THREE CENTS.

NEAR SILENCES ATTACKS

Laughter and Lovely Children At Santa Claus' Party **MERCHANTS**

CROWDBAN TO SECURE **PAYMENTS**

Bank of Montreal Starts Distribution of 25 Per Cent Dividend.

DEFEND -GOVERNMENT

Association States Whole Question Must Be Kept Clear of Politics.

Home Bank depositors lined up in double rows inside the market branch of the Bank of Montreal this morning to receive the first official 25 per cent dividend distributed to savings holders since the Home Bank suspension was announced months ago By 11 o'clock the crowds became so great that another line was formed in the street, and the staff of extra workers were scurrying about all morning without a hitch.

The bank will remain open until eight o'clock this evening, additional hours having been arranged for the convenience of depositors. At noon today it was estimated that \$35,000 had been turned over on Home Bank savings accounts. savings accounts.

Men appointed by the London Home Dank Depositors' Association were n hand to ask each depositor to sign the white slip making over one-half of one per cent of his total de-posits. The money thus derived will e used by the central committee at Poronto to carry the depositors' case before the government and demand Ottawa assume all loss suffered by the savings holders.

It was necessary that this point

be explained fully before depositors give it more thought before coming

Members of the London Home Bank Depositors' Association this morning officially denied the report that they had attributed the Home Bank failto the government at Ottawa. This statement, they claimed, was

"We don't want to make this a political thing or stir up a controversy," one said. "We believe all governments since 1913 are culpable." As a matter of fact no action on the part of Mr. Fielding could have concrash. It was doomed as far back as 1920. The statement was obvi-ously garbled with the intention of discrediting the present Liberal gov-

WARNS AGAINST **CUTTING TREES**

Chief of Police Birrell Declares Private Property Must Be Respected.

Chief of Police Robert Birrell ischief of Folice Robert Birrel is-sued a warning today to youths and others who insist on cutting their Christmas trees on the private property of citizens. There are lots of Christmas trees

"There are lots of Christmas trees on the market and there is no necessity to despoi! peoples' property," stated the chief. "Two years ago there was an epidemic of that sort of thing, but nothing was reported last year and I hope there won't be this year."

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS. with showers.
Stations— High Low Weather
Victoria ... 46 42 Fair
Calgary ... 40 16 Cloudy
Port Arthur ... 32 14 Clear Toronto 48 Kingston 44 Ottawa 44 Montreal 44 Quebec 34 Father Point 28

St. John 38 32 C Halifax 34 30 C LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last' night were: Highest, 49; lowest, 40.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 am. today were: Highest, 50; lowest, 40.

Barometric Readings.

Friday—8 p.m., 35.43.

Today—8 a.m., 29.25.

3,000 LITTLE CHILDREN GREET OLD SANTA CLAUS

Everybody Has Splendid Time at Big Party-Prizes Are

CANDY, FUN AND TOYS

Santa Wishes That He Lived With London's Children All Year Round.

The children's party is over. Santa Claus has gone back home to put the finishing touches on his big bundles or Christmas eve. And everybody had a splendid time.

Hundreds of children of all sizes,

Hundreds of children of all sizes, from every street in London and from towns outside—swarmed to the Winter Gardens this morning. They wouldn't keep still enough to count, but they packed the big floor in a whirlwind of young laughter, excited exticipation and rapturous delight. anticipation and rapturous of There were at least three thousand of them, and Santa Claus told The Advertiser after the party that had "never seen so many girls and boys together in his life."

Long before eleven o'clock they bean trooping in. Just inside the door they found some amiable young men with great canvas bags full of mo-lasses candy and before long the whole place was a rythm of steadily moving jaws.

Dan Macaulay and his Winter

Gardens' orchestra were there to greet them and shortly before eleven. Fred Gill, the inimitable Santa Arrives.

And then there was a scurry at the side door, a jingle of bells, a jovial It was Santa Claus himself!

He was sharp on time—a rollick-ing friendly Santa Claus who cap-tured the heart of everyone there. With him were Ella Mae Scoyne, the Loveliest Child and two of loveliest companions. Clare Mc-Candless of Strathroy and Tennes Tanner, of London. Little Irene explained fully before depositors and consent to sign. About half was ill at her home, 130 Garfield of them, however, volunteered to turn over the one-half of one per cent asked for, while others decided to asked for, while others decided to determine the coming told her what a very dear little girl told her what a very told her what a very dear little girl

Santa Claus and the three lovely children had driven in state from The Advertiser building. There was a big Packard, and right behind an equally big Stude-baker which Frank McLaughlin had sent over from his garage in order that Santa Claus and the Lovely Children might have the best. The old gentleman bounded

through the door of the ough the door of the Winter Gar-Please See Page 4, Column 8.

Seven Subdivisions Left To Be Checked Over in Ward Three Tangle.

It will be definitely known by nightfall whether Ald. Gordon Drake is going to remain in the col cil as a representative from Ward 3 or if he is going to be replaced by ex-Ald. John Ashton, Labor candidate. The official recount will be

sumed at 2 p.m. by Judge Talbot Macbeth, and with another seven subdivisions to check over a final decision is anticipated by 5 p.m. "I would rather the recount con-cerned someone other than Gordon Drake," ex-Ald. Ashton stated. "The election is over several days now, and I have the feeling now that I don't care much how it goes. Ald. Drake and I always got along well in the council, and for that reason only I am not too keen about it."

LITTLE ACCIDENT VICTIM SPENT RESTLESS NIGHT

Lois Gray, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds Grays, Ridout street, who was struck by a motor car last night at the corner of Westminster now and the raffles Ridout street and Grand Avenue, is have been more open than usual. We not progressing as favorably as anticipated, it was reported this morning. The girl is suffering from a ing. The girl is suffering from a fractured leg and spent a restles night. It is not definitely known yet whether she is hurt internally, but physicians expect to hold a consultation this afternoon.

droves. I have been at a raffle every night this week, with the exception of Tuesday. There is good money in them if you get the crowds.

"If there are only a few people there, a ticket on a turkey costs 25 tion this afternoon.



Engineer Near Presents Complete Figures To Show System Used.

WAS NOT EXCESSIVE

Douglass Declares Action Official Proves Great Benefit.

In a detailed statement to the board f works today, City Engineer W.P. Near deals with the city's paving ac tivities since he assumed office last spring, and he answers the charges that have appeared from time to time

that have appeared from the that excessive sums were expended for "testing purposes."

"Testing" of pavements and the raw material for the same has always been done as near as can be ascerbeen done as near as can be ascertained, by the city engineering department. This year, however, they have been more complete than in former years, it is claimed by the city authorities, while it is also stated that the tests were conducted in Canada while in other years they were sent to New York City.

Ald. L. H. Douglass, chairman of the board of works, submitted this statement from Engineer Near:

the board of works, submitted this, statement from Engineer Near:
"Even though the inspection costs appear higher," the chairman stated "the services of the superintendent of paving construction were charged only when he was employed in that capacity. He is now on sewer work, and was placed there as soon as the paving was done. The services of one superintendent were dispensed with this year—not, of course, as the result of this inspection. Grecian Council of Ministers result of this inspection.

"Had contractors done the paving, inspectors would have been needed to

a greater extent to insure a good Athens, Dec. 22.-The council of "Engineer Near is to be congratuministers has decided to instruct lated that the citizens are assured col. Clastiras, of the revolutionary that good pavements were laid in

the tests on the material and road

Report Follows.

The report follows: Ald. L. H. Douglas, M.D. Chairman, No. 2 committee of the

port as follows:
Prior to starting the work of asphalt paving in the summer of 1923,
I consulted with yourself as chairman of No. 2 committee and with Mayor Wenige and recommended that the services of the Milton Her-sey Co. of Montreal be retained for the inspection of asphalt pavements inspection of asphalt pavements

Farmers Claim Raffling Off Turkeys Pays Better Than Selling On Market

Many Prize Birds Have Been Won at Raffles in County.

OFFERED FULL CONTROL.

by the Athens committee to assume full control of governmental affairs. The aged statesman is now consider-

Delete Conditions in

Invitation.

Associated Press Despatch.

zelos, without any conditions and

with complete liberty of initiative,

to return to Greece and take the

Former Premier Venizelos of Freece informed through .news

leter from Col. Plastiras, head of

he Greek revolutionary committee,

inviting the ex-premier to return to Greece had left Athens for Paris

yesterday on the steamer Andres, replied through his secretary that he

would be glad to receive the delega-

tion. He expressed doubt, however, whether the explanation accompany-

ing the invitation would cause him to

alter his decision not to return to

political situation in hand.

tee to ask ex-Premier Veni-

today that delegation bearing

DELEGATION ON

SOME EVERY NIGHT

Many turkeys raffles this year ?

From the heights of Westminster township to the slopes of London township and even in the law-abidben raffled off during the past two weeks, according to farmers attend-"We had a peach of a raffle last

night" yawned one farmer this morn-ing. "Twelve turkeys, 18 geese and ten pairs of chickens were raffled off at a neighbors place. I had some turkeys in on it and I made three times as much money out of them that I can get on this market.

"If there are only a few people there, a ticket on a turkey costs 25 cents, a goose 20 cents and chickens 15 cents. If more are present the price is cut.

"At one big raffle a farmer cleaned AT ARENA OPENING up over \$100. Pretty fair picking I would say.

"Give you the names of some of the seature of the opening of "Give you the names of some of the seature of



Madame Currie, French woman sci-entist and discoverer of radium, has been granted a government pension, which will enable her to devote the remainder of her life to research

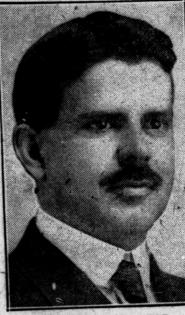
HAS EYE REMOVED.

Archibald Gray, 65 years, section oreman on the M. C. R. at Rodney would say.

"Give you the names of some of the farmers? I should say not. You might tell some friend of a cop. However there won't be any more raffles till naxt year."

I the farmers of the are two the larger two the say. I the some friend of a cop. However there won't be any more raffles till naxt year."

I the farmers of the are two the are two the say. I had his left eye removed at Victoria Hospital this morning. On Tuesday a small flying piece of steel pierced his eye. He was taken to Victoria Hospital and physicians found it important the say.



ENGINEER W. P. NEAR. City Engineer W. P. Near, in a comprehensive statement to the general ing" policies for the passing funning charges of extravagance.

R. G. Ivey States Present Conditions Due to Increase in Shopping.

SERVICE IMPROVED

ing the street cars as much as they chin. did a year ago, according to R. G. here? he suddenly asked Mrs. Eng-Ivey, vice-president of the London land. Street Railway Company.

A strong complaint was registered with The Advertiser from South Lonwith The Advertiser from South Lon-don residents, regarding the Normal or I'll never get home in time for as indicated by the number of throughout the day and we are giving better service throughout the city every day that the traf-Not nearly so many

people are riding the cars now as City Council.

Dear Sir: Pursuant to your request for a report on the inspection of asphalt in connection with the construction of pavements, I beg to restruction of pavements, I beg to report as follows:

a year ago."

It was further pointed out that while the company, by reason of its agreement with the city—bylaw struction of pavements, I beg to report as follows:

Just beside the pillow and covered by a sheet were two five-cent pieces and three coppers. been maintaining a better service than was asked by the city council. the city hall records show that several years have elapsed since a bylaw was passed in council designating the headway on the various rail-

way lines. While there has been much talk While there has been much talk among the aldermen in recent years about poor service, they have made no concrete attempts to further their efforts with legislation.

Both City Engineer Near and Ald.
L. Douglass, chairman of the board of works, favor the passage of a new time schedule bylaw early in 1924.

The street railway authorities reiterate their willingness and determination to adhere to the bylaw in 1924.

City Treasurer Confident That One-Time Popular Lid Is Coming Back.

The "nice brown derby" is back—only in this case it is a nice new black one, and City Treasurer Bell is wearing it around the city hall, although it doesn't

ARE IN LIMELIGHT

Illumination at Ridout and Horton To Prevent Injury to Traffic Cop.

One policeman of the local force, at least, will be in the limelight in the future, special plans having been made for this purpose.

The officer in question will be the one who directs traffic at the corner of Ridout and Horton streets during the busy hours, and who has, on more than eccasion, narrowly escaped being This morning General Manager E. V

Buchanan of the public utilities com-mission announced that he had secured a bright spotlight that will be suspenda bright spotlight that will be suspended directly over the centre of the intertion, and which will shine down on the "bluecoat's" head. This step was made necessary through the fact that on rainy nights, when windshields are obscured, drivers cannot see the officer in the dark with the result that several in the dark, with the result that several times he has had to hop, skip and jump out of the danger zone,

TIRES ARE STOLEN.

Thieves broke into the premises of the Lewis Tire repairing shop on Lit-tle and Simcoe streets last night and stole several repaired tires, Mr. Lewis reported to the police today. The thieves made entry through a

War-Racked Veteran Gives His Last Penny In Return For Woman's Hospitality

Westminster Hospital Patient Started for Moose Jaw To Visit Parents.

WAS CHRISTMAS VISIT

Halted on His Long Walk and Leaves Present For

He wandered away from Westminster Hospital the other day, this stalwart veteran of the war. It was getting along towards

Christmas and he wanted to see the old folks way off in Moose Jaw. He didn't have much money, only thirteen cents, two five-cent pieces and three coppers. But people were kind and if he hurried, surely he would get home in time to clasp his mother nce more and give her an old-time Christmas kiss and a hug. His father, too, would be there to greet him. How he would like to grasp his old dad's hand once more.

So this stalwart young chap, with So this stalwart young chap, with of the exchequer, appointed as one shattered nerves started to walk to of three members of the British com-

He turned west on Brick street from the hospital gates and swung along until he came to Springbank hill. It was just about dinner time and he walked down the lane to the of William England.

nome of William England.

He knocked at the door and doffing his hat asked for a bite to eat.

Mrs. Richard England invited him in and while she set the table, he played with the little baby who gurgled and smiled at him from a cradle near by

cradle near by.

All during the meal this heartstarved soldier kept his eyes on the
cooing babe and before leaving the
house he went over to the cradle and
chucked Mr. Baby gently under the "How do I get to Moose Jaw from

"You better go to London and take a train," she replied.
"I have no money," he replied sim-"I must walk, and I must hurry

line, overcrowding, etc., but the vice-president attributes this chiefly to Mrs. England pointed out west and president attributes this chiefly to her increased number of shoppers her increased number of shoppers her courteously for her hospitality "As a matter of fact," he stated, only to fall into the hands of guards serious Yuletide cards with old-Westminster.

Mrs. England watched her guest along the lane and then returned to Christmas card dealers, who claim

around the city hall, although it doesn't elong to him.

At least, not yet. Another member of he sta ffreceived it this morning (he lesires that his name be withheld until mand and slang or funny verses taboo. he consults his advisers), and he was not quite sure whether it would be adisable to wear it out this week or not Jimmy Bell is positive, however, that the derbies are coming into their own again, and to demonstrate that he doesn't care about styles anyhow, just as long as the lid feels comfortable, he has confiscated it until further notice.

And he looks quite the "bee's knees" too, and many admiring glances drifted his way this morning. Bill Saunders was quite impressed as well.

POSTOFFICE HANDLES 3,000 PRESENTS FRIDAY

Forty-Seven Extra Employees Are Aiding the Letter-Carriers.

Postoffice officials report that yes-

terday was the busiest day they have later. ever experienced. Not for years has the rush been so great, and more parcels have passed through their hands this year than ever before. Yesterday more than 3,000 presents were delivered in the city. According to Postmaster T. C.

Duncan, all Christmas parcels are expected to be delivered not later than Tuesday noon. Forty-seven new men were taken on yesterday to aid the letter carriers in the distribution of their parcels. These men will be employed by the postoffice for four days.

Lawrence Sugar Refineries.

Mr. Judge was well-known and popular in every town in Western Ontario, and news of his death was received here today with great regret by a host of friends.

He is survived by his wife and three children, who reside in Todays.

OF BUSINESS

CHOSEN ON COMMITTEE.

Reginald McKenna, former chancellor

mittee to examine Germany's finan-

Local Dealers Find That Lon-

doners Are Sentimental

Folk.

SALES ARE HEAVY

At least this is the opinion of local

the sale of sentimental Christmas

cards this year has eclipsed anything

yet experienced in that line. Humor-

ous and clever greetings, however, are

distinctly unpopular, and the unfor-

tunate dealer who stocked up with

this variety is out of luck. The sale

Beverly Hay, of the Hay Stationary

Company, said this morning that hu-nor about Christmas time, particular-

ly in connection with greeting cards, is not appreciated. Among a certain

scholars, the funny card has a strong appeal, but these are so in the minority that it does not pay to manu-

One clever card submitted to the public by an enterprising dealer ocn

something of the saccharine variety

Pictures of old mothers and chubby

Jack Rooks Met

Mr. Santa Claus

Little Jack Rooks, a smiling

fair-haired youngster, was the first on hand this morning, with

one of the copies of last night's

Advertiser signed by Santa Claus.

meet him, and promised to be at his home, 148 Bathurst street.

early Christmas eve. So Mr. Jack

drove over to the party in high

EXPIRES SUDDENLY

H. Judge, one of the best

known of Western Ontario traveller's took a hemorhage while walking

along the street in Toronto yester-day afternoon and died a few hours

Mr. Judge, who was in the employ

with James McDougall, commission

broker, being the special Western

Ontario representative of the St.

Lawrence Sugar Refineries,

WELL-KNOWN TRAVELLER

Santa Claus was mighty glad to

children in nightgowns are in de

facture humor in this regard.

notably businessmen

serious Vuletide cards with

State Moderate Priced Articles Are Claiming the Most Attention.

NOT HURT BY WEATHER

Furs and Heavier Clothes Are Only Articles Not in Demand.

The last week in local retail circles has been a "humdinger," according to several retailers spoken to by The Advertiser this morning.

All admonitions to shop early seem to have been ignored, in the opinion of the merchants, the rush during the past week having been sustained and heavy. Moderate priced articles have been claiming the most attention, the purses seeming to be a little tighter than last year, but not much. The citizens do not seem to have confined themselves to any one paricular choice of merchandise, all inds being in demand. While some erchants stated that in some lines he business had only bee fair, the same merchants in speaking of other

In jewelry, the demand is genera although for the moderate-priced articles. Expensive gifts have been noving, but not as rapidly as in past years. Bargain tables, with articles riced at anywhere from \$1 to \$5 have attracted most attention, al-though today and Monday the jewelers expect a larger sale priced goods, as they say it is in the last day or two that the men of the family make their purchases, in order that they may not have to hide it for days from friend wife or daugh-

Smaller Articles.

In the haberdashery lines, Londoners are sentimental folk. At smaller articles, such as gloves, ties, Christmas time they like to receive scarfs, shirts, hose, etc., have selling well, but the heavier owing to the mild weather, are sta tionary.

Shoe stores state that slippers and other forms of footwear for women have been good sellers, and that in many cases it has been the men who have purchased, or have come in and purchased an order for footwear to be given as a gift. The merchants point out that by this method ther is no danger of getting into trouble by giving high heels when low heels are favored, or by giving purple slippers to match a vari-colored bedroom Judging from the book stores, the public seem to have cultivated in the past year a decided taste for reading Please See Page 4, Column 1.

ANNUAL ILLS ARE HERE BUT 'PERS' BRING CHEER "Merry Christmas, but What Profits a Man if He Gain the Whole World and Leave a Rich Widow." This sort of facetious card doesn't go at all. The man on the street wants corrections of the saccharine variety.

Dispensary Is Thronged With Seekers of Good Ale, et Cetera.

Are there many sick people in London at this festive season?

There must be hundreds of them, if the lineup at the liquor dispensary on Talbot street means anything. All week long there has been a continual stream of "sick and thirsty" citizens wending their way to the one legal

place to secure liquor. A beaming individual, the picture of health, strode into the dispensary this morning, and has his little yel low slip marked up for a dozen bot-tles of real ale. The clinking bottles were placed in a big paper bag, and he was soon on his way home smile that would make old

green with envy.

The Christmas sick spell was anticipated by dispensary authorities, carload of choice whiskeys and other carload of choice whiskies and other spirituous liquors arrived earlier in the month to take care of those who had bad colds and other ills that are deemed necessary at this time of the

year.
It has been surprising, even to the authorities that hold sway over the dispensary, the amount of people who are so sick that they need an ale tonic. Dozens upon dozens of orders have been filled for a local brand of ale that hits the right spot almost of the J. S. Fry people, made his any day, but which score a "double headquarters in London for six years bullseye" on Dec. 25. It may be only Tuesday to a great many citizens, in-cluding Andy Gump, but it will be cluding Andy Gump, but it will be Christmas to those who were sick enough to get a doctor's script.

> REBELS EVACUATE PUEBLA. Associated Press Despatch. Vera Cruz, Dec. 22.—The rebels have evacuated the city of Puebla, "for reasons of military expediency," it is announced by their headquarters here.