

TOO MUCH CREDIT TO BANK DIRECTORS, SAYS MR. M'CURDY

Claims That Is Frequently the Cause of Bank Failures in Canada.

Shocked at the Recent Amount of Loans to Directors of Banks.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, April 25.—The banking bill was under examination again this morning. Finance Minister White at the opening said the Government was growing anxious about the bank act. It had been in committee for a long time, and if it was not soon disposed of by the House there might not be enough time left for the Senate to deal with it. The amendment by Mr. M'Curdy, of Queen's-Buckingham, was discussed this morning. The section of the bank act declares that the shareholders may regulate by bylaws, among other things, the amount of advances to directors, corporations or individuals.

To Much Credit. Mr. M'Curdy said that every bank failure in Canada could be traced to some interest, generally on the board of management, obtaining too much credit. The shareholders, to whom the banks belonged, should be encouraged to put a limit on advances to companies in which directors were interested. The maximum of credit could be fixed once a year, as was done with the credits of the ordinary business houses.

Finance Minister White thought that the proposal would be hardly workable. A bank might find it desirable to readjust its credits more than once a year. The maximum limit could be evaded by directors, as was done in the United States, by organized subsidiary credits. Mr. M'Curdy said that the great point of weakness with Canadian banks was the lack of interest by shareholders in the management of banks. Today shareholders were wanted to have and uphold the management, but they were not wanted to participate in administration or to criticize the management.

Witness Shocked. Mr. M'Curdy said he was shocked at the recent increase in the amount of loans by Canadian banks to their directors. Several members of the committee said they were shocked. Continued on Page Ten.

Ottawa Incendiary Given Ten Years

[Canadian Press.] Ottawa, April 25.—Nichol, arrested here yesterday on the charge of setting fire to a mattress factory some weeks ago, pleaded guilty to the crime this morning. He was sentenced to ten years in Kingston penitentiary.

Poor Fishers Are Canadians

[Canadian Press.] Ottawa, April 25.—A special bulletin issued by the marine department today deplores the fact that Canadians are poor fishers, and announces that steps will be taken to develop the fisheries. The bulletin states that the physical and financial advantages of this food, the per capita consumption of which in Canada is comparatively low, are being neglected. It is pointed out that through modern express and cold storage facilities, fresh fish can be conveniently placed on the markets of any interior section of Canada.

Two Sisters of New Order Here

Two members of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, an order of nuns who are making their headquarters in London, arrived in the city on Thursday and are looking over the premises which have been assigned to them, the old Anderson estate on Ridout street. Eleven members of the order are expected about May 1 and they will take up their residence there.

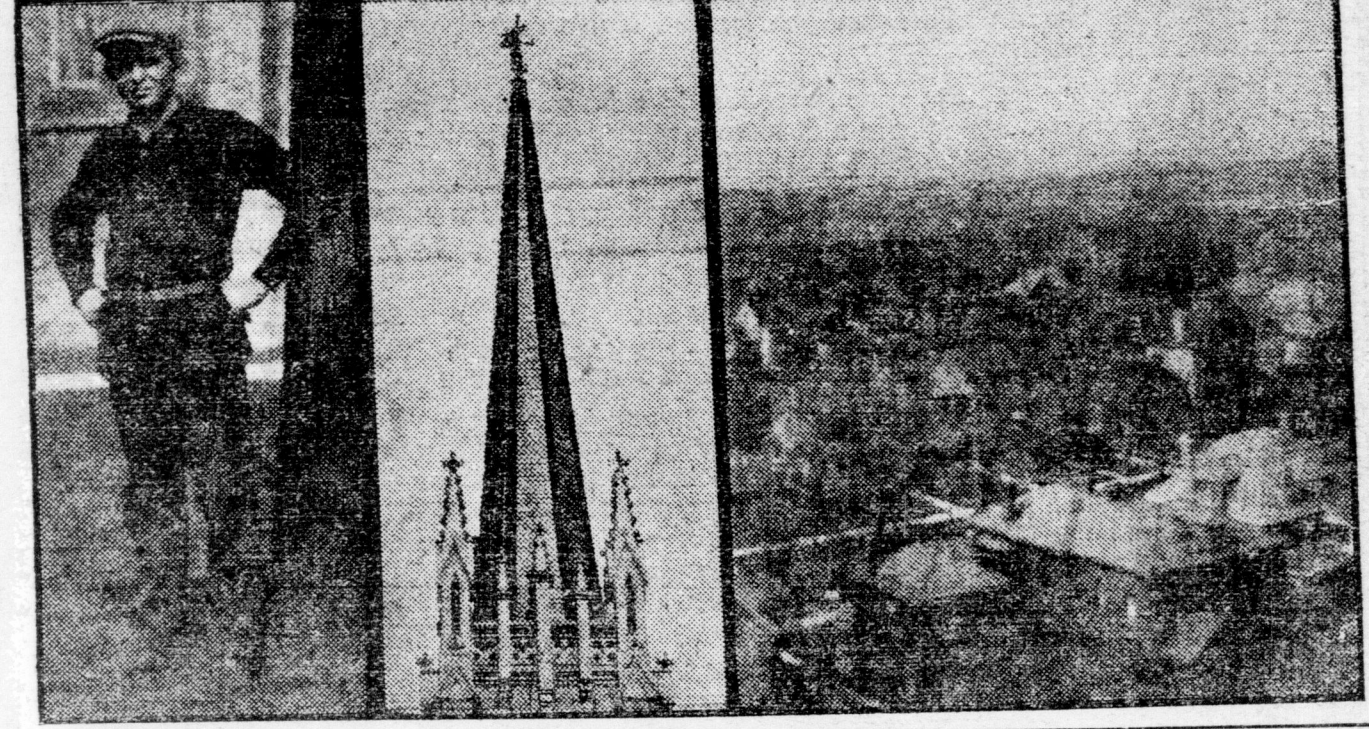
GATHERING THE GOLD

Imperial Bank of Germany Now Has \$250,000,000 in Vaults. [Canadian Press.] Berlin, April 25.—The statement of the Imperial Bank of Germany, issued today in contrast to the desperate scramble for gold of a few weeks ago, shows for the first time in its history that there is over \$250,000,000 in gold in the vaults of the bank. The institution is pursuing steadily a gold gathering policy so as to have available the \$250,000,000 additional which is required for the "war."

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COOLER. Forecasts. Toronto, April 25.—8 a.m. Today—Moderate winds, fine and warm today; a few local showers during the night. Saturday—A few local showers, but partly fair and cooler. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Stations. High. Low. Weather. LONDON 69 46 Fair. VICTORIA 66 46 Cloudy. CALGARY 52 22 Cloudy. WINNIPEG 46 22 Snow. PORT ARTHUR 46 22 Cloudy. PARRY SOUND 78 54 Cloudy. TORONTO 76 54 Clear. OTTAWA 89 16 Clear. MONTREAL 75 56 Clear. QUEBEC 74 48 Clear. FATHER POINT 48 38 Clear. Weather Notes. The depression has passed to the northward of Lake Superior, while a marked cold wave is now centred in Saskatchewan. The weather is cold in the West, attended by snow flurries in Manitoba and fine and warm from Ontario eastward.

RESTING easily on the light weather vane on St. Andrew's spire, "Dutch" Mitchel posed for his picture Thursday. Another of the views shows how the business section looked through a camera, and a third shows the steeple climber with both his feet on good old Mother Earth.



FINE VIEW OF CITY FROM STEEPLE, BUT SCRIBE WHO MAKES ASCENT HAS NO "A-SPIRE-ATION" TO GO ABOVE TURRETS WITH 'DUTCH' MITCHEL

"Don't Wish You Any Hard Luck, But Let Us Know If You Fall," Says Reporter—"Sure, I'll Draw a Dotted Line for You, Responds High Climber.

"Now you can see what the life of a steepleclimber is like," said "Dutch" Mitchel to an Advertiser reporter, who, in a moment of weakness, agreed to accompany him on a climb to the turrets of St. Andrew's Church steeple Thursday afternoon. Looking back on the experience, the scribe is convinced that there are more dangerous vocations even than being a reporter.

To one unaccustomed to climbing to any height, the sensation of swarming up flimsy-looking ladders a hundred feet or more in the air, is one never to be forgotten. The professional steeple-climber, who does not seem to know what fear is, led the way, with the newspaperman making slow and uncertain progress behind him. The climb commenced inside the steeple, where a series of ladders wound upwards amid the intricate beams and framework supporting the tower.

A Lead Weight on Heels. In spite of repeated assurances that there was no danger, the reporter felt at times a sense of leaden weight in his limbs, which rendered them almost powerless, especially when looking down into the darkness up through which he had just come.

Presently a small opening in the side of the tower was reached, and climbing through he found himself on a narrow ledge surrounding the steeple over a hundred feet from the ground. The first sensation experienced was one of nausea and giddiness, but this quickly gave way to a sense of exhilaration.

A Magnificent View. Obeying the professional's injunction to "lean inwards against the tower," the reporter was able to enjoy the magnificent view spread out below. On every side stretched the homes and buildings of the city, the checkered squares made by the streets being plainly visible. Beyond the confines of the city, the fields and woods of the surrounding country were visible for miles until the view was lost in the haze of distance. Vehicles and people on the streets looked like crawling beetles, but sounds borne on the wind could be heard quite distinctly. Several snapshots were secured from this vantage point.

Poses For Pictures. Mitchel here adjusted his belt over a "life line," which was secured to the top of the steeple, and commenced the last stages of the ascent. He reached the top in about two minutes, and holding with only one hand to the top of the steeple posed for a snapshot.

As a souvenir, he presented the reporter with the tip of the old weather-vane, which until then had been the highest point in the city of London. The descent was made without incident.

"I don't wish you any hard luck, but it would make a good story if you fell," said the reporter on terra firma. "Let us know about it, will you?" "Sure," responded "Dutch." "I'll pick myself up and come down and draw a dotted line on the picture for you, showing how I did it."

Hundreds of citizens, somewhat awed, watched Mitchel at his task of painting the weather-vane in the afternoon. He continues his work today.

Holds Up Rowdy With Thermometer

[Canadian Press.] New York, April 25.—Bertalia La Main, a trained nurse, hurrying home at dawn today after attending a patient, was accosted by three young men. Whipping from her handbag a thermometer, she pressed it against the back of one of the annoyers and cried "Hands up!" The other two fled. Miss La Main marched the prisoner to a police station in front of her imaginary revolver, and had him locked up. He said his name was Christopher Lowe a chauffeur.

Many Changes at the Hospital

Miss Charlotte Addison, dietitian at Victoria Hospital, is resigning shortly and will leave on June 1 to take a special course in Columbia University in New York city. Miss Addison's health has been very poor for some time.

Miss May Lyons, assistant to Miss Stanley, is also leaving shortly, and will go to the Canadian West. Miss Jessie Mortimore, head of the operating room, will take a rest. Miss Stanley, the lady superintendent, is at present holidaying in Chicago.

GARBAGE MEN QUIT; CITY SYSTEM IS NOT READY TO OPERATE

Prominent Citizen Says Board of Health Must Provide Temporary Relief or Conditions Will Be Serious.

That an unbearable state of affairs has been brought about through the delay in completing the incinerator and in securing a system of garbage collection by May 1, was the contention of a prominent businessman today. "Some time ago it was announced that the garbage system would be in operation by May 1," he said. "The result has been that all the private collectors have been dropping out, and there are hundreds of homes in London at present that have no means of disposing of their garbage. Most of the other men who have collectors' will stop the work at the next week, and things will be in a pretty condition."

Up to Board of Health. "The board of health should be made to provide some temporary means for the disposal of garbage," he continued. "If everyone burns garbage the odor will be awful and few people have facilities for burning it. And if it is allowed to accumulate, there may be something serious resulting."

March Saw Great Realty Activity in City and Suburbs. Real estate transfers in London for the month of March numbered 32, and the value amounted to \$128,300, the ratio of the assessment to the selling prices being 61.4 per cent. For the month of March, 1912, the assessed value of realty transfers was \$73,450, the amount of considerations being \$92,583, and the percentage ratio being 79.3.

William McLean To Be Assistant Inspector For Postoffice Here. William McLean, formerly mail clerk on the Michigan Central Lines, and lately of the rural route department in the London postoffice, has been appointed assistant postoffice inspector under Inspector Fisher, for London district.

TIED UP BY WASHOUT. The audit committee of the board of education will meet on Monday afternoon to deal with the estimates submitted by Nos. 1 and 2 committees, which total in round numbers \$242,000, which total in round numbers \$242,000, interest and sinking funds of new and old debentures, and from it will be deducted the receipts and unpaid balances. Altogether the board of education will require approximately a quarter of a million dollars to be raised out of this year's tax rate.

Trains on C. P. R. Are Blocked in Cartier District. [Canadian Press.] Fort William, April 25.—A washout, which occurred Wednesday at Otter, on the C. P. R. in the Cartier district, tied up all traffic. No. 5 and No. 2 trains, due here last night, were cancelled, and according to officials of the road there is little chance of anything getting through from the east before tonight.

Workmen were rushed from Chumpeau and Cartier, and every effort is being made to repair the tracks.

ROBT. GORDON MAY BE WEAK-MINDED SAY JAIL OFFICIALS

Young Farmer Held For the Death of Father Quite Unconcerned.

Says He Didn't Know He Struck So Hard Until Father Fell.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Georgetown, April 25.—Robert Gordon, the young farmer arrested at Seaford in connection with the death of his father, was brought here last evening and placed in Georich Jail. The young man's general attitude has caused much speculation among the jail officials, so much so that an examination is to be made by the jail surgeon to discover whether he is weak-minded or not. Gordon seems to be absolutely unconcerned over the matter. Last night he slept like a top, and today has taken more interest in his meals than in anything else. He talks freely concerning the death of his father, but does not in any way seem one bit sorry for what he has done. "I didn't know I had struck him so hard until I saw him fall to the ground," he said today. "He rushed at me, to chastise me for beating the horse, and I struck him."

Gordon will be kept here until the inquest opens at Seaford next Tuesday morning. He will be the principal witness. His sister, his aunt, and Dr. Ross of Seaford, are also important witnesses.

The authorities are still continuing the search for the piece of iron with which Gordon says he struck his father, but so far it cannot be located. Crown Attorney Seager is directing the case, assisted by County Constable Whitesides, of Hensall.

YARDS DISAPPEAR ROADS IN DANGER THAMES IS CAUSE

Hundreds of Feet of Property on Ridout Street Washed in River.

Back Doors Now Few Feet From Cliff That Is Dropping Away.

Hundreds of feet of property belonging to residents of the east side of Ridout street, south of Victoria bridge, are being washed away by the river every year, and the situation has become so bad that the owners are becoming alarmed, fearing that a whole block of the street would disappear in a few years.

Residents of the Wortley road in the vicinity of the river are affected in the same way, and a deputation of them appeared before the board of works at its meeting Thursday night and urged that something be done to relieve them.

The situation is becoming more serious every year, and even now it will cost the city thousands of dollars to save the houses from being washed away and undermined and carried down the river.

Yards Washed Away. Conditions are bad along Ridout street, and the rear yards of several of the houses have been washed away by the current until only a few feet remain.

At the home of Mr. H. B. Parker, 30 Ridout street, only about six feet of land separate the back door from the edge of the river bank. Some time ago an out-house a few feet farther in the yard was undermined, and fell into the river, and a large shed which stands in the back yard is partly undermined. Mrs. Parker expects that it will fall at any time as the earth is constantly being carried away, she asserts. Right at the side of the shed there is a whole about twenty feet in diameter, and ten feet deep.

A Drop of 80 Feet. The land at the rear of Mr. George McCullough's yard has been gradually washed away until only a few feet separate his back door from an almost perpendicular drop into the river, 80 feet below.

The homes of Mr. R. Osborn, Mr. F. Robbins, Mr. F. McQuiggin, G. Wilcox, E. C. Crawford and Mr. F. W. Raymond are also in danger, a large part of their back yards having been washed away.

For a distance of 200 feet from the end of Carrae street, the river has not done any damage on account of the route made by the current, and many hundreds of large boulders which cover the bank, from this point to the bridge the water has been gradually wearing the land away until there is scarcely two feet of land left at the corner of the bridge and the embankment.

Blame the Dam. The residents' claim that Hunt's dam is the cause of the current swirling around and washing the land away, and there is some talk of sending a petition to the council asking that the dam be torn down.

STEAM OPERATION CHEAPER THAN ELECTRICITY, SAYS G. T. R. CHIEF

President E. J. Chamberlin Also Asserts That Road Has Plans for Line to St. Thomas for Freight Business.

HAS NO DECISION TO GIVE AS TO LIVE WIRES OVER TRACKS

That the Grand Trunk has plans under consideration for a line either from St. Thomas or from Port Burwell to London, which would enter the field for the wholesale, coal or other freight business consigned from this city to Western Ontario points, was the substance of a statement made to The Advertiser by Mr. E. J. Chamberlin, president and general manager of the Grand Trunk, who passed through London in a special train en route from Montreal to Chicago this morning.

Mr. Chamberlin also declared that an electrified London and Port Stanley line might be feasible, but that operation by electricity of any railroad was a good deal more expensive than operation by steam.

No Plans for London. His company, he said, has no plans for improvements in London this year, and although a rumor to the effect that elevated tracks, a new depot and a new hotel would be considered at the general meeting of the board of directors to be held in England in June, Mr. Chamberlin said he had heard nothing of them.

Newspapermen were the only ones to see Mr. Chamberlin while he was in the city. Asked if his company intended making any bid for the lease or purchase of the London and Port Stanley Railway, he shrugged his shoulders and intimated that he thought it would be useless.

"Will the Grand Trunk give the city of London permission to string overhead electric wires into the depot if the people should decide to operate the line?" asked the reporter.

Nothing About Wires. "I cannot say a word about that yet," said Mr. Chamberlin, with a smile, which would lead one to believe that he could say a great deal if he wished. "We have not decided yet and will not make anything public until we are requested to grant that permission."

"Is it right that your company has plans for a line from St. Thomas to London, and one for line from Port Burwell to London?" was the next question.

"Yes, we have plans under consideration," was the reply.

"What do you think of operation of a railroad by electricity?" was the next question of the reporter. "Do you think it is feasible in London's case?"

Not as Cheap as Steam. "It may be feasible, I am not acquainted with the conditions of the line, but I know that it certainly will not be as cheap as steam operation."

When asked if the Grand Trunk would ask for running rights over the London and Port Stanley if the ratepayers decided to electrify it, he replied that it would not.

The reporter then asked Mr. Chamberlin if he thought a line 23 miles in length without any trunk feeders would be a paying proposition for the city, but he refused to make any reply.

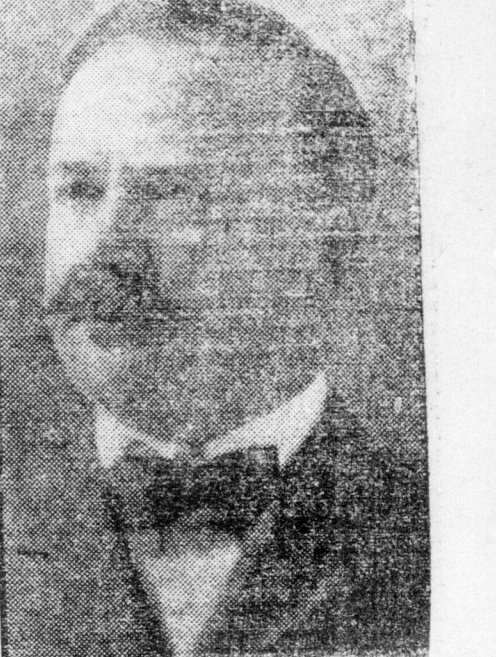
Knows Nothing of Surveyors. Mr. Chamberlin was also informed that a number of surveyors had been at work in the vicinity of King and Wellington streets, and that a rumor was in circulation to the effect that they were surveying for a site for a new Grand Trunk Hotel, but he claimed that he knew nothing about it.

Rare Old Volumes Owned by Dr. Eccles

A recent paragraph in The Advertiser has been the means of bringing to light the fact that the private libraries of London contain many ancient books of value.

One of the oldest belongs to Dr. F. R. Eccles. It is a medical treatise in Latin by Francisco Vallieria, printed in Venice in 1555. It is that rare possession, an Aldine edition. From 1490 to 1597, the press established by Aldus Manutius issued a series of editions of Greek and Latin authors, which acquired a great reputation, and are still highly prized for their correctness and their art. Dr. Eccles' book is bound in leather, and the print is perfectly clear.

PRESIDENT CHAMBERLIN, of G. T. R. He says steam is cheapest for railways



LEFT DESTITUTE WIDOW APPEALS FOR PUBLIC AID

Mrs. Rodgers Had Only Sixty Cents When Husband Was Killed by Fall.

Not a Cent to Pay Funeral Expenses, and Small Child To Care For.

Mrs. Rodgers, the widow of William Rodgers, who died as a result of falling from a smokestack in Tavistock Tuesday is left in destitute circumstances. The widow is left with a small 10-months-old baby girl and has absolutely nothing to pay funeral expenses.

Talking to an Advertiser reporter today she said: "When my husband went away on Monday morning I had only 60 cents in my pocket and on receiving word of the accident, I did not know what to do. I had no money and but for the kindness of friends, who did everything they could to get me to the bedside of my husband in Stratford hospital before he died, I would not have been able to go."

A Hopeless Outlook. "My husband had been out of work for two months this winter. I have been in the hospital for six weeks and my baby has also been sick. We were intending to straighten up our affairs and pay the doctor bills, the grocery and drug accounts as soon as he got paid for the work which he was doing. Here I am left with no money to pay all these bills, and I don't know what to do. I could do would be to appeal to the generosity of the people of London through the newspapers."

Glad to Receive Aid. "I will thankfully receive any assistance any of the good people of the city would be willing to give in the hour of my need."

The house that Mrs. Rodgers lives in, 12 it may be called a house, for it is only a one-roomed place in the rear of 443 Ot-tawa avenue, is furnished with a table, a few chairs and a bed.

Owing to his occupation, Mr. Rodgers was unable to obtain any insurance on his life and is not to be blamed for improvidence on that score. Mr. Rodgers was not given to the idea of having a wife and a sober and industrious workman when he was able to obtain any work.

Any money that can be given to Mrs. Rodgers should be sent direct to her address, 443 Ottawa avenue.

Nothing Doing, Says Mr. Duffield

Mr. J. C. Duffield, of the City Gas Company, stated to The Advertiser today that there is absolutely "nothing doing" as far as his company is concerned in regard to natural gas coming to London shortly.

Representatives of the Dominion Natural Gas Company, made to the effect that negotiations are nearing completion, Mr. Duffield stated that there was absolutely nothing in them.

Examining Engines on This Division

Mr. D. D. Robb, superintendent of the motive power of the middle, northern and southern divisions of the Grand Trunk, accompanied by Mr. J. Markey, master mechanic, arrived in the city this morning in a private car en route to Sarnia.