

HAD SURPLUS OVER \$1,100.

Annual Meeting of the Library Board Held Yesterday.

Mr. R. C. Fearman Unanimous Choice as Chairman.

Estimates For the Year Placed at \$21,731.

At the annual meeting of the Public Library Board yesterday afternoon, Mr. Robert C. Fearman was elected chairman. The choice was an unanimous one, and Dr. Lyle, in a few words of congratulation, expressed the sentiments of the members. Mr. Fearman thanked his colleagues for the honor they had conferred upon him, and hoped that he would fill the duties of the office to their satisfaction.

Dr. Woolverton and Dr. Lyle both expressed the thanks of the Board to the retiring chairman, Mr. Harry M. Dallyn, for the courteous and efficient manner in which he fulfilled the duties of the chair.

The striking committee, composed of Messrs. Milne, Lovings, Brown, retired to draw up the standing committees for the year, which they did, as follows:

Building and Finance Committee—Messrs. J. M. Brown, chairman; A. Hayes, J. Milne and H. M. Dallyn.

Library Committee—Dr. Woolverton, chairman; Dr. Lyle, W. H. Lovings and Mayor McLaren.

The librarian, Mr. Hunter, presented his monthly statement, showing that 14,250 books had been in circulation during the month of December, an increase of 2,691 over the corresponding month of 1907. Books were purchased during the month to the value of \$390.49, and the amount of the accounts passed was \$1,428.49.

Extracts from the annual report of the chairman are as follows:

During the year the Board opened a branch in the rapidly growing east end. While it was thought the branch would relieve the strain on the main library, it has not, as the circulation of books has increased by 24,443 over the previous year.

During the year the Board were put to the expense of having a new roof on the brickwork, and alterations made to the basement. This, with the installation of the branch, has been quite a drain on the finances of the Board, but I am pleased to report a surplus of \$1,129.64, which will help to tide the Board over the beginning of the year. The last payment on the outstanding debentures falls due this year and will have to be provided for by the Board.

The librarian, in his annual report, said:

The number of volumes in the main library 31st December, 1908, was 34,978. The total accessions for the year have been 2,519 volumes, 2,382 by purchase and 137 by donation. 131 volumes have been withdrawn from the library, being worn out. The number of new borrowers' cards issued, 1,652. The number of cards issued was 19,104.

The circulation from the main library has increased in all departments, as may be seen by the following: The total use of volumes for the year 1908 was 339,339. This is an increase of 24,443 over the circulation for 1907. The home circulation was 166,725 and 33,614 for reference. The combined circulation of the main library and the Barton street branch for home use was 174,389.

The reference room has been tried to its utmost capacity, many times, the readers could not get seats. 10,817 persons made use of the reference books, an increase of 311 over the previous year. The number of visitors to the reading room was 33,614, an increase of 3,096. The number of visitors to the reading room has been ascertained by occasional daily counts is estimated at 120,062. 69,554 visitors patronized the general reading room and the number of visitors to the ladies' reading room was 50,108.

The receipts of the year amounted to \$217,417, and the expenditure \$20,644.32.

The estimates for 1909 were passed as follows:

Receipts.	
Balance in bank Dec. 31st.	\$ 1,129 64
1908	206,287 50
Government grant	250 00
Cards and fines	600 00
Municipal grant of 1/4 mill on the assessment of \$38,505,955	19,252 00
Total	\$217,319 14
Expenditure.	
Debentures	\$ 3,520 00
Interest	420 00
Salaries	7,350 00
Books	4,150 00
Periodicals	1,000 00
Binding	550 00
Lighting	750 00
Heating	600 00
Printing and supplies	350 00
Repairs and improvements	1,500 00
Miscellaneous	616 64
Insurance	425 00
Rent and water rates	500 00
Total	\$21,731 64

IN TROUBLE.

A Toronto Man Arrested on Fraud Charge.

Toronto, Jan. 29.—Bernard F. Gregory, familiarly known as the city "Count Bertie" Gregord, is in trouble. Gregory was arrested on Yonge street by Detective Kennedy last night in a warrant charging fraud, the complainant being T. E. Mullett, of 382 College street, a druggist. Detective Kennedy took his prisoner to Court Street Police Station, where he spent the night.

Gregory, whose real name is said to be Greenbaum, is alleged to have obtained \$2 worth of drugs and \$8 in money from Mullett, recently, by means of a worthless cheque. In addition to the specific charge on which he was arrested, the police say they have several other charges to lay against Gregory.

Married on Wednesday, knowing he was on his death bed, to Miss Mary Weatherpoon, Pascal Finn, a native of Ireland, was no relative in this country, died yesterday in the Brockville hospital.



Ready for the Lumber Camps

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The Day Was a Great One in Great Britain.

Incidents Connected With First Payments Under New Law.

The British Old Age Pension scheme became operative the first of the year and from morning till evening the post offices were busy paying out the various sums due to the individuals presenting the official books of forms, and so carefully had arrangements been made that the whole thing was done with scarcely a hitch and with no additions to the ordinary office staffs. The following approximate figures represent the day's work:

Applicants paid over..... 500,000
Amount paid out..... £110,000
The number of claimants in London was 41,000, of whom 31,488 were recommended.

Many incidents, pathetic and amusing, took place in the most offices in connection with the payments. It is a curious fact that nearly a dozen deaths, possibly due to excitement acting on an enfeebled heart, occurred to persons entitled to pensions.

In Ireland £30,000 was paid out yesterday to 150,000 old age pensioners. The successful claimants in Dublin numbered 4,500, most of whom received the maximum of 5s.

SCOTLAND'S PENSION DAY.
In Glasgow there were 5,230 pensioners. At the General Post-Office one of the recipients was so delighted that he invited the whole staff of the money order department to celebrate the event by adjourning to the nearest hotel. Scarcely had the civil servants explained that they could not forsake the post of duty. A lady of 104 and her daughter, aged 73, were on the list.

At Edinburgh, where there were 2,790 claims, the first to be paid was a Canadian veteran, one of the "Thin Red Line" heroes, who was entitled also to his army pension.

PENSION REQUIREMENTS.
These old age pensions, it is conservatively estimated, will cost the country over \$35,000,000 annually. Seven hundred thousand applications have been received. Of these 200,000 were disallowed, chiefly because the applicants had received poor relief.

It is interesting to note that the expenditure of the pension scheme is being met by a sum of £100 million, which is being raised by a new tax on the death duties, and by a reduction in the death duties on the property of persons who have received poor relief.

It is known that the applications of persons in whose cases there has only been a very short or accidental recourse to the poor law are being treated very sympathetically by the authorities. Thus, instances have occurred where some old man or woman was taken to the infirmary for an illness in the street, and there is no doubt that in such a case the pension would not be withheld.

THE UNKNOWN POOR.
A writer in a London paper describing pension day seems to say that there was a revelation to the thoughtful observer, for there came into the light for the first time the proud poor, the poor who would sooner starve than advertise their poverty and of whose names the charity-mongers are ignorant. Never before had they dared admit their poverty or risk the embarrassment of meeting and refusing the alms-giver. Happily, those responsible for the administration of the national penny have done their work wisely and tactfully, and have placed, so far as the comprehension of the pensioners enabled them to place, the exact situation, and the precise meaning of the payments, before the recipients. So far as the administration work is concerned, it is just to say that the pension officers have acquitted themselves of their task most admirably, and although it is apparent that the age limit of seventy must in course of time be reduced to sixty-five, yet, remembering that the scheme is in the experimental stage, it is working with wonderful smoothness.

Nothing could exceed the courtesy and kindness of the over-worked post office staffs, who, in the main, were dealing with people wholly unaccustomed to the "official way." Almost every one of the old people had to be specially instructed and coached, and a number of blunders were committed by the pensioners in their innocence, the pensioners of the law was not always insisted upon. And some of the old people were rather trying.

A very large number of the recipients had only the haziest notion of the significance of the pension. An old lady in Poplar, with a "strict confidante" who informed the postmaster—felt it her duty to inform the official that she had "never paid any thing in, and that if he paid her, he would be taking the money out of her pocket." The first time I've been in a post office for forty years," announced one pensioner, who said that he had received only three letters in his life, one being from a son in Australia.

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In spite of her years, she walked without assistance to the post office, half a mile from her house, to fetch her



Gathering maple tree seeds

SMOOTH SWINDLER.

E. E. PRIME ARRESTED ON THE EVE OF HIS WEDDING.

Young Man Alleged to Have Made a Tool of a Toronto Inventor Named Softley, and to Have Swindled a Number of Guelph Business Men.

Guelph, Jan. 28.—Just on the eve of his marriage to a young Collingwood school teacher, E. E. Prime, a young man from St. George, was to-day arrested on a charge of obtaining clothes for the event under false pretences in Guelph. He had not been stopped, in any event, by relatives in Guelph. He will be brought back here for trial.

Prime, who is a young man of good appearance and comes of a good family, met with an inventor named Softley in Toronto at the Gladstone House, and made such a good impression that they came on to Guelph together to launch a stock company for a patented sanitary appliance. An office was opened up, but Mr. Softley took sick and the young man took charge, going in for \$800, for which he gave his cheque on the Merchants Bank, St. George. On the 20th a cheque for \$500 was given instead, and he explained that a delay would ensue, there being no branch of the bank here, so it was not until a couple of days ago that it was found there were no funds. Mr. Softley had issued other cheques on the strength of this one, but was able to meet them in time, and to give warning of the transactions.

Sixty dollars' worth of clothing was ordered in preparation for his wedding, to take place in Collingwood, and although Mr. J. A. Paul, the tailor, had been given warning of the delay, he was secured from his messenger at the station, where he was induced to go on promise of the money. There is a bill for about forty dollars at the Wellington Hotel, nor was anything paid for the office furnishings.

Mr. Softley is known here as a business man, and was evidently imposed upon by the plausible young man.

AGENT FINED.
Queer Judgment in the New Brunswick Court.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 28.—Police Magistrate Marsh delivered judgment this morning on the case of R. Z. Walker, I. C. R. station agent, charged with violation of the Scott Act, regarding a conviction against the defendant. Proceedings were taken under an amendment to the C. T. Act, prohibiting the shipment of liquor into Scott Act counties. His Honor held that the defendant was not liable, although owned by a common carrier and was therefore liable. It was not necessary, he said, for the prosecution to prove that the liquor was for personal use.

The fact that Walker did not know the contents of the packages contained liquor, his Honor held, was no defence. He fined the defendant \$50 and costs.

Counsel for Walker gave notice of appeal. His Honor said that he would make no order at present for the destruction of the thirteen barrels of liquor seized at the I. C. R. station shortly before Christmas.

HEART BREAKER.
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How Pennsylvania is creating a force of foresters

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Armed to the necessity of preserving its timber and restocking the denuded mountain slopes, Pennsylvania is training young men at State College in the science of forestry. The picture shows a group of young men preparing for practical work.

Field Work

been receiving a weekly sum from a former employer, who has now discontinued it, being of the State allowance. The old man is now receiving less than 10s a week, but for the purpose of his claim he must make a return of his total income for the past year. That exceeds the maximum allowed £21 10s, and he has, therefore, been disqualified.

CASES OF APPEAL.
Appeals under the old age pension act are being rapidly disposed of by the Local Government Board, and there is not likely to be any serious delay in the receipt by pensioners who are entitled to their allowances of the usual weekly sum. Up to the present there have been about 12,000 appeals altogether, of which some 6,000 came from Ireland. About half of the total number have been disposed of already, mostly in a sense adverse to the applicants, for the very obvious reason that the local committee have been in favor of denying generously with the old people, and if they could not approve, there was not much chance for the applicant thereafter.

It seems that 60 per cent. of the appeals turn on the question of the receipt of pauper relief; 30 per cent. on the "means" of the applicant, whether, in other words, he or she is too well off; and 10 per cent. on age, nationality and residence. These appeals can be presented by the pension officer, by the committees, by the applicants, or by any other person interested. Oddly enough, there are several of the latter, but the bulk come from the individuals themselves.

It is known that the applications of persons in whose cases there has only been a very short or accidental recourse to the poor law are being treated very sympathetically by the authorities. Thus, instances have occurred where some old man or woman was taken to the infirmary for an illness in the street, and there is no doubt that in such a case the pension would not be withheld.

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IMMIGRATION ACT.

Hon Frank Oliver Proposes Several Amendments.

Ottawa, Jan. 28.—Some important amendments to the immigration act will be incorporated in a bill respecting immigration, to be introduced in the Commons early this session by the Minister of the Interior. The bill will provide for a consolidation and revision of the present laws, as passed from time to time, thus making the act clearer and more easy of enforcement. It will also provide for a stricter supervision of immigrants on arrival, both as regards medical inspection and to insure that all the regulations of the act are being observed. One of the most important changes now contemplated is the extension of the time limit for deportation from two to three years. At present an immigrant who becomes a public charge within two years of arrival may be deported. It is now proposed to increase the period of probation by one year.

LINEMAN KILLED.

He Attempted to Board Moving Car in Toronto.

Toronto, Jan. 29.—Harry R. Smith, thought to be from Williamstown, Ont., and who came here to join a gang of linemen who are to start out for the Bell Telephone Company, received such severe injuries last evening while attempting to board a moving car at King and Yonge streets that he died on his way to St. Michael's Hospital. The only visible mark of injury was a scalp wound.

Smith tried to board the rear platform. He was just able to seize the hand rail, and the crowd on the platform prevented him from getting on. He swung around suddenly and fell on the roadway between the motor and the trailer. Before he could save himself he was struck by the guard around the wheels of the motor.

Deceased came to the city yesterday afternoon, and with a man named "Curly" Holmes, of Hamilton, whom he had met on the train, registered at the Clyde Hotel, with Montreal as his address. Holmes is an employee of the Bell Telephone Company, and it was at first thought that Smith was also, but none of the telephone men seem to know him.

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SPECIAL WATCH SALE

This week we are offering every watch in our large stock at special prices. Our regular guarantee with every watch. Let us show you some.

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