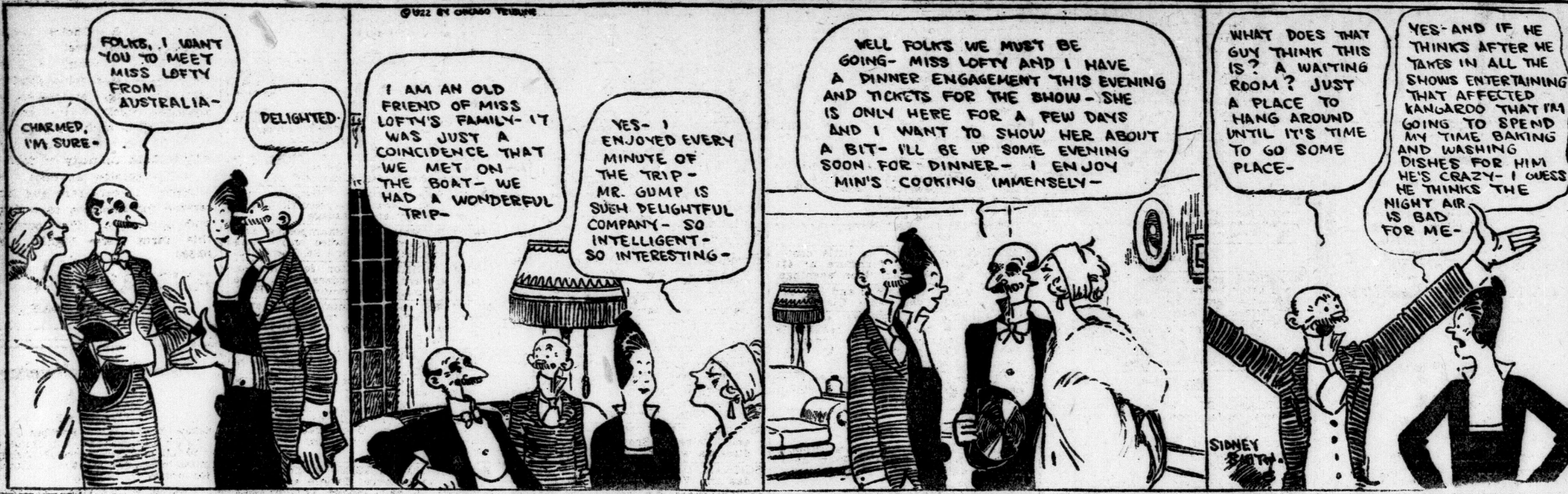


THE GUMPS—THESE ARE MY PEOPLE



TAKEN FROM LIFE

RENTED

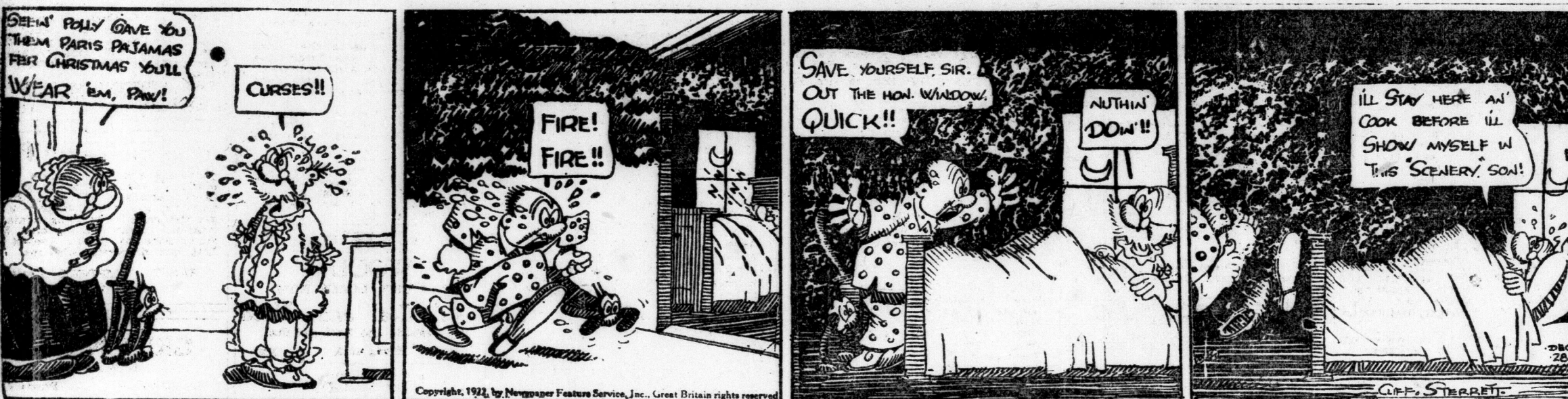
BY MARTIN



POLLY AND HER PALS

To Be Rescued in That Regalia Is Too Much for Pa.

BY CLIFF STERRETT



MUTT AND JEFF.

Mutt Tries to Impress a Wall Street Man and Fails.

BY BUD FISHER.



TOOTS AND CASPER

Well, What Will Happen to Casper's Resolutions Then?

BY JIMMY MURPHY



GAS BUGGIES

BY BECK



FRANCE MAY SEIZE GERMAN FORESTS

Poincare Asserts Nation Will Move Alone If Others Will Not.

DECISION SURPRISES MAY REOPEN CASE

Believed U. S. Favors Stand Taken by Britain On Controversy.

Paris, Dec. 28.—Premier Poincare plans to follow up the reparations commission's decision, declaring Germany in default of her wood deliveries by presenting to the allied premier's meeting here next week a scheme for taking over the German state forests as a guarantee. If the other premier's will not agree to this step, it is understood France is prepared to act alone.

It is now feared that the British and French attitudes will be as far apart when the allies reconvene as they were when the London conference convened. Sir John Bradbury went to London today to confer with Premier Bonar Law and other members of the government on the effect of the reparations committee's action and the question of the British policy towards the premier's meeting. Sir John's reasons for refusing to support the default vote, which means, it is thought, may be taken as a reflection of the opposition of Mr. Bonar Law, were that certain extenuating circumstances entitled Germany to more lenient consideration and that, furthermore, the allies had previously agreed on a course less radical in the event of Germany's failure to make the deliveries.

France's victory in the reparations commission vote is ascribed to the personal efforts of Premier Poincare, who is said carefully to have planned the coup. Though the United States has no vote in the commission, the views of her observers have always had weight, especially when a vital issue was before the commission, as was the case yesterday. It is declared in reparations circles that the position of the American observers has approximated that of the British.

The sudden decision of the commission took French as well as foreign political circles by surprise, as it was generally expected that the commissioners would make no decision until after the premier's meeting.

IT PAYS!

See Velveteen announcement on page 4.

CANADA TRAVELERS REPORT GOOD YEAR

Increase Resources Despite Adverse Conditions and Large Payments in Benefits.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—A year of very good progress was revealed at the fiftieth annual meeting of the Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada, held here yesterday afternoon. Walter Moore, president, occupying the chair. About 200 members were present.

The annual report referred to the substantial increase in resources in face of generally depressed conditions. The sum of \$19,457 had been paid to beneficiaries of deceased members during the year, and yet an increase of \$42,324 was shown in the permanent reserve. The amount of mortuary benefit for 1923 was fixed at \$1,000 maximum, and the allotment at \$159,723. Reference was made to the new railway certificate obtained for next year.

The financial statement showed a bank balance of \$13,375. Investments total \$158,375.

J. H. Hodgson and Harry Moore were chosen to represent the association on the Canadian National Exhibition board, and J. Wilson and James Gardner will act as directors of the Ottawa fair.

The following executive officers were elected by acclamation: President, J. Harry Hodgson; first vice-president, F. J. Zimmerman; second vice-president, H. L. Wilford; treasurer, E. Fielding; first vice-president, R. T. Hunter; second vice-president, P. A. Sommerfeld.

WALLACEBURG

Special to The Advertiser. Wallaceburg, Dec. 28.—Mr. and Mrs. William Wellman are spending the vacation with their daughter, Mrs. Charles Secord, at Chatham. Mr. and Mrs. Walter McLean and son Edwin are spending the Christmas with Mrs. McLean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, in Surinam. Mr. and Mrs. Ratz of Mitchell are spending the holiday with the latter's mother, Mrs. Wesley Wilson, Dufferin avenue.

Mrs. (Dr.) Fred Seward and daughter Anna are visiting in Windsor.

Mr. R. P. Courtis has returned from Kingston to spend the holidays with his parents.

W. H. Turner left today for Montreal, where he will join his mother, who has been there for some months.

NOTICE is hereby given that a by-law was passed by the Council of the Corporation of the City of London, on the 18th day of December, 1922, providing for the issue of debentures to the amount of \$47,838.84 for the purpose of local improvement debenture renewal under the authority of section 24 of "The City of London Act, 1900," and to impose rates for the payment thereof, and that such by-law was registered in the registry office of the City of London, in the County of Middlesex, on the 20th day of December, A.D. 1922.

Any motion to quash or set aside the same or any portion thereof must be made within three months after the first publication of this notice and cannot be made thereafter.

Dated this 19th day of December, A.D. 1922.

S. BAKER, City Clerk.

MAGBRIDE DENIES COURT EVIDENCE

M. L. A. Declares Charge Against Him Was Merely Election Propaganda.

CLAIMS HE ATTENDED HIGHWAY OPENING ON DAY OF ALLEGED FIGHT

Brantford, Dec. 28.—M. M. MacBride stoutly declares that the court case against him before Magistrate Blake is nothing more than election propaganda, and that now he is not in the field for the mayoralty, the case has been dropped without his knowledge. He asserts that he will fight the case out if he has to open the action up again.

Mr. MacBride when seen this afternoon was quite indignant when told that the case had been heard in the court this morning. He said: "Up to now I thought that I was living under a British system of justice. This case has been postponed on two occasions when I appeared with my witnesses ready to defend myself against any charge. Last Wednesday when I appeared County Constable Kerr told me that he had investigated and that he found there was nothing to the charge and that I need not appear again. I have not been out of the city this past week, and if I had thought for a moment that the case was coming on I would certainly have been there."

The provincial member absolutely denies the statements that have been made.

"Mr. Kerr in his evidence this morning, apparently admits that he and the clerk searched the county bylaws, but could find no law under which I should have been charged. If that is so then the courts have been used merely for political publicity purposes and British courts were never intended for any such purpose."

"The alleged case against me, I am informed, was dismissed. It is the first time in all history, so far as I know, that a case has been disposed of without hearing two sides of the story or of having an opportunity to cross-question the witnesses."

"Since the charge was laid and until I knew it was dismissed, I, of course, made no comment, believing it my duty out of respect to the courts to await a proper opportunity to submit my evidence in the proper way."

Considers Attitude.

"The matter never was of any significance, except for publicity purposes, and I am just considering now whether I should treat it with the contempt it deserves or whether I should take some other action in the matter. As a matter of fact I was not in any fight at all as was described on the day in question I took part with many hundreds of citizens at the opening of the Brantford-Hamilton highway. The only trouble I had with Aikens was when I prevented him attacking a young returned soldier. The full particulars will come out later, I shall see to that."

POISON WHISKEY CLAIMS 67TH VICTIM IN DETROIT

Finding of George Cummings Dead in Bed By Wife Adds to 1922 Toll.

Detroit, Dec. 28.—With the death of George Cummings, 55 years old, who was found dead in his bed by his wife yesterday, alcoholism and poison whiskey claimed its 67th victim in Detroit for 1922.

Nineteen other patients who were taken to hospitals over Christmas time for poisoning by poisonous concoctions are improved today and will recover, physicians report.

Police report that the contents of three bottles, found beside the victim and analyzed, contain fusel oil and wood alcohol in large quantities. All three bottles were apparently the product of a Canadian distillery, but the contents had been removed by piercing the cork, police say.

PETROLEA

Special to The Advertiser. Petrolia, Dec. 28.—Hugo Ewart, who has been attending Queen's University, Kingston, is spending the vacation at home.

Dave Churchill of Sears Roebuck & Co., Chicago, is home for a two weeks' holiday.

Frank and Amy Church are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Church.

Murray Road of Detroit spent Christmas at his home in Windsor, visiting his uncle, Edward Marshall, of Petrolia.

Miss O. Wismer is spending Christmas at the home of her parents.

Messrs. Charles and Henry Fairbanks are spending their Christmas holidays in Petrolia. They have been attending Ridley College.

Bevelly Pollard of Ridley College is spending his holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Pollard.

Miss Helen Mills of Detroit, Mich., is visiting in Petrolia over Christmas.

James Church of Detroit is home for Christmas.

John Lawson, who has been working in Detroit, visited at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson, Christmas.

Miss Geo. McLaughlin, who has been teaching school near Brantford, is spending her Christmas holidays at home.

Joseph Barrett of Toronto spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett.

L. O'Dell spent the holiday at his home. Mr. O'Dell is working in Port Huron.

Harold Baker of Sarnia has returned to work after spending a delightful holiday in Petrolia.

Fred Portsmouth, Petrolia, representative to the boys' parliament at Toronto, left for Toronto this morning.

PLAN CHRISTMAS TREAT FOR KIDDIES OF VETERANS

Special to The Advertiser. Chatham, Dec. 28.—The condition tree and supper will be given for the children of the Great War Veterans, and of the members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the G. W. V. A., by the Auxiliary on Thursday night of this week.

Plans for this affair were made at the regular meeting of the Auxiliary last evening. The party will be held in the club rooms from 6 until 9 o'clock, and a very enjoyable time is anticipated.

Mrs. Goodman, vice-president, presided over the meeting. The regular reports were read and adopted, and routine business was transacted.