

CHAMBERLAIN CLAIMS 100 MAJ.

BALFOUR SEES A MODEST 60; PERCY'S DEATH EMBARRASING

Clip Power of Lords at Polls, Says Sir William Robson, and Charges Unionists With Holding Out False Inducements to Working Classes—Balfour on Stump Again and Denounces Home Rule.

London, Dec. 30.—The Canadian Associated Press is informed that Mr. Balfour is looking forward to a majority in the Commons of sixty, while Mr. Chamberlain hopes for one hundred.

Sir Gilbert Parker at Aylesbury said that "since Canada gave us a preference England has doubled its shipping with her, and last year the English workmen got nine millions in wages out of the purchases of Canada."

Through the death of Earl Percy, a candidate in South Kensington, the Conservatives have found themselves in a somewhat difficult position, but another candidate will be chosen immediately, says the secretary of the Conservative Association.

Rt. Hon. C. E. H. Hobhouse, at East Bristol, said it was the experience of all nations that had tried protection that the consumer and not the foreigner had to pay the duty. The Liberal alternative was the budget. The Liberals hoped by the free trade policy to attract to the country as much capital as possible. When it was in full work they would take from it toll according to the wealth it produced, and the convenience it afforded to the public.

CLIP POWER OF LORDS.

Sir W. Robson, at South Shields, said what the Government had done was for the country. They had attempted a good deal more than they had done. The failure of their attempts, however, was due to the power exerted by the hereditary chamber, which he hoped would receive a clipping at this election. Conservatives said that if they taxed bread the foreigner would pay it. That was a serious charge, but he was going to suggest that the promise that the foreigner would pay their taxes was made by men who knew in substance that the inducement they were holding out to the British working class was false.

BALFOUR STUMPS AGAIN.

London, Dec. 31.—Mr. Balfour, partially recovered from his recent illness, addressed electors of Haddington last night. He avoided tariff reform, devoting himself largely to denouncing the Government's home rule declaration and alliance with the Socialists.

The Dreadnought Clamor.

Who clamored for additional Dreadnoughts said Mr. Lloyd-George, in a recent speech. He remembered a great meeting in the city, presided over by Lord Rothchild (thrice)—who demanded that eight Dreadnoughts should be instantly laid down. The Government had ordered four, and Lord Rothchild would not pay. (Laughter.) There was a very cruel king in the past who ordered Lord Rothchild's ancestors to make bricks without straw. (Loud laughter.) That was a much easier job than making Dreadnoughts without money. The Government had to get money for pensions, which their opponents did their very best to upset. Now they said they did not object to paying for the pensions, but that in order to obtain the money, the Government ought not to put a tax on the land of the country; and they asked, Why

not tax food? (Cries of "Shame!") Tax the food of the workingman's children in order to spare the acres for the landlord's child, so that the workman's spare store to feed his child should be diminished in order that the estate should be preserved for the landlord's heir. (Laughter.) When the budget was brought in trade was not good; but trade was just like the sea in that it ebbed and flowed. Since the budget was introduced trade had steadily improved, unemployment had gone steadily down, imports and exports had gone steadily up. The trade of the woolen mills of Yorkshire was improving. In spite of the budget, people would wear tweeds. (Laughter.) What they really ought to be wearing was sackcloth and ashes. (Laughter.) Sackcloth and ashes was made from jute and ashes came from coal. Their use would improve the trade of Dundee and Wales.

SPECTACULAR FIRE IN HEART OF PITTSBURG

Five Buildings in Business Section Consumed at Great Loss.

Pittsburg, Dec. 31.—The most spectacular fire seen in this city for several years caused a loss estimated at \$150,000 to five buildings located in the heart of the downtown section here today. With the temperature hovering about zero and the water freezing to their persons, the firemen fought the blaze, which enveloped one of the buildings within three minutes of the time it was discovered. The fire started in the Union Electric Company, supposedly from crossed wires, and spread rapidly to the Footers Dye Works Company, occupying the two adjoining buildings. It is said that gasoline in these buildings added to the fierceness of the fire. Other buildings damaged were the McCandless & Gordon Men's Furnishing Company and the J. J. Gillespie Art Store.

Several people living in the buildings were removed by firemen and policemen, while the occupants of a bath house which was threatened were forced to leave the hot room and come into the cold.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS FOR SUIT THIEF

George Bell, of Strathroy, Got All That Was Coming to Him.

George Bell, of Strathroy, who stole a black serge suit from Mr. J. M. Moore on Dec. 11, appeared before Magistrate Noble, of Strathroy, Wednesday and was sentenced to 18 months in the Central Prison.

JUDGMENT FOR PLAINTIFF

Case of Denham vs. Patrick Heard at County Court.

Judgment has been handed down by Judge Macbeth in the case of Wm. H. Denham against J. H. Patrick, of London Township, heard at the last session of the county court. The action arose out of the dismissal of Denham from the employ of Patrick, the former claiming that there had been no sufficient grounds for such action. The defendant brought into court \$210 in full satisfaction for the claims for wages made by the plaintiff. Judgment was given for the plaintiff for \$120 in addition to this amount, and the costs of the action. Messrs. P. H. Bartlett and E. W. Scatcherd for the plaintiff and Messrs. Gibbons, Harper & Gibbons for the defendant.

CANDIDATES AGAIN ASK FOR VOTES

Meeting in the City Hall Last Night Was Fairly Well Attended.

A VERY TAME AFFAIR

Ald. Ferguson and Ald. Beattie Place Their Records Before the Electors—An Evening of Speeches.

The final meeting of the present campaign was held last evening at the city hall, a score of aspirants for public office asked the support of the ratepayers. There was a good crowd present in the earlier stages, but it gradually thinned out until a number of candidates found no audience to address, and refrained from oratory at the midnight hour.

In keeping with the present campaign, the meeting was a very quiet one, nothing happening at any time to disturb the tranquility of the most highly-strung individual present.

Bylaws Favored.

One of the pleasing features of the meeting was the strong support given the storm sewer and garbage system bylaws. Ald. Ferguson, Ald. Beattie and Mayor Stevely particularly came out strong for these public works, and insisted that both were absolutely necessary to protect the citizens. The sentiments expressed appeared popular, and the presentation of the merits of the bylaws will undoubtedly result in their success on Saturday.

Ald. D. A. Stewart, on motion of Mr. W. R. Colby and Dr. J. D. Balfour, was selected as chairman.

Ald. Beattie.

Ald. Beattie was the first speaker. He expressed his pleasure at addressing such a gathering, and thanked the electors for past favors. On every occasion when he had presented himself he had been given most generous support. At this time he was asking a continuance of that support in his candidature for the mayoralty, and he hoped that he would be elected on Saturday.

Ald. Beattie dealt with the necessity of inducing industries to come to London, if the city was to advance and grow. He objected to the criticism that the present council, or any other council, had been responsible for the failure of industries to come to the city. The fault was not there, but it was due to the fact that the city offered nothing, and could give nothing.

Bonusing Industries.

Other cities were going out into the open market and bidding for industries. (Continued on Page Six.)

THERMOMETER CREEPING UP BUT IT IS VERY SLOW WORK

Six Above Zero Last Night Compared With Zero the Night Previously—Some Ice Is Being Harvested on the North Branch.

The thermometer is showing a tendency toward creeping upward lately, but its progress in that direction has been so slow that the man on the street has hardly noticed it. There have been periodic though slight snowfalls during the past few days, not enough to be a serious inconvenience, but sufficient to cause a little exercise before breakfast.

It is eminently good for him, but judging from father's language as he dons his bath robe and carpet slippers to take a look out and see that it has been blowing and snowing again, a philosophic listener would judge that weather did not care so much for his welfare as for his comfort.

The Temperatures.

It has been fairly cold, too, lately.

Wednesday night the mercury took a sudden dive, stopping only when it reached zero, while on the day following the best it could do was 12.5 degrees above, which on "paper" looks fairly warm, but in reality is quite frigid enough to make the outlying portions of the pedestrian's anatomy places of some anxiety.

Last night it was 6 above zero, which is somewhat more comfortable than zero, but it is not enough to give many a harassed householder a busy morning thawing out the water pipe.

At 8 o'clock this morning it was 12.5 degrees above, and with it up two degrees more, but it is not enough to give many a harassed householder a busy morning thawing out the water pipe. That part of the river is completely frozen to a depth of 11 or 12 inches.

CITY'S NATURAL INCREASE 298 STATISTICS SHOW FALLING OFF

Fewer Births, Marriages and Deaths in 1909 Than in 1908—Marriages Were Equally as Popular in July as in June—Big Reduction in Number of Deaths From Tuberculosis.

The vital statistics for the year show a slight falling off in every department, although the proportions of former years have been fairly well preserved.

During 1909 there have been 961 births, 433 marriages, and 663 deaths as compared with 1,040 births in 1908, 457 marriages and 745 deaths. The city's natural increase in 1909 was 298.

The birth rate shows a falling off to the extent of 40 approximately, and it is clear proof that the birth rate has not been as thrifty a bird during the past year as it should have been.

All Round Falling Off.

Dan Cupid has shown a disinclination for work also, and his total number of jokes on men and women are less than last year, which was not considered one of his busiest years.

The Grim Reaper has shown a disinclination also to desert in his efforts, the number of deaths this year is 82 less than in 1908.

February, in spite of the storms,

shows the greatest birth rate during the year, 102 "kiddies" being ushered into rather a chilly world during that month.

March showed the greatest death rate during the year, pneumonia and other spring diseases carrying off 71.

The twelfth of June may be popular with those matrimonially inclined, but July was just as popular in 1909. In both months 52 couples were more or less happy.

During the year 35 illegitimate children were born. There are no statistics for comparison, so it cannot be learned whether this is larger or smaller than usual.

Work of Tuberculosis.

The death rate from tuberculosis shows a most gratifying decrease. In 1908 there were 54 deaths from this dread disease, while this year there were but 32, a difference of 22, or nearly 50 per cent. Better care and more knowledge of the best methods of treatment are responsible for the change.

(Continued on Page Six.)

A PURSE OF GOLD FOR ARTHUR JOLLY

Popular City Hall Official Who Has Resigned Is Kindly Remembered.

Mr. A. E. Jolly, who for the past eleven years has been connected with the assessment department, was this noon paid a purse of gold by the city hall employees. Mr. Jolly leaves today to take over his father's business.

The presentation was made by Assessment Commissioner Grant, who referred in eulogistic terms of Mr. Jolly's services for the city. He regretted the cause of his leaving, but wished him great success in his new undertaking.

A Competent Man.

"The department is losing a most competent man, and the city an obliging official," said Mr. Grant. "We are sorry to lose you, but wish you God-speed."

Mr. Jolly replied briefly. It was with considerable regret that he was leaving the city's service, but it must be. He thanked the city officials for their unfailing kindness to him during his years of service and hoped that the new year would be most prosperous for all. Several others spoke in complimentary terms of Mr. Jolly.

Presentation to Miss Westman. Rev. J. W. Baird, of Hyatt avenue Methodist church gave a series of Ingleth views in the school room at 11 o'clock last evening. Solos by Miss Blosom, Miss G. P. Harding, and recitations by Miss Grace Rowntree and Rowland Reynolds were also illustrated. Miss Hilda Westman, who is leaving for Toronto, to take up deaconess work was presented with an engraved address.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW SNOWY.

FORECASTS.

Today—Fresh southwesterly winds; moderately cold, with light snowfalls.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Weather.
London	19	11	27	Fair
Victoria	19	11	27	Snow
Calgary	14	4	18	Snow
Winnipeg	12	2	16	Cloudy
Port Arthur	12	2	16	Cloudy
Perry Sound	22	8	28	Snow
Ottawa	16	12	20	Cloudy
Montreal	16	12	20	Cloudy
Quebec	8	4	12	Cloudy
St. John's	8	4	12	Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.

WEATHER NOTES.

The Atlantic coast storm has passed away to the eastward of Newfoundland. The weather has moderated a little in Manitoba, Ontario, but is now turning cold again in Alberta.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES. Toronto, Dec. 30.—5 a.m.—During last night the disturbance of the Atlantic coast developed into a very severe storm, which is now centred in Newfoundland, and heavy snows, with snow, have prevailed in Nova Scotia. The weather has moderated somewhat in Ontario and Manitoba, and continues mild in the far West.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: London, zero—20; Victoria, 22—2; Vancouver, 37—42; Edmonton, 20—30; Battleford, 10—22; Calgary, 34—44; Moosejaw, 12—38; Qu'Appelle, 16—31; Winnipeg, 2 below—14; Port Arthur, zero—16; Perry Sound, 16 below—12; Toronto, 2 below—17; Ottawa, 4 below—14; Montreal, 2 below—5; Quebec, 14 below—5; St. John's, 14—12.

185 FIRE ALARMS DURING THE YEAR

Local Brigade Had a Busy Time of It in 1909.

LOSSES TOTAL \$130,000

Insurance Aggregated a Million Dollars—Very Many False Alarms Were Sent in to the Department.

The fire department had a busy year in 1909.

During the twelve months they responded to 185 alarms, 50 more than in 1908.

Of these 140 were fires, 17 were for chimneys, 20 were false alarms, and two were test runs.

Over the telephone 115 alarms were received. Forty-five boxes were pulled, 19 verbal alarms were given and 6 private alarms were sent in.

False Alarms. A serious feature of the statistics is that 26 alarms out of 185 were false alarms, or practically 15 per cent.

During the year the department travelled 259 miles. Over 8 miles of hose were laid, or to be exact, just 45,900 feet. There were 4,880 feet of chemical hose laid in addition, and 1,186 feet of ladder were used.

The insurance on buildings, where fires were discovered, amounted to \$145,400, and the loss by fire amounted to \$67,530.

The insurance on contents amounted to \$505,260, and the loss was \$63,425. The total loss by fire was \$130,955.

The most serious fires during the year were the following—Jan. 19, Globe Casket Company; May 28, W. J. Reid & Co.; Aug. 31, Parisian Laundry and barns in rear of same, and Nov. 11, Whiting of the First Methodist Church in Spring Bed and Mattress Company.

"We have had quite a lot of work to do," said Chief Aitken. "There have been many runs, and some serious fires. However, the report is quite satisfactory."

FIVE PERSONS KILLED IN ROCK ISLAND WRECK

The California Special Derailed Near Town of Trenton, Missouri.

Trenton, Mo., Dec. 31.—Passenger train No. 3, westbound, on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, known as the California special, was derailed three miles west of Trenton at 8:40 this morning. All of the cars were overturned and the train caught fire, burning fiercely. At least five lives have been lost.

SONS RUSHING HOME TO ATTEND FUNERAL

Remains of Late Col. Dawson Will Likely Be Interred on Tuesday Next.

If the sons of the late Col. Dawson, who reside in Irvin, Alta., can arrive in the city in time, the funeral will be held on Tuesday afternoon next.

Word was received from them last night that they were leaving at once for London, and they expect, unless delayed by storms raging in the west, to arrive home Monday night.

The funeral will be held to Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and Rev. Richard Whiting, of the First Methodist Church, will conduct the services.

ON THE INDIAN LIST BUT DIDN'T KNOW IT

Peculiar Case of Fred Coughlin Who Was Allowed to Go.

A peculiar situation developed in the police court this morning as the result of a charge laid against Fred Coughlin, an Indian listed, who didn't know that he was a member of the brigade.

While P. C. Fysh and Sergeant Birrell were making their rounds on Christmas Day, they rambled into the Hodgins House bar and found Coughlin there.

P. C. Fysh did not know that Coughlin was on the list and made Sergeant Birrell acquainted with him.

How It Happened. A little while after the sergeant recollected that Coughlin was a listed, and as a result an information was laid. Coughlin, it seems, was put on the list on April 24 of this year. On April 26 he left for the Northwest, and never got the registered letter which Inspector Aitken sends all listed.

Coughlin returned about the end of September, still in ignorance that he was a listed, and he told the court that ever since that time he has been going in and out of bars whenever he wanted to.

A Peculiar Case. "This is a peculiar case," said the court. "Are you prepared to go in the box and swear that you never received any notice that you were on the list, and that you were not aware of it?"

"I certainly am," said Coughlin, and he went into the box and made the required affidavit.

"Well, then, I will dismiss the case against you," said the court. "Under the circumstances, I don't think I would be justified in doing anything else. You understand, though that you are on the list now, and that if you are found in a hotel you will be prosecuted."

SEVERE BYLAW IS POPULAR

PEOPLE ARE ALIVE TO THE ISSUE

Prominent Citizens Have No Hesitation in Indorsing the Construction of a System to Take Away the Storm Water in London.

Two of the three money bylaws to be submitted to the people will undoubtedly carry. They are the storm sewer bylaw and the garbage system bylaw.

The underground system bylaw has apparently no friends, and it is said it will be beaten.

The expenditure of \$70,000 for storm sewers in every section of the city is meeting with hearty approval. Last evening practically all the candidates for the leading municipal offices took a stand in favor of it.

In consideration of the subject, it would be well to consider some of the opinions of men who understand the situation thoroughly.

Some Opinions.

Engineer Willis Chipman—The hydraulic sewer is sufficient for that purpose for a city of 100,000 inhabitants. It was never intended for a storm-water sewer, nor is it sufficient for such purposes. Another system for storm water is necessary.

Mayor Stevely—A storm-water sewer has been a necessity for years, and it is badly needed at the present time. We cannot get along very well without it. I have urged such a system be established for years.

Mayor Little, in 1897—No attempt should be made to carry off storm

water in any sewer not intended by the engineers to be used for such purposes.

Storm Sewer Necessary. Ald. Ferguson—It has been recognized for some time that a storm sewer was necessary for the proper draining of the city. In our efforts to economize, we have failed to commence a necessary work. It must be built soon.

Ald. Beattie—The ratepayers will be penny wise and pound foolish if they defeat the storm sewer bylaw.

Mayor Stevely—A work of necessity, upon which depends the efficiency of the present system of the city.

Ald. Gerry—It should have been laid years ago. We cannot delay laying it much longer.

East End Is Interested. Many other opinions of competent citizens could be given, but these are typical.

The east end of the city is particularly in need of such a system, and it would make a vast improvement in the other sections.

All the ratepayers consulted appear impressed by the necessity of such a work, and will undoubtedly support the bylaw.

This is one bylaw that should be voted for.

BANKER SPENCER TRASK KILLED IN ACCIDENT

A Noted American Financier the Victim of a Rear End Collision.

New York, Dec. 31.—Spencer Trask, one of New York's best known bankers, met death today in a disastrous rear-end collision on the New York Central Railroad near Croton, N. Y., in which three other passengers are reported to have been killed. Several persons were injured, some of them fatally.

Meagre details of the wreck from the out-of-the-way point on the Hudson River, where the accident occurred, indicated that Mr. Trask and the other victims of the collision were in the rear sleeper of the second section of the Montreal Express on the Central, when it was rammed by a south-bound freight lurching up suddenly out of the river mists.

Spencer Trask was one of New York's leading citizens, and one of the country's best known bankers.

Born here in 1844, he entered the banking business immediately on his graduation from Princeton. His financial acumen was quickly recognized, and he quickly became a power in the banking world.

Mr. Trask was quick to recognize the genius of Thomas A. Edison, and the banker identified himself with the Edison electric enterprises. The banker was a director in many railroads and realty companies, and was deeply interested in several educational and philanthropic societies. Several years ago Mr. Trask bought and reorganized the New York Times. He was president of the National Arts Club and a member of numerous other prominent New York clubs. Mr. Trask was married in 1874 to Miss Katrina Nicholas.

MAN SLIPPED HIS FOOT MAGISTRATE WAS LENIENT

Had Been Living Good Life But Got Too Much Christmas Day.

Magistrate Love handed out a unique decision this morning when he fined James Gannon \$10, the costs amounting to \$2, and gave him the option of spending one day at the police station instead of paying the fine.

Gannon is a young man who was placed on the Indian list some time ago.

Since that time he has been a model young man, and according to his mother has been good and kind to her, supporting her as he should.

On Christmas Day, however, he happened to go into a bar-room in order to get a friend out, and as a result broke the law by being in the hotel.

Took the Day. "I understand that you have been behaving excellently," the court told Gannon this morning, "and although I must, according to the law, fine you \$10, I can make the option as short as I like, and in consideration for you I will allow you to spend one day in jail instead of paying the fine."

"I will take the day," said Gannon, and ever since he has been at the police station. He will be released tonight.

ROY SANDERSON PLEADED GUILTY

Was Fined Until Friday Next for Sentence.

Roy Sanderson, the 17-year-old boy who was arrested yesterday charged with stealing three rings and a purse containing a dollar bill and some loose change from Mr. Frank O'Brien, of London Township, appeared before Judge Elliott this morning. He elected to be tried by the judge, and pleaded guilty. As the boy has been confined in the Mimico Industrial School and escaped from there, his case is a rather puzzling one. He was remanded till next Friday for sentence.

BUILDING PERMITS DOUBLE IN LONDON

Tremendous Increase Over 1908 Is Shown By the City Engineer.

TOTAL \$850,134 IN 1909

Figures for the Twelve Months of This Year and Last Year Will Be Found of Interest.

The building returns for the year are most satisfactory, and show that nearly double the amount of building was done in 1909 as compared with 1908.

During the twelve months just closed there were 684 permits issued, for a total of \$850,134, as compared with 234 permits in 1908, for a value of \$164,190. The difference in value amounts to \$285,944.

April took the palm for building, not less than \$177,250 worth of permits being taken out.

A Steady Growth. The growth has been steady, and shows that the citizens as a rule have faith in London.

This year there have been many houses built, some 400 or 500—rather a good showing. There have been some big jobs, including the Garvey warehouse, the Wortley road school, the Murray Shoe Company's building, a large addition to the Hyman tannery, and many others. Many fine houses, costing from \$5,000 to \$15,000, have been built during the year.

The record for building this year is as follows:

Month	Permits	Cost
January	11	\$1,800
February	11	\$1,800
March	11	\$1,800
April	11	\$1,800
May	11	\$1,800
June	11	\$1,800
July	11	\$1,800
August	11	\$1,800
September	11	\$1,800
October	11	\$1,800
November	11	\$1,800
December	11	\$1,800
Totals	684	\$850,134

During the year 1908 the permits were issued as follows:

Month	Permits	Cost
January	11	\$1,800
February	11	\$1,800
March	11	\$1,800
April	11	\$1,800
May	11	\$1,800
June	11	\$1,800
July	11	\$1,800
August	11	\$1,800
September	11	\$1,800