

COUNCIL MAY HIRE PERMANENT CITY ACCOUNTANT

CITY TREASURER APPROVES PLAN FOR ACCOUNTANT

Course Recommended in Britain Report May Be Adopted Soon.

BELL CITES BENEFITS

London may secure the services of a permanent chartered accountant, who, while assigned to the staff of the city treasurer, would be available for all spending bodies, including the board of education, the hospital trust, and the public utilities commission. This course was strongly recommended by Dr. Horace Britain and his municipal experts who surveyed the city departments last summer, and also finds favor today with City Treasurer James Bell.

As the city treasurer points out, his department must receive the early consideration of the city council. Charles Turner is no longer in the tax-collecting department, her resignation having taken effect at the close of 1923.

"Just what the council proposes to do in this case I can't say, of course," the treasurer explained. "The new council may view favorably the appointment of a competent accountant for my office, one who could be available for all other spending bodies, as recommended by Dr. Britain."

The treasurer indorses his proposal, pointing out that he would be of valuable assistance to him, and could relieve him of many duties while he would also be in a position to render excellent service to the other spending bodies and to the city generally.

The treasurer has made no definite recommendation concerning the post vacated by Mrs. Turner. He is waiting to gain the view of the new council.

THIRTY ARE KILLED, 700 HURT IN MILL

Concluded from Page 1.

of dust in the starch plant, and to have destroyed that building. Fire quickly spread to adjoining buildings, one being destroyed.

Many of the injured are being brought to Peoria hospitals, according to the first reports.

Injured Rushed to Hospitals.

The explosion occurred at 8:30 a.m. and at 7 o'clock the Peoria fire department was called to the scene.

The Peoria hospital was filled with injured and others were rushed to Peoria as fast as they were removed from the wreckage.

Immediately a call for help was sent to Peoria, eleven miles away, and Peoria firemen, doctors and police with ambulances were rushed to Peoria.

At 9 o'clock, with the estimates of doctors on the dead running as high as 35, six of the dead had been identified. Five kept rescuers from removing bodies which could be seen, and it is feared many bodies may be entirely consumed.

Identified Dead.

The identified dead are: George Harms, Lee Harding, Louis Schmidt, William Rummel, John Hooper, William Vogelsang. The Corn Products plant was the principal industry of Peoria. It was built 24 years ago by the Illinois Sugar Refining Company, but about 18 years ago was sold to the Corn Products Company, and since has been enlarged many times. The plant was said to be equipped with all the known safety appliances, and the explosion is the first serious accident since it was built.

HARDING MEMORIAL FUND IS NOW NEARLY COMPLETE

Most of the \$3,000,000 fund being raised to build a memorial to the late President Harding at Marion, Ohio, will be subscribed by the end of the month, according to Calvin Coolidge told the American people over radio from Washington last night. Many Londoners with long-range receiving radio sets heard the president's short speech plainly. He made a plea to the American people to back up the proposed memorial, and told them a last-minute drive would be made in an effort to end the campaign for funds by March 1.

SUES TO RECOVER MONEY.

P. A. Gahan of Stratford has issued a county court writ on behalf of James W. Edwards of Stratford against Ida Lahr of the township of Adelaide for \$35.20, the amount of goods sold, money paid, and as the indorser of a promissory note.

NEW YARDLEY'S VANITY FAIR

Perfume and Powder

STRONG'S Drug Store

184 DUNDAS STREET.

September Most Popular Month For City Damsels To Take Marriage Chance

June Forced To Take Second Position, While May Still Unpopular.

MANY JULY BIRTHDAYS

Greatest Number of Deaths Occur in London During March.

The superstition which prompted a sage of old to say: "Marriage in the month of May, you will surely rue the day," has to this day many extreme observers. The month of May was regarded as unlucky by the Romans, owing to the celebration of the festival of the unhappy dead, which was held annually on the 9th, 11th and 13th. This superstition has survived to the present day.

By surveying the marriage license books which are in the city clerk's office you will find that few Londoners took a chance during the past few years to marry in the month of May. May was decidedly the month of fewer marriages.

Contrary to general belief, however, June of 1923 and 1922 did not score the highest for marriages. Although ancient lore declares June to be the luckiest month of the year for weddings, because it is governed by Juno, the classic goddess who protects women, according to statistics, September was the most popular month for marriages locally.

Evidently London brides believe in the ancient adage: "Marriage in September's shrine your living will be rich and fine." The modern maiden evidently prefers wealth to travel, for Crinolines girls generally married in the month of June, and the saying goes: "Marriage when June roses blow; over land and sea you'll go."

September Highest.

For May of 1922 and 1923, an average of 37 weddings took place. During June of the past two years there were nearly 70 marriages, but the month of September saw a decided increase for weddings, an average of 81 being recorded. In recent years September has certainly been the most popular month for marriages.

Although the "June bride" idea has to an extent been exploded by these figures, one custom which has always been popular among newly-married couples in Canada still prevails. According to the city clerk's agents, Niagara Falls remains the popular place for honeymoons. Each year during the summer months, hundreds of newlyweds spend their honeymoon in Niagara.

The total number of births registered in London for the past two years is 2,878. The year 1922 showed 1,277 births, and 1923 showed 1,601. The number of births in the city for the past two years exceeds the deaths by 900, demonstrating that the population of the city is steadily on the increase. More children who were born this year will celebrate their birthday in the month of July than any other month. One hundred and sixty babies in the world during that month, which number is almost a record for the past ten years.

Winter Reapers.

The figure of local undertakers and from the city clerk's office have it that more people succumb in January, February, March and April than in the four months of May, June, July and August. March is the greatest month for deaths, according to Dr. Downham, city health officer, because it is such a friend of influenza and pneumonia. Incidentally, one-sixth of the number of deaths in the city last year were due to faulty hearts. Pneumonia is second, cancer is third. The auto-mobile and typhoid fever got the worst of the month in August. Cancer scores highest in September, tuberculosis in June, and Bright's disease in September.

INGERSOLL YOUTH DIES

ON MONTREAL VISIT

Woodstock, Jan. 3.—The death took place very suddenly in Montreal last night of Archibald Wilson, a well-known Ingersoll young man, and a son of the late C. C. L. Wilson of Woodstock. He was in Montreal, spent Christmas Day in Woodstock, and the former returned to his home in Montreal. The next day he was taken ill with pneumonia and died last night. The remains will be brought to Ingersoll for burial.

MABEL NORMAND HAS

A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

Associated Press Despatch. Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 3.—Miss Mabel Normand, motion picture actress, whose chauffeur Tuesday night shot and seriously wounded Courtland S. Dines, Denver oil operator and clubman, last night was removed to the Good Samaritan Hospital suffering from what her physicians said was a nervous breakdown.

The strain, excitement and worry growing out of the shooting of Dines in her presence last night caused the actress to break down, it was announced. She was permitted to see the management of the hospital, where Dines also is a patient.

NEW WOODWORKING HEAD ASSUMES DUTIES AT TECH

S. R. White, newly-appointed head of the woodworking department of the Technical School, takes over his work today, replacing J. C. Anderson who resigned in December.

Mr. White was for a number of years manual training supervisor in the public schools. His place is being filled by W. E. Opper, who will fulfill the dual role of principal of Lorne Avenue School and manual training instructor.

Check Forger's "Prints" Taken

Fred Fowler, Mount Brydges check forger, enjoys the rather doubtful distinction of being the first police court prisoner to have his finger prints taken and recorded by the local police department. Fowler was taken to the office of Constable Walter Harper who is in charge of the new department, which opened for business on New Year's day, despite the fact that all the equipment has not yet arrived.

Constable Harper, who has made a study of fingerprint methods for years, has had equipment of his own for some time, and this was used when Fowler's "measurements" were taken yesterday.

GLENCOE REEVE MAY BE CHOSEN NEXT WARDEN

Three Other Aspirants Are in Running For Middlesex Position.

ARE WELL QUALIFIED

Who will occupy the warden's chair as head of the Middlesex County council in 1924? This is the question that is being mullied over by at least half a dozen county fathers and prospective daddies, who are all flirting desperately with the job.

Four aspirants were all elected reeves of their respective municipalities by acclamation, and will now be able to turn their attention to the business of grabbing off the warden's chair.

J. M. Ross, Lucan; R. T. Reycraft, Biddulph; D. Gordon, Delaware; and Allan MacPherson, Glencoe, all received acclamations, and wouldn't refuse the job if it was offered them by admiring colleagues.

A number of men of political wisdom in the county today were unanimous in the opinion that Allan MacPherson would wield the gavel in 1924 and call straying councillors to the straight and narrow oratorical path. They pointed out that Mr. MacPherson had been an extremely valued member of the council for some years, and was highly thought of in his own and surrounding districts.

"It'll be \$10 on Allan," said one ex-councillor. "He is one of our outstanding men of the council, and they would be making a mistake if they don't elect him."

BOY, STARVING SIX MONTHS AGO, NOW HAS GOOD JOB

Boyle Predicts Defeat of A.U.F.

Canadian Press Despatch. Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 3.—The Alberta United Farmer government is doomed to certain defeat, owing to the inability of the farmer members to lay aside party prejudices and get together as a new political party, declared Hon. John R. Boyle, leader of the Liberal opposition in the Alberta Legislature, during an interview here yesterday.

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McGuade is an Irish boy who came to Canada about a year ago. He was working in the Alberta coal fields and one day in July entered a box car during noon hour to eat his lunch. The door closed on him and he was locked in. For several hours he shouted and pounded in an effort to attract some one's attention that he might escape before the train started on its journey across the continent.

For nine days he traveled in the freight car, which made its first stop in London. C. N. R. workmen, hearing faint cries from the box car, opened it and found the starved lad. When P. E. Southcott, of the Southcott Coal Company heard of the 18-year-old Irish boy, he offered him a position in his coal yard and took him to his home and gave him temporary lodging and food. McGuade worked for several weeks during which time his health progressed favorably and he gained in weight, but the work proved to be too strenuous for him.

He told Mr. Southcott it would be most suitable for him to secure another position on account of his weakened health. He got a job with a Dundas street east merchant, and is now working there, making \$20 a week.

This morning young McGuade said he was deeply impressed with London and thought it was a good city to stay in. He is ever thankful of the hospitality shown him by C. N. R. employees and Mr. Southcott.

GIVES B. C. MUNICIPALITIES MILLION IN LIQUOR PROFITS

Canadian Press Despatch. Victoria, Jan. 3.—Almost a million dollars has been distributed by the British Columbia government to the municipalities of the province during the last week, according to figures made public at the department of finance here today.

The municipalities' share of liquor profits for the last six months, and of pari-mutuel and motor taxes for the last year amount to \$985,590.

Protect Your Health. The Tonic and Laxative Effect of Laxative BROMO QUININE Tablets will keep the system in a healthy condition and ward off all attacks of Colds, Grip or Influenza. The box bears the signature of E. W. Grove. 30c. Made in Canada.—Adv

SAVINGS IN PENNY BANK INCREASE TWENTY PER CENT

Average of the London School Children Jumps 7 Cents Since April.

OFFICIALS WORK HARD

Through the efforts of the principals and staffs of London's public schools the deposits of the children in the Penny Bank of Ontario have increased 2 per cent since April last.

The report received from directors of the bank show that London's average has increased from 23 cents last spring to 29 cents in October.

The deposits made by London children during September and October for the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 are as follows: September, 1921, \$1,685.25; 1922, \$2,525.59; 1923, \$2,624.05; October, 1921, \$2,185.90; 1922, \$2,544.46; 1923, \$3,076.83.

Alexandra School heads the list with an average of 49 cents, with Aberdeen running second with 40 cents. Knollwood Park is third with an average of 39 cents. The other schools are as follows: Wortley Road, 38 cents; Riverdale, 37 cents; St. George's, 34 cents; St. George's, 33 cents; Boyle Memorial, 32 cents; Tecumseh avenue and Victoria schools, 31 cents; Port Perry, 30 cents; Alton street schools, 28 cents; Lord Roberts, 25 cents; Chesley avenue and Ealing schools, 23 cents; Rectory street, 20 cents; Lorne avenue and Pottersburg, 18 cents; Ryerson school, 16 cents; London average, 29 cents.

The total amounts deposited by all schools contributing to the penny bank for September and October of the last three years are: 1921, \$101,805.56; 1922, \$108,779.28; 1923, \$100,842.59.

The schools of Cornwall have the highest average for the month, \$1.10, with Guelph second at 88 cents. Hespeler comes third with an average of 82 cents. The remainder are as follows: Arnprior 18, Baden 13, Barrie 23, Belleville 40, Blenheim 8, Bowmanville 45, Brampton 41, Brantford 31, Campbellford 32, Cape C. Reserve 34, Carleton Place 17, Cedar Dale 31, Collingwood 28, Fairbank 36, Fort Erie 35, Fort Frances 37, Gale 46, Goderich 33, Harrison 27, Humboldt 29, Ingersoll 35, Kitchener 41, Lambton 36, 59, Leamington 22, London 29, Midland 41, Montreal 46, New Toronto 38, Niagara Falls 41, North Bay 28, Ottawa 33, Paris 57, Perth 33, Paris 57, Perth 33, Petticoat 26, Port Colborne 45, Port Hope 30, Port Perry 7, Prince Albert 50, Renfrew 30, Rockland 14, Sault Ste. Marie 32, Smiths Falls 26, Stamford 5, S. No. 6, 36, Stratford 43, Swift Current 41, Toronto 43, Tweed 22, Welland 44, rowland 55, Winchester 12, Woodstock 31, York County 35, All Canada 40.

ADOLESCENT CLASSES OPEN.

In company with the rest of the students of the city, the adolescent classes also reopened today. Attendance Officer Marcus M. Sims, who is in charge of the classes, said that the reports he had received showed a satisfactory attendance.

ALFRED HENRY WATSON.

Alfred Henry Watson, a life-long resident of Stratford, died at his home Dec. 26. He is survived by his wife, and sister, Mrs. Robinson, 144 Front street, Stratford.

Interest Dollars Count Up Quickly!

That \$1,000 you are holding for investment can be put to work immediately to earn \$55 in twelve months.

HEALTH IS IMPROVED

Irish Lad Confident of Future Success in the Forest City.

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'Maid of the Mountains' Star Experiences First Contact With Winter In Dominion

Ethell Walker, a Fair Australian, Comes Here Wrapped in Furs.

AN ARDENT SWIMMER

Professes Genuine Liking For Role of "Teresa" in Musical Comedy.

Ethell Walker, the fair Australian, who plays the leading role in "The Maid of the Mountains" tonight at the Grand, arrived in London this morning all wrapped up in furs, for this is her first visit to Canada. Miss Walker, who is a native of Sydney, New South Wales, has only been in this country five months, and is thus experiencing her first real contact with snow and ice.

"Though, you know," she says, "we have snow in Kioskiou, just behind Sydney, sometimes," or at least not to those who knew Joe Collins in the part, is a tall, slim, fair girl with clear blue eyes. She has the strongly marked English accent of all colonial from "Down Under," and reminds one of a person from Old London.

The part she plays tonight is one she has been playing in all the big Australian cities for two years, and she confessed this morning with a frank smile that the part was her choice in musical comedy.

"I just love the part of Teresa," she said. "I have been in musical comedy all my life, and there is no other part I like as well as this one. You see, we are all pretty fond of music in my country, and I was always fond of singing. Then, the whole play, with its dainty numbers and its lovely settings, appeals to me, and you know how popular it was when it ran at Daly's in Old London."

Miss Walker is not afraid of the long journeys entailed by touring Canada. "In Australia, we had to go all the way from Adelaide to Perth in West Australia, and that's five days in the train, so I'm not bothered as far as travelling is concerned."

Of Athletic Type.

Miss Walker looks so very fit and well, and so athletic, that one can believe this. She admitted that swimming was one of her favorite forms of recreation, but hinted that she imagined it would be more fun in her own home than here.

Frank Carpenter, her manager, explained that Miss Walker had made a name for herself in the part, in Australia, and that on their tour in the Dominion the company had been received with open arms, and Miss Walker's art with the greatest appreciation.

"We have a perfectly-balanced company which has played together long enough to make the play a family affair, and that's the only way to put a really worth-while thing on," Mr. Carpenter declared.

"We find the old attraction of the music and the story has not diminished a bit from the early post-war days."

ALFRED HENRY WATSON.

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