

DEMANDS DRIVER OF AUTO APPEAR

Brantford Jury Refuses To
Act Until Witness Is Pro-
duced by Crown.

SIFT TOPPING FATALITY

Road Foreman Claims Car
Bore Ohio License—
Travelled Slowly.

Special to The Advertiser.
Brantford, Dec. 23.—The jury empaneled to inquire into the death of Albert E. Topping, cannot present our finding until the crown produces the person who drove the car that inflicted the fatal injuries to Topping. We would suggest that this inquest be adjourned until Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1923, and that the crown make an effort to have the driver present at that time.

So read the verdict of the coroner's jury empaneled to inquire into the cause of the death of Albert E. Topping, who was struck by a car on the Hamilton-Brantford highway on Saturday of last week. Many witnesses declared that the driver was entirely blameless for the accident, and that he had made every effort to avoid the accident.

The first witness called was William Madden, Brantford Township, foreman of the new Brantford-Hamilton highway.

Driver Called Out.
He stated that he was working on the side of the road, and that he heard some one. He presumed that it was the driver of the car calling to Topping and telling him to look out.

This was on Dec. 16 about 10 a.m. When asked where this he stated that it was in front of the Lang farm at Langford. He saw the car strike the deceased as the latter stopped in front of the car. The car was not traveling fast. He thought that the man was struck by the windshield.

"How far was the car from the scene of the accident when it stopped?" asked W. M. Charlton, K.C., of the witness.

"About 20 feet," was the reply. "Did you get the name of the driver of the car and the number of the car?"

"Yes, I got it, but I gave it to Fred Kerr, witness affirmed.

"What was the name of the driver?"

Name Was Depew.
"Depew, or something like that."

"What license did the car bear and what was its number?"

"It had an Ohio license."

Witness stated that the driver of the car gave him (witness) the name of the car, and that the address on it was 173 East 8th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

"Did you see any wounds around the deceased?"

"Yes, he had a gash over the left eye and some bruises on the face."

"Any others?"

"Not that I saw."

Car Stopped.
Witness stated that the driver of the car stayed around for an hour after the accident and assisted in every way possible. It was impossible for the man to be removed further than the house of Lang, where he was taken after the accident.

Plewes was called after the accident. The injured man was taken to the hospital.

Dr. Plewes, attending physician, stated that he had examined the deceased, and that he was suffering with a fractured skull and a number of superficial lacerations. Deceased regained consciousness. He died at the hospital on Dec. 19, this year.

R. G. Ireland stated that the accident was unavoidable, as the driver of the car had done all he could to avoid hitting Topping, but that deceased stepped in front of the oncoming car.

S. Palmer thought that the deceased was struck by the luggage carried on the left hand of the car. He was not sure.

E. R. Long stated that all was done in an effort to avoid hitting Topping, as the car had gone right to the edge of the gully. If it had gone any farther it would have hit the car.

A number of other witnesses corroborated the above evidence. The jury was as follows:

James T. Whitaker, foreman; Lorne Drake, H. Gould, A. J. McCann, Albert Plewes and Thomas Ion, D. C. Bissette, presided.

HIGHGATE WIDOW SUES M.P.P., \$25,000

Breach of Promise Action
Commenced Against W. A.
Crockett, Member for
Hamilton.

Special to The Advertiser.
Chatham, Ont., Dec. 23.—Breach of promise proceedings were instituted today against W. A. Crockett, M.P.A., of Hamilton, by W. L. Laker, of this city, on behalf of his client, Cordelia W. Wilkins, widow of Highgate.

The writ claims damages to the extent of \$25,000. No facts are available, but it is reported that the plaintiff alleges that arrangements had been completed for the wedding to take place on Jan. 1, after having been engaged for some time. It is also alleged that recently the plaintiff received a long-distance telephone call from the defendant, during which he is reported to have stated he would not marry her, and was leaving for Georgia at an early date.

The defendant is a widower, and is employed by the American Can Company.

FIND SIX HALF-DEAD MEN IN LIFEBOAT FAR AT SEA

Steamer Picks Up Craft 1,000 Miles
From Land on Stormy Atlantic.

New York, Dec. 23.—Nearly 1,000 miles off the Atlantic coast, the freighter Menominee, ploughing its way through heavy seas, yesterday picked up a lifeboat containing six men half dead from fatigue and lack of food, according to a wireless message received yesterday from the Menominee.

56 of the men, members of the crew of the fishing schooner George Rudge, capt. J. Johns, Nfld., abandoned their ship after a long and bitter fight with the storm on the return trip from last night.

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"What would you suggest for a rich uncle who is very feeble and walks with difficulty?"
"How about a few banana peels?"—Judge.

Wishes He Could Give Man 90 Years For Striking 73-Year-Old Mother

Detroit, Dec. 23.—Face old and furrowed and blacked by a hand that she gently fussed over and kissed so tenderly when it was smaller, Mrs. Minnie Hiesche, 73 years old, looked with timid eyes at a sign in Judge Hiesche's court today that may have cheered others but mocked her. It was a merry Christmas sign.

As she told the story of how her own son had knocked her senseless in the snow and how she had crawled on her hands and knees on the cold ground until the kindly arm of a policeman had lifted her to her feet, she looked lifelessly at the Yule message.

She could not see it very clearly. One eye had a purple shadow and was almost closed, and the other was not much better. There was a scratch across a cheek and what seemed like the mark of knuckles on the quivering chin. At times she pulled at the shawl about her head as if to draw it over the physical evidence of her trouble.

Mrs. Kischke lives at 5533 Grandee avenue. Paul, the son, came. He was drunk. He knocked her down and the snow bit at her hands. Another strike struck her in the face. He was pretty strong. He had been a patrolman at the Hunt street police station for four years.

"The best Christmas I can give you," said the court, "is the maximum sentence for this offense. 90 days in house of correction. My only regret is I cannot give you 90 years." Then they led the son back to jail. The mother trudged home on foot—alone.

Within the last few months five churches have been destroyed by fire in the archdiocese of Quebec. St. Fole, St. Louis and Coeurville, St. Anne de Beaupre and Tourville, and finally, the Basilica. Mr. Leclerc does not think that any increase over previous years.

A few days ago Rev. Canon Beaulieu, on the advice of his eminence, Cardinal Beaudry, issued a circular letter to the parish priests of the diocese, asking them to take all means of protecting the sacred buildings in their parishes.

Chief of Police Trudel was inclined to believe that the fire was due to natural causes.

"I do not want to make any statement on a matter which has not been investigated, but I believe that many of the rumors are false. However, we will take all means of clearing the crime, and already my men are investigating."

Mgr. Gariepy, superior of the Quebec Seminary, received a letter a few days ago warning him that the university would be set on fire. That letter did not mention the Basilica. The superior took the warning as a joke, and destroyed the letter without delay.

A little later a scrap of paper was found in the university, in which it was said the university would be burned in 1927.

NOT WORRYING OVER
NAME OF THE EMPIRE

Canadian Ministers Give Little Thought to Proposed "Commonwealth."

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Canadian ministers thus far appear to have given little thought to any proposal to change the name of the British Empire to "the British Commonwealth of Nations," a step which it was indicated in last night's dispatch from New York was about to be taken by the cabinet.

That an announcement of the making of this change in name would be issued "within a few days" was considered by them to be rather unlikely, from the fact that the dominions would all be consulted before such a step was taken by the home government. The matter, it was felt, might be brought up at the next meeting of dominion premiers, and perhaps be decided upon then, unless an expression of opinion from the overseas dominions had been secured in the meantime.

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THINK CHURCH FIRE OF NATURAL ORIGIN

Priests Admit Receiving
Threats, But Considered
Them Work of Joker.

SYMPATHY WIDESPREAD

Five Catholic Edifices De-
stroyed in Past Few
Months.

Quebec, Dec. 23.—From the top of the wrecked tower of the Basilica small spurs of flames were still stabbing the darkness last night.

The city is only now beginning to realize the extent of the disaster in the destruction of the greatest cathedral Thursday night.

From all parts of the country have come expressions of sympathy and condolence. Even by those of the Protestant faith have help and sympathy been forthcoming.

The latest offer was received today from Dean Shreve, of the Quebec Anglican Cathedral, who offered the use of the edifice for the celebration of Christmas midnight mass.

The dean in his offer to local Catholic authorities reminded them that it is only in return for a kindness shown the Anglican Church many years ago by one of the Quebec religious orders when the English Cathedral was damaged by fire.

The Catholic clergy had already made arrangements to celebrate the midnight mass in the seminary chapel before the dean's offer was received, and it has therefore been declined.

As yet there is nothing definite on which to base an explanation of the cause of the fire, but the opinion generally held is that it was not of incendiary nature.

While no announcement has been made as to rebuilding the famous church, it is understood it will be proceeded with shortly.

This city seethed with rumors today, as an aftermath of the fire which destroyed the historic Basilica. Priests announced they had received letters containing threats to burn down ecclesiastical buildings.

Fire and police officials were not inclined to give much credence to arson theory as the cause of the fire, which destroyed the historic Basilica. Leclerc said he did not believe it was a case of arson. He had investigated recent fires in the district of Quebec and elsewhere, and in all cases discovered they were due to the usual causes.

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PROVINCES SEEK AID FOR COLLEGES

Representatives of Maritime
Universities Believe Request
Will Bring Results.

WILL AID AMALGAMATION

Believe Foundation Fund Will
Supply Money To Central-
ize Education.

Canadian Press.
New York, Dec. 23.—Representatives of Canadian Maritime universities, who have been in New York negotiating with officials of the Carnegie Foundation, relative to the proposed federation of the Maritime colleges, are returning confident that their mission has been successful.

Rev. B. C. Borden, president of Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.S., told the Canadian Press yesterday that the conference had been entirely satisfactory, and that a long step forward had been taken toward putting the plan for amalgamation into effect.

"The officials of the Carnegie Foundation are anxious that the scheme as outlined in their original report and which involves the joining up of all the Maritime universities, and a support from the provincial and Newfoundland governments should go through in its entirety," he said.

The impression of our delegation is that the foundation is prepared to give generous support if the scheme is carried out.

Mr. Borden said that \$2,500,000 would be needed to transfer the different colleges and establish them in Halifax. Our impression is that the foundation is prepared to put forth that amount and more if necessary.

If the plan receives the official approval of the Carnegie Foundation it will be presented to the governing bodies of the different universities concerned for adoption.

The plan which the Carnegie Foundation is asked to approve and assist would federate in Halifax, Acadia University, King's University, Mount Allison University, a Presbyterian college, a Roman Catholic college, a non-denominational college and Dalhousie University, with provision for the addition of other colleges.

The plan would have faculties of arts, law, medicine, dentistry and applied science, with other facilities of other professional faculties such as agriculture, pharmacy and forestry. The university would confer degrees with the exception of divinity. The university at large would be governed by a board of governors.

Each of the constituent colleges moving to Halifax would retain its name, its endowment and property, its charter and its governing body.

The plan anticipated annual public subscription to the fund, and grants from the provincial and Newfoundland governments and the support of the university.

Chinese Murderers Have Sen-
tences Commuted to Life
Imprisonment in California.

By M. E. EDSE