

The London Evening Free Press

WESTERN ONTARIO'S FOREMOST NEWSPAPER.

THE WEATHER: Probabilities—Fair.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1924.—36 PAGES.

MORNING EDITION—THREE CENTS

WOMAN FOUND ON R. WITH LEG SEVERED

Bucket Brigade Stops Fire At Zurich With Loss At \$40,000

BANK AND STORE AT ZURICH BURNED

Early Morning Blaze Results In Loss Estimated At \$40,000

FAMILY OF P. L. WURM NARROWLY ESCAPE

General Store and Molsoms Bank Building Wiped Out By Blaze.

Special to London Free Press. ZURICH, March 1.—The first few minutes of March saw a disastrous fire raging here. Soon after midnight this morning the Molsoms Bank and the general store of P. L. Wurm were completely destroyed, with a loss totaling \$40,000.

The residence of Dr. A. J. McKinnon, next to the bank, suffered damage to the extent of \$500, and the hardware store of A. Melch across the road was also damaged by the heat of the flames to an amount estimated at \$500. Mr. Wurm and his wife and brother-in-law escaped with difficulty from their apartment over the store when the fire was discovered.

It is believed the fire started in the basement of the Wurm store. When he smelled smoke, Mr. Wurm went down stairs and found the place in flames. He just had time to warn the other two when the whole building was enveloped.

The fire department responded, but the engine gave out, and it devolved upon volunteers to save the surrounding buildings with buckets.

The losses suffered by the Wurm store and the bank are fairly well protected by insurance.

MOVE TO TAX BETTING COMES UP MARCH 12

LONDON, March 1.—(Canadian Press Cable)—Lord Newton's motion in the House of Lords that the taxation of betting is both desirable and practicable will come up on March 12. On this date Lord Muskery will ask whether the Government can indicate the nature of the main proposals in a new bill limiting the hours of labor in different industries which it is the intention of the ministry to introduce shortly.

The evidence brought out by the House of Commons committee which last year inquired into the betting question in view of the proposal to place a tax on betting was generally in favor of the shorter hours of work and that the habit of betting was greater still when there were strikes. It is in this connection that Lord Muskery will ask for information as to the proposed shorter hours of work.

38-MILL RATE ON PRESENT BUDGET

Considerable Slashing Necessary To Cut Taxes.

INCLUDES WELFARE RELIEF

One Mill Granted For City Charitable Institutions.

Estimates already considered by the various civic boards will call for a tax rate of 38 mills, according to City Treasurer Bell. This will include the one mill asked by the United Welfare Association.

The Council will get busy in the next two weeks with the well-known hatchet and if that is sharp enough the rate may finally be slashed to 35 mills. But there is not much chance that it will be cut below that, so far as can be learned to-day.

There is not any possible hope of cutting the rate to 32 mills, which was promised last year by Mayor Wenig, Ald. Drake and Wait, in the opinion of those who are in a position to know the facts. However, Mr. Bell insists that the city officials are doing their best to help the mayor make good in that promise.

DANISH LOCKOUTS WILL AFFECT 40,000 MEN

LONDON, March 1.—Extensive lockouts affecting about 40,000 men, are to be declared shortly by the Danish Employers' Union, according to special dispatches from Copenhagen. The lockouts, the majority of which are set for March 8, involve the metal workers, bricklayers, masons, lithographers and many branches of unskilled labor. A declaration issued by the employers' union says that notwithstanding the renewal of many trade agreements, they find it impossible to continue operations in the face of persistent threats against the labor peace. The textile workers have given notice of a strike, to begin next Monday, involving 10,000 persons.

Boy, Page Diogenes! Honest Man Found By City Income Officers

Samuel Versto, Russian By Birth, Calls On City Treasurer and Insists On Paying Income Tax For Which He Has Not Yet Been Billed Before Leaving City.

The man for whom Diogenes searched, but without success, has been found in London, according to City Treasurer Bell. His name is Samuel Versto and he is a Russian by birth, having come to Canada when 15 years of age and lived in London for the last six years. Mr. Bell asserts that Mr. Versto is the only absolutely honest man with whom he has come in contact in his official position for years and he regrets that "the only honest man in London" is about to leave for the United States. The reason for all this eulogy on the part of the treasurer is the fact that Mr. Versto, who is leaving the city next week, came to the office of Tax Collector Turner to-day and insisted on paying his income tax of \$22.06. Mr. Turner was completely taken by surprise. He informed the gentleman that the tax rate has not been struck yet and it would be hard to accept the tax until the rate is fixed. But Mr. Versto was not to be balked and he insisted that he is leaving the city for good, he can find nothing to do here and he refused to leave the office until he had paid his income tax. Mr. Turner consulted with the Treasurer Bell and they decided that the rate of last year should apply, 3.7 mills. The tax was accordingly figured out on that basis and Mr. Versto cheerfully paid over \$22.06. The receipt will be earned last year. The receipt will be sent to him later when the tax rate is definitely decided.

It is too bad that London loses such a man as that," Treasurer Bell remarked as the Russian left the office, "but he is the only honest man in the city."

LITTLE OPPOSITION TO CHURCH BILL IN WEST

EDMONTON, March 1.—W. H. Shield, farmer member for MacLeod, in sponsoring the church union bill which passed its second reading yesterday, declared that most of the grievances now being voiced against the proposed measure were more imaginary than real, and declared the minority would be able to carry on as at present. They will have their share of the office, and a special commission will be appointed to settle any disputes arising over church funds and property, he said.

Only two members opposed the bill, Donald Cameron, farmer, Innisfaul, and M. C. McKee, farmer, Lac Ste. Anne.

ARSENAL EXPLOSION CUTS OFF COMMUNICATION

NEWARK, N. J., March 1.—A heavy explosion, which shook the surrounding territory for many miles, occurred at the Arsenal between 10 and 11 o'clock yesterday. The blast prostrated wire communication.

The explosions were plainly heard in Lower New York. Windows in a number of the tall buildings near the Battery rattled during the two distinct shocks.

OPEN TORONTO'S UNION STATION—FOR INSPECTION

TORONTO, March 1.—Toronto's \$500,000 union station is to be opened at last—but only for inspection by the traveling public. The Toronto Terminal Railway Company has made arrangements to open the building from 10 p. m. till 9 p. m. daily from March 12 to March, inclusive. Uniformed men and women will guide visitors.

THE WEATHER

FAIR.	
Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay	Moderate northwest winds; fair to-day and Sunday; not much change in temperature.
Pressure	Pressure is now moderately high from the Great Lakes westward, with no disturbance indicated. The weather continues fair to-day.
Western Provinces	Western Provinces and rather cold from Ontario eastward.
TEMPERATURES.	
Stations	8 a. m. Highest
Prince Rupert	38 44
Victoria	38 44
Edmonton	38 44
Calgary	30 46
Edmonton	28 36
Prince Albert	10 42
Winnipeg	18 40
S. S. Marie	14 20
LONDON	16 20
Toronto	20 20
Ottawa	6 26
Montreal	10 22
Quebec	12 16
St. John, N.B.	23 20
Halifax	22 26
St. John, Nfld.	24 36
Detroit	18 24
New York	28 40

Re-Elected



JOHN GRAHAM, again president of Masonic Hall, Limited.

CARDINAL SCORES DANCING MANIA AND DARING DRESS

Irish Primate Says Country Can Pride Herself No Longer On Modesty.

ALL-NIGHT DANCING CLASSED AS IMMORAL

New Dances Seem To Be An "Outcrop of the Corruption of the Age."

ARMAGH, Ireland, March 1.—Modern woman's tendency toward daring dress and the growing "mania" for dancing are scored by Cardinal Logue, primate of Ireland, in his Lenten pastoral to the archdiocese of Armagh. The pastoral, which will be read in all the Catholic churches to-morrow, says: "If there be one thing before all others of which Ireland was justly proud, it is the reserve and scrupulous modesty of her women and girls. I fear we can pride ourselves of this no longer. The fall of this franc alone has prevented."

"The dress, or rather the want of dress, of the women of the present day is a crying scandal. There seems to be rivalry among them as to how little dress they can wear without incurring universal reprobation. We see enough of this in everyday life, but if we can judge from the advertisements in the newspapers, we do not see the worst."

"What shocks one most is to see persons presenting themselves for holy communion in these dresses. I often have felt the impulse to pass them by. In Rome the cardinal vicar, no doubt with the approbation of the pope, has published a decree forbidding the clergy to give holy communion to those who present themselves in unbecoming dress. I fear his example must be followed if the scandal is to be stopped."

DANCING CONDEMNED.

"Another abuse is dancing, especially all-night dances. Lately, it seems to be a regular mania for dancing. As to the character of the dances, I know nothing, especially those imported from the continent, which I have seen in the newspapers—and certainly the names are bizarre enough. Those who profess to tell me they are respectable on the score of morality 'they seem to be an outcrop of the corruption of the age.'"

"There should be no unemployment in Ireland," says the cardinal, with a great part of the country in ruins.

SHAH OF PERSIA, IN DANGER OF LOSING THRONE

LONDON, March 1.—The people of Persia are severely censuring the Shah for his repeated lengthy absences in Europe and are talking of founding a republic, says the Tehran correspondent of the Daily Mail. The entire Persian press, he declares, is strongly in favor of the change, which is virtually the sole topic of discussion in Tehran. The Shah, who has been in Europe since early November, now is at Nice. He was on the continent from January to November in 1922 and also from the fall of 1919 to the spring of 1920.

SCORES OF FIREMEN OVERCOME BY FUMES

NEW YORK, March 1.—Fire Chief Kenton, Battalion Chiefs Kavanagh and O'Hanlon, two captains and three lieutenants were included among 41 firemen overcome by acid fumes in a fire which burned stubbornly for four hours among leather stocks in a downtown loft building last night. Nine were taken to hospitals, but none were seriously hurt.

DREAM OF FRANCE IS JOLTED BY FINANCES

Vision of European Control Ends As Franc Falls and Collapses.

FINAL VICTORY OVER GERMANY IMPOSSIBLE

Righting of Europe Nearer As Result of the French Awakening.

By J. W. T. MASON

Special to London Free Press. NEW YORK, March 1.—(United Press).—The reckless years of international bravado by France since the ending of the war are drawing to a close. The adventurous spirit of d'Armaghan and Cyrano de Bergerac, which has dominated the policy of the Paris Government, has been halted by the fall of the franc.

The French orgy of imperialistic gestures against unarmed Germany no longer need cause the world any anxiety.

France has become so badly damaged by the failure of her financial policy to keep pace with realities that instead of the work fearing French military internationalism, the British Empire will soon be begging the world to come to her rescue.

Nothing can give France a final victory over Germany. That fact, so chastely to French pride, must now be faced by the Government at Paris. Victory could have been gained, French people had been willing from the first days of the war to tax themselves commensurately with the demands of French imperialism and restore the prestige of the franc.

HER STRENGTH WASTED.

Could the franc have been forced to par by the sacrifices of France's peasant and bourgeois populations, as the British people have done, and enormous burdens of war taxation, France would have been able to maintain its position as a world power.

But it is impossible for a nation facing bankruptcy at home to conquer abroad. The fall of this franc alone has prevented."

POSTMASTER EVANS DIES AT STRATHROY

Former Editor of the Strathroy Age Succumbs After Week's Illness.

STRATHROY, March 1.—After an illness of a week with pneumonia, Postmaster David Evans died at his home here this morning. Mr. Evans was one of the best known citizens of the town, being engaged in many of the public organizations for many years. He was previously editor of the Strathroy Age.

Mr. Evans is survived by his widow, one son, E. D., editor of the Age-Dispatch, and two daughters. He was about 70 years old.

For some years Mr. Evans was a school trustee and served as secretary of the Strathroy Board for over 25 years. He was also a member of the hospital board and the public library board.

DISCOVERY OF PYORRHEA CURE HAS AROUSED MUCH INTEREST IN DENTISTS

Members of Dental Profession Here Regard Dr. Harold Box's Discovery As the Crowning Achievement of His Life.

Announcement by Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Ontario minister of health, of a cure for pyorrhea being discovered by Dr. Harold Box, Toronto, has aroused much interest among members of the dental profession. The importance of the announcement is enhanced by the fact that Dr. Box has already made an interest well as a confidence in the ability of Dr. Box to bring another medico-scientific laurel to Canada.

Dr. Box's pyorrhea cure is hailed by the ministry of health as hardly second in importance to the discovery of insulin. While pyorrhea is not so common as diabetes, it is a disease that profoundly affects the economic life of the nation owing to the extremely large percentage of the population who are afflicted by it.

Dr. John P. Blair, one of the city's foremost dentists, believes that Dr.

Monks Believe Balloon Guided By Divine Hand

BERLIN, March 1.—When a small test balloon, with registering apparatus, descended in the grounds of a monastery of the Order of St. Benedict, at Nieder Altheim, Lower Bavaria, the monks hastened to see what message the strange device had brought. Curiously enough, the data it contained showed that the balloon had been launched at a monastery in England.

An attached post card was returned, with a message expressing the belief that the balloon had had divine guidance.

MASTER MIND TO SOLVE TRANSIT PROBLEM URGED

Philip Pocock Believes Street Railway Situation Could Readily Be Cleared Up.

WOULD TAKE OVER ROAD AND RESTORE OLD RATES

Obtain Best Service If Operated By Municipality In Interests of Citizens.

That the transportation problem would be solved in a few months if the city had master minds directing its public affairs in the interest of the citizens is the opinion expressed by Philip Pocock in discussing the street railway question to-day. It is clearly the duty of the city council, and especially of the mayor, to direct the public in momentous questions, Mr. Pocock suggested. He also urged that the Council should serve notice on the London Street Railway Company immediately of the city's intentions of taking over the line under the terms of the franchise by-law. And if the franchise is to continue for another five years it must be under the old rate of fares, and the city must reduce in wages its just effort to throw dust in the eyes of the public, Mr. Pocock suggested.

The great trouble is that we have no master mind directing affairs in the interests of the public," Mr. Pocock stated. "The transportation system would soon be served if the men at the head of the city would carry out their duties as they should. It is the duty of the Council, and especially of the chief magistrate to direct public affairs. The public's want inspiration from the men in charge of the city's business."

BIG ISSUES DRAFT.

It is a shame to see the most important business of the city allowed to drift along like it is," Mr. Pocock said. "In view of the success of the public ownership has been made in London in the water works, hydro and L. and P. S. R., not to say anything about the street railway, it is to Toronto, Windsor and Detroit railways under municipal ownership, it is hard to conceive why any person should be at all dubious about the success of a municipally-owned street railway in London. The Council, in my opinion, should immediately serve notice on the L. S. R. that the road will be taken over next year under the terms of the franchise by-law. But if the franchise is allowed to continue automatically the fares should, and I believe they will, revert to the old rates."

"As an example of municipal ownership of street railways, Toronto has conclusively shown that the benefits that are derived from a municipally operated transportation system," Mr. Pocock said. "The car mileage has been nearly trebled since the road was taken over by the city. Citizens generally now point with pride to their street board."

TEN MORE RECRUITS TO MODERATE WET RANKS IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Ten more members of the House have joined the committee of 40 formed yesterday to study modification of the Volstead Act to permit 2.75 per cent. beverages, it was announced yesterday by Representative Hill, Republican, Maryland.

"At least 50 members of the House of Representatives will file the committee bill next Tuesday," Mr. Hill predicted.

BIG HAUL MADE IN CHINATOWN RAID

Opium Worth \$50,000 Seized By Philadelphia Police.

PLANNED FOR WEEKS

Drug Found Under Floor and Behind Secret Panels.

PHILADELPHIA, March 1.—Fifty thousand dollars' worth of opium, hidden under the floor and behind secret panels about the walls, was taken here early to-day in a sensational police raid on Chinatown. Ten Chinese drug addicts were arrested.

The raid came as the result of several weeks planning as the place was known to be a distributing center for the drug as well as the habitation of smokers.

As the police descended on the building several hundred Orientals gathered along the streets to watch the raiders. The smokings were on the second and third floors, and the police dashed up the stairs and into the rooms before the Chinese could make their exit. Opium was found in every conceivable place.

\$2,500,000 FOR ALBERTA FARMERS.

CALGARY, Feb. 29.—Chester Elliott, manager of the Alberta wheat pool, announced on Thursday that a distribution of the pool's surplus would begin during the month of March. Something more than \$2,500,000 will be issued to the farmers. The distribution will be approximately 10 cents a bushel on wheat that has been delivered to the pool up to about the time of distribution of this interim payment.

WOLSELEY BARRACKS MENACED BY FIRE

Blaze Brought Under Control By Prompt Action of Medical Corps Staff.

BOILER EXPLOSION FEARED AT ONE TIME

Sixteen Soldier Patients Removed To Place of Safety After Alarm Sounded.

Fire threatening Wolseley Barracks broke out in the boiler room of the C. A. M. C. hospital, in the north wing of the square, at 11 a. m. to-day. Steps were immediately taken, under the command of Col. T. F. Murphy, senior medical officer, to remove 16 soldier patients to a place of safety should the fire spread, while Sgt. Fred Shaw ran into the boiler room, filled with thick smoke, to ascertain if there was any danger of the boiler exploding. Early in the century a boiler exploded at Wolseley Barracks, in which two soldiers of the Royal Canadian Regiment lost their lives.

A general alarm was turned in to the central station and No. 4 and No. 4 companies responded with the service truck.

MEN FOUGHT BLAZE

In the meantime, however, the fire was practically extinguished by non-commissioned officers and men attached to the hospital, who used chemical extinguishers.

The north wing of Wolseley Barracks, containing the hospital, Royal Canadian Regiment's sergeants' mess, and military police, was filled with dense smoke from the fire which was out of proportion to the actual extent of the blaze, yet added to the general alarm.

"C" Company of the Royal Canadian Regiment was paraded on the alarm of fire and stood ready to aid in fighting the flames had the conflagration spread.

COMPLIMENT N. C. O.

Sergt. Shaw's prompt action in ascertaining the cause and extent of the fire, as well as investigating possible danger from the boiler itself—an action taken without regard to his own safety—is considered worthy of the best traditions of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and all members of Col. Murphy's staff will receive formal congratulations in their devotion to duty during the morning fire, happily, was at no time of serious proportions.

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Safe Blower Suspect



OSCAR WARNER, aged 22, who is in jail here awaiting trial on a charge of robbing the Neal Baking Company on February 17 of \$1,211.44.

HOLD TECH COURSE FOR APPRENTICES

Effort To Ally School Curriculum With Industry.

NOT RECOGNIZED UP TO NOW

Conduct Classes In Winter When Work Is Dull.

In order to bring the Technical School curriculum into closer touch with the various branches of industry, arrangements have been made to conduct a series of courses during the winter months, especially adapted to the needs of apprentices in the building trades.

Announcement of the plan was made at the advisory vocational committee meeting held last night at Victoria Hospital.

Prin. Beal outlined the plan he has in mind.

It appears that up to the present time no recognition of Technical School courses has been given in the building and other allied trades. Recently a conference was held with representatives of the Builders' Exchange here and a plan has been formulated whereby courses of instruction in the technical end of the building trades are to be provided. The apprentices will be expected, under the proposed plan, to devote a certain number of months during their period of training to Technical School work.

IN SLACK PERIODS.

And the courses will be conducted during the slack periods when there is little or nothing to do in the building line owing to weather conditions. It is understood also that arrangements are being made to allow the apprentices to take advantage of these facilities using wages throughout the entire year. In this way instead of seeking employment during the four months of winter in some other vocation, the young man apprenticed to the building trade will under this new plan be able to continue his training.

LONDON CASES UNSETTLED.

TORONTO, March 1.—Decision will not be given for some time by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in the cases heard at London respecting status as "department" stores or otherwise of Smallman & Jungmuller, Limited, and Kingsmill's. A transcript of the evidence has not yet been received by the commissioners, Chairman Ingram said.

PRINCE MATSUKATA, OF JAPANESE GENRO, DIES

TOKIO, March 1.—Prince Masayoshi Matsukata, one of the Genro, or "elder statesmen," of Japan, who has died critically ill for several days, died to-day. Prince Matsukata was considered the founder of Japanese finance. He was born in 1855 and served through the Japanese civil war restoration. He was many times a member of the Japanese Cabinet. During the earthquake in Japan last year it was reported that Prince Matsukata was among those killed.

F.P.D. EVANS, OF HIGHGATE, IS LEADING NOW IN THE SALESMANSHIP CLUB RACE

W. J. Armour, of Kincardine, Next In Line; Big Surprise At Headquarters To-Day For The Members

The surprise will then enter the mail for him immediately.

"I'll bet I know what the surprise is," a woman said over the telephone yesterday evening. "You are going to give more credits on business turned in Surplus Day."

She was wrong, very wrong. Never again in the campaign for a period of length will subscriptions count more in credits than they do right now in the double days. The real surprise is not a matter of business to-day, far from it. Nor is it necessary for a member to report with business to-day. Nice reports, of course, will help to cheer the drooping spirits of the sales manager, but any sort of a word of cheer will help. This surprise party, in other words, is purely social. Of course the sales club staff is hoping that members will reciprocate the surprise with a pleasant surprise in subscriptions for the sales manager, but most of all a demonstration of loyalty to the club is desired.

It is not permitted to hint even at the nature of the club surprise, but for the benefit of those guessers it may be stated positively that mousethats, silver toothpicks, ear drums, lip sticks and other articles of peculiar individual utility are not involved. Whatever may be one's nature, no matter what his taste, this surprise will fill the requirement. That is not club staff know, he is still on earth.

SEVENTY-YEAR-OLD LADY HIT BY TRAIN

Mrs. Janet Baker, 10 Childer Street, Found Lying On Tracks Three Miles From City.

LEG AMPUTATED IN ORDER TO HELP SAVE HER LIFE

Aged Woman Who Wandered From Home Not Expected To Recover From Injuries.

Suffering from injuries which are considered extremely critical, Mrs. Janet Baker, 70 years old, 10 Childer street, was removed to Victoria Hospital in the police ambulance at 3 o'clock this morning, after being found lying between the tracks of the main line and the C. N. R., three miles east of the city. Her injuries indicated that she had been struck by a train. In the hospital her left leg was found so severely crushed that it was amputated just above the knee. Mrs. Baker also suffered from the effects of a gash on the head and her left hand was cut. She was unconscious when found and was identified by her niece, Mrs. J. J. Hill, with whom she resides.

The injured woman was found by the crew of a freight train, No. 415, west-bound from Hamilton, in charge of Engineer O'Connor and Conductor Bryant, of Hamilton. They brought her to the East London depot of the C. N. R., rendering first aid en route. From East London Mrs. Baker was conveyed still in an unconscious condition in the police ambulance to Victoria Hospital.

WANDERED FROM HOME.

The aged woman wandered from her home some time yesterday and the aid of the police was enlisted in the search for her. When the unconscious woman was brought into the city by the C. N. R. train crew, it was presumed by the police that she was the one sought and this was verified when relatives identified her at Victoria Hospital.

Nothing is known of how Mrs. Baker came to be struck by the train, nor is it known what train figured in the accident. She was found between the tracks of the main line and the first thought of the crew was to render assistance. Inquiries are being made to-day to ascertain if possible which train struck her.

Doctors are not hopeful of her recovery. She was taken to the operating-room almost as soon as she was admitted and the amputation made in an effort to save her life.

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