

The London Evening Free Press

WESTERN ONTARIO'S FOREMOST NEWSPAPER.

THE WEATHER: Probabilities - Rain.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1923-40 PAGES.

THREE CENTS

NEED SEWERS MORE THAN NEW CITY HALL

BRIBERY SEEN IN BRITISH VOTING

Liberals Allege Money Flowing Into Labor Coffers In Triangular Contests.

CAMPAIGN IS ROWDIEST SINCE FIGHT OF 1910

Government Gaining Strength Through Baldwin's Stand On Reparations.

BY HARRY N. MOORE.

Special Cable to London Free Press.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—The present election campaign is becoming the rowdiest and the bitterest since the famous fight of 1910.

From many constituencies where Labor is the strongest party come reports of Conservative and Liberal meetings broken up, while in other places where Labor is weak the candidates of that party complain that strong-arm objectors imposed on the constituency and of communistic and extreme views are endeavoring to intimidate the voters.

The Liberals allege that money is flowing into the Labor coffers in those ridings where the free trade vote is split, with the result that the Conservative candidate seems to have a chance of winning by splitting the vote.

Labor to-day admits receiving two mysterious donations in Hendon and also in North London. The Labor candidate at the former place admits that a stranger handed him a sum of £200 a few days ago, but he declares he is keeping this sum intact until after the election, when he will hand it over to certain charities.

BALDWIN GAINS STRENGTH.

Meanwhile the Government is daily gaining strength by the latest developments in European policy which show that the firm stand taken by Baldwin is at last getting results.

The opposition of two important Conservative papers are somewhat skeptical about the meetings and doubt whether France will impose some insupportable difficulties to their assembly before the hour set for assembly.

This situation illustrates the attitude of the Conservative die-hards toward Premier Baldwin.

DIE-HARDS FORCED HAND.

The prime minister, it is generally admitted, was forced to accept protection at the urging of these die-hards but he all along realized the necessity of rehabilitating Europe through allowing Germany to recover.

The die-hards, on the other hand, maintained that the irreconcilable attitude of M. Poincare exhibited thus far has proved its efficacy and they are now endeavoring to minimize the importance of events in foreign affairs developments during the last two weeks.

Baldwin is no doubt gaining in general popularity, but whether this increase of favor will be translated into more votes on election day is another question.

Another curious development of the last week is the curious attitude of the press towards the election and the candidates.

It is certain that owing to recent amalgamations in the press, more space is being devoted to the election in endeavoring to justify their own particular policies rather than the support of any particular party.

NEWSPAPERS LEAD ATTACKS.

Columns are now devoted to the task of vilifying one another and of trying to justify their own course of action. The Westminster Gazette, The Morning Post and The Daily Express devote a large amount of space every day to the explanation of their positions.

Summing up the situation since nominations it seems certain now that (Continued on Page Sixteen.)

E. L. Peirce



Appointed London representative of the Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada. Mr. Peirce is district manager of Ash-Temple Company.

MYSTERY BULLET IS STILL MISSING

Sifting Plaster Fragments Fails To Disclose Constable Harpur's Shot.

VICTIM'S HOST HAS PLAUSIBLE THEORY

What became of the .38 caliber bullet fired by Police Constable Walter Harpur at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Cook, 218 York street, a week ago, when Clarence Topping embarked on a shooting rampage because his affections were being flung by Geraldine Durston? This is a question that has been puzzling police ever since the shooting of Miss Durston and her chum, Miss Joan McNaughton, who is still in Victoria Hospital suffering from the effects of wounds in her chest and back. More especially is it puzzling to Constable Harpur and to George Cook, occupant of the house.

Every effort has been made to find it. Holes in two walls of the bedroom in which the shooting took place have been thoroughly examined, police even going so far as to take down the plaster on the east wall, which the bullet apparently penetrated. The air space through it was searched and cards removed from the floor. Through this aperture, police officers crawled in under the house, but no trace of the missing missile could be discovered.

NO TRACE OF BULLET.

Mr. Cook has augmented these efforts by sifting the fragments of plaster removed from the wall. The bed clothes have been shaken and every nook and cranny searched without result, and now the master of the house where the Misses Durston and McNaughton boarded advances a new theory.

He believes that after the bullet had ricocheted and penetrated the east wall on its backward journey, leaving a hole which indicates that it went right through, its spinning motion caused it to fly backwards out of the hole it had made and fall on the bed. Later, when the wounded young women were wrapped in blankets and removed to Victoria Hospital, he believes that the bullet may have been in blankets in which they were wrapped and that it fell out on the way to the hospital.

Whether this theory is correct or not may never be known, but Mr. Cook believes that it is and his assertions are borne out in the fact that despite an untiring search the bullet has not been found.

FIGURES SHOW TAX RATE WAS 40 MILLS

Thirty-Four Mill Rate Merely Covered General Taxes and Not Local Improvements.

MAYOR DECEIVES PUBLIC TO ADD TO CITY'S BURDEN

Property Owners Know That Amount Collected On Assessment Is Too High.

Mayor Wenige has taken particular pains at every meeting where he spoke on the city hall question to tell the audience that he had no reason to camouflage in any way. He mentioned several times that a 40-mill tax rate had been predicted, and he insisted that such predictions were far from being true. He has emphatically declared that the actual average tax rate paid by the citizens of London this year was 24.7 mills. But he did not explain that this was only a half truth, for it is a fact that the actual average tax rate paid by the citizens of London this year was 41.3 mills, and not 24.7 mills. These are figures which the mayor could have, and it is safe to assume he does, know them, but for his own reasons he did not choose to give them out to the public at the meetings. Instead of that he fed the audience only that portion of the facts which he believed would be good for them at that time. And he did so in a way that, he believes, would be advantageous in his campaign for a new city hall.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

When his worship was telling the ratepayers, whose money must foot the bills for the new city hall, that the tax rate this year has been only 24.7 mills, he refrained from explaining the rate covered merely the general tax, improvement taxes, and these are local improvement taxes that must be paid, and that add to the burdens of the ratepayers. Taking the general and local improvement taxes, and these are at ways added together on the yearly basis, the average rate for the current year figures out at 41.3 mills. The effect of this can his worship truthfully say that the 40-mill prediction was far from the truth as he tried to make the people believe? He did not protest that he had no reason for camouflaging. Will he say now why he did not give the entire facts to the audience who did not know them? Should he have known them?

Perhaps his worship may say that it is the custom to speak of the general tax only when referring to the rate. That may be all right, but attention is called to the fact that in addition to the general tax, as well as improvement taxes, as well as the ratepayer who paid 41.3 mills on his assessment this year cannot believe the rate was only 24.7 mills, and there (Continued on Page Sixteen.)

UNKNOWN WOMAN DROWNS SELF IN RIVER THAMES

Jumped Off Ridout Street Bridge and Drowned Before Rescue Arrived.

RING INDICATES THAT VICTIM WAS MARRIED

Well Dressed, Apparent Age 28, Had Brown Hair and Wore Brown Shoes.

An unknown, young, married woman, well dressed, hurled herself from the Ridout street bridge at 10.15 o'clock this morning and found a tragic death in the cold, murky waters of the River Thames. The body was recovered at 11.15 o'clock in the vicinity of the Wharfedale bridge, but, despite the strenuous efforts at artificial respiration, the body displayed no signs of life.

After a search extending for almost an hour the body was sighted floating face downward by Florence Hunter and Barnes, who summoned Clarence Porter, 62 Cavendish street, who responded with a row boat and the body was pulled from the river a few minutes later. First aid methods were immediately applied by the firemen, assisted by Thomas Everett, 274 Thames street. WORE GOOD CLOTHES.

The woman appeared to be about 28 or 30 years old, but this could not be ascertained with any degree of certainty because of the bruises on the face caused by banging against the bank. She appeared to be about five feet in height and had hair of light brown.

At the time she made her dash to death she wore a black plush coat, lined with fur. When taken from the water she was wearing, and wore a blue serge dress, beater stockings and a pair of brown oxfords. Her water-soaked hair was fastened with a pair of colored beads.

Despite the fact that the body had been in the water an hour before being discovered, the firemen, who were valiantly bringing the woman to life by artificial respiration, but it was a hopeless task.

Pedestrians proceeding along Ridout street in the vicinity of the hydro-electric power house noticed the woman jump from the bank to the water's edge. There she threw off her hat and coat and plunged into the muddy and swollen stream. The alarm was immediately sent to the fire department and rescuers, equipped with the pulmotor, responded.

FLOATED DOWN STREAM.

By this time the form of the woman had floated down stream toward the park in the river and the firemen proceeded to the Dundas street bridge, near the jail, where they worked continuously, using life jackets and apparatus in an effort to defeat her attempt at suicide.

One of the men who had seen her enter the water ran to the water's edge and picked up her discarded garments, jumping in a truck he hurried to the police station and notified the desk sergeant of the incident. Constables were dispatched to the scene to aid the firemen in their endeavor at rescue.

FOUR FISHERMEN ARE DROWNED IN MANITOBA

DAUPHIN, Man., Dec. 1.—Four fishermen belonging to Meadow Portage, Man., were drowned in Lake Manitoba last Wednesday. It became known here last night. The dead are: George Sabiston and his two sons, Robert and William, and Alexander Spence.

The victims are all old-time residents of Northern Manitoba. The men and some out on the ice to set their nets. The ice, which had been softened by the recent warm weather, gave way beneath them, throwing them into the water.

BAR HIGHWAY SIGNS.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 1.—Minnesota's new law prohibiting advertising signs on truck highways went into effect today. Thousands of signs, ranging in size from small tin tags to big billboards, are being removed.



The pupils of Grade VIIA of St. George's Public School who are under the direction of H. R. Hooper are shown in the photo. These are a bright-looking lot, are they not?

FATHER OF FIVE FALLS TO DEATH FROM SCAFFOLD

Frank Seybold, of Chicago, Fatally Injured When Part of Structure Breaks.

FELL 165 FEET FROM CHIMNEY AT HAMILTON

Twenty-Five-Year-Old Victim Was Working With His Father At the Time.

HAMILTON, Dec. 1.—Frank Seybold, Chicago, fell 165 feet from the top of a chimney being erected by the Hamilton Solway Company for the United Gas and Fuel Company, to his death this morning. He had come here from Chicago with his father. They are experts in the construction of such work. They were putting the finishing touches on the chimney when part of the scaffold broke. His body was frightfully mangled in the fall.

Although only 25 years of age, the dead man leaves a widow and five children.

ADVANCE POLL IS AGAINST CITY HALL

Many Travelers and Railway Men Voting At City Hall.

A heavy vote is being polled in the railway and travelers' poll which is being held in the city hall under the supervision of J. W. Cunliffe. If the count out on Monday night, it is understood that quite a majority of the votes polled up till noon to-day were in favor of the city hall.

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WHY GO THROUGH IN DEBT?

7.—Because Thomas Adams, the international town-planning expert, in making a survey of London, reported against building on the McCormick site. He suggested a central location off Dundas street and proposed for the present rebuilding the Spencer Block, as an administrative office along lines similar to the Public Utilities building. With the money on hand this could be done without the addition of a cent to the debt. Mayor Wenige was the man who seconded the motion to bring Thomas Adams to London.

U. S. WON'T ACT IN REPARATIONS

Washington States Unwillingness To Participate.

PROBE GERMAN FINANCES

Americans Do Not Fall In Line For Proposed Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The United States Government is still unwilling to participate in a restricted inquiry into German finances and has so informed James A. Logan, the United States observer with the reparations commission in Paris.

The communication outlining the United States' position was sent to Col. Logan after he had informed the state department that the reparations com-

Why the Electors Should Vote Against the City Hall By-Law

On Monday the ratepayers of London will be asked to vote upon a by-law providing for the issuing of \$500,000 debentures for the erection of a new city hall to be built upon the McCormick site, on Dundas street. The Free Press is opposed to this by-law for the following reasons:

1.—Because the City of London is at present a 115 per cent. city, to use the words of Robert Babson, the eminent economist, and to maintain the high business and financial standing of London, the municipality, under present conditions, should not enter upon any new expenditures which are not absolutely necessary.

2.—Because every municipal and financial expert strongly advises a policy of strict governmental economy and reduction in taxes, as the only way to restore normal business conditions. Babson says: "Every business man and every Government should tighten their belt, cut out frills and fake optimism, reduce their debts and costs and work for a greater efficiency and lower taxes." George H. Ross, finance commissioner, of Toronto, in urging municipal economy, says: "A universal policy of doing without other than absolute essentials for a few years would have a corrective tendency."

TAX RATE HIGHER.

3.—Because London's expenditures and taxes have been increasing in recent years out of all proportion to the population. If London is to maintain her present credit she must hold down both. The population since 1912 has grown 27½ per cent. and in the same time the taxes have jumped 250 per cent.

4.—Because only two kinds of construction work should be proceeded with at the present time, revenue producing undertakings and works which are absolutely essential. The city hall comes under neither of these classifications.

MUCH NECESSARY WORK.

5.—Because London has a big program of work ahead which does come under these two classifications which must be started in the near future. There is a sewer program which may run as high as a million dollars, and the erection of two new Collegiate Institutes, as well as new public schools, cannot be long delayed. The city will also likely take over the London street railway as a municipal enterprise.

6.—Because the erection of the city hall, as proposed, even without a cent of extras, will mean the city debt will be enlarged by at least \$300,000 with additional taxation for every ratepayer. Furnishings alone are likely to cost \$100,000 or more.

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MILLION DOLLARS OF SEWERS REQUIRED

Pouring of Raw Sewage Into the River May Be Stopped By Health Board Any Time.

DISPOSAL PLANT NOT OPERATED FOR YEARS

Two Mills of Tax Rate Necessary To Do This Most Important Work.

City Engineer Near has been devoting much study to London's needs in regard to sewers since he took over his duties early in the year and he has repeatedly stated that an expenditure of \$1,000,000 in the immediate future would be hardly sufficient to bring the city's sewer system up to present-day requirements.

The present system is more antiquated and many times less efficient than is the old city hall building, in the opinion of those who have studied both questions. It is the consensus of opinion as found among men of all walks of life that it is infinitely more necessary to bring the sewerage system up to a proper standard than it is to erect a new city hall.

RAW SEWAGE IN RIVER.

From reliable information received by The Free Press to-day, it was learned that the Provincial Board of Health is not at all likely to allow present conditions to continue much longer. It is well known that the old sewage disposal beds at the Coves are that in name only. The raw sewage is pouring right over them directly into the river. The city Council of the last few years have been touching wood, so to speak, because they realized that at any moment the water might come through to "up your river for the sake of the health of the vicinity." The fact that the war was on and the readjustment that followed, has been the reason for the order being delayed thus long.

MAY ORDER WORK DONE.

In this connection it is pointed out that the careful consideration of the Provincial Board of Health is given to a proposal to construct a separate sewer bed for the High street sewer is rather significant. While the plans have been entirely approved, with the exception of the disposal plant, and work is going on, there is a feeling that the order may now come through that the river must be entirely freed of raw sewage. When such an order comes, as it admittedly must come sooner or later, the city will have no recourse but to do the work required of the cost.

At a conservative estimate, the cleaning up of the river would cost from one-half to one million dollars, depending on the amount of new sewers that it would be necessary to construct. This would mean an addition of approximately two mills on the tax rate, which is already so high that it is a decided burden on a large number of citizens.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA IS 75 YEARS OLD TO-DAY

LONDON, Dec. 1.—Queen Mother Alexandra is celebrating her 75th birthday to-day. King George will pay her a visit at Sandringham Palace, where she is staying, and where she is receiving numerous congratulatory telegrams and letters. Alexandra is in excellent health.

ROSES ARE BLOOMING IN TILBURY GARDEN

TILBURY, Dec. 1.—The weather man here is saying it with flowers and his language amounts to anything there is abundant prospect of a mild winter, to say nothing of an early spring. All of which is by way of introducing the surprising fact that roses are blooming, not in Italy, but in the garden of Chief of Police Wellwood, of this town.

Transoceanic Conversation Will Be Tested To-Night By British and U. S. A. Stations

Experiments At Carrying Voice Across the Atlantic Will Be Made Alternately By Two Countries.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—An international dialogue, with United States and British speakers talking back and forth across the Atlantic will be attempted to-night as the final demonstration of a series of tests to establish the practicability of transoceanic conversation.

Speakers in a half dozen United States cities will speak simultaneously for five minutes, starting at 10 o'clock, Eastern standard time. The radiophone will carry the talk to stations in England, Scotland and Wales and whatever other countries that may chance to intercept them.

Then at 10.05 speakers will send their voices across the Atlantic to the United States. The two bits of speakers will alternate for five-minute periods until 10.30 o'clock.

THE WEATHER

PROBABILITIES: Moderate winds; cloudy and mild. Sunday: Southeast winds; mild and probably 14 to 18 rains.

NOTES: The depression which was centered in Michigan yesterday has passed to New Brunswick, and rain is falling in a d. Northeast Provinces. Pressure is now highest over the Great Lakes.

"Zimmie"

Notes, while it is low over the Missouri Valley. The weather is fairly cold from Manitoba west and mild from Lake Superior east.

TEMPERATURES: Following are the highest and lowest temperatures for 24 hours, between 8 p. m. and 8 a. m.

Station	Max.	Min.	Remarks
LONDON	39	27	Rain
Victoria	44	36	Cloudy
Colgate	22	8	Clear
Winnipeg	24	14	Snow
Port Arthur	35	26	Cloudy
Perry Sound	42	30	Cloudy
Toronto	46	40	Cloudy
Kingston	48	40	Fair
Ottawa	35	26	Cloudy
Montreal	44	38	Clear
Quebec	36	26	Fair
St. John	44	44	Rain
Halifax	46	44	Rain

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS.

Steamer	Arrived at	From
Minnikahada	New York	Hamburg
Providence	New York	Naples
Pres. Fillmore	New York	Bremen
Orduna	Hamburg	New York
Kyndam	Rotterdam	New York
Chicago	Havre	New York
America	Bremen	New York
M. Wauchope	New York	New York
Montevideo	Barcelona	New York
Lackawanna	Liverpool	New York

VICTORY PERCHES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE UNIVERSITY RUGBY DANCE CONTROVERSY

Orchestra Played National Anthem At Midnight, But Dance Started Again Immediately — Dean's Council Refused To Sanction Extension.

Despite refusal of the deans' council of University of Western Ontario, to extend the hours of the annual rugby dance from 12 midnight last night to 1 o'clock this morning, the master minds in charge of the function found a way of evading the official negotiation while at the same time extending the dance, sub-rosa, until the hour desired.

At midnight the orchestra played the national anthem, marking the end of the rugby dance, which was held at the Winter Gardens. But hardly had the last note of "God Save the King" died away than the jazz experts struck

A Vote For a New City Hall Is a Vote For Higher Taxes