

L.R. STEEL FOUND DEAD ON A WESTBOUND TRAIN; INQUEST IS HELD TODAY

Millionaire Head of Chain Stores Reported To Have Been on His Way to Chicago in the Hope of Raising \$1,000,000 To Recoup Ill Fortunes of His Company.

FIND CANADIAN LIABILITIES ARE \$800,000

Special to The Advertiser. Toledo, March 22.—Leonard R. Steel, Jun., millionaire head of the L. R. Steel & Co. chain stores, was found dead of heart disease on a New York Central train here early today. Later it was reported that Steel was on his way to Chicago in company with Joseph Dozios, a former executive of the Steel Company, in hopes of raising \$1,000,000 to recoup, to some extent, the ill fortunes of the company of which he was recently the head.

Steel's chauffeur, Ernest Matvey, told Coroner Hensler that the millionaire, who had retired as active head of the company that bore his name several weeks ago, died in his berth, the body taken from the train here, was clad in pajamas.

The coroner stated preliminary examination showed Steel died of heart trouble. The body was taken to a local undertaking establishment, and an inquest was to be held later in the day. A post-mortem examination may also be made if so considered necessary, Hensler said.

Steel was born in Middletown, Pa., and would have been 45 years old April 19. He started in the chain store business when but 12 years old, working for Banks Brothers in Middletown. Then he worked successively for the Woolworth, C. H. Knox, and the S. S. Kresge chains. Later he organized the Metropolitan 5-10-25 cent stores, and was elected vice-president and general manager of the company. He resigned in 1899 and formed the L. R. Steel Company, Inc., with a capital of \$10,000,000. Opening offices in the United States, and in Canada, with his headquarters in Buffalo, he began construction of the mammoth company, and began the sale of stock all over the United States and Canada.

He is survived by his wife, one son, one brother and two sisters. Thomas Steel, Mrs. John Lewis of this city, and a sister who resided with him at Getzville, N. Y.

REPORTED ILL IN BED.

Special to The Advertiser. Buffalo, N. Y., March 22.—Up to a late hour last night, it was reported over the telephone from Getzville, N. Y., near here, that L. R. Steel was ill in bed, too ill to see anyone, and could not travel. It was reported that Steel was weak, had been subject to hemorrhages since having an attack of grip early in the winter. Up to a late hour this morning, it could not be learned when Steel left Buffalo, or under what conditions.

Guy M. Moore, district attorney, will make inquiry into the matter of the Steel organization with a view to finding out if the criminal laws were violated in the transactions in which the public were led to buy \$25,000,000 worth of stock in the chain stores enterprise.

He said this morning that information of a criminal character had been laid before him, but, in view of the stories afloat, he had determined to ask the receivers for a copy of the

audit, now being made of the Steel companies. His action will depend upon what the audit discloses.

Carl Sherman, state attorney-general, yesterday asked the consent of the receivers to have accounts of the Steel works and accounts.

The consent was granted, and the state accountants are expected here today.

Federal authorities, before stepping in, are waiting for the state accountants to arrive. Federal action will hinge largely upon whether there was a violation of the postal laws in the literature sent out by the Steel companies and their methods of soliciting stock subscriptions.

LIABILITIES INCREASE.

Special to The Advertiser. Toronto, March 22.—Mr. G. T. Clarkson states that the information given to his firm at the time of liquidation proves to be incorrect. It was stated to the trustees, that the liabilities of the L. R. Steel Company, the company which operated the chain stores, was approximately \$200,000.

The assets were said to be \$500,000 in stock, and \$800,000 in fixtures. Since the liquidation, the Clarkson firm has been operating the stores. The Canadian receivers have completed an examination of the books of the Steel Company, Limited, and find that the liabilities are about \$800,000. Distributed as follows: Trade creditors, \$240,000; rents, \$215,000. In addition, there is due to the L. R. Steel, Incorporated, a subsidiary company, which "I am informed, is a good claim," said Mr. Clarkson.

QUEBEC ASSETS SAFE?

Special to The Advertiser. Quebec, March 22.—By virtue of what is technically called a "leak" in the federal bankruptcy act, it is not possible for the receiver of the L. R. Steel Corporation, so far as the Province of Quebec is concerned, may be retained in Canada, and not be shipped across the border to be thrown into the maw of the general receivership.

This interesting fact was brought to light today in connection with the projected petition to be placed before Justice Panneton, asking for the immediate appointment of trustees for the Province of Quebec. While the headquarters of the Steel Corporation are located in the United States, the Canadian head office is located in the city of Toronto, and it is claimed, that under the federal bankruptcy act legal objection can be entered against the removal of the assets located in the Province of Quebec.

The aforementioned "leak" is understood to refer to article 26 of the act, which provides that objection may be raised to the removal of the assets of a company from one judicial district to another. Under the act, the provinces are considered as separate judicial districts, and it is Turn to Page 15, Column 4.

CONDITIONS ARE TRAGIC FOR BRITISH FARMERS

Thousands of Married Men Are Receiving Only 25 Shillings Per Week.

By HENRY SOMERVILLE. Special Cable to The Advertiser. Copyright.

London, March 22.—Most tragic conditions prevail in agriculture. Thousands of married men have to maintain families, sometimes with as many as ten children, on 25 shillings a week. Bread and margarine in their staple diet, and they hardly ever see meat on their tables.

The farmers admit they pay starvation wages, but say they can afford no more. They say the men have large families should apply to the poor law for redress, but the government has refused poor law relief to families of their earning wages.

Black leg labor is being imported into the strike areas to milk cows and feed stock. The conditions of workers are worse than at any time since the hungry forties, Bonar Law says. The only remedy is protection, but urban electors are opposed to a policy which will increase cost of food.

STUDENTS CO-OPERATE IN SURVEY OF LONDON

The business class of the Western University is collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce in bringing out an economic survey of the city of London.

This survey, which is expected to be ready in a few weeks, will contain valuable information as to London's various facilities and economic advantages, and will be the first of its kind to be compiled. The chamber is very gratified at the enthusiastic help being given by the university men, and expects the survey to be of inestimable value not only to Londoners, but also to outsiders who may be considering the question of settling here.

THREE KILLED IN GUNFIGHT.

Associated Press Despatch. Havana, March 22.—Three men were killed and several wounded in a gunfight at Sagun De Tanamo, Oriente Province, on Tuesday. The fight was due to a political quarrel.

CHIEF BIRRELL ISSUES WARNING TO MOTORISTS

Officers Are Prepared To Vigorously Enforce Traffic Regulations.

City roads having cleared considerably, causing a rapid increase in motor vehicle traffic, Chief Birrell has issued a warning to motorists to observe all the ordinances pertaining to the operation of a car on the high and low roads, and to the protection of the general public.

Police intend to see the laws are strictly followed in London, particularly that the limit of 20 miles an hour is not exceeded, that every motor vehicle carries three lights, and that no vehicle is to park in the business section longer than one hour, and in other sections of the city longer than four hours.

Referring to the speed limit, Chief Birrell said: "If drivers proceeded at a rate less than 20 miles an hour, they would never be stopped."

U. S. CONSULATE BURNED. Associated Press Despatch. Constantinople, March 22.—The United States consulate at Smyrna has been destroyed by fire. The seals and records were saved.

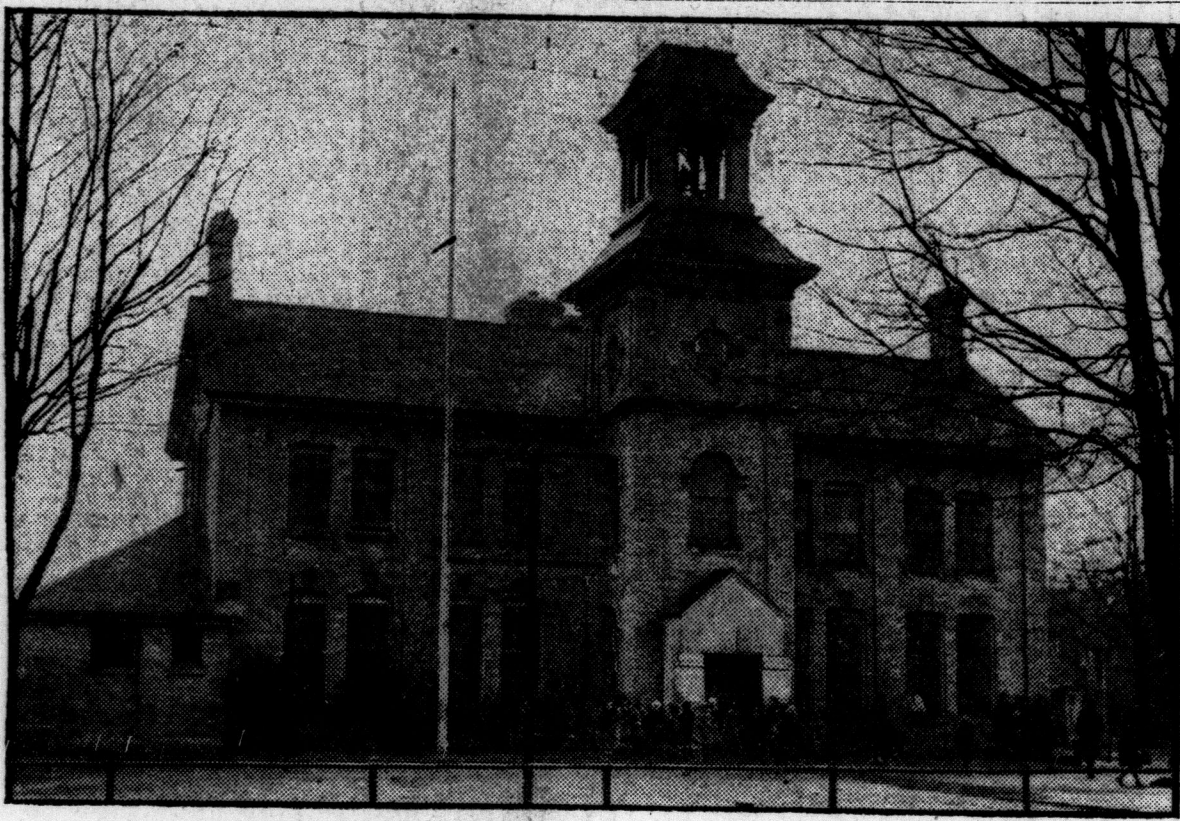
Montreal Anti-Vice Drive Is Now Gaining Momentum

Four Hours' Raiding Causes Arrest of Eight Housekeepers, 24 Girls and 15 Men.

Special to The Advertiser.

Montreal, March 22.—The anti-vice drive is gaining momentum. Four hours of raiding in the vice district last night and early this morning brought to the recorders court 34 housekeepers, 24 girls and 15 men, all of whom pleaded guilty. In the western end of the city a campaign against women street lotteries opened, and three found their names on the police blotters. Under the new and intensive raiding

One Day's Probe Reveals \$80,000 Owing Victoria Hospital



OLDEST SCHOOL IN CITY WILL BE DISCARDED.

Oblivion awaits the Empress Avenue School, the oldest public school in the city, and West London's best-known landmark. It was built in 1873, when that section of the city was known as the village of Petersville, and since then has been the educational center of London West.

Decision For New School Will Remove Old Landmark

Old Empress Avenue School in West London Built Fifty Years Ago—Village Councillors Once Wrangled in Its Ancient Halls.

Because of the decision of the board of education and the city council to erect a new school in West London, the present Empress Avenue School, one of the oldest buildings in the city and the oldest landmark in West London, will pass into oblivion some time within the next few months.

The old school building is the chief link connecting West London with history when that section of the city was known as Petersville. Practically every person who was born and raised in the territory beyond the river received his education in the old school.

It was erected in 1873, just 50 years ago. At first it served as a combined schoolhouse and village hall, with four rooms devoted to classes during the day, while at night the village councillors met in a wing attached to the building.

This arrangement was carried on for several years and then, after a bitter fight waged between factions in the council, it was decided that a schoolhouse did not carry the dignity necessary for a town hall, and so the building was vacated by the council.

From time to time rooms were added to the building until it was increased from the original four rooms to twelve. In 1916 a two-story wing was built to relieve overcrowding, and later a two-room school was built on Charles street.

The building is sadly out of date, and it is insanitary. It is poorly ventilated, the natural lighting is abominable, and the artificial lighting, except in the kindergarten, is nil. The halls and stairways are crooked and narrow. The plaster is falling from the walls and ceilings, and the cellars are damp.

The condition of the school led to a strong agitation for a new building, and the board and council were moved to take action this year.

Within two or three months, as soon as a site can be secured and plans drawn up, a start will be made on a building which will eventually hold 24 class rooms, which it is expected will be well able to serve West London for many years to come. The old building will probably be sold to wreckers.

HIGH STREET SEWER TO BE STARTED SOON

The proposed High street sewer will be initiated this year, according to Mayor Wenige and Chairman Douglas of the board of works.

Any debenture issue that this undertaking will entail will not, however, affect the tax rate until 1924, they explain. "We want it started this year, however," they say, "but we'll figure on the issue for next year."

They state that the people have asked repeatedly in past years for this work, and they are entitled to it.

City Engineer Near will check over the report submitted yesterday in connection with this proposition, and the contractors will be asked to explain the mayor, at \$500,000.

CONSIDERING PINE LAWN. The London Housing Commissioners meet in special session this afternoon to consider once again the Pine Lawn situation. It is the claim from D. J. Tallant, chairman, that the contractors had better get busy without further delay and replace the roofs on the city's 47 residences in that district, as directed by the board of aldermen which convened last fall.

Mayor Wenige states that the following members of the council will accompany him to Toronto, Ald. John Colbert, Gordon Drake, Leonard Douglass and George Burdick.

BOARD OF HEALTH SESSION. Ald. Leonard Douglass, chairman of the board of health, has called a special session of that body for Monday night next. "We will consider the resolution from the Board of works with respect to the fertilizer plant," he explained this afternoon, "and the likelihood is that we shall act upon their recommendation that no further action be taken other than a conference with the fertilizer authorities, asking them to adhere to the board of health requirements."

Ald. Leonard Douglass, chairman of the board of health, has called a special session of that body for Monday night next. "We will consider the resolution from the Board of works with respect to the fertilizer plant," he explained this afternoon, "and the likelihood is that we shall act upon their recommendation that no further action be taken other than a conference with the fertilizer authorities, asking them to adhere to the board of health requirements."

PORT STANLEY FISHERS WAIT ON GOVERNMENT

Fish and Game Committee Grants Request for Fishing Beyond Five-Mile Limit.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, March 22.—If a recommendation passed by the fish and game committee of the Legislature this morning is carried into law, non-residents will be barred from trapping in Ontario. The committee recommended that permits be issued only to naturalized Canadian citizens.

It was also recommended that there be a closed season of one year on beaver and otter south of the French and Mattawa rivers. To the north and west of these rivers the season is to be from January 1 to March 31.

Other recommendations would extend the closed season on quail another year; would make offence of the destruction of any raccoon den; would make the open season on woodcock from September 1 to November 30; and extend the closed season on squirrels another year.

The deer and moose open season have been increased while large over-drafts have been revealed.

The investigation to date shows, the mayor reports, that the hospital authorities have not seemingly been lost as is now likely, according to reports, Mayor Wenige declared.

Commenting further upon the general situation, he reiterated his claim for a New York taste with a London pocketbook.

FREE STATERS TAKE REBEL HEADQUARTERS

Soldier and Irregular Are Killed During Skirmish Near Kingstown.

Special Cable to The Advertiser. Dublin, March 22.—Free Statemen today discovered and attacked insurgent headquarters, near Kingstown. After a brisk battle, in which a Free State soldier and a rebel were killed and one wounded, five rebels and a large quantity of ammunition were captured near at Kingstown.

The insurgent nest at Kingstown, a short distance from Dublin, is believed to be that from which the irregulars have directed the sorties into the capital and many of the bombing outrages here.

SIXTY OF GERMANIC PARTY ARRESTED IN GERMANY

Special Cable to The Advertiser. Berlin, March 22.—Sixty members of a new Germanic party were arrested today throughout Germany, charged with "traitorous activities." The police are believed to have tipped in the but another projected Putsch, but the Prussian minister of the interior makes a secret of the affair, saying it will be announced tomorrow in the Diet.

INMATES IN WILD PANIC AS WORKHOUSE BURNS

Deputy Sheriffs From Pittsburgh and Fire Companies Restore Order.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 22.—Fire which broke out in the Allegheny County workhouse, ten miles from here today, destroyed the building and spread to other parts of the institution.

The wildest confusion prevailed among the 1,000 inmates for a time, but the arrival of a number of deputy sheriffs from Pittsburgh and volunteer fire companies from surrounding boroughs restored order and prevented further serious damage. The loss was placed at \$150,000.

COL. GRAHAM TO SPEAK. Col. C. M. E. Graham will speak before the St. Marys Board of Trade tonight on "International Citizenship." He will give a more extended lecture on the same subject on Saturday evening in the Masonic Hall to the Acadia Lodge.

HOSPITAL PROBE REVEALS LOSSES BY UNPAID BILLS

Investigators Find That Accounts Totaling \$80,000 Are Still Due.

\$40,000 BAD DEBTS

Detailed Figures Will Be Furnished to the Mayor Within Next Few Days.

What appears to lend weight to Mayor Wenige's claim that there is room for much improvement in the Victoria Hospital administration is the statement today that there are accounts owing that institution to the probable total of \$80,000.

This is the net result of the preliminary investigations now in progress at the hospital under the direction of Dr. Brittain and staff.

That as much as one-half of this amount, or \$40,000, can be "written off" is the further opinion by the investigators in reply to the mayor's demand this afternoon for further details.

It is explained that these figures represent roughly what is actually owing the city from patients at the Ottawa avenue institution.

Exact Figures Later.

The visiting efficiency experts, called to the city at the instigation of Mayor Wenige, were unable to submit the precise figures to the mayor this morning, but they will have a detailed report within delay.

Mayor Wenige has long contended that Victoria Hospital affairs have not been conducted with an eye to every economy and efficiency.

He has based his charges upon the final analysis by the investigators it will be shown that an entire change of management is desirable.

He practically promises that the duties of general manager will be assigned to some person not now in the employ of the city.

Claim Much Lost.

Time and again since the first of the year members of the city council have questioned whether Victoria Hospital is a self-supporting municipal institution, pointing to the fact that each year the hospital estimates have been increased while large over-drafts have been revealed.

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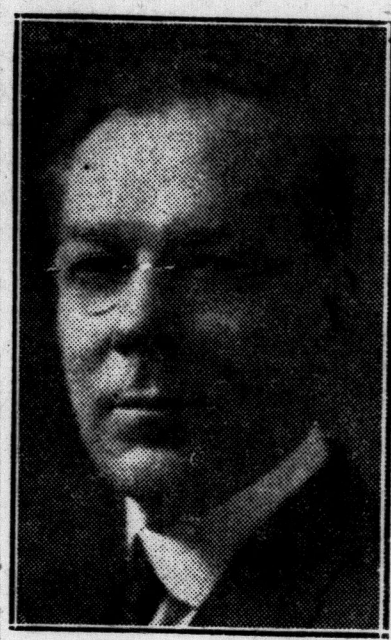
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A. H. WALLACE, St. Catharines man elected District Governor of Rotary District No. 27.

LONDON MAY SECURE LARGE AUTO CONCERN

Negotiations Now Well Under Way, According to Alderman John May.

London has a splendid opportunity of securing a large automobile manufacturing concern within the next few months, according to Ald. John May.

The negotiations which may bring the plant to the city are well under way, and those who are behind the movement have every confidence of success. If negotiations prove successful, the plant will be located on the industrial site, it is expected.

The company is well established, according to Ald. John May. It will not be a stock-selling proposition, for the cars manufactured by the company are already on the market and are well-known everywhere.

If the company decided to locate in London, it will erect buildings at a considerable cost, and, eventually, will employ more than 1,000 hands. It is expected.

Representatives from the concern have been in London for some time looking over proposed sites.

A definite decision is expected within a few weeks time.

AMERICAN FINANCIERS GET GREEK RAILWAYS

Minister of Communications Signs Agreement With Group for Fifteen Months.

Special Cable to The Advertiser. London, March 22.—The Greek minister of communications has signed an agreement with a group of financiers, representing principally American capital, giving the group the right to exploit all Greek state railways subject to a fifteen months' operation and legislative ratification, according to the Exchange Telegraph's Athens correspondent.

RESCUE DOAN FAMILY FROM WELLAND BLAZE

Canadian Press Despatch. Welland, Ont., March 22.—William Doan, his wife and two daughters were rescued by a ladder from the second story of the Campbell building here early this morning, when dense smoke from a fire in the lower portion of the building made it impossible for the Doan family to get down the stairs.

Victor Davis, a volunteer fireman, was overcome while working on the roof of the building and fell over the coping to the roof of an adjoining house, and from there to the street. He was knocked unconscious, but escaped with a severe gash on his arm from a broken bottle.

The fire damage was small, amounting to about \$50, but the damage by smoke and water will probably be considerable.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT. Canadian Press Despatch. Ottawa, March 22.—Government orders will be taken up in the House of Commons.

COUNT VON MOLTKE DIES. Special Cable to The Advertiser. Berlin, March 22.—Count Cuno von Moltke, former aide to the kaiser and former governor of Berlin, died here today.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The trough of low pressure which extended from Lake Superior to New Mexico yesterday has moved very slowly eastward.

The weather is comparatively mild from the Great Lakes eastward, with showers in Western Ontario.

It is fair and rather cold in Manitoba and mild in Alberta.

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

Stations. High. Low. Weather. Victoria 48. 42. Cloudy. Calgary 40. 18. Fair. Winnipeg 38. 14. Clear. Port Arthur 28. 22. Cloudy. Sault Ste. Marie 28. Cloudy. Toronto 51. 35. Rain. Kingston 42. 38. Cloudy. Ottawa 28. 18. Cloudy. Montreal 24. 18. Cloudy. Quebec 26. 18. Cloudy. Father Point 18. 14. Cloudy. St. John 30. 26. Cloudy. Halifax 30. 26. Cloudy.

Minus (—) means below zero.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 51; lowest, 36.

The official temperatures for the 19 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 40; lowest, 32.

Barometric Readings. Friday, 8 a.m., 29.12. Today—8 a.m., 29.12.

TWO LIQUOR CARS ESCAPE OFFICERS NEAR BRANTFORD

Arrest One Driver When His Machine Breaks Down Within City Limits.

TRANSFER LIQUOR

Second Man Succeeds in Loading Whole Consignment Onto His Car.

Special to The Advertiser. Brantford, Ont., March 22.—The open season on beer running is again at hand, judging by an event early this morning, when local police narrowly missed capturing a large consignment of liquor being transported in automobiles through this city. As it was, they did succeed in arresting Wesley Vock, Kitchener, driver of one of the cars, which had broken down.

The car was confiscated and taken to the police station, where two bottles of strong beer were found hidden in the cushions.

Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning, two large Studebaker cars were observed passing through the city at high speed. One broke down within the city limits. The second also stopped, and witnesses state that the men in the leading car immediately trans-shipped the liquor in the disabled motor to the other. Case after case of liquor was carried from one car to the other. Several citizens were asked to assist and did so.

The car immediately awoken on its way after the load had been transferred.

Chief Donnelly and his men arrived in time to prevent Vock from escaping. He was arrested and taken to the station. Vock stated that he was a resident of Windsor, but later admitted that he came from Kitchener. He was bailed out this morning. The license plate of the captured car bore a number that had been issued in Windsor. The cars were en route to Kitchener.

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HALF MILLION WORKERS WILL STRIKE APRIL 1ST

Lockout Expected in English Building Trades Over Reductions.

By HENRY SOMERVILLE. Special Cable to The Advertiser. Copyright.

London, March 22.—A lockout of half a million workers and a complete stoppage of every kind of building is almost certain to begin on April 1 as the result of the refusal of workers to accept wage reductions varying from 5 to 10 per cent.

There is a great deal of unemployment in the building industry, and the employers calculated that the workers would soon yield because of unemployment and will be willing to take their places at the builders' wages, which vary from two guineas a week to three pounds thirteen shillings.

These rates are admittedly low, considering the standard of living, but it is argued that they are higher than the wages of other skilled trades.

CHARGE KLAN WIZARD USED MAILS TO FRAUD

Associated Press Despatch. Atlanta, Ga., March 22.—A bench warrant was issued yesterday for the arrest of Edward Young Clarke, former imperial wizard pro tem of the Ku Klux Klan.

Clarke failed to appear for trial on a charge of using the mails to defraud.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS. Southerly winds; mild, with occasional showers today and part of Friday, then clearing.

The trough of low pressure which extended from Lake Superior to New Mexico yesterday has moved very slowly eastward.

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