

Fire Chief Scores Training :: Many Hurt When C.P.R. Express Hits Freight

CHIEF WOULD LEAD MEN IN ALL DANGEROUS DRILLS



FRIEDRICH EBERT.

City Firemen Are Inefficient Through Lack of Training, Aitken Says.

TELLS OF OTTAWA

That London firemen are unfit for efficient service without proper drill is the belief held by Fire Chief John Aitken, who today advocates following methods of other cities where regular practice is held to keep in physical and technical trim for fighting fires on the force.

Use of the "Pompey" mode of fire drill has fallen into disuse in the London fire department, for some reason or other. It is set forth in the rules and regulations of the department, just newly issued, and according to Aitken should be in operation on the force.

But firemen object to the drill, point out that the scaling ladders are dangerous and have caused deaths in other cities, and have asked some of the aldermen to take up their case.

"I don't know how any good department can get on without this drill," declared Chief Aitken today. "Ottawa has a fine system of drill and they use the hook ladders there. It helps the men keep it and it keeps them in shape for fighting fires. You can do a lot with these hook ladders. It's not easy, but it makes the department efficient."

The chief isn't saying just why the men don't want the drill. He is a strong advocate of it and would lead the men himself in scaling buildings with their ladders. He has seen the powers cut by the frequent appeals of the ranks to the council he is not ready to go on with anything until it is fully ratified by the council.

City Clerk Baker has written Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford and Windsor to secure information on departmental drill. There is some opinion held that Pompey drill has been cut out in some cities as too dangerous practice, but Chief Aitken declares that this is not the case.

WARM WELCOME GIVEN MINERS' EX-SECRETARY

Frank Hodges Stoutly Denies Ulterior Motive in Recent Conciliation Plan.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, Feb. 27.—The annual general meeting of the national executive of the miners' federation of Great Britain opened at Blackpool today under more amiable circumstances than was originally anticipated. Notable was the cordial reception extended to Frank Hodges, ex-secretary, a minister in the Labor cabinet and now again interested in miners and conditions and wages. His reception was more notable because of his bitter fight with A. J. Cook, president of the federation, over their differences of opinion.

Hodges stoutly denied that his recent plea for conciliation and a five-year industrial truce between miner and employer was ever intended to mean that miners should acquiesce in maintaining a five-years' truce in the sense of maintaining the existing state of affairs. What he advocates is peace for such a period to enable the adjustment of the coal industry to new world conditions. Hodges confesses that the realization that England compared with other coal producing nations, is quietly but inexorably losing ground, a situation which must be faced by owners and miners alike, if British trade was to be saved from disaster.

The mine owners have now suggested a joint inquiry into the question the miners demands for better working conditions and increased pay. The miners, however, are highly suspicious, fearing the eight-hour day "or something equally distasteful."

FACING STORM'S BLAST, VETERANS HONOR DEAD

Concluded From Page 1.

unable to sound the reveille. The South African banner was not paraded.

Feb. 27 marks the day which, following several days of running fighting during the Boer war, brought the decisive victory for the British. The battle really began on Feb. 18, when the members of the Royal Canadian regiment entrenched near Paardeburg.

On that memorable occasion the Canadians, worn out by forced marches, lack of water, and little food, attacked and held their position despite abnormal conditions. The Boer drought-stricken country that was the first battle of Paardeburg Drift. The casualties were 18 men killed, 3 missing and 63 wounded.

So for nearly ten days the Canadians, working and fighting or scorching, terrain and swollen rivers, forced the Boer general Cronje and his men further back until their offensive, then their defensive, collapsed.

"Bobs" Brief Message.

Characteristically brief was the "radio official despatch from Bobs" to the war office. Dated from Paardeburg, Feb. 27, 1900, and timed 7:45 a.m., telling of victory, it read: "General Cronje, with all his force, capitulated unconditionally at Paardeburg and is now a prisoner in my camp. I hope his majesty's government will consider this event satisfactory, coming, as it does, on the anniversary of Majuba."

Even more interest was manifest in Canada in that portion of Lord Roberts' latest despatch, announcing the Canadian troops. "At 3 a.m. today a most dashing attack was made by the Canadian regiment," Lord Roberts reported, "and the First Gordon Highlanders, and Second Shropshires, resulting in our gaining a point some 600 yards nearer to the enemy, and within about 50 yards of his trenches, where our men entrenched themselves and maintained their positions until morning. A most dashing deed, worthy of our colonial comrades, and which I am glad to say, was attended by considerable small loss. This announcement clinched matters for the day, and was followed, signed by General Cronje, in which he stated that he surrendered unconditionally, was brought to the outskirts under a flag of truce."

MRS. LETHBRIDGE DIES AT HOME IN GLENCOE

Wife of West Middlesex Member Passes After Two Months' Illness.

Mrs. Lydia Jane Lethbridge, wife of J. G. Lethbridge, M.L.A. for West Middlesex, died this morning at her home in Glencoe, following a two months' illness.

Mrs. Lethbridge was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Preston. She was born in Ekeford 64 years ago.

Besides her husband, three sons, George, of London, John, of West Middlesex, and Ross, at the University of Toronto, and three daughters, Mrs. W. P. Cornell, of Ekeford, Mrs. W. Laughton, of Ekeford, Mrs. Marshall, of Toledo, are the survivors.

George C. Lethbridge is the choir leader of the First Presbyterian church here.

Porker Thrives On Spuds Diet

Piglet That Was Lost Is Found in Farmer's Cellar.

Associated Press Despatch.

Bruderheim, Alta., Feb. 27.—Porker makes a fine diet for pigs—big and little ones—according to authorities who should know, and H. G. Mashmeyer, a local farmer, agrees with their statement. Last year he blamed coveys for the loss of a wee pig. Today the piglet that weighed ten pounds when lost is back in the sty.

Investigating steam coming from the air spout in his cellar, Mr. Mashmeyer found his lost porker. It has wintered in his potato cellar, and appears to have thrived on its diet of spuds.

COALITION GOVT. MAY BREAK OVER CHURCH

Catholic Party Backs Pastoral Letter of the Slovak Bishops.

Associated Press Despatch.

Prague, Feb. 27.—The coalition government is facing a crisis in consequence of a pastoral letter issued by the Slovak bishops concerning a Socialist interpretation about the separation of the church and state.

The situation was relieved to a certain extent after a conference of the Catholic party leaders, which issued a declaration in which the constitutional liberties were not endangered by the pastoral, and that the Catholic party would never allow its authors to be persecuted.

PUPS ON MARKET COME UNDER BAN

Humane Society Blames Indiscriminate Selling For Expense to City.

Indiscriminate selling of pups on the local market was roundly condemned at the February meeting of the London humane society at its annual meeting last night. It was stated that this method of selling dogs in the city led to a great deal of what was considered an unnecessary expense to the city in view of the large number of dogs removed from the streets every year by the society's inspectors.

Officers of the society for 1924 were elected to serve in 1925. They are: Honorary president, Dean Thacker; president, Col. Eric Reid; vice-president, E. McKone, W. Wallis and Mrs. W. J. Brown; recording secretary, Mrs. E. H. Clement; treasurer, Miss Jane Elliott; and an executive committee as follows: Miss Elliott, Mrs. King and Mrs. McKone.

With over three hundred complaints received and answered in 1924, Inspector Tustin was a very busy man. The following figures from his monthly report show that his claim that there was too much work for one man to do in this district was justified. These figures are: Complaints, 208; horses inspected, 425; horses destroyed, 8; cattle inspected, 212; cattle destroyed, 2; other animals inspected, 23; poultry inspected, 718; dogs admitted, 124; dogs destroyed, 194; cats admitted, 43; cats destroyed, 42; emergency calls, 84; prosecutions, 2; convictions, 2; first aid given, 14; help given, 6.

HOSPITALITY LAUDED BY URBAN TRUSTEES

Sixth Annual Convention Is Brought to a Close This Morning.

The sixth annual convention of the urban school trustees' association, held at the Tecumseh house during the past week, came to a close this morning with the departure from town of the last of the 70 delegates who attended the convention.

The sessions of the convention were both profitable and pleasant, and the out-of-town delegates were not unmindful or ungrateful for the program of entertainment provided for their stay.

The program of entertainment consisted of a "free acquaintance" banquet at the University of Western Ontario on Tuesday night; luncheon at the Kennels Wednesday noon, tendered by the women delegates by Trustee Mrs. J. A. Hunt; Canadian club luncheon at the Tecumseh house Wednesday noon, speaker Prof. B. K. Sandwell, M.A., Queen's university, Kingston; and a technical high school and the technical high school early yesterday afternoon and theatre party last night to see the Majestic players in the musical comedy, "Trene," at the Majestic theatre.

The members of the association voiced their appreciation of the hospitality shown them by the London board in board of the convention. The vote of thanks proposed by E. B. Edmunds, Toronto, and J. Baines, St. Thomas, at the closing formal session, the convention yesterday afternoon.

RAILROADING EFFICIENCY WILL BE TOLD WORKERS

A program dealing with efficiency in railroading will be presented to over 100 employees of the Canadian National railway in the London division at Sarnia on Tuesday. There will be speakers from various departments outside the district.

The conference, one of those called by A. F. Sharpe, assistant superintendent here, when the occasion demands. The sessions, which will occupy one day, will be held in the terminal station at Sarnia.

One of the chief speakers will be Inspector McMullen of the C. N. R. bureau of explosives. He will take up the handling of gasoline and oils in freight and express shipments.

Other speakers will represent the motive power, transportation, claims department, and car service.

London officials who will be present are: Superintendent C. Forrester, W. Doherty, chief despatcher; Dave McHarg, car service, and W. J. Hart, chief clerk.

AT PORT STANLEY

The inter-denominational women's day of prayer is being held at Port Stanley this afternoon in St. John's Presbyterian church.

This is the fourth year that the day of prayer has been held at Port Stanley. Mrs. P. Jamieson of St. John's church, Port Stanley, is the presiding officer of the meeting.



GEORGE T. IRVING.

who succeeds Robert Miller as president of the Canadian National Exhibition, Mr. Miller has been president for two years, while Mr. Irving has been vice-president.

PLAN TO CENTRALIZE MONEY HIT BY GREER

Scheme Would Cross Present Educational Policy, Official Claims.

Administrator V. K. Greer is strongly opposed to the plan of provincial financial control of education.

The scheme now being worked out in the province of Manitoba is not a new one, since, for many years, France and New Zealand have carried out the plan with fair success.

Aside from the difficult period of adjustment in adopting the system, Mr. Greer believes that the plan proposed would not work out satisfactorily in Ontario because the province already had enough work on its hands.

Better results, too, can be achieved in Mr. Greer's opinion, by local boards, continuing to have control of their individual educational systems. Mr. Greer scouts the inauguration of the scheme in Ontario, however, on the part of the provincial government is to give more and more local choice and control in the matter of education, and as a consequence a suggestion to centralize the financing of education would be contrary to this policy.

EFFICIENCY CHANGES IN OFFICES ENDED

Rearrangement Aids Inter-Communication Between Educational Officials.

Changes made in the headquarters offices of the board of education are now complete and the different officials restored to their regular offices.

The changes made by John Puthier, bought at a cost of approximately \$300, consisted of the cutting of doors in the partitions between the administrator's office into those of the assistant secretary and the assistant inspector, and also two doorways between the office of the administrator and the office of the assistant secretary, and also two doorways between the office of the administrator and the office of the assistant inspector.

Communication between the seven offices will in future be much more convenient, since the new arrangement, suggested by the administrator, eliminates entirely the necessity of going out from one office to the other, and into another office of the three concerned.

In further carrying out the board's policy of improving the efficiency of administration at the head offices the three stenographer-secretaries will now be grouped together in one office and a system of buzzers installed as communication between them and the different officials.

A rearrangement has been effected also in connection with the telephone system of the offices. No change will be made in the board of education number, 7009, as was first considered, but one additional number set has been placed in the offices to permit of communication between that office and the officials in the building and caretaking department.

The changes made as cited here are all the direct result of the appointment of an administrator-inspector by the board, and other changes in administration growing out of the British survey made a few months ago.

ISSUES WRIT

In a writ issued today in the county court Alice Nelson claims the sum of \$328.75 from Frank Webb.

This is the fourth year that the sum of a loan made by her to the defendant. To this is added \$35 for costs.

HEAD-ON COLLISION CAUSED BY SWITCH

Four Men Taken to Perth Hospital When Trains Collide.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Perth, Ont., Feb. 27.—Four men lie in hospital here seriously injured following a head-on collision yesterday afternoon between W. P. R. Chicago-Montreal train No. 26 and a stationary freight in front of Glen Tay station, near here. No one was killed.

The injured in hospital are: Walter Norris, Trenton, Ont., engineer on the passenger train, in critical condition, severely cut about the face and head, and also suffering from a broken ankle, while it is also feared that his skull may be fractured.

David Bourne, Toronto, engineer on the passenger train, right leg broken.

George Anderson, Toronto, dining car steward, severe bruises.

Charles Hanson, Montreal, baggage man on passenger train, injuries to left hip.

An open switch is believed here to have been the cause of the head-on collision between the C. P. R. Montreal-Chicago express and a standing freight at Glen Tay station.

The switch was cleared within fifty minutes and the express was able to continue its journey.

OTTAWA TEAM ON TRAIN

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Members of the Ottawa Senators hockey team, who were passengers on the Chicago-Montreal express which collided with a freight at Glen Tay yesterday afternoon, did not escape injury, as first reported.

President Frank Ahearn was found to have a broken rib after arriving here. Pettie Green, the coach, Alex. Boucher, neighbor, and George Boucher, all were severely bruised and suffered minor injuries.

The Ottawa players were in the dining coach when the impact came. Coach Green, Mr. Ahearn, and Pettie Green, the coach, were in the dining coach when the impact came.

The players estimate that from 30 to 35 persons were more or less seriously injured in the smash.

Ahearn Tells Story

Mr. Ahearn tells a gripping story of the wreck as he remembers it. After the crash he remembers little of what actually happened except that he was pulled from under a table and that broken glasses, dishes and silverware were thrown about everywhere on everything.

From talk heard about the wrecked train after the crash, Mr. Ahearn learned that the freight train had pulled into Glen Tay siding with the intention of allowing the fast passenger train to pass as usual.

One of the men on the freight train had noticed that the switch was open and when he went into the despatchers' office to report with the others the first thing he saw was the wreck.

The despatcher had hardly time to tell him that the train was on time when he and the engineer, Mr. Ahearn, rushed for the door with the intention of racing to the junction of the main line and the siding and throwing the open switch.

They had hardly done this when the crash came. As the crew of the freight engine had left their train to report at the despatcher's office, they escaped unhurt.

Lighter Engine Wrecked

It was learned by long distance telephone that Engineer David Bourne, in charge of a lighter engine, was wrecked as a result of the collision. The lighter engine was in charge of the train, Bourne received his most serious injuries when he jumped just before the two engines were coming together.

Prison of Today Breeds Criminals Who Return To Old Life On Release

Ogden Chisholm Presents Figures To Prove Danger of System.

PROVIDE MONEY

Announcing that of the million men and women who pass every year through the American prisons come from broken homes, Ogden Chisholm, American commissioner on the international prison commission, made a brilliant and sympathetic plea today to the London Kwai-chai club for more humanitarian treatment of prisoners.

Speaking to the largest meeting of the club to be held this year, and in the presence of Governor Dawson of the county jail and many visitors, Mr. Chisholm not only drew a picture of the horrors of life in most of the American prisons, but did not hesitate to declare that the present prison system was turning out criminals with every man and woman who left them at the expiration of sentences.

We hear so much in the newspapers about "building" prisoners. I once had that idea, too. I thought that the correct thing to do was to make a prison such a horrible place that all the criminals in sheer fear would stay out. Now that I have investigated prison conditions for myself and studied the situation, I have changed my views. I know now that every criminal who enters a prison is not mentally normal. My slogan now is "Better prisons, better men, and I know that it is based on sound scientific principles as well as on humanitarian grounds."

Mental Deficiency. "It is high time that the intelligent persons in this world realized that crime is the result of a mental deficiency. For instance, whenever a riot occurs in a prison or in a penitentiary the average man immediately, and almost without thought, says that the prisoners are to blame."

"I have studied plenty of riots in prisons and been through some of them. There are only two causes for any riot in any prison. Brutality on the part of the prisoners, or the jail or insanity on the part of the governed. There is no other cause."

"If, as I said at the beginning, so per cent of all criminals comes from broken homes, and if the criminal is a more decent state and in cleaner and healthier surroundings morally and in every way when we may expect to deal effectively with crime and crime before it is too late."

Pedlar of Humanity. Mr. Chisholm, who described himself as a "pedlar of humanity," stated in proof of his remark that prisons were merely breeding places for crime and that 24 per cent of all criminals were repeaters, that is, that they had already served sentences. He said that the most important need in prison reform was the education and earning power for the prisoner so that he could pay for his keep and support his family.

Mr. Chisholm also has enough money when he leaves the jail to keep him from committing crime as soon as he comes out in order to eat and live.

The club listened to an interesting account of the work of the reception committee from Joe Hickey, in view of the work that this committee will have to cope with in 1925, and the large number of visitors coming to London this year. Carleton Wells, secretary of the Wells Business Academy, was the club host for the day, presenting as booster prizes beautiful golden-haired dolls. New members at the club included Harold S. Fry, editor of the *Frederator*, and Tom Rich of Noble & Rich.



W. E. BOOTH-CLIBBORN.

noted evangelist of the Salvation army, and grandson of the late Gen. Booth, who will open a series of meetings in London on Sunday.

300 BUILDINGS ORDERED CLEANED

Fire Inspectors Persistent in Drive To Remedy Conditions Here.

Of more than 1,200 London buildings which have been inspected within the past six weeks by members of the provincial fire prevention and inspection department, in almost 900 cases orders have been issued for a "clean-up" when the buildings were found to be in a condition which would make for a fire menace.

Every building in the central district of the city has been thoroughly examined by the fire inspectors, who declare that they have received the utmost consideration on the part of citizens in aiding them in their work. Factories in the outlying districts, schools and churches are now being inspected. The investigation, brought about through London's increasing fire loss of the past few years, will be continued until every building in the city has been visited.

In many cases, according to Lionel Bishop and Wilfrid Cleimont of the fire marshal's department in Toronto, actual fire traps have been found in the city. Orders to remedy the evil have, of course, been issued, and in some instances the tearing down of walls, construction of fire escapes, building of fireproof walls, where necessary, have been demanded.

Inspector Bishop is to deliver an address to the Scouts of the city this evening and methods of fire prevention will be explained to them. The lecture is to be illustrated, and actual chemical experiments, showing the manner in which fire can be brought about through dust, explosions and spontaneous combustion, will be performed.

WILL VISIT CORPS.

Ensign Ellery of the headquarters' staff of the Salvation army, Toronto, will visit the scout and guard corps here the latter part of next week. On Saturday and Sunday of next week, Ensign Ellery will be present at London's 24th anniversary parade, a united guard parade will be held. Throughout the week guard parades will be held at the different city camps.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM BACKED

Mayor States Ald. Douglass' Talk of New Districts "Pure Bunk."

Mayor G. A. Wenige is strongly behind the board of education in its proposed building program this year. Interviewed this morning by The Advertiser, the mayor asserted his entire confidence in the board in asking the council for one new collegiate and an addition to the technical high school.

"Are you in favor of one collegiate and that in the east end?" "I am absolutely in favor of one collegiate," replied his worship, "and to be put wherever the board desires. I always declared that I would support the board, providing the council was not asked for two or three schools in one year."

"You have confidence in the board then in its proposed program?" "Certainly, that's what you've got a board for, to inform the council what is necessary for educational purposes."

"What about all this talk of Ald. L. H. Douglass concerning school districts?"

"Offers Slightly." "Bunk," emphatically asserted the mayor. "Pure bunk and spelt in capital letters. Why it's a joke and a deceit. About forming more school districts in London and school districts in municipalities for the cities and not for large towns and cities where already a school district has been formed."

"Ald. Douglass' talk of school districts," observed Mayor Wenige, "is only a decoy. The game as he used last year, to upset the whole scheme."

Mayor Wenige's pronouncement, in favor of the board's program, will come as cheering news to Chairman S. F. Lawanson, who is secretary of the board, though, as stated by Mr. Lawanson, the board is not worrying to hinder the program by attempting to sidetrack the board's request for funds into a controversy over the formation of one to three school districts in the city.

Careful Survey. The board's decision to ask the council for one collegiate and an addition to the technical school was made only after the most careful and prolonged survey of the needs of the city, and was evolved as the most logical scheme to proceed with this year.

Mr. Lawanson and Administrator V. K. Greer, M.A., have declared it to be such and to be by no means carrying a fight to the council, the chairman has indicated that the board is prepared to push its program to the limit.

It now appears that the program will meet with the majority approval of the council. The board's building plans will come before the council early next week in the consideration of the estimated estimates for the year, which have been made to cover interest and sinking fund charges on the program proposed.

ST. THOMAS TO SEE POPULAR PLAY SOON

The domestic play, "Sally Lunn," which has been staged many times by the dramatic league of St. George's church of this city, will be played again next month under the auspices of the Knox church young women's guild, St. Thomas.

The play has proved very popular in the city, being given at the large gathering of the A. Y. P. A.'s of the churches of London recently.

To provide for the general funds, which are used chiefly for missionary purposes.

ALLENBY RUMOR DENIED

Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 27.—The report education number 7,000, as was first Viscount Allenby had resigned as the British high commissioner for Egypt, is declared to be unfounded.

Subject to Inspection by Dominion Government Officials

Huron & Erie Surplus Security

Now \$6,750,000

\$1,554,000 Increase in Huron & Erie Debentures

During 1924 The Huron & Erie issued 4,560 new debentures.

The amount invested by the public in these securities at the close of the year totalled over \$13,000,000.

Huron & Erie debentures appeal to savers with small, as well as large sums for investment. These debentures are issued at any time for any sum of \$100 up to \$100,000 for one, two, three, four or five years. They yield a good interest return.

Here is another attractive feature: Huron & Erie debentures are authorized by the Government as an investment for trust funds in the custody of executors and trustees.

5 1/4% per annum is payable half-yearly

Interest begins from the day your cheque is received.

The Huron & Erie MORTGAGE CORPORATION

For Branch Office: Richmond (opposite Post Office) Market Square Dundas (opposite Belfry) Elmwood and Wortley

T. G. Meredith, K.C., President Hume Cronyn, General Manager

Chartered 1864

Depositors and Debenture Owners Have First Claim

No Real Estate On Hand (Other than office)

Coal Boat May Dynamite Her Way To Port Stanley

Dynamiting her way across the lake if necessary, the Bessemer Second, the coal boat from Conneaut, will open navigation on Lake Erie on Saturday by bringing a shipload of coal to Port Stanley.

Although the Bessemer makes the voyage in the summer months in a few hours, the amount of ice within three-quarters of a mile of Port Stanley and the strong wind which has swept Lake Erie since yesterday morning will hinder her progress severely.

DUTCH OFFICIALS DIFFER ON OLYMPIC DONATION

Amsterdam, Feb. 27.—The cabinet, deciding that the celebration in Holland of the 1928 Olympic games, in accordance with a decision of the international Olympic committee is a matter of national honor, may make the voting of the 1,000,000 florins necessary for the organization of the games, a question of confidence. The lower chamber of parliament is deadlocked over the credit demanded by the Dutch Olympic committee, which insists that the funds must be forthcoming immediately, otherwise Holland will be obliged to pass up the games.