

Twenty-Four Persons Killed and Thousands Homeless.

Fort Louise, Island of Mauritius, March 26. — A cyclone caused widespread ruin throughout the island on March 21 and 22. Twenty-four persons are known to be killed, and thousands are without food or shelter. Houses, bridges and telegraph lines are destroyed.

MINERS' CAGE FELL.
Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 26. — A cage fell down the shaft of the Doran coal mine at noon today. Several are reported killed.

WEST LONDONERS DRIVEN FROM HOMES BY FLOOD.

Greater Portion of Suburb Is Under From 2 to 6 Feet of Water—Hundreds Compelled to Seek Safety in the Middle of the Night.

PROPERTY LOSS WILL AMOUNT TO AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS

Police, Firemen and Citizens Join in Rescuing Imprisoned Men, Women and Children—Water Entered Village Over Breakwater Between Wilson Avenue and Wharncliffe—Homeless Ones Being Provided for at Hotels and in the Houses of Friends.

Ever since the first cottage built his home in West London sixty years ago, the spring freshets have been a menace to life and property in that portion of London. Old residents will tell you that floods are not of modern occurrence in that suburb, for as far back as the time when John Jennings and Dennis O'Brien conducted distilleries in the north, part of what is now known as West London, there were annual floods, and though not frequently accompanied by loss of life, were always the cause of immense damage to property, and sore inconvenience to those who live in West London.

GREATEST SINCE 1883.

Today West London is again under water, and it is said that the flood is greater than any which has been known to the suburb since 1883, when over 30 persons lost their lives, and many thousands of dollars' damage was caused.

All day yesterday the river rose and surged along with a sullen roar. The warm rain sent the water of the district from the county of Perth into its bed, and with each hour the gauge at Springbank recorded a rise in the flood. Though the ice had been pretty well cleared out of the south branch on Thursday, yesterday at 4:30 the ice which had been jammed in the north branch, north of St. Marys gave way, and came down the river at race-horse speed, scuttling and crashing in the foam at the foot of the dam, and its way into the current proper and resumed its journey westward toward the lake. Those who were sufficiently interested in the developments of the flood to watch the river were well rewarded, for the warmth of the atmosphere and the sun, which were shining brightly over the river which, though it clouded the view, did not altogether obscure it, the rushing current with its never-ceasing ice-floes making a beautiful picture. By 6 o'clock last night all the low banks along the south branch had been covered with water. These included the old Moore distillery property, the flats in the rear of the London Rolling Mills company, and as these across the river to the south, Winnet's Island, behind Victoria Hospital, disappeared from view, and the water began to make its way into the street, and over at West London the flood was but four or five feet from the top of the main bridge, and the water began to make its way into the places. Yesterday Hunt's mills were compelled to close down, and the local electric power houses also felt shaky.

WEST LONDON CITIZENS IN A RACE FOR HIGHER GROUND.

At 11 o'clock last night the flood in the south branch became something tremendous, and it soon made known its effect on the main river, for at that hour nine feet of water were pouring over the dam at Springbank. After this hour the rise in the water was so steady and persistent that residents of Nelson street in the city, between Clarence and Wellington streets, pulled up stakes and sought shelter on higher ground. Over on Front street, in South London, just south of Clark's bridge the water poured in in such volume that by midnight the street was deserted. Those who took a chance and waited were compelled to wade through water in some places three feet deep. At 8 o'clock this morning the water had flooded up Clarence street almost to South.

WEST LONDON SUBMERGED.

It was in West London, however, that the real terrors of the flood were felt. All through the night men paraded the breakwater with lanterns, watching for breaks, and hoping against hope that a flood would be averted. Every place the embankment looked weak a gang of corporation laborers filled in the weak place, and where no better could be done, rocks were piled with and placed in the openings. In the darkness of the night the lights of West London shone forth, and figures passing between them told that there was no sleep for a majority of the residents of the suburb. Men, women and children walked the streets in the rain, each one inquiring of the other, "Is the water going down?"

HORSEMAN GIVES ALARM.

Galloped Through Streets Shouting a Warning to the Sleeper.

At last many of the lights went out, the people becoming somewhat reassured when they saw that the breakwater was holding its own, and scarcely dreaming that the water would rise high enough to go over the breakwater, they sought a few hours sleep. About 1 o'clock in the morning, however, these people were awakened by a horseman galloping furiously through the quiet street, shouting that the breakwater had given way, and to make haste and save themselves. In the lower sections along Dundas street, Wyatt street and the south ends of the Wharncliffe road and Wilson avenue, the houses were deserted of women in five minutes or less, but in some cases men remained behind to place chairs under pianos and to remove as far as possible valuables from the fast-rising flood.

When the people made their way out of their houses looking for shelter, they found crowds lining Dundas street from the Wharncliffe to the bridge. The water was pouring in from the foot of Wilson Avenue and the Wharncliffe road, however, and in such tremendous volume that within a few minutes two feet of water had gathered in the lower section of the village. Apparently the breakwater had given way at the places mentioned, but as the night wore on not only did the

water flow through the embankment, but over it as well, and at 5 o'clock this morning 10 feet 6 inches of water were pouring over the Springbank dam.

ATTACKED AT NEW QUARTER.

The water rapidly backed up from the south end until four feet flooded the Wharncliffe road. Then the river made an assault upon the village from a new quarter, and about 500 yards north of Dundas street bridge, the water surged over the embankment into the baseball park. In a few minutes between four and five feet of water covered this portion of West London, and later measurements showed that about six feet of water covered the park.

TOOK REFUGE IN ATTICS.

Though many people had remained in their houses, hoping and trusting that the flood would subside as the rain had ceased about 2 o'clock, and the ground had begun to freeze, they found that they had reckoned in error, and when daylight broke they were crowded in attics and upper floors without food or fire—half-dried and hungry. It is not known just who is to blame in this matter, but it is a certain fact that it was after 1 o'clock before any organized attempt was made to rescue these people, there being probably 50 families in sore predicament owing to the flood.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

The Police and Fire Departments Ordered to the Scene.

At that hour City Clerk Edwards came along, and at once communicated the condition of affairs to the mayor. His worship said that he had already ordered the police and firemen to the scene to do all possible for the sufferers, and he further ordered that all necessary boats be procured at the city's expense, and that the flooded residents also be supplied with food and necessities by the city.

Immediately after this a dozen boats manned by police and firemen put out and rowing through the suburb they rescued, but not without difficulty, those who desired to leave their homes or were in danger of losing their lives.

AN APPEAL FOR HELP.

City Clerk Edwards and an Advertiser reporter took another boat, and began a tour of inspection of the submerged village. At the corner of Dundas street and Wilson Avenue, the water was so deep that the bottom could not be reached with an oar. The houses were nearly all deserted and several feet of water flooded all alike. Proceeding up Wilson Avenue, a piteous appeal for help was heard, and as no other boat was in sight, the city clerk and the newspaperman, assisted by a young fellow named Lawson, started for the place from whence the cry had been heard. It was a house standing back of the grand stand in the ball park, two stories high, and occupied by two women and an elderly man. As the boat approached, the women waved a table cloth as a flag of distress, and beseeched the boatmen to not go by them.

"We'll not go by you," shouted Mr. Edwards, who handles a boat like a veteran sail. "Will save you if any one can." The job proved a difficult one, however, for the water was running just as high as a six-foot fence, and the current was very strong. At last an opening in the fence was located, and by main strength the boat was shot through it. Then another difficulty was confronted, for a floating barbed-wire fence was in the way. After much difficulty, this barrier was also passed and the house was reached. As the boat swung in, a small stable left its moorings and began to float dangerously near, but the city clerk kept going straight ahead. The water was four feet in the house, and the boat was too wide to go in the doorway and reach the stairs. At last young Lawson was pulled through an upstairs window, and he pulled a door from its hinges. This was laid from the stairs to the boat, and the two women, mother and daughter, were taken into the boat and rowed to safety on Dundas street. The young lady, Mrs. Norman, was in a very delicate condition, and as soon as the ambulance was sent for and she was taken to Victoria Hospital. Then the city clerk and the newspaperman returned and brought the old man and young Lawson to a place of safety.

THE WATERS RECEDING.

Though Engineer Simmie reports that since 5 o'clock this morning, to 11 o'clock, the water in the river had gone down six inches, it gradually flowed in over the breakwater at the south end of the village, and at the east side of the baseball park, until one place of apparent safety after another had to be abandoned by refugees, and at noon the water was still surging tumultuously through the village streets.

Some of the women who were rescued became almost hysterical in the boats, and laughed and wept by turns. Most of the sufferers were taken care of by friends in West London, who were lucky enough to be located on high ground, but others came into the city and made out the best they could.

SOME FUNNY STUNTS.

The whole flood bristles with incidents, near all of a serious character, but there were also several that were the night wore on not only did the

young on a piece of floating sidewalk or on a fence, which did not happen to be altogether submerged, would attempt a funny stunt, and it frequently was the case that such artists would up by taking a "header" into the icy water.

During the morning, snow began to fall, and the weather was anything but inviting. Those who were being rescued, sat and shivered in the boats, and in several instances it was found necessary to summon medical attendance.

LOSS WILL BE HEAVY.

Many Thousands of Dollars Damage Done By the Waters.

The river has submerged almost the entire village, the water covering at a great depth all that portion from a point west of the Wharncliffe road a block or so to Oxford street on the north. Carpets and furniture in the 200 or 300 houses of this district are utterly ruined, and in many cases this will mean that families have been practically put out of housekeeping, because their little all was invested in their furniture, and chattels. It will take many thousands of dollars to cover the loss, for outside of the losses on furniture, the houses will be greatly damaged, and sidewalks and fences and outbuildings have been carried away. In short, no such state of devastation has been witnessed in London since the terrible flood of 1883 swept the village eleven years ago.

A WASHOUT AT WALLACEBURG.

A washout has been reported on the Erie and Huron Railway (Pere Marquette) north of Wallaceburg. This is close to the Sydenham River, which is also in flood.

MANY PEOPLE ILL.

All Well Cared For or Removed to Safety.

There were a number of people who were critically ill who had to be removed from their homes. On Walnut street an aged lady, residing in a cottage, refused for a long time to be taken away. She was suffering from a severe cold, and had in her charge two little children. The water at this point covered the fences completely, so that it would have been impossible to reach the house from the front door. A number of rescue-boats got by without calling for aid, but finally tapped at her window, and was taken away. She said stoutly, that she had sworn to stay with the house, but was leaving for the sake of the children, who might become ill. Other cases of sickness were reported, and the neighbors saw to it that the sick people were out of danger and dampness before they were removed to safety. In several cases physicians made trips to their patients in boats.

WATER RECEDING.

Hole Knocked in Breakwater at Napier Street By Ice Floe.

The water is receding on the north branch. At 12 o'clock the flood started to gradually abate, employees at Saunby's mill noticing that between noon and 3 o'clock the water at this point had dropped at least three inches. Above the dam the water was from nine inches to a foot over, so that the worst of the flood is believed to be over. The dam has not suffered at all. The prospect of the Saunby mill claim that they have not lost by the flood. On the city side this morning there was slight damage. At the foot of the street, Napier street, a boat came down the river and crashed into the breakwater with such force that it made a hole in it. This district was threatened but only for a short time. The leak was filled with bags of gravel and this afternoon there was no danger at all from this part of the river.

WILL BREAKWATER GIVE AWAY.

Water Is Eating Through the Only Protection on West Side.

At the foot of Dundas street in the city a brick cottage, occupied by the family of the late Turnkey Fletcher, of the county jail, is flooded to a depth between three and four feet. The water is also up several feet on the sulphur baths building, and the neat clubhouse of the London Rowing Club stands completely surrounded by water. Great quantities of ice have been jammed up against it at times, but it is felt that it will weather almost any proposition the river can muster. Standing on Dundas street bridge the water is not over six or eight feet from the shore, and is running at a tremendous speed. Along the north branch the water has backed up over the property of George B. Harris, J. D. Saunby and others, and it is flowing at many places almost as high as the breakwater, in one or two places higher than the breakwater itself.

At 1 o'clock today the condition of the breakwater was causing the authorities the gravest anxiety. South from Blackfriars bridge, at about the place where the Saunby dam crosses the river, the water has been pouring steadily, and increasing quantities, over the breakwater. This condition of affairs prevails down to the point where the fence of the baseball park ends, about 150 yards north of Dundas street bridge. South of this fence to the bridge the water is held back by a solid bank of earth, which is backed up by the lot which was years ago a dump, but which has now been entirely filled in. At the baseball park, however, the breakwater is not in places

over ten feet wide, and the continual surging of the waves has worn it away until it is now honeycombed for several feet inward, and is slowly being washed away. Coupled with this is the fact that thousands of tons of water are pouring over the breakwater, and the safeguard of West London is being assailed on both sides, for the baseball grounds are now one vast lake, with timbers, buildings and the floating everywhere. The water reaches up to the third row of seats.

If the breakwater should give way it will allow the river a short cut across the suburb and with the immense volume of water in the river now it is scarcely likely that a house or building between the baseball park and the Bartram residence would be able to withstand the rush of water.

Though the water has receded, six inches since it attained its maximum height at 5 o'clock this morning, the rent is scarcely noticeable, for the current is still very rapid, and the river looks every inch as dangerous as it did hours ago.

DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES AT EARLY MORNING HOUR

Flood Does Havoc at Wallaceburg, Also—Northern Section of Town Inundated—Large Farming Section Under Water—Steamer Torn From Moorings, Driven Against Bridge.

From many points throughout the western peninsula, reports of damage by flood have been received.

One of the places which has suffered to no small extent is the town of Wallaceburg, a few miles from Lake St. Clair, on the Sydenham River.

Throughout the entire winter, the river has been frozen over, and it was only during the last three days that anything in the nature of a severe thaw was experienced. The result was that the ice on the portion of the river, nearest the mouth, was broken up and passed off, but above what is known as North Branch bridge it was only during the last three days that the water being many feet deep in some parts of the town. The northern section has suffered to the greatest extent, it being the lowest, and practically all under water, and there when the people were compelled to leave their homes at an early hour this morning, and seek shelter with friends. Many will lose a good portion of their household effects.

The farming section around Wallaceburg is also low, and between the town and the mouth of the river land is inundated and buildings surrounded. Farmers generally are in bad shape, many having lost considerable stock, while few will escape without losing place all winter. This morning the river was so high and the current so strong that the vessel was swept to the L. E. and D. R. R. bridge, where it is held fast. There is a possibility that it will be saved from being carried into the lake. Three scows were also torn away and carried down the river.

PORTION OF A DAM WAS SWEEPED AWAY AT ST. MARYS

Town in State of Excitement Over Situation—Dynamite Used Start Ice Moving—Man in Partially Submerged House Rescued With Difficulty—Town in Darkness.

Excitement is at a high pitch at St. Marys. All along the river front the country is flooded, and this morning the unexpected happened when the upper part of the Saunby dam gave away and let the waters go down with a rush.

The rise of the river is the greatest that the town has ever witnessed. The force of the water at the town is terrific, and the Wellington street bridge did not break until this morning, and the citizens finally attacked the immense jam with dynamite. The ice which the shore and the neighborhood was reported, and the neighbors saw to it that the sick people were out of danger and dampness before they were removed to safety. In several cases physicians made trips to their patients in boats.

The town bell tolled out a warning and a cry for help last night, and the entire population of the town were soon on the river front. A house in which was a man, who had been very sick, was surrounded by water, and the latter was rising steadily. The man was unable to life himself to the window of his house, into which the water was pouring, and it was necessary for the rescuers to go into the place, carry him to the window, and there place him in a boat held by ropes and thus saved from being taken down by the current. With great difficulty the man was raised to the window and placed beneath blankets. His was the only case in which there was danger of a loss of life, and had the alarm not been given in time he likely would have been a victim of the flood.

The electric light plant, which is on the river front, has been shut down on account of the flooding of the plant. As a consequence the town was in darkness last night, which greatly added to the confusion. All of the people along the river have vacated their homes, which are flooded to a considerable depth.

It was thought that on account of the jam above it, that the bridge which crosses the river at Wellington street was in danger of being carried away. The ice was piled to a great height, and it was feared that when it moved it would surely carry the bridge with it.

It was immediately procured and had the required effect as the ice moved away without doing much damage.

A report has reached St. Marys that the bridge at Motherwell has been carried away. Timbers of all kinds have been coming down the river, so that this report is taken for correct. The bridge at Motherwell was a wooden structure.

That the dam would break, no one even had surmised. The timbers of which it was made were exceptionally strong, and it was well anchored. It had stood the strain of the spring floods for many years. The top of it commenced to give away at about 7 o'clock this morning. As yet, however, the main body is intact, and it may be saved.

The latest word received from St. Marys stated that the water was receding.

MEDICAL STUDENT LOSES HIS LIFE IN THE THAMES

Duncan McMartin Drowned in the North Branch While En Route to Assist West Londoners—Canoe Upset as He Was About to Land—Fred Adams' Narrow Escape.

Duncan McMartin, a student at the London Medical College, met death in the River Thames between 10 and 11 o'clock this morning, and another student, Fred Adams, had a narrow escape from sharing the same fate.

McMartin and Adams were very close friends. They had started at the same time, and had reached the second year class. They were fond of boating and other outdoor sports, and this morning on learning the condition of affairs in West London, they decided to go to the suburb in a canoe and help, if possible, to remove some of the many families who were hemmed in their homes by the high water.

Adams owned a canoe, which he kept in a shed on the north branch, near St. James street. It was there they entered the craft, and commenced their trip down the stream. Owing to the exceedingly swift current and the loose ice which was coming down, the two decided to keep as close to the shore as possible, and in this they were successful, little difficulty up to the time the craft was upset.

On nearing the Blackfriars bridge, on the west side of the river, a number of persons who were watching the stream called to Adams and McMartin to watch for the Saunby dam, a short distance further south, and the occupants of the canoe, who had intended landing there and carrying the canoe to a point south of the dam, turning the nose of the canoe shoreward. At the same moment Adams took hold of a branch of a willow tree. In order to pull the canoe to the shore, and as he did so, the craft upset. Adams is a good swimmer, and he managed to pull the canoe to the shore, and as he did so, the craft upset. Adams is a good swimmer, and he managed to pull the canoe to the shore, and as he did so, the craft upset.

McMartin was not so adept at the art of swimming, and he clung to the overturned canoe, and called for help. He succeeded in keeping the canoe on account of the fact that he was within a few yards of the crest of the dam where he grasped a limb of a tree, intending, apparently, to cling to this until help could reach him. The current, however, was strong at that place, and it swept McMartin out into the stream and beyond the reach of those who were hurrying along the river bank to rescue him, if possible.

As the unfortunate young man was swept into the waters at the dam he was heard to cry "Hurry up." In another instant his feet appeared above the water. That was the last seen of him.

McMartin was over 20 years of age, and lived near Thorndale. Adams' story.

The survivor of the accident, Mr. Fred Adams, a well-known young athlete, was seen at his home, 755 Richmond street. He was completely prostrated by the death of his friend, and his first question was "Have they found Duncan?"

He told the following story: "We were down watching the flood at the foot of Dundas street this morning. No doubt the sight of the boats helping the people out suggested the idea to us, but any way it was proposed by which I owned, at my home. Accordingly we went there and launched the canoe below the dam, near Foster's Island. The current was running at a fast rate, but it did not cause us any alarm. Our intention was to land at Blackfriars street and carry the canoe over into London West, where we intended to try and help some of the people out of the water. Everything was going nicely. All we had to do was to sit still and steer.

"When we arrived at the bridge we made for the shore, and had come quite close when the canoe suddenly was swept against a tree, half covered by water, and an instant both of us were in the stream. I had been steering and was seated in the back of the craft. With a few strokes I was able to grasp a branch which protruded above the water. Duncan was not so fortunate. He and the canoe were swept away in an instant and that was the last I saw of him. I was able to pull myself out of the water after a struggle. The story that we were attracted by the shout from the bridge and became excited is not true. We were trying to land and would have done so had our canoe not been swept against the tree. We did not go into the canoe from a foolhardy impulse. Our only intention was to try and get some of the London West people out of their homes."

AN EYEWITNESS.

Mr. E. Marshall, of 832 Queen's Avenue, was an eyewitness to the tragedy. He was standing on Blackfriars bridge from the time that the two young men were at the Oxford street bridge until they reached the Blackfriars bridge.

(Continued on page 6.)

