

## LOSS OF LIFE IN 1873.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY,

*Ottawa, 26th January, 1874.*

SANDFORD FLEMING, Esq.,  
Engineer in Chief.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to submit the following Report of serious accidents which occurred on this work during the past summer, to take the place of one, on the same subject, which was destroyed by the late fire.

The first accident occurred on the 24th July last at Whitefish Lake, near the starting point of Division M, 1873. By it three packmen lost their lives whose names were

Joseph Hughes, Devizes P. O., London, Ontario.  
Arthur Torrie, Milleburgh..... "  
Neil Patterson, Napance..... "

The particulars of the accident are as follows:—Three men, namely, Joseph Hughes, Arthur Torrie, and Henry Thomas, were crossing Whitefish Lake in a small canoe, and when near the depot, which was established on the shore of that lake, the canoe, by some accident, upset in 23 feet of water, about 100 feet from the shore.

Neil Patterson who happened to be standing there and saw the accident, swam bravely out to their assistance, but was seized hold of by Hughes and they both sank together.

A. Torrie also went down about the same time, but Henry Thomas, said to be the poorest swimmer of the three, succeeded in reaching the land.

By this time, some of the men at the depot attracted by the cries, ran down to the beach, but were too late to render any assistance.

It was estimated by these men that the whole thing occurred within three minutes.

Three days afterwards the bodies were recovered and buried in one grave, near the depot, a board being placed at its head, having the names of the men and the date of their death written upon it.

What little personal effects they had were forwarded to the Head Office, Ottawa, and were destroyed in the late fire. They were, however, of little value and consisted of some wearing apparel.

At the date of their deaths the following amounts were due to them for wages :

J. Hughes.....	\$40 75
A. Torrie.....	44 79
N. Patterson.....	29 19

Before concluding the reference to this accident, I would respectfully suggest that, as Neil Patterson lost his life in the effort to save others, his case deserves special consideration.