

CITY'S TAXES MAY SOAR AWAY ABOVE ALL PAST RECORDS

Last Year's Rate of 22 3/4 Mills Likely To Be Increased by 4 Mills.

Routine Expenditures Augmented by Demands of Newly-Annexed Districts.

The high-water mark in taxation will be reached in London this year, according to city financiers. The rate for last year, 22 3/4 mills, is predicted to be increased by 2, 3 or even 4 mills, and while wholesale slashing may be undertaken by the council, there are many uncontrollable expenditures which will have to be faced.

The highest tax rate London has had since 1883 was 24 1/2 mills, and the next highest in 1901, 23 1/2 mills, both in the terms of ex-Mayor Rumball. In several other years the rate has gone to the latter figure. Although the assessment has been increased since last year from \$28,521,559 to \$31,694,805—some of which is exempted—it is said that the rate will not be less than 24 mills.

Many Improvements Needed.
The abnormal need for sewers, lights and waterworks in the new districts will add a considerable amount to the expenditure. The board of works will require a considerably increased amount for ordinary works that must be carried out, including equipment for the new incinerator and the upkeep of additional mileage of streets.

More men will have to be placed on the roll of the fire department, and new equipment provided for. The responsibility for the new districts, including all the buildings of the Hospital for the Insane, will fall upon the shoulders of Chief Atkinson and his men, and greater facilities will be required in the way of apparatus.

Police Need More Money.
The estimates of the police commissioners will show an increase of several thousand dollars owing to the requirement of more men and other matters, possibly a new motor patrol.

Street lighting will be a much larger expenditure, and in addition to this there will be an increase of \$5,000 to be taken into account, as the council last year provided \$25,000 for lighting, whereas the charge of the hydro-electric commission was \$30,000, and there seems little possibility of a reduction being made.

The board of education will ask for funds to build the Aberdeen school at an estimated cost of \$80,000, and their ordinary estimate will be considerably enlarged.

Hospital Needs Money.
The estimates for Victoria Hospital will be in the neighborhood of \$41,000, or slightly more. This is a considerable amount asked for last year. A committee is now working out the details.

The debt of the city will be added to this year in considerable amount. More than fifty thousand dollars will be provided for the new district for street lighting and water mains. The water and light board will ask that a total of \$182,000 be provided.

No provision has been yet made for reconstruction of repairs to the West London breakwater, and it is regarded as certain that the council will have to take some action. West London considers that an adequate consideration of the question is long overdue, and with the co-operation of the Trades and Labor Council, hopes to force the city council to take definite steps towards the reconstruction of a permanent sea wall.

Storm Sewers to be Provided.
Storm sewers will be up for consideration as soon as Engineer Willis Chipman, of Toronto, has given his report. This is expected at any time now, and it will involve a large expenditure to be undertaken as soon as possible.

There is every indication that London's tax rate will strike a high level this year, said Ald. J. G. Richter. "There are many large expenditures, and about \$25,000 of expenditure will add a mill to the tax rate. The things are shaping, it seems as though there will be two or three mills, perhaps more. The city will have to proceed carefully, yet there are many things to be done which cannot be forestalled."

NOW LOOK OUT FOR VOLCANO ERUPTION IN SUNSHINE PARK

Reporter Finds That Weather Changed So Quickly in London That Man Whose New Shoe Shine Dripped Polish Froze to Sidewalk.

"She's an old-fashioned hummer, all right, all right," said the man in fur coat and the voluminous cap as he swung off a street car on Saturday night and tacked across the street with the precise course of a sea captain to the shelter of the Bank of Commerce doorway.

He was not referring to his wife, who perchance might have been one that Alphonse Daudet would call "a woman with a head," but to something as fully entitled to belong to the feminine gender as the weather, and as fully entitled to be as fickle and unreasonableness, rightly or wrongly, ascribed and accredited to the female of the human species. He had in mind, to be brief, the weather, temperature and climate, of this fair country.

A Versatile Weather Man.
"Stay in Ontario!" he exclaimed. "Well, at least, we have variety here. This morning it was raining cats and dogs, not to mention pussy-willows, spring robins, and dog's tooth violets. A few hours later and the whole menagerie of the lovely springtime is frozen in mid-air, and an Antarctic blizzard swoops down upon us just after we have been tempted to don a light-weight suit of penangies, following our week-end bath."

Then the man with the ear-lugs, having thus expressed himself, saw a "My Brother" sign across the street, and tacked again in the new direction. Pretty close to Newport.

From the viewpoint (where) would be the people.

BIG STICK TO FORCE BILL IN FACE OF VOTERS

Adam Beck Will Seek to Have Utilities Commission Idea Put Through.

Believed To Be Aimed at London's Decision in Separating Water and Hydro.

The Toronto Mail and Empire of today contains an exclusive announcement of what is believed to be Adam Beck's bill in the Ontario Legislature to offset the separation of the water and power departments of the city of London.

Despite that the voters expressed themselves in favor of the separation of the two departments, Mr. Beck is seeking legislation, and without consulting the municipality that is most concerned.

How Scheme Is Worked.
The Mail and Empire states: The establishment throughout the province of public utilities commissions with powers of administration over all the municipal services expected in the House this week.

A number of municipalities have for some time been desirous of getting power to have one commission to control all the public utilities, waterworks, sewerage, etc., and the government, through the revision of several minor acts, has taken steps to meet their wishes.

Public service commissions, established under the coming legislation, must be given control of all public utilities except where a municipality has entered into a contract with the hydro-electric commission. In this case municipal electric systems may be managed by a separate commission. The municipalities, however, are given an opportunity to still have but one commission since the new act will make provision for the widening of the duties of the local hydro commission to take in the other services as well.

The commission will be elected by the voters in this respect to that brought down last session providing for local hydro commissioners. The members will be chosen for one and five year terms.

Keeps Hydro in Hand.
Aldermen who read the dispatch said that it was apparent that while Mr. Beck was ready to allow the hydro commissioners to have charge of other departments, he was not willing that any other department should have charge of hydro affairs.

"We have expected this," said one. "There is the hand of Mr. Beck behind it, and its object undoubtedly is to try and frustrate to some extent the will of the voters. Legislatures can do such things in this country without consulting those most concerned, as the city of London is in this instance."

REAL ESTATE PRICES STEADILY ADVANCING

Property in the Vicinity of the First Congregational Church Has More Than Doubled in Price During the Past Few Months.

London real estate shows no sign of abating its steady increase in values and activity during the past four months.

According to figures compiled by a civic official, property in the vicinity of the First Congregational Church has more than doubled in price during the past few months.

The property which has a frontage of 100 feet on Dundas street, was purchased for \$5,000 some time ago, and is now held at \$18,000. Property values in that vicinity have increased greatly. A house directly opposite the same property is held for three times the price asked for several months ago.

Prices Were Away Up.
During the year 1884 there was a property boom in London, and the cost of land in certain sections of the city was considered almost prohibitive. The late Sir John Carling purchased a lot on Dundas street, between Waterloo and Colborne, for which he paid as much as was asked for it three years ago. This included a fine brick residence.

"We sold seven lots in the Orchard Hill survey, adjoining Sunshine Park, and resold one of the seven, since Saturday noon," said Mr. Thos. H. Knott, of Knott & Sangster, this morning. "Prices in this district advanced during the same time, from \$6 to \$10, \$10 to \$15, and \$15 to \$20, per foot."

"We made four valuable transfers on Saturday last," said Mr. J. G. Anderson, of Anderson & Co. "The properties were not in the boom districts, so we consider it a matter of satisfaction that they sold for 10 per cent more all around than they were worth one year ago. We expect much greater advances in the spring. Those for whom we effected sales London Saturday, were Mrs. Watson, con. 3, London Township, 10 acres James Orme, Sydenham street, house and lot; Mrs. Field, Wellington road, 5 acres; and for a fourth party a house and lot on Lorne avenue."

Boom Is General.
"Real estate is booming not only in the East End, but in every part of the city. Out in Port Huron property has advanced in some cases as high as 500 per cent."

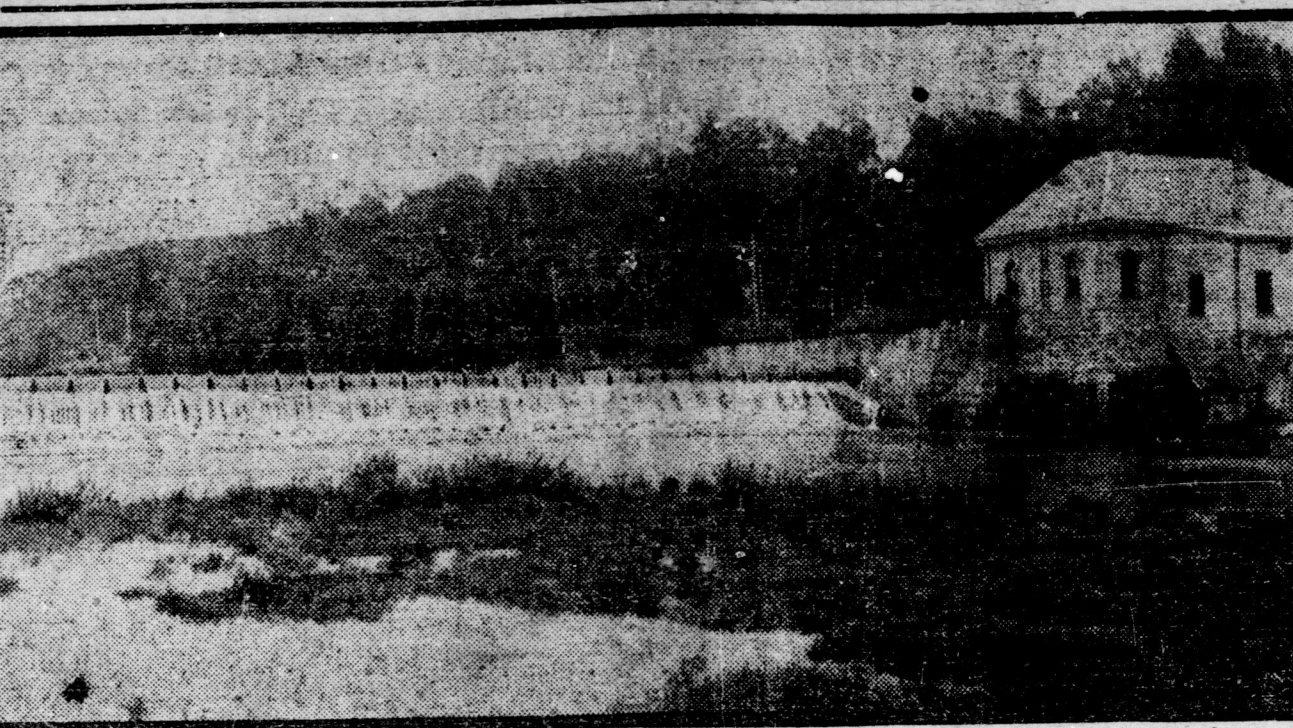
A real estate salesman for a local firm said that 25 per cent would be a very conservative estimate for the average advance in property values throughout the entire city since last November. "In East London," he said, "owners are asking 100 per cent advance, and some sales have actually been made at that advance."

Mr. P. Walsh reported an unusual activity in East London properties, and a brisk demand for down-town sites, for both business and residential purposes.

FLOWERS BARRED.
Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 24.—A novel way to decrease the "high cost of living" was devised here yesterday by the board of managers of St. Xavier's Church, one of the largest Catholic parishes in Southern Ohio, when an announcement was made that in the future no funerals to which flowers are permitted to be sent, will be allowed held in the church.

It was also announced that in the place of flowers, the parish, at its own expense, will issue memorial cards to all the friends of the deceased announcing the death and brief biography of the deceased.

One of the managers stated that it was the beginning of a nation-wide movement which has been started in the last month.

A Little Niagara at London's Door that Goes Idle

The Springbank dam, equipped to furnish power for the waterworks pumps at Springbank, has been practically out of service for many months. General Manager Glaubit maintains that the pumps are not fit for service without many improvements. On the other hand, Mr. William Yeates, who installed the pumps, says the repairs required are only ordinary, and that for a small outlay the pumps would develop several hundred horsepower, with a saving of thousands of dollars to the city.

Mr. Glaubit plans to construct a main to the reservoir at Springbank and to pump large amounts of water up the hill, off peak load hours, and then to run it down again to bring down the peak load. He prefers this plan to developing power at the dam, although he admits that with a two-foot addition the dam could develop 500 horsepower for four hours. The scheme to pump the water up the hill would, according to the general manager, develop 500 horse power for two hours.

On the Aux Sable River, near Arkona, 250 horsepower is being developed for 12 hours, with an 8-foot head.

MRS. PANKHURST ARRESTED

Accused of Inciting Her Followers to Recent Outrages.

[Canadian Press.]

London, Feb. 24.—Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst was arrested today in connection with the destruction of the country residence of David Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, by the explosion of a bomb some days ago. Her arrest ensued on her confession at a public meeting that she had conspired with and incited her followers to carry out the outrage.

The warrant on which Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested was issued by the police magistrate at Epsom, near which town Mr. Lloyd George's country house is situated. It charges the suffragist leader with incitement to commit damage. Although the burning of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house at Walton Heath is not mentioned in the document, the proceedings will be taken in connection with that affair, and Mrs. Pankhurst is to be arraigned at Epsom tomorrow.

The announcement of Mrs. Pankhurst's arrest was received in a big suffragette meeting in London, and was received with cheers. Miss Annie Kenny, who was one of the speakers, said that the arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst would not stop the militant suffragettes.

"We have expected this," said one. "There is the hand of Mr. Beck behind it, and its object undoubtedly is to try and frustrate to some extent the will of the voters. Legislatures can do such things in this country without consulting those most concerned, as the city of London is in this instance."

MADE REGULAR BUSINESS OF SELLING GOVT. POSITIONS

Several Members of Parliament and a Cabinet Minister Said To Be Involved and a Parliamentary Investigation May Be Held.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—The report that there has been discovered in Montreal an established system for the sale of Government positions, and that several members of Parliament and at least one minister are involved, has created much interest here.

It is believed that disclosure of this character will have a tendency to bring the session. Serious charges of this sort have never yet been allowed to get away without a parliamentary investigation. It is likely that the operations of the investigators will be extended to districts other than that of Montreal, for there are reports that the operations of the salesmen of positions have been extended to other parts of the Province of Quebec. It is expected that this matter will be brought up in Parliament some day this week.

Greyhound Submarines To Carry Powerful Guns

British Naval Developments of Remarkable Nature Taking Place—Underwater Flotilla That Can Travel Great Distance at High Speed.

[Canadian Press.]

New York, Feb. 24.—A London cable says: Naval developments of a remarkable nature are taking place under a cloak of great secrecy. "In the course of the next twelve months," says the Daily Express, "some astonishing details will become known regarding changes in warship types, but none will be more noteworthy than the development of the submarine."

"An entirely new type of underwater craft of considerable offensive power and capable of crossing the Atlantic at a high rate of speed is being built for the British navy. These craft will carry guns, but in addition they will be able to fire eight torpedoes."

"In the meantime there are plans before the admiralty for a flotilla of above-water craft of a speed of 40 knots, and carrying several heavy, quick-firing guns specially constructed for use against air-craft."

FIVE VOTERS IN OPTION RECOUNT MAY BE REJECTED

London Township Decision Is Again Reserved Until Qualifications Are Further Investigated by Judge Macbeth.

Judge Macbeth announced to The Advertiser today that a decision in the London Township local option recount case would not be made for a few days.

The case was dealt with in Judge Macbeth's chambers this morning. Mr. Jared Vining, who is representing the petitioners, and Mr. John M. Gunn, in behalf of the local option people, being present and submitting arguments for both sides.

Several ballots were examined this morning, and an effort made to determine whether they were legal or not. The qualifications of seven of the voters was also looked into, and it was found that two of the voters protested were fully qualified to vote, while the other five were of doubtful standing, and would have to be further investigated.

The session lasted for some time, and it was finally adjourned until Thursday morning at 11 o'clock.

A ROYAL VISIT.
Berlin, Feb. 24.—King Christian X. and Queen Alexandra of Denmark arrived here today on a visit of courtesy to the German Emperor and Empress after the expiration of a period of mourning which followed the death of the late King Frederick. They will remain here for three days. The Emperor and Empress and the members of the Imperial family met them at the station and accompanied them to the palace through streets lined with troops.

POWERFUL AMERICAN ARMY ORDERED TO MEX. BORDER

An Entire Army Division To Be Concentrated at Once at Galveston—Britain Refuses to Recognize New Government Until After a General Election.

[Canadian Press.]

Washington, Feb. 24.—More orders for moving troops to Galveston, with the purpose of concentrating a full army division there, in accordance with a policy of preparedness, as outlined by President Taft in a public speech in New York last Saturday night, were issued by the war department early today.

Major-Gen. Wm. H. Carter, the department and divisional commander at Chicago, will be placed in supreme command.

In addition to the fourth brigade of the second division, now in the middle west, orders were issued today for the preparation for entrainment of the entire sixth brigade, comprising the Eleventh Infantry at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming; the Eighteenth Infantry, at Fort McKenney, Wyoming, and Fort Bliss, Texas; the Twenty-second Infantry, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Fourth Field Artillery, and Second Battalion of Engineers, and Signal Corps, Company D, comprising part of the sixth brigade, already have been ordered to Galveston.

The fourth brigade of the second army division and the entire sixth brigade were ordered today to prepare to entrain to join other troops being mobilized. This is part of the plan to assemble a complete military organization for any untoward movements in Mexico.

Washington Is Anxious.

A feeling of anxiety over the situation in Mexico continued throughout official circles during the early part of the day, but there were no additional dispatches made public to throw further light on the conditions existing. It was felt that Ambassador Wilson's message late last night, stating that the diplomatic corps would not attend the luncheon to be given this noon, to discuss the situation, would prove a sufficient indication to the Mexican authorities of the purpose of this and other governments to await definite assurances that the bloody tragedies just enacted had not occurred through any connivance of the Mexican administration.

While this has been asserted in the statements made by Provisional President Huerta and Minister De la Barra, yet assurances were at the same time given of a searching investigation, which would officially determine the exact circumstances under which the tragedies occurred.

Chief activity was manifested at the war department, where additional plans were being made, the expectation being that the orders would be issued during the morning.

London, Feb. 24.—The British Government will refuse to recognize the new Government of Mexico until it has been confirmed by a general election, according to a statement made in authoritative quarters here today.

SAID THEY WILL NOT CALL AT PORT STANLEY

Owners of the Jacques Line of Steamers Give Notice—May Not Be Final.

Word was received in London this morning to the effect that the Jacques line of steamers, comprising the steamers City of Montreal and City of Ottawa, will not call at Port Stanley this summer.

It will be remembered that the C. N. R. offered to have boats call at the port during the six months of open navigation. Col. Davidson, who conducted negotiations for the road here, stated that if the business warranted, a boat would call every day, and at least once a week.

The letter received from Montreal by the local firm was as follows: "We have just been informed that there will be no boat service to Port Stanley for the coming summer. This will affect our prices on many of the articles on our list, and you might make the following advances."

The following is a list of increases in freight rates from Montreal to London, ranging from one cent per hundredweight increase to 13 cents per hundredweight.

It is likely that the board of trade will take the matter up and endeavor to secure the assent of the owners of the line to the resumption of the service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS IN CONVENTION TODAY AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. E. W. Halpenny, General Secretary of Ontario S. S. Association, Speaks on the Relationship of Sunday School and Community.

Representatives from the Sunday schools in the city and all interested in the Sabbath school work are in convention this afternoon and evening in Wesley Hall at the First Methodist Church. Addresses are being delivered by Rev. W. A. Brown, superintendent of the missionary department of the J. S. S. Association of Chicago, and Rev. E. W. Halpenny, general secretary of the Ontario Sunday School Association.

The conference opened at 3 o'clock, and at 3:15 Rev. Mr. Halpenny spoke on the relation which the Sunday school bears to the community. This address was followed by general business, hearing of reports from various parts of the province.

officials, and the appointment of committees for the ensuing year. Mr. Brown also delivered an address, and at 5 o'clock met the primary and elementary teachers of the Sunday schools and gave a special talk to the superintendents to their work in the school.

Superintendents' Banquet.
The superintendents of the schools held a banquet at 6:30 tonight, and it will be presided over by Mr. R. L. Watling, who will also act as chairman during the conference. The evening session will begin at 8 o'clock, and instructive addresses will be delivered by visiting clergymen. The public are cordially invited to attend, and take note, hearing of reports from various parts of the province.

Do Not Anticipate Serious Split in Methodist Church

Local Preachers Think Press Stories About Irwin Hilliard and Followers Apply to Hornerites in Existence for a Number of Years.

Methodist ministers of this city are unaware of any impending split in the Methodist Church in Canada, as was indicated in a dispatch from Montreal, in which it was stated that Irwin Hilliard, a prominent layman of that denomination residing in Morrisburg, would shortly make application to the Legislature for a charter to a new religious denomination to be known as the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of Canada.

"I have heard nothing about it beyond the newspaper dispatch," said Rev. Richard Watling. "For a number of years there has been a small body in that district, who are known as Hornerites. They broke from the Methodist Church on account of their extreme views regarding holiness. It is known in this city."

THE WEATHER.
TOMORROW—DECIDEDLY COLD.
Forecasts.
Toronto, Feb. 24.—8 a.m.
Northerly winds; fair and decidedly cold today and on Tuesday.

Temperatures.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:
Barham High. 3.5 Low. Clear
London 44 34 Clear
Victoria 44 34 Cloudy
Calgary 29 9 Cloudy
Port Arthur 2 -20 Clear
Perry Sound 14 -22 Clear
Toronto 16 -16 Clear
Ottawa 14 -10 Clear
Montreal 20 -2 Clear
Quebec 18 -4 Clear
Faber Point 12 -2 Cloudy
Minus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.
The disturbance which was over the Great Lakes on Saturday passed eastward to the Atlantic, causing a heavy snowfall from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces, except in southern districts, where rain fell.
The weather is now fair and cold throughout the Dominion.
The temperature was below zero this morning in nearly all parts of Ontario.