

The Evening Times Star

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PAGES ONE TO TEN

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1920

TWENTY

PAGES—ONE CENT

Decision on Cause of
The Onawa Wreck

Misunderstanding of Order by Freight Conductor and Engineer

Maine Public Utilities' Pronouncement on Collision That Caused Loss of 24 Lives—Recommendation That C. P. R. Install Automatic Block System Between Mattawamkeag and Boundary.

(Special to The Times.)
August 10, Me., April 9.—The Maine Public Utilities Commission, in a decision rendered today, declares the primary cause of the wreck on the Canadian Pacific railroad at Onawa station on Dec. 20 last, when the first section of freight train No. 78 collided with the third section of east-bound passenger train No. 80, was misunderstanding of the order by the freight conductor, J. A. Manuel and Engineer William G. Bagley of train No. 78, received at Onawa.

But other circumstances appear in the case which tend to explain, although they do not excuse, the conduct of these men. Apparently every effort of the crew of the first section of train No. 78 and a large part of their energy was directed to the attempt to make their destination at Greenville Junction within the limit of the sixteen-hour law.

The system of operation on this railroad, which is now under the exclusive control of train dispatchers, can be proved only by the installation of the automatic block signal system. The human element in any system is liable to err, although the fatal combination of circumstances which apparently caused this particular accident is not likely to occur again.

But other failures might occur and other fatal accidents might result in the operation of this system, which depends so largely on the efficiency upon the men who are apparently to be trusted to install the automatic block signal would practically eliminate the chance of human error and misunderstanding, and would greatly increase the safety of the operation of this railroad.

The committee recommend that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company install automatic block signals over its railroad in the State of Maine between Mattawamkeag and Boundary, such installation to be begun this present season, and a proposed amount constructed each year until finished, the work to be finally completed on or before Dec. 1, 1923.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad Company to notify this commission on or before June 1, 1920, whether it accepts or rejects the recommendation.

ALEX GIBSON OF
MARYSVILLE DEAD

Succumbs to Pneumonia at Home in Marysville.

Son of Lumber and Cotton King and Himself Prominent in Public Life—A Son Gave His Life in the War.

(Special to Times.)
Frederick, April 9.—Alexander Gibson, 52, died at 10 o'clock this morning at his home in Marysville, aged sixty-eight years. His father was the late Mrs. Miss Reid of Marysville, one son, Harry, in British Columbia, and one daughter, Mary, at home. He was twice married. His son is by the first marriage. Another son by the second marriage, John T. Gibson, was killed during the war while overseas with the Royal Flying Corps. There also survive one brother, James, of Nashua, and three sisters, Mrs. John McConnell of Marysville, Mrs. Charles H. Hall of Fredericton and Mrs. Frank Merritt of Moncton.

Mr. Gibson was born at Lepreau, Charlotte county, a son of Alex. Gibson. The latter, after lumbering some time in Charlotte county, removed to the town of Marysville, which he named after his wife. His son accompanied him and for many years was associated with him in the lumbering, railway and cotton manufacturing enterprises which were carried on at Marysville and on the Nashua and Miramichi rivers.

Mr. Gibson was mayor of Marysville for upwards of twenty years. In 1899 he was nominated in the Liberal interest in York county for the New Brunswick legislature and was elected at the head of the winning ticket. In the year following he resigned upon being nominated as Liberal candidate for York in the Canadian House of Commons. He defeated the Conservative candidate, the late Rev. Dr. Joseph McLeod, in that year but resigned his seat on a protest and in the year following was elected majority. In 1904, after representing York county at Ottawa three years, he was nominated as Liberal candidate and was defeated by a small majority by O. S. Crockett, now judge of the court of king's bench of New Brunswick. He then retired from active participation in politics.

The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon, Mr. Gibson died of pneumonia, with which he had been ill some weeks.

ROUMANIANS ON
TRIAL FOR MURDER

Laborer Dead in Bunk House, Bullet in Brain

Head Smashed With Hardwood Club—Quebec Trial Will Be Lengthy—True Bill in Mail Robbery Case.

(Canadian Press.)
Quebec, April 9.—His law smelt with a hardwood club, and with a bullet in his brain, Toter Kostinein, a laborer in a lumber camp at Kenogami, operated by Price Bros., was found lying dead in a bunk-house on July 27, 1919, and yesterday Mike Debeke and George Mowbray stood before a jury at the criminal assizes, charged with the crime of murder.

The trial will be a long one, as all the evidence has to be translated twice, from French into English and then from English to Roumanian, the tongue spoken by the two accused.

The jury is a French-speaking one, and the Roumanian interpreter does not speak French, so that the evidence given in English is translated into French for the jury and then into Roumanian, and that which is given in French has to be translated into English for the benefit of the interpreter so that he may put it into Roumanian for the accused. Owing to the time required for the interpretation of the evidence, only four witnesses were heard yesterday.

Yesterday afternoon the grand jury presented true bills in the cases of King vs. Ed Grondin, indicted for causing bodily harm, and the King vs. George Topping, J. E. Levesque and J. B. Proteau charged with holding up and robbing the mail car on the Intercolonial train near Harlow.

PLOUGHING UP
BATTLEFIELDS;
12 KILLED

Cambrin, France, April 9.—(Havas)—Two explosions in which twelve persons were killed and two injured, have occurred in the district of Villers Guislain, eighteen kilometers from Cambrai. The explosions were caused by agricultural tractors coming in contact with unexploded shells in fields which were being ploughed.

SEES NO HOPE
OF IMPROVEMENT
IN COAL PRICES

Toronto, April 9.—The coal situation never was so bad as at present, according to Geo. H. Cushing, managing director of the American Wholesale Coal Dealers' Association, who addressed the Toronto Wholesale Coal Dealers' Association here yesterday. He said there is a shortage of 10,000,000 tons of bituminous coal in the United States; inadequate transportation facilities had caused the shortage, and what was needed was more motive power rather than more railway cars.

Widely fluctuating prices between eastern and western American points were predicted by Mr. Cushing. Although'savin' that he did not think any decent man would attempt to justify the present prices of coal, Mr. Cushing held out no hope for an improvement in coal prices, and said he did not think any one would ever see the prices go down again to where they were before the recent advances.

U. S. CUTTERS TO
AID OF SHIP IN ST.
LAWRENCE GULF

Boston, April 9.—The coast guard cutters Osipiec, from this district, and Senoile, on duty off the Newfoundland coast, were ordered last night to the assistance of the steamer Myrtle, 3,741 tons, reported disabled in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Myrtle left Avonmouth for New York on March 21, and in a wireless message, intercepted here yesterday, reported her boilers disabled, fuel supply low and water gone. She gave her position as latitude 48.05 north, longitude 64.04 west.

New Plunge Record.
Brookline, Mass., April 9.—A New England record for the plunge for distance was made by J. S. P. Anderson, Andover Academy, last night, 77 feet 6 inches.

Jamaica Plans a Tariff
Preference For Canada

West Indies in Effort to Deflect to Us Large Portion of Trade With United States.

Kingston, Ja., April 9.—A proposal was submitted in the legislative council yesterday for representation of Jamaica at a conference to be held at Ottawa next month to consider trade relations and transport facilities between the Dominion of Canada and the British West Indies.

The entire West Indies will be represented at the conference and an effort will be made to deflect a large portion of the West Indies trade with the United States to Canada. To this end a special tariff law will be formulated, the Jamaica government giving preference on Canadian goods coming here.

CALL FOR A
PLEBISCITE ON
LIQUOR MATTER

Request Presented to N. B. Legislature by Council of Temperance Alliance.

The council of the N. B. Temperance Alliance has asked for the adoption by the legislature of the following resolution: "That the following resolution be passed and sent to the secretary of state of Canada: 'Resolved, That, under the provision of part IV. of the Canada Temperance Act as amended by chapter eight of this legislative assembly, such request that the votes of the electors in all the electoral districts of this province may be taken for or against the following prohibition, that is to say: 'That the importation and the bringing of intoxicating liquor into this province may be forbidden.'"

At a meeting of the Methodist General Board of Evangelism and Social Service held in Centenary church yesterday the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, That this group of the General Board of Evangelism and Social Service, representing the Methodist people of New Brunswick, very heartily approves of the request of the New Brunswick Temperance Alliance that the legislative assembly pass the necessary resolution for bringing on the referendum provided for in the Canada Temperance Act amendment of 1919, and on behalf of the Methodists of New Brunswick urge that the resolution be adopted."

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 12 to 2. The resolution was brought on about the end of June.

WEST WANTS MORE
BRANCH RAILWAYS

Will Inland and Coastwise Vessels Come Under Railway Commission?

(Special to The Times.)
Ottawa, April 9.—On Thursday, April 15, the railway committee will have its initial meeting. This year western business will occupy the main place in its programme and at the second meeting on Tuesday, April 20, there will be delegations from western Canada to urge building of some branch lines on which construction has been stopped or delayed during the war, and to protest against the diversion by the C. P. R. of former intended terminus at Battleford.

It is not expected that J. E. Armstrong will place the boats of Canadian inland waters and coastwise trade under control of the railway commission, as Mr. Armstrong, who is chairman of the committee desires to have the question fought out on the floor of the house. The Northern Steamship Lines, Ltd., the Canadian Navigation Company, and the other members of the committee so far, apparently are satisfied as they had supposed. Amongst the members, however, there is a strong section which will object to any emancipation of the proposed amendments, and some of them, prominent among them being Dr. Beland, speak of demanding the total elimination of the sale of medicines and drugs in which opiates form a part, except on a doctor's order.

The Harrison Narcotic Act in the United States permits the sale of such drugs when the opiates form an insignificant part of the medicine, say, one-quarter of one per cent, but even this concession is objected to by some of the medical members of the House. Some Quebec members say that great harm has been done among children by such preparations.

Lloyd George to Italy.
London, April 9.—Lloyd George will be leaving for San Remo, Italy, on Saturday for a session of the peace conference.

LIMITS RAISE
OF RENT TO 25 P. C.

Then There is Tumult in New York Court—Judge Speaks of 'Servant Girl Profiters.'

New York, April 9.—Restriction of rents to 25 per cent more than those paid a year ago caused such joy among tenants in a Bronx court that Justice Robitsek broke his gavel in maintaining order. After Justice John R. Davis in his court had thrown out most of 250 eviction cases that came before him, he declared war on all classes of profiteering.

"We are going to stop all profiteering," said Justice Davis. "First we are getting after the landlords and next in turn will come the servant girl profiteers, then the shoe dealers, then the dealers in flour."

As Hiram Sees It

"Hiram," said the Times reporter to Mr. Hiram Hornbeam, "let us run over to Europe and straighten things out. Look at Ireland. Look at Germany. Look at Turkey. Look at Russia. Look at Denmark. What you ever hear or read of such a bunch of incompetents as there are over there? Could they settle the trouble in any one of those countries in a week. And here I have to sit day after day and read the stuff that comes over the wire telling about riots and murders and strikes and attempted revolutions. What they need is common sense. Let's go over."

"Mister," said Hiram, "I started in one time to break up a row between the Moosehorn and Saddleback fellers. I knowed what they wanted was common sense. What I wanted in a little while was stickin' plaster an' somebody to haul me home. If I was out here I wouldn't buy no ticket for Europe just now. I'd think it over a few days—yes, sir."

"That chaps is threatened," said the reporter. "How can we sit idly by and see the world go wrong?" "You ain't got a job right here. I hear that prohibition law ain't carried out any too well in St. John. Wasn't somebody sayin' yesterday you orto he some play-ground? Where's the juvenile courts that you say, 'Brighten the corner the a lot of things you could do right around here. Then fellers over in Europe ain't got no city council for St. John. That's up to the people here. You take my advice—learn the song they say, 'Brighten the corner where you are' an' put off goin' to Europe till you get somethin' right here that's worth a look. It's a mazed job—yes, sir."

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Franchise Act Matter in Committee—The Hiring of Vehicles on Election Day.

(Canadian Press.)
Ottawa, April 9.—In committee on the franchise bill in the commons last evening, A. R. McMaster of Bromes asked if the government had considered the introduction of compulsory franchise penalties voters who refused to go to the polls, if necessary to the extent of a fine. Hon. Mr. Galtie replied that the government had considered the subject, but had not yet seen its way to the introduction of such radical legislation.

H. B. Morphy of Perth said that a clause forbidding the chartering of any vehicle by a candidate to convey voters for wealthy men that they were not made offenses at all.

Hon. Mr. Fielding and S. W. Jacobs of George Etienne Cartier, supported the clause as being necessary to prevent a tendency that would arise if it were not, for wealthy men to charter all the available conveyances to the detriment of the less wealthy candidate.

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Mr. Foster, passenger service manager, said yesterday that other changes were also in view.

OPPOSE THE DRUG
ACT AMENDMENTS

A Lively Fight in Prospect at Ottawa—Dr. Beland's Views.

(Special to Times.)
Ottawa, April 9.—Druggists and other vendors of patent medicines from all over Canada are concentrating in Ottawa lately to "lobby" against certain amendments incorporated in the opium and drug act introduced by Hon. Mr. Powell. A deputation met Hon. Mr. Rowell and other ministers this week, and after some discussion left the city, apparently satisfied as they had supposed. Amongst the members, however, there is a strong section which will object to any emancipation of the proposed amendments, and some of them, prominent among them being Dr. Beland, speak of demanding the total elimination of the sale of medicines and drugs in which opiates form a part, except on a doctor's order.

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REPORT

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, Chief of Meteorological Service.

Synopsis—The barometer remains high over the western provinces and relatively low over the Great Lakes and eastward. The weather continues cold throughout the dominion, but the temperature is not quite so low as yesterday.

Fair; Rather Cold.
Maritime—Moderate to fresh west and northwest winds; fair and rather cold today and Saturday.
New England—Fair tonight and on Saturday; continued cool; light to moderate west to northwest winds.
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Crisis Over French
Move in Germany

British Step to Make Disagreement Plain

London Times and Mail Score Lloyd George—Some Criticism of France for Not Employing White Troops Exclusively in Occupation.

CAPTAIN AND
CREW IN ONE

Skipper Tells a Tale of "Profiteering Sailors"

Navigating Schooner Himself, Is Compelled to Call for Help of Coast Guardsmen off Barnegat.

Atlantic City, N. J., April 9.—Distress signals flown by the two-masted schooner Marion Curtis, off Barnegat, late last night, brought coast guardsmen rushing to her rescue. They were accompanied by Captain Constance Bowen, who was alone on deck.

"Where's your crew?" asked the guardsmen, suspecting there had been a mutiny aboard. "Didn't have any," the skipper replied. "I navigated her myself."

Then the astonished rescuers heard a tale of "profiteering sailors." Captain Bowen said that when he left Mirapah, Conn., more than three days ago, he was unable to recruit a crew except at wages which would have eaten the profits of his voyage. He had aboard 12,000 oysters consigned to Atlantic City.

The skipper declared that when he fell asleep on his lonely voyage he anchored his craft and took a snooze. When he felt hungry, he said, he hove to and cooked his meals. Just before reaching this port he ran into a gale which crippled his gear and necessitated his calling for help.

Regularly navigation of a vessel of the size of the schooner on a trip of this kind requires five men.

A GOVERNMENT
CAUCUS TODAY

Believed It Has to Do With the Franchise Act—Meighen's Amendment.

(Special to Times.)
Ottawa, April 9.—A caucus called for this morning the government supporters were to have laid before the cabinet certain questions on which the government had formed definite opinions. It was expected by many of them that proposed amendments to the franchise act so as to remove inequalities recently pointed out by W. D. Euler, member for Waterloo North, as shutting out citizenship which had been citizens for decades under the old law would be presented.

There are still members who would rigidly adhere to war-time distinctions, and who would rule out all deserters under the M. S. A. and all "slackers" though how slackers should be determined is not stated. There is even talk that some minds have been busying themselves on the problem of how to remove from the franchise as many "ticks" as possible on the ground that it is easier to keep them from getting into the act than to get them out after they are once here. New York state's experience being quoted.

There is also talk that the amendment of Hon. Arthur Meighen, if it fulfills expectations, will simply be that all those who were considered naturalized under the old law by reason of the naturalization act of a husband or father will still be delivered by the common clerk at city hall tomorrow morning.

The approved result will probably be put before the caucus, and their concurrence be sought.

P. E. I. LEGISLATURE

Statement of Government Policy—Request for Conference of Maritime Premiers.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 9.—Debate on the address is still under way in the provincial legislature. Premier Bell yesterday outlined the government's policy which in brief is to impose additional taxation to supplement an inadequate revenue; to increase school teachers' salaries; and to take advantage of the federal grant for highways.

The opposition moved an amendment setting out that claims of the province against Canada for a share in school lands granted prairie provinces should first be pressed before additional taxation is levied.

The premier gave notice of a resolution that a conference of the maritime province premiers be called to press for the settlement of claims against Canada with respect to school lands and certain subsidies paid western provinces in lieu of lands in compensation for lands given Ontario and Quebec for enlargement of boundaries.

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"Hiram," said the Times reporter to Mr. Hiram Hornbeam, "let us run over to Europe and straighten things out. Look at Ireland. Look at Germany. Look at Turkey. Look at Russia. Look at Denmark. What you ever hear or read of such a bunch of incompetents as there are over there? Could they settle the trouble in any one of those countries in a week. And here I have to sit day after day and read the stuff that comes over the wire telling about riots and murders and strikes and attempted revolutions. What they need is common sense. Let's go over."

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