

THE WEATHER:
COLD, WITH SNOW AND SLEET.
TUESDAY—SNOW.

London Evening Advertiser

LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1924. —SIXTEEN PAGES.

"SPORTING GREEN"
ON THE STREET AT 5:00
WITH LATE NEWS.

THREE CENTS.

SEPARATE TRIALS FOR MORRELL AND WILLIAMS Clarence Topping Not Expected to Face Jury Until March

MISS M'NAUGHTON TOO ILL TO APPEAR FOR MURDER TRIAL

Mr. Justice Lennox Grants Murrell and Williams Separate Trials on Plea From Counsel—Judge Refuses To Postpone Trial of Murrell on Account of Illness—Rigney Offers No Opposition to Application

WILLIAMS AND MURRELL BROUGHT IN AT 2:05

On application of J. M. Donahue, Judge Lennox decided to grant separate trials in the case of "Slim" Williams and Sid Murrell.

"It appears to me as though the case is one in which the doubt should be given to the prisoner. The only argument against separate trials is that the former judge refused the application. It is to my best judgment and in the interests of the prisoner to grant the application for separate trials," declared his lordship.

No Opposition From Crown.

T. J. Rigney, prosecuting attorney, offered no opposition.

The application of J. M. Donahue asking for a postponement of Murrell's trial on the grounds that his client had not sufficiently recovered from his operation, was refused by Mr. Justice Lennox.

Mr. Rigney stated he had been told by the jail physician Murrell was quite fit to be tried.

Murrell looked thinner when brought up the stairs from his cell. He was chewing gum and wearing a knitted yellow and black tie.

Slim Williams was handcuffed to Murrell in the box the two prisoners whispered to each other. As they entered the box at 2:05 Murrell turned and smiled at his relatives.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, Edmund Weld, clerk of the court, called the names of the 96 petit jurors, all being present with the exception of Ed Westby.

Mr. Justice Lennox mounted the bench at 1:20 o'clock, and called for the list of grand jurors.

Same Precautions.

The same precautions taken by Sheriff Graham at the last Murrell-Williams trial were evidenced this afternoon. All entrances to the court house were closely guarded by county and city police. Two county constables were stationed at each courtroom door, while the same two provincial constables who guarded Murrell and Williams in the prisoners' box at the last trial were again in evidence.

Inspector Stringer and Sgt. Arthur Palmer of the provincial police were sitting directly behind the seat shortly to be occupied by Murrell and Williams.

Mrs. Murrell, her son and daughter arrived at the court house shortly before 1 o'clock and took seats at the front of the room and in line with the prisoners' box.

At 2 o'clock Crown Prosecutor Rigney stated he was ready to go on with the Murrell-Williams trial.

J. W. G. Winnett announced that a settlement had been reached in the jury action of Mr. and Mrs. Cartledge against the city of London and the Public Utilities Commission. Mrs. Cartledge claimed damages for injuries received when struck by a guy wire. Mr. Winnett declined to give out the amount of settlement, but it is believed to be substantial.

A. G. Chisholm asked that the non-jury action of Chisholm vs. Erie Clay Products Company be traversed to the spring assizes, as neither party were ready to go on. His request was granted by Mr. Justice Lennox.

May Not Face Trial.

Clarence Topping may not face judge and jury on a murder charge at the winter assizes, which opened at the court house this afternoon before Mr. Justice Lennox.

One of the most important of the crown's witnesses, Miss Viola McNaughton, is too ill to appear in court today, and for this reason the case may be traversed to the spring assizes, which are scheduled for March 17. It is a peculiar coincidence that Mr. Justice Lennox is billed to preside at that court as well.

Topping's case will, however, come before the grand jury at least, and as he has already confessed to shooting his sweetheart, Miss Geraldine Durston, at the residence of George Cook, York street, on the morning of November 23 last, it is a foregone conclusion that the grand jury will bring in a verdict of guilty. Topping may be remanded to jail till March 17.

Witnesses and jurors thronged the court house corridors this morning, and included the three new witnesses who will testify at the trial of Williams and Murrell. Elizabeth Mahler of Dresden will tell of the conversation between Sid Murrell and Russell Campbell, a brother when the former was lashed to a telephone pole in the village. Campbell is said to have accused Murrell of shooting his brother and Sid is alleged to have replied "I don't deny it."

Louis Lipsett, Mount Brydges farmer, will give evidence to show that "Pat" Norton, who escaped capture after the robbery of the bank at Melbourne, had a revolver in his hand when he abandoned his motor car at Lipsett's farm, while Inspector Stringer of the provincial police.

Please See Page 2, Column 4.



CLARENCE TOPPING, confessed slayer of Geraldine Durston, who is not expected to be brought up for trial until spring.

BECK SURE PORT LINE WILL MAKE SUCCESS

Members of Railway Commission Inspect Property This Morning.

CHANGES ARRANGED

Believes Measures Will Take Care of Slight Deficit Expected.

Following an inspection of the lines this morning, in company with Mayor Wenige and other members of the London and Port Stanley Railway Commission, Sir Adam Beck, M. L. A., voiced to The Advertiser his supreme confidence in the ultimate success of the city's road to the lake-side.

While the final annual financial statement for 1923 to be submitted at the next regular session of the commission may show a slight deficit when compared, Sir Adam states that certain further economic measures already discussed by the commissioners in a general way, will be introduced to take care of this amount.

In brief, Sir Adam points out that while a small deficit may be shown, there is always two ways of viewing the question, aside from periods of depression, erratic weather conditions and other factors which handicapped all roads during 1923 as well as the L. and P. S.

The commissioners journeyed to Port Stanley by special car, conducting an inspection of an appreciable portion of the roadbed, rolling stock, depots, etc. They reported entire satisfaction.

Certain proposed alterations were considered and approved, affecting the road at Union and Port Stanley. It is recommended that increased facilities for both passengers and freight be provided at Union. Sir Adam reports that certain buildings, owned by the road can be used there to great advantage.

In future Stop "A" will be known to the railway authorities as Union.

Rented for Store.

Other alterations of an economic value have been recommended for Port Stanley. An empty structure across from the depot, and next the river is not at all remunerative to the city. This will be removed forthwith to the opposite corner upon the understanding that it is to be rented for a store.

The roadbed of the L. and P. S. is now in better shape than ever, the chairman reports. "It is in first-class shape," Sir Adam stated, "and is well ballasted. About \$12,000 was spent for this purpose during the last year."

Touching upon the financial situation of the road, Sir Adam explained that if the city during the next ten years meets its obligations as it has done during the past ten years, it will have paid off \$100,000 on the capital debt. He is confident that it will be done. The city is realizing debentures on short periods, he stated, while in the meanwhile the line is being kept in A 1 condition.

VACCINATION LAW HITS ATTENDANCE

Collegiate Classes Cut by 300 This Morning—Many Disinclined To Obey Order.

The order for the vaccination of students at the Central Collegiate Institute, following the discovery of a case of smallpox at that institution, has resulted in a decrease in attendance of approximately 300, according to Principal E. A. Miller.

Mr. Miller told The Advertiser this morning that there were but 600 students at school out of an enrollment of nearly 900, and that he had no idea whether more would remain away or not.

The order for vaccination was issued on Friday, and while it is likely that a large number of the absentees are away as the results of being vaccinated, it is known that many are staying away on account of the disease and the disinclination to follow out the orders of the health officer.

Those who have not been vaccinated must remain away for two weeks, this being the period of quarantine for the school.

Other cases have not been discovered, but no chances are being taken on the disease spreading.

CITY FLAGS LOWERED IN HONOR OF WILSON

American Consulate and Military Respect ex-President of United States.

Honoring in death Woodrow Wilson, ex-president of the United States, who served in that position during eight of the most momentous years in the history of the world, and who passed away in Washington Sunday noon, the flag of the American consulate of this city was flown at half mast today.

Similar respect was shown at Volesley Barracks, where the British flags were lowered.

Circular Spread Offering For Rum Trade Investment

City Hall Official Receives a Letter Offering "Sure 20 Per Cent."

BROUGHT OVER OCEAN

How would you like to derive a "sure 20 per cent profit" on your capital investment every 60 days?

Here is how they claim it can be done, according to a circular received today by a city hall official, from an overseas distillery. You place your earnings at the disposal of this concern, which specializes evidently in Scotch liquor, and the corporation in question and the guarantee will be forthcoming that "Any money you contribute will be returned to you, plus 4 per cent interest on the round sterling, within 60 days from the date of sailing of the vessel from England."

No payment under £5 will be accepted and March 15 is set as the last day for applicants to join this venture.

The liquor speculators overseas state that a "certain syndicate" has deposited U. S. A. gold bonds to the value of \$50,000 as a guarantee that the goods will be purchased and paid for in cash on arrival at a point 25 miles from shore.

From then on, the rum-running crews necessarily assume all liability.



T. J. RIGNEY, K.C., crown counsel at the murder trials now under way at the courthouse. Mr. Rigney acted for the crown in the last trial.

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST GREAT HELP

Division of Territory and Two Grand Prizes Attractive To Many.

EXTRA VOTES POPULAR

The fairness with which The Advertiser's \$20,000 Prize Contest is being conducted is appealing to the friends of candidates.

The division of territory and the allotment of prizes for each district, and the fact that there are two grand prizes—one for the City of London, and one for the country districts—have induced many to enter, who otherwise would not have done so.

The two grand prizes are identical in value. The one for the City of London is a McLaughlin Double Service Sedan, or \$2,000 in cash. For the country districts it is a Hudson Coach, or cash. There are three automobiles given as first, second and third prize in each of the three districts, so that contestants work against other candidates in one district only.

Winners of any of the eleven automobiles also have the privilege of taking an equivalent in cash.

Extra Votes Help.

The 300,000 extra votes for every two yearly subscriptions will be a big boom to those already entered and to those who wish to make a whirlwind start.

If you secure only 14 yearly renewals it will give you more than 2,000,000 votes. You can secure them easily among your friends, neighbors, and business associates.

Then there are other big inducements. Two hundred dollars in cash will be given to the person who sends in the largest number of renewals, new subscriptions, or both, by February 25. In addition to this there will be a prize of \$100 in each district for the persons sending in the most subscriptions for his territory up to February 25.

Select Judges.

The judges will be a firm of chartered accountants appointed by The Advertiser. They will audit all votes and records.

The manager of the contest nor anyone on The Advertiser has anything to do with the counting of votes.

COUNTY WILL FLOAT \$90,000 IN DEBENTURES

Treasurer Expects Good Price on Account of Financial Stability of Middlesex.

Middlesex County will call for tenders next week for \$90,000 worth of debentures, 20-year installment at 5 per cent. The proceeds will be used to pay the provincial government highway bill for 1922.

The county treasurer and his assistant expect a good price for the debentures, owing to the splendid financial stability of Middlesex. The net debenture debt of the county at the present time is practically negligible, county officials state.

EARLY CLOSING FIGHT OVER, ALD. DRAKE THINKS

As a member of the executive of the retail grocers' association, Ald. Gordon Drake doesn't think that it would be much use taking their early closing project to the Ontario Legislature for ratification, after no action would be taken by the city council.

"I don't think that we would meet with any more success there," he stated. "We're beat and we may as well own up to it."

CITY THEATRE WILL CHANGE OWNERSHIP IS REPORT

Famous Players-Lasky Corporation Rumored To Have Bought the Allen.

STORY IS DENIED

Toronto Manager States Deal For Local Playhouse Has Not Been Completed.

Notwithstanding persistent rumors to the effect that the Allen Theatre was about to be taken over by the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, Toronto, Mr. Sedgewick, general manager of the corporation, in telephone conversation with The Advertiser, denied the story.

For some time past reports have been current in theatrical circles, both local and in Toronto, that the Allen was about to change hands, but no definite confirmation of the reports can be obtained.

It has been stated that within a few days there will be a change in the policy of the house. This lends strength to the rumors of a change in ownership and would seem to bear out the rumors.

A local theatre manager expressed himself as being confident that the theatre was being taken over by Famous Players, but beyond that could not make any statement.

CITY CLERK HAS NOTIFIED
POLICE CLERK OF TRANSFER

City Clerk Sam Baker has notified Police Clerk John Moulde that it is now incumbent upon him to transfer to the city treasurer's department all money handed to him as bail for prisoners. This money must remain in the city coffers until an order of release comes from the police authorities, in accordance with a recent ruling from the city council.

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY
PLAINTIFF IN LAWSUIT

Thomas G. Prentiss of Detroit Seeks To Impeach Will of His Grandmother.

CASE TRANSFERRED

Unusual Action Entered at the Local Court Will Be Heard in Toronto.

One of the rarest lawsuits in local legal history has been instituted by Thomas G. Prentiss, age 13, of Detroit, in an effort to impeach the will of the late Mrs. Elizabeth S. Prentiss, the boy's grandmother.

So far as is known this is the first case in Western Ontario in which a will involving a substantial sum of money has been attacked by an individual under the law as an infant.

Mrs. Prentiss died in Toronto on September 13, 1923. She was the grandmother of young Thomas Prentiss, and it is alleged left an estate of \$18,000 in which her sister, Mrs. Jane A. Parsons of this city is named executrix. On filing application for probate of the will, Mrs. Parsons discovered that it was being opposed by the young Detroit lad who is the only person entitled to share his grandmother's estate should it be shown that she died intestate.

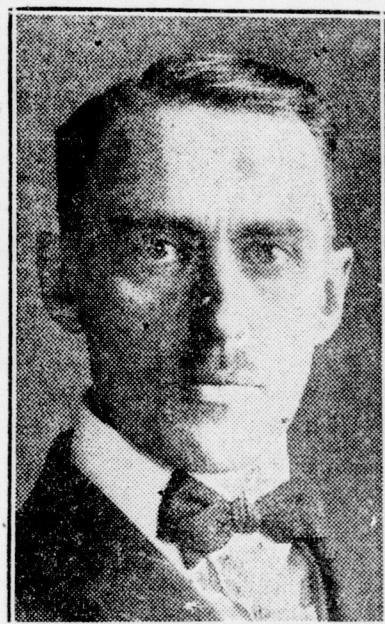
The will is being impeached on the grounds that Mrs. Prentiss was insane at the time it was made.

The case has been removed from the Surrogate Court of this county to the Supreme Court of Ontario by order of Mr. Justice Fisher, made Saturday last. Messrs. Cronyn, Betts and Black are acting for the infant, Thomas G. Prentiss, and Messrs. Murphy, Gunn and Murphy for Mrs. Parsons.

G. R. Stevens Will Talk to Interested Manufacturers About West Indies Trade.

G. R. Stevens, Canadian trade commissioner to the West Indies is at present in the city and is interviewing London manufacturers on the question of exportation. He is the guest of the Rotary Club today and will remain in the city for a few days. All manufacturers wishing to see Mr. Stevens should communicate with the chamber of commerce and make an appointment.

Mr. Stevens has been appointed assistant trade commissioner to South Africa where he is returning and is in a position to talk of South African matters as well as the West Indian situation.



J. M. DONAHUE, counsel for Sidney Murrell and Slim Williams in their trial for murder. Mr. Donahue acted for both prisoners in the last trial.

BORROWING POWER SET AT \$3,000,000

Treasurer Bell Sees No Need for Pessimism—Debture Debt \$12,826,633.

London has a borrowing power close to \$3,000,000, according to a detailed financial statement today from City Treasurer James Bell, who sets the city's debenture debt at the close of 1923 at \$12,826,633.56.

The debt is itemized as follows:

Waterworks \$1,661,556.89
Electric light and power 1,297,760.50
L. & P. S. R. 1,369,428.88
Housing commission 655,289.94
Local improvements 1,799,444.37
City's share of L. L. 584,804.06
High schools 874,823.69
Public schools 1,577,039.83

City Treasurer Bell states that this is a very creditable showing, and emphasizes his contention of 1923 that there is no need in London for any pessimistic outlook.

The city is nearly \$3,000,000 distant from its borrowing capacity and the treasurer states that the city council is not thinking about borrowing any further.

MILLERAND'S TRIBUTE.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Feb. 4.—President Millerand today eulogized Mrs. Wilson as follows: "In the name of the French nation and in my own name I associate myself with all my heart in the grief that has so cruelly come to you.

"My country will never forget the great president who devoted such an important part in the decision where by the United States came to take her place beside France and her allies in the war of right against might.

"Humanity will cherish the memory of the generous thinker whose dearest wish was to assure forever the peace of the world."

KING CABLES REGRET.

Associated Press Despatch.

Rome, Feb. 4.—Both King Victor Emmanuel and Pope Pius expressed deep regret when they learned of the death of Woodrow Wilson.

Cardinal Gasparri, the papal secretary of state, conveyed the news of the passing of Mr. Wilson to the pontiff, who, in the first moments of the illness of the former president, had asked to be informed thrice daily of his condition. When the pope heard Mr. Wilson was dead he knelt in prayer.

FLAGS FLY HALF MAST IN MEMORY OF WILSON

Thousands of Messages of Sympathy Comes From All Parts of World.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS

Definite Arrangements Not Yet Made For Holding of Funeral.

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Thousands of messages of condolence from all parts of the world continue to reach Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, whose distinguished husband and former president of the United States, passed away on Sunday forenoon.

Whether there will be a state funeral or merely a private gathering of those nearest him to pay their last respects of devotion is still to be decided. It depends almost entirely on the wishes of the widow, who has been ever present helping in the long, weary months of his illness.

President Coolidge yesterday issued a proclamation of thirty days' official mourning. Over the White House and the government departments, on the ships of the United States navy at sea, and over all United States diplomatic buildings in foreign lands the flag today flew at half-mast.

Congress today recessed in respect for his memory, and the whole machinery of the government, whose guiding genius he was for eight momentous years will stand still on the day of his funeral.

The place of entombment has not been selected, but it is probable his body will be placed for a while in the Washington Cemetery. There it will await the erection of a memorial to serve as his last resting-place.

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VEGETABLE GROWERS
PLAN SHORT COURSE

Specialists in Agriculture To Address Sessions Here Feb. 19 and 20.

The London Vegetable Growers' Association have arranged for a short course for two days, February 19 and 20, to be held in the department of agriculture lecture room.

Prof. A. H. MacLennan of the O. A. C. will speak on vegetable varieties and irrigation. E. J. Atkin of Leamington will talk on tomatoes and early cabbage. F. W. Present, vegetable specialist of Ontario will take up the subject of fertilizers and D. A. Kinball of the O. A. C. will talk on small fruits. J. Tucker, Dominion potato inspector, will tell of the benefit of potato certification to the vegetable grower.

POSTOFFICE TO RECEIVE
NEW MONEY ORDER FORMS

A new form of money order for use in Canada and the United States will be supplied to the local postoffice on July 1 by the financial branch of the postal department.

Complaints have been made to the finance branch that money orders drawn for payment in the United States are often so badly stamped that the date and name of office of issue cannot be determined.