

SEVENTY-FOUR PERISH IN SCHOOLHOUSE FIRE

Gordon Johnston Drowned Near Blackfriars Bridge

74 PERISH WHEN FLAMES SWEEP CAROLINA SCHOOL DURING ENTERTAINMENT

Whole Families Wiped Out in Terrible Holocaust Caused by Explosion of Oil Tank During Closing Exercises by Students.

MANY KILLED BY PANIC-STRICKEN CROWD

Associated Press Despatch.
Columbia, S. C., May 18.—Seventy-four bodies have been taken from the ruins of the Carolina school house, which burned last night, according to a long distance message received here this morning from Chief of Police H. L. Whitaker of Camden. The chief said that persons from miles around were at the scene aiding in the recovery of the bodies. He said that an undetermined number of injured had been brought to the Camden hospital. Confusion and panic were such, he said, that it was impossible to get exact details of the disaster.

The fire which destroyed the frame building about 9 o'clock last night apparently resulted from the explosion of an oil tank on the stage, arranged for the closing entertainment of the school. Within almost a breath the whole front of the second story room was ablaze. Scores of the audience made a concerted rush for the single entrance to the stairway, despite the counsel of cooler heads. Some, unable to penetrate the jam to safety leaped from the second story window to die of injuries or to be taken from the scene suffering from broken limbs.



WHERE GORDON JOHNSTON FELL TO DEATH.

In the above photo by The Advertiser cameraman is shown the spot at which 12-year-old Gordon Johnston fell down the cement retaining wall of the breakwater at Blackfriars Bridge and met his death in the swollen waters of the Thames. The arrow shows the point at which the young lad was last seen before he was discovered in the river. The picture also shows the bridge and the fire truck from the central station, which responded to the call for assistance when the alarm was first given that the accident had taken place. The water, owing to the recent heavy rains, is about five feet deep at the foot of the breakwater.

Twelve-Year-Old Boy Falls From Bridge Into Swollen Thames River and Drowns

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A tragic accident occurred this morning at 10:45, when Gordon Johnston, 12-year-old son of Samuel Johnston, 11 St. Patrick street, was drowned in the Thames after falling down the cement breakwater to the north of Blackfriars bridge. Passersby and residents near the breakwater at Blackfriars street say that the boy was seen playing near the railing at the edge of the cement retaining wall a few yards to the north of the bridge, and his peril after falling down the steep slope of the breakwater, was first noticed by a young lady who phoned a notice of the central fire hall. The flames quickly set to work with grapples in the hope that the boy could be reached from the swollen stream before life was extinct. Chief Aitken joined them, and was followed almost immediately by Dr. Cameron Wilson.

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BRITISH PEOPLE FEAR BONAR LAW IS CRITICALLY ILL

Premier on Visit to Paris, Now Scarcely Able To Speak.

SITUATION SERIOUS

Beaverbrook in Consultation Regarding Making Change in Ministry.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.
London, May 18.—Premier Bonar Law of Great Britain is feared by his friends to be critically ill. Sir Thomas Horder, a famous British heart specialist, was hurried to Paris where Bonar Law is under physicians' care, according to the Daily Express. A serious view of the situation is taken by others, who see in the trip of Lord Beaverbrook to Paris an ominous sign, Beaverbrook and the prime minister, who are close personal friends, and it is understood that the urgency of the latter's case called the publisher to the French capital.

SCARCELY ABLE TO SPEAK

Special Cable to The Advertiser.
Paris, May 18.—Scarcely able to speak, and showing no improvement, Premier Bonar Law of Great Britain today was forced to refuse a luncheon invitation from Premier Poincaré. Bonar Law has been suffering from a throat infection.

Lord Beaverbrook was in conference with the British premier today, and it was understood they discussed a possible successor to Bonar Law. Beaverbrook, publisher of the Daily Express of London, came hurriedly to Paris last night.

WILL TRY NEW CURE

Special Cable to The Advertiser.
Paris, May 18.—Andrew Bonar Law, British premier, visited Paris for medical as well as political consultation, says the Journal today. The British statesman, the newspaper adds, saw the specialist, Sir Thomas Horder, a physician in the London hospital, who came over from London to make an examination.

The physician found that the premier's condition had resulted in no improvement to his throat, in fact, the loss of voice is so complete that he was obliged to refuse Premier Poincaré's invitation to lunch.

The Journal says that after a conference with Lord Beaverbrook, Mr. Bonar Law plans to return to France to try a new cure at Aix Les Bains. The prospective interview with Lord Beaverbrook, the newspaper adds, portends a change in the British ministry.

WILL CONSIDER SALE OF SOUTH END LAND

Board of Education Will Let City Have Tecumseh Avenue Site.

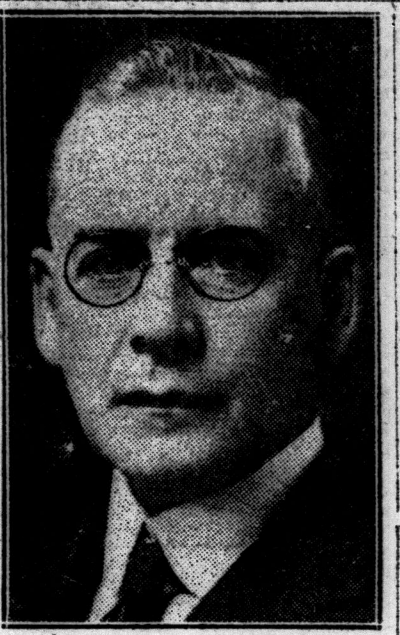
Members of the board of education will consider the sale of a portion of the property on Tecumseh avenue held by the board as a possible site for the proposed new South London college, when No. 3 committee meets this afternoon.

The city has expressed a desire to secure land for the purpose of extending Belgrave avenue beyond Tecumseh avenue. An official request was laid before the board by letter a few weeks ago.

It is quite probable that the board will sell the land, as it is on the extreme westerly border of the property, and it can be sold without interfering greatly with their plans for the new school.

STILL AT LIBERTY

Ottawa, May 18.—Reports reaching here shortly before dawn from North Bay, where a posse of police and firemen have surrounded Leo Rogers, escaped bankit, declared the situation unchanged. Neither side was firing, the reports said.



ALD. FRANK HOWARD, Former mayor of Guelph, the unanimous choice of the South Wellington Liberals as candidate for the provincial elections.

BELL 'PHONE MAN KILLED ON LINE AT EXETER TODAY

William P. Mayling, Formerly of St. Thomas, Meets Death by Electrocution.

SKILLED WORKMAN

Was Employed as Lineman—No Details as to Tragedy Received Locally.

William P. Mayling, of St. Thomas, a "combination" man, employed by the Bell Telephone in this district, was electrocuted at Exeter this morning at 9:45. Just how Mr. Mayling came to his death has not been ascertained by the London office, as the only news that reached the city was that he was killed by coming in contact with a live wire.

Mr. Mayling is a young man and was married about a year ago. He had made his home in St. Thomas, and recently was transferred to the London district. Officials in the city state that Mr. Mayling held a very responsible position for one of his age, and the work he was doing required the utmost in skill and general knowledge of telephone construction and maintenance. A "combination" man is one who is qualified to execute both inside and outside work.

The body was taken to St. Thomas where burial will be made.

HUMANE SOCIETY WILL HOLD TAG DAY

London Humane Society Will Appeal For Funds on May 26.

"Have a Heart" is to be the slogan of the London Humane Society when they hold their tag day on Saturday, May 26. A special appeal is to be made for funds to carry on the work of the society in the present efficient manner, and from fifty to one hundred school children and members of the Junior Humane Society have volunteered to sell their heart-shaped badges to the public in order to raise the necessary amount of money.

The Humane Society was of included in the Welfare campaign of this year, their entire work being carried on by means of public subscription fees, and rummage sales and bazaars made possible through the efforts of the members.

BELIEVE PURNELL FLED TO ONTARIO TO ESCAPE LAW

House of David Brethren Suggest Leader Hiding in Canada.

SHELTER A SECRET

Declare "King" Will Never Return to Benton Harbor.

Special to The Advertiser.
St. Joseph, Mich., May 18.—Is "King" Benjamin Purnell, leader of the House of David at Benton Harbor, Mich., in hiding in Western Ontario? Many people believe he is.

Brothers Thorpe, Tyler and Tucker, three of the seven "pillars" of the cult, were questioned at length today by The Advertiser reporter on the whereabouts of the missing "Seventh Messenger Angel," wanted by state authorities for alleged misconduct with young girls in the colony. Brother Tyler vouchsafed the information that he might be in Canada. "Benjamin may be in Ontario, or may have gone to Australia. We do not know where he is," said Tyler.

Thorpe and Tucker also maintained that the whereabouts of the missing "Seventh Messenger" was a secret. "We are not sure of it," said one of the members, even those closest to him during the twenty years he ruled supreme in the cult.

"One thing you may be sure of is that he is not here in Berrien County, and has not been for many weeks," said one of the brethren. "Credence is given to the belief that he is in Ontario, from the fact that he would probably flee the state, and the nearest point from which he could conduct affairs in secret would be the western part of the province. As each day passes without his capture, the belief is strengthened that he is still in hiding, and that he will never return to Benton Harbor. The ease with which he can disguise himself leads also to the belief that he will not be captured."

'HAMMER MURDERESS' SEEKS AID TO ESCAPE

Police Intercept Letters Offering Money To Help Clara Phillips.

Associated Press Despatch.
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, May 18.—Police officials assert that they have intercepted correspondence from the woman held as Clara Phillips, the California murderess, to persons of unknown identity, offering large sums of money if they should assist the prisoner in escaping from jail here.

As a result, the authorities have doubled their vigilance over the woman, and have decided that she may have no visitors.

King Continues Youthful Hobby

Britain's Ruler Is Ardent Collector of Stamps.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, May 18.—King George continues to take an active interest in his youthful hobby of postal stamps collection, and he has one of the most varied and valuable collections in the world. His majesty's continued interest in this line was illustrated just before he left for Aldershot, when he entertained as his guests the members of the Royal Philatelic Society, and showed the visitors the royal collection of stamps.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.
Today—Light winds; fine and warm. Saturday—Moderate southeast winds; fair and moderately warm.

The disturbance has passed to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and high pressure now covers the Great Lakes and Middle States. The weather is fine throughout Canada, with a general tendency towards higher temperature.

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

Stations	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	68	45	Cloudy
Calgary	54	34	Clear
Winnipeg	72	38	Fair
Port Arthur	50	32	Fair
Perry Sound	42	29	Clear
Toronto	44	32	Clear
Kingston	42	33	Clear
Ottawa	48	40	Fair
Montreal	52	40	Clear
Quebec	50	42	Cloudy
Father Point	42	34	Cloudy
St. John	46	40	Fair
Halifax	48	38	Clear

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 52; lowest, 34. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 51; lowest, 31.

Barometric Readings.
Thursday—8 p.m. 29.25.
Today—8 a.m. 29.32.

PROTEST U. S. RULING ON FOREIGN SHIPPING

British Owners Ask Government To Appeal Interference With Vessels.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, May 18.—British ship-owners in conference at the board of trade yesterday discussed the recent prohibition ruling of the supreme court of the United States.

Representatives of the chamber of shipping, the Liverpool Steamship owners' Association and the board of trade talked over the complications arising from the ruling, after which the ship owners proposed that the foreign office be requested to protest strongly to Washington against any interference with the shipping arrangements of other nations.

In the course of the discussion, it was pointed out that the adoption by other countries of such regulations as are projected by the United States would have "extraordinary consequences."

EMPLOY SUPERVISOR FOR SCHOOL BUILDING

The Board of Education Will Create New Position For Right Man.

With a big building program on its hands, the board of education has decided to employ a supervisor of new construction work. The new office will require a man who understands thoroughly practical construction work, and is able to read blue prints.

Work has been started on the new four-room addition at the Boyle Memorial School, and construction work at the new Trafalgar Street school is well under way. A start will also be made on the new Empress Avenue school, if a site can be secured.

Applications for the position of supervisor will be considered at a special meeting of the grounds and building committee on Monday afternoon.

Adjourns Court To Warm Feet

British Judge Unable to Suffer Chill of Room.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, May 18.—An amusing incident occurred in the king's bench division of the high court here during the unusual cold spell this week, when Justice Sir Clement Bailhache adjourned the court for ten minutes in order that he might warm his feet. There was no heat in his court, and for that matter, there was no heat in any of the law courts here.

Government hidebound efforts at economy resulted in all heating in government institutions, including the law courts, being withdrawn from season on May 1. Weather conditions did not count with the authorities.

ASSASSINATE REGULAR, FORMER BISCAI GOVERNOR

Associated Press Despatch.
Leon, Spain, May 18.—Fernando Reguerual, former governor of the province of Biscay, was assassinated last evening as he was leaving his home. A band of men, none of whom was identified, shot him to death and then escaped.

FEAR RUSSO-BRITISH TRADE PACT DOOMED

Official Circles Gloomy Over Possible Outcome of Conference.

By HAL O'LAHERTY.
Special Cable to The London Advertiser and Chicago Daily News. Copyright.

London, May 18.—Inquiries this afternoon in British official circles, and at Russian trade headquarters, evoked gloomy and non-committal responses. British officials await Krassin's next move, which depends upon instructions from Moscow.

In view of the reports from the Daily News correspondent Moscow, it looks as if the Anglo-Russian trade agreement is doomed.

Swedish interests here are watching the developments, which must have a drastic effect upon the relations between the Scandinavian countries and Russia.

BLAMES SWITZERLAND FOR VOROVSKY DEATH

Russian Soviet Sends a Note Demanding Immediate Punishment of Assassins.

Associated Press Despatch.
Moscow, May 18.—A Russian Soviet note sent by Foreign Minister Tchitcherine to the Swiss Government today holds that government responsible for the recent assassination at Lausanne of M. Vorovsky, Soviet representative there, through the alleged negligence of the Swiss officials to guard him.

The Tchitcherine note asks an investigation of the circumstances of the crime, the dismissal of the employees it charges with negligence, and a prompt and speedy trial of the assassins.

The note also protests the refusal of the Swiss to grant diplomatic courier privileges to the Russian delegation at Lausanne.

CONTRACT AWARDED

The contract for wiring the new Industrial Building at the Western Fair has been awarded to the public utilities commission.



Lovers of dog quality find much to attract them in the spring bench show of the London Canine Association, now on in the dog building in the Western Fair grounds. When The Advertiser photographer called at the building he found half a dozen canine beauties all ready to pose and here they are. From left to right, they are: Russian wolfhound, "Champion Ontario Valley Farm," owned by E. M. Burke; English bulldog, "Hefty Challenger," owned by Charles Webster; Russian wolfhound, "Champion Ontario Valley Farm," owned by E. M. Burke; English bulldog, "Hefty Challenger," owned by Charles Webster; Russian wolfhound, "Champion Ontario Valley Farm," owned by E. M. Burke; English bulldog, "Hefty Challenger," owned by Charles Webster.

RETIRED RAILMEN RECEIVE PENSIONS LONG PAST DUE

London—Railroaders Obtain Compensation Denied Them For Part in Strike.

ENDS CONTROVERSY

Only Two Cases in the Local Division Now Remain Unsettled.

In this city and at other points in the London division of the C. N. R. there are at least a dozen veteran and retired railwaymen who have been made happy during the past year by the arrival of belated pension money.

They are men who have given from fifteen to fifty years of service to the old Grand Trunk in the capacity of trainmen and conductors, but who have been deprived of their pension rights by the company because they had taken part in the strike of 1916.

Entitled to Seniority.
Since the conclusion of the strike their claims have been the cause of a bitter controversy carried on between unions and railway officials with the government acting speedily as referee. The men claimed that under the terms of the agreement by which the strike was ended they were entitled to their seniority rating and their pension rights, but the company through twelve long years persisted in ignoring their claims.

During that time many of those who had taken part in the strike were retired because of old age and disabilities but they received no consideration. Several of them faced years of hardship for on the meagre wages they received previous to 1916 they were able to save very little.

Despite the fight they put up and which was put up on their behalf, they had little hope of receiving their money until the Liberal government was returned to power. One of the first things accomplished by Premier W. L. Mackenzie King was the granting to all employees who had taken part in the strike, their seniority rights.

The order was put into effect immediately in the local division. Men who had been out of work for many months began to receive their pensions and many received back pensions in large amounts. Some who were living almost on charity were made independent when checks ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 were received by them.

Although a report emanating from Montreal shows that old Grand Trunk men are just being given their seniority rights, those in the local division have been enjoying theirs for almost a year. When the change was made four or five trainmen and conductors running out of London who had signed with the company during the time of their strike were moved from senior runs to jobs of lower rating. On the whole of the

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WIDOW TELEPHONE HEAD, MRS. SISE, DIES, MONTREAL

Special to The Advertiser.
Montreal, May 18.—The death occurred yesterday, after an illness of three months, of Mrs. Sise, 463 Sherbrooke street west, widow of Chas. F. Sise, formerly president and founder of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada. Mrs. Sise, before her marriage, was Miss Caroline Johnson Pettigall, was born in Newburyport, Mass., nearly 74 years ago. Her husband died in 1918, she being his second wife.

Grand Trunk system a total of 45 men were affected in this way. Better even than securing again their former rating, nearly 200 men in the local division, the most of whom are getting up in years were given assurance that the closing year of their lives should be spent in comfort.

CONFIRMS SENTENCES ON KRUPP DIRECTORS

French Court of Revision Upholds Decision of Court-Martials.

Associated Press Despatch.
Dusseldorf, May 18.—The sentences imposed by the recent court-martials upon Dr. Krupp von Bohlen and the other Krupp directors, tried for instigating opposition to the French at the Krupp plant at the time of the shooting on March 21, were confirmed today by the court of revision.

The convicted men will be transferred to prisons in France while their counsel appeal to the court of cassation.



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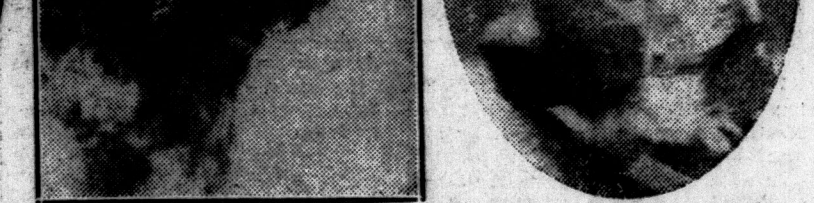
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