

FIRE BUG PLEADS GUILTY; REJECTED TO JAIL

Ison Caused \$100,000 Property Loss, Says Fire Chief

ISON, SULLEN IN PRISONER'S DOCK, ADMITS ALL ARSON CHARGES READ; REMANDED ONE WEEK FOR SENTENCE

In One Case He Objects to the Wording of the Charge and Suggests Minor Change.

PLEA OF GUILTY

Prisoner, Though Calm, Shows Signs of Strain Resultant From Grilling "Third Degree."

John Vincent Ison, former R. C. R. private, confessed his guilt in twelve of London's mysterious incendiary fires in police court today. He was remanded one week for sentence.

Ison appeared nervous in court. The strain he had undergone in the persistent grilling of a squad of mounted police had left visible marks on him. His face was drawn. Occasionally it twitched. Below his eyes were dark lines, as if he had lost sleep.

Although shorn of his military cap, his puttees, and his shoulder boards, and forced to wear a khaki uniform, Ison still maintained his military bearing when he entered court.

Over his tunic, from which the brass buttons had been cut, he wore a brown army issue sweater coat. In place of his military cap, he carried a faded brown "clive" cap. It was pulled tightly in his hand, the peak broken and ragged.

"John Ison, Magistrate Graydon called. Ison stood up, but not with the alacrity he had shown on his appearance a week ago. He seemed fatigued. Although he kept his head erect he faced no one, but gazed almost dreamily into space.

Four Charges. Magistrate Graydon announced that he had before him four charges which he proposed to read. They were: On April 23, Ison set fire to Block Q, Queen's Barracks; on April 2, a frame outbuilding at the London Barracks; on August 25, 1922, the King Street Presbyterian Church; and on August 16, 1922, a shed at the rear of J. H. Gurlack's barber shop, Dundas street east. Having read the charges, Magistrate Graydon asked: "Do you want counsel?"

Ison became more attentive. "I don't wish for any," was his curt, almost defiant reply.

"Do you fully understand what this all means?" the court inquired. "I understand," Ison retorted hastily.

"Are you ready to elect?" "I am ready to elect," declared the prisoner, without raising his head, which was slightly bowed.

Pleads Guilty.

"What do you say in answer to the charge that you set fire to Q Block?" "Guilty, sir."

"Do you elect summary trial?" "I have so elected."

"What do you say in answer to the charge that you set fire to the frame building on April 2nd?" "Guilty."

"What do you say about the fire at the King Street Presbyterian Church at midnight on August 16th last?" "Guilty."

"There are a number of other charges," the court informed Ison. "What do you say to the vacant house, 429 Ontario street? Do you recollect that?" Magistrate Graydon asked.

"Yes."

"What date was that?" "February 20."

"I have the same answer to that as to the other charges," Ison replied quickly.

In answer to a question from the magistrate, Crown Attorney J. H. Elliott, K.C., declared he was not anxious that the plea should be taken to all the charges.

Amends. Wording. "You are charged with setting fire to R. H. & J. Dowler's store," the court continued.

"I don't agree with the wording of that charge," Ison interrupted. "What is the matter with it?" he was asked.

"I don't like the way it is put. I don't like the word 'store.' It should read 'building.' You wouldn't call a hallway a store, would you?"

"If that is part of it," remarked Magistrate Graydon.

"Well, if you can call a building a store, all right. Guilty," Ison finally decided.

Then in rapid succession he pleaded guilty to the attempt to burn Q Block of Tecumseh Barracks on April 23; the firing of the Jubilee Rink on August 25 last; the burning of H. Hayman's home, 275 Piccadilly street, and the Dominion Abattoir fire on October 25, 1919.

As to the date of Leigh's coal Turn to Page 4, Column 8.

The Doo Dads Are Coming!

Read all about the latest members of The Advertiser's family on page 9—the Doo Dads, friends of all children.



HE OBJECTED TO PHOTOGRAPH. John Vincent Ison, who in police court today admitted he was the firebug who has been operating in London during the past four years. He admitted his guilt when twelve specific charges were read to him. Ison objected to having his picture taken by The Advertiser staff photographer. First he refused to remove his cap. When that was taken away he lowered his head and refused absolutely to face the camera.

John V. Ison Pyromaniac Modern Jekyll and Hyde

Two Personalities Unceasingly Contend For Mastery of Self-Confessed Firebug—Man Struggles Against Fiend.

John Vincent Ison, confessed firebug, has a dual personality. Within the same body dwell two minds. Sometimes one predominates, sometimes the other. The one is a man; the other is a fiend.

One is a pleasure to meet. The other? Few have met him. He is not the first John Ison. He is a pyromaniac, a hideous criminal driven in reckless, cunning haste by an impulse he cannot control. Until that impulse has had its way, it will not release its victim. And it is John Ison, the quiet, unassuming boy, who knows it. He admits it. And he frankly confesses this impulse is too great to resist.

It is the impulse to burn. To see the flames mounting high, and the smoke rolling in great clouds becomes an almost fiendish delight with John Ison, the pyromaniac. The bigger the fire the better it suits him.

Under cloak of darkness, a young man makes his stealthy way to a deserted building. He kneels, and into a convenient crevice of the structure stuffs oily waste and touches a lighted match to it. A small blaze breaks out. The figure runs from the blaze and disappears into the night. The small fire gains headway. Passersby notice it and turn in alarm. There follows the shrieking of fire sirens and the clanging of bells. Crowds gather to watch the blaze.

Returns to Scene of Crime. If one had seen the man who ran from the burning building a short half-hour ago, one would again recognize him in the crowd.

To almost everyone fires—especially large ones—have a certain fascination. To this man, however, the view of the result of his work is a great fascination. He notes with satisfaction the progress of the blaze. He is disappointed when the firemen curb its progress too soon.

With the spectators and even with the fire-fighters this young man discusses the fire.

Like a human moth he is drawn to the flame. He cannot resist. That is John Ison—John Ison, the slave to impulse.

In a good home sits a young man at a piano. His fingers wander apparently aimlessly over the keys. Friends praise him for his wonderful playing. His singing, too, is a subject for much favorable comment.

This youth is blessed with intelligence. His school record stands as proof of that.

Fiend Against Man. To man and beast he is kind. His parents, his landlady, and his friends have every respect for him. And they have no reason for doubting his respectability. This is also John Ison.

He knows the other John Ison—knows him only too well. He can keep the other personality submerged for a time, but only for a time.

Without a moment's warning, John Ison, pyromaniac, overwhelms the law-abiding John Ison, and will not release the stranghold until he has won a full measure.

Quiet, gentlemanly John Ison is now waiting for the law to exact its due for the damage John Ison, pyromaniac, has done.

There is a strong connecting link between the two personalities. It is the full knowledge one has of the other. Only the ability of one to con-

trol the other is lacking. Overpowering impulses are blamed.

John Ison, prisoner in profile after he left police headquarters today for the county jail to await sentence on twelve charges of arson, to which he had pleaded guilty.

ANOTHER VIEW OF ISON. John Vincent Ison, confessed firebug, as he appeared in profile after he left police headquarters today for the county jail to await sentence on twelve charges of arson, to which he had pleaded guilty.

turn to Page 4, Column 4.

STATES FIREBUG'S EXPLOITS TO COST CLOSE TO \$100,000

Chief Aitken Declares \$75,000 at Least Will Be City's Loss.

LOOKED SUSPICIOUS

Says Three Traces of Incendiarism in Curling Rink Blaze.

"Ison's exploits if London will cost the city at least \$75,000," said Chief Aitken this morning to The Advertiser.

The chief explained that this was a very conservative estimate, and that in his opinion \$100,000 would be nearer the mark. He estimated the damage at some of the fires to which Ison has confessed as follows:

The East End town hall, \$1,000. The London curling rink, \$14,000. The Pittsman property, \$15,000 or \$20,000.

The London Pure Milk Company, \$8,000. The Dominion Abattoir, \$20,000. The machinery buildings at the Western Fair, \$4,000.

There were many fires last winter that looked suspicious to the chief, but where incendiarism has not yet been definitely established.

For instance, on Dec. 10 there was a fire at 661 Dundas street. The people living in the house had only moved in the day before, and the evidence strongly suggested, from the evidence left, that this was an incendiary fire.

On Jan. 25 there was a fire at 64 Malind street, in which the usual roll of waste was found where the fire started.

Dowler's Store. On January 27 there was a fire in Dowler's store that started in the laundry. In this case, too, there was a roll of waste found where the fire originated, and the chief has this specimen in his office at the present time. It's just ordinary laundry waste, such as one sees engineers wiping their hands on, and the chief says it is the kind of thing that Ison would use to start a fire.

Of the fires which the firebug admits, the chief pointed out some interesting facts as to their origin and burning. Half an hour before the fire started at the East End town hall the fire brigade received a call to go to London West. This was to go to the curling rink, where practically a simultaneous demand on the station. It looks suspicious to the chief as if there might have been a public man, especially the first men in the province.

Mr. Hicks traced the history of the disputed caucus. He said that he had been called by long distance telephone by the premier to get the members together. The prime minister told him a few days later that he had not sent a notice of caucus to W. H. Casselman. Mr. Hicks asked him why, and the premier replied: "I feel there is always a leak somewhere. I don't know whether I can trust Casselman or not." Mr. Hicks said he insisted that Mr. Casselman get his invitation.

"At the caucus, the premier said he was going to Ottawa," said Mr. Hicks. "Cries of 'No!' from the government." "He did," persisted Mr. Hicks. "He said he would stay with us until the next election, and in the meantime requested that nothing be put in his name preventing him from carrying out what he proposed."

"Will the premier deny that?" and Mr. Hicks sat down.

"As a rule I do not reply to irresponsible people, and those who are lost to their obligations to their fellow members, and to their word of honor," said the premier.

"The member's description of the caucus is not in accordance with the facts. I must apologize to Mr. Casselman, for I think the leak has been located now."

Mr. Hicks again stated the caucus did take place, and that the premier did not want to waste time in signing a blanket denial, members of the government party signed something that was false.

Believed It To Be True. D. J. Taylor (North Grey), said what took place at the caucus could in no way whatever be interpreted to mean what Mr. Hicks had declared that it meant. In signing the denial he signed what he believed to be true.

Mr. Casselman, who succeeded Mr. Hicks as U. P. O. whip, made a statement against the premier ever accusing him of telling caucus secrets, and demanded that he be premier apologize.

Drury, however, kept his silence as to his seat, and the matter closed, with the house getting into government business.

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HEADS WINDSOR LIBERALS. Edward Bligh Winter, ex-mayor of Windsor, who was unanimously elected, amidst deafening cheers, to lead the Windsor Liberal Association during the ensuing year, at last night's nomination convention in the Border Cities. Mr. Winter was former vice-president of the association, and for many years has been an untiring worker under the Liberal banner.

HICKS REITERATES HIS STATEMENTS IN HOUSE TODAY

Repeats That Caucus Discussed Entry of Drury Into King Government.

LITTLE COMMENT

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, May 2.—Andrew Hicks, former U. P. O. whip, rising in the legislature today, repeated the statements recently given in an interview with The Advertiser, that a caucus of the government followers had discussed the entry of Premier Drury into the King government at Ottawa.

Premier Drury refused to be drawn out and made very little comment on Mr. Hicks' speech. He practically ignored the whole thing and got the House into business as soon as possible.

On rising, Mr. Hicks said: "If there is anything I dislike it is a man who hedges. Hedging does not become public men, especially the first men in the province."

Mr. Hicks traced the history of the disputed caucus. He said that he had been called by long distance telephone by the premier to get the members together. The prime minister told him a few days later that he had not sent a notice of caucus to W. H. Casselman. Mr. Hicks asked him why, and the premier replied: "I feel there is always a leak somewhere. I don't know whether I can trust Casselman or not." Mr. Hicks said he insisted that Mr. Casselman get his invitation.

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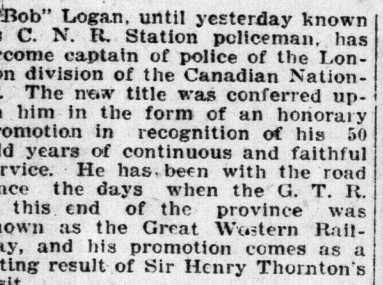
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Veteran Depot Policeman Honored For Long Service

"Bob" Logan Is Made Captain Following Visit of Sir Henry Thornton to London.



IT'S "CAPTAIN" LOGAN NOW. "Bob" Logan, until yesterday known as C. N. R. Station policeman, has become captain of police of the London division of the Canadian National. The new title was conferred upon him in the form of an honorary promotion in recognition of his 50 odd years of continuous and faithful service. He has been with the road since the days when the C. N. R. in this end of the province was known as the Great Western Railway, and his promotion comes as a fitting result of Sir Henry Thornton's visit.

When questioned about his promotion, he was anything but communicative, his modesty preventing him from making any statement concerning his promotion, but when questioned about his years of service with the railway, he had several mighty interesting events to relate.

He has, during the long term of his railway experience, seen to the sea, and also the arrival of all London's distinguished guests within the past half century.

When members of our Royal family have arrived in London, "Bob" Logan has been on hand, and his new title of police captain is indicative of the fact that on each and every occasion he has conducted the duties of his office with more than average tact and civility. All of Captain Logan's experiences have not been so easy or pleasant as that of attending the safe arrival of noted visitors to London.

There are occasions when the visitor is rather notorious than noted, and with an adaptability well suited to his duties, Logan knows just how to handle such guests.

Logan is very retiring when questioned about his own splendid record, but that is made up for by his friends and the staff, who go the limit in extolling the merits of Captain Logan, and proclaim him not only quite equal to his duties as railway policeman, but one of the very best on the continent.

His old friend and confidant, Station Master Gillian, states that the new C. N. R. station is more needed now than ever as a fitting back ground for Police Captain Logan.

THIEVES STEAL MONEY AND SOAP ON ERIE AVENUE

Enter Home of D. A. Evans and Make Getaway With Substantial Haul.

FAMILY ABSENT

Thieves entered the home of D. A. Evans, 9 Erie avenue, about 9 o'clock last night, and stole jewelry, cash and eatables, and even a cake of soap.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans left the house about 8:30 o'clock. When they returned at 10 o'clock they found the house thoroughly ransacked. A lady's wrist watch, a string of pearls, a pair of man's boots, a tin-pen, several small trinkets, and a purse containing a small amount of cash, was found missing.

Evidently, the thieves gained admittance with a key which had been used in a side door to the house.

The house-breakers were cool while at work. They even partook of a meal at the house, and left bits of food scattered about the place.

The visitors took some oranges along with them. They apparently did not want to waste up after the meal, for they confiscated a cake of soap.

The matter has been reported to the authorities.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS. Today—Moderate easterly winds; fine and moderately warm. Thursday—Easterly winds; fair until night, then showers.

The barometer has risen in nearly all parts of the Dominion, and a pronounced area of high pressure now dominates the weather from Ontario eastward.

The weather is showery in Northern Saskatchewan. Elsewhere it is fine.

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

Stations. High. Low. Weather. Victoria..... 54 40 Fair. Vancouver..... 54 40 Clear. Calgary..... 54 40 Clear. Winnipeg..... 54 40 Cloudy. Port Arthur..... 53 40 Fair. Toronto..... 54 40 Clear. Kingston..... 52 34 Clear. Ottawa..... 58 30 Fair. Montreal..... 48 34 Fair. Quebec..... 48 34 Clear. Father Point..... 48 34 Cloudy. St. John..... 54 32 Clear. Halifax..... 58 32 Fair.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 47; lowest, 32.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 53; lowest, 32.

Barometric Readings. Tuesday—8 p.m., 29.93. Today—8 a.m., 29.94.

MRS. LASSANDRA HANGED AT DAWN; A STAY IS DENIED

Alberta Woman Is First To Suffer Supreme Penalty in Twenty-Four Years.



WAS A SORRY FIGURE. Sheriff and Jailers Are Deeply Affected as Execution Time Drew Near.

Special to The Advertiser. Edmonton, Alta., May 2.—Mrs. Florence Lassandra and her companion, Emilio Piccarillo, convicted of the shooting of Constable Lawson at Coleman, Alberta, last September, were executed at an early hour this morning in the mounted police barracks at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Piccarillo paid the supreme penalty at 3:10, and Mrs. Lassandra at 5:51. Both protested their innocence to the last.

Mrs. Lassandra is the first woman to be hanged in Canada for 24 years, and the fifth since confederation.

The minister of justice and cabinet of Canada refused to exercise clemency.

The woman went to the gallows in a state of collapse. She has been in a terrible tension since her last-minute confession that Piccarillo alone had done the shooting. She sobbed and prayed all through the night, and at the last moment, her agitation and despair had reduced her to a sorry figure, and the sheriff and jailers were deeply affected as the time drew near for the execution.

The little village of Fort Saskatchewan was in a state of great excitement all night, and many residents remained up all night, as the execution remained a subject of conversation.

Approach Death Cell. Dawn had just begun faintly to illumine the eastern sky when the little, solemn group that Piccarillo approached the death cell, where Piccarillo had lain for the past four months. The door clanged open to the prisoner for the last time. He was preceded by Warden Griggs and Sheriff Rae, with three guards, and accompanied by Father Fidelis, Franciscan monk and priest of the little parish church here. Piccarillo walked with unflinching step to the scaffold.

As Warden Griggs stepped up to him to put the black cap over his head, he growled, "Take that accursed thing away. I can face what is ahead with my eyes open." It was explained that the law insisted that the black cap must be worn, and the request was refused.

"You are hanging an innocent man," God help me," said Piccarillo, as he stepped upon the trap. It was then exactly fifteen minutes after five. Ten minutes later the body was removed.

Mrs. Lassandra Followed. Mrs. Lassandra followed Piccarillo to the scaffold within the hour. It has been a series of tragic followings for Florence for the last time. She followed Piccarillo into the lucrative by-paths of whiskey-running across the British Columbia border in the Crow's Nest. She followed Piccarillo into the death car when they made their mad dash of revenge into Coleman, Alberta, where they shot Constable Lawson. She followed him into the hands of the law. And now she has followed him into eternity.

The little procession again formed. Turn to Page 4, Column 3.

BRITAIN PROTESTS TURKISH GRANTING OF RIGHTS IN IRAK

Will Not Recognize Validity of Any Such Transaction.

WILL LEAVE PARLEY

Associated Press Despatch. London, May 2.—The British high commissioner in Constantinople has been instructed to register an emphatic protest against the grant by the Turks of rights within the Kingdom of Irak (Mesopotamia) and to declare that Great Britain cannot recognize the validity of any such grant.