidence, explaining that 'they feel a properly conducted investigation would yield an abundance of information that would warrant several changes in the London police department.' The agency suggests that the city council appoint a special committee to further the investigation, and to work in conjunction with them, setting five or six weeks as the greatest length of time that might be required to conclude a proper inquiry.

In view of the charges and counter-charges, that have been hurled about the city council chamber the past two or three weeks, alleging "incompetence and reckless extravagance," it is understood that the majority of the members of the city council will be only too willing that an inquiry of some nature be held, if only to clear the air, and remove the stigma from those who may be accused with-out foundation.

Whether they will consent to an investigation by a private detective agency is, of course, another matter. While Mayor Wenigke was challenged a few days ago by Ald. Albert Judd and other members of the council, to stage an immediate investigation of the department, his worship declined at that time, stating that this would come in due time, if it was felt that conditions warranted the same.

His worship stated again today that the delayed investigation of the fire department would in all likelihood follow the council's consideration of that body. As in the case of the police department, he alleges "dissonance among the employees," which is not conducive to the best interests of the city.

LOOK TO ASSESSMENT FOR \$25,000 SAVING

Harry Bennett Hints at New Source of Revenue for City.

The municipal assessment will save at least \$25,000 during 1923. This was the rough minimum estimate today by Harry Bennett, assessment commissioner, who anticipates a most satisfactory year for that department.

"In two instances alone," he explained, "we propose to achieve a very substantial saving. I am not at liberty to divulge to the public just who will be affected by this change, but I have taken up this question with the city solicitor and he views the situation as I view it. "It will be a question to be taken up by the court of revision at the May session, and we propose to impose additional taxes in these cases which have been overlooked in past years. It will mean an increased assessment of many thousands of dollars, and quite a decent saving for the city.

Mr. Bennett explains that these instances have been noted by himself, adding that the assessment authorities are tightening up generally, and reductions in assessments are being held to the absolute minimum.

In no case is Mr. Bennett referring to the increased assessment business in the annexed district. This additional assessment, about \$15,000, has already been incorporated, they state, in the 1923 assessment, and reckoned with when the tax rate was struck.

Samuel Glass, income tax chief, points out that while it is practically impossible to determine what the increased income assessment will be over 1922, it can be safely assumed that quite a reasonable showing will be made.

ON THE JOB 34 YEARS, STILL GOING STRONG

Today Marks Anniversary of Oliver Ellwood's Debut in City's Service.

This is Oliver Ellwood's 34th anniversary as a city hall employee and he is still going strong as the secretary-treasurer of the public utilities commission. "It was just 34 years ago this noon that I received this notice of my appointment," Mr. Ellwood stated to The Advertiser this morning. "I went to work at noon as the secretary of the waterworks department."

As a matter of fact, however, just previous to his appointment, the necessary bylaw was passed by the city council of that day—1889—designating him as assistant city treasurer. And that is his position today, as the bylaw has never been repealed.

City Treasurer "Jimmy" Bell was quite pleased to learn of this today. He points out, he may find it necessary to call upon the "assistant treasurer" to sign about 350 bond of education checks.

BLOCK IN ENGLEHART DESTROYED BY FIRE

\$75,000 Loss When Entire Clark Building Is Gutted Today.

Special to The Advertiser. Englehart, March 26.—Fire of unknown origin started at 3:20 this morning in the large brick Clark block, gutting the entire building with a total loss to the following: H. N. Williams, hardware; Imperial Bank; Dr. Wilson's office; C. H. Ham, general merchant; second floor occupied by Dr. Jackson, T. J. Smith, Billard parlor; Imperial Bank staff; H. N. Williams' residence; John Clark's residence; T. Davis' residence. Loss about \$75,000.



ALICE PALMER. Little daughter of George Palmer, Briscoe street, who died Sunday evening in Victoria Hospital under distressing circumstances.

Barney Google's Here!



Incidentally, his famous contemporary, Mr. Andrew Gump, late candidate for the American Congress, is also in difficulties. He needs your sympathy, too, because if you'll look at the section page you'll find that Shink has Andy in the witness box at last in the long deferred libel action. Andy seems to be in a tight corner. Oh Min!



WHERE "FLAMES CAUSED \$200,000 LOSS. Ruins of the Grandon Shoe Company by fire early Sunday morning. The scene in Western Ontario in many many factory, Brantford, destroyed fire was one of the most spectacular years.

TOWN TERRIFIED BY COMMUNISTS ABROAD AT NIGHT

Band, Supposed To Be Led by Russian, Invades Rothhausen, Plundering Shop.

By A. R. DECKER. Special Cable to The London Advertiser and Chicago Daily News. Copyright.

Essen, March 26.—Communists, led by a supposed Russian, are causing some terror in the mining town of Rothhausen, near Gelsenkirchen. Communists came every night from the surrounding industrial centers to reinforce the Rothhausen radicals. Posts are formed by armed Communists and passersby are compelled to show their papers, although so far no one has been robbed.

Wednesday night, Communists to the number of about 2,000 came from their headquarters and plundered a clothing shop, but firemen from nearby cities helped the people of Rothhausen to scatter the Reds. One Communist was shot and many were hurt by blows from blackjacks. Rothhausen is without the protection of the Schuppe or protective police, who were disbanded and expelled by the French. The mayor told the writer that there were only two policemen in town, but that the inhabitants are forming an organization of unarmed militia to combat the criminals who are becoming increasingly daring.

The plan was to form a militia composed of men without reference to their politics, but the Communists, called the Nationalists and Nationalists, called the Communists from the surrounding country and formed a semi-military organization. They were marching late at night when the firemen were alerted. At midnight, there was a light near a mine entrance near the mayor's home. In this the Communists were routed. However, they return nightly and picket the streets, and miners told me of being forced to show their papers.

WESTERN "U" MEASURE COMES UP TOMORROW

Dr. Stevenson, M. L. A., Confident It Will Pass Second Reading.

Special to The Advertiser. Toronto, March 26.—No. 27, an act respecting the University of Western Ontario (W. U.), will receive its second reading in the private bills committee of the Ontario Legislature tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Stevenson, M. L. A. for London, is confident that the bill will witness a successful passage.

The member for London is not quite sure when clause 5 of the city of London bill, pertaining to the sale of the federal square, will again claim the attention of the members. "Any day now," was his brief comment.

What Will London Say When Her Needy Call?

The crippled, the tubercular, the wayward, those on whose weak shoulders fate has placed the burden of poverty—what is London's attitude toward them?

Will London extend the helping hand of encouragement, or will she turn her back in indifference? Next week will answer these questions. Next week London's welfare campaign begins, and for six days the great heart of the city will turn to the cry of blighted babyhood and stricken age.

London's United Welfare Association has set an objective of \$125,000. This is to take care of 14 separate institutions in the city. And on London's success in attaining this objective rest the hope, the happiness, the future of hundreds of motherless children, incurables, invalids, and young men and women starting out in the battle of life.

The Welfare Association is probably more truly the property of London than any other concern in the city. It is London itself. It represents the good emotions of every man, woman and child in the city gathered into one organization to speak with one voice, to give with one great all-helping hand.

London's Soul. It is London's heart of sympathy, her soul, her means of remembering things worth while in the midst of hurry and bustle.

Organized in the spring of 1920 as the most effective means of meeting a difficult situation arising out of the war, London's United Welfare Fund Association has in three years of its existence amply justified its formation.

During the war, the various welfare organizations of the city patriotically refrained from making any large appeal for funds, with the result that when the conflict ended many were facing a serious financial situation. But the public-spirited men and women who in the past were largely instrumental in making such appeals a success were conscious of the glaring faults of dis-united giving.

United Sympathy. They saw the community grow

MAN ON TRACK KILLED BY RUNAWAY BOX CAR

Driven 45 Miles by Terrible Gale—Stopped by Rising Grade.

Special to The Advertiser. Regina, Sask., March 26.—One of the most peculiar railway accidents in Saskatchewan has been unfolded in the death of John E. Anderson, who, while walking the C. P. R. tracks at Bromhead during a blizzard, was struck and killed by a runaway box car.

The car was driven a total distance of 45 miles by the howling wind before it was brought to a stop. After striking the man it continued its wild trip through half a dozen towns and villages.

The car was on a siding at Maxim, on the Neptune-Estevan branch line of the C. P. R., when it started off on its long, uncontrolled trip. It was blown over the switch from the siding to the through line, and with the wind propelling it, passed Tribune, Bromhead, Torquay and Tableland, and did not stop until it was within three miles of Estevan, where a rising grade prohibited further progress.

RETIRE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD? Associated Press Despatch. Washington, March 26.—A recommendation that the United States Shipping Board retire from business, scrap all inferior vessels and sell its remaining tonnage to United States citizens without any restriction, was the basis of a program submitted today by a committee of the American Steamship Owners Association.

FOUR LOSE LIVES AS FIRE WRECKS NEW YORK HOUSE

Tenement Residents Cling to Window Sills, Awaiting Firemen.

OTHERS MAY DIE

Firemen and Police Are Burned While Engaging in Daring Rescues.

New York, March 26.—A lighted cigar, believed to have been carelessly tossed by an intoxicated man, started a fire which swept through the seven-story Princeton Apartments in West 57th street today, occupied by theatrical and business folk and caused the deaths of four persons and the serious injury of many others.

The dead are: Gaston Misonne, 26 years old, Anna Fries, an exhibition roller skater, killed in a jump to a stone courtyard from a window of her sixth-floor rooms. Mrs. Margaret Lee, 65 years old, and her daughter Emily, a stenographer, burned to death in their apartment on the top floor. Miss Margaret Lee, an actress, daughter of Mrs. Lee, was taken to a hospital severely burned and may not live.

Jumped From Window. Dr. John M. Callahan jumped from a rear window on the third floor and fractured both arms. His wife, suffering from pneumonia, was rescued by firemen. A number of firemen and police were burned while engaged in daring rescues, and a dozen or more tenants were treated for slight burns and injuries. The apartment house of the old non-fireproof type, adjoins the west side Y. M. C. A. building. Shortly after midnight the superintendent was called to an upper floor hallway to eject an intoxicated man who had wandered in from the street. The man, pulling a cigar, was seen to enter the building some time earlier, but was thought to be a tenant. He was led from the building by the superintendent and disappeared.

Began Rescue Work. Half an hour later two police roundsmen, attracted by a woman who waved her arms frantically from an upper story front window, saw smoke enveloping her and sounded an alarm. They then returned to the burning apartment and, aided by the superintendent, began the work of rescue.

When the first fire-fighting apparatus, called out on three alarms, arrived, tenants on the sixth and seventh floors were crawling out of the window ledges to escape the flames. Firemen, policemen and the crowds of spectators that had gathered shouted encouragement. Meanwhile a 90-foot ladder was being elevated.

Leister D. Wright, one of those who clung to a peeping perch on a narrow stone ledge, prevented some of the women from jumping. Miss Margaret Lee, severely burned, who could stand it no longer, was held to a window by a man with one hand, held her in his free arm until the ladder was raised. Both, badly burned, were carried down by firemen.

Use Light To Get Depth of Ocean

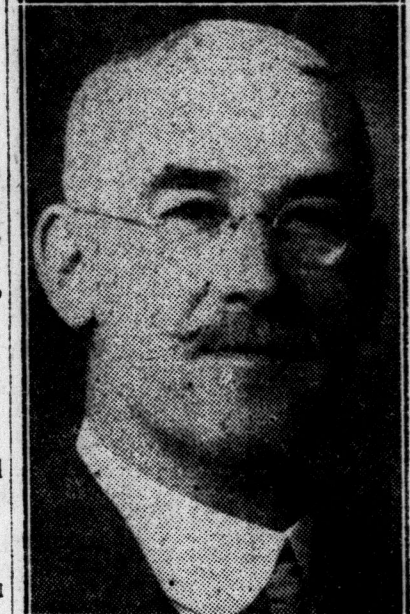
Latest Nautical Invention Will Prove Great Aid.

Associated Press Despatch. London, March 26.—The latest nautical invention now in use on a Newcastle pilot boat is a machine which throws a beam of light to the sea bottom, showing a depth of the water below the ship to be gauged. Soundings may thus be done away with. The invention is of great importance, since it may be usefully employed by the liners in entering shallow waters.

The searchlight is worked through a hole in the lower part of the ship, while an observation window is placed nearby, through which the beam of light may be seen. A mirror is set at the end of a long tube running vertically through the ship to the bridge. By working a handle an officer can take any angle on the projected beam and by a simple calculation measure the depth of the water below.

Report That This Office May Be Re-Created by County Council. The office of high constable for Middlesex may be "re-created" at the June session of the county council. The position, which was abolished at the January session, will be enlarged, and the department will be thoroughly reorganized, it is also stated. The report also states that the new position will carry a salary ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

A special committee of the council is investigating the present constabulary system, and will make recommendations at the June session of the council. It is doubtful, however, if the committee will recommend a man for the new position, but the name of Detective Harry Down has been favorably mentioned in this regard.



OLIVER ELLWOOD, secretary of the Public Utilities Commission, who entered the city's employ 34 years ago at noon today.

BRITISH ATTITUDE HALTS CONGRESS IN SHIP PROGRAM

Find Modernization Plans 'Would Be Violation "in Spirit" of Treaty.

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, March 26.—Owing to the attitude of the British government that alterations of armaments or battleships at the present time would constitute a violation "in spirit" of the Washington Treaty, the United States modernization plans have been halted. Under the plans it was intended to increase the range of the armament on United States battleships, naval officers asserting that this was necessary to bring the United States ships to a parity with the fleets of Great Britain, but a controversy has arisen as to whether this proposed elevation of gun turrets is privileged under the terms of the naval treaty.

When congress appropriated \$6,500,000 for this work of modernization, it stipulated that the navy department should definitely establish its right under the treaty to embark on its program. Navy officers replied by asserting that as Great Britain was strengthening its armor ships, there would be no violation of the treaty in the plans of the navy department.

Now, however, that Great Britain has denied the modernization work attributed to her navy, serious congressional opposition has developed against spending any part of the \$6,500,000 until the correct interpretation of the treaty is decided upon. Meanwhile the modernizing of United States battleships has been abandoned until the matter is threshed out.

Interpretation of this phase of the 5-5-3 naval ratio, negotiated at the Washington conference, gives promise of being a live subject in the next congress.

WANTS MOTOR BUSES AS CAR AUXILIARIES

Ald. Drake's Plan To Improve Service in Outlying Districts.

Ald. Gordon Drake, chairman of the transportation committee, urges motor buses as auxiliaries in the outlying districts where, he states, "the people can't get near the cars."

Placing the cost of two machines of the latest type at \$11,000 each, he points out that this expenditure could be undertaken without a vote of the people. He feels confident, however, that once seen in action, the ratepayers would be only anxious to add another nine or ten.

Ald. Drake does not favor any general stampede to purchase 62 buses, as advocated by Mayor Wenigke, until two have been operated, more as an experiment.

Discussion of London's transportation problems to date has been more or less a waste of time and money, insists the chairman, as he urges action.

KING GOVERNMENT REDUCES DEFICIT OF C. N. RAILWAYS

Expect Budget To Announce Total Deficit of Fifty-Seven Millions.

\$3,000,000 SURPLUS

Thornton Intimates Operating Surplus of About Three Millions.

Canadian Press Despatch. Ottawa, March 26.—Wm. H. P. Graham, acting minister of railways, submits the National Railway budget to the house, it is expected that considerable improvement will be shown for 1922 over the previous year. St. Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National lines, has already intimated that the amalgamated roads will have an operating surplus for last year of about \$3,000,000.

The operating surplus, however, does not take fixed charges into consideration, and these will probably be rather higher than for 1921, when they stood at \$60,000,000. Taking the two figures as a basis, it is therefore, likely that a total deficit of about \$57,000,000 will be announced. The deficit for 1921, including fixed charges, was \$72,000,000.

The huge wheat crop of last season and strikes on American roads were large contributors to the improved showing of the National roads. An effort is being made to have the railway budget submitted to the Commons tomorrow, so the members may study it before the Easter recess.

CITY CONSERVATIVES WILL HOLD SESSION

Will Elect Officers at Meeting in Near Future.

A special session of the London Conservative Association, within the next three weeks will have a distinct bearing upon the local situation, prominent workers of that organization advised The Advertiser this afternoon.

Election of officers for the current year will claim the chief attention. It is explained, and from the personnel of the new board, it can be safely adjudged which member of the organization will bear the official stamp of candidature, for the coming provincial election.

In short, if it is proposed by the majority that Sir Adam Beck shall carry the flag, his supporters will be swept into the various offices, and will head the committees. If such is not to be the case, then the reverse will happen.

In any event The Advertiser has good reason to know definitely that should the "hydro knight" go to the polls with the O. K. from party headquarters, there will be an Independent Conservative in the field to complicate matters.

Who he will be depends largely, of course, upon future happenings.

BELIEVE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OVER LINE

Canadian Press Despatch. Fredericton, N.B., March 25.—There is an impression in official circles here that the Kent Northern Railway, which runs from Kent Junction to the main line of the Canadian National Railway, to Richibucto, a distance of 27 miles, will soon be taken over by the federal government. It is one of the few branch railways in New Brunswick remaining in private ownership, and as such comes under the direction of the provincial minister of public works.

Hon. Mr. Veniot, premier and minister of public works, appears to have intimated that the company must either allow the line to be taken over by the federal government at the price which was formerly offered, but refused, or else provide the necessary improvements and additional equipment to insure its satisfactory operation.

THE WEATHER		
FORECASTS.		
Today—Fair and cold.		
Tuesday—Southwest to west winds, mostly fair and somewhat milder.		
Pressure is high over the greater part of the United States and the main low over the Atlantic.		
Canada, while a shallow depression has come in over Manitoba from the Northwest, it is one of the main lows from the Great Lakes eastward, with snow in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and much milder in Saskatchewan and Alberta.		
Stations.	High.	Low.
Calgary	10	2
Winnipeg	6	—2
Port Arthur	14	—2
Soo	14	—10
Toronto	25	4
Kingston	22	6
Ottawa	20	3
Montreal	22	6
Quebec	18	1
Father Point	16	—2
St. John	23	18
Halifax	22	18
Minus (—) means below zero.		
LOCAL TEMPERATURES.		
The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 28; lowest, 13.		
The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 18; lowest, 7.		
Barometric Readings.		
Sunday—3 p.m., 29.54.		
Today—8 a.m., 29.51.		

Colleens In Irish Frills Watching o'er Illicit Stills

Signal When the Police Are Seen To Wander Near Their "Pothens." All in Lovely Donegal.

Associated Press Despatch. Belfast, March 26.—The manufacture of illicit whiskey is being carried on vigorously in the desolate Donegal Mountains, according to reports reaching this city.

Pretty Colleens in attractive Irish costumes assist their countrymen by acting as scouts. They sit and knit near the stills, and have arranged such a perfect system of signalling, that the police cannot approach with-

in five miles of any particular still without the despatch of a warning of their presence.

Farmers are said to carry on this business in ravines and valleys of the mountains, and thousands of stills are reported to be in operation. The "pothen" thus brewed is sold to publicans, who are making enormous profits. So closely does the liquor resemble commercially produced whiskey in color and taste, that a connoisseur is often deceived.