

BYING OF VIMY WILL VISIT BYRON TOMORROW

CITY MERCHANTS STATE
BUSINESS IS SHOWING
STEADY IMPROVEMENT

Look For Brighter Future in Dominion Trade—Believe Much Is
Dependent on Western Crop—Volume of Business in
Many Instances Surpasses That of Last
Year—Expect It Will Be Quiet
During Summer.

RECENT FINE WEATHER PROVES GREAT BOON

Business conditions in and around London, while not breaking any records, are nevertheless good, according to several prominent local wholesalers and bankers, interviewed by The Advertiser this morning.

In the opinion of all, the situation today is much better than a year ago, and the bottom has been reached and passed safely.

Although they state that there will not be a return to the old boom days, they are sure that business will gradually improve. The outlook for the coming season is bright, and although much is dependent on the success of the western crop and the prices obtained by the farmer for his product, all feel certain that there is no cause for worry or pessimism. In many cases the volume of business done is well up to the average of a year ago, and in some cases better. The bankers find collections a little slow, but notwithstanding this, are optimistic as to the future.

Business Improving.
F. C. Field, manager of the Bank of Toronto, declared that business has shown some improvement in the last month, although collections, particularly in Western Canada, are slow. The crux of the whole situation as he saw it, was the necessity for the farmer getting a good price for good crops. When this became an accomplished fact, business conditions over the country would react to it and the result would be a much improved situation, although business would never boom as in the pre-war or war days. A good steady trade would result, which would continue and not suffer breaks, as did the booms. The high price of labor, in many cases not efficient, was the main reason that prices were kept high. Taking everything into consideration, however, conditions were fair, and prospects for the fall good, judging from crop reports, and if the crop that was expected materialized, with accompanying good prices, next winter would see a much-improved business Canada.

"We don't expect business to be very good," declared William Turnbull, manager of the Adams wholesale grocery company, "until the price of farm products is on a parity with

the price of manufactured goods and railway freights.

Quiet But Steady.
"Business has been rather quiet, but steady. The trade of next fall, however, will depend on the size and quality of the farm crops and the price they bring. We expect it to be quiet during the summer, but if the crop lives up to expectations there is no doubt but that a marked improvement will take place. The volume of business which we are doing at present is almost identical with that of a year ago."

"With reference to the increase in prices of several commodities during the past few weeks, I might say that this advance has not benefited Canada or Canadians in the least, as all the articles and products which increased were grown in the United States, and to them went the benefit. There is, however, no reason for a further increase, and we do not expect one. Business, as a whole, is slowly and surely getting on a firmer basis now that the speculative period of the war and after has passed. I do not think there is any doubt but that the general outlook is good."

Optimistic Future.
Samuel J. Diaper, vice-president of Smallman & Ingram, Limited, is very optimistic as to the future. Business has been steady and well up to the average in all lines. In April, the inclement weather affected it somewhat, but with the advent of May and fine days, business has increased appreciably. The volume of business transacted, month for month with 1922, with the exception of January and February, has been almost the same, while in the first two months it was much better. The outlook is good, and there was no reason for thinking otherwise. Preparations are being made for a good summer and fall season, which, without doubt, will be experienced, he stated. A representative of the London Shoe Company also expressed the opinion that the remainder of the year would see a much better business situation develop. In the last six weeks the volume of trade transacted has been much ahead of the first of the year, and to judge from present indications this will continue. There was no need for pessimism, as conditions were of a nature to warrant only optimistic expressions of the future, she declared.

G. T. R. STOCKHOLDERS
REGISTER PROTESTS

Attack Discontinuing Publication of Separate Grand Trunk Traffic Figures.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, May 28.—The Times says a number of correspondents have written to it with regard to the increase in the gross revenues of the Canadian National Railways since the beginning of the year, particularly Grand Trunk Pacific Railway four per cent debenture holders, protesting against the discontinuance since the end of April of the publication of separate Grand Trunk Railway traffic figures. The correspondents protest on the ground that they are now deprived of any means of judging as to what prospect there may be of a resumption of interest payments on the debentures.

The Times says this certainly is a point well deserving consideration. A correspondent of the Times says he has received a letter from Premier MacKenzie King's private secretary saying that a statement which will embody the decision of the Canadian government on the whole question of the acquisition by the government of the Grand Trunk Railway is in process of preparation. "Presumably this statement," the Times says, will make reference to a compassionate allowance which the Canadian government in its own interests would be wise to make, but to do which it reiterates it is under no obligation."

POLICE PROTECTION
GIVEN KING ALFONSO

Measures Taken as Result of Arrest of Two Plotting Syndicalists.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, May 28.—Extraordinary precautions were taken in Madrid yesterday, when King Alfonso presented a standard of colors to a regiment in Retiro Park, says a despatch to The Times from the Spanish capital. The king rode across the city in the center of a strong cavalry escort. The police regulations were most stringent, and the public was excluded from the park. Justification for the unusual arrangements, which were distasteful to the king, is found in the fact that two syndicalists, possessing revolvers and grenades, were arrested last Friday.



BILLY TEAMS IS MIGHTY FINE BABY.
Billy Teams, 14 months old, awarded second prize at the baby show in connection with the Boys' Hobby Fair. Billy was photographed by The Advertiser staff photographer. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Teams, 35 Emery street. Mrs. Teams is shown wearing the smile of satisfaction over the physical perfection of her small son.

Aged St. Thomas Merchant
Suffocates Self In Oven

Fearing He Would Have To Have Foot Amputated, Thomas Ward Takes His Own Life.

Special to The Advertiser.
St. Thomas, May 28.—Leaving a pitiful little note in which he explained that he was getting to be an old man, and could not bear the thought of having one of his feet, which was diseased, amputated, Thomas Ward, a dealer in second-hand furniture on West Talbot street, committed suicide last evening by crawling into the oven of the cook stove in his apartment at the rear of his store, and turning on the gas.

MILLIONS OF MINERS
ON STRIKE IN RUHR

But Report to Newspaper Regarding Number Probably Exaggerated.

Associated Press Despatch.
Berlin, May 28.—Two million miners and tens of thousands of metal workers are now on strike in the Ruhr, according to a special despatch to the Vossische Zeitung. Although these figures are probably grossly over-estimated, it is believed that undoubtedly every mine center in the Ruhr is idle as a result of tactics of the communists who are visiting the pits and forcibly ejecting the workers.

A vote taken in the Bochum district showed that a majority of the miners favored resumption of work, but communist pickets are stationed at some of the pits with fixed bayonets to prevent the miners from descending. No further disorders since yesterday are reported and the casualties for the week-end stand at 7 persons killed and 92 wounded. The food shortage is beginning to be felt in the disturbed area, especially at Gelsenkirchen.

DROP AFRICA'S EMBARGO.
Associated Press Despatch.
London, May 28.—Reuters learns that the British ministry of agriculture has removed the embargo on admission into the United Kingdom of South African slaughter cattle.

FLOWER BANDITS
USE AUTOMOBILE
TO STEAL PLANTS

Vandals Reported at Work in Residential Sections of the City.

FINE FERNS TAKEN

South London Householder Loses Large and Valuable Specimens.

The latest and newest form of theft in London is stealing flowers, pots, jardinières and all. For some time past, especially in London South, residents have been missing their best flowers, and not only flowers, but whole plants. No one has yet seen the thieves at work, but last night a well-known South Londoner retired for the night leaving the flower box on the veranda, and one or two very fine ferns in pots.

When they came down to breakfast in the morning the ferns had disappeared. They had heard no noise in the night, yet both the plants were large and too heavy for one man to carry, and it is the opinion of the householders that a car must have been used by the flower bandits.

It is reported that the thieves have been going on for some time in different parts of the city. Sometimes it's a case of the flowers being dug up and carried away. One man had several feet of extra choice turf removed. Another man, with a hot-house, missed several young plants that had been in the frame. Last night saw the wholesale removal of the ferns.

Perhaps next week some had bold man, with a penchant for filling his car with someone else's garden, will bring a truck along and proceed to do the thing systematically by beginning at the sidewalk and working back to the end of the lot. Meanwhile it behooves all flower lovers who cherish their pets to keep them in the house at nights, or tie the bulldog to the flower box.

OLD LONDON BUSINESSMEN
ARE NOT PATRONIZING ART

London, May 28.—Of the 1,100 pictures hung at the head of the academy, it is said that only 100 have so far been sold, most of these realizing between ten and twenty pounds. The only reasons suggested for this lack of support on the part of the public are the absence of a larger cut in income tax and the fact that businessmen are waiting for extra money before patronizing art.

SWATS BEE, LOSES "FLIVVER."
Special to The Advertiser.
New York, May 28.—A big bumblebee buzzed over the head of Mike Jacobs while he was out driving his "flivver." Mike took a swat. Good-bye, flivver. It struck a pillar and was completely wrecked.



"SEE HIM SMILING."
Nearly the youngest of the lot, but nevertheless a prizewinner. Baby Howard Foxworthy, seven and a half months old, winner of the third prize in the Hobby Fair baby show. Saturday afternoon, photographed by The Advertiser staff photographer. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Foxworthy, 273 William street.

Geddes' Stomach Weakens
From American Dinners

British Ambassador May Resign Owing to Effects on Digestion of So Many Elaborate Lunches.

Associated Press Despatch.
New York, May 28.—A special despatch to The Tribune from Washington declares that close friends of Ambassador Geddes believe the winding up of the British debt negotiations will mark the end of Sir Auckland's service in the United States. The report from London that Prime Minister Baldwin had offered the Washington post to Austen Chamberlain, therefore, caused no surprise in the United States capital. The ambassador's friends that for more than a year Sir Auckland has been pressing the British foreign office to relieve him of his assignment, and permit him to return home. One reason given for his reported desire to resign is his children brought up as English boys and girls without being separated from Lady Geddes and himself. Another reason ascribed by his friends is that Sir Auckland, being one of the prize lions of Washington society, has been forced to eat so many elaborate lunches and dinners that his health has been undermined. "Almost always," a friend is quoted as saying, "he is the guest of honor at such dinners, which means that he will sit at the hostess's right. The women mean the best in the world when they watch to see whether he is enjoying the food set before him, but the ambassador has thought more about the diplomatic requirements of his position than of his stomach, and I really believe another year or two of it would kill him."

The British ambassador, sitting at his hostess's right, cannot refuse what is before him. Indeed, he is compelled to eat heartily, and sacrifice his stomach for his country."

RUSS CREW STRIKES
ON AMERICAN VESSEL

U. S. Army Transport Held Up 600 Miles Out at Sea by Foreigners.

Associated Press Despatch.
Manila, May 28.—It was reported here today that the Russian crew of the U. S. army transport Merritt, en route from Manila to San Francisco with 540 Russian refugees, had gone on strike, holding up the ship 600 miles from Olongapo. The U. S. S. Harrison was started immediately from Corregidor Island with an emergency crew of Filipinos.

The Russian refugees, made exiles by the Soviet occupation of Vladivostok, are emigrating to the United States under permission of the government. The transport Merritt, assigned for their voyage, left Manila Bay May 23.

JAPS VISIT DUESSELDORF.
Associated Press Despatch.
Cologne, May 28.—It is reported that a Japanese military mission, including a general, a colonel and a captain, has arrived at Duesseldorf, French headquarters for the Ruhr. This mission will later go to Coblenz, season.

LAMBETH SCHOOL
TO BE VISITED
BY BARON BYNG

Governor-General Will Inspect Farming Communities of This District Tomorrow.

IS TOURING ONTARIO

Expected To Arrive at Noon To Learn Something About Rural Conditions.

Governor-General Baron Byng of Vimy will visit Middlesex tomorrow. Baron Byng is touring the rural districts of Ontario to obtain a first-hand knowledge of actual farming conditions in the province.

He will arrive in Woodstock early tomorrow morning where he will be met by Col. Robert McEwen of B. and W. and will motor from Woodstock to Lambeth school, where he is expected to arrive at 12 o'clock. During the drive from Woodstock to Lambeth the party will stop at several farms with the idea of making inquiries as to conditions under which the farmers find their business. The children at Lambeth school will be arrayed in their best to receive Canada's governor-general when he arrives to inspect their school.

From Lambeth the party will motor to Col. McEwen's farm at Byron, where lunch will be awaiting them. After lunch Col. McEwen will show Baron Byng his farm and stock and the party will return to Woodstock. The visit is understood to be purely informal and no official appearance of Baron Byng in London is expected.

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER
CIVIC EMPLOYEES' PAY

Salary List To Be Dealt With at Meeting Tomorrow Night.

Another subject of vital interest—and importance—claims the attention of Mayor Wenige and city councilors at a special informal session tomorrow night.

They propose to tackle the city's wage and salary list—in accordance with the mayor's inaugural address. Just what the outcome will be is highly problematical. Only one thing is certain—there will be no reductions. Mayor Wenige promised that before and after election, upon numerous occasions.

Certain increases are assured, however. As an instance, Assessment Commissioner Harry Bennett and members of the staff are slated for an "elevated" remuneration, retroactive to May 1.

Other recommendations of deserving cases have been heard, and they will also claim every consideration, the aldermen promise. Ald. Judd, chairman of the finance committee, has repeatedly stated in his opinion there were many employees at the city hall who were not receiving what he considered their just due.

Mayor Wenige made mention during his campaign about "city officials' bonuses" and it is presumed that this phase of the question will also be debated.

WILL USE RIVER WATER
IN NEW SWIMMING TANK

Method at Thames Park Will Conserve City Supply.

River water will be used this year in the enlarged swimming tank at Thames Park, it was announced by the public utilities commission today. It is proposed that a ditch should be constructed for some distance parallel with the river into which water from Thames would be pumped by means of pumps which would keep the water flowing steadily. This move will do much to conserve the city's water supply, for the past the swimming tank has been kept filled from the water main. Since the tank has been enlarged it would be impossible to keep it full with fresh spring water for 250,000 gallons a day would be required. Other advantages will result from the use of river water. A steady stream flowing into the tank will recharge the supply every twenty hours insuring utmost cleanliness all times. The water, too, will be at a comfortable temperature something which is not possible when spring water is used. Filtering through twenty feet of gravel which will separate the dirt from the river, the water will be cleared of all solid foreign matter and most of the bacteria. A chlorination plant will also be installed and the water will therefore be tank pure enough for drinking purposes. Construction work on the enlarged tank was completed today and it will be opened to the public into week time. It now measures 150 feet long, being 65 feet longer than was last year.

