

Niagara Ice Bridge Breaks Three Go to Their Death

Great Mass of Ice Moved Out and Carried Its Freight of Humanity Into the Whirlpool Rapids, Two Toronto People and a Cleveland Man Perishing.

BRAVE MEN DIE THE DEATH OF HEROES

One Who Could Have Saved Himself Turns Back to Help and Loses Life—Thrilling Incident Witnessed by Thousands Who Were Unable to Render Any Assistance.

Niagara Falls, Ont., Feb. 4. — The lives of one woman and two men who had ventured to cross the river near the Falls on the ice bridge today were lost in the tumult of waters in the Whirlpool Rapids, two miles below the falls, to which point they had drifted on the ice. Thousands witnessed the accident, but were helpless to render aid, although every effort was made.

The victims were:

Elbridge Staunton, secretary-treasurer of the O. B. Staunton and Wilson Company, stationers, 50 Yonge street, Toronto.

Mrs. Elbridge Staunton.

Burrell Heacock, aged 17, of East One Hundred and Seventeenth street, Cleveland, Ohio.

The ice bridge, which has choked the river channel between the cataract and the upper steel arch bridge, below the falls, for the last three weeks was considered perfectly safe. For weeks the great fields of ice had been coming down the river, piling up against the barrier until it was from 50 to 80 feet thick, and under the influence of zero weather the great mass had become firmly anchored to the shore. The jam was about 1,500 feet in length, and in some places a quarter of a mile in breadth. For two weeks it had offered safe passage to the hardy, and today an immense crowd of excursionists came to view the winter wonder of the river. Had the accident happened an hour later in the day hundreds would have lost their lives, for the crowd was moving down into Prospect Park in the snow waters that run down the cliff for the purpose of venturing out upon the ice.

Died Deaths of Heroes.

"Somewhere deep in the great whirlpool tonight slaps a Staunton, who twice in vain chances of rescue in order to remain with his terror-stricken wife, and who, in the shadow of death, just as the break occurred in the rapids, spurs the distance for himself, and attempted to bind about the woman's body a rope dangling from the lower steel arch bridge. And the lad, Burrell Heacock, was cast in the same moment. Had he not turned back to the ice to give assistance to the man, he, too, might have made the shore. On the bridge at the time it tore free from the shore, besides these three, were Monroe Gilbert, of No. 1108 Grove avenue, this city; Ignatius Roth, of No. 214 Fulton road, Cleveland, Heacock's companion; Wm. Hill, an old riverman, who had a shack on the ice, William Leblond, a riverman, and an unidentified Italian. Hill's shack was nearest to the American shore. When he heard the grinding and crushing of the ice, he ran at top speed toward the black and white calling to the others to follow. Leblond gave them warning that safety lay in that direction. Gilbert and the Italian followed their lead, but the others became alarmed. By the time they had regained their composure the bridge was moving fast down the river.

The man and woman started first towards the American shore, but they were stopped by a line of open water. Back they ran again towards the Canadian side, turned about and made for the American side. When hardly more than 50 yards from the rocky shore the woman fell on her face, utterly exhausted.

"I can't go on! I can't go on!" she cried. "Let us die here!"

And all the time the great field of ice driven onward by a southwesterly gale, and pressed by a jam broken free from its anchorage near the base (Continued on Page Three.)

PASTOR DROPS DEAD IN RAILWAY STATION

Rev. Donald McKenzie, Formerly of Lucknow, Had Spoken at Banquet.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Wingham, Feb. 5.—Mr. John A. McLean has received word that his cousin, Rev. Donald McKenzie, for many years a resident of Lucknow, dropped dead in the station at Minneapolis as he was waiting to take a train home after having delivered a brilliant address at a banquet of Clan Stewart of the Sons of Scotland. When he left the hall and right up to the time of his death, Rev. McKenzie was apparently in the best of health. He was 46 years of age, and was born in Lucknow, Ontario, and had been a resident of Minneapolis for six years, and in that time became widely known as the "fighting pastor," owing to his crusade against saloons. Rev. McKenzie was widely known all through this district, having spoken here on many occasions. Besides his wife he is survived by three children.

MOUNT ETNA ACTIVE.

Taormina, Italy, Feb. 4. — Mount Etna is in full eruption, and lava is flowing down the sides, while great showers of ashes are following.

HEAT FRANCHISES ARE UP TONIGHT

Likely the Council Will Grant Both of Them for One Year.

NOTICE SERVED ON CITY

Graydon & Graydon on Behalf of Unknown Parties Are Opposing the Requests of Two Local Concerns.

The application of the Helena Costume Company, and Greene-Swift & Co., to cross certain downtown streets to furnish heating

places of business in the district, will cause some discussion at the city council meeting tonight, but will probably be favorably received. The council will grant the privilege for one year only, as the question would have to be submitted to the people. If the privilege were to be extended over a term of years.

Ald. Robinson. Ald. Robinson, chairman of the board of works, had an interview with City Solicitor Meredith on the question, and the latter stated that the city council could grant the right for one year only, subject to an agreement between the council and the company. In this form the recommendation will be made to the council.

May Issue Injunction.

Some objection has been made to this action, and Mr. A. H. Marshall Graydon, acting on behalf of unknown parties, has given notice that he will issue an injunction against the city, if the privilege is granted.

Notice was received this morning, and will be read at the meeting of the council when the question is up for discussion.

At the city hall, the idea of an injunction is not considered seriously, as the motion is presented by the council, and is in strict accordance with the Beak act, under which franchises are granted now.

The request as granted by us covers one year only," said Ald. Robinson, chairman of No. 2 committee. "We consulted City Solicitor Meredith, and we were informed what powers we have. If the company want an extension or a perpetual franchise, they will have to go to the people next January and have them vote on it. That is the only way."

"We will accept the council's offer," said Mr. C. D. Burdick. "It does not look altogether fair, but the city has very plain, and we will go ahead. We are confident that once the people we serve obtain heat in this way, there will be decided objections to compelling us to take up our pipes."

HYDRANTS FROZEN AS BAD FIRE RAGES

One of Hamilton's Biggest Business Blocks Close to Destruction.

THREE STORES GUTTED

Through Fear of Wall-Buckling Fire-Fighters Were Handicapped in Attacking Flames.

[Canadian Press.]

Hamilton, Feb. 5.—Fire, which for a time threatened to destroy one of the biggest business blocks in the heart of Hamilton, broke out at 8:35 o'clock in the lithographing and printing plant of the Robert Duncan Company, in the rear of their stores at the corner of York and James street, and in less than half an hour gutted the three-story building. A few minutes' delay through a mistake on the part of a central operator turning in an alarm, and the fact that the hydrants were frozen as a result of the bitter cold last night, gave the blaze a bad start.

The flames licked up the inflammable material in the basement, reached up to the upper floors and made a roaring furnace of the entire building before the firemen could get enough pressure to check the fire.

Peril of Firemen.

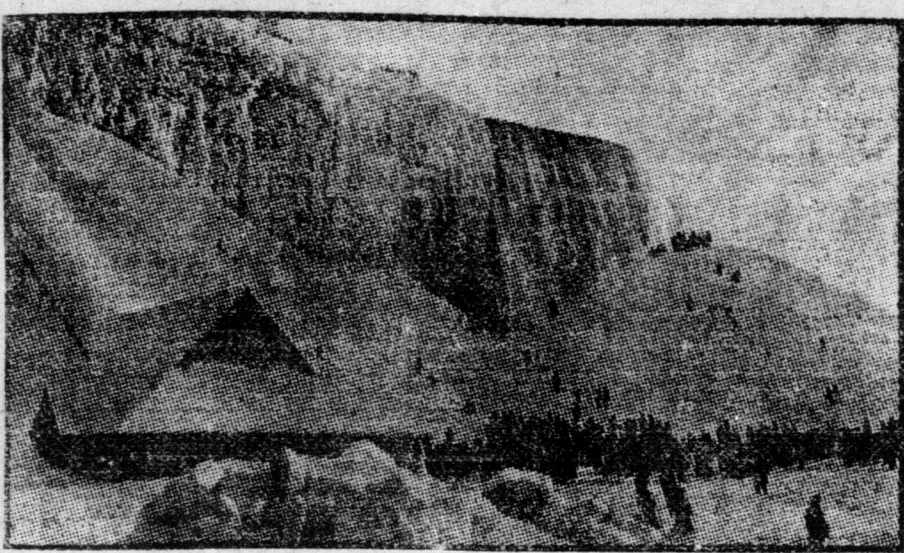
Ten years ago the same building was badly damaged by fire, and the big three-story brick wall, which was jacked together at that time, threatened to buckle as soon as the heat reached it this morning. Chief Ten Eyck refused to let any of his men risk their lives going up the alley to fight it.

The blaze created a genuine alarm when the flames reached over to the back of the Grand Trunk's uptown ticket office, a three-story building on Jan. street, to the Strand Hotel, Christopher's restaurant, and Nordheimer's piano store on King street.

The backs of all these buildings were scorched, and a lot of damage done to the stock by water, but the firemen drove the flames back and finally confined the fire to the Duncan plant.

The situation was so serious at one time before the firemen got the hydrants open and the pressure up that the advisability of dynamiting some of the buildings to save the fire from destroying the entire section was considered.

At 10 o'clock the blaze was under control, although the interior of the Duncan plant was still burning fiercely. The loss, it is believed, will amount to nearly \$200,000. Assistant Chief James fought the fire while his wife lay dying at home.



AN ICE BRIDGE AT NIAGARA FALLS.

LUNATIC KILLS A MAN AND SUICIDES ON WESTERN TRAIN

Tragedy On a C. P. R. Express Near Swift Current, Alberta.

[Canadian Press.]

Moose Jaw, Feb. 5.—An unknown man became suddenly insane on the east-bound express near Swift Current this morning, terrified the passengers by firing repeatedly with a revolver, killing John G. Klundt, of Garrison, N. D., a wealthy land speculator, who was returning home from Medicine Hat with his brother Gatsen. The man then committed suicide. Both brothers were removed from the train at this point.

The murderer, an old man, had a ticket for Campbellton, N. B. Klundt was asleep at the time. He was shot through the back of the head by the first shot from the lunatic's revolver. Klundt's brother said he did not know the murderer. After firing wildly through the car, the man turned the pistol on himself and blew out his brains.

LONDON COUNCIL TO CONSIDER GRANTING OF VOTES TO WOMEN

City Daddies Are Asked To Pass a Favorable Resolution.

Woman's suffrage may start a debate at the city council tonight. A communication has been received from Margaret Gordon, of Toronto, secretary of the Woman's Suffrage Association, asking the council to pass resolution favoring granting the ballot to women. There is but one bachelor among the aldermen, and it is expected that he will give utterance to an impassioned plea on behalf of the ladies. It is not known what will be done with the communication—some of the aldermen being afraid to venture an opinion.

In addition to this communication, there is considerable business to be transacted by the aldermen. The request to issue debentures for fighting apparatus, the application of the Helena Costume Company and Greene-Swift & Co., for a franchise for steam heating, the application of the East End Progressive Association for improved service on the Grand Trunk, and other matters will be up for discussion. It looks like a busy night.

MARKED DOWN COINS SHIPPED TO LONDON

It Is Said a Regular Business Is Carried On In Depreciated Silver Here.

A LOSS TO THE CITIZENS

Most of the Banks and Merchants Are Refusing to Accept the Money at Its Face Value.

Don't take any Chinese money! The passing of "marked down" money in London has been a regular business for years, and the recent decision of most of the banks to refuse to accept more than 45 per cent of their face value coins from the Straits settlements and Hong Kong was the result of a discovery of wholesale importations of the silver into this city.

It was learned by The Advertiser from a reliable source that ten thousand and ten-cent pieces, having a face value of \$1,000, were recently shipped into London and distributed to a number of places where change was handled in large quantities. The coins are actually worth 45 cents on the dollar.

Shipped Into London.

The last shipment was made only a few days ago, it was stated, and it is claimed that shipments of the same size have been made from time to time since the one enterprising dealer had the handling of all the business.

It is said that he secures the money from an agent in Hong Kong, who made a regular business of exporting the silver, selling it for gold or gold certificates. As a result the banks in London, and probably in other Canadian cities, have been flooded with the money to such an extent that several conferences have been held.

One banker stated to The Advertiser that for several years it had been noticed that scarcely a deposit of silver was made which did not contain a number of Straits settlement coins.

He believes that the action of the banks in refusing the money will have the result of putting it out of circulation.

Refusing the Coins.

It is not difficult to find corroboration for this statement. An Advertiser reporter was in a Dundas street store Saturday night, and he noticed that proprietor and clerks were refusing to accept the settlement's coins. Once the proprietor sent out a clerk for change, and the unheeding employee came back with two dollars' worth of dimes in which there were eight pieces of the silver coins.

"Sort of put one over on you there, Bill," the proprietor told him. "We'll just charge up that 80 cents, and you can have the eight cut-rate dimes. If you can pass 'em, you won't be out anything, but if you can't, it will wise money is about as good as stage-money in this store."

The clerk pocketed the coins with a grin, evidently realizing that a collection was on Sunday at his particular church.

A Complete Loss.

The fact seems to be, if the coins are to be refused at anything above their intrinsic value by all of the banks, the five or eight or ten thousand dollars' worth of the money at present in circulation will ultimately be a complete loss to citizens. It is estimated that a good many thousand dollars are in circulation at the present time.

One banker stated today that his Continued on Page Nine.

CROSS-PETITION AGAINST NEELY

Disqualification of Conservative Candidate in East Middlesex Is Asked.

USUAL CHARGES MADE

Prominent Conservatives Sign the Document Presented Against Former Member for East Riding.

The cross-petition against Mr. Geo. W. Neely, ex-M.P.P., Conservative candidate in East Middlesex in the recent provincial elections, was filed today with the clerk of the surrogate court by Mr. J. M. McEvoy, solicitor for Mr. Robert Sutherland, M.P.P., whose election was recently protested by the Conservatives. The counter-petition is signed by Messrs. Thos. McFarlane, David Gilmour and William Hartell, of Dorchester Township, Ontario.

The document alleges that Mr. Neely and his agents were guilty of corrupt acts such as treating voters, hiring rigs to convey electors to the polls, and other contraventions of the election act. It asks that the petition against Mr. Sutherland be thrown out, and Mr. Neely disqualified for offering himself for public office for a term of years.

No particulars have been given as yet, but it is understood that when the facts are brought forth some interesting information regarding election methods in East Middlesex in the last election will be revealed.

The Liberals are prepared to fight the protest against Sutherland to the finish, and have collected a great deal of information.

No date has been set for the examination for discovery. Notice of the cross-petition will have to be served on Mr. Neely, and matters will then shape themselves. It will be some time before anything definite is done.

North Middlesex.

No word of a counter-petition in North Middlesex has been heard. The Liberals in the north riding are confident of unseating the present member, Mr. Duncan MacArthur, through the action of agents, if the protest goes to trial, and have already collected a large amount of evidence that will be produced in court.

LONDON TOURISTS GIVEN A THRILL

Steamer Carrying Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Collides With Warship at Honolulu.

THE PILOT DROPPED DEAD

Both Ships Were Seriously Damaged, But Those on Board Escaped Injury.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sterling, of 114 Dufferin avenue, this city, who are on a trip around the world, had a thrilling experience at Honolulu on Jan. 24. The vessel on which they were sailing, the Cleveland, collided with the United States cruiser Colorado, in the harbor, damaging both vessels considerably. Fortunately there were no injuries to the passengers. A pilot dropped dead at the wheel, causing the accident.

The Cleveland arrived at Honolulu in the early morning with four hundred passengers on board. The vessel was to remain all day, it was decided to move her further up the stream, where there was a better anchorage. In order to do so, a river pilot named Marshall was taken on board. The Colorado was anchored a short distance up the river also. The Cleveland started for her moorings, when the pilot, stepping back, dropped on the floor of the wheel room, dead. The vessel swung out of her course and crashed into the Colorado. The second mate, noticing something wrong, rushed into the wheel room, and prevented further damage.

The passengers were in a great state of excitement, but fortunately neither vessel was damaged below the water line.

The Cleveland was hurried to her anchorage, and the passengers went ashore. When repaired, the ship was allowed to proceed, and will arrive at San Francisco shortly.

VALLEY OF MEXICO SHAKEN.

Mexico, Mex., Feb. 4. — At 3 o'clock yesterday morning the Valley of Mexico was shaken by a sharp earthquake shock that made sleepers jump from their beds. The directors of the Geological Institute says the shake was probably the result of a small earthquake explosion, as the shocks were felt only in the valley. No one was injured.

BORDEN GOVT. IN NAVAL MUDDLE

The British Admiralty Not Favorable To a Change of Plan.

LAURIER SCHEME BEST

Canadian Government Not Likely to Take Any Action for a Year at Least.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—It is understood that the Borden Government is having some difficulty in its informal negotiations with the admiralty. The Government would like to obtain the admiralty's indorsement of some change of plan, and has suggested that a direct money contribution would be the best form in which Canada could contribute to the imperial defence.

The admiralty does not view this suggestion with favor. It feels that if Canada should make Britain a gift of ten million dollars to be used for the purchase of a Dreadnought the British Government would cut down its naval appropriation by just that amount and the admiralty would have gained in addition to the fighting strength at its disposal.

When asked for an alternative suggestion the British naval authorities have pointed out that the question of colonial aid for imperial defence was thoroughly discussed between the authorities of the mother country, Canada and Australia, and a plan of action was agreed upon which appeared to be the best at that time, and which the Laurier Government gave effect to.

Laurier's Plan Best.

It provides for the creation of a fleet unit by Canada and one by Australia. Australia has gone ahead, and will have its fleet unit in commission by the end of 1913. If it had not been for the change in government the contract for the construction of the Canadian fleet unit would have been awarded to Cammell Laird, the British builders, and they would today have the construction of their yards well under way at Courtney Bay.

The Canadian Government is not likely to take any action for a year at least, either for the repeal of the Liberal naval act or for the substitution of some other form of naval aid.

FALLS' VICTIMS BODIES STILL IN WHIRLPOOL

Watchers Fail To Find the Remains in the Ice Churning Waters.

[Canadian Press.]

Niagara Falls, Feb. 5.—Although watchers were stationed at the Whirlpool Rapids early today, it was not expected that the ice-churning waters would release the bodies that were swept under the bridge where yesterday's sudden disintegration of ice bridges. The appearance of the bodies, which were within a few feet of the shore, was a sight which echoed through the gorge. Great cakes of ice were being hurled down stream under the bridge, where still dangled the ends of the ropes which proved useless in the endeavor to rescue the trio as they were being swept down stream.

Nothing developed today to make certain the identity of the man and woman supposed to be Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge Staunton, of the city of Toronto, excepting that those persons had not returned their hotel. It is known that they started for the ice bridge about an hour before the sudden release of tons of ice below the falls swept it away.

The father of Burrell Heacock, of Cleveland, the third victim, arrived today, saying he had no hope of ever seeing the body of his son, who, upon being seized by a rope passing up to the cantilever bridge, slipped back exhausted into the river.

A SIGNIFICANT OFFER

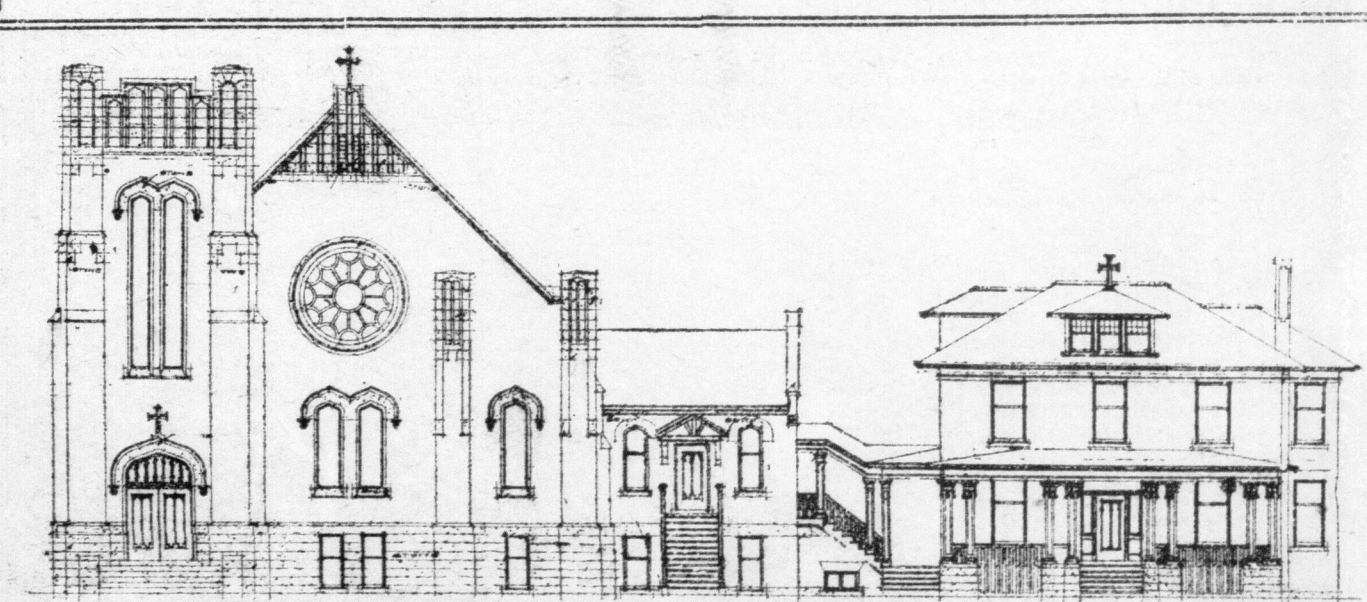
Gratuity for Widow of Seaman of the Canadian Navy Killed in Action.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—The Government last month passed an order-in-council which provides that when a seaman of the Canadian navy is killed in action, his widow shall be entitled to a year's pay as a gratuity.

This is taken as indicating the decision of the Government not a report the Liberal Government's naval legislation for some time at least.

Another New Church For the Forest City.



THE NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. MICHAEL'S, TO BE ERRECT AT THE CORNER OF CHEAPSIDE AND MAITLAND STREETS.

The cost will be about \$25,000, and the edifice will be modern in every particular. Rev. Father Hanlon is rector, and already a large proportion of the money necessary has been subscribed. This will make four Catholic churches in the city—St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Mary's, in East London; St. Martin's, in South London, and St. Michael's in North London.

The plans were prepared by Mr. H. C. McBride, of McBride & Farncombe, and tenders for the work will be called for at an early date. The parochial residence is also shown in the cut.