

TORNADO, BOLT AND TERRIFIC DOWNPOUR PLAYS PRANKS WITH CITY AND COUNTRY

Electrical Storm Rips Up Barns, Trees, Fences, Cripples Trolleys and Burns Out Phones—Two City Houses Hit by Bolts.

Wind Cuts Wide Swath in Elgin County—Barns Burned Down.

The most severe electrical storm of this season swept over this city last evening between 6 and 7 o'clock, leaving in its wake many evidences of its severity. Trees were shattered by lightning or toppled over by wind, many chimneys were blown down, trolley cars were crippled, electric wires and telephones burned out, and altogether a great deal of damage of one kind and another done throughout the city and the surrounding country.

Heralded by Black Clouds

About 5:45 o'clock a great wall of black cloud appeared, and before many minutes the whole northern sky turned dark and rain commenced to fall in great torrents, while furious gusts of wind almost carried people off their feet. The downpour was driven before the gale with terrific force, and the volume of water which fell was so great that it resembled a cloudburst, and flooded the streets in such quantity that the sewers were quickly choked, and floods resulted. Many a cellar sewer connection worked overtime carrying away the water, which poured in through doors and windows.

Dangerous Lightning.

The lightning was exceedingly vivid and the flashes frequent. It was of the most dangerous kind, commonly termed chain and fork lightning, and was followed by terrific crashes of thunder, which struck terror into the hearts of many an unfortunate man, woman or child, caught in the fury of the storm. The electrical display was the most brilliant seen here in years, and considering the frequency of the flashes, comparatively little damage was done.

Phones Burned Out.

Among the many pranks played by the lightning was the burning out of about 100 telephones throughout the city. Not only the telephones suffer, but electrical wiring and appliances were in many places seriously damaged. At Mr. William Hay's store on Adelaide street, near Elias, the electric light wiring was almost completely destroyed, and at several points where gas pipes ran in too close contact with the wires, poles were melted in the former, so that the gas supply had to be cut off.

Crippled Trolleys.

Every few minutes during the storm crippled trolley cars were being taken to the car barns, while others were so completely burned out that they had to be pulled in by other cars. The Southwestern Traction Company also suffered a considerable extent. Two substations, at Tempo and Lambeth, were burned out by the lightning striking the line between these points. However, the damage was repaired early this morning, and the line is now running in its usual condition.

Struck by Lightning.

Two houses were struck by the lightning, but neither were seriously damaged. One was the residence of Mr. Geo. J. Green at 679 Colborne street, while the other was Mr. F. J. Fortner's house at 20 Regina street. The wind took a hand in the mischief also, and finding a partly-finished brick house, which was being built by Mr. Duke Wallace, contractor, at the corner of William and Victoria streets, for his son, it literally blew it to pieces, upsetting the walls and tearing the timbers apart.

INTERNATIONAL TRUST FOR THE VAUDEVILLE

Amalgamation of All the Big Circuits Is Assured.

New York, July 25.—A dispatch to the Times from London states that Mr. Myerfeldt, of San Francisco, one of the latest vaudeville managers of the west, has arrived here from Paris, where he attended a series of meetings of American and European managers in connection with the formation of an international vaudeville trust. "I believe that a great international amalgamation of vaudeville interests is now practically assured," Mr. Myerfeldt said, in speaking of the project. The American theaters which will come in the combination, which will be known as the International Booking Syndicate, will include all those under the control of Beck's Orpheum circuit, Percy Williams' estate of eastern vaudeville theaters, and the Keith & Proctor circuit.

BUGLARS AT PARIS

Blow Open the Safe of Store and Wreck all the Glass.

Paris, Ont., July 25.—Last night burglars broke into Geo. E. Taylor's store at the station. Entrance was made at the front door. The men blew up the safe, but did not obtain anything, as they could not get into the inner part. All glass material in the store was broken as a result of the explosion. No trace of the burglars has been found yet.

WRECK ON THE BIG FOUR.

Detroit, July 24.—A wreck is reported on the Big Four, near Eau Claire, Mich., fourteen miles from St. Joseph, Mich., with three people killed.

Sweeps Across Elgin County

[Special to The Advertiser.] St. Thomas, Ont., July 25.—A terrific storm broke over Middlemarch, three miles west of here, at 7 o'clock, last evening, doing considerable damage. The storm, which came from the north, destroyed the barn of James Stanton, loss \$300. A barn belonging to John and Amos Barnes, containing 40 tons of hay, was swept away. Loss \$1,500. A shed back of the Methodist Church was blown away and both ends of the church blown out. The building is damaged beyond repair. The loss is heavy. The barn and shop of J. Mahoney was damaged to the extent of \$100. The fire alarm system here was put out of business by the tornado, trees broken down and the streets flooded as though by a cloudburst. The appearance of the sky was terrifying, the lightning sharp and vivid. A frame house at Union, belonging to F. E. Johnston, an unused for storing grain and implements, was struck by lightning and burned. Many trees were uprooted.

Lightning Ripped Shoe Off Ross Webb's Foot

Detroit Lad, With Water Slight of Park Avenue, Has Narrow Escape From Death.

Water Slight, son of Mrs. J. Slight, of 434 Park avenue, and Ross Webb, of Detroit, who is visiting in this city, and is stopping with his sister, Mrs. Matthews, at 21 Empress avenue, had a close call from instant death in Victoria Park yesterday afternoon during the electrical storm which swept over the city. The boys had not been together, but it so happened that when the storm broke they sought shelter under the same tree. Young Slight, when the lightning began to play about, remembered that he had been told that it was dangerous to stand under a tree during a storm, and he mentioned the fact to his new-found acquaintance. "Let's get out of here," said the Webb boy, and the two little fellows, one 8 and the other 10, started for the open.

Struck by Lightning. At the same instant there was a blinding flash of lightning and a clap of thunder which shook the earth. The two lads were knocked to the ground in a semi-conscious condition. Two gentlemen happened to be passing through the park at the time, and they heard the moans of the boys and ran to their assistance. They were Mr. Herbert Dixon and Mr. Parke, of Kent street.

Terrific Burned. That gentleman at once phoned for Dr. Eccles, who arrived on the scene in a few minutes, and dressed the injuries of the lads. The doctor found that both had been terribly burned, but he says they will recover. The Webb boy suffered the greatest injuries. The lightning played fearful pranks with him. His coat was torn into shreds, and his trousers were ripped off one leg. The fluid then continued its downward journey and ripped the boot off the little fellow's foot. When he was stripped it was found that his shoulders, back, leg and foot had been badly burned by the lightning, and also by his clothes, which had caught fire.

Move Saved Them. In speaking of the accident, the boys say they remembered nothing after the blinding flash of lightning and the deafening peal of thunder. The fact that the boys had moved from the trunk of the tree undoubtedly saved their lives, for the tree was split from end to end, and plainly showed the work of the lightning bolt.

City and the P. M. Fixing for Fight

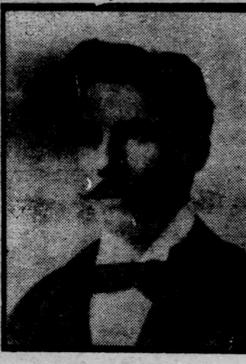
City Engineer Graydon had a conference with Mayor Judd today in regard to the condition of Port Stanley picnic grounds, and the London and Port Stanley Railway, over which the Pere Marquette Railway, by virtue of a lease held by the L. E. and D. R. R., and transferred to the Pere Marquette, is supposed to have control. Mr. Graydon told the mayor that he has written repeatedly to the Pere Marquette officials regarding certain matters, particularly the condition of the depot at Port Stanley, and that he has been able to get but very little satisfaction. Now Mr. Graydon says that he has been informed that it has been found necessary to close the old dancing pavilion, for fear of its falling on the picnicers, and that the swings are dangerous and should be repaired at once. The roadway going up the hill is also out of repair, and the other day two girls were badly injured there.

Very Bad Condition.

Mr. Graydon, at the instance of a large number of Londoners, has also called the attention of the P. M. officials, but so far nothing has been done. The breakwater at Kettle Creek has been allowed to fall into a very bad condition, with the result that the city's property is being washed away. The mayor, who is president of the L. and P. S. R., advised Mr. Graydon to take the matter up with the P. M. once again, and it is altogether likely a special meeting of the L. and P. S. R. board will be held to consider the case. The company is going ahead daily with the new bridge over the Thames, which it says it will charge to the city. The city of London owns the grounds at the Port, and leases them to the railway, but it appears that the L. E. and D. R. R. submit them to other parties, so that the P. M. claims it has nothing to do with them, and that the city should look to the present lessees, and not to the P. M., for the making of necessary repairs.



ROSS WEBB, Detroit Boy Who Was Struck by Lightning in Victoria Park Yesterday.



MR. J. F. POWER, Separate School Inspector Appointed Assistant Principal of Normal School.

Barns Hit, Cattle Killed

Delaware, July 24.—The fine big barns of Mr. Thomas Bignell, Delaware, 3rd concession, were struck by lightning during the terrific electrical storm of last night and destroyed. Three high-grade cows were also killed by the bolt, while a farmhand, an Englishman, who was engaged in milking at the time, was knocked unconscious.

SCOTCHMEN ARE AT PORT TODAY

Large Crowd Took in the Popular Outing at the Lakeside.

The Scotchmen took quite a large crowd to the lakeside, though, owing probably to the fact that there are picnics every day now, the turnout was not as large as might have been expected. About 1,000 tickets were sold up to 2 o'clock this afternoon, according to the statement of the railway officials. This morning a pipers' band marched down the main streets to the depot and entrained for the port. The weather has been ideal for a picnic, and those who took in the excursion are having a splendid time. A very fine programme of games has been arranged, and it is expected that these will attract very many people from different points in the counties of Middlesex and Elgin, as well as the crowd from London.

QUAKE IN ITALY.

Cosenza, Italy, July 25.—An earthquake shock occurred yesterday, in several provincial towns. No damage has been reported.

Biggest Legal Battle City Has Known

The legal battle which is booked to follow the wreck of Reid's Crystal Hall will be the greatest London has ever known. This is what a well-known local barrister told the Advertiser today in speaking of the inquest last night, when a dozen or more legal lights were present in the interest of those who suffered through the Reid wreck, and also those who may be looked to for damages. "There are so many divers interests to be looked into," continued the lawyer referred to, "that it will take many months to straighten out the tangle. The inquest will be a long-drawn out affair, and yet it will only be the beginning. Unless I miss my guess, there will be legal fights as the result of the wreck which will involve hundreds of thousands of dollars, and there will be cases which will be carried to the supreme court."

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—SHOWERY. FORECASTS. Toronto, July 25-8 a.m. Today—Moderate, variable winds; fine and warm. Friday—More unsettled, with showers and thunderstorms. TEMPERATURES. Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather. Winnipeg 69 55 Fair Port Arthur 55 52 Rain Parry Sound 64 54 Clear Toronto 72 58 Clear Ottawa 64 62 Fair Montreal 68 62 Fair Quebec 64 58 Cloudy Father Point 62 58 Cloudy The first column records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperatures during the 24 hours previous.

Shallow depressions are quickly following each other across Canada, that which was centered in New Ontario yesterday now being over the Lake St. Lawrence, while another from the far west is centered in Minnesota. Thunderstorms were prevalent yesterday in Manitoba, Ontario and Western Quebec, some of them being of a severe type. Over an inch and a half of rain fell in Winnipeg. The temperature was highest in Ontario, where in many districts 80° to 80° were recorded. YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES. Toronto, July 24-8 a.m.—Local thunderstorms have been experienced today from Alberta to Quebec, but otherwise the weather has been fair, except in Alberta and Eastern Canada temperatures have been comparatively high. Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 52-70; Vancouver, 53-72; Kamloops, 54-62; Calgary, 50-58; Edmonton, 54-62; Regina, 64-72; Winnipeg, 64-72; Pelee Island, 54-64; Toronto, 56-64; Ottawa, 62-70; Montreal, 64-72; Quebec, 58-70; St. John's, 54-62; Halifax, 54-62.

BIG FIRE IN OTTAWA SUBURB; NEW EDINBURGH HARD HIT

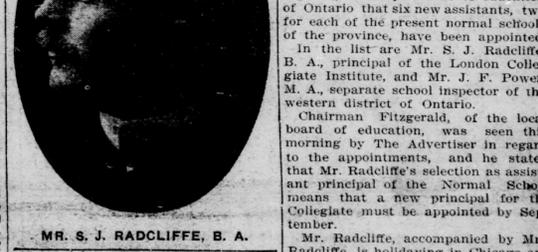
\$350,000 Damage Done to the Mills of Senator Edwards in Early Morning Fire.

Ottawa, July 25.—At 5 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered at Senator Edwards' mill by the Rideau Falls, and the alarm was immediately turned in, but despite all efforts to subdue the flames, \$350,000 damages ensued. The fire-fighters were much hampered by the Rideau, which flows between the buildings, but this eventually saved many lumber piles on one side of the river. It is thought that the severe electrical storm of last night may have started a smoldering fire, which eventually broke into flames and, reaching the sheds and outbuildings, consumed one after another of the mills and factories. The library bureau works and stores went in the flames. Mr. Edwards' office and stores also were destroyed. At the height of the fire the bridge could not be used at all, and men had to cross the river by swimming to aid the salvage work. Eventually the buildings below the bridge opposite the mill caught, and a whole block was burned, including a fire station, Foley's hotel, Blackburn's mica sheds and C. Neale's grocery store. The whole of the contents, too, were burned.

It seemed as if the suburb of New Edinburgh must go, but energetic work eventually got the fire under control after five hours or more, and concluded one of the most destructive fires in Ottawa for years. The estimated loss of the W. C. Edwards Company is a quarter of a million.

Mr. Radcliffe's Appointment Means New Head for Collegiate

Principal to Take Charge of Stratford Normal School—Position for Mr. Power.



MR. S. J. RADCLIFFE, B. A.

HAD FINE TIME AT THE FALLS

Retail Grocers Saw Everything to See and Nothing to Mar Outing.

A very large crowd enjoyed the retail grocers' excursion to Niagara Falls yesterday. The train service on the M. C. R. was excellent, and the 800 passengers who went from London, Aylmer and St. Thomas, thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Lunch was served on board the train by the committee in charge. The day at the Falls was spent largely in sight-seeing, many enjoying the Gorge Route ride, while a few of the more daring ventured the walk under the falls. Some of the men journeyed to Buffalo and saw the ball game there, while the committee were shown through the Shredded Wheat biscuit factory. A few of the excursionists are remaining for the full time allowed, but the large number returned on the train which reached here at 11:30 o'clock. Great credit is due the committee, to whom the success of the day was largely due. They were J. C. Trebilcock (chairman), T. A. Rowat (treasurer), E. Sutton (secretary), F. Harley and F. Robinson.

KILLED BY AN AUTO.

New York, July 25.—A cable dispatch to the Herald from Utrecht, Holland, says at Heumen, near Nivegen, the automobile of Lord Ronalds, of New York, knocked down an aged woman. The victim was taken in the auto to Nivegen, but died soon after arriving there.

All Interests Represented by Legal Talent at the Reid Inquest

Inquiry Begun Last Night at Court House—Only Three Witnesses Examined.

Contrary to expectations, the opening sitting of the Reid disaster inquest was not held in the police station last evening, but was conducted at the court house instead. The sitting was a brief one, and occupied less than an hour. An adjournment was made until Tuesday night next. The evidence of but three witnesses was taken, and nothing out of the ordinary deduced. Legal Lights in Evidence. The court room was fairly well filled with people interested in the result of the inquest in some form or another, and included a large portion of London's leading legal lights, and a great many relatives of those injured or killed in the wreck. Practically all of the firms interested, as well as relatives of the in-

Continued on Page Ten.