

ST. JOHN STAR, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1905.

# SCORES TORTURED TO DEATH IN BROCKTON.

Heart-rending Story of Yesterday's  
Disaster--Many Instances of Heroism--  
Account of an Eye Witness.

(Continued from Page 1.)

The explosion, which was followed by such a great sacrifice of life and entailed appalling instances of human suffering, occurred shortly after the work of the day. No warning of the impending disaster came to the employees. Suddenly the air was vibrated with the roar of an explosion and at the same moment the larger wooden frame of the factory, a four story structure, quivered, and then the portion of it collapsed. In fraction of a second the section of the great building had been transformed into a mass of iron and wood wreckage. In the midst of which human beings were imprisoned and pinned down. In another moment fire had broken out in this vast heap of debris, and death by being burned alive became the fate of many of the operatives. When the blast exploded it passed upward almost perpendicularly, tearing a passage as it went, killing many on the way. After rising to the height of several hundred feet, and then descending half the distance, and then ascending again, it cut its way like some huge projectile through a dwelling house, fifty feet away, and then pierced another dwelling farther along, demolishing that structure. Here its course was stopped.

Scenes of horror followed this wrenching apart of the factory building. In the rear the three upper floors, weighted as they were with heavy machinery, collapsed with a crash that was heard two blocks distant. Men and women operatives, working in departments in this section who were busy at their machines, had time but to turn in an attempt to flee after the first dull roar, when the flames sank beneath them and they were hurled by ground floor, crushed and bruised by the suffocating mass of debris.

Scarcely had the rear portion of the structure collapsed when a tongue of flame started from the boiler pit and reaching out as it ascended, communicated with the splintered wreckage. In a moment the entire mass was enveloped in fire and flames were rushing easterly. Soon the entire factory was engulfed and a great pillar of dense black smoke rose from the burning structure.

Instant death was the fate of many who went down with the floors that collapsed. A large number of men and women who were working in the windows that the others in the wrecked section, were alive after the floors and walls fell. From these untold numbers a thrilling cry of agony and terror went up. Almost all were caught between broken timbers, lighter wooden wreckage and heavy pieces of machinery, and upon the flames were crushed the flames, devouring all in their path. A few persons succeeded in extricating themselves from the wreckage, and these took up the work of rescuing their fellow sufferers.

By this time nearby citizens had arrived to assist the employees who escaped first in the rescue of the fellows. This task became momentarily more difficult and perilous, for the heat from the fire was almost unbearable. By the use of long pieces of timber the rescuers were able to raise parts of the wreckage and thereby release some of the imprisoned men and women, and then by rushing into the smoke, pull them from the ruins, and then to the rescue of the others.

A woman who was entangled in a shoe machine cried out that she was dying and suffering and commended the rescuers to attend to her. She begged to be shot. Soon the flames enveloped her.

Among the first to arrive on the scene was Rev. James A. O'Rourke, curate at St. Margaret's Roman Catholic church, near by. At the risk of his life he removed several of the victims before the fire had reached them and was returning for the eighth time when he fainted from the effects of the smoke and the shock. Father O'Rourke went to the fire prepared to administer the sacrament of extreme unction and he gave the last rites of the church to many Catholics, both to those who were saved and some who later perished.

Father O'Rourke said: "When I arrived at the factory I realized in a moment how terrible the results must inevitably be. The largest number of the building situated at the corner of Calmar and Denton streets, and to that section the efforts of myself, Policeman Garfield and Deputy Chief Moore were directed. Pinned beneath heavy pieces of machinery, timbers and twisted coils of pipe, were many, oh so many poor men and women, suffering terrible agonies.

"In order to reach these imprisoned sufferers we had to crawl through the debris and with the aid of a large timber we raised the wreckage which held fast the men and women. In this manner and by brute strength we pulled out seven employees. By this time the flames were almost upon us and we were about to flee for safety, when one poor fellow begged that at least an effort be made to save him. Three of us grasped the man by the shoulders and tugged and pulled until suddenly he cried 'My God my leg is pulled off.'

"It was terrible, especially so because a moment later, ordered away by the chief of the fire department and we were reluctantly compelled to leave the poor fellow to his fate.

"Just before leaving I saw at least fifteen of the imprisoned sufferers, some already suffering untold agonies from the flames which were actually cooking their flesh and others watching with terror-stricken eyes the fate of their companions, knowing that a moment or two would bring to them a similar suffering and then death. The priest shuddered as he recalled the scenes of suffering he had witnessed and which he had been unable to relieve.

Perhaps the most pathetic incident of the explosion was Mrs. Lena F. Baker's escape from what looked like certain death, with the assistance of an unknown man who afterwards lost his life.

Mrs. Baker worked in the stitching room on the fourth floor and a moment or two after the explosion she was on the roof. It was just at that time that the building began to crumble and fall and as she started up the stairs, her feet became wedged between two timbers. Near by was a man with his legs so heavily pinned down that escape for him was an impossibility. Saying, 'Thank God, if I can't escape myself, I can help some one else to do so,' this unknown hero, to whom the slightest motion of his body caused excruciating agony, leaned forward, tore apart the timbers which imprisoned Mrs. Baker's feet and then fell back fainting. Even at this time the flames had reached Mrs. Baker. This frequently caused a crack which it is not possible to detect until it develops. It is one of those accidents for which no one is to blame.

"The boilers are inspected internally every year, and externally every three months. The internal inspection was made December 28 and the external inspection February 10. The boilers were found to be in good condition and fully equipped with all the necessary appliances. Practically all the persons killed and injured were members of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union. Tonight General Secretary-Treasurer C. L. Balne, of Boston, sent a message saying that today the injured will be paid \$5 weekly until they recover. Families of the dead will receive \$100 for each person killed.

BOSTON, Mar. 20.—Daniel Howard, Jr., secretary of R. B. Grover & Co. tonight made the following statement: "It is just possible that the explosion may have been caused by an improved safety device that was attached to the boiler a short time ago. Mr. Emerson adopted a new firing device, which consumed the smoke, and it is possible this device may have gone wrong and caused this horrible catastrophe. We shall carry out a most searching investigation."

C. L. Roberts, manager of the New England department of the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, said tonight:

"So far as I have been able to learn, there appears to have been no carelessness in the handling of the boiler and the explosion, in my opinion, was caused by a defect that it was impossible to discover."

As a result of the explosion at Brockton, Senator Daniel W. Lane of this city, will introduce tomorrow legislation to compel all boiler companies to file with the state police the results of their inspection of boilers in their charge.

**SUBMARINE BELLS.**

Louis E. Cote, of the engineering staff of the department of marine and fisheries, is at the Royal. Mr. Cote told the Sun that the department contemplated placing a submarine bell near St. John harbor, and another at Gannet Rock. Two others will be sunk on the Digby side of the bay. Mr. Cote is accompanied by Horace B. Gale, the chief engineer of the Submarine Signal Co., the firm which is supplying the bells. About ten others will be located along the Atlantic coast from Halifax to Sydney. Mr. Cote will make a final report to the department with reference to the location of these bells, and the work of placing them in position will be proceeded with as soon as possible. Messrs. Cote and Gale will remain in the city for a few days and will then go across the bay.

**TEMPLE OF HONOR.**

Successful and eagerly attended meetings at the Fairville section of the Junior Templars of Honor and Temperance, and at Milford Temple of Honor, were held last night. Candidates were initiated, and representatives of the Grand Temple were present and delivered short addresses. The Milford Temple has instituted Sunday afternoon temperance meetings. Last Sunday G. T. Blawett addressed the meeting, and Rev. Geo. M. Young will be the speaker next Sunday.

The Grand Templar makes a special request that a grand rally be held at Victoria Temple this evening, and especially invites those who have not been in attendance of late.

## RUSSIAN GOVERNOR BADLY WOUNDED BY TERRORIST.

VIBORG, European Russia, March 20.—Governor Misserodoff was shot and seriously wounded today by a lad whose identity has not been ascertained. The lad, who is about 15 years old, obtained an entrance to the governor's office and fired three times at him, one bullet inflicting a serious wound and the others slightly wounding the governor's legs. The governor's clerks and secretary were unable to stop the would-be assassin who reached the street, where, however, he was arrested without a struggle. The governor's condition is critical.

The youth who shot the governor has been identified as Matti Hjalmar Reinikka. He hails from Kurkko parish, in the northwest part of Finland. He has gained access to the governor's cabinet and fired a shot from the threshold. After advancing he fired twice more, after which, jumping behind and under the governor's writing table, with his pistol, he held up the clerks who were rushing in and managed to reach the street. Secretary Markoff, who followed him, summoned assistance and the would-be assassin was captured.

The crime was committed with an automatic pistol of the same type as the one with which Hohenthal assassinated Solsola Soninen, the procurator general of Finland on February 26th. The crime was committed with an automatic pistol of the same type as the one with which Hohenthal assassinated Solsola Soninen, the procurator general of Finland on February 26th.

## REGENT DEATHS.

J. G. SEELY.

D. J. Seely yesterday received word of the death at Yreka, California, of his brother Josiah Gilbert Seely, at the advanced age of 88 years. Mr. Seely had gathered at the old ball grounds and left there in 1849 for California and never returned. He will be remembered by the few survivors of those who came to California in the days of the gold rush and also by some of the older generation in and around Weymouth. Mr. Seely never married.

**JAMES LAIDLAW.**

GUELPH, Ont., March 20.—James Laidlaw, ex-M. P. for South Weymouth, died yesterday in the old homestead, Paisley Brook, about five miles from here. Mr. Laidlaw was born in Scotland eighty-three years ago and was one of the first settlers in Paisley Brook. Robert Laidlaw, editor of the Brockville Times, is a brother.

**J. SOLOMON YOUNG.**

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 20.—The death occurred at Victoria Hospital this morning of J. Solomon Young. Deceased was fifty-five years old, and had been a great sufferer. He was a well known resident of New Brunswick, and was the father of three sons and one daughter, also by four brothers, R. L. and William S. of New Brunswick; Charles D. of this city, and John S. of Port Fairfield, Maine; and four sisters, Mrs. (Dr.) Barker of Mattawamkeag, Me., Mrs. James S. and Mrs. John C. Fairley of Derby, Northumberland Co.

**MRS. GEORGE J. BABCOCK.**

Mrs. George J. Babcock died yesterday morning at her late residence, 68 Portland street. She leaves a husband and three children. The funeral will take place on Wednesday.

**ROURKE.**

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Rourke of Lancaster Heights, who were about thirteen years ago, their eldest child, Lenore, aged five years, whose death occurred yesterday. She had been suffering with diphtheria, and it was thought the worst was over, her heart was not strong enough to stand the strain. Besides her parents three younger children survive.

**REV. W. C. MATTHEWS' MOTHER DEAD.**

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Matthews, widow of the late Adam G. Matthews, died at the latter's home on Rockland Road last night. She was 74 years of age, and was well known in this city. For the last few weeks she had been ill, but her death came as a shock to her friends.

Mrs. Matthews will be buried at Titusville, Kings Co., and a funeral service will be held at Rev. Mr. Matthews' residence on Wednesday evening at eight o'clock. Rev. Mr. Matthews is the only surviving member of the family.

**JOSEPH MAHER.**

Word has been received in the city by relatives announcing the death in San Francisco of Joseph Maher, formerly of this city, and brother of Michael W. Maher, lately deceased. Mr. Maher left St. John some thirty-five years ago. He was then a journeyman carpenter, but on locating in San Francisco became a builder, which occupation he followed up to a few years ago, when he was taken ill, and has since been suffering up to the time of his death, on Sunday, March 18th. Mr. Maher was about sixty-five years old, and his latest visit to St. John, where he was born, was about thirteen years ago. He was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Conway of this city, while his second wife, who survives him, was a San Francisco lady. Besides his wife, Mr. Maher leaves a family of nine sons, all born and residing at San Francisco. He leaves one brother, Peter, of Dorchester, Mass., and two sisters, Miss Agnes of New York, and Mrs. Katherine Gallagher, widow of Patrick Gallagher, Wingham.

Michael W. Maher, was well known in military circles. He had a great reputation as a marksman, and he was possessed of many medals and trophies as a result of his skill was the rifle.

## NEWS OF SPORT.

Star Twirlers Have a Lot of New Shoots for this Season—Football as Described by a Western Scribe

The eighth game in the candle pin series for the Richey prizes was played last night before another large audience. There is no doubt by the crowd which are attending these games that a boom is on. Capt. A. McBeath team won from W. Johnston with the following score:

Capt. A. McBeath	83	72	84	233
R. Nelson	73	87	77	237
A. Niles	83	88	81	252
H. Wilson	103	79	78	260
B. Bowser	89	87	79	255

1,283 Total.

Capt. W. Johnston 78 84 83 245  
W. Archibald 101 88 85 274  
Capt. C. Nichol 73 85 91 254  
Capt. A. McBeath 73 69 66 208  
D. Gorham 69 74 73 216

1,195 Total.

The next game in the series will be played by Capt. C. Nichol and Capt. F. Fitzgerald's teams Wednesday night at 8 o'clock sharp. Secretaries Markoff and the would-be assassin was captured.

**Games won Lost.**

Capt. A. King	3	0	3,778
Capt. C. Nichol	2	1	3,676
Capt. A. McBeath	2	2	4,768
Capt. F. Fitzgerald	0	2	2,318

**BASKET BALL.**

A meeting was held at the Y. M. C. A. building last evening to select officers for the junior basketball league. The officers are: Wm. Patterson, president; Arthur Boyne, secretary; Percy McAvilly, treasurer. The games will begin on April 3rd. A good series will be played.

**FOOTBALL.**

Lady Enthusiast.  
A lady in Cardiff holds quite a remarkable record. She has been a follower of the Cardiff football club for nearly 25 years, and during that time has never missed a match, with the exception of a recent Saturday, when, owing to the suspension of the Neath ground by the Welsh union, Cardiff unexpectedly played at Edinburgh for the international.

**GRIDIRON PLAY IN ALBERTA.**

What our reporter doesn't know about a football game would fill a barn loft. He doesn't know a fullback from a humpback, a quarter from a quarter horse, or a right guard from the Seventy Cavalry, but he is handy at totting stretches around a football game. At two o'clock, dull, the clouds had gathered at the old ball grounds. All the boys were encased in feather beds and other defences. There were two doctors, an ambulance, a stretcher, a gallon of arnica, all kinds of bandages and a Red Cross wagon, and they needed them all.

Summed up in a nutshell, football is about like this: The ball is a kicking, which doesn't amount to much. Then after that a fellow holds the ball with his legs, with a row of shaggy old boys stand him, who stand with glittering eyes and fangs protruding, while somebody blows a whistle and somebody else counts, any old way, till he comes to a stop. Then the ball is fired backward, some-one catches it, runs about six feet when just twenty-one men pile on him.

## OPENING OF NAVIGATION

On the St. Lawrence River Will be Late.

MONTREAL, March 20.—It is believed that the opening of the St. Lawrence river this spring will be at least two weeks later than usual on account of the backwardness of the season. The ice is still as firm as it was all winter, whereas the first indications of a breakup took place a week later than this time last year. Saturday's heavy rain storm had little perceptible effect on the situation and since then the weather has turned much colder.

## RAINBOW GIVES PLEASURE.

Just as a rainbow in the heavens is a delight to the artist, so Rainbow Cut Plug Tobacco is a delight to the smoker.

**MICHAEL HENRY TOLE.**

M. Henry Tole, third son of Patrick Tole, clerk at the Provincial Hospital, died yesterday after an illness of five weeks. A fall in Berlin, N. H., where he has been employed for some years, resulted in injuries to his spine and head. He was brought home, but he could not rally, and passed away yesterday. He was 22 years of age. Family friends will join in sympathy for the bereaved ones.

**MRS. ISABEL EMBELTON.**

HARVEY STATION, Mar. 20.—Mrs. Isabel Embelton, died at her residence on Saturday morning from cancer of the tongue, after a long and painful illness. She was the eldest daughter of the late David Little and was about sixty years of age.

**L. W. WILSON.**

GRAND FALLS, N. B., Mar. 20.—Leonard W. Wilson, one of the Grand Falls' most prominent and highly respected citizens, died on Saturday evening after a brief illness. Although indisposed for upwards of a year he continued to attend to his business affairs until last Tuesday, when he was taken suddenly ill. Deceased was 64 years of age and had been in business here for upwards of thirty years. He was engaged extensively in the manufacture of wagons, sleighs and puns, in partnership with his son Fred B. Wilson, and did an immense jobbing, horsehoeling and general blacksmith business.

## YORK THEATRE,

Extraordinary Engagement

ONE NIGHT ONLY,  
Thursday, March 23,

EDWARD TERRY,

The Eminent London Comedian, and his Company from Terry's Theatre, London, England.

Tour under the direction of LIEBLER & CO.

MR. TERRY as DICK PHENYL in

"SWEET LAVENDER,"

BY A. W. PINERO.

The character played by him over 4,000 times in England, the provinces and the colonies.

Admission 50c., 75c. \$1.00, \$1.50. Seats on sale Friday, 17th, 10 a. m.

## TO TEST FREDERICTON

WATER ONCE MORE.

(Special to the Sun.)

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 20.—A meeting of the local board of health was held this evening. It was decided to have another test of the water made, the water to be taken from the river at this time of the year. It was also decided to have an examination of the milk supply as to whether it had any connection with typhoid. Regarding the prevalence of typhoid it was ascertained that thirty-eight cases had been reported since the first of November last, and of this number fourteen had been reported within the past five days. Dr. Weaver in conversation with your correspondent, said that this did not at all amount to anything like an epidemic, though the cases were more numerous this year than the other years. It is a fact that at this time of the year than at any other. The board also discussed the question of sewerage and it was the opinion that sewerage had more to do with the prevalence of typhoid than the water, though it was acknowledged to remedy this evil in a place like Fredericton was a most difficult one.

**THE RING.**

Hot After Mitchell.  
The following story is told by Charley Mitchell:

Charley Mitchell was for a season the star attraction in the Thatcher, Primrose & West minstrel show. He went on after the first part and did Ajax defying the lightning, the Greek Pylon, the Champion of the World, all under a flare of appropriate lights. Among the minstrels of minor importance was a clog dancer named Branscombe, a Lancashire boy, who always wanted to put on the gloves with Charley. But Charley treated his countryman with the serene contempt that a superior actor has for a mediocre actor, until one day, in Buffalo, he told the ambitious youth to stick to his milk and kettles, that he had no time to fool with clog dancing. Finally, one day, he came to a show in Detroit, on the opening night, Branscombe boldly walked on the stage when Mitchell was posing as the Champion of the World, all under a flare of appropriate lights. Among the minstrels of minor importance was a clog dancer named Branscombe, a Lancashire boy, who always wanted to put on the gloves with Charley. 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