

The Evening Times-Star

The Weather Warmer; Snow

Forward The Maritime News... All Together!

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1924

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

Bomb In Christmas Box Brings Los Angeles Man Near Death

MONTREAL OFFICIALS ARRESTED

ATTORNEY IS BLINDED AND ARMS MANGLED

Hospital, Victim Is Not Likely To Recover

DAUGHTER HURT

Both Were Opening Parcel Christmas Day When Terrible Explosion Resulted.

Los Angeles, Dec. 26.—(United Press.)—Ernest M. Torchia, an Italian attorney, will probably not survive an explosion of a bomb sent him in a Christmas package.

His arms mangled and his eyesight gone, Torchia fought for life today, with physicians at the bedside, while he was taken, dubious concerning his recovery. After announcing the attorney's wound appeared fatal, the doctors this morning said his condition was "unchanged."

DAUGHTER SLIGHTLY HURT

The police were practically without clues as to the perpetrators of the outrage, as the volume of Christmas mail made tracing the deadly package most difficult.

Torchia, with his daughter looking over his shoulder, opened a gaily ribboned package Christmas morning and a terrific explosion resulted.

COL. P. J. GUTHRIE'S FATHER IS DEAD

Passes Away in Fredericton at Age of 86—Government to Meet in January.

Special to The Times-Star

FREDERICTON, Dec. 26.—James Guthrie of Burton, Sumbury county, died on Christmas night at the home of his son-in-law, H. T. Brewer, Fredericton, at the advanced age of 86. He was a native of Ireland and came to New Brunswick 65 years ago, settling at Burton. Mr. Guthrie had made his home with his son, William J. Guthrie, of Ormoco, but had been visiting Mr. Brewer here.

His wife died some 100 years ago. Surviving are three sons, William J. Guthrie, of Ormoco; David Guthrie, of Lincoln, and Col. Percy A. Guthrie, of Boston, and five daughters, Mrs. Robert Johnson, of St. John; Mrs. Chester Vincent, of St. John; Mrs. H. T. Brewer, of Fredericton; Mrs. E. Bayers, of Halifax, and Mrs. Thomas Boag, of Detroit. There also are surviving 25 grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren.

Estate in Probate

Letters of administration have been issued before P. J. Hughes, K. C., judge of probate, to Alexander Swan, of Manners-Sutton, in the estate of the late Margaret Ann Kelly. The estate is valued at \$4,119.92, all personal. The heirs are Mrs. Janet Piercy, wife of Thomas Piercy, of Dugald, Man., a sister, and Alexander Swan, of Manners-Sutton, and William Swan, of Courtenay, B. C.

Government Meeting

The Provincial Government will open its monthly session in Fredericton on Wednesday, January 7.

Torrid Buenos Aires Has Christmas Tree

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 26.—The municipality of Buenos Aires on Christmas Eve introduced a novelty in Christmas celebrations when it opened a big Christmas tree in the Plaza Congreso. The four sides of the plaza were bordered with gaily decorated temporary booths of merchants who did a thriving business with toys and other holiday articles.

A lofty, brilliantly lighted Christmas tree was a much-admired feature of the decoration scheme. The wintry appearance of the tree on the prevailing hot summer night seemed to appeal greatly to the fancy of the perspiring crowds which gathered at the plaza.

Woman Carried Eighteen Miles on Pilot Of Engine Which Struck Automobile

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 26.—Thrown out of the pilot of the Knickerbocker special, fast passenger train, after it had crashed into an automobile in which she was riding, Mrs. Kenneth Clark, 18 years old, had a wild 12-mile ride last night until she fell from

WEIGHS 536 AND IS STILL GOING STRONG

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 26.—Out of the West came J. E. Paxton of Sargent, Neb. He weighs 635 pounds.

Paxton was a mere stripling when he came here from Tennessee 20 years ago. He was rejected for army service in 1917 because he weighed 325 pounds. He has gained 50 pounds yearly since then.

The human mountain is six feet tall, and physicians say that he is hard on his saddle. Paxton does all the work on his quarter section farm, and thereby works up a good appetite. His breakfast some times is a dozen fried eggs, with three large sausages and trimmings.

9 DEAD, 7 MISSING AS DAM GIVES WAY

SCORE ARE INJURED IN VIRGINIA FLOOD.

Others Are Suffering From Pneumonia and Burns From Alkali.

SALTVILLE, Va., Dec. 26.—With nine bodies thus far recovered and six or seven persons still missing, the search for victims continued today in the area of the Holston river valley laid waste by the flood of lime muck released by the breaking of a dam Wednesday night at the Mettison, Va. works.

While more than a score of injured lay in an improvised hospital here, searches continued to fight their way through the stretches of lime and mud deposited by the torrent which originally swept away the little settlement of workers below the dam.

Four or five of the injured are not expected to live and many are suffering from pneumonia, resulting from their immersion in the key waters and from burns caused by the alkali muck. Most of the victims whose bodies have so far been recovered were attending a Christmas Eve party at a house near the dam. With only the notice of a deafening roar as the dam broke the merry-makers were trapped without a chance to save themselves, as the house was engulfed.

Butcher Is Robbed Of \$1,200 and Ring

MONTREAL, Dec. 26.—Police have been seeking clues to the identity of a pair of bandits who held up John M. Brewer, owner of the Marche Laurier, Limited, in his butcher shop, at 384 St. Catherine street east, robbed him of \$1,200 and a diamond ring, bound and gagged him, and threw him into the cellar. Looney lay for 20 minutes in a sub-zero temperature till one of his clerks, heard his cries on entering the shop and released him.

Boy Gets Stage Fright; Suicides

MUSKOGON, Mich., Dec. 26.—(United News)—"Buck fever" never had a proper place in the catalogue of physical infirmities until now, when the first fatality was recorded against the disease. "Buck fever" is better known as stage fright.

Audrey Bissauville, 15-year-old boy, hanged himself in an abandoned slaughter house here and the coroner's jury found that he had done so because he was afraid to face an audience as the member of the cast of a school Christmas entertainment.

TRAIN IS LOOTED

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 26.—Fifty armed bandits on Wednesday night derailed a Laredo-to-Mexico City passenger train at El Cobre south of Saltillo, killed a woman passenger and the six soldiers of the guard and sacked the express car, according to press dispatches from Saltillo.

A military column has been sent from Saltillo in pursuit of the bandits. A similar outrage occurred at the nearby station of Careros, last October.

Woman and Six Soldiers Are Killed When Bandits Derail Express

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OHIO WORKERS GET HUGE GIFT FROM EMPLOYER

\$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 in Stock Is Distributed

124 WILL BENEFIT

About One-Fourth of Capital Stock of Company To Be Divided

By Canadian Press. COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 26.—A Christmas gift of a possible value of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 was announced here yesterday.

William McClellan Ritter of Washington, D. C., formerly of Columbus, and founder of the W. M. Ritter Lumber Company the executive officer of the trust will be executed within a few days, and 124 men and women who reside here and in 13 eastern states, are the beneficiaries.

Mr. Ritter is turning back to the men and women, most of whom are employees of the company, approximately one-fourth of the capital stock of the corporation that bears his name. Plans for distribution of the stock were completed by him last night.

3,500 Shares Given

The shares that will be divided number 12,800 and have a par value of \$1,250,000. As the stock of the corporation is closely held, no exact approximation of the real worth of the gift can be obtained, but local bankers expressed the opinion that it might run between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. The stock will be held under a trust agreement for the beneficiaries, but the gift is without restrictions. The balance of the list includes relatives of Mr. Ritter.

Of the list of beneficiaries, 94 are officers and employees of the company. The balance of the list includes relatives and close personal friends of Mr. Ritter.

DECISION MEANS WAIT OF 30 YEARS

Toronto Man Loses Appeal in Case of Probate of Lost Will Copy.

OTTAWA, Dec. 26.—The appeal of Stanley McFarlane of Toronto against the decision of Mr. Justice Wright, who admitted for probate a copy of a lost will of his mother, Mrs. Agnes Fullerton McFarlane West, has been dismissed by the Supreme Court of Ontario, which allows the copy of the will to be admitted to the courts for probate and upholds the decision of Mr. Justice Wright.

The upholding of the decision of Mr. Justice Wright means that Stanley McFarlane will have to wait 30 years before he can inherit about \$60,000 which was left him under the terms of the copy of the will which was destroyed by the city brigade in several years, and at one time threatened a safe and adjoining hotel. The occupants were preparing to leave when the flames were joined under control shortly after midnight.

ONE GIRL IS DEAD

Two in Cambridge, Mass. Had Made Compact to End Lives.

Boston, Dec. 26.—Although a two-week fight was made to save her life, Miss Grace Williams, 18-year-old Worcester girl student at Radcliffe College is dead of poison at the home of her uncle, Dr. Enos Biegelow, Pleasant street, Framingham. At the Cambridge City Hospital doctors did their best to aid Miss Margaret Scoggins, her partner in a dual suicide, in a brave fight for life.

The attempt of the two girls to kill themselves occurred on the afternoon of Dec. 10, while both were horseback riding along the Charles river bridge path in Cambridge. They made the pact in a secluded spot, taking four poison tablets each. They then staggered into the St. Johns Infirmary, Mt. Auburn street, Cambridge, at nightfall. They were taken to the hospital and later Miss Williams was removed to her husband's brother-in-law and Mrs. Clyde Clark were injured. Mrs. Clark died this morning. A baby, 20 months old, was unhurt.

WESTERN PIONEER DIES FROM HEN PECK

MOOSE JAW, Sask., Dec. 26.—Richard Bogue, pioneer resident and the first merchant to establish in the city, a veteran of the Northwest Rebellion, and several times mayor of Moose Jaw, is dead.

His death was a tragic one. On Dec. 17 one of the hens in a flock which he kept at his home pecked him on the thumb of the right hand. Blood-poisoning set in. Although an operation was performed at the hospital, he failed to rally.

EIGHT MORE PERISH IN U. S. COLD ATTACK

ZERO WEATHER STILL IS GRIPPING PACIFIC.

Coldest Christmas in Years in Middle and Far Western States.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The Eastern States today were due for their turn at lightning of the wintry blasts which brought the coldest Christmas in years in many sections of the middle and far west. As the cold wave spread across the continent, lower temperatures were forecast for the Atlantic coast.

Unusual cold continued to grip the Pacific coast states today. The thermometer was forced below zero at Vancouver in California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada.

33 VICTIMS OF CHRISTMAS FIRE ARE IDENTIFIED

Blaze in School House Takes Terrible Life Toll

Tree Took Fire

HOBBART, Okla., Dec. 26.—With all of the 33 victims of the fire which destroyed the school house during a Christmas Eve entertainment identified, the people of the Bab's Switch Settlement today set about the sad work of interment.

Plans for using a common grave, first considered when it appeared identification of all bodies would be impossible, were abandoned last night when the identity of the last victim—a little girl of 11—was established. Joint funeral services for 16 of the dead will be held this afternoon, followed by burial in individual graves. Rev. G. W. Estep, pastor of the Presbyterian church, was named to conduct the services, with ministers from all denominations participating. The remaining 17 victims of the fire probably will be buried tomorrow in a common grave.

Twenty In Hospitals. Twenty persons injured in the fire are in hospitals. All are considered to have at least an even chance for recovery. Authorities said they expected to take no action toward investigating the Bab's Switch fire. Vigilance of the school trustees in placing wire netting over the outside of the school windows to keep out vandals was held chiefly responsible for the heavy loss of life.

The Allies' Council of Ambassadors is meeting tomorrow to consider whether Germany has fulfilled her obligations under the Versailles treaty to extend making advisable evacuation of the Cologne area by the allies on the stipulated date of January 10.

JOKE IS COSTLY

Prisoner in New York "Kids" Judge and Gets 90-day Sentence.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—It's one thing to drive an automobile while intoxicated in New York. John Malone's penalty for that was 10 days in jail. But it's another thing to kid Magistrate Glatsamer.

After he had imposed 10 days on Malone, the judge asked: "Where's your license?" Malone said: "I was just kidding." "For kidding the judge, you get 80 days more," said Magistrate Glatsamer. "Take him away for 90 days."

THE WEATHER REPORT

SYNOPSIS—A moderate depression is moving eastward across Northern Ontario, while pressure is high on the Atlantic coast and over the northwestern portion of the continent. The weather has been mostly fair and cold from Ontario eastward and is turning colder in the western provinces.

Forecasts—Warmer; Snow Likely. Maritime—Fair and cold. Saturday strong winds or moderate gales from southwest; mostly cloudy; probably light local snow; slightly higher temperature.

Northern New England—Fair and warmer tonight. Saturday cloudy and warmer. Local snow Saturday afternoon or night. Colder Sunday; increasing southwest winds, becoming strong.

Temperatures. TORONTO, Dec. 26. Highest during 8 a.m. yesterday, night.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Locations include Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, P. Albert, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax, New York, Trenton.

It Isn't An Earthquake

\$500,000 LIQUOR CARGO IS CAUSE OF ALLEGATIONS

Fraud Charge Against Customs Chief and Harbormaster

SAY NOT GUILTY

Held in \$8,000 Bail Each—Barge Was Seized at St. Sulpice

By Canadian Press. MONTREAL, Dec. 26.—J. E. Bisson, chief of the local customs department and Captain Simons, Montreal harbormaster, were placed under arrest here on Christmas Eve charged with complicity to defraud the provincial and federal governments in the attempt to bring \$500,000 worth of contraband liquor into the province.

Plead Not Guilty. The two men were immediately taken to Quebec by an officer of the provincial police, and in order that they might not have to spend Christmas in jail a special sitting was held of the court of sessions, which allowed them their liberty under bail of \$8,000, after they had pleaded not guilty to the charge. It was the first night sitting of the court ever held.

The preliminary hearing of the case will take place on Friday, January 2. Barge Seized. Several weeks ago the barge "Tremblay" was seized at St. Sulpice, Que., with a large cargo of liquor valued at half a million dollars.

Five men are now in custody awaiting trial on the same charges. The barge Tremblay and its precious cargo are also being held by the customs authorities awaiting the outcome of the trial.

The trial of the men is expected to provide the opening sensation of the new year in the Court of Sessions. An imposing array of legal talent has been engaged to defend the men, while on the opposite side there are lawyers representing the provincial government, the Quebec Liquor Commission and the federal government.

100,000 RIFLE AND MACHINE GUN BARRELS DISCOVERED IN BERLIN

Munitions Are Found by Officers in Cleverly Devised Hiding Place

PARIS, Dec. 26.—Officers from the Inter-Allied Control Commission have discovered in Berlin a depot of rifle and machine-gun barrels, the only Paris items from an "unrecoverable informant" in Germany. An inventory, now being taken, has accounted for 40,000 barrels, and it is expected that the total will reach 100,000. The depot was found in a cunningly devised hiding place.

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CRIPPLED DOG SAVES FAMILY FROM FIRE

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Dec. 26.—Although unable to get about because of injuries sustained when run over by an auto, Rover, a dog belonging to Mrs. Mendelson of Monticello, saved the family from being burned to death when their home was destroyed.

The family was awakened by the dog's loud barking and the house was found to be in flames. The parents and children barely had time to escape, but now they declare he will be permitted to die of old age.

GIFT BRINGS DEATH

Boys Drown While Out Trying New Guns Received Christmas.

BURLINGTON, N. J., Dec. 26.—Santa Claus brought death to 16-year-old James Major and his brother, William, Jr., one year older. A gun for each boy was among the presents on Christmas morning. A few hours later their father heard cries from a lake near his home at Edgewater. He found William and James struggling to clamber aboard an overturned boat floating several yards from shore.

They had gone to the lake to hunt with their new guns. Before another boat could be obtained William and James sank from sight.

Plan Statue To Jacques Cartier

QUEBEC, Dec. 26.—At a meeting of the St. John Baptiste Society, under the presidency of Louis Letourneau, M. L. A., a plan was put forward for the erection of a statue to Jacques Cartier on the square of the same name. The society has been in communication with the Historic Monuments Commission on this subject and has been assured that this decision will do something in this direction next year.

FIVE ARE WOUNDED

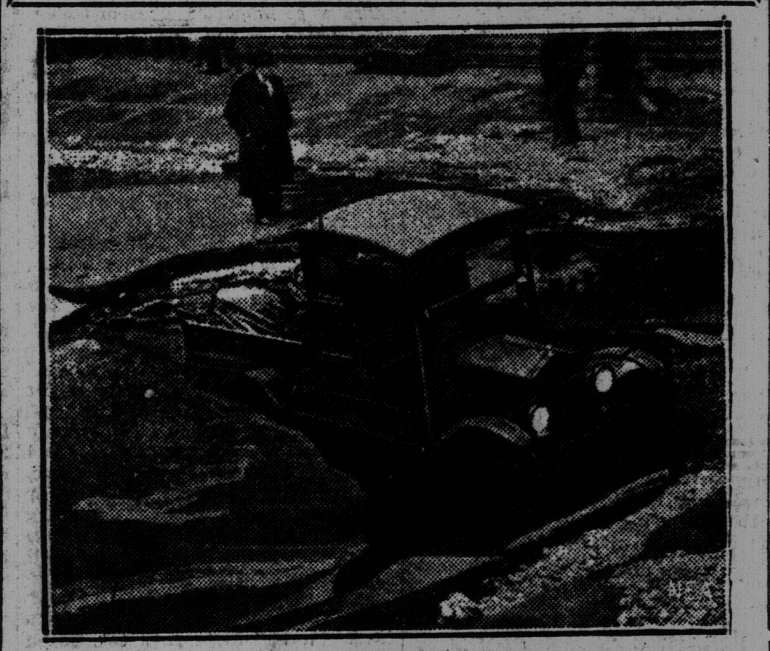
East Side of New York City.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Five men were seriously wounded by two gunmen entered an east side poolroom and opened fire on them yesterday. The victims are in a hospital and three of them are not expected to live. The men who did the shooting fled with several companions in an automobile in which they had driven to the poolroom. All the wounded men told detectives they knew of no motive for the attack.

NEW JERSEY HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY NEW GAS MACHINE WILL CURE AVERAGE COLD IN HOUR

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 26.—A treatment is offered to the public. Only one patient can be treated at a time. By using the new apparatus which is the result of much experimentation an average cold can be dispensed in one hour, health officials say.

It Isn't An Earthquake



Looks like an earthquake. But it isn't. It's part of the havoc wrought by the bursting of a 26-inch water main in downtown Cincinnati. Cellars were flooded 10 blocks away. The automobile in the hole is a water works' service truck. Street lights were out of commission and the driver, unable to see distinctly, drove into the hole. Six men narrowly escaped drowning.

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WITH NECK BROKEN WORKS THREE DAYS

British Gardener is Discharged From Hospital After Three Weeks, Cured. LONDON, Dec. 26.—With his neck, head and shoulders encased in plaster of Paris, John Harrington, a Scottish gardener, has just been discharged from hospital after three weeks' treatment for a broken neck. And, miraculously to relate, Harrington will recover quite soon, according to the doctors.

Harrington was injured when a piece of machinery fell on his neck, but he continued working four days before pain drove him to the hospital. The doctor found he was suffering from a complete fracture of a section of the spinal column, and could not make out how he had lived.

They proceeded to knit the spinal column together again, and did so so successfully that Harrington can now eat, drink and smoke without inconvenience. He expects to start work again in a week or so.

Nearly 2,000 Kiddies Get Cheer From Stocking Fund

THE EMPTY STOCKING FUND of The Evening Times-Star went well over the top and nearly 2,000 kiddies on Christmas Eve were each given a nice warm pair of stockings filled with Christmas goodies. The amount of money received for the stockings was over \$1,200 and in addition a number of donations of articles for the stockings were received. Included in the latter was a box from the Bristol Union Sunday School.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes J. P. Carrite, Gray's Mills Sunday School, O. W. Wetmore, A. S. M., Little River Community Club, Independent Sport Club, J. S. F., X. Y. Z., and Total.