

A FORECAST OF ELECTIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN GIVES THE LIBERALS 317 ELECTED

Against This Are Placed 215 Conservatives--Ireland Will Return 83 Members and the Labor Men 55--This Would Leave Liberals Dependent Upon Irish and Labor Votes--London Times Is Again Telling What May Happen.

Registered in accordance with the Copyright Act of Canada. Unauthorized use either in whole or in part or colorable summaries thereof forbidden.
(Special Cable to The Toronto Daily Star and The London Advertiser, by Joseph T. Clark.)

Manchester, Jan. 12.—As polling takes place here on Saturday the campaign is now at its height.

Last night meetings were held everywhere. Husky-voiced candidates repeated familiar arguments to convince listeners. A forecast of the general result published here, purporting to be the joint opinion of well-posted men on both sides, is as follows: Liberals 317, Labor 55, Nationalists 83, Conservatives 215.

This represents a net gain of 47 seats for the Unionists, without altering the complexion of Parliament.

The London Times makes an effort to divest its gigantic mind of bias in forecasts today. It foretells Unionist gains in the London boroughs, and predicts defeat for Hon. Joseph Martin, the Canadian, but it may be mistaken in that.

The times does not think Richard Jebb will poll enough votes in East Marylebone to so weaken Boynton as to let the Liberal in.

The Opposition expect to gain half a dozen seats in London on Saturday. Last time the Liberals had 10, Conservatives 5.

The Nationalist press groups Liberals, Labor and Nationalists under the name Progressives against the Tories, which form of grouping the Opposition gains acceptance.

It is not expected there will be any reduction in the Labor forces.

Constitutional authorities on the Unionist side say that should the Liberals win their scheme for the reform of the Lords, it must be submitted to the nation in another election, but Mr. Asquith declared he regards the present election as conclusive, and will refuse to take office under any other terms.

Mr. Chamberlain claims today great headway for tariff reform in city and country, but this is one of those points upon which visitors are unable to form an opinion or gather evidence, so thoroughly whole-hearted and one-sided is every candidate, worker or speaker.

JOSEPH T. CLARK.

Saturday Voting Good Index.

The elections to be held on Saturday at 67 polls will be a good index of the general results, as the places are considered representative of the entire kingdom. Premier Asquith, at East Fife, described the present crisis as momentous.

"It," he said, "you care either for free trade, which has made our country prosperous, or for a popular government, which has made it free, now is the time to assert your devotion, for at this time the fortunes of both are at stake."

Chamberlain's Letters.

A speaker at a Liberal meeting having said that Chamberlain was not in a state of health so make it possible for him to write or direct the writing of the letters bearing his name, Asquith Chamberlain pronounces this a lie. The Times and Post refer to the speaker as a person whose name is to be spoken no more in respectable circles, but certainly Chamberlain's deliverances entirely lack the pith and sagacity of a few years ago.

The Liberal reports that the betting on the stock exchange is in favor of the Unionists are true. People bet, as a rule, according to their sympathies, and the close crowd at the stock exchange is very largely on the Conservative side. Some insiders do think the Unionists' chances are beginning to improve.

Conservatives Undoing Bad Work.

Conservative leaders are setting to work to undo in the remaining days of the campaign the evil wrought by the peers during their participation in the campaign. The issuance of election writs effected the retirement of the peers, and for the first time the Conservatives are realizing the full extent of the damage done their cause by the unwise intemperance and tactics of the noblemen.

The peers persisted in denouncing the land tax feature of the budget and the Liberals' demand for the abolition or reform of the House of Lords, which are probably the two most popular planks in the Liberal platform. The more experienced Conservatives are now ignoring these issues entirely, and are concentrating every energy on the "German peril," a large navy, and the increased employment that will come with the inauguration of a protective system, which they have promised.

These issues not only make more rapidly campaign slogans, but they put the Liberals on the defensive, a position which the peers by their lack of political foresight forced the Conservatives to assume.

Question of Majority.

The best of the expert opinion inclines to the belief that the Liberals will win by a small majority, but only after a desperate fight.

A majority of at least 60 is considered necessary for either party to put through the non-attendance of members, which would enable the government to attend legislative sessions, and the ever-present possibility of a majority being turned into a minority through the non-attendance of members. It is possible that the margin of victory will be so close that neither party will feel warranted in accepting the premiership, which might possibly result in a compromise ministry under (Continued on Page Eight.)

MAY PULL MARKET HOUSE DOWN TO MAKE ROOM ON THE SQUARE

Suggestion of Mayor Beattie Is To Be Gone Into by the Members of No. 3 Committee—Annual Revenue From the Buildings Now Totals \$3,200.

At an early meeting of No. 3 committee the question of the disposition of the market and fish houses will be taken up.

In Mayor Beattie's inaugural address he advised that these buildings be torn down, and the market space enlarged. Part of the space was to be reserved, however, for the erection of a suitable building for a registry office.

The Revenue.
At the present time the city draws \$3,200 revenue from these buildings. There are four fish stalls that draw \$19 a month each. In the market house there are 20 stalls upstairs, bringing \$8 a month, and downstairs 20 more, bringing \$4 a month. The average cost of repairs and maintenance, etc., amounts to approximately \$200 a year.

Worth \$100,000.
The building and grounds are estimated to be worth \$100,000.

In the statement of Assessment Commissioner Grant he figures the

land to be worth \$100,000, and the buildings to be worth \$12,000. Deducting the amount of annual expenditure, the city derives \$2,000 revenue from an investment of \$100,000, or 2 per cent.

It is claimed, however, that if the city compelled the 40 or 45 tenants in the building to seek other quarters, the increased assessment received from the new shops that would have to be erected, would soon compensate the city for the loss of the revenue of \$2,000 per annum. In addition the city would receive the added advantage of a largely increased space for market purposes.

The Mayor's Opinion.
"I think the move would be of great benefit to the city," said City Engineer Graydon. "The value of property on all sides would be increased, and the city would receive much more money from taxes."

LONDON WORKMAN PROVED HERO TORE BURNING CLOTHES OFF MAN

Three Men Badly Burned by an Explosion of Gas at Forest, Near Sarnia—All Are Now in Victoria Hospital and Are Suffering Greatly.

D. W. Smyth, 577 Piccadilly street, William Hogan, of 439 Grey street, fitters, in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway, and Samuel Brush, a pumper, of Forest, Ont., were seriously burned at Forest, near Sarnia, yesterday afternoon by an explosion of natural gas in a deep well in which they were working.

The Accident.
Mr. Smyth was down in the well, with his helper, Mr. Hogan, and was preparing to go lower. Brush, whose duty was to operate a pump, was at the top, looking down. The men, as they went, struck several matches to test the natural gas, as it is quite a common thing for quantities of gas to form in wells in that district, particularly deep ones.

A Terrific Explosion.
Messrs. Smyth and Hogan had got down some distance, and had found no gas, and had just lighted another match, when there was a terrific explosion, accompanied by a sheet of flame.

The force of the explosion demolished the little shanty at the top of the well, and the flames burned Smyth, Hogan, and Brush very painfully about the head, face and hands.

Men Rescued.
They were dazed for the moment, but were quickly taken out of the well by people who were about the station platform, and real aid was summoned. (Continued on Page Eight.)

A VERDICT GIVEN FOR \$2,500 IN THE ALEX. MACKISON CASE

Grand Trunk Railway Company Heavily Mulcted as a Result of an Accident Which Took Place on Wellington Street a Year Ago.

At half-past one this afternoon the jury brought in a verdict giving Alexander Mackison \$2,500 in the case brought by him against the Grand Trunk.

The action went to the jury at noon and their verdict was awaited with the greatest eagerness by a big crowd. When the jury brought in their verdict the corridors and court room were filled to overflowing.

OTTAWA'S VACANT SEAT IN DOMINION HOUSE

To Be Filled by Election on January 29—General Mix-Up Over Candidates.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—Nominations for the by-election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier of his Ottawa seat will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22nd, and polling on Saturday, Jan. 29. Arrangements are now being made for the registration of voters under the manhood suffrage act.

The contest promises to be a decidedly interesting one, both parties being at odds and ends over their candidates. On the Liberal side Mr. Auguste Lemieux, K.C., who was nominated by the party convention last Friday, has the handicap of having been opposed by two Liberal papers, the Free Press and Le Temps. On the Conservative side ex-Mayor Ellis, with a large party following, stoutly refuses, in spite of every influence brought to bear on him, to withdraw and leave the field clear for the regular party nominee, Dr. Chabot. Mr. Ellis declares he will test public opinion on the naval issue, and he has already circulated a lot of campaign literature advocating the immediate construction of a complete Canadian fleet unit, and also a direct contribution in cash or Dreadnoughts to the imperial navy. His policy in this respect is strongly opposed by The Journal, one of the two Conservative papers in the city.

With two Conservatives in the field the party managers see no hope of electing either man, and, as a final resort, the suggestion is being considered of having Dr. Chabot retire. He is ill, and will have to undergo an operation in a few days.

CHATHAM CURLERS
Defeated at Detroit by Nine Points—Big Scores.

Detroit, Jan. 12.—Four rinks of Chatham curlers came over to Detroit last evening, and lost to a similar number of Forest avenue squads by nine points. All of the games were marked by big scores, and in only one were the visitors successful.

Even the presence of George Fielder failed to turn the tide, and a numerous host of Detroit admirers turned sadly away as Chatham's favorite son bowed in defeat to John Kay's boys.

RETAIL GROCERS TO "BOOST" LONDON

Intend Holding a Union Picnic Here This Coming Summer.

WILL HOLD A BANQUET

And Bring Representatives From Many Places in the District to Talk the Matter Over.

To hold a union picnic and make London the gathering place this summer for the grocers and their friends from Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, St. Thomas and Chatham was the proposal launched at a largely-attended meeting of the Retail Grocers' Association last night.

Hold a Banquet.
As a preliminary step, it was definitely decided to hold a banquet and to invite the presidents of the Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, St. Thomas and Chatham associations to be present, and talk the matter over, and come to some arrangement.

Boost London.
"We propose to make London the first place for the holding of the picnic," President Ed. Ryan told The Advertiser today, "and then every year, turn about, the picnic can be held at one or other of the places."

The grocers' picnic is one of the most successful held, and in the past Niagara Falls and Detroit have been the favorite places for the visit.

YEAR AGO TODAY
WAS VERY COLD

Mercury Took a Drop to 14.5 Below—Present Weather Satisfactory.

Just a year ago today was the coldest day of the whole winter, and the mercury took a drop to 14.5 degrees below zero. Taking it all around the weather last year at this time had been and was decidedly colder than it has been this season. The present winter to date has been one of the most even for many years. The temperature has never gone very low or very high, and there have been few blizzards or bad storms.

Satisfactory Weather.
Such weather has been most satisfactory all through for business. The railroads have had practically no trouble yet with big drifts, although in some parts of the country heavy snowfalls have caused the trains to run late. Merchants report that trade is as good as usual at this time of the year after the holiday rush, and skating rink men are having the best season they have had for a long time. They have not yet been troubled by thaw, and the ice has kept in splendid shape.

Cutting Ice.
Ice cutting on the river is going ahead at a great rate, and a big crop is being harvested. Today the temperature has been very even. At 8 o'clock this morning the mercury stood at 24 above zero, and this afternoon it was 26.

The action went to the jury at noon and their verdict was awaited with the greatest eagerness by a big crowd. When the jury brought in their verdict the corridors and court room were filled to overflowing.

BOARD OF HEALTH WILL ORGANIZE MONDAY

It Is Said Dr. W. J. Stevenson Will Be Chosen Chairman.

The board of health will meet on Monday next for the purpose of organizing for the year.

There will be a lot for the chairmanship of this board.

Dr. J. S. Niven, the former chairman, has retired, and a new chairman has been elected.

The members of the board are as follows: Mr. J. H. McMeekin, John Graham, Harry Clarke, Dr. E. L. Williams, Ald. Stevenson, R. A. Carrothers and Ald. Beattie.

Ald. Stevenson wants the position, it is said, and there is a movement on foot to give Mr. John Graham the place, but it is said Dr. Stevenson will get it.

Dr. Ernest L. Williams is a member of the board instead of Dr. McWilliam, as announced before.

At the council meeting the motion read "Dr. McWilliam," but it was not intended that he should be chosen, and the official record shows Dr. Williams to be the choice.

ORANGE CELEBRATION

The Sarnia District L. O. L. Will Go to Petrolia This Year.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Sarnia, Jan. 12.—L. O. L. district lodge met here yesterday afternoon, and decided to celebrate in Petrolia this year.

A REGALIA FOR BRO. THOS. ROWE

Regular Meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 20, Last Night.

At the regular meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 20, A. F. and A. M., held last night, Bro. Thos. Rowe was presented by the members of the lodge with the regalia of a grand senior warden. Rt. Wor. Bro. J. A. Tancock made the presentation speech, in which he referred to the efforts put forth by Bro. Rowe on behalf of Masonry. Bro. Rowe made a suitable reply, in which he thanked the brethren for their splendid gift. He hoped at all times to prove worthy of their confidence. Congratulatory speeches were made by other brethren present.

Wor. Bro. J. O. Weiden was named secretary of the lodge to succeed the late Wor. Bro. Col. Dawson.

MISS CLARA SCOTT.
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Scott. It is said that the row which ended in the old man's death began over the dog shown in the picture.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—RAIN OR SNOW. FORECASTS.

Today—Cloudy; stationary or a little higher temperature.

Thursday—Rain or snow.

TEMPERATURES
Today: Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Low. High.

Victoria 26 12 26
Vancouver 28 14 44
Calgary 28 6 44
Winnipeg 10 -16 9
Port Arthur 4 4 28
Parry Sound 24 -4 28
Toronto 28 16 28
Ottawa 18 4 28
Montreal 18 14 40
Quebec 19 2 -6 19
Father Point 12 10 19
Edmonton 2 2 22
Vancouver 24 4 44
Kamloops 12 10 19
Qu'Appelle 4 18 18
Prince Albert -14 18 18
Moose Jaw -14 18 18
Regina 4 18 18
St. John 8 20 20
Halifax 12 22 22
Minus (-) means below zero.

MRS. SCOTT IS AGAIN ON TRIAL FACES THE CHARGE OF MURDER



MRS. WESLEY SCOTT.
Who is Again Being Tried for the Murder of Her Father-in-Law, Aged Harvey Scott.

DRIVING WHEEL FELL OFF P. M. ENGINE

Accident to Locomotive Yesterday as Result of Breaking a Pin.

One of the driving wheels of Pere Marquette engine No. 17 became loosened yesterday, owing to the breaking of a pin as the afternoon train was starting out for St. Thomas, and at Simcoe street the wheel fell off.

As quickly as possible another engine was procured and the damaged engine pulled away to make room. The train proceeded on its way with only a slight delay. Had the accident happened when the train was going at a high rate of speed the consequences might have been somewhat serious.

PRICES OF HORSES ARE SOARING NOW

Equines Are Scarce and the Demand Is Increasing.

The prices of horses are soaring. There are a great many dealers in the city from the west and other sections of Canada, looking for good horses, and as a result prices are on the upward tendency.

"Horses are scarce, and the price is going up," said Mr. Frank Sage. "We are having trouble in getting good animals. I shipped a carload to Windsor yesterday, and the demand is increasing. There are a large number of purchasers looking for the right sort of horses."

A NEW SCHEME TO BOOST THE CITY

Mr. W. D. I. Wright Makes a Suggestion to The Advertiser.

An impetus to the city's growth has been the agitation to "boost" the city. A striking suggestion was made to The Advertiser today in connection with this campaign by Mr. W. D. I. Wright. His slogan is that the city of London should aim to manufacture all that is needed and sold here.

"For example, there are a number of wholesalers in the city who sell certain lines of goods," he said. "These goods are manufactured not in the city, but elsewhere. My objection is this: We have factories manufacturing these goods here in London, but instead of purchasing their goods, they go elsewhere to Toronto, Montreal and other cities to get these goods.

Encourage Industries.
"Now we should encourage the industries right in our midst. If the concerns are small, let several wholesalers get together, take stock and branch out. Among the number we could take practically all the goods manufactured and give a great impetus to the prosperity and value of the city.

"There are many concerns just like this. For instance, I should like to see the drygoods section of the board of trade get together and work out a scheme along these lines. It would result in a great boom. Let us aim to manufacture all we need and sell in our own city.

City of Homes.
"We should make London known as a city of homes. Go this continent over, and you will not find a finer city for homes than London. This should be made the cause of appeal to the people beyond. As a city to live in, London cannot be beaten."

ANNUAL GRANT \$50,000

Government Aid for British Cotton Growing Experiments.

London, Jan. 12.—The Earl of Crewe, secretary of state for the colonies, has notified the British cotton-growing association officially that the Government has decided to grant \$50,000 annually for three years in aid of experimental work in the industry.

Thorndale Woman Does Not Appear To Be Worrying.

CASE OPENED THIS AFTERNOON

A Big Crowd in the Court Room to Watch the Trial.

THE JURY.
The jury in the Scott murder trial was empaneled this afternoon as follows:

Cyrus F. Smith, Moss, farmer.
Adam Romilly, Ekfrid, farmer.
Jonathan Knapton, London Township, farmer.
Frank A. Anderson, Westminster, farmer.
Joseph Grant, Biddulph, farmer.
David Beattie, North Dorchester, farmer.
Archibald Brownlee, North Dorchester, farmer.

Isaac Hornicker, Lobo, farmer.
T. H. Anderson, Biddulph, merchant.
James G. Knapton, Parkhill.
R. H. Collins, Lobo.
Chas. H. Ferguson, Lobo.

Forty men were called altogether and 19 were challenged by the defence and 8 by the crown. William A. Beattie, who was called, asked to be excused on the grounds of illness.

For the second time, within four months, Mrs. Martha Scott this afternoon entered the prisoner's box in the crowded courtroom to stand trial for the murder of her father-in-law, aged Harvey Scott, of Nissouri, on Sept. 13 last.

The strong composition that has marked her attitude since her arrest did not desert Mrs. Scott as she again faced the hundreds of curious eyes that were strained in her direction, searching for some sign of weakness, some hint of distress.

The prisoner stepped firmly after the constant reminder to force her way through the crowd, and entered the box as calmly as though the terrible charge that is hanging over her were all a dream.

A Curious Crowd.
Long before the court was announced to open, a curious crowd was surging through the corridors of the courthouse, drawn together by the morbid curiosity that seems always to hang about a person charged with a grave crime. And when his session took his place at ten o'clock there was not an inch of standing room in the courtroom.

Mrs. Scott's first trial on this charge began on the morning of Oct. 8, before Mr. Justice Latchford, and ended at 4 o'clock on the same day, the jury having failed to agree upon a verdict.

The Coroner's Jury.
On Sept. 17 the coroner's jury met in Thorndale to inquire into the death of the murdered man in the park.

Three days after Mrs. Scott received her preliminary hearing before Judge Latchford, and was sent for trial on the charge of murder.

Mrs. Scott, when called in her own defence at her first trial, stated that she was in fear of her husband, and that she had been driven to the crime by the abuse she had received from him.

Judge Latchford's Charge.
Judge Latchford, however, in charging the jury, emphatically created a prejudice of guilt, and stated that he was glad to have a jury to try the case, but that they must be allowed to bring in the verdict of "guilty" or "not guilty."

While the jury had been out for an hour and forty minutes their retainer with the statement that they had disagreed. His lordship, in commenting on this remark, remarked that some witnesses in his opinion, at that time, had been a case in which a jury, having regard to the sacred office they had taken, should bring in a verdict, this was the only way.

Mr. Meredith for Prisoner.
In the trial which opened this morning Mr. Edmund Meredith, K.C., is again defending the prisoner, and Mr. W. M. Beattie, of Berlin, is conducting the case for the crown.

It was some time after the opening of the court before the case was considered, as the action of Mr. Beattie, the Grand Trunk Railway was given the precedence, it having been finished at the preceding afternoon's session.

TWO PROPOSITIONS MADE TO LONDONERS

Scott Machine Company Have Offers From Chatham.

A deputation from Chatham was in the city this week taking up the matter of removal to that city of the management of the Scott Machine Company.

It was stated by members of the firm that the Chatham representatives, Messrs. John S. Mount and E. L. Gray, made them in propositions. The firm made a counter proposal, and the Chatham men are at present taking it up with the council, and will probably be in London again in a few days.

More Offers.
The Scott Machine Company has also been visited by representatives of a northern town, and an offer has been made to build them a factory and give them other inducements if they will locate there.

The town is very anxious to secure factories, as it is growing steadily. Both this proposition and that of the Chatham people will be considered jointly at a meeting of the directors.