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SIXTEEN PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING JANUARY 14 1914—SIXTEEN PAGES

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Scores of People Frostbitten on Coldest Day on Record in Toronto

STEAMER COBEQUID SINKS WITH 120 ON BOARD—G. G. MILES DROPS DEAD AT FIRE—TRAIN WRECK IN TORONTO YARDS—FIRE AT MONTREAL

FEAR COBEQUID HAS FOUNDERED WITH 120 PERSONS ON BOARD ON WEST SHORE BAY OF FUNDY

Last Wireless Message Indicated That Royal Mail Steamer, Bound for St. John, Was Filling—Carried Eighteen Passengers—Search Has Proved Vain.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 13.—(Canadian Press)—A wireless cry for help from the Royal Mail steamer Cobequid, fast on the dreaded ledges of Grand Manan just before dawn today, followed five hours later by a final flicker of her radio, saying that the ship was filling, has caused grave concern for the 120 persons on board. The Cobequid was bound for St. John, N. B., from the British West Indies, in command of Capt. Hawson, completing her first round trip over this route. She had a crew of 192 men, a number of second-class passengers and the following in the first-class cabin: L. S. Navarro, L. Botta, W. C. Zoller, Mrs. Zoller and child. She had called at Bermuda, but most of her passengers were from points south of there.

Whether the Cobequid had survived an all-day battle with hurricane seas and would hold together until one of the fleet of nearly a dozen rescue boats could reach her was a matter of increasing hourly anxiety tonight.

Not Without Hops. Also the worst fears are entertained for the safety of the Cobequid and her hundred odd crew and passenger reported this morning as stranded on Brier Island, there is yet a slender ray of hope.

It is that Capt. Hawson was wrong in his calculations, and that, instead of being ashore on Brier Island he ran on a ledge on the east coast of Grand Manan Island, known as Murr's ledge.

When the vessel was sighted from that point about the day was the breaking of the cable between the island and the mainland several days ago, thereby cutting off all telegraphic or telephonic communication with St. John.

On the Cobequid were two girls, the Misses James, daughters of the late Senator James, formerly mayor of St. George, Bermuda. They were coming to visit this city for a few days before going to Edgemoor Ladies' College at Windsor, N.S.

No Trace Found. Up to dark no trace of the distressed vessel had been found on the east shore of the Bay of Fundy, where she was first reported aground. Nor could a glimpse be seen thru the vapor which shrouded the west side of Grand Manan, on one of whose numerous ledges it was later believed she rested.

The Cobequid was formerly the steamer Goth, and had been pressed into the winter service from the maritime provinces to the tropics. She sailed on Monday.

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FOUR WERE HURT IN REAR END COLLISION

Engine From Hamilton Ramed North Bay Train in John Street Yards When Track of Steam Obscured—Day Coaches Tele-scoped.

Clouds of steam blowing across the tracks at the foot of John street resulted in a rear-end collision between the G.T.R. North Bay train No. 49 and the Hamilton train No. 38 at 4:30 p.m. yesterday. The engine of the Hamilton train plowed about half way thru the diner on the rear of the North Bay train, and also caused the two passenger coaches to telescope about six feet. While most of the passengers on the North Bay train were more or less shaken up, but four persons were injured and in no case were the injuries of a very serious nature.

The injured are: Miss M. Porter, age about 75, of Barrie, severe bruises to the side of face and head and rendered in a dazed condition.

Robert Rayeroff, age about 50, of Sarnia, scalp wounds.

James Bailey, colored, chef of diner, living on University avenue, Toronto, severe cut under eye, abrasion of face and injured shoulder.

William Burnett, colored, age about 18, assistant to chef on diner, bruised and injured leg.

Clouds of Steam. The North Bay train had just come to a stop to wait the signal to proceed to the station, but was hidden from the view of the train following by clouds of steam. Before the Hamilton train struck the North Bay train, the latter was moving at a speed of about 15 miles an hour.

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FIRE THREATENED BUSINESS AREA IN MONTREAL

Loss of Quarter Million Dollars Caused in Seven-Storey Building Occupied by Hardware Firm—Firemen Fought in Temperature Twenty-Five Degrees Below Zero.

MONTREAL, Jan. 13.—(Can. Press).—Fire invaded the dreaded downtown danger zone this afternoon and gutted the seven storey building near the corner of St. Paul street and Place Royale, owned by the Seminary of St. Sulpice and occupied by the hardware firm of Frothingham and Workman. Intensely cold weather conditions added to the fact that the blaze was right in the heart of the congested warehouse district, made the task of the firemen doubly difficult.

The fire, which is said to have been caused by the upsetting of a plumber's lamp in the shipping room on the ground floor, quickly spread upwards thru the other flats. The wholesale hardware firm employs about 35 persons, 20 or so of them being girls. All got out safely.

Ammunition Feared. Another danger to the firefighters was the presence in the building of a considerable quantity of ammunition, but a larger part of this was contained in a fireproof vault that escaped injury. Upon the top flat, however, were a number of cases of cartridges, and an hour after the fire started these began to explode.

The stock and property of the Frothingham and Workman firm were covered by insurance to the extent of \$235,000 and it is estimated that their loss was about \$100,000.

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FIRE IN WEST END PLANING MILL CAUSED G. G. MILES TO DROP DEAD AND DID DAMAGE REACHING \$25,000

VICTIMS OF ZERO WEATHER

The hospital staffs in the city yesterday had their hands full doctoring frozen ears, noses, toes and fingers. The General had nine cases in the evening and the Western seven. St. Michael's Hospital reports over a dozen.

At the General—Ed. Roberts, 6 Cowan avenue, ears badly frozen; John Renner, frozen hands; Alex. Brown, frozen hands; three employees of the General Hospital, ears frozen; Jacob Prigout, 23 Waltham avenue; W. N. Harrison, 49 Read street, hands frozen; Ernest Dertzo, 249 Gerrard street, frozen ears; James Doon, 276 Westmoreland avenue, and an unknown man picked up by a constable at the corner of Agnes and Yonge streets, seriously frozen.

At the Western—Frank Ingman and Margaret Shea, both with badly frozen ears; E. Severen, 27 Carlton street, a clerk at the Mount Bank, ears frozen; I. Witherington, 109 Oxford street, both hands frozen; I. L. White, 5 1/2 McKenzie street, fireman at Cowan avenue station, hands and fingers frozen while driving to Queen street fire; Louis Rosman, 180 Markham street, while looking for employment.

Robert Luke, a driver employed by the Copland Brewing Co., was overcome by the cold while unloading a consignment at the Grand Union Hotel. He was attended by Dr. Rice and was later removed in F. W. Matthews' ambulance to the Western Hospital.

R. H. Lees of 34 Henry street fell on the sidewalk at the corner of College and Henry streets yesterday afternoon and fractured his right leg. He was taken home in a passing motor car and later removed by F. W. Matthews' ambulance to Grace Hospital.

Scores of drivers, pedestrians, and especially policemen, who were given treatment at drug stores and other places throughout the city, did not report their cases. It is certain, however, that several hundred people were frostbitten yesterday.

Firemen Worked With Temperature Away Below Zero, and Conined the Blaze to One Building—Mr. Miles Died While Telephoning That His Place Was Safe.

Several Smaller Fires Kept Firemen on Run All Day and Several Members of Brigade Were Badly Frost-bitten

A sudden outbreak of fire from an unexploded case wiped out three woodworking firms located in a building near the corner of Sheridan avenue and Fisher street, last night, and was the indirect cause of the death by heart failure of George Gordon Miles, proprietor of an adjacent woodworking factory, and for many years a much respected citizen.

Mr. Miles, who was an elderly man of rather nervous temperament, had just reached his office in response to a warning that his building was in danger. He was in the act of taking down the telephone receiver to call a number when he was suddenly stricken and fell back dead in the arms of his foreman James Craddock. Dr. J. H. McConnell arrived within a few minutes, but nothing could be done.

In the meantime the Fisher street building, situated to the north of the Miles factory, which faces on Dundas street, was completely enveloped in flames, which lit up the sky for many blocks in every direction.

The fire department responded promptly, and also their efforts were hampered by frozen hydrants and the extreme cold, they soon had their engines going and several streams pouring into the burning building. The inflammable nature of its contents, however, kept even the fire too great to start, and the building was a total loss, estimated at about \$25,000, divided among three firms, the Toronto Woodworking Company, Barker woodworking firm, J. W. Wainwright, show-case manufacturers, and Wm. Rankin, owner of the building. The Miles and Rankin premises sustained damage, Mr. Rankin's loss estimated at \$15,000, is covered by a blanket policy of insurance in several companies, while those of his tenants are covered to the extent of almost one-half their value.

The fire was first discovered by John Moore, a yardman, who lives on the opposite side of Fisher street, and noticed the flames in the Woolnough portion of the building. Its origin is unknown as there was no furnace or other cause from which it could have started, and the three firms were supplied with power by chain-belt from the Miles factory. The building was only two stories in height.

Mr. Miles' Well-Known. Mr. Miles was born in Scotland 24 years ago, and had carried on a contracting and planing mill business in Toronto for a long time. He was a past president of the Caledonian Society and also of the West Hill Reform Association. In 1908 he unsuccessfully contested West Toronto as a candidate for the legislature in the Liberal interest. In the early days of Parkdale, he was a member of the village council and he had since been a candidate for the city council and the board of education. He was married twice and leaves a grown-up family of five sons and two daughters by his first wife, while five other children by his second wife survive him in the home at 214 Rusholme road.

Other Small Fires. The coldest day in many years proved to be one of the busiest of the year for the local fire fighters, who repeatedly during the day were ordered out to fires, a couple of which resulted in heavy damage, but most of them of minor importance.

At 1:30 in the afternoon the men had a run to 88 East Charles street, occupied by H. E. Bond. They found a chimney pipe on fire and extinguished it without trouble. The damage is slight.

At 5:20 another run was made, a restaurant at the corner of Bloor and Bathurst street, where a quantity of coal-burners was found to have exploded in the kitchen. There was little damage, about \$150 damage was caused by the explosion.

Every Kind of Cap and Covering for the Cold.

The terrific cold snap has compelled those who are exposed to take precautions against the severity of the weather. Dineen's 140 Yonge street, carry extensive stocks of knitted wool caps, some with silk linings, and caps with peaks and some urban shape with loose band to pull over ears. Fur caps are shown in all shapes and varieties of skins, including Persian, seal, otter, beaver, Hudson seal, muskrat, in either wedge or driving shape. Fur collars and caps are shown in great variety at January clearing prices.

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AVERAGE WEATHER YESTERDAY WAS COLDEST EVER RECORDED BY TORONTO THERMOMETERS

Worst in Seventy-Four Years—Mercury Ranged Between Twenty-Two and Eleven—Cold Wave Sweeps Canada.

Yesterday was the coldest day in the history of Toronto. Although there have been one or two exceptions when lower temperatures were registered than were prevalent yesterday, taking the average temperature for the day, the thermometer yesterday was between 22 and 0° below in the morning, the highest the thermometer reached was 11 degrees below between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, which made the average temperature for the day 14.5 degrees, which is just a little colder than on any previous day known in Toronto.

Coldest on Record. Not for twenty-eight years has old Frost King bitten Toronto so badly as he did yesterday morning. On Feb. 5, 1886, the thermometer registered below yesterday's mark of 22 degrees below. On that day 22.3 degrees below was registered. During the past 74 years, that is since the first weather records were recorded, only three times has colder weather been experienced than yesterday morning.

The lowest temperature on record in Toronto was on Jan. 10, 1853, when 24.5 degrees was registered. On Feb. 6, 1858, 23.4 degrees below was experienced.

Nineteen Below. The cold spell set in early Monday evening and continued to drop, when at 6 o'clock yesterday morning the official thermometer registered 22 degrees below. This continued until about 9 o'clock, when the temperature started to rise, the registration at noon being 15 below. It continued to get warmer, and about 1:30 the highest temperature for the day was recorded at 11 degrees below. At 10 o'clock last evening it was 19 degrees below.

While 22 degrees below was the official temperature, there was the official lowest temperature of the winter, many people living in the outskirts of Toronto found a much lower temperature. Several thermometers were shown as low as 30 below, while an exceptional one showed over 34 degrees below.

Rise is Expected. When spoken to late last night one of the officials at the Meteorological office stated that the present cold spell was practically over, and that for a few days at least a rise in temperature can be expected.

Of the larger eastern cities Toronto seemed to fare a little better than the rest. Montreal, Ottawa and Kingston all registered 28 below as the lowest, and from 30 to 32 below as the highest.

The weather bureau at Toronto reported that the weather in the western part of the province was much warmer than did the cities in Eastern Canada.

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TRAINS DELAYED BY HEAVY FROST

Intending Travelers Had Long Waits, and Those Coming in Were Behind Time.

The worst tie-up of traffic ever experienced by the railway officials here occurred at the Toronto Union Station last night as a result of the rear-end collision between the North Bay and Hamilton G. T. R. trains. Blocking the main line west of the station. To this delay was added the effect on the train schedules due to the severe weather, which, without exception, caused serious delay to the running time of the trains.

The slight hundreds of people being forced to wait for hours before their trains were ready to leave was witnessed at the Union Station last night. In quite a number of cases intending passengers waited at the station until the early hours of this morning in order to leave on trains which should have left the station early in the evening.

Scores of would-be passengers, unable to get a train, postponed their journey until today.

While the outgoing trains were many hours behind their schedule in leaving, even greater delays occurred in the case of the incoming trains. Some of these were as much as eight or ten hours late in arriving and the reason was the exceptionally severe weather and the blockade of traffic at the station, which prevented them coming in after reaching the city.

GENERAL STRIKE IN S. AFRICA MARTIAL LAW IS DECLARED

ROYAL BANK TO ACQUIRE THE BANK OF VANCOUVER? Latter Institution Announces That Proposal for Amalgamation is Proceeding.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 13.—(Can. Press).—It was announced at the annual meeting of the Bank of Vancouver today that a proposal for amalgamation with another bank is proceeding. It was unanimously decided that the matter would be dealt with by a full meeting of the shareholders on March 15. No announcement was made of the identity of the bank with which negotiation was proceeding, but it was thought that it was the Royal Bank.

Trades Federation and Rand Miners Voted to Join Railwaymen—Government Prepares to Escort Two Hundred Thousand Native Workers Back to Kraals.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan. 13.—(Can. Press).—A general strike throughout South Africa was proclaimed tonight by the Trades Federation and the Rand miners by a two-thirds majority vote to join in the movement. Government retaliation was swift. I took the form of the proclamation of martial law. This was the only step the authorities believed adequate to meet the situation, for the strike of the miners means not only the turning loose of the most turbulent spirits in the Rand, but raises the whole question of the position of the native workers. If the miners actually obey the strike order the government will immediately take steps to send the natives under escort back to their kraals.

This means that about 200,000 natives must be marched back by road to their homes at enormous cost. It will be most difficult, after the end of the strike, to recruit them again. In brief, such a step would mean disaster for the Rand for many years.

Conflicting Reports. Although official reports from Johannesburg show improvement in the train service, reports from other districts are less encouraging. In Natal the situation is one of great tension, and it is feared that the loyalty of the trainmen will not stand the strain much longer. An instance of the men's temper is shown by the action of an engine driver, who quitted his train on the verge and left the passengers stranded. Practically no information is at hand as to conditions in the Orange River Colony, but improvement there is not considered probable.

From the government's standpoint about the only ray of light today was

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CHURCH THIEVES FORCED WINDOW

St. Helen's Was Entered Monday Evening—Poor Boxes Robbed and Church Ornaments Broken.

Forcing a rear basement window on Monday night thieves made off with about \$40, the contents of two poor boxes at St. Helen's R.C. Church, Dundas and St. Clarence avenue. The looters then set out to destroy all the church ornaments and vestments on which they could lay their hands. The loss from the destruction of church valuables will amount to some hundreds of dollars.

The discovery of the burglary was made Tuesday morning, when the caretaker came to make his rounds.

SYRACUSE HIT HARD. SYRACUSE, N. Y., Jan. 13.—(Can. Press).—All the public utility services in Syracuse were more or less crippled today by the coldest weather in the history of the local weather bureau. The lowest point reached was 23 below zero, early this morning. Tonight it was seven below.

Pupils of five schools were drenched because of the cold. Hundreds of frost bites were treated by physicians. No fatalities have been reported.

Pompey was the coldest spot in Onondaga County, with a temperature of 26 below zero.

NATAL POSTOFFICE. New Michel, B. C. Postoffice will hereafter be known as Natal, the same as the name of the C. P. R. station at that point. In consequence of the action of the postal department, the Bank of Commerce branch has also been changed from New Michel to Natal.

STILL PATRONIZING THE PIEMAN



Illustration of a man and a woman, possibly related to the 'Nets' advertisement.

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