

COUNCIL'S STREET RAILWAY PLAN IS DEFEATED

SIR ADAM BECK PREPARING TO INTRODUCE BILL IN HOUSE CANCELLING FIVE-CENT FARE

Bylaw Permitting Street Railway To Meet Obligations in Ten Annual Installments Is Defeated by 16-14 Vote—Beck Declares Poverty Plea "Lame Excuse"—Scores Track Allowance on Richmond Street.

DOUGLASS AND WENIGE POINT TO PAST

By WILLIAM SHARMAN,
Special to The Advertiser
by a Staff Correspondent.

Toronto, March 25.—Sir Adam Beck has convinced the government that it would be unwise to allow the London street railway corporation to shoulder its financial obligations in ten annual installments.

The London city council's proposal to that effect encountered defeat in the private bills committee of the Legislature at noon today by a vote of 16-14. And Sir Adam also told the members that he proposed to introduce a bill in the Legislature to cancel the five-cent fare, probably at this afternoon's session.

Mayor George Wenige and Ald. Leonard Douglass, chairman of the finance committee, headed the debate in support of the city's request. Sir Adam proved to be the vigorous opponent, despite the fact that the city council had directed that he support the measure.

Lame Excuse.

"The street railway's poverty plea is a lame excuse to justify the council's proposal to finance their track allowances promiscuously throughout the city," Sir Adam declared. "Between the city council and the Legislature, the company has a franchise so favorable and remunerative that you can't buy it for a reasonable price."

Sir Adam declared that the city council of 1923 had absolutely no reason to pave the Richmond street track allowance. It should have been left as it was if the company would not pay.

Ald. Douglass interjected the remark that as a resident of the street in question he would have headed a petition against any move to pave the street without the center, had Sir Adam ever made such a move last year. Mayor Wenige reminded a similar experience on Stanley street.

Center All Right.

"The center was all right," Sir Adam complained, "the people were using it in preference to the pavement. The council had no excuse to do what they did."

Sir Adam then reviewed the legislation enacted by the late Drury government whereby the fares were raised to five cents. "With the whole council opposing," he related, "they deliberately increased the company's revenue last year by \$200,000, and in face of a retiring franchise, the company has also saved \$100,000 by the use of hydro."

"It's irregular, illegal and improper. That's why Mayor Wenige and his associates are here. I was designated to get a purchase price from the company last year, but I was faced with this prospect—a company prosperous beyond measure. Now the mayor says we'll finance you for ten years, although your franchise expires in five years."

When Sir Adam made reference to the fact that the London street railway had the high cost of arbitration, after Toronto's experience, certain of the committee exclaimed "rightly so." Sir Adam hastily explained that while he was paid as a Toronto arbitrator, his services in London had been gratis. "I offered a million for their scrap heap, but they wouldn't accept," he stated. "I say it's time to stop breaking contracts."

"What would you do?" he was asked by the attorney-general (pro-reading).

"I'd do nothing," he advised. "Let the council make the company live up to its agreement. The company's supposed to be bankrupt, but is asking 300 per cent for its stock. I am going to submit a bill this afternoon to invalidate the bill of the last government."

Opposition voices: "No, no." "It's a ramshackle job," continued Sir Adam unflinched. "Cheap. Please see Page 2, Columns 3 and 4."

The Weather

FORECASTS.

Today—Light winds; fair, with light rain. Wednesday—Southeast winds; mild, with light rain. Thursday—Pressure is high over the eastern half of the continent, while a shallow depression now in the Missouri Valley is moving toward the Great Lakes. The weather is mild throughout the Dominion.

Temperatures.

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

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	58	38	Clear
Calgary	34	18	Cloudy
Winnipeg	44	20	Cloudy
Port Arthur	38	25	Show
Sault Ste. Marie	42	25	Clear
Cochran	32	19	Clear
Toronto	46	28	Cloudy
Kingston	44	24	Fair
Ottawa	38	29	Clear
Montreal	34	20	Clear
Quebec	38	25	Clear
St. John	50	38	Clear
Halifax	44	29	Cloudy

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 36, lowest, 30. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 44; lowest, 28. Barometric Readings. Monday—2 p.m.—29.24. Today—8 a.m.—29.41.



SIR ADAM BECK, Member for London, who strongly opposed the street railway bill today and proposes to introduce a bill to do away with five-cent fares.



HON. W. F. NICKLE,

attorney-general, who questioned today why London's more important civil affairs are not submitted to the people for a vote.

THREATS MADE AGAINST EDSEL FORD'S CHILDREN

Two of Foreign Nationality Are Held by the Police of Detroit.

Associated Press Despatch.

Detroit, March 25.—Existence of letters threatening that if Edsel Ford, president of the Ford Motor Company did not pay the sum of \$1,050,000, his three children would be blinded in an unnamed manner, was disclosed late yesterday by the Detroit police. At the same time Waslov Simek, 23, and Mrs. Annie Hladik, with whom he has been identified in the alleged plot.

According to Chief of Detectives Edward H. Fox, three letters were received at the Ford office, March 8, 9 and 12, respectively. They were crudely printed, vague in terms and apparently written by someone barely able to understand English. A handwriting expert has identified the letters as written by Simek, Fox declared. Simek said, according to the police, that he was forced to write the letters by Mrs. Hladik, with whom he has boarded since coming here four months ago from Czechoslovakia.

"I'd do nothing," he advised. "Let the council make the company live up to its agreement. The company's supposed to be bankrupt, but is asking 300 per cent for its stock. I am going to submit a bill this afternoon to invalidate the bill of the last government."

Opposition voices: "No, no." "It's a ramshackle job," continued Sir Adam unflinched. "Cheap. Please see Page 2, Columns 3 and 4."

MAJORITY COMPLYING WITH FIRE ORDINANCES

More Than 100 Buildings Are Inspected by Department Last Week.

More than 100 buildings were inspected by the fire department last week, and in the majority of cases were found to be complying with the necessary fire regulations.

Only in one or two cases was waste material found in dangerous places.

"CHICK" FAULKNER NOW ON WAY TO RECOVERY

Charles (Chick) Faulkner, 17-year-old messenger boy of the C. N. R., who was accidentally shot by his chum, Peter Woods, while out hunting Saturday afternoon on a farm near the Asylum sidewalk, is doing nicely at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Faulkner, 1051 Dundas street, and will recover.

BANDITS SHOOT CUSTOMS OFFICER

Officer at Lewiston, N. Y., Attempted To Intercept Party Entering U. S.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Niagara Falls, Ont., March 25.—Gilbert Carter, customs and immigration officer at Lewiston, N. Y., was shot five times this morning by a party of foreigners attempting to get into the United States from Canada.

Local police were notified, and in a very short time caught four men in an automobile. They are being questioned by the police. Carter is expected to recover, although he received three shots from a .45 calibre gun in one leg and two in the other. Carter, who is all alone on duty at Lewiston in the early morning, saw the party crossing the river in a boat, called upon the men to halt and was immediately shot.

HALF MILLION WOODEN BEADS SPRING CLEANED

Equipment Used by Kindergarten Kiddies Brightly Colored Again.

Over half a million small wooden beads, the property of the London schools, were washed, dyed and given a general spring cleaning last week.

These beads form part of the kindergarten equipment and are used to thread on strings by the smallest school members of the community. They are pretty old beads, and it was thought cheaper to wash and dye them than to buy a new set.

The dyes used in the process were special non-poisonous dyes. The cost of the operation was \$15.

FRISKY C. N. R. YARD ENGINE WANTS TO GO ALONG, TOO

Just as the C. N. R. No. 425 p.m. Toronto train was going through the yards of East London yesterday it filled a frisky yard engine with a desire to go along, too.

While the engine was down on the cinders near the rear of the tender the engine started on its jaunt and was gathering up a nice speed when overtaken by the active crew.

EXHIBITION GAME. The St. Thomas junior basketball team plays the "Y." juniors on Friday night. It will be an exhibition game, and will be followed by a game between the University of Western Ontario juniors and the "Y." Tigers in the O. B. A. series.

Newsy Bits From Today's Classified Ads.

Irish terrier lost.
Organist and choir leader wanted.
Shoemaker wants position.
Used cars for sale.
Genuine business for sale.

LONDONER ARRESTED UNDER U.S. MANN ACT

George Griffin Charged With Taking Alien Woman Into Country.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Claims To Have Been Married in Mexico Just Across Border.

Special to The Advertiser.

San Diego, Cal., March 25.—George Griffin, former real estate agent of London, Ontario, is under arrest here, charged with violation of the immigration laws by bringing into the United States an alien woman for alleged immoral purposes.

The woman is alleged to be Mrs. J. R. Stuart, a widow, also from London. She supported Griffin in his claim that they were married at Tia Juana, Mexico, just across the border from this city.

When questioned, neither could remember the name of the judge who performed the ceremony in Mexico, and said they had lost the marriage certificate.

Griffin is bound over under a \$1,000 bond under the Mann Act. Mrs. Stuart is being held by immigration authorities pending a ruling from Washington as to whether she can be deported.

George Griffin, mentioned in the above despatch, was in the real estate business here for several years. He was arrested on a charge of fraud in connection with a real estate deal, the case being dismissed in the county court two months ago. Bail at that time was put up by Mrs. Stuart.

POSTAL CLERKS ARE PATIENTLY WAITING

Local Employees Can Take No Action Until a Reply Is Received From Ottawa.

Regarding their grievances in the matter of loss of bonuses, postal clerks have nothing to say. They are simply waiting a reply from the government at Ottawa, which is expected tonight. No action has been taken locally or will anything be done until the answer is received.

It has been pointed out that nothing can be done until Ottawa speaks as to whether action, if any, is taken will depend entirely on what the government says.

The strike vote that was taken is not a thing, they say, that should be taken too literally. Postal clerks do not want to strike or have any kind of trouble whatever, but a vote such as was taken gives them a fairly accurate idea of the general feeling among the men.

BUILDING OF PRESENT BIBLE IS EXPLAINED

Dr. R. J. Bowen Gives Illustrated Lecture Before Bible Class.

Illustrating the many sources from which the material for our present Bible has been gathered, Dr. R. J. Bowen showed before the London Businessmen's Bible Class a beautiful and informing set of lantern slides at the Y. M. C. A. last night.

Many pictures of the oldest manuscripts of the Bible now being served in the British Museum, and those of other nations were shown. These views fittingly closed the series of Bible lectures given by Dr. K. P. R. Neville of the University of Western Ontario.

J. F. Maine was elected president of the class, and G. W. Hoffer was chosen vice-president.

In the near future arrangements will be made for another series of lectures along the same lines.

INSPECTOR OF AUXILIARY CLASSES LAUDS WORK HERE

Dr. S. B. Sinclair, provincial inspector of auxiliary classes, who was in the city last week carrying out an inspection, expressed himself as well pleased with the manner in which these classes are being conducted in London. There are four auxiliary classes in London, in the following schools, Alexandra, Lord Roberts, Simcoe street and Wortley road. They are devoted to the care of children needing special tuition.

C. P. R. SUPERINTENDENT IS ILL. F. M. Rutter, superintendent of the C. P. R. for this division, is confined to the home of his father in Toronto through illness, which seized him suddenly while visiting in that city.



MAYOR TODAY. Ald. Allan Towse is in charge at the city hall, as Mayor Wenige is in Toronto in connection with the city of London bill.

STUDENTS FORM OWN TORY CLUB

Gather With Banner and Local Organization Is Launched—Thought "Harmless."

Fifty students from the University of Western Ontario met last night in the Tecumseh House and launched an organization to be known as the University Conservative Club.

This action is inspired by the local Conservative Association and prominent members of the party, and the understanding is that the undergraduates are to have use of the Conservative Club rooms on Richmond street.

Last night's gathering is the result of protracted planning by local Conservative officials, and gave rise to lengthy discussions with much warring of the Tory banner, before the organization was finally formed. The officers of the new club, who were chosen last night, are: President, Robert Shaw-Wood; vice-president, George Bond; secretary, Wilfred Rigney; and treasurer, Jack Blackwell.

"It seems harmless enough," one member of the university faculty said to The Advertiser. The idea is probably to counteract too much education."

GRANT WYLIE IS CHOSEN PREFECT UNANIMOUSLY

Highest Honor of Class Is Bestowed On Popular Arts '25 Student.

Grant Wylie has been unanimously chosen as prefect by the class of Arts '25 of the University of Western Ontario.

This position is the head of the students' council, the highest honor the class can bestow, and the election by acclamation is an added compliment.

The nomination meeting of the class was in preparation for the elections in April. Jack Hungerford and Helen Lindsay were chosen as representatives of Arts on the university athletic directorate.

Contest Winner Undecided Though End Draws Near

Votes Rolling in and Candidates Enter Last Lap of Race.

NEW LIST ANNOUNCED. Published Lists Show New Leaders Daily in Each District.

The final period in the drive for subscriptions got off to an auspicious start Monday when candidates turned in a gratifying number of votes. As the closing hour draws near everyone is inspired with new energy and determination, making the race one of the most interesting ever conducted in Canada.

Who will win the \$2,000 grand prize is still a question which will remain unanswered until the last day of the contest. A new leader in each group is recorded almost every second day.

Many are the methods and stories told of the procedure adopted by contestants in selling The Advertiser to the public. The most effective system, however, is stressing the merit of The Advertiser as a live, informative and interesting newspaper.

For the value contained in a newspaper, it is the cheapest commodity in the world today. And, judged by accepted journalistic standards, The Advertiser is the least expensive publication in Western Ontario.

Be sure and see vote standing of all contestants on Page 9 of today's Advertiser.

"Am I a Pinhead or Not?" Wenige Doesn't Think So And Wants Beck to Debate

Invites Public To Attend Demonstration In Order To Decide.

"SIR ADAM IS A JOKE"

Mayor Challenges Chairman to Public Discussion—"All Seats Free."

Is George Albert Wenige fully qualified to sit in the "seats of the mighty" at the city hall?

At yesterday's inaugural session of the London & Port Stanley Railway Commission, the chairman of that board, Sir Adam Beck, M.L.A. for London, was quite outspoken in his opinion that "Mayor Wenige was not big enough for the job he is filling."

And now Mayor Wenige wishes Sir Adam Beck to answer or to retract the definition of his "pinhead" qualities as chief magistrate.

Mayor Wenige is anxious that the respective merits of his quarrel with Sir Adam, in relation to the administration of the Port Stanley Railway, be publicly debated. In fact, he hurled a deliberate challenge in Sir Adam's direction before leaving for Toronto last night.

"I will meet Sir Adam anywhere and at any time, and I hope he accepts my challenge," Mayor Wenige stated.

"He has declared at a public meeting that, in his opinion, I am not capable to act as the mayor of London. I feel that I have the right to defend myself from this unwarranted attack."

"Dealing strictly with the affairs of the London & Port Stanley Railway, I will meet in debate with Sir Adam, on an open public platform, when I will give him the opportunity to submit his evidence in support of his claim that I am a pinhead administrator."

"I will make this one stipulation, however, Sir Adam must confine his remarks and argument to his record as a member of the London & Port Stanley Railway Commission, and as a member of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Hydro must not be dragged into this affair. I am dealing strictly with the Port Stanley administration."

"If Sir Adam will accept my challenge, it must be upon the basis of my contention that rules and regulations must govern the affairs of the city's road. Sir Adam cannot be a law unto himself."

"I know I'm right. I can and will prove it in public debate. As chairman of the Port Stanley Commission, I say that Sir Adam Beck is a joke."

'NEW-FANGLED' LAWS PROVE BURDEN TO MAN OF EIGHTY

"New fangled" laws regarding temperance are mighty hard to get accustomed to, particularly when one has been accustomed to a drink for 79 years. This was the burden of Richard Ross' complaint this morning when he appeared charged with drunkenness.

Ross is just one year less than 80, and is probably the oldest man that ever appeared in court for a breach of the law. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 and costs.

ELECTED DIRECTOR.

R. A. Finn of the local branch of the department of agriculture has been elected a director of the Peninsular Winter Fair, Chatham.

JURY DECLARES VETERAN AND WIFE MURDERED

Police at Port Coquitlan Institute Search For Slayer of Two.

Canadian Press Despatch. New Westminster, B. C., March 25.—That Albert Witherly, wounded war veteran, and his wife, Edith, whose battered and blood-covered bodies were found lying on the floor of the bungalow they occupied at Port Coquitlan, were foully murdered some time around 10 o'clock on Friday, was the conclusion arrived at by the coroner's jury yesterday.

For absolute lack of motive and brutal ferocity the double murder stands out startlingly. In the town it has resulted in doors being bolted and windows shuttered and locked.

RETURNS STILL INCOMPLETE. Associated Press Despatch. Perth, Australia, March 25.—The Western Australia election returns still are incomplete. The substantial labor gains reported so far are attributed to the splitting of the anti-labor vote.

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REV. DR. ROBERT JOHNSTON of Calgary, who is on a two-months' speaking tour of Canadian cities, addressing churches and clubs on the Frontier College.

HUNDREDS MORE SIGN PETITION

Four Hundred Signatures Are Secured Monday in "Slim" Williams' Behalf.

Four hundred signatures were secured Monday by J. R. Vincent, 790 Grey street, to the petition he is circulating asking a reprieve for "Slim" Williams, sentenced to die on April 10 for the part he took in the Melbourne bank robbery in 1921. This brings the total to over 1,100.

Mr. Vincent states Saturday will be the last day the petition will be in circulation, and asks for a dozen or more volunteer workers to canvass the market square on that day.

MARMORA STREET MAN HAS REAL MYSTERY

A. F. Fitzsimmons Finds House Doors Locked in Unexplainable Manner.

A. F. Fitzsimmons, 7 Marmora street, was confronted with a rather mysterious situation last evening when, leaving his house for a short time with the doors open, he returned to find them locked.

During the time Mr. Fitzsimmons was absent from his home no one, so far as he could determine, entered or left the residence. Accompanied by two friends he returned from downtown and proceeded to a kennels in the rear of his abode to show the friends his Boston bull pups. While there the friends drew his attention to a noise in the house, but this almost immediately subsided. Mr. Fitzsimmons concluded it was his wife.

On attempting to enter the house, however, the back door was found to be locked. Mr. Fitzsimmons unlocked it and discovered the two front doors wide open. All this time Mrs. Fitzsimmons was not in the house.

Mr. Fitzsimmons is now trying to solve the mystery.

WELL-KNOWN EMPLOYEE SUCCEEDS John Chick in East London Office.

Harvey Walton, employed in the C. N. R. office at Rectory street, for the past six years, has been appointed chief clerk to W. H. Ogilvie, yardmaster, succeeding John E. Chick, who has been promoted to chief clerk to the yardmaster at Hamilton.

Mr. Walton is a native of London, and his promotion comes as a fitting tribute to the efficient work he has rendered his employer with the Canadian National Railway.

DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR FRUIT GROWERS

Fruit growers in the vicinity of Strathroy, on Friday afternoon, will meet at the orchard of Andy Douglas for a pruning and spraying demonstration, weather permitting. T. E. Bogue will spray with a power outfit.

R. R. Waddle, fruit inspector, St. Thomas, will outline some methods in pruning. All growers are asked to bring their saws and to take part in the demonstration.

TOPPING'S APPEAL TO COME UP ON MONDAY

Counsel For Defence Receives Official Word of Date of Hearing.

NOT TO BE PRESENT

Definitely Stated Slayer of Girl Will Not Appear at Toronto.

Special to The Advertiser by a Staff Correspondent.

Oshawa, Ont., March 25.—In the latter now under sentence of death, D. A. J. Swanson, counsel for the defence, has received word that by fiat of the attorney-general Monday, March 31, would be the date set for hearing the appeal from the trial judge's decision, which Mr. Swanson declared was not given on the evidence offered. Mr. Swanson wired that the date set would be satisfactory, which is ten days before the date set for execution of the death sentence.

Topping, who was sentenced to be hanged on April 10 for the murder of Geraldine Durston, is claimed to be not mentally responsible by D. A. J. Swanson, counsel for the Strathroy youth. Therefore no object would be gained, in the opinion of local officials, by having Topping present during the proceedings at Osgoode Hall.

The whole appeal, as in the Murrell case, is based on mixed facts and law. If it were facts alone, Topping would be entitled to be present, under the criminal code. It is definitely stated he will not be taken to Toronto.

VETERANS' SECRETARY TO INVESTIGATE CASE

E. J. Cornelius Believed To Be Suffering From Effects of War.

The case of E. J. Cornelius, a great war veteran and employee of the McClary Manufacturing Co., up until several weeks ago when he was forced to relinquish his duties owing to ill health brought on, it is claimed, by the effects of serving overseas, will be investigated by the local secretary of the G. V. V. A., George Turner.

Mr. Turner received a letter this morning from Dr. D. A. Volume, provincial president of the association asking him to act on Cornelius' behalf.

Mr. Cornelius, who lives at Landsdowne avenue, has gradually seen his little home broken up in effort to secure medical aid to bring back his health, but now his condition is such that it is doubtful if he will ever work again. Drs. Alexander and Stubbins of the D. S. C. R. staff have volunteered their services to help the young man, who at the present time is in a pitiable condition.

HARVEY WALTON NEW C. N. R. CHIEF CLERK

Well-Known Employee Succeeds John Chick in East London Office.

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Who's Who?