Yuletide Spirit Pervades District Church Services

Music Festivals Are Held in Knox Presbyterian and North Street United Churches in Goderich—Rev. W. H. Moss Speaks in Sparta United Church.

Special to The Advertiser.

Goderich, Dec. 21.—Christmas services were held in many of the Goderich churches yesterday with the fesival celebrated with special musical services. At Knox Presbyterian church the services were conducted by the minister, Rev. R. C. McDermid. The morning theme was, "The Meaning of Christmas," and the evening one, "The Supremacy of Jesus." The choir rendered special music. The soloists in the morning were Miss D. Bell and Mrs. A. J. MacLay; in the evening, Miss R. McLeod and J. McDermid. The quartet, Mesdames MacKay and Dunlop and Messrs. Nairn and Bell, also assisted.

At North street United church Rev. C. T. Clarke, pastor, preached Christmas sermons. Special music was also the feature of the day, a number of Christmas anthems in cantata form being given by the choir following the evening sermon, under the direction of the leader, C. H. Hamilton. Miss Esther Hume sang morning and evening and Mrs. R. Henderson in the evening.

"THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS."
Special to The Advertiser.

Sparta, Dec. 21.—Rev. W. H. Moss spoke on "The Meaning of Christmas" in the United church on Sunday night. The solos were rendered by Mrs. W. H. Moss and W. Henderson.

SACRED CONCERT HELD.
Special to The Advertiser.

Strathroy, Dec. 21.—Following the special Christmas services in all the local churches, a sacred concert was held last evening in the Lyceum theatre by the young men's Bible class of the United church, with Howard Downham, leader. The proceeds will be used to provide Christmas cheer for a number of needy children.

The 26th Middlesex band furnished music, with vocal solos by Mrs. MacDougall, Mrs. Menish, Mack Collins, Ewart Evans and James Allum; piano solo by Mrs. W. G. Conkey, violin solo by Prof. Neilson; 'cello solo by Donald Wright, and cornet solo with band accompaniment by Ray Gibson. Short addresses were given by Mac Waddell, Rev. J. R. Hemphill, Rev. G. T. Watts, the Salvation Army captain and Police Magistrate R. M. Trueman, who was chairman. Rev. John Moore pronounced the invocation and benediction.

DOUMER TOTTERS ON BRINK OF FALL

Tax Program of French Finance Minister Fails To Please.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The fourth finance minister to grapple with France's grievous treasury problems within the last two months is in difficulties.

Caillaux, Painleve and Loucheur have gone down since October, and it was understood today, when the cabinet council met to study Paul Doumer's financial plans, that not only was there strong opposition to his measures in the finance committee of the chamber of deputies and in parliament itself, but that even the ministry was divided concerning their efficacy.

The radicals in the cabinet stoutly resist the finance minister's plans to increase the tax on business turnovers. Several conferences between M. Doumer, Minister of the Interior Chautemps and Minister of Public Instruction Daladier have thus far failed to bring about an agreement.

M. Doumer today is to confer with Former Premier Herriot, the radical leader, concerning the possibility of effecting a compromise between his plans and those of the left groups who are actively at work preparing financial measures of their own in order to forestall the ministers, and also steal a march on the industrialists of Northern France, whose plan for a moratorium on business is also under consideration.

The cabinet had before it today the general outline of M. Doumer's plans, but the finance minister absolutely refused to comment for publication.

The offer made by the textile manufacturers of the north is being put into concrete form, and will soon be ready to incorporate in the government bills if the present conflict inside the cabinet is settled.

The Socialists have finally decided to support the manufacturers' propositions on the understanding that the latter assume the entire burden of the interest on loans and abandon to the state their profits on the 10 per cent of their properties pledged as security.

OPTIMISM RECEDING.
Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The wave of optimism which followed the announcement of the plan of the northern industrialists to come to the rescue of the government and aid it in overcoming its financial distress is receding.

Two big French industrial associations, the general federation of French producers and the national association for economic expansion, are declared to be throwing cold water on the project. They hold, it is understood, that the plan might be worthy of the adhesion of all the French industries, but as a final touch to and not as the basis of a financial reform plan elaborated by the government.

HUNDREDS OF ROTARIANS HERE FOR CENTENNIAL

The thousands of native Londoners who are expected to attend the centennial celebration here next August will mingle with hundreds of Rotarians, who have signified their intention of being present when the city celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Letters of acceptance have been flocking in to ex-Mayor George Wenige, who sent letters to every Rotary club in the world and asked the presidents of each club to bring London's centennial before the members.

Replies were received from Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and the United States this morning.

MONACO PRINCESS DIES.
Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The dowager princess of Monaco, who was Miss Alice Heine of New Orleans, died suddenly here today. She was born Feb. 10, 1858, and was married to the Prince of Monaco, Oct. 30, 1889. Their marriage was dissolved by the Monaco judiciary in May, 1902, and the separation was confirmed by the civil tribunal of Paris the following June.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

THE LANCASHIKE CLUB, LONDON, ONT., CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW, 1925, FOR KIDDIES SOCIAL—

RESULTS—

1ST PRIZE—Turkey	No. 558
2ND PRIZE—Goose	184
3RD PRIZE—Pair Ducks	118
4TH PRIZE—Chicken	661
5TH PRIZE—Ham	183
6TH PRIZE—Pork	218
7TH PRIZE—Roast of Beef	265
8TH PRIZE—Bag Potatoes	10
9TH PRIZE—Sugar	106
10TH PRIZE—Percolator	57
11TH PRIZE—Tea Tray	520

PRIZES will be delivered to winners before 25th.

Under the direction of Ald. Bottrill.

EMPIRE SYMPATHY TOUCHES THE KING

In Speech From Throne Tells of Kindness Shown by Subjects.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Dec. 22.—Parliament was prorogued over the holidays today with the speech from the throne.

"The grievous loss which I and my family sustained by the death of my beloved mother is first in my thoughts," the king wrote. "It has been a solace to me in my grief to have received from all conditions and classes in all parts of my dominions, and from all foreign countries, touching assurances of their deep sympathy in my sorrow and expressions of their affectionate regard for one who was enthroned in the love of my people.

"I was happy to welcome home my son, the Prince of Wales, on his recent return from his visit to South Africa, West Africa and South America. I have been deeply touched by the account he gave to me of the warm welcome everywhere accorded him, and I am proud to think that his visit served to deepen the affection which has united my people, and to strengthen the bonds which link this country with the peoples of South America.

"My relations with the foreign powers continue to be friendly. It was a source of great satisfaction to me to welcome in London the distinguished plenipotentiaries of Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, who on Dec. 1 signed the diplomatic instruments initiated at Locarno Oct. 16.

"It is my belief and earnest hope that these instruments, by giving surety to the peoples immediately concerned will prove to be not only the foundation of a true peace between them, but the beginning of friendly co-operation which cannot fail to benefit the whole world.

"I rejoice at the part this government was able to play in the negotiations leading up to this happy event.

"I have given assent to a bill for confirmation of the agreement reached between my minister and the governments of the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland, to amend and supplement articles in the agreement of Dec. 6, 1921."

MEDICAL EXAMINATION WILL BE CONTINUED

Pupils in Grade One Will Be Charted Early in the New Year.

Medical examination of the pupils in grade I. in the public schools will be proceeded with, according to Administrator G. A. Wheable, B.A., early in the new year.

The board of education has already approved of the recommendation of the medical committee under Rev. R. D. Mess as chairman to proceed with the examination of all the pupils by grades, rather than re-examine next year the kindergarten pupils examined this year upon admission to the schools.

Only the fact that there is but $500 left of the $1,500 appropriated by the board for the examination of kindergarten pupils prohibits the officials from having the examination of grade I. pupils gone on with immediately.

Sufficient sum will be included in the estimates for next year to pay for the medical examination of about 923 pupils in grade I., as well as the kindergarten pupils that come in at February.

The board has been immensely pleased with the co-operation accorded by the members of the Western Ontario academy of medicine, who made the large majority of the examinations at nominal cost.

Examinations of kindergarten pupils this year have numbered 896 to date.

THORNDALE INITIATION.
Special to The Advertiser.

Thorndale, Dec. 21.—At the regular meeting of Purple Hill, L.O.L., No. 817, one candidate was initiated.

An honorary member's certificate was presented to Past Master Bro. H. W. Jackson for his many years of valuable service to the order. The presentation was made by Past Master Bro. William Bent. At the conclusion of the reply by Bro. Jackson, he took the chair and conducted the election of officers: W.M., Bro. G. B. Vining; D.M., Bro. Rev. A. C. Cummer; chaplain, Bro. W. J. Murphy; recording secretary, Bro. W. J. Taylor; financial secretary, Bro. W. G. Goarley; treasurer, Bro. J. G. Goarley; marshal, Bro. William Mahon; lecturers, Bros. S. W. Shaw and E. Taylor; committee, Bros. J. J. Goarley, H. W Jackson, F. Bent, W. H. Taylor and George Mahon.

COST OF SCHOOL JUMPS BY $30,000

New Collegiate Contracts Already Let Total $281,781.

Ald. Smith has been instrumental in having the city council delay the third reading of the bylaw granting an issue of $265,000 debentures for the new Sir Adam Beck collegiate institute in East London, but the delay may be a convenience to the board of education, rather than an inconvenience, by reason of the fact that the board will have to ask for more money, possibly $30,000, to complete the school.

The bylaw, as it was submitted to the council several months ago by the board of education, called for the purchase of the Rectory public school site for $50,000 and $215,000 for the new building, but the board has since "moved" to the site at the corner of Dundas street and Highbury avenue and John Futherbough, contractor, is already at work on the construction of the building.

Mr. Smith gave as his reason for moving delay in giving the bylaw the third reading the fact that the board has not yet got a clear title to the property purchased privately from the Ontario government through the good offices of the late Sir Adam Beck because the law calls for the sale of government lands either by tender or public auction. This point can be cleared up, however, because members of the board have the straight promise of Premier G. H. Ferguson to pass enabling legislation to cover the case, if it is found necessary to do so to give the board the full title of the property.

Regarding the cost of the building, however, the question is not quite so easily got around. The general contract has been let at $217,170 to Mr. Futherbough, as already stated. The contract for plumbing has been let at $29,611, while the board paid $25,000 to the government for the 22-acre site. This makes a total of $281,781, or nearly $17,000 in excess of the amount to be voted in the bylaw now before the city council.

This sum does not provide, however, for the inclusion of two stairways, which the board and the department of education decided were necessary in the interests of fire protection, nor for architect's fees, which will approximate two per cent of the total cost, or for other incidentals.

It is very probable, therefore, that the board will be compelled to ask the council for $30,000 additional for the building and site, and after that there is the equipmnet to be taken care of for the new building, since there is not very much equipment that can be transferred from the present east collegiate on Princess avenue.

SALVATION SCHOOL PRIZES ARE AWARDED

Feature of Entertainment Is Work of Life-Saving Guards.

Col. D. F. McAmmond, commander of the local division of the Salvation Army, presided last night at the Sunday school entertainment, presented by the young people of the district at No. 1. citadel, Clarence street.

The program included the presentation of prizes and awards for attendance and good conduct during the year. The outstanding features of the evening were the exhibition of pyramid building by the Life Saving Scouts of the district, and the several items presented by the Life Saving Guards. Dialogues and a number of other numbers completed the performance.

The crowd, which made up the largest audience of the year, was ample proof of the popularity of the work of Young People's Sgt.-Major M. Mann, who has been in charge of this work.

Tonight, Staff-Captain Sparks, also of No. 1 citadel, will preside at a similar young people's entertainment at the Tecumseh Ave. No. 2 citadel.

SALVATION ARMY BUSY ON POOR RELIEF WORK

Last Appeal Made For Support to Fund—Many Cases Investigated.

Officers of the local division of the Salvation Army are extremely busy this week investigating many applications for relief and aiding cases which are found worthy. It is shown that in nearly every case the applicant is found in needy circumstances.

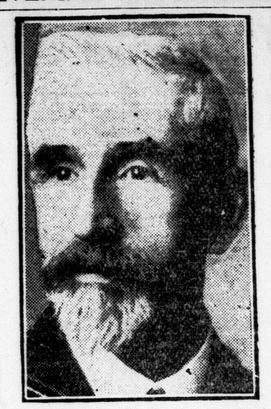
Although at the first of the pot campaign the amounts taken in exceeded last year, it is now found that the collections are falling off and are less than at the same time last year. The Army makes a last appeal on behalf of the needy for whom the collections are being made, and on behalf of the officers who are giving their time and energy in the wonderful spirit.

THOMAS STURGESS PASSES.
Special to The Advertiser.

Wallaceburg, Dec. 21.—The death took place on Saturday night of Thomas Sturgess, which took place at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Thomas McGregor, Wallaceburg. He had been ailing since the time of the death of his wife, in 1923. The late Mr. Sturgess was aged 77 and was born in Brant township, and had resided in this community for over 50 years. He married Miss Rosetta Kipp, of Brant county. He is survived by two sons, Edward of Port Huron and Jasper of Flint, Mich., and one daughter, Mrs. Thomas McGregor; two brothers, David of Detroit and Daniel of Ingersoll. The funeral takes place on Tuesday from the residence of Mrs. Thomas McGregor to the Dresden cemetery, Rev. G. W. Butt of Tupperville officiating.

DOMINION GRANGE REPORT.

Middlemarch, Dec. 21.—At Apple Grove grange regular meeting a report was given by Mrs. H. Palmer, who attended the 51st meeting of the Dominion grange, held in Toronto. Worthy Master Harry Palmer gave a report of the U. F. O., its progress and its benefit. The next meeting on January 7 will be the annual oyster supper.



Professor McMurrich, of Toronto university, who believes that the evidence for the evolution theory is stronger than ever.

H. B. MUIR LIKELY TO HEAD KIWANIS

Elected With Dr. Banghart, C. C. Hunt, H. Langford, F. McLauchlin.

Harry B. Muir, managing director of The Advertiser, is likely to be chosen as president of the London Kiwanis club for the ensuing year.

Should Mr. Muir be chosen by the board of directors as president, he will succeed J. J. McHale, who has directed the club's affairs this year in a highly successful manner.

Members of the club, in addition to Mr. Muir, who were elected by ballot for a two-year term on the board of directors, are: Dr. Percy C. Banghart, Cliff C. Hunt, Harry Langford, and Frank McLauchlin.

Members of the board whose terms have yet one year to run, are: J. J. McHale, Sam Amero, S. F. Lawrason, Rev. Col. Wm. Beattie, D.D., C.M.G., and Fred Ross.

Members who retired from the board this year are: B. B. Manning, J. B. Hay, T. H. Yull, A. R. Ford, and Colin French.

It is considered likely that Mr. French will be continued in the office of secretary, and Mr. Manning in the office of treasurer because of their very excellent service in those offices, and because the constitution does not require the holders of these offices be members of the board of directors.

RUSSIAN LEADER SEES U.S.-BRITISH CONFLICT

Tchitcherin Believes Clash Over Rubber Is Coming—Says America Meddling.

Associated Press Despatch.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—The Communist newspaper Rote Fahne (Red Flag) quotes Foreign Minister Tchitcherin of Soviet Russia as declaring he foresaw a grave conflict between Great Britain and the United States which was already discernible in their differences over Chinese policy, Britain's attempt at commercial penetration of South America, and the fight over rubber prices.

The real victor of the world war, he continued, was the United States, which now was "meddling in all the affairs of the world."

BRITAIN STUMBLING BLOCK.
Associated Press Despatch.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—George Tchitcherin, the Russian Soviet foreign minister, who is on his way to Moscow, discussed political topics yesterday with the correspondents, and made his customary criticism of the league of nations as "an organization for intrigues and machinations between governments."

M. Tchitcherin emphasized the Soviet's readiness to negotiate with the United States on all disputed points, including the Kerensky government loan, and declared that Great Britain's continued hostility was Russia's greatest obstacle in foreign relations.

"We cannot make fresh proposals to Great Britain," he went on, "unless the British government says which points of the agreement reached with the MacDonald government are unacceptable. We desire a settlement, but realize that Great Britain does not."

He insisted that the Locarno treaty had made the European situation worse, rather than better, as it "increased Great Britain's sphere of action and thereby enlarged the area of friction."

A. G. SUTHERLAND BURIED.
Special to The Advertiser.

Thamesford, Dec. 21.—The funeral of Alex G. Sutherland, a lifelong resident of this district, was held from his late residence here on Friday afternoon. Interment was made in Kintore cemetery. The services were conducted by Rev. Dr. McDonald of Kintore and Rev. Mr. Anthony of Thomesford, while the services at the graveside were in charge of King Solomon Masonic lodge.

Mr. Sutherland was born 78 years ago in East Nissouri, where he spent the greater part of his life. He removed to Thamesford about ten years ago, and was well known throughout Oxford county.

Besides his widow he is survived by his one sister, Mrs. Sodden of Ingersoll, and two brothers, Robert of Butte, Montana, and Charles, of East Nissouri.

The pallbearers were William Sodden, Charles Sutherland, Roy Sutherland, James and George McWilliam, and Dr. John McWilliam of London.

LITERARY SOCIETY MEETS.
Special to The Advertiser.

Dublin, Dec. 21.—St. Columban Literary society met at St. Columban hall on Friday night. The president, Mr. Morris, was in the chair, and gave an interesting address. Other items on the program were: A violin and piano duet by William Maloney and Miss Marie Flannery; vocal solos by Miss Camilla Murray and Miss Marie Flannery; the literary paper, by Joseph Shea, and a solo by Margaret McGrath.

A number of good views were shown on the screen, the majority being of a religious nature and suitable for the Christmas season.

BELIEVE PROVINCE WILL AID WESTERN

Delegation Is Impressed With Reception Given by Premier Ferguson at Toronto.

Lieut.-Col. W. J. Brown, executive secretary of the University of Western Ontario, expresses himself as being optimistic as to the outcome of the interview which the delegation, made up of himself, Arthur White and James Granger, of the board of fovernors of the university, had yesterday with Premier G. H. Ferguson at Toronto, with regard to a government grant of some quarter of a million dollars being made to the university here.

"The premier declared himself to be absolutely in sympathy with the request made by the delegation," stated Col. Brown. "He gave us to understand that the provincial budget had to be cut down as much as possible, of course, but he also assured us that he would give the matter his deepest consideration."

Col. Brown stated that the premier was very favorably impressed with the economy and excellence of the buildings and structures of Western. "He was surprised with the wonderful growth of the university in the last few years," said the secretary, "and, I think, realized to the full the good work the university is now doing.'

The greatest consideration, in the minds of the members of the delegation was the fact that the university deserved a fair share of the funds set aside for educational purposes. The university is a regional and a centralized unit of education, and cannot exist without the financial aid of the government.

"The university serves Western Ontario well," stated Col. Brown. "It supplies an education to many who would not be able to get a university education if they had to go to a central university. It is up to the press and the people of Western Ontario to insist that this university get its rights."

DOMINION BOOSTS JAPANESE TRADE

Exports To Orient Take Big Stride—Much Canadian Wheat Sold.

Associated Press Despatch.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 22.—Greatly increased trade between Japan and Canada in 1925 is shown in the annual report of Y. Sato, secretary of the Japanese consulate here.

According to Mr. Sato, Canada's export trade especially will show a large increase. Imports also will be greater than in previous years, but the increase is not expected to be the same ratio as the exports.

One of the surprising increases this year will be the amount of wheat exported to Japan, says Mr. Sato.

TURKEY FAMINE HERE HAS BEEN STAVED OFF

Local Dealers Secure Two Carloads of Choice Birds From West.

With the arrival in this city during the past few days of two carloads of turkeys from the prairie provinces Londoners who with drawn faces have been foreseeing a gobbler famine will now be able to sleep more soundly o' nights.

According to the local wholesale dealers who handled the shipment, the birds are of an exceptionally good quality this year, in fact better than has been the case for some seasons past. This statement sets at rest a rumor of the last day or two that they had been found unsatisfactory and that the shipment had been turned back.

Although as a rule the prices this year are slightly higher than those of 1924, an equal amount of poultry is being sold. Prices for turkeys have remained unchanged so far this week, the range being from 42 to 45 cents a pound wholesale and from 45 to 48 cents retail, with 50 cents being paid in a few instances. The demand for geese is only fair, with a consequent condition in the supply.

SIX STATES TO BACK DIVERSION OF WATER

Chicago To Receive Help From Mid-Western and Southern Area.

Associated Press Despatch.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 22.—Attorney-generals of six states between here and the mouth of the Mississippi river have agreed to back Illinois in the Lake Michigan diversion suit brought in the United States supreme court by Michigan, Wisconsin and other states to prevent any lake water flowing through the drainage canal into the lower navigation channel.

In this action, representatives of Louisiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, who conferred here yesterday with Chicago association of commerce officials, took the ground that their interests were identical with those of Illinois. It was maintained that a 10,000 cubic foot a second flow is necessary to maintain permanent water levels in the lower Mississippi and assure year-round navigation.

At the same time impetus was given the lake-to-gulf waterway plan by the announcement of Attorney-General Strom that the legal way is now open to go ahead with the construction of the remaining locks in the Illinois river.

DEATH OF RICHARD JOHNSON.

Richard Johnson, 657 Piccadilly street, old resident of this district, died in the Victoria hospital yesterday following a short illness. The deceased was 88 years of age and his remains will be shipped this evening to Smith Falls for burial.

CITY NEWS

MOTOR CARS COLLIDE.

Two motor cars, one driven by John Graham, 415 Central avenue, and the other by John Riley, Thorndale, collided at the corner of Queen's avenue and Clarence street this morning. Neither of the drivers was injured, although both cars were slightly damaged.

WIN TURKEYS AT GARDEN.

Miss Madeline Aldridge, 338 Thames street, and Mrs. Wm. Baker, 539 Richmond street, were the lucky ones at the Winter Gardens last evening. They were the holders of the winning numbers in the annual Christmas drawing and were each presented with a large turkey. According to Manager Baines, the drawings will be continued tonight and also tomorrow.

MUSICIAN ASKS LICENSE.

There must be money in playing an accordion on the street at the holiday season. Ex-Mayor George A. Wenige received a telegram from a woman in Toronto this morning asking permission to play an accordion and sell cards on London streets for three days this week. "Please reply collect," the wire requests. No action is being taken by the ex-mayor in the matter.

BOARD OFFICES TO CLOSE.

Chairman S. F. Lawrason has consented to the closing of the board of education offices on Saturday morning this week. Administrator G. A. Wheable, B.A., drew the chairman's attention to the fact that Saturday being a half-day and the day following Christmas, it would be just as well to have the office remain closed from Thursday night until Monday morning, and the chairman agreed.

GIFT FOR BOLT WORKS MEN.

The men of the London Bolt and Hinge Works lately received a set of horseshoes, the aggregate weight of which was one hundred pounds. The horseshoes were a gift from a well-known manufacturer, in recognition of the splendid work done by the men throughout last summer. They intend, as soon as spring and the fine weather put in an appearance, to have several pitches, so that as many as possible may enjoy this interesting and friendly sport.

WESLEY LEAGUE.

The regular meeting of the young people's league of Wesley United church, held last night, opened with a sing-song, led by W. Sherwin, with the president, Dr. Hiles, in the chair. Rev. J. E. J. Millyard gave the opening prayer, after which the Misses Essex contributed a duet. Miss Rousom rendered a solo, and Miss Helen Baker gave a delightful reading. A very amusing short sketch was presented by four members of the league followed by a pleasing solo by Charlie Boyce. Games were enjoyed, including the musical wedding, and at the close gifts were placed on the Christmas tree to be distributed along with the white gifts of the Sunday school, to needy families.

MOORE MAY ENDORSE OWN CHECK FOR $4,500

Payment For Architect's Expenses Not Made—Mayor Takes Over City Hall Duties.

Mayor John M. Moore entered the mayor's office at the city hall for the first time this morning and attached his official signature to a number of checks.

"Did you sign a check made payable to John M. Moore & Co. for $4,500 for drawing plans for the new nurses' home?" the mayor was asked.

"I haven't seen the check as yet," smiled the mayor. "However, I don't see any good reason why I shouldn't sign it."

Mr. Moore had a number of visitors, who all congratulated him on his victory at the polls.

The stenographer's desk has been moved from the mayor's office back to the outer office of the city clerk's department. All the mayor's business will be handled by the city clerk's office when the mayor is not present. Citizens will find Mayor Moore in his sanctum from 11:30 to 12:30 each day.

ONLY ONE CITY HALL OFFICE NOT BUSY NOW

Work of Charitable Organizations Not So Brisk at Christmas Season.

There is one city hall office that isn't as busy at the Christmas season as most people would expect, and that is the particular spot where Inspector Richard Sanders of the relief department hands out orders for fuel and groceries.

The demand for food and clothing is not brisk at the Christmas season, Mr. Sanders states. He points out that practically all the poor people of the city are taken care of by various charitable organizations who dispense food and clothing during the Yuletide season.

"We do have to purchase fuel," said Mr. Sanders. "Widows and others who are absolutely without funds are provided with coal and wood while many have been receiving orders for coke from the sewer beds just beyond the coves."

MAN ALLOWED CHANCE TO RETURN TO HIS HOME

Special to The Advertiser.

Sarnia, Dec. 21.—Edward Allen Little, detained here after he had been deported from Port Huron by the American immigration authorities, was charged under the vagrancy act with failing to provide the necessities of life for his wife. He pleaded not guilty, and said he had been in communication with his family at Cobden, Ontario, prior to being arrested and had been sending remittances. He had intended to return home for Christmas. Magistrate Gorman discharged him on his representation that he would return home.

CLUB BAG PRESENTATION.
Special to The Advertiser.

Listowel, Dec. 21. — Miss Edna I. MacKenzie, of the public school staff, was pleasantly surprised Friday afternoon at a tea given in her honor by Principal and Mrs. E. G. McDonald, when she was presented with a handsome club bag by Miss Isa Austin, on behalf of the teaching staff. Miss MacKenzie leaves after Christmas for California, where she will spend six months' leave of absence.

SMITH IN PRISON UNTIL REPAYMENT

Nickle Urges Ottawa To Hold Former Treasurer Until Money Refunded.

Special to The Advertiser.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—Attorney-General Nickle has received a communication from the justice department at Ottawa requesting the view of the Ontario government as to releasing Peter Smith, former provincial treasurer from Kingston penitentiary.

The attorney-general this afternoon stated his reply would be that as substantial sums were improperly diverted from the public treasury, the government believes that the sincere efforts should be made to recoup the province before further consideration is given to the application for clemency.

Over a week ago a deputation, including Hon. W. E. Raney and F. Wellington Hay, made representations to the dominion government in favor of the release of Mr. Smith.

COUNTY PAYS OFF ALL BANK DEBT

Middlesex in Better Condition Than For Some Time Past.

The total of indebtedness of Middlesex county to the Bank of Montreal has been paid off, it was learned today at the office of Captain Tom Robson, county treasurer.

A total of $335,000 has been received already from the municipalities throughout the county as their shares in the county rate. Only two corporations have not made returns as yet, and checks from them are expected hourly. Today is the day the amounts become due.

The fact that the total bank indebtedness of the county is lifted shows a better condition than has existed for some time past, according to county officials, and this situation can be taken as a fair barometer to financial conditions in the county.

PROMISES TO PAY WIFE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Wilson Taylor Discharged After Non-Support Case Aired in Police Court.

Charging her husband with non-support, Mrs. Wilson Taylor gave evidence in police court this morning, declaring that she had received no money from her husband since Oct. 25, although he had promised upon separation to give her an allowance of $10 a week.

When Wilson, explaining his attitude, said that his wife had refused to cook the meals when they kept house together, Mr. Graydon ordered an adjournment of the case and heard further details in his private office after court.

Wilson was discharged upon condition he would pay as much money as possible to his wife's support.

CONSERVATVES PLAN TO OPPOSE PREMIER

West Middlesex Association To Put Up Fight If Seat Sought There.

Special to The Advertiser.

Strathroy, Dec. 21.—Conservatives meeting here yesterday decided to put up a strenuous opposition to Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King if the prime minister seeks a seat in West Middlesex.

The executive of the Conservative association of West Middlesex met in the office of P. A. Gahan and unanimously decided that as far as the Conservative party was concerned Mr. King would not get an acclamation.

The meeting, which represented every portion of the riding, was unanimous in its decision to oppose Mr. King if he should run in West Middlesex. The members also all pledged themselves to support the choice of the convention.

Arrangements were made to perfect organization throughout the riding and meetings will be held in every township early in January for this purpose, in order to be ready for a by-election if one should be held. If Mr. King should seek elsewhere for a seat the Conservatives will in any case be ready for the next election.

Robert MacKellar of Glencoe, president of the association, was in the chair, while James Craig of Alisa Craig, secretary of the association, acted as secretary. George Elliott, M.L.A. of Parkhill, and Thomas Elliott, Conservative candidate in the last election, were both present.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER RESIGNS.
Special to The Advertiser.

Listowel, Dec. 21.—A. H. D. Ross, M.A., who for the past year has been mathematical master at the high school, tendered his resignation at a special meeting of the board of education Friday evening, and asked that it take effect the end of the year. Mr. Ross is not only a specialist in mathematics, but an expert in reforestation, having been in the employ of the government and C. P. R. in the northern and western parts of the dominion.

BAPTISTS HOLD YULE FETE.
Special to The Advertiser.

Mount Elgin, Dec. 21.—The annual Baptist Christmas tree and entertainment was held Friday night in the C. O. F. hall. There was a large attendance. The pastor, Rev. G. I. Burns, was chairman, and the program consisted of songs, recitations, dialogues and drills. Santa Claus appeared, and many bags of candy and gifts were handed out to young and old.

News Briefs

Jersey City, N.J.—Theodore Merrill told the court that he could not remember whether he had nine or ten children or when he had been married, but the court granted him a divorce decree on a charge of desertion. Merrill actually had two children.

PISTOL KILLS FOUR COUGARS.

Bakersfield, Cal.—Four mountain lions fell to the pistol of F. J. Ross in a single day. Ross' small gun was supported by two dogs trained to hunt the lions.

TEAR GAS USED ON BANDITS.

New York—Comptroller Conray has announced that each tax office in the city has now been equipped with a tear gas apparatus as a precaution against holdups. A simple action by a cashier releases a blinding cloud of gas to "cover" the tax collection room.

GET CHRISTMAS BONUS.

Tulsa, Okla.—A Christmas bonus of $100,000 has been presented by Waite Phillips, former president of the Waite Phillips Petroleum Company, to 900 employees of the company.

MEIGHEN STICKS TO WAR POLICY

Says West Liked His Hamilton Speech—Will Have More To Say.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the federal Conservative party, arrived in Toronto this morning from Manitoba. He will address a meeting of commercial travellers tonight. Mr. Meighen said that he found that his "Hamilton speech," in which he defined the position he would take in event of another war was approved in the west. He declined to discuss the criticism of the speech by C. H. Cahan, a Montreal M. P.-elect.

"When the time comes, I'll have plenty to say on that Hamilton speech," said Mr. Meighen. He added that he had not spoken to any of the Progressive members since the election. He declared the Conservative party was not banking on support from the Progressives, and would stick to its principles.

Mr. Meighen has no political appointments in Toronto, but is meeting T. A. Russell, a college friend.

CHRISTMAS FUND NEARING $2,000

Sarnia Citizens Are Generous in Contribution To Help Needy Ones.

Special to The Advertiser.

Sarnia, Dec. 21.—The Christmas Cheer club got generous support over the week-end, and the fund is nearing the $2,000-mark, where it should be by the time Christmas Eve rolls around, when the volunteers send out to the needy ones precious parcels of cheer. The fund today stands at $1,367.75.

Sheriff A. J. Johnston was the speaker at the Luncheon club today, and told of many interesting experiences in his work. Thomas Grace was chairman. The tables were tastefully decorated in Christmas colors. Selections were given by the hotel orchestra, including a violin solo by Charles Cody. A vote of thanks was tendered to the Sarnia baseball club for a gift of $100 to the crippled children's fund, from the proceeds of the recent carnival.

The death took place on Sunday night of Mrs. Rose Kennedy, wife of Donald Kennedy, 158 South Vidal street, after an illness of ten months. Mrs. Kennedy had resided here for fourteen years, coming to Sarnia from Mount Forest. Mr. Kennedy is an employee of Imperial Oil, Limited, and there are no children. The funeral will be held from the family residence on Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. to St. Joseph's R. C. church.

One of the best-known residents of the city, Mrs. Arthur Kirby, wife of Alderman-elect Arthur Kirby, mechanical superintendent for Imperial Oil, Limited, died today from an attack of pneumonia. She had been only ill since Wednesday.

She was aged 43 years and was born in northern Michigan, coming to Sarnia with her family 22 years ago. She was married in 1903. Mrs. Kirby belonged to St. John's Anglican church, and was a member of the ladies' aid society of that church. Mr. Kirby and two sons, Johnson and Richard Arthur, survive. The funeral will be held on Wednesday afternoon.

GEORGE DIEGEL BURIED.
Special to The Advertiser.

Dublin, Dec. 21.—The funeral of George Diegel, for the past 53 years a resident of this village, was held from his late residence at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. A short service at the home was conducted by Rev. Albertt of Brodhagen, who also officiated at the services in the Brodhagen Lutheran church, which were conducted in German. Interment was made in the Brodhagen cemetery.

Mr. Diegel was married to Annie Weppler in St. Petersburg, Waterloo county, on January 26, 1876. Prior to settling in Dublin in 1872 he had been a journeyman for some years, but on coming to this village he became a harness-maker. He was associated with this business until a short time before his death.

Mr. Diegel had been an active member of Brodhagen Lutheran church for many years, and was well known throughout the district.

Besides his widow, he is survived by his son Edward of this village, and one daughter, Mrs. Stanley Bloodsworth of Toronto, also two brothers, John of Port Elgin and Louis of Brodhagen.

DELIGHTFUL PROGRAM.
Special to The Advertiser.

Forest, Dec. 29.—The Baptist church Sunday school held a Christmas entertainment in the town hall on Friday evening before a capacity crowd. George Codling was the chairman.

Solos were given by Alma Burney, Marguerite Govenlock and the Cardwell sisters, dialogues by the Lansing brothers, a skit by George Carson, Russell and Donald Campbell, and a playlet, in which Greta Dent and Rosanna Gray took the leading parts, A Dark Secret, was well played by George Burney and Evan Maxfield, with a supporting cast.