

FIFTY LONDON SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

CEILING IN ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL FELL IN SEATS SAVED CHILDREN FROM SERIOUS INJURY

All the Pupils Acted Like Little Heroes and Heroines.

CRAWLED FROM UNDER DEBRIS

Marched Out in Splendid Order—Room Filled With Plaster Dust.

THE INJURED.

ANNIE THOMPSON.
ELMA PARKINSON.
MORRIS PIKE.
WILLIE SANSON.

THOSE IN THE ROOM.

MAY ARDIE.
SOPHIE BURT.
HARRIET CORBETT.
VIOLET CROSETT.
PEARL CLARE.
HAZEL ELIWOOD.
IRENE FERNE.
AGNES GREENE.
HELENA GILMOUR.
MAY INGS.
MAY JOHNSON.
VERA KEYES.
JULIA OVENS.
ALMA PARKINSON.
MYRTLE PRYOR.
URIA SHARPE.
GLADYS TAMLIN.
PEARL TAYLOR.
KATHLEEN WILLSON.
FLORENCE McEWEN.
EMMELINE CRUMP.
EARL ASHWELL.
JACK BEALTON.
WESLEY BOYCE.
CEPHAS GILMOUR.
JOHN CHURCH.
DAVE PAGE.
ERNEST SCOPES.
CHARLIE EBERLE.
MELVIN RENNIE.
GORDON WOONTON.
GORDON SIMPSON.
BETTY MARTIN.
LORNE LITTLE.
BRUCE McLEOD.
CHARLIE MOYER.
WILLIAM MARDEN.
CARROLL McKENNA.
JOHN McKINNON.
ALLAN JOHNSON.
WILLIE THOMPSON.
FRED TEMPLAR.
CLARENCE SPOULE.
HAROLD STEELE.
WILBERT STORAN.
JACK SIMPSON.
LEON FORSYTHE.
MAURICE PIKE.
STUART OVENS.
GORDON CAUGHTREY.
FRANK McCUTCHEON.
JAMES DEAN.
WILLIE SAMSON.
EARL KEYES.

The wooden ceiling of the lower form 3 room of St. George's school fell in shortly before noon today, crashing down upon fifty children.

How any escaped is simply miraculous.

Several were slightly injured, but none badly. The children were in the room and were listening to a drawing lesson taught by Miss Powell, the superintendent of arts.

She was being assisted by the teacher, Miss Upshall, when suddenly there was a cracking sound.

Ceiling Came Down.

Instantly everybody looked up, and to their horror they saw the whole wooden ceiling was settling down.

Without a sound the fifty children "ducked" under the seats, and those nearest the door rushed out.

Down came the roof with a crash upon the youngsters who had crawled down under the seats.

When it reached the desks, there was a terrifying cracking and smashing.

THE INJURED PUPILS

Morris Pike, 405 Pall Mall street, age 13, suffering from shock and big bruises on top of the head.

Elma Parkinson, 262 Piccadilly Street, top of head badly cut and bruised and suffering very severely from shock. Is probably the worst injured of all the children.

Annie Johnston, 795 Hellmuth Ave., internally injured. Is suffering great pain.

Willie Sanson, of Dundas street, several cuts and bruises on head, and suffering severely from shock.

A large number of the other children have cuts and bruises of a slight nature.

When at last the noise had died away, out came the brave little boys and girls from under the debris.

With their little bodies bruised, and with dust and dirt almost obliterating their features, they trooped out like little soldiers, not a cry or complaint being heard. It was an heroic sight.

Fainted in the Hall.

One little chap, named Sanson, crawled out and with bruised head and grimy face, he fainted in the hall.

He was taken in hand by another of the boys and in a few minutes was all right.

Principal Wyatt rushed out of his room and took charge of the children.

A general alarm was sent into the fire department, and Chief Clark and his men were on the scene in a few minutes.

The police ambulance was also rushed to the scene, but was not used, as not one of the children required the services of the medical men.

All Out But Two.

When Principal Wyatt reached the room practically all the children were out with the exception of two little girls, Myrtle Pryor and Vera Keyes.

They were sitting in the farthest corner from the door, and when the ceiling came tumbling down they had no time to get out, but "ducked" down under the seats, and patiently waited until the end came.

When the crash was over they crawled to the window and pushing it up stood on the ledge.

Children Terrified.

They had become so terrified by this time that they were about to jump.

Principal Wyatt and Assistant Principal Claude Brown called upon them to stand still.

They did so, and a ladder being put to the window, they were got out in safety—the last two to leave the room.

Slightly Injured.

Miss Powell was not hurt, a slight scratch on the face being the extent of her injuries.

Miss Upshall was also slightly bruised by the fall, but not seriously. She is nervous from the shock.

The accident happened in lower form 3 room. This room is in the old school which is now some forty years of age.

The school had then first a lath and plaster roof.

The Ceiling.

Some years ago, about six or seven, Inspector Edwards thought the ceiling was covered over by a matched wood ceiling about one inch in thickness.

This ceiling was placed over the lath and plaster by Mr. John Clements the board of education carpenter.

How It Was Done.

Over the plaster at intervals of a foot and a half were nailed strips of pine an inch and a half by seven-eighths.

These strips were nailed through the lath and plaster by 2-inch nails. Only about one-quarter of an inch if the nail entered the joists.

The ceiling was then nailed on to these small strips of pine, 1½-inch wire nails holding the ceiling in place. The weight of this mass was variously estimated by those who saw it, but it must have been some tons.

Saved by Presence of Mind.

It was so heavy that it smashed many new seats down to the floor.

The only thing that saved the boys and girls from shocking injury, and perhaps death, was the fact that they had the presence of mind to "duck" under the seats.

So far as can be learned, there has been nothing to cause the accident.

Principal Wyatt informed The Advertiser that no person had been in the garret working, and to his knowledge no one had been walking over the ceiling.

An Advertiser reporter went into the garret, and found no great weight of rubbish to have caused it. The general opinion is that the weight of the ceiling itself caused the accident.

Principal Wyatt.

"I was busy teaching in my room, when I heard a noise like a very loud clapping of hands," said Principal Wyatt. "I heard a loud noise then, and rushed out."

"The children were rushing into the hall. I asked them what was the matter, and all the answer I could get was: 'The ceiling! The ceiling!'

"I went up to the room and saw many of the children crawling out from under the ruins."

"They were as orderly as they possibly could be."

"There was no more excitement than an ordinary fire drill."

Put Up a Ladder.

"I saw Myrtle Pryor and Vera Keyes in the window, and I called to them to stand until a ladder was put up for them. They did so, and were all right."

"I looked after the youngsters as well as I could. I found several of them bruised, but none very badly hurt."

A Miracle.

"It is a miracle how they got out alive. They all seemed instinctively to know what to do, and were self-possessed and courageous all the time."

"Had there been a panic, the results might have been serious. Miss Powell and Miss Upshall were in a worse position than the children."

"They were both standing up in front of the class. When the first crash was heard, they 'ducked,' and were carried out by the onrush of the children. It is extremely fortunate that no more were hurt."

"The children acted like veterans. No excitement, no hurry. Just quietly, like little soldiers, they marched out. It was really splendid. I am greatly pleased with the splendid conduct of the boys and girls."

Fifty Children in Room.

The escape is indeed remarkable. How fifty children could be in a room and the whole ceiling, weighing many hundreds of pounds, come crashing down upon them, and no one killed, is a mystery.

The dimensions of the room are 29 by 33 feet, and the weight of a matched-lumber ceiling can be easily computed.

Ceiling Did Not Break.

"The reason that the accident was not more serious is owing to the fact that the ceiling did not break," said Inspector Edwards.

"The roof came down as a whole, and the pressure of the air kept it from coming down fast. The children saw it coming, and were able to get out or get under the seats out of danger."

"Had the ceiling smashed in two, as it might have done, it would have come down with a fearful rush, and many would have been killed."

"The fact that it came down slowly saved them. I cannot account for the accident, except that the ceiling was not supported properly."

"In all the rooms of the new school, the ceiling is supported by center supports, which are lacking in the room."

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ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL.

The above cut shows the front elevation of the new portion which was completed only a few months ago. The old school stands immediately at the rear.

LITTLE HERO SPEAKS OF WRECK LOOKED UP, SAW CEILING FALL

Morris Pike, Thirteen Years of Age, Tells The Advertiser of His Experiences in St. George's School—Little Elmo Parkinson Appears Very Badly Hurt.

Morris Pike, aged 13 years, of 405 Pall Mall street, when seen at his home, had practically recovered from the shock of the accident, and was nursing a big bump on the top of his head, caused by the ceiling falling on him.

"I was sitting near the center of the room, drawing," he told The Advertiser. "I did not see the ceiling falling, as I was busy looking at my paper."

When I heard the teacher call I looked up and saw the ceiling coming down above me. I tried to get under my desk, but was not quite quick enough, and was struck by the ceiling. It was pretty dark under the desks, but I

heard the teachers calling us to come to them, and saw some of the other boys creeping out from under their desks, and I did the same. We had no trouble in getting out."

Elma Parkinson.

Elma Parkinson, the 12-year-old daughter of Mr. Fred Parkinson, 262 Piccadilly street, was suffering so severely from shock and from cuts about the head that the doctor in attendance refused to allow anyone to see her.

Children who were near her say that Miss Parkinson was sitting on the north side of the room and was busy at work, and did not see the ceiling falling quickly enough to escape being hit.

Afterward she crept out from under the ceiling and reached a window, from which she was carried down.

MISS UPSHALL'S STORY

Miss Upshall, teacher of grade VI, at St. George's, when interviewed at her home this afternoon, said:

"I was standing in the center of the room at 19 minutes to 12 watching Miss Powell who was giving the regular drawing lesson on the board. Suddenly I heard a noise as if some one had taken a step on the roof, and then I saw the northeast end of the ceiling start to come down. I ran to the aisle at the south side of the room, calling to Miss Powell and the children to run for their lives."

"A few of the children managed to get through the door before the ceiling fell. I do not know what I did."

CALLED TO SCHOOL.

"There was a crash and then I remember calling to the children to come to where I was. I could get them out the door that way quicker."

"I am astonished at the coolness of the children. There was not the least excitement until the ceiling had fallen and many had got out. Not long ago I told the class that if there ever was a fire and they saw they could not get out at the door to make for the windows, and somebody would come and take them down."

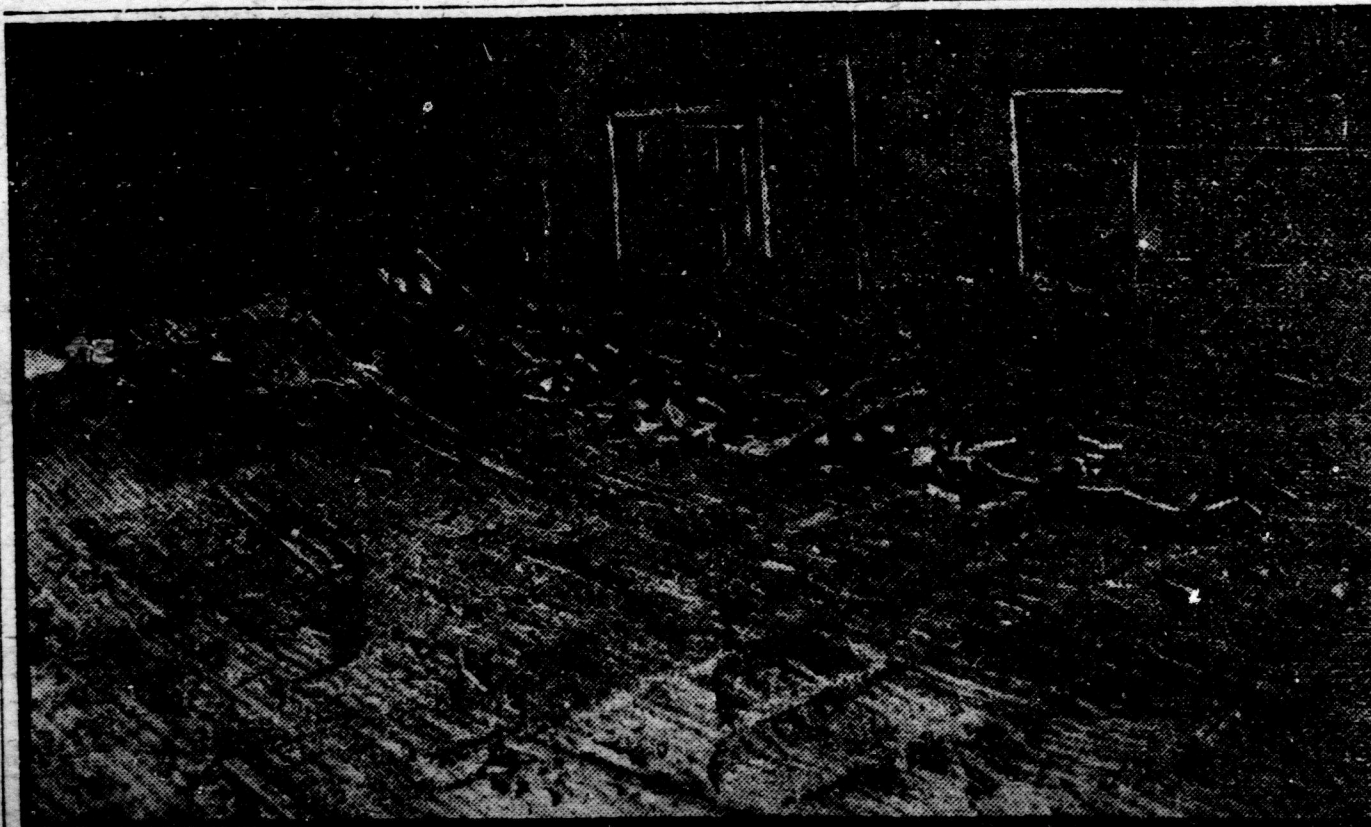
"Four or five of the little girls evidently thought of this, for I saw several of them climbing out from under the desks and getting up on the window ledge."

"After they were out they began to get frightened, but not before, and some of them called to me that they were going to jump. I told them not to and they did not. A few seconds later a man came up a ladder and took them down."

A CURVE IN CEILING.

"I noticed yesterday morning when I came into the room that there was a curve in the ceiling at that end of the room, but I did not think anything about it. I had never noticed anything wrong with the ceiling before, and thought it was perfectly safe. One of the great things that enabled us to get out so quickly was the fact that only a few weeks ago a whole row of seats were taken out. That gave us a very wide aisle on the side just where we needed it."

"The aisle in front was also very wide and the children had no difficulty at all in creeping out. The boys who got out, were very cool and many of them went back in to make sure that some of the smaller boys or little girls were caught in their desks. There were forty-two children in the room this morning."



SCENE IN ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL AFTER THE WRECK.

SCORE LURED TO DEATH BY CHICAGO MURDER GANG

Private Graveyard of Mrs. Guinness at Laporte, Ind., Yields Up More Ghastly Relics—Victims Butchered in Secret Chamber and the Remains Disarticulated and Buried.

Laporte, Ind., May 7.—The grisly story of the private graveyard at the farm of Mrs. Guinness, a mile north of Laporte, is still in its early chapters. Today the estimates of the number of persons murdered at the place through the lure of a matrimonial bureau run all the way from twelve to twenty. The exhumation yesterday of four dismembered bodies wrapped in burlap brings the total of victims known to have been murdered to nine. Including the bodies supposed to be those of Mrs. Guinness and her three children discovered after the fire which burned the farmhouse on April 28, the total of deaths to be investigated, and accounted for is 13.

More To Be Unearthed.

There was scant doubt that Sheriff Smutser today would discover evidence of murder in two more suspected graves, as yet unopened.

All suspicious parts of the premises are to be dug up with especial attention to the "soft spots" beneath rubbish heaps, which so far invariably have been found to conceal bodies.

Is Lamphere Guilty?

Ray Lamphere, who is in jail here, still asserts his innocence. Prosecuting Attorney Smith, however, says he has positive proof that Lamphere had

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May Not Be Labor Candidate in Field

The question of a Labor candidate for the coming provincial elections was not discussed by the Trades and Labor Council at its regular meeting last night.

Some time ago circulars were issued by the Canadian Labor party, asking that each local union be asked to send three delegates to a convention to be called for the purpose of selecting a candidate for the Labor party. The delegates have been appointed as a rule by the unions, but no date for the convention has been set.

The Labor party holds its regular meeting tonight, and it is possible that some action may be taken in reference to the matter.

However, the Trades and Labor Council did not take any action on the matter at all, and the opinion seems

Federation of Labor.

The council was addressed by Mr. John A. Flett, who spoke on behalf of the American Federation of Labor, and invited the Trades and Labor Council to become affiliated with that body. He outlined the benefits that would accrue to the council from such a move.

The local trades council is affiliated with the Dominion Labor Congress, of which Mr. Alphonse Verville, M. P. of Montreal, is president. Mr. Samuel Gompers is president of the American Federation.

After some discussion it was unanimously decided to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor.

Prizes Presented To the Artillerymen

A very pleasant affair took place at the Armouries last night, when the prizes which the Sixth Field Battery of this city won while encamped at Petawawa last summer were presented to the men.

Col. Peters, D. O. C., made a brief address, in which he complimented the officers and men of the battery on the splendid showing that they had made.

In competition with twenty-seven other batteries from all over the country London men won five out of six prizes.

After the address the men were called up and presented with their prizes by Mrs. (Col.) Peters.

The Prizes.

The prizes were distributed as follows: Cash prizes to individual members of the battery—Sergeant H. Percival \$5, Sergeant T. Chamberlain \$5, Sergeant W. Charles \$5, Sergeant E. Paves \$5.

Gun laying, for independent batteries—Corporal George White \$4.50 and a badge, Gunner J. Greer \$4.50 and a badge, Bombardier F. Jeffries \$3 and a badge, Gunner T. W. Blackwell \$3 and a badge, Corporal W. Yealand and Gunner J. Blair each 66 cents and a badge.

Fuse setting for independent batteries—Gunner N. Maskett \$5, Bombardier A. Brill \$3, Gunner G. Walker \$2 Drivers, independent batteries—Bombardier J. Jones \$5 and badge, Driver W. Poole \$3 and badge, Bombardier J. Murphy \$7, Driver J. Moss \$5, Sergeant H. Percival \$5, Trumpeter T. Hollands \$5.

During the evening the Seventh Band, under the direction of Bandmaster Slater, rendered a programme that was greatly appreciated.

Whitney Administration Arraigned

[Special to The Advertiser.] Woodstock, May 6.—Hon. A. G. MacKay, leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, made his first appearance before a North Ontario audience here this afternoon, and in a brief speech, in which he reviewed political questions of the day, he aroused an overwhelming enthusiasm which spoke much for the winning personality of the man, and for his splendid arguments and criticisms.

The Nominees.

The meeting was a convention for the purpose of choosing a candidate to represent the party in the coming election. There were two hundred delegates present, and their choice was Dr. Andrew McKay, a practicing physician, of this city, who was elected on the fourth ballot. Mr. McKay is a splendid citizen, a life-long Liberal, an intelligent student of public affairs, and one whom all hold in the greatest of esteem and respect. That he will carry the riding against any candidate the Conservatives may bring out seems assured. There were eighteen nominations made by the convention, of whom only four allowed their names to stand. The four were, Dr. McKay, Dr. McEamus, also of this city; D. R. Ross, of Embro, and John McLevin, of East Zorra. Dr. McEamus

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S. London Liberals Meet Friday Night

All Liberals of South London are requested to meet in the clubrooms, corner of Craig street and the Wortley road, on Friday evening, at 8 o'clock.

Business of urgent importance is to come up.

Every Liberal of South London is requested to be present.

Schools Close.

Chairman Graham, of the board of education, was at the school shortly after 12 o'clock.

He thoroughly went over the building with City Engineer Graydon, and City Architect Nutter, and they decided to close four rooms of St. George's school. They are all in the old building, and have ceilings constructed similar to the ceiling that fell in.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—CLEARING. FORECASTS.

Toronto, May 7—8 a.m. Today—Strong winds and gales; cool, with rain.

Friday—Strong winds and gales; west by clearing.

Local Temperatures.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. yesterday were: Highest, 49.5°; lowest, 41.5° above zero.

WEATHER NOTES.

The southern disturbance has increased in energy again since yesterday morning, and is now centered in the Ohio Valley.