

Dreadful Disaster.

(Continued from page 1)

A REPORTER'S STORY.

Mr. Harry Fassmore, a reporter of The Advertiser, who was at work when the crash came, was seriously hurt, and had to be taken to his home on Colborne street. He was seen at a late hour last night. "Some of the crowd called for 'Tooth', he said, 'father Aid-rect McPhillips had contacted his address. The crowd was very boisterous. It was easily seen that the large majority belonged to the victorious organization, and their interruptions took a decidedly political character. While the din continued, Robert Carrothers stood up on the platform and waved his hat towards the crowd as a signal for silence. At this juncture the crash towards the platform was tremendous. The crowd was packed like herrings in a barrel, and the reporters at the front of the platform found it impossible to write. We implored Aid. Carrothers not to call any more speakers, feeling in danger of being injured by the constantly increasing jam. Aid. Carrothers seemed to attempt to coincide with this view, as the crowd continued to sway forward in front of the platform. But the previous speeches in which threats had been made of how the new council would undertake to undo the work of their predecessors, seemed to so please the crowd that they called for other well-known politicians. Suddenly there was an ominous cracking as of smashing timbers. Back slid the reporters' chairs. There was not time to move a limb before there was a tremendous crash, and the end of us all seemed to have come. There were three of the reporters writing at the table when the crash came, and carried the floor, platform, and hundreds of citizens down with it. There was no warning, and the surging mass went down without a moment's notice. I cannot describe my feelings when I found myself pinned down beneath a crushing mass of humanity, jammed together amid tons of timber, brick, broken furniture and an office safe. I never heard more earnest of more heart-rending cries in all my life than those of the dying and wounded as they lay all around, above and beneath me. The prayers, the groans, the entreaties of my fellow-sufferers seemed to continue for ages, while willing hands set about rescuing us, so slow does time pass when one is in extremity. In the collapse, I got separated from my fellow Advertiser reporter. My chair was completely turned over, the legs were straight up, and I found myself protected by it from being crushed by the table at which we had been sitting, and which was also completely turned over. From above me blood from those killed and wounded began to trickle, and that with the cries of the dying for deliverance from their pains made an impression on me which I shall never forget. It seemed an age before the rescuers could get the unfortunate fellows out of their troubles, and alas! many were fated not to be taken alive. I regard my escape as little short of miraculous. As it was, my limbs only are severely bruised."

A FATHER'S GRIEF.

It was pitiful to witness the grief of the father of the 13-year-old boy, Wm. Edward Talbot. "I can't tell his mother," said the heart-broken parent, as the tears streamed down his cheeks. "I can't tell his mother, because it would kill her."

"How I worked to save him!" he went on, his voice choked by tears. "I heard his cries beneath, and I tore dozens of bodies away so as to pull him out. But when I reached him he was dead. Oh, it will kill his mother!"

The clergyman tried to comfort Mr. Talbot, but in vain. He and his two sons, Willie and Victor, were in the hall near the platform. Both the father and Victor escaped unhurt.

A TERRIBLE SIGHT.

"I was in the St. George railway accident," said Mr. Fred Hancock, of the Canada Railway News Company, "but as a spectacle it was not nearly as horrible as last night's. My own escape was miraculous. I was standing at the northeast window, near the iron safe. I heard the crash, and involuntarily I crashed my hand through the glass and clung to the window-sill, while the floor sank under my feet and everyone around me fell with it. I knew I was safe, and began to look around. The scene below me was terrible. Scores of men and boys in one awful heap were struggling, groaning, and shrieking. What affected me most was the sight of two or three little boys pinned down by the iron safe, which was slowly crushing them to death. I got down as soon as I could and lent a hand. Strange to say, a friend and I were conversing a minute before, and I remarked that I thought the hall was unsafe, and that it would be frightful if the floor gave way. When I heard the crash I realized like a flash what would happen, and grabbed the window-sill."

Mr. Hancock's hands were badly cut by the glass.

SAW HIS BROTHER KILLED.

"Yes," said Mr. Samuel Turner, as he gazed at the corpse of his brother, ex-Ald. John Turner. "I saw my poor brother go down to his death. He was on the edge of the platform, on the east end, and was one of the first to be crushed below. I happened to be in

a safer place, and the only thing I feared was that all the benches on top of me would kill me; but I kept my head under them. I was lying on a little boy, who pleaded piteously with me to get off, but if my life had depended upon it I could not. Gradually I worked my shoulder loose, and managed to make an opening through which I crawled out."

ASSISTANT ENGINEER IRON-SIDE'S ESCAPE.

Mr. R. Ironside, assistant city engineer, was working in the city engineer's office until about fifteen minutes before the crash. Had he been in the office at the time, his death would have been certain, as the ceiling fell in directly above his desk.

ALD. WINNETT'S ESCAPE.

Ald. Winnett and Mr. William Gray, president of the Conservative Club, were both hurled into the wreck, the latter being hurt about the head. Ald. Winnett escaped by climbing up the brickwork.

THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

The direct cause of the accident was the breaking of a joist between the city engineer's office and the mayor's office. In 1886 a brick wall stood there, but the tenant of the store got permission to remove it, and the joist that broke last night was then erected in place of the wall. This joist was made of four timber beams, 12 by 14 feet, spiked together. The recent removal of the engineer's and mayor's offices to the ground floor in no way interfered with the supports of the city hall floor. They remained the same as before.

NOTES.

The city hall was built in the boom days of 1855-56, and appeared to be one of the most substantial buildings in the city.

Rev. J. B. Richardson, of the Memorial Church, was about retiring, when he heard of the disaster, and he hurried down to lend a hand and to comfort the wounded and bereaved.

A number of people were hurt in the crush round the doors of the drug store and Farnell's committee rooms, into which the dead and wounded were first taken.

Thousands of persons from all parts of the city rushed to the scene by electric car and every imaginable conveyance.

The city police had hard work to keep the curious in the crowd from doing damage to the property, and to keep the danger while the debris was being explored, but they maintained their temper admirably.

THE LATE B. J. NASH.

One of the best-known of the victims of the disaster is Mr. Benjamin J. Nash, senior partner of the firm of B. J. Nash & Co., carriage manufacturers, city. Mr. Nash had lent a hand to secure the election of Dr. Wilson during the day, and went to the meeting, as was his custom on election nights, to rejoice with his friends. By the death of Mr. Nash, London loses one of its leading business men. He began business in this city in 1872, and until 1885 successfully carried on his factory alone. In that year he took into partnership Mr. A. B. Greer, and at once began the erection of a large factory on the corner of York and Talbot streets. Here the new company have carried on a most successful business. Mr. Nash was a well-known Freemason. He was a past master of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 380, London West, and always took a warm interest in the craft. Mr. Nash was a strong and aggressive Conservative, and at the time of the last Dominion election he was president of the Conservative Association of London. His widow and family will have the condolence of very many in their terrible affliction.

THE LATE EX-ALD. JOHN TURNER.

Another worthy citizen who met his death in the collapse was Mr. John Turner, carriage manufacturer. Mr. Turner's grandfather was a Waterloo veteran, who came to London township in 1818, and was one of the sturdy pioneers who carved out homes for themselves in this district. The deceased ex-alderman was the offspring of his grandfather. His wife was a daughter of Robert, who also followed the occupation of agriculture. He was born on June 21, 1847, at the old homestead, and at an early age was apprenticed to the carriage-making trade in the establishment of which he afterwards became proprietor. He was a man of energy, and had a wide circle of friends both in the city and county, who will hear of his death with much regret. Mr. Turner was twice married—first, in 1871, to Miss Christine McKellar. She died in 1872. He afterwards married Miss Annie McMillan, also a native of Middlesex, and they had five children—Robert C., Henry A., John A., Annie Irene and Ella May. Much sympathy is felt with them in their sad bereavement.

WORK AND WAGES.

New Scale Goes Into Effect in Massachusetts Cotton Mills.

Fall River, Mass., Jan. 4.—The new wage schedule, on a basis of 11-18 per cent below that of the past three years, went into effect yesterday in the mills. But no demonstration of any kind have been reported from any of the mills, all of the operatives apparently being bound by the vote of the different unions to accept for the present.

Pilest Pilest Itching Piles

Symptoms.—Moisture, intense itching and stinging, mostly at night; continue tumors form. If allowed to bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore. Dr. Ross's Ointment stops the itching and bleeding, heals ulceration, and in most cases removes the tumors. All druggists or by mail, 50 cents. Dr. Ross & Son, Philadelphia. Lyman Sons & Co., Montreal, wholesale agents. Avoid substitutes.

GREAT SCROW!

New Developments in the Terrible Calamity.

The Death List Now Reaches Twenty-Three

--John Fortner of Bathurst Street Also Loses His Life.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF THE MANY PERSONS INJURED.

City Engineer Graydon on the Cause of the Disaster—Inquest on the Dead and Meeting of City Council.

Prompt Civic Help to Those of the Victims Who Require It.

Graphic Pictures of the Catastrophe by Eye-Witnesses—Sympathetic Telegrams From Londoners Living Elsewhere.

The calamity which brought death and woe into many London homes last night is the all-engrossing topic on the streets today. The streets are crowded with curious sightseers, and all are appalled with the magnitude of the disaster. It was even greater in extent than at first reported, as will be found in the details given below. There were many miraculous escapes. James O'Donnell and James McCully were sitting on the same seat with William Elliot and Richard Hall. The last-named two men went down with the floor which collapsed. The others were able to retain their hold on the remaining flooring, and escaped. Though there were dead and dying all around them, Elliot escaped with the loss of his hat, and Hall only got a few scratches on the forehead. James McCully gives a graphic description of the terrible scene which met his gaze as he looked down into the death-pit. There was, he said, a seething mass of human beings, groaning and crying for help. Many were praying to the Almighty to be put out of their misery. The safe, which stood at one corner of the hall, adjoining the committee room, and close to the platform which collapsed, fell on dozens of men, and as they lay pinned under it, the huge mass of iron seemed to move as if it were a mere matchbox. Under the large hot-air radiator, too, numbers of the audience lay, shouting for help. "I saw the body and head of William Fox, who was seriously injured. His legs were pinned under the huge piece of piping, and remained so for some minutes. It seemed an age before the imprisoned ones could be got out, and when they were many were found to have breathed their last."

CITY ENGINEER'S STATEMENT.

It is well to understand that the portion of the city hall floor which collapsed was that immediately above the office of the city engineer, formerly occupied as a barber shop by Mr. Hugh Sharkey. The other part of the hall, which has a seating capacity of nearly 2,000, was uninjured. City Engineer Graydon said, in answer to questions thereafter: "Absolutely no changes were made in the supports of the floor after the collapse. Whatever changes were made were effected in 1888, under the supervision of my predecessor in the engineer's office, Col. Tracey. Before that time there was a brick wall along where the collapsed joist ran, and it was taken out under the supervision of Engineer Tracey, and replaced by the joist which collapsed. Under the pressure of an ordinary crowd this joist, in my opinion, would have been absolutely secure. It was composed of four well-seasoned, flawless pieces of timber, jointed together, making a solid beam 12 by 12. I have examined the timber and find it sound. It simply snapped through. The joists ran east and west from the beam, resting on the front and rear walls of my office. There was a span of 15 feet. The beam broke in the center, rolling the hundreds of people standing in this space into one mass. I am of opinion that the pressure of the mass of humanity into the northeast corner on and around the platform, the climbing on the platform and on the seats, and the tremendous stamping of feet on the floor by the very excited crowd, supplied the pressure and the jar to cause an abnormal demand on the strength of the supports, which snapped as soon as the jam reached a point where it could scarcely become worse. I am told by those who have attended meetings in the city hall for many years that they never saw a greater massing in the hall than that which took place last night at this particular point. Away back towards the southern side of the structure there was very little crowding. It was the tremendous dead weight around the platform that caused the collapse."

Assistant City Engineer Ironside corroborated the city engineer's views. The crowd came in at the north door, got jammed up on the seats, and as the jam reached a point where it could scarcely become worse, it was unseated, and without a stamp, and cheering victors came in, until the

strain became so great at one point that a sudden jar, resulting from the break-down of seats—which took place—or other cause brought the collapse.

CONTRACTOR WHO WAS AFRAID.

Mr. John Hayman, of the fifth ward, said he was in company with Mr. Armstrong, the school trustees' candidate, and went up to the north door of the hall. The jam was so great and the crushing and jumping on the seats so general that he expressed his fears that something would happen, and he urged his boys, who were near him, not to go in. He turned out, and went to the Conservative club rooms. His son Alfred went down in the disaster, but being near the glass partition, jumped through the broken glass and escaped unhurt.

THE COUNCIL TAKES ACTION.

A special meeting of the city council was held this morning, the following being in attendance: Ald. Bennett, Dransay, Olmsted, Rumball, Nuttall, McCullum, Farnell, Gerry, Stevely, O'Meara, Winnett, and Douglas.

Retiring Mayor Little occupied the chair, and explained in a most feeling manner that the meeting was called to see what could be done to alleviate the suffering of the victims, and to inquire into the circumstances of the disaster. Mayor Little said he had visited the scene of the disaster, and had seen the bodies of the victims, who were injured, the latter the most seriously, being hurt internally. The mayor referred to the death of retiring Ald. Turner in touching words, and he suggested that the list of dead and injured be gone over, and ascertain what was required by the afflicted families. The council had no power to spend any money, but this was a most unfortunate circumstance, and something should be done immediately.

Ald. Farnell said he was completely broken up by the calamity, and agreed with what had been said by the mayor. "While we may have differed in opinion on various matters," said Ald. Farnell, "one thing is certain, and that is that London is our home, and our hearts go out in sympathy to the families of the bereaved and injured." Ald. Farnell eulogized the late Ald. John Turner, and said that he was unable to express the sorrow he felt at the following resolution, seconded by Ald. Rumball: "That this council, assembled after the dreadful calamity which has befallen the city by the collapse of part of the floor of the city hall on the occasion of the holding of a public meeting, whereby many lives were lost and many citizens injured, hereby place on record the expression of their grief and sorrow consequent upon so dreadful an accident, and, while extending its sympathy to the afflicted families in their bereavement, we feel in some special manner that our deepest sympathy is due to the family of our late colleague, Ald. John Turner, whose death we deeply deplore." Carried.

It was decided that a wreath of flowers be sent to the family of the late Ald. Turner.

The council will meet at 5 o'clock this afternoon to hear reports of cases which require assistance.

THE INQUEST.

P. C. Morgan has spent today empaneling a jury. The jury will meet at Wm. H. Dell's undertaking rooms at 3 o'clock this afternoon to view the body of Wm. H. Dell, baker, West London. An adjournment will then probably be made for a day or two.

THE LATE W. H. DELL.

The late W. H. Dell, upon whose body the inquest will be held, was 51 years of age and an Englishman. He had been many years in this country. He was twice married. His second wife and two grown-up sons survive. Mr. Dell carried \$2,000 life insurance in Court Executors, A. O. F.

THE LATE JOHN BURRIDGE.

The late John Burridge was a worthy and well-to-do citizen, who owned considerable property at the corner of King and Talbot streets, and carried on the business of shoemaker there. He was twice married. His sons by his first wife are Joseph and John. The former worked with his father, and John is a painter. Mr. Burridge's second wife and family of four or five children also survive him.

THE LATE A. E. PHILLIPS.

The late A. E. Phillips, four-merchant, was an estimable young man. He was unmarried. His parents, it is understood, are dead.

ALIAS! POOR JACQUES!

The body of Benjamin Jacques, of 755 York street, was also taken to Caldwell's where it remained for some time before being taken to the city hall. It was found in Jacques' pockets were a letter and a slip of paper, the latter bearing the name of Wm. Colby, of 275 Euclyd avenue, South London. The letter was unsealed, and without a stamp, and was addressed "F. Jacques, 12 Camden

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208, 210, 210½, 212 Dundas Street.

THE BIG DEPARTMENTAL.

Opens up this morning with a determination to clear out all broken assortments remaining from the big holiday trade of the last two weeks, and this will be done double quick, if low price will do it. The stock must be reduced before inventory, and you may expect the biggest kind of values for the next two weeks. This is how we're going to do it, by selling

FURS.

Black Persian Lamb Jackets; were \$125, selling now for..... \$85 00
Gray Lamb Jackets; were \$60, selling now for..... 45 00
Black Astrakhan Jackets, were \$25, selling now for..... 25 00
Gray Lamb Capes, 22-inch, full sweep; were \$35, selling now for..... 25 50
Electric Seal Capes, richly trimmed; were \$35, selling now for..... 25 50

GLOVES AND HOSIERY

25 dozen Ladies' Black Cashmere Hose, plain and ribbed; were good value at 35c, selling now for..... 25c
Ringswood Gloves, all sizes; were 30c, selling now for..... 20c
Black Wool Mitts, all sizes; were 25c, selling now for..... 20c

LADIES UNDERWEAR.

Ladies' Vests, high neck and long sleeves; were 30c, selling now for..... 20c
Ladies' Vests and Drawers, fine goods; were sold for 75c each, selling now for..... 50c

LINENS.

Fine half-bleached Loom Damask, 70 inches; was 55c, selling now for..... 40c
Fine half-bleached Fancy Damask, 72 inches; was 65c, selling now for..... 45c
2-inch Grass Bleached, satin-finish, Belfast make; was 90c, now 65c
40 dozen Bleached Black Towels, Damask borders, large size; worth 40c each, selling now six for..... \$1 50

CARPETS.

Best Brussels Carpet, new designs; were \$1 25, selling now for..... 90c
Kiddminster, two-ply wool Ingrain; sold them for 70c, selling now for..... 50c
28-inch Union Carpets, heavy; sold for 30c, selling now for..... 20c

Remember, the time to buy these goods is when they are advertised. In a big business like this, special lines at special prices go quickly, and we don't guarantee these prices long.

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street, City road, Manchester, England. It began "755 York street, East London" was written to his "Dear mother, father, brothers and sisters." The unfortunate young man had only signed it "Your brother Ben," and by this, together with the street address at the top, his identity was established. The body was removed to his home.

OTHER DEAD.

Mr. W. H. Dell was a highly esteemed resident of West London, where for twenty or thirty years he carried on a bread-baking establishment. He served one year on the village school board, and as was the case with many others in the hall, it was the first year for him to be personally interested in city municipal affairs. He was a Conservative, and leaves a widow and one child.

Mr. Crawford Beckett, another Conservative, was a well-known city contractor. He took an active part in municipal affairs, and wielded considerable influence in the northern part of the fourth ward. He leaves a wife, but no children.

Mr. Robinson was a son of the late Francis Robinson, and a nephew of the late Wm. Robinson, city engineer. For a number of years he has conducted a plaster business in the city, being one of the most successful in his line. Like all the family, he was a staunch Conservative. A wife and family survive him.

NOT THERE.

Mr. John Burgess, of the Wharncliffe road, West London, was among those reported dead. He was not even in the hall.

Col. Robert Lewis was also reported dead, and The Advertiser was flooded with inquiries about him. Fortunately the colonel was not in the city hall at all.

(Continued on page 4.)

DR. ROSS'S OINTMENT

For all

Itching, Torturing, Distressing, Disfiguring Skin Diseases, there is nothing gives such quick relief and promotes such rapid healing as this wonderful Ointment.

GEO. LEE, MANCHESTER, CANT., says he was troubled with Eczema on his hands, and that he could not work. He had doctors treat him, and tried all the remedies he heard of, but of no avail. At last he tried Ross's Ointment, and he could not sleep. Dr. Chase's subsequent recommendation led him to try it, and one box completely cured him. He wouldn't begrudge \$50 for the benefit he received.

Price, 6c. Sold by all druggists, or by mail, 50c. Ross & Son, Philadelphia.

All nationalities and climes contribute to the popularity of

SWEET HOME SOAP

Read the following:

Grand Clairier, Le 16 Decembre, 1897.

Messieurs London Soap Co.

Messieurs,—Je vous envoie 25 paquets de savon et je vous prie de m'en envoyer une "Belle Image." Je suis Messieurs, Vos etc.,

JOSEPH CHARLES.

"Belle Images" and other premium for all.

London Soap Company.

BICYCLES FOR '98.

Entirely New Line.

Hobbs' Winchester,
\$60 00.

Hobbs' Pacer,
\$50 00.

Special Features.

Special Quality.

Special Prices.

Hobbs Hardware Co.,
LONDON, ONT.

Cheap Sugar. See India Tea Company's ad. 6th page, tomorrow. ywt

If you have ever seen a little child in a paroxysm of Croup, or if you have been annoyed by a constant tickling in the throat, you can appreciate the value of Ransom's Hives Syrup and Tolu, which gives quick relief. 50 cents. 55