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LAST EDITION.

Nothing Official About the Likelihood of Peter Smith's Release

NO ORDER FOR RELEASE OF PETER SMITH IS YET SIGNED

Ottawa Despatch Says It Is Understood That the Former Provincial Treasurer Will Soon Be a Free Man--Was Sentenced to Three-Year Term and Huge Fine Over Bond Transactions.

Ottawa, May 29.—The question of the release of Peter Smith, former Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, has been before the Cabinet, and is understood to be new before the Governor-General. No formal order for release has been issued, but the expectation is that some action in the matter will be taken shortly.

A Toronto Globe despatch from Ottawa, says:

"It is understood that Peter Smith, former Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, will today be a free man. While it is reported that an order releasing him from Portsmouth penitentiary has been signed, no official confirmation could be obtained.

"Peter Smith, Provincial Treasurer of Ontario under the Drury Government was sentenced to three years imprisonment and fine of \$200,000 in connection with the Ontario treasury scandals. Aemilius Jarvis, Sr., of Toronto, was convicted in the same connection, and Andrew H. Peppall, now of Los Angeles, was acquitted."

On receipt of the news early on Saturday morning, the Whig interviewed Warden J. C. Ponsford, but the latter stated that he had no intimation of his release, although he intimated that word about parole of men in the institution was received by registered letter and that these letters were received at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day.

Hon. W. F. Nickle, Attorney-General, could not confirm the report when interviewed, and the attorney general would have to be consulted in the matter, as the Ontario Government is interested in the fine imposed on Mr. Smith, and which had to be paid before his release can be brought about.

Quite a scare was thrown into the ranks of the Toronto newspapermen on Saturday morning, when it was learned at the Union Station that a

man who appeared to look like Peter Smith, had left an early train from Kingston.

The man was not the former provincial treasurer, as when Warden Ponsford was asked if Mr. Smith was still in the penitentiary, he said: "Sure."

Release Sought Some Time.

For some time, efforts have been under way to secure the release of Peter Smith, serving a three-year sentence. It will be recalled that some time ago, an application was made to the Minister of Justice for a member of the former Drury Cabinet to visit Peter Smith in the prison. The request was granted, and Hon. W. E. Raney, former attorney-general, came to Kingston, and had an interview with him.

An application was made for Smith's release on the grounds of ill-health. He arrived at the prison on November 13th, 1924, and for the greater part of the time has been employed in the library.

Providing the parole is not granted Smith will have to remain in the prison until May 5th, 1927, as according to the rules, a three-year sentence means that with time off for good conduct, a prisoner must serve two years, five months and twenty-two days. During the first six months of the sentence, no time is allowed off, but for the next year, six days per month is allowed and for the remaining months ten days per month is the allowance.

According to the sentence imposed by Justice Meredith, Smith must pay a fine amounting to \$100,000.

Nothing Doing.

"Nothing doing" was the laconic reply received from the warden's office at 11.45 o'clock, regarding the rumored parole of Peter Smith. The warden opened the registered mail about 11.30 o'clock and found no order in the packages received from the department in Ottawa. Another registered mail is received at three o'clock.

LIBERAL PARTY NOT TO HOLD CONVENTION

Decision of Ontario Executive by a Vote of Almost Two to One.

Toronto, May 29.—The executive of the Ontario Liberal Party gathered yesterday to the number about 200 and after a long discussion voted the proposal to hold a party convention. The decision was reached by a vote of almost two to one and is generally regarded, says the Mail and Empire report, "as definitely confirming Mr. Sinclair in the leadership until after the next provincial election. It also implies that the Liberal party in Ontario will go officially into the next campaign as the party of prohibition."

The resolution for the convention was submitted by the Eastern Ontario Liberal Association, and was argued largely by Albert Pinard, M.P.P., for East Ottawa.

TO BE NEXT MODERATOR

Rev. James Endicott, D.D., is likely to be chosen.

Toronto, May 29.—That Rev. Jas. Endicott, D.D., of Toronto, for 19 years missionary in the foreign field and for thirteen years Foreign Missions Secretary of the Methodist Church, will succeed Dr. Pidgeon as Moderator of the General Council is a foregone conclusion, though several other names are also mentioned. Of the 113 Presbyteries throughout the Dominion half the number have nominated Dr. Endicott. Though resident in Toronto he goes to General Council from Manitoba conference. This is explained by the fact that he is going to the foreign field Dr. Endicott served as missionary in the home field of Manitoba, going there as one of the pioneers following the C.P.R. He is a graduate of Wesley College, Winnipeg, and is now a member of the Presbytery of Winnipeg.

About 11 per cent. of the total production of iron and steel in this country, or about 3,852,318 tons, went into the manufacture of automobiles in 1924.

Ludwig Spohr, violinist, conductor and composer, was the first to use a baton for conducting a large orchestra in England.

The Canadian Pacific Railway profits for the four months ended April 30, showed an increase of \$3,375,825.45.

Twelve Hundred Persons Are Killed By Cyclone and Tidal Wave in Burma

London, May 29.—Twelve hundred persons have been killed by cyclone and tidal wave in Burma, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Rangoon, Burma. The cyclone struck last Wednesday evening about half past eight o'clock. The huge tidal wave ascended the Naaf river, flooding the country and sweeping away villages to beyond Maungda, five miles inland. The cyclone swept the Arakan coast, doing much damage. All cattle in the devastated region were killed. The death roll, the despatch adds, is as yet incomplete, as wires are all down, and there is great delay in communication. The relief sent into the stricken district up to the present time is inadequate.

THE COMMONS PASSES SOME CUSTOMS ITEMS

No Changes in Preventive Service Until Committee's Report Received.

Ottawa, May 29.—Before the House of Commons commenced the consideration of the customs and excise department estimates last night, Hon. George Bovin, Minister of the department, announced that it was not the intention of department to make any changes in the preventive service, until the report of the customs committee had been received. The Minister suggested that votes for the preventive service be allowed to pass on the understanding that the entire question could be reopened when the committee report came before the House. This suggestion met with some opposition, and the preventive service estimates were allowed to stand.

Items totalling \$4,337,946 were then passed. This total included items of \$2,000,000 for administration of business profits, war tax and income war tax acts, \$1,690,000 required for the remission of excise tax paid on automobiles remaining in the hands of dealers and unsold in the time when such tax was repealed, and \$647,946 for civil administration.

Hon. J. W. Edwards, Conservative Frontsman-Addington, said that the income tax branch was an example of a department not under the Civil Service Commission which was well administered. General A. E. Ross, Conservative, Kingston, asked if the opinion of the employees of department had been considered as to whether or not they preferred to be under the Civil Service Commission.

The Minister said that some employees had asked to be brought under the commission in order to secure the advantages of superannuation, but it had been pointed out to them that they enjoyed a slightly higher salary than they would under the jurisdiction of the commission, although they did not have superannuation.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, Conservative, leader, said that the whole history of the present Government in respect to the Civil Service Act had been one of "stealthy invasion from the first clause to last and from the first month of power to the last day."

News In Condensed Form Off the Wires

Allens who served with the U.S. forces in the Great War will be admitted to the United States without regard to the immigration quota restrictions.

Special notices printed in the Algonquin tongue have been fastened to trees in the province of Quebec asking Indians to take precautions against forest fires.

At Warsaw, Lieut. d'Oisy, French aviator, abandoned his projected Paris to Tokio airplane flight when his machine was wrecked in attempting to take off.

Edward Howard, engineer in the employment of the Rordon Lumber Company, North Bay, was drowned while fishing from a canoe on Gordon's lake.

Naulon Cauchon, chairman of the Ottawa Town Planning Commission, advocates a tunnel under the Ottawa River to connect Ottawa and Hull for through railway traffic.

Edward J. James, aged nineteen, Toronto, member of the crew of the lake vessel, Jolly Inez, was drowned Friday afternoon while the freighter was docking in harbor at Toronto.

Residents of Bartle Highway, Bridgeburg, may take out an injunction to stop paving operations because the Port Erie council proposes to proceed without calling for tenders.

"The world at large may be congratulated on the outcome."—Sir Esmé Howard, dealing with the British strike, in an address to the American National Association of Credit Men.

Community Plate Week. Next week is Community Plate Week in Kingston. See advertisement on page 5 of this issue.

THINK RADIO OPERATOR MAY KNOW SOMETHING

About Mrs. A. S. McPherson's Disappearance at Los Angeles, Cal.

Los Angeles, Calif., May 29.—The possibility that Kenneth G. Ormiston, former radio operator at the Angelus Temple, would be sought again for questioning in connection with the disappearance of Aimee Semple McPherson, Woodstock, Ontario, evangelist, loomed to-day following an assertion last night by Mrs. Sylvia Oberman that she could identify the man whom she saw talking to Mrs. McPherson shortly before the evangelist vanished at Ocean Park, on May 13th.

Mrs. Kennedy yesterday gave the police a letter she received several days ago, demanding \$50,000 ransom for the evangelist's safe return. The police believe the letter was written by a fanatic.

DECIDE TO HANDLE THEM COLLECTIVELY

Naval, Land and Air Disarmaments Not to Be Considered Separately.

Geneva, May 29.—Naval, land and air disarmaments must be handled collectively, not separately. That was the decision of the military, naval and air experts in their first encounter over this vital question which may be said to hang the fate of the Geneva disarmament deliberations. British, United States representatives and Japanese are believed to be in favor of treating further naval limitations as a distinct question without, however, separating it completely from Geneva's centralized effort to achieve reductions in all forms of armaments.

Painter on C.P.R. Jigger Killed Near Kemptville

Smith's Falls, May 29.—John Gilbert, aged forty-eight a painter in the employment of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was almost instantly killed yesterday when the jigger on which he was riding collided with a C.P.R. train number 39 from Montreal at Deeks, Ontario, near Kemptville. An inquest is being held.

Fines as High as \$100 Provided for Jay-Walkers

Vancouver, May 29.—Examination of Vancouver's new traffic by-law, which becomes effective on June 1st, shows that not only is "jay-walking" made a legal offense on downtown streets, but that it will be a legal offense for a person to cross a street in any part of the city except at an intersection.

FAINT RAY OF HOPE ON COAL HORIZON

Secretary of Miners' Federation Makes Proposal for a Settlement.

London, May 29.—A faint ray of hope appeared on the black coal horizon last night when Frank Hodges, secretary of the Miners' International Federation, made proposals for settlement which were unofficially regarded in Government quarters as affording a possible basis for negotiations.

A. J. Cook, secretary of the British miners, who is in position of more authority in Great Britain than Hodges, gave out an interview at the same time, however, reiterating the stand that neither lower wages nor longer hours would be considered. Hodges' proposals are for the enactment of the coal commission's recommendations into law by the Government, with the promise of financial aid for reconstruction schemes, continuance of the national wage agreement of 1924 for five years more, increase of working hours from seven to seven and one-half, without reduction in pay, and for payment by the Government of £2,000,000 offered by Premier Baldwin to help the industry and assist the most needy mines.

Sir James Cantlie, noted surgeon, died in London on Friday.

DEBATE UPON THE CHOOSING OF DELEGATES

To General Council by Election or by Rotation.

A CLAUSE ATTACKED

By Mr. Elmer Davis, Who Objected to Increasing Cost of the Council.

Are commissioners for the General Council of the United Church to be chosen or elected with an eye to their special fitness for the position, or are they to be elected by rotation so that every man will have the opportunity of being a member of the General Council once at least during his lifetime? was the question which caused a great deal of debate at the Friday afternoon session of the Bay of Quinte Conference and which was not settled when that session adjourned.

Among the memorials presented to conference were three touching on this subject. Kingston Presbytery asked that the General Council be petitioned through the Bay of Quinte Conference to institute some method of rotation in the selection of commissioners. Belleville Presbytery asked that the General Council be petitioned through the Bay of Quinte Conference to institute some system of rotation and that the number of commissioners be increased. Lindsay Presbytery also petitioned the General Council and set out a definite plan whereby the number of commissioners would be chosen as one minister for every twelve ministerial members of conference and an equal number of laymen instead of one minister to eighteen and an equal number of laymen as it now is. Lindsay Presbytery also set out a system of rotation and election so that part of the commissioners would be chosen in each way.

CLAIM OF HERTZOG REGARDING DOMINIONS

Declares That Each Must Be on Footing of Equality With Britain.

Cape Town, South Africa, May 29.—Premier Hertzog yesterday dealt with the Government's policy with reference to the status of Dominions, which he declared must formally be communicated to the outside world. It must be made clear, he said, that the Dominions are free and independent in their relations with foreign nations, and on a footing of equality with Great Britain and any of the Dominions.

MAN AND WOMAN KILLED WHEN TRAIN HIT AUTO

Their Car Reduced to Debris—Tragedy Occurred Near Chatham.

Chatham, May 29.—A man and woman were killed, the former instantly when a roadster which they were riding, was struck by an east-bound Canadian National Railway passenger train at the provincial highway level crossing three miles east of here yesterday. The train was travelling at 60 miles an hour when it crashed into the car which was reduced to a mass of debris, and had to be dragged off the front of the locomotive. The victims are thought to be Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson, of Detroit, Mich.

BRITISH POST OFFICE SEEKING REPRISALS

London, May 29.—The post-office department of the government, according to the postal workers' union, intends applying to the industrial court for a put in the wages of the postal employees as a counter-move to the union's agitation for increased wages, prior to the recent general strike.

CLASS ATTACKED

Mr. Elmer Davis immediately attacked this clause on the grounds that by increasing the number of commissioners by fifty per cent. that clause would, if adopted by General Council, increase the cost of the United Church by fifty per cent. and that if the idea became prevalent in the church that there was no attempt being made to economize that it would react and the people would cut down their contributions. Mr. Davis contended that to adopt this clause would mean an additional \$15,000 or \$20,000 of expense.



LORD BEAVERBROOK
A Review of Whose Latest Book "Politicians and the Press" Appears on Page Five of This Issue.

LABOR PARTY SCORES A SIGNAL VICTORY

Wins Hammersmith North Division Bye-Election by Decisive Majority.

London, May 29.—The Labor Party scored a signal victory in the Hammersmith North Division bye-election. J. P. Gardner, Laborite, yesterday defeated both Conservative and Liberal candidates, in the election for the seat in the House of Commons, made vacant by the resignation of Capt. E. Ashmead Bartlett, Conservative, Mr. Gardner, who was a member of the previous parliament and who went down to defeat in 1924 general election, received 13,095 votes, Samuel Cluckstein, Conservative, 9,484, and C. P. Murfitt, Liberal, 1,974.

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BANK ROBBER IS CAPTURED IN GUN FIGHT

Italian Who Murdered Clerk Put Up Desperate Battle.

IS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

The Chief of Winnipeg Detectives, Who Led Attack, and a Civilian Were Shot.

Winnipeg, May 29.—After the most desperate gun battle in the annals of the Winnipeg police department, John Joe, an Italian, who a few hours previously had held up the Logan avenue branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, killing Maurice Garvie, a 19-year-old clerk, and escaping with \$2,000 in currency, was captured yesterday afternoon at a rooming house, a short distance from the scene of the murder. In attempting to escape from the house, Joe was probably fatally wounded. A hospital report early last evening said that his condition was "very grave."

Chief of Detectives George Smith, who was wounded while leading his men in the attack on the house where Joe had taken refuge, was released from hospital yesterday afternoon. First reports said he had been dangerously wounded, but the bandit's bullet hit him on the right shoulder, and glanced off, inflicting only a minor cut. He returned to duty.

Robt. Segal, proprietor of the rooming house, wounded when the police returned the gun-man's fire, is in hospital, shot in the chest. His condition is serious. The bandit had been rooming at Segal's house for the past few weeks.

Gun Battle.

The gun battle in front of the house lasted about ten minutes. Two hours after the killing of Garvie, police secured information as to the whereabouts of the wanted man. Under command of Chief Smith, a squad of detectives and constables advanced on the house. Immediately the bandit opened fire from an upstairs window, and shortly after he commenced shooting from a downstairs doorway.

Smith was the first to fall, but under the leadership of Detective Bert Morris, the police squad continued to close in on the house. The bandit was finally driven from his refuge by a fearless advance on the part of Detective Morris, who, in the face of a hail of bullets, pumped out of the front hallway by the pursued bandit, strode determinedly through the fire and forced his man through the back way.

Escaping marvellously the heavy fire poured on him by police, the gunman crouched low and ran across vacant lots, still firing as he ran and discharging one gun when he had emptied it. Just as he was attempting to jump into a parked car, a well-placed shot by Detective James Thompson crumpled him, and he stretched full length on the roadway. An examination showed that he had two wounds, one in the arm and the other in the chest. Chief of Detectives Smith, who is an expert revolver shot, is believed to have shot Joe in the arm in the first attack on the house.

VOTE OF \$1,690,000 ON EXCISE REMISSION

To Dealers Who Had Autos on Hand When Tax Was Repealed.

Ottawa, May 29.—A vote of \$1,690,000 "required for the remission of excise tax paid on automobiles remaining in the hands of dealers, and unsold at the time when such tax was repealed by order-in-Council of Dec. 18th, 1920," passed the House of Commons yesterday in committee of supply.

Hon. George H. Bovin, Minister of Customs, told the House that the average loss to each automobile dealer had been \$332.33 on 7,563 cars. It was in the nature of a compassionate allowance, and the amount was large enough to include interest accumulated. The dealer had a claim in equity and justice, although not in law, and the minister said he would welcome an opinion as to whether or not interest should be paid.

A successful May pageant and festival was staged by the Bradford Women's Business Club in aid of the Sanitarium.

(Continued on Page 7.)