

The London Evening Free Press

WESTERN ONTARIO'S FOREMOST NEWSPAPER.

THE WEATHER: Probabilities—Fair and Mild.

LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1923.—20 PAGES.

THREE CENTS.

CHIEF COLLAPSES WHILE FIGHTING FIRE

BUSINESS MEN FIGHT REDUCTION IN POLICE

Won't Stand For Pared Estimates That Would Result In Dismissals.

CONTENT CUT WOULD ENCOURAGE THIEVING

Practically Every One of Downtown Merchants Petitions For Efficient Force.

Will the City Council pare the estimates of the police commission to such an extent that it would be necessary for Chief Birrell to disperse with the services of half a dozen constables? Not if the business men of London have anything to say in the matter, and that they wish as heavy taxpayers will have considerable weight with the councilors is generally known.

With the exception of three or four business men every merchant in the downtown section of the city on Dundas and Richmond streets signed the following petition and sent it to the police commission at its last meeting protesting against any proposed interference with the strength of the police force.

"We, the undersigned merchants and other taxpayers of Dundas street," reads the petition, "decidedly object to any proposed interference or action lessening the protection furnished through our city police force against burglary, incendiarism, thieving or other injury to property and recognize that improvements in this line should rather be encouraged than retarded."

ADDED ONLY 10.
Three years ago, when Chief Birrell took charge of the force, the crime wave sweeping the country was at its height and, although authorized by the police commission and the Council at that time to increase the force by 15 members, the chief added but 10 men and by a judicious manipulation of the posts was able to give the downtown merchants the protection they required for their premises.

Last year six men were dropped from the force to meet the requirements of the Council, leaving the police department with a total of 100 men.
"As heavy taxpayers we are entitled to some consideration by the City Council," states one of the signers, "and we believe that the present force is insufficient to meet the needs of the city. We would like to see the force increased to 115 men, but we would be penny wise and pound foolish to cut down the force, and I do not think the Council will attempt to do so."

U. S. PRESENTS BILL FOR WATCH ON RHINE

Expenses of \$25,000,000 Claimed, But No Money Available From Germany.

Special Cable to London Free Press PARIS, March 1.—The United States bill for the watch on the Rhine was presented to-day and negotiations to consider reimbursements opened at the Quai d'Orsay. The United States estimates the cost of the Rhine at \$25,000,000. It is impossible at the present time to collect that much money from Germany, who is to pay the bill for the occupation of the Rhine. It is understood that the bill will be offered in payment.

The representatives of Britain, France, Italy and the United States, Bradbury, Tanner, Baggi and Wadsworth, respectively, were to start discussions at the Quai d'Orsay this afternoon.

MURDER STILL A MYSTERY.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Admittedly still without evidence sufficient to charge anyone with the crime, the Bronx district attorney's office was going ahead to-day, sifting the many stories that have come to it of the love affair of Frederick Schneider that might have been the genesis of the contractor's murder last Monday.

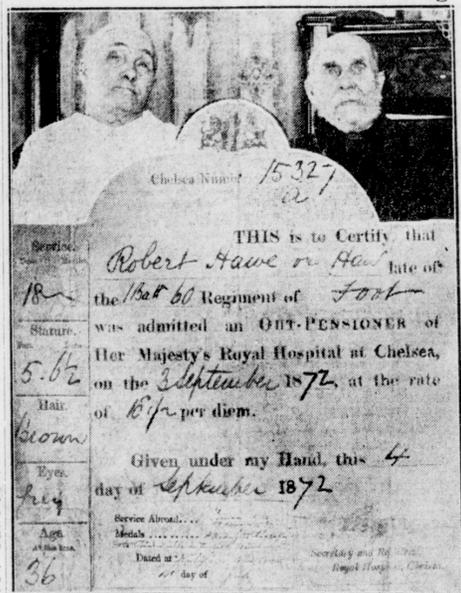
MAYOR REFUSED GASOLINE THROUGH HIS OWN SYSTEM OF CITY HALL EFFICIENCY

Civic Garage Keeper Makes No Exception To His Worship When Latter Is Stalled For Motor Fluid.

It has been frequently said that "efficiency" is the watchword governing all departments managed under the supervision of the Public Works Commission, and while no one is attempting to accuse Mayor Wenke of being dubious at this proud boast of those associated with commission affairs, London's chief magistrate yesterday was given a very rare opportunity to show first-hand just how efficiently at least one department is conducted.

His worship was on his way uptown, but on reaching a point in Ridout street, not far from the Public Utilities garage, his automobile stalled and investigation revealed that the gas tank was empty. Seeing the civic garage

Recalls Horrors Of Great Crimean Siege



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hawe, 141 Price street, married for over 52 years. Mr. Hawe is a Crimean war veteran, as documents pictured above show. He is not a survivor of the Light Brigade. They are shown seated in the living-room of their comfortable home yesterday. Mr. Hawe, born in County Derry, Ireland, is 88 years old. Mrs. Hawe is a native of Newfoundland, and is in her 77th year.

88-Year-Old Veteran Of Sebastopol Tells Story of Adventures

Documents Show Heroic Part Played By Him In Crimean War.

OLDEST CHELSEA OUTPENSIONER IN CITY
Resident of London Over Half a Century—Constant Free Press Reader.

"Class, creed and rank were swept aside in a spirit of fraternal comradeship in the trenches before Sebastopol," states Robert Hawe, of 141 Price street, London's oldest Chelsea pensioner, and probably the city's oldest veteran of Crimea. Well-kept documents show the modest but nonetheless heroic part played by him in that great struggle.

Mr. Hawe was born in 1836, in the Parish of Ballymuckin, County Derry, Ireland. He enlisted in 1854, in the 17th Regiment of Foot, when two months under 18 years of age. He then proceeded to Crimea in a vessel of the fleet of transports, which were inspected off Southampton by Queen Victoria, who, on her royal yacht, passed between the long lines of troopships, cheered by the thousands that were prepared to die in her service. Mr. Hawe distinctly recalls the proud figure of the little royal lady, who even then was planning to institute the Order of the Victoria Cross.

He served nearly two years in Crimea. And to-day, nearly 68 years old, he recalls with a shudder the horrors of that winter before the great Russian stronghold of Sebastopol. They had no wood for fires, although they were exposed to the bitter winter winds that blew off the Russian steppes. Sanitation was poor, they lived on biscuits, but they kept at their task doggedly, although death from disease or enemy in a hurry to get uptown.

"Have you an order?" the employee in charge is reported to have queried. "That's all right, you know who I am," came back the mayor.

"It makes no difference; you'll have before I can give you any gasoline here," retorted the man in charge. Protests were of no avail and Mayor Wenke eventually journeyed across the space that intervenes between the garage and storekeeper's office. An order was subsequently obtained and the mayor received a few gallons of the valuable fluid.

At the commission office in the city hall to-day there is an interesting voucher. It reads: "Charge to Mayor Wenke of Sebastopol, and bears the signature of the storekeeper

BARRACKS TUITION A FEDERAL MATTER

Urban Trustees Would Make Ottawa Pay Education of Soldiers' Children.

APPLIES TO CITY OF LONDON PARTICULARLY

Resolution Passed To Eliminate Necessity of Trustees Resigning 10 Days Before Nomination As Alderman.

BRANTFORD, March 1.—The Ontario Urban School Trustees Association this morning passed two resolutions—one to eliminate the necessity of school trustees resigning 10 days before nomination for city councillor and one calling on the Dominion Government to pay full cost of education of soldiers' children whose parents were in barracks which paid no taxes.

An illustrated address on school architecture was given by W. W. Pearce, Toronto, at the meeting. He particularly referred to the Collingwood disaster, in which 173 children were burned to death. The plan was similar to those of dozens all over the country. He advocated the incorporation of the Philadelphia fire tower, which did away with the cutting off of a stairway by smoke. He commended the Plenum system of school ventilation; serious flaws in window ventilation were that in winter the windows were kept closed and humidity became high, the air being like a spongy, smothering moisture thrown off by the children.

By resolution of F. B. Edmunds, Toronto, the convention approved a change so that a school trustee desiring to run for city councillor would not have to resign as a trustee 10 days previous to the date of nomination. Some of the data was not known in time to allow the trustee time to resign.

The Dominion Government was asked to pay the full cost of children of soldiers in barracks which paid no local taxes. This particularly applies to London.

P. U. C. ESTIMATES SAME AS FOR 1922
Net Appropriation For Current Expenses \$54,000.

Estimates to be considered by the Utilities Commission at the regular semi-monthly meeting this afternoon.

GERMANY MAY HAVE COAL IF DUTY PAID

French Raise the Barrier Around the Ruhr a Little and Permit Export.

ESSEN, March 1.—The French and Belgians to-day lifted the barrier a little around the Ruhr and permitted coal from the occupied areas to be sent to Germany.

Exporters who take advantage of the new order of things must pay 40 per cent. duty to the French, however. This is explained as in keeping with Premier Poincaré's declaration that France seized the Ruhr to collect reparations.

THE WEATHER

FAIR AND MILD.
PROBABILITIES: Mostly cloudy and mild, Friday; southwest winds; generally fair and quite mild.

NOTES: Pressure is high over the southern portion of the United States and relatively low across the continent and off the Atlantic Coast. The weather has been mild in Ontario in the West and fair and moderate temperatures in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

TEMPERATURES: Victoria 44, 40, Fair; Calgary 63, 62, Fair; Winnipeg 40, 29, Cloudy; Port Arthur 34, 22, Cloudy; Sault Ste. Marie 31, 24, Cloudy; Toronto 33, 28, Cloudy; London 32, 29, Snow; Kingston 32, 29, Cloudy; Ottawa 32, 28, Fair; Montreal 29, 16, Snow; Quebec 24, 14, Cloudy; Father Point 20, 2, Cloudy; St. John 20, 16, Cloudy; Halifax 26, 4, Cloudy.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS: Steamer Arrived at From: Hesperus, Southampton, N. Y.; Carolina, Naples, N. Y.

SCHOOL BOARD TO PREPARE \$500,000 BUILDING BUDGET

Despite Mayor's Declaration That Council Will Refuse Appropriation.

SPECIAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES TO-MORROW

Current Expenditures of \$933,000 Will Have To Be Passed By Aldermen.

In spite of recent declarations by Mayor Wenke that he would not grant the necessary funds for any new school buildings this year, members of the Board of Education are preparing to hold a special meeting to-morrow afternoon, when a definite program of public and secondary school needs will be formulated and a committee appointed to prepare a budget for the City Council to do but advance the money, for according to those in touch with affairs, the School Act provides that in case the City Council refuses to grant necessary funds for current school needs, the Board of Education may instruct its officers to make application to any chartered bank for a sum sufficient large to meet such needs; all interest on such loan to be charged to the City Council and met out of the general tax fund.

At the present time, it will be pointed out at to-morrow's meeting, the board is paying out no less than \$8,000 for rental of buildings for secondary school purposes. This amount is chargeable to any chartered bank for a sum sufficient large to meet such needs; all interest on such loan to be charged to the City Council and met out of the general tax fund.

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TIME BOOKS FOR CIVIC EMPLOYEES

City Hall Workers Must Put Name Opposite Hour Work They Start and Leave.

Time books, which must be signed by every city hall employee on arrival at or leaving work, were installed in each office to-day. They were not on hand for the employees to sign in the morning but that was easily remedied. Each one signed when the book was at hand and rechecked the time of commencing work opposite his or her name. Thus some of those who started work at 8.45 signed their names first, while those who commenced at 8.15 were the last to put their names down.

WANT ROAD COMPLETED.

REGINA, March 1.—A resolution urging the Federal Government immediately to complete the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway was adopted without dissent in the Legislature yesterday.

Divorcee With Millions and Big Country Estate Decides To Wed Penniless Man 14 Years Her Junior

Mrs. Mellon, Who Gets Alimony of \$30,000 Annually, Obtains License To Wed Harvey A. Lee.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Mrs. Nora McMullen Mellon, divorced wife of Andrew Mellon, of Pittsburgh, secretary of the treasury, is to be married to Harvey Arthur Lee, 14 years her junior, and reputed little means. Her marriage license was secured yesterday.

Mrs. Mellon has not been before the public much since her appearance during the divorce proceedings, in 1912.

ALL POLICE BOARDS OR NONE TO BE ELECTIVE

LET US AMEND ACT, HE TELLS DELEGATION

Feeling Is Universal That Police Commissioners Should Be Elective.

BY W. ELLIOTT
Free Press Correspondent

TORONTO, March 1.—Ontario cities will not be allowed to inaugurate partly elective police commission, if Hon. W. E. Roney, can help it, save through general amendment of the law. The private bills committee of the Legislature, of which the attorney-general is chairman, turned down Brantford's request to-day, though Mr. Roney recognized the strength of the movement by saying that if an exception were made "we would be assailed from every point." The matter came up through a clause in the City of Brantford's present bill calling for a commission composed of the judge, police magistrate, mayor and two members elected annually.

"We told all applicants that we must not come here asking for special legislation," said the attorney-general, "and this is outside the provisions of the general law."

BRANTFORD'S EXPERIENCE
"In 1917," explained Mayor Billo, "it was moved that we try to get the elective police commission. An inquiry last year cost us nearly \$9,000, and which claim was not necessary had we been allowed an elective commission."

"But you've a good commission," suggested Mr. Roney. "I wouldn't like to say I'm on the side of the mayor. But we are looking to the future."

"Sarnia is asking for this very same thing," said J. M. Webster (West Lambton) "not pressing for that city alone, but for the general law."
"Mr. Roney—"Some people in Windsor are urging the same thing, and it is not at all desirable. On present conditions, Mr. Mayor, you have no argument at all."
"May I draw your attention to the fact the people voted on it 14 months ago and 85 per cent. were in favor."
"Mr. Roney—"That was because of their recollection of what had occurred."

Mayor Billo—"We think the same thing will recur. Other cities are in the same boat. We have in file at the city hall requests from about six different cities to help them along this line. The fact that we have been through this inquiry and taken a vote of the people puts us in a different position, and we thought we would be justified in advancing our case on these grounds. I think the City of Brantford would be quite willing to allow you to experiment on an elective commission."

BOTTLING FIRM TO LOCATE HERE

Green River Company Secures Factory On William Street.

CARE FOR THREE COUNTIES
Will Commence Manufacture Within a Few Days.

Negotiations have been practically completed for the opening of another industry in London, a plant of the Green River Bottling Company will shortly commence operations in the old Geeson factory on William street, near the G. T. R., which has been secured for this purpose. This will be one of four branches of this firm that will be opened in Ontario this spring. The parent company for Ontario will be in Toronto and other branches will be opened in central and eastern Ontario. The London factory will take care of Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin counties.

Woe Betide Erring Dealers Who Make Five Quarts of Milk Where Only Four Should Be!

Watered Milk Detected in Moment by New Machine of Local Health Authorities

Woe betide erring dealers who make five quarts of milk where only four should be! The mercury drops below the point where fair quality milk will freeze. For this machine tells the truth with exactitude. No half-truths satisfy it. If it says, "There's water in this here milk!" well, that's all there is to it. That is to say, more than the normal 80-odd per cent. of hydrogen and oxygen combined which forms the chief constituent of the fluid you pour over your oatmeal so it won't scratch on its way down.

Watering milk, long an object of suspicion in humorist and health circles, will be impossible in London from now on. The reason is that the Institute of Public Health has secured a machine which registers surplus water in the lactical fluid in unbelievably small quantities. Let a cow so much as weep in Western Canada, but up to the present it has not been introduced in Ontario. Representatives of the company which has taken over the manufacturing rights for Ontario have been in the city for several days completing arrangements. While the papers have not been actually signed tentative agreements have been made that will permit operations to be commenced in the William street factory. The building will be remodelled to suit the needs. Four large trucks will be placed in commission to supply the district. It is not definitely known yet how many employees will be needed. Mr. House, of Toronto, will have charge of the branch here. It will be opened as soon as the necessary changes to the building can be completed.

OVERCOME BY SMOKE AT PERRIN FACTORY

Head of Fire Department Carried Safely From Burning Building By Firemen.

SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS DAMAGE DONE

Principal Loss Caused By Water—Material Near Oven Started Blaze.

In a courageous effort to control an early-morning blaze which did several thousand dollars' damage to the factory of D. S. Perrin & Company, Fire Chief John Aitken was overcome by smoke. He was immediately removed to his home, where he will be confined for a few days.

The fire, which broke out shortly after 2 a. m., was a particularly hard one to fight and for a time threatened to destroy the entire Dundas street plant. Dense clouds of smoke from burning shortening made it almost impossible for the firemen to combat the flames at close quarters, but under the direction of their chief they did most effective work.

Only a very efficient fire protection system saved the factory from being badly gutted, not completely destroyed. As soon as the fire started in the fourth floor of the building four sprinklers automatically commenced to play streams of water upon the flames, and a warning bell sounded for the night watchman. The latter at once turned in an alarm to the fire department from a private box.

Incendiarism played no part in this blaze. It was due to material being placed too close to the hot brick walls of an oven catching on fire. Within a few minutes vast volumes of smoke were belching from the factory, which was driven back by the fumes, which were oily and suffocating. He collapsed, and had to be carried down stairs by his men.

It is regarded as very fortunate that the firemen were close on the heels of their chief, as otherwise he might have been suffocated before his absence was noticed.

T. W. McFarland, manager of the D. S. Perrin Company, informed The Free Press that the actual damage to the plant could not be estimated at present. It will run into several thousands of dollars, however, as large quantities of goods were damaged by smoke and water.

MANY SEE SUICIDE AT NIAGARA FALLS

Unknown Man Leaps Into Cataract After Throwing Money on Bank.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., March 1.—Throwing his money and papers on the bank, a man, believed to be a soldier from New York City, jumped over the American Falls at 1 o'clock to-day.

There were several eyewitnesses but his actions were so rapid that suicides could not be averted. Watchers are looking for the body.

WATERED MILK DETECTED IN MOMENT BY NEW MACHINE OF LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

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