

PROBS—Moderate to fresh winds; fair and comparatively warm.

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Island

SIXTEEN PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING MAY 6 1914—SIXTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXIV—No. 12,229

## Nineteen of Crew of Burned Steamer Missing; Thirteen Rescued

### Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission Orders Ten Per Cent. Reduction in Toronto Rates Effective June 1

## THIRTEEN SURVIVORS OF VESSEL BURNED AT SEA ARE PICKED UP NINETEEN OTHERS STILL ADRIFT

### Flames and Series of Explosions on British Freighter Columbian Drove Crew to Boats on Sunday Night—Survivors in Open Boat for Forty Hours—Chief Steward Succumbed to Exposure—Nineteen Men in Another Boat Not Found by Rescue Ship Franconia.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)  
BOSTON, May 5.—The mystery surrounding the identity of the steamer which has been on fire in the westbound transatlantic steamer lane, south of Sable Island, for 48 hours, was solved tonight when wireless messages from the Cunard liner Franconia told of the burning of the freighter Columbian, and the rescue of 13 members of her crew from a small boat. The death of Chief Steward Matthews, whose body the survivors had in charge, and the disappearance of a second boat, in which were 19 men, including the first and second officers, were also reported.

Number Missing Uncertain.  
Whether the number of missing was represented by those said to be in the second boat, was still uncertain tonight. Estimates by officials of the Leyland and Phoenix lines placed the number of the crew at between 45 and 50. The messages from the Franconia told of only 33 men, represented by the occupants of the two boats. It was thought possible that there was a third boat, commanded by Captain Macdonell of the Columbian.

Exhausted by Privations.  
The survivors were so exhausted by their experience that they could tell little of what has happened, and steamship officials expressed the opinion that the only wireless messages of mention of the captain might be laid to this fact.

After rescuing the occupants of the first boat, the Franconia searched until midnight for the rest of the crew, but without result. Then Captain Miller of the Cunard steamer word ashore that he had given up the search and would proceed for Boston with the survivors and his 1733 passengers. He said he expected to arrive at Boston Lightship at midnight Wednesday.

Search for the missing men of the Columbian has not been given up, however. Before turning for his destination, Captain Miller had notified the steamers Manhattan and Haverford, both eastbound, of the missing boats, and they sent word that they had changed their courses and were heading toward the burning steamer.

### SURVIVORS ON FRANCONIA.

ON BOARD STEAMER FRANCONIA, VIA SABLE ISLAND, N. S., May 5.—Those on board the Franconia are: James Brohan, wireless operator; Antonio Elias, carpenter; Ivar Iversen, boatswain's mate; Ungus Irvine, Jens Jensen, A. Abelik, quartermaster; Gustav Schiborn, donkeyman; Thos. Conner, Juri Lei and Arthur Brantli, able seamen; Antony Cordones and Bennett Rother, firemen, and Frank Wedekind, messroom steward.

The Columbian caught fire Sunday night, when about 300 miles south of Cape Race. A series of violent explosions followed almost immediately. Capt. Macdonell gave orders to the wireless operator, James Drohan, to send out calls for assistance, but one of the explosions put the wireless apparatus out of commission, cutting off the Columbian from communication with nearby ocean liners which might have gone to the rescue.

Forced to Abandon Ship.  
With the vessel pitching flames and torn by the explosions, it soon became evident that the crew could do nothing to control the fire, and the order to abandon ship was given.

The men left the Columbian in two boats. Chief Steward Matthews was in charge of the first. This boat put away from the steamer and lay to for some time, but in the dense smoke which surrounded the burning vessel, the other boat was not visible, and the steward's boat finally drifted far from the scene.

## ESCAPING GAS KILLS FARMER

### R. M. Breckenridge, Widely Known Agriculturist, Asphyxiated by Engine on His Farm.

Special to The Toronto World.

HAMILTON, May 5.—R. M. Breckenridge, one of the best-known fruit farmers in the country, was found lying unconscious from the effects of escaping fumes on the floor of the pump-house of his fruit farm near Watford yesterday morning, and died before medical attendance could be procured. The no statement was made by the family respecting the cause of the tragedy, it was learned that the unfortunate man had been asphyxiated by fumes escaping from a gas engine which operates machinery on the farm.

The news of Mr. Breckenridge's death was received with great regret by a large number of Hamilton citizens, with whom he was very popular. He is survived by a widow and five children, and his father, W. C. Breckenridge, of this city.

The orchard which he owned had become famous throughout Canada for its splendid apples, which had taken important prizes at various exhibitions.

### Woman and Child Burned

MOOSE JAW, Sask., May 5.—A disastrous fire occurred at the farm of Sherman Blackburn, manager of the Investors' Realty Company of this city, which is situated near Avonca, at an early hour this morning, which resulted in the death of Mrs. Blackburn and her nephew, aged three.

## COLUMBIAN MAY HAVE CARRIED SIXTY MEN

### At Steamship Offices in New York It is Feared List of Missing Men is Not Complete—Unable to Account for Explosions Mentioned.

Canadian Press Despatch.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The Cunard line late today received a wireless message from the Franconia, which read: "Rescued thirteen survivors and Chief Steward Matthews, who is dead of the steamer Columbian, from Antwerp. Crew suffering from exhaustion."

—said to have been in boat forty hours. Columbian caught fire Sunday night, and almost immediately a series of violent explosions occurred. The wireless apparatus was destroyed.

"One other boat, containing the chief officer and second officer and seventeen men, is afloat. The Franconia is making diligent search for it."

No Passengers Aboard.  
The steamer Columbian, which the Cunard liner Franconia tonight reported was burned at sea, sailed from London on April 16 for Antwerp and thence on April 23 for New York. She was last reported by wireless 310 miles east of Sandy Hook at 10 o'clock Sunday morning.

The Columbian was a cargo vessel and is not believed to have had any passengers on board. She was of 5088 tons gross register, 442 feet long, 45 feet beam and 21 feet depth. She was built by Harland & Wolff at Belfast in 1890 and was owned by F. Leyland & Co., Limited, of Liverpool. The Leyland line is controlled by the International Navigation Company.

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## RAILWAYS WILL BUILD STATION AS PLANNED

### Railway Commission Sets Ninety Days as Outside Limit for Starting Work in Toronto—City's Objections to Plans Were Summarily Set Aside.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 5.—The board of railway commissioners today overruled all four of the objections to the plans for the new Union Station in Toronto, as prepared by the railway companies, which were advanced by G. R. Geary, corporation counsel for Toronto, on behalf of the city. The board also ordered that work on the new station be commenced within 30 days, if let by unit tender, and in 90 days if let by bulk contract.

In dealing with the four objections to the plans as made by Mr. Geary, Chairman H. L. Drayton said that he believed that the first one, which was to the effect that 11 feet headroom in the clear of the waiting-room adjoining the entrance was insufficient, had not been seriously advanced. The headroom of 10 feet as given on the plans was practically all that could be obtained, and he pointed out that the very modern station which had been erected in the City of Detroit had lower headroom. The board, he stated, had agreed that the plans should not be altered in this respect.

Platforms Satisfactory.  
With regard to the contention of the city that the plans should be altered so as to provide platforms which would permit passengers to leave the trains

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## TORONTO HYDRO RATES ARE REDUCED BY PROVINCIAL COMMISSION'S ORDER WHICH TAKES EFFECT ON JUNE FIRST

### MAYOR HOCKEN MAKES NO COMMENT.

(By Staff Reporter.)  
OTTAWA, May 5.—Mayor Hocken, who is in Ottawa today, had no comment to make on the decision of the Hydro-Electric Commission. He said the civic commission would meet on Thursday, and would decide then what course should be pursued.

## TWENTY-FIVE CITY STREETS WILL BE CROSSED ON THE LEVEL IF RADIAL WINS ITS FIGHT

### A. C. Macdonell, W. F. Maclean and Col. Currie Led Strenuous Opposition to T. N. and W. Bill—Advocates Contended That Issue Was Between Province and Toronto.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 5.—The house tonight again debated the motion of Mr. Lancaster to strike out section seven of the Toronto, Niagara and Western Railway bill, which safeguards the rights of the City of Toronto, and prevents the road from crossing 25 streets except upon terms and conditions to be prescribed by the city council. The first six sections of the bill were passed without comment or opposition, and the debate was upon the motion to strike out section seven. The motion was opposed by A. C. Macdonell (S. York), W. F. Maclean (S. York), and Col. Currie (North Simcoe), while Mr. Hugh Guthrie (South Wellington) and Mr. David Henderson (Halton) supported the Lancaster amendment.

City Versus Province.  
Mr. Macdonell argued that to strike out section seven of the bill would be to permit the railway to cross 25 streets at a grade. The right of way of the Toronto, Niagara and Western Railway was adjacent to the Canadian Pacific, which had been compelled to elevate its tracks between Yonge and Dufferin streets. The road's charter was over eleven years old and its projected line now went thru the geographical centre of the city.

Mr. Guthrie replied that the people of the province had some rights in the matter.

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## PEACE DELEGATES WILL CONFER ON BORDER

### Niagara Falls, Ont., Chosen for First Formal Conference on May Eighteenth, is Announcement Made by Bryan—Carranza Has Opportunity to Be Represented.

Canadian Press Despatch.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—The three South American envoys who have undertaken by diplomacy to settle Mexico's civil strife, as well as her international difficulties, announced tonight that the first formal conference with representatives of the "different parties interested in mediation" would be held at Niagara Falls, Ont., on May 18.

Secretary Bryan made the announcement for the three diplomats in a brief statement, which read as follows: "The mediators have notified the different parties that Niagara Falls, Canada, has been selected as the place where the mediators will confer with representatives of the different parties interested in the mediation, and that the 18th of May has been fixed as the date when the conference will begin."

Door Open to Carranza.  
The language of the declaration attracted attention, for, although the envoys had in a note, earlier, said they would withdraw their invitation for a Carranza representative unless an armistice between the constitutionalists and the Huerta forces was arranged, no specific parties to the negotiations were named in the state department.

It was later learned authoritatively that the reason for this was due to the fact that a further effort was being made to induce Gen. Carranza to send a representative.

It was understood that the mediators had further explained their position to Gen. Carranza, and were still hopeful that he might be represented at the negotiations without seeking to limit his agent to discussion of any particular subjects.

### IMMIGRANT RATES SHARPLY ADVANCED

### Effect of North Atlantic Shipping Conference—Seen in Joint Action.

Canadian Press Despatch.

MONTREAL, May 5.—Following the North-Atlantic shipping conference an indication that the competing lines have patched up their quarrel over sharing westbound traffic is seen in the announcement made here that westbound prepaid emigrant rates would be advanced from the cut price of \$22 to the old rate of \$34. This is to go into effect at once. The question of advancing eastbound third-class rates is still open.

## Ten Per Cent. Cut All Round is Ordered and Directed to Be Made and Original Recommendation of Provincial Commission is Confirmed.

The first mandate of the Hydro-Electric Commission to a municipality which declined to carry out commission recommendations was issued yesterday, when the order was given that Toronto should proceed to adopt a stipulated schedule to replace that now in use. The terms of the statement are unequivocal. Reference is made to the negotiations which have been carried on since the new rates were first recommended on Nov. 19, 1913, and it is "ordered and directed" that the schedule then proposed by the provincial body be adopted. The power prices quoted at that time stand unchanged.

In the manner of rate adjustment for consumers of the Toronto hydro-electric system the report states that after investigation of the recommendations, reports and evidence submitted by the engineers and auditors of the provincial commission, and the evidence, representations and reports on behalf of the Toronto commission, the board has decided to confirm its original recommendations.

In Effect June 1.  
It is further "ordered and directed" that the rates quoted shall come into force and effect on June 1, 1914. This leaves the city the opportunity of arranging for the change within the next twenty-six days.

The order followed a protracted sitting of the commission yesterday afternoon. For months the matter of the Toronto rates has provided subject for discussion in the individual commissions and in joint conference. Some of these were marked by outspoken opinions on both sides, the local body claiming that reduction at the present time, was not for the best interests of the Toronto power situation, and the commission on the other hand reinvigorating the bases of reduction as recommended.

During the session of the legislature several sittings were held at which Mayor Hocken and the two local commissioners were present, and it was thought that an agreement might be made then. Yesterday the mayor was in Ottawa and in ignorance of the order until it was flashed to him over the wires.

### Ten Per Cent. Cut.

The effect of the reduction will be a lowering of approximately ten per cent. all round. In the lighting rates, as the present schedule for domestic purposes is 4c per 100 square feet, plus a consumption charge of 2c per kilowatt hour, with a prompt payment discount of ten per cent. on bills paid within ten days of the date of the bill, the new schedule leaves the first two items at 3c and the consumption charge at 2c.

The new schedule of rates ordered by the commission reads as follows:  
Power Rate:  
\$1.00 instead of \$1.35 per month per horsepower of connected load, or  
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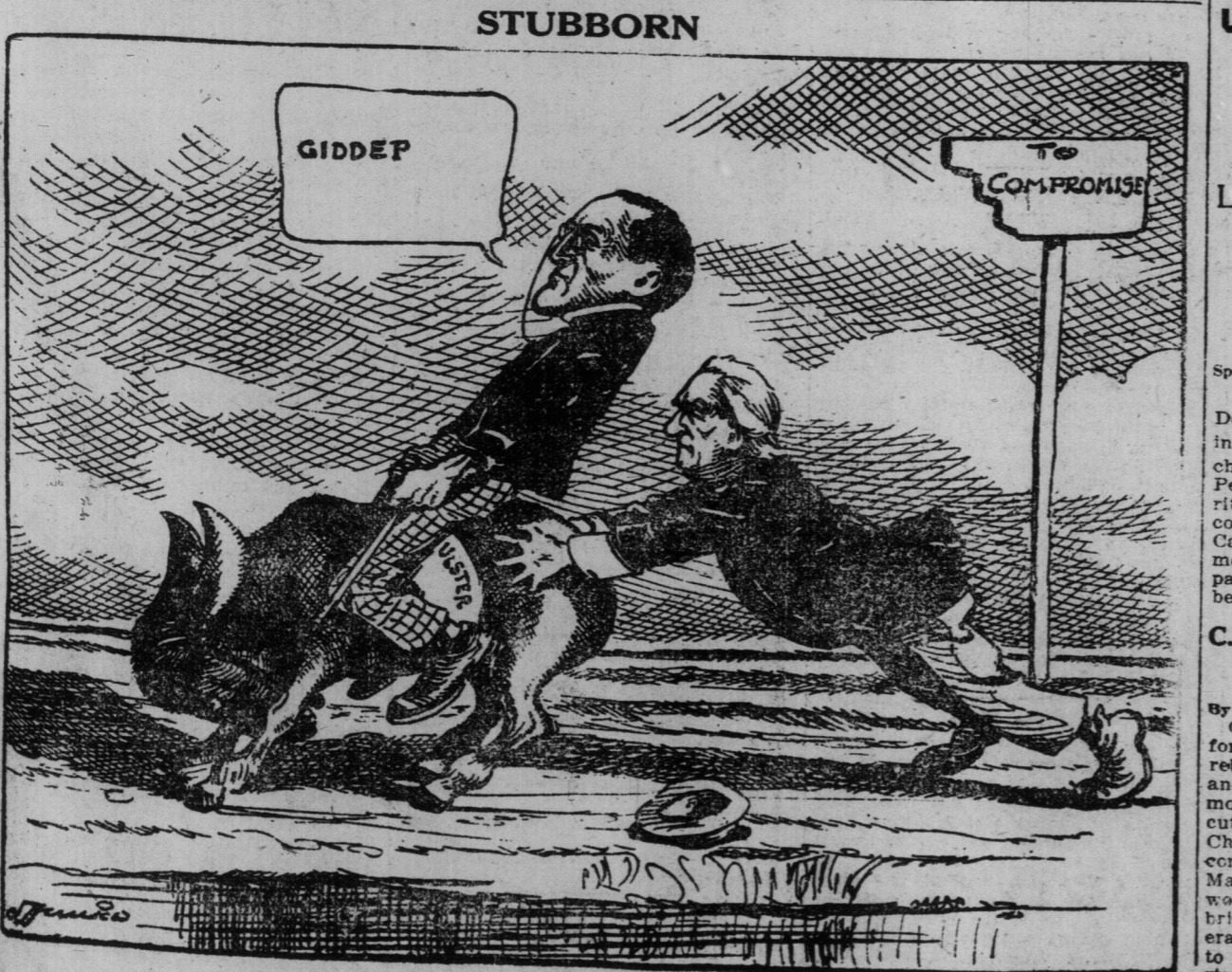
### TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

At the matinee and evening performances today Mr. Martin Harvey will be seen again in "The Breed of the Treshams." It is a stirring play, dealing with the troubles of the English parliamentary war of the 17th century. Mr. Harvey is surrounded with the same wonderful cast, including Miss N. de Silva as the heroine, Miss Batty, a great many others, goes to think "The Breed of the Treshams" is the strongest play in Mr. Harvey's repertoire.

### A New Soft Hat Just Opened at Dineen's.

This cut represents the new Diamond Crown Soft Hat so much worn throughout the United States. Blue, green, brown and gray are the four leading colors. Price \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$4.00. Also Soft Hats, self conforming, fashion and the latest style in Silk Hats.

Raincoats, umbrellas and suitcases. Today is a good time to go into Dineen's and make your selection. The store is 140 Yonge street.



## STOCK VENDOR SENT TO TRIAL

### Leslie Downey to Answer Charge of Conspiracy to Defraud Merritt Physician.

Special to The Toronto World.

ST. CATHARINES, May 5.—Leslie Downey, who was arrested at his home in Toronto several weeks ago on a charge of having conspired with H. L. Pearce to defraud Dr. Currey of Merritt of a sum of money, was today committed for trial by Magistrate Campbell. Currey and Pearce promoted the Colonial Insurance Company, for which a charter had not been applied for.

### C.P.R. MUST RESTORE TOWNLINER BRIDGE

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 5.—The unexplained delay of the Canadian Pacific in rebuilding the bridge on the York and Scarborough townline, which it recently cut off last fall in order to widen it, moved at Westford, was laid before the commission this morning by W. F. Maclean, M.P. The chairman said he would take steps to have the bridge restored. E. H. Beatty, general counsel of the C.P.R., undertook to bring the matter up before the construction officers.

## Sir Frederick Barker and Judge McKeown on Commission, Named on Com-Brunswick.

Canadian Press Despatch.

FREDERICTON, N.B., May 5.—Sir Frederick Barker, formerly chief justice of New Brunswick; Judge McKeown of the supreme court bench, and W. S. Fisher, of the firm of Emerson and Fisher, hardware merchants, of St. John, were appointed tonight by Lieut.-Gov. Wood a commission to inquire into the charges made by L. A. Dugal, M.L.A. for Madawaska, against Premier Fleming and H. F. McLeod, M.P. for York county.

Mr. Dugal charged that the premier had extorted large sums of money from lumbermen in connection with their crown land issues and that Mr. McLeod had demanded and received a sum of money from a St. John valley railway contractor to which he was in no way entitled, while he was provincial secretary of the province.

### FOUND BODY OF VICTIM OF NOVEMBER STORM

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich., May 5.—A grim reminder of the storm of last November was brought to the Soo today by a Canadian fisherman, Indians trailing the beach in the vicinity of Michipicoten Mission found a body, about the waist of which was a life preserver marked "Nottingham." It was thought to be that of Joseph Smith, who, with two others, was lost from a yawl in which they sought help.

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