

MERCHANTS WILL PUT UP A STRONG FIGHT

Are Still Hopeful That Joint Buildings Will Be a Reality in London.

DID CITY GO TO BLOCK DEAL?

Mr. R. J. Young Discusses the Meeting Last Night and the Present Situation.

The merchants downtown are not at all pleased with the conference between the city and county councils last night.

That the matter has not ended yet is very evident from the expression of opinion voiced by the majority of them.

Mr. R. J. Young, who has been largely instrumental in organizing the merchants in their fight for joint buildings, stated to The Advertiser that the end was not in sight.

"We are greatly disappointed at the result of the conference last night," he stated. "However, we might have expected it. But we are not going to let it down and let it go. We intend to make a fight. There are various other petitions in circulation, and they are being signed by very many citizens, not only in the downtown district but elsewhere."

"These petitions, together with the one already presented, will be taken up at the city council on Monday night. The mayor and aldermen surely cannot overlook them, as they represent the opinion of a large body of influential citizens, the best and brightest businessmen you have in the city. Their opinions should be given consideration, and I have no doubt that the aldermen will yet see the wisdom of our position."

Still hopeful.

On first blush, it does seem as if every possibility of negotiating with the county was past. But I think that we may yet reach an agreement.

Mr. Young said that they will secure the courthouse site, and will get the county council to agree to joint buildings. He believes the county men would do so. There is a strong sentiment in favor of joint buildings among the county members.

"I am surprised at the attitude of the city council. In short, they simply told the county councilors that they would not consider any other site. The latter simply told our people that if they did not consider the courthouse site they might as well quit talking joint buildings. Our representatives will not go to there with any intention of attempting to arrive at any agreement—they simply went to show their intention of blocking the deal. Mayor Beattie's attitude is most unreasonable. He is entitled to his own opinion, but he has no right to believe that the county councilors are represented on the petition. Had he been reasonable with the county councilors, better results would have followed."

As I said before, we are not going to let the question drop here. I am going to spend a considerable sum of money on this thing. If joint municipal buildings cannot be secured, perhaps we will have to find other ways of blocking the city hall deal. We have not decided on a definite course of action, but there will be something doing shortly. The council will have an opportunity Monday night of discussing the petitions we will present."

May Block the Deal.

It is rumored that already plans are on foot to block the sale of the city hall. A number of the aldermen have come to the conclusion that the rights of Hamilton & Graham should be protected by the council, and they will insist on this. They have been assured of light and entrance at the rear of their store.

Several aldermen have been committed to that course of action. It is understood that the Royal Bank will not agree to have the site within the possibilities of the deal. It is within the possibilities of the deal will not come up at the city council on Monday night. For some time the deeds have been under consideration by the solicitors for the bank, but no definite has been made. The difficulties have arisen in connection with the deeds. Mayor Beattie says that he will be ready for consideration at the Monday meeting of the council, but they will come up later."

UNION JACK TO FLY EVERY DAY BUT SUNDAY

The Government Orders Flag Hoisted Above All Public Buildings.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, March 31.—The Minister of Public Works has issued an order in accordance with the decision of the cabinet council, directing that the Union Jack shall fly over every public building in Canada on every day except Sunday during the year. At present the flag is flown only over public buildings in seaports or ports of entry along the international boundary.

SERIOUS SLUMP IN MARRIAGES

Marked Falling Off For March, 1911, as Compared With Same Month, 1910.

A DECREASE IN BIRTHS

Nineteen Less Deaths This March Than a Year Ago—Some Interesting Vital Statistics.

There is a marked difference in the vital statistics for the month of March, as compared with the same month in 1910.

Last year there were 100 births during March. This year there are 87, a difference of 13.

During the same period of 1910 there were 45 marriages, while 22 have been recorded so far this month, a difference of 23. The deaths recorded numbered 87, while this year there were 68, making 19 less this year.

No explanation can be given for the slump.

Of the 68 who died during the month 25 had passed the allotted span of three score years and ten. Four of these were 90 and over, the oldest being 92 years of age.

Pneumonia was responsible for eight deaths, the majority being among the old people. Tuberculosis claimed five, as compared with six for the same period in 1910.

A \$1,500 BLAZE ON YORK STREET

Plant of Ontario Spring Bed and Mattress Works Again Visited.

A DEFECTIVE CHIMNEY

This Is Blamed for the Blaze Which Burned Furiously For a Time—Pressure Excellent.

The Ontario Spring Bed and Mattress Company's plant on York street caught fire this morning about 11 o'clock, and considerable damage resulted to the building as well as the stock.

The blaze originated in the upper storey, presumably from a defective fire in a few moments the fire was communicated to the combustible material in the room, and swept through the top story.

One of the employees noticed the flames and immediately called the fire department. The blaze was confined to the one story, although the roof caught fire, and was badly burned in several places.

The firemen had excellent pressure, and they poured rivers of water into the blaze, effectually smothering the blaze. After half an hour's fight the flames were brought under control.

About a year ago there was a fire in the same building, Capt. Thos. Aiken, Fireman Robinson and several others being carried down through the building by the collapse of a floor. Capt. Aiken was laid up several months as a result. The loss today is estimated to be at least \$1,500 by Mr. Williams, the manager.

"The fire was undoubtedly caused by a defective chimney," said Chief Aiken. "It was confined altogether to the top floor, and although we soon mastered it, it was dangerous for a time."

POLICE SEEKING ORVILLE HULL

Young Man Wanted for Alleged Theft at a Boarding-House.

YOUTH HAS DISAPPEARED

A Description of the Suspect Has Been Sent to Police All Over the District.

Orville Hull, aged 18, formerly employed at Perrin's, is wanted by the police in connection with some serious thefts that occurred recently at the boarding-house of Mrs. E. Talbot at 247 Wellington street.

Hull disappeared quite suddenly on Monday afternoon, it is alleged, and investigation showed that a gold watch, some rings, a bank book and some other things, were missing from the rooms at the boarding-house.

The detective was notified and have been trying to locate Hull. A description of him has been sent to the police all through the district, and it is expected that he will be apprehended shortly.

CONFERENCE TO REVISE CALENDAR

Given Dates Shall Always Fall On Same Day of Week.

AND EXIT "LEAP YEAR"

Under New System There Will Be 364 Days of Four Weeks.

[Canadian Press.] London, March 31.—The British Government is taking immediate steps to ascertain the views of the commercial community of the kingdom on the question of revising the calendar so that a given date shall always fall on the same day of the week. Inquiries will be set afoot by the board of trade, which is supported in the matter by the foreign office and the home office.

The action is taken in consequence of an invitation by the Swiss Government to take part in an international conference. That invitation is, in fact, the result of a proposal approved by an international congress of chambers of commerce sitting in London.

Cut Out First Day.

The proposals of the calendar reformers are that the first day of the year shall be a bank holiday, called "New Year's Day," which shall not count as a day of the week. This leaves the rest of the year 364 days. This number divides exactly into four equal quarters of ninety-one days each, and into fifty-two weeks of seven days each. Each quarter would thus contain exactly thirteen weeks. According to the proposed scheme it would be divided into two months of thirty days each and one month of thirty-one days.

Starting then with the year 1912, Easter Sunday and all the so-called movable feasts, fasts and dates dependent upon it would be fixed so as to fall in every year on the same day of the month, as well as on the same day of the week. April 1 would then be always Easter Sunday, and Christmas Day, Dec. 25, would always fall on Monday. Each day of the month also would always fall on the same day of the week.

"Leap Year Day."

To provide for leap year a bank holiday, to be called "Leap Year Day," would, in leap years, be inserted between June 21 and July 1. As in the case of New Year's Day in the proposed system, this would not count as a day of the week, the month, or the quarter.

The proposals have been embodied in a bill, which is now before the House of Commons, having been introduced by Robert Pearce, M. P., who attracted attention in connection with the proposal to give daylight by periodically setting the clocks of the kingdom to fit the seasons.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT NORTH BAY TODAY

Two Hundred Thousand Dollars Damage Done in Business Section

[Canadian Press.] North Bay, March 31.—A bad fire broke out here early in the forenoon today and did considerable damage. It started from an unknown cause in the Miller Hotel, a three-story building, with 200 rooms, which was destroyed, together with the Bank of Ottawa, the bank of the city, and a half a dozen other stores. The loss is estimated at \$200,000. The fire is now under control, although for a time it threatened to assume proportions beyond the firemen's reach, crippled as they were by the lack of water pressure.

A T. and N. O. engine was backed to a string of freight cars loaded with merchandise for the Porcupine Mines, and yanked them out of the reach of the fire in the nick of time.

EAST ENDERS WANT CITY HALL BUILT EAST OF RICHMOND STREET

Progressives at Meeting Last Night Put Themselves On Record in Regard to the Matter—A Mass Meeting to Protest Is Talked Of.

The East End Progressive Association, at their weekly meeting last night, declared strongly against the location of the new city hall on any site other than one east of Richmond on Dundas street.

Addresses were given by Mr. Reginald Christian, Mr. Wm. H. Brown and others, who expressed the opinion that a site ought not to be chosen until the people have had an opportunity to express their preference in the matter of sites. It was moved that the council be asked to submit the different sites proposed to a plebiscite of the people and it was also decided to

circulate petitions in favor of the Dundas street site.

A Mass Meeting.

The question of holding a mass meeting either in a downtown or east end hall to protest against the court house, Richmond street and Victoria Park sites, was decided at a meeting of the executive of the association which will be held tonight.

The association also discussed the question of having printed matter for business purposes, carrying advertising matter calculated to attract investors and others to the city. It is probable that such a move will be decided on in the near future at a future meeting.

LONDON CUSTOM RETURNS EXCEED \$1,000,000 MARK

Collector Elliott Says That the Collections for March in Port of London Will Be Over \$90,000.

For the first time in the history of the city the custom returns for this month's receipts will put the total well over the million mark.

The figures are not yet complete, but Customs Collector Elliott stated to The Advertiser this afternoon that for March the figures would be well above \$90,000.

As the returns for the eleven months periods last year.

LONDON ELECTRIC MAKE DENIAL

Company Not Wiring Houses On the Installation Plan, They Say.

TROUBLES OF THE N. P.

Company Declares the Scheme in London Is in Straits, and Commissioners Would Not Make the Move.

The London Electric Company deny that they are putting in wiring and lighting fixtures into customers' houses and allowing them to pay the cost on the installment plan, as the water commissioners propose to do.

"We are not doing any such thing," Mr. Jenkins, the manager, stated to The Advertiser. "We are assisting any customer to wire his house, and we are doing it at the actual cost price. But it simply shows into what straits the commissioners are finding themselves when they have to go to such expense for a thing that cannot be profitable."

He furthermore stated that their load was the heaviest, both as to A. C. current and power that the company ever carried.

"We are going ahead well," Mr. Jenkins stated. "We have no complaints to make whatever."

BUFFALO MOTHER SEEKS LOST BOY

Last Heard of Youth He Was in a Runaway Trip to London

MOTHER ARRESTED HERE

Nothing is Known by the Local Police of the Lad Who, a Month Ago, Was Taken to London.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Buffalo, March 31.—The last seen of heard of Francis Grimmer, 13 years old, 137 St. Louis avenue, Buffalo, he was in London, Ont. His mother here is prostrated with grief over the son's disappearance. Young Grimmer and George Keller, 15 years old, left their homes last Saturday afternoon. Keller returned late yesterday and told the story of the trip.

SITE QUESTION CAUSED A SPLIT

City Council and County Council Failed to Get Together On Joint Buildings.

LOOKS LIKE THE END

County Council Agrees to City's Proposal to Pay 50 Per Cent. of Cost of Court House Repairs.

Moved by Councillor Morgan: "That this county council express itself as not in favor of abandoning the present court house site."

Moved in amendment by Councillor Glass: "That this council favor joint municipal buildings, provide satisfactory arrangements can be made with the city as to site, cost of building, etc." Lost.

There will be no joint municipal buildings for some years at least, judging from the fate of the two motions mentioned above.

For many months the agitation for such an arrangement has been pronounced in London, but last night at a conference between the city and county councils, the latter body decided that they were well satisfied to remain where they are. The whole question was discussed at great length. The city representatives gave the impression that it was absolutely impossible to discuss joint buildings if the county held to the present site of the court house.

The county councilors, with equal determination, held that any other site was out of the question altogether, and also declared that the percentages arrived at by the city as to the cost and maintenance, 40 per cent for the city and 40 per cent for the county, were out of all proportion, and could not be accepted by the county.

Against Court House Site.

Practically all the city councilors expressed their opinion on the question of site, and these opinions were divergent. The majority were against the court house site.

A large proportion of the county councilors expressed their opinion on the subject, and nearly all took the ground that the court house site was the only one suitable for joint buildings.

Warden Moss occupied the chair. The county council went into committee of the whole, and a most informal discussion of the question in all its phases was given. It was after 10 o'clock before the matter was finally disposed of.

Mayor Beattie introduced the question and read the resolutions passed by the city council at its meeting on Tuesday evening approving of the principle of joint municipal buildings. Fixing the proportion of the cost of erection and maintenance at 40 per cent for the city and 40 per cent for the county, and agreeing that negotiations for joint buildings failed, to pay 50 per cent of the cost of repairs and alterations to the court house and jail.

It was suggested that the city council were not unanimous in favor of joint buildings. A fair percentage of the aldermen and many of the city councilors were present.

WIFE CENSURED BY MAGISTRATE

P. M. Graydon Says That Men Should Not Be Hauled Into Court For Trifles.

AN AWFUL TALE OF WOE

Told by Mrs. Rush, But When Husband Got in the Box He Rather Riddled It.

The domestic difficulties of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Rusk occupied a good deal of Deputy Magistrate Graydon's time at the police court this morning, when Rusk appeared to answer to a charge of assault laid against him by his wife. The court held that no case had been made out, and dismissed the charge.

According to Mrs. Rusk her husband yesterday morning would not get up when she called him, and when he did get up went out and got a big sealer full of beer and came home and drank it and abused her.

Rusk alleged that Rusk had on other occasions called for vile names, and had threatened to kill her. She also claimed that the family owed quite a lot of money for rent.

The Husband's Story.

In the box, Rusk stated that he had not called his wife vile names. He said that when an insurance man came to his shop and wanted to collect money, he refused because as far as he knew no one in the house was insured. The man said he would go to the house, and Mr. Rusk told him not to. Later when Mr. Rusk went home he found the insurance man there and a photograph agent also, and discovered that his wife had contracted for some photos to be enlarged. The pictures would cost only a small amount, but the frames brought the bill up to \$15.

To Keep Peace.

"I agreed to this simply to keep peace in the family," he said. "I told the insurance man to get out, and my wife said he had just as much right there as I had, and that insurance agent said he had just as much right as I had at home. Personally, I think the money for the pictures should have been paid to clear up our indebtedness for rent."

TWO THOUSAND FALL IN BATTLE

Fierce Four-Days Fight Between Mexican Federals and Rebels.

TORCH FOR SAN RAFAEL

Many Women and Children Said to Have Perished in Destruction of Town.

[Canadian Press.] Tucson, Ariz., March 31.—That a thousand men have been killed on both sides in a battle between federals and rebels in the vicinity of San Rafael and Ures, Mexico, since Monday, is reported by a federal officer in Nogales, Sonora, according to a special to a local paper from Nogales. The officer is said to have given this report to fellow officers upon receipt of news from Hermosillo.

The destruction of a big flour mill at San Rafael by dynamite is said to have been followed by a fire which completely destroyed the town. It is said many women and children are numbered among the victims of the engagement fought while the town was burning.

The rebels in the vicinity of Ures are said to number 1,500, and are commanded by Juan Garcia, Juan Cabral, and Col. Gandrillo. Col. Iron, who was in command of the insurgents at La Colorado; Col. Villareal, Col. Max, age and Captain Alme.

The recruits are said to be flocking to the rebel ranks from the surrounding country.

The original force of federals under Col. Ojeda and Col. Barron numbered 800, including 200 Yaquis. Three hundred men are said to have been impressed at Hermosillo and sent to the front.

Another Account.

El Paso, March 31.—Although reports received here indicate heavy fighting at Ures, Sonora, representatives of both factions declare the report that 1,000 men had been killed on each side is without foundation. Representatives of the insurgents junta here in close touch with the war zone, declare the insurgents force, which might have been engaged, numbers but 1,100, and that not more than 2,000 were engaged on both sides.

The statement from Tucson that the town of San Rafael had been destroyed by fire is discredited, as the town consists almost entirely of adobe houses with mud roofs, which are practically fireproof. It is believed the loss of life has been heavy, however.

THE REVENUE INCREASE OVER THIRTEEN MILLIONS

Largest Growth in Imports in Any Year in Canada's History.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, Ont., March 31.—The customs revenue of the Dominion for the fiscal year ending today will, when all returns are in, show an increase of over \$13,000,000, as compared with the preceding year. Returns received up to noon today show total receipts of \$72,343,866, an increase of \$12,580,939, and this will be further increased by about a million when the books for the year are finally closed. The increase indicates the largest growth in imports in any year in the history of the Dominion. For the past month the increase has been \$1,464,455, the total receipts being \$7,445,474.

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Colder. FORECASTS. Toronto, March 31.—Sunny. Today—Northwesterly winds, fair and cold. Tomorrow—Northerly winds, fair and colder.

TEMPERATURES. Stations. Max. Min. Weather. Victoria 48 34 Fair. Calgary 35 24 Cloudy. Winnipeg 30 22 Clear. Port Arthur 24 12 Cloudy. Parry Sound 24 16 Fair. Toronto 34 26 Cloudy. Ottawa 30 18 Snow. Montreal 26 20 Snow. Quebec 26 22 Cloudy. Father Point 26 28 Cloudy.

WEATHER NOTES.

The disturbance mentioned yesterday is now centred north of the Gaspé peninsula. Snow has fallen in Ontario, Quebec, and rain in the Maritime Provinces.

Cold weather has set in over the Western Provinces.

Snow fell in Ontario and Quebec yesterday, and rain in the Maritime Provinces, owing to the northward movement of a disturbance from the Middle Atlantic States. The weather was generally fair in the west, with not much change in temperature.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: London, 27-34; Parryson, 6-24; Victoria, 28-54; Vancouver, 40-54; Kamloops, 40-54; 28-54; Albert, 30-54; Calgary, 32-54; Moose Jaw, 25-30; Qu'Appelle, 24-38; Winnipeg, 14-30; Port Arthur, 14-34; Parry Sound, 24-34; Toronto, 24-34; Ottawa, 24-34; Montreal, 24-36; Quebec, 24-36; John, 22-40; Halifax, 32-42.

He knows that country like a book."

Man, Who Interviewed President Taft, Comes From Strathroy, Ontario.

Mr. Geo. P. Smith, M. P. P. of Camrose, Alberta, who interviewed President William Taft at Washington, yesterday day on the question of reciprocity, is well known in Western Ontario. He is originally from Strathroy, going later to Toronto, where he was an assistant master of the Ryerson school for some time.

Later he went west, going into the newspaper business at Camrose. He has been very successful in the west, and is counted one of the brilliant men of the Alberta Legislature.

Mr. Smith is a cousin of Mr. A. W. Smith, M. P. for North Middlesex. He states that in Alberta the feeling is unanimous in support of reciprocity. "No person is better qualified to speak of the feeling of the west on this subject than Mr. Smith," said a gentleman to The Advertiser today. "He knows that country like a book."