

LAYMEN'S MOVEMENT LAUNCHED AT PRESBYTERIAN BANQUET

Four Hundred Men Attended Dinner in the Banqueting Hall of the Masonic Temple Last Night.

STIRRING ADDRESSES MADE BY NOTABLE SPEAKERS

Mr. W. T. Ellis, of New York, and Mr. J. A. MacDonald, of the Toronto Globe, Spoke on the Great Object of the Movement—The Danger From Awakening of the East.

The laymen's missionary movement was brilliantly launched last evening, when the laymen of the Presbyterian churches of London held a most successful banquet in the Masonic Temple.

The speakers of the evening were Mr. W. T. Ellis, of Philadelphia, a prominent newspaperman of that city, and Mr. J. A. MacDonald, of the Toronto Globe. Both delivered inspiring addresses.

There were over 400 laymen present, the large hall being filled to capacity.

Mr. Ellis gave a brief synopsis of his trip around the world, to investigate conditions, at the instance of a large newspaper syndicate of the United States. It was his letters on the subject that had a great deal to do with the present missionary movement among the laymen of the churches.

Last evening Mr. Ellis gave an interesting account of his travels, and in vivid language gave his auditors a splendid view of eastern conditions. He made a decidedly good impression, and will be listened to with great interest during his stay in the city. He is a newspaperman of wide experience, excellent judgment, and strong personality.

Mr. MacDonald's Address.

Mr. MacDonald gave one of his brilliant addresses on the laymen's movement. He has been closely identified with the movement, both in Canada and the United States. He laid the claims of the church before the audience in strong terms and kindled great enthusiasm among his hearers. The church today, he declared, was a man's church, and the work it had on hand.

(Continued on Page Two.)

No New Courthouse and Jail This Year Too Much Other Work, Says Mayor

Agreement With County Regarding Maintenance Ends Shortly.

There will be no new jail this year. The grand jury as usual brought in a presentment regarding the bad condition of the jail and courthouse, and as usual, that presentment will be put in the files, there to be forever lost.

Neither the city nor the county authorities will touch the matter this year. It is said.

The city will be under a heavy expense, with Niagara power, hospitals, fire halls and other city improvements.

Agreement Expires This Year.

"The agreement with the county regarding the maintenance and repair of the jail expires this year," said Mayor Stevely to the Advertiser this afternoon, "and, of course, a new agreement will have to be entered into. I hardly think the question of a new jail and courthouse will be touched this year. There are so many questions that need attention. The old jail will have to do. I am afraid, for some time yet."

First Thistle Bonspiel Is Under Way Mayor Stevely Opens Big Contest

The first bonspiel ever conducted under the auspices of the Thistle Curling Club commenced today shortly before 2 o'clock, when Mayor Stevely opened the occasion with a brief address, in which he complimented the club on its progressiveness in taking the initiative in providing a bonspiel.

Nearly 40 rinks are represented in the big contest, and players are present from St. Mary's, St. Thomas, St. John's, Grand Rapids, Petrolia, Chatham, Stratford, Glencoe, Ingersoll, Dutton, Hensall, Lucknow, Parkhill and other places. Besides these there are a host of local entries.

The curlers are enthusiastic, and express themselves as confident that the affair will be the biggest one of its kind ever pulled off in Western Ontario.

The first prize will be a handsome trophy cup donated by Mr. John Mc-

Nee. In addition to this prize the winning rink and the runners-up will also receive handsome cut-glass dishes.

Besides these prizes there will be the Tecumseh cup, offered by Mr. George O'Neill, and the Bank of Toronto trophy, put up for competition by Mr. John Pringle.

There is also a long list of other prizes, all handsome and well worth winning.

Curling will continue until Thursday evening, weather permitting.

The draw was made at 1 o'clock, and 40 minutes later play began.

Mr. Stevely stated that he felt honored to address such a brilliant assembly of local and out-of-town ice experts, and that he thought curling was one of the grandest winter pastimes he knew of. The bonspiel was a good thing in many ways. It advertised the city and helped business. He

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Ex-Ald. Cooper's Recount on Tuesday

The recount demanded by ex-Ald. Neil Cooper will take place on Tuesday morning next at 10 o'clock at the court house.

Judge Macbeth will conduct it.

Mr. E. T. Essery is acting on behalf of Mr. Cooper, and the necessary papers were served on City Clerk Baker yesterday afternoon.

Horton St. Lad Had Close Call for Life

Gordon, the 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryanton, of 237 Horton street, had a very narrow escape from being strangled to death at his home recently.

The little fellow was having some fish for supper, when a large bone lodged in his throat.

The boy choked violently, and soon became unconscious.

Dr. Shaw was sent for, and after considerable difficulty, succeeded in removing the bone from the boy's throat. He is fully recovered from the effects of his misfortune.

Ladies' Meeting in Dundas Center

The ladies of this city who are in sympathy with the laymen's missionary movement will be given a chance to hear Mr. W. T. Ellis and other notable speakers at a special meeting to be held in Dundas Center Methodist Church on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Ladies of all denominations are most cordially invited to attend, as it is the intention to make this a general meeting for women interested in the work.

Besides the speeches a splendid musical programme has been arranged.

Rate War Justifies the "All-Red"

London, Jan. 14.—Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, in an interview last night on the shipping situation said that he regarded the agreement recently entered into by the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg-American steamship lines as likely to precipitate a repetition of the situation of a few years ago when the American attack

upon British shipping resulted in the granting of a subsidy to the Cunard Company by the British Government and the building of the Lusitania and the Mauretania. He considers that the German agreement is further justification for the subsidizing of an "All-Red" transportation line to encircle the globe, which had been strongly advocated last summer.

Presbyterian Laymen's Resolution.

The following resolution was passed at the Presbyterian Laymen's banquet last night:

"Moved by Mr. Alexander Stuart, seconded by Mr. John M. Gunn, and carried unanimously—

"THAT the Presbyterian Laymen of the City of London here assembled, desire to express their hearty appreciation of the movement now being made to enlist the more active interest of laymen in the various labors of the church, and particularly in that work which may be done outside of individual congregations, and which is calculated to elevate the character of our citizenship, socially and morally, as well as spiritually.

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT we express our cordial indorsement of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and pledge our hearty support to the work of developing a deeper interest in and a larger liberality towards the cause of world-wide missions."

MURDERER SCOTT GLAD HE KILLED MAN PITTSBURG NEGRO SPEAKS OF HIS CRIME

Killed His Foster Father in Latter's Home.

Prisoner Claims That the Victim Abused His Mother.

Did Not Hear of Foster Father's Death Until He Was Arrested in London—Story of the Tragedy.

John Scott, the alleged Pittsburgh murderer, who was so cleverly captured yesterday on Richmond street by Detectives Nickle and Rider, was a little more talkative after a night in the cells.

"I did not know until yesterday, when I was arrested, that Davis was dead," he said. "I am glad I made such a good job of it. He deserved all he got."

Scott killed his foster father, husband of the woman who had taken him from the poorhouse and raised him decently.

"The name of the man murdered was Granville Davis, aged 48 years, who was known throughout the entire country among colored people as the personal confidant of Joe Gans, the pugilist."

A Colored Swell.

"Davis was considered the best-dressed colored man in Pennsylvania, and he and his foster stepson frequently quarreled over dress."

"On Jan. 6 the two had a bitter fight at the Davis home in Poplar Alley. Both were arrested and locked up over night. Next morning the police court judge, who knew both men, discharged them with a laugh, suggesting that they fight it out privately without disturbing the police."

"Davis went at once and had a warrant sworn out, charging Scott with disturbing the peace. Davis accompanied the constable to his own home to point out his stepson, when Scott opened fire, shooting the detective seriously and killing Davis instantly. Scott escaped, but was trailed into Canada."

Story of the Crime.

A dispatch from Pittsburgh says: "The crime for which John Scott, colored, former city employee of Pittsburgh, was arrested at London, Ont., yesterday, was one of the most sensational in the criminal history of Pittsburgh."

About noon on Tuesday, Jan. 7, Scott killed his foster stepfather, husband of the woman who had taken him from the poorhouse and raised him decently.

Bailiff's Man Went To Sleep in House Delinquent Tenant Took Goods Away

Now Land Agent Enters Suit To Recover Money From the Bailiff.

A decidedly interesting case will come up in the division court in Jan. 24, when a suit will be aired which has been entered by Mr. W. H. Ferguson, acting on behalf of one of his clients, against Wm. Sadler, who was acting for him as bailiff.

A certain tenant of Mr. Ferguson's client was considerably behind in his rent, and Mr. Ferguson decided to sue for the amount.

He gave Mr. Sadler, it is alleged, the necessary warrant, and the bailiff went to the house and seized the goods.

It is stated that the person whom Mr. Sadler left in charge of the house and its contents, during the night, went to sleep, and when he awoke in the morning, everything had been removed.

Mr. Ferguson claims that Mr. Sadler is responsible for the amount, and has entered suit against him to recover \$22.

Mayor Stevely Says Company Willing To Sell Street Railway To the City

Is in Earnest Regarding His Suggestion To Secure the Lines.

The question of buying the London street railway is again before the citizens, Mayor Stevely strongly suggesting that in his inaugural address before the council yesterday.

The same matter was brought up by Mayor Judd last year.

It was discovered at that time that the London street railway was ready to treat with the city, and would sell the railway—at a price.

President Everett, at that time declared that he was willing to sell the property, but he would laugh at any offer of the city to take the stock at par.

Valued at 150.

It is understood by those in close touch with Mr. Everett that he is still willing to sell, but it was also hinted that the stock could not be bought at par, but would cost about 150.

The Commissioners' Initial Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the water commission will be held this afternoon when the work of the year will officially commence.

The election of a chairman will be the most important matter of business.

Chairman Darch has been chairman three years in succession, and it is said that he is anxious for another term.

Mr. Jones is also said to be anxious for the position.

The matter has not been definitely arranged yet, but it is said that Mr. Jones will be chosen chairman for the coming year.

No scheme for relieving the scarcity of water will be submitted at this meeting, but a scheme will be evolved shortly.

Published Her Photo, Wants Damages

A Toronto dispatch says: Miss Anne Webb, of this city, issued a writ against Ambrose J. Small, of the Grand Opera House, claiming \$2,000 for libel in publishing a copy of a photograph of the plaintiff in a programme issued by the defendant and known as circular No. 16.

The young lady in this photograph was represented as Florence Rossland playing the part of leading lady in "The Fatal Flower."

Miss Webb denies any connection with the opera company.



MR. PETER BIRTWISTLE, Who Made a Will Leaving His Fortune to London Charity, But Later Changed His Mind.

THROAT SLASHED WITH BARBED WIRE

A Bridgen Man's Narrow Escape From Death in Runaway Accident

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Bridgen, Jan. 14. — Mr. William Tucker, who lives two miles south of this place, had a narrow escape from death on Saturday. As he was driving home his horse became frightened on the road and shied to one side. Mr. Tucker steered it straight into a fence, which was a wire one, with a barbed wire on the top.

As the horse was a small one and the fence was quite high the animal broke all the wires except the top one, under which it slipped. The result was that the barbed wire caught Mr. Tucker on the throat, cutting it almost from ear to ear.

Dr. Seager, of this place, was called in, and had to put in a number of stitches. Mr. Tucker's cheek was also badly torn with the wire. The patient, however, is doing well, and will likely recover, if blood poisoning does not set in. He is still very weak on account of loss of blood.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—A LITTLE WARMER.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, Jan. 14—8 a.m. Today—Northwest winds; fair and cold. Wednesday—Southerly winds and a little warmer.

Local Temperatures

The temperatures recorded at the local observatory yesterday were: Highest, 30°; lowest, 19° above zero.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	24	4	Cloudy
Winnipeg	12	10	Cloudy
Park Sound	10	4	Cloudy
Toronto	24	10	Snow
Ottawa	4	0	Fair
Montreal	4	4	Fair
Quebec	10	8	Cloudy
Father Point	14	12	Snow

Minus (—) means below zero.

The first column in the above table records the temperatures at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperatures during the 24 hours previous.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DIE IN THEATER FIRE AND PANIC

Exploding Gas Tank Causes Awful Catastrophe in the Opera House at Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 14.—When daylight dawned today the full extent of last night's horror, when Rhoades' Opera House was burned, was apparent. The list of dead is placed at 150, and the injured at 75.

How many were killed may never be known, for among the victims of this awful disaster were a number of visitors and some strangers.

List of the Dead.

The list of known dead follows: Mrs. John Becker, and two children, Dr. Charles Mayer and daughter, Robert LaFish, child of Rev. A. M. Weber, Lulu Fogley, Miss Emma Engel, Mrs. Daniel Krause, Mrs. George Romig, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Gottschall, Henry Binder, Blanche and Mabel Kochel, Ellen Gottschall, Mabel Graf, Mrs. J. J. Becker, and three children, Lottie Craver and sister, John Graver, Charles Moyer and daughter, Daniel Krause, Morris Anderson and two children, James Anderson, wife and two children, Charles Maurer, Stella Kulp, Carrie Weand, Florence Weand, Edna Boyer, Keeley Boyer, Manie Toms, Mrs. Maggie Lefevre, Mrs. M. Leinbach, Laura Grim, Mrs. Adam Moyer, David Gable, jun., and wife, Franklin Ledy, Anna Ledy, Mrs. E. Cullen, Lottie Bowman, Ella Johnston, Anna Ziegler, John Fritz, Cora Fritz, Mrs. John Glase, Mrs. Reuben Hoffman and daughter, Mrs. Johnson.

Gas Tank Explodes.

It is estimated that there were 400 persons in the playhouse when the explosion of the gas tank, which was being used in connection with moving pictures, occurred. An amateur performance of "Scottish Reformation," for the benefit of St. John's Lutheran Church, was being given.

Continued on Page Nine.

Left \$1,000,000 for London's Poor But Changed His Will Last Week

Mr. Peter Birtwistle Will Now Leave It To Native City in England.

Mr. Peter Birtwistle left for the south today for an indefinite period. Preparatory to his departure he made some changes in his will which seriously concern the city of London.

Mr. Birtwistle, as is well known, has been remarkably successful in business. He has been reputed a wealthy man for many years, but the extent of his fortune is greater than was generally supposed.

Years ago he made a will, under which, after his death, the greater portion of his estate was to be held in trust until it had reached a million dollars, through the accretion of interest. It was then to form the endowment of an institute for the deserving aged poor of the municipality, the fund to be administered by the civic authorities in a manner and form prescribed in Mr. Birtwistle's will.

It has been rumored of late that he intended to alter this provision. To an Advertiser representative, who questioned him, he admitted this to be a fact. "I had not informed the public of my bequest," he said, "as I had no wish to advertise myself as a philanthropist, but I have now revoked the gift so far as the city of London is concerned."

Continued on Page Nine.

JEROME BLOCKS THAW COUNSEL

New York, Jan. 14.—There was a delay of half an hour in beginning the Thaw trial today, Justice Dowling having been caught in a subway block-ade on the way down town. Dr. John T. Deenar, of Kitching, Pa., one of the Thaw family physicians, was the first witness called to the stand. Dr. Deenar testified at the first trial that he treated Harry Thaw as a boy for St. Vitus dance and measles. He repeated this testimony today and told one of attending members of the Copley family—the mother's branch of the defendant's antecedents. Dr. Deenar

Continued on Page Nine.

Cut in Ocean Rates Reaches London

The steamship war on the Atlantic is causing big reductions in rates, especially on the C. P. R. lines.

The local offices today received word of the following cuts on C. P. R. boats:

Second cabin passage, from St. John to Liverpool, on the Empresses, \$28.75, against the ordinary fare of \$42.50.

Same cabin on other boats of the company, \$30, against \$37.50.

Steerage on Empresses, \$17.50, against \$28.75.

On other boats, \$16.25, against \$25.00, formerly.

The other big lines are meeting the cuts.

It is said the war arose through the C. P. R. demanding for its boats a differential rate, as its steamers were not as large and speedy as the Lusitania and the Mauretania.

The Cunard Company would not agree to this, and hence the war.

Can't Assess Clubs for Business Tax

A municipality cannot collect a business tax from private clubs.

This is the opinion of City Clerk Baker and other city officials, based on the decision of the court of appeals in the case of the Rideau Club, Ottawa.

The court decided that the club in question was not liable for business tax, as it did not carry on a business which paid dividends or made profits.

The assessment was made under the act of 1904.

The two clubs affected in this city are the Travelers' Club and the London Club. The London Club would pay taxes on an assessment of \$15,000 and the Travelers' Club on \$4,000—rather nice items.

It is said that the city solicitor of Toronto will move at the next sitting of the Legislature to have the act amended so that private clubs will be compelled to pay the business tax.

Has Anybody Seen This Lost Boy?

About three years ago County Constable McLeod, who was then high constable, received word from an American farmer named Goosner that his son, then 14 years of age, had run away with a former inmate of the Rochester, N. Y., Penitentiary, named Eddington. Mr. Goosner lives near Rochester, and he and his wife had heard that the runaways had headed for London.

Since that time Mr. McLeod has been on the lookout for the pair, but it was not until recently that he learned that Eddington had been working for a nearby farmer. Nothing has ever been heard of the Goosner boy.

The lad's mother, an aged lady, is very anxious to find some trace of her boy, and anybody knowing of his whereabouts will help a good cause along by informing. The lad's parents are not very well fixed in a financial way, and are unable to do anything toward prosecuting a systematic search for him.

Eddington, the former convict, was employed either on the Goosner farm or nearby at the time he took the boy away.

Boy Burglars Let Go With a Warning

The three little boys, who recently broke into the store of Messrs. Brock and McMurtry on Dundas street, and stole three revolvers, appeared in the juvenile court this morning, and were found guilty.

The youngest boy is only 10 years of age.

Magistrate Love gave the lads a good talking to and allowed them to go on suspended sentence.

THE TOBACCO MEN WAIT ON THE GOV'T

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Jan. 14.—A large delegation representing the tobacco and cigar manufacturers waited today on Mr. Templeman, and gave their views both for and against the proposed legisla-

Ottawa, Jan. 14.—At the railway committee today, an extension of time was given to the Western Ontario Pacific Railway to build from London to Goderich. Mr. Culbert had charge of the bill.