

Five Hundred Perish in Porcupine Fires

GREAT FIRE UNDER CONTROL HUNDREDS DEAD, SAY REFUGEES MANY DROWNED IN THE LAKE

Meet Death in Waters While Seeking Haven From Pursuing Flames—Party Arrives at Toronto With Harrowing Story of Catastrophe.

PARLIAMENT LIKELY TO VOTE HELP FOR THE STRICKEN POPULATION

It Is Feared That Fresh Outbreak of Flames Would Imperil Lives of Transcontinental Construction Gangs—Mining Men Say the Losses Have Been Overstated.

[Canadian Press.]
North Bay, July 13.—It is now stated by the T. and N. O. officials that the death list by the Porcupine fire will number 500.

Toronto, July 13.—Superintendent Black, of the T. and N. O. Railway at North Bay, states that the fires in Porcupine district are now under control.

A. D. Mills construction engineer of the Great Dome mine, gives the total loss of life at three hundred.

Toronto, July 13.—A train from North Bay arriving here at 7:30 this morning brought twenty-two refugees from Porcupine, mainly Toronto people.

Mr. McDonald Wardrop, of Hamilton, a nephew of Lieutenant-Governor Gibson, was among them. "The report has been spread that I was killed," said he, "but I saved myself by taking to the water along with five hundred more. We were forced to stand in the cold water for three hours, and some became so numb that they collapsed and went under. Others lost their heads and rushed back into the forest never to return. No one down here can have any idea of the greatness of the catastrophe.



A Recent Picture of the Fire-Swept Town of Cochrane.

After the fire had passed I started out to look for bodies, and found three down a shaft. After bringing these out I decided that I had had enough, and took the train for home. About ten square miles of forest were burned over and flames swept through so rapidly that few could escape. As far as I am aware the only ones who are gone are prospectors and miners."

HOW SOME WERE SAVED.

C. R. Ridge, of Kansas City, another of the party, said: "A great number of people were saved at the Hollinger property. That place was like an oasis in the desert. Quite a large area had been cleared by the owners, and they had water pumps there, so the buildings were saved. I imagine there were about 400 refugees from all directions at this spot, besides the Hollinger employees."

HUNDREDS HAVE PERISHED.

A. H. Vineburgh, from Golden City, said: "No doubt, hundreds have lost their lives. The bush always contains thousands of men, and it would be impossible for many of these to get out."

All of the party agreed that the figures of loss of life—three hundred—previously given, are not excessive, and that at least two hundred had perished in Porcupine Lake.

LOSSES OVERSTATED.

Toronto, July 13.—It is stated by one of the owners of one of the best-known Porcupine mines, that the financial losses published are grossly overstated. In his own case, for instance, the loss has been stated at \$100,000, where, as he asserts, \$15,000 would cover it. Similarly, he claims, the loss on other mining properties from four to ten times. The exception is the Dome mine, where a big plant has been installed and four stamps were actually in operation. Whether the loss there can be supposed to reach the published figures of \$800,000, the mine owner quoted, was not prepared to say.

See Also Page Two.

THE CITY HALL INJUNCTION IS ORDERED TO BE CONTINUED

At the Request of the City and the Royal Bank an Adjournment of a Week Was Made When the Case Came Up in Toronto.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Toronto, July 13.—On behalf of John M. Parsons, a ratepayer of the city of London, N. W. Rowell, K. C., appeared before Mr. Justice Teetzel in chambers this morning and asked for an injunction restraining the corporation of the city of London from selling its city hall to the Royal Bank of Canada. The motion was enlarged for one week.

About a year ago the council had a plebiscite taken on the question, and received a majority vote in favor of selling the property to the bank for \$100,000. When it came before the city council six aldermen voted for it and six against it, and it was passed only by the casting vote of the mayor.

The city then went to the Legislature and obtained the necessary power to sell the place, which also takes in a portion of the market. This part of the deal is causing the trouble. Running through the city hall there is an

arcade, which is used as a public highway by the people who visit the market, and Mr. Rowell, for Mr. Parsons, maintained that the city had no right to block a public highway.

J. B. McKillop, for the bank, and T. G. Meredith, for the city, pleaded to the contrary, alleging that the power given by the Legislature was quite ample.

Mr. Meredith further maintained that Mr. Parsons had no status, inasmuch as his property was not affected.

OFFERS TO SETTLE.
Hamilton, Ont., July 13.—In view of the kicking over power and lighting rates in Brantford, where the Western Counties Electric Company, a subsidiary concern of the Dominion Power and Transmission Company, undertook to furnish energy ten per cent below hydro prices, the company has sent a letter to Brantford offering to submit the question to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for settlement.

NEW STORY FRIDAY

Beginning Friday The Advertiser will publish a new story, "Seventh Noon," by Frederick Orin Bartlett, author of "The Web of the Golden Spider." "Seventh Noon" has an ingenious plot and is skillfully written. It will be enjoyed by all lovers of a good clean story.

CRUSHED BETWEEN FREIGHT CARS

Calvin W. Hopkins, of 834 Dundas Street, Injured on C. P. R.

WORKING AT CARADOC

Says He Was Coming Down the Ladder When He Was Pinned Between Running Boards.

Calvin W. Hopkins, aged 25, a C. P. R. brakeman, residing at 834 Dundas street, was crushed between two cars while working at Caradoc this morning, and was seriously hurt.

He was rushed to London and taken in the police ambulance to Victoria Hospital, where Dr. Thompson is attending him. Hopkins says he was coming down the ladder from the top of a car, when there was a sudden jolt, and he was crushed between the running boards, which ran along the roof of freight cars. Dr. Thompson cannot say as yet the extent of the patient's injuries.

Hopkins suffered a fracture of the collar bone and other injuries, and appears to be suffering internally as a result of the accident. He has lost much blood, and for this reason it will be impossible to tell for some time what the result may be.

LONDON AUTOIST HAD CLOSE CALL FROM DEATH

Mr. Benjamin McCall Collided With a Traction Car at St. Thomas.

Benjamin McCall, a local autoist, had a close call from being fatally injured yesterday in St. Thomas, when in attempting to drive through the First avenue subway, on his way to the races, he collided at the far end with an incoming Traction Car. The auto was badly wrecked, and Mr. McCall was hurled out and considerably shaken up. He sustained a number of severe bruises, but nothing of a serious nature.

TEN PERSONS HURT IN WESTERN WRECK

Orange Excursion Train Goes Into the Ditch in Alberta.

[Canadian Press.]
Edmonton, Alta., July 13.—An entire train of six coaches on the C. P. R. went into the ditch last night at Ponoka. It was an Orange excursion of 300 aboard. Ten were badly hurt. They are: John Douglas, Strathcona; Grace Thomas, Wetaskiwin; Mrs. C. K. Wetaskiwin, infant son of Robert Ward, Wetaskiwin; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Miller, Wetaskiwin; child of Wm. Miller, Wetaskiwin, and several unknown.

ROY BELTON WINS THE ROBB MEDAL

Results of High School Examinations Will Be Out Shortly.

It is understood that Roy Belton, son of Dr. C. W. Belton, of Wellington street, wins the Robb medal this year for making the highest number of marks of any pupil who tried the high school entrance examination at the recent tests.

The results will be out as soon as they are received from Toronto, whether they have been sent to the department of education.

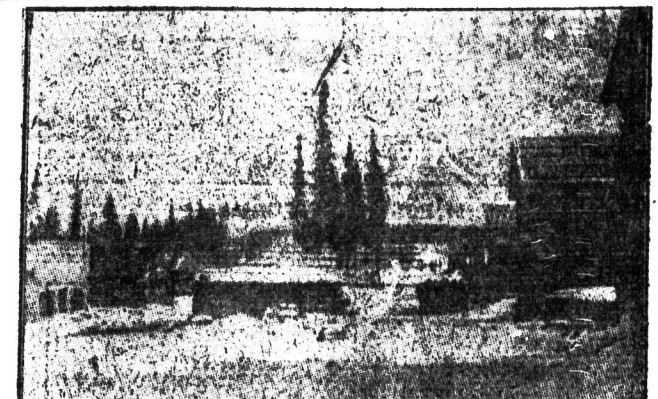
THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Fair and Cool.
FORECASTS
Toronto, July 13-3 a.m.
Moderate west to northwest wind, fair today and on Friday, with stationary or slightly lower temperature.

TEMPERATURES.
Last 24 Hours.

Stations.	Max.	Min.	Weather.
Victoria	54	32	Clear
Calgary	70	42	Clear
Winnipeg	74	46	Clear
Port Arthur	60	46	Clear
Perry Sound	78	48	Fair
Toronto	82	60	Clear
Ottawa	76	60	Fair
Montreal	82	62	Fair
Quebec	80	56	Rain
Father Point	66	54	Fair

WEATHER NOTES.
The cool wave is still centred in the northwestern portion of the continent, rather increasing than otherwise. Fine weather prevails generally, with the exception of Quebec and Quebec Harbor, where rain is falling. Highest and Lowest Local Temperatures for Yesterday Were 79-54.



Winter Scene in South Porcupine Where Nearly 200 Buildings Were Burned.

POLICE ARREST TWO SUSPECTS; PEOPLE ON TRAIN ROBBED

Young Men Had Been Passengers on Express From Niagara Falls, and There Had Been Many Complaints—Appeared in Court Today.

Todd Walsh and William Wallace, two well-dressed strangers, claiming to come from Nanticoke, Pa., were arrested at the Grand Trunk depot last night by Detective Harry Down, on a charge of vagrancy, and are being held on suspicion of being members of the gang of pickpocket who have been doing such a large amount of stealing on the trains between Niagara Falls and Detroit in the last couple of weeks.

On the train coming up from Hamilton last night, four Woodstock people lost various amounts, and 13 men arrested were suspected of being concerned in the robberies, and word was wired ahead to the local police to watch for them. Detective Down spotted the men on the platform a few moments after the train pulled in, and at once took them in charge.

When they appeared before Magistrate Judd this morning, Chief Williams asked that the case be allowed to stand until tomorrow morning, in order that he might have a chance to get the railwaymen and other witnesses.

Mr. W. R. Meredith, who represented the prisoners, urged that bail be granted, but the court absolutely refused to do this.

Mr. Meredith contended that it was not fair to detain men in this way, and that the trial ought to go on, as his clients were perfectly ready for it. If they were undesirable or vagrants he suggested that they be sent out of the country.

The court held that the chief had a perfect right to ask for a postponement until tomorrow.

Shortly after boarding the 12:05 Grand Trunk express yesterday afternoon, Mr. John Duncan, of South London, discovered that \$12 that he had placed in his hip pocket, had been abstracted by pickpockets. Mr. Duncan remembered having been jostled as he was about to board the train, and as soon as he was inside looked to see if his money was safe. He at once reported the affair to the police.

This morning he was at the police station when Messrs. Walsh and Wallace, arrested on suspicion of being pickpockets, were brought up.

"I am satisfied," said Mr. Duncan, "that Wallace is one of the men who was close to me in the crowd. It is, of course, very hard to identify positively any person when you see so many so quickly, but I am certain he was there."

RUNAWAY HORSE FELL INTO RIVER RACING OVER DUNDAS ST. BRIDGE

Peddler's Outfit Came to Grief in a Hurry—A Wild Mixup On Wednesday Afternoon—Another Runaway Got Into a Restaurant.

A sensational runaway occurred in West London yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock when a horse attached to the junk wagon of a peddler named Wolf, dashed eastward on Dundas street, and running out onto the street railway bridge after going about 20 feet, missed his footing and went over the side, pulling the wagon after him.

Fortunately for the horse the wagon did not come on top of him, but lay on its side on the bank while the animal lay helpless among the broken shafts and harness.

Bales of rag, scrap iron, and all sorts of junk lay scattered about in all directions.

The wagon was badly smashed as a result of the fall, and the horse was considerably cut and bruised, but was not severely injured, notwithstanding that it had dropped about 12 feet.

SIR ELDON GORST DEAD

Was Consul-General of Egypt for Many Years.
London, July 12.—Sir Eldon Gorst, for many years prominent in the government of Egypt and four years the British agent and consul-general in that country, died here today.

He was born in New Zealand in 1861, and entered the diplomatic service in 1885, and was knighted in 1902.

THE NOBLES' NOBLE TIME

Shriners Select Imperial Potentate and Hold Great Parade.
Beverly, July 12.—John Frank Treat, of El Sagrado Temple, Fargo, N. D., was elected Imperial potentate by the Imperial Council, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at its second session today.

Los Angeles was selected for the next session of the imperial council. Following last night's parade, in which twenty thousand Shriners participated, the nobles were late in gathering today.

FARMER DROPPED DEAD AFTER WORKING IN FIELDS

Sudden End of Mr. George B. Parrott, of Pipe Line Road.

George Baker Parrott, a retired farmer living on the Pipe Line road, just east of the Springbank pump-house, dropped dead in the kitchen at his home yesterday a few moments after he had come in from the fields where he had been taking a little walk. He had been troubled with heart failure for some time and especially lately. He leaves a wife and large family, many of whom are in the west. Mr. Parrott was 70 years of age. The funeral will be held on Saturday afternoon at Woodland Cemetery.

TWO PEOPLE HURT IN AN EXPLOSION

Coal Oil Stove Exploded at Residence On Hill Street This Morning.

Three people had a narrow escape from death or serious accident at the home of Mrs. B. McGuire, 442 Hill street, early this morning, when a coal oil stove exploded in the kitchen.

Mr. John McGuire, and his sister, Miss Maud, suffered painful burns, but Mrs. McGuire escaped unhurt.

When the stove exploded, John ran to the scene, and in attempting to put out the flames, he and his sister had their clothes enveloped and were soon in a very precarious condition. By refusing to get excited, however, they managed to overcome the fire, and saved their lives.

Both are badly burnt about the face and hands, and Mr. McGuire's chest and back are in a serious condition.

Dr. W. J. Stevenson was called and dressed the injuries.

The house caught fire, but the neighbors put out the blaze.

HEROIC FIGHT WAS MADE

Though Clothes Were in Flames Young Man and Woman Kept Their Nerve and Saved Their Lives.

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SPLENDID SCENE AT CARNARVON

The Investiture of the Prince of Wales Takes Place. WAS PICTURESQUE SIGHT

Thousands of Welshmen Gather at Old Town for the Ceremony.

[Canadian Press.]
Carnarvon, Wales, July 13.—In the old and well-preserved castle of Carnarvon, the Prince of Wales was invested today with the insignia of his high office.

The quaint town, in festal attire, made a holiday and drew within its borders thousands of Welshmen from the surrounding country. The weather was propitious, and great crowds greeted the members of the royal family.

The buildings along the streets were lavishly decorated. Troops, bluejackets and marines kept open the way through which the procession passed. In the vicinity of the castle a thousand London police and firemen held an open place.

Within the Castle.
The scene within the castle was picturesque, the vast inclosure within the towers and battlement walls forming an ideal setting for the ceremonial. The outer and inner baileys were lined with stands, enabling several thousand persons to obtain an excellent view. Their majesties, with the princes, came on the royal yacht Victoria and Albert from Ireland to Holyhead. This morning a special train brought them from Holyhead to Griffith's Crossing, a small station two and a half miles north of Carnarvon. Royal carriages and an escort of cavalry were awaiting the party, upon the arrival of which the procession continued on Page Eight.

LONDON WILL HELP THE FIRE SUFFERERS

Mayor Bantle this afternoon called the council together to meet at 5 o'clock to consider the question of sending help to those who have lost everything in the fires which have devastated the northern part of Ontario.

LONDON MEN ARE IN BURNED REGION

Rumored Death of One of Them Is Contradicted.

OTHER LONDON MEN ARE SAFE

Several Messages of a Most Reassuring Character Have Been Received in This City.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Winnipeg, July 13.—Allan Child, of Regina, states he has two brothers, Frank and Charles, natives of London, one at Matheson and one at Cochrane. One was burned to death in the fire, but he cannot find out which one. They were pioneer hardware merchants.

A Flat Denial.

The above brief message was received by The Advertiser this afternoon, and word was at once sent to Mrs. Margaret Child, of 788 Wellington street.

However, the following dispatch, received today by a neighbor of Childs, flatly contradicts this sensational story. It says:

"Toronto, July 13.—Mr. Culbert: Tell mother not to worry. Charlie is safe. Am going back tonight."

"FRANK A. CHILDS.

"12:13 noon.
Mrs. Childs, with her daughter, Miss Emma Childs, is now at Grand Bend, having motored there a few days ago. Another brother, William, is now in Calgary.

Mr. W. H. Robinson, from this city, was stationed at Cochrane as residential engineer on the Transcontinental Railroad. His mother, Mrs. W. H. Robinson, of 686 Dufferin avenue, received a telegram from him late on Tuesday evening stating that he was then safe.

Are All Safe.

Detective Thomas Nickle shortly before noon today is telegraphing the following telegram from the superintendent of the construction company, with which his son Frank is working in Northern Ontario about a hundred miles north of Cochrane:

"Frank Nickle safe. No danger. Plant safe also."

A wire received by Mr. John Duncan from his son Thomas reads as follows:

"Big fire. Many lives lost. My men and myself safe."

Suffered No Losses.

Mr. John Dunkin received a telegram from his son, Mr. Thos. Dunkin, who is prospecting in the Porcupine district, stating that he and his men had escaped any injury in the fire.

The letter received yesterday from Mr. Hubert Bowman, son of Professor J. H. Bowman, of Ontario street, states that fires were burning all through the district, and that he had been called up many times during the night by alarms. The letter was written on Sunday, before the worst conflagration had devastated the district.

Putting in Power Plant.

Mr. Bowman, with Mr. Harry Thornley, son of Mrs. May R. Thornley, is working on the installation of an immense power plant which is to supply electrical energy for the operation of the mines in the Porcupine. Last week they were working with 400 men under them at Sandy Falls, near the Dome properties.

Mr. Louis Yealland, son of Mr. Fred Yealland, is fire ranging in the district north of North Bay. The fires were not so serious in that district.

"If the fires remain small and disconnected, life will be safe, although all property is now in danger. We have prepared for the fire with barrels of water all along the bush line, our implements stored in the roof house, and we are prepared for immediate flight. There is no danger to life at present, but if the small fires which are all about unite in one fire wall nothing will be safe."

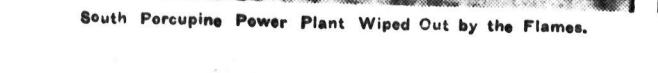
So wrote Hubert Bowman, son of Prof. Bowman, from the Porcupine power plant, which is located nine and a half miles from South Porcupine, on Sunday. On Monday Mr. Bowman telegraphed home that he was still safe and that the fires had not yet reached the power plant. He wired today also that he is safe.

There were 90 men in camp at the power station, and their only means of escape was a gasoline launch and one canoe with which to cross the river.

In Hard Luck.

Two of the power company's construction camps had already been destroyed by fire. For months fires have been all around them, and sawmills and other buildings have been destroyed nearby. The Porcupine Power and Light Company supplied power and lighting to the Hollinger and Dome mines, which were destroyed by the fire. The transmission line to South Porcupine had only just been completed when the town was wiped out by fire. Hubert Bowman and Harry Thornley, also of London, are both engineers stationed at the power plant.

Prof. Bowman described the soil and forest area of the district to The Advertiser, and his description explains the rapidly with which the fire travels. The soil is a clay with outcroppings of rock, overgrown with more than a foot of thick, matted moss, known as sphagnum moss, which is the basis of heat, and in the spring forms a deep, sticky muck. At this time of the season, Continued on Page Nine.



South Porcupine Power Plant Wiped Out by the Flames.