

IRON HOPES TO DO CONSTRUCTIVE WORK

JOHN VINCENT IRON IN KINGSTON PENITENTIARY GIVES AN ADVERTISER MAN HIS REASONS FOR SETTING FIRES

Expects To Be Able To Rid Himself of Pyromaniac Desire in Time, But Says His Mind Is Too Fully Occupied at Present To Think About It—Plans To Do Something Constructive When Liberated.

THINKS LAW WAS RATHER HARSH IN HIS CASE

Special to The Advertiser

By a Staff Reporter.

Portsmouth Penitentiary, Kingston, June 22.—K-419 is the human question mark of the great walled city of reformation—Portsmouth Penitentiary.

Who is he? None other than John Vincent Iron, London firebug, with no less than 40 blazing large and small to his credit.

But he is no longer sullen John Iron. He is care-free, optimistic and industrious.

The Advertiser staff man met him in the visitors' cage just outside the general offices of the penitentiary.

In one of the three compartments which compose the cage, Iron stood, hat in hand, when the reporter was ushered into another compartment.

The guard stood in the third, between the prisoner and the reporter.

"Hello," Iron said in cheery greeting. "Down this way on business?"

"Yes," the reporter answered, for he had interviewed Henry Jack (Slim) Williams, Melbourne bank bandit, in the morning.

"Thought you'd be angry about that row we had over taking your picture in London," the reporter remarked.

"No," replied Iron, "I was rather 'set up' at the time. You know I had a lot on my mind then."

The incident to which the reporter referred, occurred at the London police station, when Iron objected to having his picture taken for publication. He just refused to remove his hat, and had tried to make the picture a failure, by bowing his head.

"Did the picture turn out all right?" Iron inquired.

"Not too bad," the reporter answered. Iron seemed satisfied.

The Incendiary Motive.

"What was your object in setting all those fires? What gain or satisfaction did you get from it all?" The Advertiser queried.

"Well, to tell you the truth, I don't know," the fire-bug replied frankly. "I've been trying to find some explanation for it myself, but so far I have not succeeded. As I wrote Magistrate Graydon, before I was sentenced, I put it down to an uncontrollable impulse."

"I guess I will never be able to find out exactly what is the matter though. There is something wrong, you know, but what it is, I don't know."

"It was just a habit," Iron said about his capture, though. Provost-Sergeant O'Connor just stumbled on it. I wish my arrest had taken place years ago."

"It should have, too, because I know for a fact that a certain man was asked to report my activities to the authorities. He knew what I was doing, too."

"Perhaps, I will be able to rid myself of the desire to set fires, permanently, here. I have no desire now for my time is fully occupied. Of course, I don't know what would happen if I was given the opportunity. I have no opportunity to set them here. That is quite apparent."

"I have made no plans for the future, and have not even thought of any yet. My first task will be to get rid of this desire to fire places. Then I will go about doing something constructive. I think everything will turn out right in the end."

Denies "C Block" Fire.

"Where did you get the oily waste to start these fires?" the reporter inquired.

"From box cars," Iron replied. "And, speaking of that, the staff of O.T.A. found in my locker, not only oily waste, but also a small quantity of dynamite. I had taken it from the mattress, because it was hanging loose, and an inspection was made. This material came into contact with oily waste and naturally the stuff gave off the same smell as the waste."

"I would have liked to have been able to take the blame for setting that fire that destroyed C Block at the barracks. It might have helped the boys to get compensation, but I really couldn't."

"Say, by the way, have they solved the Jones or the Reid fire, yet?"

"No," the Advertiser informed him. "Well, there's another case where I couldn't take the blame. I was sleeping when the Reid fire broke out, and I was on duty when the Jones fire occurred."

"And that Springfield fire—there was another. As a matter of fact, I was down in St. Thomas, and I was with some of the boys. We had some liquor, and were coming back, when we saw the reflection. Being city chaps, we thought it would be a novel experience to help them put it out. We thought it was some farmer's place. We found it was the booths at Springfield. They had cut the fire off from one building, but later I heard it had burned, too. I can't see how that happened."

Didn't Write "Tony" Letter.

"Iron turned his attention to the 'Tony' letters which had been sent to various city officials, after each fire, warning of the next to come."

"Now, I didn't have anything to do

with those," Iron assured the Advertiser reporter. "I think some practical joker was responsible for them. You will always find those sort of people cropping up when any situation like this arises."

"Well, think how much greater the thrill would be if you set the fire yourself," Iron remarked.

"How far did you run away, after you set the fire?" The Advertiser wanted to know.

"Just far enough to make a clean getaway," Iron declared.

"Did you pass anyone at night, when you were running from a fire?"

"Yes, I passed policemen and other people, but, of course, a man has the right to be out at night. They didn't suspect me. Why should they?"

Thinks Law Harsh.

"I think the law was rather harsh. I thought they would be more lenient."

"Is this prohibited?" Iron asked, turning to the prison official.

"No," the officer replied, kindly, "as long as you don't talk about the institution. You can talk about anything outside that has occurred."

"Did you neglect anything to set these fires?" the reporter continued.

"No. Otherwise, I was normal, the prisoner retorted. 'I read a great deal and played a great deal. I like classical stuff. They say popular music spoils a man. I had often heard that, so I avoided it. I used to read most of the standard works—Hugo and Dumas, and others."

"Was too much reading responsible for your actions?" The Advertiser pursued.

"No," Iron hastened to reply. "I could read stories and never think of going out and shooting a man. The same with stories dealing with fires."

"I hope I will be able to overcome my weakness here. I am sure I will. I am still in the dark as to it all. It is beyond me. It is something I could not figure out. I used to read a great deal."

Then Iron stopped. He looked at the reporter, and noticed the newspaperman glancing in the direction of the number sewed on his brown prison garb.

Iron blushed, and almost instinctively hid his number. Iron's arm was raised to his forehead.

It was quite apparent. Iron had talked at any length since his arrest, except when he made his confession. Since his sentence was pronounced, he has been wont to dismiss his interests—except the prison officials—with a curt "Well, it's over now. No use talking about it."

The interview seemed to have relieved his mind. When the questioning had ended, and the reporter began to leave, Iron said:

"Ticked to death to see you, old man. I'm sure. Hope I'll see you again some time."

Iron smiled broadly.

As the reporter reached the main office, he turned his head and gazed at Iron, still in the cage, behind the glass partition.

Iron smiled again.

CITY OF P. MEMBERS TO ATTEND CONVENTION

Delegates Will Gather at Brantford, July 11, For Monster Celebration.

Several members of the Knights of Pythias of this city will attend the delegates' convention of the Grand Lodge, which is to be held at Brantford on July 11, 12 and 13.

This year's convention at Brantford is expected to be one of the most successful ever staged, and it is hoped, owing to the central location of Brantford, a record number of delegates will attend. Representatives will be there from all over Ontario to engage in a large program of entertainment and sports that have been arranged.

The opening day festivities will be in the form of a parade headed by a large "degree" team from Hamilton. This team, termed the D. O. K. K. team, will provide all the musical program for the drill display.

Among the Londoners that will attend are: Frank McLean, Charles Tinsley, past grand chancellor; William Blake, Myrtle Lodge, No. 10; Ed. Fish, of Broadview, and J. B. Barnsdale, grand vice-chancellor of Huron Lodge.

Mr. Charles Tinsley intends to leave London on Wednesday to attend the Knights of Pythias picnic at Tashmoor Park previous to going to the convention at Brantford.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WILL MEET ON SUNDAY

Several Out-of-Town Speakers Will Address the Gathering.

At an open meeting under the auspices of the Brotherhood Maintenance of Way employees will be held on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the Labor Temple, Rud. Hessel, secretary of the union, will occupy the chair.

The speakers for the occasion are: G. H. Cummings, Montreal, chairman of the G. T. R. section of the Brotherhood; Gerald Gerald, vice-chairman of Kinburn, Ont.; E. J. Hopcraft, member of the international executive, and J. A. Flett of Hamilton.

Local men versed in the labor affairs of the railroads will also address the meeting which it is expected will be the best organization ever put on by the Brotherhood in London.

NEW YORK STATE GIVES STATUS TO "VARSITY" MEDS

Graduates Now Qualified, Write Papers To Practice in That State.

IS DISTINCT GAIN

Official recognition of the Western University Medical School by the State Board of Medicine of New York has been authorized after much persistence on the part of London medical men, according to an announcement received by Dean Paul S. McKibben of the medical school this week. This recognition means that all graduates of Western University who have attained the degree of doctor of medicine will be placed on an equal basis with graduates of medical colleges of New York State, a condition which has heretofore been prohibited.

Under the new regulations in New York State are regarded as the most strict in the United States, only universities with the most up-to-date facilities for teaching being recognized.

Up until a few years ago Western University Medical School was handicapped for lack of proper buildings in which medicine could be taught, and this dearth of laboratories acted as a detriment in being officially recognized by sister medical schools of the province. Although some of Western were always able to take their place with the best of American university graduates, the school buildings did not come up to the standards required for official recognition.

When the new medical school was constructed on Ottawa avenue, it was thought no impediment to recognition remained, but officials of the New York State board were not satisfied with the system of clinical teaching of medicine at the Victoria Hospital. By dint of much activity and co-operation on the part of the medical faculty of Western and staff of the Victoria Hospital, the objectionable features were removed, and a recent inspection carried out by an inspector of the New York State Board of Medicine at the medical school and Victoria Hospital has resulted in the official recognition of the University of Western Ontario by the State of New York.

Much to the delight of Paul S. McKibben, dean of Western University Medical School and his faculty, and Dr. Roy C. Kingswood, chief resident of the Victoria Hospital, and his staff, for the rapid strides taken in which Western is officially recognized according to the highest standards.

As New York State observes reciprocity with several other states in the union as far as medicine is concerned, this latest honor is important. Western University graduates being permitted to practice the profession of medicine in those states in which reciprocity is in existence.

The heat wave, which for days has been beating down on the Dominion, seemed to break up in certain sections yesterday. Calgary registered a maximum of 48, while Dawson City, much further north, showed 72.

Winnipeg went to 92, and cities in the east ran from 66 to 93, the latter mark being that set by London. The minimum for the city was 66.

Although the heat during the past week has been most oppressive, London is fortunate so far in having only one death reported from the continuous wave of sultry weather. Both hospitals have been on the alert for emergency cases, but so far none have been admitted.

SHOULD NOT ESTIMATE REVENUE FROM FINES

Mayor Wenige Says People Desire Protection, Not Persecution.

There should be no such thing as annual estimates of the amount of receipts, according to Mayor Wenige, who insisted again today that what the people desire when they pay their taxes is "protection and not persecution."

The chairman of the police commission, referring in particular to the motor vehicle restrictions and by-laws and declared the principle that a certain sum must be secured each year for the better education of the city.

"A great deal more good can be accomplished in this city by education and not through actual contact with the police," Mayor Wenige said, in response to an inquiry from a member of the motor league who asked if something could not be done toward the better education of the motoring public to alleviate congested and dangerous conditions on the downtown thoroughfares, particularly at night and on Saturdays.

Dealing with one phase of this situation—angle parking—it was pointed out that the city is not adhering strictly to the regulations and the suggestion was made to the mayor that the city undertake an advertising campaign to insure better results.

Mayor Wenige was more than impressed with the proposal and a definite move will be made in that direction. It is his contention that the city should impress in this campaign, that it is not the duty of the municipality to haul its residents and taxpayers into the courts upon each and every opportunity in order to secure receipts from fines, set at the beginning of each year.

A popular slogan will be adopted, as "A tip in time saves a fine, etc. And it is in this connection that the mayor in very definite terms denounced the present scheme of city estimates whereby an approximate sum is set by the city authorities, presumably for the police department to shoot at.

Denies Baldwin Said DRINK ISSUE WITH U.S.

The British Government Issues Statement Refuting Rumor of Friendship Disturbance.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, England, June 22.—An official statement issued this afternoon: "There is no foundation whatever for certain remarks attributed to Mr. Baldwin (the prime minister) in the press to the effect 'now that the Irish question and the debt are out of the way, prohibition seems to be the only thing likely to disturb Anglo-American friendship.'"

FOUR CANDIDATES

Continued From Page 1.

most prominent of the four candidates. In spite of that fact Adam Beck is not deserving of election under the existing circumstances. A great and vital principle is involved in Adam Beck's stand as a Conservative candidate—a principle so great and so vital to the welfare of this province that no one who grasps its importance can hesitate in making the right decision.

It is the principle that what is owned by all the people must be kept for all the people. It is based on fundamentals of honesty and fair play and efficiency.

In this specific case it is hydro power which belongs to the people—given to them by a generous providence. Hydro power, owned by all the people, must be kept free from political manipulation by the Conservative party, or by any other party representing only one section of the people. It must be kept free from the trickery of men like Mr. Howard Ferguson, in whom neither the Conservative party nor any other party can place confidence.

To Adam Beck, for many years the people of Ontario have entrusted hydro, and to him must go the credit for its success. For many years he has fulfilled his trust honorably and well. Four years ago he found that his connection with the Conservative party was hindering hydro, and with the explanation that "only as an independent can I look after the interests of hydro for the people of the province," Adam Beck courageously broke with the Conservative party and became an independent. The party politicians knifed him, but Ontario respected him.

In turning back now from that course to take hydro into the Conservative party as a follower of Mr. Ferguson, Adam Beck has done wrong. His own words in 1919 condemn him—"only as an independent can I look after the interests of hydro."

Adam Beck has spoiled his splendid record. Against him now must be laid the charge of being a selfish opportunist. His plea for election to represent hydro in parliament falls to the ground. If he were really needed in that way there is no reason why he should not have sought election as an independent in any one of the twelve outside ridings which invited him.

One is forced to believe that Adam Beck is seeking election in London only because he wishes to wipe out the sting of his defeat by Hugh Stevenson in 1919. There is the selfishness.

One is forced to believe that he has gone back to the Conservative party because its strength in London gave him his best chance of winning. There is both selfishness and opportunism—a lack of sincerity which is regrettable in the record of such a man.

The plain truth is that Adam Beck is using the Conservatives of London to satisfy a personal grudge and that Tory campaigners on the other hand are hiding their hatred and using Adam Beck in order to win an election. Both the Adam Beck of today and the campaigners should be condemned by decent citizens.

J. M. DONAHUE.

J. M. Donahue's election would be a calamity for two reasons. In the first place he is advocating the thin edge of the wedge, which will pry open the door Ontario has closed on the waste and unhappiness of unrestricted liquor. Ontario has declared for prohibition in unmistakable terms; London does not want to be identified as the stronghold of the liquor interests by a member pledged to their support.

Quite apart from the question of the O. T. A. stands the second reason. London needs a representative who has something better than a single-track idea. London needs someone whose purposes and interests include the needs of all the community. Mr. Donahue is not of this type. He is a fanatic, possessed of one purpose—and that purpose is a dangerous one.

HUGH STEVENSON.

For Dr. Stevenson as a man The Advertiser has friendship and warm regard. But Dr. Stevenson is not the type of person who makes a capable member of parliament, from any party or from any constituency. Dr. Stevenson's ability lies in other directions. He is a clever doctor; he is honorable and he is generous, but his record as a member of parliament does not justify his return in that capacity.

Dr. Stevenson lacks ability in expressing himself; he lacks ability in coping with political opponents; he lacks qualities of personality which are necessary to becoming an influence in parliament. London needs a representative who can get things done because London has reached a stage where there are real problems to settle during the next few years—real things to do for the city itself. Putting personal regard to one side, it must be stated frankly that Hugh Stevenson has been able to accomplish very little for London as a member of parliament, nor for the Labor party which sent him there.

Hugh Stevenson as political champion of London has not delivered the goods. He will not do. And that opinion is stated in all kindness to the man himself.

NOT LEAST DANGER OF WATER SHORTAGE YET

But Manager Buchanan Urges Conservation in Heated Period.

If the consumption of water increases the public utilities commission will have to reduce the allowance of water per house, and prevent the watering of lawns by householders. Yesterday eight million gallons were pumped by the city pumping stations, and this works out at 133 gallons per head, or 20 barrels of water for every house in the city.

"The present rate of pumping could be maintained," said E. V. Buchanan, manager of the public utilities commission, "for two weeks more without danger of a water famine, and there is no danger of a famine at this time."

The manager complains that there is a great waste of water in London, and that the present consumption is higher than is warranted.

"If this dry spell continues," he said, "the commission may have to issue new regulations governing the water supply. This, however possible, is not at all probable."

The Pen d'Oreille Grange, Newport, Wash., offers an excellent suggestion for keeping down prices to consumers: namely, mark in plain sight on each article, package or quantity of goods, or on the bill accompanying them, the farm, mine or factory price of the article or of its principal ingredients.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

MALE HELP WANTED

CIGARMAKERS—BUNCH BREAKERS AND ROLLERS. 45 AND 50 CENTS A HUNDRED, OR \$9.00 MAKING THROUGH OPEN SHOP. STEADY JOB YEAR ROUND. CLARK'S CIGAR FACTORY, 342 RUIDOT.

MAN to make cement blocks, steady work. Apply John Banks, 755 Queen's Ave.

LADY'S brown leather handbag, Friday afternoon, on Garfield Ave. or road leading from Lambeth to Springfield. Liberal reward. Phone 4664.

BEAUTIFULLY furnished apartment in finest locality in London: den, double living-room, dining-room, two bedrooms, complete bath and kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, electric range, etc., rent reasonable for July and August. Apply E. J. Garner, 3277.

ELECTRIC FAN, Westinghouse, 10-inch, oscillating. Apply Bert Thomas, De Luxe Cafe.



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Don't swelter—you can be cool and comfortable if you'll come here and choose a few suits of this cool athletic underwear. Specially designed garments tailored to fit, from light cool fabrics—many specially woven; wide variety, all sizes. Special values priced at

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LONDON PEONY SHOW PROVES BIG SUCCESS

Extreme Heat Fails To Affect Beautiful Array of Blooms.

The heat wave has had little effect on the gorgeous blooms in the peony exhibition at the horticultural building in Queen's Park other than bringing a number of them to a greater state of perfection.

The most noticeable effect of the heat is the smallness of the attendant crowds. Last night's motor traffic which made the peony show its destination was fairly large, and this morning, a number of early visitors were on the scene. The attendance, however, is still far from reaching the point anticipated.

To this morning's visitors, perhaps, the chief point of interest lay upon the excellence of the prize awarding in the face of the difficult problem of selection with which the judges were faced.

The exhibition continues this afternoon and evening. No alarm need be entertained that the flowers have lost any degree of their beauty, as the exhibition was opened on Sunday, London's first annual civic peony show is a remarkably beautiful sight.

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BUNGALOW TEA HOUSE

Spring Chicken Dinner, \$1

Served from 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. daily.

Bring your friends and enjoy the delicious home cooking.

For reservations, phone 883, Ring 4 and 1. MRS. W. K. WILSON, Hostess, b.