

SOUTH LONDON VICTIM OF GAS

MRS. HUGHSON JOHNSTON ASPHYXIATED IN SLEEP

Deadly Open Jet Kills Mother, While Lads Drag Unconscious Father From Fume-Laden Death Chamber to Safety in Open Air.

KEY OF GAS JET TURNED BY ELECTRIC WIRE

Six children of Hughson Johnston, 141 Elmwood avenue, this city, were robbed of their mother early this morning, when escaping gas asphyxiated Mrs. Johnston, as she slept. Only remarkable presence of mind, of two boys, aged 13 and 15, saved the life of the father.

Through the night poisonous gas seeped from a jet which accidentally had been turned on and filling the tightly-closed bedroom, overcame the mother as she lay in bed. The father almost suffered a similar fate, but when almost unconscious, he staggered from the room, and collapsed in the hallway, upstairs.

The two boys, Wilfred and Hughson, carry a morning paper route. The strident ring of an alarm clock called them to their duties shortly after 5 o'clock. As they stepped out in the darkened hall, they stumbled over the prostrate form of their father.

Mr. Johnston was gasping for breath and one of the boys guessed the trouble almost instantly. Regardless of the deadly fumes which filled the air, he rushed into his parents' bedroom and tried to raise the heavy window. The combined efforts of the two boys could not move the window.

Not knowing from where the gas was escaping one of the lads rushed to the cellar and turned off the supply at the meter, and then the father managed to open a window on the landing of the stairway a little way.

Dragged Dad to Safety.
Mr. Johnston is by no means a light man, and the two boys are far from strong, but between them they managed to drag their father down the stairway to the front hall. They threw open the door and the rush of fresh air gradually brought consciousness to the man.

As the father showed signs of recovering the thought of the Wilfred and Hughson turned to the mother, who had been completely forgotten in the excitement of the discovery.

The mother showed no sign of life when the two boys lifted her from the bed. She proved a lighter burden than the father, and they carried her also into the stream of cold air in the hall below. But their efforts of resuscitation proved of no avail.

THREE ARE KILLED AS GERMANS SEND TRAIN INTO WRECK

French Blame Sabotage For Tragedy in the Ruhr Valley.

MINERS ON STRIKE

15,000 Men Ask For Higher Wages, Is the Latest Report.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Essen, Feb. 19.—Fighting between French soldiers and German police-men in different parts of the Ruhr was reported today, and the situation seemed to be drifting toward guerrilla war. A German policeman shot and wounded a French soldier at Gelsenkirchen, the latter returning the fire wounding the policeman.

Feeling throughout the occupied areas became extremely bitter, the French coming a few hours after a French officer was found dead, believed slain by German police-men here. Several other clashes between police and troops were reported.

Wire Turned Jet.
Their father could remember nothing of what happened until he recovered consciousness. It is his opinion, however, that the key of the electric wire which ran from the chandelier in the centre of the room to the head of the bed is so long we wound it about the gas jet to keep it out of the way," he said.

"In some manner, when I turned the switch the wires must have moved and the electric wire which ran from the chandelier in the centre of the room to the head of the bed is so long we wound it about the gas jet to keep it out of the way," he said.

"I found myself before the open door," Mrs. Johnston, who was 38 years of age, is survived by her husband, and the following children: Lillian, aged 12, Wilfred 15, Hughson 13, Victor 12, William 10 and Florence 8. She was born in Port Hope and her maiden name was Florence Harper.

The family moved to this city from Windsor in June last. Mr. Johnston is employed at London Motors.

Coroner J. Ferguson was called, and after an investigation decided that the death was accidental. He was quite satisfied that the cord had interfered with the key of the jet.

Ferguson is uncertain whether the door leading to the bedroom was closed or not during the night. He managed to get the door open, and the door was found to be very strong indeed to have caused death, he said.

With his head outside the doorway saved his life, the doctor thinks. Lillian, the eldest girl of the family, heard gasping some time during the night, but thinking that one of the other children was making a noise in their sleep, she did not investigate. The fact that this noise was so audible led the doctor to believe that the bedroom door had been left open.

The family were members of the Baptist Church. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.



SCENE OF TODAY'S GAS TRAGEDY.
141 Elmwood avenue, where Mrs. Hughson Johnston met death by asphyxiation and husband was saved from a similar fate by bravery of two lads.

FIND TEACHERS' INCREASES NOT INCLUDED IN MINUTES

Proposed Salary Changes Not Revealed at Regular Meeting of Board of Education Held on January 18—Other Raises Presented.

Despite all reports to the contrary the proposed salary increases for teachers were not included in the minutes of the salary committee revealed at the regular board meeting Jan. 18.

The first report of the salary committee held Feb. 14, presented before the board of education, Feb. 15, follows verbatim. "It speaks for itself. 'The salary committee met in the committee room on Feb. 14.

"Present—Trustees Edwin Smith, Thos. Rowe, A. N. Udy, B. N. Campbell, W. A. Casselman, Mrs. J. I. A. Hunt.

"Your committee reports that Trustee Smith was elected chairman for the year, and recommended: 'That the salaries of the officers of the board of education for the year 1923 be as follows:

W. H. T. Moorey, principal \$4,000
H. B. Beal, principal \$3,500
V. K. Greer, senior inspector \$4,200
G. A. Wheable, inspector \$3,100

EAST END INDUSTRIES TO FIGHT SCHOOL TAX

Any Attempt at Collection Will Be Opposed by Court Processes.

There is every reason to believe according to City Clerk Baker, that judgment in the courts will be sought when the city attempts to collect additional school taxes from industries located in the annexed districts of East London.

Following a conference this morning with the city solicitor, T. G. Meredith, the city clerk explained that he would ask at tonight's session of the city council if the city men will state in a clearer form just what procedure they desire.

"There is no doubt," he stated, "but that legal action will be taken, if the city moves to collect these disputed monies. Therefore, it is my intention that the council be asked to be set forth in such a manner as will be strictly in accordance with the law, and will as far as possible safeguard the interests of the municipality."

Moved by Frank McKay, and seconded by Ald. Leonard Douglas, the council resolved at its last session that the city clerk levy these taxes in conformity with the provisions of the school act, which stipulates that none are exempt from school assessment.

When Mr. Morris took no action in the matter he subsequently received from the superintendent of work in the west, Dr. Buchanan, a night letter query, "What about coming to Edmondton to McDougall Church for a term? Important church, splendid Turn to Page 2, Column 6.

NATIVE OF FLESHERTON DIES SUDDENLY IN WEST

Special to The Advertiser.

Winnipeg, Feb. 19.—Major Fred R. Sproule, a well-known barrister of this city, died suddenly Saturday night, aged 42. He was a native of Flesherton, Ontario. During the war he served with the Canadian Army Service Corps.

Major Sproule was a nephew of Hon. Dr. T. S. Sproule, former speaker of the House of Commons. He is survived by his widow and a sister.

ALLIES MAY ASK LEAGUE TO EXPEL LITHUANIANS

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Paris, Feb. 19.—The Allies are considering asking the League of Nations to expel Lithuanian troops from territory and attacked troops of the former country. The Polish version is that the Lithuanians refused to abide by decisions of the ambassadors' council and withdrew from territory awarded to Poland.

MISSIONARY TALK INDUCES MINISTER TO ACCEPT CALL

Rev. J. T. Cosby Morris Changes Decision During Last Night's Sermon.

GOES TO EDMONTON

Askin Street Church Will Invite Dr. McTavish of Western Church.

How the fervent message from a missionary from China stirred him almost beyond comprehension, and changed his entire outlook upon the future, thereby prompting his immediate resignation from the Askin Street Methodist Church is the story told to The Advertiser today by Rev. J. T. Cosby Morris.

Now completing his fifth year as the popular pastor of that church, Mr. Morris announced to his quarterly board after the evening service Sunday night, that he intended to accept the invitation which has come to him to occupy the pulpit of the Askin Street Methodist Church, Edmonton. This step was taken notwithstanding the fact that early in the service, he had brought rejoicing to the hearts of his people by intimating he had decided to stay.

Decided During Service.
Between the first announcement and a request to the quarterly board to remain after the benediction, which came to Mr. Morris, which he felt was a matter of the new change, in a new country, than prevail in the West.

Mr. Morris, who is going to Edmonton, is the choice of Askin Street Church. The address of a member of his congregation, Mr. Newton, for several years a missionary in China, and was engaged in teaching in London, in bringing about a change of mind.

Simply and impressively the speaker told the story of his missionary life in China who lost to his missionary service, giving gladly all that they might advance the Kingdom of Christ on earth. In conclusion, he urged the imperative duty of answering the call to service, though it might involve taking up heavy, new responsibilities.

Sought Guidance.
Asked today by The Advertiser with regard to his final decision, Mr. Morris said: "I had been earnestly seeking guidance. Many people in London South have been kind enough to ask me to remain. I could not imagine more ideal conditions in which to work. I have a membership of almost 1,200, splendidly organized in all departments. There must be more work for me to do here. In addition to this, my personal ties are all in the east. These reasons, it seemed, why I should remain."

"I had told the Edmondton congregation I would leave Saturday, but I did not do so, as I had not then been able to decide entirely on my own satisfaction. On Sunday afternoon, indeed, I had not fully made up my mind, but by the evening felt a statement was due the Askin Street congregation."

Listening to Mr. Newton, and during the service, the conviction grew on me that I must accept the new responsibility, that possibly I was enjoying my stick of candy too much. I believe I have done the right thing."

Many Invitations.
Mr. Morris, who has received many tempting offers since coming to Askin Street Church from Hamilton four years ago last June, on Dec. 26 received a wire from the recorders of the Askin Street Church, named by the way, after the pioneer Methodist missionary of the west and one of the most influential Methodist churches there.

"The pulp supply committee of McDougall Church desire to recommend you now to the board for the next year. Are you free to accept? Is an exchange possible?"

(Signed) "W. W. Gould," "Recording Steward."

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R. W. CHAPPELLE.

When the next provincial campaign opens it will find the Liberals of East Middlesex ready, if passing events are any indication.

No time will be lost. The Advertiser has been informed, and keen interest is already displayed throughout the riding at the prospects of an early tussle with the U. F. O. forces.

As a matter of fact, different names have been considered by the organizers as possibilities for a suitable standard-bearer, and the name of R. W. Chapple has been suggested, meeting with considerable favor.

Representative Liberals of that portion of the riding adjoining the city are urging Mr. Chapple to allow his name to go before the convention.

SUBJECT BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTH TRIAL

Test in Form of Joint Amendment in Reply to Throne Speech.

MEMBERS RALLY

Presented by the Labor Party, Asquithian and Lloyd George Liberals.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, Feb. 19.—The government today faces its first important trial of strength of the new session against the united opposition parties in the House of Commons. The test is in the form of a joint amendment to the throne speech, which will be presented by the Labor Party, Asquithian and Lloyd George Liberals.

The amendment declares "that in view of the recent indication of willingness on the part of the government of the United States to participate in a conference to this end, the British representative on the council of the league of nations should be instructed to urge that an invitation be extended to the United States government to appoint experts to serve upon this commission."

The amendment is to be presented energetically by opposition speakers, and has the support of the labor party as well as the Asquithian and Lloyd George Liberals. The government has no reason to fear defeat on the question, but it has given evidence that it recognizes the importance of its position by issuing a strong reminder to its followers that an amendment to the address is equivalent to a vote of censure, and that all must be in their places.

The question of the British attitude toward the French request for use of the railway lines in the Cologne area is intimately connected with the question of amendments.

Popular feeling here with reference to allowing France to use the British Rhine zone is not unambiguous, and a very strong section opposes such a step. There is also an emphatic protest against the suggestion that the German railwaymen be sent to take their places.

The general belief here is that whatever the final arrangement, it will involve a compromise which will cause disappointment and dissatisfaction to one or more of the interests concerned.

ASYLUM INMATES CURIOUSLY CALM WHEN FIRE RAGES

Twenty-Two Patients and Three Attendants Die in New York Holocaust.

BODIES CREMATED

Official Warns That More Disastrous Fire May Break Out Any Moment.

Associated Press Despatch.

New York, Feb. 19.—The ring of picks and shovels resounded early today on Ward's Island.

That little jutting rock in the swirling waters of Hell Gate was slowly digging itself out of the tragedy that descended yesterday on its crazed inhabitants when fire swept the ward of the Manhattan State Hospital for the Insane, killing 22 patients and three male attendants.

Nineteen bodies had been recovered before dusk and moved to the city morgue, but six more remained in ice-covered ruins. These, it was feared, had been cremated, and Superintendent Marcus E. Heyman expressed doubt whether more than charred bones ever would be recovered.

While the excavators were at their task, eight separate investigators prepared to study the blaze, which was believed to have been started by a terrific blast in Hell Gate, which broke the insulation on electric wiring, causing a short circuit. It was a weary staff that arose this morning after heroic work which saved the lives of 800 patients trapped in the wing of the great building that burned.

No Bedlam of Cries.
A curious hush pervaded the island during the night. The bedlam of cries and ravings, which ordinarily told of the madmen, were entirely lacking. Only one of the 1,600 patients who remained in the giant building, clipped off one wing by fire, was in a sane state of mind. As a straight jacket is termed on the island, which the insane attend mostly sanely.

The one unit of the 75 on the island was a unit of the James H. Hill, the attendant in charge of the most violently insane men of homicidal tendency, who might at any moment have leaped at their rescuers. But they did not. Not a single attack upon an attendant was reported.

"How do I explain it?" said Dr. Heyman, who was a saintly figure, feeling that something very unusual was happening and that it would be well for them to do as they were told. The insane sought calm after the day of sorrow, a day on which the insane attend mostly sanely.

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But One Resisted.
"Personally I encountered only one instance of resistance. I came upon a big, strapping fellow wandering about the grounds in night clothes. He threw off a hand I laid on his shoulder."

"Take your hands off me. You have filled me full of electricity already," he snarled. I called him along until a burly guard came and hustled him out."

A scene of today's first investigation. Summoned there were the three attendants whose effective work was chiefly responsible for the rescue of the 800 patients. The attendant in charge of the ward, Michael Campbell and John Curry.

An investigation, concluded last night by city detectives, resulted in a report that the fire in all probability had been caused by a short circuit resulting from the breaking of insulation. Detectives thought the breaks were caused by the Hell Gate blasting.

A funeral barge moved down the East River shortly before midnight, carrying to Bellevue morgue the bodies already recovered. In only five cases was identification possible. Several war veterans perished in the flames.

THE WEATHER

FORECASTS.
Today—Southwest winds; fair and somewhat milder.
Tuesday—Light local snowfalls; colder again by night.

A shallow area of low pressure which passed across the Western Provinces yesterday is now approaching the Great Lakes.

The weather is fair and moderately cold throughout the Dominion.

Temperatures.
The highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	44	36	Clear
Calgary	34	26	Clear
Winnipeg	12	6	Snow
Port Arthur	16	2	Cloudy
Sault Ste. Marie	14	4	Cloudy
Toronto	21	12	Cloudy
Kingston	14	4	Snow
Ottawa	14	2	Fair
Montreal	8	2	Fair
Quebec	2	0	Cloudy
Father Point	6	2	Cloudy
St. John	12	6	Cloudy
Halifax	22	4	Clear

Minus (—) means below zero.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
The highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. last night were: Highest, 20; lowest, 1 below.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 16; lowest, 5.

Barometric Readings.
Sunday—8 p.m., 29.41.
Today—8 a.m., 29.31.

VETERAN ASSESSORS TO BE SUPERANNUATED

Council To Discuss Allowances to Messrs. Grant and O'Sullivan.

"Two years or one?"
That is the question to be answered by the city councilors tonight when they consider superannuation allowances for Stephen Grant and Martin O'Sullivan, retiring assessment commissioner and senior assessor, respectively.

The former was in the city's employ in various capacities for more than 50 years, while the latter completed 23 years in the assessment department.

Both are being superannuated in accordance with Mayor Weniger's appeal for a reorganization of that office, and one intricate puzzle has yet to be solved—what shall we give them?

The mayor urges a grant in both instances of one year's salary. Opposition to this has been registered in both committees, Ald. Judd and Wilson submitting that the retiring commissioner should have at least two years' salary, in view of the fact that his length of service doubles the senior assessors'. A decision must be forthcoming tonight.

There is no doubt but that the councilors will give unanimous approval of the suggested appointment of Harry Bennett as the new assessment commissioner, and Sam Glass as his assistant and income tax chief.

WINNIPEG IS ALARMED BY SLEEPING SICKNESS

Many Prominent in Public Life of City Victims to Disease.

Special to The Advertiser.

Winnipeg, Feb. 18.—Sleeping sickness is spreading at an alarming rate in Winnipeg, despite all medical science can do. Last week 21 new cases were reported, and five deaths occurred, and it is feared this week will show a more alarming report.

All attacked are prominent in public life, many being professional men. No poor people are victims. There are over 100 cases here now.

THOMAS A. FORMAN DIES

Canadian Press Despatch.

Woodstock, Feb. 19.—Thomas A. Forman, for years a prominent merchant here, died last night following a stroke. Deceased conducted a drygoods business, and was a member of the city council for some years. He was born in Port Perry about 65 years ago, a son of the late Col. Forman of that town.

LABOR LEADER IS SHOT IN GUN BATTLE IN CAFE

Tragedy Follows Quarrel Between Two Men in Chicago.

Special to The Advertiser.
Chicago, Ill., Feb. 19.—Steve Keller, prominent Chicago labor leader, was shot to death by Daniel McCarthy, another labor leader, in a spectacular gun battle in a crowded cafe here early today.

Mr. McCarthy, 60, an innkeeper, was shot in the chest by Keller, 45, an innkeeper, who was shot in the head and taken to headquarters, where he is alleged to have confessed.

The shooting was the result of a dispute in the ranks of the Chicago building trade council, police believe. Keller was the twenty-fourth victim of labor feuds in Chicago during the last ten years, police records show.

RETURNED "TRAITOR" DEMANDS NEW TRIAL

Paris, Feb. 19.—Ernest Judet, who fled the country after being sentenced to life imprisonment for treason in war time, has returned to France and demanded a new trial.

He demanded that former Premier Briand and Clemenceau and Premier Poincare, as well as 100 other witnesses, be summoned to testify at the treason hearing.

It is alleged that Judet was a member of a defeatist conspiracy during the world war. Precautions were taken to prevent demonstrations over his bold return.

Always Wanted to be Hero, Maniac Has Chance In Fire

"John Doe" Ushers Terrified Patients to Safety When New York Asylum Burns.

Associated Press Despatch.
New York, Feb. 19.—A maniac, whom the doctors prefer should be known simply as John Doe, was an outstanding hero of the fire which yesterday killed 25 at the Hospital for Insane on Ward's Island. John Doe had always wanted a heroic role. Twice opportunity had presented itself, but he had weakened. That was when he was sane.

His third chance came after his mind had snapped. This time he made good—but last night, sleeping under guard he did not know it. It seemed as if that huge frame must house the heart of a lion.

Jack Frost Helps City's Unemployed

Ice on Streets This Winter Is Thickest For Years.

In one respect, at any rate, the present winter is likely to make a local record. According to the opinion of the foreman of one of the street cleaning gangs on duty on Richmond street today there is more ice to be removed than for many years. "It's a winner, all right," he said, referring to the quantity of ice to be removed before the streets can be coaxed into their normal summery condition.

The street cleaning is now going on in practically all the business streets, and is proving a decided boon to the unemployed. The gang out today was made up of 27 men. The personnel of the workers is being changed twice weekly, so as to distribute the money among the city's unemployed as far as possible.

The severe weather has probably been cursed by citizens, but it has proven a real boon to the men who were not for the snow and ice to be removed would be hard put to it to find employment for even part of their time," the foreman continued.

There is no difficulty in obtaining all the men required; in fact, the employment offices have a list of applicants who are ready the minute there is any work to do. Most of the men so employed are returned soldiers.

SIXTEEN PERSONS DIE WHEN TRAINS COLLIDE

Special to The Advertiser.

Rheims, Feb. 19.—Sixteen persons were killed and 38 injured in a collision of the Paris-Nancy express with a freight train here last night.

DEPUTY MAGISTRATE IS NOW RECOVERING

P. H. Bartlett, Suffering From Serious Illness, Is Reported Improving Rapidly.

P. H. Bartlett, deputy police magistrate of this city for several years past, is recovering from an attack of heart trouble at St. Joseph's Hospital. His condition on Saturday last was thought to be serious, but he took a turn for the better yesterday, and is now improving greatly, and an early recovery is expected.

He suffered a mild illness about three weeks ago, and after apparently recovering from this was stricken with heart trouble. He was moved to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was attended by Drs. Hale and Williams.

Mr. Bartlett is one of the city's most prominent barristers, and for the last two or three years has been associated with T. H. Scandrett in his private practice and has relieved Magistrate Graydon on the bench in police court whenever the latter was absent.

PROHIBITION AGENT IS SHOT, THINK SLAYER BOOTLEGGER

Associated Press Despatch.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 19. Carl Metta, 34, until recently a government prohibition agent and who, in his three years of federal service had made himself thoroughly feared by local illicit whiskey runners, was summoned to the door of his home at midnight this morning and shot to death apparently by a bootlegger enemy, police believe. The assassin fired three shots, two through the head and one into the lung.

FACES CHARGE OF SLAYING MAN, WIFE AND DAUGHTER

Canadian Press Despatch.

Dumas, Sask., Feb. 19.—Victor Mason was arrested by provincial police yesterday and will be given his preliminary hearing on Tuesday on the charge of murdering Jean Chauvelon, his wife and step-daughter, Miss Schmidt, whose charred remains were found in their partly-burned farm home near Kennedy, Sask., on Friday last.