

THE WEATHER:
CLOUDY AND MILD.
SUNDAY—MILD, LIGHT RAIN.

London Evening Advertiser

"SPORTING GREEN"
ON THE STREET AT 6:00
WITH LATE NEWS.

61ST YEAR. NO. 23821

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1923. THIRTY PAGES.

THREE CENTS.

STAMP OUT "BLUE-ROIN"—BUILD THE CITY HALL

"There is absolutely no cause for excited misgivings or hysterical utterances with regard to financial conditions in London"—Dr. Horace L. Brittain, in Brittain's report, October, 1923.

"Limit of borrowing power is near—need to curtail—debt charges jump"—the London Free Press, November, 1923.

"London has never been in better shape financially. It is further from its borrowing limit than in many years."—City Treasurer James Bell, 37 years in office, November, 1923.

TO BUILD THE CITY HALL NOW WILL COST YOU \$1.25 A YEAR; WAITING HAS COST \$120,000

City Treasurer's Figures Show
Actual Cost to the Individual Ratepayer.

WAITING IS WASTEFUL

Waiting Has Cost \$120,000 Already and Another \$12,000 Every Year.

What Will It Cost NOT To Build the City Hall?

City Treasurer James Bell supplies the answer from the city's books.

Every day that passes without the construction of a city hall on the McCormick site means the loss to the ratepayers—anywhere from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per annum.

And the city treasurer adds that this amount will naturally be increased with each passing year. More than ten years ago the city purchased the property at the southeast corner of Dundas and Wellington streets, from the McCormick Manufacturing Company, upon the distinct understanding that the site would be used for a city hall.

No hall has been constructed.

And the city has lost about \$100,000 interest and taxes, etc.

What Will It Cost YOU To Build the City Hall?

Hundreds of thousands of dollars mean little to the individual. The real gauge of values comes in reckoning what will actually come out of your own pocket.

Here are the figures which affect you. They are given by the city treasurer.

A new hall will cost in the neighborhood of \$600,000. By resolution of council it is stipulated that no sum in excess of this shall be expended. This is spread over a period of 20 years, and each ratepayer shoulders his or her proportionate share.

A \$1,500 assessment, at an average rate of interest computed by City Treasurer Bell, will call for an additional 62½ cents upon the tax notice, or a \$3,000 assessment (the average for the city of London), will demand about \$1.25 increase on a citizen's bill.

Wasteful waiting for the city hall has cost \$120,000 with nothing to show for it. It will cost another \$12,000 every year.

To build and get the job done will cost each average citizen \$1.25 a year—the price of a theatre ticket.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT COMMUTES SENTENCES

Moscow, Dec. 1.—The Russian government has shown clemency toward the 18 persons who were sentenced on November 1st after being tried on charges of bribery and corruption. The sentence of each prisoner has been commuted to ten years in solitary confinement.

On Again—Off Again—

On Nov. 22, the Free Press wanted to build the city hall but "thought the Spencer site might be better."

A few days later it didn't want to do anything by cry despair—no money.

Yesterday it proposed rebuilding the Spencer Block instead.

Yesterday it also proposed building "an office building like the Public Utilities."

Yesterday it said "the city hall is a necessity."

Yesterday it said in the next paragraph that it was "not a vital necessity."

The truth is that the Free Press is so tangled up with the back-room schemers that it doesn't really know what it is arguing.

This Is Your City Hall



THE CIVIC SECTION OF WESTERN ONTARIO'S HUB.
London is the hub of Western Ontario. Here is the civic center of the hub. What do you think of it? The general ensemble of the city offices as shown here is one with Nineveh and Tyre. Its yellow brick, stained with the passing years, reveals the hoary frescoes in the resting place of old King Tut. This shows only the outside, the inside is beyond the power of imagination to describe or the camera to portray. In the picture of the entrance doors, the portals through which pass the city fathers are standing open as they do every morning to help in the only system of ventilation possible in the center of the building. It is not imposing and perhaps there is some excuse for the teamster who left his bag of hay for his team propped against the city hall steps.

LONDON'S CITY OFFICES, DIRTY, DINGY, OUT OF DATE

Nothing Beautiful or Even Business-like About the City's Official Home; Atmosphere of Gloom Pervades the Cheerless and Out-of-Date Offices.

How many people in London really know what the present city hall looks like?

From the street one sees a yellow brick building designed apparently on the lines of a wholesale warehouse, with blue-gray doors worn and buffed by many aldermanic shoulders.

The windows are arranged on the principle of allowing enough light to see your way about in, but not enough to work by at this time of the year. They are in keeping with the color scheme of the whole, offering little break in the dull monotony of brick and mortar.

The main entrance to the street is a matter of two heavy, swinging doors gray like the rest and opening onto a flight of steep stairs reaching to the various offices.

If you should want to reach the council room, you have before you a journey of 46 steps and three turns.

In between these turns on the first floor is a passage less than two feet in width, which necessitates a side-way style of procession for any more than ordinarily large man.

As you walk along Dundas street going east by the side of the city hall you come to a forbidding boarded-in office. The boards are of the same dirty gray-blue color as the others, and are adorned with the artistic efforts of small boys in the form of chalk drawings, side by side with sundry advertising bills. This is the office of London's chief magistrate, and the inside does not belie the outward appearance. The office itself, a matter of ten square feet, contains four stiff-backed chairs besides the mayoral arm chair, a roll top desk, a steam radiator and such stained sunlight as may be able to penetrate the windows.

The other offices are a little dingier.

ALL PARTIES IN BRITAIN CONFIDENT

Liberals Believe Success Will Attend Lloyd George's Intense Drive.

SEE BUSY WEEK AHEAD

Ramsay MacDonald Denies Labor Will Drop Capital Levy Plan.

Associated Press Despatch. London, Dec. 1.—This is the last week-end before the general election, and so the canvassers and speakers of the three leading parties will be very busy. Each party says it has been making great progress, and each is confidently predicting its own victory. The Conservatives say they are making many converts to Stanley Baldwin's protection policy in the northern districts. Their opponents, on the other hand, say they are likely to lose London and the south because of the apathy of the electors, and the lack of Conservative canvassers.

The Liberal claim to progress is based to a large extent on Lloyd George's campaign. The party workers profess confidence that the election will result in an enormous majority for free trade.

Both Conservative and Liberal speakers represent Labor as being in difficulties over the capital levy, alleging that this plank of the Labor platform is proving to be a white elephant and is likely to be the ruin of the party's hopes.

Ramsay MacDonald has been represented as saying in effect that the Laborites were not wedded to the levy, and that if it proved unworkable the party would abandon it. Mr. MacDonald has denied making this assertion, explaining that although the party might be hampered by the capital levy, it stood for honest politics, and would not drop its pet plank even though hampered by it.

16 Candidates Want City Hall With 4 Against

How Candidates for Council Answer Question: "Are You in Favor of City Hall Bylaw?"

From each of the candidates for London's city council The Advertiser has asked a "Yes" or "No" answer to the question: "Are you in favor of the city hall bylaw?"

How the candidates stand is listed below. Sixteen say "Yes." Four say "No." Nine decline a definite reply.

The sixteen candidates who say "YES" are as follows:

Ald. Ed. Hayden.
Ald. Frank McKay.
Ald. John Colbert.
Ald. Ernest Shaw.
Ald. Gordon Drake.
Ex-Ald. John Ashton.
Frank Jones.
Allan Towe.
Mell Cater.
Max Lerner.
R. L. Burke.
R. W. Chapple.
T. H. Lashbrook.
E. G. De Pottle.
Maurice Gootson.
Walter Ellis.

The four candidates who say "NO" are:

Ald. William Wilson.
Ald. John Greer.
Ald. John T. May.
Ald. Leonard Douglass.

The nine candidates who declined a definite answer are:

Edwin Smith.
Leon Chillingworth.
John Anderson.
A. R. Throver.
Harry Bottrill.
Edward Warren.
William Stewart.
John Hunt.
N. P. Walsh.



COL. W. J. BROWN, executive secretary of the University of Western Ontario, was elected president of the United Boards of Trade of Western Ontario at the conclusion of the sixth annual meeting of the association held yesterday in St. Thomas. Colonel Brown is well known throughout the fourteen counties of the peninsula in connection with his work on behalf of the university.

EDUCATIONAL BUDGET LESS THAN MILLION

Officials Contradict "Whispers of Death" Sent Out EXPECT SURPLUS

The board of education estimates for 1924 will be less than one million dollars.

This statement was made by several members of the board in contradiction to the "whisper of death" published in the Free Press yesterday as a continuance of "blue ruin" campaign, being broadcasted from its columns.

Prominent in yesterday's story, was written in answer to one appearing in The Advertiser. Thursday to the effect that a surplus was apparent, and the tentative estimates would be pared, were statements credited to Secretary Tanner to the effect that it would be practically impossible to pare them down much, and that no debenture debt payments for the new West London school were included.

Prompt denial of these assertions was given by Inspector Greer, Chairman A. N. Udy and Trustee B. N. Campbell.

Inspector Greer has consistently stated that there would be a surplus in the public school account for this year, and, as an example of this, pointed out that in the case of substitute teachers, where the amount asked was but \$6,500, there will be a surplus of \$2,500. He has since school opened in September made the statement that there was every reason to hope for a reduction in the public school rate for 1924.

Chairman A. N. Udy told The Advertiser that the estimates were purely tentative, and that there was no doubt but that by the time they were accepted by the council they would be under a million dollars.

B. N. Campbell, who is seeking reelection, said that wherever possible a dollar would be eliminated from the figures already submitted, and that there was no reason for it to exceed one million dollars. In fact, the figures might be considerably less.

Referring to the need for collegiates, Mr. Campbell stated that nothing definite had been decided on, but that if they were to be built, he would see that they did not cost \$500,000, the figure being broadcasted as the additional amount the citizens would have to assume.

Referring to the debenture debt, it was pointed out that the payments, capital and interest, on the West London school have been, and are included in the estimates, and, in fact, were also included in the figures for 1923, although the amount was never used. There will probably be no increase in debenture charges for capital and interest for several years for public schools, according to Inspector Greer.

Don't Let "Ruinners" Twist the Real Facts

Does London Need a City Hall?
Can London Afford To Build?
Can London Afford To Wait?

Here are cold facts and figures from the city treasurer to help you find truthful answers.

Before a man buys anything he usually asks him himself: "Do I need it?" "Can I afford it?" Before you go to your polling booth on Monday sit down for a minute and think over the city hall proposition with these two questions in mind:

"Does London need it?" "Can London afford it?"

The answer to the first question comes pretty quickly, because only one answer has ever been offered. London is the only city in Canada which has no city hall. The building which at present houses its administration is a joke throughout the country, a thing of shame to be concealed from visitors, and, as the recent Brittain report proclaimed, a constant risk to the city's irreplaceable documents.

The Front Door To London

To a city, a city hall is something like the front door on one's house, or the window of one's store.

No man owning a substantial, prosperous home would think of having a flimsy, dingy, battered front door, with broken glass, and knotholes showing through the scraped paint.

No merchant with a fine stock of goods inside his store would keep a dirty, squalid, window, with the blind half down and a confusion of out-of-date merchandise displayed.

But that is just what London has been doing for ten years, although the people have voted four times in favor of changing it.

The defeat of the bylaw on Monday would mean a continuation of that performance—more years of increasing discredit to the city, more dilapidating, more pussyfooting, more small town politics.

London Needs Action Now

If ever London needs some vigorous fresh air and determined action, she needs it here and now.

"Can London afford it?"

It is on this question that opposition has been raised and it is here that the pros and cons of the proposition must be weighed.

The facts and figures supporting the city hall are definite. They have nothing to do with sentiment.

The city already owns the site—has owned it for some years—is losing money every day it lies vacant.

On this site it is proposed to erect a building which shall cost not more than \$600,000. It may cost less; it must not cost more.

Over Half the Money Is Ready

Of this maximum \$600,000, the city has already on hand over \$345,000.

These figures are definite. They have not been prepared as campaign material. They are issued from the office of the city treasurer, who has no motive in the affair except to present cold figures as they are.

The statement prepared by the city treasurer gives the following detailed information:

Receipts.	
Sale of old city hall on Richmond street.....	\$100,000.00
Proceeds of sale of \$75,000 of debentures in year 1913	65,845.00
Proceeds of sale of \$125,000 of debentures in year 1913	112,987.50
Debentures held for sale, \$125,000, say.....	108,000.00
Sale of public utilities of corner lot on which utilities building is erected	20,000.00
Sale of old material	12.00
\$406,844.50	

Expenses.

Expended for purchase and alterations in building now used as city hall, up to date..... \$1,305.30

Balance on hand to build on present site, assuming that city in the sale of Federal Square property will receive as much as paid for it, viz., \$205,829.73

Look now at the opposition—the blue-ruin campaign of the last few days.

What are its answers to the question: "Can London afford it?"

Deception in the Bylaw.

The first effort of the opposition comes, surprisingly enough, in the bylaw itself.

The bylaw asks for \$500,000, an amount which the City Treasurer's figures above show to be almost twice as much as will be needed.

\$500,000—half a million—was put on the ballot by the little clique of schemers who wanted to knock the city hall project. It was intended to frighten the voters. There was no other motive.

The amount actually required to supply the maximum \$600,000 is \$255,000—not \$500,000—according to the figures supplied by the City Treasurer.

London can afford it. Read the statements from Dr. Brittain and James Bell, as contrasted with the blue-ruin cry. London can afford it and she has proven it in the past year by raising

Turn to Page 44, Column 3 and 4.

WOMAN ENDS LIFE, WALKS INTO RIVER

Unidentified Woman Suicides at 11 o'Clock Today at Thames Park.

BODY IS RECOVERED

Crowd Gathers Around Remains Recovered by Firemen.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon the body was identified as Mrs. Nell Stryker, 118 Elmwood avenue. The body was identified by the husband.

An unknown woman committed suicide in the Thames River at Thames Park shortly before 11 o'clock this morning, when after discarding hat and coat she waded into the stream. The water at this point is about ten feet deep.

Pedestrians on Ridout street and street car passengers saw the woman cross the Ridout bridge and make for the park. On her arrival there she took off her hat and coat, and before anyone could reach her she had waded out to midstream and started to drift down with the current.

An alarm was sent into the fire department by men working at the gas house, and the department responded immediately. The body, which was drifting downstream at a good rate, was followed to Wharncliffe road bridge where Firemen R. H. Barber and Clarence Foreman, a boy living nearby, got into the river and reached the body, pulling it out. It was floating with the face under water.

She was taken ashore on the south bank of the river about 100 yards east of Wharncliffe road. Firemen worked over her for some time, but no sign of life could be found. Dr. Robert Ferguson was summoned. The body was pulled out of the water about 11:45 o'clock.

Several hundred persons immediately congregated around the body as it lay on the bank, but no one was able to identify her.

She was apparently between 30 and 35 years of age, and married, as a wedding ring was the only jewelry on her hands. She was well dressed, and evidently a well cultured woman. She wore a blue skirt, heather stockings, low brown shoes, and the coat she discarded before making the plunge was of Hudson seal. She also wore a small blue hat. She had brown hair, not bobbed, and blue eyes, and was of medium build.

When Coroner Robert Ferguson was called after viewing the remains he ordered the body removed to N. J. Griffith's funeral parlors. The woman was wearing a blue blouse, beaded with brown and green beads. Firemen stated that it was remarkable that the body did not sink at the Dundas street bridge where the water is more than thirty feet deep. When Dr. Ferguson viewed the remains the woman's nose appeared to be slightly twisted.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.
Today—Moderate winds, cloudy and mild.
Sunday—Southeast winds, mild and probably light rains.

Stations	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	44	36	Cloudy
Calgary	42	38	Clear
Winnipeg	24	16	Snow
Port Arthur	36	28	Cloudy
Ferry Sound	42	30	Cloudy
Toronto	46	40	Cloudy
Kingston	46	40	Fair
Ottawa	36	38	Cloudy
Montreal	44	38	Clear
St. John	44	44	Rain
Halifax	44	44	Rain

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 48; lowest, 35.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 39; lowest, 37.

Barometric Readings.
Friday—8 p.m.—29.21.
Today—8 a.m.—29.53.

Keep Public Utilities Safe n Pocock and Vining—Vote For Them