

A Very Merry Christmas to All

SIX MEN WERE BADLY INJURED BY EXPLOSION OF A BOILER

A Threshing Engine Used at a "Buzz" Near Lambeth Blew Up Without Warning, Scalding and Maiming Workmen.

THE ENTIRE OUTFIT IS A COMPLETE WRECK

Parts of It Were Hurling Hundreds of Feet Away—Six Miraculous Escapes From Death—No Cause Can Be Found for the Accident—Victims Will Likely Recover.

RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION

WM. SCHRAM, Westminster Township, several scalp wounds, skull slightly fractured, face and upper part of body fearfully scalded, condition serious.

WM. NIXON, Westminster Township, face and upper part of body badly scalded, leg badly fractured at ankle, condition very serious.

JOS. POOLE, Westminster Township, bad scalp wounds and other injuries, will recover.

GEO. POOLE, Westminster Township, badly burned on upper part of body, injuries very painful but not serious.

HENRY WOODS, Delaware Township, face and shoulders badly scalded, not serious.

ARTHUR PORTE, Westminster Township, shoulders and face badly scalded, will recover.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT—Explosion of a threshing engine.

TIME—Shortly after two o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A threshing engine exploded yesterday afternoon at the farm of Mr. Henry Woods, Delaware Township, about two miles and a half west of Lambeth, seriously injuring six men.

Two of them are not expected to recover, while the others are painfully injured, although not very seriously.

How any escaped instant death is a miracle.

Dr. Routledge was called, and is attending to the injured men.

Yesterday morning, Mr. Wm. Nixon, of Delaware, moved his threshing engine to the farm of Mr. Henry Woods, to "buzz" wood.

The saw was placed in the morning, and it was decided to begin to saw wood after dinner.

About 2 o'clock the men left the house and began making preparation to saw.

Mr. Nixon and his hired man, Mr. Arthur Porte, began getting up steam.

A good fire was put into the fire-box, and the men began to chat until steam was up.

Mr. Jos. Poole was not with the rest, but was busy getting wood ready, at the big pile, ready to "buzz" into small stovewood.

The other five had taken their positions at the end of the tongue in front of the boiler, and were patiently waiting to get ready to start.

A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

Suddenly there was a terrific explosion, and the whole six men were thrown violently to the ground.

Mr. Poole, who was at the woodpile, was thrown under a flying mass of wood.

All were completely stunned by the terrific explosion, and lay almost lifeless for some moments.

Neighbors heard the explosion, and came rushing over from all sides.

Mr. George Poole was the first to recover consciousness, and began looking for his father.

Mr. Woods also rushed out and called to the neighbors for help.

George Poole found his father lying under a mass of timber and wood.

Although badly scalded and painfully hurt he dragged his father out from under the wood and got him to the house.

By this time the neighbors had arrived, and the other injured men were carefully taken to the house.

DOCTOR ON THE SCENE.

Dr. Routledge, of Lambeth, was hastily summoned, and arrived on the scene shortly after the accident.

He dressed the wounds of the injured men, and had them all sent to their homes, except Mr. Nixon, whose injuries are so serious that he cannot be removed as yet.

The escape of the men from instant death is little short of miraculous.

Five were standing within ten feet of the boiler when it exploded.

The front end of the boiler was the first to go.

It lifted over the heads of the men, pouring scalding water over everything. Fragments of iron and twisted steel went screaming through the air.

BADLY SCALDED.

The impact threw the men to the ground. As they lay there unconscious the steam and hot water of the boiler poured over them, scalding them fearfully.

Mr. Jos. Poole was out of line of the steam, but still some of the hot water reached him, and although his scalds are not so serious as the others, they are indeed painful enough.

Not a scrap of the boiler remains.

Fragments of it were found many hundreds of yards from the scene of the accident.

The major portion of it was lifted clear over an orchard, and fell on the other side.

The orchard is riddled with flying splinters. The front wheels are all that remain intact, and they are the only monuments of the old engine.

The big rear wheels were lifted bodily and hurled two or three hundred feet back into the orchard. The wreck was most complete.

INJURIES OF THE VICTIMS.

Of the injured, the most serious are Wm. Schram and Mr. William Nixon.

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London Generous With Poor Churches Dealt Prodiggally With All

Some of the Services Which Will Be Held on Christmas Day.

That Londoners are not behind when it comes to distributing gifts of clothing, food and other things to deserving families and gladdening their hearts at Christmas time every pastor in London can bear witness.

In nearly every city church yesterday many of the members gathered during the afternoon and brought articles of all kinds with them.

Parties were selected in many instances who went around through certain sections and with their gifts brought joy and comfort to many a person who otherwise would have passed unremembered.

The aged, the sick, the little children, each one received something to remember Christmas, 1907.

Collected \$100.

At Askew Street Methodist Church the congregation got together and collected nearly \$100 in cash, and how far that money went and how many people it made happy only those who had charge of distributing it know.

In addition to this a number of the members were selected in many instances who went around through certain sections and with their gifts brought joy and comfort to many a person who otherwise would have passed unremembered.

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TWO HUNDRED FACE STARVATION

Fire Razes a Village and Torrent Cuts Off From Civilization.

Victoria, B.C., Dec. 24.—Two hundred inhabitants of Bulkley Valley in Northern British Columbia are in imminent danger of starvation. A dispatch received here today says fire has completely gutted the store of Broughton & McNeill, where are located all the provisions to last the little scattered community until the opening of navigation. The estimated damage is \$10,000. The Skeena River, the only possible route to civilization, is a raging torrent.

GOTHAM BROKERS IN GLOOMY MOOD

No Christmas Celebration on Stock Exchange and Little Business Done.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

New York, Dec. 24.—There was no Christmas celebration on the stock exchange after the close of business today.

The usual Christmas tree, the Seventh Regiment Band and the push ball game, that have been the features of the brokers' observance of the holiday in past years, were missing.

The members just quit business at 3 o'clock, as usual, and went home.

The reason that the celebration was abandoned was lack of initiative on the part of those who have usually had charge of it. Other than taxing the members a small sum for decorations, nothing else was done in the line of raising funds. Nor were the members in so gay a mood for celebration of Christmas this year, it was said.

A similar course was followed on the Consolidated. Both organizations, however, distributed the usual amount of Christmas funds to employees.

The transactions in stocks today were but 150,000 shares, the smallest in any full business day during the year save one. The low record was made on June 24, when but 142,000 shares were bought and sold, and save on the occasion named today's business was the smallest of any in the last 2½ years.

Inasmuch as nearly half of the dealings today were concentrated in the first hour of business, the dullness of the market during the remainder of the day may be imagined.

MAY SHIP THEM HERE

Another Attempt to Divert Honolulu Japs to the Dominion.

Victoria, B.C., Dec. 24.—Mail advices from Honolulu state another strong effort is being made to divert Japanese labor from there to Canada. A steamer has been chartered and will leave for this port in January.

The same people are engineering the scheme as chartered the Kumeric, which brought 1,200 Japs to this coast. The hotel-keepers who were in the Kumeric scheme are this time.

All the yellow men who will be sent are already possessed of passports, and each will be furnished with the necessary \$25 without which he cannot land on Canadian soil.

TODAY IN LONDON.

Bennett's—Good vaudeville bill.

Grand Opera House—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Skating—Simcoe, Jubilee, East End, and Victoria rinks.

Bowling—Ideal and Liberal Club alleys.

Curling—Thistle Club, president and vice-president match.

7th Sergeants Hold an "At Home" Pleasant Time at the Armories

Members and Officers From Other Corps Were Present.

The sergeants of the Seventh Regiment held their annual "At Home" in their messrooms at the armories last evening. There was a very large attendance of the sergeants and their friends, and a most pleasant evening was spent.

The messrooms were very prettily decorated for the occasion.

Among the visitors were the sergeants from the barracks, the battery and the cavalry.

Sergeant Pink, of the Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, represented the Queen's City soldiers, and was given a good time by the London boys.

Among the guests was Corp. Woodliffe, of the South African Cavalry.

He has lately returned from South Africa, whither he went with the first contingent, afterwards seeing service with Gen. Baden-Powell.

There was a splendid musical programme, in which Sergt. Ridge, Sergt. Major Sherard, of the Engineers' Corps, and Sergt. Roberts, took part.

The affair was one of the most successful ever given by the sergeants.

Changes Announced By the Bishop

An announcement of much interest was made yesterday by His Lordship Bishop Williams, who stated that about the middle of January the following changes will be made in the Diocese of Huron:

Rev. E. Softley, who has been stationed at Morpeth, will take charge of the parishes of Pinkerton and Carleton Place; Rev. E. C. Jennings, of Kingsville, will take charge of the church in Blenheim; and Rev. T. G. Lawrence, of Florence, will be moved to Delhi.

Couldn't Get Work and Tries Suicide

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Once more has the inability to secure employment seemed to have caused a man to attempt suicide. Yesterday, between the hours of 4 and 5 in the afternoon Harry Simmons, an Englishman, 35 years of age and unmarried, after a period of enforced idleness, and with probably no hope of bettered conditions, locked himself in his room in a Rochester street boarding-house, and placing the muzzle of a 32-caliber revolver over his heart, pulled the trigger.

According to the medical experts who later made a thorough examination, it was a very near thing, and in their opinion the only thing which prevented the man from carrying out his intentions to the full, and which saved his life, was that at the critical moment Simmons' hand must have become unsteady. The bullet entered right above the heart, but missed the vital organ by the narrowest margin.

Black Hand Headquarters Raided Find School for Teaching Murder

Pittsburg Detectives Round Up Big Batch of Desperate Criminals.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 24.—A squad of local detectives, aided by scores of detectives from other cities throughout the country, this afternoon raided what is supposed to be the headquarters of the Italian Black Hand in this section of the country.

At the headquarters the police found, when the raid was made, seventeen young Italians receiving from two teachers instructions in the art of dealing deathblows, through the Black Hand's favorite weapon, the stiletto.

All of the nineteen men in the place and the lookout were arrested after a severe struggle, and are now in the prison at Central station.

For months Pittsburg has been terrorized by lawless Italians, who styled their organization the "Black Hand."

Several murders have been committed and dozens of persons have paid tribute, under fear of the Black Hand, to the headquarters of the Black Hand.

Some weeks ago captain of detectives, Edward M. Cough, learned that the organization had its headquarters here and that school was in existence, where younger members were taught the use of weapons and the methods of the organization.

The Englishman Resented the Slur

To make, with his fists, five able-bodied men take to their heels, on Dundas street, is the record of a young Englishman, whose name is said to be Black.

It seems that Black, who is a moldor, was celebrating the gladsome Christmas time last night by imbibing quite freely, and he was feeling quite fit to tackle the Canadian pugilist, Mr. Thomas Burns.

Consequently when he met five parties equally stimulated there was trouble.

It appears that one of the quintet made some slurring remark about

CHARGED WITH ARSON

A South Sandwich Negro Arrested by Provincial Detective Mahoney

Sandwich, Dec. 24.—Provincial Detective Mahoney has arrested Henry Shanklin, a negro in Sandwich South, on a charge of attempted arson. It is said that Shanklin attempted to set fire to the big saw and feed mill owned by John P. Plant, of Sandwich South, shortly after the workmen employed in the place had deserted it for the night. Shanklin was today remanded for a week for trial.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW SNOW.

Observatory, Toronto, Dec. 24-8 p.m.—Pressure changes are occurring with great rapidity at present. A disturbance which was over Montana this morning is now centered over Minnesota. A change to much colder weather has taken place over the Western Provinces. Fair weather has been general throughout Canada today, except that light snow has fallen in parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 8 below-zero; Atlin, 2-12; Port Simpson, 36-46; Victoria, 42-46; Vancouver, 33-41; Kamloops, 30-40; Calgary, 14-16; Regina, 6-22; Winnipeg, 10 below-4; Parry Sound, 28-34; Toronto, 28-36; Ottawa, 30-32; Montreal, 30-32; Quebec, 30-32; St. John, 34-46; Halifax, 38-52.

FORECASTS.

Lower Lake and Georgian Bay: Strong winds, with snow.

WANTED TO GO TO JAIL

Recent Arrival From England Hurled Brick Through Window.

Peterboro, Dec. 24.—Because he wanted to go to jail for a month, Joseph Blake, a recent arrival from England, threw a brick through the large plate glass window at the Singer Sewing Machine Company