

46TH. YEAR. NO. 19598

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**MAYOR STEVELY
JOINS IN PROTEST**Against the Increase in Fares on
the Pere Marquette.**MATTER LAID BEFORE
SUPT. PYEATT**Not Likely to Come Formally Before
the Railway Commission at
This Sitting.

The protest of the residents of Westminster Township against the increase in the rates on the Pere Marquette, is being backed up by Mayor Stevely.

Yesterday afternoon a deputation from Westminster, including Rev. Dr. McCrack, Mr. J. Laidlaw and Mr. J. G. Elliott, waited on his worship and formally protested against the increase.

Mayor Stevely immediately wrote to Superintendent Pyeatt at Detroit, calling his attention to the increase in the fares, and asking that the former tariff be resumed. The matter will also be brought up before the board of trade at the next meeting if it is not settled in the interim.

The Railway Commission. There is no likelihood, it is said, of the protest coming up before the railway commission at its session here tomorrow. The Pere Marquette would have to be notified, and no such regular proceedings have been taken. The best legal opinion states that under no circumstances will the commission deal with the case unless formally entered. However, the session of the commission may result in a settlement, although indirectly. Superintendent Pyeatt has been summoned to attend the commission in connection with the level crossings at Rodney and elsewhere, and a conference will be arranged between him and the residents of Westminster, looking toward an amicable arrangement.

The Cause of the Trouble. So far as can be learned, all sides, the difficulty lies in the mileage between here and Westminster. The fare has been 15 cents single and 25 cents return, and now it is 20 cents single and 35 cents return. The Saturday rate to London market has also been increased.

This new tariff is the result of a levelling up that has been going on throughout the Pere Marquette system in Canada. There have been several different rates in vogue on the road, and the company have levelled it all up to 3 cents a mile.

The company figures that the mileage from the Grand Trunk depot to Westminster is 5.37. Three cents a mile, as the usual rate would be, would make the fare 15 cents, and as the company has the privilege of raising it to obviate the necessity of making change to 20 cents, the return fare on that would be 35 cents.

The Other Side. The residents of Westminster claim that the distance is only 4.97 miles, and show that from a Pere Marquette folder, which shows the company's claims for trappers' purposes only, as the figures of the Pere Marquette's figures as to the measurements from the Grand Trunk to Westminster, making it something over five miles.

But the distance from Waterloo street, the terminus in the London and Port Stanley proper, is 4.97 miles as the figures of the Pere Marquette show.

What Is Being Done. The argument, in brief, then is that the Pere Marquette are charging the residents of Westminster 5 cents each way for the ride between the Grand Trunk depot and Waterloo street, the terminus of their line.

This Mayor Stevely and the residents of Westminster think manifestly unfair, and that will be the argument used when the company and the residents of Westminster come together this week.

Wrote to Mr. Pyeatt.

"I wrote to Mr. Pyeatt as soon as the deputation waited on me," said Mayor Stevely. "I do not think the increase is at all justified. We have a folder showing that the distance is 4.97 miles, and if that is the case, and I believe it is, then the company should charge not more than the former rate. Even granting that the distance is 5.37 miles, they are charging 5 cents each way for a third of a mile, which is going somewhat beyond the limits of their rights, if I am any judge. The Pere Marquette will be reasonable, I think, when they receive the protest, and I am thoroughly convinced that it will be satisfactorily arranged when we get together. I don't think the railway commission will touch the matter. All business will be taken up by the commission must be taken up in a regular way, and this has not been done. Mr. Pyeatt will be in the city and we will talk the situation over with him, and I think we can arrange matters, to satisfaction of all. I have talked with some of the officials and they appear reasonable."

**ASSESSORS WILL
COMMENCE WORK**All Ready to Start Assessing City
First of March.

The assessors will commence their rounds next week. Assessment Commissioner Grant has practically everything in order, and expects to start on ward 4 by the beginning of March.

His staff will be identical with last year. Mr. Martin O'Sullivan and Mr. Alf. McCoubrey will be assistant assessors as usual, and the clerks will be as in 1908—James Gillen, Geo. C. Doble, Arch Black, sen., and Mr. Alf. Burwell.

"We are about ready to begin," said Mr. Grant. "We have the same staff as last year, and with all experienced men, we should get along first rate."

**TRAIN DROPS
OVER A CLIFF**Twenty-Five Persons Killed in a
Railway Accident in
Ecuador.

Guayaquil, Ecuador, Feb. 24.—A passenger train on the main line bound north, was today thrown over a cliff 100 feet high at a point near Rio Bambu, and crashed to the bottom of the ravine. All the cars were practically demolished. Twenty-five persons were killed, and forty were wounded. A relief train was at once dispatched to the scene. The accident was caused by a displaced rail.

**STARTLING TURN
IN SIMCOE CASE**Malone's Counsel States No De-
fence To Be Offered.**SAYS THEFT CHARGE
WAS NOT PROVED**Also Declares That Alleged Shooting
of Wilkins Lacked a
Motive.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Simcoe, Feb. 24.—A wholly unexpected move was made this morning on the part of Mr. Kelly, counsel for ex-Police Chief Malone, when he stated to the jury that no defence would be offered.

He claimed he had the right to address the jury after the crown counsel, but his lordship ruled otherwise, and Mr. Kelly at once began his address to the jury. He declared that as Malone had not been tried nor convicted on the charge of theft, therefore theft had not been proved against him. Also that as there was no motive for the shooting, Wilkins did not do the shooting. Wilkins, when he thought he was about to die, had solemnly declared he knew of no reason why Malone should have shot him. Hence, Mr. Kelly contended, Malone was not implicated. The jury was lacking. It was only after Wilkins came on the police force that the deprecations commenced.

In presenting his case Mr. Kelly laid great emphasis on the feeling of prejudice which had been created against the prisoner claiming certain sections of the road, and the fact that Malone was guilty before the evidence was heard. He sarcastically referred to ex-Constable Wilkins as a man convicted of receiving stolen property, turned into an angel and backed up by the town. Wilkins, he declared, had spent hours while in bed at the sanatorium planning how he could connect Malone with the crime of arson and robbery. Mr. Kelly then urged on the jury the matter of convicting a man on an accomplice's evidence.

For yesterday's evidence see page eleven.

**WATER IN RIVER
ROSE SIX FEET**Ice Jam at Wonderland Was the
Cause of the Trouble.**BREAK-UP OCCURED
AND RIVER IS FREE**People of Front Street Were Worried
for a Time by the Flood.

The water in the Thames rose to alarming proportions during the night, and for a time great fears were entertained that serious damage would result.

The first jump was of two feet. Then the ice jammed at Wonderland, and caused a rise of four feet, which made a total of six feet in 24 hours.

This morning the jam gave way, and the water immediately began to fall.

Front Street Worried.

The south branch caused the residents in that section some uneasiness this morning, especially those who occupied houses on Front street. These had their backyards filled with water, and for a time things were not at all enticing.

However, as soon as the ice was liberated, all signs of a flood disappeared.

In the north branch the water was very high for a time, but there never was any chance of it getting into the breakwater, which is now solid, and a perfect safeguard for growing and popular West London.

THE TRAINMEN'S TRIALBurgman and Alexander Plead Guilty
and Sentence Suspended.

Guelp, Feb. 24.—The three Grand Trunk trainmen against whom a true bill for criminal neglect in connection with the Harrison wreck, was returned by the grand jury at the assizes here, were tried this morning. Burgman and Alexander pleaded guilty and were released on suspended sentence. Jackson pleaded not guilty, and his case was laid over for the next assizes.

**MANY CELLARS
ARE FLOODED**Poolroom in East End Is
Partially Submerged.**PEOPLE REGISTERING
STRONG OBJECTIONS**Engineer Graydon Has Large Gang of
Men at Work Opening the
Sewers.

This is not one of City Engineer Graydon's good days.

As a matter of fact, it is about one of the worst he has had in a long time. It is owing to the fact that there is too much water. The rains of the past day or two, with melting snow, have filled the roads and streets full. Sewers have backed up owing to the volume of water. Cellars are flooded. Some houses in the east end, particularly stand out in miniature lakes, and everywhere there is trouble.

One man wrote that his house was surrounded by two feet of water, and he could scarcely get out of it. His cellar was full, and there was no relief in sight. He asked for a boat.

The residents along Carling's Creek are complaining of flooded cellars. Dufferin avenue east is a veritable river, and the houses in many instances are completely surrounded with water. The same is true only more so in the south and east sections. Water, water everywhere, and not a moment of peace, says the city engineer.

A Real Poolroom Now.

There is a poolroom in the east end where the water is up to the tops of the billiard tables. It's a real poolroom now.

Mr. Graydon has been simply besieged with telephone calls. Since early morning he has been busy. His whole staff of men are out opening up sewers and doing everything possible to relieve the situation.

Much Worry.

"Worry" asked Mr. Graydon, "The telephone started at a quarter of 4 o'clock this morning, and has been going ever since, both at home and in the office. With all the burden of complaint is the same water? Yes, rivers of it. Make London a veritable flood pond. Let us go into poultry raising. Let us do anything to get away from the complaints. Let us organize a fishing club on every street. I have had my head in doing all we can to relieve the situation."

Building Philosophy.

"Some people build down in a hole, and when the spring freshets come, we are in constant trouble with them. They would build there rather than go high ground. One man built two feet below the sewer, and it backed up on him, and he's got all the water he wants for some time. I have handled a million complaints, and made promises at fearful length. We hope to have the most of the water drained off through the yards, and some cellars will have to be pumped out. It is at a time like this that a storm sewer would be of great value."

A Sad Message.

Mr. Homer Stott, father of the boy who was killed, is a Grand Trunk engineer, and was at his engine at Waterloo yesterday, when the telegram advising him of the sad accident was handed to him. Mr. Stott learned of the death of his son through the office of the Grand Trunk, within twenty minutes after it had occurred, and made all speed home.

Mr. Stott has been in the habit of carrying the revolver with him, as several times when coming home early in the morning he has been followed through the yards, and he feared that an attempt might be made to rob him.

No Inquest.

The revolver has always been locked, and in a place where the little ones could not get at it. He had been advised by his father that he should have it at once, and he pointed directly at his chest, it went off.

Dr. MacLaren made a thorough investigation and concluded that an inquest was unnecessary.

**PEOPLE TO BLAME
FOR PNEUMONIA**Throw Off Heavy Garments
When a Nice Day Comes
Around.

Local physicians report that pneumonia is more prevalent now than for some years, there being many such patients in London at present.

The increase is due to the sudden changes in temperature, that Londoners have experienced so frequently this winter.

Another doctor said: "In nine cases out of ten, the affliction was due to the patient's own carelessness. A warm day comes along and they throw off their heavy clothes, regardless of the month or what risks they are subjecting themselves to, and inevitably sickness follows." People should remember that pneumonia is but a forerunner of the deadly white plague, and therefore exercise caution.

Ankle Injured.

Miss E. Keys, of the firm of J. H. Chapman & Co., with a painful accident yesterday. While on her way to work she slipped on the icy sidewalk on Dundas street and fell, twisting her ankle badly.

MAILED SUFFRAGETTES TO MR. ASQUITH

London, Feb. 24.—Two "human letters" were dispatched to Premier Asquith yesterday afternoon by the inventive militant suffragettes, Mrs. Drummond and Miss Cristobel Pankhurst, were the senders of this novel mail. Entering the Strand postoffice the two women inquired if it were a possible thing to send two "human letters" by express. On being answered in the affirmative, they brought in two of their colleagues, Mrs. McLellan and Miss Solomon, and addressed them to the premier's residence prepaid. The two women were at once dispatched in the care of a telegraph messenger.

The servants at the premier's residence, however, refused to accept delivery of this suffragette mail, and the police appeared and quickly cleared the women out of Downing street.

**Collecting Funds in Canada to
Arm Bengalese Against British**Evidence in Court Indicates That
Preparations Are Under Way
for Indian Revolt.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 23.—Sensational statements regarding the collection of funds with which rifles and ammunition are purchased by a Bengalese in Seattle to arm disaffected natives in Bengal against the British Government, were made in the police court here yesterday afternoon by Narain Singh, a Sikh, giving evidence in an assault case.

It was alleged that a local teacher and a Vancouver priest are collecting the moneys to send munitions of war to Bengal.

Investigation is being made by the attorney-general's department.

The witness stated that after the assault a mass meeting was held, at which the local priest said that instead of paying money to lawyers the dispossessed should settle, and give the money to him to send rifles and ammunition to India.

**HUGO STOTT
LOST THE KEY**To the Drawer in Which the
Revolver Was Kept.**LITTLE THING LED
TO FEARFUL ACCIDENT**Body of the Lad Was Sent to Vermont
Today, Where It Will Be
Interred.

Additional sadness is lent to the shooting accident in which little Hugo Stott lost his life yesterday afternoon at his parents' residence, 184 William street, by the fact that only a few days before, while playing with the key of the drawer in which he found the revolver, the boy lost it, and for this reason his parents were unable to lock the drawer.

The Funeral.

The funeral was held this afternoon to the Grand Trunk station, the remains being taken to Island Pond, Vt., where interment will be made. The family moved to the city from Island Pond about four years ago, and nearly all their relatives live there. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. D. S. Hamilton, of the First Congregational Church.

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No Inquest.

The revolver has always been locked, and in a place where the little ones could not get at it. He had been advised by his father that he should have it at once, and he pointed directly at his chest, it went off.

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**BAD FLOOD AT
ST. THOMAS FLATS**Ice in the Creek Causes the
Water to Rise With Great
Rapidity This Morning.**[Special to The Advertiser.]**

St. Thomas, Feb. 24.—Owing to the ice in the creek the outskirts of St. Thomas are today badly flooded. The "flats" are three feet deep at some points. Cellars and basements are filled with water, and the damage will be high.

Jimmy Alexander, a youth of twenty, went to the barn to feed the stock, and was cut off from returning by the rapidly rising water. He was waist-deep in it for several hours, and became almost helpless through the cold, but was finally rescued and given restoratives. Reports from Port Stanley say there is no trouble there.

**CHARLES PETERS
DIED IN BED**Very Sudden End of Well-Known
South Londoner.

Mr. Charles Peters, of 8 Wortley road, died very suddenly at his home, some time during the night. Mr. Peters was apparently in his usual health when he retired last night, but this morning Mrs. Peters was unable to arouse him.

She at once hurried to the power house and Dr. James D. Wilson was called. He found that Mr. Peters had been dead for some hours, from heart failure.

Mr. Peters was 60 years old and had resided in London for some time. He is survived by his wife only.

The funeral will be held from the family residence to Mount Pleasant Cemetery on Thursday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. Mr. Anderson, of the Richmond Street Mission.

**MILD WEATHER IS
BAD FOR THE ICE**But Prices Will Likely Remain
the Same This Summer.

Local ice dealers are somewhat disappointed as a result of the thaw and the breaking up of the river. It is said that a number of them have not been able to get in a full supply, while others are filled up.

One gentleman, who has secured a fair stock, and who has harvested enough ice to look after his customers, said that as far as he was concerned there would be no change in prices.

Preparations were being made to cut ice this week, as it had reached a thickness of about seven or eight inches yesterday. Ice is generally harvested when about ten inches thick.

Four days of hard freezing will cover the river with a coat of good ice, and there may be another harvest this season.

**GRAND TRUNK RY.
AFTER GRAIN TRADE**Work of Improving Docks at
Point Edward Has Begun.

That the Grand Trunk Railway Company are going right after the grain trade is evidenced by the fact that a couple of days ago work was commenced on improving the docks at Point Edward.

"The company will spend at least \$100,000 on enlarging the docks at Point Edward," said an official of the company yesterday afternoon. "We are out to get the grain trade that comes by way of the great lakes. At present the docks at Point Edward are not adequate to accommodate the large new vessels of the Northern Navigation Company. The company intends to get this trade, and it will mean the very large shipments of grain will be sent through London."

Superintendents Brownlee and Gillen left this morning in Mr. Brownlee's private car "Algonquin" for Point Edward, and will inspect the work that is being done. It is thought that the improvements will be completed this summer in plenty of time to handle a very large share of the grain traffic.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—COLD.

FORECASTS.

Today—Northwest gales and change to much colder with snow flurries tonight.

Tomorrow—Strong northwest winds; much colder with snow flurries.

TEMPERATURES.

Lowest and highest temperatures for yesterday follow:

	Min.	Max.
London	38	48
Dawson	38	48
Victoria	38	48
Vancouver	38	48
Kamloops	38	48
Calgary	38	48
Edmonton	38	48
Qu'Appelle	38	48
Winnipeg	38	48
Port Arthur	38	48
Perry Sound	38	48
Ottawa	38	48
Montreal	38	48
Quebec	38	48
St. John	38	48
Halifax	38	48

ROBINSON DISCHARGEDMagistrate Dismisses Case Against a
Hamilton Sporting Editor.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 24.—The charge of disorderly conduct laid against M. Robinson, sporting editor of the Spectator, by F. C. Mills, sporting editor of the Times, was dismissed by the police magistrate this morning.

Robinson was assigned to report a wrestling match on Friday night, and Mills, who was behind the entertainment, refused him admission. He alleged that Robinson created a disturbance at the door, but he did not get inside. The magistrate discharged Robinson, after hearing part of the evidence, and said it was about time for the two papers to quit their unpleasantness.

**STANDING IN THE
TRIP TO EUROPE**The Total Ballots Up To Last
Monday Evening.**SEVERAL CANDIDATES
MAKE GOOD GAINS**And a Large Increase Is Shown in
Votes All Around—The Pin-
Money Contest.

Contrary to expectations, The Advertiser is able today to publish the count in the Trip-to-Europe contest up to Monday night.

Again a very decided increase is to be noticed in the aggregate number of votes. The candidates are evidently working hard in the pin-money contest, and its influence on the vote is having a marked effect.

In one instance there were thirteen thousand, and in another nearly twelve thousand added, while increases of from three to five thousand are quite numerous. In most cases very substantial gains have been made. In some instances a candidate who was over two thousand votes behind the nearest competitor, has gone up several places in the list, showing what a little systematic work will do.

There are a number of cases where contestants have gone up two, three, or even four places, and one candidate who was third on the list, now stands first, with a comfortable majority.

These changes only go to show that the contest is not yet by any means decided, that changes are taking place with every publication of the standing, and that so far all the contestants have an even chance to win out. Some have quite a large lead, but nothing that it is impossible to overcome.

Then there is the pin-money to be considered, and there is yet time to make a strong bid for this before the competition closes at 10 o'clock Saturday night.

Here is an absolutely even chance for all, and it is a matter not to take advantage of the offer.

The list of votes up to Monday night last is as follows:

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.

All that territory within the city limits, north of and including both sides of Dundas street, and west of and including both sides of Wellington street.

Miss Katie McLaughlin, 226 Hyman street, 73,184

Miss Mary T. Mowbray, 126 Mount Pleasant avenue, 35,012

Miss E. Ball, 664 Talbot street, 14,142

Miss Maude Underwood, 209 Queen's Avenue, 4,198

Mrs. Norman Roberts, Richmond and John streets, 2,842

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.

All that territory inside the city limits, east of, but not including Wellington street, and north of and including both sides of Dundas street.

Miss Edith Glenville, 574 Adelaide street, 33,814

Miss Ella Dickie, 860 Hellmuth avenue, 14,237

Miss Annie Fitzpatrick, 240 Kensington street, 9,480

Miss Mabel Connor, 474 Princess avenue, 9,445

Miss Nellie Weston, 668 Adelaide street, 6,848

Miss Annie S. Stevenson, 391 Queen's Avenue, 5,559

Mrs. M. Callender, 772 Hermit Avenue, 2,163

Mrs. Ronald Emery, 338 Dundas street, 87

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.

All that territory inside the city limits, south of, but not including Dundas street, and east of, but not including Wellington street.

Miss Edna Calhoun, 318 Grey street, 57,601

Mrs. Ida Willis, 398 Adelaide street, 26,678

Miss Margaret Edgar, 130 Drenay avenue, 7,163

Miss Marion D. Porteous, 374 York street, 5,071

Miss Gertrude Foley, 543 King street, 4,944

Miss Vera Rowe, 315 King street, 1,944

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.

All that territory inside the city limits, west of and including both sides of Wellington street, and south of, but not including Dundas street.

Miss Edith Glenville, 153 Wharncliffe road, 36,542

Miss Vera B. Hewer, 8 Ingle-side street, 35,262