

Sad Drowning Accident New Year's Afternoon

Benjamin Rodgers, an Employee of Reids Machine Shops, Falls Through Ice Under Long's Bridge and is Quickly Drowned

A very sad drowning accident occurred New Year's afternoon about 4.30 p.m. the victim being Benjamin Rodgers aged 20, of Hamilton Avenue, a boiler-maker's helper with the Reid Mfg. Co.

Rodgers who had walked over to the Long Bridge spoke to Saml. Bone and a number of other young chaps who were on the bridge and he remarked that he would go out on the ice which had formed about the piles parapet of the structure and which was very thin. The boys refused to go and remarked that Rodgers was what he was doing was dangerous. He walked a few steps from them when without warning the ice gave way and he was left struggling in the water.

A strong current runs down here and the young chap was swept by it under the bridge but floating on the water.

Bone and the other boys with him threw a piece of board, which they had with them, to Rodgers and as he was swept down the stream Mr. Peter Maher, who was in the sub-station, jumped out through one of the windows at the rear of the structure with a life-belt which is kept there for such emergencies, but just as he got to the breastwork the unfortunate man had disappeared and never rose again.

He had then been swept about 20 yards down from the bridge and towards the South Side. The poor chap disappeared quickly and it is thought the shock of the ice-cold waters affected the heart and deprived him quickly of life. The young chaps who witnessed the accident were at first appalled but then did their best to render aid.

A boat was to be found near and not till they got down to Monroe's on the South Side did they procure one from the skipper of a craft and rowed up to the scene. In the meantime the matter had been reported to the police and officers Bryne and Tobing and a number of others with men from both sides of the harbor started to drag the waters with jiggers to recover the body. At 5.30 p.m. Arch Avery and Ken Roberts, two young South Siders, recovered the body and brought it with the assistance of the police to the morgue.

None knew who the deceased was and all Saturday evening and till a late hour that night many citizens visited the place but none could identify the man until 11.30 p.m. yesterday when Messrs. Jno. Fagan and John Turner, engineers at Reids, with other fellow employees, on seeing the remains immediately identified them.

The young man was a son of Mr. Geo. Rodgers and boarded with Mr. Simmonds of Hamilton Avenue. The remains were confined yesterday afternoon and taken in charge by his relatives.

Riverside Blankets. Insist on getting them.—dec29,61

BISHOP WILL LECTURE.

His Lordship Bishop Jones will deliver the first of a series of lectures to the school teachers of the Church of England, Sunday schools, in the Synod Building at 8 o'clock this evening.

FOR SALE!

SCHOONER "BRITISH EMPIRE"

86 tons, 12 years old, well found in running Tackling, and ground Tackling, with or without Banking Gear.

Apply to C.B. Kennedy, Holyrood or R. Templeton, St. John's

LOST CATTLE—Strayed from Western Bay, B.D.V., a 2 Year Old RED HEIFER, only white patch is on the belly. The top of one of the horns is sawn off. Finder please notify REV. E. P. WARD, Western Bay, B.D.V.—dec31,61

OBITUARY

HON. JOHN HARRIS, M.L.C.

Though prepared to hear of such news owing to the serious turn his illness had taken, the public were much affected on learning of the passing of Hon. John Harris at his home, Rennie's Mill Road, on the eve of the New Year. All recognized that St. John's had lost a worthy citizen and Newfoundland a man and gentleman who could be dispensed with only at a great loss to the Colony, for such men as Mr. Harris mean much to a community.

It is a speculatively sad coincidence in connection with the death of Mr. Harris that his life-long friend, and business associate in the firm of Hearn & Co. for 35 years should have passed away on Christmas Day. Mr. Harris had been ailing for at least two years past and his illness becoming more acute he proceeded to Montreal early in October, where he had the advice and ministrations of some of the eminent medical specialists. However, the disease from which he suffered had made too much progress to be successfully controlled and returning home with the knowledge that the inevitable must occur he faced the sad situation with courage and fortitude and patiently and resignedly awaited the final summons which found him prepared, for he died an edifying death, fortified by the holy rites of the Catholic Church, of which he was a devout and loyal adherent.

The parting from his beloved children, brothers and sisters to one of his kindly and loyal nature must have caused poignant sorrow, but even this was borne bravely, and calmly and peacefully the end came with the deceased gentleman in the possession of all his faculties. Hon. John Harris had only comparatively recently passed the meridian of life.

Born in this city in 1860 he attended St. Bonaventure's College, and when but a young lad he entered the hardware establishment of the late James Gleason on Water Street, and in 1877 transferred to the office of Messrs Hearn & Co., becoming a partner in the business in 1880. As a public man he brought to bear on matters affecting the commonwealth and municipality, the ability which made him prominent in commercial life and the strict probity and honorable dealing for which he was noted all through his career. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1892, and on the retirement of Sir Edward Shea, a few years ago, became its president, a position which he filled with ability and grace. He was elected to the Municipal Council in 1890 and for years, whether serving on elected or appointed Boards, his ability was always in evidence and his advice in all problems was ardently sought and justly valued.

By temperament a worker, Mr. Harris was one of our busiest citizens, for while acting as one of the responsible heads of a large commercial concern, he yet found time to throw himself with enthusiasm into every worthy public movement. His connection with the Catholic Cadet Corps, with various church movements, with the many relief funds instituted to meet public calamities or emergencies and every other scheme of service or uplift are too well known to need accentuation from us.

Though a business man in the strictest sense he was yet kindly and generous, and these traits were particularly noticeable in his social and private dealings. His wife, formerly Miss Mamie Jardine, well known as the "Nightingale of Newfoundland" predeceased him by about 9 years. There are left to mourn him, three brothers, Messrs William, James and Thomas, and four sisters, Mesdames M. F. Smyth, W. H. Tobin and Katie and Maggie Harris, now Sisters Raphael and Callista of the Vincentian Order, New York. To the family and relatives in their great sorrow The Mail and Advocate tenders its sincere condolence.

EAGLES WORRY

U. S. FARMERS

GAINSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 27.—Ozark country has been invaded by a host of bald eagles and the big birds are committing depredations such as they have never done before. It has been estimated by farmers that in the past ten days the eagles have killed pigs, calves, fowls, lambs and goats to the value of nearly \$1000 in this country and in Baxter County, Ark. Adjoining countries also have reported that eagles are more numerous than ever before.

Farmers are setting traps, snares and putting out poison meat, attempting to kill off as many as possible of the "national birds." The State game law protects the eagles, but by a provision of the law any person is entitled to protect his premises from the ravages and depredations of any bird or birds.

'Within the Law' At the Casino

Klark-Urban Company Presents on Next Monday the Most Talked of Drama of the Day—Had Successful Run in New York

The Klark-Urban Company have secured "Within The Law" for presentation at popular prices. A play as famous as "Within The Law" produced by a company of the known excellence of the Klark-Urban Company is a dramatic treat. It is not merely one of the most vivid and stirring; but without doubt the most satisfactory melodramas ever written, for it is more than a play of suspense and situation, it has a real and vital theme, and it poses a question unanswerable under present conditions. No more entertaining and exciting play has ever been seen here. Above and above these essential qualifications of any dramatic entertainment, "Within The Law," is profoundly moving.

For a melodrama to achieve the effect of making an audience feel deeply and actually do a little thinking is an achievement for which the author really deserves credit. There was never a play in which the suspense was better sustained, and there is ample humor in it as well. The scene is with the heroine, while protesting her own innocents, passionately pleads the cause of the underpaid saleslady driven by their necessities into shameful or criminal courses is founded on solid fact, and forms a moving and impressive act. It is an effective theatrical illustration of an evil that cries for amendment. The succeeding acts are given with attention to minor detail and a wealth of action that leaves the audience enthusiastic. All the incidents are ingeniously contrived, and the interest is maintained to the last moment.

The Klark-Urban Company has an enviable reputation for producing only the best obtainable plays in an excellent manner. "Within The Law" must now head the list, for it is the most famous play ever presented at popular prices, and will be presented at the Casino Theatre on next Monday evening. Seats on sale to-morrow morning at Atlantic Book Store.

Riverside Blankets are made from selected woods.—dec29,61

FRIDAY'S LATE MESSAGES

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The British armored cruiser Natal was sunk yesterday afternoon while in harbour, as the result of an internal explosion. An official announcement to this effect was made here to-day.

The Natal's sinking is the severest loss which the British Navy has sustained in several months. No British naval vessels of importance have been sunk since the Triumph and Majestic were torpedoed at the Dardanelles.

The Natal, although a powerful man-of-war, was laid down eleven years ago. Her displacement was only about one-half that of the largest British sea fighters. Her normal complement was 704 men, and the survivors of the disaster number about 400.

ROME, Dec. 31.—An Athens correspondent, of the Giornale d'Italia confirms the withdrawal of the Austro-German troops from the Macedonian frontier. Some attribute it, says the correspondent, to fear of an attack by the strong forces gathered at Salonika with formidable artillery, others to dissension between Germans and Bulgarians, and still others to an intention of the Teutons to entrench themselves in the Balkans as on the French and Russian fronts.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—A German aviation lieutenant, accompanied by his mechanic, deserted with an aeroplane, says the Cahais correspondent of the Excelsior. They flew over the Dutch border, being greeted with volleys from the frontier guards, and landed at the village of Aardenburg. They have been interned at Flushing.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The capture of fifteen hundred prisoners by the Montenegrins in an engagement in Sanjak, in which an Austrian detachment was wiped out is announced in a Montenegrin official statement received here to-day.

The statement also admits the recapture of Raskova Gora by the Austrians.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A despatch to the Times from Salonika, says: "Consuls of Germany, Austria and Bulgaria, with their staffs and families, have been arrested by order of the French General, and taken aboard a British warship."

"The Consulates are now occupied by Allied troops."

OUR THEATRES

THE CRESCENT.

"The Face of the Madonna" is the great feature that the Crescent Picture Palace is showing to-day. This marvelous drama is produced in three reels by the Kalem Company. A strong Biograph drama is "Destiny Decides," featuring Isabel Rea. A fine Swedish comedy is "Father's New Maid." Wallace Berry makes the fun in this comedy. Don't miss seeing this big week opening-show.

THE CHILD WONDER AT THE PANTOMIME

The great show at Rossley's is the talk of the whole town and so it should be for there never has been anything to equal this wonderful show. There are no less than twenty-eight songs and about fifteen different dances. The singing and dancing of the city girls is just perfect. Miss Madge Locke as the Prince is a positive treat, while Mr. Ballafé Brown in his songs pleases all.

To-day the infant wonder will appear and patrons will say they have in St. John's a little wonder, and one who will make a great sensation.

There is in preparation another wonderful new pantomime, "Jack and Gill." And to give all the children a chance to see the biggest and best show ever produced in this city they will be admitted for five cents. Surely no parent will allow their children to miss so great a treat. A clean and refined entertainment.

Riverside Blankets. The more you wear them the better you'll like them.—dec29,61

Irish Peddler's Narrow Escape

Fell Over Wharf While Boarding a Schooner on Job's Wharf—Rescued by Watchman and Other Helpers on the Premises

About 5 o'clock New Year's evening just after the young man Rodgers had been drowned near the Long Bridge, an Irish peddler, well known in the city and outports, narrowly escaped a similar fate by going over Job Bros. & Co's eastern wharf while trying to board a craft lying there. The man had some liquor taken and fell between the craft and the wharf.

Messrs. Kirby, Murphy and others who were in Job's watchhouse heard the noise and ran to the man's aid. Kirby clambered down on the shores and held the man over water until the men of the craft with Murphy and others got him up, when the police who had arrived brought him to the Police Station quickly, stripped him of his drenched clothing and rolling him in warm blankets he was soon all right. His clothing were dried and he was held in the station all yesterday. He was chilled at first when brought to the station but after a short while by the hot stove there was quickly warmed up. The man's escape from drowning was a narrow one. The large sum of money he had on him was taken charge of by the police and placed in the safe at the station after the wet notes in it had been carefully dried.

Riverside Blankets and Yarns made up to a Standard, not down to a price.—dec29,61

GRENFELL HALL

New Year's Sociable Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 8 p.m. Leading Artists taking part.

"THE SUFFRAGETTES" H.M.S. "Calypto" Band. Admission with High Class. Refreshments 30 cents.—dec31,61

Absent Firemen Hold Up Prospero

Were Let Have New Year's Day in Port—Police Had to Get Them Aboard Yesterday—Much Inconvenience Caused

The S.S. Prospero was ready to sail Friday night for the North but as the firemen did not turn up Mr. Munn of Bowring's decided to let them have New Year's Day at their homes here. It was decided that the ship would sail at 4 a.m. yesterday and the firemen were notified to be on board and get the ship ready, and the passengers (75 first-class and 97 second) were aboard at 10 o'clock Saturday night but the stokers remained away and most of the people had to return yesterday morning to their hotels and boarding places.

The ship did not get away till noon yesterday, and might not have sailed then had not the engineers gone with the police to the homes of the stokers and practically forced them to take up their duties on the ship.

Such conduct is reprehensible in the extreme and we hear the matter will receive sharp attention at the hands of the Executive of the Firemen's Union. The Prospero had a record freight for Northern ports, including much for the French Shore, and the delay might mean that freight, especially food stuffs, badly wanted by the people of the Shore may not reach them, as ice might possibly have accumulated off the coast. The passengers on the ship were also put to much inconvenience.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Yesterday an official announcement was read from the pulpit at the R. C. Cathedral, St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's, in which to put it briefly, it was ordered that in future the Sacraments of Matrimony and Baptism would only be administered in the Church. In the case of marriages the principals will attend a nuptial mass.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN

The Hall will be open from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. every night during early closing. Sundays excepted. A special meeting will be held on Friday next, Jan. 7th, at 8 p.m. Every member must attend. Orders: Monday Jan. 3rd, Recruit Drill 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 4th, Drill, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 5th, Drums and Bugles, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 6th, Recruits and Signalling, 8 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 7th, Special Meeting, 8 p.m. Orderly for the week, L-Corp Bugler Russell. By order of E. W. VERE HOLLOWAY, Lieut. O.C. L. F.

AN INSPIRING FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Hon. John Harris, which took place yesterday afternoon, was one of the largest and most imposing witnessed here in many years. The C.C.C. Band, with a Guard of Honor from the Catholic Cadet Corps, the Police in uniform, and a course of citizens, attended. Undertaker Myrick had charge of the funeral arrangements and in the mournful procession were His Excellency the Governor, Premier Morris, the members of both House of the Legislature, Civic Commissioners, members of the Bench and Bar and citizens prominent in every walk of life.

The funeral services at the Cathedral were performed by His Grace Archbishop Roche, assisted by Rt. Rev. Monsignor McDermott, V.G., Revs. Drs. Green, Kitchen and Carter and Fathers Pippy, Sheehan and Nangle. Thousands of people thronged the Cathedral and as the funeral procession emerged, the great organ solemnly intoned the "Dead March in Saul."

Interment was in the family plot at Belvidere Cemetery.

FIVE DIPHTHERIA CASES

Since Thursday past no less than 5 cases of diphtheria have been taken to hospital from city residences. The disease is fast nearing the epidemic stage.

LATEST WAR MESSAGES

NEW YEAR'S HONORS

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Among the New Year honours conferred by King George are the following:—

Barons, Wm. Waldorf Astor, Lord Charles Beresford, Sir Alexander Henderson, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, David A. Thomas and Capt. Cecil Wm. Norton.

Baronetries—Vice Admiral Sir Fred. Sturdee, Sir Wm. Goschen, Sir Chas. Johnson, Alfred A. Booth.

Privy Counsellors—Wm. Crooks and Fred. Banbury.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston and the Duke of Devonshire have been made Knights of the Garter and Lord Mersey elevated to Viscount.

K.C.M.G.s—Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, Mr. Collingwood Schrieber.

C.M.G.s—Wm. Bryner, Pres. Canadian Academy of Arts.

Knights Bachelor—Hon. I. C. Tailon, K. C., Montreal.

Military Commander of the Bath—Major Gen. C. Watkin, Chief of the Canadian General Staff at Ottawa.

Civil Commander of the Bath—Major-General John Carson, Montreal now on active service.

C.M.G.s—Lieut.-Colonel Crasset, Chief Constable of Toronto, Surgeon Carleton Jones, Ottawa, now on active service, Brig. Gen. J. C. McDougall and Royal Red Cross Matron, H. H. McDonald.

FURTHER RUSSIAN PROGRESS

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Russians have captured the heights northeast of Czernowitz, Bukovina, according to a despatch to Reuters Telegraph Co. from Petrograd. Eight hundred and seventy prisoners fell into the hands of the Russians.

QUITE RIGHT

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The War Office announces hereafter commissions will be granted only to men who have completed their course as recruits, and that preference will be given to men who have served with the expeditionary forces.

SIR JOHN SIMON RETIRES FROM CABINET

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Chronicle announces definitely that Sir John A. Simon, Secretary of State of Affairs, retires from the Cabinet, thus breaking his brilliant ministerial career for conscience sake.

158 SURVIVORS ARRIVED

LONDON, Jan. 3.—152 survivors have arrived from the ill-fated Persia. Survivors comprise the chief officer, second officer, seven engineers, twenty-seven seamen, sixty-three lascars and fifty-nine passengers.

AMERICAN CONSUL TO ACT FOR TURKS AND GERMANS

Saloniki, Greece, Jan. 1, via Paris, Jan. 3.—At the request of General Sarraill, Commander of the French forces here, John E. Kahl, American Consul at Saloniki, has taken charge of the Turkish and German interests. The Consulate will be delivered to him to-morrow.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PREVENTS DOCK STRIKES

Rome, Jan. 2.—By a Government decree all ports and dock laborers have been placed under military control. This action has been taken for the purpose of preventing strikes for higher wages during the effort to disencumber the ports of large quantities of merchandise and war material.

KING PETER WILL VISIT KING CONSTANTINE

Athens, Jan. 1, via Paris, Jan. 3.—King Peter of Serbia will go to Athens to visit King Constantine after an inspection of the Serbian troops at Saloniki, it is generally believed.

JAP FLEET TO SAIL FOR SUEZ CANAL

Tokio, Jan. 3.—Announcement is made by the Jigi Shimpo that a squadron of Japanese warships will sail for the Suez Canal presumably to protect Japanese shipping. It is said the armored cruisers Kesuga, Tokiwa, and Chitose have been assigned for this purpose.

CHANGE IN ROUTE OF SHIPPING IS DISCUSSED

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The possibility of British liners which are using the Mediterranean changing their route as the Dutch and Japanese steamships already have done, is being discussed in the press, but it is pointed out that British mail boats are in a different position. They are under contract with the Government by specified routes and therefore could not change without consent of the Government.

ALARM OF FIRE

Shortly after 4 yesterday an alarm of fire was turned in from box 334. It was for a chimney which blazed up in Guzzwell's residence, Patrick's Street, and though the firemen attended their services were not required.

LOCAL ITEMS

A telegram was received here Friday saying that the Beothic had reached Archangel, all well.

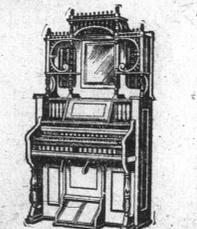
The Volunteers who had drill in the Armoury Friday were given leave till to-day at 9 a.m.

On New Year's Eve the police arrested five old offenders, all drunks. One of them was a woman, who is often in the cells.

Thursday next being the Feast of Epiphany will be a holy day of obligation with our Catholic fellow citizens. Masses will be celebrated at the same hours as on Sundays.

Hon. Samuel Milley left here by the express yesterday evening for New York and proceeds to England on his annual business visit. He will return here by the end of March.

The tern schooner Janstien, 14 days from New York with anthracite coal for A. J. Harvey & Co., arrived here New Year's Day. She had head winds most of the way.



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MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAYS.

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OPENING PLAY—The Great New York and London Success:—
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A solid cast of Special Scenery. Change of Play Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Prices—20, 30, and 50 cents. Seats on sale Tuesday morning at Atlantic Bookstore.