

MAYOR'S ATTITUDE MIGHT EASILY HAVE COST LONDON DEAR

Only the Contractors' Loyalty
Kept Hospital Supplied.

PRICES HAVE MOUNTED

And Chance Was Given To
Cancel Contracts — Trust-
tees Have Suspensions.

London might have been faced with an added expenditure of from \$6,000 to \$8,000 for supplies because of the action of Mayor H. A. Stevenson in refusing to sign the checks of merchants who held contracts, according to Lieut. Col. Cartwright, chairman of the hospital trust.

The mayor has not yet signed the checks, but the city solicitor has advised that the city is liable and that the accounts must be paid. Members of the board of control will sign the checks and the contractors will be paid at once.

Might Have Been Costly. — Contractors for supplies to Victoria Hospital commenced on September 1. The hospital obtained prices which in some cases have since advanced by 200 per cent or more. In the case of coal, the hospital contractor is for the coal, but the cost contractor could have paid every ton he had for \$7.50 and more, but he continued to supply the hospital.

Legally, this contractor could have sold the hospital authorities that he would not deliver another pound of coal, because his account for December is still outstanding. Every other factor could have done the same thing, and the hospital would have been hard put to secure necessary supplies and would have had, in any case, to pay two and three times the price.

Contractors Loyal. — But the contractors were loyal to the hospital, and they have stood by the city, even though "he city has not stood by them."

Had they thrown up their contracts, eight months of the hospital year would have remained to be provided for.

It is the knowledge that the hospital's interests were placed in jeopardy, and that the overdraft came from unreasoned advances in prices that caused the hospital trustees to refuse to sign the checks, and that the mayor in the most severe language, they believe that he is harboring a petty spite against the hospital.

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NEWS

MEDICALLY UNFIT.—Today's garbage orders authorize the discharge of Pte. H. S. Morningstar of the 14th Battalion as medically unfit.

OFF THE STRENGTH.—Lieut. J. G. Mahon, because of medical deficiencies, has been struck off the strength of the Canadian expeditionary force.

JOINS THE KILTIES.—Lieut. G. F. Farwell of the 14th Overseas Battalion has been provisionally appointed to the 24th (Kilties) Battalion.

DIRECTORS MEET.—The board of directors of the Y. M. C. A. met at the Y. at noon today when routine business was discussed.

MENTORS' CLUB MEETS.—Tonight the members of the Mentors' Club met for supper at the Y. M. C. A. Rev. W. J. Knox and W. R. McIntosh will lead in the discussion on work among boys.

FIRST RECEPTION.—Mrs. Angus Eric Jackson, nee Miss Kathleen Stewart, will receive for the first time since her marriage on Thursday, March 1, at her home, 223 Queen's Avenue East, at 8 o'clock at her home.

HAS GUNSHOT WOUND.—A messenger today by George W. Stewart, 711 William street, states that Pte. Arthur Stratford was admitted to No. 3 Canadian General Hospital on February 20. He was suffering from a gunshot wound in the right arm.

WEEKLY LIBERAL LECTURE.—The weekly Liberal lecture, which is held at the Victoria Hospital, will be given tonight at 8 o'clock by Mr. J. H. Macdonald, M.P. The subject will be "The Liberal Party and the War."

PERMITS TOTAL \$37,000.—A permit was issued this morning by Building Department for the construction of a new house, 16,486, and addition to the mill in East London, costing \$37,000. The permit is for the first two months of last year the total was about \$37,000.

GARDENING LECTURE.—A free lecture on "Cottage Gardening," will be given tonight at 8 o'clock in the Public Library lecture room, by City Park Superintendent Smith. The lecture will be given in the evening, and will be of interest to all who are interested in gardening.

BRIGHT SERVICE AT MISSION.—A particularly bright and helpful service was held at the London City Mission, Richmond street, "The Sunshine," at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening. The service was held in the hall, and was very successful.

WILL RECEIVE TENDERS.—There will be a special meeting of the board of control on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock to receive tenders for a new water supply for London. No tenders have been received as yet, but it is certain that R. L. Brackin, Chairman, will submit figures for a supply.

SPECIAL SERVICES.—A season of special communion services will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, beginning this evening and concluding on Sunday when the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed. On Tuesday evening Rev. D. C. MacGregor will preach, on Wednesday, Rev. W. J. Knox, and on Thursday, Rev. D. C. MacGregor. On Friday the usual preparatory service will be conducted. Rev. James McKay of New St. James Presbyterian Church, will be in charge. Special music will be rendered at the service.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.—A full report of the work for the past year of the Lord Roberts Chapter, I. O. O. F., will be presented at the chapter session of the annual meeting to take up unfinished business on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Crony Hall. The Lord Roberts Chapter is the oldest chapter in the city, and also in the province of Ontario, and is one of the five first organized in Canada. The organization has reached its sixteenth birthday, and owing to its seniority, it is not expected that it will submit figures.

LUNCHEON FOR SOLDIERS.—The Luncheon for Soldiers, which is held in the city, is given at a luncheon in honor of the returned soldiers at the Soldiers' Club, Dundas street, on Wednesday at 12 o'clock. The luncheon is received by Mrs. T. H. Smallman, acting regent of the Soldiers' Club. Mrs. Smallman is a member of the house committee, and is also a member of the Soldiers' Club. The luncheon is given in honor of the returned soldiers, and is a very successful one.

FLAX GROWERS' CONVENTION BEGINS HERE WEDNESDAY.—The Flax Growers' Convention will open here on Wednesday morning, and already a large number of delegates have signified their intention to be present. From 11 to 12 o'clock on Wednesday morning, the delegates will register at the Tecumseh House. At 2 o'clock, Mayor Stevenson will welcome the delegates, and at 2:15 the convention will proceed to business.

William Forrester, Mitchell, will read the first paper on "The Early History of the Flax Industry in Canada." The next discussion will be that led by A. L. McCredie, B.S.A., on "Cause of the Decline, and the Future of the Flax Industry in Canada." Dr. H. E. Howe, Montreal, will speak on "The Natural Resources Survey, and Its Relation to the Flax Industry."

At 6 o'clock, a banquet will be held in the Tecumseh House. George H. Belton, president of the convention, will be toastmaster. Sir George Foster will speak on "Production and Development of the Flax Industry." J. H. Grisdale, Ottawa, W. B. Roadhouse, Toronto, S. Frank Glass, M.P., and others will speak.

The convention will continue on Thursday, and addresses will be given by James McColl, Yale, Mitchell, Kerr, Kitchener, A. Donald, Thedford, William Leach, Alvington, G. G. Bromfield, Quebec, P. J. Leach, B. S. Summers, Port Huron, and H. A. Bodwell, Andover, Mass.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL FRIDAY.—The special meeting of the city council, set for Thursday evening by the board of control, has been postponed until Friday evening, as it will be impossible to get the aldermen there on Thursday.

At this session, the motion expurgating from the city of London bill the clause to raise \$50,000 for a hydro ship will be discussed, and an effort made to reconsider it, so that a clause may be inserted in the bill to get the money.

The council will also consider the matter of raising \$100,000 for an elevator at Port Stanley. Both these questions will be discussed, and it is expected there will be debates of considerable length on them.

Travelers Object To Celebration of Canada's Birthday

Say All Energy Should Be
Directed Toward Winning
the War.

Ontario commercial travelers are emphatically opposed to any celebration of the fifth anniversary of the birthday of confederation this year. This attitude was expressed at the last regular meeting of the board of management of the Ontario Travelers' Association, when the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"In our opinion, it is unwise to hold any celebration in connection with the birthday of Canada, it being our duty to use all our energy to win the war."

It was further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Premier Borden.

Continued From Page One

LAONIA'S LOSS

company are being assisted by naval and military nurses.

CUNARD'S LIST OF MISSING. — On Feb. 27, 1 p.m.—The number of dead or missing was given by the Cunard Company in its afternoon bulletin, made up as follows:

Passengers.—Three dead, three missing. Crew.—Six missing. Six others are in hospitals.

TWO AMERICAN WOMEN DIED OF EXPOSURE. — London, Feb. 27.—United States Consul Frost, at Queenstown, has telegraphed the American embassy here that Mrs. Hoy and her daughter, died of exposure, and that their bodies were buried at sea.

Eight American negroes, members of the crew of the Laconia, died of exposure, according to a Central News dispatch from Queenstown.

Cedric Ivat, a theatrical manager, who was a passenger on the Laconia, died of exposure. Mr. Ivat was a resident of London.

Consul Frost's message reads: "Mrs. Mary Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, passengers on the Laconia, died of exposure. Their bodies were buried at sea."

Mrs. Hoy's husband, Dr. Albert H. Hoy, who is a civil war veteran, and her son, Austin Y. Hoy, reside in London. The latter called at the embassy this morning and received a copy of the message from Consul Frost. As far as the embassy knows these two were the only Americans lost on the Laconia. The embassy's list of American passenger survivors is as follows:

F. Gibbons, Chicago Tribune; Mrs. F. B. Harris, wife of Col. Harris, U. S. A.; A. T. Kirby, New York, and Rev. Jos. Wareing, Baltimore.

WESTERN CANADIANS ABOARD. — Winnipeg, Feb. 27.—Six Western Canadian passengers were aboard the Laconia, according to officials at the Winnipeg office of the Cunard Line. They are: Frank Evison, Winnipeg; Mrs. Gore-Langton and Mrs. J. Max Reid of Victoria, B. C., and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Alban Wright and their 1-year-old son of Vancouver.

Mrs. Robert Cowie and her three young children, East Kildare, were also passengers on the Laconia, having transferred to that vessel from the Dutch liner Ryndam. Mrs. Cowie's husband, Robert, was a member of the Winnipeg some time ago as chaplain to one of the overseas battalions.

AN AWFUL CRASH. — Queenstown, Feb. 27.—Among four passengers at a hospital is Dr. Hawke, a resident of San Francisco, who said he was playing a game of bridge in the ship's surgeon's room when he heard an awful crash, and guessed that the ship had been attacked by a submarine. He said that the first torpedo struck the ship's stern, and that the explosion everyone made for the life preservers. The passengers had previously been instructed in boat drill, and got into the boats without panic. Dr. Hawke said all behaved well, and that the discipline was truly good. He continued:

"The submarine returned after we had been in the boats and fired a second torpedo which put out the lights and was followed by a terrific explosion, and the ship must have sunk soon after the second torpedo, mind you, was fired, although the lights were close to the ship and the crew of the submarine could not have failed to see us, as it was moonlight. It was about 9:30 p.m. when we took to the boats and about 3 o'clock on the following morning when we were picked up."

Praise the Crew. — Dr. Hawke gave the highest praise to the bravery of the women and children, and said that the captain and crew were marvellous. It appears that two boats reached Bantry with 22 people, eight of the occupants being the eight persons who were consigned to the deep.

STRUCK TWICE. — London, Feb. 27.—A questionnaire dispatched to the Chronicle says that the Laconia was torpedoed in comparative calm weather. The ship was struck near the stern, and when she was struck a second time she started quickly and the boats were got away with considerable difficulty, but there was no panic among the passengers or crew, the smallness of the loss of life was due to the excellent discipline of the crew, and the orderliness of the passengers.

A steamer brought 267 survivors to Queenstown early on Tuesday, who were rescued from eight boats. The passengers' version of the number lost differs. Some say 26 were drowned, others say 28, and others say 30. Those known to be lost are Mrs. and Miss Hoy, Americans.

Apparently two small parties of the Laconia's survivors, apart from the main body, have been landed, 15 at Bantry and about the same number elsewhere. The steamer which rescued the bulk of those aboard the Laconia carried also the survivors of the sunk British steamer Falcon and 14 members of the crew of another lost British vessel.

Two Americans Lost. — A Queenstown dispatch to the Daily Mail says that it is certain that Mrs. Hoy and her daughter, American passengers on the Laconia, have lost their lives.

BOAT WAS SWAMPED. — New York, Feb. 27.—Two American women, Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Hoy, both of Chicago, lost their lives, according to press dispatches from Queenstown, when the Laconia was sunk on Sunday night by a German submarine. No confirmation of these reports has been received by the local office of the Cunard Line here early today.

Information from the Liverpool office of the line received here yesterday reported the casualty as yet unidentified. The American consul at Queenstown, called to the state department at Washington that one person aboard the Laconia was known to be dead, and that some were missing. The press dispatches said that Mrs. and Miss Hoy were drowned by the swamping of a boat.

News that survivors had been landed at Queenstown and Bantry led officials here to expect that details would come during the day. The Laconia, when she left New

YORK FOR LIVERPOOL, FEBRUARY 18, CARRIED 26 AMERICANS, SIX OF WHOM WERE CABIN PASSENGERS, AND TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE CREW. HER CARGO, VALUED AT \$2,000,000, WAS INCLUDED: STRUCTURAL STEEL, COTTON, PROVISIONS AND 2,000 CASES OF EMPTY BRASS RIFLE CARTRIDGES.

Mrs. Hoy and her daughter were returning to England, where they had lived for several years, after spending the Christmas holidays with friends in and near Chicago. Mrs. Hoy is the wife of Dr. Albert Hoy, who with his son, Austin, is a member of the Hoy family lived in Chicago for many years.

TO PROTECT HOSPITALS FROM BREAKS IN HYDRO

Plan Worked Out for Emergency Supply of Electricity.

General Manager E. V. Buchanan of the utilities commission has worked out a scheme to take care of a breakdown in hydro. These breaks are happening at rather bad hours.

He will attach one of the gas engines now in use for emergency power to a synchronous motor at the Horton street plant, to provide the light for the city, and to develop about 100 horsepower, which will be sufficient to take care of the connections will be made at once.

COURSE DELAYED

Some, However, Are Joining Other Units to Hide Identity.

The course of instruction for officers and N.C.O.'s has not been carried on with regular routine on account of a number of the 241st and 186th Overseas Battalions being late in getting here. As yet they have not arrived, but are expected on Wednesday morning. Already 39 members have reported, 18 have been sent from the 186th Battalion, 17 from the 241st, and 4 are expected from the 241st. A small number of men, provisionally appointed as officers, have not yet qualified from district, active militia units.

DESERTERS RETURNING

Quite a number of deserters seem to be returning to the army. Some are giving themselves up to the authorities, while others seem to try and evade the law. The inspectors are doing their best to catch them, but they are finding it difficult to do so. They are finding that the deserters are giving up their names, but they are not giving up their names, and they are not giving up their names.

CUNARD'S LOSS A 'LUSITANIA' CRIME

until Congress has had an opportunity to act on the president's request.

WILL HASTEN ACTION. — The view prevailed that the sinking of the Laconia should hasten action by Congress. The first step of the Government, it is indicated, will be to furnish American ships with guns and gunners for defensive purposes and insure them in the Government war risk bureau.

On the basis of the official reports, the sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case in principle, even though fewer lives were lost.

FEAR A FILIBUSTER. — President Wilson, it was said today, is opposed to calling an extra session of Congress unless it is absolutely necessary. Word has been conveyed to him that the Republicans may filibuster in an effort to force an extra session, but he is hopeful that this intention will not be carried out.

LACONIA INCIDENT SERIOUS. — After the receipt of word that two American women and eight American negroes had lost their lives as the result of the sinking of the Laconia, it was indicated in official quarters that no immediate action would be taken by President Wilson, but that renewed pressure would be brought to bear on Congress to grant the additional authority requested by him yesterday.

While official comment was withheld pending a full investigation, the Laconia incident was looked upon as serious.

PAVING PLANT MAY NOT BE BOUGHT THIS YEAR

City Likely to Allow Company to Complete Its Contracts.

The board of control on Friday morning will receive the report of City Engineer Brazier on the purchase of the paving plant of the Standard Paving Company. The company offers the city its plant, property, etc., for \$26,000.

The offer is considered very reasonable, as the plant is said to be up-to-date, and well located. However, the board of works, it is thought that the city will not buy a plant this year, but will wait until next year, when the company to complete its contracts here.

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

DEATH OF JOSEPH ESCAF. — Joseph Escaf, a Serbian, 87 years old, died at his residence, 269 Thames street, last night. He had been in the city for a number of years, and was survived by his wife and three sons, all of whom live here. A daughter is in the city.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday at St. Peter's Cathedral. Interment will be made in St. Peter's Cemetery.

FUNERAL OF SERGT. MORKIN. — Sergt. Gordon T. Morkin, of the C. A.D.C., who died on Saturday night, was buried at St. Peter's Cemetery. The funeral was held from his uncle's residence, 68 Zales street, and requiem high mass was sung at St. Peter's Cathedral by Father Finn. Six soldiers carried the casket to the station, and the funeral train left for the station at 10 o'clock. The funeral was held at St. Peter's Cathedral, and the body was buried in the military burial service at Forest Hill.

BURIED AT FOREST. — The funeral of Pte. Gordon Ellerker was held from the funeral parlour of Smith, Son & Clark, at the G.T.R. station, where the body was forwarded to Forest Hill. A band and an escort accompanied the funeral to the station, and the body was buried in the military burial service at Forest Hill.

FUNERAL OF MRS. DYER. — The funeral of Mrs. Mabel Dyer, wife of Luke Dyer, formerly of Tomkins, Saskatchewan, was held today from the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ems, 312 Colborne street. The body was buried in the military burial service at Forest Hill.

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DEBENTURES, NEVER ISSUED, CLAIMED AS GENUINE SURPLUSES

Controller Wants Explanation From Commission.

Controller R. W. Shaw is anxious to get some information regarding the operations of the utilities commission, and at the special council meeting on Friday evening, at which the commissioners will be present, he will ask a series of pertinent questions, as to surpluses, how arrived at, and also regarding contracts given to any person.

It has been discovered that debentures amounting to \$228,000, have been authorized, but not issued, according to information received at the city hall. Of this amount, \$118,000 was authorized in 1914, \$30,000 in 1915, and \$80,000 in 1916. These utilities commissions claims must be credited to it, and are figured as surpluses. The funds will be brought out at the meeting.

"We have nothing to hide," said Chairman Philip Pocock. "Our department is well managed, and we have the goods to show the doubters. I am not answering any questions until I know what they are. We will show a proper balance, make no mistake about that."

DEBENTURES RETURNING

Quite a number of debentures seem to be returning to the army. Some are giving themselves up to the authorities, while others seem to try and evade the law. The inspectors are doing their best to catch them, but they are finding it difficult to do so. They are finding that the debentures are giving up their names, but they are not giving up their names, and they are not giving up their names.

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