

# Summary of The Week's News of The World

## Manitoba Elevator Commission

The Manitoba Elevator Commission have been busy during the past week and have done much toward reaching their ultimate goal. Over 120 petitions are now in circulation throughout the province and a goodly number of signed petitions have been returned to the Winnipeg office. A point worthy of notice is that in not a single district are the circulators meeting with any opposition.

D. W. McCuaig returned Monday from a trip to various shipping points and at everyone he found the farmers ready and willing to sign up as soon as certain points could be explained to them. As was stated in last week's *GRIDE* some farmers have the idea that by signing the petitions they will be signing away their rights to sell to whom and as they please. The members of the commission

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**MANITOBA ELECTION**  
 The Manitoba legislature was dissolved Monday, June 20, and an election has been called for July 11.  
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wish it distinctly understood that the farmer who signs the petition will have exactly the same rights in disposing of his grain that he has now. They have issued the following letter on the subject:

"In the event of any misunderstanding arising concerning the petitions which the commissioners are requesting the grain producers to sign, for the erection or purchase of adequate grain storage facilities in connection with the establishment of the public elevator system, the following explanation is offered:

"The petition for the purchase of existing elevators or the necessary storage facilities, simply calls for the signatures of sixty per cent. of the grain producers tributary to the shipping point. If this number of bona fide grain producers signify their desire for the purchase of the necessary storage, the commission is empowered to enter into negotiations with the present owners for the purchase of such elevators.

"The petition for the erection of new elevators where none now exist, and the petition which contains the pledge, is interpreted as follows: When the commission comes to consider the erection of an elevator, some means must be devised to ascertain the actual storage requirements at that point, and if sixty per cent. of the grain producers tributary, signify by signing a petition their intention to patronize such elevator, the commissioners would feel justified in proceeding with the erection of same. **Nothing in this petition, however, prohibits a shipper from using the loading platform, if he so desires,** but it is expected that when the commission has established a thoroughly efficient elevator, with ample storage facilities, that the grain producers will co-operate, and as far as possible, patronize the public elevator, giving the system a thorough trial.

"The commissioners will not in any way engage in the business of buying and selling of grain, but simply as warehousemen propose to operate the elevators or storage facilities of the province.

Let it be clearly understood, therefore, that the pledge does not interfere with

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**SASKATCHEWAN COMMISSION**  
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During the past week the Saskatchewan Elevator Commission has been sitting at Regina, putting in most of their time examining the books of elevator companies. The executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association presented their views, which appear on page 29 of this issue, to the commission. The commission will hold meetings at Winnipeg and at Northern Saskatchewan points during the near future.

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the rights of individuals in any way, and grain shippers are absolutely free to ship and dispose of their grain to whom they please."

Petitions sent out during the week were to the following shipping points: Bowman River, Newton, Brant, Nings, Glenella, P.O., Ashville, Homestead, Kelwood, St. Rose Dulac, Merle Siding, Ogilvie, Baldur, Austin, Shoal Lake, Endcliffe, Silver Plains, Hartney, Moline, Treherne, Roblin, Kenville, Wellwood, Belmont, Culross.

### HORRIBLE DISASTER AT MONTREAL

Thirty-five people are dead as the result of a fire in the Montreal Herald building, Tuesday, June 14. The cause of the loss of life was the water tank on top of the building. Almost as soon as the fire started the support of this tank gave way, and it crashed down through the building, destroying stairways and elevators in its course. Gas pipes were broken on every floor, and each fractured pipe became a flaming torch.

Into the vortex were swept men and girls, while other men stood outside the flaming ruins crying like children in their helplessness. The debris was piled 40 feet high, and it may be several days yet before the bodies of the dead are recovered. Those already taken out are unrecognizable. The scenes are described by eye-witnesses as heartrending.

"I saw a woman in there," said one grim fighter, pointing to the top story, "but she was pinned under a beam, and I couldn't move her. It was awful to hear her scream." Lieut. Cavanagh, fire-fighter of 25 years' experience, saw a man struggling under the wreckage.

### COMPANIES WILL SELL ELEVATORS

As the statement has been made several times, that the milling companies would not sell their elevators to the government if they (the government) wished to purchase. THE *GRIDE* has made inquiries and the replies from two of the largest companies should tend to contradict these statements.

Neither W. E. Milner, western manager of the Maple Leaf Flour Mills Co. or G. V. Hastings, manager of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., felt able to make a statement as to the attitude that their companies would take in the matter. W. A. Black, manager of the Ogilvie Milling Company, and S. A. McGaw, manager of the Western Canada Flour Mills Company, gave answers that should be very satisfactory to all advocates of a public owned system.

Mr. McGaw stated that his company was assuming a very passive position in the matter; that the elevator act had been placed upon the statutes in Manitoba and it was up to companies who wished to do business in the province to do all in their power to assist in a satisfactory working out of the system. He could not state that his company would agree to turn all their elevators over to governmental commission as it is necessary for any large milling company to have storage facilities at certain country points. However, he could say that they would place no obstacle in the way of the commission when acquiring elevators for the system. Mr. Black's reply was practically the same as Mr. McGaw's.

The fireman threw him a life-line, but just as the victim's arm was raised to grasp the line more of the wall crashed down, burying him from sight. Cavanagh and his men turned their backs and sobbed like children. When they next looked toward the spot there was no sign of life.

Mrs. Vinner, who lives at 204 Courcel Street, was at work at a table in the bindery when the tank fell, taking a part of the roof with it. She had no time to think. A beam fell across the table and she fell across the beam. It held, and looking over she saw the whole building seem to open up, and then came the dust and the horrid vision of bodies, machinery, tables and floors all vanishing into one abyss.

#### The Scene in the Bindery.

Miss Philomena Guidon was working in the bindery department. It is a pathetic story she tells. "Oh, we were all so frightened," she sobbed. "That terrible crash. I will never forget it. Some of the girls were hit. Some shrieked. One just beside me fainted; there were others too. I'm afraid some of them are in there yet. Oh, it is horrible. I got to the window somehow, and I saw the firemen below. They put up one of those big ladders and took me down."

"I was at work in the engraving department," said Arthur Boldue, "when

the crash came. By my side was a girl whom I believe they called Stephenson. As the floor fell she gave a fearful scream and fell with the debris. I am afraid she was killed, for I heard nothing after her one scream. I was powerless to help her, for I went down with the floor, being pinned down by a beam. There I was rescued by a fireman some time—and it seemed a long, long time—afterwards."

#### A Brave Priest.

Wilfrid Bidon was working on the third floor when the crash came. He fell right down to the basement, and his leg was fractured by a beam that fell on top of him. Pinned under the wreckage, Bidon could see the flames above slowly creeping downward toward him, and this almost drove him mad. To add to his discomfort and pain, the water, which the fireman were pouring into the building was falling through to the basement almost choking him where he lay. Rev. Father Marin, the chaplain of the fire brigade, crawled through a window and held the helpless man's hand, soothing him until the firemen were able to set him free.

A very young girl in short skirts aroused the enthusiasm of the crowd which gathered early on the scene. She was an employee of The Herald, and was one of the first to reach the ladder, which was the road to safety. Instead of making her way down she turned around, leaned over to one side and gave a helping hand to many a girl nearly twice her size. Till the last one in sight had started downward, she kept her post and then as she began to descend she swayed and the crowd shuddered. She did not fall, however. She passed through the dense volume of smoke, which poured from a lower window, and when she was really safe, a good hearty Canadian cheer went up.

#### Women First.

Remarkable and spectacular heroism was displayed by an unknown workman of The Herald staff, a mere lad. Immediately after the falling of the tank, when young girls frantic with terror were screaming for help from the top story windows, he appeared on the ledge running around the top of the building, and with cool courage organized a safe descent of the girls down the ladders placed by the fire department. Through his excellent example and cheery words the girls recovered their courage, and were prevented from casting themselves to the street. In the end, when all the young women were safely on the ladders he himself consented to descend. A living line extended down the ladders which moved slowly, and while the brave men waited for the girls to get down a mass of flame burst from the windows near at hand. Even this imminent danger of roasting did not affect the unknown workman's wonderful nerve. When the ladders were run up, it was "women first," and not one of the men made an attempt to get a foot on the ladder before all of the women and girls had been rescued. Those who had received injuries were next taken down, and finally the men came rushing down the ladders to safety.

The first of the injured hauled out of the debris was Fred Vidal, who had been

employed in the stereotyping department. Vidal had been pinned under a beam for nearly two hours, with one of his legs and several ribs broken. When found he was lying with his head propped up above and his body covered by fully four feet of water.

The work of removing the debris has proceeded throughout the week and most of the bodies have been recovered.

#### PATTEN UNDER INDICTION

James A. Patten, the big Chicago plunger, and the men who are alleged to have been associated with him in the cotton pool, were indicted at New York, Friday, by a special federal grand jury, under the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. Their bail was fixed at \$5,000 each by Judge Hough. All of them gave bond through the National Surety Company, and were immediately released. The men indicted are: James A. Patten, of Chicago; W. P. Brown, of New Orleans; Frank B. Haynes, of New Orleans; Eugene G. Scales, of Texas; Sidney J. Herman, Robert M. Thompson, and Charles A. Kittle, of New York; Morris R. Rothschild, of Mississippi.

The indictments were handed up to Judge Hough in the United States circuit court at 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. The defendants were represented by former United States Senator John C. Spooner, Henry Wellman and John P. Cotton. Col. Robert P. Thompson, one of the indicted men, was strongly urged for secretary of the navy when President Taft was forming his cabinet. He is a South Carolinian, and for years was prominent in the politics of that state before he was brought to New York to occupy an independent position with the New York Life Insurance Company.

The investigation which resulted in the indictments, was begun April 18, at the direct order of Attorney-General Wickersham. All through the sensational rise in the cotton market last winter, Mr. Patten and the men associated with him in the bull movement, took advantage of every occasion to deny that they had formed an agreement of any sort. This will be their defence when their cases are called for trial next fall. The blanket indictment contains more than 20,000 words and embraces five counts. The first count charges that the defendants on the first day of January, 1910, conspired with certain corporations that are spinners and manufacturers of cotton to control the price of the raw material.

#### OVER A MILLION

According to statistics contained in a hand-book being issued by the Dominion immigration department, immigration to Canada during the last ten years totals 1,445,288. The fiscal year recently closed eclipsed all others in the volume of immigration, the arrivals numbering 298,794. Of the grand total for the decade about 265,000 came from the British Isles, 344,000 from the continent and 497,000 from the United States. The Americans coming across the border are therefore within 68,000 of the total British immigration. Of the immigration from the British Isles about 418,000 came from England and Wales, 108,987 from Scotland and 34,124 from Ireland. Japanese immigration in the past three years totalled 8,367. Since 1902 when the deportation regulations became effective 3,883 people have been deported.

#### FARMER KILLED

John Marshall, a well-to-do farmer of Shelburne, Ont., lost his life as a result of a runaway. He was working on the road unloading gravel, when an automobile approached, and the horses ran away. Marshall, who was standing on the whiffletree, was thrown on the tongue of the wagon and dragged some distance. He only lived a short time.

#### INDIAN LANDS SOLD

Twenty thousand acres of land, surrendered by the Indians to the government came under the hammer Thursday at Broadview, Sask. The farmers and actual settlers were buying freely. The prices per acre ranged from \$5.50 to \$16. The total proceeds of the day's sales were over \$200,000.