

SAYS WHOLESALERS HAVE MONOPOLY OF THE LOCAL MARKET

Citizens Declare They Keep Up Prices.

GET AT FARMERS FIRST

Quote Price for Articles Which Induces Producers To Maintain Theirs.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:—It is permissible for a wholesale representative to go on the market giving the wholesale price to farmers, before the public have had a chance to buy. Why I ask is, I have recently noted a representative from Mann & Laurie, who, after giving the price on certain produce, and then quoting their price (Mann & Laurie's), I think myself the citizens of London should see that the city council pass a bylaw to keep the wholesalers off the market till 11 o'clock, for to my knowledge these are the men who put and keep the prices away up. It is a well known fact that the wholesalers buy on the local market and ship to other parts. He has and must get the goods at all costs. For instance, an example. This gentleman approached a farmer and asked him what he had. The reply was chickens. How much was the next query. 21 cents, says the farmer. 20 cents, says the wholesaler. All right, says the farmer, if the people don't buy, we can't bring them over. Now, sir, no farmer is going to bring a load of chickens into the city and only make a cent profit between wholesaler and public, what does he do? Takes a little more, and if they don't sell, all right, the wholesaler will buy them. Now, sir, I think it only fair that the public should have first say on the market, not the wholesalers. Keep these men off the market and I think prices will not be so bad. I do not mean that the high cost of living is laid to these men, but they certainly have the monopoly of the market, and help at every market to boost the price at least a couple of cents. Now let some of our new blood on the coming council take this matter on, and right away. Thank you, I remain, yours truly, W. SOPER, 151 Wellington street, city.

PLENTY OF PRODUCE, VARIETY OF PRICES, BUT BUYERS SCARCE

Latter Only Lack On Market—Rabbits Fall From Favor.

Covent garden market and a real festive holiday appearance today, with plenty of Christmas trees from which to choose, stacks of evergreens for decoration purposes and savvy bunches of everlasting flowers, dyed scarlet to a touch of color.

All the people who didn't come in last Saturday on account of the snow they might be prevented next Saturday, and all the people who "covered" day evidently made it a point to be on hand, and fill up the market houses and square with their produce and their produce.

Only one thing interfered with the success of the market. While producers were out in full force for their choicest wares, consumers evidently hesitated until the Saturday market. While the market house was packed along both sides with vendors, there was practically no jostling on the part of purchasers up to 11 o'clock.

The Christmas turkey had apparently awaited his royal pleasure before appearing in the London market. The conspicuous absence of today explained the mystery of his absence last Saturday.

There was one mystery which puzzled the experts. One of the market houses, 35 cents a pound was demanded without apology for turkey, while at the other extreme end, 20, 31, 32 and 33 cents were the prices asked for the same article. The latter was a choice could be had at 24 cents a pound. Such is the market, each can pay his favorite price and all obtain the same article.

Geese taken a fly since Saturday, when the plumpest were knocked down to bidders for 20 cents a pound. Today they were offered for 25 cents a pound. Only they were going by looks of them in most cases instead of the weight.

Rabbits again presented themselves in stock, but the vendor who was coming money on their account last Saturday shook his head today. "Plenty of people come along but they don't seem to have the cash," he said. Probably rabbit is reserved for a Sunday dinner treat.

Geese were not generally distributed, but selling in a few large batches, indicating that the collection system is being adopted in some neighborhoods. Thursday, in the morning, offered special marketing advantages had the citizens only a casual interest in the weather being by no means an important factor. Again, the farmers and the farmers' wives were anxious to dispose of their wares in order to get themselves time, with the fruits of their labor, for their own Christmas shopping.

BOARD OF TRADE LIKES TRADES COUNCIL ACTION

The board of trade officers and members are greatly pleased with the action of the Trades and Labor Council last night in unanimously endorsing the industrial bylaw.

"We were convinced that when the situation was explained the Trades and Labor Council would take a proper view of it," said Secretary Phillips, secretary of the board. "Its action last night shows that our estimate of the members was absolutely right, and it is a source of great satisfaction to us that their information was so hearty and so unanimous."

"We are never unreasonable," said Jos. Dean, one of the members of the Trades Council. "We are always ready and willing to back anything that is good for the workers and the city of London."

MAJOR PROMOTED.—Major G. G. Moncrieff, 14th Battalion, has been promoted to be second in command of the Lambton unit. Lieut. S. G. Stokes has been made machine gun officer.

NEWS

APPOINTED TO 16TH.—Lieut. P. A. Seeds, 16th Regiment, has been appointed to the 16th Battalion.

BOMBING INSTRUCTOR.—Lieut. J. A. Clarke has been made bombing instructor in No. 1 Military District.

BANK CLEARINGS.—London's bank clearings of this week were \$326,483 in advance of those for the same week in 1915. This week they were \$215,457, and in the corresponding week in 1916, \$1,515,468.

BROKE HIS LEG.—Charles Watt, a lineman employed by the London Electric Company, fell from a pole on which he was working yesterday and sustained a fractured leg. He was taken to Victoria Hospital.

TRUSTS' LAST MEETING.—The hospital trust will meet this afternoon to wind up the business of the year. A resolution of confidence in Lieut.-Col. W. M. Garsshore will be presented, and he will be urged to again stand for the trust.

ONE MORE MEETING.—At Chesley avenue school this evening the last meeting of the series of discussion of civic issues before nomination day will be held. The industrial bylaw, the hydro development scheme and other subjects will be discussed.

TOYS FOR ORPHANAGE.—The Hermitage Club will hold its annual Christmas tree on Friday evening at their clubrooms. Thomas H. Baker will act as Santa Claus, and many amusing gifts will be distributed. The toys will be sent to the various orphanages on Christmas.

PTE. HICKS IN HOSPITAL.—Pte. Edwin Roy Hicks, motor services, was admitted to No. 2 General Hospital on December 8, suffering from a severe attack of influenza, according to an official notification received by William H. Hicks, 759 Maitland street, today.

NEW UNITED STATES OFFICER.—United States Customs Officer E. T. Horn, who has been on duty at the Grand Trunk depot since September last, has been recalled to Detroit, and has been succeeded by J. A. Chase of Detroit, who assumed the duties of his office yesterday.

TREAT FOR CHILDREN.—Through the kindness of School Trustee Harry Hayman, the kindergarten pupils of the East London schools are all to be provided with a Christmas treat of candy and similar goodies. The gifts will be given out at the closing exercises on Friday. Kindergarten pupils of Lorrie Avenue, Rectory Street, Chesley Avenue and the Boyle Memorial schools will all be included.

WHO VOLUNTEERS?—A movement is on foot among the citizens of London to entertain the British Expeditionary Force in their homes. It is expected that about half of the soldiers quartered in the city will be here on that day. It is thought that many of these men would appreciate having Christmas dinner in a homelike atmosphere instead of in their barracks. Any citizen who would like to entertain one or more soldiers at dinner on Christmas Day is asked to notify the Y. M. C. A. officials.

GIVEN SMOKE CABINET.—Norman B. Graham, head shipper of D. S. Perrin & Co., was today the recipient of a very handsome smoking cabinet of quartered oak. At noon the shipper gathered in the shipping room and an address was read by C. G. Moorehead, expressing the high regard in which the head shipper is held. The presentation was made by J. C. Pringle, after which Mr. Graham replied.

WAR SOUVENIRS.—A German gas helmet, the base of one of the now famous 75-millimeter guns and a section of a steel band which a number of machine-gun bullets are attached, are some of the souvenirs sent home by Pte. James of the 44th Battalion. The gas helmet is of a dull grey color and has attached to it a rubber respirator containing chemicals, through which the air passes before it is inhaled by the wearer. The souvenirs are on exhibition in the window of a local drug store.

RELATIVES HERE ANXIOUS FOR MISSIONARY AT BEIRUT

Rev. I. W. Pierce, Held by Turks, May Not Be Released.

Relatives and friends here of Rev. I. W. Pierce, missionary in Asiatic Turkey, are waiting anxiously to learn if he will be released when the new order made by Turkish military authorities permitting American missionaries to leave the country goes into effect. No word has been received directly from him by relatives since the outbreak of war with Turkey.

After the Russian drive to Yank, he, with other missionaries, was taken to Beirut, and because there was a British consul there, he obtained a British passport. This may prevent his release, although he is American born and was sent to the country by the American Board of Foreign Missions.

He went out two years ago before the commencement of the world war, taking his wife and family and all his household goods. Nearly all of the latter were lost on the trip, only a piano arriving at Harport, where he went as professor of information.

Information gathered by the American Board of Foreign Missions states that no boats have been allowed to enter the harbor at Beirut for many months.

Rev. I. W. Pierce is a brother-in-law of E. M. Hawless of The Advertiser, and is known to many Londoners, as he often spent his vacation here when a student.

NEARLY ALL UNITS HERE WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Today Chosen for Banquets and Good Time—Cup for 14th.

Christmas has taken a firm grip on the troops and practically all units are preparing to celebrate with a big dinner, Christmas trees, concerts, and other forms of amusement.

The Engineers are having a dinner and Christmas tree in their quarters on Carling Heights. The Army Service Corps are having a dinner in their quarters in the adjacent Barracks at Queen's Park. The 15th Battalion will spread a table for several hundred men in the quarters in the park. The A. M. C. and 6th Battery are also providing for a big dinner.

The 14th Battalion has so far made no arrangements.

This afternoon and evening have been set apart by all units as the best available time as on Friday 50 per cent of the men leave for their Christmas holidays.

Lieut.-Col. Lochead purchased and will present a cup to the 14th Battalion in honor of it having won the football championship in this district.

London Boys Now Overseas On Active Service



Pte. Albert Warner, who enlisted in April, 1915, with the A. M. B., was transferred to Western University Stationary Hospital, 7 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. Swindall is the son of Sgt. Stevens, 24 Kensington street. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. Geo. Stevens, son of G. only son of the late Stevens, 24 Kensington street. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. R. E. Cowan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cowan, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. J. A. Astles, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. J. A. Astles, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Lance-Corp. C. Astles, 142nd Battalion, signal section. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Sergt. H. L. Wilcox, who left with 15th Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Sergt. G. J. Bolton, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. William T. Wainwright, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. I. A. Bawdon, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. W. Fulton of 72 Sycamore street, who was wounded in September.



Pte. E. R. Burville, who went overseas with 14th Battalion.



Pte. G. W. Dobson and his son, Drummer W. Dobson, both of 142nd Battalion. The boy is the only son, and his mother lives at 631 Central avenue.



Pte. Callaghan, 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.



Pte. E. L. Hair with 142nd Battalion. He is with the A. M. C. overseas. He enlisted when 14 years 7 months of age, and stood 5 feet 1 inch. He was one of the P. O. Dept. at Shortcliffe Camp, Eng.

COMMISSION ABLE TO GET ALONG NOW ON POWER SUPPLIES

Manager Says Factories Have Eased 800 H. P.

DENIES LOSING CUSTOM

And Asserts Street Lighting Always Switched On at 6 o'Clock.

Since the notice has been sent out that power users must cut out from 5 to 6 o'clock, General Manager Buchanan reports that the load at this hour has dropped about 800-horsepower. This will enable the commission to get along until such time as more power is available.

The question of leasing the upper floor of the proposed hydro station to the board of education for \$1,200 a year will be discussed. The board of education wants to pay \$300 a year, but it is probable that the compromise will be affected for \$1,000.

It was also reported that the street lights did not come on until 7 o'clock last night. Mr. Buchanan declared that he had no report on that yet, but if the lights did not come on until that hour, there must have been some local trouble.

He switched on the street lights every evening at 6 minutes to 6 o'clock," he stated.

TO INSPECT ALL WIRING OF BUILDINGS IN LONDON

Commission May Bring Man to Visit Every Place Using Electricity.

The hydro electric commission will probably send a provincial inspector here to inspect every house and building wired in London.

The inspectors appointed by the commission time ago merely devote their attention to premises newly wired. Houses and buildings wired prior to their appointment have not been inspected by them, and it is impossible for them to inspect them. It is the intention now, however, to have the hydro-electric commission inspect the premises.

In case any wiring is found defective, the owner of the property will have to get the place rewired, or his power will be cut off.

It is understood that the inspector will be here shortly.

ALL PASS EXAMS

McClary Employees Have Great Success With First Aid Work.

That the first aid work, which is a part of the program of the Welfare department of the McClary Manufacturing Company, under the supervision of St. John Ambulance Association, is being carried on in a most gratifying manner, is evidenced by the results of the examination held last evening in the company's York street dining-room.

A class of 26, from both the company's foundry and downtown plants, took this examination and every one of that number passed it successfully.

The members of this class were Joseph Ryckman, Archie Whitelaw, Lazarus Bates, George Snow, George Prudhomme, Jos. Kennedy, James S. Lindsay, Clarence Hardy, Herbert Ryckman, Edward White, Edward Harper, William Parker, Frederick James, Fredrick Cassin, Lewis Hessel, David Stewart, Edward Reeves, Thos. Corneira, David Wilson, Bruce Bolton, James Smith, George Hazelwood, Max Margolis, Leon Hill, Edward Deacon, Edward B. Hessel.

The lecturer for this class was Dr. Hawkins of Victoria Hospital, and the examiner, Major Smith, A. M. C.

REDUCTION OF HYDRO RATE FOR NEXT YEAR PROPOSED

Commission to Report Net Surplus of \$32,000 at Annual Meeting.

The annual report of the hydro commission will be submitted. According to General Manager Buchanan's figures, there will be a surplus of \$70,000. The depreciation is deducted but it will be a surplus of \$32,000. It will be proposed to reduce the rates 5 per cent. This will have to be ratified by the hydro electric commission.

The report of the waterworks department will not be ready. It will show a surplus of about \$15,000, the amount estimated at the beginning of the year.

The generator set at Springfield Park is being run regularly, and is saving the city \$1,000 a year. It cost \$70,000 to install. The commissioners will be asked to install another unit, so that 500-horsepower could be developed there. That would give protection in case Niagara power failed, it is said.

The hydro shop earned \$3,000 last year.

The question of leasing the upper floor of the proposed hydro station to the board of education for \$1,200 a year will be discussed. The board of education wants to pay \$300 a year, but it is probable that the compromise will be affected for \$1,000.

It was also reported that the street lights did not come on until 7 o'clock last night. Mr. Buchanan declared that he had no report on that yet, but if the lights did not come on until that hour, there must have been some local trouble.

He switched on the street lights every evening at 6 minutes to 6 o'clock," he stated.

TO INSPECT ALL WIRING OF BUILDINGS IN LONDON

Commission May Bring Man to Visit Every Place Using Electricity.

The hydro electric commission will probably send a provincial inspector here to inspect every house and building wired in London.

The inspectors appointed by the commission time ago merely devote their attention to premises newly wired. Houses and buildings wired prior to their appointment have not been inspected by them, and it is impossible for them to inspect them. It is the intention now, however, to have the hydro-electric commission inspect the premises.

In case any wiring is found defective, the owner of the property will have to get the place rewired, or his power will be cut off.

It is understood that the inspector will be here shortly.

ALL PASS EXAMS

McClary Employees Have Great Success With First Aid Work.

That the first aid work, which is a part of the program of the Welfare department of the McClary Manufacturing Company, under the supervision of St. John Ambulance Association, is being carried on in a most gratifying manner, is evidenced by the results of the examination held last evening in the company's York street dining-room.

A class of 26, from both the company's foundry and downtown plants, took this examination and every one of that number passed it successfully.

The members of this class were Joseph Ryckman, Archie Whitelaw, Lazarus Bates, George Snow, George Prudhomme, Jos. Kennedy, James S. Lindsay, Clarence Hardy, Herbert Ryckman, Edward White, Edward Harper, William Parker, Frederick James, Fredrick Cassin, Lewis Hessel, David Stewart, Edward Reeves, Thos. Corneira, David Wilson, Bruce Bolton, James Smith, George Hazelwood, Max Margolis, Leon Hill, Edward Deacon, Edward B. Hessel.

The lecturer for this class was Dr. Hawkins of Victoria Hospital, and the examiner, Major Smith, A. M. C.

MUNITIONS BOARD ANXIOUS THAT ALL SHOULD SEE FILMS

Show What Canadian Women Accomplish in Factories.

EXHIBITED AT THE LYRIC

Along With Two Other Pictures, Concerning National Service Week.

The Imperial Munitions Board is anxious that everyone in London should see the film prepared to illustrate what has been accomplished in Canadian munitions plants by the women of Canada. This film comes to the Lyric Theatre next week in conjunction with the famous official picture "The King's Visit to the Front" and the picture shows how Canadian women are doing for the war.

In a letter to The Advertiser received today, Albert H. Abbott, director of the Ontario department of labor, which is working in co-operation with the Imperial Munitions Board, says that everyone, and munitions workers in particular, should be urged to see this film to see what has been actually accomplished in the employment of women in munitions plants in Canada.

Feature at Lyric.

Manager C. E. Bernard has swept the boards clear of all dramas, comedies and features which do not have to do with Canada's part in the war for Christmas week. Next week is to be the National Service Week in Canada, when cards for the registration of the country's man power will be distributed to the male population.

The Lyric program will be entirely appropriate and thousands of people from the city and surrounding counties are expected to attend.

During the presentation of "The Battle of the Somme" pictures under the auspices of The Advertiser, more than 10,000 people attended the performance. Not only was this a demonstration of the Lyric's ability to reach and attract the public with a worthy attraction, but thousands of these people came to the city from a distance.

Nothing short of a circus or the West-End fair ever brought such a large crowd to the city. That this experience will be duplicated with the triple-feature program next week is more than likely. Many people have reached the Lyric and have been taught regarding the performances, and the performance is likely to be attended by thousands.

"I think the moving picture theatre should be an educational factor as well as a place of pure amusement and entertainment," said Manager Bernard. "We shall endeavor to present the interesting side of this war to the people, and I feel that the three films to be shown during Christmas week will be the interests of the country at heart."

We are investing a good deal to bring that response will justify the risk. A special rate of 10 cents at all theatres excepting the Christmas matinee would be charged for children, and as next week is holiday week, and teachers are urging that their pupils see these films, it is expected that the picture of the young folk will see the relative at the front will want to see the pictures dealing with the war, and the wounded and every British subject should be urged to see the King among his soldiers and the making of munitions by women.

HAS WILSON BROUGHT PRESSURE ON GERMANS?

Toronto, Dec. 21.—Referring to Wilson's peace proposals, the Star says: "While we naturally resent any interference by outsiders with the course of the war, and feel incensed that the American president is playing the game of Germany, it is just as well that we recognize that under cover Wilson may have been bringing great pressure to bear on the German Government."

DEATH OF MRS. LLOYD.

The death of Mrs. Sarah Lloyd occurred on Wednesday at her residence, 148 Tecumseh avenue. She was 80 years old, and the wife of Fergus R. Lloyd.

The funeral will be held on Friday at Woodland Cemetery. Very Rev. Dean Davis will conduct the services.

DEATH OF JOHN MCNEIL.

IVAN, Dec. 20.—John McNeil, aged 78, one of the best-known farmers of the district, died at his home today after a long illness. He was unmarried.

James, who is ill in Strathroy Hospital, and Alex. on the farm here, are brothers.

CHRISTMAS TRADING EVERY BIT AS GOOD AS IN LAST SEASON

Merchants Say the People Are Buying Generously.

MORE USEFUL ARTICLES

These, Done Up Attractively, Feature Showing in Most of Stores.

Whatever else the people who shop in London may lack, it is quite evident they do not lack money.

The faces of the vendors of wares are wreathed in content because Christmas trade this year has even exceeded their expectations. This is the long, strong pull week before the holiday, stores are kept open in the evenings, and even that from early morning until the doors close there is scarcely a customerless moment.

Money is being spent liberally this year. Every merchant is willing to admit that. Not one was found today who didn't answer with a comfortable smile "Trade is every bit as good as last year," and some went even farther, declaring "this is the best year since the war began."

But there is a difference between the Christmas buying of this year and former years, that is the years before the war.

Christmas presents are bought and paid for this year to serve a definite purpose, and because they will meet a definite need.

One of the lessons apparently learned from the war has been that of exercising common sense in all things, even in Christmas buying. Christmas gifts of 1916 are nothing if not efficient.

Public taste is evidently also improving. The consensus of opinion of those who sell is, "People are willing to pay well for a good article, and quality rather than quantity is what they demand."

The Christmas buying for overseas was done weeks ago, consequently the trade of the last week before Christmas is the "regular Christmas trade," and the real indicator of the public mind and purse.

Useful gifts take first place, and the trade has offered the most commonplace of articles in such festive Christmas gifts. The man who would have been a victim of utilitarianism.

A Christmas window is filled with all manner of suggestions, from the most commonplace, cushions, rugs, odds and ends that would have been overlooked half a dozen years ago.

In the china stores the large demand is for cups, saucers, plates and so on, to match up sets of dishes which friends are collecting piece by piece.

Useful Articles.

A shirt-waist length of goods in a fancy box catches the eye. Gloves, handkerchiefs, hosiery are at a premium.

The "efficient" spirit has even crept into the buying for children. For the bigger boys and girls there are coats, skates, sweaters. Educational toys, the kind that stimulate the ingenuity of the child, outclass all others in popularity, and such has been the run on electrical toys, shown for the first time this year, that one firm reported itself sold out even before the beginning of this week.