LAST EDITION

London Advertiser

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WAR LOOMS IN FAR EAST RUSSIA TO PUNISH CHINA

The Powers Are Notified By Russia That Czar's Government Intend to Make Military Demonstration Against Chinese, Latter Having Violated Treaty.

[Canadian Press.]

London, Feb. 16.—The relations of Russia and China are strained to the breaking point. Russia today notifies the governments of Great Britain, Germany and France of her intention to make a military demonstration on the Russo-Chinese frontier owing to China's persistent violation of the St Petersburg treaty of 1881.

The treaty adopted in 1881 expires this month, and it has been reported that China was unwilling to renew it, at least not without certain modifications. The exchanges have been closely guarded by both powers, and what stage the negotiations have reached was not indicated until yesterday, when the St. Petersburg Gazette announced that an important conference had been held at the war ministry to consider "China's persistent flouting of treaty stipulations."

The province of Hi, to where Russian troops will be sent, lies in the northern part of the Chinese empire. By a provision of the Russo-Chinese treaty of 1881 the western portion of Hi is incorporated with Russia in order to serve as a place of establishment of inhabitants of Russia who having adopted Russian dependence had to abandon the lands which they possessed there.

Situation Acute.

There have been rumors recently of an intention by Russia to bring pressure to bear upon China because of alleged violations of the Russo-Chinese treaty. That the situation was acute, however, has been denied both by the Chinese foreign board and by the Russian legation at Pekin.

It has been admitted that there were differences in the interpretations of the international agreement as made at St. Petersburg and at Pekin.

Russian troops will be sent forthwith to the district of Hi.

The extent of the demonstration, it is added, in the diplomatic note will depend entirely upon the attitude assumed by China.

The vital questions involved are free trade in Mongolia; the extra territorial rights of Russians in China, and the establishment of a Russian consulate at Kobdo, Mongolia.

Means Punishment.

A military demonstration by Russia against China must be viewed more as a threat of punishment than as a forerunner of actual war, as the military resources of the Chinese Government are decidedly limited, and the army organization medieval. Extensive plans for a military reorganization are maturing slowly, but at present China must rely on about 100,000 provincial troops, only part of whom have been trained according to European methods.

Interest in the Russo-Chinese situation will have to do chiefly with the attitude of the other powers, though Russia's understanding with Japan and the other powers would appear to have paved the way for any coercive measures contemplated against China.

BAILIFF MUST CLEAN WALKS!

Seized Effects in House and Is Now in Possession There.

UP IN THE POLICE COURT

Seventeen Others Appeared to Answer to Snow Charges—Most of Cases Dismissed.

An interesting and somewhat complicated case in connection with the summonses that have been issued against those who have not kept the snow cleaned off their sidewalks, was heard before Deputy Magistrate Graydon at the police court this morning, when County Constable William Sadleir was held to be responsible for keeping the walk cleaned in front of a house where he had made a seizure as bailiff for rent.

Some time ago a distress warrant was issued as the rent had not been paid for the premises at 423 Wellington street, and Mr. Sadleir, acting for the solicitor who rents the place, took possession.

As he was the only person in charge, the police held him responsible for cleaning the snow off.

Up to the Bailiff.

In court this morning he was represented by Mr. E. W. M. Flock, but the magistrate dismissed the matter shortly by holding that Mr. Sadleir being in possession had to keep the snow cleaned off. The case was dismissed on the understanding that the snow is cleaned off at once.

Seventeen other citizens were also summoned for not complying with the bylaw. Most of these cases were dismissed, as since receiving the summonses the citizens have cleaned the walks. One or two were laid over a day or two.

"I want people to understand that they must obey this bylaw," said the magistrate. "I am not fining any of those who come before me, as the new district was only added a short time ago. Any who come up a second time, however, will be fined."

HAD ROLL IN POCKET

Chester Street Man Is Very Lucky That He Was Not Robbed.

John Laughlin, of Chester street, according to the police, is a very fortunate man. Laughlin was arrested last night when he was making the round of the hotels with a large sum of money in his pockets.

"I think you were pretty lucky," said the magistrate. "It was fortunate the police took you in. I will let you go as a first-timer."

Wm. Dyer, an old offender, arrested again last night for being drunk, was remanded until tomorrow to sober up.

Wm. Blake, who last week was charged with allowing a minor to remain in the poolroom of Mr. H. Ryan, was let go with a warning today.

W. CENTRAL SEEKS A FEDERAL CHARTER

And Also Asks for an Extension, London to Windsor.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 16. Near the close of the railway committee sitting this morning, the bill of the Western Central Railway was called. It holds a provincial charter from Toronto to London.

A federal charter was sought instead, and an extension to Windsor in addition. Mr. Code, for the Ontario Government, said that this charter had been renewed several times by the Ontario Legislature, and was merely a plan to keep the charter alive a little longer. The bill was under discussion at the hour of adjournment.

TERM FOR RECRUITS IS SEVEN YEARS

Boys of Canadian Navy Will Be Given Two Years' Training at Halifax.

FACTS ABOUT THE PAY

Postmaster McDonald Is Still Receiving Applications, But as Yet There Are No Recruits From London.

Quite a number of young men and boys have become interested in the call the Government has sent out for recruits for the Canadian navy, and Postmaster Ig. McDonald, who is in charge of the recruiting in London, has had many visitors of late.

The majority of those who have sought information, as has been stated in The Advertiser, youths between the ages of 16 and 20, although one or two older men have sought information regarding other positions on the boats, such as cooks, stokers, and carpenters and iron workers.

Dr. McDonald has received a pamphlet from headquarters in which it is stated that every class of men is required for a man-of-war.

For the seaman class it is desirable to begin training young, and boys between the ages of 15 and 17 are wanted.

All who are accepted from this district will go to Halifax and take a two years' course in the training establishment there, will receive a thorough grounding in their profession, and make occasional short cruises to gain practical knowledge.

The Pay.

They will be fitted at the end of that time to take their places on the men-of-war. While the boys are in training they will receive $8 a month. After reaching the age of 18 the boys are rated as men, and become ordinary seamen, and receive pay at the rate of $15 a month.

Men who show special aptitude will be selected to be sent to England to go through special courses of gunnery and torpedo training. The monthly rates of pay for the seamen class are as follows: Boy $9, ordinary seaman $15, able seaman $21, leading seaman $25.50, petty officer $30, after 3 years $33, after 6 years $37.50, chief petty officer $42, after 3 years $46.50, after 6 years $51, after 9 years $55.50.

All sailors receive extra pay for gunnery and torpedo practice, varying from $1 to $12 a month.

For Seven Years.

Boys will be required to serve in the navy for seven years, from the age of 18, and the consent of their parents or guardians will be required in writing.

After the expiration of the first seven years they are permitted, providing that their service has been satisfactory, to reengage for a further period of 7 years, and for such reengagement will receive extra pay at the rate of $1.50 a month. After completing 21 years' service they are eligible for a pension. Any man who is fitted for the work should look before this rise to the rank of warrant officer, and in this case the pay varies from $75 to $125 a month, and is able to retire at the age of 50 to 55 years on a substantial pension for life, and in the event of his death a pension will be granted his widow and children.

Boys who, after entering the training school, wish to qualify for such branches as signaling and wireless telegraphy may do so, and will receive a higher rate of pay than ordinary seamen.

One Applicant.

Dr. McDonald has received inquiry

(Continued on Page Nine.)

WHISKEY STOLEN FROM BONDED CAR

Thefts in the Grand Trunk Yards Are Not Yet at an End.

MANY COMPLAINTS NOW

Police Are Hard on the Track and More Arrests Are To Be Expected Shortly.

Local detectives and the Grand Trunk special police are making a close investigation to discover some thieves who a few evenings ago broke into a bonded car in the yards and stole six cases of whiskey.

The theft, according to the information given The Advertiser, was an unusually daring one, as the party or parties simply walked to where the car was standing in a siding, and broke in and made away with the goods.

"Thefts of this kind are continually occurring," said a Grand Trunk man to The Advertiser, this afternoon. "Almost every day we have complaints about cars being broken into. These things do not occur in London alone, but all over the district."

The case of the men who are under arrest in connection with stealing sugar on Sunday night will be heard before Deputy Magistrate Graydon tomorrow morning.

MR. A. O. GRAYDON IS SERIOUSLY ILL

Condition of Former City Engineer Is Causing Uneasiness.

Mr. A. O. Graydon, former city engineer, is lying critically ill at his residence on Dundas street. His condition was alarming yesterday, but he rallied during the night, and this morning is resting easier.

MARKET WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Charges Made by Citizens to Ald. Donnelly Will Be Looked Into.

ROW OVER HAY BUYERS

It Is Said That the Trade Is Now in the Hands of a Lot of Local Jobbers.

A complete investigation of conditions on the market will probably be made by No. 3 committee.

At the meeting held last night, Ald. Donnelly brought up the question, calling particular attention to the fact that citizens are complaining that they find it rather difficult to purchase hay because certain men buy the fodder on commission, and boost prices.

He suggested that these men pay a license to do business on that line.

Complaints have now come from other sources, and it is likely that the committee will look into conditions, and decide on some course of action.

According to information at the city hall, the committee cannot make the buyers pay a license fee. They have no power to do this. However, the buyers come directly under the operation of the huckster bylaw, it is said, and in that way they can be reached.

"We cannot charge the men a license fee," declared Mayor Beattie. "But they come under the huckster bylaw, and if they are guilty of the practices charged against them, they can be prosecuted.

"We cannot charge them a license," was the opinion of Inspector Metcalfe. "The men are violating the huckster bylaw, however, and can be prosecuted."

The inspector will look into the matter, and will report to the committee at the next session.

ROBLIN ANNOUNCES EARLY RETIREMENT

Says That Lessening Vitality Prevents His Continuing in Public Life.

[Canadian Press.]

Winnipeg, Feb. 16. Premier Roblin of Manitoba announced his possible early retirement in the following speech last night in reply to a resolution felicitating on his 58th birthday.

"I am today the oldest member of the Legislature. That is evidence I have about completed my work. I realize by virtue of the weight of years and the fact that my constitution is somewhat weakened, and by lessening vitality, that my work cannot continue much longer."

BADLY INJURED.

Watford, Feb. 15.—Robert Chambers, of Adelaide Township, was seriously injured today by being kicked in the abdomen by a horse.

A TORONTO SOCIETY GIRL MEETS ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Miss Hazel Nicholls Found Dying in Her Room With a Bullet Wound in Her Head After Returning From a Theatre Party.

[Canadian Press.]

Toronto, Feb. 16.—After returning from a theatre party last night, Miss Hazel Nicholls retired to her room, and a few minutes later the family were startled by the discharge of a revolver. Rushing into her room they found her dying from a bullet wound in the head. She lived only a few seconds. It is assumed that in turning over some wearing apparel in the top drawer of her dressing table the revolver was accidentally discharged. Miss Nicholls was 23 years old, and the eldest daughter of Mr. Frederick Nicholls, president of the Canada Foundry Company. The family are well known throughout the city, and are very popular socially.

NORTH MIDLAND MAKES COMPLAINT

Mr. A. E. Welch Declares City Council Has Not Kept Faith.

VOTE TAKEN PLEBISCITE

This Should Be Sufficient, Mr. Welch Thinks—Agreement Is Being Considered.

The finance committee of the city council will go over the proposed agreement with the North Midland Railway Company, relative to guaranteeing the bonds of the company to the extent of $200,000.

The directors of the company will not be present, nor will any copies of the agreement be given out until after the committee have passed on it.

Efforts were made by both the company and others to obtain a copy but without results. Mr. T. S. Meredith framed the document.

On Friday afternoon a conference will be held between the committee and the company, and the whole matter will be threshed out.

The directors consider that they have not been fairly dealt with in this matter.

"When we went to the council in November last we were told that if a favorable verdict were expressed on a plebiscite, our bylaw would be included in the city of London bill," declared Mr. A. E. Welch. "We agreed to that, and a plebiscite was taken. The result of that was most encouraging for us, the citizens giving it a large majority.

"We fully expected then that it would be placed in the bill according to the understanding between the committee and the directors. That has not been done as yet, and we are looking to the council to do it on Monday evening next.

The Advertisement.

"As for inserting the advertisement in a newspaper, we discussed that with City Solicitor Meredith, and while he did not give us his consent, he told us that we could do so on our own responsibility. We were told that it would do no harm, and it might do much good. There is absolutely no wrong in the matter whatever. We had to insert the advertisement and pay for it ourselves. We did that. I think every legal requirement has been met.

"We are waiting the action of the council. It is very foolish to expect that another vote can be taken this summer. It would take six mos to get the vote out. The Legislature, and City Solicitor Meredith will protect the interests of the city. It is necessary that something be done now. We have the money to go ahead with, and if we are allowed to start we can have part of the line built in a year's time.

W. J. WINN DEAD.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 16. Word was received here today of the death at Climax, Carolina, of W. J. Winn, a Hamilton grocer, who left here on Saturday last in the hope of health. The message gave no particulars. Mr. Winn was prominent in Royal Arch circles.

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Mild.

FORECASTS

Toronto, Feb. 16.—6 a.m.

Easterly and southerly winds, mostly fair today and Friday, with slowly rising temperature.

TEMPERATURES

Stations.	Min.	Max.	Weather
Victoria	34	42	Clear
Calgary	20	36	Clear
Edmonton	20	40	Clear
Prince Albert	8	30	Cloudy
Battleford	8	30	Cloudy
Prince Rupert	28	32	Cloudy
Kamloops	4	30	Cloudy
Winnipeg	8	30	Fair
Port Arthur	8	28	Fair
Toronto	8	36	Clear
Ottawa	8	34	Clear
Quebec	8	28	Clear
Halifax	20	34	Clear
Portland, Me.	8	36	Clear
Minimum temperatures below zero.			

WEATHER NOTES

The area of high pressure has moved off the Atlantic coast, but still covers the Maritime Provinces, and is expected to cause fair weather in Ontario and New England.

The depression in the Western Provinces has moved to the eastward, but has lost its energy, and is now a feeble system, and is not expected to cause much change in weather conditions.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.

The area of high pressure which is still central in the St. Lawrence Valley has become more pronounced, while an important storm has developed over New England. The weather yesterday continued decidedly cold from Eastern Ontario to the Maritime Provinces, and comparatively mild in Western Ontario and the Maritime Provinces.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: London, 22—36; Dawson, 20 below—8 below; Atlin, 10 below—16; Prince Rupert, 22—32; Victoria, 34—42; Vancouver, 32—40; Kamloops, 18—28; Edmonton, 8—28; Calgary, 14—30; Battleford, 4 below—18; Qu'Appelle, 4—30; Winnipeg, 18—32; Port Arthur, 18—28; Parry Sound, 12—28; Toronto, 18—34; Ottawa, zero—32; Montreal, 6 below—8; Quebec, 14 below—8; St. John, 6 below—14; Halifax, 2 below—14.

TODAY'S PROBS.

The East: Fair and moderately cold.

Lake Superior: Easterly winds, partly fair, with light local snowfalls, moderately cold.

Western Provinces: Partly fair, with light snowfalls, not much change in temperature.

ALLEGED RINGERS IN CHATHAM GAME

O. H. A. Will Likely Have a Nice Job On Its Hands Shortly.

A ROUGH TIME AT GAME

It Is Said That Goderich and Detroit Men Were Played Under Assumed Names.

Chatham, as a result of last night's match with London in that city, in which the Forest City team was defeated 4 to 1, appears due to figure in, it is alleged, one of the most barefaced hockey scandals in the history of the Ontario Hockey Association.

The London management is taking no part in the investigation, however, which will no doubt be ordered by the O. H. A., as the local team has won the round, and will now go through with the winner of Listowel-Preston series, which is to be decided at Preston tomorrow night.

Players Ineligible.

As far as can be learned, but one of the seven Chatham players is eligible under the rules of the Ontario Hockey Association. It was expected that Referee Allan Snider, of Preston, would officiate at last night's game, but as he was snowbound on a train at Durham, Referee Sproule, of Toronto, was substituted. As that gentleman was in Goderich on several occasions last winter, his arrival was evidently feared by the Chatham management, one of whom took the ice before his arrival and announced to the crowd that he was the man who "roasted" Chatham in London last week.

Goderich Men.

The players were on the ice but a minute in the work-out, when Sproule recognized McLean and McDonald, of Goderich, in Chatham uniforms.

For some reason unknown he allowed the game to proceed, but announced his intention of making a full report to the O. H. A. executive.

Other alleged "ringers," according to the information in the hands of the London team, contained in affidavits secured a couple of weeks ago, are Goaltender Brisco, recently of Detroit; McCrae, of Petrolea, and Gilner and Myers, of Wiarton, and more recently of Detroit.

The Rules.

Nothing has been learned regarding Dennis, who played left wing, but if he is eligible, it is said, he is the only man on the Chatham crew who can claim that distinction. McCrae arrived in Chatham but two weeks ago, and is well known in this city, having played last fall on the Petrolea rugby team. Under the rules of the O. H. A. all players must reside in the place represented from Aug. 1. If this is enforced, as it no doubt will be, Chatham will be suspended.

Called "Livingstone."

McLean, one Goderich man, was called Livingstone last night, while McDonald, the other player from the same town, figured as "Birbidage."

The Chatham crowd of about 600 showed anything but a sporting spirit while waiting for the commencement of the game, which did not start until about 9.30 owing to the delay in securing the referee.

As the London men entered the rink tobacco-chewing ruffians expectorated on the players' uniforms, and made themselves generally disagreeable.

Hard on the Referee.

The referee, who did not favor either team in the contest at London, and who made a couple of mistakes that meant as much to London as Chatham, was given a fearful reception, and was hissed throughout the contest. A number of the players even went so far as to deliberately skate into him, throwing him off his feet a couple of times. The rough work was not accidental.

Sproule was jabbed in the ribs with hockey sticks, and had a fine time generally, but made no complaint.

Ice Was Poor.

The ice was very poor, and shiny was the order. Locke scored London's only goal in the second half, taking the puck from Jimmy Gee on a combination play. McDonald was responsible for three of the tally scored by the opposing team. Horwood in goal for London went down with a lead of five goals on the round the result had no effect on London's chances for the championship.

Preston and Listowel were to have played last night, but the latter team was snowbound at Palmerston and did not arrive until after midnight. The game will be played off tomorrow night, and London will meet the winner.

I. C. R. TELEGRAPHERS SECURE INCREASE

Board of Conciliation Decides in Favor of the Men.

[Canadian Press.]

Toronto, Feb. 16. After nearly a year of negotiation, the board of conciliation composed of Judge Barron, of Stratford, chairman; J. G. O'Donoghue, of Toronto, and James Gilmour, of Brockville, which has been investigating the demands of the International Railway telegraphers and station agents for increased pay, has reached a unanimous finding. The report of the board has been sent to the labor department at Ottawa, and will be given out there. It is understood no increase has been recommended, but not a very large one.

STRINGENT BILL AGAINST BONUSING

J. J. Craig Will Introduce One in Ontario Legislature.

MAYOR SPEAKS OF IT

It Is Possible, But Not Probable, That the City's Fixed Assessments May Be Affected.

There is a bill pending in the Legislature that may affect the request of the city of London that the fixed assessments passed in January last be confirmed by that body.

Mr. J. J. Craig, member for East Wellington, has given notice that he will introduce a bill to prohibit all municipal bonuses by repealing all the clauses in the present statute relating to bonuses of any kind.

The Bill.

His amendment contains a specific prohibition of bonuses to manufacturing industries, iron, smelting or refining works, beet sugar factories, rolling mills, or grain elevators.

For the purpose of the prohibition the definition of a bonus is greatly enlarged. Mr Craig would have bonus include any grant of money as a gift or loan, the guaranteeing of any loan, the gift of land or leasing of land at a nominal rental, the granting of any special privileges whatsoever, the carrying out of any local improvement for the particular use or benefit of any manufacturing industry, the supplying of light, water, or power to any industry free, or at rates less than those generally charged, and any act involving any special expenditure on the part of the municipality.

May Affect London.

Mayor Beattie declares that its effect will depend largely on when it comes into force.

"If that bill is passed before our private bill is heard, it may seriously affect us," declared his worship. "However, if our bill is passed before that one is heard, we will be all right I doubt, too, that the legislation will be made retroactive. I would be very much disappointed if our fixed assessment bylaws are in any way interfered with. We are entitled to them, I think."

PASTORS PLEASED WITH MISSION

Rev. Mr. Inkster and Rev. Dr. Ross Speak of Evangelical Meetings.

GREAT LESSON FOR ALL

Religion Must Be Carried On By the Minister and People of the City of London.

"The united evangelistic mission has done much good," said Rev. J. Gibson Inkster, to The Advertiser today. "It has identified our church with evangelistic work. This is the first time in the 78 years' history of the First Presbyterian Church that evangelistic meetings have been held in it.

"It has helped to make the people of the First Presbyterian and St. Andrew's churches better acquainted, and it has drawn them closer together in the great work of every church, namely, the winning of souls for Christ.

"It has deepened the interest of our people in spiritual things by concentrating our attention on them.

Memorable Meetings.

"Some of the meetings were memorable. For instance, the preparatory service of the first Friday night meeting in the First Church and the communion service on the Sunday morning following, the last Sunday night meeting at St. Andrew's, and the last meeting of the series on Wednesday night, were services which those who were privileged to attend them, will speak of till their dying day. So that we can truthfully say that our labor has not been in vain in the Lord.

"The message of the mission," said Mr. Inkster, further, "was two-fold. It was for sinners, and by precept, exhortation, and illustration, sinners have been convinced that no man can sin and live, that 'the wages of sin is death,' but Christ is able to save to the uttermost.

"But the chief message of the mission has been to professing Christians. It has convinced many church members that in the past they have simply had an aim to live.

The Attendance.

"The bulk of the people who attended these meetings were professing Christians, and the fact that these people attended so regularly, and the attendance kept increasing to the very end of the mission, leads one to ask why did these people attend? The answer is, that they were unconsciously seeking to end the war within them between self and the spirit. Dr. Patterson's message to these was, that the war will be ended when each professing Christian gives up his one to getting sin and yields himself completely to God.

The Lesson.

"The mission has taught us, both ministers and church members, that this laxness of religion must be promoted and carried on not by any outside missionaries (who certainly have helped much), but by the ministers and Christian people of the city of London.

"We were fortunate in securing two such sane and experienced Christian workers as Dr. Patterson and Mr. Weaver to inaugurate evangelistic work in London. In my opinion, they have removed all prejudice against this work, which may have been in the minds of any members."

Dr. Ross Speaks.

Dr. Ross was also interviewed as to the results of the mission, and agreed with the Rev. Mr. Inkster's estimate of the work accomplished.

"Of course," Dr. Ross added, "we cannot tabulate all the influence of a series of meetings like these."

Evangelistic meetings have previously been held in St. Andrew's Church, but not in recent years.

SPEND $3,000 ON IMPROVEMENTS

Grounds and Building Committee of the Western Fair Will Do So.

LEVELING OF GROUNDS

Matter Was Laid Over Until the Next Meeting—A Session Held on Wednesday.

At the meeting of the grounds and building committee of the Western Fair board, held yesterday afternoon, it was decided to expend $3,000 on improvements to the grounds and buildings.

This sum will cover the necessary repairs as well as improvements necessary to make the fair more attractive.

In connection with this matter, plans were submitted for a street down the centre of the grounds, running from the administration building to the transportation building.

It will be lighted from end to end with a string of lights, and the attractions committee will secure midway shows for this street.

The chairman of the committee, Mr. W. M. Spencer, and Secretary Hunt will take up the question of lighting with the water commissioners at once.

Levelling the Grounds.

The question of levelling up the grounds inside the race track for the purpose of showing off carriage and other horses was laid over until the next meeting, which will be held on the grounds. The committee will then inspect the work, and suggestions will be received as to the best way of doing the work.

Chairman Spencer will arrange for a telephone system for the grounds. Some dissatisfaction was expressed over the arrangements in other years, and it is the intention of the committee to make it most satisfactory.

The matter of appointing a superintendent of grounds was not dealt with. The resignation of Mr. Jas. H. Brown was not considered.

Arrangements were made to take care of the park and buildings in the interim.

The estimates for the year were sent on to the executive. Outside the expenditure of $3,000 on repairs, they run about the same as last year.

Those present were Chairman W. M. Spencer, W. J. Reid, W. McNeil, William Moore, John Pringle, Ald. Richter, Ald. Stevenson, Ald. Mitchell, R. A. Carrothers and Secretary Hunt.

Finance Committee.

Subsequently there was a meeting of the finance committee. The estimates for the year were gone into. The prize list was not greatly increased, and the expenditure will run along about the same as last year. They were sent on to the board.

Those present at this meeting were Messrs. T. H. Smallman, Chairman W. J. Reid, John Pringle, T. Jeffrey Hale, Ald. J. H. Saunders and Secretary Hunt.

COUNCIL MAY TRY ONCE AGAIN

Some of the Aldermen Talk of Reopening Negotiations With G. T. R.

MAYOR IS NOT OPTIMISTIC

Does Not Believe the Company Intends Doing Anything in London in the Way of Improvements This Year.

The city council will possibly ask the Grand Trunk Railway Company to reopen the discussion relative to improvements in this city.

For the past few days there have been rumors to the effect that the company intended erecting a large new station here. Operations, says the rumor, are to be commenced April 1, which fact does not promise well.

Mayor Beattie, however, is not enthusiastic over the prospects. As a matter of fact, he doubts that the company intend doing anything this year, and he also is of the opinion that little would come of any attempt by the city council to open negotiations with the Grand Trunk.

"I doubt very much that the company intend doing anything whatever this year," said his worship. Mr. Hays and other officials have given us to understand more than once that a new station is part of a plan for improvements in the city. It also includes track elevation. Every person knows that before these improvements are made the city will be asked to contribute part of the cost. There is no question about that. If it were the intention of the company to go ahead with this work, they would have got in touch with us and the whole question opened up.

Talk of Conference.

"There was some talk of the council asking for a conference to deal with this matter. For my own part, I doubt that it will prove successful at this time. Mr. Hays intimated to me the last time we discussed this question that they were not averse to our going direct to the Dominion railway commission and allowing that body to adjudicate on it. If we went to them at this moment, I have not the slightest doubt but that would be the answer. Mr. Hays stated the company's position very plainly at the board of trade banquet last fall, and I have reasons to believe that no change is going to be made now. However, if the city council want to take the matter up with the company, I certainly will not object in the least, but will heartily support it. I simply say that I do not see that anything will result from it."

C. P. R. Activity.

"Do you not think the activity of the C. P. R. will urge the Grand Trunk to take some action?" his worship was asked.

"It might, but I doubt it," was his answer.

Several of the aldermen, when spoken to today, thought the council should take some action, and make an earnest effort to bring the city and the Grand Trunk together.

No harm could be done, they pointed out, if an attempt were made. As a result, it is likely that a motion will be introduced at the next meeting of the council that an effort be made to see what the company will do.