

PRISONERS ENJOY CHRISTMAS MEAL

Inmates at County Jail Provided With Real Repast Yesterday.

Santa Claus had all the combinations to jail locks yesterday and invaded the Middlesex "Tombs" just in time to partake of the thirty pound turkey provided by Silverwoods for the thirty prisoners under the care of Governor Byron Dawson.

The doors of all cells were unlocked at 11:55 by the turnkeys and the prisoners trooped up a gayly decorated ward room on the fourth floor and sat down to a Christmas feast that had been prepared by a prisoner who has an enviable reputation among city restaurant men as a chef. The chef donned his white apron and cap, and spent the entire morning getting up the best Yuletide dinner ever served at "Dawson's Den."

There was enough turkey, pigs, chickens, and every person who had helped to make a jail Christmas worth while.

"On behalf of myself and staff I wish to convey through the press our sincere thanks and best wishes to the kind-hearted citizens who, through their generosity, enabled us to give the prisoners under our care a real Christmas dinner and tea."

"I wish especially to thank the Salvation Army, Silverwoods, the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, the Canadian Theatre Association, Parry Bread Company, Martin Meat Company, Mr. Burk and Mr. Thompson. I also want to thank them on behalf of the prisoners, who have asked me to express their appreciation of the spread."

During the afternoon a Christmas song service was conducted for the prisoners by members of the Adelaide street Baptist church.

QUEER ORDERS MEET SELLERS OF BOOKS

The book firms are asked to fill some queer orders. The Christmas rush increased sales and also brought forth requests for many impossible books. In a downtown store the day before Christmas a man was browsing through the books. When approached by a clerk, he announced in a deep, booming voice that he wanted a book, but it must be deep. Had the salesman "The Sorrows of Satan" by Max Crevier.

This was put on record as being one better than that of another buyer who wanted the "Red Boat" by Omar Khayyam.

Spend Your Christmas Money On COMMUNITY SILVER

33 1/3% Off

This Community War May Stop Any Minute

These prices are less than the merchants buy the goods for.

TEASPOONS. Regular \$8.50 dozen.	Sale price	\$5.94
DESSERT SPOONS. Regular \$16.50 dozen.	Sale price	\$11.90
DESSERT SPOONS. Regular \$16.50 dozen.	Sale price	\$11.90
HOLLOW-HANDLE KNIVES. Regular \$30.00 dozen.	Sale price	\$20.00

Offer Extraordinary!

This price-cutting may stop any moment. So here is a wonderful offer to those who wish to complete their set. Any person giving an order for \$50.00 worth or more, by paying \$5 deposit we will hold balance at the reduced price for six months, until called for.

DO NOT DELAY. THIS IS A SANTA CLAUS FOR YOU.

JOHN A. WASH

MY JEWELER. LIMITED

"Where You Will Eventually Buy."

182 DUNDAS STREET.

LONDON

WINDSOR

AMHERSTBURG

ENGLAND WOULD STOP SHIPS DUMPING REFUSE INTO OCEAN

Oil From Vessels Proves Harmful to Birds and Fish.

COVERS BEACHES

By PAUL SCOTT MOWBRER. Special Cable to The Advertiser and The Chicago Daily News. Copyright.

London, Dec. 25.—The association of British chambers of commerce has asked the British government to approach foreign countries, and particularly the United States, with a view to imposing special machinery on all ocean-going ships in order to terminate the pollution of the seas by waste fuel and lubricating oils.

This is something which lies close to the heart of all true Britons, who, as such, love the sea and the sea creatures and are interested in checking this latest modern nuisance, not only for economic but for aesthetic reasons.

The nuisance was first noticeable during the war when the navies began burning oil on a large scale, but it has increased greatly since the war with the rapid growth in the number of oil-burning merchantmen.

At the present time a certain percentage of the oil which is sprayed into the furnace flames, and a certain amount of lubricating oil is lost and settles into the bilges, from which, with other liquid accumulations, it is regularly pumped overboard.

Leave Long Trail. Oil burners, hence, leave behind them a long trail of floating oil which collects in patches, and sooner or later is blown or washed ashore. It enters the bays and estuaries and ports, collects on the keels of launches and yachts and is deposited in innumerable sticky black globules along the beaches by the falling tide. There is said to be scarcely a bathing beach on the south coast of England which has not been polluted by this filthy mess.

What is more serious, the oil gathers or settles in the spawning places of the sea fish whose numbers are reported to be rapidly diminishing as a consequence. And, finally, it is exterminating the beautiful sea birds which are so loved by all frequenters of the English coasts. Numbers of the adult gulls and other birds have been found dead or dying, partly from the effects of the oil with which their bodies were completely coated and which they had taken into their stomachs apparently in the effort to clean their feathers. Even the swans of the Southampton estuary are reported to be suffering.

Make International Treaty. Regulations exist prohibiting the pollution of the water by oil within the three-mile limit, but as most of the oil drifts in from greater distances, the nuisance can only be ended by an international agreement. The remedy is said to lie in the compulsory installation of oil separators which separate the water from the waste oil in the bilges, and return the oil to the furnace for normal consumption. These machines, which are already employed on some liners, will, it is claimed, not only save the fish and birds and beaches, but will soon repay their own costs in the oil they save.

Elko Boasts Of 48 Below

Associated Press Despatch. Reno, Nev., Dec. 25.—The temperature registered 48 degrees below zero today at Elko and put the air mail radio station out of commission. The pump and radio were frozen. Reno air mail officials said.

DINNER PARTY IS ROBBED BY THUGS

Montreal Gunmen Hold Up Guests, Securing Loot Valued at \$1,200.

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, Dec. 25.—Invading the home of Arthur Gardner on Mansfield street while he was entertaining friends at Christmas dinner yesterday evening, two gunmen robbed the guests of money and, together with jewelry seized from the table, escaped with their loot, valued at \$1,200. Mr. Gardner, when he was commanded to hold up his hands, extracted a roll of bills from one of his pockets and successfully hid them in his clenched fist while he was "frisked."

The host and his guests were at dinner when two men walked into the room. One wore dark colored spectacles, but the other did not conceal his features. Before leaving, the robbers threatened the party with their revolvers, warning them of dire penalties if they made an outcry before the robbers were clear. As soon as they were gone, however, Mr. Gardner dashed to the window, snatched a pane of glass and called for help. Police searched the neighborhood, without result.

CHILDREN DIE IN FIRE ON ONTARIO HOMESTEAD

Canadian Press Despatch. Timmins, Ont., Dec. 25.—John Casinovi, aged 2 years, and his infant brother, sons of Ermina Casinovi, a homesteader some miles north of here, are both dead as the result of a fire which destroyed the home while the father and mother were out of the house. The father made an heroic attempt to rescue the children but succeeded in getting the older child out of the burning house, but the little fellow succumbed six hours later. The father was painfully burned.

SMALL BLAZE. One more fire was added to the Christmas list at 2 o'clock, when a fire call came in from 255 King street, where a small fire in the basement of a building had broken out. It was the old Christmas story of trying to thaw out frozen pipes with lighted paper. The fire was quickly extinguished and the damage was slight.

Partly as a result of the temporary effects of industrial depression and partly the effect of the permanent liquidation of war industries, the period from 1920 to 1923 was one of falling membership. In the drop practically all labor organizations shared.

Biggest Are Losers. "Those which had been most heavily represented in the war industries, and which had experienced the most substantial gains, were in the period of deflation the heaviest losers. The metal and transportation unions alone contributed about 40 per cent of the total loss in this time. The textile and packing house unions lost about as much as they had gained.

"As before, the established organizations of skilled craftsmen, like the railway brotherhoods, the trade unions of skilled workers in the building trades, like the bricklayers union, and the United Mine Workers retained what they had won.

"The rest of the unions appear to be in 1923 on a slightly higher level of membership than they were in 1920, but they are far from reaching the level below which they had achieved in 1920. In the clothing industry alone, among the industries which were weak in labor organization before the war, is unionism now on a new and higher level than that of 1914.

"The chemical, food, iron and steel, metal and textile industries in which they have been for many years, in the main poorly organized. Aggregate membership in these industries is substantial, but in proportion to the number employed in them it is slight."

CLEANERS SCARCE. In spite of the demand for female help to houseclean after the Christmas parties and festivities, there is some difficulty in getting it. It seems that the same Christmas spirit which gave effect to the hilarity of the holiday also had an effect on the people who would otherwise be offering to clean houses for a few dollars. Several housewives who were seeking at the government employment bureau this morning for this kind of help were disappointed.

Building totals for London will be prepared next week, and indications are that 1924 will rank as a fairly good year for new construction. Building Inspector O'Connor stated this morning that the year's record would be much better than last year, but that the total would be fairly encouraging compared to others in the last ten years.

Several cases of chickenpox were reported at the city health office today. Scarlet fever and diphtheria were also reported, though the aggregate number of contagious disease cases is small.

Opinion appears general that London's old boys' reunion of 1926 should be a centennial celebration to mark the 100th year of the city's existence. Few, however, want the celebration to come during fair weather. The fair is too late in the season, leaders of the movement argue.

Ample provisions for the city needy were made for Christmas, according to information from the city relief office. With many charitable organizations and private citizens doing their bit, there were few people who did not enjoy the holiday. The city issued orders for food and fuel in especially needy cases.

UNIONISM PASSES SECOND BIG PEAK

Searching Report Shows 1,331,500 Members Drop in Three Years.

1920 IS HIGH YEAR

Associated Press Despatch. New York, Dec. 25.—The total membership of trade unions in the United States increased from 447,000 in 1917 to 1,331,500 in 1923, according to advance figures taken from a report to be issued early in December by the National Bureau of Economic Research of this city, under the title "The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1923."

The largest membership recorded in one year was in 1920, when 1,513,000 were enrolled in trade unions. The membership in 1921 was 1,413,400; and in 1922, 1,408,400.

The findings in this report, which required two years for its preparation, have been approved by the board of directors of the bureau.

Summarizing the tables in the formal report, a statement submitted by the bureau reads in part as follows: "During roughly the last half century the membership in American trade unions has reached striking peaks, from which it has later descended. The first peak was achieved in 1887, when membership rose to about 1,000,000, and the second in 1920, when it reached 1,513,000. In each case the labor movement failed to hold its maximum numbers.

Drops to 200,000. "After 1887 the losses were so great that membership in the early nineties was probably only a couple of hundred thousand, and since 1920 the unions have lost more than one and a quarter millions.

"The two situations are not, however, analogous. The labor movement of the eighties was a labor movement in the process of finding itself. It was torn by internal conflict, and it was engaged in finding the form and methods of effective organization. The resolution of these forces of internal dissension and the realization of some consensus of opinion regarding a program of development left the movement in the middle of the nineties small, but started on a new career. Thereafter the rise in membership has been almost continuous, and has always been large.

"The first great break came with the industrial depression of 1921, and has lasted for most unions through 1923. In this last year, however, the large movement has been toward a new high, close to 1,400,000, roughly 1,000,000 greater than it was in the years before the world war, and more than 3,000,000 above the membership in 1887, when the movement may be said to have entered upon its present phase.

Big Gains Made. "In the years before the war, when membership rose from about 450,000 to 1,331,500, the gains from 1917 to 1920 were made by the craft unions in the building trades, steam railroad and printing industries, and by the coming into power of the United Mine Workers. In almost the whole of this period, nearly half of the total membership was to be found in the transportation and building groups, which, except for the coal mines and glass and stone industries was there a concentration of union membership.

"This condition changed quite radically in the years from 1915 to 1920 by the effect of the concentration of union membership in the semi-skilled and unskilled, and into industries hitherto almost totally unorganized.

"Partly as a result of the temporary effects of industrial depression and partly the effect of the permanent liquidation of war industries, the period from 1920 to 1923 was one of falling membership. In the drop practically all labor organizations shared.

Biggest Are Losers. "Those which had been most heavily represented in the war industries, and which had experienced the most substantial gains, were in the period of deflation the heaviest losers. The metal and transportation unions alone contributed about 40 per cent of the total loss in this time. The textile and packing house unions lost about as much as they had gained.

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Famous Church Hears Recitation

Associated Press Despatch. London, Dec. 25.—Cinema shows and religious operas have occupied the churches, but probably for the first time a well-known actress has given a recital in Christ church, Westminster.

The church was crowded. The actress mounted the lectern and read a number of poems, the first being the hymn of the American people written by Walt Whitman, beginning "As a strong bird on pinnions free." Then followed a prayer by Sir Kahlidhrath Tagore, the Indian poet, and recitations from Shelley's "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" and the "Ode to the West Wind."

Washington Man Is Donor and 124 Men and Women Are Beneficiaries.

Associated Press Despatch. Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 25.—A Christmas gift of a possible value of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 was announced here today.

William McClellan Ritter of Washington, D. C., formerly of Columbus, and founder of the W. M. Ritter Lumber Company, the executive offices of which are here, is the donor, and 124 men and women who reside here and in twelve eastern states are the beneficiaries.

Mr. Ritter is turning back to the employees of the company, approximately one-fourth of the capital stock of the corporation that bears his name. Plans for distribution of the stock were completed by him last night.

The shares that will be divided number 12,500, and have a par value of \$125,000. The stock of the corporation is closely held, no exact approximation of the value of the gift could be obtained, but local bankers expressed the opinion that it might run between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

The stock will be held under a trust agreement for the beneficiaries, but the gift is without restrictions. The trust will be executed when those who will share in it meet in eight regional gatherings on Jan. 15 to Jan. 20, 1925, in New York, Philadelphia, Columbus, Bluefield, W. Va., Hughesville, Pa., Washington, D. C., Colleton, S. C., and Asheville, N. C.

Of the list of beneficiaries, 94 are officers and employees of the company. The balance of the list includes relatives and close personal friends of Mr. Ritter.

"FILTHY" PAPER MONEY STIRS WESTERN BOARD

London C. of C. Aid Sought in Having Insanitary Bills Recalled.

The Winnipeg board of trade is of the opinion that much of the lurch toward insolvency that has gripped the course of business is indeed "filthy," and have forwarded to the local C. of C. a resolution to be discussed by the board of directors, that will tend to remedy the situation.

Following is the communication received by Gordon Philip of the chamber of commerce today: "Whereas a great deal of the Canadian paper currency is in a very dilapidated and unsanitary state, and a menace to the health of the community.

"Resolved, that the receiver-general be asked to take measures to provide against the continuance in circulation of such paper currency and for the issue of a larger amount of new bills both by the government and bank."

PHILOXENE CLUB. The members of the Philoxene club of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, made up of women and girls from some families in the city, which they delivered before the festive day. They wish to thank the members of the congregation who have helped them to make these gifts possible.

On Wednesday, December 24, the club members went to the Victoria home and distributed Christmas gifts among the residents. On the occasion Santa was present, and T. Nichol sang much appreciated solos. Miss Margaret Gladman accompanied him.

START HOLIDAY. With a big dinner in the men's mess at noon yesterday the soldiers at Wolsey barracks started their holiday festivities. In the evening a smoker and musical entertainment was well attended.

FUNERAL OF LOUIS CRUMMER. The funeral of Louis Crummer, who died from a stroke Tuesday, was held this morning. Rev. Archdeacon Sage conducted the service.

The body was sent to Stratford on the 11:20 a. m. train where interment will take place.

PASS PROCEDURE RANKLES IN WEST

Winnipeg Men Wondering Why Supreme Court Is Involved.

Canadian Press Despatch. Winnipeg, Dec. 25.—While prominent Winnipeg men expressed satisfaction last night with the decision of the federal government to restore westbound Crow's Nest rates pending a ruling by the supreme court of Canada on the appeal by the Western provinces, surprise was expressed that the matter had been referred to the supreme court at all.

Reasons given for this surprise were that the question was one of policy and that the supreme court should not be asked to pass on an agreement which, it was said, was considered effective by both parties to it and also by the railway commission itself for 19 or 20 years.

Premier John Bracken said there appears to be "strings attached," but stated the west evidently gained at least temporary though considerably belated victory.

H. J. Symington, K. C., who presented the case for the prairie provinces to the federal government, declined to make any comment, when informed of the government's action.

Obituary

FUNERAL OF MRS. W. J. WADE. Owing to a change, the funeral of Mrs. Margaret Wade was not held in London at Mount Pleasant cemetery, but was held in Buffalo, N. Y.

She was the wife of William J. Wade of Buffalo and was well known in London where her family were early pioneers.

MRS. MATILDA MAHON. The death of Mrs. Matilda Mahon, one of the oldest residents of London, occurred yesterday at the residence 59 Wilson avenue.

Mrs. Mahon was born in Ireland 85 years ago and came to London 42 years ago.

She was a staunch member of the Presbyterian church and was associated with many church societies. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon from the residence to Mount Pleasant cemetery, where interment will take place.

SAVING TIME FOR SAVERS

The Huron & Erie Mortgage Company will accept on deposit NOW all interest coupons payable January first.

Also if you hold any bonds that fall due in January you are invited to reinvest the money in a Huron & Erie Debenture. Full interest is allowed to maturity on your bonds. Your new Debenture will earn interest from January first.

Many valuable moments can be saved for yourself by depositing coupons or arranging new investments ahead of time.

TILLSONBURG LIONS CLUB PROVIDES FOR POOR PEOPLE

Special to The Advertiser. Tillsonburg, Dec. 25.—The newly organized Lions club has been busy for the past few days for their Christmas work in connection with the local Kings Daughters, and Christmas morning found the club busy with the distribution of Christmas hampers. The Lions also started an open-air rink in the rear of the Norfolk Shoe Company today for the use of the kiddies of the town. They are also holding a charity ball Tuesday evening in the opera house.

MISS Z. HOTSON APPOINTED INNERKIP POSTMISTRESS

Special to The Advertiser. Innerkip, Dec. 25.—Miss Zeila Hotson has been appointed postmistress at the local postoffice, and will assume her duties at the beginning of the year. J. Birch has been acting postmaster for the past six months.

BOY FRACTURES THIGH. Claudioboye, Dec. 25.—The three-year-old son of Earl Paton of the second concession, McGillivray, met with a very painful accident on Tuesday while playing on the ice, when he fell and fractured his thigh. Dr. Hamilton of Alisa Craig is in attendance.

REGINA BEATS CALGARY. Calgary, Dec. 25.—Calgary Tigers, playing the role of Santa Claus at the arena today, handed out Christmas cheer to the Regina Capitals, who incidentally were on the long end of a 3 to 1 score at the conclusion of their Western Canada league fixture.

DISTRIBUTE PROFITS. Sacramento, Dec. 25.—Members of the California walnut growers' association got a Christmas present today in the shape of a distribution of \$9,000,000 from the pool of this year's crop.

MRS. EDWARD DRAKE. Mitchell, Dec. 25.—The funeral of Mrs. Edward Drake took place on Tuesday from her late home in Seaford to Staffa cemetery. The services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Larkin of Seaford, and Rev. Mr. McDonald of Edmondville.

Mrs. Drake was a former resident of Hibbert township and was well known in Mitchell. She was the daughter of the late John Whyte Sr., founder of the Whyte Pork Packing Company, at Stratford.

Mrs. Henderson and Miss Elizabeth Whyte of Mitchell are sisters of the late Mrs. Drake.

Hair Drying Plan May Aid Crops

Associated Press Despatch. Oxford, Dec. 25.—The idea recently announced, of drying hair dressers' use of hot air for hair drying as a guide to solving the problem of drying wet crops, and her husband immediately developed the idea with satisfactory results.

WIFE MURDERER COMMITS SUICIDE

N. Y. Man Shoots Two Others in Tragic End of Matrimonial Venture.

Associated Press Despatch. Randolph, N. Y., Dec. 25.—Murdering his young wife, shooting her mother and brother and then committing suicide to avoid capture, Peter McLarney thus tragically ended yesterday a venture in matrimony which included two elopements, a divorce and an abduction.

Mrs. Grace Anderson, mother-in-law of the slayer, and her son John were expected today to recover from bullet wounds inflicted by McLarney while he had them locked in a bathroom, after he had taken the life of his wife, Dorothy Anderson McLarney.

The authorities' only explanation of the slayer's rampage was that he, a man in his thirties, recently recovered from a serious operation, was a user of narcotics and had taken a large dose just before he loaded a pistol and started out to prey on his wife's family.

She was the 17-year-old daughter of the late Clarence Anderson, a resident of Waverly College, and her 21-year-old husband remained in Randolph.

But the secret leaked out, Mrs. Anderson had the marriage annulled because her daughter was under age. By the time of the Christmas school holidays, however, the girl was of age, so the marriage was again solemnized to Jamestown and again were married by the same clergyman who first wedded them.

He and the young woman being placed in charge of its maternal grandmother. A divorce was granted by the court, and she entered Pratt Institute as a student, while her brother attended New York University.

McLarney found her in New York several weeks ago. He urged her to marry him. When she refused, according to authorities, he forcibly seized her and took her to New Jersey, kept her there all night, and left her next day a prisoner in the hotel. McLarney was charged with Mann act violation for that episode and was out on \$2,000 bail, pending the action of a federal grand jury at New Haven, when yesterday's tragedy ended it all for him and for her.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT HELD IN WATFORD CHURCH

Special to The Advertiser. Watford, Dec. 24.—The Sunday school of Zion Methodist church, Watford township, held its annual Christmas entertainment on Monday evening, Rev. S. J. Thompson acted as chairman.

The following program was presented: Chairman's address on "Religious Education," by Rev. S. J. Thompson; recitation by Rev. McKeon; solo by Alan Robertson; recitation by Velma Parker; vocal duet by Donald Edwards and Beatrice Gault; solo by Jessie Spalding; recitation by Melvyn Parker; solo by Donald Edwards; recitation by Winston Parker; solo by Robert Gault; reading by Frank Edwards, and a solo by Gerald Robertson.

HANEY TO SPEAK. The Round Table club of the chamber of commerce will be dressed on Jan. 2 by Wilfred S. Haney, M. L. A. for West Lambton, on national and provincial topics. Entertainers Gordon Philip of the C. of C. announces.

Have You Overlooked a Friend on Your Christmas List?

We have several very nice lines of Christmas Gift Slippers on hand for men, women and children.

WOMEN'S LEATHER AND FELT COSY AND BOUDOIR SLIPPERS. A good choice of colors and patterns. Priced from \$1.00 to \$1.95.

MEN'S FELT COSY AND LEATHER BOUDOIR SLIPPERS. A splendid assortment to pick from. Priced from \$1.35 to \$2.00.

CHILDREN'S SLIPPERS. In many different colors and designs. Sizes 5 to 10, from 75c to \$1.25.

Misses' sizes, 11 to 2, from \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Ashplants

JAIL HEADS WILL BE LEFT ALONE

Tory Enthusiasts Fail To Have Favorites Placed in County Offices.

The official heads of Sheriff D. A. Graham and Governor Byron Dawson of the county jail are safe again for another period.

The fact came to light today that since the defeat of the U. F. O. government, which appointed both men, Tory workers have been strenuously campaigning to have the patronage axe swung to make way for deserving Conservatives.

A special effort has been made to have the shrievalty declared vacant to provide a plum for a Tory war horse who had borne the heat of battle in one of the Middlesex ridings. It was found, however, that the sheriff has done a satisfactory job since his appointment, and he is to be left alone.

Had this plan gone through, it was proposed to restore former Deputy Sheriff R. P. Watterworth to his old job, and several names have been mentioned for the position of governor of the jail. Among them was George Chittick, son of County Magistrate W. H. Chittick, whose powers were curtailed by the U. F. O. when some of the county constables were attacked by Deputy F. O. when some of the county constables were attacked in the county council for having commercialized the fee system by the prosecution of automobile offenders.

During the past few weeks deputations of London and Middlesex Tories have visited Toronto several times in connection with both jobs, but the conclusion has been reached that there will be no early change.