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HOTTEST AND THE DRIEST IN HISTORY

Month of July Just Closed Breaks Double Record—Average Temp. 75.9

(Toronto Daily Star, July 31.)

Hottest and driest month in the history of Toronto that's the new record set up by the month of July, 1916 just "putting in its last kicks" to-day.

Sunday's temperatures soared up to 100.2 degrees, and this made the attainment of the new records possible. It isn't exactly a thing that Toronto may feel like bragging about. But it might not be amiss for somebody to send Rudyard Kipling, author of "Our Lady of the Snows," a list of the temperatures for the present month.

July—or rather the 30 days of it that have passed—reached a mean temperature of 75.9 degrees. The nearest approach to this was in July of 1868, when the mean temperature was 75.8. If the mercury does not drop too far by evening the new record set by this month so far will stand as the highest yet. The mean temperature for all the July months on record is about 65.

Tiny Little Rainfall.

As for drought, this July is far and away drier than any other dry July. It's worse than this after Sept. 16—before there has only been .36 of an inch of rain in the past 30 days. There is not likely to be any rain to-day, so that the record for the past was reached. The rainfall that month was just .51 of an inch. The average July rainfall is 2.93 inches.

But cheer up! Cooler weather is coming. To-day is considerably cooler than yesterday. To-morrow will be cooler than to-day.

Sir Frederick Stupart, head of the weather bureau, had to have his little joke on the press this to-day.

"Get into a balloon and go up about 11 miles," he said. "You will find that the air is about 75 below zero."

Below zero, mark you! But there's little comfort in that fact for a sweltering city. It's an interesting thing to know, however, that temperatures in the upper air are not affected by the heat waves on earth. The sun's rays pass through the air without heating it. But directly they strike and material objects they heat it. That's why the earth and people's bodies are heated so much, and the earth, of course heats the lower strata of air.

Hot at the Soo

Yesterday was the hottest day in the past five years in Toronto. It was 103 on a July day in 1911. The 103 mark was reached, however, at the Soo, which was the warmest spot in Canada yesterday. Ottawa had 96, London had 100, White River, with its frigid reputation, had 98. All over the Central United States was fairly easy with temperatures. Chicago had 102. New York was fairly easy with 80, and Frisco, on the far side of the continent, had only 62.

Toronto felt the heat yesterday. It had no ambition to stir itself. The heat was oppressive. Many went to the lake shore and to the Don and Humber and sought coolness in the waters. It is estimated that 15 horses succumbed to the heat. It was luck for the horses that it was Sunday.

The day was apparently hard on old folks and babies. One old lady is reported to have been mentally unbalanced by the heat.

Some wise fathers got out their lawns and turned it on their kiddies after the latter had donned their bathing suits. The youngsters revelled in the shower both.

Cooler To-morrow.

"Fair and cooler to-day," says the Weather Man "Fine and comparatively cool to-morrow."

"What does that word 'comparatively mean'?" queried The Star. "It will not be more than 80, from present indications," said Sir Frederick.

Three Die From Heat

The excessive heat has already taken its toll. Three succumbed yesterday, in addition to a number of prostrations. Dr. Ernest McLaughlin, 14 Garnet avenue, died at First Dover, where he had gone on vacation. He grad listed in medicine at Varsity five years ago.

John W. Hartigan, 50 years of age, a C.N.W. telegraph operator, who came to the city a short time ago,

TERRIBLE DEATH BY BURNING

Of Mrs. W. J. Emmerson, A Former Shannonville Lady.

A Regina despatch tells of the tragic death of a former Shannonville lady, Mrs. W. J. Emmerson, who was burned to death in the destruction early on the morning of July 24th of her farm home two and a half miles from Creelman, Saskatchewan. Her husband was feeding horses in the stable at the time when he heard a sudden scream and on rushing to the house was unable to enter owing to the flames. He was burned on the arms and face. A gas explosion is thought to have been the cause of the fire.

Her brother, is Pte. Arthur K. Lazier of Sewell, of the 100th Grenadiers, a former well-known insurance man connected with the Great West Life Insurance Co. in Winnipeg for many years. Nicholas Lazier, uncle to Mrs. Emmerson, and his daughter, Mrs. (Dr.) Peake, of Transcona have gone to Creelman to attend the funeral.

Mrs. Minaker, proprietor and editor of the Gladstone (Man.) Age, is Mrs. Emmerson's sister. The rest of the Lazier family reside in California.

Mrs. Emmerson was a niece of Lt.-Col. S. S. Lazier of this city. She went west about twenty-five years ago. Mr. Emmerson was a former teacher in Deseronto.

RICHARD KELLY SUCCUMBED

Victim of Accident Died Later in Hospital—Skull Fractured.

Richard Kelly, who met with an accident at the corner of Bridge and Front streets on Monday morning, when he fell from the concrete walk, striking his head and fracturing his skull, died at a quarter to four yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the hospital he seemed quite rational, and told of having had a pain in his head and back for some time. He was able to walk into the ward, but soon sank into a fit. From that time forward no hopes were held out for his recovery.

Richard Kelly was about 40 years of age and came to Belleville from Napanee. Some time ago, he was employed by Mr. W. R. McCreary, hide merchant, at various times since last October. He was a widower and leaves a family, none of whom are at home.

REMAINS BROUGHT HOME.

The remains of the late Mrs. James Hogg widow of the late James Hogg, formerly of Belleville, arrived in the city at noon today by G.T.R. and were taken to Belleville Cemetery for interment. Rev. A. S. Kerr M.A., officiated at the grave. Mrs. Hogg died at the residence of her daughter Mrs. Jennie Smith of Chicago, who accompanied the body to Belleville. In the funeral party were also Mr. William Hogg of Chicago, son, and Mrs. Katie Hall of Toronto, daughter of deceased.

DORAN WALKER DROWNED

TRENTON, July 31st.—At 10:20 this morning Doran Walker, aged twelve, son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin H. Walker, of North Albert street, was drowned in the Trent River while bathing near Dam No. 1. The river at this point is very treacherous, and the boy got beyond his depth. The other boys, not being competent swimmers, were unable to lend prompt assistance. The body was soon recovered, however, but although medical aid was promptly summoned, all efforts to revive the lad failed.

MILITARY NOTES

Certificates of military qualifications have been granted as follows: Sergt. Longmuir, 155th; Sergt. Ames, S. M., 155th.

From New Hartford, Conn., was found dead in his bed at 309 George street by a friend yesterday morning. He had complained to his landlady on Friday night that he was not feeling well. The body was taken to the morgue, but will be forwarded to his relatives in New Hartford to-day.

Martha Little, 58 years of age was found dead in her home, 1 Alice street, at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon by her seven-year-old niece.

HORROR OF NEW ONTARIO'S FIRE CATASTROPHE GROWS

Estimates Place Loss of Life As High As 240—Sixteen People Perish in Root-House—Heroic Rescue Work—Relief Rushed to Scenes of Disaster.

COBAL, July 31.—It will be many days before a complete list of the dead in the Northern Ontario fires can be obtained. A few of the people known to be dead around Matheson are: Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Bannerman, Mrs. Small, Mrs. Robinson, J. Schmidt, Tom Little, Ray Wildman, sen., B. Carey, J. Stack, J. and Mrs. Elvin and two daughters, the little daughter of Mrs. Whittier, and Miss Della LaBelle of Wah-tagbeg.

Thelst cannot but be long and dreadful. The fire pounced on Matheson like a tiger. One woman went to a store to do some shopping and she was caught there with two children, away from the rest of her people, who were only at the other end of the street. But the worst shambles are at Nushka. Ties in the Wah-tagbeg bridge were burnt out and trains got through for the first time only last night, but the section foreman said his crew counted fifty-seven bodies lying dead on the right of way, and they had to push the dead out of the way to get the hand-car through. Out of a population of 300, only eight can be accounted for.

Outside Matheson in one root-house there were sixteen people suffocated to death as they stood. On Fromm's farm, which is sandy and well cleared, survivors say twenty-five people took refuge. In an ordinary fire this farm would have escaped, but the wall of flames did not spare them, and they lie in heaps.

Bill Fairburn, a stalwart prospector, who undoubtedly saved many lives on that awful Saturday, gave a most vivid description of the fire. "It came," he said, "sped by a howling tornado, travelling at sixty miles an hour, and nothing lived in its wake. Matheson was in flames in a few minutes. I rushed all the women and children I could find to a freight train on a siding and sent them down to Black River and stayed there. In Matheson not one was lost, but the slaughter was terrible in outside districts. The stone station did not escape and the freight sheds went up when boxes of dynamite took fire. Crops are burned, and what stock are left have nothing to eat."

Fairburn, with his helpers, rounded up all the cows they could find, and unaccustomed as

they were, milked them to keep the babies alive. One of the search parties, just outside Matheson, found brave little Ettie McCallum, only nine years of age, still guarding two babies she had saved out of the fire. She was badly burned around the legs, but did not complain. She was brought down to New Liskeard Hospital and will probably recover. Half a dozen men, badly burned and almost blind, are now in New Liskeard Hospital.

Nearly all the survivors are utterly destitute, yet nearly all were cheerful, as they were brought out on rescue trains, and were glad to be alive. Mr. Leach, a settler just outside Matheson, who two days ago had a fine farm and stock, had not even a pair of shoes when he came down to New Liskeard yesterday. He tumbled into a lake on his farm just before a wave of fire struck across his path. He and all his farm hands sat on a raft while the waves lashed by the great wind, dashed over them. They threw blankets soaked in water over their heads tent-wise to escape the asphyxiating effect of the smoke. A dozen or so took shelter in the same lake. They have nothing in the world to-day.

At Painkiller Lake the foreman at Cartwright Mine saved all his men. Four of them set in a boat, but the waves were so high it was thrown over before they were forty feet from shore, and it was an hour before they touched bottom again. On Saturday night, before the great fire got full sweep, a dense cloud of smoke obscured the sky, and men and women felt their way through the thick fumes, fumbling their way to safety. Those who have headed rescue parties fear to think what the drains and hollows of the countryside will reveal.

Croesus Mine, in Munro township, and all surrounding district are swept clear. Last night in Matheson all but three of the men were accounted for.

Messages to Premier Hearst, Hon. Mr. Ferguson and Government officials yesterday said that rains had quenched the fires in the North. The relief measures undertaken by the Government are being directed from North Bay.

Estimates of the dead as received yesterday vary from 162 to 240.

GALACIAN ARMY ALMOST SURROUNDED: THE GERMANS ARE WITHDRAWING FROM KOVEL

Evacuation by Germans of Important City—Zeppelin Fleet Invaded East Counties of England Last Night—Germans Failed in Somme Counter-Attack—Italy Denounces Treaty with Germany—Portuguese To Use Captured Steamers—The Deutschland Gets Ready to Move

ZEPPELIN FLEET INVADED ENGLAND.

LONDON, Aug. 1.—Reports from the eastern counties indicate that seven or more Zeppelins, one of which is reported to have been damaged by anti-aircraft guns, took part in the raid over those counties last night. No details have been received as yet.

TURKS CHECKED IN EGYPT.

LONDON, Aug. 1.—A despatch from the British press representative at Romani says: "The Turks have made considerable progress in their advance on Egypt, they having moved forces of 12,000 men to a ridge nine miles from Romani, where they were checked by the British forces." "The Turks advanced along the ancient caravan route from El Arish (about a hundred miles east of the Suez Canal) to Kantara, on the Suez Canal. They moved on a front of nearly ten miles and screened their advance very well. By marching at night and resting by day in palm groves, or in shallow holes covered by palm leaves, they kept their movements from the airman's eyes. But their position and strength was revealed before they could surprise us."

PORTUGUESE USING GERMAN STEAMERS.

MADRID, Aug. 1.—The Portuguese government announces that German steamers have been turned over to the various Portuguese shipping companies who will inaugurate a service, paying the government a commission on the freight carried.

DEATH LIST GROWING IN NEW ONTARIO.

ENGLEHART, Aug. 1.—The number of the dead in the great forest fire is increasing. Burials, so far reported are as follows—Monteith 68; Matheson 28; Cochrane 25; Iroquois Falls 25; Ramore 16 and 21 bodies put on train at Monteith to be brought south. The Monteith burials include many from Nushka and Matheson. Munro township reports about 100 not previously reported dead.

RECEPTION TO CHARLEY GIBSON

Veteran of Many Wars Honored by Citizens Last Evening

"DO LIKE YOUNG GIBSON" Sir Mackenzie Bowell Urged Young Men—Procession

Sergeant Charles A. Gibson may have a fondness for doing things quietly, returning home from the wars in which he has played no small part, in a modest manner, unheralded, and he may have succeeded in reaching the portals of his father's home with but few knowing that he was in Belleville. But the citizens were not to be balked of their demonstration in Charley's honor. The hero of more campaigns than any other Bellevillian last night had to face the electric lights, cheering crowds, and hear his praises sung by everybody.

The Oddfellows' band and some of the friends of the sergeant yesterday arranged for a big time in the returned soldier's honor in the evening. The news spread like wild-fire and by 7 o'clock the streets were lined, as the I.O.O.F. bandmen marched up Front and Victoria Ave. followed by scores of lighted automobiles. The parade led to the well known Gibson residence, where hundreds had congregated. Charley's friends soon appeared, bearing him on their shoulders to a decorated car in which sat his gallant officer Capt. E. D. O'Flynn of the Second Battalion, Bombardier E. G. Blaylock, Sir Mackenzie Bowell. Into this automobile Sergeant Gibson was placed and his father, Mr. Robert A. Gibson, was invited. The parade then started down Victoria, and down Front, along Bridge up the hill, through the East residential district and down Victoria Ave. to the starting point on Front St. The fire brigade joined in the procession.

What with the band playing, the people cheering, the fireworks sounding and auto horns blowing or busking, the whole city knew something was going on. Charley Gibson at last headed bowing his acknowledgment at every yard or so to the cheering people.

The superiority of an evening demonstration was shown by the fact that so many people were able to take part in it. Then there was the attraction of the countless ever-restless automobile lights lighting up the streets and playing among the trees and on the citizens standing on the walks. Something of a fairy scene it was in shaded East Belleville.

When the triumphal car reached the Gibson home, Mayor Ketcheson sprang to the running board and in a scold had hushed the din and the sounds of jubilation, made by the machinery and some thousands of demonstrators. "How glad we are to see Sergt. Gibson back, I just want to say," declared Belleville's burgomaster, who had marched behind the band with other enthusiastic citizens. "No further evidence is wanted to show how he stands in the public heart. We cannot have too many recollections for men like Charley Gibson. He has gone to defend our flag and our homes and thank God he is home again as well as he is. He is honored and esteemed by the citizens. Three cheers for Charley Gibson."

The crowd as by electric shock burst into cheers and a tiger. In a short address, Mr. E. Guss Porter, K.C., M.P., declared he was honored in being privileged to take part in a welcome home to Charley Gibson. "I want to pay my respects to his good father and his good mother and say we are proud they have bred such a boy as Charley. He is known in Belleville and in the neighboring republic as 'Fighting Charlie Gibson.' (cheers). He fought in the Philippines and in South Africa and has never failed to respond to the call. We hope you may not have to go back; we know your heart is in the right place and that you will discharge your duty with the same love and devotion. We wish you every success in life. If at any time, you call upon the people of Belleville for anything, you will not find them wanting."

The returned veteran made a few remarks. "I'm not much of an orator. I want to thank every citizen and every lady of the Red Cross and I.O.O.F. I have been used white by every one in Belleville." He felt that he had only done his duty.

The band struck up "Home Sweet Home." Then Sir Mackenzie Bowell paid his tribute to the warrior of so many campaigns in so many climes. "Sergt. Gibson has served his country and resembles his father in that,

CORP. E. CARR IS IMPROVING

Letter From Artilleryman Who Lost Both Feet—His Story.

Dear Father and all,— I thought I would write you a few lines hoping that they will find you all well, as this leaves myself coming along good.

I have started to eat very good and sleep good at night which is a two main things. Father don't worry for I am going to be all right. There is one thing father, you must be ready to look after me when I arrive home, I should be home by Xmas. I heard from Ray, he is fine; he is coming to see me when he comes on leave so that will be nice, won't it. My wound on my left leg above my knee is healing nicely and the burn on my right leg has almost healed up and my stumps have also started to heal, so you see I am doing fine. I lost all my kit, that is my clothes, haversack and all. All I had when I came out of the last scrap was a shirt that was on my back. They cut the pants off me; but never mind father, we drove the Germans back. They got their share. When I was wounded I was thrown to one side in another dug-out and left there for about one half hour and then I was carried on a stretcher for a mile, then I was held there, suffering. All I had all this time was two strings tied around my legs above the knee to stop bleeding, of course my feet were both blown off to begin with. There were eight of us all together, and five were killed and one died shortly after, so there are only two of us left, so you see I was very lucky. But I must say after I was carried a mile on a stretcher, I waited my turn as there were hundreds of wounded at the dressing station, so when my turn came they shut me in an ambulance wagon, and it was a rough ride—it near killed me. I went over seven miles from the trenches. They took me right in sight of the Germans for about four miles, as there was no other way to get out. But as luck would have it, there was not a shell fired at us. I was taken to another dressing station near Ypres; they had a handkerchief around my leg, and put some more dope in the end, and sent me on to a clearing station, about five miles farther, where I was turned in and operated on, which I stood well.

Well father, I could give a good lecture on this last battle. I have seen some terrible fights, and I have not missed many either so I have had good experience for myself. We had hardly time to breath for shells flying around. I suppose you have not thumbed the papers. Well father, this is all I find say for this time and hope this finds you all well, and I wish to be remembered to all and I send heaps of love to all.

From your loving son, Ernest.

A GRASS FIRE

Sparks from a passing railway engine started a blaze in some dry grass east of the Marsh & Henthorn works about 11:30 this morning. The firemen were called and removed any danger. The fire at the start threatened some wood on the foundry company's premises.

CASE WAS SETTLED

In police court this morning a settlement was effected in the case of Mike Maraskos accused of having a go-cart in his possession which did not belong to him. He expressed a willingness to compensate the person deprived of this vehicle and paid costs. The total output was \$12.90.

The work of Charley Gibson is an incentive to those young men who are still faltering. This war is one against a foe that stops at nothing to conquer. Do not run away with the idea that it will soon be over. Germany is on trial and the Allied nations are determined to annihilate her, to strip her of military power. If Germany should conquer the brightest nations will be wiped out. The Anglo-Saxon, French, Italian and Russian nations cannot afford to take any risk in not sufficiently dominating over the foe. The Germans will hold on and I only hope we shall starve them out.

"Go and do your duty, young men, who are without encumbrance. Defend Canada and your mothers, wives and sisters. Do as young Gibson did," urged the aged knight and former premier of Canada.

The band struck up the National Anthem as all heads were bared. Sergeant Gibson reentered his home to meet more of his friends and the assembly slowly dispersed.