

LONDON PASTOR MAY BE NEW PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE

Methodists of the Local District Are Gathering in St. Thomas for Annual Session—Church Union and Temperance To Be Discussed.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

St. Thomas, June 3.—The annual session of the London Methodist Conference opened here this afternoon. The first meeting held was that of the stationing committee, which met at 2 o'clock. They have a big task this year placing the various ministers in their charges, and it is expected that the meeting will last very late.

Delegates are coming in by every train, and by night there will be conference present. The lay delegates coming in, but the majority of them will not be on hand until Wednesday morning.

The big questions to be debated will be church union and the temperance platform. Judging from present indications, the policy announced by Mr. N. W. Rowel, K. C., M. P. E., to banish the bar will be heartily endorsed.

Contest for Presidency.
The contest for the presidency promises to be particularly keen. The fight will be between Rev. J. E. Ford, of Clinton, and Rev. W. G. H. McAllister, of Elenheim, with Rev. G. N. Hazen as the possible dark horse.

An agitation is on foot among the ministers to elect Rev. Dr. Manning, pastor of Dundas Centre Methodist Church, London, to the highest position in the gift of the London Conference. This will be his last year in this conference, and some of the ministers consider him entitled to the honor before he goes away. Stranger things have happened than that he will be chosen. Unless this movement gains great impetus before Wednesday morning it is expected that the battle will be among the first three mentioned.

Circuit Boundaries.
The rearrangement of the circuit boundaries is one of the topics of importance to the conference itself that will cause some discussion. There are scores of who are opposed double circuits, supporting a minister and a probationer. Some of these desire to be divided, so that they may support

a pastor of their own. This year there are an unusually large number of requests for this, and as a result the subject will be keenly debated.



REV. DR. R. I. WARNER, Principal of Alma College, St. Thomas, and President of the London Methodist Conference.

On Tuesday evening a public meeting will be held, which will be addressed by Rev. C. O. Johnston, pastor of the Queen's Street Methodist Church, Toronto.

The statistical committee are at work, and will have their reports on (Continued on Page Eleven.)

PUT CITY HALL ON COURT HOUSE SQUARE

Petition Is Being Circulated and Is Being Very Largely Signed.

CITY MAY MEET COUNTY

Council May Meet the Councilors at June Session, Which Is Now Being Held.

Petitions are being circulated among the businessmen in the downtown districts, asking the city council to open negotiations again with the county council with reference to joint municipal buildings on the court house square. They will be presented to the city council on Tuesday evening. As the county council is in session this week it is probable that the two bodies will get together.

The county council representatives are willing to open the subject once more. Although they turned down a proposition from the city to pay 40 per cent of the cost of the buildings, submitting a counter proposition to pay 20 per cent, it is understood that better terms can be secured.

In conversation with some of the county representatives, it was stated that they would undoubtedly consider the matter if approached.

Joint Buildings.

"There is some agitation for joint buildings in some of the townships," said Mr. Archie Blakie, of Westminster. "I am heartily in favor of joint buildings if we can come together. I was prevented from voting when the conference was held in the winter, as I had to be away. The understanding then was that we should agree to pay 25 per cent. That was changed later to 20 per cent. We are going to talk the matter over, and if the men who opposed the proposition before have changed their minds, we will take the question up in the regular way. I think sentiment is quite favorable to joint buildings, and I hope we can agree on some terms."

The petitions being circulated among the businessmen are being largely signed, nearly all the storekeepers, lawyers, professional men, and others, attaching their names to the documents.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—FAIR, COOLER.

Forecasts.

Toronto, June 3—8 a.m.

Today—Fresh southerly to westerly winds; fair and warm today; showers or thunderstorms in some localities to night.

Tuesday—Fresh west to northwest winds; generally fair and somewhat cooler.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations High Low Weather

LONDON 70.5 50 Fine

Calgary 58 30 Fair

Winnipeg 70 48 Cloudy

Port Arthur 68 48 Fair

Perry Sound 68 44 Fair

Ottawa 68 54 Clear

Montreal 66 60 Fair

Quebec 66 62 Cloudy

Father Point 60 62 Rain

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer for the 24 hours ending 8 o'clock Sunday morning were 85.5 and 52 respectively.

Weather Notes.

Pressure is comparatively low from Montreal to the Maritime Provinces, and higher in British Columbia.

IN BUSINESS FOR 66 YEARS; B. A. MITCHELL DIED TODAY

London's Oldest Merchant Has Passed Away at His Home On King St.

Mr. Bosom Ashford Mitchell, Canada's pioneer druggist, who in 1846 established the Gothic Hall drug store, on Dundas street, and who had for the past 66 years attended personally to his business in the same place until less than a month ago, succumbed to an attack of bronchial pneumonia at his residence, 264 King street, this morning, aged 89 years.

Mr. Mitchell, who was well known throughout Canada, and to the drug trade of Ontario particularly, had since coming to London in 1846, interested himself keenly in the welfare of the city, having served for one year during the regime of Mayor Cornish on the aldermanic board. He was the founder of the London Drug Company in this city, which has since merged with the National Drug Company.

A Remarkable Man.

He retained his faculties until his death despite his advanced age, and always attributed his longevity to habits cultivated in his youth.

In an article written by him for a trade paper in December, 1909, Mr. Mitchell made particular reference to the advisability of following such a course, and urged upon all young men



LATE B. A. MITCHELL.

who would be successful to "avoid drinking, gambling, and the many other vices which beset young men; to cultivate habits of thrift, temperance, cheerfulness, industry, punctuality and courtesy."

Possibly through the observance of such a set of rules throughout his life-time, Mr. Mitchell was in excellent health until a comparatively short time ago. He boasted that worry and (Continued on Page Eleven.)

CITIZENS ARE READY TO BUY LANDS FOR CITY PLAYGROUNDS

Announcement Made at Meeting of Ministerial Association—the Y. M. C. A.—Dr. Curtis Gave an Address and Again Explained the Movement.

A special meeting of the Ministerial Association was held this morning in the Y. M. C. A. parlors, when an address on the playground movement was given by Dr. Curtis, of Worcester, Mass. Rev. J. Gibson Inkster, in introducing the speaker, stated that one or two influential citizens in London had expressed their intention to purchase two pieces of land suitable for recreation grounds.

Dr. Curtis, in his address, said that it was his belief that the Christian church today was working out the spirit of human brotherhood, yet it was to be admitted that the leadership along many lines of improved social welfare was not taken by the church as a body. Church members take an active interest in such re-

forms as the supervised playgrounds movement, but as an organization the churches had not placed themselves on record. This, it was pointed out, put the church in rather a critical position, as movements of this nature are thus bound to go outside the church, whose influence would be lost. Dr. Curtis believed that reforms of this nature properly belonged to the church, and that if the Christian church was enlisted, the world could be reformed within ten years.

Question of Taxation.
The dangers of being interested in business prosperity rather than in social or moral welfare, were impressed. Citizens of London would willingly pay a tax rate of 23 mills on the dollar for business purposes, but if one mill extra for social welfare (Continued on Page Four.)

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY DROWNED SWIMMING AT DEXTER'S DAM

The Illustrated Section

Many complimentary references have been made to the special illustrated supplement editions of The Advertiser on Saturday. Many hundred extra copies were sold, the purchasers stating that they intended to preserve them as a souvenir of the duke's visit.

There are still a number of copies for sale, and those who desire them should put in their order early, as the edition will not last more than a day or two.

It was inadvertently omitted to mention that the picture showing the statue in Victoria Park unveiled was by Edy Brook, together with two views at Victoria Hospital, taken especially for The Advertiser.

C. N. R. WORKING QUIETLY IN LONDON

Company Are Not Saying Anything But Are Going Ahead With Plans.

MAYOR GRAHAM SILENT

His Worship Claims to Know What Is Going On, But Will Not Give Out Anything.

The activities of the Canadian Northern Railway in London have not been as manifest during the past few days as prior to this time, but the project has not been dropped, according to inside information given out today. It is stated that the publicity given their operations some time ago has in a manner militated against the successful carrying out of a certain portion of their scheme, but they anticipate that within a short time everything will be straightened out, and a proposition submitted to the city council for the lease of the London and Port Stanley Railway, but in connection with other matters, including the entry into London.

Mayor Graham declared that it would be unwise to give out the details of any negotiations now being considered.

It would be impossible to give out any details or confidences," his worship stated. "Everything is progressing in a most satisfactory manner, however."

What was going to take place, his worship would not state, nor would he mention any date on which definite information would be given out.

In connection with the project that Mackenzie & Mann have in hand for the London Electric, not a great deal of information could be obtained.

Looked Into Situation.
It is known that a gentleman prominently connected with the electrical end of the business of this firm was in London on Friday last and went into the local situation very thoroughly. The plant was inspected most minutely, and the overhead system examined.

The possibilities of the city, and the future of the electrical business, were also discussed with those in touch with conditions prevailing here.

No information would be divulged as to the intentions of the company, nor their immediate plans, but it is understood that an official announcement will be made on the question in a short time, possibly within a few weeks.

Electrical Development Company.
Mackenzie & Mann control the Electrical Development Company, the great power concern, and they also control the Canadian Northern Railway. The development of radials throughout Western Ontario would be of immense value to them in their scheme for increasing the efficiency of the Canadian Northern in supplying the western provinces of Canada, where the bulk of their traffic is at the present time.

The activities of the C. N. R. are somewhat curtailed at the present time," declared a gentleman in "close touch with the negotiations. "There has been a lot said about what the company intend doing, and the result has been that they have not been able to accomplish as much as they should otherwise. However, there will be something important take place in a very short time, and then a definite proposition will be made to the city.

The company intend coming to London. There will be a steam road built, and radials will feed it. They will be scattered all through this section of the country, and will do great things in the development of Western Ontario."

Separate Companies.
When questioned about the position of the London Electric in this scheme of development, the gentleman quoted declared that he was not in a position to state definitely what the result would be.

"Mackenzie & Mann own the C. N. R.," he stated. "They own the Electrical Development Company. They are separate companies, of course, but the directing minds are the same, and it can readily be seen that they will work together to mutually advance the interests of each concern. Great things will come of the scheme, mark my words, and if the city is at all reasonable, London should profit immensely by the coming of the C. N. R."

SMALLPOX ABOARD.

New York, June 3.—Two cases of smallpox in the steerage of the steamer Kursk from Liban, resulted today in the vessel's detention at quarantine, and will probably cause the transfer of 300 passengers to Hoffman's Island for observation. The 1,361 passengers were held aboard the vessel during the forenoon. It is planned to release the ship this afternoon.

Norman Cochrill, of 52 Irwin St., Lost His Life Saturday Afternoon.

NO INQUEST IS NECESSARY

Teamsters Near the Scene Are Criticized for Not Going to Boy's Assistance.

The river Thames claimed another victim on Saturday afternoon, when Norman Cochrill, eight-year-old son of Thomas C. Cochrill, of 52 Irwin street, West London, fell off a raft just below the dam at Dexter's mill and was drowned. The accident happened shortly after three o'clock, and according to the statement of the boys who were with young Cochrill, five teamsters, who were hauling gravel, stood on the bank a few yards from where the lad sank and watched him drown without making a move to save him.

Went for a Swim.

The lads had gone in "swimming" shortly after dinner. In the party were Norman Cochrill, Alfred and Donald Kipp, Harold and Ivan Nicholls and Eddie Mills, all of West London. All the boys were about the same age. They had been paddling about in the water for some time, the river at this point being only five feet deep. One of the lads found a raft, and they all climbed upon it, and began to play shipwreck. Suddenly young Cochrill jumped off the raft, and after a few snatches began to shout for help. Knowing that he could not swim, but believing that the water was not deep and that it was part of the game, the other boys made no move to help him. They did not realize that he was drowning until he had gone down for the second time. Then, according to the story of the boys, they yelled to the teamsters and the men at the mill that Norman was drowning. The teamsters made no response, the boys allege, and by the time the men from the mill arrived on the scene the lad had gone down for good.

Body Recovered.
The body was recovered about twenty-five minutes after the lad had gone down by Oliver Bunt, who resides on Gunn street in West London, and who is employed at Dexter's mill. He arrived on the scene following the cries of young Cochrill's companions, but by that time the drowning lad had disappeared. He disrobed quickly and began to search the spot for the body. The current at this spot is rather swift, although the water is only a little over four feet in depth. After groping around in the water for nearly twenty minutes, Bunt located the body. It had been carried several yards down from where the lad had jumped in, and had become caught on a low barbed-wire fence that runs out into the river at this point. In trying to bring the body to the surface, it was discovered that the lad had become entangled in the wire, and it was nearly five minutes before it could be released. In the meantime, Dr. Tillman had been notified of the affair, and had arrived on the scene shortly after the lad was brought ashore.

Father on the Scene.
The boy's father, Thomas C. Cochrill, an employee of the local post-office department, had been notified and he was on the scene shortly before the body was recovered. When the body was brought ashore, efforts were made to resuscitate the lad, but after working for some time it was found that life was extinct.

Coroner Dr. Ferguson was called, and after he had heard the story of the boys and viewed the remains, he decided that it was a case of accidental drowning, and deemed an inquest unnecessary. However, he strongly criticised the actions of the teamsters on the bank who had heard the lads call for help, and had made no effort to save him, and had come to the rescue, he could have been easily saved. The water was not deep, only a little above an ordinary man's waist.

The men at the mill were too far away to be of any assistance at the time, but they were unfeeling in their efforts to recover the body.

Heard Boy's Cries.
Clifford Thompson and Trevor Holmes were swimming in the river just above the dam. They heard young Cochrill's cries for help, but were too far away to get to him in time. They assisted Oliver Bunt in locating the body and rowed it ashore in a punt.

The stories told by young Cochrill's companions are alike in every detail. They state that they had been in swimming for some time before the accident happened. Some of the boys could swim, but a flood came down the river, and the drowned lad, could not. They were all playing on the raft, and some of the boys were jumping into the shallow water and were making out they were drowning. They were pretending the raft was a boat, and that it was being wrecked.

Thought Him Playing.
When Norman Cochrill jumped off the raft they thought he was only playing, as he had jumped off it several times before. However, the current had carried the raft a little farther out, and when the lad jumped the water was nearly over his head. He struggled to get back into a shallow place, but the current caught him in its grip, and he cried for help. The boys on the raft laughed at him first, thinking he was only fooling, but (Continued on Page Three.)

TEAMSTERS NOT TO BLAME DID NOT SEE SMALL BOY DROWN

First They Heard of Accident Was When a Man On Opposite Bank Ran Into Water.

In regard to the story in connection with the drowning of eight-year-old Norman Cochrill, at Dexter's Mill on Saturday afternoon, that five teamsters stood on the bank of the river and watched the boy drown, it has been found that although it was true in certain respects the idea given by the story was false.

The men were loading gravel wagons at the mill, and the first they knew of the accident was the appearance of a young man on the opposite side of the river, naked, who jumped into the water, but could not find the body. Several more young fellows about eighteen or nineteen years old, also searched, but without success, and the teamsters did not think that they could be of any assistance and went back to their work. They did not see the boy, and they would have at once responded.

MANY IN LONDON STRIKE FACING SEMI-STARVATION

Over One Hundred Thousand Are Idle Along Thames and Medway.

[Canadian Press.]
London, June 3.—It was estimated that 110,000 men were idle along the Thames and Medway Rivers this morning. These include dockers, carmen, seamen and firemen, and members of the builders' trades. This is a considerable increase as many union men joined their striking comrades during the week end.

On the other hand, however, there were more men working than was the case on Saturday, the applications from non-unionists being more numerous. The strikers placed additional pickets on duty. The strikers' and firemen's union had not less than 600 men busy to see that members of the union arriving on incoming steamers immediately went out, in some cases applicants for work have been roughly treated by these pickets. With the exception of the dockers all strikers are now receiving strike pay. The position of the dockers is becoming very serious. Pawnbrokers are refusing to accept further pledges and unless the strike is speedily ended it will mean semi-starvation for many residents of the riverside.

HAMILTON CONFERENCE GOES BACK TO THE OLD METHODS

One Thousand Converts For Next Year Is the Slogan Adopted.

[Canadian Press.]

Woodstock, Ont., June 3.—"One thousand converts in the Hamilton Conference in the year 1912-13," was the slogan proclaimed by Rev. W. B. Smith, Hamilton, during a discussion on the state of the work, at the Hamilton Methodist Conference here this morning, and this slogan was adopted, as was also the whole report of the committee on state of work. Summarized, the whole decision of the conference was: "Let us go back to the old methods of Primitive Methodism, more attention to Sunday

school, Bible classes, district visitors, evangelical meetings, the penitential bench, open-air meetings and everything which in the past went to distinguish Methodism from other creeds."

The fact that the desecration of the Sabbath is becoming commoner every day, was deeply deplored by all, and efforts are to be put forth to prevent the spread of it. Discussion was participated in by many of the more prominent ministers, including Revs. W. B. Smith, Dr. Ross, Dr. Williams, William Smythe, Dr. Sheppard and W. J. Smith. Some were afraid to go back to old methods, claiming they were not likely to be popular these days, but the big majority thought there was no danger. Something had to be done to increase the membership and help out the work, and this was the only scheme which seemed to promise success.

COUNTY ASSESSMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED BY COURT

Middlesex Body Is in Session in the County Buildings Today.

The June session of Middlesex county council commenced this afternoon at the county buildings here, and during the next few days the representatives of the different municipalities will wrestle with much business, including the equalization of the assessment.

A few years ago Judge Elliot decided that the assessment of the different townships should be arrived at by reference to the last ten or twenty sales of realty recorded for the municipality, in the registry offices. This system is agreed upon by some, while others contend that a proper

equalization cannot be secured in such a fashion, as the last sales recorded may or may not be representative of the value of the land.

The assessment was last equalized two years ago, while the council of 1911 at its session one year ago passed up the question by approving of the valuations prepared in 1910.

Practically all of the councilors are in the city today, including Mr. A. K. Hodgins, of Biddulph, who has been confined to his home for the past four months. Mr. Hodgins has now recovered from his illness, and will be able to take part in the proceedings of the council.

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

New York, June 3.—Arrived: Columbia, from Glasgow; Nieuw Amsterdam, from Rotterdam.

DON'T FAIL TO JOIN THE "INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FLY SWATTERS."

By John T. McCutcheon.

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