

Filthy Condition of London Fire Hall Revealed By Member of Department

BLANKETS OF FIREMEN NOT WASHED IN 5 YEARS

Birthrate Falls Low In Germany

Only Ten Per 1,000 of Population in 1924.

By EDGAR ANSEL MOWLER.
By Cable to The Advertiser and the Chicago Daily News. Copyright, 1923.
Berlin, Feb. 25.—The birthrate in Germany, and especially in Berlin, continues to sink. It amounted in 1924 only to about ten per thousand of population.

HORSEMANSHIP AWARD GIVEN OFFICER HERE

Capt. W. S. Fenton Among Those to Receive Marks for Proficiency.

Certificates for proficiency in horsemanship and infantry work have been granted to 11 officers in Western Ontario regiments, according to orders issued by Lieut.-Col. E. C. Dean, A. D. C. O. today.

Captain W. S. Fenton has received a mark for proficiency in riding. He is attached to the Royal Canadian Regiment at Wolsley barracks. Ten officers in the Kent regiment who attended the provisional school of infantry at Chatham held recently have been awarded certificates. The following names appear: Lieut. J. W. Charlton to captain, Lieut. J. E. Sharpe to captain, Lieut. T. A. Trudell to captain, Lieut. J. P. Dunn to captain, Lieut. J. E. Challinor to captain, R. E. Smith to lieutenant, G. O. Toward to lieutenant, W. H. Purnach to lieutenant, C. Collop to lieutenant, Quartermaster W. Taylor to lieutenant.

LIFE SENTENCE GIVEN CONSTABLE'S SLAYER

John Trott Sent to Kingston Penitentiary on Manslaughter Verdict.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Welland, Feb. 25.—Charged with the murder of Police Constable Joseph Tuman at Kingston on December 22, 1922, John Trott was found guilty of manslaughter at the assizes here today afternoon and was given a life sentence in Kingston penitentiary by Mr. Justice Logan. In passing sentence, his lordship informed Trott that the jury had taken a merciful view of the case, in that he was found guilty of only manslaughter. The same evidence would have fully justified a verdict of murder. The jury was four hours in arriving at the verdict, which was received by the crowded court in silence. The verdict came as a complete surprise to Trott, who was convinced that he would be given his freedom, having made arrangements to accompany his wife home tonight to Niagara Falls, N. Y. The stoical demeanor, which characterized him throughout the entire hearing, never faltered him. When the life sentence fell from the lips of the judge, he never flashed an eyelid, but received it with composure.

CONSTRUCTION TAKES TURN FOR THE BETTER

Permits Totalling \$11,600, Issued Today, Herald Building Revival.

Construction activities took a bright pickup today with the issuance of four building permits, with building values totalling \$11,600. Three of these permits were for dwelling houses and provide a feature for a quiet month in building circles.

H. E. Brownlee is constructing a \$4,500 house at 5 Christie street, and a \$2,200 house at 113 St. Julien. A permit is granted to A. R. Wilson for the construction of a \$3,500 dwelling on McKenney avenue. Mrs. M. E. Beal is making \$1,100 interior alterations at 140 Ridout street.

FREIGHTER IS DAMAGED IN SMASH WITH TANKER

Washington, Feb. 25.—With four feet of her bow carried away as the result of a collision with the tanker, W. E. Burton, the freighter Midway, arrived in Hampton Roads yesterday and proceeded to Newport News to go into drydock. The collision occurred in a dense fog off Fenwick island lightship Monday morning, according to radio reports received here yesterday. The Burton was bound north from Houston, Texas, with a cargo of oil, and the Midway was bound to Norfolk from Boston by ballast to load a cargo of coal. A big hole was stove into the starboard side of the Burton off of the bridge and at last reports she was making her way up the Delaware river.

EXPORTS EXCEED IMPORTS

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Exports of Canadian commodities exceeded imports of foreign products in value by \$263,847,726 during the twelve months ended Jan. 31. A statement made public today shows total imports for the twelve months' period of \$759,932,015, as compared with \$90,512,730 for the preceding twelve months. Domestic exports amounted to \$1,023,825,743, as against \$1,019,860,499 for the corresponding period a year ago.

Filthy Condition in London Station Is Revealed by Captain Mitchell.

FILLED WITH ANTS

Wash day is no longer a habit at city fire stations, according to department officials and men. Blankets are old and dirty, bedding is unclean, red ants devour the lunches of the men, and discrimination is shown in order to force the men to smoke certain brands of tobacco, say the firemen.

Blankets at local fire stations haven't been washed in five years, Captain John Mitchell says. They have been used for five years ago, and are now so filthy that the men who have to lie on them are disgusted. He doesn't know just who to blame for this condition, but declares that the men are dissatisfied with the way the department is run. He said that the men are dissatisfied with the way the department is run. He said that the men are dissatisfied with the way the department is run.

According to the same captain, the central fire hall is infested with hundreds of red ants, which make daily raids on the lunches of the men. When lunch parcels are brought down they have to be suspended by a string from the ceiling, and the string is held by the men. Otherwise the men find vegetable sandwiches filled with red roamers.

Want Smokes. The men are a bit riled because department regulations and the chief won't let them smoke cigarettes. They can't afford cigars and they are thereby restricted to the use of pipe tobacco. They want changes made, though they admit that the floors of the fire hall have sometimes been littered with cigarette butts, in contrast with the blaw.

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COLLEGE TRAINING FAVORED IN SCHOOLS

Concluded From Page 1.

The cost of the scheme should not be saddled upon the municipalities. When called upon for a word of advice, F. P. Gavin, M.A., director of vocational education for the province, admonished the convention for "beating at the wind" in fearing that the government would pass legislation compelling any board to give second-year university work taught in its collegiate. The cost, too, Mr. Gavin felt, would be fairly divided in the course of time.

DEPUTATION PROTESTS GRAVEL EXPORTS TO U. S.

Special to The Advertiser.
Parliament Buildings Toronto, Feb. 25.—A deputation was made to the Ontario government today by a deputation from Kent and Lambton counties that steps should be taken to encourage the export of gravel to the United States from the St. Clair river, and might be preserved for the benefit of the counties generally.

EGYPT'S VIEW ON OASIS ACCEPTED BY ITALY

Associated Press Despatch.
Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 25.—It was officially announced yesterday that Italy had accepted the Egyptian viewpoint regarding the postponement of discussions concerning the Jaraub Casia question. The Jaraub Casia, on Egypt's western frontier, has been the subject of negotiations for some time between that country and Italy. Italy claims the disputed territory on the ground that it really belongs to Tripoli.

CRONYM CONCERT DANCE DELIGHT

Tuesday Night Event Was One of Most Successful Ever Held in Hall.

One of the most successful concerts and dances ever held in Cronym hall held Tuesday night under the auspices of the St. Paul's scout troop. S. G. Bryan acted as chairman.

Prominent on the program was a play, "The Little Mistake," which was presented by the girls' friendly society of the church. The cast included Muriel Wood, as Mrs. Ball; Lillian Gill, as Helen Strong; Agnes Peters, as Ray Foster; Doris Peters, as Jerry; and Elsie McGinley in a male part as the cook. The play was staged under the direction of Miss K. McTear.

Edwin Couits and Reg Boyd presented an act of comic chatter, and Fred Scott sang "Love's Garden of Roses," accompanied by Clifford Curcio. Clifford Curcio also accompanied himself in song and was given several encores. Messrs. Curcio and Scott are well known here and the singing of "Dream of Delight," Miss A. Grant, accompanied by Miss Elsie F. Higgins, also gave much appreciated numbers.

Miss Lenore Mercer, in one of the star numbers of the program, was given a chance to show her exceptional ability in dancing, giving the solo dances, a Scotch dance and the butterfly. Melbourn, Turner, one of London's young magicians, tolerated his audience with several clever sleight-of-hand tricks, which were greeted with surprise, wonder and laughter. His assistant was Everett Case, William Mercer and A. R. White gave banjo selections, and Mr. Smith, a singer at Westminster, sang a couple of numbers.

Beverly and Everett MacLaren, accompanied by Mrs. MacLaren, contributed several selections of song in a variety of styles. The vocalists included R. Turner, violin; E. Higgins, pianist; J. Page and William Mercer, banjos; A. McComb, saxophone and J. Maxwell, drums. Scoutmaster Rev. G. O. Lightburn, in a short address, thanked the performers for their splendid assistance in putting on the program. Following the concert, refreshments were served and dancing enjoyed.

'HIGHBROW' TENDENCIES GROW STRONGER HERE

Taste in Magazines Better, Revealing Added Desire for Knowledge.

London is apparently taking a little more interest in the "highbrow" side of life, political and otherwise. According to local stores in which magazines are sold, there is now a much stronger demand for the so-called "highbrow" publications than formerly. Those magazines which deal with literary subjects, with more or less radical criticism, with geographical, exploration and historical investigations are being asked for more today than they were a few years ago.

"Of course, the wild and woolly magazines with the vividly colored covers and the still the best sellers," said a news agent today, "but the other kind of magazines are more popular than they were. At least, we sell more of them than we used to. Another interesting fact is that on Saturdays the weekly edition of papers with a good magazine section and a good book section are in demand now."

BIG PADLOCK BARS 'Y' TANK TO SWIMMERS, FILTER FAILS

There is a stout padlock on the door leading to the Y. M. C. A. tank. The swimmers don't swim any more. They slip and slide across the shower floor mount the steps leading to the great indoor lake. At the head of the stairs they are stopped by a giant padlock. None may enter. They face the grinning padlock. They rattle the chain and shake their heads and then take a shower.

George Sinclair, physical director, is out of town today, and so it is not known when the filter will go back to work. In the meantime, all the slushing that is being done is staged in the shower room.

CARDINAL GASPARRI IS NOT ILL WITH INFLUENZA

Associated Press Despatch.
Rome, Feb. 25.—Reports that Cardinal Gasparri was ill from a slight attack of influenza led to inquiries at the Vatican, which elicited the information that the cardinal was not suffering from influenza, but simply from a cold, which did not prevent him from being up and about, receiving visitors and attending to the usual business of his office. This morning he had a long interview with Pope Pius on current matters.

NOTED PRISON REFORMER TO ADDRESS KIWANIAN

Tomorrow, at its weekly luncheon, the London Kiwanis club will have the opportunity of listening to B. Ogden Chisolm, international prison commissioner for the United States. Mr. Chisolm is an authority on prison reform and administration and is the author of several articles dealing with this subject. He has travelled through Europe and North America investigating conditions in prisons and penitentiaries, and is well known as a student of the prison system as it exists in this continent.

JUDGE JUDD BACK

His Honor Judge J. C. Judd, who has been ill and away from his office for more than a month, returned to duty this morning. The judge was looking very well, and pleased to be back in his office again.



FIRST SOD TURNED FOR NEW ST. THOMAS SCHOOL.

Trustee Albert Conley, representative on the board of education and dean of the board, turned the first sod for the new composite high school at St. Thomas yesterday afternoon. Many witnessed the ceremony. Those in the picture from left to right are: Ald. Raven, Architect R. R. Franklin, Trustee Walter, Water Commissioner Roberts, Chairman Farrell of the separate school board, James Ryckman of the vocational committee, Chairman A. W. Baines of the board of education, Dr. Lunley, president of the Collegiate Home and School club.

ECCENTRIC WITNESSES WORRY STATE COUNSEL

W. E. D. Stokes Being Tried With Others on Charge of Conspiracy.

Associated Press Despatch.
Chicago, Feb. 25.—Six witnesses, each eccentric in his way, testified for the state yesterday in the trial of W. E. D. Stokes, New York millionaire, on trial here with others for conspiracy to defame the character of Mrs. Helen Ellwood Stokes of Denver, his estranged wife.

There was a negro waiter who admitted he was intoxicated most of the time; a dressmaker who designed gowns for the girls of the notorious Everleigh club, of which Stokes is alleged to have attempted to prove his wife an inmate; an elderly jack-of-all-trades who walked about the courtroom in a fruitless endeavor to identify the defendants; a photographer who took pictures of the alleged houses of Stokes; an illiterate negro who once delivered perfumes to the inmates of the club; and a cab driver whose faulty memory gave the state's attorneys a perplexing half-hour.

Mystery yesterday shrouded the movements of W. E. D. (Weddie) Stokes, Jun. son of the millionaire hotel owner. The younger Stokes arrived here unexpectedly from New York Tuesday, but made no appearance in the courtroom yesterday and his whereabouts remain a secret.

Charles E. Rathbun, counsel for the defence, had announced in his opening statement that in this trial the allegation of intimacy between the younger Stokes and his stepmother would be proved. The allegation was made in the elder Stokes' suit for divorce, but was withdrawn.

LOFTIER TITLES SEEN IN COLONIAL OFFICE

Growth of Work Makes Reorganization a Necessity Soon.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, Feb. 25.—There is a considerable amount of reorganization proceeding in the colonial office in order that it will be better able to deal with the growing mass of work involved in discussing imperial affairs with the dominions.

A treasury committee is considering certain changes in the department which will involve increased expenditures. It is suggested that the designation, "Colonial Secretary," should be changed to "Secretary of State for Imperial Affairs" or some other suitable title; also there will be two permanent secretaries and parliamentary undersecretaries instead of one. One will devote himself exclusively to the dominions and Irish affairs, and the other to crown colonies, protectorates and mandated territories. At the same time a way might be paved for closer collaboration and the easier exchange of views in respect to foreign affairs by each dominion having a representative in London, while members of the British diplomatic service might be stationed in the dominions.

WAR WIDOWS SEEKING TO SAVE PIRIE'S LIFE

Ottawa Veteran Sentenced To Be Hanged For Murder of Family.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Feb. 25.—A deputation representing a number of war widows in Canada will wait on the minister of justice next week to ask commutation of life imprisonment of the death sentence recently passed on John E. Pirie of Ottawa, convicted of slaying his wife and two children.

LUMBERING INTERESTS SUFFER FROM SNOW LACK

Sherbrooke, Que., Feb. 25.—Lumbermen in this district are facing one of the worst seasons that they have experienced for a number of years. There is at the present time millions of feet of cut logs, both for pulpwood and lumber, lying miles back in the woods, and it has been roughly estimated that in the eastern townships alone there are about six million feet of felled timber waiting to be hauled to the mills and railways.

U. S. FLAGSHIP IN ORIENT IS RELEASED FROM BANK

Associated Press Despatch.
Manila, Feb. 25.—The United States ship Huron, flagship of the U. S. fleet in Asiatic waters, which went aground yesterday off Malampaya Sound, island of Palawan, 200 miles southeast of Manila, was floated at midnight. She was believed not to be seriously damaged.

COURT UPHOLDS APPEAL OF WEST

Decides Crow's Nest Pass Act Binding on Dominion Railway Commission.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Feb. 25.—The western provinces have won their appeal in the Crow's Nest Pass rates case. The supreme court of Canada decided this morning that the Crow's Nest Pass act was binding on the board of railway commissioners of Canada.

The court, however, holds that the Crow's Nest rates are not applicable to all points east of Fort William, now on the Canadian Pacific Company's railway. The questions submitted to the supreme court and the answers of the court thereon are as follows:

Question 1.—Whether, as a matter of law, the board of railway commissioners is empowered, under the jurisdiction conferred on it by the railway act, or otherwise, to authorize railway rates on the railway of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in excess of the maximum rates referred to in the Crow's Nest Pass act, being chapter 5, 60-61 Victoria, statutes of Canada, and the agreement between the Crow's Nest and the commodities therein mentioned.

Answer of the supreme court.—No. Question 2.—If the court shall be of the opinion that the Crow's Nest Pass act or agreement is binding upon the board of railway commissioners for Canada, then according to the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass act, section 1, clause D, and the agreement made thereunder.

Court answers "No."

A.—Are the rates therein provided applicable to traffic westward from Fort William and from all points east of Fort William now on the Canadian Pacific Company's railway?

Answer of the court.—No. A.—Are such rates confined to westbound traffic originating at Fort William and at such points east of Fort William as are at the date of the passing of the act, and for the making of the agreement on the company's line of railway?

Answer of the court.—Yes. B.—Are such rates applicable to traffic originating at points east of Fort William, which were at the date of the making of the act and for the making of the agreement on any line of railway owned or leased by or operated on account of the Canadian Pacific Railway?

Answer of the court.—In order that the traffic provided for by clause D should fall under that clause, it must originate at Fort William or some point east thereof, and the date of the agreement was "on the company's railway."

GIN FORCED ON WAITER TO REFRESH MEMORY

Method Exposed in Stokes Defamation Conspiracy Trial

Associated Press Despatch.
Chicago, Feb. 25.—Testimony that agents of W. E. D. Stokes, New York millionaire, had repeatedly plied him with gin and moonshine whiskey while urging him to refresh his memory, was given today by Frank Hubert, negro waiter, in the trial of Stokes and others on charges of conspiracy to defame Mrs. Helen Ellwood Stokes. Hubert, who is a defendant, was granted a separate trial.

He identified as signed by him, but later repudiated, affidavits alleging that "Mrs. Stokes associated in the early morning hours with a negro at the Beaux Arts club; that Mrs. Stokes called the negro, Wallace Tyler, by telephone from New York, and that she gave him silk shirts and at one time \$200."

SEA FORTH EX-MAYOR IS DEAD IN TORONTO

D. D. Wilson, 85, Elder For 40 Years in Presbyterian Church.

Special to The Advertiser.
Seaforth, Feb. 25.—D. D. Wilson, a prominent Western Ontario businessman, died on Monday at the home of his son, D. D. Wilson, Toronto, following a short illness.

The late Mr. Wilson was 85 years of age, and for over 40 years was an elder in the Seaforth Presbyterian church, and a teacher in the Sunday school. He had held several civic positions here, including those of mayor and reeve. He was a life member of the Seaforth branch of the Order of the Sons of the Seaforth, and D. D. Wilson at Toronto, and three daughters, Mrs. C. R. Anderson and Mrs. A. R. Thompson, both in Toronto.

SCHOOL BIBLE READING STILL A MOOT QUESTION

Saskatoon, Sask., Feb. 25.—Saskatoon school trustees at their convention yesterday waged a long discussion on a resolution calling for the reading of the Bible at the opening each day of the schools in the province. The question was finally left over until today.

MEN'S SOCIETY GETS UNDER WAY

Fifty Members of First Presbyterian Church Form New Club.

About fifty men at a meeting last night organized the first men's association of the First Presbyterian church. Their constitution was drawn up, and the purpose of the association is to bind the men of the church together in an association of brotherhood and service, under the development of a friendly spirit, amongst the men of the church, to search out and introduce strangers. They are to render any service, which, as an association, they may be called upon to give to the church, and they are to specialize in the spread of missionary information and the missionary spirit amongst the men of the church.

Supper meetings will be held once a month on the last Wednesday, and men of the church, both members and the membership is open to all the adherents, and the members will pledge their attendance. Last night's meeting was under the chairmanship of Archie MacPherson, and a nominating committee was appointed, to take charge of the next meeting, when they are requested to bring in a slate of officers. The committee included Sheriff Graham, Lorne Hamilton, J. W. Peart, and Dr. William Beattie.

The finances of the club were started by one of the members, who tendered a check for \$100 to the association. The association is also to be divided into companies of ten members each, with captains for the purpose of healthy rivalry, attendance and conduct at the meetings. Plans are also being discussed for inter-company debates, and two subjects already submitted are "Resolved That the Christianization of the Colored Races Is a Greater Safeguard Against the Colored Peril Than Naval and Military Preparation" and "Resolved That the Christianization of the Colored Races Is a Greater Safeguard Against the Colored Peril Than Naval and Military Preparation." The supper last night was served by some of the ladies of the Women's association.

ARENA EXIT CHARGE DENIED BY PRODGER

Manager Declares Doors Are Plenty, Blames Adults for Rowdiness.

There is no need to open emergency exits to permit a crowd of ordinary proportions to leave the arena, is the statement of "Goldie" Prodder, manager of the London arena, made following the crowding at the playgrounds skating meet Tuesday night. When the events came to a close there was considerable pushing toward the doors. Complaints came to The Advertiser that more doors should have been open to let the crowd get to the street.

"Goldie" Prodder said yesterday that it is quite unnecessary to open fire exits to let a crowd of average proportions leave the building. The arena empties quickly if the people move forward to the exits in an orderly manner. He in turn had a complaint from a crowd of people who were pushing toward the exits. One door was broken. Arrests will probably follow such demonstrations in future.

PAPER PILED NEAR STOVE CAUSES FIRE THIS MORNING

Paper piled too near a gas stove in a house at 219 Clarence street caught fire early this morning, but the flames were extinguished without any trouble by the fire department.

SPEAKING CLASS MEETS

The public speaking class of the Y. M. C. A. met last night, under the direction of Mr. S. Nethercott. The following boys spoke: Lincoln Orchard on "Otto von Bismarck"; Willard Gray on "Prohibition"; Russell on "The Challenge of the East"; Al Johnston on "Hydro Development." Next week to the public speaking class will discuss "Public Ownership."

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