THE WEATHER:
FAIR, COLD, NORTHERLY WINDS.
FRIDAY—SNOW.

London Evening Advertiser

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS SEE PAGE 12.

61ST YEAR. NO. 24137 | LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1924. —FOURTEEN PAGES | THREE CENTS.

THEDFORD VILLAGE SWEPT BY $100,000 FIRE

Railway Is Urged As Means To Solve School Problem

MAIN PART OF THEDFORD DESTROYED

Blaze That Causes $100,000 Damage Believed of Incendiary Origin.

MAN SUFFERS BURNS

W. C. Tudor, Owner of One Building Destroyed, Is Badly Burned About Arms, Neck.

Special to The Advertiser
By a Staff Reporter.

Thedford, Dec. 4.—The most disastrous fire which has visited this section of the province in recent years swept the heart of the business section of this village early this morning, gutted four large buildings, and for a time threatened the entire village with destruction. The total loss is conservatively estimated at $100,000.

The cause of the conflagration is a mystery, but after a survey of the stricken area authorities are of the firm belief that an incendiary is to blame. A minute probe will be started as soon as the ruins cool.

No one was seriously injured in the bitter three-hour fight to check the blaze, though several braved hazards to salvage contents from the buildings and to confine the blaze to one block. W. C. Tudor, owner of the three-story brick building which bore his name and was the first to be gutted, was painfully burned about the neck and hands while saving the Holwell house. Cuts and bruises, suffered by several at the outset, were borne in the heroic struggle to hold back the flames.

The chemical engines from Forest and Parkhill and Arkona's motor apparatus, with their crews, were on the scene shortly after the fire was discovered, and these volunteer firemen played a big part in stemming the onrush of the conflagration when many a doubt was expressed as to the safety of the village.

Gasoline Creates Danger.

Two hundred gallons of gasoline stored ina garage, in the vortex of the burning region, and the immediate danger of an explosion rendered the position of the fire fighters all the more perilous.

A man, whose identity could not be established, found the blaze in a frame storage building at the rear of the Ross general store, and raised the alarm. He also aroused Mr. and Mrs. C. Stoddard and E. Reynolds, who were sleping in Beatty block apartments, giving them time to escape.

The hue and cry was raised through out the village and the surrounding countryside and soon the streets were thronged with a thousand or more people, all alive the danger which threatened the community.

Volunteers Respond.

Men, women and children worked unfalteringly in bucket brigades or in salvage crews. Perfect order was maintained throughout the battle and hunreds of dollars worth of goods were saved, thanks to the dauntless courage of those who kept scurrying in and out of buildings until beaten to the street by the intensity of the flames.

At 8 o'clock the blaze had spent itself and the street laden with piles of merchandise and personal belongings, though bedraggled and stricken, told mutely of the brave efforts the villagers had made to turn back the fire demon.

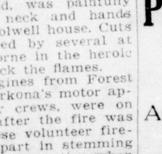
Flames Spread Quickly.

The flames spread quickly to the Ross general store in the Tudor block and gaining headway as they swept

Please See Page 3, Column 1.

The Weather

FORECASTS.



Today — Lower lakes: north and northeast winds; fair and cold.

Friday—Strong easterly winds, with snow, turning to rain.

The area of high pressure, which was over Manitoba yesterday, now covers northern Ontario and the southwestern low is moving slowly northeastward. The weather is somewhat colder in Ontario and Quebec, but continues rather mild in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Temperatures.

The highest and lowest temperatures previous to 8 a.m. today were:

Stations.	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	56	44	Cloudy
Calgary	34	20	Clear
Winnipeg	14	8	Cloudy
Port Arthur	28	4	Fair
Parry Sound	34	6	Clear
Toronto	38	22	Fair
Kingston	36	18	Clear
Ottawa	32	14	Fair
Montreal	30	18	Clear
Quebec	30	14	Fair
Father Point	30	20	Fair
St. John	32	26	Fair
Halifax	34	30	Cloudy

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night were: Highest, 35; lowest, 30.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 34; lowest, 23.

Barometric Readings.

Wednesday—8 p.m., 29.44.
Today—8 a.m., 29.57.

MRS. CHARLIE CHAPLIN.

A new photograph of Lita Grey, who married Charlie Chaplin last week, is shown above. Although but 18 years old, she has starred opposite Chaplin on the silver screen. According to California law, Mrs. Chaplin is still of school age and could be compelled to resume her studies, but it is doubtful if such action will be taken.

PROVINCE AGAIN APPEALS TO LONDON TO PAY $165,000

Amount Claimed Due For Unpaid Suburban Area Roads.

ALLOWED TO LAPSE

London's unpaid suburban area roads paving account of $165,0000, like an unattractive and unwanted jack-in-the-box, bobbed up again today. To the city hall came the statement of the province once more, respectfully requesting that arrangements for settling the account be made by Dec. 15.

London, like other municipalities in the province has permitted the suburban paving account to lapse during the past two years. Recently Ottawa and Toronto squared up with the province, selling heavy debenture issues to take care of their accounts. Other cities, like London, have so far passed the rapidly-increasing accounts on to future councils. This year no appropriation was made in the estimates to take care of interest on a new debenture issue, and when the account came up several times, the council merely ordered it to be filed.

Adds Three Mills.

If a "pay-as-you-go" policy were to be put into force next year an additional three mills would be put on the tax rate to take care of the paving which has been done this year, present account and the suburban the council of 1925 meets the demands of the province, it would take However, this is not likely. But if $15,000 of next year's receipts to take on special debenture issues. A special care of the interest and sinking fund act of the legislature provides for the issuing of debentures by municipalities for the payment of suburban area roads accounts, without a vote of the ratepayers.

Asked this morning how the suburban road debt, along with the $30,000 deficit caused by unpaid annex taxes, would effect next year's tax rate, city officials stated that these matters would depend on other expenditures of the new council. If a new college institute were built, too, the city would be faced with an additional mill to the general tax rate.

No Surplus.

There will be no surplus in the city funds this year, in spite of reports to the contrary a few weeks ago. Tax collections have been up to the usual percentage, with less than two per cent of unpaid taxes at the present time. However, the $15,000 a year additional taxes from factories of the annexed district which the city expected to get commencing in 1923 cannot be collected. The annexed districts were granted fixed assessment on all properties and improvements for 15 years when they came into the city before the war. They have several years to go yet, and judiciary advice keeps the assessment in those districts the same.

LONGSHOREMEN LEAVE FOR WINTER HOMES

Associated Press Despatch.

Montreal, Dec. 4.—With the close of navigation, 3,000 longshoremen of the port of Montreal have been laid off. The laying off began last week, and when the last ship left Montreal Tuesday the remainder were dispensed with. Simultaneously, the movement to winter ports began, fifty men leaving for St. John at the end of the week, while about the same number left for Portland, Me.

The majority of the longshoremen are from below Quebec, as far as Gaspe, and these go back to their homes, returning to farm work until the reopening of navigation.

Rebel Chiefs Are Captured

Associated Press Despatch.

Mexico City, Dec. 4. — Official despatches from the military commander in Tabasco state that General Carlos Green and General Alejandro Green, rebel chieftains and brothers, have been captured by federal forces in a battle during which they were seriously wounded and the rebels finally dispersed.

DOUKHOBORS GATHER TO ELECT NEW LEADERS

Factions Promise Interesting Fight To Gain Control in Large Community.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Regina, Sask., Dec. 4.—Between 150 and 200 Doukhobors, gathered from Yorkton, Kamsack, Canora, Verigin, Blaine Lake and Langham, are leaving today for Brilliant, B. C., to attend the convention which will be held there Dec. 9, to appoint a successor to Peter Verigin.

Nearly 300 others not travelling with the main party are expected to pass through Regina during the next two days, also on their way to the convention.

The convention will be a stormy one, for two factions have come into prominence since the death of Verigin, and each will attempt to gain control.

The two factions are understood to be labor and capital, and are known as the "working brothers" and the "leaders." The "working brothers" want one of themselves in power or at least someone totally different from the group now in charge of the affairs of the Christian community of universal brotherhood, it is stated.

Women Silent As Cop Arrives

Turmoil Ends at Convention After Delegates Summon Police.

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Police were called yesterday to restore order at a meeting of the District of Columbia Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, in special session to elect officers for the Washington organization.

All day the convention had been in turmoil without interruption, with accusations hurtling back and forth between the contending factions, one of which is led by Mrs. C. Ludlow, and the other by Mrs. Walter E. Hutton, who is acting as president general, over the protest of many of the delegates. One woman finally ran to a telephone to summon the police, and a lone negro patrolman responded. His appearance sobered both sides, and the meeting broke up with a final argument over who had sent for him.

CHECK TAKEN BECAUSE HE WAS "FED UP"

E. Clarence Settell at Trial Reveals Every Motive Leading to Act.

ADMITS DRINKING

Former Secretary to Sir Adam Beck Tells of Spending Money.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Hamilton, Dec. 4.—Declaring that he was "fed up," E. C. Settell, former secretary to Sir Adam Beck, decided to take from the hydro a sum equal to $15 per week, with interest at 6 per cent, for all the time he was employed, according to the story told by him in the witness box in Judge Evans' court here today.

The prisoner was utterly frank in the story he told the court and seemed determined to reveal every motive.

The case opened at 10:30, when R. H. Greer, counsel for Settell, called George Halcrow, former M. L. A. for East Hamilton, to testify as to the character of the accused.

Mr. Halcrow declared that he had never heard a "whisper" against the prisoner's reputation, and remarked that during the time he had been associated with Settell he would have "trusted him with his life."

During a campaign here he had visited the prisoner in a local hotel and had been requested to stay to supper.

"Although the province was temperance, I admit I had a drink on this occasion," the witness said.

Fully fifty members of the old Ontario legislature had visited Settell's home, he continued. There they were entertained to "arouse enthusiasm for hydro." Settell was most industrious in the interests of the power commission.

Infatuated With Idea.

Crown Attorney Ballard asked Mr. Halcrow if he needed money spent on him to "soften him," toward the hydro. He laughingly replied that good things might have been tendered him as an illustration to others.

Mr. Halcrow's testimony then concluded, and Settell took the stand.

In response to questions Mr. Greer asked, the accused stated that he had joined the hydro about 20 years ago. Shortly after becoming associated with the organization he had become infatuated with Sir Adam Beck's vision of power development. He was expected to use his friendships to aid hydro. His salary at first was $65 per month, then later $400. During the period, he drew $1,200 from his father's estate and $3,200 from investments.

The appetite for liquor grew upon him, Settell continued. He had to use it continually in order to do his regular work. At the time of his arrest he was drinking day and ight.

"Thank God, since my arrest, I have learned to do without it," the prisoner said. Referring to his duties, he declared that he spent long hours at his office. He had to continuously spend money for the system—items which the auditors did not see fit to pass. He was unable to collect $300 he spent during a radial campaign in Hamilton some years ago.

Spent His Own Money.

Once he was called by an officer of the Ontario municipal electric association, and asked to secure some liquor. He did so. Some gin he obtained was consumed at the hydro offices and some elsewhere. The cost to him was $15, which he did not collect.

He became "fed up," the witness confessed. He then decided to take a sum equal to $15 per week for the time he had been in the hydro's employ, with interest at 6 per cent added.

Regarding the $23,925 check, he declared that he had presented this to Sir Adam Beck and W. W. Pope, and they had signed it. It was marked as payment for right-of-way. Neither official had questioned him.

The testimony given by police officers as to his arrest was quite correct, Settell admitted.

GEN. AMARILLAS LEAVES FOR SCENE OF REVOLT

Associated Press Despatch.

Mexico City, Dec. 4.—General Jose Amarillas, commander of military operations in Guerrero state, who came here to attend President Calles' inauguration, has left hurriedly for Chilpancingo to direct troop movements against scattered uprisings in Guerrero, resulting from dissatisfaction with the results of the state election.

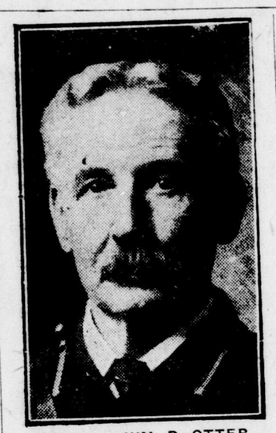
The war department views the uprisings as purely local.

BOYS AND GIRLS FREED OF MURDER CHARGE

Associated Press Despatch.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Two boys and two girls, still in their 'teens, were acquitted by a jury last night of a charge of murder in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Bessie Gaedness-len.

The youthful defendants had admitted that they strangled the woman to death as a preliminary to ransacking her home to obtain money they claimed she owed two of the girls, but denied that they intended to kill her.



GEN. SIR WM. D. OTTER.

K.C.B., C.V.O., who celebrated his 81st birthday on Wednesday. Gen. Otter, despite his advanced years, is still active.

MRS. M'CULLEY WILL FACE TRIAL

Charged With Having Stolen Property in Her Possession.

Mrs. Margaret McCulley, 194 Hamilton road, was this morning committed for trial on the charge of having in her possession a stolen phonograph. The machine was taken from the Dominion Storage company, and is the property of Mrs. Eliza Climo, 648 Lorne avenue. A serial number established the identification of the machine to the satisfaction of the court.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty to the charge and elected trial by jury through her counsel, J. M. Donohue. No evidence was offered by the defence.

The storage company caretaker told the court that Mrs. Climo's household effects were the only articles stored in the building when the phonograph disappeared on Sept. 28, 1923. Entrance had been gained by breaking two padlocks on the door of the warehouse.

According to the testimony of Detective Walsh, who visited the McCulley home with High Constable Wharton and Detective Bolton, there were three phonographs in the place at the time of the police trip. Mrs. McCulley told him that she knew nothing about the Climo machine, that it had been in her home about a year, but that she did not know where it had come from.

The discovery of the phonograph was made in connection with a police visit to the house in a search for clues to the theft of $600 worth of goods from the W. C. Baron store, Belmont.

Dauris Sweeney was jointly charged with Mrs. McCulley. Sweeney appears in County Magistrate Hawkshaw's court this afternoon.

SOVIET ARMY IS REDUCED IN YEAR TO HALF MILLION

War and Navy Departments To Be Merged as Economy Measure.

SALARIES RAISED

Associated Press Despatch.

Moscow, Dec. 4.—Soviet Russia's red army now consists of 562,000 men, the assistant commissaire of war, M. W. Frunse, announced at a plenary meeting of the war council, closing yesterday. This figure represents a reduction of 48,000 during the last year. Hereafter the war and navy commissariats will be merged into one department and the army commanders will be clothed with full power to deal with all matters, whether of military, economic or administrative character. Up to the present time a dual commandership has existed with military leaders and "political commissaires."

The chief function of the political commissaires who in all cases were orthodox communists was to watch the conduct of the military commanders who in many cases were former ezarist officers. All their acts not in consonance with the Bolshevik principles were promptly reported to headquarters.

With the appointment as commanders of many officers of peasant and workman origin whose loyalty to the communist cause could be fully trusted, the army authorities decided they could safely abolish the political commissaires.

Only a limited number of them will be retained and these for the purpose of educating the soldiers in political and party principles.

The war council authorized an increase of 33 per cent in the officers' salaries, which brings the monthly wages of a regimental commander to about $60. New national military units will be formed in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Karelia and various republics within the soviet federation.

Union Charters Are Revoked

Associated Press Despatch.

Scranton, N. Y., Dec. 4—Charters of ten central unions of the United Mine Workers of America, in the Pittston district, have been revoked by the district board of the miners union here.

Failure of 12,000 striking miners to obey the order of international president, John L. Lewis, to return to work was the reason assigned for the revocation. The action means that the strikers are no longer members of the miners union.

COSGRAVE WILL VISIT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Associated Press Despatch.

Cherbourg, France, Dec. 4.—President Cosgrave of the Irish Free State arrived from Plymouth yesterday aboard the Republic. He will make an incognito visit to France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

DIVINITY STUDENTS WILL DEBATE BIRTH CONTROL

Associated Press Despatch.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 4.—It was announced today that graduate divinity students of Yale have begun organization of a special class for discussion of the project of birth control. Decision to form such a class came after Margaret Sangster well-known birth control advocate had addressed a meeting of the students of the divinity school yesterday afternoon.

YOUTH WITH BACK BROKEN LOSES BATTLE WITH DEATH

Bert Dean, Loved by Hundreds, Dies After Two-Year Fight.

HURT IN DIVING

Medical Aid From Many Places Fails To Save Him.

Bert Dean, the 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dean, of 336 Hamilton road, who fractured his spine two years ago in a high dive at Port Stanley, died this morning in his father's house.

For nearly two years and a half this boy of eighteen fought with the courage of his young manhood against what was to be the inevitable. After the accident, which occurred on Aug. 21, 1922, he was brought back to the city where in his own home every effort was made by local medical men to cure the injured spine. A prominent Detroit philanthropist, hearing of the case, which was in every sense an extraordinary one, sent a specialist to see the boy. His experience proved of no avail.

Always the boy responded gallantly to every suggestion and effort putt forth to heal him. His faith and assurance in this kept alive the hope in the mother's heart. A few months ago he was taken to see one of the greatest specialists in diseases of the spine in Winnipeg, and here again human skill and experience and sympathy were without avail to hold back the creeping shadow.

Popular Student.

Bert Dean was a pupil in the central collegiate, where he was one of the most popular students. His bright cheerfulness, which was one of the most noticeable characteristic during his helplessness after the accident, was even then making him friends among fellow pupils and the teaching class.

His records at school show that as a first year student in 1921 and 1922 he was an exceptionally intelligent and careful student. He had no failures, and his average on all papers was over 80 per cent. At the time that he was a pupil of the central collegiate the first year work was being taken in the Lord Roberts' school, where Bert studied.

The accident at the Port and the effects caused a widespread interest and sympathy in the city at the time. He was swimming with Albert Hogg at the time, and it was the opinion of his chum that Bert dived into the hollow of a wave, and struck his head on the bottom of the lake, injuring the base of his neck.

Paralysis Followed.

Paralysis followed this injury and became more pronounced as time passed. Until the last four months he was as cheerful as youth demanded he should be, and Rev. Mr. McCormick, his minister, says that he was intensely interested in reading, in talking to people who came in to see him and in the radio. In the last four months he lst some of this and felt his increasing weakness.

Latterly he became a patient of Dr. A. S. Duncan of this city.

Funeral services will be held from the home at 2 O'clock Saturday to Mount Pleasant cemetery.

SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER,

former governof of the Punab, who has called for repressive measures in India as a result of the outbreak in Egypt.

KRASSIN GETS GREAT OVATION

Five Thousand Paris Communists Provide Demonstration For Their Chief.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 4.—A demonstration in which about 5,000 communists took part greeted Leonid Krassin, the first soviet ambassador to France, upon his arrival at the Gare Du Nord this morning.

When the ambassador's train arrived, the station and streets outside were packed. Cries of "Hurrah for the revolution!" and "Long live the soviets!" were raised, and when the ambassador's automobile passed into the Rue De Lafayette at least 3,000 of the manifestants followed. At the communist headquarters on the way red flags were displayed and an impromptu meeting was held, at which a fiery speech was delivered by the communist deputy, Jacques Doriot, who declared: "The world revolution has at last reached Paris."

"The Internationale" was sung all along the route.

The police were taken by surprise by the size of today's manifestation, which for a moment threatened to get out of hand. When the communists reached Montholon square, a couple of police squads arrived and split the column, driving part back in the direction of the railway station, but the remainder succeeded in following M. Krassin to the embassy.

WORLD COURT TO GIVE PACT INTERPRETATION

Decision Will Mean Whether Greeks Be Deported From Turkey.

Associated Press Despatch.

Geneva, Dec. 4.—Turkey has notified the league of nations that she accepted the proposal that the world court of justice be asked to interpret the Lausanne convention for the compulsory exchange of Grecian-Turkish populations.

Whether some hundreds of Greek residents in Constantinople may remain there or be deported to Greece depends on the meaning the world court gives to the word "established," for the convention says that all Greeks established in Constantinople before the armistice have the right to stay there.

In view of the dispute between the Greeks and the Turks concerning the interpretation of the convention by the mixed commission supervising the exchange of populations it was suggested that the league council ask the world court to give an advisory opinion.

DEGOUTTE APPOINTED SIXTH ARMY COMMANDER

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 4.—General Degoutte, commander of the first army of France, has been appointed commander of the sixth army, in succession to General Graziani, according to semi-official Havas Agency information, and General Gourand has been appointed commander of the first army, succeeding General Degoutte.

POLICE FIND CLUES.

Associated Press Despatch.

Schenectady, N.Y., Dec. 4.—The police declare they have found several important clues in their search for the slayers of acting Police Captain Albert L. Youmans, whose recent murder led to the shakeup in the police department and the inauguration of a widespread campaign against the Schenectady underworld. The mayor and commissioners are seeking an expert officer from outside the city to reorganize the police force.

COLLEGIATE ADDITION IS BACKED

Lieut.-Col. Coles Urges Special Tickets Be Secured From Street Railway.

PAID BY BOARD

Pupils Could All Attend One School and Reduce Overhead.

The London street railway service would be employed by Lieut.-Col. W. G. Coles in solving the problem of collegiate institute accommodation which faces the city at the present time.

Col. Coles' suggestion is that the collegiate system be centralized by the enlargement of the central unit and the students be supplied with street car tickets with which to reach the school each day.

Tickets would be issued only to those living more than a mile from the school. The cost of the tickets would be borne by the board of education, which organization would probably be able to secure a price of two or three cents per ticket from the railway.

Claiming that the collegiate is "the finishing-off college for the majority of its students," Col. Coles argues that the best possible staff should be secured for the London collegiate. He feels that in this connection there could be achieved the greatest benefit in a centralized collegiate system.

Col. Coles frowns upon the idea which he says has been growing during the past few years, of rushing the pupils out of the public schools into the collegiate.

"If the pupils were not passed out of the grade schools so quickly," commented Col. Coles, "they would be more efficient upon entering the collegiate."

MILITARY SERVICE CUT SEEN UNDER NEW PLAN

French General Tells of Reform Scheme—National Energies Affected.

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, Dec. 4.—The period of military service in France would be reduced under an army reform plan now being worked out at the ministry of war. General Nollet, the war minister, has explained to the army committee of the chamber of deputies that the reduction would be made possible by an organization permitting the mobilization of all the national energies and resources without exception in view of the war, acting independently of the army which would remain an organ of training and defence.

The general considered that under the new scheme the periods of training for reservists would have added importance and should be made really useful and instructive. On account of the complexity of the questions involved, the scheme will require considerable time to perfect.

CHAMBERLAIN LEAVES FOR ROME CONFERENCE

British Foreign Secretary Will Submit Egyptian Question at Meeting.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Dec. 4.—Accompanied by a staff of more than a score of secretaries, stenographers and experts, Austen Chamberlain, secretary for foreign affairs, left here for Paris and the League of Nations council meeting in Rome next week, at 10:45 o'clock this morning. The foreign secretary will remain in the British embassy in Paris overnight, attending a banquet there tonight, at which some of the leading French statesmen will also be present.

Mr. Chamberlain will continue on to Rome Friday night, arriving there in time for preliminary discussion with Premier Mussolini and members of the league council. With the latter, it is intimated in official circles, the question of the appeal of the Egyptian deputies to the league against the British action in Egypt may be talked over.

"RED" PROPAGANDISTS ARE BEING HELD FOR TRIAL

Associated Press Despatch.

San Francisco, Dec. 4.—Twenty-one men are held for trial today in connection with an alleged attempt to introduce revolutionary propaganda in the schools. "Red" literature has recently been distributed to school children and inflammatory posters have been put on poles and trees near schools. The men were arrested in a police raid last night.