

FOUR KILLED IN DISASTROUS WRECK ON MONCTON-BUCTOUCHE RAILWAY

Bridge Gives Way and Train Plunges into the Creek Below.

FOUR OF CREW ARE BADLY INJURED. Men in Engines and Flange Car Buried Beneath the Wreck—Superintendent Hall Among the Dead.

Moncton, Feb. 20.—Frank N. Hall, general superintendent, age 48 years, Gideon Smith, locomotive engineer, age 45 years, George Freeman, fireman, age 25 years and Sylvan Bourque, age 23 years, were killed. Alex. McKie, locomotive engineer, has his left arm and left leg broken and was internally injured. William Basterache, temporary employe of railway, was severely bruised and shaken up. L. Richards, temporary employe, received bad cuts about the head, and Conductor John McFadden and brakeman McClintock each had a leg slightly injured, as the result of a disastrous wreck on the Moncton and Buctouche Railway at Scotch Settlement about twelve miles. The M. and N. road had been blocked with snow since Monday and train crews with a gang of snow shovellers, with two engines, a plow, car equipped with flanges and a passenger car under the supervision of F. N. Hall, superintendent of the railway, were working their way toward Moncton. At three o'clock this afternoon the train had reached Scotch Settlement bridge, which spans the Shediac river, being about thirty feet high and about seventy-five feet long. As the train was crossing the bridge running for a drift on the opposite side, the snow plow left the rails, cutting away the sleepers and toppling over. A span of the bridge under the jar of the derailed plow gave way and the plow, two engines, flange car and passenger coach plunged into the creek below, a mass of twisted iron, and splintered wood.

The men in the engines and the flange car were buried beneath the wreck, and of the six men, two, Driver Alex. McKie, in the head engine, and Conductor McFadden in the flange car, escaped, the former with a broken limb and the latter with slight injuries.

Buried Beneath Engine

Superintendent Hall, who was in the flange car with Conductor McFadden, met death while his companion escaped. Sylvan Bourque, fireman, met the head engine, was buried beneath his engine and his body has not yet been recovered, but Driver McKie in the same engine miraculously escaped with his life. Gideon Smith, driver in the second engine, and his fireman, Geo. Freeman, son-in-law of Smith, both were instantly killed. In the car on the rear of the train were some thirty-three men, including a brakeman and snow shovellers and strange to say, one of the cars sustained serious injuries. The passenger car with its heavy load of human freight alighted on top of the engines and stood erect. One of two of the men in it received only slight bruises.

The wreck is the worst in the history of branch railways in this section and has cast a gloom over Moncton and Buctouche, where the victims of the catastrophe resided.

Superintendent Hall, who resided in Moncton, drove out to the scene yesterday afternoon and was taking a hand in superintending the plowing out of the road when he met his death. He has been married to Miss E. B. He is a son of S. T. Hall of Halifax, and is survived by a widow and three children.

He was a prominent mason and was a highly esteemed citizen of this city. Driver Gideon Smith and Fireman Geo. Freeman, belong to Buctouche, and the home of Sylvan Bourque was Notre Dame, Kent county.

About \$10,000 damage to rolling stock. As the result of the bridge being out there is not likely to be any travel by rail between Moncton and Buctouche for at least a month or two.

The disaster not only deprived the railway of its superintendent, driver and fireman, but both engines and passenger car are smashed up in the creek.

BISHOP LEBLANC LEAVES FOR HOME

His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc left last evening on the Boston train for New York, where he will take ship for the old country. He will go to Rome on his annual visit to Pope Pius. He was accompanied by Rev. Father Comeau of Bel Brook, N. B., and will be away about six weeks. In New York he will meet His Grace Archbishop McCarty and they will sail together on the steamer Franconia. His Grace will be accompanied by Father Hamilton.

His Lordship gave final benediction in the Cathedral at five o'clock, when the Sunday school children, sisters of the community and others were present. Prayers from different parts of the

BRITISH SUBJECT SHOT TO DEATH AFTER MILITARY TRIAL IN MEXICO

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 20.—W. S. Benton, a British subject, was executed Tuesday night after a trial by a military court of which Frederico Gonzales Garza was the head, according to what appears to be a correct version of the affair. The charge against Benton was that he was implicated in a plot to take Villa's life. The execution was at Villa's order.

Villa left for the south this morning on a special train. Benton was last seen alive in Juarez Tuesday morning. He was making his way to Villa's home and said he was going to "tell Villa what he thought of him," for the manner in which his ranch, "La Remedio," in Western Chihuahua had been looted and raided by rebel soldiers. The ranch consists of 100,000 acres and is considered one of the best in Mexico. Benton paid \$125,000 for it but improvements are said to have brought the value close to \$1,000,000.

General Villa, whose act is stigmatized by Benton's numerous friends as wanton murder, left suddenly for Chihuahua today. No single act of any of the recent revolutions, not excepting the Cumbre tunnel disaster, had so stirred indignation. When extra editions were placed on the streets they were frantically seized upon and read. Benton's ways were blunt, but his friends admitted him for that and there were no real eyes among them when they heard the news.

"No foreigner is safe in Mexico," was the general comment, and a suggestion that a mass meeting of protest be held here met with considerable favor.

Benton was a Scotchman, 45 years old. He had been in Mexico for about twenty-four years, but remained a subject of Great Britain. William Benton, a cousin of the dead man, confirmed the report of the death. "Conrad Edwards told Mrs. Benton," he said, "that her husband was dead in Juarez. The consul said Villa has confirmed this, but said that Villa had asked him not to make public the details except in official despatches to his government."

Dr. Finn, of Halifax, and Dr. Lynch, of this city, who made an autopsy on the body at St. Stephen, N. B., were called and testified, giving the result of the examination.

George Bryant, who is regarded as the crown's star witness, gave very important evidence, and it was listened to with rapt attention, not only by the jury, but also by a large number of spectators. Mr. Bryant was given the floor by the chief justice, and his examination over put up with by any witness giving evidence in the supreme court here. Mr. Gunn dragged a good history of Mr. Bryant to light until the crown was forced to object. His Lordship heard the objection but allowed Mr. Gunn to proceed as he had to call for order.

A large crowd were present at both the morning and afternoon sessions, and most of them were unable to get seats. The court chamber was comfortably filled, then the doors were locked.

The prisoner held to his apparent composure, and during the examination of Montreal and Quebec took notes. On several occasions he smiled at little humorous incidents that came up. He did not appear to be nervous at all. At the start of the trial he smiled as he came out of the witness box on the street.

Smith's opinion only on two occasions had to be called for. At the different exhibits, the rifle, billiard cue and stone, were put in evidence, the spectators strained forward to get a good view. All these are practically the only witnesses who will undergo a long cross-examination, a larger number will, no doubt, be disposed of each day after this.

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It is provided that during the period of construction the interest payable on debentures receivable by the Minister of Finance for such advances may be paid out of the \$15,000,000. It is stipulated that the harbor commissioners shall deposit with the minister debentures of the corporation equal in par value to the advances made repayable within twenty-five years from the date of issue and bearing interest payable half yearly at the rate of three and one half per cent. The conditions in regard to the Quebec loan are practically the same.

STOP PRINTING OF PORTRAITS OF CRIMINALS

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—A bill to forbid Canadian papers publishing portraits of criminals was introduced in the senate today by Senator Choquette.

To accomplish this the bill amends the section of the Criminal Code which provides a penalty for two years' imprisonment for the sale of obscene literature.

As amended by Senator Choquette the section imposes a penalty against any one who "manufactures, sells or exposes for sale or public view or circulates any obscene book, newspaper, or other publication, containing, with out authorization of the judge of a superior court or of the attorney general of a province, the picture of any person accused of or condemned for any crime or misdemeanor or of their assistants or accomplices, or of the instruments which they used, or any picture, photograph, model or other object tending to corrupt morals."

The senate adjourned until Thursday next.

REPORT NOT YET COMPLETE

Fourth, and Most Important Volume of Technical Education Report Not Ready—Whole Thing Cumbersome.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The fourth and last volume of the report of the Technical Education Commission is not yet in the hands of the Minister of Labor. This is the most important of the volumes, as it deals with the Canadian portion of the work of the commission. Dr. J. W. Robertson, who was chairman of the commission, has had the preparation of the report.

Hon. Mr. Crothers was promised that it would be ready by the beginning of 1915, over two years ago.

It was stated at the department of labor today that the report is far too cumbersome for practical use, and that it is highly probable that the minister will place the four volumes in the hands of some person experienced in work of condensation so that a good summary may be prepared to render the work and recommendations of the commission easily comprehended.

An official of the labor department states that the fourth volume of Dr. Robertson's report is not expected for a month yet.

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SMILES AS HUMOROUS INCIDENTS ARE RELATED IN THE TESTIMONY.

Physicians on Stand Yesterday. Court Room at Sydney Crowded During Trial—Sallies Between Counsel Enliven Hearing.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 20.—The Hayes murder case was resumed this morning and continued throughout the day. Some very important evidence was submitted by the Crown, that of the most important testimony.

Dr. Finn, of Halifax, and Dr. Lynch, of this city, who made an autopsy on the body at St. Stephen, N. B., were called and testified, giving the result of the examination.

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PARK PROJECT AT FORT HOWE GRIME LESS PREVALENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Decrease in Criminal Charges Last Year—Twenty-five Murder Convictions in the Dominion.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—According to the annual report of the justice department dealing with criminal statistics for Canada for the year ending Sept. 30, 1913, there were altogether 20,168 charges of major criminal offences entered throughout the Dominion with 15,567 convictions. This represents an increase of 20.1 in the number of charges; of 23.2 in convictions as compared with the preceding year. The only provinces showing decreases are Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Both these provinces showed the smallest percentage of criminals, the number being 12 per 100,000 in the island province and 38 per 100,000 in New Brunswick. For Nova Scotia the proportion is 147, for Quebec 124, for Ontario 255, for Manitoba 268, for Saskatchewan 215, for British Columbia 390 and for Alberta 350. For all Canada the proportion of criminals is 308 per 100,000 of population. During the year the number of young offenders increased by 30 per cent, the total number of charges laid against youthful criminals being 1851. Female offenders totalled 709, or 3.49 per 100,000. There were 52 charges of murder and 25 convictions during the year. Of the 25 men found guilty of murder only 6 were born in Canada. The number of convictions for drunkenness totalled 15,151.

Colonel Rogers, of Militia Department, here to Obtain Necessary Data—Lady LaTour Memorial.

Colonel Rogers of the Militia Department, arrived in the city yesterday and will look over the situation here in connection with the idea of converting Fort Howe into a public park. Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, promised people in St. John, who were interested in the scheme, that he would endeavor to meet their wishes, and as a result Colonel Rogers has been sent down by the militia department.

It is the intention of the department, it is understood, to retain its title to the site of the proposed park, but every effort will be made to make it one of the best "breathing spots" in the city.

WILLIAMS' ACT CAUSES STIR AT WASHINGTON

News of Killing of British Subject in Mexico Creates Sensation. STATE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN ORDERED. Officials Look for Interesting Denouement and Prompt Action on Great Britain's Part.

Washington, Feb. 20.—A slumbering Mexican situation was brought quickly to a point of intense international interest today by the flash of a message stating that Wm. S. Benton, a British subject, had been killed in Juarez by order of General Villa, the constitutionalist commander.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, conferred with Secretary Bryan about it; President Wilson and his cabinet discussed it briefly, and a thorough investigation was ordered by the state department from consular representatives on the border.

In this case for the first time since the present revolution began a year ago, the general warning from the United States government to Mexican agents to protect all foreigners went unheeded, though there is evidence to show that both the British ambassador and the state department were advised to interfere specifically for him.

The news shocked officials generally, who had come to believe that General Villa fully realized the position of the American government in regard to the protection of foreigners in Mexico, particularly in the north of that country.

"I have not sufficient facts to base an opinion," said Secretary Bryan today. "Until I have, the department will express no opinion."

This was the official view of the situation, with messages passing back and forth between the state department and Consul Edwards. Only a few details were announced by the state department—that Benton had been executed after a military trial. A copy of the sentence of the court setting forth the evidence in the case, was promised the American consular representatives. Mr. Bryan said a full report of the affair was on its way by mail from Consul Edwards, to whom General Villa had personally explained the incident.

The killing of a British subject under circumstances such as despatches from the border portrayed, caused a stir in diplomatic circles. Those familiar with the aggressive attitude Great Britain assumes a pressing for reparation when her subjects have been wronged, were inclined to foresee interesting developments impending.

HON. MR. WHITE ABLE TO BE OUT AGAIN

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 20.—Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, who has been seriously ill following an operation, is now convalescent and is able to take short walks. He expects to be in the house on Monday.

COMMITTEE ON REDISTRIBUTION WILL MEET ON MONDAY

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The special committee in charge of the redistribution bill will meet on Monday next without loss of time. Hon. Robert Rogers will be chairman.

THAW'S FIGHT FOR LIBERTY IS RESUMED

Argument on Habeas Corpus Begun—Bail Question May Go to Supreme Court for Decision.

Concord, N. H., Feb. 20.—Harry K. Thaw's fight for liberty was renewed before Federal Judge Aldrich today. There were two points at issue—the discharge of the prisoner on a writ of habeas corpus from New York State as a fugitive from justice, the alleged offence being conspiracy to escape from the insane asylum at Matteawan, and the right of Thaw to bail pending the disposition of his case by the federal courts.

When the hearing opened Merrill Shurtleff, of the petitioner's counsel, filed a motion that Thaw have the privilege of introducing evidence bearing upon his mental condition. The court took the motion under consideration.

The opening argument upon the habeas corpus petition was made by former Governor Stone of Pennsylvania, who held that his client was not subject to extradition upon the charge in the indictment found against him in New York.

Regarding the question of admitting Thaw to bail, Judge Aldrich without making a formal ruling intimated that he might leave it to the Federal Supreme Court for decision.

The bail decision was not mentioned until just before adjournment, desire for an immediate ruling on it. The court argued that since a commission appointed by the court had found that Thaw was not a menace to the community, no reason existed for refusing him admission to bail. Mr. Jerome remarked that he wished to be heard in opposition at the court's convenience.

MAY ADVANCE APPOINTMENT COMMISSIONER

Mr. Broder Likely to be Selected for One of Vacancies on the Railway Board.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 20.—The term of office of the two railway commissioners, Hon. M. E. Bernier and Dr. James Mills, has expired, but it is understood that they will continue in office until the conclusion of the western freight rates case, the evidence taken in which is under consideration.

Mr. Bernier and Dr. Mills were appointed to the railway board on January 15, 1909 and the appointments are for a ten years' term. At the conclusion of the ten years' term, last month, doubt was expressed whether or not it should date from the reorganization of the board in 1908. The justice department has ruled that the ten years should date from the actual appointment.

While nothing official can be obtained as to the likely successors, it is generally believed that J. G. H. Bergeron, ex-M.P., for Beauharnois, will succeed Mr. Bernier.

For the other vacancy there are two strong candidates in Andrew Broder, M. P., for Dundas and Samuel Price, K. C., of St. Thomas. However, as the vacancy is supposed to be filled by a representative of the agricultural interests, and as there probably could be no stronger representative of the farmers than Mr. Broder, it is more than likely that he will get the appointment.

INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE YESTERDAY BY HON. DR. REID.

MERELY PERMISSIVE PREMIER POINTS OUT. Hon. Mr. Hazen Makes Important Announcement—Thirty-five Foot Channel Practicable in St. Lawrence.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 20.—With patriotic regard for any contingency which might arise in the future to make necessary the oil fuel of Canada for use by the imperial navy or in defence of Canada itself, the government today introduced a bill to give it the power to prevent the export of the product of the oil wells of the Dominion. This is a step forward in nationhood and in the realization of responsibilities.

An interesting and impressive circumstance in the course of today's sitting was the request by the young German member, W. C. Welch, of North Waterloo, the victor over McKenzie King, that the government should do something to assist the movement to celebrate the centenary of peace. The Premier gave a sympathetic reply pointing out that \$25,000 would be voted towards defraying organization expenses.

The St. Lawrence ship channel and harbor matters in connection therewith occupied the attention of the House of Commons for some two hours this afternoon a discussion taking place on the marine department estimates for the improvement and maintenance of the great waterway during the course of which some important announcements were made by Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries.

St. John to Share. The minister stated that although the report of the commission appointed last session to investigate the matter of the possible lowering of the water in the channel and Montreal harbor through dredging operations would not be presented for a year, the commission for the improvement and maintenance of the great waterway during the course of which some important announcements were made by Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries.

An appropriation of \$25,000 will be included in the supplementary estimates as a grant to the work of the Canadian Peace Centennial Association according to an announcement made by Premier Borden this afternoon. The matter was brought to the premier's attention by Mr. W. Welch, and Mr. Borden recalled that in June of last year Mr. Gorman had also presented the government for assistance. "We are warmly sympathetic with the project," said the Premier in making the announcement, "and trust the centennial of peace will be the Empire and the United States may be the first of many centuries."

"Anything that tends to the perpetuation of peace will find hearty support upon this side of the house," commented Sir Wilfrid Laurier, adding with a smile, "perhaps there is nothing which would better lower provincial peace than the continued development of trade relations."

TO STOP EXPORT OF CRUDE PETROLEUM

Mr. Reid presented the parliament with the introductory government motion providing for the vesting of authority in the government to prohibit the exportation of crude or partly manufactured petroleum, "obtained or won on any land belonging to His Majesty in the right of Canada."

Premier Borden explained that the proposed bill was merely to be permissive, giving the Minister of Interior the power to take prohibition action if circumstances warranted it.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Frank Oliver pressed to know under what circumstances it was proposed to exert this power, to which Mr. Borden replied that it would be only exercised in very important and extreme cases in the interest of the country, and His Majesty's dominions as a whole. The power would not be exerted from a commercial standpoint.

Mr. Sinclair pointed out that the restriction in the words "obtained or won on any land belonging to His Majesty" were unnecessary, a statement with which Mr. Borden agreed. The Premier said if the resolution were passed opportunity would be given for discussion upon the presentation of the bill.

Loans for Harbor Work. Hon. J. D. Hazen has given notice of a couple of resolutions which will provide for large loans to the harbor commissioners of Montreal and Quebec. Continued on page 2.