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The London Advertiser

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NEW COUNCIL FACES PROBLEM IN ASSESSMENT

Will Have To Complete Revision Started by J. G. Richter.

LEAVES WORK UNFINISHED

Devised System of Classification of Buildings To Aid Assessors.

The new city council is facing quite a problem in regard to the assessment. J. G. Richter, who was called in by the old council to revise the assessment, has left the city's employ, and his work is not completed. Some of the aldermen are said to favor completing his scheme, and there are those who are more or less opposed to it.

Mr. Richter was employed at a salary of \$300 a month, working half days, to revise the assessment, and considerable money had been spent thereon on having the work done. It was following the putting of his scheme into operation that the assessment took the material jump of nearly ten million dollars.

Mr. Richter devised quite a scheme for the new assessment. He set out a system of classifying buildings, laying down a schedule for the assessors which included all reasonable types of buildings, and the fundamental parts which go to make a good modern structure. From this the assessors worked. To some houses in the first class, there were additions to be made, according to the improvements of the place, or rather better, in some cases there were deductions for improvements that were lacking.

Following his retirement, Mr. Richter wrote quite a report to the council on his scheme, and this is now waiting consideration of the aldermen. Each received a copy in the mail Saturday. A definite stand in regard to the assessment will likely be the outcome of the discussion of the report.

Mr. Richter says that his first task on taking over the position was to investigate property sales, and from this he arrived at the fact that the average was 61 per cent of the sales value. Then he separated land and buildings values and found that lands were assessed 80 per cent of the sales value and buildings a little over 53 per cent. A further division of group values were made as follows:

Sales up to \$2,500.

Between \$2,500 and \$4,000.

Between \$4,000 and \$7,500.

And over \$7,500.

These were then compared with the assessments. In none of the groups was there a deviation from the average of more than 2 per cent, thus disproving the oft-repeated charges of discrimination against certain classes by the assessment department.

That there have been inequalities in individual cases cannot be gainsaid, reports Mr. Richter, and there probably never will be perfection in assessments, but such inequalities were promiscuous throughout all classes of properties and were due mainly to a lack of co-ordination in the work of the assessors, rather than to intentional discrimination.

"With a view of eliminating, as far as practicable, glaring inequalities, I prepared for use of the department a series of appraisal factors for lands of varying dimensions and for a variety of buildings sufficiently ample to meet every reasonable requirement, and by the use of which greater uniformity in the work of the assessors might be obtained. A copy of the several tables, so prepared in this connection will be found herewith for future reference. From the record of property sales referred to, it was apparent that the assessment, as compared with sales values, was exceptionally low. On the other hand, the rate of unduly high, some years past has been unduly high, and in some cases, naturally occurred, would not be better to raise the assessment somewhat and by so doing enable the rate to be correspondingly reduced. The finance committee of last year's council was practically a unit in favor of such readjustment in the assessment being made as would be warranted, so as to enable the tax rate to be lowered accordingly.

An inquiry into the per capita assessment of the city, as compared with other similar cities throughout Canada, also showed that London ranked low and that an increase of approximately 15 per cent in the assessment would be warranted in this connection as well as by reason of the sales taking place within the city.

"The aim of the department in making the 1921 assessment was, therefore, not only to correct inequalities, but also to raise the assessment so as to make it conform more nearly to sales values and the average per capita of other similar municipalities.

"The results obtained, as far as the work has gone, shows an increase over 1920 assessment of over nine and a half million dollars, approximately 15 per cent, and it is confidently expected that when the work is fully completed it will be about 20 per cent.

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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance, but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. —Matthew 25:29.

But we, brought forth and reared in wealth, have not learned to be content. Of change, alarm, surprise, What shelter to grow ripe is ours, What leisure to grow wise?

Like children bathing on the shore, Buried a wave beneath, The second wave succeeds before We have had time to breathe. —Matthew Arnold.

AWAIT NAMES OF POINCARÉ'S NEW MINISTRY

French People Anxious To Learn Definite Selection of Cabinet.

CHANGED POLICY FEARED

New Premier Known As "Fire-Eater" Will "Make Germany Pay."

Paris, France, Jan. 14.—As a result of Raymond Poincaré, former president of France, having formally accepted President Millerand's invitation to form a new cabinet yesterday to succeed that of Aristides Briand, all France today awaits an announcement of the names of those to whom he intends intrusting the affairs of the state.

Early today it was believed that Charles des Lasteyrie, a former high official in the ministry of finance, would be intrusted with the financial portfolio.

Among others who are likely to be chosen, are Gaston Doumergue, a former premier, Edouard Herriot, a member of the Chamber of Deputies; Albert Sarraut, minister of colonies, who is now in Washington; André Maginot and Yves Le Troquer respectively, ministers of pensions and public works in the Briand cabinet; and Leon Berard, senator and former minister of instruction.

It is said that Louis Loucheur, Briand's minister of liberated regions, will also be asked to remain.

Known as "Fire Eater."

Arrangements reached at the Cannes conference, which has been adjourned indefinitely, will be seriously modified or rejected altogether, if Poincaré has his way, for the former president is by no means as moderate as was Briand.

In France, Poincaré is known as a "fire-eater," and his followers are for "making Germany pay" above everything else.

Millerand and Poincaré, in the course of a conversation last night, decided that if the latter were successful in forming a ministry, the conference broken off at Cannes would be resumed by the new premier after an understanding had been reached between the heads of the governments of the allied powers.

Briand declares he is through with politics for the time being.

"I am going to making money," the genial ex-premier said with a laugh to newspapermen who asked his plans.

Treaty Made Public.

The text of the proposed Anglo-French treaty, brought to Paris by M. Briand from Cannes, was made public last night. It provides that Great Britain shall come immediately to the aid of France in case of direct and unprovoked aggression by Germany against French territory.

One article of the treaty explicitly states that Canada and the other dominions shall be left with complete freedom of action in regard to the treaty. The present treaty does not impose any obligation upon any of the dominions of the British Empire unless and until it has been approved by the interested dominion. This section reads:

"His Britannic Majesty and the president of the French Republic have agreed to the following provisions:

"Article I.—In case of direct and unprovoked aggression against the territory of France by Germany, Great Britain will place herself immediately at the side of France with her naval, military and aerial forces.

"Article II.—The high contracting parties affirm their common interest in articles 42, 43 and 44 of the treaty of Versailles restricting Germany's fortification rights in the Rhine region and forbidding the maintenance of armed forces in the specified territory and remarks that these provisions may not suffice for French protection. Then follows the treaty itself, the text of which reads:

"Article III.—The high contracting parties further bind themselves to act together in case of military, naval or aerial measures incompatible with the treaty of Versailles taken by Germany.

For Ten Years, Renewable.

"Article IV.—The present treaty does not impose any obligations upon any of the dominions of the British Empire unless and until it has been approved by the interested dominion.

"Article V.—The present treaty shall remain in force during a period of ten years and will be renewable at the end of that period by common agreement."

WANT WINDING-UP OF UNITED CIGAR STORES

TORONTO, Jan. 13.—A new petition for the winding-up of the United Cigar Stores, Limited, under the winding-up act, has been filed, returnable Jan. 17. Justive von Lengerke is the petitioner, and he is supported by an affidavit taken by Percy Tiltson, at one time accountant of the company.

This is the second time the courts have been asked for a winding-up order, the first being made by Mr. Mr. Hopps, and being dismissed. Von Lengerke is a large shareholder, owning 6,200 shares of preferred and 3,300 of common stock.

Want Labor's Opinion Of Hydro Plan

LONDON PARTY BRANCH TAKES POWER STAND

C.L.P. Local Debates Whether Commission Development Should Continue.

SEEKS WORKERS' VIEWS

Some Members Favor Electric Radials—Others Fear Reduced Wages.

Whether hydro development should be conducted in the future as now by a commission under Sir Adam Beck, or by a department of the government, is a vital question that will claim due consideration at the provincial convention of the Canadian Labor party in Stratford in February next.

The question was locally discussed at some length at a general meeting of the London Labor party in session at the Labor Temple on Friday evening, and although no official opinion was rendered, a general test of the feeling of the labor men will be taken and a resolution embodying the same will be prepared for presentation at the convention.

The desire has been expressed by the executive of the party that the various local throughout the province test the feeling of their members in regard to the hydro-radial proposal, now becoming one of the bigger issues before the people of Ontario, reports of the test to be submitted at the general session in Stratford.

Fears Lower Wages.

Delegate Menzies, representing the Grand Trunk Car Workers, informed the delegates at Friday's meeting that the proposed hydro-radial scheme was a subject of vast interest to the members of that union, and explained that he would at the next session of the party report definitely their feeling in the matter. Personally, however, he was distinctly opposed to the proposition for different reasons, particularly in view of the fact, he said, that radial lines do not pay the equivalent in wages as the steam roads.

Delegate Hessel referred to the report that the M. C. R. proposed to electrify its Canadian divisions, and said that he was little doubtful in his mind but that the Canadian National road would do likewise. He held that the introduction of radial roads would not necessarily mean the lessening in production of rolling stock, expressing the belief that the electrification of the L. & P. S. was ample proof of this.

Delegate Murphy, also representing railroad workers, opposed the government assuming any liability for hydro radial development.

Delegate Frank McKay called to the attention of the gathering that as he viewed the situation, the main issue lay in whether hydro should remain in the hands of a commission or be taken over by the government.

Entering Critical Stage.

Ald. Henry B. Ashplant declared: "As a Labor party we are entering into a critical stage of development. We are entering into broader and bigger things and this is an opportunity to show the Labor party stands in regard to the bigger issues."

"While we cannot overlook the natural antipathy on the part of the employees of steam roads our attitude as a Labor party must resolve itself into what is best for the people as an entirety."

Delegate Stewart was frankly in favor of the furthering of hydro in any way for the best interests of the citizens, while Delegate White raised the question of whether representation actually had on the hydro commission.

"Where do we stand on this commission? That is what we want to know," he queried.

"Sir Adam Beck has the whole commission," was the remark of one of the delegates.

"Well, perhaps that is because you let him," vouchsafed another.

Mould, chairman, gave it as his opinion that the main issue was whether by commission or government was the proper method of maintaining and developing hydro.

"We have got to the point," he said, "where we have to define whether a constant bickering between Drury and Beck is to continue or whether the government is going to discuss some of the other pressing problems, such as unemployment, for instance."

"I have never yet, since I have been in London," continued Delegate Mould, "said a thing against Sir Adam Beck, and have always commended him on any good work that he has accomplished, but it may be best to have the government prevent him from making 'bloomers.' Even he, as well as any other man, is liable to do that."

Delegate Mould was emphatic in his stand against the duplication of railway lines.

"I am in favor," he said, "of the development of the country, but not foolishly. Take the roads you have now if you like and electrify them as the L. & P. S. Don't duplicate roads that will have to compete with another."

The labor men endorsed the motion in the city council by Ald. Ashplant for pay for members of the council, and also commended the stand taken by Ald. Henry B. Ashplant in opposing Canada's interests in the minister's place.

Herbert Wilson As a Prisoner in California Court



AT RIGHT, Herbert L. Wilson, former pastor of London City Mission, charged by U. S. authorities, in conjunction with Herbert R. Cox, with the Alameda street mail robbery and other gigantic thefts in San Francisco, Oakland and other cities, involving loot estimated at \$2,500,000.

At left, Attorney Silverstein, who appeared yesterday for the defence, Center, Deputy U. S. Marshal Walton, in whose custody Wilson now is.

JAILER FEEDS PRISONERS ON 20 CENTS A DAY

Bread Main Item On Bill-of-Fare At Castle Carter.

ANTICIPATES LOWER RATE

Governor Declares Price of Meat Has Dropped From 16c to 5c Per Lb.

The quarterly report of the Middlesex County Jail, just compiled by Governor Byron Dawson, shows that from Oct. 1, to Dec. 31, 129 prisoners were placed behind the bars for a total of 1,467 days.

The average cost of feeding these "gentlemen of leisure," is estimated at 19.3 cents per day.

Apparently bread is the main item on the prisoners' bill-of-fare, as they consumed 1,989 pounds of the "staff of life" during the three months.

Whether the residents of the castle were Scotch or not, they were strong for oatmeal, using up 471 pounds, which cost the authorities \$23.55.

Twenty-nine pounds of tea, and 320 pounds of sugar were also used. Butter was one of the least of Governor Dawson's expenses, as 2 pounds sufficed the needs of the sick prisoners, while the milk bill was only \$7.

The jail family is not used to trying its teeth on porterhouse steaks or roasts, as the item for meat shows that 425 pounds of neck meat and 305 of shank were eaten during the 92 days, costing \$111.32.

"The cost for the next quarter will be considerably lower," said Governor Dawson in discussing prices. "Meat that costs us 16 cents and 18 cents a pound last year, only costs 5 cents and 8 cents now. Sugar has dropped from \$11.23 to \$7.75, and other costs are correspondingly lower."

Will Represent CANADIAN LABOR

Hon. James Murdock Appointed To International Labor Body.

OTTAWA, Jan. 14.—Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, has been appointed as Canada's representative on the governing body of the International Labor Office. This appointment was formerly held by Hon. G. D. Robertson, the former minister of labor, whom Mr. Murdock succeeds.

Twelve countries are given representation on the governing body, which holds its next meeting at Geneva on Tuesday next, Jan. 17.

Hon. Mr. Murdock will not be able to attend this meeting, which will probably last for three or four days.

Col. David Carnegie, who had already been appointed Canadian delegate to the temporary mixed commission for the reduction of armaments by the previous government, and who will be in Geneva at that time, will look after Canada's interests in the minister's place.

Believed Two Could Live As Cheaply As One On Bread Line.

REGINA, Jan. 14.—"Married on the bread line."

This is the designation of a romance, which has just come to light in connection with civic relief in this city.

Some weeks ago a young man applied for clothes, food and work. All were provided. New Year came and went, still the young man was on the bread line.

Yesterday he applied for work for two.

He had been married over the week-end.

Officials offered a position to the bride at \$25 per month. The groom thought her services were worth more, and officials have washed their hands of both the newlyweds.

THINKS MURDOCK MAN FOR POSITION

Labor Organizer Confident New Minister Will Prove Ability.

"There is no reason in the world why 'Jim' should not prove the right man in his new capacity. He has undoubted ability and experience, and we all hope and feel confident that he will meet with nothing but success."

Such was the brief but frank opinion of Premier King's new minister of labor, Hon. James Murdock, as expressed on Friday by a representative railroad union man, M. S. Carr, general organizer throughout the Dominion of Canada for the Brotherhood of Railroad and Steamship Clerks. Mr. Carr was associated with the cabinet minister when the latter was vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

The general representative of the amalgamated clerks will remain in London until next week when he goes first to St. Thomas and then back to Montreal. He explains that while events are proceeding more or less smoothly among the railroad workers, whom he represents, he deprecates the fact that both the employers and employees generally have much to learn regarding their attitude toward one another.

"As a rule you will find," he said, "that most of them fail to realize that conditions have changed" considerably since 1917. However, in our union we have no grievances pending with the roads, and that is how it should be."

NEW CLASSES STARTED AT TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The evening classes at the Technical School are so crowded that additional classes have had to be started during the week. Machine shop, welding, automobile work, commercial, dressmaking, millinery and draughting classes are especially popular. There is room in some of the new classes formed this week for a limited number of additional students, and so applicants may register any evening or afternoon next week, till the classes are filled.

On account of the large demand for these classes applicants will be considered in the order in which they register. When the classes now formed are filled, students will be placed on the waiting list, as no further classes will be added this term.

4 ENTOMBED IN MINE CAVE-IN NEAR SCRANTON

Twenty Acres of Land Engulfed Workers At Glen Alden Mine.

THREE OTHERS INJURED

Officials Strive Tirelessly To Rescue Comrades From Death.

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 14.—Four men were entombed, three were injured and several others had narrow escapes from death late last night, when 20 acres of land dropped in a mine cave-in of gigantic proportions in the National Mine of the Glen Alden Coal Company.

Seventy-five men attacked the mass of debris from three different angles, but had not secured any trace of the missing men early this morning.

W. W. Inglis, president of the Glen Alden Company, personally supervised the work of the rescuers, and is still hopeful that the men would be found alive.

With the exception of the four entombed miners, all other employees in the affected areas had been accounted for by the company officials at noon today.

INVITES GERMAN MAIDENS TO UTAH

BERLIN, Jan. 13.—The propaganda of a man who claims to be an "apostle of Mormonism" and who has been operating in Prussia and East Prussia promises "young girls who will go to Utah" large rewards, introducing them to the "holliness of the temple," and much happiness, according to newspaper reports. The newspapers have warned German girls against the man as an "imposter."

TO DISCUSS POINTS ON CITY AUDITING

Notice Involving Department Filed With City Council.

On Monday night the city council, according to notice filed at the inaugural meeting, is to hear and discuss something about the auditors of the city.

What points in connection with the audit are to be aired, was not defined by Ald. H. B. Ashplant, who has been termed the "nemesis" of the city auditors.

"It can hardly be that a charge of excessive salary is to be laid," say some.

The cost of the city's complete audit last year was \$6,300. About \$3,500 of this was for the city hall property and the various bodies that come under the hall, and the other for the Utilities.

Earning this \$3,500 salary are the two auditors, Messrs. Dale and Sereation, and their four permanent assistants, making six in all on full time work, and during the rush periods two others at part time service.

EXPECT TREATY TO BE RATIFIED IN FEW HOURS

Members of Southern Irish Parliament Consider Pact With Britain.

TROOPS BEGIN LEAVING

Preparations Continue Quietly For Withdrawal of Outside Military Forces.

BULLETIN.

BELFAST, Jan. 14.—The strike of railwaymen on all the Irish railways, called for Saturday midnight, has been postponed as the result of a prolonged conference Friday between the railway managers and the minister of labor in the northern cabinet, as far as it would affect the Midland Railway and the Belfast and County Down Railway.

The manager of the railroad agreed to postpone putting into operation changes in wages and hours of the men for another week and to meet representatives of the National Union of Railwaymen early next week. The meeting will be under the chairmanship of the minister of labor.

DUBLIN, Jan. 14.—Members of the southern parliament were in session early today considering formal acceptance of the peace treaty, Arthur Griffith taking the lead in support of the signing of the pact, being unopposed by de Valera and his followers, who early in the day gave no indications of taking part in the Mansion House deliberations.

Griffith explained at length the benefits of ratification of the document, stating that it would at least place the country on a firm basis, allowing it to take up the threads of progress cut by the internal civil war which had reigned for centuries.

He firmly believed the treaty contained the most acceptable terms ever offered Irishmen by Great Britain, and regarded it as the first real offer of national freedom.

Other members expressed similar views, and judging from the spirit observed in the house, it is predicted that formal ratification is only a matter of hours.

Twenty supporters were unanimous in the opinion that once the treaty was signed, the wheels of government would begin moving with Griffith and the new cabinet at the head of affairs.

Will Take Over Offices.

The first duty of the new government will be the taking over of offices now occupied by British officials, who already have prepared to relinquish authority.

All troops and cadets at Dublin Castle are "standing by" prepared to embark for England as soon as circumstances warrant their moving.

A few small detachments have already left their quarters.

Preparations for the complete evacuation have not been quiet in any way. Republican troops preventing any demonstrations on the part of the populace.

Troops Leave Quietly.

The detachments which left Friday night marched through streets, which though lined with people, were quiet. Only a few comments were made by those who saw them.

Resignations of 50 members of the Royal Irish Constabulary recruited from points outside Ireland, have been handed into the department, and are to take effect next week. It was learned today. Auxiliaries and black and tans are also preparing to leave, piles of baggage in their various barracks pointing to an early departure.

A number of political prisoners, liberated from Scottish and English jails, arrived in Kingston today, but their arrival caused little demonstration except on the part of relatives.

BORDEN TO STILL ACT AS DELEGATE

OTTAWA, Jan. 13.—(By Canadian Press.)—Sir Robert Borden, it was officially stated tonight, will continue to represent Canada on the British delegation at the disarmament conference in Washington.

When the change of government took place here Sir Robert, who was then in Washington, communicated with Premier King, stating that he presumed the new government might wish to appoint, as representative on that delegation, someone who had shown a more sympathetic understanding of the new government and its policies than he himself had done, and that he placed himself in the new prime minister's hands, and was ready to return to Ottawa at once if that was desired.

Premier King, however, asked Sir Robert to continue to act as Canada's representative on the British Empire delegation. Since that time he has been communicating with Premier King, who is also minister of external affairs, as formerly he had been in communication with the former premier, Right Hon. Arthur Meighen.

U.S. OFFICIALS THINK FUGITIVE CAME FOR LOOT

Believe He Will Attempt Flight To the Mexican Border.

POLICE GET \$20,000

Herbert Wilson Complains Bail of \$100,000 Is Too High.

[By Direct Wire to London Advertiser.]

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—United States marshals and their deputies are busy today in a supreme effort to collect sufficient evidence to prove that on the night of Nov. 3 last, Herbert L. Wilson, former evangelist in London, Canada, and one of his alleged confederates, Herbert R. Cox, participated in the robbery of a mail truck at First and Alameda streets, when Nelson M. Grimes, pastor of the city's largest church, was the object of deadly assault that nearly resulted in his death.

Both Wilson and Cox appeared for preliminary hearing last night before United States Commissioner Long, and although Attorney Richard Kittredge and Silverstein, counsel for Wilson, protested strenuously, a request for adjournment until Jan. 20 by Assistant United States Attorney Herron was granted.

Wilson entered the court hands to his fellow-prisoner, Cox, and charge of United States Marshal's office.

While Wilson was represented by legal advisers, it is understood Cox has made no effort to secure services of such, thus giving the report that at the proper time will tell the "State's evidence."

While he did not appear in court yet, Wilbur E. Dace has now been aligned to be a member of the same party as the fugitive, and is being organized whose deeds across the continent have netted them possibly \$3,000,000. Dace was arrested in Los Angeles on Thursday and is said to have been the last of the four men implicated in the mail truck robbery, as well as several department store robberies in Oakland and San Francisco.

Government Withholds Evidence.

The latest report of the government purposely avoided showing its hand yesterday in view of the fact that the hope is extended that before Jan. 20 next, Lewis Wilson, the missing brother of Herbert Wilson, will be in the suspect, yet unnamed, will have been apprehended.

It has been established to the entire satisfaction of U. S. federal police that Lewis Wilson, directly following the arrest of Herbert, fled to his former home in London, Ont., while the fourth man escaped across the Mexican border and was last heard of at Tia Juana. Meanwhile the hunt for Lewis Wilson is being continued with renewed zest and his arrest is expected shortly.

Officers who pursued Lewis Wilson across the continent toward his old stamping ground in Ontario believe that while he is in hiding with friends in or near London, he will in time make a break for the border in a desperate effort to reach Mexico. This will not be attempted, however, they reason, until he has secured the extensive "cached" funds which are supposed to have enticed him thence.

The whole theory of the government is now based upon the belief that hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and securities are hidden in Ontario and that a little delay will mean the recovery of the loot and the gathering of evidence of great importance.

It is the contention of the government that the Wilson brothers were the "master minds" in the many enterprises. The search to date reveals the fact that all the money and the possession of the suspects was placed in the hands of Herbert Wilson, up to a point where a good working capital, say \$20,000, was amassed. The funds in excess of this amount, however, were quiet, which the federal authorities are working, were handed, it is alleged, by Lewis Wilson, who placed them in a secure "cache" in or near London, Canada.

Following the order on Thursday postponing the hearing, a motion was made requiring the government to turn over the \$20,000 secured by Deputy U. S. Marshal Blakeley on a search warrant issued by Commissioner Long's court, found in a