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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS FOR YEAR FEWER THAN IN 1916

City's Vital Statistics Records Show Falling Off.

155 LESS BABIES IN 1917

December Records Show 103 Births and 47 Marriages.

The yetar 1917 saw a considerable slump in the number of births and marriages as compared with 1916. There was a falling off also in the number of deaths, but there is not such a great difference.

The births numbered 1,144, as compared with 1,299 for the previous year, a falling off of 155. The marriages totalled 551, or 105 less than in 1916. The deaths numbered 977, as compared with 990 last year.

There were 43 illegitimate births recorded, as compared with 37 during 1916. This is a trifle less than 4 per cent of the total number of births.

During the month of December there were 103 births. Of these 61 were boys and 42 girls. There was one illegitimate birth.

There were 47 marriages, slightly less than during Decemebr, 1916. The deaths were 57.

The month of December was rather hard on old people, 19 over 70 years of age passing away. This is just one-third the total deaths. There were five babies under one year who died. Pneumonia was responsible for 4 deaths, tuberculosis for 6, cancer for 2, diphtheria 2, and scarlet fever 1.

SALVATION ARMY'S WORK EXPLAINED TO CITY'S VOTERS

Book Tells of Salvaging of Human Lives.

A little illustrated booklet, entitled "Upcast," and giving some idea of the work of "salvaging human life," and saving and promoting the welfare of children through the Salvation Army Rescue Home in the past 28 years in London, has been sent out to the citizens in connection with an appeal to the electors to vote $6,000 on January 1 to a new building which has been necessitated to cope with the work.

The following is a quotation from "Upcast":

"No one knocking at the door has been refused admission, whatever the hour of the day or night. . . . What would have become of thousands of girls who have been unfortunate but for this open door? The first Salvation Army Rescue Home was opened because of the demand for rescue service. Again and again in the years of its history it has been necessary to find larger quarters and extend the scope of the work. With all the fervent desire to look after every case needing help, more cannot be taken in than the present building will accommodate. Many would be doomed to be lost right in sight of the harbor were not a plan evolved to increase accommodation and equipment. The city is being asked to contribute a share to this lifesaving work, as has been done in other cities—Winnipeg, for example. . . . Of all the numbers who have been cared for by this Salvation Army lifeboat, very, very few have slipped back into the depths again.

"Supposing scores of women and little children were wrecked out in Lake Erie, off Port Stanley, and could be rescued and brought safely into harbor on an expenditure of $6,000. Would the citizens of London be willing to vote that amount?"

Special emphasis is laid upon the child-saving and child-welfare side of the rescue home work, the saving of "the hope of the nation."

Among prominent physicians and other citizens who, having considered and investigated the needs of an adequate rescue home and maternity hospital in London, have given their signatures as heartily approving and indorsing the proposition of extending the present home and maternity hospital of the Salvation Army as the most feasible means of meeting the necessities of an urgent situation are: H. A. McCallum, M.D., R. Ferguson, M.D., Joseph Sanders, James Gray, C. R. Somerville, W. M. Gartshore, J. H. Chapman, A. W. White, E. S. Little and T. J. Murphy.

TO PREVENT THE GRIP.

Colds cause Grip—LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c. tf-z

LOWEST RECORD IN BUILDING IN SEVEN YEARS FOR LONDON

Year's Permits Totaled Only $837,160 for 1917.

The building permits for the month of December numbered 25 for a total of $33,860. This is about $15,000 more than for the same month last year.

For the year there were 842 permits for a total of $837,160, as compared with 1,034 permits in 1916, for a total of $926,125.

The total this year was the lowest in any year since 1910, due to war conditions.

"MESSIAH" TONIGHT.

The First Methodist Church should be crowded tonight to hear the annual performance of "The Messiah" which is to be given by the Musical Art Society Choir. This particular performance is notable in that Arthur Middleton, the leading bass of the Metropolitan Opera Company, has been engaged to sing the bass solos. As Mr. Middleton has one of the most remarkable voices in the world, no one should miss this opportunity to hear him. It would not have been possible to have engaged this great artist but for the fact that he is passing through the city on his return to New York. Mr. Middleton has sung "The Messiah" more than two hundred times, and his rendition of "Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage Together" has never been excelled. A surprise is in store for the audience when Mr. Frank Mellor of New York appears in the tenor part tonight. Mr. Mellor has that unusual and constantly-sought asset, a robust tenor voice of large volume, long range and beautiful quality, and his interpretation of this work will be long remembered. Miss Luta Laymon's friends are looking forward with pleasant anticipation to her appearance tonight after a period of study in Boston. London has produced no more popular contralto than this young artist. The following clipping from the Franklin News is of interest concerning the soprano soloist: "Mrs. Eileen Millett Low demonstrated beyond question that she ranks as one of the foremost oratorio singers in the country, and a great future awaits her in this line of work. Her voice has a sympathetic quality and charm and sweetness seldom heard, and she performed the most difficult numbers with an ease and facility truly remarkable There is a certain conscientiousness about Mrs. Low's work which is characteristic of all true artists.

The church will be opened at 7:30, and the performance will begin at 8 o'clock.

$400 MORE TODAY IN LIQUOR FINES AT POLICE COURT

Bottles Found on Prisoners Bring Usual Sentences.

MOTHER'S PITIFUL CASE

Declares Son, Charged Under O. Temperance Act, Driving Her Crazy.

"He has had me nearly crazy. Take those bottles and throw them away," declared the aged and infirm Mrs. Laidley, of 38 Garfield avenue, when she was asked to go bail for her strapping big son, Harry, when he was charged in the police court today with a breach of the Ontario temperance act. The bottles which she pointed to were those taken off other prisoners. They had not been found on her son. Evidently it was her hatred for the sight of liquor which led to her imperative order to the police.

"Better have him remanded; we don't want this poor woman to go out of her mind," suggested the court.

Mrs. Laidley is bent with age. Her son was in the court before on a similar charge. His mother then went bail for him. Later he paid the heavy fine imposed. When he was charged with a breach of the temperance act this morning he pleaded not guilty. He asked a delay that he might engage counsel. When he was taken into custody a bottle, similar to the containers of cough medicine was found in his possession.

"Do you dispute the charge that this is liquor in this bottle?" Mr. Fisher asked him.

The prisoner said that he did. Mr. Fisher then asked that the case be laid over until Thursday, so that the contents may be analyzed.

The accused asked for bail. He pointed to his mother, who sat in the court as bondsman. Chief Williams asked her if she would go her son's bond. She replied, "No."

The son will start the year 1918 in Carter's insecure house of detention.

$200 Fine Imposed.

A traveler was found guilty of a breach of the Ontario temperance act on his own evidence. He pleaded not guilty to the charge. He was mulcted to the tune of $200 and costs, with the alternative of the usual three months.

The traveler said that he had been ordered by his doctor to use whiskey. He had intended to leave the city today by auto. On Saturday he had taken a bottle of whiskey to his auto and left it there, so that he would have it on starting his trip. Later he changed his mind. He decided that he would stay in the city until New Year's day and vote. For fear that in the meantime someone might purloin his bottle he came up town late last night to take it home. He had one drink before leaving home. Patrolman Brammer said that he was attracted to the accused by seeing him stagger on the street. He halted him and discovered the bottle in his pocket.

The prisoner seemed surprised when the magistrate told him that it was illegal for him to have the liquor in his auto. It was also illegal for him to have it on the street under the circumstances related. He had no alternative but to impose the fine as provided by the act.

Drunk Charge Dropped.

Amos Watson was halted by a policeman on the corner of King and Lyle streets. A charge of drunkenness that was preferred against the accused, explains this. The officer, however, found that Watson had a partly consumed bottle of red eye in his pocket. The drunkenness charge was dropped when he pleaded guilty to a violation of the temperance act. The court suggested that he might have some possible explanation of how he came to have the liquor. None was forthcoming and the fine went on.

Information For the Lady Voters

Board of Education One Important Body—Vote for Edwin Smith.

More than 4,300 women are entitled, for the first time in London's history, to exercise balloting privileges in the civic elections on New Year's Day.

These ladies include all, whether married or single, and without any distinction as to classes, who are either owners, tenants or persons paying income tax. Married women share with their husbands their ballot privileges, providing they are joint owners or joint tenants.

These ladies need have no fear of awkward or embarrassing formula at the polling stations. They will simply be handed ballot papers and sent behind a screen, where they may record their wishes. Then, folding the ballot papers, they return them to the officer in charge.

The ladies have a particular responsibility in relations to the school board, and it is their duty to see that the proper men are sent to safeguard the interests of their children. There will be a ballot for each civic body. Pick the men and place an "X" beside the names of those for whom you wish to vote. For example, six men are to be elected for the Board of Education. One of the men for whom the ladies should vote is Edwin Smith, city traveler and director of the T. B. Escott Company, Limited.

Here is the manner in which his name appears on the ballot, showing where you should place the "X" to elect him: SMITH, EDWIN, 582 Dufferin Ave. City Traveler.—Advt. X

Sweet Potatoes Too, Joining Race For "Highest Prices"

New American Edict Against Importation Will Have Local Effect.

An addition to the large number of edibles which have soared to heights unsurpassed in monetary value will be that of the sweet potato, according to information of local wholesale fruit and vegetable men today. The announcement that sweet tubers will not be allowed importation to the United States, owing to a plague which has seized the vegetables, was received by fruit dealers of the city as an indication that prices will ascend sky high for the spring.

According to latest dispatches sweet potatoes are suffering from attack by a disease not unlike measles in its symptoms and effect. Potato scarabers and weevils are at present ravaging the vegetables in Hawaii and Porto Rico, and owing to this the quantity distributed throughout the continent will be limited next year, say vegetable dealers

Local vegetable firms have not imported sweet potatoes for some months, as the demand during the winter is generally poor. The prevailing prices of the past summer ranged from $3 to $3.50 per 40 pounds, which is practically three times the value of the ordinary potato. Next season, however, sweet potatoes will ascend still higher, and a price as high as $5 to $6 is expected to be reached.

ROAST GOOSE DINNER TODAY. SPECIAL 40c

Store Closes at 6 o'Clock Tonight

TOMORROW (NEW YEAR'S DAY) STORE WILL BE CLOSED.

1917 1918

Everybody at Our Place
Wishes Everybody at Your Place
A Happy & Prosperous New Year

SMALLMAN & INGRAM LIMITED

January White Sale

Begins Wednesday, January 2nd

See announcement in tomorrow's paper.

EVANGELIST OPENS FIVE WEEKS' SERVICE IN ASKIN ST. CHURCH

First Meeting Held in Campaign Sunday Night.

The evangelistical campaign at the Askin Street Methodist Church, opened last night when a large audience heard the address of E. D. Johnson, who will conduct the services for the ensuing five weeks. Mr. Johnson, who, although born in this district, has been conducting evangelistical campaigns throughout the United States for the past ten years, delivered an address on "Hindrances to Christian Work."

Men who are desirous of doing good Christian work will always encounter tremendous difficulties, Mr. Johnson declared in the course of his sermon. It is extremely discouraging for one who earnestly and conscientiously endeavors to do good work to find that his efforts are not appreciated. For this reason the man who adheres to evangelism in spite of the evil forces against his work should be specially commended.

There are numerous forces which must be combated by a clergyman if he is to gain the respect of his flock. Unforgiving spirits are rampant in the life of clergymen and preachers of the word of God. Criticism and fault-finding are among the minor forces which tend to worry and discourage young disciples of God. In all Christian life pride, fear and indifference play a prominent part in the fight to carry on the work of ministering to spiritual needs of those in trouble.

Referring to his plan of campaign, Mr Johnson invited all churches of the city to participate in the work of evangelistic revival.

Mrs. Johnson and Miss Lydia Huntley accompanied Mr. Johnson to London. Mrs. Johnson is in charge of the work among the women during the campaign, while Miss Huntley will work in connection with the girls of Askin Street Church.

Prof. Ray Swartzbaugh of Detroit will be in charge of the music at part of the campaign. Revival meetings will be held every night except Saturdays.

EASTERN STAR LODGE INSTALLS OFFICERS

Installation of officers in Forest City Chapter, No. 13, Order Eastern Star, was held in the Alma Block Building.

Bro. E. T. Essery, past patron of Forest City Chapter and worthy grand patron of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, was installing officer, assisted by Sister Mary Phillips as grand marshal.

The following officers were installed for 1918: Mrs. Ida Mills, worthy matron; J. W. Wallace, worthy patron; Mrs. Annie Tullett, associate matron; Mrs. Veda M. Stewart, secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, treasurer; Mrs. J. R. Staples, conductor; Mrs. J. W. Wallace, associate conductor; Mrs. Ashton, chaplain; Mrs. E. Cousins, 1 point; Mrs. Bertha Linnell, 2 point; Mrs. C. Connor, 3 point; Miss Ida Drake, 4 point; Mrs. May Borland, 5 point; Mrs. Rowed, marshal; Mrs. M. Phillips, warden; Mrs. Ida Howey, sentinel; Mrs. Hertel, organist; J. R. Staples, trustee for 3 years; E. Cousins, trustee for 2 years.

The retiring officers entertained to a luncheon at the close.

Reliance Garage
Ford
Service Station

FOUR LONDONERS IN 18 RECRUITS SIGNED ON HERE SATURDAY

Seven Men Are Also Sent for Examination by Registrar.

Fourteen recruits obtained by the British and Canadian Mission in the United States in addition to four Londoners kept the medical board at the armories busy on Saturday. No men were apprehended, and none surrendered. None reported for service. The deputy registrar sent seven men to be examined. Four were in category A, fit for combatant service overseas; one was in category B, fit for noncombatant service overseas, and two were in category E, unfit.

The recruits were: D. Bell, Ireland, Detroit, Forestry; H. Breakspeare, England, London, 7th Regiment Details; R. Trousil, Bohemia, Cleveland, 7th Regiment Details; S. Young, Scotland, Cleveland, Engineers; N. E. Nelson, England, Cleveland, W. O. R.; P. A. Nunan, Australia, Flint, W. O. R.; T. L. Webster, England, Detroit, W. O. R.; W. R. Watkinson, England, Grand Rapids, W. O. R.; J. C. Burwell, Canada, Saginaw, W. O. R.; F. Rimmon, Canada, Cleveland, W. O. R.; J. Lounsbury, Canada, Cleveland, W. O. R.; C. M. Lightfoot, England, Cleveland, W. O. R.; J. H. Lightfoot, England, Cleveland, W. O. R.; J. A. Wilson, England, Cleveland, W. O. R.; W. R. Pierce, U. S. A., London, W. O. R.; J. E. Whalen, Canada, London, W. O. R.; A. J. Pyke, England, London, W. O. R.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

OLD BYLAWS NEED ATTENTION.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

There are in London about fifty taxi owners and livery men, who are not (and cannot) obeying the law of our city which gives the charges to be made by cabs and taxis. Some of them have been summoned before the police magistrate, and his advice was to try and procure a new bylaw, which they certainly tried to do. Has anything been done? We have not heard of it. Why the delay? Would someone kindly tell us the year this bylaw was made, and the date it was changed from all horse-drawn vehicles, and the word "cab" substituted. The police say 35 years. We would thank you, Mr. Editor of The Advertiser, if you would look this up for us, and pray, why should we have such a bylaw? Are there not some dishonest people in every business, and should not all other businesses be governed and controlled by bylaws that affect the profits of the livery and taxi men? We want to elect a mayor who would see that such ancient rules and bylaws are renovated to suit present conditions and clean up these old relics, as we are anxious to be law-abiding citizens. After bringing this matter to Mayor Stevenson's attention, and having no results, let us see to it tomorrow that C. R. Somerville is elected for our next mayor. He is a man of sterling qualities, and we can depend that these old, unreasonable bylaws will receive his attention. Yours sincerely,

A TAXI OWNER.

London, Dec. 31.

BRANTFORD GETS COAL, BUT IT QUICKLY GOES

Brantford, Dec. 31.—Five carloads of coal arrived in the city over Sunday, but the demand was so great that the civic orders issued this morning soon exhausted it. The distributing office was crowded to the doors all morning. The keen weather has resulted in the depletion of many householders' supplies.

BELGIANS STRIPPED BARE OF FOODSTUFFS

Civilians in Occupied Territory Are Harshly Dealt With.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.—A statement issued through the Belgian official information service indicates that the German authorities in Belgium are dealing bitter harshness to the civilian population of the occupied territory, stripping the country of food necessities and metals.

The statement reads: "News leaking through Holland shows that the Belgians are being literally stripped bare by German requisitions extending to the most necessary requisites of life. Large bodies of troops are being rushed to the Flanders front, and on their way they seize cows, milk and eggs, articles which were already so scarce in Belgium that they were practically reserved for children and invalids.

BIG BUSH FIRES.

London, Dec. 31.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency. A Sydney dispatch says the biggest bush fire recorded in the hay district has been burning for days on a 50-mile front, heavily destroying crops, fencing and grass. Other fires are reported in the Wagga Forbes district.

FURS at manufacturers' prices. We make all our furs right in our factory. That's the reason for our remarkable prices. Pay us a visit.

B. SHAPIRO

Successors Western Fur Company. 324 Dundas. Open Evenings. Opposite Armories. zxv

END INDIGESTION OR STOMACH PAIN IN FIVE MINUTES

"Pape's Diapepsin" makes sick, sour, gassy stomachs feel fine.

Time it! In five minutes your sour, acid stomach feels fine. No indigestion, heartburn, or belching of gas, or eructations of undigested food, no dizziness, bloating, foul breath or headache.

Pape's Diapepsin is noted for its speed in sweetening upset stomachs. It is the surest, quickest and most certain stomach antacid in the whole world, and besides, it is harmless.

Millions of men and women now eat their favorite foods without fear—they know Pape's Diapepsin will save them from such misery.

Please, for your sake, get a large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin from any drug store and put your stomach right. Don't keep on being miserable—life is too short—you are not here long, so make your stay agreeable. Eat what you like and enjoy it, without dread of acid fermentation in the stomach.

Pape's Diapepsin belongs in your home anyway. Should one of the family eat something which don't agree with them, or in case of an attack of indigestion, dyspepsia, gastritis or stomach derangement due to fermentation and acidity, at daytime or during the night, it is handy to give the quickest, surest relief known.