

London Evening Advertiser

BIGGS WILL TELL COMMITTEE ALL HE KNOWS

FORMER U.F.O. MINISTER DENIES HE MADE PROFIT THROUGH GOVERNMENT

Hon. Frank C. Biggs Testifies Before Public Accounts Committee
When Evidence of Former Witness Connects His Name
With Large Investments in Stocks—Ex-Cabinet
Minister Maintains All His Transactions
Open and Above Board.

MRS. BIGGS HAD \$10,000 INVESTED IN COMPANY

Special to The Advertiser.
Toronto, April 16.—Hon. F. C. Biggs, former minister of highways and public works during the U. F. O. regime, voluntarily took the stand before the public accounts committee today and vigorously denied that he or any of his family had profited by a single cent in any business dealings with the province.

W. S. Haney of West Lambton had moved to summon him as a witness after the name of Mrs. Julia Biggs had been cited in evidence as the holder of \$10,000 worth of stock in Morgan, Dean, Harris & Mulvaney Company. Mr. Biggs rose and offered to take the stand, and the motion of Mr. Haney was withdrawn.

Evidence was supplied during the morning showing that the firms which George R. Harris of Hamilton had been identified with had made a profit of \$125,000 out of their dealings in the buying of bonds which he sold to the province.

DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF DEALS.

"Did you introduce Harris to Hon. Peter Smith?" was the pointed question which Hon. W. H. Price put to Mr. Biggs.

"I did not," said the former minister.
"You did not introduce him to Smith? That is an important point, Mr. Biggs."

"I did not. I was never in Smith's office with Harris."
"Pressed by several members as to his knowledge of the deals made with Harris for the buying of bonds, Mr. Biggs denied that he had any knowledge of the negotiations. "They were not carried on in my department," he said.

Accepts Responsibility.

"But you were in the government. You were there when the order-in-council was signed?"
"Yes, I was there and I accept the responsibility along with the other members of the government."

He denied that he had knowledge of the negotiations with Harris, or that Harris had told him of the profits he had made. Mr. Biggs also denied that he had ever had a dollar's stock in the Beaver Trust Co., which sold two trucks to the province. His name had been put on the prospectus improperly after he had refused an invitation to become a director in the company.

Private Reasons Claimed.

As for the \$10,000 stock he had bought in the Morgan, Dean, Harris & Mulvaney firm, he had for private reasons put that in his wife's name. It had been a total loss so far for the firm was now defunct, although not in liquidation. Eventually he hoped to get some of the money back. He had nothing to do with the later partnership of that firm and his wife's stock in it had been disposed of before any business was done with the province.

A feature of the evidence was a statement of A. E. Nash, assistant to G. T. Clarkson, that the ledger sheets in the books of Harris, company dealing with the account of Mr. Biggs, answering E. R. Wigle, though not in liquidation. Eventually he hoped to get some of the money back. He had nothing to do with the later partnership of that firm and his wife's stock in it had been disposed of before any business was done with the province.

Questions Committee.

Chairman Finlayson asked the committee what it proposed to do about M. J. Haney, who is confined with illness to his house and cannot testify. Mr. Finlayson said he did not know anything could be done in the meantime. It was no use sending to the house. Col. Price suggested a committee of members might be sent to interview him.

"Send a few of the governors and let them take a script," said Col. Price. But no action was taken. Mr. Biggs, answering E. R. Wigle, said he did not receive monthly statements of his transactions. He promised to assist Mr. Nash in any way possible in carrying out a record of these accounts. The committee adjourned until this afternoon, when Mr. McGarry and George R. Harris will be the chief witnesses.

Public Accounts.

Before evidence was taken, Chairman Finlayson read a letter from Dr. Amnden that M. J. Haney, former president of the Home Bank, was Please See Page 4, Column 4.

"Save the Forest Week," Prizes for Best Essays

The Advertiser Offers a Competition Open to Boys and Girls
Under Sixteen Years of Age.

"Save the Forest Week" has been proclaimed by the governor-general-in-council from April 27 to May 3.

Its purpose is to impress upon Canadians the necessity of safeguarding from fire the great national wealth of our forests.

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

To assist in that purpose The Advertiser will conduct in Western Ontario an essay competition open to boys and girls under sixteen years of age. The subject and conditions of the competition are listed below.

GENEROUS PRIZES GIVEN.

Generous prizes will be distributed by The Advertiser from the Government of Canada, represented by Hon. Charles Stewart, minister of the interior. The prizes include a radio receiving set and seven cash prizes.

Rules of the Contest.

The competition is open to any reader or subscriber to The Advertiser, under 16 years of age. The competition will close at 12 midnight on May 3, 1924.

The subject of the essay is to be the proclamation (published herewith) setting apart the week of April 27-May 3 as "Save the Forest Week," or any point relative to forest conservation.

Please see page 6, col. 4.

BANDIT HUNT IS ABANDONED BY OFFICIALS AT COLUMBUS

Systematic Search Comes to a
Close as Detectives Make
Final Search.

WILL BE ON WATCH

Criticize Lack of Co-operation
Given by Authorities
in Ottawa.

BY WILLIAM SHARMAN.

Special to The Advertiser
by a Staff Reporter.

Columbus, April 16.—Pending further developments, the Columbus detective department today abandoned any systematic hunt for "Pat" Norton and "Bill" Murrell, wanted in London, Canada.

As a last effort, Detective Kelly and Shafts, considered to be the best in their department, were sent out this morning to make the rounds of the hotels and lodging houses, their particular specialty. When they report in tonight the organized search will be ended, although all members of the squad will be warned to keep on the lookout.

Earl Heise and members of the vice squad of the city detective department paid surprise visits upon certain of the better-known "blind pigs" in search for Norton and Murrell.

Raids Unsuccessful.

The raids were unsuccessful, several places were visited, including the most logical "hang-outs," the police reasoned, for men in Norton's predicament. The police acted upon the tip from the Toronto authorities that Murrell and Norton were frequenting "run shops."

Chief McNeal said that it would be impossible to conduct further investigations with such information as furnished yesterday by the provincial authorities at Toronto. He stated that his department is overworked and he is not sure if it is a request goes forward to Toronto for a fingerprint report in Murrell's instance, the chief rapping the Toronto police because this detail was not incorporated in the letter yesterday from Commissioner Gault.

Asks Many Questions.

Chief McNeal wants to know a variety of things. He questions why this information was not sent without delay, just as soon as it was reported that Norton and Murrell were here. He would also like to know who the police "informant" at Toronto was; whether he was a resident of Columbus or merely passing through.

The Toronto report stated that "Pat" Norton had been in the habit of dropping in every evening at a place where hard cider and kindred beverages were served, but the designated location is too vague to be of any real service to the police.

BOARD APPEARS BEATEN
ON RADIATOR QUESTION

Walls at Back of Heating
Appliances Fail To
Receive Paint.

Will the board rooms of the board of education be painted behind the radiators or not, one of the problems confronting the trustees at present. When the contract was let to paint the rooms, only the walls and ceilings were specified. Accordingly, the space behind the radiators was not done. The board then asked the contractors, Westland Brothers, to paint in behind the radiators, but they agreed to do on the condition that the board would remove the radiators.

This was evidently a move the trustees did not expect, and it rather took them by surprise. After some discussion, they still did not know how they could get the whole wall painted as it was too expensive to remove the radiators. A few school payers believe the painters can be forced to remove the radiators and replace them after the painting is done, and some of the other "high school counsel" hold it is better to let sleeping dogs lie and admit that the board has got the worst of the deal.

The fact remains that the spaces behind the radiators in white and the rest of the walls brown, that it makes an unpleasant appearance, and that the majority of the board are distinctly peeved over the result of their spring cleaning endeavors.

YORK STREET BRIDGE IS
OPENED TO TRAFFIC AGAIN

York street bridge was opened to traffic yesterday after being closed for a week while extensive repairs were made to the flooring. All new planks have been placed in the flooring while the surface is perfectly level. This is a decided improvement over its previous condition.

Repairs are being made on the King street bridge.



DR. HORACE L. BRITTAIN,
whose much talked of report on the
fire hall will be taken up at a meeting
of the finance committee to-night.

WELLAND CANAL IS OPENED TODAY

The Steel Freighter Claremont
Leaves Toronto, Bound For
Wallaceburg Plant.

Canadian Press Despatch.
St. Catharines, April 16.—The steel freighter Claremont, skipper Scott Misner, port owner, opened navigation this morning on the Welland Canal at 7 o'clock. She is a 1,234-ton vessel, up-bound light from Toronto to Wallaceburg for a cargo of sugar.

Several vessels are waiting at Port Colborne and will be locking through within the next few days. Among them are the canal freighters Ben Maple, Winona, E. T. Douglass, Frank Baird, Judge Hart, J. J. Rammacher, Dairyville, William A. Daniels, Albert C. Field, Robert W. Pomeroy and Nisbet Grammer.

Tug Is Wrecked
But Crew Escape

Crashes Into the Breakwater at
Port Burwell.

Special to The Advertiser.
Port Burwell, April 16.—While proceeding out of the harbor at Port of Port Stanley was struck in the stern by the tug Max L., causing the Elgin E. to swerve and strike the concrete breakwater. The tug was taken back to the harbor, where it sank in 20 feet of water.

Henry, in charge of the Elgin E. and Capt. MacKiver of the Max L. The crews escaped without injury.

CASE POSTPONED.

The police court case of Wm. Leff against the Windsor and Essex County Council was postponed today until tomorrow. The charge was laid by Health Inspector Richard Sanders.

Insulin Is Proving Worth
In Last Stages of Disease

Records Show Treatment For
Diabetes Is Effecting
Marvellous Cures.

34 APPLY IN MONTH

Dr. Albert Slack, of the Public
Health Institute, Tells of
Results in District.

In more than a dozen instances persons in the last stages of diabetes who would ordinarily succumb within periods of one to three days have, in Western Ontario, been brought from the brink of the grave through insulin. Dr. Albert Slack, of the Institute of Public Health, declared today that insulin had proven marvellously efficacious in the treatment of advanced cases. Patients in a state of coma, previously regarded as the final stage of the disease, have been made comparatively well after being inoculated with the fluid.

January the consumption of insulin throughout Western Ontario reached its highest point. Dr. Slack said. "So far, insulin has given satisfaction everywhere."

To date 1,419,740 units of the liquid have been given free by the institute and it is estimated that the total insulin consumption in this city alone since September is more than 5,000,000 units.

Distribution by the institute since September has been as follows:

September	18,000 units
October	13,000 units
November	13,100 units
December	21,500 units
January	25,574 units
February	19,859 units
March	21,150 units

who caused a stir in the British Commons yesterday when he declared that India's claim for an extension of self-government was unwarranted. He also scored the India policy of the Labor government.

JILTED LOVER FAILS
IN SUICIDE ATTEMPT

Associated Press Despatch.
Troyes, France, April 16.—The course of true love now running smoothly enough for a sergeant mechanic attached to the Belle Idee aviation camp, he decided yesterday to end his days in a novel and heroic manner. Although his knowledge of piloting was purely theoretical, he resolved to fly to a great height and then leap into space. Accordingly, he started up a machine and got into the pilot's seat, but only succeeded in capsizing and smashing the plane.

The disappointed lover is now locked up awaiting trial for damaging government property.

MACDONALD FAVORABLE TO ARMAMENTS CONFERENCE

British Premier Points to the
Danger of Misunderstanding
French.

DEPLORES AIR RACE

Believes General Parley Will Be
Started in the Near
Future.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, April 16.—Prime Minister MacDonald, responding today to a speech in the House of Commons by Major General J. E. B. Seely, former president of the air council, who advocated that the premier call an international conference for air disarmament, declared he would welcome an invitation by any other power to take up the whole question of armaments.

The prime minister while emphasizing that a general conference on armaments was desirable declared it was of "greatest importance" that there be no reason for misunderstanding between Great Britain and France. It is most important that that should be so," he said. His statement on British relations with France was coupled with a reference to "this unfortunate air race that has already begun."

The premier said he had "at the back of my mind—and not very far from the back—the intention that as soon as we have cleared away some of the present difficulties in Europe we must face quite seriously this question of armaments, not only in the air but all other forms of armaments."

He added that if he felt there was the least chance of receiving a welcome should he make such an approach, he was prepared to do it. This statement evoked cheers from the house.

"To put it the other way," continued the premier, "I am sure the whole house is with me when I say that if any invitation is extended to me by any other power to help bring about such an arrangement, my door is open to that invitation."

"I would like it to be general. It is of the greatest importance that there should be no reason for a misunderstanding—not merely no reason for quarrelling, but no reason for a misunderstanding—between France and ourselves."

"It is most important that that should be so."

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HON. T. A. CRERAN,
leader of the Progressive farmers
who protested in vain against certain
transactions by the Home Bank.
This fact was brought out at the
opening of the probe in the failure
of the Home Bank.

FIVE CHILDREN BURN TO DEATH

Little Ones Are Trapped When
Fire Breaks Out in Bridge-
port Building.

Associated Press Despatch.
Bridgeport, Conn., April 16.—Trapped in their bedrooms by flames that quickly destroyed their little home, five children were burned to death last night when fire broke out in the old stable of the former Green-lawn Club here.

Two bodies have been recovered, and firemen are digging into the ruins of the building for the others. Samuel Ehrlik, father of the children burned, is in St. Vincent's Hospital painfully burned, together with his 11-year-old son Sam, who will probably die. The father will live. The mother died a year ago. The children, ranging in ages from 8 to 14 years, did not have a chance to escape and were caught by the flames as they fought to get out of their lone bedroom. Ehrlik and his son Sam, in another part of the house, tried to get to the aid of the five trapped little ones. They were finally forced to flee for their lives.

WINDSOR WOULD BOOM
IF O.T.A. WERE MODIFIED

Chief Dan Thompson Tells
Views While On Visit to
Forest City.

Chief Dan Thompson of the Windsor police department and a former member of the London force, was a visitor at police headquarters this morning and an engaging half-hour conversation with Chief Birrell, Inspector Nickle and other old timers on the local department.

Chief Thompson arrived in London last night after attending the funeral of Chief W. R. Whitley of the Hamilton department.

"It was the largest funeral I have ever seen," stated the Windsor official. "The streets were lined from the Central Presbyterian Church to the cemetery. Chief Whitley was a splendid officer and a splendid man. He was well liked in Hamilton."

After spending the day with his mother, Chief Thompson leaves for Windsor. Commenting on automobile traffic in the border city, he stated over 1,500,000 cars from Detroit were handled by his traffic squad last year, an increase of \$55,000 over 1922. He predicted an increase of 10,000 in Windsor's population, should the Ontario government modify the O. T. A.

C. P. R. OFFICIALS EXPECT
HEAVY EASTER TRAFFIC

While no additional trains are being run by the C. P. R. on this division for the Easter holidays, officials of the road are preparing to meet what they expect to be one of the heaviest periods for a number of years.

Extra coaches will be added to all regular trains and if conditions are such that during the past few weeks passenger traffic on this division has been exceptionally heavy, and with fine weather for Easter, the heaviest travel is expected to eclipse any previous record made.

SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES
JOINS INSURANCE FIRM

Associated Press Despatch.
London, April 16.—Sir Auckland Geddes, former ambassador to the United States, has joined the board of directors of a well-known insurance company.

REACH SETTLEMENT.

A satisfactory settlement was made between Robert McBride and James Sanford over a wage dispute in Magistrate Graydon's office this morning. Mr. McBride claimed some \$40 was owing him and after a short conference, the magistrate announced the matter had been adjusted.

CHIEF JUSTICE OPENS INQUIRY INTO FAILURE OF HOME BANK

R. J. McLaughlin, Representing
Depositors, Outlines Home
Bank History.

TELLS OF PETITIONS

Scope of Probe Is Definitely
Defined by Orders-in-
Council.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, April 16.—Documentary evidence showing that three western directors of the Home Bank in 1916, Hon. T. A. Creran and Messrs. John Kennedy and John Pershe protested repeatedly against certain transactions of the bank was presented at the opening sitting of the royal commission this morning.

Correspondence which passed between the western directors and the general manager and certain of the eastern directors, was read by B. J. Roberts, secretary of the finance department, from the departmental files. This showed that during the latter part of 1915 and 1916 the western directors were much exercised over some of the banks' transactions. They even went so far as to state that they might have to communicate with the minister of finance in regard to the condition of the bank.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, April 16.—With due formality Chief Justice McLaughlin New Brunswick today began his inquiry into the affairs of the Home Bank. From the speaker's point of view, the scene was impressive. There were no crowds in the large room of the railway commission, where the inquiry began, an array of counsel was seated in front of the commissioner; there was a line of newspapermen waiting in the hall for a slight scattering of four or five interested spectators.

Of counsel, Eugene Lafleur, K.C., of Montreal, and H. J. Symington, K.C., of Winnipeg, represented the Dominion Government; W. T. J. Lee, K.C., and R. J. McLaughlin, K.C., both of Toronto, and A. G. Browning, K.C., of Hamilton, represented the depositors. It was fifteen minutes or so after the appointed hour before the proceedings opened.

As is customary in such inquiries, they began with the reading of the royal commission decreeing in its own language that "by and with the advice of our privy council we do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint—following with the formal nomination of Judge McKeown, commissioner, and granting of customary authority to that end.

Scope of Inquiry Defined.

Then came the reading of the various orders in council ordering the inquiry and defining its scope.

H. J. McLaughlin then read the original petition submitted to the government, presented to the government, on behalf of 60,000 depositors of the Home Bank. This petition resulted in the holding of the present inquiry. It was submitted to the government in January last.

An outline of the case was then given by Mr. McLaughlin, who said that in January, 1916, the three western directors made representations to the government that the condition of the Home Bank was unsatisfactory. These should have received the attention of the government.

Please See Page 4, Column 1.

The Weather

FORECASTS.
Today—Strong
easterly winds;
fair.

Thursday—
Strong easterly
winds; not much
change in tem-
perature.

Pressure distri-
bution has cen-
tered very little
since yesterday.

The weather has been rather cool in nearly all parts of the Dominion, and a heavy snowfall has occurred in Manitoba.

Temperatures.

The highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were:

Stations	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	52	49	Cloudy
Calgary	50	39	Fair
Winnipeg	52	32	Cloudy
Port Arthur	54	24	Cloudy
Sault Ste. Marie	42	34	Cloudy
Cochrane	48	16	Clear
Toronto	44	38	Cloudy
Kingston	44	32	Clear
Ottawa	48	28	Clear
Montreal	46	39	Clear
Quebec	42	28	Clear
St. John	39	29	Fair
Halifax	44	32	Cloudy

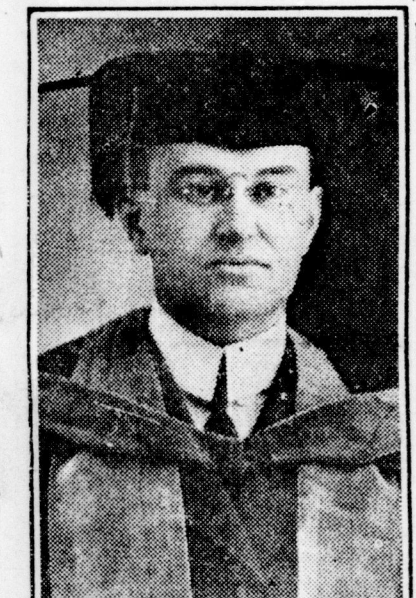
LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 43; lowest, 35.

The official temperature for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 43; lowest, 35.

Barometric Readings.

Tuesday—8 p.m.—29.32.
Today—8 a.m.—29.23.



PROF. H. R. KINGSTON,
who was elected president of the
Brotherhood of the First Methodist
Church at a meeting held last night.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY TO HONOR MITCHELL

Noted Astronomer Will Be
Given Degree of Doctor
of Laws.

Samuel A. Mitchell, well-known astronomer of international renown, will have the degree of doctor of laws conferred upon him at the convocation of Queen's University on May 7, according to word received by his brother, E. C. Mitchell, local manager of the National Drug and Chemical Company, Limited.

Born in Kingston on April 29, 1874, Mr. Mitchell received his early education in that city, as well as his M. A. in Queen's University. In 1897 he was made fellow in astronomy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. In 1898, he received his Ph.D. at Columbia University where he was tutor of astronomy until 1905, when he was made instructor in astronomy.

Three years later he was made adjunct professor of astronomy, a position he held until 1913, when he received the appointment of professor of astronomy and director of lands in McCormick University in Virginia.

He is a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, A.A.A.S. and a member of the American Astronomical Society.

KELLY WILL ATTEND
MONTREAL CONFERENCE

Thomas Kelly of this conference, representative on the grievance committee of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, left yesterday for Montreal, where a special meeting of officers has been called. Before leaving, he stated that he did not think it was in connection with wage schedule of railroadmen in Canada, who are asking an increase of five per cent.

Newsy Bits From Today's
Classified Ads.

Ten dollar bill lost.
Competent male wanted.
Cheesemaker wanted.

Horses for sale.
Choice apartment to let.