

PRESENT COLD SNAP WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME SAYS LOCAL "WEATHERMAN"

Londoners Shivering With Thermometer Around Six Above Zero This Morning.

Human nature is peculiar. And so are the queer actions of the weather man, which emphasizes the sentiment expressed in the first sentence. A little more than a week ago citizens, that is, a certain section, were growing impatient of the open winter which was almost like spring weather. And now, with the thermometer hovering only six degrees above zero, another wall is going up. "It's cold, very cold," was the comment of everyone this morning. Those who claimed, when the weather was hot, that it was unreasonable, unhealthy and affected business, are now volunteering the opinion that the present cold snap is a great deal worse than the previous unnatural warm spell. Whether it's warm or whether it's hot we have got to have weather. Whether we like it or not, so, despite all the protests, old King Winter has come to stay.

On New Year's Day the mercury sank down to nine degrees above zero. During the night the temperature rose somewhat, but the highest point reached was 19 degrees above zero, after which it began to decline again.

And no hope is held out by the local prognosticator for any relief. She—yes, London's weather man is a woman—predicts that the present cold snap will last for several days at least, which is as far ahead as she cares to predict.

While older people are going about all bundled up in heavy wraps, shivering and complaining of the intensity of the cold, the younger generation is highly elated at the turn of events. For, does it not mean skating, tobogganing and kindred winter sports. Throughout Western Ontario, in towns and villages that do not boast of artificial ice arenas, the colder weather has come as a great boon, meaning that at last ice can be relied on which will last their scheduled O. H. A. hockey fixtures.

QUESTION EXTRA SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Ratepayers Doubt Advisability of Latitude.

COSTS \$3,000 FOR A DAY

Schools Do Not Resume Work Until Thursday.

Why so many lost days in the school year? That, perhaps, is the question that is most on the minds of ratepayers to-day. It is especially interesting to those ratepayers who are parents and are particularly anxious to get their children to school. The fact that although the other industry in Ontario resumed its regular operation to-day, the city's primary and secondary schools must postpone resumption of activities until Thursday.

"Why the extra day?" This was the question on the lips of scores of London citizens to-day. And the answer was not hard to find. Inquiry at the office of the school inspectors elicited the information that the Christmas-New Year holiday, like the majority of other school vacations, it set by the department of education at Toronto.

However, no reason has been advanced as to why the schools should be closed for the day after New Year's Day, and there are a good many citizens in London who are called upon to contribute something like \$3,000 per day in taxes for the operation and upkeep of the city's schools, which would like some good and valid reason.

"There are altogether too many days picked in here and there during the year," it is said. "I think it's high time we made a little investigation into the matter," declared one ratepayer to-day.

On more than one occasion school of boys and girls have objected to closing the schools for a day owing to the heavy expense involved in salaries and general upkeep. Yet to-day London's school buildings were closed; its teachers were just beginning to return from vacation and the city treasury was paying out for one day's school upkeep.

ANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS: CHANGE OF TIME JANUARY 6TH.
Train No. 15, now due to leave London at 7:00 p. m. for Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, will commence on the new date, leave London 7:30 p. m., arriving Toronto at 10:30 instead of 9:30, and Montreal at 11:30 instead of 10:30. At present 7:30 a. m. and 7:45 a. m., trains leaving the city at 7:30 a. m. and 7:45 a. m., respectively, will be delayed 30 minutes.

Information, tickets and reservations, "Clock Corner," R. E. Ruse, C. P. and P. A. Phone 80. Adv.-w.t.s.

WESTERN "U" TO REOPEN THURSDAY
Students Returning To City From Out of Town

Lectures will be resumed through the offices of the University of Western Ontario to-morrow morning and hundreds of out-of-town students are returning to-day by every incoming train. Faculties of the arts college welcome the beginning of the final term in Huron College, as well as the University College of Arts and at Brescia Hall.

"7-7" For Grip, Influenza
The best results, take "Seventy-seven" at the A. Cold.

Book mailed free. Humphrey's Home-156 William Street, New Ast.-w.

EXPECT 250 GUESTS AT ENGINEERS' BALL
Annual Event Promises To Be Gala Affair For Railroad Men.

Plans for the annual ball and banquet of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, to be held in the Masonic Temple on Wednesday evening, February 20, are well on towards completion and the event promises to be one of the noisiest affairs of the season.

Arrangements are being made to accommodate between 200 and 250 local guests, as well as guests of honor from Stratford, Sarnia, St. Thomas and Palmerston.

Dancing including the latest steps and turns for the younger generation, as well as the set dances, which contain plenty of fun for both young and old, will commence at 9 o'clock and continue until the midnight hour, when a banquet will be given, in which homemade cooking will reign supreme, by the ladies auxiliary to the engineers.

J. B. Grieves, as chairman; R. Treleaven, secretary, and H. G. McFarlane, treasurer, form the committee appointed to look after the event.

TOTAL OF \$5,171.94 IN SANTA CLAUS FUND
Two Contributions Received To-Day

Two additional contributions to The Free Press Santa Claus fund, the acknowledgment of which has been delayed, swells the amount by \$7.71. Previously acknowledged: \$5,164.23. Additional proceeds to bicycle sale: \$6.46. Liggitts' Drug Store S. C. box... 6.46

Total amount to date: \$5,171.94

Ether Waves From a Rare Atmosphere

Old Man 1923 has been given the gate and Young 1924 will soon strike his knell.

The new year has dawned with Pat Norton and a number of book agents still at large.

"This is leap year and the extra day comes on Feb. 29 which is considered unlucky for bachelors."

It is the truth. The best way for a girl to propose to a man is to sit on his knee until he proposes.

Toronto the Good is fast losing its reputation. It turned down Church for mayor.

Willard was elected mayor of Galt after a big battle. He's no relation of Jess, but he put up a winning fight.

A DUMBELL is a nonentity who supposes that tramping is what the Mexican soldiers are doing.

O. Glin was elected in Goderich Township on New Year's Day, but we haven't found out yet whether he was really elected on the wet ticket.

Our punter observes that even girls are governed by prohibition in leap year. He says they have to "pop" the question.

HAPPY HINTS.
Styles for 1924 show many changes. These changes were badly needed to keep old clothes from being in style.

Most of those hair tonic ads. are all right, but a few of them are rather hair-raising.

Quebec has a surplus of a million and a half. Made up, we presume, of liquid assets.

Auto markers for 1924 will be black and yellow. And some of the speed violators may don costumes of the same color stripes.

Chief got about \$50 at the new arena, but will get a cool reception if he makes a second visit.

They call the fracas down in Mexico a civil war, but we can't see where they get the civil part of it.

OUR DAILY STORY.
First flapper—Isn't Margot's beau a burglar?

Second ditto—Yes, but he don't steal nothing but kisses.

We hope they never change their mind and run New Year's Eve without a holiday to follow.

A couple recently married on the S. S. Leviathan should weather the matrimonial storm.

Bad news from Munich to-day. They must be getting hungry. A man bit off a woman's nose.

GIVEN GOLD WATCH BY STAFF OF C. N. R.
J. Ross Kirkwood Honored on Eve of Departure For Chicago.

On the eve of his departure for Chicago, where he will take up the duties of naturopathic and chiropractic, J. Ross Kirkwood, formerly employed as clerk to the chief dispatcher in the Canadian National Railway's office, was presented with a gold watch and chain by members of the office staff.

The presentation was made by W. Doherty, chief dispatcher, on Monday afternoon in the presence of all the office staff, who had gathered to take part in the event.

Mr. Kirkwood was visibly impressed with the esteem in which he was held by his fellow employees. He replied to the address tendered by Mr. Doherty in a suitable manner.

Mr. Kirkwood had been employed in the C. N. R. office for the past three years.

APPROVE MODERNITY INTO TECH. SCHOOL

Rumors of Possible Move Finds Much Favor.

SET RUMORS AT REST

Criticism of Institution Has Aroused Much Interest.

Rumors of a possible enquiry into conditions at the Technical High School have aroused great new interest among members of the Board of Education in this important branch of London's educational system. And to-day it was learned that more than one member of the board would welcome any sort of investigation that might tend to set at rest some of the criticism that has been going the rounds of late.

Individual members of the school board were somewhat loathe to make any public statement in the matter, but the majority of the trustees declared with emphasis that they believed there was room for improvement at the school and possible recommendations for the improvement of the curriculum, would accomplish a great deal of good.

"The best thing that I have heard in a long time," declared one member of the board in discussing the project to-day, "I am not in a position to state whether there is anything wrong with the present system, but I firmly believe that there may be room for improvement and any move toward making a careful investigation would receive my most hearty support."

Other trustees were equally outspoken. One or two went so far as to state that they believed perhaps there was room for improvement at the school. The majority, however, merely expressed support of the proposal to hold an investigation and promised their unanimous approval when the matter is brought to the attention of the Board of Education soon after the inaugural meeting a week hence.

The recent criticism of the school aroused considerable interest among ratepayers and especially in school circles. It is one of the sole topics of discussion at the city hall and there appears to be little doubt but that these citizens who are behind the proposal will receive a great deal of support when the question is brought to the attention of the board.

Formal guard mount and other military ceremonies will be featured as soon as the move is completed and the regiment's N. C. O.'s and men settled in their new quarters.

Alterations made to Wolsey Barracks in anticipation of the move include the installing of an auxiliary heating plant, a battery of plumbing and shower baths, and the redecorating of squadrooms as well as sergeants' quarters and the various messrooms.

TECH. PRINCIPAL TELCOMES PROBE

Mr. Beal In Accord With Any Move To Raise Efficiency.

OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS

Says There Is Big Demand For Graduates From School.

Any investigation that would tend to increase efficiency and improve present facilities at the Technical High School would be welcomed with open arms.

In this substance is the answer of Principal H. B. Beal to recent criticism of the general operation of the school and rumors that have been going the rounds concerning possible investigations.

Mr. Beal arrived home from his annual Christmas vacation on Monday night and on learning of the reports in circulation, he declared that he was always open for suggestions or anything that could be looked on as constructive criticism.

"When any educational institution ceases to make progress it must be taking a backward step," declared the principal to-day. "It is expected that true vocational education or any establishment where industrial training is given, in the Technical School, is always open for suggestions or anything that could be looked on as constructive criticism."

SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL.
Mr. Beal pointed out that an investigation into the school is called upon to supply the needs of local industrial conditions. His work therefore is perhaps more difficult than in an ordinary school. He believes, however, that there is ample evidence at the present time that London's Technical School is successful.

"The demand for graduates from our establishment has gradually increased until to-day is far in excess of the available supply," he said. "More than that, we are constantly receiving communications from former students in various parts of the industrial world and in every case they attribute it to the training received in the London Technical School."

"Another thing that speaks well for the success of the school is the fact that the number of students taking evening classes is increasing each year. This is a very high compliment to the school and its staff."

Mr. Beal states that the school is open at all times to any citizen and full information on any subject is available at any time. The principal states that he personally, and the members of the staff, are prepared to discuss the school and its working conditions at any time. Criticism or suggestions are always welcomed, he said.

"What we do deplore, however, is the efforts to criticize on the part of those who do not know anything about the school or its workings," Mr. Beal declared. "This was quite evident in the recent criticism of our plumbing classes. We could not possibly be expected to open a second year class in plumbing for at the present time we only have three students who are preparing to advance from their first year. It is quite evident that economical conditions would not permit the employing of a second year teacher to provide a tuition for just three pupils."

DEATH OF MRS. WALTERS.—The death of Mrs. Marian Alice Walters occurred yesterday, in her 54th year, at St. Joseph's Hospital. Deceased was born by Christiana and was the oldest daughter of George and Alice Harvey.

She is survived, besides her husband, William Walters, by two sons, Charles and George, and two daughters, Mrs. Ernest Oliver and Miss Lily Walters, both of Thorndale.

The funeral will be held on Thursday, at 1:30 p. m., from her late residence, lot 22, concession 4, Ward 1, Niagara, to St. Joseph's Hill cemetery. Funeral services will be conducted by Rev. Cummer.

MURINE FOR YOUR EYES
Wholesome Cleansing Refreshing

Beech Park Benedict Wants Ottawa To End "Peril" of Leap Year

Leap year only once in four years, but that is too often. This is the opinion of Mrs. S. B. Benedict, resident of Beech Park, who has written to Hughie Stefansson, M.P. for this municipality, asking that a federal law be passed to abolish it. The letter in part follows:

"Dear Sir: Twelve years ago I was a single man, happy and free. I did not want to get married. Then one night in leap year I was invited to the home of a woman friend for supper. She was a good cook and after I had eaten she got me alone in the parlor. She told me I seemed lonesome and that I needed somebody to take care of me. She also informed me that she was going to do this herself."

"I have always been bashful and timid and at this time had not the courage of my convictions. I was afraid to say no. So she carried me away to a person and we were married. She has taken care of me ever since. She has also taken good care that I do not go out at nights. She is my boss and she knows that I know it."

"This could never have happened if it had not been leap year. I think leap year should be done away with so that many another young man may not be hasty in leap year as I was. I'll likely get a tongue-lashing if this letter is published, but if it saves any timid young man then it will have served its purpose. If the present Government is not capable of handling the situation, then let's put one in power than can."

"Yours abjectly," "PETER SWICK."

MILITARY H. Q. MOVES JAN. 15
Staff Occupies Chapter House Offices At Early Date.

SCRAP WOOD BARRACKS LOOK FOR LOWER TAX RATE

R. C. R. Takes Over Wolsey Barracks Beginning January 10.

Headquarters of military district No. 1 are being moved into the remodeled Chapter House, on Piccadilly street, on January 15, and members of "C" company, band and drums, of the Royal Canadian Regiment are being transferred to Wolsey Barracks on January 10, official announcement was made to-day.

The R. C. R. sergeants' mess and quarter-master staff will remain at Tecumseh Barracks until the removal of the headquarters offices.

Wolsey Barracks have been the station of district headquarters for many years, but it is now being turned over in its entirety to the Royal Canadian Regiment.

Formal guard mount and other military ceremonies will be featured as soon as the move is completed and the regiment's N. C. O.'s and men settled in their new quarters.

Alterations made to Wolsey Barracks in anticipation of the move include the installing of an auxiliary heating plant, a battery of plumbing and shower baths, and the redecorating of squadrooms as well as sergeants' quarters and the various messrooms.

ANNEX TAX ROLLS BEING PREPARED
In Event of City Being Given Authority To Collect.

DECIDE ON TEST CASE

Expect That Firms In District Will Be Asked To Contribute.

Tax rolls for the current year are being prepared for the levying of the school taxes in the annex as well as in the city proper.

The official record of the city's finances, along comes Reeve J. S. Cousins, of Westminster Township, with the prediction that next year citizens have to pay the city's share for the work done during 1922, and will in the near future be faced with another bill from the same department for approximately \$10,000, being the county's share for work done by the Government on county roads during 1922.

The official record of the city's finances, along comes Reeve J. S. Cousins, of Westminster Township, with the prediction that next year citizens have to pay the city's share for the work done during 1922, and will in the near future be faced with another bill from the same department for approximately \$10,000, being the county's share for work done by the Government on county roads during 1922.

From these figures it can readily be deduced that even supposing debentures are issued to cover the two provincial bills, totalling approximately \$150,000, the total debt of the city would not exceed \$188,000, which is a far cry from the sum of \$900,000.

And in the face of the criticism of the city's financial position, along comes Reeve J. S. Cousins, of Westminster Township, with the prediction that next year citizens have to pay the city's share for the work done during 1922, and will in the near future be faced with another bill from the same department for approximately \$10,000, being the county's share for work done by the Government on county roads during 1922.

Inspector Wheable Offers Balm To School-Day Miseries.

APRIL A SHORT MONTH

Has 16 School Days—May Has Only Six More.

A sage once wrote that every cloud has a silver lining. His idea no doubt was to convey to a waiting world the fact that the darkest shadow on the horizon of the city's financial position is just as applicable to the trials and troubles of child life as to the dark clouds of adult existence.

To-morrow something like 10,000 young Londoners will once more wend their way back to the nearby schools. They will abandon the revelry of Yuletide for the studies of the new school term. They will do this no doubt with mingled feelings of gloom and sadness, but Inspector G. A. Wheable to-day offered something that should provide at least a little cheer.

He has discovered that there are just exactly 120 days between to-morrow's opening of school and the official closing of school year for the midsummer vacation. These days are divided up in such a way that May has the longest number with 22 January comes second with 21 days; February only has 20; March has 21; April has 14, owing to the Easter vacation and June has but 20 days.

These figures are taken from the official calendar of the department of Education at Toronto.

ARRIVED TOO LATE TO SEE FATHER ALIVE
Daughter of Thomas Logan Thom Was To Have Been Home For Christmas.

The funeral of the late Thomas Logan Thom was held this afternoon from the family residence, 143 Grey street, to Mount Pleasant cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. John Richardson, of Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

PALMER MAY GET PLACE ON BOARD

Ex-Alderman Possibility For Technical Advisory.

WRIGHT MAY BE CHAIRMAN

Plenty of Material To Select From.

Who will be named to fill the two vacant seats on the Technical School committee of the Board of Education? Here is a question that is causing some conjecture in school board circles to-day. At the end of the present year W. W. Gammage and W. A. Reid will retire from this board, and at the inaugural meeting of the new Board of Education, whenever it may be held, two appointments must be made.

There is a strong possibility that either or both of the retiring commissioners may be reappointed. There are persistent rumors, however, that a change is contemplated by the new school board and a number of names are mentioned as possibilities.

Among them is the former, an unsuccessful candidate in the recent school board election, is looked on as a likely appointee in the place of a change being made. Ex-Trustee Silverwood and Thos. Rowe, another retiring trustee, who through his long years of service has become an important part of the city's educational administrative bodies, are also mentioned.

The commission is made up of a half dozen members of the school board and an equal number of appointees. The Board of Education makes the appointments and each outside nominee is appointed for a two-year period. It is understood that Trustee Wilmot, who has been a member of the commission as a representative of the school board, Trustee S. F. Lawrance, who was named chairman temporarily, following the resignation of Trustee Smith, who entered the Council, is also assured of a place in the commission as a representative of the school board.

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At all events, there will be no dearth of material to select from.

W. I. TODD MAKES AN ASSIGNMENT
Dundas Street Clothier Has Many Creditors.

FASHION-CRAFT CUSTODIANS

London Firms Interested In Two Other Bankruptcies.

Wilfred Hamilton Todd, Dundas street clothier, has assigned in the statement of affairs he acknowledges an indebtedness of \$54,380.58. The value of his stock is estimated at \$33,827. The firm of Fashion-Craft, Limited, one of the interested creditors, has been appointed custodian, having filed the necessary bond of \$1,000. The papers of the bankrupt have been filed at the office of Edmund Weld, official receiver, county of Middlesex, at Toronto.

Among the London creditors are the firms of Towe & Towe, Green-Swift Company, Public Utilities, Service Sign Shops, Hammond & Son, James Henry, Robinson Little Company, Somerville Paper Box Company, McMahon, Granger Company, The Fashion-Craft Manufacturing Company, Limited, Oscar Hudson Company and the A. A. Talbot Company.

Londoners are interested in two other suits for bankruptcy which have been filed at the London offices, Carl de Pierre, collector of the Ottawa branch, is insolvent, has London creditors, as has George L. Porter, Stratford grocer. Duncan Ferguson Company, Limited, has been appointed custodian of the Pierre case. Pierre's indebtedness is approximately \$2,000 and the market value of his stock is estimated at \$800. The principal creditors are: McCormick Manufacturing Company, Limited, London; Bank of Montreal, Montreal; Canadian Fergusson Company, Limited, Stratford; Gorman Baker Company, London; Chase Sanborne Company, Montreal; Candy specialties, Hamilton; Peter Sylvester, Stratford, and William Patterson, Toronto.

George L. Porter, Stratford grocer, is the other to make an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, who are scattered throughout the province, but mostly on Kitchener, Stratford and Toronto men.

FRED WALKER NEW MANAGER.—Fred Walker, who for the past three years has been district manager for the Canadian Toledo Scale Company, has resigned to accept a position as manager of the United Typewriter Co., Ltd., to succeed E. F. Walker, who has been transferred to the Ottawa branch. The typewriter business is not new to Mr. Walker, as he has had nine years experience in this line, having been manager of a branch in Hamilton for over eight years.

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Suitable repayment terms.

Any amount, \$1,000 or over.

See Mr. Tufts at the Head Office, Wellington Street, opposite Y. M. C. A.

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YARD ENGINE SEVERS WORKER'S BOTH FEET
TORONTO, Jan. 2.—Struck by a yard engine while walking on the Canadian National Railway tracks this morning, W. Sanford, of Detroit, was instantly knocked unconscious and run over.

He was rushed to St. Michael's Hospital, where it was found that both of his feet were severed. He is also suffering from injuries to the forehead that may prove fatal.

Official Figures Show Less Unemployment Here Than In Any Other City

London Ranks Ahead of All Other Canadian Centers Considered In Proportion to the Population.

According to authoritative figures there is less unemployment in London than any other Canadian city in proportion to population. There are few men in the city to-day who do not get at least three days' work in two weeks, which is a great deal more than the half-starving hordes of unemployed in Hamilton and Toronto are receiving.

And many of the men who frequent the local office of the employment bureau receive a full week's work every two weeks. But the 12th month's residence clause is being strictly enforced. London is no place at present for those who are unemployed in other cities. The very few who are out of work here are men who have not resided here for 12 months prior to applying at the employment bureau. These men have to do the best they can for themselves.

The city relief work has come as a great boon to several hundred local men who were thrown out of work when the factories closed. It is believed, however, that in the spring London will be one of the first cities to emerge from the industrial lethargy that has engulfed the province. The situation is not nearly so serious throughout the province this year because many men who were out of work last year have learned their lesson. They know now that it's worse than useless to move from city to city in search of work. Men flocking from one city to another caused the employment officials a great deal of worry last year, but this condition has been eradicated this year. According to J. C. Spencer, local employment superintendent, the lumber camps are all filled up, navigation has closed and farm orders are scarce and the possibilities of men securing work are none too good at present, but in spite of this the various offices throughout the province report that the situation is not altogether as bad as it was last year. Officials at Windsor report a decided change for the better. At the meantime Londoners are just sitting tight waiting to make a quick start in the spring.

EXTRA TRAINS FOR HOLIDAY TRAFFIC
Two C. N. R. Specials For Western Points.

HEAVIER THAN CHRISTMAS

Weather Not So Good For Auto Travel.

Due to the holiday traffic on the Canadian National Railways, two extra trains were placed at the disposal of passengers traveling to Windsor, Detroit, Chicago, Sarnia and Port Huron to-day.

Two sections of train No. 17 to Detroit and Chicago and two of train No. 117, to Sarnia and Port Huron, were placed in place of the regular train on each run. The second section of No. 17 was delayed in leaving Montreal, however, and did not arrive in the city until 1:30, two hours behind the regular train.

The passenger traffic over the New Year's holiday was a bit heavier than at Christmas time, when the roads throughout the country were fairly clear of snow. Storms in various sections held up automobile traffic somewhat on the country roads and holiday-makers who formerly used this means of conveyance resorted to the more comfortable mode of travel over the railways.

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Men's Sizes \$3.75 to \$5.50
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Girls' Sizes \$3.00 to \$4.00

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Skates Attached FREE.

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COAL SOLVAY COKE
WM. BUCHANAN
Phone 94, y. Maitland St. and C. P. R.

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