

THREE LONG YEARS FOR BIGAMY FORMER LONDONER SENTENCED

John Alexander Watson, Who Wood and Won Too Many Wives
Was Given His Just Deserts by Ambitious City
Magistrate This Morning.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Hamilton, May 23.—Three years in the penitentiary was handed out to John Alexander Watson, a former Londoner, this morning at police court, when he appeared before Magistrate Jeffs on charge of bigamy. He sat in the pen with drooping head, feeling his position keenly. His first wife, whom he married July, 1903, in Zambia, was the only witness for the crown, and she told the story of desertion, which was made when she was sick in 1909 and needed the help of her husband most. He left her to go to London to work on the G. P. R. there.

The first wife walked to the box on crutches, and wept when she saw her faithless husband in the "pen."

The second marriage took place in this city in January, Rev. Mr. MacLaughlin performing the ceremony.

Miss Clara Fraser, a 17-year-old girl, was the duped female, but she did not appear in court.

Watson pleaded guilty to the charge. "I sentence you to three years in penitentiary," said Magistrate Jeffs. "I think that we are dealing with you leniently. You left your first wife when she needed your help most and you ruined the life of another girl."

Watson had to be assisted from the court room.

The arrest was made Saturday evening by Detective Sayers upon the receipt of information laid by the first wife.

COMPETITION HELPS ROBERTS SALARY TO BE MADE \$2,000

Water Commissioners Are to Make an Attempt to Retain the
Services of a Very Capable Man—Nothing New
Regarding Head Engineer.

resignation of Engineer Roberts of the electrical department, received and read at the water commissioners' meetings on Saturday last, but action was deferred until Mr. Roberts pointed out that he had a most flattering offer to go to a private company, and it was his intention of accepting. He did not wish to leave the commission in difficulties, and stated that he would remain until the middle of August in order to give his successor plenty of time to get in touch with the situation.

An effort will be made to retain the services of Mr. Roberts, it is stated. He is in close touch with the situation locally, and is a capable man.

A salary increase. A substantial increase in salary will be offered him. At the present time he receives about \$1,200, and it will be made \$2,000. It was stated that in the meantime the commissioners are on the lookout for a business manager for the Niagara power end of it. Some good men have been communicated with, and it is quite certain that a good man will be obtained for the purpose.

Little has been heard of a head engineer since the past few days. A number of applications have been considered, but no definite information has been received from any of those named.

MOON NOW IN THE LIMELIGHT! PUTTING ON A FEW STUNTS

Halley's Comet Will Not Be the "Only Pebble On the Beach"
Tonight—Watch for the Eclipse of the Moon

Halley's comet has been boomed and tin-panned across the sky for weeks. It has passed the earth and turned a few tricks on the astronomers, leaving those gentlemen in a fever of excitement explaining why certain things did not occur, while "Old Man Moon" has stood by in courteous but disgusted silence.

That easy-going old body now rises to show the world a few tricks itself, and tonight an event that occurs twice each year will be on the program—the sun and the moon, causing a total eclipse of the latter body.

No, indeed!

Now the moon does not go gallivanting around on 75-year trips or anything like it, but occasionally it gets frolicsome and sneaks in behind the earth in order to get out of the sun.

Astronomers who have been "kidded" a lot since the comet fizzle, come forward with the prediction that the moon will enter the earth's shadow at 9:14 tonight, as viewed from London; it reaches its total eclipse at 10:37 and middle eclipse at 11:02. Totally ends 26 minutes later, and the moon leaves the shadow at 12:12 in the morning.

A Total Eclipse.

The total eclipse will be somewhat of an event, as the moon will be cut off from the direct rays of the sun for Continued on Page Four.

POPULAR POSTOFFICE OFFICIAL IS DEAD

Mr. Fred Birmingham Succumbs
to an Attack of Heart
Failure.

Mr. Frederick Birmingham, for 26 years a member of the postoffice staff, as a carrier and clerk, died at his home, 633 Dufferin avenue yesterday afternoon after an illness of several weeks with heart failure. Mr. Birmingham, who was a son of the late W. T. Birmingham, was born in Bermuda. Three years ago owing to ill-health he retired from the postoffice. Besides his wife, Mrs. Annie Birmingham, he leaves four sisters and three brothers, Mrs. John Dalton, Mrs. P. J. Flannery, and Mrs. F. W. Orendorff, of this city; Mrs. David Dibb, of Colorado Springs; John, of Pasadena, California; Albert, of Milwaukee, and Arthur, of Bowling Green, Ohio. The funeral will be held on Wednesday morning at St. Peter's Cathedral, and interment will be made at St. Peter's Cemetery.

LANDED IN J. P.'S FIELD

An Aviator Was Fined \$25 for Speeding
in an Auto.

London, May 22.—It cost Graham White, the English aviator who recently made a desperate attempt to beat Paulhan for the Daily Mail prize of \$50,000 for a flight from London to Manchester, \$25 for automobile speeding, but he paid it in a peculiar way. He was accused of running beyond the speed limit and was summoned to the police court at Woking yesterday. He did not care to go by train, and so he got out his aeroplane at his home in Brooklands and flew over to Woking, landing in a field a mile beyond the court. The field is the property of the magistrate, and when Mr. White was fined \$25 for his automobile offence.

The Playgrounds Opening

The Playgrounds' Association will open its grounds for the summer season tomorrow. The swings and play apparatus have been placed in position. The baseball league will also be opened tomorrow. The grounds are situated at Park's Flats, near Victoria Bridge, Ridout street south. The committee will be pleased to see parents accompany their children, especially in the afternoon.

THE HEAD FLEW OFF A MATCH \$300 FIRE IN STORE RESULTED

Blaze in O. B. Graves' Premises in Which Mr. L. H. Graves Suffered
Severely From Smoke—Firemen Were Promptly
On the Scene and Soon Stopped Fire.

Fire did about \$300 damage to the stock of O. B. Graves, 203 Dundas street, about 8:30 o'clock this morning. The flames were extinguished by the big chemical engine. The loss was chiefly through smoke.

Mr. L. H. Graves had occasion to go down in the cellar about 8 o'clock. He struck a couple of matches, as it was quite dark there. It is supposed that the head of one of them broke off and fell among the paper.

Mr. Graves came up stairs, and a few minutes he smelt something burning. He again went down cellar and was nearly blinded by the smoke. He seized a pail and attempted to throw water on the fire, but when nearly overcome he turned in an alarm.

The brigade responded promptly and soon had the fire under control. Mr. Graves recovered in the open air in a short time.

The damage was roughly estimated by Mr. Graves and Fire Chief Attkin at \$300.

The exact amount will not be known until an investigation is made.

FIRST LONDON AUTO COMPANY SECURES ITS INCORPORATION

The Ontario Gazette of Saturday is given up to the announcement of incorporations. There are no appointments or proclamations.

The new companies are: Feerman Cold Storage and Warehousing Company, Hamilton, \$100,000; Misses Manufacturing Company, Windsor, \$50,000; Westbourne School for Girls, Toronto, without share capital; Independent Cloakmakers' Union, Toronto, without share capital; B. Sinn Company, Ottawa, \$40,000; Printers' Specialties, Toronto, \$40,000; Shea's Hamilton, \$50,000; C. E. Elliot Company, Elmira, \$40,000; Toronto Independent Ben-vent Association, without share capital; Enterprise Gas Company, Delhi, \$100,000; Wm. Tyrell & Co., Hamilton, \$100,000; Paterson Auto Sales Company, London, \$50,000; R. McGee, Ottawa, \$40,000; Appis, Paris, \$40,000; Halton Telephone Company, Toronto, \$10,000; Canadian Investments Ltd., \$250,000; Greater Ottawa Development Company, Ottawa, \$100,000.

BAPTIST PASTOR OBJECTS TO SERVICE

Says That Civic Ceremony in
Memory of Late King Should
Have Been Held in
Armories.

MR. VINING GIVES VIEWS

Criticizes the Holding of Service Under
Any One Denomination, As Was
Case in St. Paul's Cathedral.

"I think I owe it to myself as a Christian minister to protest against the holding of a civic memorial service under the auspices of any one denomination," said the Rev. A. J. Vining, at the Talbot Street Baptist Church, last night.

Mr. Vining was speaking of the great sin of selfishness, so rampant in the world today, and said:

"I am not sure but there has been an example of this in London during the past week."

His reference was to the holding of the civic memorial service in St. Paul's Cathedral last Friday morning.

"This should not be taken as a precedent, and I hope it will never happen in Canada again," continued Mr. Vining. "The proper place for such a service was the armories, where our Roman Catholic friends could have taken part in paying tribute to the memory of the King of the British Empire."

"I have nothing to say against the Established Church, but such a service should have been entirely undenominational."

"I have expressed myself as a citizen," concluded Mr. Vining, "and I don't care who knows it from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

BIG BUSINESS ON THE RAILWAYS

Holiday Rates Result in Largely
Increased Number of Passengers.

The railroads had a record-breaking business all day today, owing to the special holiday rates. All the through trains were crowded notwithstanding that extra coaches were put on. Large numbers of Londoners will spend the holiday in Detroit. The crowd at the Grand Trunk station this morning between 11 and 12 resembled that seen at fair time. Ticket agents report very heavy sales of tickets.

TABLES TURNED

Complainant in Assault Case Sent to
Mercer for Perjury.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Toronto, May 23.—Mrs. VanNest pleaded guilty to perjury, and was sentenced to six months in the Mercer by Police Magistrate Denison.

Mrs. VanNest last week was complainant in a charge of criminal assault against Gordon Muma. The latter was convicted, and afterwards Judge Riddick directed that a perjury charge be laid.

NO LABOR TEMPLE

Ottawa, May 23.—The idea of building a labor temple in the capital mooted for some time past by the international labor men of the city has been shelved for the time being, conditions in the ranks not warranting the expenditure.

DOESN'T LOOK GOOD SAYS MR. KING

Many Things To Be Considered
If Street Railway Buys
Niagara Power.

WILL MEASURE THE LOAD

Accurate Account Will Be Kept Each
Day of Amount of Power Now
Being Used.

A copy of the offer of the hydro-electric commission to the London Street Railway Company has been sent to the water commissioners, and has been filed for their information.

Power will be furnished for \$31 per horsepower on a five-minute peak load basis. There is a differential rate of \$11 per horsepower for power over the average daily load, but this is not of importance in the reckoning.

The proposition so far does not appeal to the street railway company, and it is likely that they will refuse it. The peak load is one of the difficulties to be adjusted.

THE GREAT LOSS

The great objection is the loss of power entailed by the change from alternating current to direct current.

Authorities differ as to the loss caused by the change, varying from 15 per cent to 25 per cent. At a 20 per cent difference the cost would not be \$31, but \$37 20, a different proposition. This with the peak load, makes the cost excessive, so far as the London Street Railway Company are concerned.

In the meantime the company have installed meters, and will measure the power used in their plant for the next two weeks. This meter will register every bit of power used, and will show the peak load at any time during the day.

THE SCHOOL PICNIC

It will be held also on June 2, the date of the school picnic. This is one of the occasions when the peak load will be very high, and is one of the days about which the company complain. On that day practically every car in commission will be used. The maximum of power will be used, and at 6 o'clock particularly there will be a very heavy load.

According to the peak load basis of measuring, the highest load during that time will govern the sale of power for the month. The company will be penalized during the whole month for the big business done at that time.

Manager King's Opinion.

"The proposition does not look good to us as yet," said Manager King. "The peak load is one difficulty, and there is the change from alternating to direct current, will mean a loss of from 15 to 20 per cent, a very serious matter. We are installing registering meters in our plant, and for the next two weeks we will obtain information as to the amount of power used, load factors, peak loads and all the rest of it, and this will help us to the hydro-electric commission for their information. When they see that, perhaps they will be in a position to understand and appreciate the difficulties under which we labor. This meter will be of especial value on the school picnic, and will show what load we must carry."

Taking No Part.

The water commissioners are not taking any part in the discussion whatever. The hydro-electric commission are dealing direct with the company, and they will make the contract.

THREE LONDON STUDENTS PASSED DENTAL EXAMS.

Lloyd Moffat, Jack Reynolds and
Frank Shaw Successful
at Toronto.

The results of the recent examinations in the first second and third years at the Dental College at Toronto appeared this morning.

Only three London students are in attendance, and all passed successfully. Lloyd A. Moffat, 77 Byron avenue, passed in the third or junior year with honors. J. W. Reynolds, 28 Aukin street, and Frank P. Shaw, 670 Dundas street, successfully passed the first year, or freshmen, examinations.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—CLEARING; COOL.

FORECASTS.
Toronto, May 23—3 a.m.
Today—Easterly winds, with occasional rain.
Tomorrow—Strong northwest and west winds; clearing and cool.

TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Low. High.
London, Sunday..... 57 47 75
Toronto, Sunday..... 64 48 75
Calgary..... 62 46 68
Winnipeg..... 64 46 41
Port Arthur..... 52 40 58
Perry Sound..... 74 58 74
Toronto..... 66 50 55
Ottawa..... 66 58 52
Quebec..... 64 56 50
Quebec..... 64 48 44
Father Point..... 54 40 56
Vancouver..... 40 27 56
Kamloops..... 42 54 64
Edmonton..... 42 58 63
Halifax..... 40 50 60

WEATHER NOTES.

Showers have occurred quite generally in Manitoba, Western Saskatchewan, and locally in Ontario.

Elsewhere in Canada the weather has been generally clear and bright.

WASHINGTON WEATHER FORECAST.
Washington, May 23—Forecast: Eastern States and Western Canada: Showers tonight and on Tuesday; warmer tonight in west portion, moderate south-east to south winds.

Lower Lakes—Moderate south to southwest winds, shifting to west and north-west on Tuesday; showers today and on Tuesday, except partly cloudy Tuesday on western Erie.

Western New York—Showers tonight; cooler in northern and west portions. Tuesday—Showers and cooler; moderate south to southwest winds, becoming westerly on Tuesday.

LONDON POLICE ASKED TO LOCATE BOY KIDNAPPED AT WINDSOR

Man and Woman Took Lad Away in an Auto and Police Chased
the Couple for Several Miles—Principals in the Affair
Formerly Lived in London.

A sensational kidnapping case at Windsor, in which a former resident of this city, Leroy Scott, is supposed to have played a leading part, gave the police force of London a busy time yesterday.

They were notified by wire to be on the look-out for a big black touring car, in which the alleged culprits made their escape.

A close watch was kept on all the garages in the city, and also the hotels, but no sign of them was seen. Automobile parties were questioned as to whether or not they had seen the runaways—a man and a woman with a boy—but no information was obtained regarding them.

Chased to Ridgeway.

The kidnappers were chased to Ridgeway, and there all sign of them was lost. It is the opinion of many that they detoured to the St. Clair River, and made their way to the American side in the night.

Scott formerly lived here with his wife, who afterwards obtained a divorce from him.

Little is known of them in police circles, and they could give no information regarding the couple.

The story of the kidnapping is sensational.

MAKE PEOPLE PAY WHOLE COST OF ALL LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

Ald. Richter Is Developing a Scheme to Bring Down the Tax
Rate of the City—Looks Like Weary Days for Those
Who Want Sidewalks, Etc.

with City Engineer Graydon this morning, when the whole question was thoroughly canvassed. A mass of information was obtained, which will be used in arriving at conclusions. It is expected that Ald. Richter will introduce amendments to the local improvement bylaw at an early date, and the amendments will be introduced in the council at an early date, and will result in a considerable reduction of the tax rate, and should bring it down to less than 20 mills on the dollar.

When the Money Goes.

At the present time a very large amount of the taxes is expended each year in reducing the local improvement delinquency debt, while repairs and the like run into another large sum.

"The property should bear more of the expense than at the present time," said Ald. Richter. "We are working out a more equitable basis of taxation."

Talked With Engineer.

Ald. Richter had a long conference with City Engineer Graydon this morning, when the whole question was thoroughly canvassed. A mass of information was obtained, which will be used in arriving at conclusions. It is expected that Ald. Richter will introduce amendments to the local improvement bylaw at an early date, and the amendments will be introduced in the council at an early date, and will result in a considerable reduction of the tax rate, and should bring it down to less than 20 mills on the dollar.

SENSATIONAL RESCUES BY FIRE BRIGADE

Many Lives in Peril by Blaze in
a New York Tenement—
One Fatality.

New York, May 23.—Sensational rescues by firemen prevented more than one death by fire in a blazing tenement on East Seventieth street today. As it was Mrs. Mary Miller died in a fireman's arms from the effects of smoke inhalation after she had been dragged to the roof, while her husband, William Miller, clutching the 7-months-old son of the couple, unconscious and suffering from burns, was rescued just in time by another of the firefighters.

Meanwhile numbers of tenants were being carried down the ladders and dropped into life nets.

Fully forty persons were taken in this way from the burning structure, where members of sixteen families had been trapped.

LOOKS LITTLE LIKE A SEA FIGHT

Steamer Venus Wants to Get at
the Mariella Di Giorgio Off
Bluefields.

New Orleans, May 23.—Representatives of the Titular Government of Nicaragua stated today that they had received advices that the "Venus" had gone to Bluefields to await orders from Madrid; that such orders had been received; and that the steamer, then put back to Bluefields early Saturday.

It is asserted that the "Venus" will attack the steamer Mariella di Giorgio if it can meet the latter at a point where the town of Bluefields will not be threatened, or under cover which the Madrid Government will construe as a violation of the dictum of Commander Gilmer, in charge of the United States gunboats Paducah and Dubuque.

DEBT OF FRANCE IS SEVEN BILLIONS

The Yearly Interest and Charges
Amount to \$300,000,000
—A Warning.

Paris, May 23.—Alarm at the formidable growth of the public debt of France, its departments, and the colonies is increasing. Auguste Gervais, senator of the department of the Seine, has already sounded a warning.

The debt now amounting to more than \$7,000,000,000, and exceeding that of any other country, he says, is too easily lost sight of by the common people. They should remember that the interest and other annual charges to which it subjects them exceed \$300,000,000, or one-quarter of the total government expenses, and that the debt itself is rapidly increasing.

From the total, as estimated, are expressly excluded both the capital of the annuities payable by the state, amounting to about \$2,000,000,000, and some \$300,000,000 which the state owes to railway companies for lines recently purchased.

WALKERVILLE MAN HAD SKULL FRACTURED

Serious Accident Befalls J. W.
Purcell, a Well-Known
Railwayman.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Walkerville, May 23.—J. W. Purcell, railway agent here, is in a very serious condition as a result of having his skull fractured yesterday. Just how the accident occurred is not known, but it is thought that Mr. Purcell, who had just handed an order to an engineer, stood too close to the tracks and was struck by some of the cars as the train was pulling out. He was found lying on the platform in an unconscious condition, with a severe fracture of the skull. It is not yet known whether or not he will recover.

3,000 CADETS IN LINE

Inspector-General Sir John French Inspects Toronto Schoolboys.

Toronto, May 23.—Sir John French, inspector-general of his majesty's forces, arrived in Toronto this morning, and at 11 o'clock inspected the cadets of the public schools on the campus of Toronto University.

The cadets paraded 3,000 strong. They formed up in front of the parliament buildings, and marched from there to the university campus.

Owing to the Empire being in mourning officially in consequence of the death of Edward VII., Sir John French will take no part in social functions while in the city. However, he will unveil the South African monument in Queen's avenue tomorrow morning.

CHARGE AGAINST TELEGRAPH MANAGER

Said to Have Assisted in Betting on a Horse Race.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Toronto, May 23.—George W. Horgan, manager of the G. N. W. Telegraph Company, appeared in court this morning to answer a charge of knowingly and willingly transmitting and delivering by telegraph a message to assist in betting and wagering on horse races.

He neither pleaded nor elected, and was remanded until Thursday.

Copies of T. S. messages were found on G. N. W. paper in the office raided last week.