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**STRIVING TO FIND WAY OUT
OF CLOSING OF CITY STREETS****Engineer and Mayor Get Heads Together—Only Way
Appears To Be Further Elevation of Tracks.**

Mayor Judd and the city engineer are wrestling with the problem of how to get out of closing William street, and yet not run counter to the plans of the Grand Trunk in London. So far, the only way out of the difficulty appears to be to raise the rails all through the city and make the connection between the elevated tracks and those on the level at a point near Rectory street.

There are two obstacles in the way of this, however. One is that it would be necessary to raise the rails 15 feet at Adelaide street in order to secure sufficient headway under the viaduct, and this would mean that at Richmond street the elevated tracks would be 25 feet in the air, instead of 20 feet as at present contemplated. Thus, it would be almost impossible to have the depot between Richmond and Clarence streets, because of the height of the tracks, which would be above the level of a two-story building.

The other difficulty consists of the increase in the cost of such a scheme. It is estimated that it would cost not less than an extra quarter of a million to carry out the plan of elevating the tracks an additional five feet.

As the city has no money to assist in the cost of the additional work, and as the company has practically decided that it cannot spend more than \$1,250,000 in London, which amount would be eaten up by the plans which call for the closing of William street, it is feared that the tracks will not be elevated any higher than the company now proposes.

Already citizens are beginning to wait on the mayor and members of the railway committee to protest against the closing of either Burwell or William streets, and the city fathers are hoping against hope that a way out of the difficulty will be found.

The people appear to be under the impression that the company must make the improvements contemplated this year, but around the city hall some doubt on this matter is expressed. Many citizens are protesting against the building of an embankment within the city limits, and are urging the committee to fight for a steel trestle, regardless of the fact that it would cost millions to put up the elevated tracks in this manner.

One prominent citizen—the manager

of one of the largest business concerns in London—stated today that while the city should be very careful to get its rights out of the Grand Trunk, it should do nothing to embarrass the company. This gentleman pointed out that four or five years ago the G. T. R. proposed to build a new depot in Guelph, and that the city refused to make a grant to the railway of a small piece of property. The company felt somewhat slighted, and as a result Guelph is still using the same old depot. Port Arthur had a small interference with the C. P. R. at one time, and the result was that the company took all its business to Fort William, which place has gone ahead rapidly while Port Arthur has progressed slowly.

In this connection, it is said that after the plans were ordered back to Montreal by Ald. Garratt, chairman of the railway committee, the Grand Trunk appeared to be in no hurry to renew the negotiations, and the plans the depot between Richmond and Clarence streets, because of the height of the tracks, which would be above the level of a two-story building.

What will London profit by the Grand Trunk changes in London? Simply, that the big end of \$1,000,000 will be spent in London this year, that under the present plans eleven level crossings in the city will be done away with, a new depot will be built, and also a new freight house.

What the mayor asks is "Are these things worth all the company is asking for?" At present he himself is not prepared to say.

As a new union depot, as far as the C. P. R. is concerned, it appears to be out of the question. "Do you think we are going to hand over our business in London to the C. P. R.?"

Ald. Wythe is not one of those aldermen who believe that the C. P. R. did the north end an injury when it was allowed to close Wellington street north.

"I am a very large property owner in the district and I live up there," he said at the city hall, "and I cannot see that the north end is greatly inconvenienced."

However, on this matter, as on many others, there is a difference of opinion. One north ender offering to wager that nine people out of every ten in the north end are opposed to any railway company being allowed to close any street, their opinions on a matter having been derived as the result of the inconvenience they suffer from the closing of Wellington street.

In the present instance, the people of the south end are making a dead set against the closing of any streets by the Grand Trunk.

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Hunters and prospectors who have traveled through these far northern parts say there are oil indications in every direction, and in some places samples of asphalt have been discovered. Efforts to develop these oil fields would have been made long ago, but owing to their remoteness from civilization, there would be no use in developing them even should they be found to produce oil in great quantities. The new Grand Trunk Pacific, which has been authorized, will run within a fair distance of these oil districts and will thus provide the necessary transportation facilities.

The party bound for the far north in search of the diamond field believed to exist in the unexplored territory, consists of six men from Philadelphia, and is under the guidance of a quarter-master, an American, Mr. Childers, who is financing this expedition, says they will go as far north as possible by rail, and then carry their outfit over the divide on snowshoes.

NEWS TO OTTAWA**Is Settlement of Differences With U. S. at Pilgrims' Dinner.**

Ottawa, March 18.—It is news to members of the Government to learn from United States dispatches that the settlement of differences between Canada and the Republic will be announced at the Pilgrims' banquet in New York on Saturday, the 31st inst. In an authoritative quarter the report was pronounced "utter nonsense." The issues now outstanding will have to be reached, and that takes time. At present the relations between the Dominion and the country to the south are cordial, and if the latter have any proposition to make, they will be considered in a friendly spirit. That is all that can be said at present.

**LONDONER HONORABLY ACQUITTED;
NO EVIDENCE AGAINST J. W. LAUT****Is Cleared of All Complicity in Connection With the World "Scoop."**

Toronto, March 18.—The preliminary hearing of the case against the Toronto World reporter charged with stealing the university commission report and against Percy Bretz, city editor, of having received same, knowing it to be stolen, took place in the police court this morning. Wallace J. Laut, the London man, accused of being an accomplice, was discharged, there not being the slightest evidence against him.

Fisher and Bretz were both committed for trial. T. C. Robinson, the accused, made a strong plea for the dismissal of the charge against Bretz, but Col. Denison was for the jury to decide.

**\$30,000 FIRE
AT CORNWALL****Big Sash and Blind Factory Destroyed in Early Morning Blaze.**

Cornwall, March 18.—A destructive fire visited Cornwall at an early hour this morning, consuming the saw mill and sash and blind factory of L. A. Ross. By vigorous efforts the firemen confined it to the factory and adjacent lumber piles. The mill was completely destroyed; loss \$30,000; insurance \$6,000.

GERMANY IS PASSIVE**But Insists Upon International Control of Moroccan Police.**

Berlin, March 18.—The German attitude at Algiers was a passive one. She is ready to consider in a friendly spirit any proposition for the supervision of the Moroccan police, embracing the international principle but would prefer to have the conference adjourn without an agreement than give up the international idea.

ANARCHIST MOST DEAD**Passes Away at Cincinnati from Attack of Erysipelas.**

Cincinnati, March 18.—Herr Johann Most, the anarchist, died today of erysipelas.

Herr Most came to this city on Monday, on the invitation of friends, and has been the guest of Adolph Kraus, of Culter street.

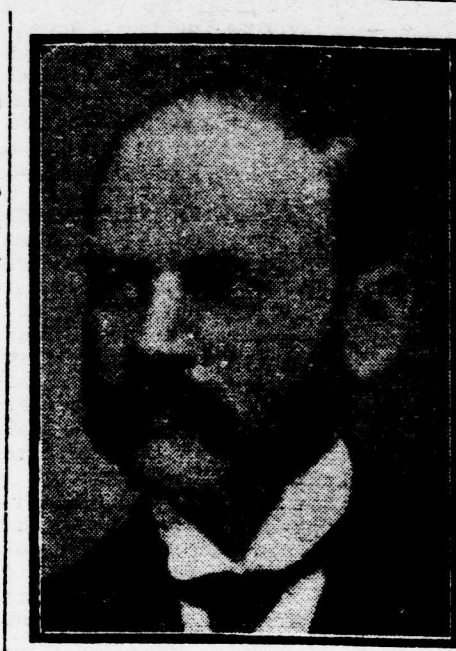
He was to have delivered a lecture in Chicago on Wednesday night, but on account of an attack of erysipelas he was obliged to cancel his engagement, although the attack was not regarded as serious.

SHIPOWNERS ANXIOUS**American Subsidy Bill Discussed in the British House.**

London, March 18.—The American ship subsidy bill is agitating British shipowners and builders, and formed the subject of a question in the House of Commons today, but Premier Campbell-Bannerman said the Government did not think any useful action could be taken at the present stage. The Government was unable to prophesy the probable effect of the measure on British shipping, but if the bill passed the consequences would, of course, be carefully considered.

STEAMERS ARRIVED.
March 17-18. Reported at. From.
Prinz Adalbert, New York, Naples
Weimar, New York, Antwerp
Rhylander, New York, Antwerp
St. Louis, Southampton, New York
Gaulard, New York, Liverpool
Carpathian, Gibraltar, New York
Princess Irene, Genoa, New York
Siberian, Halifax, New York
Rotterdam, Roulogne, New York
Columbian, Queenstown, New York
Sable, New York, Southampton
St. Paul, New York, Southampton
Labrador, New York, Liverpool
Columbia, Sable Island, Glasgow
La Gasconne, Havre, New York
Laurie, Boston, Liverpool
Laurie, Boston, Liverpool

The Pope's Health.
Rome, March 18.—The sainted college will be received by Pope Pius tomorrow, and will present its greetings to him, the occasion being the feast of St. Joseph, the name day of his holiness. The Pope is in best of health and spirits.

Photo by Frank Cooper.
THE LATE R. J. BLACKWELL.**R. J. Blackwell Is Dead;
Public Librarian 10 Years****Passes Away After a Long Illness—Prominent Oddfellow, Highly Respected.**

Citizens generally will regret to hear of the death of Mr. R. J. Blackwell, which occurred this morning at the family residence, 82 Stanley street, South London.

Mr. Blackwell's death was due to cancer. The disease first made its appearance about two years ago on the lower lip, and an operation was performed with apparent success. Last summer, however, it reappeared, and despite a second operation, the condition of the patient steadily grew worse until he was compelled to abandon his duties at the public library two months ago. Since then, Mr. Blackwell had been confined to his room, and for some weeks his death had been daily expected.

Mr. Blackwell was 51 years of age, and spent almost his entire life in London, where he was well known among all classes of citizens. For several years he was in the employ of Mr. Wm. Bryce, who conducted a book and stationery establishment here. Later he was with E. A. Taylor & Co., and from there he went with Mr. John Mills, with whom he remained for fifteen years before accepting a position as traveling salesman for Reid Bros. & Co.

When the public library was opened in 1896, the late Mr. Blackwell was appointed librarian. A better choice could not possibly have been made, for Mr. Blackwell's wide experience in the book line fitted him for the position. Since taking hold of the library he has brought it up to a state of efficiency which is a credit to himself and also to the board of management. With the patronage of the library he was very popular. His obliging disposition and close attention to business, made him hosts of warm friends, and there are none who will not be sorry to learn of his death.

Mr. Blackwell was a member of Donnington Lodge, I. O. O. F., and St. John's Lodge, No. 209, A. F. and A. M. In the Oddfellows he was particularly prominent, taking an active interest in every movement undertaken by the order. He was a member of the Encampment also, and was on the drill team which went to Chicago about twenty years ago under Captain John Brown and defeated drill corps from all parts of the continent.

The deceased married Miss Pringle, of Clarence street, who survives, together with a son and one daughter—the latter being a member of the public school teaching staff. A brother, Mr. Wm. Blackwell, in Toronto, also survive. Another brother, Mr. T. P. Blackwell, died about two years ago. Mr. Blackwell was an adherent of Knox Presbyterian Church, and the funeral services will be conducted by Rev. J. G. Stuart, the pastor.

MR. ELLIOTT APPOINTED**Order To Be Passed at Ottawa Today or Tomorrow.**

A special from Ottawa to The Advertiser says an order-in-council will be passed today or tomorrow, appointing Mr. C. H. Elliott, collector of customs for London, to succeed the late Mr. George Burns.

McKEEN MAY GET IT**Rumor He Is Slated For Nova Scotia Governorship.**

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, March 18.—The report is current this forenoon that Senator McKee is to be the new governor of Nova Scotia. It is said he is to resign his position in the senate and accept the office. There appears to be some difficulty in getting a man.

IN PERIL OF FOREST FIRE**Northwood, in the State of Washington, Is Reported Destroyed.**

Seattle, Wash., March 18.—A special to the Post-Intelligencer from Lyndon, Wash., today says: Northwood, four miles north of Lyndon, was probably destroyed by forest fires.

The Northwood lumber and shingle mill was burned, and many families are homeless. The fire is within a mile of Lyndon this morning, and grave fears are felt for that town. Hundreds are fighting the fire, and the Neill-Ham department was sent out by special train to aid the threatened city.

Death of Mrs. J. Bickerton.

Woodstock, March 18.—Death came with startling suddenness to Mrs. Bickerton, wife of W. J. Bickerton, of the firm of Bickerton Bros., one of the leading business men of this city. She underwent an operation on Friday, but apparently suffered no very serious results. Heart failure, occasioned by the shock, followed today, and her sudden death was the result. She was 55 years of age, and survived by her husband, but no family.

She was one of the most prominent members of the Central Methodist Church here. The funeral takes place Tuesday at 2:30 o'clock.

**DIFFICULT POINT
IN WATER CUT****Impossible for City to Make Up What It Will Lose by the Reduction.**

The proposed reduction of water rates is still being discussed with keen interest. A point which appears to have been overlooked, but which, perhaps, the commissioners may be able to explain, is that while all consumers will benefit to the extent of 10 per cent by the cut, it will be impossible for the city to make up what it is going to lose from all persons and places in the city.

For example, every church in the city pays water rates, but not a single church is assessed. Then, again, manufacturers enjoying a fixed assessment will secure the full reduction of 10 per cent, which in some cases will amount to quite a respectable sum, and yet, owing to the fixed assessment, the city will not be able to get at them, through the tax rate, what it loses in waterworks surplus.

Clerk Suicides.
Buffalo, N. Y., March 18.—Charles T. Lytle, warrant clerk in the city comptroller's office, shot and killed himself this morning.

**MITCHELL DESIRES
NEW CONFERENCE****Not Willing to Take Operators' Rejection as Final.****SAYS HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD****Realizes the Seriousness of a Strike But Present Conditions Cannot Continue.**

Indianapolis, Ind., March 18.—President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, has mailed to George F. Baer, chairman of the anthracite coal operators' committee, his reply to the committee's communications rejecting the demands of the miners' organization. The letter follows:

Indianapolis, March 17, 1906.
Mr. George F. Baer,
Chairman, Philadelphia.

Dear Sir:—Referring again to your communication, dated March 10, with accompanying documents and to our reply thereto, I write to say that I have submitted to our committee the answer made by your committee to the propositions presented by us.

It is unnecessary to state that we were keenly disappointed to learn that our demands were rejected in toto, and that our arguments in favor of them had received so little consideration on your hands that they were practically ignored in your reply to us.

We have again reviewed the scale presented for your consideration, have compared it with the scale of wages presented for similar classes of labor in other coal producing states and districts, and we are satisfied beyond the peradventure of a doubt that the wages proposed are not in excess of, indeed, that they are not so high as the wages paid in the bituminous mining districts of this country.

Judging from the language employed in your answer to us, it is perfectly evident that we failed to make clear, or that you failed to understand, the real import of the propositions submitted by us.

We wish to assure you that we are not unmindful of the great public interests involved in this controversy as to our future relations, neither are we unappreciative of the sympathy made by the anthracite coal strike commission to establish a relationship between us that would insure a just and permanent peace; but, if you will permit me to state that it is impossible to conclude that it must have been written by the proprietor himself or at his dictation. The proprietor of the Pall Mall Gazette is William Waldorf Astor.

LEAVEN OF DEMOCRACY**British Labor Members Refuse to Attend All Functions.**

New York, March 18.—I. N. F. cables to the Tribune as follows: Parliament continues to show signs that the leaven of democracy is working. The Labor members decline to hire coat dresses for state occasions, and persist in talking about social questions of their own without knowing the meaning of the word smartness. They are content with a shilling dinner at the Commons restaurant, and drink beer and smoke clay pipes in the kitchen. The committee is in despair over the shrinkage in the sale of wines, and the few remaining Tory squires compare notes solemnly over the number of empty houses in Westminster and Kensington and declining rents for shootings in Yorkshire and Scotland.

When we met in joint conference at 143 Liberty street, New York, on the 15th day of last February, it was agreed that when the separate committee of seven had terminated their work they should report to the committee of the whole. We understood this to mean that after we had submitted our demands and our reasons therefor and your committee had replied thereto, the joint committee would meet, confer and if possible, reach an agreement.

But it would seem from reading your reply that all our propositions have been rejected and that our decision has been given. We trust that this conception of your intention is incorrect. It is our opinion that neither you nor we can afford to break off negotiations in this abrupt manner. So far as we and the interests we represent are concerned, we are not willing to accept any share of the responsibility this action entails.

We believe that further meetings should be held and that we still strive earnestly and conscientiously to reconcile our differences. While it may be true that on the part of the operators, there has been no serious cause for complaint during the past three years, we wish to assure you that in expressing this approbation you do not reflect our views. Not only has there been criticisms among the miners but what is more important there exists much cause for criticisms and complaint.

To such an extent is this true that we feel it incumbent upon us to say that we cannot, with any degree of contentment or satisfaction continue to work under present conditions. However, we repeat that the interests involved are so vast that we are not willing to break off negotiations without first making further efforts to reconcile our differences. We, therefore, propose that a further conference or conferences be held between now and the first of April.

If this suggestion meets with your approval, we will be pleased to arrange with you a date upon which our joint committee may reconvene.

I am, yours truly,
JOHN MITCHELL,
Chairman.

Dowie Is Better.
Kingston, Jamaica, March 18.—John Alexander Dowie, of Zion City, Ill., left Port Antonio last night for Mexico, by way of Santiago de Cuba. He has almost recovered from his attack of paralysis.

**UNIONS WAR ON
THE UNDERTAKERS****Hereafter Chicago Laborites Will Be Buried in Union Caskets.**

Chicago, March 18.—The Chicago Federation of Labor has declared war on the Chicago Undertakers' Association, branding the body a "trust of the worst order." The open declaration of hostilities was made at a meeting of the central labor body.

After a lengthy discussion on the subject these conclusions were arrived at by the delegates to the meeting. No union man shall purchase a non-union casket, or assist in paying for a non-union casket for a member of his family or a friend.

No union man shall act as pallbearer at a funeral where a non-union casket is used. When the services of an undertaker are needed by a friend of a union man it is his duty as a trade unionist to tell the members of the bereaved family how to secure a union casket. An investigation of the methods of acting and prices charged by the members of the Chicago Undertakers' Association shall be made at once and ways and means of suppressing the trust found.

The subject came up at the meeting when a communication from the Woodworkers' Union was read, which contained a complaint because of the supposed discrimination of the undertakers against union-made caskets. A price list was attached showing that union caskets ranged in price from \$5 to \$40. Undertakers, according to the same information, charge anything from \$50 to \$200 for the same caskets. No reason why the undertakers discriminated against the union men was given, but it was hinted that it was because the workers had suggested a union of professional pallbearers about two years ago.

Danish Helmskipper.
Berlin, March 18.—Hanna Thiele, a young Danish helmskipper, recently obtained a diploma as a pilot at Copenhagen. She will sail her own yacht in the Kiel regatta. This will be the first time a woman skipper ever took part in these races.

**SEEKING RICHES
IN ARCTIC WILDS****Americans Send Expeditions to Northern Canada for Gems and Oils.**

Ottawa, March 18.—American capitalists are sending exploration parties to the far northern districts of Canada in search of the hidden wealth stored up in the earth on the fringe of the Arctic region. One of these parties is sent north by a strong syndicate of Americans to prospect for oil fields said to exist in the northern wilds, and another has gone in search of diamonds.

It is stated that the men who are after oil have been supplied with all the necessary material and machinery to prosecute their work in the Canadian subarctic territory. The route taken by this party will start 700 miles north of Dunraven Port, a Hudson Bay post, and it is somewhere in the undiscovered country above this point that the hopes of the explorers are centered for the realization of their plans.

Hunters and prospectors who have traveled through these far northern parts say there are oil indications in every direction, and in some places samples of asphalt have been discovered. Efforts to develop these oil fields would have been made long ago, but owing to their remoteness from civilization, there would be no use in developing them even should they be found to produce oil in great quantities. The new Grand Trunk Pacific, which has been authorized, will run within a fair distance of these oil districts and will thus provide the necessary transportation facilities.

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