

## KILLED AT RIDGETOWN WHEN AUTO CAPSIZED

William Andrews, Jackson, Mich., Businessman, Instantly Killed and His Sister Dies on Way to Hospital—Other Members of Party Seriously Injured.

[Canadian Press.]  
St. Thomas, Ont., Dec. 18.—William Andrews, one of the managers of the Jackson (Mich.) Stove Works, was killed instantly, and his sister, fatally injured by the capsizing of an automobile at Ridgetown Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Andrews died on the way to the Ridgetown Hospital. Mrs. Andrews and three children of

Charles Andrews, of Ridgetown, a brother of William, were injured, and are in the hospital. Minnie Andrews, 13 years old, suffered a broken leg, and Henry Andrews, 7 years old, internally injured. At the railroad crossing the front wheel of the auto came off, and the machine turned turtle. Andrews was pinned under the machine and instantly killed, and the two women were thrown a considerable distance. Mrs. Andrews and the children are expected to recover.

## C. N. R. WILL INCREASE ITS OFFER TO CITY

Term of Years May Be Reduced and There Is a Possibility of Col. Davidson Returning Within One Week.

Contrary to the expectations of Mayor Graham there is a possibility that Col. A. D. Davidson, of the Canadian Northern, will be in London within a short time, possibly a week. On good authority, it is stated that the company will be willing to raise its offer for the London and Port Stanley Railway, and that the term of years asked will be reduced. That the company would prefer making a considerable addition to the lease price rather than cut down the term of years is understood to be the fact. At present a graduated scale of rental which would average \$31,000 a year for the road—\$14,000 higher than any rental the city has received—is being offered. The term asked is 32 years. The company is understood to ask a long lease because of the fact that it intends to make the road part of its main line and not merely a coal and excursion and connection line, as it is at

present. That they could not afford to take over the line on a short-lease is the argument advanced, and some citizens consider it an evidence of permanency and intended improvement that the company wants the line for more than 20 or 30 years. It is said that the company would make any terms with the city as to the control of the road that would give it a reasonable treatment. Every other road would be given running rights, and strong conditions of freight and passenger service to the lake would be permitted. Some citizens are of the opinion that the C. N. R. offer is being permitted to drift along and go by default, without any definite action being taken. It is possible that a meeting of the London and Port Stanley board and the city council will be called in case Col. Davidson pays another visit to London before the year ends.

## TOLD WILD TALE TO GET REPRIEVE

Doomed Black-Hander Knew Nothing of Detective Petrosino's Death.

MUST GO TO GALLOWES

Attempts Made To Kidnap the Child of the Crown's Chief Witness.

[Canadian Press.]  
Montreal, Dec. 18.—A man now claimed by local Italians that Carlo Battista, condemned to hang on Friday for the murder here of a fellow countryman, made his confession connecting many of them with a Black Hand Society, which managed a white slave traffic of continental proportions, and was responsible for the death of Petrosino, the Italian detective connected with the New York police force, in the hope that his sentence would be commuted, or, at least, a reprieve would be granted him until an inquiry could be held into this Battista was disappointed, because the Minister of Justice has declined to intervene. Detective Sergeant Ralph Micelli, the New York detective who came here to investigate Battista's accusations, left for home last night, convinced that the murderer really knew nothing about Petrosino's death. This morning Battista had an interview with his wife and son, who have come up from New York to say "good-bye" to him. He wept bitterly throughout their visit and vehemently protested his innocence. A new phase to the Battista case developed last night, when Mrs. Jack Manfred, the star witness of the crown against him, announced that her little 6-year-old daughter, Margaret, had been kidnapped. The police, who were convinced that the disappearance of the child was the work of some of Battista's friends, made a thorough search for the little girl, who had been carried off while returning from school during the afternoon. Late in the evening, Margaret was brought home by some friends, who had found her in an empty house, in which she said she had been placed by a strange man. Mrs. Manfred also says an attempt to kidnap another of her daughters some weeks ago was frustrated.

## PETITION TO ANNEX BEFORE BOARD TODAY

Expected a Definite Decision Will Be Reached Regarding Pottersburg and Ealing.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, Dec. 18.—The petitions for the annexation of Pottersburg and Ealing to the city of London will be heard by the Ontario railway and municipal board at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. A definite decision will be given early this evening, it is expected.

## SLIM HOUSE TO HEAR HON. GEORGE FOSTER

Many Members Are Leaving for Home Today for Christmas Holidays.

[Canadian Press.]

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The Commons will rise tonight for the Christmas recess, and many members left for home today, so that Hon. George E. Foster's speech on the main bill this afternoon will not be heard by the full house he usually commands. While little has been accomplished so far, the pre-Christmas sitting has been instrumental in getting preliminary cleared away, and when the House resumes on Jan. 14, good progress can be made with the country's legislation. Hon. Frank Cochrane has introduced two bills reading the G. T. and N. T. R., and gives the governor in council authority to grant any necessary time extension for completion of the roads.

## CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ABOUT SLIDE

Manager King and Manager Glauzitz Will Talk It Over.

Manager C. B. King, of the London Street Railway Company, and General Manager Glauzitz, of the water commission, will have a conference some time this afternoon regarding a toboggan slide for Springbank Park. It is expected that satisfactory arrangements will be made.

## TAXATION REFORM AGAIN BEFORE ASSESSMENT COM.

[Special to the Advertiser.]  
Toronto, Dec. 18.—Considerable interest is being taken in the reassessment tomorrow of the special taxation committee of the Legislature, which adjourned its sessions last month to enable Sir James Whitney to be present. The case for taxation reform will be presented by E. C. Drury and Jas. McEwan, ex-M. P. for the farmers, and by Arthur Roebuck, New Liskeard, for Northern Ontario. As a result of a request from Mr. N. W. Rowell, K. C., M. P. P., for information, the secretary of the committee has collected figures showing the increase in the rental values of workmen's houses in the principal cities of the Province during recent years. It is expected that Sir James will express his views on the two proposals made at the last meeting of the committee by Mr. Rowell. One of these was that in view of the general demand for tax reform, the principle might be made applicable to the whole Province, providing for a moderate reduc-



ANY OLD THING FOR FATHER.

## ANGUS AND GABEY BOTH "YOUTHFUL"

Two Engineers Are Graduates in the Same Year at the S. of P. S., Toronto.

## COMMISSION DELAYS HEARING OF CASE

Ald. Richter Anxious, Rather Than Afraid, to Have Matter Settled.

Engineer Harry Angus, who made a special report on street lighting for the city of London, to the effect that London was paying \$30,000 for street lighting, when it should be paying only \$15,000, has been repeatedly referred to in the paper that supports the heavier charge, as a "youthful engineer." He is being held up to public ridicule as a callow youth, whose report is full of discrepancies.

The fact is that Mr. Gabey, the hydro commission's engineer, who claims that London should pay \$30,000 for street lighting, is quite as "youthful" in engineering practice as Engineer Angus.

Are Fellow-Graduates. The two men took their present electrical standing at the same year at the School of Practical Science, and they were equal in their standing. It is doubtful if Engineer Gabey would appreciate the slight references to his fellow-graduate's ability, as he no doubt has a great respect for S. P. S. graduates.

In his effort to "kill off" Ald. Richter by such references, "meanness," "chatterbox," "renew," the newspaper attacker has endeavored to make it appear that he is conducting the whole investigation, and that he is at the present time afraid to have the matter brought before the hydro-electric commission.

## Date Not Yet Set.

The fact is that Engineer Angus was engaged by the city of London to make the report, and at the present time the council is awaiting word from the hydro-electric commission fixing the date for the hearing. The commission has so far failed to appoint a time for the hearing of the matter, but when the day is named, Engineer Angus will be present to explain and defend his findings, and Ald. Richter will, no doubt, be present also.

"We are waiting for the hydro-electric commission to name a day," said Ald. Richter. "As soon as they have appointed a time the city will be represented. It is not correct to state that I am afraid to have the report brought before them. On the other hand, I am confident that my stand in the matter will be found to be the correct one. It cannot come too soon to suit me."

Serious objection is being taken to the threat made at the second last council meeting, when Mr. Beck directed the statement at Mr. Richter that he would put him in his place, or words to that effect.

An Impartial Judge? Mr. Beck is chairman of the commission which must act as an arbitration board between the city of London and the hydro-electric engineers. In other words he is the judge that must review the facts submitted, and hand down a just decision. That he is already prejudging the case and making pronouncement upon it is regarded as bad taste, to say the least. If a case were before the courts and the judge made public statements, or a newspaper sought to prejudice a case, the one would be impeached and the other made to answer to a charge of contempt.

## DIED IN DETROIT.

[Special to The Advertiser.]  
Detroit, Dec. 17.—Mrs. M. C. Leitch has received word of the death of her sister, Mrs. G. W. Lumley, of Detroit, formerly of Dutton. Mrs. Leitch and her sister, Miss Jennie Patterson, have left for Detroit.

## MRS. HARRIS, AGED 92, DIES SOON AFTER LONG JOURNEY



MRS. GILBERT HARRIS.

Delaware Lady Went to California and Expired There On Friday.

Mrs. Harris, of the village of Delaware, and widow of Gilbert Harris, who left during the first week of November for California, accompanied by her son, Mr. W. C. Harris, and her niece, Miss Cornell, died at San Diego, Cal., Friday.

Mrs. Harris, who was 92 years of age, was congratulated by many friends upon her determination to undertake the long trip to California over the Grand Trunk and the Santa Fe. She had been in rather poor health for some time, and the arduous journey still further weakened her.

The remains will be brought to London for interment, and the funeral will be held from the undertaking parlors of Griffith & Willis.

## THOUSANDS OF GIFTS FOR RELATIVES IN OLD COUNTRY

Plum Puddings Are Being Received, and Postoffice Staff Is Increased to Handle the Outgoing Flood of Parcels and Letters.

The rush of Christmas mail matter has started, and the local postoffice department is having a busy time at present. A number of additions were made to the staff at the first of the week, but several more clerks will be taken on next Monday. Although a good share of the foreign matter has been forwarded, thousands of parcels and letters going to Great Britain are piling in.

This is only expected to last a day or so longer as the last boat leaving in time for Christmas in England sails Friday.

The number of puddings forwarded by English relatives of people in this country has been just as heavy as usual, and the local department has handled a large number of them. The parcel post, both in and out, is a great deal heavier than last year.

## KICKED PET RABBIT TO DEATH; VICIOUS ACT OF EAST END BOYS

Two Lads Committed on a Charge of Grossly Damaging a House.

Two young lads, who live with their parents a short distance beyond the easterly limits of the city, appeared before Squire Chittick yesterday, and were committed for trial on a charge of doing malicious damage to the property of David and Ethel McKay, who reside on Smith street, near the Hamilton road.

About 9 o'clock last Friday, the two boys, who are slightly over 14 years of age, entered the house of the complainants by means of the back door, which was unlocked, and proceeded to wreck the place. No one was at home at the time, and they pulled all the dishes off the table, pulled decorations off the walls, and when they had completed all the damage upstairs, they could think of, they made a trip to the cellar. A number of jars of preserves, a roll of butter and a loaf of bread were brought upstairs, and when they had consumed as much as possible, the remainder was worked into the floor and walls.

A Dastardly Act. One of the boys placed a rocking chair on top of the loaf of bread and

sat in the chair until the loaf was as flat as desired. When the premises attained the desired effect, the boys wiped their clothes and hands on some freshly-laundered linen and departed, and on their way they kicked a rabbit belonging to a son of the complainants to death.

A little girl, who called at the house during the operations of the pair, gave evidence yesterday, and stated that she had been chased around the house by one of them. She identified the boys, and also said that she had told them to leave the house. The damage was estimated by the county police at over \$20, and McKay said that damage to the amount of \$50 had been done.

An Old Hand At It. One of the boys arraigned was also committed some time ago by Squire Chittick on a charge of assaulting a lady of the neighborhood in which he lives by hitting her on the head with a broom handle and knocking her unconscious. He was later discharged by the judge by whom he was tried.

They appeared before Judge Elliott this morning, and elected to be tried by a judge without a jury. They claim that they did a small part of the damage, but that most of it had been done by someone before they entered the house. They will be tried next Monday. No reason can be given for their actions, as they live about a mile and a half from the scene of their operations, and are not known very well in the neighborhood.

## HYDRO COMMISSION ASKED TO SET DATE FOR A HEARING

Ald. Richter Quickly Called a Bluff Made by a Local Paper, Which Is Attacking Him—Up to Commission Now to Consider the Angus Report on Street Lighting.

Ald. Richter called another bluff at noon today, when at a meeting of the special committee appointed some time ago to deal with the overcharge for street lighting, the members passed a motion asking the hydro-electric commission to set a date between the present and Dec. 31st to have the findings of Mr. Harry Angus examined. A special meeting of the council will be called, probably for Thursday evening, when the report of the committee will be dealt with.

The report of Mr. Angus has been in hand for two weeks or more, and on Monday night it was presented to the council. On motion of Ald. Bennett, it was sent to the council of 1913.

In the meantime, the organ of Hon. Adam Beck declared that Ald. Richter was afraid to have the report considered by the hydro-electric commission, and intimated that as he would not be a member of the council in 1913, he would not be asked to explain the document.

## MUST ACT QUICKLY.

However, Ald. Richter is not so easily frightened, and he at once got the committee together. He pointed out that it was necessary to act quickly, and if the hydro-electric commission desired to open the matter, he was more than willing and ready to do so.

## NINE-MONTHS' SENTENCE FOR F. BLACKWELL

Convicted a Week Ago on a Charge of Assaulting a Lady in South London.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS MUST BE PROTECTED

Prisoner Blamed His Trouble on Two Much Whiskey, It Is Said.

Nine months confinement in the Central Prison was the sentence imposed upon Frank Blackwell, the Chester street man who was convicted a week ago by Police Magistrate Judd of having committed an aggravated assault on Miss Alma Tapp, of Emery street.

The prisoner was lectured very strongly by the court, and was informed that he might easily have been found guilty of having committed the more serious crime with which he was charged, if arrested—that of having committed an indecent offence in having attempted to assault.

"There are thousands of young women and girls who go to their work every day before daylight, and thousands who return home after night has fallen, and these must be protected," declared P. M. Judd forcefully. "Complaints of such occurrences as this have come to the police department from different parts of the city, and it is therefore unfortunate for you that you have been the first apprehended."

While the prisoner had stoutly asserted from the time of his arrest until the conclusion of the trial that he was an absolutely innocent man, he later practically admitted the offence, and gave drunkenness as an excuse. He said that he had been drinking quite a little prior to the night of the attack, and that a couple of hours before he met the girl he had had more whiskey than he could look after.

## LAW'S LEADERSHIP DRAWING TO CLOSE

Section of Unionist Party Is Determined to Shake Off Tariff Reform.

[Canadian Press.]

Montreal, Dec. 18.—A London special cable to the Witness today says: From a party standpoint, there is now no question whether the Conservative Party made a disastrous mistake in the proposal made at a meeting at Ashton-Ltyn, under the chairmanship of Sir Max Aitken, to shift the odium of imposing taxes on the food of the people of the United Kingdom from the shoulders of his own party to those of the overseas dominions. Today there is a chorus of dissent from the Conservative press, and there is a growing opinion that Mr. Bonar Law's leadership of the Unionist party is fast drawing to a close, as there is a powerful and rapidly-increasing section of the Unionists who are determined to shake themselves free of the cause of tariff reform.

## THE WEATHER. TOMORROW—COLDER.

Forecasts.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—8 a.m.

Today—Mild and unsettled, with local showers.  
Thursday—Northwest winds and colder.  
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Station	High	Low	Weather
London	42.5	29	Clear
St. Catharines	42	28	Clear
Port Arthur	42	28	Cloudy
Parry Sound	38	26	Cloudy
St. James	38	26	Cloudy
Ottawa	34	22	Cloudy
Montreal	34	22	Cloudy
Quebec	34	22	Cloudy
Father Point	28	10	Snow

The storm which was centred in Newfoundland yesterday has moved away to the Atlantic, and the western disturbance is now dispersing over the Great Lakes. The weather continues moderately cold in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but has turned much milder in Alberta.

out that it was necessary to act quickly, and if the hydro-electric commission desired to open the matter, he was more than willing and ready to do so. "Some time ago, when this matter was brought up, City Solicitor Meredith was asked to arrange a meeting of the hydro-electric commission to hear our complaints," explained Ald. Richter. "An appeal had been made to them by the water commission, and the rates were fixed without consulting us, or hearing our side of the question. Mr. Meredith did interview some of the members of the commission, and they agreed to hear our complaint. They notified us that they would set the date for the hearing. Since that time we have heard nothing from them, and no date has been set."

The Exact Figures. "When the matter came up on Monday night I agreed to allow the report to stand over until next year. I thought that the commission would like to have the report of the water commissioners for the full year. Mr. Gabey, in his statement, had the exact figures for eight months, and estimated the other four. Mr. Angus, in preparing his report, had the figures for ten months in the year, and estimated for the other two months. I thought that it would be better to have the exact figures of the revenue, etc., for the whole year."

"However, if it is possible that we can have the matter straightened out this year, I am perfectly willing, more than willing, to have it settled. The time is short, but we can arrange it, I think. All we want to know is the truth, and we want to know it as soon as possible."

"I think the matter should be straightened up this year," said Ald. Wright. "The hydro-electric commission sold us the goods, and the accounts should be straightened out at once."

Fault With Commission. The clerk produced the minutes of the meetings of the committee and the council, and it was clearly shown that the hydro-electric commission had agreed to set the date, and that any delay was their fault, not that of the council.

"I move that the hydro-electric commission be asked to set a date for a hearing between now and Dec. 31st," declared Ald. Ashplant. "We want to know the facts of the case. We have not received them, and it is high time we had them."

"We are all anxious to know whether or not the charges are correct," said Ald. Murphy. "We might have had this matter straightened up some time ago."

The motion of Ald. Ashplant was passed without opposition. Those present at the meeting were Ald. Wright, chairman, Ald. Robinson, Ald. Ashplant, Ald. Murphy, Ald. Richter and Secretary Frank Hughes.

## PLEADED GUILTY TO STEALING BICYCLE

Thief Was Caught With Goods a Few Minutes After the Theft.

Rubin Pinto, a young fellow 15 years of age, who came to this city six months ago, was arrested last night half an hour after he had stolen a bicycle from a man named Earl Curcio.

Pinto appeared in police court this morning, and pleaded guilty to the charge, alleging that he stole the bicycle to satisfy a craving for food. He averred that he had no money to buy food, and that he had been working for some time, but had not been paid. He was released on his own recognizance.

## AGED TRAMP APPEARS IN PITIABLE PLIGHT

Taken in by the Police on a Charge of Drunkenness.

A pitiable case was presented in police court this morning, when a man of perhaps 70 years, was led before P. M. Judd charged with being found on the street in a drunken condition. The old man was practically helpless, and was carried up to the court by two men. He had been drinking around the country with nothing to eat. Every cent he gets goes into whiskey, and that's the result," explained the sergeant. The prisoner was first remanded to jail for a week, but this was later extended to eight days in order that his Christmas may be as pleasant as possible under the circumstances.

## WENT THROUGH BRIDGE.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—A report reached this morning of a light locomotive going through a bridge at Bytham, on the Sudbury division. Two men are reported killed, but further particulars are not available.

## Remember the Shut-In Patients

Will the citizens of London remember those who are being cared for in these institutions, the Home for Incurables, the Aged Peoples' Home, and the Infants' Refuge on St. James street—by sending Christmas cheer or money to the above institutions? If not convenient to send, phone, and the matrons will gladly have parcels called for.

