

## DOUGLASS THINKS \$1,000,000 GOOD PRICE FOR L. S. R.

Finance Chairman Will Join  
With Mayor Wenige in  
Negotiations.

### SHOULD ACT SOON

Dr. Leonard Douglass, chairman of the finance committee, will join with Mayor Wenige in his negotiations with President Charles Currie, of the London Street Railway, and shareholders of that corporation, in a final effort to secure a reasonable purchase price to send to the people in December next for ratification.

The chairman submits that a reasonable figure—say \$1,000,000—should be fixed for the ratepayers' consideration. "The street railway situation should be wiped off the slate during 1924," he asserted, "and we'll have to get busy when we have our conference in a week or so with the railway president and see if we cannot agree upon a price."

"If the situation is not cleared up this year, we are going to have even more trouble with the company in the future than in the past, particularly next year if Sir Adam Beck's bill goes through the house, bringing the fares back to seven and nine tickets for 25 cents."

"The reduced fare would be very acceptable, providing, of course, that the present service is maintained and the wages of the street railway employees are not slashed. The company maintains, however, that it would be impossible to carry on for any appreciable length of time without cutting service."

"But the council will insist upon the present service, so it would be far better if the 1924 council would get together with the railway shareholders and officials and make a final determined effort to set a fair price. Let's clean up this question. It has been a political football in the city council for years."

Ald. Douglass thinks off-hand that \$1,000,000 would be a fair price, about \$100,000 more than the Bunnell valuation of 1922.

## ELLIS FAVORS CENTRAL PLACE FOR EXECUTIONS

Hangman States Death Penalty  
Less Painful Than Having  
Tooth Extracted.

### WANTS SPECIAL ROOM

Would Not Have Condemned  
Men Walk Up Steps to  
Scaffold.

Ellis, the hangman, is not satisfied with the way in which hangings are carried out. He thinks there should be centralization of executions, and that each of the provinces should carry out executions in their respective penitentiaries.

"Because a man has to die," he said in an interview, "is no reason why he should not be decently treated."

He has many reasons for centralizing penitentiary hanging, rather than the present system of execution in county jails.

Firstly, it would save life in the slaughter of guards by desperate men under sentence of death.

Secondly, it would prevent suicide. Thirdly, it would do away with jail breaking, such as the Murrell escape here, Frank McCullough's escape from Toronto Jail, and the Garfield escape from Woodstock.

"There is another side of the question, too," Ellis continued in his rapid manner. "In a penitentiary, you have every convenience. You have sufficient guards—something you lack in county jails. A prisoner can be thoroughly looked after."

"But the greatest point is in eliminating sentiment. Take any county town in Canada as an example. You have a boy who reaches the age of thirty. He has had good parents, a good mother. You expect him to know something; to be at least rational, to have common sense. He suddenly breaks away, commits an atrocious murder."

### Death Sentence.

"He is tried in the county town—his birthplace. The juryman, from a sense of duty, cannot but bring in a verdict of guilty. The judge is compelled to pass the death sentence. He is to be executed in the town where he was born, and yet within fifteen days of the passing of the sentence of death you will be able to get 99 per cent of the people of

## In Canada's Parliament

Canadian Press Despatch.  
Ottawa, April 10.—Senate assembly at 3 o'clock.

In the House of Commons Hon. J. A. Robb, acting minister of finance, will bring down the budget. Government precedence throughout the day.

YESTERDAY IN PARLIAMENT.  
The Senate gave second reading to several bills.

The House of Commons debated Leon Lader's proposal to create fund to guarantee small depositors in Canadian banks. Debate was unfinished in short Wednesday sitting.

the district to sign a petition to defeat justice.

"That sentimentality would have been lacking had he gone to the penitentiary. There would have been seven days talk, and then the boy, hidden in the security of the penitentiary awaiting death, would have already passed into oblivion."

Ellis supported his argument in favor of centralization of executions by severely condemning facilities in county jails.

"Ninety-eight per cent of these," he declared, "have not the conveniences. There are only six prisons in the country where anything is in any sense of the word, modern. The idea of building a scaffold in a jail yard is obsolete. I don't care how reliable your lumber is, or how elaborately you figure your bolts, it's obsolete, the method of thirty years ago."

### Execution Room.

"I recommend that the execution room in the penitentiaries be specially built. Absolutely clear of the penitentiary itself. In some part of the grounds. The death cell and the execution room should be together, and guards rooms so situated that they could have the condemned man under scrutiny night and day."

"There should be no parade; no walking up crowded steps. A man should walk out of his cell right into the trap. I'll build such places if the authorities don't know how. A man should not have to climb fifteen

feet as he has in the past, and wear heavy glasses over what are evidently weak eyes. This gives him a peculiar expression at times, as if his eyes were empty sockets. This may have been an effect caused by the lighting of the room. He is thin-lipped to grimace. He is a Lancashire man, with a soft voice and an exceedingly clever tongue."

He tells a story with intensely dramatic effect, emphasizing the point frequently by leaning forward, holding one with his eyes, pointing with his forefinger and snapping out the words grimly through his tightened lips.

He has a fair for story telling and laughs easily. He referred to his habit of travelling incognito when he was told of a man in a hotel being pointed out as himself and being avoided in consequence. "You know," he remarked, "He had my sympathy." He laughed at the grimness of his little joke.

"How many men have you hanged altogether?" the reporter asked him. "I couldn't tell you that truthfully until I looked up my book," he answered.

"Have you hanged a hundred men?"

"Double that number and you would be nearer the mark."

### Last Wheel.

As for his own viewpoint on the matter of executing men, he declared: "I am the last wheel, and the smallest wheel in carrying out extreme sentences of the law."

"I take it this way: When twelve men good and true say 'guilty,' and the judge sanctions the execution, that is all that is required of me."

"I take my work religiously—I take it very religiously," he repeated.

"Entering a cell five minutes before an execution, bringing the man in and hanging him is a mighty big strain which the average man on the street does not realize."

"What do you mean by 'religious'?" asked the reporter, mindful of the different impressions of jail officials.

"I mean sacredly, rather," he replied.

"It's a sacred duty. It's a solemn duty. No, I make no special preparations, eat no special food, take no special precautions. The day of an execution is with me just an ordinary day. But I may be a little more serious, that's all—concentrated. I think you call it."

"My point has always been this, and I hope I shall always have this common sense to carry it out, that I believe in executions being conducted with the greatest of rapidity and the greatest of humanity."

"You must remember that every second a man lives on that platform (the scaffold) the lives a life. The law does not allow me to punish the man unduly. That is the psychology of the affair. The prisoner's attitude is always one of extreme fear. This appears to be an indirect explanation of his springing the trap before the Lord's Prayer was begun."

"Do you remember cases of great courage?"

"I do—I do! Courage, yes—but only in rare cases."

"Hanging could be a lot more rapid if we had proper facilities. Yet I don't remember an execution that took more than fourteen seconds. I put on the straps and the black cap and the rope, adjust and spring the lever in fourteen seconds. I have done it in less."

Real Punishment.

"Cruel? Perhaps, but remember that the punishment is really in the death cell" (and he emphasized this with the darting forefinger).

"There is not as much pain for a prisoner in the actual execution as in having a tooth pulled," he added.

Asked about the substitution of electrocution for hanging, Ellis replied, "I hope it is never introduced. You can't put two men in the chair and get the same results. Men have lived after getting 180,000 volts. So much depends on the actual contact."

Ellis laughed at his ability to keep his identity secret. Very seldom is he ever discovered. He even makes disparaging remarks about Ellis, some of them pretty ghastly, to any chance acquaintance in hotel return-

or eighteen steps to meet his Maker."

The last seen of Ellis was at the C. P. R. station at 7:30 a.m. train for Toronto to pull out. Word got around that he was the man who directed the execution of Murrell and Topping, and a curious little crowd gathered about him, anxious to get a glimpse of one whose vocation is so grim.

But the hangman was in no mood to gratify the curiosity of onlookers. Several went boldly up to him and asked if he were Mr. Ellis.

"I am not Ellis," he said, turning away. "I am a C. P. R. man."

"Did you have much trouble erecting the scaffold?" another asked.

"What do I know about a scaffold?" Ellis returned heatedly. "I witnessed the execution, but I tell you I am not Ellis."

Ellis' mind apparently runs to rather morbid things. While waiting for the train he insisted on talking about a funeral held in Toronto, which he had lately attended.

It was the funeral of a police officer, he said. "It was two miles long. I followed the hearse."

### Gold Spectacles.

With a huge gold chain dangling from his vest and a pair of gold rimmed spectacles appended to the end of his rather ponderous nose, Ellis would present a picture of insignificant, but for his dapper dress. He was still garbed in the dress shirt which he wore at the execution, and a glittering diamond pin was attached to the big black tie about his neck.

Although Ellis is apparently favorably known among jail officials in Toronto and other cities, those who assist in the local hangings are not well impressed with his manner.

Several, in fact, resented his repeated attempts to be facetious before and after the execution.

One of the jailers, who is talkative when interviewed, said he can be little doubt that he is at heart more or less ashamed of his position as a hangman. At the station he kept saying he was not a R. man, and flushed angrily when the title was attempted to conceal his identity from the crowd was greeted cynically.

As the train pulled out with Ellis on the rear platform, one of the jailers watched him standing on the station platform. "Gee, I'd hate to be that guy."

Ellis while in London stayed at the Bedford Hotel, registered under "A. Russell," Toronto, and arrived in the city on Saturday morning and checked out at the hotel yesterday morning, spending the night at the hotel.

### Talked Freely.

In his interview, Ellis conversed as freely as if he had been discussing the crop of the year, and did not object to the most direct questions. Sometimes he did not answer in regard to matters relating to his execution because he was so confident to supply these some day in book form.

He has a thin, nervous face and wears heavy glasses over what are evidently weak eyes. This gives him a peculiar expression at times, as if his eyes were empty sockets. This may have been an effect caused by the lighting of the room. He is thin-lipped to grimace. He is a Lancashire man, with a soft voice and an exceedingly clever tongue."

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## MRS. GEORGE KAY CONGRATULATED BY MANY FRIENDS

Murder Victim's Widow Wins  
\$1,000 Contest Prize—  
Writes Letter of Thanks.

### LITTLE DAUGHTER AIDED

Congratulations from residents all over Western Ontario are coming in to Mrs. George Kay of Kincardine, who won the \$1,000 first prize for No. 3 district in The Advertiser contest which recently came to a close.

Mrs. Kay, whose husband was murdered by Dan a year ago, and who was herself made a helpless cripple when the murderer fired two shots at her, has sent a letter of thanks to The Advertiser.

Although Mrs. Kay could take no part in the contest personally, her little daughter shouldered the burden of the contest and managed to secure many subscriptions. It was on the suggestion of Miss Lotta Fisher of London that Mrs. Kay entered the campaign.

As soon as it became known she had signed as a candidate, Western Ontario residents, sympathizing with her in her plight, pledged many subscriptions that Mrs. Kay might win a prize. When told that she had been successful, she expressed her thanks in the following letter:

"The London Advertiser,  
London, Ont.  
"Dear Sir: I want to tell you how thankful I am for the \$1,000 cash prize which kind people all over Western Ontario have helped me to win. As you know, I am unable to earn an income, and I am always dependent on the kindness of friends. You can therefore understand how grateful I am for the efforts of those who made possible the winning of the \$1,000 prize."

"It is impossible for me to express my gratitude in words, but I want everyone who worked with my little daughter and myself to know that I shall never forget their big-hearted generosity."

"Yours sincerely,  
"MRS. GEORGE KAY."

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS  
EXTRA TRAIN SERVICE  
ACCOUNT OF EASTER.

For the accommodation of the extra travel during Easter, Canadian National Railways will operate extra train service as follows: April 17th, train No. 115 due to leave London for Glencoe, Chatham, Windsor and Detroit at 5:09 p.m. will be run in two sections. First section will leave London 8:54 p.m. Second section at the regular time 9:09 p.m.

April 20th, train No. 16 due to leave London at 7:30 p.m., for Ingersoll, Woodstock, Brantford, Hamilton and Toronto will be run in two sections. First section to leave London 6:45 p.m. Second section at regular time 7:30 p.m.

First section of this train will have no connection for Hamilton. For tickets and information, apply Ticket Office, "Clock Corner," R. E. Ruse, C. P. & T. A. Phone 80.—Advt.

METULAH IS INCLUDED  
IN PALESTINE TERRITORY

Associated Press Despatch.  
Jerusalem, April 10.—The district which includes the Jewish colony of Metulah was formally incorporated yesterday in the territory of Palestine.

The ceremony included the raising of the British flag at Metulah in the presence of Governor Symes of Samaria, Mr. Sinclair, British police commander of the district, and others as well as representatives of the Jewish authorities in Lebanon. Jewish colonists of the district held a day of rejoicing over the realization of their long-cherished desire to become a part of the Jewish national homeland in Palestine.

Some of his best jokes had such a situation for their theme.

Under perfect control till the time of the execution, he became very talkative afterwards, vividly remembering every little detail of the prisoner from the time the cell door opens till the man is shot, usually ending with the Lord's Prayer as completed by the attendant clergyman, or as in this case before it is even begun.

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REV. CHARLES LANGFORD,  
who died at his late residence, 348  
Hillsdale Ave., Toronto, Tuesday in  
his 79th year. The late Mr. Langford  
was a retired Methodist minister,  
having occupied Toronto pulpits at  
Hope, Trenton avenue, Perth avenue,  
and Woodgreen churches.

## CLUB HEARS LECTURE ON ELECTIONS IN U. S.

Fred Landon Gives Address at  
Banquet of Huron & Erie  
Organization.

The Blue Dragon team was on Tuesday evening the scene of a very fine banquet arranged by the executive committee of the Huron and Erie Men's Club. Commencing at 8:30, dinner was served to about 50 members of the club, and while this was in progress, many surprises were sprung upon members in the form of telegrams, and Messrs. J. R. Reid and C. N. Judd received the most unique surprise of all, an expensive parcel which contained for the former a beauty, "Baby Doll," and for the latter a bottle of alleged Gordon dry gin. Following this amusing preliminary, the program proper began, and the toast list was carried out with A. Brewer Hunt as chairman and toastmaster. Fred Landon, librarian of University of Western Ontario, was the principal speaker of the evening and his subject, "The Presidential Election in the United States," was one of a most interesting and instructive nature.

Mr. Landon clearly explained the party organizations, conventions with the uncertainty of their results, the college of electors, and how it often happens that a candidate who received the minority of the popular votes, has a majority of the votes of the electors and becomes president. Mr. Landon also mentioned the fact that a reform was under way as the system was based on out-of-date requirements.

On behalf of the club members, E. W. Wright moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Landon. This was seconded by P. B. Fetterly and heartily applauded with long and enthusiastic applause.

The toast list included the following: To the king, W. D. Smith; to the ladies of the staff, P. B. Fetterly and D. W. Wright; to "The Next Savings Bank," A. S. Armitage and W. A. C. Shepherd; to the benefactors, C. N. Judd and D. McEachern; to the bachelors, A. S. Armitage and D. K. members spent the remainder of the evening at the Grand Theatre performance.

NOTED WAR NURSE DIES  
IN WORCESTER HOSPITAL

Canadian Press Despatch.  
Worcester, Mass., April 10.—Miss Signe Therese, a Canadian nurse, widely known Worcester war nurse, who served overseas with the Canadian forces during the war, died in Holden Hospital yesterday. She was a registered and laboratory nurse, and was at one time a school nurse for the city of Worcester.

RUSSIAN DELEGATION  
ARRIVES IN ENGLAND

Associated Press Despatch.  
London, April 10.—The special Russian delegation which is to take part in the conference for the discussion of treaties and debts, arrived in London last night. Professor Preobrazhenski of Moscow University, is head of the delegation.



She gets relief from  
DR. CALDWELL'S LAXATIVE  
SYRUP PEPSIN

And so do the children

## Some Families Are Never Ill

FORTUNATE are the children whose parents fully realize the importance of constipation. Hospital records prove that 75 per cent of all disease originates in bowel obstruction, or constipation. Young children cry because of it; school children are hampered in their studies; grown people are 25 per cent less efficient; elderly people's blood pressure increases 25 per cent. Clara M. Smith, Big Valley, Alberta, recommends Dr. Caldwell's Laxative Syrup Pepsin for all, and especially for children and old folks. Mrs. Bettles, 3 Nanette St., Toronto, keeps a narrow in the house for family use.

Use it once and you will never again take coal-tar drugs in candy form, calomel or salts. Dr. Caldwell's Laxative Syrup Pepsin is a vegetable laxative free from opiates and narcotics. It can be safely given to infants, yet it effectively moves the bowels of adults. It gets gently in the house and use it for many indications. Beware of cheap imitations such as constipation, biliousness, torpid liver, dyspepsia, pimples and like skin eruptions. Give it early and it will break up a fever or a cold overnight. A spoonful proves it.

10 Million Bottles a Year  
Use it once and you will never again