

E. I. SIFTON SURRENDERS AT TORONTO; PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY CHARGE

Appears in Police Court and
Makes a Statement Re
London Election.

The Case to Come Up With
Others on Jan. 9—Magis-
trate Accepts Bail.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, Dec. 19.—E. I. Sifton, who was wanted in connection with the alleged bribing of voters in the London election at the recent investigation held here, surrendered himself to the crown in the police court this morning. He appeared with his lawyer, J. W. G. Winnett.

"In the case against O'Gorman and others, charged with bribery in elections, a warrant was issued for Sifton. Mr. Winnett, a lawyer, of London, called on me this morning and said that Sifton was willing to surrender," said Mr. DuVernet to the magistrate.

"Yes, he is here and surrenders himself," said Mr. Winnett.

The magistrate then dealt out the charge that was sworn out before him on Sept. 28 last, charging O'Gorman and others, including Sifton, with conspiracy, to provide money to bribe voters during the years 1904 and 1905.

"I plead guilty," said Sifton.

"Well, then, we will let the case go over with the others," said his worship.

"Yes, but the question of bail is a most important one," said Mr. Winnett. "I handed my learned friend a statement this morning."

"I got the statement, but it has not been made under oath," declared Mr. DuVernet.

"I appear for some of the other defendants," objected Mr. W. J. Curry, "and any statement made should not be accepted while they are absent."

"He can make a statement for himself," declared his worship. "I can see no objection in that."

Mr. Curry then said that there might have been some inducement to have got it, but Sifton's lawyer declared there had been no inducement.

"The course that is being taken is one that has not been taken before," again objected Mr. Curry.

"Well, the statement must be made under oath," insisted Mr. DuVernet.

Sifton then went into the box and swore that the statement had been written and signed by himself. He had been in Buffalo and New York and only just returned.

"Did anyone suggest this statement to you?" asked his worship.

"No, I saw no one but my lawyer," replied Sifton.

"Well, I will take you own bail of \$200 to appear at the assizes on Jan. 7."

"I ask that your worship order that the statement be made public until the case comes up in the other court," asked Mr. Curry. And so the magistrate ordered that Police Court Clerk Webb should not show the statement to any one. Sifton was then allowed out on bail.

BIG BOSTON BLAZE

Studio Building Gutted at an Estimated
Loss of \$150,000.

Boston, Dec. 19.—A fire of threatening proportions today caused heavy damage in the block bound by Tremont, Bromfield, Washington and Winter streets.

The fire broke out on the Eldridge & Peabody furniture store, 110 to 118 Tremont street, the Studio building, and swept up through six floors of the structure. The roof fell in and the fire jumped across a narrow alley to the roof of the Orpheum Theater, and to the top of the building occupied by Talbot & Co., clothing, Washington street. The flames did damage to both buildings slightly, but the Talbot building was flooded by the bursting of a hose.

The firemen had to work in a narrow alley, on ice-coated ladders, and fire escapes, and with their own bodies encased in ice. The loss is estimated at about \$150,000. Several artists, architects, dentists and other occupants of the Studio building were burned out.

MRS. SAGE LOANS

New York, Dec. 19.—Mrs. Russell Sage loaned \$1,500,000 yesterday to the Land Purchase Company on a piece of property on the south side of Wall street just west of William street. The mortgage on the property is at 4 1/2 per cent, due Feb. 1, 1910. This makes nearly \$7,000,000 that Mrs. Sage has loaned on Manhattan real estate recently.

London Pastor Is Chosen for an Important Position

Rev. J. W. Graham Appointed
Associate Secretary of Metho-
dist Educational Society.

Rev. J. W. Graham, pastor of the First Methodist Church, was yesterday appointed associate secretary of the Educational Society of the Methodist Church in Canada.

The appointment was made at a meeting of the educational committee, held in Toronto, and attended by members from every province in the Dominion.

It was understood some time ago that Mr. Graham would be the choice for the position, which was created to relieve Rev. Dr. Potts, of some of the labor and traveling connected with the Educational Society.

The selection will prove very popular, as Mr. Graham has always taken an keen interest in the educational work and is very enthusiastic—the very type of man required for the place.

Mr. Graham was in Toronto yesterday, and as he had not yet returned home, it was impossible to ascertain this afternoon if he will accept the position.

It is known, however, that he desired to remain in the ministry. Some time ago, when notified that he had practically been chosen for the post of associate secretary, he wrote the church authorities at Toronto, stating that while he recognized the honor conferred, he preferred to continue his pastoral work. He also said that his relations with the First Church trustees board and congregation were most cordial, and he did not appreciate the thought of having them severed before his term expired.

The First Church board not only passed a resolution, protesting against Mr. Graham's removal, but it sent a deputation composed of half a dozen of the leading members to urge the committee to make another choice. The protest, however, appears to have been of no avail.

"The loss of Mr. Graham will be a severe blow to the First Church," said a trustee, when told of the educational committee's decision. "Mr. Graham has been with us a year and a half, and during that time the church has made better progress than at any similar period in its history. His pulpit work has resulted in an addition of fully one hundred and twenty-five to the membership. It is not generally known, either, that not long since he conducted a canvass, which secured sufficient subscriptions to remove the entire debt of over \$22,000 in the next three years."

Mr. Graham is popular with both young and old, and all will regret to see him go.

15 MILLIONS ARE FACING FAMINE

North Kaingsu, China—Crops
Ruined by Floods, Country
Being Under Water.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Official advice received here regarding the famine in North Kaingsu, China, confirm the stories of suffering and want in that section. The crops are reported as being almost a total failure in Tao Yuen. In Antong and Fung Townships the crops practically are a total failure. The country everywhere is under water, and the people are compelled to wade waist-deep, and in some places, up to their necks.

Immediately west of Tsingho, what formerly was a fertile plain is a vast lake extending 20 miles at the narrowest point, and stretching for over 40 miles toward the southwest.

"Here and there," the prefect says, "are the groups of cottages which arise above the sheet of water, and can only be reached by boats. The people are in a state of absolute destitution, not only their crops, but also the reeds which constitute the fuel, being destroyed by the floods."

An urgent appeal is made for aid for the stricken people, who number 15,000,000.

THE LEGISLATURE

Mr. Whitney Intimates Local House Will
Meet on January 23.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 19.—Premier Whitney has intimated to his friends that the Ontario Legislature will be called to meet between Jan. 21 and 24, but the date has not been settled. It will in all probability be the 23rd.

1906 WAS A VERY BUSY YEAR FOR BUILDING TRADES HERE

Architects Say There Was Plenty
Doing—New Business Houses
and Residences.

Local architects report 1906 to have been a very busy one in the building line in London and district. It is not generally known, but it is a fact nevertheless that London architects do the majority of the building supervising in Western Ontario. The reputation of London architects is very high in this part of the Province.

During the year there were many additions to business premises, and at present several very large buildings are in course of erection in the city. One of these is the new warehouse for the McClary Manufacturing Company on the corner of Adelaide and Trafalgar streets. It will cost about \$55,000, and contains no less than 1,200,000 feet of lumber.

Greene, Swift & Co. are also building a very large factory on the corner of Carling and Talbot streets. Mr. Wm. Murray is the architect on this job. C. A. Somerville, the chewing gum and paper box manufacturer, also put an addition to his factory this year, which in itself is a mammoth building.

The National Drug Company built a large warehouse on York street, which is a credit to the city.

It is understood that two brass firms and a wholesale grocery are seeking new premises, and will, if possible, build at an early date.

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CANADIAN CLUB'S LUNCHEON

Prof. Shortt's of Kingston. To Be the
Guest of Honor.

The Canadian Club's midday luncheon, to be given in the Masonic Temple banquetting room tomorrow, at which Adam Shortt, M. A., professor of economic and political science in Queen's University, Kingston, will make and address, will doubtless attract a large number of citizens. It will take place at 12:15 sharp. The pleasing feature of the luncheon is in bringing business men and others together in a social way, is the promptness with which they are carried on. Lunch is served on the tick of the clock, and the address and all proceedings are brought to a close within an hour, making it possible for the busiest men to enjoy the events.

Prof. Shortt's address will be on "The Future of Canada's International Relations," and a rare treat is in store for the members of the club who can avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing this distinguished visitor.

Madame Gould Wins

Not Obligated to Pay Debts Contracted
by Boni de Castellane.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Madame Gould, the former Countess Boni de Castellane, has been victorious in the suits brought by creditors and money lenders with the object of making Madame Gould jointly responsible with the countess. Thirty of the fifteen cases were dismissed today by the court, with costs against the plaintiffs.

The Holiday Travel

Day Less on the Single Fare Rates This
Season Than a Year Ago.

By reason of Christmas and New Years falling on Tuesday, the holiday patrons of the railways will have one day less on the holiday rates than was the case a year ago.

Last Christmas and New Years fell on Monday, and the single fare rates were made to extend from Saturday until Tuesday—four days.

This season, however, the single fares are good only from Monday until Wednesday.

The fare-and-a-third rates, however, are not affected, extending from Friday until after New Year's Day. The railways are preparing for a heavy business.

Manitoba Govt. Loses

Their Policy of Municipal Phones Was
Defeated in Municipal Elections.

Winnipeg, Dec. 19.—Municipal elections were held in all the rural municipalities and towns of Manitoba yesterday, and additional interest was attached to the voting by the fact that the plebiscite on the Government's telephone policy was coupled with the voting. Returns in this important question at midnight are incomplete, but indicate that in fully one-half or more of the municipalities the project, as presented by the Government, has been defeated. A number of towns, including Portage la Prairie, rejected the proposition, and while a large favorable vote was recorded in Brandon, a provision in the city charter which requires 90 per cent majority, defeats it there also. A notable fact is that in the Premier's own constituency of Dufferin his project was badly defeated. The Bell Company, of course, put up an active campaign against the Government in self-defense, but the Liberals took the ground that while a Government-owned telephone system is desirable, the Government's method of instituting it is wrong.

Badly Beaten

An Indian Picked Up on the Wabash
Railroad Near Ekfrid.

St. Thomas, Dec. 19.—Isaac Montour, an Indian, was found lying alongside the Wabash Railway tracks at Ekfrid yesterday afternoon, with his clothing torn and serious wounds on his head and body. He was taken to Glenora, where the doctors said the injuries were not caused by a train hitting him, but looked rather as if he had been beaten and left to die. He partly regained consciousness, gave his name, and said he was from the Grand River reservation. His mother lives at Hagersville.

The Weather.

TOMORROW—SNOWFALLS.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—8 p.m.

The weather has moderated over the Prairie Provinces today, while from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces it has been cold. Rain has fallen in British Columbia; otherwise fine conditions have prevailed throughout Canada.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 10 below—2 below; Atlin, 44—50; Port Simpson, 40—42; Victoria, 44—50; Vancouver, 44—48; Calgary, 18—40; Edmonton, 14—40; Qu'Appelle, 10 below—30; Winnipeg, 18 below—16; Parry Sound, zero—10; Toronto, 19—16; Ottawa, 4—10; Montreal, 1—20; Quebec, zero—8; Halifax, 16—32.

FORECASTS.

Wednesday, Dec. 19—8 a.m.

Today—Easterly to southerly winds; be-
Thursday—Southeasterly winds, with
light snowfalls.

Detroit, Dec. 19.—Lower and Upper Michi-
gan and Ohio: Wednesday and Thursday—
Fair, slowly rising temperature; fresh
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Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

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GOSSIP ABOUT THE CITY HALL

Council Likely To Be Some-
thing to Good This Year.

SURPLUS IN SCHOOL ACCOUNT

Little Excitement Over Coming Mu-
nicipal Elections—A Dearth of Can-
didates—The Komoka Scheme.

It is understood that the board of education will this year have an over-
draft of somewhere between \$1,000 and
\$1,500.

The Collegiate Institute account will
be responsible for the overdraft, as ex-
tensive and much needed improve-
ments were carried out there. It was
at first thought that a few dollars
would cover the cost of the work, but
a more careful investigation showed
that a vast amount of decorating and
touching up was required, and this the
board had done in a creditable man-
ner.

It is understood that the public
schools accounts will show a small sur-
plus this year.

The City Council

The city council will on the whole
come out probably \$3,000 to the good.
No. 3 committee will have a small
surplus; No. 2 will break about even,
and No. 1 will have an overdraft of
probably a couple of thousand dollars.

But against this the council will be
able to place about \$6,000 which will be
received from the water commission,
the revenue of the waterworks this
year having taken a great jump up-
wards.

Very Quiet Now.

Things are very quiet around the
city hall just now. Mayor Judd was
absent in Toronto today, conducting
the Vanzant investigation, and his
place was taken by Ald. Booth.

There were no callers, and the ac-
ting mayor had a comparatively easy
time of it.

There is very little talk of the mu-
nicipal election.

Apparently, great pressure is being
brought to bear upon ex-Commissioner
William Jones to run for water com-
missioner, but beyond this, there ap-
pears to be no unusual stir.

The bylaws are not causing any par-
ticular talk.

The Komoka scheme, according to
many prophets, will not carry in Jan-
uary, but there is no alternate scheme
proposed at present. Most of the al-
dermen favor going to Lake Huron
next summer, and having a vote of the
people taken in the spring.

Dearth of Candidates.

So far there is a dearth of candidates
for aldermen honors.

Ex-Ald. Stevens's friends are still urging
him to run for the council, and these
friends include the biggest business men
and representative workmen. He has
given no answer as yet.

Ex-Ald. Abram will again be in the field
for alderman. So will Mr. Charles Moor-
head of East London, who made such a
credible run last January.

Other names mentioned as those of Mr.
M. J. O'Donnell of the north end, and
Mr. Joseph Lawrence, of South London,
has also announced his candidature.

It is said that a move is on foot to have
School Trustee McCormick run for alder-
man this year.

Ald. Matthews still maintains his silent
position in regard to the mayoralty, and
it is taken for granted that the contest for
mayor will be between the present incum-
bent of the chair and Ald. Greenlee.

WILL BRYCE GO TO WASHINGTON?

Again It Is Reported That the
Irish Secretary Is Slated
for the U. S. Post.

London, Dec. 19.—Although it is
stated in the highest official circles that
the selection of an ambassador to
Washington has not yet been quite set-
tled, little doubt remains that James
Bryce will be named for the post, un-
less he positively vetoes his appoint-
ment. One of the Irish leaders in Par-
liament, with whom Mr. Bryce was in-
timately associated while drafting the
new Irish bill, said tonight that the
chances were a thousand to one that he
would be appointed.

"We would be sorry to lose him," said
this gentleman, "as he has been a
Home Ruler all his life, and as the
present chief secretary for Ireland has
been devoting all his talents to finding
a solution for the Irish question ac-
ceptable to both Ireland and England."

Mr. Bryce spends much of his time
at the Irish office, where, it is stated,
he is closing up affairs prior to the
Christmas recess of Parliament.

He is keeping his own counsel, and
even Sir Edward Grey, the foreign sec-
retary, was not aware tonight what
the Irish secretary was to do.



REV. J. W. GRAHAM,
Chosen for the Position of Associate
Secretary of the Methodist Educa-
tional Society of Canada.

LONDONER IN A BIG LAND DEAL