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## SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST AN ELEVATOR COMPANY

### Oxbow Witness Claims That He Was Instructed How to Work the Weights—F. C. Tate, M.L.A., Gives Interesting Evidence—Walter Simpson in Favor of a Government Monopoly—Various Plans That Have Been Presented to the Commission

The most interesting evidence given before the Elevator Commission at the Regina session was that of Wm. Noble, of Oxbow, and F. C. Tate, M.L.A.

At Thursday's sitting of the commission evidence was given by Wm. Noble, of Oxbow, in the course of which he stated that he undoubtedly believed that the line of elevators defrauded the farmers by unjust dockage and grading of grain. He believed that these abuses were fairly generally practiced all over the country, in fact, in nearly all places where the farmers had not caught on to the methods by which they were cheated. When acting as agent of one of these elevator companies it was pointed out to him that besides the weight on the scales which indicate the number of pounds of grain in a bush, there was another weight concealed underneath which modified the correct weight by a bushel. Another fraudulent trick resorted to was that of exerting pressure on the wagon by concealed methods so that about half a bushel weight of grain was lost by the farmer. On taking charge of this elevator he had been told by the company's agent to use these means of decreasing the weight of the grain and on his refusing he received a letter asking him to resign, which he did. Of 23,000 bushels stored on his taking over control of the elevator, only 23,000 had been credited to the farmer. In other words, the company had obtained by fraudulent methods 800 bushels of grain.

Mr. Noble went on to give evidence of corrupt methods of handling the grain. One elevator had refused to accept a load of wheat which he was certain was good enough to grade No. 1 northern at this standard, the operator stating that he had instructions from the company not to accept wheat of any higher grade than No. 2 northern. As all the other elevators were doing the same thing he was forced to sell the wheat at the lower grade and thus lost one grade in the wheat. He had the same experience year after year and had found that whenever those who decided the grade of the wheat had an axe to grind the farmers were the losers by unjust grading. He also stated that many cars were passed by the government inspection department without being properly examined and graded.

Prof. McGill asked did he not think that two men might conscientiously differ in the classification of a lot of wheat. They might, a little, he replied, but there should not be much difference where the examiners were competent judges.

It would, he considered, be of immense benefit to the farmers if they had facilities to clean and grade their own wheat. While, he said, he would like to see a system of elevators owned by the government, he did not believe in the creation of a government monopoly. The elevators should be run in connection to the line elevators and their object would be to compel the line elevators to give the farmers fair treatment. An elevator might be built on the petition of sixty per cent of the farmers tributary to that district. He did not think any guarantee should be required from the farmers that they would patronize the government elevator. The system should be managed by an independent commission, its members to be nominated by the Grain Growers' Association. The operators should be selected by competitive examinations. He estimated it would take \$4,500,000 to build elevators at the present three hundred shipping points in the province.

In examination by the chairman of the commission, Mr. Noble stated that the storage of 100,000 bushels in an elevator would make it pay. If the system did not pay the government would certainly have to provide for the deficit. He admitted drafting the by-laws of the Oxbow Elevator Company penalizing farmers 1-14 cents per bushel shipping gain through another elevator, but he had since changed his mind in this respect. He did not now believe in asking farmers to guarantee that they would use these elevators.

Mr. Green asked whether he thought that under a commission appointed by the Grain Growers the farmers would get any better satisfaction than they would if the elevators were managed by the government, which is appointed by the people. Mr. Noble replied that he felt certain they would.

The examination of W. M. Noble, of Oxbow, was continued on Friday's session of the Elevator Commission. Mr.

## MONTREAL HOLACUST

### Herald Building Totally Destroyed by Fire—26 Are Dead and Scores Are Wounded—Tank Crashed Through Roof

Montreal, June 13.—In the most disastrous fire that has ever visited Montreal, today twenty-five people were killed and twenty-five injured in the Herald building. These figures are as yet only approximate, and it is feared that more dead will yet be found. Owing to the appalling suddenness with which the catastrophe came, and the completeness of the destruction of the building, it has, as yet, been impossible to gain anything more than an approximate list of the dead. In fact only four bodies have yet been recovered. The rest being buried under hundreds of tons of twisted and tangled wreckage which burned for hours. Just how to escape, and how many people were killed, and with over 300 working in the building at the time, and the destruction of the payroll this has proven an almost impossible task so far.

The disaster was caused by the collapse of a huge water tank on top of the building, containing 30,000 gallons of water for fire purposes. About eleven this morning this tank, weighing 150 tons, broke down and was hurled through the four storeys of the building, instantly killing many of the employees, including a number of young girls employed in the bindery. Fire followed in the wake of destruction and those who were not fortunate enough to be killed outright were burned to death.

The property loss is very considerable. The Herald loses approximately \$175,000, with insurance amounting to \$135,000. The building, which is owned by Messrs. J. S. Brerly and Fred Abraham, of the Herald directorate, was valued at \$90,000, insurance \$22,500. The loss in each instance is complete, with the possibility of slight salvage.

So suddenly did the huge mass of timber with its thousands of gallons of water destroyed the building, that few, if any, directly below had a chance to escape, and so great was the subsequent confusion that it has yet been impossible to definitely state the number of the dead. It would be hard to determine this until the enormous mass of burnt and twisted wreckage which is all that is left of the greater portion of the Herald building, has been turned over and its tale of horror told.

After the reservoir had smashed its way through the five storeys of the building, carrying death, injury and destruction with it, there was a brief interlude of almost silence, broken only by the shrieks of the injured and the mad efforts of those who survived to escape from the doomed structure.

Then fire, the inevitable accompaniment the disaster broken out amidst the ruins. A few of the injured were rescued before the fire, but the continuity of the flames piling up on the destruction prevented a rescue. Those who could get out made their way to safety. Those who were left died as they were pinned down. Some were killed outright. Others were probably drowned in the floods of water let loose by the broken tank, which filled the basement with four feet of water. Yet others suffered the most terrible death of all, after being pinned in anguish by broken timbers and beams, died by the flames.

Who these were and how they died was for the most part of the day a mystery which was hidden under an immense pile of rubbish, burned and broken and twisted into a mass of entangled material, part of which is deep in water and the rest lying in smoking heaps.

As usual in such catastrophes the tale of gloom is brightened by the many instances of individual heroism which is brought to light. In one instance a man, as yet unknown, after rescuing two girls on the third floor determined to do his best to save a third, who was pinned under. He was trying to free her when the rest of the building went and he died with the girl he was trying to save.

In another instance a woman helped all her fellow employees from the top storey to reach the firemen's ladders before she would seek safety for herself.

In yet another instance a small boy was seen to stand aside and leave room for a female prisoner to be rescued before he would allow himself to be taken to safety.

Scores of such things occurred and will be unrecorded here in the memories of those who were saved or in the records of those who died. Not less worthy instances of these were furnished by the men of the fire brigade who faced the danger and bravely rescued those who were left. Largely owing to their devotion to duty it is that the tale of the dead is not much greater than it is.

With flames breaking around them and in great danger of structures above them, they swarmed up the life saving ladders and did not relinquish their efforts until the last person was removed from the building. In fact so close was their work that one ladder was burned at the top while firemen were carrying women down the lower part of it and with the saving of those in the building the danger was by no means past.

So complete has been the wreck of the interior that little was left but the bare walls which were toppling and threatening to crash down on the street, especially the huge "Herald" sign which capped the building, and by some strange fate had escaped the destruction of the great part of the building, while in front was a sloping added storey, constructed of the uncolored wood, which threatened at any moment to fall forward.

Here in the midst of danger the firemen made valiant efforts, and for two hours they struggled to tear those down as to prevent any further disaster. At the risk of their own lives they climbed up and fastened ropes to the huge sign, which they were lowering to men below. And even then it was found that this could not safely be undertaken until the shaking walls had been pulled down. Hooks were attached to the walls and the firemen below pulled on ropes, gradually tearing down the bricks until it was safe to venture in and tear up the debris.

Bodies Recovered.

Early in the afternoon this had been attempted, but the work had to be abandoned owing to the danger, as well as the heat and showers of water. Later on it was resumed, and just before six o'clock, at the rear of the building two bodies, those of a man and woman, were removed and taken to the morgue. The work of search through the ruins was still continued with the grim hope that further remains might be recovered before darkness, but it was not thought that much could be accomplished as the scene was too dangerous to work in darkness.

It was stated by Chief Tremblay that the work of searching the ruins would probably take several days, as it could not be seriously undertaken until the morning, when the mass would have cooled off sufficiently to allow of definite operations and the danger of falling walls would be avoided.

As to the cause of the disaster, it was due to the sudden collapse of the big water tank perched above the building for the express purpose of furnishing protection for fire. Its weight evidently proved too much for the building and it broke its supports carrying everything in the rear with it on its mad rush to the ground.

The appearance of the building after the disaster was remarkable. The rear portion seemed to have been raked off, floors being smashed through and even dividing walls cut down as though by a knife. The whole rear portion of the building dropped in a heap of ruins, in which human bodies, bricks, beams, steel work and machinery of all kinds were mingled in a mass.

## ANOTHER MURDER

### Quarrel Between Homesteaders South of Moose Jaw Results in Murder—Murderer Making for Boundary

Drinkwater, Sask., June 14.—Following a dispute over a buggy, a well-known homesteader named Beale was shot on Sunday evening between ten and eleven o'clock by a man named Miller.

The body was found in Beale's own doorway by J. McNair, of New Warrick, Sask. Sgt. Mundy, of the R.N.W.M.P., and deputy left last night in an automobile headed for the Montana boundary. The murderer left on horseback shortly after the shooting and probably headed for the bad lands of Montana. The murdered man lived 20 miles south of here. A number of Mounted Police will join in the hunt.

Moose Jaw, June 14.—Fuller details of the murder in the Blue Hills show a tragedy reminiscent of the wild and woolly days. Dr. Knight, coroner, returned to the city this noon, after holding an inquest on the dead man, while Sgt. Mundy, of the R.N.W.M.P., who accompanied him to the scene of the murder is scouring the country in an automobile in an effort to round up the murderer. The victim is a farmer named Beale, who came to this country from England about three years ago. He was 38 years of age. Frank Miller, on whom suspicion rests, came from North Dakota and was well known to the Mounted Police. Some two years ago he was wanted for shooting up in a Danish district. He then left the country, but came back about a month ago.

Last Thursday Miller and Int. Moose Jaw, but returned home Friday and was partly drunk at the time. He stayed Saturday and Sunday with Matthew Miller, a neighbor, though no relation, and they started drinking. Sunday he borrowed a buggy of Alex Beale to go over to Blue Hill, three miles distant. While on the journey the horses ran away and the buggy was smashed. Later the victim and Miller had some trouble over the accident, which led to blows, neighbors separating them.

Miller then returned to Mat Miller's house. Later in the evening, however, he left saying he was going to Moose Jaw. He took with him a large repeating rifle and a six shooter Colt revolver. Fifteen minutes later neighbors heard two shots, followed by a third and then by two more after an interval of ten minutes.

Not until Monday morning was the results of the shooting discovered, when Ole Marney, a young man staying at Mat Miller's house found Beale's body just outside the door of Miller's house. Beale's head was dead. He noticed that Beale's saddle horse and saddle had disappeared. The horse and saddle was no trace. Yesterday he was seen near Johnston Lake riding south. Mundy is in hot pursuit.

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Two eyelets. Pump. Short vamp. Covered heels; turn soles. Special at \$2.00.

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With three eyelets and ribbon tie. Plain toes. High covered heels. Turn soles. Very dainty. \$3.00.

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**WOOD FOR CANNINGTON**  
J. D. Stewart's Opponent Will be the Popular Regina Barrister—The District to be Thoroughly Organized  
At a convention of the electors of Cannington District, held at Redvers on Thursday, C. E. D. Wood, a popular Regina barrister, was nominated to oppose the government candidate, who will probably be J. D. Stewart, the present member. The nomination of Mr. Wood was made by E. C. McDiarmid, of Manor, ex-M. L. A., and Mr. Kerr, a prominent Arcola farmer. The convention was unanimous in its support of Mr. Wood's candidature, and great enthusiasm was displayed by the assembled electors.  
The convention was called at Redvers to give an opportunity for the attendance of all the delegates, and the result was a large and enthusiastic gathering of farmers and business men determined that Cannington would do its share toward driving from power Sir Wilfrid's hired men.  
In addition to nominating a candidate, the convention dealt with the matter of organization, and a strong executive was formed, which will thoroughly organize Cannington and assure victory. The work of organization will commence immediately, and no chance will be taken of the government securing a snap verdict as in 1908. Mr. Haultain was present and addressed the electors on the questions of the day and on organization.

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**EXPENSIVE FUR.**  
Winnipeg Fur Dealers Pay Big Tribute to Ontario Treasury.  
Fort Francis, Ont., June 13.—Prodigious furs were melted out by Judge Pritch in the District Court during the sittings of the general sessions here this afternoon.  
Moses Finklistein was charged with conspiracy against the Ontario Government to defraud the authorities in the payment of wolf bounties, it being alleged that Finklistein had made \$19 out of the transaction in question. He was fined \$5,000, no costs and 24 hours in the common jail.  
Benjamin Levinson, similarly charged,

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