

GREAT PARIS CREW RACE ON KENNEBECASIS IN WHICH GALLANT RENFORTH DIED

An Old Time Sporting Event Which Drew 20,000 People to River Banks—The Crews, the Race and the Tragedy—Other Happenings of the Day

The following account of the famous Paris crew race, which took place on Wednesday, August 23, 1871, on the Kennebecasis river for a stake bet of 500 pounds sterling, and the championship of the world, will be recalled by older citizens as the greatest sporting event they ever witnessed, and will also furnish interesting reading for thousands who have heard of the great race, but never read a detailed account of it.

THE RACE

The morning was lovely, the sun rose clear, and there was scarcely a breath of air to ruffle the waters or even stir the leaves. Many were astir at three o'clock. By four, the whole city was awake. From all quarters the great stream of heavy covered to the railway station, though there were currents to Indian town and over the Marsh Road.

By seven o'clock the people had gathered in dense masses along the river for at least a mile and a half above the starting point. They covered the slopes and high way in a dense mass, and on every elevated position or object that offered a good view they clustered like swarming bees. The railroad alone must have delivered 15,000 people in a couple of hours and not a few, owing to carriage, and unable to pay railroad fare, went on foot. At Indian town as early as four o'clock there was great activity.

Nearly every steamer owned about St. John was prepared to carry passengers the consequence was that none of them were overcrowded. Between five o'clock and five thirty they all got under way, and the scene presented by them and the innumerable river craft of all kinds, as they pushed up through the Narrows and into the bay, while the morning mists were yet rising from the water, was one of great loveliness.

The steamer soon take line and very little time is expended in getting a clear track. Shortly before seven o'clock the St. John boat was rowed down to the judges' post; the crew in splendid condition and spirits, going in another boat, their pink shirts hidden beneath their ordinary jackets, and by the hour sharp they were ready to enter upon their contest, which was to end so sadly for him. Whilst the St. John men are stripping off their jackets, let us glance at the crews.

The St. John crew are well known, not only in St. John but to the world. They are Robert Fulton, Elias Ross, George Price, age twenty-six, weight 160; Samuel Hutton, age twenty-six, weight 160; George Price, age thirty-four, weight 145. They were all men long of limb and swift in action, not perhaps so muscular as their English opponents, but with great nervous power—and any believer in psychic force might find them good subjects for the development of the theory. They began their career on our own harbor in 1869, soon beating everything that crossed them.

In 1867 they crossed the Atlantic to the Paris International regatta, where they won the two races in which they competed, and that, too, in spite of the disadvantages at which they were placed by an inferior boat. In 1868 they beat the wards, then claiming to be the champion crew of America, at Springfield, in a six mile race, although not making as good time as they had at home. At this race the St. John people were so elated that they presented the crew with a purse of \$5,000. The crew has ever maintained its popularity in St. John, and this was evidenced by the willingness with which the St. John people last year staked their money at Lachine, when this same crew went there in September to row a match race with the Tyne crew, so called.

At that race Renforth, the present leader of the English crew, was the leader, although he has now another set of men with him. At Lachine the Paris crew met their first defeat. They and their friends were sure of victory. Their past successes had led to the belief that they were invincible, and there was a feeling among all parties that an Englishman was not a match for a colonist any way. The race was over a six mile course—three miles and back. From the very first the Tyne crew took the lead, and they won handsomely. A large sum of money—it was never known even approximately how much—changed hands on this contest. A challenge for another race followed almost immediately, the Paris crew and their friends feeling that they owed their defeat to circumstances, such as rough water, the absence of wash boards, rather than to any inferiority.

The present race is the result, but it is to be regretted that out of the four Englishmen who rowed at Lachine, only one, Renforth, returns to meet the Paris crew. After the Lachine race a disagreement arose between Renforth and his supporters, and he was unable to keep his men together. His new crew, it is however supposed, of some of the very best men who ever pulled an oar on English or any other waters.

Renforth is emphatically a waterman.

boat clearly led him two good lengths of the boat. Now, the struggle was over. At the close of a heavy spurt Renforth himself gradually fell backwards and downwards from his seat. Kelly reached out his hand, as if to save him, and at once the English boat turned shorewards. This unlocked for action strongly excited the whole mass. The steamers blew their whistles in token of victory. The masses surged backward and forward. And those near where the boat landed shouted out various cries, all indicative of their contempt for the crew that, as they supposed, had so gloriously deserted the race. Even at the judges' post there was great excitement, for there no one could tell what the trouble was, while all could see that something had gone wrong.

Soon enough, however, the intelligence spread that Renforth had a fit, and was bleeding from the mouth. Even then there were many who thought lightly of this. The St. John men kept steadily on their course, rounding the stake boat in eighteen minutes and two seconds, but they did not make as good time on the home stretch probably because the breeze had freshened and the water had got much rougher than it was at the start. They got home safely in 20 minutes 20 3-5 seconds, amid, of course, the shouts and cheers of the multitude, the screaming of steam whistles and every other demonstration of joy, while men wring each others hands and jumped about like mad men—even even aware that Renforth lay in his death agony but a short distance away.

When the English boat touched the shore it and its crew were hailed with shouts of derision and hisses, from the thoughtless multitude assembled in the vicinity. Under all the subsequent circumstances this is much to be regretted. Renforth had evidently been in great suffering, and after receiving a dose of cold water, rose up and stared around wildly, as if he had awoken from some unpleasant dream, and showed every sign of distress. He was carried by his companions and others to a coach and driven rapidly without covering or medical attendance to his quarters at the Clearmont House.

Here physicians were in immediate attendance upon him. Doctors Johnson, McEwen, Stevens, Bartheux and T. J. O. Earle did everything that the case appeared to demand. They bled the patient, but when they arrived the body was cold on the outside, the blood was driven inward, and not more than a gill of blood flowed from the open parts, and that little relief was afforded to the congested organs. While the physicians were endeavoring to afford relief the patient was breathing very hard, so much so that he articulated very little. In little more than half an hour he breathed his last. Just before his death he spoke to his companions, saying that his breath was leaving him, being conscious of approaching dissolution, and about the last words that he spoke contained the word "win," which was the only word that he distinctly caught. Death occurred at about ten minutes to nine o'clock. The cause of death was said to be congestion of the lungs, super-induced by over-exertion and nervous excitement. The post-mortem examination will make more definite revelations.

It was a heart-breaking sight to see that tall, thin frame lying stiff and dead, the pink-tinged froth oozing from the mouth, and to think that but two hours before it was in the full enjoyment of health and physical vigor. Around his bed stood his companions in his leaving him, being conscious of approaching dissolution, and about the last words that he spoke contained the word "win," which was the only word that he distinctly caught. Death occurred at about ten minutes to nine o'clock. The cause of death was said to be congestion of the lungs, super-induced by over-exertion and nervous excitement. The post-mortem examination will make more definite revelations.

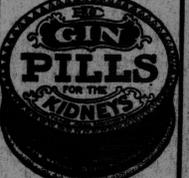
Such a sudden and melancholy end to a man of such renown in his profession as Renforth was, caused of course, much speculation, some of which, others, others of drugging of one kind or another. Mr. Peary, a quiet, gentlemanly member of the Tyne crew, told the writer of this that he never saw Renforth in better spirits than just before the race this morning. He said that he and some of the quarters just before going out to the

race, and on his way to the beach, sprang lightly over the fence in front of the Clearmont House. He said that Renforth was absent twenty minutes before this, while the crew waited for him. Where he was, who he was with, or what he did while away, his companions did not know. Of course these are the ideas that float through a troubled and perplexed mind. This sad circumstance has thrown a damper upon the enthusiasm of the community over the victory which was evidently in store for the St. John oarsmen, and indeed upon boat racing generally. We trust to the reason and proper feeling of our people to abstain from all show of exultation at this time.

By one o'clock the railway had successfully and free from accident carried in the twenty thousand or more people that went out in the morning, the river was free from steamboats, woodboats, or craft of any kind, and the placid waters of the Kennebecasis gave no indication that upon their surface three or four hours before a great physical contest had

A Neighbor Told Him To Take Gin Pills

If you want to know what Gin Pills will do for you, just drop a line to Mr. D. A. York, at Bellrock, Ont. He will tell you what Gin Pills did for him, after he had suffered with kidney trouble for 15 years. Here is his letter:



15 years ago I suffered with kidney trouble for 15 years. Here is his letter: I suffered for about 15 years with kidney trouble. I could get nothing to do for me. The pain was all through my back, and shooting and down my legs. I was unable to walk for a while, and I could not sleep at night. I tried many different medicines, but nothing did me any good. I was very weak and nervous. I was told to take Gin Pills, and I did so. I feel like a new man now. I can walk and sleep at night. I am very happy and healthy. I can do my work and enjoy my life. I am sure that Gin Pills did me a great deal of good. I would like to tell you about it, so that you may know what it can do for you. I am sure that you will be very pleased with the results. I am sure that you will be very pleased with the results. I am sure that you will be very pleased with the results.

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taken place and a sad tragedy had resulted. There were several disturbances on the road near Clearmont House between 10 and 11 o'clock. A young man named McClary, who appeared very anxious to fight early in the forenoon, was badly beaten. He had been fighting with a young man named Ring, and while standing against a fence was pummeled until he was insensible, when he was removed to McGowan's yard. There was a large scar made in his neck, and he bore other marks of serious ill-treatment. Medical aid was procured and he was brought to his senses.

The number of persons who arrived in this city yesterday and last night must have been enormously large. The steamers "New England" and "New Brunswick" were crowded, bringing upward of 1600 passengers. The two Fredrickton boats arrived early in the morning with great crowds, and the "Ida Whittier" with excursionists and accompanied by a brass band, arrived during the night, and took its position on the river very early. The "City of Saint John" brought from Annapolis a large number also.

SUSPEND UNION REGULATIONS DURING WAR, SAYS LLOYD GEORGE

Liverpool, June 4, 8:45 p.m.—Continuing his campaign for the organization of the munition trades of the country, and the speeding up of the output of shells and other war materials required by the army, David Lloyd George, the new minister of munitions, addressed meetings here today of employers and workmen.

He urged upon the workmen that for the duration of the war union regulations should be suspended, so that every available man and woman could be employed in the necessary work.

"If every trade unionist," Mr. Lloyd George told the workmen, "was brought back from the front, and if they worked to the utmost limits of human endurance, there would not be enough labor to produce what the government is asking to have produced during the next few months."

Mr. Lloyd George added that as government re-arms had been cut, the trade unionists also must relax their rules. The country, he said, was demanding.

ASK FOR King's SUSPENDERS ALWAYS OUT-O-SITE ON THE SHOULDERS MADE IN CANADA

How Studebaker cars are built - starter



The Storage Battery is placed under the front seat and is easily recharged at any time. Can be used for starting and for other purposes. Connections are large and rugged. And the battery is protected by a special repair guarantee from the maker.

The Electric Generator is a very simple, light and compact dynamo. Has automatic system of wiring that prevents over-charge of storage battery. Driven by non-toxic oil-bathed gear in mesh with timing gear. Needs no care—but is extremely accessible.

Because it's a Studebaker

Studebaker Features: Electric Lighting and Starting—Full Floating Rear Axle—Timken Bearings—Safety Tread Rear Tires—Close-Type Top. Studebaker ROADSTER, \$1250. Studebaker TOUR, \$1350. Studebaker LIGHT SIX, \$1500. Studebaker SIX (7-passenger), \$1825. F. O. B. Waterville, Ont.

J. CLARK & SONS, ST. JOHN, N. B. (Dykeman & Lounsbury, Prop., 17 Germain St.) THE LOUNSBURY COMPANY, Newcastle, N. B., Distributors for New Brunswick.

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MY BEST FRIEND ROYAL YEAST CAKES. IN BUYING YEAST CAKES BE CAREFUL TO SPECIFY ROYAL CAKES. E.W. GILLET CO. LTD. TORONTO.

CANADIAN LOBSTERS ALL THROUGH MONTH OF JUNE (Boston Globe, Thursday). As a result of a new law passed by the Canadian government, the season for the shipment of live lobsters has been extended thirty days. The receipts of lobsters from Nova Scotia have been the largest this year in the history of the business. Under the old law the close season on lobsters began June 1. Under the new ruling lobsters may be kept in pond and shipped in the month of June. The new law was the result of an agitation among the lobster fishermen, which has been in progress for some time. The Yarmouth Line steamship Prince George, Capt. McKinnon, which arrived today from Yarmouth, brought in 800 crates of lobsters, and future steamship arrivals in the month are expected to bring in heavy consignments.

IMPERIAL GARAGE AND MOTOR CO. 27-33 Paradise Row St. John, N. B. C. E. MAWHINNEY E. J. LA PIERRE Phone M. 2478

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