

London, Especially Its Husbands, In Rage Over Great Game of Bridge

Thousands in City Spend Innumerable Hours at Cards—Husbands Rave as Women Find It Hard To Desert Game to Prepare Supper.

It's all the rage in Paris. Everyone hears the trite phrase spoken between seasons. Paris is always "raging" about something. Let's consider London for a change.

Ask local ladies "What's the rage?" and after proper deliberation necessitated by the seriousness of the question, they will answer "bridge."

Verily, the royal and ancient game has taken the city by storm. If you have been invited into a siege with married couples you will know this to be particularly true. "Stormy" isn't the word for it, as Ring Lardner would say.

"Bridge is London's pastime. The aggregate number of hours spent by Londoners at the honorable game makes the life of Methuselah seem but a fleeting minute. It's all the rage, and it makes people rage.

These statements may be substantiated by almost any married man who, returning home from work, amuses himself by tearing out his hair and scattering it around the drawing-room, while waiting for his wife to return from her afternoon bridge, and make ready the evening supper. Or they can be vouched for by local book stores who report a tremendous increase in demand for playing cards.

STOCK JUDGING CONTEST STAGED AT INGERSOLL

Middlesex Team Competes With Five Other County Representatives For Prize.

A short three-day course in hog judging and swine raising and breeding, under the auspices of the Dominion department of agriculture and the Canadian Packers' Association, will begin in Ingersoll today, when the following stock judging team, representing Middlesex, will take part: Kenneth Rath, Mossley; R. W. Kernahan, Wilton Grove; Harold Wagner, Mossley; Arthur Ward, Stratford; Edward Mitchell, Denbigh; Harold Pack, Byron; Emerson Hodgson, Appin; John Laidlaw, Wilton Grove, and Ross Sadler, Lambeth.

Prizes will be given to the teams having the best scores and also to the best individual members of the teams.

Six counties will be represented in these competitions, and there will be similar competitions in various parts of the province during the winter.

BASES HIS SERMON ON STRANGE FIGHT

Rev. G. A. Leichter Preaches on "The Men Who Fought With Bottles."

The sermon which the Rev. G. A. Leichter of the Adelaide Street Baptist Church had entitled "The Men Who Fought With Bottles," proved to be based on the story of the battle between Gideon and the Midianites, a conflict that he described as the struggle in all history, and one that proved conclusively the power of the Lord to achieve his ends, even when armed with the poorest of equipment.

The story itself tells of the reduction of Gideon's army at the direct command of God, of the 20,000 who were allowed to go to their homes, because they were wanting in courage, of the 3,000 who were rejected on account of their peculiarity of drinking with their lips in the stream, and of the final three hundred who were chosen to follow Gideon to victory.

Mr. Leichter justified his choice of title, when in reading the description of the weapons of this force, he mentioned that they were armed with trumpets, and bottles containing lamps.

Graphically he pictured the steps taken by the three hundred as they stole down to the camp of the Midianites, how they blew on their trumpets, how they broke the bottles, exposing all the lamps, and how they were able to overcome the enemy who fled in wild terror and running amuck in their fear, turned their swords against each other, adding to the completeness of their rout.

Gideon and his three hundred heroes, and his great battle cry, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon," were a match for the 120,000 Midianites who opposed them. The salient features of this historical story were emphasized. The absolute independence of God of any human or material force, the value of a bold leader, whose faith in his Creator was supreme, and the enormous gains that lay within the power of a few brave men who followed faithfully in the steps of their captains.

Today, he declared, was the day of great machinery, and vast progress in the world of mechanics. Never had there been a time when we were so strong in all these things, and yet so weak in the spiritual. We must watch carefully lest in the vain glory of our material power, we forget the real gift of victory that lay in the aid that God alone could give.

TOWN OF SPRINGHILL, N.S. THREATENED BY FLAMES

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 18.—A telephone message received from Springhill, N. S., stated that the business section of that town is being menaced by a fire which broke out at 8:15 a.m. At 9:45 the Royal Bank building and the adjacent store were a mass of flames, and the fire was threatening other premises.

News From City Churches

CRADLE ROLL HOLDS PARTY.

Children of the Primary, Beginners' and Cradle Roll departments of the Osborne Street Methodist Sunday school, enjoyed a Christmas party in the school room. A large number of mothers were present and were entertained with a program of choruses, piano, vocal and violin solos, dialogues and recitations, given in a creditable manner by the little folks. Refreshments were served and many donations of fruit, candy and toys were brought by the children for the kiddies at the Day Nursery.

Miss Gith and Miss H. Powell, superintendents of these departments, and their assistants, Mrs. Craig, Miss Kilpatrick, Mrs. Allen and Miss Elliott, had charge of the party. Rev. Judson Kelly acted as chairman in a most genial manner.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

EVERYBODY'S "SPYING" TODAY

EVERYBODY'S "spying." Why not you, too? Keep your eyes open for news and win a one-dollar bill. It's news that is wanted; something you see, not a funny conversation or an old joke.

A crisp one-dollar bill awaits "F. G. B." the winner today. On Adelaide street, a "Detroit" car, tied with a very heavy rope to a telephone pole, "Safety first" must be their motto there.—F. G. B.

A number of houses around town with fly screens and screen doors still attached. "Are we expecting an Indian summer yet, or an early hatch of spring flies?"—B.R.N.

GOES OUT TO CHINA TO RESCUE SOULS

Rev. Ernest Davis Preaches Farewell Sermon at Talbot Street Church.

Prior to leaving for China, where he will engage in missionary work, Rev. Ernest Davis delivered a farewell message in Talbot Street Baptist Church on Sunday morning. "Some men and women in the last few days," remarked Mr. Davis, "have sought to sympathize with me in the work to which I have been called. They seem to think that I am going to China to preach the gospel of redeeming love. I have not accepted their sympathy, because the work to which the Lord has called me is the greatest in the world."

In another portion of his address, Mr. Davis referred to his future work, saying: "The value of a human soul, whether it be that of a Japanese or a Chinaman, may be indicated by the price that the Lord was willing to pay for its redemption, and the value we put on it may be judged by the effort we make to save these souls. If, by going out to China, and spending my life there, there may be found around the great white throne just one more Chinese soul, saved and glorified, then shall our work there not have been in vain, but abundantly worth while."

The speaker recounted various ways in which God, in times past and now, reveals himself to his children, drawing attention to the conception of Paul when he said: "I certify to you, brethren, that the gospel I preach to you is not of man." The great work was the mission of Christ to the people. Using a local application, there may be plenty of water in the reservoir on the hill at Springbank, and it may be very good, but it will never be of any use to the people of London until it is brought here. In the same way, it is the mission of his followers today, to bring the grace of God to the men and women who need it.

ARRANGE BANQUET OF TRAVELING MEN

Ontario Commercial Travelers Will Hold Annual Gathering Thursday Next.

The annual banquet of the Ontario Commercial Travelers' Association will be held on Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Tecumseh House. Tickets are limited to 225.

The following committees have been appointed to arrange the details: Speakers' committee, J. Hanah; music, A. E. Barbour; refreshments, A. A. Morrison; printing, A. J. Smith; tickets, J. H. Grierson; publicity, J. H. Laughton; treasurer, F. E. Harley; secretary, George Hair. Some very prominent speakers will be present.

The object of the banquet is to bring the members together to exchange ideas, all the while having a good time. It is expected that many former officers will be on hand, as a special effort is being made to get them out.

Seats have already been reserved for delegations from Hamilton, Windsor, Toronto, Brantford, Woodstock, St. Thomas, Chatham and Stratford.

WANT RESTORATION OF WAGE REDUCTION

Two Retiring Members of the Council Will Take Action at Tonight's Meeting.

Two members of the retiring city council at the last regular session tonight will move for the restoration of such wage reductions as they state were instituted last spring, affecting street cleaners and sewer workers.

This follows the move by the members of the finance committee, who have recommended similar action with respect to the civic garbage workers.

The councillors will also consider a resolution that a certain gratuity be tendered Andrew Dale, who this month terminates his activities as city auditor, commenced back in the 80's.

The municipal wage issue dates back to the early part of the year when Mayor Wilson introduced his policy of retrenchment with a proposed 10 per cent salary reduction to extend to all city employees.

He encountered bitter opposition in many quarters and overnight became a popular target for criticism, with the school trustees enacting a leading role. It is expected that the retiring councillors will "clean up" the entire deal tonight.

Were You Ever a Bad Boy? Read This And Remember

One Collects Three Prize Bags at Entertainment, One Loses Himself in Toytown, While the Third Swallows Copper.

Christmas, with its many mysterious promises of joys, lends to the adventurous spirits of children a reckless abandon. So it was proven by the experiences of three tobs observed casually during the week-end.

Boy number one was observed at a Christmas entertainment. He took part in a class song, but his big part was yet to come when Santa Claus appeared.

Word arrived that the jolly old soul from the north would be on hand in half an hour. One of his reindeer had shed a shoe or a horn or something, and there was a slight delay. But finally he arrived, and proceeded to hand out those memorable net bags with candy in one end and a popcorn ball in the other.

The lad was on hand bright and early, and secured bag No. 1. Circling around, he went down the aisle and the other children, who had been more looked on in the eye, and once more drew a bag that was supposed to

look like a young stocking. Three times in all he made the circuit and scored each round.

The second lad left home at one o'clock Saturday afternoon to look for Santa Claus. In a few weeks he will be a whole seven years old. At eight o'clock Saturday night his parents had phoned the police station and all the hospitals, only to find that, if he had been lost or seriously hurt, no one had word of it yet. Then the parents started out on a search.

The father had a few ideas and invaded toytown in a local store, where the son and heir was discovered sitting alongside a pile of blocks, which he was building up to his heart's content. He wasn't aware that it was past supper-time. There were signs of relief when he was landed home.

Number three, as small boys will, put a Yankee copper in his moutr, and down it went. Parents phoned the doctor and poked fingers down his throat. Doctor said lots of castor oil and plenty of bread. At last reports the lad was all right and thriving on the diet.

Hays Refuses To Assume Control Of Movie Colony Drug Situation

Special to The Advertiser. Los Angeles, Dec. 18.—Will H. Hays today declared he will not assume control of the narcotic situation in Hollywood, but will co-operate with the state and federal authorities "in case they call on me."

"I am not the arbiter of Hollywood's morals," Hays again emphasized. "My mission is not to mete out punishment or to act in a judicial capacity, but to work constructively to remove the motion picture industry until it is sound to the core, and in serving the public to the utmost of its artistic and educational capacity."

"As for Wallace Reid my sympathies and the sympathies of all good people are with him."

Reid is recovering from a Hollywood sanatorium from a physical breakdown, according to Dorothy Davenport, Reid's film star wife, and her mother. They declare they blame "Wally's" fair weather friends, who made his home a "road house," and heavy work he was forced to undergo, for his plight.

Obituaries

MISS E. L. THOMPSON. The death of Miss E. L. Thompson occurred at the home of her sister, Mrs. E. A. Wilson, 24 Raymond avenue, Broughdale, Dec. 15. Miss Thompson was in her 59th year, and leaves two sisters, Mrs. A. E. Wilson and Mrs. C. Sterling, of the city, and one brother, Harry of Montreal.

The funeral was held from the above address, Sunday, to Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and the interment services were conducted by Rev. Canon Richardson and Rev. Stanley Cree.

MRS. WM. BELL. Mrs. Margaret Bell, widow of the late William Bell, died at her home, 246 Wellington street, Sunday, in her 87th year. Mrs. Bell had been a resident of London for the past 15 years. She is survived by seven daughters: Mrs. W. J. Duncan, Mrs. O. Broderick and Mrs. G. Jackson, of this city; Mrs. G. Hattrel, Pigeon, Mich.; Mrs. L. Henderson, Washburn, Wis.; Mrs. O. Rowell, Exeter, and Mrs. Dunne, Victoria, B. C.

The body will be forwarded to Exeter today on the 4:40 p.m. train, and the funeral, which will be private, will be held tomorrow from the home of her daughter, Mrs. O. Rowell, to Exeter Cemetery. Rev. Canon Gunne will conduct the services.

WEDDING BELLS

MCGEOCH-WOOLLEY. The Church of St. John the Evangelist was the scene of a pretty wedding Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock, when Helen Josephine Woolley, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woolley, was married to William Alwin McGeoch, of Walkerville, son of Mr. and Mrs. William McGeoch of this city.

Palms and ferns and clusters of white "mums" were banded on the chancel steps, making a pretty setting for the bride, who wore a smart suit of navy blue marline cloth, with gray fox collar, and a small gray panne velvet hat. Her gloves, shoes and veil were also gray to match.

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SEEKS SON WHO GOT LOW MARK IN COLLEGE

New York, Dec. 18.—Harry Moses, a clothing manufacturer, living in the Bronx, asked the police of the missing person bureau Saturday to search for his son, Milton Moses, 13 years old, who has been missing since Dec. 8. Mr. Moses said that he believed his son was depressed because he had received a low mark in mathematics at the College of the City of New York.



Christmas Thoughts

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Ashplants

THE LONDON AND Middlesex Historical Society

Historical Society will meet on Tuesday evening of this week in the public library. An address will be given by W. E. Saunders on the Canadian painter of birds, Pope, whose collected work is in the Toronto public library. There will also be some further material presented in continuation of the paper that was given at the last meeting of the society by Dr. A. O. Jeffery on banking in London in the earlier days. The meeting of the society is open to the public.

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