

REALTY TRANSFERS FOR YEAR TOTAL FIVE MILLION

YEAR'S TURNOVER IN REAL ESTATE HITS HIGH MARK

Assessment Commissioner's Report Shows Unusual Activity in Property Transfers.

NO WINTER SLUMP

Another bright report was presented this morning when Assessment Commissioner Harry Bennett reported that real estate transfers for the year ending November 30 during 1923 represented a turnover of approximately \$4,500,000.

Taking the December 1922 as a basis for estimation, it is roughly calculated that the total for the year will have reached the \$5,000,000 mark.

Increasing activity in real estate transfers is a safe indication of the continued trend toward normalcy, the commissioner points out. The figures available today from the commissioner's department.

A comparative statement follows: 1923—Transfers, 1,842; assessment, \$3,426,376; considerations, \$4,886,400. 1922—Transfers, 1,708; assessment, \$3,380,560; considerations, \$4,449,593.

Building Inspector A. M. Piper follows up with the announcement that the construction and alteration record for the year is well over the three million and a quarter mark.

At noon today permits had been issued since January 1 last for work estimated to cost \$3,252,885. And there is no indication yet of any real winter slump. During this month alone work has been authorized, at a cost of \$31,625.

The "Blue Ruinists" are encountering stiff resistance in London.

PLAN CHRISTMAS TREAT FOR LAME CHILDREN

Santa Claus Will Visit Little Patients at War Memorial Hospital.

Extensive plans have been made by nurses and staff at Victoria Hospital to provide a real Christmas treat for the lame children of the War Memorial Hospital. The whole building has been decorated in Christmas style and a big Christmas tree erected.

Invitations have been issued to parents of the children to come to the hospital on Tuesday and take part in the celebration. Each child is to receive a present from Santa Claus.

Victoria Hospital, too, is garbed in Christmas style. A special Christmas dinner with turkey and the customary yuletide edibles will be provided for each patient. Presents will be given to patients in the private wards.

Christmas morning the choir of the Crown Memorial Church will sing carols.

WILSON READY TO GO TO COURT OVER L. S. R.

Declares 10-Year Period Resolution Over Paving Is Valid.

Ald. William Wilson, retiring in ward two at the end of the term stated today that he was prepared to go to the witness stand in any competent court of jurisdiction and dispute the opinion of any member of this year's council who upheld the theory that the street railway's portion of the Richmond street pavement was constructed under the penalty clause of bylaw 916.

"We are not working under bylaw 916," Ald. Wilson stated today decisively. "All will recall the meeting of the council, at which President Currie of the street railway attended, and when we passed the resolution permitting them ten years in which to pay their share. That resolution holds good."

Buy Her a Fur Coat For Christmas

Special Offering For Christmas Only

Our entire stock of Hudson Seal, Persian Lamb, French Electric Seal, Muskrat and Real Canadian Plucked Beaver are reduced.

30% and 40%

The coats are all of the latest models, and all are beautifully lined, made in our own factory by expert furriers.

The Western Fur Company
324 Dundas St. Open Evenings. Phone 2382-J.
ACROSS FROM THE ARMORIES.

VARIED PROGRAM AT ST. ANDREW'S IS ENTERTAINING

Rev. F. W. K. Harris Gives a Brief Talk on Travels in Holy Land.

PRAISE MISS HOWIE

With J. W. Hoffard acting as chairman, the annual Christmas concert and tree of St. Andrew's Sunday School was held in St. Andrew's Hall last evening. A varied program was given, followed by the appearance of Santa Claus, who distributed many gifts to the children from the huge Christmas tree. Rev. F. W. K. Harris, director of religious education in the school, gave a brief but interesting talk of travels in the Holy Land, illustrated by lantern slides.

Much of the credit for the successful entertainment is given to Miss Ethel Howie, who acted as general convenor.

The program included the following varied and interesting numbers: Opening hymn, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"; recitations by Josephine Sanford, Netta Morrison, Eleanor Pearson, Betty Fuller, Margaret Harris, Catherine Clarke, Dorothy Phillips, Catherine Philip, Jane Fuller, Jack Smith, Edith Wilson, Margaret Ross, Chester Philip, Jean Patterson and Donald McKay; a dialogue by Stewart Cottell and Donald Nelson; a dialogue by Malcolm McDonald and Allen Laut; a dialogue, "The Christmas Lesson," by several little girls; a dialogue, "Dear Friends," by little girls; a dialogue, "The Merry Christmas Bell," by four little boys; a trio, "Holy Night," by Betty McGregor, Eleanor Wilson and Gladys Talbot; a "Mother Goose" dialogue; "The Pilots," by Betty McGregor; instruments by Rose Wong; instrumental by Doris Rider and Helen Cross, and selections from the Sunday School Orchestra.

The new plan calls for the billing, on the one account, of both water and light, and the customers will receive them every two months. At present they receive light bills monthly and water every three months, making a total of sixteen accounts yearly, while under the new method but six will be received.

There will be no change in the staff of meter readers, but some change may be necessary in the billing department. A great saving is expected to materialize from the saving of stationary and office help during the twelve-month period.

BILLING SYSTEM WILL BE CHANGED

Public Utilities Commission To Send Out Accounts Every Two Months.

Jan. 1, 1924, will see the public utilities commission inaugurate the new system of billing accounts for water and light. All arrangements in connection with a change from the present system to the new have been completed, and bills and cards have all been printed.

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FOREIGN-GROWN NUTS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION

Food Inspector Has to Destroy, However, 260 Pounds of Shredded Coconut.

Practically the entire Christmas supply of foreign-grown nuts to reach London this season has arrived here in first-class condition, and in only one or two instances has it been found necessary to destroy any because they were unfit for human consumption, officials of the local food and drug office told The Advertiser this morning.

The inspector asserted, however, that 260 pounds of shredded coconut had reached here in an unfit condition. Although the purchaser was not to blame in any way, the shipment had to be destroyed.

Four hundred gallons of cider was also destroyed, because it had been shipped to the district in insanitary containers.

DIBS AND DABS

—BY HARRY MOYER



News From City Churches

COLBORNE STREET W. M. S.

All the members of the Colborne Street W. M. S. who met yesterday afternoon for the regular meeting, expressed themselves as very much pleased with the work of the society up to the end of this year, as they felt that it had been most encouraging and progressive. A Christmas reading, "The Legend of the Rose," by Mrs. Henderson, was enjoyed, as was also the second chapter of the book.

TABLOTT STREET L. A.

A short meeting of the Ladies' Aid of Tablott Street Baptist Church was held yesterday afternoon with the president, Mrs. M. Dale, in the chair. Mrs. A. Affleck, in prayer, and the president gave the Scripture reading. The next meeting of the society will take place on Thursday, January 31.

PARTY AT BYRON.

The Knights of Honor Class from the First Methodist Church visited the Byron Preventorium yesterday afternoon and provided a Christmas tree for twenty or more of the small patients. Before the children assembled for the distribution of presents they were guests of the class at a tea party in the Preventorium dining room, which is now prettily decorated for the Christmas season.

ELECT OFFICERS FOR YEAR.

At the monthly banquet of the Excelsior Men's Bible Class of Askin Street Methodist Church, held last evening, the officers for 1924 were elected. The past year has been one of the most successful in its history under the presidency of William Courtis. After a short talk by the pastor, Rev. J. T. C. Morris, the following officers were chosen: President, A. Small; first vice-president, Art. Wilkes; secretary-treasurer, F. Smith; teacher, Rev. Mr. Morris; assistant teacher, Wm. Courtis. About forty men attended the banquet.

SENIOR PATHFINDERS.

The Senior Pathfinders of St. Andrew's Church held their Christmas meeting last evening when Mrs. D. C. McGregor told the Christmas story of "The Three Wise Men."

Betty Walters was in charge of the tea, and the chair was occupied by Agnes McKay. The club made further plans for their Christmas gift work.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS PRESENTED.

Following their weekly supper last evening, the Trail Ranger group of Chalmers Presbyterian Church presented Christmas gifts to their teachers and leaders. Mr. Sidney Pratt, the mentor, was presented with a tie and a knife, and Mrs. Duguid, the former teacher, was presented with several pretty dolls. A silk handkerchief was presented to Mr. Richardson, who is the teacher of the Young Peoples' Class was presented with a handsome silk scarf in appreciation of his work with them.

QUI VIVE CLUB.

The Qui Vive Club of Wellington Street Methodist Church spent a busy hour last evening arranging plans for their Christmas work and the annual banquet which they are holding on Thursday of next week. The club decided to provide Christmas cheer for ten patients at Byron Sanatorium and to take part in the White Gift service which is being held next Sunday. Ruth Mitchell presided over the meeting.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

The annual treat and Christmas entertainment for the children of St. Matthews' Church, East London, was given last evening in a most successful fashion. There was an excellent program, given largely by children of the Sunday school, and over which the superintendent, J. H. Hitchens, acted as chairman. The one hundred books won for efficiency during the year were awarded, and each child went home with an orange and a stocking of candy as a souvenir of the jolly event. The program included the following numbers: A duet by Vera and Phyllis Holmes; a violin and piano duet by the Misses Cunningham; recitation by Vera Holmes; costume drill by the members of Miss Arthur's and Mrs. Beer's classes, and several readings by the rector, T. H. Charlton.

RUMOR ABRAHAM'S MACHINES USED IN LONDON AREA

Dr. H. W. Hill Declares Instrument Fals and Warns Citizens.

NONE FOUND IN CITY

Although not definitely known, certain London medical men believe an Abraham machine has been operating in the city. Dr. D. A. Craig, former local physician, and now director of the American Academy of Medicine, stated recently that men who operated Abraham devices had recently invaded this part of the country, and were cleaning up a little harvest in this city.

Abraham's machine is a contrivance invented by an old-time doctor, who claims it will detect every disease known to mankind. It was originally used in determining a malady contracted by the famous Samuel Johnson. Recently it was used extensively to locate oil in Texas.

Dr. H. W. Hill, dean of the Institute of Public Health, commenting on the report that a machine of that nature was being used locally, said it was an obvious fact which no physician of repute would think of using.

"The device is supposed to be able to discover disease through the blood," Dr. Hill said. "Some time ago it was invented by an old-time doctor, who was subjected to its so-called phenomenal powers. The man who operated the machine did not know what kind of blood had been secured, and diagnosed the alleged disease as one which women sometimes have. This, of course, was final proof that it was a fake."

Dr. Hill added that if any person in this district was employing the methods of Abraham in determining diseases, they would naturally be able to carry on such work for some time without being discovered. He had not heard of any person being found in the possession of a machine.



A BOOK ON THAT TREE!

NOTHING looks finer to a book lover than to awake Christmas morning and find a good book waiting for him or her. Let us help you make your selection from our Book Department — complete in every detail.

Modern Fiction, Children's Stories, Classical, Popular, Poetry, etc. — all remarkable offers.

F.T. HARRIS
173 DUNDAS ST.

"TURK" INDUSTRY FAILS TO REGAIN LOST POPULARITY

Prices on the Market Remain Down and Demand Not Keen.

SNOW WOULD HELP

Many branches of industry claim to have suffered to no small extent from the unusually mild weather of the past month and a half, but the case of that patient individual who nurses carefully through its youth that Yuletide delicacy known as the turkey may be said to be in a class by himself.

Two years ago the "czar" of the barnyard fowl had indeed good cause to ruffle his plumes in proud disdain when the lowly goose or chicken ambled by, for was he not worth no less than 60 and 65 cents a pound, while his underlings could be bought for a lowly 25 and 30 cents.

But, alas, alack, how times have changed. Last year more or less of a slump hit the turkey market with the result that "his honor" dropped in value to 45 cents a pound. And this year the bottom has fallen out of the turkey market, as it were, and that worthy can be had as low as 20 cents a pound.

Thursday's market was almost overflowing with turkeys. Right away the optimists began asking 30 cents a pound. But public sympathy seemed to be lacking and in a short time the price was dropped to 25, 24 cents, and late in the afternoon good birds could be trundled home at 20 cents a pound.

Market officials and others in touch with the fowl market say that more turkeys were sold yesterday than on any other day this season. But they add that it is doubtful if the supply on Saturday will be large.

All are unanimous, however, that more turkeys will grace the Christmas table this year than on any other occasion within the last half-dozen years.

Mild weather is receiving the most blame for the slump in turkey prices. Physiologists point out, and with good reason too, that the absence of snow has affected the mind of the individual to such an extent that he is not as concerned about purchasing a turkey as if a furious white mantle covered Mother Earth.

Wholesalers, because of the strange weather conditions, refuse to stock with large supplies of turkeys, as has been the case in the past. The raiser of fowl must necessarily sell his birds for less money or let them die of a ripe old age.

SANTA CLAUS TO VISIT CHILDREN OF R. C. R.

Toys and Other Good Things To Be Distributed Saturday Afternoon.

One hundred and fifty children of members of the Royal Canadian Regiment here will congregate in the battalion mess room Saturday afternoon at 4 and 6 o'clock to receive Santa Claus. A huge Christmas tree laden with toys and good things will be erected and a member of the regiment is scheduled to appear with a basket of gifts, one for each child. On the same day each married man of the R. C. R. will receive a Christmas turkey while the single men are to enjoy the customary Christmas dinner. The number taking part in the feast this year is what it will be relatively small, the majority having received a three-days' Christmas furlough.

GORMAN-ECKERT STAFF GATHERS FOR BANQUET

Salesmen and Departmental Heads of Local Firm Close Year's Work.

As a pleasant wind-up to the year's activities, the salesmen and departmental heads of Gorman-Eckert Company gathered at a banquet last night in the Tecumseh House, afterwards visiting the Grand to see Sir John Martin Harvey. During the banquet, which was given by the heads of the firm, brief addresses were made by various guests. Among those present were: William Gorman, president; C. W. Nicholls, vice-president; R. G. Bowie, managing director; T. P. Allan, J. A. Jones, directors; A. Trealeaven, F. Burch; J. Cory, T. B. Harker, Toronto; G. A. Wymer, Hamilton; R. M. Moncur, Hamilton; H. A. Lawson, Stratford; J. A. Dean, Toronto; Ray Gorman, A. W. Greenslade, H. H. Rennie, W. J. Smith, F. E. Parsons, London; W. O. Clark, W. D. Morris, H. Jeffrey, J. Morrison, W. H. Henderson, W. Gunn and W. H. McKee.

R. C. R. MILITARY BALL WILL BE HELD TONIGHT

This evening, in celebration of its 40th birthday officers of the Royal Canadian Regiment will hold a military ball at which more than 120 guests are expected to take part. Dancing will commence at 8 o'clock and all military men and their wives in London will be on hand.

Out-of-town guests who will come to the city for the event include Col. and Mrs. Langford of Toronto, Major and Mrs. H. T. Cock, Kingston; Capt. Herron, and others well known here.

3 Nominated For Mayoralty

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, Dec. 21.—Thos. L. Church, M.P. and Controller W. W. Hiltz and Jos. Singer were nominated for mayor this morning to succeed to the chief magistracy, held for two years by Mayor A. Maguire.

SALVATION ARMY NOW CONSIDERING INDUSTRIAL HOME

Such a Institution in the City Would Provide Home For Temporary Friendless.

ACCOMMODATE SIXTY

Plans are now under way by the industrial department of the Salvation Army to establish an industrial home in the city with a view to providing the needy with temporary lodging. This announcement was made today by Adjutant Lewis, head of the local industrial department.

The new home when completed will accommodate about sixty people with offices for the members of the staff. The local industrial department has been in existence for many years, but for the past four years the work has been handled from a small office. Adjutant Lewis, who came to this city three weeks ago from Halifax, sees a great need for such an institution in the city.

The work done by such a department enters into many fields. Adjutant Lewis pointed out this morning. Services are given each Sunday by the members of the staff in the prison and the export of inmates are provided for workmen and those who are thrown open to all who desire a night's rest.

It is expected a labor bureau will be run in connection with the new department.

URGENT IMMATURE TIMBER SHIPPING BE STOPPED

Guelph C. of C. Officials Inform Local Chamber of Resolution Passed.

From the Guelph Chamber of Commerce comes a resolution asking that shipping of immature timber from the Dominion be prohibited, in a letter to the secretary of the London chamber. In the resolution, copies of which are forwarded to the printer, Hon. Arthur Meighen, and also the member for South Wellington, the directors of the Guelph chamber state that the export of immature timber and unmanufactured lumber from the Dominion has been increasing rapidly for some time, and it is in the best interests of everyone in the country that there should be a prohibition on this export.

They state that much of the Canadian timber is made into paper on the other side.

Since its establishment in 1913 the Institute of Public Health has increased the yearly number of medical examinations by ten times what it was during the first year of its existence. According to figures submitted today, the institute, which recently celebrated its tenth birthday, conducted more than 15,000 examinations in 1923. It serves 160 municipalities of Western Ontario, and practically directs the public health of all cities and towns from Windsor to Guelph.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE GREATLY INCREASES WORK

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AN IDEAL GIFT!

Think of it! Till Christmas Eve we offer a PLAYER PIANO for \$595

Sold on deferred payment plan.



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Ye Olde Firme

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242 DUNDAS STREET Store Open Every Evening.

OPENING LIBRARY ON SUNDAY FAILS TO HAVE APPEAL

Opinion Expressed Rooms Are in Use For Sufficient Time Now.

ARCHDEACON OPPOSED

Like its famous predecessor, the Sunday bathing question, the "Sunday library" suggestion is bearing out the old adage that there are two sides to any question. The suggestion coming from E. R. Dennis yesterday that it might be a fine thing for the citizens generally if the reference room of the public library were left open on Sunday, is regarded by some as an extremely bright idea, but on the other hand there are those who immediately see in it the thing of the wedge which would lead to that encroachment upon the Sabbath, which a number of ratepayers thought they had put away forever when they rolled up a wave of public sentiment against Sunday bathing.

Mr. Dennis's suggestion meets with hearty approval from Mayor Wenige and a portion of the city council, who think it would be of advantage to open the reference room with its dozens of volumes to Sunday readers. It is indicated that among these volumes are hundreds which are never lent to the public, and that to keep the room open on Sunday would allow low access to these on the part of many who have no time during the week.

Ald. Douglass is at least one member of the 1924 council who has indicated that he sees the question favorably with Mr. Dennis.

Not Unanimous. Should this suggestion be brought before the library board, however, it will not meet with unanimous approval.

Archdeacon Sage, a member, interviewed this morning, stated that he couldn't see the necessity for it at all.

"The rooms are open each week-day and until 9:30, and I think that is considered quite sufficient by all who take advantage of them."

Ben Noble, another member of the board, was of a similar opinion. "I don't think there is any need at all to keep the rooms open and to keep a member of the staff in attendance there. The majority are finding that the rooms are open long enough to satisfy all their demands."

Rev. Dr. Wm. Beattie, not a member of the board, but a man whose opinion carries weight, suggested that there were too many people who were keen to have inserted the thin wedge which would mean laxity in Sunday observance.

"I will admit that on questions like this I am not open to conviction. I can't see where any of these inroads on the Sabbath are justified. They are always put forward in the name of the poor workingman, and it isn't always the poor workingman, as he is called, who wants them, or who wants to take advantage of them to the extent of breaking in on his Sabbath. I can't see that there is any need for opening the reference rooms on Sunday, or keeping a member of the staff there. It means somebody has got to work on Sunday, and who wants to be that one?"

Machine Gun Cage Five Lines Up For Season

Machine Gunners, in the Garrison Basketball League, will be represented by the C. C. I. quintet. This team will be made up of the following: Wm. Murray, "Dutch" Logan, "Cal" Bice, Doug. Westman, Ken. Hunter and Jimmie Burns.

The team will not be as strong as last year's team owing to the dividing up of the players by three schools system. Last year's team ran away with the shield, so with a weaker team on the floor for the gunners this year it promises to be a real battle.

SUSTAINED BROKEN WRIST. It was reported today that Clifford Payne of Thamesford recently sustained a broken wrist while cranking his automobile.