

SUICIDE IN A CHURCHYARD PITIABLE DEATH OF MAUD HILLS

Swallowed a Dose of Carbolic Acid—Died in Home of a Neighbor—Is Said To Have Been Mentally Deranged.

A very sad suicide occurred at noon today when Miss Maud Hill, of 904 Elias street, deliberately drank a bottle of carbolic acid in the churchyard of the Centennial Methodist Church.

Purchased Drug.
Miss Hill left her home about 11 o'clock, and went to a drug store not far away and purchased the acid, stating that she wanted it as a disinfectant.

It appears that she then walked along Dundas street until she came to the Centennial churchyard, where she turned in the lane and went to the yard in the rear of the church.

Saw Her Do It.
Mrs. Walker, who lives at 425 Ont-

tario street, happened to be out in her yard, and saw the girl unwrap a little parcel and place something to her lips. A moment later the girl screamed, and staggered.

Mrs. Walker at once went over to the churchyard and carried the girl into her own house.

Dr. Seaborn was hurriedly called, but the girl died shortly after.

Mentally Deranged.

Miss Hill is believed to have been mentally deranged, as she has been ill for some time. She was 21 years of age, and lived with her mother at 904 Elias street.

Coroner Ferguson is investigating the affair, and it is unlikely that any inquest will be held.

Salvation Army Doing Noble Work Providing Food and Clothing for Poor

Donations This Year Almost Equal To Those of Last.

Donations received by the Salvation Army toward its praiseworthy efforts to give the poor of London a Christmas dinner are nearly up to last year's mark.

Including contributions received by mail, by street pots and by collecting boxes in stores, the amount now at hand is \$266 95, against \$294 60 last Christmas.

Big Run On Teddy Bears and Drums Merchant Speaks of Christmas Trade

The Weather Was Not Inviting Today, But Business Was Fair.

With the exception of the shoe man the weather handed out today pleased no one.

Many persons, who would otherwise have come down town to put the finishing touches on their Christmas shopping stayed at home, preferring the comforts of the house to slipping and sliding about on the slushy sidewalks.

Not all that the merchants could do in the way of sprinkling sand and sawdust in front of their stores, or even cleaning away the ice could tempt people to come out to buy.

Are Optimistic.
The merchants, however, are optimistic, and whether the weather improves or not they expect big crowds of shoppers down town tonight and tomorrow.

"So far business has been very good," said one merchant this morning who deals in toys and fancy goods.

"Saturday was a splendid day, and people bought well. The farmers practically completed their Christmas purchases, and in many lines of children's toys I am nearly sold out."

"Two lines of toys seem to be unusually popular this year—teddy bears

and drums. We have handed hundreds of each and our stock is pretty well depleted."

Trade Good.

Dealers in fruit and confectionery state that trade has been good right along. Oranges are considerably cheaper than previous years, owing to the large quantity in the market.

The postoffice and the express offices presented a busy scene all day.

"We won't be sorry when this is over," said an express agent this morning, as he surveyed a pile of parcels about twelve feet high, which covered nearly half the room. "Tomorrow will finish it, although today will be probably our heaviest day."

"Every messenger going through here has all he can do to find room in his car for the parcels. Business is fully as heavy as ever, and in the matter of small parcels is considerably heavier."

Many Parcels.

"We have received hundreds of parcels for people in the west. They are coming from people here and throughout the country who have friends and relatives in the west. People in the west are also sending home many little Christmas gifts."

The postmen this morning were loaded down with letters and parcels. The mail from England is particularly heavy, and parcels of all sorts and sizes, including everything from a handkerchief to a Christmas pudding are being handled.

THE LAST TRIBUTE TO LORD KELVIN

London, Dec. 23.—Under the shadow of the monument of Sir Isaac Newton and close to the choir in Westminster Abbey, the body of Lord Kelvin, the noted British scientist, who died Dec. 17, was buried at noon today in the presence of a great gathering of scientists representing American and continental as well as British societies.

Many of those present were clad in their academic robes and wore their decorations. King Edward and the Prince of Wales and other members

of the royal family sent representatives, while among the twelve pallbearers were men eminent in various walks in life, John Morley, Lord Rayleigh, Admiral Sir Edward Hobart Seymour, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, and others. Almost all the foreign embassies in London were represented.

The scene at the abbey was solemn and impressive. No fewer than one dozen clergymen were associated in reading the service, which was of the simplest character.

Christmas Cheer for the Needy

"Today and tomorrow are busy days with us in distributing Christmas cheer among the poor," said Inspector Sanders, of the Charity Organization, this morning. "There are quite a lot of people in the city who have sent in all sorts of clothes, provisions and other things for us to give the needy."

"We can find places for everything sent us. Although there are no cases of extreme poverty in the city, still

there are a number of instances in which help is gladly received, and thankfully accepted. A number of English people who came here late in the season have very little money, and being not yet familiar with the ways of the country, find some hardship."

"However, Londoners are ever ready to assist, and we have only to mention to people that we are in need of or can place certain things, and they send them to us at once."

GAINS BY REVISION.

Windsor, Dec. 23.—The Conservatives of Essex County claim to have made big gains in both the north and south ridings by the revision of the voters' list, which has just been completed for the year. Little interest was taken by the Liberal workers

In the revision of the lists, while the Conservatives looked after their affairs closely in every municipality. In the north riding it is estimated there is a total Conservative gain of nearly 200, while in the south riding Dr. Anson, the candidate of the Conservative party for the Legislature claims a gain of about 150.



"DISCOVERED"

Recruited Men for Custer's Last Fight Dr. Hutchinson Speaks of Massacre

London's Medical Health Officer Remembers the Incident Well.

"Custer's Last Fight," the melodrama put on at the Grand Opera House last Saturday, recalled the famous fight in June, 1876, when Gen. Custer and his brave band of American soldiers were ambushed, and all slain, by wily Sitting Bull and his Sioux warriors.

Dr. Hutchinson, medical health officer, of this city, recalls the incident, as he had a considerable part to play in the organization of the troop to which Gen. Custer belonged.

"I was with the United States army in Kentucky at the time, and enlisted

the Seventh Cavalry," said Dr. Hutchinson. "They were a fine body of men, and they were a fine body of men."

They all went west in a day or two to join Custer, and that was the last I ever saw of them. Some of them escaped, of course, but they were not with Custer at the time. When he got into the territory of the Indians he divided his soldiers into two forces for the purpose of capturing Sitting Bull and his warriors. He was in charge of one section, and a subaltern in charge of the other. Sitting Bull led Gen. Custer into an ambush at the Little Big Horn, and butchered the whole force.

"Gen. Custer and every single one of his men were slain, and were horribly mutilated. Of course, I never saw the men after I enlisted them and sent them west. I remember the time very well."

Fifteen Employees Had Narrow Escape On New C.P.R. Bridge at Thamesford

The Crane Turned Turtle as a Section Was Being Lowered.

Fifteen employees of the Hamilton Bridge Company had a very narrow escape at Thamesford, on the C. P. R., on Saturday afternoon about 1 o'clock. That no one was injured is little short of miraculous.

The bridge company is building a new bridge over the river at Thamesford for the C. P. R. Saturday the men were busy putting in one of the large steel sections, 30 feet long, and weighing about 30 tons, and were working with the large steel crane.

When the section was hoisted, the crane and car turned turtle, and all rolled down a 20 or 30 foot embankment.

The men who usually are on the car were off of it at the time of the accident, and so escaped injury.

Several other men employed about the bridge were nearly struck by the rolling car, but all escaped as by a miracle.

A Temporary Bridge.

The construction car in the London yards was sent for, and a large amount of timber was taken down to Thamesford. A temporary wooden structure was built over the span in order to allow trains to pass over. This took several hours, and traffic was delayed considerably. The evening express was delayed about an hour and a half.

The crane and section are still in the ditch, although an effort is being made to get them up.

It is expected that they will be raised in a day or two, and that the last section of the bridge will be placed in position.

MUST BAR FLEXIBLE CORD SAY THE FIRE UNDERWRITERS

When spoken to about the following article, which appeared in a Toronto paper, the London Electric Company stated that it was in the dark regarding the matter:

"Electrical contractors and others interested have received advice that the fire underwriters wish to prohibit the use of ordinary flexible cord at an early date. The records of authenticated electric fires show that many thousands of dollars' damage has been caused through fires which originated from a misuse of what is known as ordinary flexible lamp cord. It is proposed to prohibit this cord some time about next March, everywhere except in offices, substituting therefor what is known as reinforced cord. Reinforced cord is calculated to withstand the mechanical injury to which it is subjected by being hung over nails and other rough usage. This will cause a big change in electric work, as it will also necessitate the use of an entirely different socket

than that which is used at the present time. Mr. Hunt, of the London Electric Company, stated that if such an action was contemplated in this vicinity it was news to him. At all events the electrical companies were entitled to six months' notice according to law in order to allow them to get rid of old stock.

"Somebody either dreamed that, or someone with a new-fangled style of wire has approached the Toronto underwriters," continued Mr. Hunt. "Cranks with new schemes are always bobbing up and giving electrical companies trouble, and the underwriters seem to encourage that sort of thing. The flexible cord is as good as anything they can invent."

Fire Chief Clark said that if such a notice had been issued here he would have known of it. He could not state whether the flexible cord was responsible for fires or not.

A prominent fire insurance company of this city when spoken to denied knowledge of such a movement.

Wilcox Company Is To Be Wound Up

A meeting re the Wilcox Manufacturing Company was held this morning in Judge Macbeth's chambers.

The London and Western Trusts Company was appointed liquidator, and Messrs. J. B. McKillop, Thomas Baker,

G. N. Weekes, and C. G. Jarvis were appointed inspectors.

The liquidators will proceed to realize on the assets of the company as soon as possible, and the affairs of the company will be wound up.

The liabilities are said to amount to approximately \$110,000. The assets have not yet been determined.

THE DRUCE EXAMINATION

Opening of Grave Will Prove Truth or Falsity of Caldwell's Story.

London, Dec. 21.—The opening of the vault containing the body of T. C. Druce has been provisionally fixed for Dec. 27.

One of the results of examining the coffin will be to prove immediately the truth or the falsity of one of the main points in Caldwell's evidence, and probably settle the question of his extradition. Should the statement about there being lead in the coffin prove to be true, it is not believed that the British Government would care particularly to pursue the question whether or not Caldwell or his alleged brother are one and the same persons.

FIFTEEN EMPLOYEES HAD CLOSE CALL

While at Work on the New Bridge at Thamesford, Ontario.

Fifteen employees of the Hamilton Bridge Company had a very narrow escape from serious injury at the new bridge, Thamesford, when a car on which they were all working left the track and rolled into a ditch.

The men were about to place a section of steel, weighing about 30 tons, in position when the accident happened.

Fortunately all were able to jump, and no one was injured.

The heavy steel section also fell with the car, but neither the car nor the steel were damaged, and will be lifted safely and placed in use again.

Traffic was delayed for a short time only, as the bridge men worked hard and made a temporary structure of wood, over which all the trains were able to pass.

This temporary span will be replaced in a day or two with the steel span, which is at present lying at the side of the track, and the new bridge will then be complete.

ST. THOMAS MERCHANT UNDER ARREST

Bank Charges Forging the Name of His Partner.

St. Thomas, Dec. 22.—James A. Moore, a prominent citizen, who conducts a hide business, and has been identified with several industrial enterprises, was placed under arrest on complaint of the manager of the Dominion Bank, who charges Moore with forging the name of his brother, H. C. Moore, of Toronto, to a guaranteed bond in October last. Moore is said to have borrowed heavily from the bank, and the bond was given as a guarantee of these amounts. Other charges, it is said, will also be laid.

LOOKS LIKE CARON

Liberal Candidate Favorite in the Ottawa By-Election.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Ottawa by-election to fill the vacancy made by the death of Mr. Belcourt to the senate, takes place. It is generally conceded that Mr. Caron, the Liberal candidate, will be elected.

CENTER YORK ELECTION

Liberals Wind Up Campaign by Rousing Meeting at Mimico.

Mimico, Dec. 21.—The battle for Center York closed at Mimico amid a scene of enthusiasm which, considering this part of the riding, was strikingly significant, ringing cheers for Dr. McLean being the last note of a meeting that was roused to a high pitch by the robust eloquence of Hon. William Paterson, the minister of customs, and the convincing words of Mr. P. H. Mackenzie, M. P. for South Bruce.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—FAIR.

FORECAST.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—8 a.m.

Today—Strong winds and gales, gradually shifting to westerly; snow and rain.

Tuesday—Mostly fair; not much change in temperature.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

Calgary..... 20 20 Clear

Winnipeg..... 12 10 Clear

Port Arthur..... 20 18 Fair

Parry Sound..... 30 28 Cloudy

Toronto..... 34 30 Rain

Montreal..... 32 26 Cloudy

Quebec..... 28 24 Cloudy

Father Point..... 30 26 Cloudy

The first column in the above table records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperature during the 24 hours previous.

WEATHER NOTES.

A disturbance of importance which has traveled quickly from the Gulf of Mexico now covers the Ohio Valley, causing heavy rain in the lower lake region. It promises stormy conditions in the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valleys, as well as in the Maritime Provinces. The weather continues unusually mild in the Western Provinces.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Atlin, 16-22; Victoria, 44-50; Vancouver, 38-46; Edmonton, 26-34; Prince Albert, 18-30; Calgary, 18-44; Regina, 18-30; Winnipeg, 23-34; Port Arthur, 16-40; Parry Sound, 32-34; Toronto, 30-34; Ottawa, 21-34; Montreal, 22-32; Quebec, 14-32; Halifax, 16-40.

Local temperatures: Saturday—Highest, 22; lowest, 20.5° above. Sunday—Highest, 28; lowest, 22° above.

FIRE GUTS CHATHAM BLOCK FIRE CHIEF BADLY INJURED

Many Narrow Escapes and Great Damage in an Early Morning Conflagration.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Chatham, Dec. 23.—A spectacular fire broke out in the Alexandra Block, a large three-story apartment house on King street, at 3:40 this morning. The sleeping occupants were awakened by Thomas Algenham, and it is owing to him that the occupants got away with their lives, most of them being compelled to leave in their night garments, and all of them lost valuables that had to be left behind. While attempting to find a fire escape on the back of the building that was factored to the roof of a side structure, Fire Chief Pritchard fell off the latter structure to the ground, a distance of about twenty-five feet, landing on his hands and knees. He was found a moment later by comrades, and a hasty examination revealed that his two wrists and left ankle were dislocated, his left leg severely bruised, the right leg severely fractured and his face mangled from coming in contact with the ground. The fire was a very stubborn one, and it was not until daylight that it was under control. The loss has not yet been computed, but it will run up into the thousands, and the fine building entirely gutted.

N. End Family Had Narrow Escape From Asphyxiation Saturday Night

Check Damper in Coal Stove Had Not Been Properly Regulated.

The family of Mr. George Brown, of 910 Wellington street, had a narrow escape from asphyxiation on Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Brown and their eldest daughter were very ill from the effects of escaping coal gas, but are now out of danger.

When the family retired on Saturday night there was no odor of escaping gas, and everything seemed all right.

Early Sunday morning one of the family awoke, and detected a strong odor of gas. The family was awakened, and all complained of feeling unwell.

Dr. Bateson was called, and prescribed for them. "Although suffering from headaches and nausea all day, no further ill-effects were detected, and today they are much improved."

It is thought that the gas escaped, owing to the check damper not being properly adjusted.

A little baby about 6 weeks old did not suffer from the effects of the gas, it being the only member of the family to escape.

President McGuire Dined Executive Travelers Had a Pleasant Time

Splendid Banquet Held at the Club on Saturday Night.

The banquet tendered by Mr. C. W. McGuire, president of the Travelers' Club, to his fellow-members on the executive, on Saturday night, was one of the most splendid affairs yet given in the club. There were about thirty guests present, and all had a most delightful evening. The affair broke up at midnight.

The dinner itself was a very fine one and reflected great credit on the club steward, Mr. W. H. Strange.

After the spread had been done justice to President McGuire introduced the toast list.

There were some very clever speeches made during the evening. "Canada,"

After the toast to the King, Mr. Frank Lawson was called on to respond to the toast "Canada," which he did in a very able speech. He drew a vivid picture of Canada's progress during the past ten years, and called attention to the enormous possibilities of this country. The eyes of the world are upon Canada, and to her belongs this century.

Mr. John T. Green, the new president of the Western Ontario Commercial Travelers' Association, responded to the toast to that organization, and traced the growth and progress of that association.

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Club Simply Adjourn for Month No Action Taken Re Mayoralty

The Conservatives Have Not Indorsed Ald. Matthew's Candidature.

Election matters have assumed a second place to Christmas festivities, and today there is little doing in the municipal arena. Every candidate seems to be saying, "After you," and the result is that there are a few candidates appearing for the different offices.

The mayoralty contest is the only certainty so far. Ald. Matthews has assumed the role of Ajax defying the lightning, the latter being the Conservative managers, who don't want him and can't lose him. He is pursuing the "glad hand" campaign, and claims that the people will fall in behind him with an enthusiasm unheard of in recent years. The Conservative party is taking no part in the affair, and figures it out that it is merely Ald. Matthews' business.

Adjourned for a Week.
The Conservative Club held a meeting on Saturday evening, and incidentally touched on the mayoralty contest. It was thought best not to take any part in the campaign this year, and consequently there will be nothing doing so far as the organization is concerned.

Niagara Power.
There will be a meeting in the East End Hall this evening for the purpose of discussing Niagara power. Hon. Adam Beck will be present, and will explain the power scheme. Ald. Fryer, of Guelph, president of the Western Ontario Municipalities' Power League, will also be present, and address the electors. Opponents of the power bylaw are invited to be present.

Woodstock, Dec. 23.—Philip Manahan, alias Tom Reid, a deserter from Wolseley Barracks at London, was sentenced by Magistrate Bail this morning to three years in Kingston Penitentiary. He pleaded guilty to having attempted a criminal assault on Mrs. Clyde, a respectable resident of this city, a few days ago. Manahan's record is not the best. He is 20 years of age, and was born in Montreal.

FIVE OUT FOR TORONTO MAYORALTY

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, Dec. 23.—Mayorality nominations today brought out five candidates. Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, Ald. Geary, ex-Ald. Oliver, Miles Vokes and Jas. Nesbitt were not present.