

COL. HODGINS MAKES DENIAL DIDN'T BLOCK AUTO SHOW

Says the Request for the Armories Was Not in Any Way Delayed—Too Late Now to Hold a Show On Dates First Named, But Exhibit Will Be Gone Ahead With in April.

Col. Hodgins, D. O. C., wishes to deny absolutely reports that he in any way delayed the sending of the request to Ottawa for the use of the Armories for an automobile show.

Col. Hodgins received the request of Mayor Beattie on the afternoon of March 7. His letter to headquarters in Toronto went out on the evening train, and in order that no time might be lost, Col. Hodgins asked the commanding officer there to arrange for the matter to go direct to headquarters at Ottawa, and to wire him direct, so that the time taken by the reply going through the Toronto office would not be lost.

Armories Granted.
The reply, granting the use of the Armories for the exhibition, was received by wire yesterday afternoon, and

was at once communicated to Mayor Beattie.

"I wish to help London in every way that I can," Col. Hodgins told The Advertiser, "and would have no interest in doing anything else. This matter was attended to most promptly."

Too Late Now.
Mr. Jaffray, who was arranging the auto show, stated to The Advertiser this afternoon that it would be too late to hold the show on the dates proposed, as it would be impossible to get the cars here in time. They would be sent by freight, and it would take some days to do this.

He stated that between 65 and 70 cars would be shown. He is going on, however, with arrangements for a show to be held on April 13, 14, 15 and 16, and is taking the matter up with Col. Hodgins again with a view of getting the Armories for that date.

FIRES BURNING BEHIND STORES

City Engineer Graydon Calls Attention to the Dangers of the Business Section.

WORK FOR THE POLICE

Engineer Recommends That Prosecutions Be Commenced—Inspection of Buildings in London.

City Engineer Graydon is on the warpath against property-owners in the downtown districts, and some interesting things may happen in the near future.

City Architect Nutter has been investigating, and his observations were communicated to Mr. Graydon this morning.

"The condition of the buildings at the rear of the stores in the downtown district is a disgrace to the city," said Mr. Graydon. "If I were to issue summonses to people who are violating the law in a couple of blocks, there would be fifty summonses issued in one day."

"Behind every store there are scores of frame buildings, many of them stored with inflammable stuff. If a fire should get a good start behind some of these buildings, there would be a fearful conflagration. We have had a couple of narrow escapes. The fire the other evening might have been serious. We have been lucky, indeed."

How About This?
"Why, Mr. Nutter found two fires burning at the rear of some buildings, and no person watching them."

"I wish the city would name a man to go around and issue summonses. We would have a hundred cases in the police court in one day. For some years I have been calling attention to these conditions, but no action has been taken. Something should be done, and that right soon."

"All these frame buildings should be torn down or else put in such a condition that the rest of the property will not be put in danger."

Better Inspection.
Mr. Graydon is taking up the question of better inspection of public buildings, and will shortly recommend that something more up-to-date be employed in protecting the citizens.

"The trouble with the city is that they trust to the fire department rather than in the construction of the buildings," said Mr. Nutter. "Instead of constructing their buildings to minimize the danger from fire, they take little or no precautions along this line, trusting to the efficiency of the department to protect their property."

They should insist the department in every way by erecting a better class of buildings.

"Conditions are very bad in the downtown section, and we should take more precautions to protect ourselves."

CHARGE OF FRAUD AGAINST OXFORD MAN

Alleged That He Has Been Buying Cattle With Bad Checks in Lobo.

D. W. Robson, of Oxford County, was brought to the county jail yesterday evening, charged with fraud. It seems that Robson has been buying cattle from several farmers of Lobo Township, and paying them with checks drawn in his own name. When these checks were presented for payment they were discovered to be worthless. The charge was laid by Wm. Headley, of Lobo Township, who accused Robson of having fraudulently obtained from him two cows, valued at \$100.

It is alleged that Robson has been conducting similar deals for some time back, and that now the total amount involved is somewhere around \$980.

AEROPLANE ACCIDENT.
Berlin, March 12.—A. Selmen-Schuckert aeroplane was given a trial at Potsdam last evening, and came to grief during a flight at a low altitude. The aeroplane, which was driven by the machine, suffered a broken leg, and two passengers, who were with him, were slightly injured.

The accident was caused by the motor failing to work. A gust of wind dashed the aeroplane to earth. The fact that the aviators clung to the framework probably saved their lives.

SUNDAY CARS TO PORT WHEN NAVIGATION OPENS

Lake Erie Company's Charter Finally Granted—A Meeting of the Directors.

The bill giving a Dominion charter to the London and Lake Erie Railway and Transportation Company has been finally passed, the company having fulfilled all the conditions necessary. A meeting of the shareholders is expected to be held on April 7, when matters pertaining to the company will be attended to.

It is understood that the charter will be received very shortly and the last legal obstacle to the company's operating under the new name will be removed.

The date when Sunday cars will be run has not yet been announced. This will not happen for some time, it is thought, but a schedule will probably be arranged as soon as navigation opens in earnest.

Mr. Verner Didn't Come.
It was expected that Mr. Murray Verner, of Pittsburgh, who has become largely interested in the road, would be in the city before this to announce his plans with reference to future plans for the construction of the line between London and Ingersoll, but he has not yet arrived.

When he comes, an announcement will be made. Locally it is the opinion that the road will be built this summer, and be in readiness for operation this autumn at least.

RUTHERFORD STILL HEADS GOVERNMENT

The Albertan Political Muddle Takes Another Unexpected Turn.

Edmonton, Alta., March 11.—The ship of state got off the breakers, temporarily, today, with Premier Rutherford still at the helm. Attorney-General Cross returned to the cabinet and will stand or fall by the decision of the House. Premier Rutherford actually did write his resignation as reported earlier in the day and tendered it to the lieutenant-governor, but the latter declined to accept on the ground that as he had a majority of eight in the House his resignation must still be considered to have the confidence of the country as represented in the elected members.

NIAGARA POWER TENDERS WILL BE APPROVED OF

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