

## TRAIN CREW NOT BLAMED

### VERDICT OF JURY IN INTERURBAN WRECK

#### Counsel of Electric Railway Makes Complaint Against Conduct of Inquest.

Vancouver, Dec. 6.—After an absence of over two hours, the jury appointed to inquire into the train wreck at Nanaimo road siding on November 10th, on Saturday returned a verdict exculpating the train crew from the charge of criminal negligence, and suggesting that the B. C. Electric Railway Company should adopt greater safeguards in switching cars at Nanaimo road siding. They suggested further that the company should adopt some better method of keeping track of the movements of freight cars at night, and that these should be reduced to a definite system, and that the traffic on the interurban lines should be governed by standard rules approved by the railway commission and provided with proper safety equipment.

In conclusion they recommended that the city council should establish a morgue for the disposal of dead bodies, holding inquests, etc. The full text of the verdict, after recording the incidents of the accident, reads as follows: "We find no evidence to show that there was any criminal negligence on the part of the crew in charge of the freight train, nor have we found that the crew have disobeyed any rules in connection with the performance of their duties on the morning of the accident."

"With regard to the leads from the main line to the Nanaimo road siding, we would suggest that some provision be made to insure safer conditions than now exist at that point, say, by connecting the two tracks by a cross-over south of the siding, in order that cars can be placed inside instead of outside the track, as at present."

"We also suggest that the method of moving and keeping track of trains moving by night, be reduced to a more definite system."

"We would recommend that all interurban lines be equipped as speedily as possible with equipment and rules, such as are approved by the railway commission."

"We strongly recommend that the city council take immediate steps toward the establishment and maintenance of an up-to-date city morgue, wherein all post-mortems, inquests and injuries may be held, without the loss of time and inconvenience which has hitherto existed."

When the verdict had been rendered, Coroner Jeffs thanked the jury for their close attention to their duties, and formally discharged them. The coroner's jury was empaneled on the case on November 11th. They took evidence for one day, but were then delayed by various causes, one of which was that a jurymen was engaged for over a week in a case in which he was interested in the Supreme court. The last sitting occupied three days. Several of the officials were recalled on Saturday, name Woodroffe, who was very closely questioned by the jury as to the manner in which the company operated its lines.

L. G. McPhillips, K. C., representing the company, and protested that the jury was exceeding the scope of its duty. He would like to ask what bearing many of these questions had on how these men had been killed. He asked whether the coroner could tell him why the management of the company and how it was carried on had anything to do with the inquiry, yet, he declared, for the number of days he had been there most of the inquiry was of that nature.

The coroner said he intended to allow the widest possible latitude in the inquiry. Mr. McPhillips said the coroner could not go beyond the scope of the coroner's Act.

"Of course you can advise me as a lawyer," said Coroner Jeffs, "but I have my own opinions on this matter." Mr. McPhillips said he was speaking as he did because it was his intention to make representations to the government. He was there without notice of what was to be done or the right to cross-examine the jury on questions of which they had no right to inquire. The coroner said that was questioning his authority from the government. He intended to allow the widest latitude, since something that had happened years ago might throw light on the accident.

"Then," said Mr. McPhillips, "this is not an inquiry into the death of these men. It is an inquiry into this company." The coroner reminded Mr. McPhillips that he was there by invitation.

Mr. McPhillips admitted that the

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## MANY VESSELS DRIVEN ASHORE

### NEWFOUNDLAND COAST SWEEP BY STORM

#### Crew of the Stanley Cling to Hulk at Mercy of Wind Waves.

St. John's, N. F., Dec. 6.—The entire coast is strewn with wreckage as the result of the storm. Three Gloucester vessels are ashore, the Clinton, H. Y. Stanley and Mabel Rhines. After a terrific struggle with the tempest, the Stanley was driven ashore at North Arm, Bay of Islands, where she is fast breaking up. For hours her crew were forced to cling to the hulk, at the mercy of wind and waves, the tremendous seas making it impossible to launch a boat. Finally during a lull in the storm, they were taken off by heroic volunteers from the shore, and were taken to Birch Cove by the steamer Clifton.

The Mable R. Hines went ashore at nearly the same place, and now lies on her beam ends, with great seas continually breaking over her. Her captain and crew managed to reach the beach in their own boat.

The number of local craft wrecked by the tempest is known to be large. Several schooners are ashore in Humber Arm. A large quantity of fishing gear has been destroyed, which entails a heavy loss to the fishermen.

The steamer Portia has arrived here after being severely buffeted by wind and wave. Two of her boilers were badly scalded by the bursting of a steam pipe and were brought here for medical attention. It has been reported that the schooner John R. Bradley, which carried Dr. Cook's Arctic expedition has been lost.

## ROYALLY ENTERTAINED BY JAPANESE PEOPLE

### Lord Kitchener Decorated by Emperor and Tested Rice With Chopsticks.

Lord Kitchener has been dined and decorated in Japan to such an extent that he must have been glad when it was over and he had a chance to get away to the Manchurian battlefields. At first the Japanese people did not quite know what to make of the visit. They were anxious to know whether the general was coming as a private citizen or as a representative of the British government. When they found that he was indeed the real thing they set to work to make the occasion a great one.

Not only did the Emperor give a state dinner, but every association worthy of the name, and every person who could dare to do so gave some sort of an entertainment in his honor.

The Emperor conferred upon Kitchener and his staff suitable decorations. His Lordship was given the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Imperial; Major-General Rawlinson the second class of the Order of Merit and the Rising Sun with double rays; Colonel Lambton, the third class of the Order of Merit and the Rising Sun; and the other officers the fourth and fifth class of the Order of Merit with the Rising Sun.

One of the most interesting of the events was when His Lordship partook of a Japanese meal served Japanese style. The managing of the chopsticks, which a Japanese newspaper gravely states that he used, must have been a very difficult feat.

## VANCOUVER WATER SYSTEM DAMAGED

### Superintendent Reports That Repairs Will Cost at Least \$8,000.

Vancouver, Dec. 3.—Water Superintendent Maddison informed the Water Committee that it would cost at least \$8,000 to repair the damage done to the Civic water system by the recent floods. The chief damage, he reported, was done to the mains across the Inlet. The Capilano main was washed out for over 130 feet, and left suspended, although there were no breaks. It is now being repaired. The Seymour Creek main was exposed for 90 feet at the point where the pipe enters the water. It broke on Sunday, but was soon fixed up again. The Capilano road was put out of commission for at least 1,000 feet near the Crown bridge, but as the municipality North Vancouver took the road over last year and made it a gazetted highway, the duty of repairing it will devolve upon the municipal authorities. Reeve McNaught will at once lay plans for repair.

Superintendent Maddison states that the trouble up Capilano Creek was the worst for 20 years. It was stated that the new temporary bridge over the Heather Street wash-out was being rushed to completion, and that the cars would probably be running over it by the end of this week.

## STEAMERS BUSY ON GREAT LAKES

### Sailings From Port Arthur May Continue Until Middle of Month.

Port Arthur, Ont., Dec. 6.—The last day of navigation previous to the expiry of insurance, saw a big rush of boats, both at the freight docks and elevators, on Saturday. The last days of navigation have been characterized by excellent weather which has been taken advantage of to the greatest possible extent and a continuance will prove very tempting to send boats out after insurance year. Despite the very high rates which it is expected underwriters will demand it is likely there will be a number of sailings up to as late as December 15th or even later.

## OVER SCORE SLAIN IN FIGHT IN PHILIPPINES

### Six Members of Constabulary Killed in Skirmish With Moros.

Manila, Dec. 6.—More than a score of Moros, six members of the constabulary, four porters and one policeman were killed in a savage battle between a band of Moros and the constabulary in Mindanao, according to a report that reached here.

The fight, according to advices, occurred near Mount Malindang. General Pershing immediately dispatched a company of Philippine scouts to reinforce the constabulary in the troubled region.

## BEATEN TO DEATH.

### Woman and Her Two Children Found Murdered in Home.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 6.—Their heads beaten and their bodies bruised by a heavy iron bar, Mrs. Antonio Lubica and her two small children were found murdered in their home in this city. A third child, supposed to be fatally wounded, was taken to a hospital.

## INVESTIGATION INTO INTERURBAN WRECK

### Technical Evidence Given at the Sessions in Van- couver.

Vancouver, Dec. 3.—The long adjourned inquest on the interurban train wreck at Nanaimo road siding resumed yesterday in the city police court, but although two long sittings were held, the end does not appear to be yet in sight.

At the sitting held last evening the principal witnesses were Superintendent Woodroffe and Mr. McQuarrie, manager of the interurban line. The question as to whether a proper coupling was made remains still as nebulous as before. Mr. McQuarrie did show, however, that some precautions had been taken at the switch at Nanaimo road where the accident occurred, as on the previous Monday he had issued an order that all cars left there were to be blocked and a man was always to be left on any car standing on the main line there.

At the afternoon session, the evidence was entirely of an expert and technical nature, regarding the operation of couplers and brakes. The witnesses were mostly called on behalf of the train crew, to show that they were liable to part under any circumstances.

## PROPOSAL TO EXTEND KAMLOOPS LIMITS

### Financial Statement Read at Council Meeting—Discus- sion on Railways.

Kamloops, Dec. 3.—At the last meeting of the city council the clerk read an interim financial statement showing revenue and expenditure up to October 31st. All the revenue sources have produced larger amounts than estimated, except the tax on government property. This deficit will be reduced, however, before the end of the year. The expenditures are all fairly well within the estimates except the water and light department, which is \$300 in excess with two months yet to run. The mayor requested the chairman of the water and light committee to ascertain the cause of the increased expenditure. The report was adopted.

Ald. Brown suggested that something be done to induce the C. N. R. to bring their line into the city. He urged that a public meeting be called to discuss the matter or that a joint meeting of the council and board of trade be held to take the matter up.

The mayor thought the question should be taken up without delay. The clerk informed the council that the V. Y. & E. right-of-way agent is now in the city looking up information with a view to acquiring a right-of-way.

A general discussion took place, all the members favoring action of some sort being taken, and it was ultimately decided to call a joint meeting of the council and board of trade.

The mayor called the council's attention to two important meetings to be held in the province in the near future, the annual meeting of the Union of B. C. Municipalities and the Conservative convention. He thought both these bodies would be well advised to exercise their influence on the government and suggested that a resolution be passed by the forthcoming meeting urging the government to require all railways going within a certain specified distance of towns already established shall enter such places before any aid is given.

It was decided to hold a poll on December 7th on the question of extending the city limits.

## WHITE HORSE COPPER.

### A report on the White Horse Copper Belt, Yukon, by R. G. McConnell, Geological Survey, Department of Mines, Ottawa.

Discoveries of copper were made in the White Horse district of the Yukon in 1887 during the early Klondike rush, but the first claims were not staked until the following year, and development work was not commenced until 1889. Work of a considerable character has since been undertaken. In 1907, Mr. R. G. McConnell made an investigation of the geology and mineral resources of the district, and the report gives the results of his investigations. The principal economic minerals in the White Horse copper belt are iron, copper, silver and gold, the two latter being found in some quantity in all the ores; while galena, zinc, antimony, molybdenum, and arsenic occur in smaller quantities. The chief mines and prospects are described in considerable detail. Admirable views of White Horse and Miles Canyon are given, together with a large map showing the general geological and topographical features of the district, and seven small maps indicating the geological relationship and extent of the principal ore lodes so far discovered.

## PERFORMING BEARS ATTACK TRAINERS

### Man Nearly Disembowelled While Putting Animals Through Paces.

Vancouver, Dec. 3.—Late Saturday afternoon Manager Ascough, of the Orpheum theatre, received a telegram from the Seattle booking office saying that Albers' 12 Polar bears would be unable to appear here to-day, on account of one of the ferocious animals attacking the trainer in the cage, almost killing him.

The bears are very treacherous, and have not been able to acclimatize themselves to the western temperature, so that Mr. Albers has been having a great deal of trouble with them. One of them has been in captivity only a few months, and not being used to its surroundings, became very irritable and restless. On Saturday night shortly after Albers had put the bears through their paces, this same bear sneaked up, and before he had time to guard himself, lunged, him a terrific blow in the stomach, and almost disembowelled him. The other bears then attacked him, and he was badly mangled before the attendants could rush to his rescue and beat back the ferocious beasts. Mr. Albers was taken to the Seattle general hospital, where he is now lying in a precarious condition.

## BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT

### Armstrong, Dec. 3.—The four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. T. N. H. of Larkspur, was accidentally killed by his elder brother, Harry. It appears that Harry had picked up a 22 rifle that had fallen on the floor, and as he was picking it up it went off. The bullet striking his younger brother. The bullet entered the chin, going down through and lodging in the spinal column.

## GIRL FOUND DEAD.

### Pittsburg, Kansas, Dec. 5.—Miss Goldie Ingburg was found dead from having swallowed carbolic acid on Saturday, and her relatives charge that she was murdered by a thief who forced the poison down her throat. The girl's diamond earrings had been torn from her ears and several valuable rings taken from her fingers. She was alone in her home, it is stated, when a thief entered and overpowered her. The mother entered shortly afterwards and found the girl dying. A child in the neighborhood reported that a roughly dressed man ran from the Ingburg house a short time before Mrs. Ingburg returned. The case is being investigated by the police.

## WOMAN MURDERED.

### Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 4.—Rushing into the police station last evening and crying hysterically that she had shot her lover, Peter Scurry, Julia Lewis, a colored woman, gave herself up to the police. She said she was not aware that the shot was fatal.

## VANCOUVER TRAGEDY.

Detective Deckson was immediately sent to the house of the woman and found the body of Scurry lying on the floor with a bullet wound over the heart. The man had to all appearances been dead for some time, and evidences around the room showed plainly that a scuffle had occurred previous to the shooting. The woman was formally charged with murder in the police court this morning.

## KAMLOOPS LIBRARY.

Kamloops, Dec. 3.—The opening of the Kamloops library was largely attended. Mrs. Nash, the vice-president, assisted by a number of other ladies served tea, and the guests showed their appreciation by presenting books and magazines. Many magazines and about 50 books were thus donated and many more are promised.

## FALL BUILDING PROVES ACTIVE

### OCTOBER FIGURES SHOW BIG INCREASE

Interesting Statistics — Calgary and Sydney, N. S., Far Ahead.

Predictions ventured earlier in the season as regards fall building operations, are being fully borne out as the latest months materialize. October was another period of activity in which the volume of new work undertaken greatly exceeded that of the corresponding month of last year, and as yet nothing has turned up to indicate otherwise than a continuance of this prosperous condition for some time to come. Two gains are noted to every loss, and the average increase for the month, as based on comparative figures supplied by the construction industry, was in excess of 42 per cent.

Calgary again reports the biggest increase for the month, following her phenomenal advance of 399 per cent. in September, by another, to 457 per cent. in October. Sydney is second in the list, with 341 per cent. to the good, while Berlin again bobs up in the third highest place with a substantial increase of 173 per cent. to her credit.

Of the places to suffer a reversal, two of which are noted in the east, three in Ontario, and two in the west—St. John and London, which experienced a decline of 47 per cent. and 47 per cent. in order named, were hit the hardest. It may be mentioned, however, in the case of London, that the total value for permits issued up to date, is just double the amount expended for new buildings during the entire year of 1908; and also that the outlook there at the present time is anything but discouraging.

Aside from the losses at Edmonton and Regina, which fell behind their last year's figures for the month, to the extent of 15 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively, the West, in general, more than held its own. Vancouver registered an increase of 15 per cent.; Winnipeg 10 per cent.; and Victoria 5 per cent., while Lethbridge looms up with \$190,270 for new work undertaken, which brings the total value of permits for the year well over the million mark for the first time in her history. In all these places, the immediate prospects are all that could be desired. Winnipeg is displaying an activity in the realty market seldom witnessed at this time of the year, and, as for Vancouver and Victoria, the present indications are that both of these places are just beginning to grow.

In Ontario, besides the gain in Berlin, other advances recorded were: Toronto, 51 per cent.; Port William, 39 per cent.; and Hamilton 18 per cent. Windsor, which registers an amount of \$18,000, can also be included in the list of gains, while, as for Port Arthur, which had \$271,000 to her credit last month it might be explained that the small amount (\$3500), is not representative of the new work undertaken at that place, owing to the fact that there are no building regulations outside of fire limits, and hence no means of obtaining a complete record. The two set backs noted in addition to that of London's, mentioned above, are: Peterboro, 48 per cent., and Stratford, 32 per cent. In both cases, however, the corresponding amounts for the month are relatively small, and the losses, therefore, can hardly be regarded as seriously affecting the general situation. Practically all the places mentioned are substantially ahead of 1908 in the season's work, while the amount already recorded in Toronto is greater than any previous yearly total in the history of the city.

Further east, Montreal again comes forward by noting an increase of 48 per cent. and as yet nothing has occurred to stay her progress. This is the tenth consecutive gain recorded, and in this respect, Montreal has perhaps showed the most consistent development throughout the year of any city in the Dominion. Halifax, however, once more lags behind her former figures, her loss for the month being 25 per cent. It is quite probable, though, that a strong reaction will take place before very long, as the increasing importance of Halifax as a port of entry, clearly indicates that the city has not as yet, in any way approached the limit of her growth.

The following are the comparative figures:

	Oct. 1908.	Oct. 1909.	P.C. P.C.
Berlin	25,550	1,700,621	6,621
Brandon	8,220	4,000	55.93
Calgary	403,690	88,400	15.39
Edmonton	83,335	98,725	18.89
Fort William	88,095	128,250	16.89
Hamilton	247,350	211,550	16.89
Halifax	34,200	46,100	25.00
Lethbridge	190,270	220,000	47.77
London	29,890	57,210	47.77
Montreal	638,645	422,080	48.92
Peterboro	16,680	29,490	43.82
Port Arthur	3,600	5,100	32.78
Regina	62,080	58,270	10.63
St. John	23,800	78,550	67.64
Stratford	4,100	5,100	32.78
Sydney	22,050	5,000	941.00
Toronto	1,540,355	1,019,492	51.09
Vancouver	601,975	458,080	15.11
Victoria	194,940	25,735	8.08
Windsor	19,500	19,500	0.00
Winnipeg	511,850	460,400	11.17
	\$4,540,290	\$3,135,582	42.53

## INSTITUTE MEETINGS.

### M. A. Jull Will Give Practical Lectures on Poultry Keeping.

The following Farmers' Institute meetings will be held during this month at which practical lectures will be given by M. A. Jull, provincial poultry expert: Dec. 13th—Ganges Harbor, 2 p. m. Dec. 12th—Public hall, North Salt Spring, 7.30 p. m. Dec. 14th—Schoolhouse, South Salt Spring, 7.30 p. m. Dec. 15th—Pender Island, 7.30 p. m. Dec. 16th—Mayne Island, 7.30 p. m.

## WOMAN MURDERED.

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