

Average Daily Circulation, 1906, ... 7,412

THE EVENING TIMES

8 Pages

VOL. III, NO. 222

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1907.

ONE CENT

S. S. CRYSTAL STREAM BURNED AND THREE LIVES SACRIFICED AT COLE'S ISLAND EARLY TODAY

Most Awful Tragedy in the History of the St. John River.

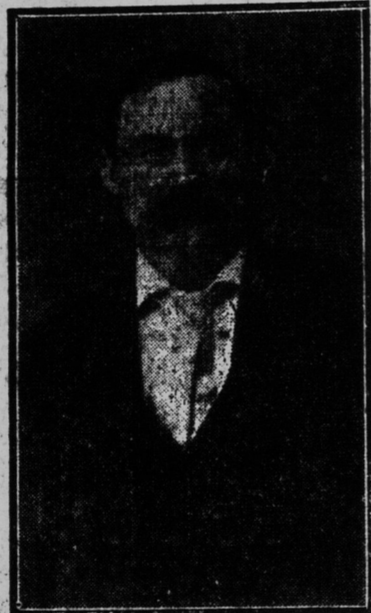
Number of Dead at First Reported as Three Was This Afternoon Increased to Four--Willard Logan, Allan Logan, Fred Smith and Edward Baxter the Victims--Caught While Asleep Beneath the Deck, They Were Roasted to Death--Grim Details of the Terrible Fatality.

- William Logan, of Land's End, Fireman, Burned to Death. Allan Logan, of Land's End, Deckhand, and a Brother of William Logan, Burned to Death. Edward Baxter, Day's Landing, Kings County, Burned to Death. Fred. Smith, of Shannon, Q. C., Deckhand, Burned to Death. Herbert McAlary, of Long Reach, Mate, Badly Burned and May Die. Archibald Belyea, of St. John, Purser, Slightly Burned. Mrs. Chase, Stewardess, St. John, Slightly Burned. Wentworth Roberts, Engineer, St. John, Slightly Burned. Steamer Crystal Stream, Owned by D. J. Purdy, M. P. P., and Valued at \$22,500, Burned to the Water's Edge--A Total Loss. Passenger Bridge at Cole's Island Burned.

First fierce onslaught of the flames fought hard first to rescue their comrades and then to save the steamer. All efforts to reach Fireman Logan, Deckhand Logan and Deckhand Smith were fruitless. A wall of flame barred the path to their sleeping quarters, while that portion of the steamer was a literal furnace. The men were eventually dragged out and Doctors Armstrong and Earle, the only physicians on Cole's Island, were hastily summoned. Before they arrived however the men were dead, probably having died before they were brought out. Herbert McAlary, the mate, was frightfully burned. What medical aid could be



THE ILL FATED STEAMER 'CRYSTAL STREAM' Which Was Burned to the Water's Edge at Cole's Island This Morning, When Four Lives Were Lost.

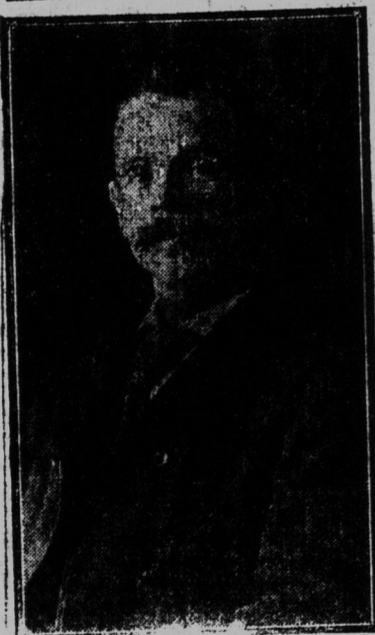


W. W. Roberts, Engineer

The Crystal Stream, at her wharf at Indiantown yesterday morning about 10 o'clock for her route on the Washademoak of which Cole's Island is the terminal point. She arrived at Cole's Island about 6.30 and was tied up to her wharf about one o'clock this morning when the tragedy occurred. It is believed there was very little cargo on board but she carried as far as known, eleven people, all of whom are believed to have been on board when the fire broke out.

List of Those on the Steamer

Fred S. Mabee, of St. John, captain. Herbert McAlary, of Long Reach, mate. W. W. Roberts, of St. John, engineer. Willard Logan, of Land's End, fireman. Archibald P. Belyea, of St. John, purser. Mrs. Chase, of St. John, stewardess. Mrs. Coleman, of St. John, cook. Mrs. M. McCutcheon, of St. John, waitress.



Capt. Mabee of the Crystal Stream

These few short sentences tell in a nutshell the grim story of the most awful tragedy ever recorded in the history of the beautiful St. John river.

Three souls went to eternity in the early hours of this morning.

Three homes are today plunged into poignant grief by the sudden visitation of death in awful guise, while the whole city is shocked at the terrible tragedy enacted at Cole's Island.

The steamer Crystal Stream was burned to the water's edge about one o'clock this morning.

Willard Logan and Allan Logan, of Land's End, and Fred Smith, of Shannon, Queens County, were burned to death in the holocaust and Herbert McAlary, the mate of the little steamer, was so badly burned that he may not recover. Archibald Belyea, purser, and Mrs. Chase, stewardess of the steamer, were also slightly burned while all that remains of the steamer itself is some charred and blackened beams and a few tons of scrap iron.

Details of Tragedy Not Yet Known

The details of the tragedy are not yet definitely known, and probably will not be for some hours after the Times is published. Enough is known, however, to show that the disaster is the worst ever recorded in the history of the lower river.

given him was hastily rendered and he was brought to the city on the steamer Aberdeen, which arrived here early this afternoon. A coach and the ambulance met the Aberdeen at Indiantown and McAlary was conveyed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a critical condition. Engineer Roberts was painfully burned while fighting the fire, but his injuries are not serious. Mrs. Chase, the stewardess, was also slightly burned. Capt. Mabee remained at Cole's Island to look after the bodies.

Steamer Burned to Water's Edge

At the time of the accident the Crystal Stream was tied up to the western wharf at Cole's Island. As the fire gained headway so suddenly it was impossible to fight it effectively and the steamer was soon a roaring mass of flames. It was a spectacular fire but none of those who saw the flames against the sky and river dreamed of the fearful tragedy being enacted before their very eyes. As the steamer was moored close to the wharf it was, of course, supposed that all on board had made their escape.

Something About the Three Victims

William Logan, fireman, and Allan Logan, deckhand, who were burned to death were the sons of the late Joseph Logan, of Land's End and were well known and highly respected along the river and in this city where they numbered many friends.

Allan Logan has been living at Grand Lake. He leaves a widow and one child. Walter Logan, of R. P. & W. F. Starr's, is a relative of the Logan boys.

The Scene of the Tragedy

Cole's Island, the scene of the tragedy, is on the Washademoak River, about 69 miles from this city and 33 miles from the junction of the Washademoak and the St. John. It is the terminus of the service and quite a trade in agricultural products is done with the farmers living on the island.

History of the Burned Steamer

The steamer Crystal Stream was a side wheeler and was built at Bull's Ferry, New Jersey in 1873. She was 132 feet long, 25 feet beam and had a draught of 9 feet 3 inches. She was purchased in New York about five years ago by the People's Steamship Company and was put on the Washademoak route from St. John to Cole's Island. She was a most satisfactory boat in every respect. Last spring she was elaborately painted and refitted and new staterooms added and when she went on the route this season was valued at \$22,500.

Mr. Purdy Talks of the Disaster

Daniel J. Purdy, owner of the Crystal Stream, was almost overcome with grief when he learned of the accident. He lives at Riverview during the summer months, and it was not until he arrived in the city on the 9 o'clock train this morning that he learned of the disaster. David H. Nason met him at the train and imparted the fateful details. Mr. Purdy was shocked when he learned of the accident. He was not so much concerned over the loss of his steamer, but was overcome at the terrible fatality which resulted from the fire. He said the Crystal Stream was insured in Lloyd's, in England, but the insurance would not half cover the loss. When she left her wharf yesterday she had the lightest cargo she has taken up river this season. She had in her cargo four bundles of pressed hay, consigned to Cole's Island, but this he thought had been discharged before the fire broke out.

How the Sad News Reached the City

As far as known, the news of the disaster first reached the city in a telephone message to D. H. Nason from Capt. Mabee. As soon as the fire had spent its force Capt. Mabee hastened to get word



Herbert McAlary, Mate.

Other Steamers Lost on the River

The history of the river steamers is indeed a tragic one, but the awful fatality of today is generally regarded as the worst. Other steamers which have been burned are the Bellisle, the Acadia, the David Weston and the Star. The tragic fate of most of those is still fresh in the minds of the readers, but in none of them was the loss of life and property so severe as in that grim happening of the early hours of this morning, when the good steamer Crystal Stream was reduced to ashes and three brave men sent to eternity.

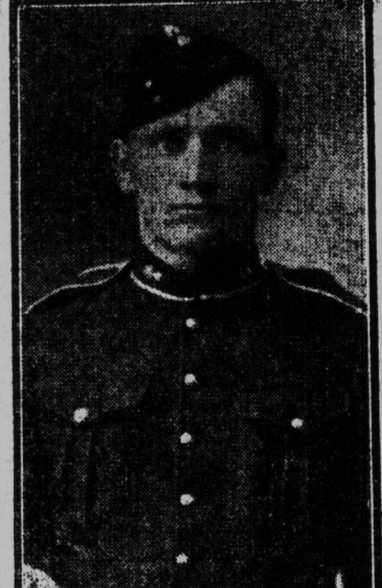
See Second Edition for Emerson Case

A telephone message received by D. J. Purdy at 1.40 o'clock, reported the Aberdeen passing Oak Point. She was expected at Indiantown about 3 o'clock.

THE JUDGE REFUSES

FREDERICTON, June 21 (Special)—Announcement was made in the circuit court here this morning by Dr. Pugsley that the defamatory libel case of the King vs. Crockett would not be tried this term. He applied for a commission to take the evidence of two men named Foster and O'Brien, former employees of the St. Lawrence Hall, and the court refused it. He also asked that the question raised by defendant's plea of justification be referred to the supreme court. On this point his honor took until Monday to decide. Dr. Pugsley then stated that in view of the court's decision yesterday he did not propose to go on with the trial this term, and the defendant's witnesses might as well return home.

Willard Logan, One of the Men Burned to Death



Willard Logan, One of the Men Burned to Death

quent details were learned from Mr. Nason, Mr. Purdy and from Miss Roberts, of Cole's.

THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY

This was the first accident for most of the members of the Crystal Stream's staff, although Mrs. Mary Coleman, the cook, who previous to her marriage was Miss Wilson, was on the steamer Star when that steamer was burned some years ago.

Other Steamers Lost on the River

The history of the river steamers is indeed a tragic one, but the awful fatality of today is generally regarded as the worst. Other steamers which have been burned are the Bellisle, the Acadia, the David Weston and the Star. The tragic fate of most of those is still fresh in the minds of the readers, but in none of them was the loss of life and property so severe as in that grim happening of the early hours of this morning, when the good steamer Crystal Stream was reduced to ashes and three brave men sent to eternity.

See Second Edition for Emerson Case

A telephone message received by D. J. Purdy at 1.40 o'clock, reported the Aberdeen passing Oak Point. She was expected at Indiantown about 3 o'clock.

LATER

List of Dead Is Now Four

The shocking news reached Indiantown this afternoon that the body of Edward Baxter was found in the hull of the burned steamer. This makes the list of dead four and proves conclusively that the fire overpowered the deck hands' and frames as they were asleep in their berths, just beneath the main deck, of the main deck where the fire started.

It is now learned that McAlary had been asleep last night in the quarters with the deckhands and the fireman. He barely escaped with his life but was terribly burned. Those who were asleep in other portions of the boat escaped with very slight burns or were uninjured.

Edward Baxter, the fourth victim, was 21 years of age and was a son of Joseph Baxter of Day's Landing. He was unmarried. About two years ago he was employed by F. H. J. Ruel in the capacity of man servant at Mr. Ruel's country house. Mr. Ruel when informed of Baxter's death expressed sincere sorrow. He said he was an honest, upright young man and a faithful employe.

Up to 1.15 the steamer Aberdeen with Herbert McAlary aboard had not reached Indiantown.

The steamer Champlain arrived about 1.15 but her captain said he had not seen the Aberdeen.

THE JUDGE REFUSES

FREDERICTON, June 21 (Special)—Announcement was made in the circuit court here this morning by Dr. Pugsley that the defamatory libel case of the King vs. Crockett would not be tried this term. He applied for a commission to take the evidence of two men named Foster and O'Brien, former employees of the St. Lawrence Hall, and the court refused it. He also asked that the question raised by defendant's plea of justification be referred to the supreme court. On this point his honor took until Monday to decide. Dr. Pugsley then stated that in view of the court's decision yesterday he did not propose to go on with the trial this term, and the defendant's witnesses might as well return home.

See Second Edition for Emerson Case

A telephone message received by D. J. Purdy at 1.40 o'clock, reported the Aberdeen passing Oak Point. She was expected at Indiantown about 3 o'clock.