

Costly Conflagration at Railway City Big Store Gutted

Destructive and Spectacular Fire in the Heart of St. Thomas This Morning Did One Hundred Thousand Dollars Damage to Baldwin-Robinson Company—Firemen Made Gallant Fight Against Heavy Odds—Adjoining Stores Were in Great Peril.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

St. Thomas, Feb. 6.—One of the most destructive and most spectacular fires seen in St. Thomas for some years, broke out at 9 o'clock this morning on the premises of the Baldwin-Robinson Company, Limited, originating in the furnace room. The building is in the heart of the town, and the street railway system was completely tied up.

The Hepinstall Jewelry Company, next door, moved their stock out, and the Merchants Bank got ready to vacate. Assistance was wired for to London, but later the request was cancelled.

A TOTAL LOSS.

The whole interior of Baldwin-Robinson's was soon a mass of flames, accompanied by a thick smoke. The firm carried a large stock of pianos and musical instruments, and the building and contents will be a total loss. The fire was under control at noon.

BIG STORE IN FLAMES.

With the big three-story furniture store a mass of flames, there was grave danger of the fire spreading into adjoining stores.

WATER PRESSURE INADEQUATE.

The water pressure, while good at the pumping station, was entirely inadequate to handle the fire. The firemen fought against terrific odds, and merchants all along the street protected their stores from the intense heat by covering the fronts with wet blankets.

GOT A GOOD START.

The blaze had spread all through the rear of the store, and was well into the stock, which is a heavy one, before it was noticed.

UNDER CONTROL.

The fire was burning itself out rapidly at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and there was no further danger of its spreading, notwithstanding the high wind. The Baldwin-Robinson Company place their loss at \$60,000, on which there is an insurance of \$30,000. The building was owned by E. A. Smith, and it is understood that there is considerable insurance on it.

JEWELRY STOCK DAMAGED.

The walls of the Hepinstall jewelry store, immediately adjoining, were damaged by the fire, and some damage was done to the stock by smoke. This loss will not be serious. One of the losers in connection with the fire is Milton Bailey, a young Yarmouth farmer, who is returning shortly from his honeymoon. All the furniture for his new house was stored in the store, and was to have been delivered today. Nothing is left of it but ashes.

The fire was first noticed by Mr. Robertson, and he at once shut all doors to stop the draught. In the basement were large quantities of excelsior, mattresses and inflammable material, and when the blaze reached this it made tremendous headway.

C. H. MERRYFIELD SHOULD RECEIVE PLACE ON BOARD

He Ran Sixth at Election and Proposal to Fill His Place as Trustee Arouses a Protest From Many Citizens.

Much discussion has been aroused over the proposal of the board of education to appoint a citizen who did not contest the office in place of Rev. J. G. Inkster, who recently resigned owing to his removal from the city.

The general opinion among citizens is that Mr. C. H. Merryfield, who was the sixth man in the running, should receive the place without question. The names of Mr. L. H. Martyn and some others have been proposed for the vacancy, and while it is agreed that either would be an acquisition to the board, Mr. Merryfield has first claim for the position.

Mr. Merryfield received a vote of 921 at the election. Mr. F. H. Greenlee, who ran fifth, secured a vote of 1,151.

From opinions expressed in different circles it would seem that the board will come in for a great deal of censure should Mr. Merryfield be denied the place which is his rightfully. "Mr. Merryfield should be given the place without question," said a citizen. "These other gentlemen would be good trustees, but they did not apparently want the place before the election, and I do not think they want it now without a contest. Mr. Merryfield is justly entitled to the place and should be accorded it without any further discussion. It is not very courteous even to discuss other candidates for the place."

TRAIN FIGHTERS WERE FINED IN POLICE COURT

Raised a Rumpus on a Special Coming From Hockey Game at St. Thomas.

Two young men, who went to Paris with the hockey special last week and caused a fight on the train, appeared in the police court this morning, and both pleaded guilty to the charges.

One of them was charged with obstructing the conductor, assaulting a fellow passenger, and also of participating in a general affray. He was represented by Mr. E. Meredith, and pleaded guilty to the first charge.

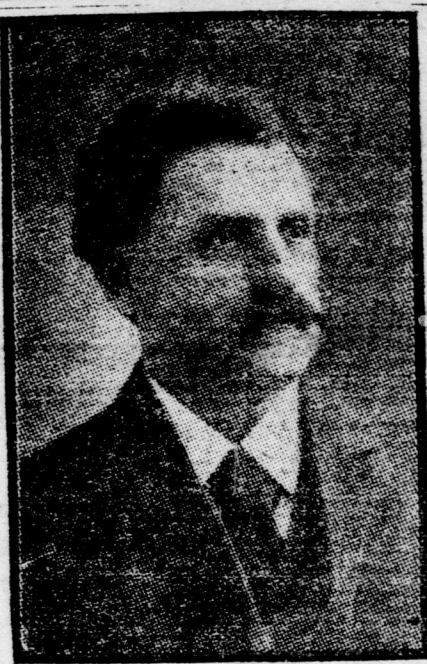
Crown Attorney McKillop, who was representing both the railway company and the crown, withdrew the other two charges. Magistrate Judd gave the young man a severe lecture and fined him \$15, which, with the costs and witness' fees, amounted to \$20.

The other man was charged with assaulting a friend, and although it was in fun, he pleaded guilty, and was fined \$5, including costs.

The complaints were lodged by G. T. R. Detective Tisdale, who stated that the company will take drastic steps to stop all rowdiness on their trains.

Another young man of this city raised a disturbance on a traction car last evening while on his way home from St. Thomas, while under the influence of liquor, and in spite of the efforts of several friends he annoyed a number of the passengers. He pleaded guilty and was promptly assessed \$7 and costs.

A drunk, who was discharged yesterday morning, but arrested later in the day on the same charge was given 21 days, as he did not have the amount necessary to pay the fine of \$20 levied by the magistrate.



MAYOR E. N. PRICE, St. Thomas Chief Magistrate, Who Asked London To Help Fight The Flames.

OTTOMANS ROUTED BY THE BULGARIANS WHO PURSUE HOTLY

Turkish Force on the Peninsula of Gallipoli Suffers Heavy Defeat.

ALLIES HEADED FOR DARDANELLES STRAITS

Financial Embarrassment for All Countries Involved May Bring Early End to Conflict.

[Canadian Press.]

Sofia, Feb. 6.—The Turkish army occupying the peninsula of Gallipoli and defending the Dardanelles suffered a defeat at the hands of the Bulgarian troops to the south of the River Kavak yesterday, according to a semi-official statement made at the Bulgarian war office.

The Ottoman troops are said to have retreated in disorder toward the town of Bulair, a small place to the northeast of the city of Gallipoli. They were pursued hotly by the Bulgarians. The statement concludes that as the result of this success of the Bulgarian troops nearly the whole coast of the Sea of Marmora as far as Bulair is now in the hands of the Balkan allies.

Headed For Straits.

London, Feb. 6.—The main object of the Bulgarian armies apart from the reduction of the fortress of Adrianople was disclosed in dispatches from Sofia today. They are endeavoring to reach the Dardanelles Straits, and to clear them for the passage of the Greek fleet into the Sea of Marmora, whence it will be able to attack Constantinople directly from the sea. From the reports of the fighting to the north of the Peninsula of Gallipoli it can be seen that one of the columns of King Ferdinand's troops is marching straight for the city of Gallipoli. It has occupied already the villages of Medeste, Charkeui, Llavak and Bulair, which are on the neck of the peninsula. It has not yet, however, come into contact with any large force of Turkish troops of which there are said to be 70,000 on the Gallipoli peninsula. These, in the opinion of military experts, should, owing to their favorable position be able to offer a strenuous resistance to the advance of the Bulgarians from the north. The guns of the Dardanelles forts also can be trained toward the land side, so that the Bulgarians have a severe task before them.

Expect Early Peace.

Even with all these preparations for battle in Gallipoli, with the bombardment of Adrianople in progress, and with the movements of troops at the Thessalonika lines before Constantinople, the diplomats of Europe are convinced that the war will not last long.

The financial embarrassment of all the combatants and the loss of enthusiasm for the war by the peoples of the countries involved lead to the belief that peace negotiations will soon be resumed.

The Turkish Government apparently is of the same mind for Rechad Pasha, who was the leader of the Turkish peace delegation, has received instructions from his government to remain in London a few days longer.

The newspaper Le Turc published in Constantinople, says this morning that a force of 40,000 Albanians is marching on the city of Uskup, which was taken from the Turks by the Serbian troops, and is now occupied by them.

DUKE WILL ATTEND.

[Canadian Press.] Montreal, Feb. 6.—The Duke of Connaught has expressed his intention of attending next Saturday's hockey game here between the Wanderers and Tecumsehs. He will be accompanied by the Princess Patricia.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—VERY COLD.

Forecast: London, Feb. 6—8 a.m. Today—Fresh to strong westerly wind; fair and decidedly cold today and on Friday.

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

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
LONDON	3	-5	Clear
Calgary	20	4	Clear
Port Arthur	-6	-20	Clear
Parry Sound	14	6	Cloudy
Toronto	18	6	Cloudy
Ottawa	12	4	Fair
Montreal	14	2	Snow
Quebec	2	-16	Cloudy
Father Point	0	-14	Clear
Minus (-) means below zero.			

Weather Notes. The barometer remains high over the western portions of the continent, and comparatively low from the Great Lakes and Middle States to the Atlantic coast. The weather is fair and decidedly cold throughout the Dominion.

EAST LONDON CHURCH WILL FIGHT THE LIQUOR EVILS

Conduct of Young Men Around Certain Places Is Said To Be Reprehensible.

At a meeting of the quarterly board of the Centennial Methodist Church on Wednesday evening the question of lessening the liquor evils in the east end of the city was introduced and thoroughly discussed. Initial steps to fight against this evil were taken, and the temperance and moral reform committee will take the matter up with the committees of other churches and the evil will be fought together.

It was pointed out that intoxicated young men were frequently seen on the streets who would speak in an insulting manner and accost ladies on the street. Loafers and frequenters around the hotels, especially on a Saturday evening were very numerous. Co-operative steps among the east end churches to prevent intemperance and rowdiness on the streets will be taken immediately.

At the meeting on Wednesday evening, Rev. H. A. Graham was unanimously asked to remain as pastor for another year.

LONDON READY TO GIVE AID IN FIGHTING THE FIRE KING

Mayor of St. Thomas Asked Mayor of London for Help, and in an Hour a Special Train Was Loaded With Men and Apparatus, But Help Was Not Required.

St. Thomas, through its mayor, Mr. E. N. Price, this morning at 11 o'clock asked London for aid to assist in fighting the big fire which had broken out in the business district of the Railroad City, and threatened to wipe out many valuable buildings.

Mayor Graham received the message over long-distance, and at once promised to do all possible. He instructed Chief Aitken to take whatever men and apparatus was necessary and to proceed forthwith to St. Thomas.

The mayor then called up the Pere Marquette Railway and arranged for a special train to carry the firemen to the southern city.

Chief Aitken picked a squad of six men, and at Waterloo street he loaded up the supply wagon from the central station and several thousand feet of hose. In addition there was a Monitor nozzle and two deluge sets. All was ready before 12 o'clock.

Just as the engine was being attached to the train, Mayor Graham received word from St. Thomas that the fire was under control, and that assistance from London would not be necessary.

HELP WAS NOT REQUIRED.

His worship at once cancelled the train, and the men and apparatus were sent back to the central station.

It was found impossible to send the fire engine to the Railroad City owing to the fact that during a test at the corner of York and Wellington streets yesterday morning, a connecting pipe was burst, and as a consequence the engine is out of commission today.

The men who were picked to go to St. Thomas were Capt. "Dan" McDonald and Firemen Bryan, Kerrigan, Bolton, Rose and Eddyvane.

All were anxious for the trip, despite the abnormally cold weather, and they expressed keen regret when the train was cancelled, although they were glad to know that St. Thomas would suffer no further by fire.

A NEW APARTMENT ON THE ECCLES SITE

John Hayman and Sons Will Build One in the Spring.

Mr. John Hayman & Sons will erect a fine apartment house on the Eccles property, at the corner of Queen's avenue and Wellington street, this summer. The apartment will be either four or five stories high, and is estimated to cost at least \$50,000. The new building will have its facing on Queen's avenue, and will be up-to-date and modern in every respect. Mr. Hayman also contemplates erecting a dwelling for himself, to the east of the apartment, but it will be located back a distance from the street line and will lead up to the dwelling.

Mr. Hayman states that certain prominent Methodists of London made him an offer for the property some weeks ago with the intention of erecting a hospital on it. No terms were entered into, however, and Mr. Hayman declares that if the Methodist people wish the land they will have to move and take an option within a week's time.

Speaking to a prominent member of the First Methodist Church today, The Advertiser was informed that all plans for a Methodist hospital in London are being left in abeyance for the present.

DEPORTING MURDERER

Insane Slayer of Two Montrealeers Will Be Sent to Scotland.

Montreal, Feb. 6.—John Sheppard, the murderer of Frank McKenna, a Hamilton man, and Dr. Devlin, at the Bath Hotel last summer, was taken to Portland, Me., for deportation. He will be placed in an asylum in Scotland, where arrangements have been made for his detention by his wife. Sheppard was on his way home to Scotland with his wife and family from Chicago, after being injured in the head while working in the latter city, when he ran amuck in the Bath Hotel and shot McKenna, a bartender dead, and mortally wounded Mr. Devlin.

SCARED THE DEPOSITORS. Metz, Germany, Feb. 6.—Conservation was caused here yesterday when, during an experimental mobilization of the Sixteenth German Army Corps, of which Metz is the headquarters, the commanding general stationed sentinels at the banks. Affrighted depositors hurried to the banks to draw out their money, and long lines of them gathered before the doors until the situation was explained to them, for which some time they hesitated to believe.

COSTLY BLAZE IN A MANITOBA TOWN

Fifty Thousand Dollar Damage Was Done by Conflagration at Souris.

[Canadian Press.] Souris, Man., Feb. 6.—D. A. MacKenzie & Co.'s department store here was completely gutted by fire this morning, entailing an estimated loss of fifty to sixty thousand dollars. The fire was well under way when discovered, and it was feared for a time the whole business section would go, but the firemen succeeded in restraining the flames to the one building. The loss on the stock is estimated at forty thousand dollars, with insurance of twenty-three thousand. There is some insurance on the building, which was valued at twenty thousand.

HIGHGATE TOWER LOUSE A PREY TO THE FLAMES

[Canadian Press.] St. Thomas, Feb. 6.—The tower house at Highgate, from which the safety gates of the Michigan Central and Pere Marquette Railways at that place are operated, was burned to the ground last night. The fire started from a coal stove. The fire brigade prevented the spread of the flames to adjoining properties.

DEATH OF DR. WILSON

Had Practiced in Wingham and District For Past 27 Years.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Wingham, Feb. 6.—Dr. John Wilson, V.S., who for the past 27 years has practiced in this district, died yesterday in Wingham Hospital, after an illness of only two weeks with an internal cancer. He was a native of Whitby. He was a lifelong Liberal. Besides his wife, he leaves three sons and two daughters, Clarence, Arthur and Currie, and Misses Annie and Helen. Messrs. Gavin, William, Andrew and George Wilson, all of whom reside in this district are brothers, and Miss Margaret and Mrs. Robert Stapleton, sisters. The funeral will be held on Friday afternoon, and will be conducted by Rev. Mr. Saeer, of Toronto, and Rev. G. V. Collins, of the local Baptist Church.

SUPT. DAVIDSON IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE COAL COME THROUGH AT ONCE

Head of the Grand Trunk Railway in London Is at Niagara Falls Today Endeavoring to Make Arrangements to Overcome the Embargo on Freight.

Superintendent Davidson, of the Grand Trunk, is in Buffalo today, and it was stated at the offices that he is endeavoring to make arrangements by which the shipments of coal for Western Ontario will not be held up by the embargo.

If coal shipments are delayed for any length of time many of the smaller places in this district will suffer severely. Local dealers have a good supply on hand, and already they have been approached by out-of-town dealers wanting to know if they can fill outside orders. Local coal men will not sell any coal if the embargo is to remain in force, as all that they have will be required here if the cold weather is prolonged.

Thousands of Cars.

It was stated to The Advertiser today that there are many thousands of cars of coal in the vicinity of Black Rock and that the coal companies have offered to make the cars up into trains to save the railways the trouble of shunting the separate cars. Notwithstanding it is stated the railway has absolutely refused to handle a car.

Dispatches from Toronto this afternoon state that it is an impossibility for the railways to handle the cars for some time owing to the congestion of freight there. W. H. Farrell, general superintendent of the freight service, is in Black Rock making every effort to get things moving.

Business Jumps.

Owing to the rapid increase in business the G. T. R. has not been able to secure enough engines and cars to handle all its traffic satisfactorily. Very large orders have been placed, but the equipment is not turned out fast enough to keep pace with the development. In an effort to help out the situation the Grand Trunk some time ago borrowed engines from the Pennsylvania Railway, but even with these Superintendent of Transportation David Crombie found it necessary to place the embargo on the coal until some of the other freight is cleared away.

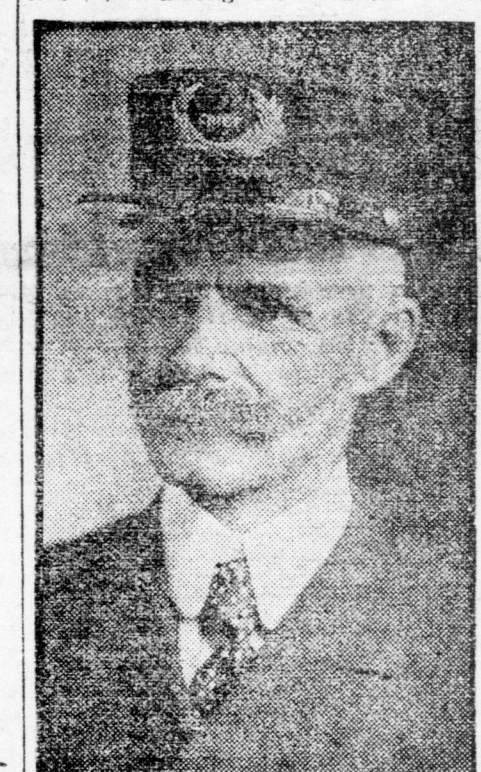
G. T. R. officials state that the company has doubted and trobled its yard accommodation at Black Rock, but still has trouble there regularly.

CENTENNIAL CHURCH CANVAS IS MEETING WITH GREAT SUCCESS

No Difficulty Being Experienced in Raising \$8,000 for Sunday School.

Rev. H. A. Graham, pastor of the Centennial Methodist Church, and convenor of the canvassing committee which was recently appointed to collect \$8,000 among the members of the

congregation toward the erection of the proposed \$20,000 Sunday school, reports that the canvassers are meeting with most encouraging results in their work, and expect to have no difficulty in raising the required \$8,000. A few disappointments have been experienced, but otherwise satisfactory returns have been made. It is estimated that three-quarters of the fund has now been subscribed for.



FIRE CHIEF AITKEN, Who With Six Men Was Ready To Go to St. Thomas To Fight The Big Fire.

ONE LICENSE TO BE CUT OFF AT EXETER

Council Gives Hotel Reduction Bylaw Its First Reading.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Exeter, Feb. 6.—The new council held a meeting last evening to receive a deputation on license reduction. Rev. G. H. McAllister, Rev. E. G. Powell and Lawyer Gladman addressed the council. After carefully weighing the matter, a bylaw limiting the licenses to two was given its first reading. This will cut off one license.

The council of Stephen Township turned down license reduction. A special meeting was called to receive a deputation. Rev. T. W. Hatchford presented the case for the temperance party. After a lengthy discussion, the proposition was not entertained.

SLIPPED UNDER WHEELS

Russian Instantly Killed While Leaving Train at Welland.

[Canadian Press.] Welland, Ont., Feb. 6.—Stach Precek, 30 years of age, was almost instantly killed last evening while alighting from a T. H. and B. train after bidding a couple of friends, who are returning to Russia, farewell. The train was beginning to pick up speed before the unfortunate man noticed it, and when he jumped he slipped under the wheels, his right arm being severed and his chest cut open. An inquest will be held.

HUSBAND MAY DIE

Too Ill With Pneumonia To Attend Wife's Funeral.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Winton, Feb. 6.—The funeral of Mrs. James Sims, of Amabel, was held from the family home yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock and interment was made at Oxenden, where Mrs. Sims, who was Miss Eliza Atkey before her marriage, was one of the earliest settlers.

Mrs. Sims is survived by her husband, who is at present critically ill with pneumonia, a son, and a married daughter, Mrs. Elliott.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. J. M. Nicol, of St. Paul's Church, of which Mrs. Sims was one of the first members.

FORMER LONDON LADY KILLED BY REVOLVER SHOT

News Received in This City of the Tragic Death of Mrs. Leslie Walton.

WAS PACKING WEAPON IN HUSBAND'S GRIP

Patient Rushed to Hospital in Verdon, New Jersey, But Died.

News of the death of Mrs. Leslie Walton, formerly Miss Bessie Butterworth, of London, was received in this city on Wednesday, by Mr. Walton's mother, Mrs. Thompson Walton, of 140 Simcoe street.

Mrs. Walton died as a result of a shooting accident at her home in Verdon, N. J., where she and her husband had been living for some time with Mrs. Walton's parents. On Monday Mrs. Walton had intended going to St. Louis, where he had secured a position. Mrs. Walton was packing his suitcase, and had removed a loaded revolver, which has been kept in the case before.

While handling the weapon, in some manner it went off, and the bullet entered her side. She was taken to the hospital and underwent an operation, but her death occurred on Tuesday afternoon.

Well-Known Former Londoners.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Walton are well known in London, as Miss Bessie Butterworth, Mrs. Walton gained considerable prominence in local musical circles. Although not a resident of this city, she studied music here and graduated from Harding Hall, following her marriage about five years ago, her parents moved to New Jersey, and soon after she and Mr. Walton moved to Bloomington, in the same state, where Mr. Walton opened a drug store.

Mr. Leslie Walton for some time kept what is now known as the Grand Opera Pharmacy, on Richmond street, next to the Grand Opera House. He has many friends in this city.

WARD TWO WON

Defeated Ward One in Euchre Game at Liberal Club.

At the regular Wednesday evening smoker and euchre party at the London Liberal Club last night, Ward Two was successful in defeating the players from Ward One. A large picture, presented by Mr. W. T. Strong, was given to the winners. The prize next week will be a suitcase, donated by the Commercial Trunk Company. The attendance last evening was very large, and an enjoyable time was spent by all.