

## LABOR WOMEN KEEN FOR OLD AGE PENSIONS

Local Organization Announces  
Platform for Next Pro-  
vincial Election.

Declares Candidate Must  
Promise Aid To Obtain  
Support.

Old age pensions is to be the big issue with the London Women's Labor Party in the next provincial election. According to a decision reached at the regular weekly meeting of the progressive organization this week, the candidate to receive the support of the Women's Labor Party must definitely state that old age pensions is a plank in his platform, be he Labor, Liberal or Conservative.

The subject received practically the entire attention of the meeting, beginning with reports submitted by committees on investigation made in connection with appeals from old people for assistance. As a result of research, the committees, with Mrs. F. Harding and Mrs. W. Stinson as conveners, were united in their conclusion that old age pensions are an imperative need until workers receive adequate wages to enable them to provide for their old age.

Following the discussion, an address on the subject from Arthur Mould was timely and listened to with approving interest. He used, as a unique illustration of conditions as he sees them, the reversing of the order of the bees in the hive. In the bee kingdom, he said, the workers gather the honey and store the food for winter use, while the drones, who refuse to work, are thrown out. The honey is taken away, but the bees are given a substitute adequate to their needs.

In the world of labor and capital, according to Mr. Mould, the order is reversed. The worker, he declared, produces the wealth to live, and the drone, or capitalist, who doesn't work, takes the production and does not give adequate substitute to permit of provision being made for old age. In consequence, the actual producers are frequently left in want in old age.

It was decided to serve refreshments at the next meeting, to be held Wednesday night, Oct. 4.

## SAYS DIBSDALE ACTED QUEERLY

Continued From Page One.

was she in the habit of coming to the house?"

"Yes."

"Did you ever go to their house?"

"Yes, myself, wife and little son."

"When was that?"

"Mr. and Mrs. Near and Christine came up the first Sunday after my boy went there and stayed for supper. They asked us to go down and we went to their place. Gordon went with us."

"When did she come to your house?"

"Some Sundays she would come to tea and some evenings."

"What was the relationship between the two in so far as you observed?"

"Seemed Affectionate."

"They seemed very affectionate, the one to the other. She was at our place the Monday before the tragedy."

"Did you have a talk with her that day?"

"That evening."

"Why?"

"Because I seen my boy was sick and wanted Christine. I did not hear him say so, though. Christine was crying and I asked her what was the matter, and she said, 'O daddy, I insisted on knowing, and asked her if my boy had done anything unmanly or out of the way. He seemed to get angry, and said, 'No, I will trust myself anywhere with Gordon.' That was the last I saw of her."

"Did Gordon ever have any illness?"

"He had influenza during the epidemic last February."

"What about his habits?"

"He seemed melancholy after the

accident, and got his mother down-  
hearted. I got angry and he came  
over, put his arms around my neck  
and kissed me, saying, 'Daddy, I won't  
bother mother any more.'"

"In regard to this gun. How long  
had your son had it?"

"He must have had it five years,  
along with the cartridge belt. The  
knife I used to kill pigs."

"Did you ever note any crazy or  
childish actions on the part of the  
boy?"

"Acted Foolish."

"I thought he acted foolish for a  
young lad of his age. He tantalized  
his mother and upset her. He was  
in the habit of going out shooting and  
would take the knife with him."

"Was there ever anything unusual  
in your history?"

"Yes, I used to take kind of fits and  
fall down. I had them for fifteen  
years, and was in the hospital several  
times. The last one was twelve years  
ago, as far as I can remember. I had  
two children at the time. I also had  
an operation and my head was  
burned out."

"A sinus operation," added Judge  
Mowat.

"Just before the tragedy did he  
say anything about going any place?"

"Yes. He talked about going west.  
He has two uncles there. He gave  
up his work and made preparations."

"Since the tragedy has the prisoner  
made any request to you at all?"

"He said, 'Daddy, I want you to  
buy a plot at Woodland Cemetery,  
as close to Christie as you can and  
get it.'"

"Is that all the light you can throw  
on it?"

"I think so. His melancholia was  
on the increase three to four weeks  
before the tragedy."

Cross-examined by J. C. Elliott,  
witness declared that Christine Near  
appeared to him as a "wholesome,  
robust, fine, pure girl."

"You approved of them going to-  
gether."

"Yes."

"You thought they should get mar-  
ried."

"I thought it was all right."

"There was no condition in Gordon  
to stop the marriage?"

"I asked them to wait two years."

"At the time you said nothing to  
her, why they should not get mar-  
ried?"

"Not that I knew of."

"You know of no reason why Gor-  
don felt badly Monday?"

"No, but Christine was crying."

"You thought he had made some  
overtures to her?"

"I had it in mind."

"I know you want to be fair to the  
girl who is dead and the prisoner.  
What sort of a boy was he?"

"A good boy, kind, industrious and  
saving. He was always able to get  
a job and was never out of work. He  
was building a home when he vol-  
untarily quit work."

"Mr. Dibsdaled identified the gun  
produced in court as that owned by  
his son."

"He was very fond of shooting  
ground hogs," he added.

"Or anything else," cut in J. C. El-  
liott, continuing his cross-examina-  
tion. "Did you ever con-  
sult a physician with regard to any  
of these symptoms prior to the trag-  
edy?"

"No. I did not think it was neces-  
sary. I advised him to get glasses."

"Why do you think he asked to be  
buried next to Christine?"

"After the tragedy he was in jail  
and thought he was going to be  
hanged."

"He did feel that he had done some-  
thing."

"I object," cut in P. H. Bartlett.  
The objection was sustained.  
He realized the seriousness of his  
position."

"Yes."

"Albert Dibsdaled, eldest brother of  
prisoner, informed the jury that ac-  
cused never took part in active games  
with other boys and 'kept free from  
girls.' He corroborated his father's  
evidence relative to the habits and  
complaints of accused."

"Have you heard him complain of  
headaches?"

"Yes, for some six years."

"Up until the present time?"

"Yes. In February, 1922, I wanted  
to get a doctor, and he said, 'Albert,  
I don't want a doctor. I can't do any  
more good in this world. I have done  
all I can.'"

"Did you notice anything peculiar  
about him?"

"He used to hug me and kiss me  
and I couldn't get away from him. It  
was the same with his mother and I  
used to tell her, 'Ma, that boy ain't  
right,' and she would get mad."

"Recently?"

"Was Cheerful."

"After he picked up with Miss  
Near he was more cheerful, but about  
three weeks before the tragedy al-  
most anything you said to him made  
him cry. He seemed to be down-  
hearted and said he was going west  
as soon as he could sell his place. He  
was just moping around. I was  
going as far as Winnipeg with him  
because I did not think he was cap-  
able of going alone."

"Witness then related that he re-  
moved a bottle of carbolic acid in the  
Dibsdaled home from Gordon's view  
because he believed his brother might  
take it, but Judge Mowat took the  
defense to task for introducing such  
evidence, which he termed 'imagin-  
ing' of witness."

Mrs. A. J. Dibsdaled was called to  
the witness stand, but broke down  
while passing the jurors, who held  
her son's life in the balance. Weep-  
ing bitterly, she was borne up by  
her husband and Judge Mowat tem-  
porarily excused her from giving evi-  
dence. She was allowed to retire  
from the courtroom.

Albert Kilby, foreman of the Lon-  
don Street Railway, who in addition  
to being the prisoner's boss prior to  
the tragedy, is also his brother-in-  
law, declared that Dibsdaled slept  
quite often while at work. For this  
reason his fellow workmen dubbed  
him "dopy" and "shut eye."

"On Sunday, May 28, the last night  
he worked," said witness, "I don't

## Has Eyes of World Upon Him



MUSTAPHA KEMAL PASHA.

LONDON, Sept. 28.—Government circles are concerned over Kemal Pasha's evasive reply to General Harrington's ultimatum. Fear he may be bringing up material under cover of his cavalry and doing all he can to get British to fire first shot.

think he spoke two words to any of  
the other men. Used to always get in  
a corner by himself."

"All these things are not incon-  
sistent with what we think of a man  
in love," commented Judge Mowat.

Asked Question.

"Did you report this man's action  
to your employers?" asked J. C. El-  
liott.

"Yes, I told him how several of the  
men were carrying on. I mentioned  
Dibsdaled and asked that the master  
mechanic give them a talking."

Mrs. Albert Dibsdaled, mother of  
Gordon, who faces the charge of  
murder, then gave evidence in a clear  
voice. She was allowed to be seated  
in the witness-box.

She described how her son became  
acquainted with Christine Near.

"She said she had a daughter  
whom she would like to go with Gor-  
don, and gave me her address," de-  
clared Mrs. Dibsdaled.

"Did your son ever keep company  
with any girls before that time?"

"No, sir."

"What did he complain about after  
the accident?"

Head Bothered Him.

"He said his head bothered him.  
He was afraid he would have to go  
to the asylum, and he did not want  
to go."

"What was his relation with Chris-  
tine Near?"

"They were very fond of one an-  
other."

"What was his condition on the  
Monday before the tragedy?"

"He was very melancholy, and  
went home and right to bed."

"When Christine came up, what oc-  
curred?"

"Gordon told me to go out of the  
room, because he wanted to speak  
to Christine by herself. When I saw  
them again they were crying and  
kissing one another."

"That was the last you saw of the  
girl?"

"Yes."

"What time did he leave home on  
May 31?"

"I think it was about 3 o'clock."

"Did you know he had taken the  
gun?"

"No, I didn't know until my young-  
est boy came home."

Asked regarding her son's disposi-  
tion, Mrs. Dibsdaled said: "He cried  
over the least little thing. I noticed  
this more just before the tragedy, al-  
though he was cheerful just after he  
met the girl."

"There seemed to be intense sor-  
row between these two Monday  
night?"

"Yes."

"Did they say anything?"

"She only said she would like Gor-  
don to marry her before he went  
away."

"Was there anything said regard-  
ing their relationship after they were  
married?"

"She said he was too dull."

"When did that conversation take  
place?"

"At the supper table. Gordon  
didn't approve of it."

Cross-examined by the crown  
prosecutor, witness admitted that her  
object in first visiting Mrs. Near  
was to arrange a meeting with Gor-  
don Dibsdaled and Christine Near,  
with a view to "having them go to-  
gether" by mutual consent of wit-  
ness and Mrs. Near.

"You were quite agreeable?"

"Yes, and they were contented  
themselves."

"You didn't think there was any  
reason why Gordon should not get  
married?"

"No, so long as they were agree-  
able, I thought as much of Christine  
as I did of Gordon."

"Were you not aware that after-  
noon that trouble had arisen between  
them?"

"I knew they were crying."

"Did you inquire into it?"

"Yes."

"What did you find out?"

"Nothing. I got no satisfaction.  
I thought a lot of Christine Near."

"You still think it?"

"Yes, I think of her now that she's  
gone," said Mrs. Dibsdaled, breaking  
into tears.

Walter Dibsdaled, youngest brother  
of the prisoner, was the last witness  
before adjournment at noon. He  
stated that he saw his brother Gor-  
don leave home with a shotgun on  
the afternoon of the tragedy.

Selection of the jurors occupied  
almost an hour Wednesday. A total

James street, and 15 feet west of  
Adelaide street. She was lying on her  
right side and there was a hole in  
the center of her back. It was a fresh  
wound, because her back was on fire,  
there was blood there and it was  
smoking.

"The prisoner was lying about 20  
feet southerly from her," continued  
witness. "I did not see the gun. I  
did not go over to see him." P. H.  
Bartlett declined to cross-examine  
witness, and Gordon Waide, 865 Ade-  
laide street, was then sworn.

He corroborated Insell, and stated  
that he was standing beside his home  
when he heard a shot.

"I walked out," said Waide, "and  
I saw Dibsdaled standing 200 feet  
from me with the gun in firing posi-  
tion. He fired a second shot. Dibs-  
daled broke the gun, took two car-  
tridges from his waist and reloaded  
the gun. I left the sidewalk at that  
time and tried to get my folks into  
the house. Dibsdaled fired a third  
shot, and I went out into the road  
and down to the scene."

Appeared Breathing.

"Miss Near seemed to be breath-  
ing. Dibsdaled was lying close to the  
sidewalk and 30 feet from Miss Near.  
The gun was lying alongside of him.  
It is like the gun produced in court."

Cross-examined, Waide admitted  
that he actually saw the second shot  
fired.

"Did you see him turn the gun on  
himself?" asked P. H. Bartlett.

"No," replied witness, who explained  
that about three minutes elapsed  
between the second and third shots.

"What had become of you in the  
meantime?" asked counsel.

"My mother and sisters came out  
on the street, and I was trying to  
get them in the house," was the re-  
sponse.

John Dawson, 559 St. James street,  
a soldier, employed at the ordnance  
building of Wolsey Barracks, was  
the next witness.

"I was coming home from work,"  
he related, "in connection with the day  
of the tragedy. I heard a report,  
and a woman's scream. I saw ac-  
cused leveling his rifle for what  
would be the second shot. I could  
not see what he was aiming at for  
the bushes. I heard a second shot,  
and made toward the prisoner, who  
was turning the rifle upon himself."

"I discharged the rifle, away and  
fell off the sidewalk onto the  
lot. He was lying flat on his back.  
Christine Near was lying on her side  
and made no movement. I remained  
there until the doctors and police  
arrived."

Mrs. Foster Testifies.

No cross-examination of this wit-  
ness was indulged in by the defense.  
Mrs. Margaret Foster, 857 Adelaide  
street, was then called. She deposed  
that she was in her home when she  
heard a shot on the fatal afternoon,  
coupled with the scream of a woman.

I opened the front door and I saw  
this saddest scene on the sidewalk.  
I walked with the gun pointed at Miss  
Near, and she was on the vacant lot  
with her hand up toward her head.  
Just then a shot. It hit her in the  
back and she crumpled to the ground.

I had seen Dibsdaled twice before,  
once with Miss Near. I just knew  
that was the man."

Fred Burke, eleven years old, re-  
siding at 871 Adelaide street was  
then placed on the stand by the crown.  
He informed the jury that he was  
playing on the boulevard near the  
scene of the tragedy on May 31,

when he heard a shot fired.  
"I looked down that direction and  
saw him put the gun to his shoulder  
and fire again," he said, pointing to  
the prisoner in the box. "I saw him  
break the gun and reload the car-  
tridges; put the gun to his left breast  
and fired. He dropped the gun, and  
rolled over the grass. I saw Miss  
Near lying on the ground with a hole  
in her back."

Constable Herbert M. Allgrove of  
the London police force gave evi-  
dence that at 5:30 p.m., May 31, last,  
he was called out by St. James  
streets. He saw Gordon Dibsdaled  
lying on the ground with a wound  
in his left side. A shotgun  
was on the sidewalk nearby, and also  
a belt of cartridges. He saw Miss  
Near lying north of the accused.

Found Victim Dead.

"She was dead," said Constable  
Allgrove in response to a query from  
the crown attorney. "The body was  
covered. I took the prisoner to St.  
Joseph's Hospital, and recognize this  
as the one on the sidewalk. There  
are three cartridges missing.  
The doctors were there."

"Did you have any conversation  
with the prisoner en route to the  
hospital?" asked J. C. Elliott, K.C.,  
to which the witness replied in the  
affirmative.

"I asked him, 'Did you shoot this  
girl?'" stated the officer.

On objection raised by counsel for  
defense, Judge Mowat would not per-  
mit Constable Allgrove to give Dibs-  
daled's reply, as he had not been  
warned, as is usual when placing a  
person under arrest.

"I searched the prisoner on the  
way to the hospital and found a  
knife in his left vest pocket," con-  
tinued witness in response to ques-  
tioning. "He had no coat on." Con-  
stable Allgrove identified a knife  
produced in court as the one in ques-  
tion. No cross-examination was  
made by the defense.

Sgt. Elmer Walsh of the London  
police force then gave evidence. He  
corroborated previous witness, and  
identified the shotgun produced in  
court as that found with Dibsdaled  
by a mark which he had placed upon it.  
He opened the gun at the police sta-  
tion and found the trigger mechanism  
found that it contained one exploded  
and an unexploded cartridge.

He declared that the gun was loaded  
at the time of giving evidence  
just as on the day it was confis-  
cated, and on suggestion of Judge  
Mowat, it was unloaded for safety's  
sake in a crowded courtroom.

"There is no danger," commented  
the judge, "but there are so many  
stupid things done nowadays."

Sgt. Walsh also identified the  
knife turned in as an exhibit, and  
the coat worn by Dibsdaled, which  
was shot through by shot, and which  
he declared was found in the police car  
after the accused was taken to the  
hospital. In this coat was a letter  
with no signature, presumably writ-  
ten by Christine Near, containing  
three snapshots, which was also ad-  
mitted as evidence.

Mr. Huffman Heard.

Dr. James Huffman related to the  
jury how he was called to the scene  
of the shooting where a large crowd  
had gathered, and how he saw Dibs-  
daled and his sweetheart lying on the  
ground. The girl was dead. He noted  
wounds on her left breast, right

forearm and back, all of which were  
described as intensely serious.

"Either one would have killed her  
from internal hemorrhage," stated  
Dr. Huffman. "She seemed to be a  
well developed girl, 16 or 17 years  
of age. I judged that the shot in the  
back was the latter one, as it must  
have torn her lung to pieces, and  
because she could not live with it, it  
must have been the second shot."

Dr. Emerson L. Hodgins corrob-  
orated previous witnesses, as he was  
also called to the scene of the  
fatality.

Presenting his report of the post-  
mortem examination, conducted by  
him on the body of Christine Near, Dr.  
Hodgins explained that four condi-  
tions resulted from the shooting, any  
one of which was sufficient to have  
caused death. These were shattering  
of the arteries in the right arm,  
fracturing of the spinal column,  
crushing of the spinal cord and shat-  
tering of the left lung.

Wounds were noticed on the left  
breast, left and right forearm, caused  
by shot, the left lung was lacerated  
and riddled with shot, there was a  
gaping chest wound, and the spinal  
column and cord were injured.

Died From Hemorrhage.

"She would fall to the ground as  
soon as her spinal cord was  
smashed," said Dr. Hodgins. "She  
died from hemorrhage from gunshot  
wounds."

As Mrs. Elizabeth Near, mother of  
the slain girl, mounted the witness  
box a murmur went through the gal-  
lery. She revealed a pathetic little  
incident in connection with the  
shooting when she admitted to the  
court that it was she who covered  
the mutilated body of her daughter  
with a sheet as it lay in the vacant  
lot to screen it from the morbidly  
curious.

Mrs. Near stated that her daughter  
"would have been sixteen in eleven  
more days." As to her general  
health, the girl had never been ill,  
excepting for an attack of pleurisy  
which followed the rescue of a little  
girl "from the creek."

The letter found on Dibsdaled by  
the police was then read by the  
crown attorney. In substance it  
purported to be written by Christine  
Near to the accused, piteously ask-  
ing forgiveness for her hand.

Otherwise "I will get out of the world  
as soon as I can," the letter read.

Identifying her daughter's hand-  
writing, Mrs. Near said: "She wrote  
that letter, but it was dictated to  
her."

"Never mind that," interrupted the  
defense.

"They were going together," con-  
tinued Mrs. Near, "but they finished  
the 24th of May. She never went  
with anybody else."

The witness started an explana-  
tion of that letter, interrupted Judge  
Mowat. "She must be definite."

Explains Letter.