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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 through the city. Not only did the telephones suffer, but electrical wiring and appliances were in many places seriously damaged. At Mr. William Hay's store on Adelaide street, near Elgin, the electric lighting was almost completely destroyed, and at several points where gas pipes come 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 to 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 fortunately 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 party, a 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 there 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 theatres 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' syndicate of eastern vaudeville managers, and the Keith & Proctor circuit.

BURGLARS AT PARIS

Slow 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, and used 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 Slaght of Park Avenue, Has Narrow Escape From Death.

Walter Slaght, son of Mrs. J. Slaght, 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 Slaght, 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.

The clothing of the little fellows was found to be on fire, and despite the drenching rain, was beginning to blaze when assistance arrived.

Messrs. Dixon and Parke speedily stamped out the fire, and carried the boys to the residence of Senator Coffey on Wellington street.

Terribly Burned

That gentleman at once phoned for Dr. Ecker, 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.

Young Slaght suffered a number of severe burns on the lower part of his body, his trousers having been badly torn and burned by the lightning.

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 picnickers, 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

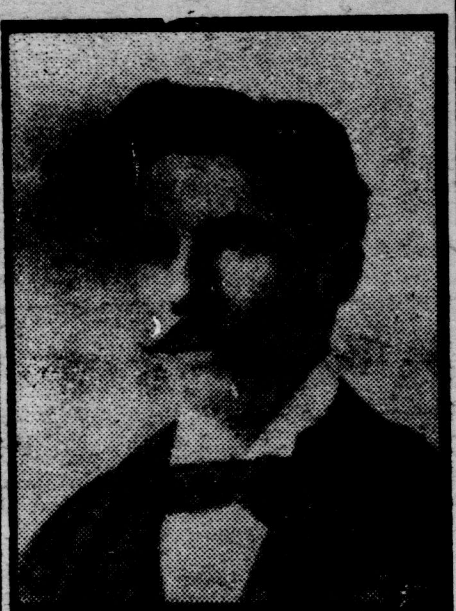
Mr. Graydon, at the instance of a large number of Londoners, has also called the condition of the depot at the Port to the attention of the P. M. officials, but so far nothing has been done.

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. is sublet 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 entertained 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 legal lights are following this case with a view to seeing what American law will do with it.

It is altogether likely that there will be a score of different cases in which damages will be asked from some person or persons, and every move being made in the inquest is being eagerly watched.

So far the only case which has come forward in a legal way is that of Miss Boyd against the city, mention of which was made in yesterday's edition.

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	60	55	Fair
Port Arthur	55	52	Rain
Perry Sound	64	54	Clear
Toronto	72	58	Clear
Ottawa	68	62	Fair
Montreal	64	62	Fair
Quebec	64	62	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.

WEATHER NOTES.

Shallow depressions are quickly following each other across Canada, that which was centered in New Ontario yesterday now being over the Lower 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.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.

Toronto, July 24-8 p.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, 32-70; Vancouver, 53-72; Kamloops, 54-82; Calgary, 56-86; Edmonton, 54-82; Regina, 45-80; Winnipeg, 54-78; Perry Sound, 54-84; Toronto, 56-84; Ottawa, 52-76; Montreal, 54-78; Quebec, 54-79; St. John, 44-81; Halifax, 54-81.

THE PAINTERS IN HOT DEBATE

Suggested Secession From International Organization Starts Warm Discussion.

Evidently yesterday's outing at Springbank had not that cooling effect upon the master painters that might have been expected. At least, the discussion that went on at the city hall this morning was not at all suggestive of a cold storage warehouse.

The argument arose out of a paper on "Best Means of Organization," read by Mr. G. W. Freeman in dealing with causes that were deterring some painters from joining the Canadian Association. Mr. Freeman stated that it was largely because in order to belong to this association it was necessary to pay fees to the international body, with its headquarters in the United States. Mr. Freeman suggested that this be changed, and that a painter be allowed to become a member of the Canadian body, without being forced to join the larger association at the same time.

Mr. McKenzie, of Hamilton, spoke very warmly on the subject. He thought no such sentiment of secession should be tolerated, and asked that the paper be not printed with the other papers. Continued on Page Eight.

Few Parallel Cases.

It was also stated that there are but few parallel cases into which the lawyers can delve for the solution of important matters.

One is an English case, in which a large number of persons were injured through the falling of a grandstand at a race track.

In Chicago the other day a warehouse fell in, much in the same manner as the Reid building, but happily no person was in it at the time, as it fell in after the employees and others had gone home.

The local lawyers are following this case with a view to seeing what American law will do with it.

It is altogether likely that there will be a score of different cases in which damages will be asked from some person or persons, and every move being made in the inquest is being eagerly watched.

So far the only case which has come forward in a legal way is that of Miss Boyd against the city, mention of which was made in yesterday's edition.

TRAGIC END TO AN OUTING

Lady High School Teacher of Cobourg Victim of a Runaway.

Cobourg, July 24.—An accident occurred late last night on the Cold Springs road by which Miss Day, a prominent member of the Cobourg Public School staff, lost her life. A party of young people drove out to the residence of Mr. John Bowman, Coldsprings, to spend the evening, and left to return to town about 11 p.m.

Coming down a steep hill the team became unmanageable, and started to run. Two of the ladies, of whom Miss Day was one, jumped out of the rig, the latter fell on her head, and died about 5 o'clock this morning without having regained consciousness. Others of the party were thrown out, and one young man had his arm broken.

Two of the young ladies are suffering from sprains, although fortunately none of the others were seriously injured, although all were thrown out. The party were cared for at a residence nearby, and medical aid was at once summoned from town. Miss Day was highly esteemed, and had taught in the Cobourg Public School for a number of years.

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 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.

The announcement was made last night by the department of education of Ontario that six new assistants, two for each of the present normal schools of the province, have been appointed. In the list are Mr. S. J. Radcliffe, B. A., principal of the London Collegiate Institute, and Mr. J. F. Power, M. A., separate school inspector of the western district of Ontario.

Chairman Fitzgerald, of the local board of education, was seen this morning by The Advertiser in regard to the appointments, and he stated that Mr. Radcliffe's selection as assistant principal of the Normal School means that a new principal for the Collegiate must be appointed by September.

Mr. Radcliffe, accompanied by Mrs. Radcliffe, is holidaying in Chicago and the west, and he could not be seen by The Advertiser today.

It was also found impossible to interview Mr. Power, from the fact that he is in Berlin, and will not be back until Friday night.

Mr. Radcliffe at Stratford.

It is understood that Messrs. Radcliffe and Power will be stationed at the London Normal School for a year, and that then Mr. Radcliffe will be appointed principal of the new Normal School which is being built at Stratford.

Whether Mr. Power will be appointed to the principalship of a normal school is not so certain as yet, but it is understood by his friends that this is the intention of the Government.

Mr. Radcliffe is a graduate of Toronto University, and has had two and a half years' experience teaching in public schools, and about eighteen years in the collegiate institutes. He was appointed a teacher in the local Collegiate Institute in November, 1891, and succeeded Dr. Merchant as principal when that gentleman resigned to become principal of the London Normal School.

Mr. Power is a graduate of Queen's University, and took up his residence in London upon his being appointed separate school inspector for the western district. It is understood that a new separate school inspector for this district will be appointed immediately.

KILLED BY AN AUTO.

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

FEAR A MUTINY.

Tokio, July 25.—Advices from Seoul say that a mutiny of the Korean troops is apprehended.

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 taken 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-

jured and killed, were represented, and the gathering of lawyers was one of the largest witnessed in the court room for many months.

Interests Guarded.

Among the members of the bar present were: Joseph Kirwin, of Carroll, Kirwin & Hallway, Grand Rapids, for Peter Smirles, lessee of the Reid store; Ed Weld, for the W. T. Hamilton estate.

J. C. Judd, of Meredith, Judd & Meredith, for McCallum & Westlake, photographers, whose premises were located on top of Brewster's store.

David Mills, acting for J. M. McEvoy, who is representing W. G. Wilson & Co., the contractors, who were making the repairs.

Edgar Jeffery, of Jeffery & Jeffery, for the Jeffery estate, owners of the Brewster building.

Geo. S. Gibbons, of Gibbons, Har- per & Gibbons, for W. J. Reid & Co., owners of Crystal Hall, which was wrecked.

Mr. D. A. McDonald, of Meredith, (Continued on Page Ten.)