MAILS TO AND FROM CANADA HELD UP BY DOCK STRIKE

CITY MIGHT ADD ONE MILL TO RATE TO AID WELFARE

Wenige Sticks to 32 Mills and Douglass Wants To Control Expenditures.

MONEY FOR RELIEF

Mayor Wenige recalls that prior to the last municipal election he did publicly advocate the placing of one mill or more in the tax rate at the disposal of the London Welfare Association and similar charity organizations.

But he stated frankly today that, while he still favored that proposal, he was not quite sure that this is the psychological moment for the adoption of the scheme.

The mayor still insists that the 1924 tax-rate shall be lower than 34.7 mills, the 1923 high water mark, and as close to 32 mills as possible, consistent with his inaugural address. In view of this fact it might be more expedient to postpone the proposition, as advanced Saturday at the annual gathering of the welfare association; namely, one mill on the dollar.

"I still think, from an unselfish view-point that it would be a good move," the mayor stated. "From a selfish standpoint I think the same, it would let me out much easier."

"It is quite true that I once favored this project but I am not so positive about its proposed inception in 1924, in view of our efforts to reduce the tax-rate. It is all right to say that the people pay anyway but under the present system the little fellow is not actually compelled to pay if he cannot afford it.'

"But then the present system has also its disadvantages as there are those who have not been paying in just proportion who would have to if provision was made in the mill rate. However, this is hardly a good year for a move of this nature."

While favorably impressed with the proposal that the city council provide one mill in the tax-rate, Ald. Douglass, chairman of the finance committee makes this qualification, that "the city must retain the disposal of the money."

"That would be the only fair way to do it," he stated. "We'll do it that way. We must make provision for relief but we must also have the disposal of any money we grant. We can't allow such control to pass out of our hands."

SHAREHOLDERS TO MEET.

Still convinced that they have justification for some action the members of the special committee of Ruggles Truck shareholders are meeting again this afternoon at the city hall, according to an announcement from Mayor George Wenige, active member of that group.

COLDS GRIP

Fortify the system against Colds, Grip and Influenza by taking

which destroy germs, act as a tonic laxative, and keep the system in condition to throw off all attacks of Colds, Grip and Influenza.

The box bears this signature

E. W. Grove

Price 30c.

Made in Canada

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

are made happier when remembered with Flowers from Gammage's.

Or, as the anniversary gift, Flowers recall the happy moments of bygone days.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH?

J. GAMMAGE AND SONS

"London's Birthday Florists"

PHONE 636—6369.

zxv

FINDS AUSTRIA'S CONDITION SHOWS BIG IMPROVEMENT

Dr. W. A. Harding, Western Graduate, Pays Visit to London Friends.

GIVES IMPRESSIONS

Finds Affairs in Italy and France Are On the Mend.

Dr. A. W. Harding, a graduate of Western Medical School, has just returned from Vienna, Austria, where he spent months as a member of the American Medical Association, specializing in eye, ear, nose and throat surgery. Dr. Harding is now opening offices in Oshawa, Ont., having just spent a few days renewing old acquaintanceships in London.

He gives some illuminating personal impressions of conditions in Austria and Central Europe, interesting from the viewpoint of an outsider. The Viennese people were on very good terms with the American Medical Association, the doctor said. In general, conditions appeared quite good in Austria, and one would hardly realize that it was a crushed empire. At least Austria was doing considerable relief work for her former ally, Germany, and unlike the fluctuating mark, the Austrian kronen has been stabilized at 70,000 to the dollar for almost a year. Industrial strife was almost unknown, it was said, and although a mail strike developed at the end of last year, and it was feared at first that railroad men might join in, the government quickly and efficiently coped with the situation.

However, food prices are still very high, and as wages are very low, certain classes find it very hard to make ends meet. One curious happening, it was related, was the government requisition of all rooming facilities in the city under the city commission. Overcrowded conditions in the city made this necessary. All vacant rooms in the city were controlled by the city commission, which compels proprietors of the same to rent them at a fair price fixed by the commission, and to whoever might be in need of shelter. Thus the housing question became less acute and speculation at the expense of strangers stopped.

Conditions in Italy, Dr. Harding said, were very favorable, and very much the same as in France. People in the latter country did not seem to realize the seriousness of the accusation of her former allies in regard to the occupation of the Ruhr.

Graduating from Western Medical School in '21, Dr. Harding had a very varied experience in his chosen profession. He was a former house surgeon at Victoria Hospital, and has since graduation served a year's internement each at Flint, Mich., General Hospital and Harper Hospital, Detroit, in addition to the specialization abroad.

DR. W. A. HARDING,
who has returned from Europe after an extensive study in his medical work.

SALE REVEALS MONEY AVAILABLE AT PRESENT

Clifford L. Gray Pleased With Results Following Announcement of Sale.

For the first time in its history, the Mason and Risch Piano Company, Dundas street, held a 15-day sale, according to Clifford L. Gray, manager, the results were remarkable.

The firm advertised that it would accept the gold bonds of any other firm in Canada at their face value and the response to the advertisement, in the words of Mr. Gray, "paid and paid well for the ad and the sacrifice following on the acceptance of the bonds."

Pianos during the 15 days were shipped to Owen Sound, Essex, Ripley, Harriston, Aylmer, and many other places in Western Ontario, every day bringing new orders, both from the city and country. Although not wishing to state figures, Mr. Gray stated that he was more than satisfied with the results, which went to show that the money was available, and if the people were approached, they would spend it.

POLICE FORWARD PHOTOS OF ALLEGED FORGERS

The two Stratford men charged with forging numerous checks have apparently been working in Western Ontario with much success for the past six months. The local police department is in possession of two checks signed by them and it is said almost every community in these parts has similar ones.

The checks made out here are for comparatively small amounts and were cashed nearly a year ago. Police photographs of the forgers were forwarded to the department on Saturday.

SEEK DEBENTURES.

City Treasurer Bell is receiving bids this week for the $1,000,000 block of city of London debentures still on hand. He will not dispose of these, however, until the price is suitable. Certain bond dealers approached him today in this regard.

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS And We Will Serve You Right

THE DAVIS INSURANCE AGENCY, LIMITED.

208 Royal Bank Bldg. Phone 776W.

zxv

Meet JOHNSTON BROS. and Wear Diamonds.

Use our Charge Account Plan.

206 Dundas Street, Next Allen Theatre. zv

IS CHICKEN SERVED AT COUNTY JAIL?

Stenographers Say They Think So, But Sheriff Is Non-Committal.

Who can tell the difference between the appetizing odor of roast chicken and roast beef?

The court house at noon today was fairly permeated with the scent of roast chicken, but it was hard to find any officials who cared to pass an opinion on just what meat was being served the three young men in the jail who are all sentenced to be hanged on April 10.

Sheriff Graham was first approached by a reporter.

"Who is buying the chickens for Murrell, Williams and Topping?" the sheriff was asked.

"I wouldn't pass an opinion that it was chicken," replied the sheriff giving an appreciative sniff.

"Nothing else, but—" suggested the scribe.

"Well, it might be, but I wouldn't say. It might be beef," replied the boss of the court house.

Magistrate Graydon was then seen approaching. He, too, was taking an extra sniff of the atmosphere.

"I'm not up on jail viands," declared his worship in answer to anxious enquiries.

Court house stenographers were then enticed from their offices to the halls, and they were unanimous in the opinion that a chicken dinner was being served in the jail.

No gentleman would dare contradict a lady, and who would know more about chicken than the pretty damsels themselves? Therefore chicken was served in the cells, presided over by Governor Byron Dawson.

WESTERN STUDENTS SECURE HIGH MARKS

Concluded From Page 1.

number of examination papers written it nhe arts' department at the January examinations was 2,333. Of these 162 papers or 6.95 per cent feel between 40 and 50 per cent and the students who wrote thees papers will be allowed to write supplemental examinations in September.

Of the total papers written 102 were absolute failures. These students will have to repeat the work in class.

"This is a ridiculously low mortality percentage," said Dr. Neville. "If we compare with the figures of the middle and upper school examinations of last June and September we can see how much easier it is to stay in the university than get in.

"It is the students who presume in this fact who come to grief."

Middle School—June, 1923, 28.79 per cent failed. September, 1923, 49.05 per cent failed.

Upper School—June, 1923, 25.28 per cent failed. September, 1923, 56.10 per cent failed.

"In one of the misrepresentations that appeared in the Free Press, the English and history examinations were singled out for attack," Dr. eviileN stated. "The figures presuming to state the number of students who wrote were wrong, the figures showing the number who failed were wrong. In modern English poety 38 students, not 62, wrote, 7, or 18.4 per cent will write supplementals in May, 3, or 7.89 per cent, must repeat the year.

"The report published in the Free Press stated that the 39 who failed will have to repeat; the figures are wrong, so is the statement of fact. In mediaeval history, 57 students wrote, and 9, or 15.7 per cent, were 'conditioned,' that is, must write a supplementary, only one failed. In English constitutional history, 36 students wrote, and 5, or 13.8 per cent, will have to write supplementals, none will have to repeat the year. A glance will show that these figures fall below the departmental average, and are quite below the average figure for failures that will be shown to obtain in institutions that require as close application to business as the usual college course."

WILL ATTEND MEETING.

Warden C. C. Henry of Middlesex County, will attend a meeting of the chamber of commerce Tuesday night to discuss matters pertaining to a winter fair for London.

SPECIAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES TO PLAN ESTIMATES

Board of Education To Have Estimates Ready For the Council.

$14,000 FOR REPAIRS

A special meeting of the board of education will be held this week, according to Secretary W. A. Tanner, in order that all the estimates may be passed and forwarded to the city council in time fo ra special meeting of that body.

Mr. Tanner stated that the mayor had asked him to have the estimates for the board ready by Wednesday night, but this will be impossible, Thursday being the first day on which the board can meet as a whole for discussion of the figures.

Tonight No. 2 committee will conclude the question of the estiamtes for buildings and grounds, when the figures of Superintendent Robinson, approximately $14,000, for repairs and renewals will be gone over. The remainder of the estimates for this committee were passed last week.

Teh vocational advisory committee wil lprobably meet on Wednesday night for the acceptance and discussion of its figures regarding technical education. This has not, however, been definitely settled.

No meeting will be held tomorrow, the afternoon having been set aside fro the tour of inspection of the collegiate units by members of the board and the city council, together with representatives of other organizations. This inspection is being held with theidea of acquainting the city fathers and others with the conditions existing in the east and south units, in order that they may realize the need for new buildings.

DR. VON KAHR QUITS DICTATOR'S POST

Bavarian Military Dictator Resigns as Result of Threats From Radical Elements.

Associated Press Despatch.

Munich, Bavaria, Feb. 18.—Dr. von Kahr, the Bavarian military dictator, has resigned.

Gen. von Losow, commander of the Bavarian reichswehr, has tendered his resignation.

The trial of General Ludendorff and Adolf Hitler, for their part in the Nationalistic "putsch" in Bavaria last November was to have been begun in Munich today. Hitler, who has been organizer and leader of the Bavarian Fascist forces, was wounded during the fighting, and it has been said an operation might prevent his appearance for trial. Hitler's supporters, moreover, have been threatening another "putsch," which, they declared, would prevent the trial of their leader in any event, and it has been reported that all parties were making efforts to put the trial off indefinitely or abandon it, because of the political bitterness which it would be certain to stir up anew.

For some time there have been rumors that Dr. von Kahr would resign as dictator. He has been constantly under guard because of threats of attack on the part of ruthless elements among those opposed to bringing Ludendorff and Hitler to trial.

WITHOUT FRIENDS AND HOME AGED DERELICT IS SENT TO JAIL

Comte Romeo De Travan, Aged 93, Has Discovered That No One Wants Him.

FEELS HIS SORROW

Sorrow and disappointment written over his grizzled countenance, Comte Romeo De Trevan, age 93, tottered back into the county jail this morning in custody of High Constable Wharton of Glencoe.

Four days ago the ancient derelict was arrested here on a vagrancy charge. In court he said his home was in Glencoe and was sent back there. But Glencoe officials don't want him. Then he went to Windsor. There too, the doors of civic hospitality were closed to the old man.

This crippled scion of a once illustrious Spanish family was shipped to Chatham by the Windsor authorities who in turn sent him to Glencoe. In his quest for some place to rest during the last year of so of life, the old man has discovered one thing—that nobody wants him.

What to do with old Romeo is a problem which the local police department must grapple with. He came here last week to find his friends of 56 years age. But they were all dead. Now he has no friends, no relatives. According to Romeo himself, his only hope of ultimate peace is the grave.

Supported by two canes, his great shock of white hair waving in the breeze and his dark, seamed face showing deep sorrow, the old man accompanied his escort to the county jail with evident reluctance. He said he lived for two years in the Glencoe house of refuge, and it is probable the local police department will endeavor to return him to that institution.

Fifty-six years ago Romeo was a footman for Judge Peters here. When he returned last week for the first time in half a century it was too look for the judge who has been dead for many years.

To The Advertiser he said he came to Canada as a boy when the De Trevans of Spain lost their standing with the Spanish court. He then went to Australia and visited many remote parts of the world. Finally he ended up in Glencoe where he lived in the jail for two years.

"I saved up six dollars in Glencoe," the old man said, "so I could pay the last visit to London to see Pete, Jack and Gibby. But they're all dead.

"It isn't my fault they're dead, is it?" he said as an afterthought.

This morning Romeo was sentenced to ten days in the county jail by the Glencoe court on a charge of vagrancy.

NEWFOUNDLAND TRAINS GET THROUGH DRIFTS

Associated Press Despatch.

St. Johns, Nfld., Feb. 18.—The first cross country train for a fortnight reached St. Johns Saturday from Bay of Islands. For over ten days rotary plows and other snow-fighting apparatus have been bucking the big drifts. There is still some snow clearing to be done on the end of the line west of Bay of Islands. This will, it is expected, be accomplished within a short time, and passengers, mail and freight traffic will again be routed from Port Aux Barques to St Johns as usual.

WILL MEET FRIDAY.

The county high school audit committee will meet at the county buildings next Friday, County Clerk John Stuart announced this morning.

R. C. VAUGHAN.

The appointment of R. C. Vaughan, director of purchases and stores, as vice-president in charge of purchases and stores, Canadian National Railways, has been announced by Sir Henry Thornton, chairman and president of the system.

SUMMER SESSION AT UNIVERSITY TO BEGIN JUNE 30

Indications Point to One of the Most Successful Seasons.

PROGRAM IS VARIED

Official publication of the bulletin of the summer school and extramural department of the University of Western Ontario, issued this morning, shows that the seventh annual summer session of the university bears promise of being the most successful yet held.

The department in charge of the summer session has greatly added to the efficacy of the summer school by securing the services of Professor R. E. Freeman, who will be associate professor of political economy.

The officers of instruction include: R. C. Dearle, M.A., Ph.D., professor of physics; A. G. Dorland, M.A., professor of history; J. A. Gunton, M.A., Ph.D., professor of chemistry; N. C. James, B.A., Ph.D., professor of German; H. R. Kingston, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.A.S., director of the summer session, and professor of mathematics and astronomy; K. P. R. Neville, M.A., Ph.D., F.A.G.S., professor of classics; W. J. Patterson, M.A., professor of mathematics; W. F. Tamblyn, B.A., Ph.D., professor of English; R. E. Freeman, M.A., Litt. B., associate professor of political economy, and E. A. Meras, B.A., L. es L., assistant professor of romance languages.

The seventh annual summer school will open on June 30 in the new buildings of the university, and will continue for six weeks, closing on Aug. 9.

The school has been organized in the interests of teachers who wish to improve their scholarship, extramural students who find it difficult to give up a whole year at any one time to satisfy the residence requirement for a degree, and students who have received conditions on the regular university work the preceeding season. The admission to the summer school is granted on the same terms as apply to the winter session of the university.

BETTER BUILDERS OF U. F. O. ENJOY VALENTINE SOCIAL

Special to The Advertiser.

St. Marys, Feb. 17.—The Better Builders' Club of the U. F. O. met at the home of Albert Sheldon Friday night. The meeting took the form of a valentine social. The following took part in the program: Ethel Coulthard, Misses Reta and Jean Balsdon, Lawrence Rundle. An impromptu debate entitled "Resolved that it is a greater advantage to be tall than short," was held. The outcome was declared a tie. The affirmative side was taken by Andrew Coulthard, Clifford Levy and Percy Switzer, and the negative side by James Levy, Fred Fulcher, Nathan Danard. A reading by Mrs. H. Thompson concluded the program.

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the home of John Hepburn. A skating party on Feb. 19 in St. Marys rink and a club dance on Feb. 29 will complete the social events of the club for January.

TEESWATER KNOX CHOIR HOLDS VALENTINE PARTY

Special to The Advertiser.

Teeswater, Feb. 17.—The choir of Knox Presbyterian Church gave a St. Valentine's concert and social on Thursday.

Those who took part in the program are Miss Annie Little, Rev. W. A. Bradley, Harvey Linklater, Donald Cooper, Mrs. W. Hiscox, Miss Jean Reddon, Mrs. J. D. Little, Dr. Fowler, D. Cooper, T. Thacker, Mrs. Oakes, Mrs. J. D. Little, Mr. Cooper and J. Reid, Mrs. S. E. Jeffrey, H. Linklater, C. Richardson, F. McDonald.

At the conclusion of Mr. McDonold's song, Rev. W. A. Bradley presented him with a hymn book, on behalf of the choir, for the splendid services he has rendered during the past thirty years.

DOG IN WRONG CLASS.

It was incorrectly stated in Saturday's Advertiser that Aleck Fitzsimmon's dog, Highway Dick, had been awarded first prize in the limit class for English bulldogs. This should have read for Boston bullterriers.

CLAIMS OF FADDISTS OFTEN OVERWORKED

Dr. Hill Does Not Agree With Declarations of New York Specialist.

CITES INSTANCES

Believes Individual Effect Is the Best Guide in Case of What To Eat.

Faddists may denounce tea, coffee, cigarettes, etc., but for the average human being they are not half as harmful as they are sometimes made out to be in the opinion of Dr. H. W. Hill, dean of the Institute of Public Health. Dr. Hill made the statement in reference to the declaration of Dr. J. S. Manife of New York, who recently said 20 cigarettes a day reduced the blood supply by 10 per cent. Dr. Manife also claimed that coffee and tea were "detrimental drugs."

"The best answer to his argument," Dr. Hill said, "is the fact that English people are the greatest tea drinkers in the world, and Americans the greatest coffee drinkers. Yet these races are the most healthy.

"Of course, there are some people who cannot stand tea. Others find coffee disagrees with them. I've known individuals who become ill when they take celery. Lobster is actually dangerous for some. But most men and women find out from experience what they can and can't eat or drink.

"There is one man in this city who always gets a violent attack of hay fever when he enters a stable. It doesn't matter whether the stable is occupied by horses or not. Yet that doesn't indicate that stables would have the same effect on others."

A normally healthy human being, Dr. Hill added, should gauge his diet largely on what he knows agrees with him. Most faddists base their conclusions, he said, on their own particular cases. This was obviously a false viewpoint to take.

British Mails

The next mails for Great Britain and Europe will close as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 20—Letters and registered matter at 10 a.m.; parcel post and newspapers at 2 p.m., via steamship Marburn, from St. John, N. F., Feb. 22.

Thursday, Feb. 21—At 10 p.m., letters and registered matter only, via steamship President Roosevelt, from New York, Feb. 23.

JUDICIAL INQUIRY OPENS AGAINST BRITISH COMPANY

Paris, Feb. 16.—Judicial inquiry was opened today against the British firm of Brice & Co., of which Major Theobald Langton is the principal Paris representative, as to whether the practice of importing foreign securities, selling them in France and remitting the cash to England is not contrary to the public interest and in violation of the French laws protecting the public credit.

TRAINMAN IS INSTANTLY KILLED AT BRAMPTON

Canadian Press Despatch.

Brampton, Feb. 17.—George Henderson, aged 35, of High Park avenue, Toronto, a brakeman on the Canadian Pacific Railway "moonlight" freight train running between Toronto and Orangeville, was instantly killed at Brampton this morning about 4 o'clock, when he fell beneath the train and the whole series of cars passed over him.

SAMUEL STEELE DIES.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Vancouver, Feb. 18. — Samuel Steele, 90, Fenian raid veteran, died yesterday. He was a native of Scotland. He leaves a daughter and one son, James Steele, Paisley, Ont.

MOTORCYCLE FIRE PATROL FAVORED BY MAYOR WENIGE

Declares Plan Would Be Able To Reduce Instead of Increase Present Staff.

REFERS TO U. S. CASES

While Fire Chief John Aitken has again entered his formal request for an increased department, Mayor Wenige has another proposal for the consideration of the council, when the Brittain report is dealt with.

The mayor says that there should be a reduction of the number of firemen if possible, certainly no increase, and he has a proposition today, which, offhand, he feels would solve the problem.

That the use of motorcycle firemen—the "motorcycle patrol," as it is commonly known in certain American cities—should be an advantage in London, the mayor states, and he has in his possession a quantity of literature in this regard.

In certain communities across the border, including New York, the mayor explains, motorcycles have been used to great advantage, meaning a great saving to the department, in personnel, equipment, wear and tear, speed and general efficiency.

The apparatus in question, carrying two men, acts as an auxiliary, but goes to the fire first. One or two of these only would be necessary to handle a chimney fire, for instance, the mayor states. The machine carries hose, axes and other necessary paraphernalia with chemicals.

The American authorities claim that the greater number of fires can be extinguished with chemicals, thereby avoiding the big loss from damage to goods by water.

Ald. Gordon Drake issues a warning against any move or lack of action that would be liable to hasten increased insurance rates and with this in mind, he insists that the city must install a new fire alarm system, no matter what the tax rate may be.

The ne wsystem would cost $16,000 and has been recommended by Fire Chief Aitken for several years past.

UNSIGNED TREATY LOST IN TRANSIT

Document Was Mailed to King Hussein From London, But Never Reached Him.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Feb. 18. — An unsigned draft of a treaty between King Hussein of the Hedjaz and the British government has been lost somewhere between London and the Arabian peninsula, according to a statement made by Najaissil, representative of Hussein in London. Najaissil announces that he submitted to the British government three months ago the plan of a treaty with Hussein which the government had accepted in principle.

According to the plan Britain would agree to recognize and support the Arabs in their efforts to obtain the independence not only of Irak and trans-Jordania but the whole peninsula. Great Britain, Najaissil was prepared to establish as soon as possible a national representative government in Palestine with the largest possible measure of independence for the Arabs, meantime safeguarding the interests of the Zionists.

Palestine Arabs, according to King Hussein's representative, were prepared to accept the plan and he has reason to believe the Zionists were also ready to accept the plan. But, he adds, the despatch containing the treaty never reached King Hussein and this has created a most embarrassing situation for the monarch. The treaty had neither been signed nor definitely agreed to by either Great Britain or Hussein.

KNOX W. M. S.

One of the series of district meetings being arranged in connection with the W. M. S. of Knox Church was held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. E. Kelly. The program was in the form of a travelogue, in which the Pacific coast and Formosa were included. The latter island is the subject of the mission study book for the year, and the discussion on it was conducted by Mrs. Templin. The district meetings are proving a splendid solution of the problem which recently presented itself to the W. M. S.—that of dealing with the great number of new people who were coming into the district and the attendant increase of the Knox Church congregation.

FREDERICK KLINKMAN.

Special to The Advertiser.

Mooretown, Feb. 17.—The death occurred at the family residence, Courtright, of Frederick Klinkman. Mr. Klinkman arose as usual, but complained shortly after breakfast of not being well, and died shortly after. He was a blacksmith by trade and was working the day before. He was in his 79th year and was a lifelong Presbyterian.

For

Classified Advertising

See Pages 14 and 15.

BRITAIN FACING BLOCKADE OWING TO DOCK STRIKE

Thousands of Bags of Mail To and From Canada Are Delayed.

BLOCKADE EXTENDS

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Feb. 18.—The dock strike, which was declared Saturday noon, affecting 120,000 men in the ports of the United Kingdom, was expected to reach full effectiveness today, according to officials of the transport and general workers' union. The country thus is threatened with a blockade from within as complete as that which the German U-boats vainly tried to achieve during the war.

As regards London, no hope is based on the action of the "Blue Ticket Union," a new and hitherto unrecognized rival of the Transport Workers' Union, the executive of which has recommended a "stay-in strike" under which the men would continue on duty but go slow on piece work and refuse to do overtime.

Hopes For Intervention.

This action is viewed, not as embodying any altruistic motive toward the public, but is aimed at injuring the transport union and enforcing recognition of the "blue tickets" by the employers, who have hitherto ignored the existence of the organization. There is a demand in some quarters that this attitude should be met by the employers immediately locking out the "blues."

At the moment of writing there is nothing to confirm the reports that Premier MacDonald or the council of the Trades Union Congress is likely to intervene today, but the public is turning its hopes upon them.

The morning newspapers assure their readers that the government, foreseeing the present outcome of the quarrel between the dockers and their employers, which has been in progress for some weeks, made careful plans to insure a supply of foodstuffs and say everything is in readiness to put the plans into execution.

They also assure the public that the stocks of imported food in the country are so abundant that nothing will justify increases in price by the distributors, but the public has its own views on this question.

Strikers Weaken Cause.

The papers express sympathy in the first place with the public at being made the victims of a quarrel between two comparatively small sections of the community, but the dockers' position in the dispute is regarded by most of the commentators as worthier of defense than that of the employers. The latter are accused of showing indifference at the outset, followed by high-handed brusqueness in the later stages of the negotiations.

At the same time, the workers are held in many quarters to have weakened their cause by angry impatience and their refusal of arbitration of the demand for a shilling per week increase than the employers are willing to concede receives considerable condemnation as showing what the commentators term selfish indifference to the welfare of the general public.

The strike is already threatening to affect the newspapers through the stoppage of newsprint supplies. The Daily Chronicle today prints a smaller paper than usual, attributing it to this cause.

The immediate effect of the strike, so far as London is concerned, is a lack of mails from Canada and the United States. In the city offices much grumbling was heard at the considerable inconvenience caused by the non-delivery of the mails held up at Plymouth.

The Smithfield market was almost bare of supplies this morning, because the meat porters refused to handle meat taken from storage and retail merchants from the suburbs, who assembled early, had great difficulty in getting enough for their immediate needs.

The dockers lined up in full force outside the dock gates in the early hours, but only as spectators. A large force of police was on hand to care for possible trouble when the rival stevedores came to work, but quiet prevailed when this despatch was filed, shortly before noon.

Mail Accumulates.

Inside the docks were a scene of desolation. Several steamers had arrived during the night with full cargoes, but the only work going on was that performed by the regular employees of the Port of London authorities. Mails to and from America are likely to be tied up on this side during the duration of the strike unless some arrangement for handling them is made, it was indicated at the general postoffice. Postal officials said there existed a stipulation providing that postoffice employees must not load or unload mail bags on ships or tenders, these operations being left to the dock workers.

The White Star liner Olympic sailing on Wednesday, would in the ordinary course of events carry a large amount of mail, but the postal officials said the present prospect were that none would be taken aboard. At the White Star offices it was said no announcement could be made at this time as to what would be done about it. Five thousand bags of mail are stacked in tenders at Plymouth, but a few yards from the railway tracks leading to London.

HANDLE OWN BAGGAGE.

Associated Press Despatch.

Plymouth, Feb. 18. — More than 3,000 bags of mail, which arrived by the Nieuw Amsterdam, were held up on the tender because the dockers are not working and the postoffice officials only accept delivery on the quayside. Although a postoffice staff is usually sent to assist in getting the bags into the tender, this was not done today.

Twenty passengers from the Nieuw Amsterdam assisted in disembarking their own baggage, which they wheeled to the customs warehouse for examination and then entrained for London.