

THE WEATHER:
FRESH WINDS, CLOUDY, SNOW,
WEDNESDAY—COLDER.

London Evening Advertiser

BIG CHRISTMAS BUSINESS
IS YOURS FOR THE ASKING—
ADVERTISE.

61ST YEAR. NO. 24,53

LONDON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1924. —SIXTEEN PAGES.

THREE CENTS.

BUILDERS' WAGES IN CITY WILL REMAIN FIRM

Irish Free State Defies Britain On Treaty Registration

BUILDERS' WAGE CUT NOT SEEN

Change Not Expected To Take Place in London at Present.

WORK IMPROVES
Amount of Construction Tends To Hold Men's Pay at Level.

No reduction in the wages of builders' help is expected in London, in spite of the fact that the builders' exchange of Toronto believes a reduction necessary. Syd. Jones, president of the London builders' exchange, told The Advertiser today that with the present volume of building in operation and in sight in the city there was no prospect of any reduction.

Present wages in London, according to the agreement made last January between the exchange and the trades union involved, are given as: Plasterers and bricklayers, \$1 an hour; carpenters, 80 cents an hour; plumbers, 75 cents an hour; painters, 65 cents an hour, and sheet metal workers, 75 cents an hour. It is probable that these prices will remain unaltered when on Jan. 1 of next year the new wage agreement is made.

"We cannot very well consider a reduction in wages," said Mr. Jones, "when there is as much building going on as there is in London today. In Detroit the bricklayer is getting \$1.60 and in Toronto \$1.25, so you see that there is some attraction in other centers. However, there is no shortage of builders' help in the city at present. No reduction is probable just now and we are not thinking of it."

COLD KILLS FIFTY PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAN WEST

Associated Press Despatch.
Chicago, Dec. 22.—A blizzard was roaring out of the west today to replace the Arctic temperatures which for three days have wrought havoc in the Mississippi valley and the surrounding territory. The temperatures were slowly rising and the weather bureau had announced the back of the season's first severe cold wave was definitely broken. The cold wave was definitely broken. The death toll from the storm and cold today was placed conservatively at 50.

WINDSOR FIREMAN HURT WHEN FIRE TRUCK SKIDS

Special to The Advertiser.
Windsor, Dec. 22.—Roy Holmes, 40 years old, a fireman, was seriously injured early today when he fell from a fire truck as it skidded on an icy pavement while answering a call to the home of George Cotes, 810 Goyave street. He was taken to Hotel Dieu with a broken shoulder and other injuries. Cotes' home was destroyed. The blaze originated in the chimney shortly before 7 a.m. and had gained considerable headway before it was discovered.

The Weather

FORECASTS.
Fresh south-west winds; cloudy with light snow tonight and part of Wednesday; snow; colder again Wednesday night.
The depression, which was over Manitoba yesterday, is moving eastward across northern Ontario and another area of high pressure and cold weather is spreading into the western provinces from the northward. The temperature is somewhat higher this morning than on Tuesday.
TEMPERATURES.
The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 16; lowest, 8.
The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 16; lowest, 10.
Barometric Readings.
Tuesday, 8 a.m.—29.44.
Today, 8 a.m.—29.31.



LADY LUDLOW OF LOST GEM FAME.

The return of the famous half-million-dollar Werner collection of ancient and medieval jewels to Lady Ludlow, from whom cracksmen stole it in June, has brought to light a sensational story that an unnamed Chicago millionaire, hypnotized by the gems, had them stolen and taken to New York and that he died just after the theft, which led to the jewels being returned and a \$30,000 reward being paid. Who stole the gems has never been disclosed.

TROTSKY CHARGED WITH ALL SINS OF BOLSHEVIK REGIME

Dictatories Are In Demand
Associated Press Despatch.
Boston, Dec. 22.—A Boston publishing house reports that because of the cross word puzzle craze the usual output of 10,000 dictionaries a year has grown to a monthly production of that number, which increased day and night forces failed to keep pace with. On the small desk side the company has booked orders as far ahead as November, 1925.

LONDON CHOIR SINGS IN DETROIT ON SUNDAY

Musical Art Society Choir Will Give Special Christmas Program.
Special to The Advertiser.
Detroit, Dec. 22.—For the performance of the Messiah, which will be given in Orchestra hall next Sunday evening by the Detroit Symphony Choir, the male portion of the choir will be reinforced by a group of singers from the Musical Art Society choir of London, Ont., of which A. D. Jordan is conductor. The interest which the Detroit symphony concert excited in the surrounding country is most interesting. Mr. Jordan offered his entire chorus some time ago. This was impracticable, however, inasmuch as the stage at Orchestra hall could not accommodate so many singers as a combined choir would be. Mr. Jordan was asked to send on some men, particularly tenors. The addition of these Canadian singers, who are steeped in the best traditions of the Messiah, will greatly to the performance.

ALBANIAN INSURGENTS HAVE ENTERED TIRANA

Associated Press Despatch.
Belgrade, Dec. 22.—The Belgrade newspapers today print advice stating that a column of Albanian insurgents entered Tirana last evening. They also state that Scutari has fallen.

Previous reports of the fall of Scutari have been denied by Albanian government authorities. An official message received at the Albanian consulate in New York Monday, bringing the situation up to Sunday night, declared that the Scutari front was still in the hands of the government's hands.

SWALLOWS BRASS SCREW.

Special to The Advertiser.
Pittsburg, Dec. 22.—A one-inch brass screw, swallowed 28 years ago, was removed from the right lung of Frank Crawford, by Dr. J. Homer McCready here, yesterday.

CITY VOTE ON UNION IS "SILENT"

All Congregations in London Decide To Use Secret Ballot.

WORK PROGRESSES
Plans Complete Throughout City and Interest Is Keen.

Congregational voting on the question of entering the united church of Canada or remaining out of the union began last night in seven of the eight Presbyterian churches of the city.

It is estimated that 565 Presbyterians cast their ballots on the question last night. The result of the balloting in the several congregations will not be known until Wednesday night, Jan. 7.

Four of the seven congregations adopted the simple form of ballot recommended by the joint church union committee under the chairmanship of Rev. G. C. Ferguson, D.D., Toronto. A different ballot was adopted in each of the other three organizations.

The seven congregations were unanimous in their decision that the ballot should be marked only, and not marked and then signed by the voter. This, of course, means that the vote will be a closed one.

The "union" ballot, adopted by four congregations, consists of but one question, below which the voter expresses his desire by means of marking an "X" opposite a space for "yes" or "no." The question reads: "Are you in favor of this congregation entering the union of churches?"

Details of the various days and hours of voting are as follows: First Presbyterian, Rev. (Col.) Wm. Beattie, D.D., Caledonia, 7 to 9 p.m.; Form of ballot—That recommended by the joint church union committee.

Days and hours of voting—No voting on Sundays, Christmas Day or New Year's Day; polls open 3 to 4 p.m. this week and the first three days open 7 to 9 p.m.

Polls close finally at 8:45 p.m. Monday night, Jan. 5, when the ballots will be counted and the result announced.

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HON. F. M. BLACK, provincial treasurer of Manitoba, has resigned his ministerial portfolio to accept the vice-presidency of the Winnipeg Electric Company. He will have complete charge of all finances.

BANK DIVIDEND DECLARED ON MANAGER'S STATEMENT

R. P. Gough Testifies Directors Trusted to Information given by Active Officials.

WAS SURPRISED
Believed Toronto Branch Was Being Regularly Inspected.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Toronto, Dec. 22.—R. P. Gough, vice-president and director of the Home Bank, on trial in the county criminal court on charges of making false statements of the bank's financial affairs, continued his evidence this morning under cross-examination by D. L. McCarthy, crown prosecutor.

Mr. McCarthy continued to ask Mr. Gough about what took place at board meetings which he attended and paid particular attention to the annual meeting in May, 1917. Mr. Gough said that the annual report submitted to the shareholders at that day had not been presented to the directors previously.

Mr. Gough said he trusted the officials of the United States at that time. He thought his duty was to go to board meetings, give his opinions on loans and transactions and policy. He said he was assured by the general manager that inspections of head office had been made. He had never asked about the Toronto branch, but he understood it was regularly inspected and was surprised to know that it has not been inspected in recent years.

Mr. Gough said that the object of the bank was "service" to the public. Mr. McCarthy produced a Christmas card sent out by M. J. Haney when president, which contained the motto "Loyalty, industry and service." The word "loyalty" caused Mr. Gough to laugh.

Mr. Gough admitted that all the board of directors had before it when declaring a dividend was a cut and dried statement from the general manager. On this statement they declared the dividend. They secured no special information in declaring a dividend.

Mr. McCarthy said he proposed to show how the Home Bank served the public. Mr. Gough declared that a director might be exercising proper care and judgment even if the annual statement were wrong.

"Exercising proper judgment on the say-so of the general manager?" asked Mr. McCarthy.

"Directors couldn't carry on unless they had confidence in the general manager," said Mr. Gough, who added that he believed at the time there was a quite sufficient basis to have declared a dividend in 1917.

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"What was the basis of your belief that you had earned a dividend in 1917?" asked Mr. McCarthy.

"The assurance of the general manager," was the reply. "Did you have anything else besides the manager's assurance?" asked Mr. Gough.

FREE STATE HOLDS PACT ELIGIBLE

Great Britain Courteously Defined in Note From Dublin Government.

ASKS REGISTRATION
Treaty of 1921 Has Been the Subject of Unusual Controversy.

Associated Press Despatch.
Geneva, Dec. 22.—The Irish Free State, which has been unambiguously defined Great Britain today when, in a note to the league of nations it declared it was unable to accept the British contention that the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 was not susceptible to registration with the league.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, Dec. 22.—It is possible that the council of ambassadors, at its meeting in Paris this week, after considering an interim report from the allied military authorities on armament conditions in Germany, will send a communication to Berlin on the subject giving the allied views. It was learned in British official circles today.

In this connection, it was pointed out that Great Britain had no wish to prolong the occupation of the area for longer time than stipulated in the treaty of Versailles under which the evacuation date would be Jan. 10 next.

Reports from the allied military commission on the German disarmament, required under the treaty, had been delayed, however, because the Germans for a considerable time had not given adequate facilities for inspections.

After the Dublin government had registered this treaty with the league, Great Britain, it was added, considered the decision to move out of the Cologne bridgehead so important that it should not be made until mature consideration was given the final report on disarmament conditions, and this probably could not be until after Jan. 10.

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FRANCE TO BEGIN PAYMENTS TO U. S.

Jules J. Jusserand Announces Preferential Treatment Will Be Expected.

Associated Press Despatch.
Washington, Dec. 22.—Jules J. Jusserand, the retiring French ambassador, told an audience here today that France, after a moratorium for a "breathing spell," could and would begin repayment of her war debt to the United States. He made it plain, however, that France expected preferential treatment as compared with terms granted by the United States to other debtors, because, he said, France suffered the greatest loss in life and blood, the greatest in fortune comparatively, and, finally, because France was the battlefield.

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COAL GAS ENDANGERS MONTREAL FAMILIES

Eleven Have Narrow Escape From Death Due to Escaping Fumes.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Montreal, Dec. 22.—Coal gas seeping through the walls nearly brought death to eleven persons, twelve in all, in the Balkans, Quebec, last night. The gas, which was coming from a building under construction next to the dwellings, had been leaking since the walls were closed. The gas having no other outlet penetrated the walls.

The third of Mrs. Emile Greigore falling out of bed after being overcome by the gas, addressed the door. Her husband woke up, and though partly affected, managed to drag his wife to the hall. Then he brought out his three children.

Next door in the home of Mrs. G. Bouthier, widowed mother of five small children, there was no sound. Greigore, taking a run at the door, broke it down, and found Mrs. Bouthier and two of the children unconscious. The other three little ones were fast becoming overcome. Aided by the members of his own family, Greigore hauled out the victims. He then ran several blocks clad only in his night clothes and summoned aid.

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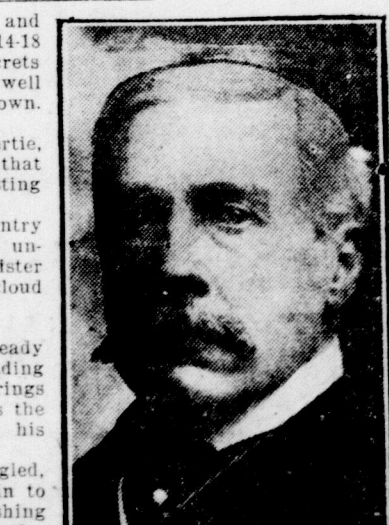
BEHIND WAR'S CURTAIN

What great men, "captains and kings," did in the years of 1914-18 is now told. The innermost secrets are revealed. The blunders as well as the greatness of men are shown.

It is the diary of Lord Bertie, Britain's ambassador to France, that speaks the tale—the most interesting since the war ended.

A great diplomat in a country friendly to his own heard the uncensored speech and saw sinister shadows piercing through the cloud of war.

He tells of a French general ready to abandon Paris to the invading forces, was shocked by bickering and personal desire, and reveals the selfless man who lived for his country.



LORD BERTIE.

VANCOUVER IS HAILED AS GREATEST WEST PORT

Canadian Press Despatch.
St. John, N.B., Dec. 22.—Hon. H. A. McKeown, chairman of the board of directors of the Maritime Commercial Travellers Association here last night. He declared that within the limits of many overseas, the world would see Vancouver attain to the commercial supremacy of the Pacific coast, and become the greatest port on the seaboard.

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London's 75's Triumph

London senior hockey team swept to victory in Galt last night and humbled the mighty Terriers, former champions. It was London's start in senior hockey, and with that win London begins again as a 'hockey town.'

Read about the game on the sport page.