RATES
Through Newsdealer and Carrier.
Delivered, by the week 15c
Called for, by the week 13c
Single copies 3c

The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

HOME EDITION
Weather—Fair.

57TH YEAR. NO. 22898 | THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 1920. 112 COLUMNS. | PRICE THREE CENTS.

FIFTY MILLIONS IN LUXURY TAXES DURING YEAR

Government Is Forced to Act Because of Continued Protests.

SERVED ITS PURPOSE

Impost Was Causing Factories To Suspend Operations.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—(Canadian Press.—Telegrams are being received from many parts of Canada this morning congratulating the Government on its decision to abolish the luxury tax, except on certain articles. The order abolishing the tax came as a surprise, but apparently it was a welcome surprise for buyers and sellers alike. Members of the cabinet this morning stated, however, that they felt that the tax had served its purpose in checking the purchase of expensive goods which could be done without, and that the order was necessary in the interests of everyone. Several factories manufacturing goods which came under the luxury tax had closed down and several others were threatening to close their doors and throw other persons out of employment. The Government, therefore took advantage of its power to remit the taxes rather than wait for the opening of Parliament.

Since the taxes came into effect there has scarcely been a day on which one or more messages of criticism and complaint had not been received by some member of the cabinet.

Automobile Tax Removed.

While the luxury tax has been removed from many of the articles which were sold under it, those which remain are the articles which were bringing in the revenue. The luxury tax must still be paid on purchases of alcoholic and spirituous liquors, confectionery, playing cards and alcohol perfumes and the sales tax remains in effect. The sales tax was a heavy revenue producer. The tax on automobiles was the chief revenue getter of the manufacturers' tax, which is also abolished.

The revenue from these taxes since the first of the year has been almost $50,000,000, and while it is impossible at the present time to estimate what would have been the revenue tax to the end of the fiscal year, it is stated by officials of the customs department that the main revenue producers under the luxury tax will still pay.

SIR THOMAS WHITE WARMLY COMMENDS GOVERNMENT'S ACTION

Toronto, Dec. 20.—"The Government acted wisely in removing the luxury tax, and in doing so at the present time, instead of waiting until the next budget," said Sir Thomas White, minister of finance, today. "The abolition of the tax will undoubtedly prove a stimulus to business. It has been felt by the general public that it would be of only temporary duration, and on this account a large part of the community have been postponing their purchasing. Sir Henry Drayton has made a most valuable gift to trade and industry and to the people of Canada generally."

Sir Thomas further stated "that while the luxury tax has undoubtedly proven a deterrent to business and has reacted to a certain extent upon industry, it must be borne in mind that it has exercised a most wholesome check upon the reckless extravagance in evidence a year ago among practically all classes, which, had it been allowed to continue, would have led to most serious, if not disastrous, consequences."

CHRISTMAS TRADE LIKELY TO BOOM WITH TAX OFF

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Considerable stimulation to Christmas shopping in higher priced articles was reported today by various downtown stores, as the result of announcement of removal by the Government of the luxury tax.

Retail merchants are jubilant of course, some of them declaring that the action of the cabinet on Saturday was the "best thing could have happened" to the country. The officials of Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the local board of trade officially commend removal of the tax as an act that will greatly benefit the people in the present state of "depression" from unemployment and "over-stockings."

One departmental store manager, discussing the results of the tax removal, told of the return today of several garments bought on Saturday, at prices plus the luxury tax. The parties concerned, he declared, would no doubt come back and rebuy their dresses at the price with the luxury tax taken off.

BUYING WILL INCREASE WITH TAX'S REMOVAL

Hamilton, Dec. 20.—The Spectator says: Undoubtedly buying will be stimulated by the removal of the imposts. Extravagance has been curbed and the revenue received, so that the judgment of the minister has been fully vindicated. Instead of an era of extravagance we have today what has been termed a buyers' strike coincident

Continued on Page Eleven.

UNIVERSITY PROVIDES SPECIAL GUARDS TO PROTECT STUDENTS

Repeated Holdups Have Made Action Necessary.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—University of Chicago students have organized a vigilance committee to protect co-eds and others in the neighborhood from criminals who have been active in the district about the campus, it became known today.

Repeated hold-ups along the midway have made the university campus an armed camp by night. Special guards retained by the university, patrol the neighborhood and act as escorts for young women whose studies necessitate journeys from one building to another after sunset.

RESCUES GIRL FROM RIVER.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 20.—Frantic screams at midnight coming from the harbor in the vicinity of North Market wharf attracted several citizens and sailors who pulled out a pretty 17-year-old girl, who said she had fallen off the wharf ten minutes previously. Two Chinamen were seen on the wharf nearby, but disappeared during the confusion. The girl, who was taken to her home in an ambulance, was identified as Miss Gladys Carter, elevator attendant in the Union Bank Building.

Official Report of Crucial Naval Engagement

ADMIRAL JEILLICOE, whose dispatch describing the battle of Jutland and the narratives of the squadron commanders has just been published by the British admiralty.

BATH COST HIM $2,100

Montreal, Dec. 20.—Kastyn Awanchuck of Coughlin, Ontario, on his way to Russia through this city, last night found that a bath cost him just over $2,000.

Passing in the vicinity of the Windsor Hotel he was accosted by a man who recommended him to a room, where he could get a hot bath "to refresh him." He went there and took the bath, and on going into the room afterwards found the man had decamped with his money, $2,100 in all.

He has lodged a complaint with the police.

GRAIN SHIPMENTS FROM LAKE PORTS

Millions of Bushels Sent From Fort William and Port Arthur.

Fort William Dec. 20.—The following preliminary statement showing the total quantities of each kind of grain shipped from Fort William and Port Arthur by vessels during the period between September 1 and the closing of navigation December 14, 1920, was issued Saturday by the board of grain commissioners: to Canadian ports, wheat, 28,502,400 bushels; oats, 6,413,781; barley, 2,967,081; flax 533,486; rye, 432,502; elevator screenings nil.

To United States ports: wheat, 57,325,905 bushels; oats, 705,284; barley, 631,514; flax, 820,296; rye, 931,966; elevator screenings, 41,940 tons. Total shipped in Canada and United States vessels 89 cars of wheat, 85,525,385 bushels; oats, 7,119,065; barley, 3,598,595; flax, 1,353,782; rye, 1,414,368; elevator screenings, 41,940 tons.

DOUBTS IF EMBARGO ON CANADIAN WHEAT WOULD HAVE EFFECT

U. S. Commission Indicates a Ban Would Be Inadvisable.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—The president of the United States is without power under existing law "to shut out wheat imports," but he apparently has certain powers under the "Lever act to stop future trading in wheat," the federal trade commission says in a special report to President Wilson made public today at the White House. The commission says it is questionable whether the barring of Canadian wheat would have the effect its advocates expect" and while making no recommendations one way or the other indicates it believes this move would be inadvisable. The commission says that "while evidence is not available that future trading is responsible for the decline in wheat prices, it does not appear that future trading in wheat as at present operating, is of indisputable service to the grain trade." It suggests, however, that if regulatory action is to be employed, the question be considered by Congress and that legislation "not connected with war powers be enacted."

Commission's Report.

The commission's report is based on an investigation of the wheat situation which the president requested it to make last October after Governor Allen of Kansas and others had urged him to bar Canadian wheat importations.

Among several causes which the commission assigns for the decline of wheat price in the United States is included "unprecedented" importations from Canada, following an unprecedented yield and a discount in rate of exchange. Discussing the barring of Canadian wheat, the commission says: "It is questionable whether such a proceeding would have the effect its advocates expect, because the United States and Canada both have surpluses to export and will meet each other in competition either here or in Europe."

WANT SEVERAL ITEMS ADDED TO IMPORTS LIST

Washington, Dec. 20.—Representatives in the House from the agricultural districts pledged their support today to the Fordney emergency tariff bill, but instructed a committee to urge that frozen and refrigerated beef, lemons and canned salmon be included in the list of imports on which high tariffs would be imposed.

Action by the conference of members

Continued on Page Eleven.

SUCCEEDS HARDING AS CROWN COUNSEL

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Shirley Denison, K. C., has been appointed counsel for the crown in the timber inquiry to succeed J. T. Harding, who recently resigned. The new appointment was announced by Attorney-General Raney this morning.

BOATHOUSES ARE BURNED.

St. Catharines, Dec. 20.—Fire from an unknown cause at an early hour this morning completely destroyed three boathouses in the old canal with all contents and damaged a fourth. Two motorboats and seven canoes and rowboats went up in smoke.

MANY ATTEND SALE OF UNCLAIMED GOODS AT CUSTOMS HOUSE

Box of Dolls Finds No Bidder.

HATS FOR CHILDREN

Prove of Little Interest to the Large Crowd of Purchasers.

Many and varied were the types of humanity, and types of parcels present at an auction sale of unclaimed goods at the customs house this morning. The parcels were offered for sale unopened, and the buyers eagerly scanned the exterior of each in faint hopes that it would lend a clue to the contents. Of course the label affixed to each parcel proclaimed its contents, but the quality was not announced. The packages were offered separately, the auctioneer starting his bids off with the amount of charges against each.

Two packages of worn clothing, one of which had an account of $14.65 against it, went begging for a bidder, as did also a box containing many dolls. A mysterious looking box, which the auctioneer announced contained a hat with $7.50 charged against it, did not bring a bid, and then the loquacious one discovered that there were six children's hats in the package. (One for each in the family.) Even this tempting information failed to induce any of those present to part with $7.50, and the box was retained.

Auto parts and castings which the buyer could not see failed to elicit a bid and were rejected for other articles. When all the "unknowns" had been offered, the packages were opened and then put on sale. As this process continued many prospective buyers regretted the fact that they did not avail themselves of the opportunity of purchasing when opposition was less keen, while others who did avail themselves regarded in disgust the contents of the packages which they had bid in while in search of something for nothing.

GREEKS REJOICE AS CONSTANTINE ENTERS ATHENS

Former King Given Wonderful Reception On Return.

PROMISES PEACE

People Shed Tears of Joy As Ex-Monarch Arrives.

Athens, Dec. 20.—Amid the thunder of cannon, the hum of circling aeroplanes and the roaring cheers of a great throng, Constantine of Greece entered Athens yesterday. His arrival was compared by his admirers to Napoleon's return from Elba, and tears of joys were seen flowing down the cheeks of people swarming near his carriage.

Immediately after alighting from the railway train, Constantine drove to the cathedral, where a magnificent service was given, all the bishops in Athens participating. It was noticeable that no foreign ministers were present at the welcoming ceremonies. The arrival of Constantine was not marred by any incident.

When Constantine emerged from his railway carriage he bowed salutations to the crowd, and tears were seen in his eyes as he said to those near him: "Still my children." He embraced Queen Mother Olga and shook hands with Princess Christopher and then was escorted to his carriage in which he was taken to the cathedral.

Read His Address.

Constantine read his address from the balcony of the old palace in the presence of 50,000 persons. He was dressed in a marshal's uniform. Queen Sophie and Princess Christopher were present.

He declared he would establish internal unity and exterior peace by using the army to cultivate good relations with the Allied powers. He said the narratives of Prince George, Duke of Sparta, and Princess Elizabeth of Rumania insured an alliance with that country, and he declared he would follow the policy of his fathers and cultivate the ancient Greek culture.

Constantine asserted he suffered deeply during his exile, and referred to the late King Alexander as one "who had done his duty."

The merchant steamer bringing correspondents from Venice has not as yet arrived at Piraeus.

ALLIED WARSHIPS LEAVE.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Allied warships which had been in the harbor of Piraeus, the seaport of Athens, left prior to the arrival of Constantine on board the Greek cruiser Averoff yesterday, so as to avoid paying honors to the returning monarch, an Athens dispatch states.

ITALIAN MINISTER ANNOUNCES DEFICIT

Loans Will Be Floated to Cover Amounts Required.

Rome, Dec. 20.—In presenting his financial statement in the Chamber of Deputies today, Signor Veda, minister of finance, announced a budget deficit of nearly 14,000,000,000 lire for 1920-21, which must be covered by loans or treasury operations. He estimated that the deficit in 1921-22 would amount approximately to 10,000,000,000 lire. The public debt has increased by approximately 14,000,000,000 lire, amounting on October 31 to 98,000,000,000 lire.

WITHDRAWAL OF JAP TROOPS IN CHENTAO DISTRICT DELAYED

Tokio, Dec. 20.—The withdrawal of the Japanese expedition to the Chentao district, on the Koran Manchurian border, which had been contemplated by the Government, has been indefinitely postponed, according to the Jiji Shimbun today. The newspaper, which says its information is obtained from the most reliable sources, adds that the postponement was because of the increasing gravity of the situation in the district, where Korean insurgents and bandits have been active.

A Tokio dispatch of December 17 reported a recent attack by Korean insurgents upon a Japanese detachment in the Chentao district, the Japanese being surrounded and losing 18 killed and eighty-five wounded. Chinese troops finally extricated the Japanese.

ABOLITION OF LUXURY TAX ONLY GOOD MOVE PRESENT GOVERNMENT EVER MADE, SAYS MANUFACTURER

Local Merchants Predict Increased Christmas Activity — Will Revive Business Along All Lines—Early Shoppers "Out of Luck."

That cancelling of the luxury tax, effective today by order-in-council, is a nation-wide boon for the general betterment of trade and employment conditions was evidenced this morning, when The Advertiser sought the opinion of local merchants and manufacturers on the subject. Several of those interviewed caution the public not to be stampeded into thinking that prices will take a decided slump, and thus disorganize trade by holding off in the hope of the same materializing.

"It is the best Christmas box in the world," said W. D. Stevenson, first vice-president of the Starr Phonograph Company of Canada, regarding the cancelled tax. "Nearly every piano factory in Canada has closed as a result of the tax, and the phonograph companies were next on the list. The people are fed up on paying the tax. There is no question that business will pick up in our line. The piano factories will start up at once. It means a revision of prices as soon as present stocks are cleaned out. The people should not, however, be stampeded into thinking that prices will shoot downward at once. It clears away a mass of detail to keep track of, and we can attend to business properly now. A sales tax which would give more revenue and develop more business should be in order, eliminating the present system, whereby an economic merchant with resultant profit has it taken away by the Government and straightforward businessmen are discriminated against."

"It is the only good move the present Government has ever made," declared A. E. Sherlock of the Sherlock-Manning Piano Company today. "It is a very good thing, and will revive business. The dealers have been buying from hand to mouth in hopes that the tax would be lifted at the next session, and we have already had a large order wired in this morning as a result of the Government action, and we anticipate employing more hands. It is the best Christmas present we have ever had handed to us."

Ruin the Country.

"I had no inkling of it," said James Grey, president of Gray's, Limited. "The newspapers and luxury tax did more to ruin the country than anything. Prices will come down gradually with no vicious slump. The only thing that will do that is overproduction, which we have not at the present time. The tax has not worked out very satisfactory with us."

"I am glad to see it off, although it has been no trouble whatever," said Joseph Hickey, manager of the local branch of Grafton and Company. "It will stimulate the trade and relieve us of the trouble of handling stamps which meant one third more work at a busy time."

"I think it is a good thing," said Rowland Hill, shoe merchant, it will enable the merchant to sell better shoes. Many customers refused to pay over $9 for a pair of shoes, because of the tax, thinking they were giving something for nothing. At present conditions the better shoes cost more than the taxable price, and the public will buy the better grades. In addition, it believes an of extra work during the Christmas rush."

"It is a Christmas present to the public," declared John A. Nash, jeweler. "Although in my trade the people have not held off because of the tax. Our trade was never better and removal of the tax will add to it. It is a wonderful boom to the jewelry trade and automatically lowers the prices at once."

Extra Work.

Meanwhile although extra work is lifted from the merchants and manufacturers, the staff of Thomas G. Davis, collector of inland revenue, is working overtime today, officially notifying businessmen of the lifted tax. The collector estimated that it will require at least a month to clear away all difficulties and straighten matters out in the district. Contrary to the interpretation of the order-in-council by many merchants, Collector Davis announces that articles purchased prior to today, upon which a small deposit has been paid are taxable for the full amount, the sale having been made prior to cancellation of the luxury tax. One merchant interpreting the order-in-council stated that in his opinion, only the amount paid on the article would be taxable, but Mr. Davis does not agree with him.

The collector points out that the penalties for evading the tax are still in force, and all taxes due for recent sales must be paid. He has been besieged by many merchants who wish to dispose of surplus luxury stamps which are not necessary now that the tax has been lifted. The tax on confectionery which may be classed as candy, or a substitute for candy, on playing cards, and upon liquor remains, according to an official telegram sent to Mr. Davis today.

They Certainly Are.

Citizens who obeyed the impulse to shop early and purchased taxable goods for Christmas are no doubt "kicking themselves" today, but according to the provisions of the order-in-council there is no redress for them. However, the lifting of the tax for Christmas week will undoubtedly boom trade, provide employment for more workers, and thereby ultimate cheer and prosperity throughout the Dominion. Strange to state a few local merchants refused to comment on the good news, and in a way seemed reluctant to admit that the tax had been repealed.

The sales tax remains in force, the luxury tax only being lifted. Regarding the former the collector of inland revenue has received the following instructions from Ottawa:

For the purpose of determining the amount of sales tax applicable on any sale, the following regulations shall govern:

1. Sales tax shall be computed upon the total value of any sale.

2. Where the amount of the sales tax thus computed results in a figure containing the fraction of a cent, and the fraction is less than one-half cent, such fraction shall be disregarded; where the fraction is one-half cent or more, it shall be treated as one cent.

3. Where the amount of the tax on any sale is less than one-half cent, no tax is collectable.

The above regulations are effective from December 1, 1920.

CITY OPENS UP EMPLOYMENT BUREAU IN EAST END HALL

William Casson, Veteran of War, Will Have Full Charge — Appointed by May or Little Today.

Acting on the recommendation of the committee which investigated charges against the Ontario Government Employment Bureau, Mayor Little today authorized the opening of a city bureau in the East London hall.

None of the charges which were made against the government bureau materialized when the special commission, composed of Lieut.-Col. W. J. Brown, Fred Young and Rev. G. Q. Warner, met to take evidence. From investigations which they conducted, they were of the opinion, however, that it would be better to have a city bureau independent of the provincial one.

Mayor Little accordingly made arrangements with the Soldiers' Aid Commission to have Sergt.-Major William Casson take charge of the work for the city, combining the Soldiers' Aid bureau with that to be run by the city. He is considered to be exceptionally well suited for the position. Mr. Casson is a returned man, and for the past few months has been handling the employment work of the commission, and is therefore experienced along that line. Before that he was a member of City Clerk Baker's staff. During the Western Fair week he was in charge of the bureau which arranged accommodation for visitors.

It is thought that the East London hall will be an ideal location for the bureau, as it is close to the industrial district, and also close to the homes of many men who are seeking employment.

In making the announcement today of the opening of the bureau, Mayor Little emphasized the fact that the bureau will only attempt to find employment for citizens. Ex-soldiers, with dependents, will be given first consideration; then civilians with dependents; next single returned men, and lastly single civilians.

Fifteen more men will be added to the city pay roll Tuesday.

Acting City Engineer H. McNabb was busy today arranging work for them. The men have already been engaged by the Ontario Government Labor Bureau with that to be run by the city. He morrow.

Three-day shifts will be inaugurated some time this week, Mr. McNabb said.

ALLEGED BANDITS PLACED ON TRIAL

Men Were Arrested Shortly After Bank Was Robbed.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 20.—William Porter and Charles Carter, captured by Roanoke police in the early morning of November 19, a few hours after the bank of Glasgow, W. Va., was rifled of $96,253 in Liberty bonds and securities, were placed on trial here today. In a pitched battle on the outskirts of Roanoke, James B. Rodger of Philadelphia, driving a large touring car, was killed by the police, and his companions, Porter, who bears the aliases of William Welsh and Belfontain "Shim," and Carter, whose alias is Charles Wilkes, were arrested. Much of the loot was found in the automobile. The police had been informed of the robbery by the Glasgow bank officials in the morning and immediately set watch on the three roads from that place.

When intercepted on one of the roads an hour later, the automobile was going at high speed and turned turtle when an effort was made to swerve around the police patrol which had been placed across the road. In the battle which followed Rodger was killed and a policeman wounded.

All the loot was identified as belonging to the Glasgow bank, local police maintained that the men were responsible for robberies in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

BODY FOUNR IN LAKE.

Wakefield, Mass., Dec. 20.—The body of Frederick P. Knight, a real estate dealer, was found yesterday floating in three feet of water in Lake Quannapowitt, after a strenuous search by citizens. Knight had been missing since Tuesday morning.

THIEVES ENTER RESIDENCE OF MR. A. B. GREER

Steal Overcoat of Jared Vining—Crown Attorney McKillop Phones for Police.

While a party of ten friends were celebrating with A. B. Greer, 99 York street, Sunday night, at supper, his 50th year as a Mason, thieves entered his home and stole the new overcoat of Jared Vining, who was one of the guests, a wrist watch, two rings and a sum of money from the room of Miss Grace Greer, as well as numerous other articles of value. Mrs. Greer's handbag was found hanging on the handls of a door upstairs, empty.

Jack Greer, son of Mr. Greer, discovered the robbery when he walked out to the veranda, and found an overcoat lying there. He immediately brought it inside, and asked which one of the guests had divested himself of his outer raiment in the cool outdoors.

Hurried Investigation.

A hurried investigation was made, and it was found that while the guests had been enjoying themselves talking over old times that one or more daring sneakthieves had been enjoying themselves, only in a different way, and at the expense of the guests.

Crown Attorney J. B. McKillop, who was among the guests, immediately telephoned the police, and officers arrived in double-quick time, and are now working on the robbery.

Thomas Rowe and A. E. Cooper were also among those present at the supper.

URGES DE VALERA TO TURN OVER FUNDS TO PEOPLE OF IRELAND

Request Is Made by Massachusetts Council.

MILLIONS IN BANK

Would Use Money to Alleviate Suffering in Emerald Isle.

Boston, Dec. 20.—A request that he at once send to Ireland the funds collected in the Irish liberty bond drive was telegraphed last night to Eamonn De Valera as "president of the Irish republic" by the Massachusetts Council of the Friends of Irish Freedom.

The telegram said in part: "We understand that millions of dollars collected for Ireland during the bond sale are deposited in American banks in your name and remain in your personal control. We believe the suffering people of Ireland are entitled to the use of these funds, at once. Therefore, at a regular meeting of the state council it was voted to respectfully urge you to send all available funds to Ireland. As a large part of the fund in your possession was subscribed in Massachusetts through the instrumentality of the friends of Irish freedom, we know that we speak the sentiment of the Irish people of this state when we urge you to act on this suggestion at the earliest possible moment."

The message was signed by Daniel Moran, president of the council.

POLICE SECURE PRISONERS HELD BY SINN FEINERS

Dublin, Dec. 20.—Parties of the military and police, setting out in boats, surrounded the main island of the Arran group, at the entrance to Galway Bay, early Sunday morning to carry out a search. Two men were shot in attempting to escape, three others were wounded and seven prisoners were taken, according to brief official messages received in Dublin today.

Whether a fight occurred in securing the prisoners was not stated in the messages. No reference was made to any casualties to the crown forces.

It is understood that Inishmaan Island, which presumably is the one which was surrounded, was used by the Sinn Feiners for prisoners taken in Galway. Several months ago the police attempted a landing to rescue the prisoners, but their boat was stoned and driven off.

GERMANS ATTRIBUTE HIGH DEATH RATE TO SHORTAGE OF MILK

Claim Surrender of 800,000 Cows Would Be Calamity.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDS

Definite Figures On Reparations Expected in Few Days.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—Surrender to the Allies of 800,000 milch cows, which have been demanded under the terms of the Versailles treaty, would have disastrous results in Germany, says a letter to the women of France from a committee of German women. Continued deprivation of the German people of the milk supply represented by these cows would result in weakening public stamina and individual resistance and, therefore, operate to reduce the ability of Germany to fulfill treaty obligations through necessary production, it is said.

For nearly six years the populations of German cities have not had milk, the letter asserts, and, owing to this fact, the death rate from tuberculosis had doubled since 1913, and 38,000 more children died in 1918 than in 1913. In Prussia alone there has been an increase in child mortality of 100 per cent.

DELEGATES EXPECT TO FINISH WORK BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Brussels, Dec. 20.—Private conversations between allied and German financial experts relative to the amount Germany might be expected to pay to the Allies in reparations continued here this morning. The financial conference therefore did not meet until noon. This plan gave Pierre Cheysshon, French inspector of finances, an opportunity to return from Paris, where he went Saturday night to consult his Government relative to some phases of the negotiations going on here.

Delegates to the conference expressed the hope they would be able to complete their work before Christmas, and indicated unexpected progress had been made. The task originally assigned the conference was to gather facts which would be basis of later action, but it is expected that the Allied delegates will be able to report German suggestions as to reparations and their own estimates of the highest figure Germany can and will pay.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—FAIR.

Toronto, Dec. 20—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Today — Moderate westerly winds; fair.

Tuesday—Winds shifting to eastward; fair; not much change in temperature.

Temperature.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	42	40	Cloudy
Calgary	16	— 8	Cloudy
Winnipeg	6	— 8	Fair
Port Arthur	14	6	Cloudy
Parry Sound	28	20	Snow
Port Stanley	24	20	Cloudy
Buffalo	24	22	Cloudy
Toronto	30	20	Fair
Kingston	30	20	Fair
Ottawa	20	18	Cloudy
Montreal	28	22	Cloudy
Quebec	26	14	Cloudy
Father Point	28	16	Cloudy
Halifax	38	30	Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.

An area of high pressure extends from Northern Saskatchewan across the Great Lakes to the Atlantic, and the weather is fair in nearly all parts of the Dominion.

It is moderately cold from Ontario eastward, while zero emperatures prevail in the Western Provinces.

SEEKS CO-OPERATION OF FARMERS

PREMIER NORRIS of Manitoba, who has suggested co-operative action between independent farmers and Government groups.

SHOOTS BROTHER IN MISTAKE FOR BURGLAR

Morristown, N. J., Dec. 20.—Aroused by reported depredations of holdup men and burglars in the neighborhood, Frederick Bryan early today fired a shot at a suspicious looking man outside his mother's cottage in Towaco, near here, and then, approaching the suspect, who had fallen to the sidewalk, discovered that he had seriously wounded his brother, Archibald Bryan.

From his own cottage nearby, Frederick explained later to the police he had seen a light moving in his mother's house when he believed her to be in Vermont with her other son. Investigating, he saw a man come out of the house and failing to recognize his brother in the darkness, fired.

PRICES REDUCED WITH REMOVAL OF LUXURY TAX

Toronto Merchants Announce Ten Per Cent Cut in Commodities.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—The local retail merchants, affected by the withdrawal of the luxury tax were not slow in announcing reductions in the price of their wares. Departmental and jewelry stores, in particular, are this morning displaying notices calling attention to a ten per cent reduction in price made possible "by the withdrawal of the luxury tax." It is expected that there will be considerable improvement in the volume of business done, with the lower prices prevailing.

LABOR PAPER WILL OPPOSE ASHPLANT IN RACE FOR MAYOR

Labor Leader, Toronto Publication, Has Large Circulation Here.

Labor forces will enter the mayoralty contest with a split rank once more, according to information given The Advertiser today in connection with the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Industrial Banner in Toronto. At this gathering, W. J. Hevey, a former Londoner, and one of the owners of the opposition labor paper, the Labor Leader, declared that he would oppose H. B. Ashplant, the nominee of the Labor Representation Committee in the London mayoralty fight, and that he would also work against James Simpson in the Toronto municipal elections.

Because of its stand on the London municipal elections last year, when it strongly opposed Ashplant and other labor nominees, the Labor Leader has been repudiated as a labor organ by most of the labor bodies in the city. It is said to have a considerable circulation here, and, therefore, may have some influence on the election.

Joseph Marks, a former Londoner, has been chosen as a director of the Industrial Banner in place of John Doggett, secretary of the building trades council. James Simpson has been reappointed managing editor. There was little criticism of his work at the meeting, although some was expected.

DOUGHTY PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO DOUBLE CHARGE

Remanded to Jail Again For Another Week.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—John Doughty appeared in police court this morning, charged with kidnapping Ambrose Small, millionaire theatrical magnate, and the larceny of $100,000, I. F. Hellmuth, K. C., Doughty's counsel, pleaded not guilty to the charge and reserved election. He was again remanded for one week.

DECLARE USUAL DIVIDENDS.

Montreal, Dec. 20.—The board of directors of the Asbestos Corporation of Canada met in New York on Saturday and, according to information received here from that city yesterday, decided to declare the usual dividends of 6 per cent on common stock and 7 per cent on preferred stock of the enterprise or 1 1-2 and 1 3-4 per cent quarterly together with a bonus of 2 per cent on each, all payable January 15 to shareholders of record January 1.

It will be remembered that the preferred stock, being non-cumulative is participating and ranks equally with the common after 5 per cent has been paid on the junior security.

VINCENT STRONG GETS SENTENCE OF SEVEN YEARS

Dangerous Man To Be At Large, Says Judge Macbeth.

AUTO THIEVES

Each Sentenced to One Year in Jail—Cahill Goes to Burwash.

Vincent Strong was sentenced by Judge Macbeth this morning to seven years' imprisonment for five different offences, the sentences to run concurrently and also concurrently with convictions for previous offences. Strong had a three-year sentence ahead of him when he escaped from jail, and the police magistrate gave him an additional year for jail breaking. Today's sentence of seven years in all, is, therefore, an addition of three years to the four years previously ahead of him.

Strong stated that he had nothing to say.

"I thought at first you were not responsible for your actions," said Judge Macbeth, who added that he had obtained opinions of physicians since that the prisoner was quite sane.

"But foolish as you may be, you are a dangerous man to be at large," said the judge.

Frank Cahill, for the theft of a ring, was given an indeterminate sentence at Burwash Farm, of not less than three months and not more than two years, less one day.

"I'm pretty well up in years," said Cahill, "and my sister is in the hospital with no other support than mine. She will be in a bad way when she comes out."

"Don't you think it's time you quit drinking?" said the judge. "You're a good workman."

Cahill agreed that it was time he quit drinking, and the judge expressed the hope that the liquor would be harder to obtain when the prisoner is released.

Cahill gave his age as 49.

Theodore Sharman and Leighton Rumball, for attempting to drive away with another man's automobile on the market square, were given a minimum sentence of one year's imprisonment, with hard labor.

William Acker, convicted of stealing a watch, will be sentenced Wednesday. W. R. Meredith, his counsel, asking for a delay until Acker's father can attend the court. Acker, speaking himself, said he was convicted once before in St. Thomas, and would have been let go but his father asked the magistrate to send him to the reformatory for one year. To his year in the reformatory, Acker apparently attributed his falling into trouble a second time.

CRIME CRUSADE IN FULL SWING IN NEW YORK

Roundup of Suspicious Characters Covers Entire City.

New York, Dec. 20.—The over-Sunday lull in New York's wave of criminal violence, which last week caused many citizens to arm in self-protection, were rudely shattered early today when two armed men descended on the Seamen's Mission on West street, and made their escape after having added another murder and robbery to the long list of recent atrocities.

Taking advantage of the fact that the mission house is nearly deserted in the early morning the two thugs, entering unobserved, suddenly confronted the mission clerk with revolvers and forced him to open the office safe and surrender its contents of about $400. At this juncture James Russell, years old, entered the office. He tempted to interfere, and was brought down by a shot and died before the arrival of an ambulance.

New York, Dec. 20.—The most sweeping roundup of crooks and suspicious characters in the history of New York was under full swing today by the city's police force of 11,000 men, augmented by 4,800 reserves, in an effort to stem the wave of crime that startled the metropolis last week. More than 150 persons were caught in the dragnet late last night, but no important arrests were made, the police said.

Police Commissioner Enright, who in personal charge of the drive, issued the edict: "Drag out every crook and arrest him at sight." The most dangerous characters will be rounded up at headquarters. If no charge can be proved against them, they will be ordered to take the first train out of town or go to jail for an indefinite period.

The crusade, which is being carried on with relentless vigor, accumulated force over Sunday, when business was virtually at a standstill. Only routine petty crimes were reported overnight, the authorities claimed. The city is divided into zones, where special details are delving into every nook and cranny. Squads of police in automobiles continued to patrol strategic points in the financial and shopping districts.

Citizens took steps to supplement the work of the police.

A number of organizations called meetings for today to discuss the situation and to take council as to whether they should arm themselves.

BALTIMORE POLICE PREPARE TO MEET INFLUX OF CROOKS

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 20.—Fearing an invasion of criminals as a result of the efforts of the New York police authorities to rid the metropolis of its undesirables, the Baltimore authorities have taken steps to meet it. The railroad stations have been put under increased police guards and other precautions taken to prevent an influx of criminals from New York or other cities, it was learned today.

CHINA PLANS RELIEF TO FAMINE SUFFERERS BY INCREASED CUSTOMS

Pekin, Dec. 20.—The Chinese foreign office has notified the foreign legations that a 10 per cent increase in customs duties to be applied to famine relief in the districts where millions of Chinese are hunger sufferers, will become effective January 16. The proceeds, it was stated, would be dispersed by the Chinese Charities' Board attached to the ministry of the interior. The principal powers are said to have given their assent to the plan, although Great Britain and France were said to have made it a condition of their approval that there be adequate supervision over the dispersement of the funds.