

WITHOUT SLIGHTEST WARNING GREAT QUEBEC BRIDGE COLLAPSES CARRYING SCORES OF WORKMEN TO THEIR DOOM

WITH A SOUND LIKE BOOMING CANNON, THE SOUTH HALF OF THE GREAT STEEL STRUCTURE ACROSS THE ST. LAWRENCE, CRUMPLES UP AS THOUGH MADE OF PAPER—THE WORK OF SEVEN YEARS DEMOLISHED IN A FEW SECONDS—NEARLY A HUNDRED WORKMEN CAUGHT LIKE RATS IN A SINKING SHIP, GO TO THEIR DOOM IN THE SWIFT RUNNING WATERS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE, HARDLY A MAN ESCAPING—MAD EFFORTS OF MEN TO ESCAPE UTTERLY FRUITLESS—MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF CONSTRUCTION WORK NOW SCRAP IRON BENEATH THE WATER—WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENGINEERING FEATS WHEN COMPLETED.

OTTAWA, Aug. 29.—The Department of Railways and Canals was advised tonight that part of the Quebec bridge, now under construction over the St. Lawrence river, and from 50 to 60 people were killed. The bridge is over 3,200 feet long, the cantilever span, 1,800 feet, and the Phoenix Bridge Co. of Pennsylvania had the contract for construction.

QUEBEC, Aug. 29.—A section of the new bridge across the St. Lawrence river, 5 miles below this city, collapsed late today, carrying scores of bridge workers and mechanics into the water. It is estimated that the loss of life is at least sixty and may exceed that number by twenty. The bridge was about a mile and a half in length, and half of it, from the south shore to midstream, crumpled up and dropped into the water.

Ninety men were at work on this section of the structure and the whistle had just blown at 5.30, the men to quit work for the day when there came a grinding sound from the bridge midstream.

The men turned to see what had happened, and in an instant later the cry went up "the bridge is falling." The men made a rush shoreward, but the distance was too great for them to escape. The falling section of the bridge dragged others after it, the snapping girders and cables booming like the crash of artillery.

Terror lent fleetness to the feet of the frightened workmen as they sped shoreward, but only a few of them reached safety before the last piece of iron work on the south shore was dragged into the river.

Near the shore the wreckage of the bridge did not go below the surface of the water, and eight workmen who remained above water were rescued and taken to the hospital at Levis.

The steamer Glenmont had just cleared the bridge when the first section fell. The water thrown up by the debris came clear over the bridge of the steamer. The captain at once lowered the anchor and the boat plied backward and forward over the sunken wreckage for half an hour, but there was no sign of life.

The twisted iron and steel had its victims in a terrible death grip. A few floating timbers and the broken strands of the bridge toward the north shore were the only signs that anything unusual had happened.

There was not a ripple on the smooth surface of the St. Lawrence, as it swept along toward the Gulf. All the men who were on the bridge at the time of the collapse were employees of the Phoenixville Bridge Co. and sub-contractors of Quebec and Montreal.

At 10 o'clock tonight sixteen bodies had been picked up and of the eight men in the Levis hospital, two are not expected to live through the night.

The Quebec bridge was begun about 7 years ago, and it was to be finished in 1904. It had been granted by the federal and provincial governments and the city of Quebec, and the estimated cost of the work was \$10,000,000.

QUEBEC, Aug. 30.—With the first break of dawn, half a dozen government, and Quebec Bridge Company's tug began a search of the St. Lawrence river for the victims of last night's catastrophe. The toll of death caused by the collapse of the bridge was estimated at twenty at least, and may reach the appalling total of 85.

Up to an early hour today, less than twenty bodies had been recovered.

The terrific drop of the great steel structure from 180 feet above the surface of the river to the bottom of the water was a sight to horrify the many of the workmen in a frightful manner, and it is feared many of them will never be found.

Many of the dead were Americans, brought here by the Phoenix Bridge Co., of Phoenixville, Pa., which company had the contract for the iron work on the bridge.

Among the known dead are: A. Gansel, general foreman for the Phoenix Bridge Co.; Chief Engineer Birks; Fireman Davis of the bridge switch engine.

John Whaley a foreman; Jim Idan, Indiana, foreman; James and Henry Hardy, brothers, of New Liverpool, Quebec; W. Proulx, of New Liverpool; Z. Lafrance, Quebec City.

From Thursday's Morning Leader: The building of a house apparently right in the roadway of Sixteenth avenue has led to queries which have resulted in the disclosure of facts of some considerable interest to the city.

It has hitherto always been supposed that the city's Wascana Park property ran right from Sixteenth avenue south to the Reservoir. This, it now appears, is not the case. A strip some eighty or ninety feet wide between Sixteenth avenue and the park still belonging to the Dominion Government.

The first suggestion that the strip of land belonged to the Government, and not to the city, was only quite recently made. Mayor Smith at once gave instructions to the civic officials

to enquire into the matter, with the result that an investigation of the records at the land titles office showed beyond doubt that, the Dominion Government are the actual owners of the property at the present time.

Steps will at once be taken to survey the property and the exact dimensions of the area involved, when it is likely that the matter will be taken up with the Interior Department, in view of the fact of acquiring the property for the city.

Little doubt appears to exist but that the strip of land was overlooked at the time that the Dominion Government made over its portion of the townsite to the city, and it is not believed that any great objection will be made to its being acquired by the city, as otherwise the city's plans for laying out the park might be seriously interfered with.

About thirty Caughnawaga Indians as laborers. Early this morning rowboats were sent out to examine the superstructure showing above the water near the shore, to ascertain if any of the workmen were imprisoned on the mass of twisted steel. None were found alive.

Just below the surface of the water were seen bodies, but it was impossible to reach them until the tide goes out. A locomotive, and several freight cars, loaded with steel girders were moving out upon the bridge just when the structure collapsed, the engineer who was in charge went into the river with his engine, but was picked up three hundred feet below the bridge. Fireman Davis perished.

Engineer Jess was removed to Levis hospital, where he rapidly recovered from the effects of his plunge into the water. According to his story, the steel work overhanging the river was the first to show signs of weakness.

At the first sign of danger Jess shut off the steam but his locomotive continued to move toward the end of the bridge which had begun to totter, and a moment later the engine went into the river.

Special to The Leader: QUEBEC, Aug. 30.—Fourteen bodies, most of them mangled beyond recognition, and some showing evidence of slow torturing, were taken from the ruins of the fallen bridge today. These were deposited in a little shed close to the south shore aboutment.

It was after the discovery of these bodies that heartrending scenes ensued. The Phoenix Bridge Co. had stationed men at every point where the back all who desired to approach the wreckage or the hut where the bodies were hidden.

It seemed heartless and unaccountable, but doubtless calmed minds persons had good reasons for this action. Beyond the guard line weeping women lingered for some word of husband, son or father. No such word came from those at the scene of the disaster.

Some of the lower chord pieces weigh 100 tons each; shoes 66 tons each, and floor beams 30 tons each. Up to the present probably \$5,000,000 has been spent altogether on the structure.

OTTAWA, Aug. 30.—The Dominion Government will make a searching investigation into the cause of the collapse of the Quebec bridge. Henry Holgate, C.E., Montreal; Professor J. G. Kerr, McGill; and Professor Galbraith of Toronto university, have been appointed as commissioners for this purpose.

The latest reports say that sixty-one persons are missing. The loss is estimated at one million and a half dollars. The loss rests upon the Phoenix Bridge Co. of Pennsylvania.

QUEBEC, Sept. 1.—Up to a late hour tonight, no more bodies were taken out of the debris of the Quebec cantilever bridge.

At noon the coroner's jury was sworn in, and viewed the thirteen bodies at the morgue, and the inquest was adjourned until Tuesday.

This afternoon the jury visited the scene of the accident, also viewing the bodies of Hardy and Croleau, who lived near the bridge.

The scene at the morgue was a pathetic one, as the relatives of some of the victims saw the bodies for the first time.

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Little doubt appears to exist but that the strip of land was overlooked at the time that the Dominion Government made over its portion of the townsite to the city, and it is not believed that any great objection will be made to its being acquired by the city, as otherwise the city's plans for laying out the park might be seriously interfered with.

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CORP. HOGG, OF R.N.W.M.P., COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

CHARGED WITH UNLAWFULLY IMPRISONING CERTAIN CHINESE—ACCUSED WAIVES PRELIMINARY HEARING AND ELECTS TO GO BEFORE A JUDGE—OBJECTION TAKEN BY DEFENCE TO MAGISTRATE MCCAUSLAND SITTING ON THE OTHER CASES—MAGISTRATE SAYS HE WILL FORCE THE CROWN TO SHOW ITS HAND—EXPLANATIONS FOLLOW.

From Friday's Morning Leader: Three members of Regina city police force and an officer of the Royal North West Mounted Police were yesterday morning called to court for their share in the arrest and detention of certain Chinamen last Friday night. The magistrate before whom they appeared, Mr. Welliesley McCausland, remitted the case of Corp. Hogg to the higher court, and deferred until Wednesday morning the hearing of evidence against chief Constable R. J. Harwood and Private Constables Hogg and Gladstone. He also decided contrary to the opinion of the deputy attorney general, that the preliminary hearing being waived, so far as Corp. Hogg was concerned only a judge could admit that officer to bail. Later in the proceedings his worship was plainly asked by the defence to retire for the defence to call for the defence of another magistrate, and as directly declined. Thereupon the defendant's advocate, Mr. J. F. Frame, appeared for the defendants, and would take proceedings to stop Mr. McCausland from the exercise of jurisdiction in these cases, appearing to be in the connection with the firm of solicitors for the prosecution, and of certain decisive opinions he is said to have expressed to the crown, and so far as I am concerned, I am quite willing to advise your worship that you and another justice of the peace can take their recognizances in the present case.

The proceedings lasted about an hour. Mr. C. E. D. Wood, of Wood and McCausland, represented the complainant Chinamen; Mr. J. F. Frame, of Mackenzie, Brown and Thome, appeared for the defendants, and Mr. Frank Ford deputy attorney general, watched the case, on behalf of the crown, and in the end he would take proceedings to stop Mr. McCausland from the exercise of jurisdiction in these cases, appearing to be in the connection with the firm of solicitors for the prosecution, and of certain decisive opinions he is said to have expressed to the crown, and so far as I am concerned, I am quite willing to advise your worship that you and another justice of the peace can take their recognizances in the present case.

Corporal Hogg, of the Royal North West Mounted Police, was the first defendant called. He was charged on the oath of Mah Po, that on or about the 23rd or 24th of August, 1907, in the city of Regina, he made unlawful assault on Mah Po, and did, then and there, unlawfully and intentionally, and forcibly seize and imprison him.

The bridge company will continue to build the bridge on the present plans as far as the work can be done. This is a statement made by Hon. S. N. Parent, the president of the company.

QUEBEC, Sept. 1.—The wrecked bridge was visited this morning by two of the three engineering experts, appointed by the Federal Government, to enquire into the cause of the disaster, namely Mr. Henry Holgate, consulting engineer of Montreal, Professor J. G. G. Kerr, McGill University, and Mr. J. M. Butler, deputy minister of railways, Mr. Collingwood Galbraith, chief engineer of the same department, who came down from Ottawa this morning. Hon. S. N. Parent, president of the company, and Mr. J. M. Butler, of the Phoenix Bridge Co., Mr. M. P. Davis, of M. P. Davis & Co., the firm that had the contract for the bridge, as well as by a number of others.

This party left Levis in a special train on the C. R. at about 9 o'clock and spent practically the whole forenoon about the ruins.

Mr. Butler, and the two members of the commission, made a tour of the bridge, and the twisted ruins, even climbing up the sides to more carefully view certain points. Speaking, regarding the bridge, the two members that were on the scene this morning, had already consented to act, but Mr. Butler, late of Montreal, had said that he thought that the doctor also would be willing to act, but he had not yet spoken highly of the board selected, stating that they were all practical and experienced men, and that, in his opinion, if one were at Cause of Disaster.

Being asked to give an opinion as to the cause of the disaster, Mr. Butler declared that this was his first visit to the scene, and as yet it was hardly possible to form an opinion.

Although none of the party would say much, still from the conversation it was well as by the season of the board selected, stating that they were all practical and experienced men, and that, in his opinion, if one were at Cause of Disaster.

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The magistrate: I quite appreciate that, Mr. Ford. Mr. Wood: But suppose, by any chance, the magistrate has no right to be advised to do something. Mr. Ford: The magistrate can take my advice or not, just as he pleases.

The Magistrate: I want to be quite sure I can keep myself within the law, Mr. Ford. Mr. Frame: You would have to have another justice, I think, that is all.

Mr. Wood submitted that, if there was no evidence at all the magistrate could not find that the evidence did not furnish such a strong presumption of guilt as to warrant his committing for trial in the absence of any evidence.

The Magistrate: The view I take is simply this. These men are charged with an indictable offence. The Crown appears, while the counsel for the defence appears, and waives the preliminary hearing, and consents to go on their own recognizance to me but to send him up for trial. If I do so, the law provides explicitly, no one can give bail except a judge.

Mr. Ford: I am here representing the crown in this matter, and usually on matters of application for bail, the crown is consulted. You can admit the accused to bail, and I am going to ask your honor to ask another justice to take these cases. The cases have excited a great deal of public interest, and they are quite unusual in the administration of justice in the province, and they have become somewhat sensational by letters written to the newspapers. In view of the fact that the counsel taking up the case is a partner of your son, and in view of the fact of the controversy as to whether your honor has jurisdiction, I am going to ask you to favor the defendants, to transfer the case to some other justice, and I will be never at any time afterwards the possibility of saying that there was any reason of bias or any suspicion of bias on your honor's part. I do not charge that there is, but I ask you considering all these facts, and in view of what the chief justice has stated to me as to what your honor considers about the case, at least to give them the benefit of being tried before another justice.

The magistrate: Well, it is rather peculiar, Mr. Frame. The Crown appears and counsel for the accused appears in one case, and takes no exception to his jurisdiction, and the case is proceeded with, and is determined.

Mr. Frame: This one case is, The Magistrate: If I exceed my jurisdiction; if I am subject to bias or liable to bias in these cases, I am unable to bias in the fourth, if that objection had been taken before the hearing at all, I possibly would be in a position to see the force of it, but I can see no circumstances here on which I am asked to commit in the other case, and you have committed in the other case. We do not know whether we should take the course we did with respect to the Corporal, but in case a preliminary hearing is taken, and evidence adduced, we ask your honor to take into consideration the case, to substitute another justice.

The magistrate: I am quite willing to take that course, because up to the present time, there does not seem any necessity for it. The application made by my learned friend, Mr. Frame, is one that should be granted, I should imagine, because the accused waive the preliminary hearing, and they waive the jurisdiction, and I feel I have no right to take bail myself.

Mr. Frame: These your honor so far interfered with my learned friend in conducting a private prosecution, but in my learned friend's case, I have no objection to his exercising the authority the Crown has to dismiss him from the prosecution. But I do not intend to take that course, because up to the present time, there does not seem any necessity for it. The application made by my learned friend, Mr. Frame, is one that should be granted, I should imagine, because the accused waive the preliminary hearing, and they waive the jurisdiction, and I feel I have no right to take bail myself.

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