

# CITY PAID 86 PER CENT. MAYOR'S SALARY, BUT HAD TO SAY "FIRING"

## Members Would Like Explanation From U. F. O. Government For Action.

After 30 years' service and no pension given, the host of Minnie Harris will dog government," says Alderman Drake.

Whatever reasons may have prompted Mr. Graham in discharging Miss Harris, who, for 34 years served as matron of the county jail, members of the London City Council are pressing to demand an explanation in view of the fact that the city, according to Mayor Wilson, pays about 86 per cent of the maintenance cost of that institution. Miss Harris was given notice on March 29, she was told to leave by to-day, April 1. Mayor Wilson expressed his profound surprise on being informed that Miss Harris had been summarily discharged. And while in the discharge of Deputy Sheriff Waterworth, the city was informed that its sole interest in the administration of the jail was the payment of over 80 per cent of maintenance costs, the mayor and aldermen feel that even the most ardent partisans that the system in force is not justly tenable.

"It is a crying shame," Ald. Drake says, with regard to the discharge of a woman employee of 34 years' service, who has worked in the interest of women prisoners for over a third of a century. "It only goes to show, what rotten government we have." Mr. Drake continued, "to have a woman fired out of her job after giving practically all of her life. The political host of Minnie Harris will dog the U. F. O. out of existence."

"I don't know what reasons they give for discharging her. There may have been some reasons, but I will not take more than one page of support to make citizens believe that gross act of injustice has not been perpetrated."

"All they want London to do is to pay the bill. We pay 86 per cent of the costs of the county jail and we have to say as to how it shall be run, as we have in the running of the American consulate in this city."

"We should have a county building commission, consisting of a board appointed from the city and county. On this commission the city should at least have as many members as the county. We have a right to know what is done there, we pay for it. We have a right to say who will be discharged and why. As it is, we are all in the dark."

Ald. Ashton, however, refused to say any comment on the matter. "I am not in full possession of the facts," he stated, "until then I will not make any statement."

## MALE HOLIDAY FOR LORD BYNG'S VISIT

Thursday, April 15, is proclaimed by Mayor.

In honor of the visit of their Excellencies, General the Right Honorable Lord Byng, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.O., and Lady Byng, of Vimy, on Friday, April 15, a half holiday has been declared on that date by Mayor Wilson with the approval of the City Council. All citizens are called upon to decorate their residences and offices with flags and bunting and to give the Governor-General of Canada and Lady Byng a royal welcome.

The city buildings will be well decorated with flags and bunting and a gala day as a whole will be presented to the honor of the visit of their Excellencies, General the Right Honorable Lord Byng, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.O., and Lady Byng, of Vimy, on Friday, April 15, a half holiday has been declared on that date by Mayor Wilson with the approval of the City Council. All citizens are called upon to decorate their residences and offices with flags and bunting and to give the Governor-General of Canada and Lady Byng a royal welcome.

# NATION WIDE COAL STRIKE IS IN EFFECT

## Every Union Coal Mine in United States Will Be Idle To-Day

### STOCKS ON HAND ARE LARGEST EVER KNOWN

#### Vanguard of 526,000 Union Miners Called Out Laid Down Tools Early Last Night

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 31.—The vanguard of 526,000 union coal miners stood upon their tools at midnight last night when they laid down their tools and leaving the mines in both bituminous and anthracite fields early to-night, according to reports received at United Mine Workers' headquarters here.

The first announcement that union miners were heading the strike call came from Ohio, where, according to figures given out at headquarters here 17,800 men in 14 mines in Harrison, Jefferson and Belmont counties quit work.

This announcement was followed by reports that bituminous and anthracite miners in the Denna fields were laying down their tools. It was reported that no available figures. It was also announced that a large number of union miners in the West Virginia fields had gone out.

Despite reports of breaks in union ranks from Western Kentucky and several other fields, mine union officials are confident that virtually every union mine in the country will shut down at midnight.

## LABOR MEN AFTER ALD. J. ASHTON

### Colbert Refuses To Sign Conciliation Board Papers.

President Colbert, acting with the approval of the majority of the other members of the executive committee of the London Street Railway Men's Union, has refused to sign the papers asking for a board of conciliation until Ald. Ashton has cleared himself on charges that he has been working for a 10 per cent. reduction of the wages of civic employees. Mr. Colbert stated that the papers would be sent away the next day, but after further consideration he refused to sign the application.

## HEWITT FAILS TO APPEAR IN COURT

### Charged With Breach O. T. A., Reported To Have Decamped.

Allan Hewitt, for whom a warrant was issued yesterday, failed to appear in police court to-day to answer the charge against him of a breach of the O. T. A. Albert Judd, his counsel, did not believe that his client had left the city, although this was the inference taken by the court. If he is apprehended he will be tried next week.

## LOCAL ELEVATOR STOPS BETWEEN TWO FLOORS

Riding in an elevator may be oddities of fun for those who like it and also a thing which one can get out when one wants to, but there was no laughter attached to the sky-bus which runs every so often in the Bank of Toronto building, at the corner of King and Richmond streets yesterday afternoon when, just as the car reached a section directly between the third and fourth floors, a lady, two gentlemen and the driver, the power decided to lay off and the car was left stranded in mid-air. After quite an amount of advice from office-holders in the building as to how to behave and desiring to know where the inmates of cage would rest for the night, the janitor happened along and, after a 15-minute stretch of twisting and hauling of the cable in the basement, the car was landed at the third floor and the passengers released from their temporary prison.

# FORD MAKES NEW OFFER SHOWS PLAN

## Includes Building of Huge Reservoir to Increase the Available Power at Muscle Shoals

### ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER THE CAPACITY AIMED AT

#### Will Ask U. S. Congress for Appropriation of Money for Surveys of Project

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31.—(Special to The Free Press).—Henry Ford on Friday submitted to the Government an amended plan for the acquisition of the great nitrate plants and water power project at Muscle Shoals. The new offer includes the building of a huge storage reservoir in East Tennessee to provide a large amount of electric energy at sites of the storage dams to increase the power at Muscle Shoals and other dams in the middle section of the Tennessee River.

## FORGE KING TO REAL ECONOMY

### Conservatives and Progressives Unite To Cut Estimates.

#### MURDOCK UNDER FIRE

By W. E. ELLIOTT.  
Free Press Staff Correspondent.

OTTAWA, March 31.—A real stop to the economy Federal expenditure was taken to-night which will result after long debate, cut \$15,000 from the estimates of the labor department, D. D. Murdock, who has been initiated by the Government, but taken on a motion by Hon. H. H. Stevens, Conservative (Vanocour), and the vote resulted in a cut of \$15,000 from the estimates. The House has agreed to the cut.

## EXPECT DROP IN FREIGHT VOLUME

### Grand Trunk Foresees Big Slump In Coal Traffic.

Although no direct decrease in the freight traffic has yet been felt by the Grand Trunk, as a result of the strike of the coal miners in the United States, divisional officials stated to-day, it is expected that the movement of coal will fall off materially in the next few weeks if the coal workers continue to remain idle.

## OHIOAN KILLS WIFE; SAYS HE WAS DREAMING

MIDDLETOWN, O., April 1.—While his wife was lying in bed asleep Ambrose Watts, aged 33, who claims to have been dreaming, shot her through the head on Friday morning. Watts told the police that the report of the shot awakened him and he found his wife dead at his side.

# MILES MORE OF WIRE FELL IN CITY AND DISTRICT AS RESULT OF THE WIND AND RAIN LAST EVENING

## No Expectation of Light Power To-Day—Lines Near Niagara.

### COMMUNICATION CUT OFF FOR HOURS WITH OUT

#### Telephone Company Threatens With Cutting Off Service, Secures Electric Power.

The situation which has developed in London and district following the storm of Thursday and the wind and rainstorm yesterday afternoon and last night is without precedent in Western Ontario. The district is without hydro service, without long distance telephone service and in order to reach Toronto by telegraph, messages have to be relayed via Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo. All other telegraph services are temporarily out of commission.

## CITIZENS PAY TRIBUTE TO COURAGE OF MAYOR IN CUTTING TAX RATE

### Men in Factories and Stores Will Be Benefited, Says T. F. Kingsmill.

#### DONE MAGNIFICENTLY, SAYS MAJOR INGRAM

##### City Must Economize, Says James Gray, of Hospital Trust.

"Mayor Wilson is a marvelous man," said Mr. Kingsmill. "It took a great deal of courage to do what he has accomplished. It is especially remarkable that one of his age had sufficient courage to undertake a campaign of economy at this time. It is always easy to increase salaries, but it is infinitely harder to cut down salaries."

## TEACHERS GO ON TOUR AT EASTER

### Party of Londoners Will Visit United States Cities.

A party of London school teachers and their friends, numbering 60 in all, will employ their Easter holidays in making a tour of the United States. The party will go first to New York, then to Philadelphia and finally to Washington, from which point they will return to London.

## Western Ontario In Chaos; Weeks of Work Necessary To Repair Storm Dam

### Towns and Cities Completely Isolated by One of Worst Storms in History.

ST. THOMAS, March 31.—(By Staff Reporter.)—This city to-night entered on its second day in the grip of one of the worst ice storms in history and as a result is completely isolated from communication with the outside world. An estimate of the actual damage is impossible at the present time, but it is estimated that around the city the loss will run into many thousands of dollars for St. Thomas alone. In the country for miles and miles telephone and telegraph poles are down and roads are made impassable by the numerous fallen trees, poles and wires. The country is in chaos and will require weeks of work to bring it back to anything like normal again. To-night, as last night, citizens are depending entirely on the old fashioned tallow candles unless they are fortunate enough to have gas fixtures in their homes, while the streets are in darkness, and owing to the number of trees strewn over sidewalks and roadways, any attempt to walk out at night is extremely dangerous.