London Evening Advertiser

60TH YEAR. NO. 23533 — LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1922. — PRICE THREE CENTS.

'BUS MEN WIN SECOND ROUND IN BYLAW FIGHT

WILSON 'FIXES' BUS LAW BUT HOW IS A MYSTERY

Insurance Clause Suddenly Suspended for One Month, But Graydon Knows Nothing About It, and Macbeth Refuses To Be Told—Instructions Issued Today.

PROTESTED PROMOTIONS DELAYED

The disputed promotions of police officers have been postponed, and the famous omnibus bylaw has been suspended without any meeting of the men who passed it one month ago.

These are the extraordinary developments resulting from the protest of citizens on Thursday against secret sessions of the police commission.

The postponement of promotions is a distinct victory for those who protested, because they will now be carried into the business of 1923 under the chairmanship of Mayor-elect Wenige, who promises an end of secrecy and impartial appointments.

Meeting Not Held.

They are postponed because last night's meeting, according to the commissioners' statements, did not take place for reasons which are not divulged.

And here is where the extraordinary part of it all comes in.

There was no meeting—yet within the last thirty-six hours business has been executed.

Some time between yesterday morning and evening that part of the omnibus bylaw relating to insurance rates was suspended. Instead of going into effect on Monday, it is now postponed until Feb. 1, unless the commissioners change their minds again.

Mystery Upon Mystery.

It is mystery piled on mystery; secrecy piled on secrecy. By some mysterious and secret procedure, without a meeting and apparently without the knowledge of at least one of the commissioners, their own decision has been set aside. How, when, where and by whom, no one seems to know.

The commissioners say they don't, anyway. The Advertiser asked them, and this is what happened.

Officials Questioned.

Police Magistrate A. H. M. Graydon came first. The Advertiser telephoned him last night.

"Has there been a meeting of the police commission today (Friday), or will there be one tomorrow (Saturday)?"

"Not that I know of," stated the magistrate.

"Do you know of any change in the bylaw respecting motor buses?"

"No, none of the commissioners have approached me," stated the magistrate, and added the admission: "I get my news out of the papers."

Next the reporter approached Mayor Cameron Wilson, chairman of the commission.

"There has been no meeting and will be none," declared his worship.

"How about the change in the omnibus bylaw which has been arranged today?" asked The Advertiser point blank.

Declined to Talk.

The mayor declined to make any admission for publication, though anxious to discover where The Advertiser had obtained the decision.

His Honor Judge Talbot Macbeth, senior member of the commission, was the last approached.

His honor was brief but cordial.

"This is The Advertiser," said the reporter soothingly.

"Go to the devil," replied his honor amiably.

"About the omnibus bylaw—" began the reporter, entering into the spirit of the game.

Crash! Goes Receiver.

Crash went the receiver. The Advertiser gathered that his honor had nothing to say.

Putting it in a sentence, the first commissioner says he knowns nothing; the second knows, but won't tell; the third refers the question elsewhere. Yet the fact remains that the bylaw has been suspended without a meeting held.

Fifteen bus drivers and their friends know it, whether all the commissioners do or not. They know, because at last Wednesday's meeting to discuss the bylaw they received by telephone Mayor Wilson's promise that the suspension would be arranged.

Chief Gives Orders.

They know definitely today that the mayor has "fixed it" as he promised because Chief of Police Robert Birrell this afternoon instructed City Treasurer James Bell to grant the bus men a temporary license at the new rate of five dollars per seat without payment of insurance.

"How long will this be in force?" The Advertiser asked the chief when the latter admitted the change.

"Two or three weeks," replied Chief Birrell, adding that the commission will meet immediately after the first of the year to discuss the whole question.

The bus men have been expecting this ever since Mayor Wilson's telephoned promise last Wednesday. The only mystery about it is how the mayor "fixed it" single-handed, without a meeting of the commission and apparently without knowledge of his fellow commissioners. This is the secret of all secrets, the grand finale, so to speak, of 1922's interesting comedy: "Behind Closed Doors."

Wins Second Round.

That isn't really worrying the bus drivers. They have won the second round in their battle to stay on London streets, and though they have still to pay five dollars a seat on Monday, they have now thirty days' grace in which to prepare their case.

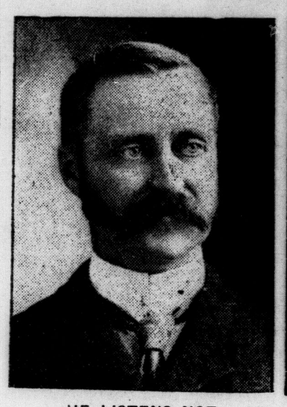
And they are to be given a fair chance. Mayor-elect Wenige has promised them an opportunity to state their arguments before the police commissioners. The bus men have twice requested this, but the former commission ignored the appeal and made no reply. Whatever may now develop, the bus men will at least be given a chance to speak—unless, of course, the suspension is itself suspended before 1922 ends at midnight tomorrow.

Explain Postponement.

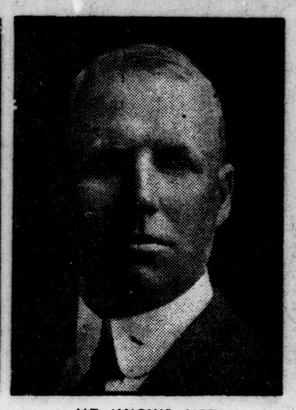
The commissioners explained their action, or rather lack of action, on the question of disputed police promotions, by a statement that "Detective Egelton has not handed in his resignation. His three months leave of absence does not expire until the end of the month. He has not said what he intends to do."

Monday will reveal what's what in this regard. If Sergeant of Detectives Egelton resigns by that time, the matter of his successor will be one for the decision of the 1923 commission. Detective Harry Down will in all probability fill the post, while any one of the other eight officers mentioned in Thursday evening's edition of The Advertiser will be transferred from the uniformed ranks to the detective department. Had the 1922 commission dealt with the matter, only one man would have had a chance, it was feared. It was this fear of apparent partiality that led to the protest of citizens against closed sessions of the commission.

London's Three Men of Mystery



HE LISTENS NOT.



HE KNOWS NOT.

HE TELLS NOT.

Here is London's police commission, with His Honor Judge Macbeth on the left, Magistrate Graydon in the centre, and Mayor Wilson, chairman, on the right. They are men of mystery because during the last thirty-six hours, without a meeting, their omnibus bylaw has been suspended for one month. Asked by The Advertiser how this was accomplished, Judge Macbeth replied: "Go to the devil"; Magistrate Graydon said he did not know as he had been told nothing, and Mayor Wilson would not explain for publication. It's second round for the 'bus men in a shadow-boxing contest.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS LESS THIS SEASON

But Newly Arrived in Greater General Proportion, Say Statistics.

London's normal increase in births over deaths is steadily gaining, according to the annual vital statistics submitted today by City Clerk Baker's department.

Not so many people died in the city during 1922 as during the preceding 12 months, 970 answering the call as compared with 1,003 in 1921. The birth rate was lower this year, however, 1,516 as against 1,536 registered in 1921. The normal increase is thus placed at 546.

Incidentally 658 marriage ceremonies were performed in 1922, a gain of eight over last year.

The males are still dying in greater number than the females. The same was true in 1921. The balance is maintained, however, as there are just about as many more male babies arriving annually to meet the difference in the death rate.

MORTGAGE GERMAN PEOPLE 20 PER CENT

Wealth of Fatherland To Be Taxed According to Reparations Proposals.

Paris, Dec. 30.—A mortgage on the wealth of the German people up to 20 per cent of its total value is the guiding principle of the reparations proposals which Germany will make to the premiers' conference, according to the version of the German plan, given by Lucien Chassaigne, foreign editor of the Journal. The mortgage, the writer says, would be established by means of income tax returns. Small businesses would make direct payments on the obligations, but in the case of large concerns, special shares of non-voting stock having preference in the profits, would be created. All these shares would be centered in a bank in Holland or Switzerland, managed by a mixed control board, presided over by a neutral.

Such a mortgage, M. Chassaigne says, is estimated by the Germans to produce thirty billion gold marks. In return, however, Chancellor Cuno, the article declares, will ask for abrogation of various clauses of the Versailles treaty.

DANIEL BOWEN, formerly manager of the London branch of the C. P. R. telegraph office, who is now in charge of the lines from Sudbury to the coast, is a visitor in the city this week.

Lloyd George's Fourth Article Is On Page Five This Afternoon

The fourth of the thirty articles which David Lloyd George is writing for The London Advertiser has been cabled from England and appears on page five of this edition.

In preceding articles Lloyd George gave warning of France's policy in Europe and described the signing of the Irish treaty. Today he reviews the fateful events of 1922 in the nations' efforts to find peace, and tells what progress he thinks has been accomplished.

Two more of Lloyd George's articles to The Advertiser will appear on Saturday, Jan. 6th, and Saturday, Jan. 13th. The remaining twenty-four will be cabled every second Saturday.

YOU WILL FIND LLOYD GEORGE'S ARTICLES ONLY IN THE ADVERTISER.

DOUBTFUL IF ROOM READY BY JAN. 3

Work Being Rushed at Pottersburg School, However.

There is some doubt in the minds of the members of the board of education as to whether the one-room addition to Pottersburg school will be ready for occupancy on January 3, as called for by the contract. Secretary W. A. Tanner this morning stated that while the contractor is rushing the work with all possible speed, it was hardly possible that classes would be held in the room until posibly a week later.

The desks and other equipment are ready for installation, and no delay is expected from that source. These are to be used as an emergency supply which the board of education has kept on hand. The plastering of the room is well under way, and it is to be heated temporarily by a stove. The plaster will quickly dry out, he said.

GIRL IS KIDNAPPED, $20,000 DEMANDED

Detroit Banker Reveals Episode to Police Following Threat.

Detroit, Dec. 30.—Nicoli Giovannengeli, owner of a private bank in a foreign quarter here, last night asked the police to search for his eight-year-old daughter Mary, who disappeared eight days ago and for whose safe return $20,000 has been demanded. The appeal to the police was made by the banker in defiance of a warning that any publicity given the case would result in his death.

Mary was seized by three men in an automobile while on her way to school. Giovannengeli is reputed to be wealthy, and his bank is a popular institution among foreign born residents.

POLICE PUNISH SOCIAL BOOTLEGGER

Dry Time Predicted for New Year in Wealthy Circles.

Special to The Advertiser.

New York, Dec. 30.—An offensive against high society bootleggers and other violators of the Volstead act has been opened by the federal authorities here. Colonel Wm. Hayward, United States district attorney, said today that no distinction would be made between ordinary bootleggers and members of the most exclusive circles who disregarded the dry law.

A quiet warning went out that even exclusive clubs would not be exempt from raids if they attempted jollifications on New Year's eve. Expensive private stocks of millionaires will be the especial goal of federal agents who interrupt such festivities.

The raid on the Racquet and Tennis Club, which resulted in the indictment of thirteen wealthy men on a charge of bootlegging and otherwise breaking the Volstead act, is only the first step to make the dry law just as effective against the rich as against the poor.

Today the district attorney's office was rushing preparations for strong prosecution of those indicted following the Racquet Club raid. They include Rene Lamontagne, noted polo player, and his three brothers. Others were indicted as members of a ring said to have been engaged in retailing liquor to society men. More than $2,000,000 worth is alleged to have been marketed in this manner. Additional indictments are imminent, as the grand jury has just begun its work.

Within a few weeks persons who have boasted of their private stocks may be called on to tell it to the judge.

BRITISH EMPIRE ORDER MEMBERSHIP DECREASED

Canadian Press Cable.

London, Dec. 30.—Additional membership in the Order of the British Empire will henceforth be limited to 1,657 appointments annually. The present membership exceeds 25,000. The order was instituted in 1917, and in 1918 it was divided into military and civil divisions.

CITY BUILDING PERMITS FOR YEAR SHOW INCREASE

Nearly 300 more building and alteration permits were issued during the past twelve months than in 1921, according to the final official report submitted this morning by Building Inspector A. M. Piper.

The complete figures for the year are: Total number of permits, 1,752, with an estimated expenditure of $2,605,630. In 1921, permits to the number of 1,463 were granted for undertakings, estimated at a cost of $2,527,510.

PROTEST PLANS TO RAISE TAXES OF BUS DRIVERS

Knollwood Park Residents Fear Owners Will Stop Operating Vehicles.

DECLARE SERVICE NEEDED

Mass Meeting Will Be Held Tuesday Night to Consider Situation.

Fearing that they are about to lose 'bus service for their district, as the direct result of the omnibus bylaw recently passed by the London police commission, representative ratepayers of Knollwood Park registered a formal protest with The Advertiser this morning.

That the people of the annexed section of the city are vitally interested in the city's transportation problems and at the same time fail to see "eye to eye" with any move by police commissioners or city councillors to eliminate competition in this respect, is clearly evidenced by the fact that a general mass meeting has been set for Monday at 2:30 p.m. The gathering will be staged in the basement of the Park church.

The situation will be considered thoroughly, and an appeal will be drafted for submission to Mayor-Elect Wenige and the new council, asking that every consideration be shown the 'bus operators that will enable them to keep their vehicles on the streets.

"It means more to the people of the annexed districts than is probably realized elsewhere in the city," the chairman of the Knollwood Park committee stated today. "We have absolutely no transportation available. Most of us will be compelled to walk a mile to the nearest street car if the 'buses are eliminated from the field.

"In the old days we did not seem to mind that so much. The older residents here do not mind it as much probably as the new ones, who declare that they will not remain here if we have no service.

"New buildings are going up all the way and the park is in a fair way for further progress, but that will be impossible if we are now deprived of service. You can't get people to stay here or come here to live if they cannot have the ordinary conveniences as transportation to and from work. We are all workingmen up here, and we have a long way to travel to our employment in many instances."

The Knollwood Park people touched upon the fact that during the past year much has been said in the city council about the fixed tax rate for the annexed districts. They fail to understand, however, where the cause for complaint arises, they assert, holding that while there is a rate fixed by law for the 15-year period, the department revises the assessment figure as it sees fit from year to year.

"We pay in any event," they stated, "and the least the city could do would be to allow us at least as good transportation service as is possible in other sections of the community."

SAYS GERMANY AVOIDED DELIVERY OF LUMBER

Head of Confederation of Reconstruction Makes Charge.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Paris, Dec. 30.—Germany deliberately avoided delivery of timber to France by delaying payments to her lumbermen, M. Lubersack, head of the Confederation of Reconstruction Co-operatives, charged today.

The German government, Lubersack declared, in order to prevent delivery, fixed a price which should be paid to the lumbermen in paper marks, at the rate of the date of the delivery. Germany received credit in gold for lumber delivered.

The lumbermen therefore, did their utmost to avoid delivering wood at the ridiculously low price involved in paper marks, which involved actual loss to them.

STORM DAMAGES DECKS OF HUGE ATLANTIC LINER

Plymouth, England, Dec. 30.—The liner Minnekada, from New York Dec. 11 for Plymouth, Cherbourg and Hamburg, which arrived here today, had a 30-hour struggle at sea with the severe storm which has been raging in the Atlantic.

The high waves hammered the liner hard, a number of ports being stove in and other damage done about decks.

KENNETH HILL,

Aged 11, of 15 Gerrard street, who died at Victoria Hospital last night from gunshot wounds accidently incurred while hunting yesterday near Byron.

FRANCE ALONE DELAYS PLANS OF CONFERENCE

Great Britain, Germany and Other Nations Prepared to Discuss Reparations.

U. S. TO BE REPRESENTED

Would Force "Showdown" as to Whether America Can Aid Europe.

By A. L. BRADFORD.
Special to The Advertiser.
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Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—France alone is withholding acceptance of American intervention in Europe. Great Britain, Germany and some other nations concerned, it was learned from a high administration official today, already have informally indicated their willingness to accept the American proposal—an international commission of businessmen and financial experts to recommend a just and practicable revision of German reparations. The United States would be represented on the commission.

The official revelation of the America plan for bringing Europe out of its present economic chaos was made by President Harding here and Secretary of State Hughes in an address at Newhaven last night to force a "showdown" as to whether the United States can aid Europe.

France has not rejected the proposal, but for some time has been withholding its attitude regarding it. Tired of waiting for the French, this government decided to force the issue by making the proposal public, according to the administration official. It was learned that negotiations on the proposal have been carried on for nearly two months.

The American plan follows a conviction on the part of this government that the reparations question must be divorced from politics if it is to be settled. Another reason for the proposal to have financial authorities recommend a reparations sum is that it is planned that these authorities, in presenting their conclusions, can also come forward with a project for a loan to Germany, which American bankers stand ready to float, and the word of these men will carry the weight of authority and confidence to the investing world.

While it has not been finally decided, President Harding at present does not contemplate calling the conference or commission of inquiry to meet in Washington. It is more probable that it would meet some place in Europe, possibly Brussels or a neutral spot like The Hague. Also, it is possible that some neutral nations might be asked to participate.

France again is apparently the stumbling block, and it is still hoped that she will accept the American proposal, and it is noted that Hughes said at the conclusion of his speech "I hope that the way may soon be found for a frank discussion and distribution of what is essentially an economic problem."

CHEWS CARRIAGE STRAP, BABY DIES OF POISON

Montreal, Dec. 30. — Accidental death was the verdict returned in the case of six months old Muriel Saboth, poisoned by the dye on the strap of her baby carriage, which she had been chewing. In an effort to save the child, four ounces of her mother's blood was transfused.

DRAKE TO URGE CITY EMPLOYES GET INCREASES

Favors Upward Revision of Salaries Rather Than Any Reductions.

STATEMENT IS GENERAL

Declares Alterations Should Be Made in All Civic Departments.

An upward revisoin of civic salaries, rather than a downward trend, is urged today by Alderman Gordon B. Drake, Ward 3. As a member of the new finance board of the city council, he will adopt that attitude throughout the year, he has explained to The Advertiser.

Ald. Drake is general in his statement. He declares that civic servants in many instances are not receiving what he considers a fair salary. There are many of them that have never received a square deal, he states, adding that he is ready to fight for them the very moment that the salary proposal is broached in the new council.

Questioned as to what departments he was referring to, Ald. Drake stated, "All departments, police, firemen, street workers and so forth."

"We want no reduction; we want increases next year, if there must be a change at all," contends the councillor from Ward 3.

Will Cause Debate.

The indications are that the salary issue will prove a source of much debate when the estimates are considered for the year.

While no publicity has yet been attached to the fact, at the last regular session of the councillors, who retire from office today, a list of proposed salary increases, to effect 40 persons in the city employ, was introduced. After certain discussion, however, this was forwarded to the council of 1923 for consideration with the recommendation that the project be favorably received in the main.

The suggested salary revision included, it is reported, practically every department in the city hall, exclusive of outside officials or workers.

No increases were contemplated for the street, sewer or garbage workers, other than the resolution passed that their wages be elevated to what they were when reduced as the result of Mayor Wilson's now-famous 10 per cent salary reduction program, which created such a stir in municipal circles early this year.

Split on Question.

The proposed increases involved an annual expenditure of roughly $7,000 or $8,000.

The retiring aldermen split on the question as to the proper time to consider salary revisions, there being those who contended vigorously that action of this nature should be taken by the new council only.

Despite the fact that in past years it has been customary to adjust wages, grant bonuses and otherwise juggle with the salary roll in the "dying hours," a precedent was established this year, now being announced by the press for the first time. The majority of the councillors felt that it would be unwise at this juncture to meddle further with wages, referring the entire proposition to 1923 for consideration by Mayor-elect Wenige and his colleagues.

WANT NATIONAL CONTROL OF COAL

United Mine Workers Propose Government Purchase Fields for $4,500,000,000.

Canadian Press.

New York, Dec. 30.—Purchase by the United States government of the entire coal industry in the United States, both bituminous and anthracite, at a total cost of $4,500,000,000, a cabinet place for a secretary of mines and the creation of a federal commission of mines and a national mining council, are proposed in a plan for the nationalization of the coal industry which the United Mine Workers will present to the United States coal commissions in January. The plan was embodied in a report of the nationalization committee of the miners' union, and announced last night by Chris Golden, president of the Union District No. 2.

SWITCHMAN IS CRUSHED TO DEATH UNDER CARS

Detroit, Dec. 30.—John L. Garner, 25 years old, 1575 Infantry avenue, a switchman employed by the Michigan Central Railroad, was instantly killed shortly before noon yesterday when he was caught between two moving box cars. The accident occurred at the Lonyo yards of the Michigan Central.

REPUBLICANS FACE RIFLES UNDAUNTED

Two More Executions of Rebels Carried Out by Free State.

Belfast, Dec. 30.—The executions at Kilkenny, in which two men were put to death yesterday as enemies of the Irish Free State, were the first to be carried out by the government outside of Dublin. The two men executed were John Phelan and Murphy. Both were recently captured in South Kilkenny with arms and ammunition in their possession.

The condemned men were attended during their last moments by Fathers Kavanagh and Drea, the latter being the chaplain to the military forces at Kilkenny. The prisoners walked steadily to the place of execution and unflinchingly faced the firing squad. The volley was heard throughout the town. Death in both cases was practically instantaneous.

Phelan, who was a laborer, left a widow and two children. Murphy, a farm worker, was single.

TWICE AS MANY BIRTHS.

Kitchener, Dec. 30.—Vital statistics issued here today for the year 1922 showed the total number of marriages as 238, births 623, and deaths 286.

NO SOLUTION YET SEEN IN LAUSANNE

Completes Sixth Week With Near East Problem Still Unsolved.

Lausanne, Dec. 30.—The Lausanne conference completes its sixth week today, with a solution of the Near Eastern question still in the making, and with the Allied and Turkish delegations still at odds over the important issues. As Ismet Pasha and his associates awaited further instructions from their government at Angora, whither they recently reported the impasse in which the negotiations find themselves, it seemed certain that a settlement of even one of the troublesome problems on the agenda could not take place this year.

It is believed that Ismet, in his report to his government, calls special attention to the declaration of Lord Curzon that the British government insisted upon recognition of its mandate over the Mosul vilayet. Action by the Allies on the Armenian plea for a national home in Turkey was expected today. The sub-commission on minorities, which is wrestling with this difficult problem, listened yesterday to an appeal by the United States observers that refugees in Turkey be allowed to return to their native lands, and that their property be restored to them.

Mother, Babes Are Suffocated

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 30.—(Canadian Press.)—A mother and her four little children were found dead at their home, 250 Reed avenue, by her husband at 2 o'clock this morning. Death was caused by gas poisoning. The victims were: Mrs. Katherine Simone, 33; Mary 11, John 8, William 4, Robert 2 years.

Simone completely unbalanced by his discvery, was taken to a hospital.

Divine Sarah Declares That She Will Return to the Stage on Wednesday

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Paris, Dec. 30.—Sarah Bernhardt, tremendously improved in health, is able to receive friends, and may shortly go out, and possibly even return to the stage next year, it was learned from her physicians today. Her condition was officially described as "Stationary."

Sarah Bernhardt announced emphatically yesterday that she was "far from being finished," and would return to her beloved stage next Wednesday, for the opening performance of "un Sujet de Roman." The actress' collapse is attributed to overwork rather than to organic ailment, but although she has set her heart on resuming her work as soon as possible, doctors and friends believe it may be necessary to keep her from the theatre a while longer.

"If I rested too long I wouldn't live," she asserted. She explained that she had promised Sacha Guitry, author of her new play, that she would be ready to act Wednesday evening.

"I shall be there," she added. "You can bet on that."

ALFRED BROOME,

393 Salisbury street, who miraculously escaped death yesterday morning, when the truck he was driving was struck by a G. T. R. passenger train at the Egerton street crossing.

Wife and Tots in Dire Need When Husband Goes to Cells

Detroit, Dec. 29. — Mrs. Mary Sawicki, 3506 Medbury avenue, will have to ask public assistance for the support of her two children, Terence, 11 years old, and Adele, 2 years old, she said yesterday, as in tears she watched her husband, John J. Sawicki, 33 years old, taken from recorder's court after being sentenced to serve two to five years at Jackson prison for embezzlement of $2,015 from a branch of the Detroit and Northern Michigan Building and Loan Association, of which he was manager.

"I have nothing with which to support my children," she sobbed. "John gambled away all our savings, as well as the building and loan money. He was always good to us and provided for us well until he started gambling."

Sawicki, who was in charge of the Building and Loan office at East Forest avenue and Dubois street, and formerly a student at the University of Warsaw, pleaded guilty.

They were married in 1912, and separated last October. His income is $8,000 annually, she stated.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 22; lowest, 3.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 23; lowest, 15.

Barometric Readings.

Friday—8 p.m., 29.55.
Today—8 a.m., 29.46.