

A Merry Xmas
TO
All Our Readers

The Weekly Monitor

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AND Western Annapolis Sentinel

VOL. 40

BRIDGETOWN, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA, DECEMBER 25, 1912

NO. 32

LOSS OF FURNESS LINER.

Steamship Florence Crashes upon Rocks on Coast of Newfoundland and Disappears—

Capt. Barr and Twenty-one Sailors Lost.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 22.—Twenty-one of the twenty-seven members of the crew of the Furness Line steamship Florence, from Halifax, for St. John's, lost their lives in the wreck of the vessel on the ledges west of St. Hyacinth, during a northwest gale last Friday. Five exhausted survivors, who reached land in a boat brought the news to Trepassy tonight. The steamer carried no passengers.

Captain Barr, of the steamer and all his men reached shore after the vessel struck, but the lofty inaccessible cliffs prevented their escape.

The big tide, backed by the southwest gale, made it impossible to remain there and all hands were obliged to put back to the ship, which was pounding heavily.

Captain Barr felt confident that the wind would go down, but second mate J. Hedley, volunteered to take four men in one of the ship's boats and seek a more favorable landing place further along the coast in the heavy seas then running. The Captain was unwilling to risk more lives and gave his consent to the second mate's expedition with reluctance.

With great difficulty Hedley piloted his small boat along the coast until he saw a break in the rugged line of cliffs. Pointing the nose of the boat directly into the surf he avoided the outlying rocks and on the crest of a great breaker ran his craft in without being upset. Tumbling out hastily to avoid being sucked back by the undertow the mate and his four men dragged their boat up the beach out of reach of the sea.

The wind and sea in the meantime

had increased. The combers broke continually over the decks of the vessel, which was grinding heavily on the jagged rocks. Hedley and his men searched in vain for some path by which the cliff might be scaled or the crew of the Florence helped. The coast in that vicinity is uninhabited. The few fishermen's huts were deserted for the winter, and Hedley had to take refuge for the night in one of these abandoned shacks. At daybreak Saturday Hedley found that the wind had been steadily increasing. Hurrying back to the point of which the Florence lay, he could see no sign of the steamer. Considerable of her cargo of lumber was floating along the shore, but no boats were visible.

After the survivors had made a long but fruitless search along the shore for some trace of their shipmates they started for St. Shotts, the nearest inhabited place, several miles distant.

Two of them were so exhausted from the cold and exposure that they had to be assisted by their comrades.

These two were left at St. Shotts to recuperate while the others pushed on to Trepassy, whence they sent word of the disaster to this city.

They are not expected to arrive here before the middle of the week.

Besides Mate Hedley, the survivors are seamen W. Wight, C. Malmquist, E. T. Taylor and T. Smiding.

The steamer Florence was of 1,609 tons burden and was built in Sunderland, England, in 1889. She was 293.5 feet long, 40.2 beam, with a depth of 26.1 feet.

A Christmas Thought

For who is it smiles through the Christmas morn
The Light of the whole Creation?
A dear little Child, in a stable born,
Whose love is the world's salvation.
He was poor on earth, but He gives us all
That can make our life worth living;
And happy the Christmas day we'll call
That is spent, for His sake, in giving.

—Lucy Larcom.

CHRISTMAS JOY AT THE SCHOOLS.

Bridgetown and Carleton Corner Schools Give Spendid Entertainments.—Christmas Trees Heavily Laden with Presents.

The Bridgetown School on Thursday and Friday, was the scene of two or three very pleasant Christmas entertainments, but that which was held on Friday, afternoon by grades 1 and 2, under the Misses Lloyd and E. E. Chute was particularly fine.

The room was crowded to its utmost capacity by the children, all anxiously expectant to see the famous Santa Claus, who had been travelling day and night from the icy regions to reach the schoolhouse in time and there distribute his largesse in the way of oranges and candies. A large Xmas tree was laden in every branch and embellished with tinsel, and as the sparklets were lit the whole presented a scene of beauty that must very vividly have impressed the youthful mind. To heighten the effect, the blinds had been lowered, and lamps and candles were distributed round about the room.

Dr. Jost presided over the ceremonies. The recitations given by the small children of these two grades were very nicely rendered and deserved the applause which they received. Then the following was put in:

Mother Goose's Rhymes

- Little Boy Blue - Clement Marshall
- Bo-Peep - Florence Ruggles
- Mother Goose - Hortense Griffin
- Jack - Lyman Abbott
- Jill - Dolly Hunt
- Jack Sprat - Arthur Palfrey
- Jack's Wife - Louise McNeill
- Little Miss Muffitt - Jean Porter
- The Spider - Walter Dechman
- Mary quite contrary - Mary Anthony
- Tommy Snooks - John Roberts
- Betsy Brooks - Jean Wagner
- Wee Willie Winkie - Edward Weare
- Man in the Moon - Carmen Piggott

The large number of adults present testified to the interest taken in the proceedings, and what thoughts were conjured up in their minds as to their own childhood days can be left to the reader's imagination.

Three cheers for the teachers concluded this very interesting and pretty function.

CARLETON CORNER SCHOOL

One of the prettiest little plays ever enacted in the above school was that which was staged on Friday evening under the title of "Santa Claus' Mistake." Old Santa had heard from his usual sources of information that one of the girls had a very bad reputation for being naughty and unwilling to do what she was told. Accordingly, Santa had arranged for this particular girl a present in the shape of a bundle of sticks. Miss Annie Ricketson was to be the unfortunate recipient of this Christmas gift. The information Santa had received was incorrect, inasmuch as the initials of the name given him by his informant were wrong.

Fortunately, for all concerned, Santa discovered his mistake in time in the last act of the play, and to make reparation for the great wrong he had done her, promised everything Miss Annie could wish for. Now the latter had picked up a poor match-seller (little Miss Ruth Jackson) from the street, and in response to Santa's generous offer asked that the poor match-seller receive all the gifts she required, which was at once acceded to.

In the conduct of the play nearly all the pupils took part, the leading ones being Misses Grace and Annie Ricketson. The part of Santa Claus was ably carried out by Harold McGowen, who distributed the gifts from the tree, and he in very truth looked a typical Father Christmas. The pupils one and all were excellent in their various roles, and deserve great commendation.

The decorations were of an extremely effective description, spruce and crepe paper being very freely used. A large Christmas tree stood in the south-west corner of the room and was heavily laden with candy and presents.

Too much praise cannot be given to the teachers for the manner in which the whole programme was carried out, everything passing off without a hitch.

The room was well filled with scholars and adults, and one and all enjoyed a truly Christmas pantomime.

At the conclusion hearty and prolonged cheers were given to the teachers, and strong lusty little voices gave the National Anthem as it should be rendered.

A small admission fee was charged, which added eight dollars to the school funds.

Christmas Eve.

Dream, little child! The shadows fall,
Over the land the magic veil
That hides the magic from our eyes
Is swaying in the starlight pale.
Dream, little child! 'Tis Christmas eve,
Dream while the magic hours glide by,
Each wind that blows the snowflakes wild
Is laden with sweet mystery.



Dream, little child! The glowing coals
Are painting pictures on the wall.
Out from the quivering shadows there
You almost hear the thrilling call
Of "Merry Christmas, little maid!
I hope I've brought your heart's desire,"
And Santa's shadow just above
Grows lifelike by the leaping fire.

Dream, little child! The Christmas air
Is glowing with your visions bright,
And all the joys tomorrow holds
Are shining on the page of night.
Dream, little child! And may the years
To you their richest treasures leave,
And may all happy dreams prove real
That come to you this Christmas eve!

Maritime Provinces as Sunday Observers.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—The Maritime Provinces stand high in Sabbath observance, according to the reports presented at the annual meeting yesterday of the Dominion executive of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada by the secretary, Rev. W.M. Rochester. In the Maritime Provinces, he reported, owing to the new era of prosperity entered upon there, many industrial questions have to be considered and construction work on railroad lines has, in many places, been stopped. General Sunday fishing, too, has been brought under control. Two Sunday excursions were dealt with and the question was given attention and Sunday labor greatly reduced.

Prince Edward Island, however, presented no problems, but gave an example this year of loyal devotion to the Lord's Day Alliance such as may well be emulated by the other provinces.

The report deals also with the correspondence conducted by the general secretary with the minister of railways as to the opening of canals on the Lord's Day. The attitude taken by the Alliance was that the rule of the department should prevail this year as in other years, until it was clear that the pressure of traffic demanded the opening. With reference to the Sunday service on the Inter-colonial railway, the report showed that the Alliance had asked merely that deference be paid to the strong sentiment in that section of the country against Sunday service, and that the government remember its responsibility in the matter of Sunday traffic as an example to all other business in the country.

BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK WILL MERGE WITH BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

St. John, N.B., Dec. 10.—Shareholders of the Bank of New Brunswick on Monday decided to merge with the Bank of Nova Scotia.

American Ambassador Dies in London

London, Dec. 15.—Whitelaw Reid, the American ambassador to Great Britain since 1905, died at his London residence, Dorchester House, shortly after noon today from pulmonary oedema. The end was quite peaceful. Mrs. Reid and her daughter, Mrs. John Hubert Ward, were at his bedside.

Washington, Dec. 15.—News of the death in London today, of Ambassador Reid, came as a shock to official Washington, for it had not been generally realized that Mr. Reid's illness was of a serious nature.

KING GEORGE'S TRIBUTE.

The king's message said: "It is with the deepest sorrow that I have to inform you of the death of Mr. Whitelaw Reid at noon today. As your ambassador in this country, his loss will be sincerely deplored, while I shall mourn for an old friend of many years standing for whom I had the greatest regard and respect. The queen and I sympathize most warmly with Mrs. Whitelaw Reid in her heavy sorrow."

"Your majesty's sad news of the death of Mr. Whitelaw Reid," replied the president, "has just reached me. Mr. Reid's death is a loss to both countries, for his service as ambassador was exceptional in the closer friendship that he secured between them through his own personality. His intimate knowledge of both countries, his profound respect and love for England, entirely consistent with the highest loyalty on his part, to this country, gave him peculiar influence for good in his great station. I sincerely thank your majesty for your message and your expressions of sympathy and respect."

The British Government is conveying the remains of the late ambassador to America on board the battleship Natal, which left England on Saturday.

The Royal Bank of Canada
INCORPORATED 1869.

CAPITAL - - - \$11,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - \$12,500,000
AGGREGATE ASSETS - \$175,000,000

70 BRANCHES IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Deposits of \$1.00 and upwards received and interest allowed at highest current rates.

A. F. LITTLE MANAGER, Bridgetown
F. G. PALFREY MANAGER, Lunenburg
E. B. McDANIEL MANAGER, Annapolis Royal

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