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JOHN T. G. CARR

WORST FLOOD EVER KNOWN IN HISTORY

Belated Freshet Inundates the St. John Valley,
Southern Part of Province and Maine

Much Damage at Woodstock and Trains and
Mails Delayed For Days

ALL HIGH WATER MARKS BROKEN

Long looked for rains commenced on Saturday night and continued without abatement until Monday morning. Since there had been no rain throughout the month and little thawing weather the result was a freshet altogether unprecedented. From Saturday night to Monday night the water in the river made a raise of 18 feet. All the tributary streams were swollen to a height never known before. The Becaguimac at Hartland with its mighty flow of water caused havoc along its course, but the monetary damage was slight. F. E. Sayre will suffer damage to piers and to the dam at Hartland, and to its flooding-dams up stream. Both the Becaguimac and railway bridges had very narrow escapes from demolition. At Hartland the river was higher than it was ever known before under any conditions. A record height was established on May 8, 1887, but today this high mark was surpassed by 7 inches. It is safe to say that the river was never so high since the time of the first settlers.

Among the refuse going down river are barns, outhouses, saw mills, booms of lumber, lath, shingles, mill machinery, chickens, pigs and a sample of about everything that was ever along the banks of the river. Several small buildings along Hartland water front was swept away and yet the damage is not great. It is feared that when the water subsides the large interval land that had been used for market gardening by various parties will be left in a badly washed-out condition. Both the highway and railway culverts at Pokiook are washed away. The railway bridge at Acker Creek is practically demolished. The railway is practically wrecked from Pokiook to Downey Creek.

The small railway bridge at Bristol is wrecked, and there are washouts of greater or less extent on all portions of the line north.

No trains have been sent out from the terminals on this division since Saturday, and there is no hope of resumed service for some days. At Millville the mill of Hartland Lumber Co. was in great danger, but the crisis is safely past.

The Bangor & Aroostook system is paralysed with washouts and destroyed bridges. A train ran between Houlton and Presque Isle on Monday, and an attempt was made today to get one through to Bangor. At Fort Fairfield the Aroostook river flooded the Main street and caused much damage.

The power plant of the Maine and New Brunswick Electric Co. at Aroostook Falls is inundated and completely out of commission.

Woodstock was smitten the hardest blow of all where the damage was more than a quarter million dollars. The Power Company's great dam was swept away and the power house badly damaged. The C. N. R. bridge went with the rest, the Imperial Packing Co. plant was carried into the stream, the steel highway bridge across the Medouakik was carried away as was the Smith Lumber Mill. Woodstock south is cut off from its water supply, telephones and electric lights, but the last two are being repaired. The Power Company's steam stand-by is furnishing limited electric service. The blow to Woodstock will be very severe as it will be months before full electric service will be restored and practically all industries of the town depend upon it for power.

The Observer is indebted to the Daily Gleaner, Fredericton for the remainder of this report here following, and Miss Maizie Grass, operator at Hartland, is deserving of a diploma for the prompt handling of the longest message ever sent to the H. R. and office. Mrs. Pearl Thornton, chief telephone operator also gave valuable assistance. To give its readers service couriers are today scouring over the country to bring in the news so that the paper will appear as usual with all the county news that is fit to print on Thursday.

THE GLEANER REPORT

(Fredericton, N. B., Tuesday afternoon, May 1)

Flood conditions affecting the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway within the province revealed a complete tie up Monday morning. The largest single washout reported is located two miles west of Welsford. Another washout extending over a fifth of a mile occasioned the second largest difficulty to be met today. These two points were said to be the source of the greatest trouble this morning, both being utterly impassable and having been blocked throughout the night. No morning trains left either St. John or Fredericton today and C. P. R. officials were unable to say this morning when traffic would be resumed, although it was announced that no trains were expected to be moved for some time.

A train load of passengers from the S. S. Marloch was tied up at Yarmouche on account of conditions on the lines farthest west, while the regular Montreal train was held at McAdam and a west bound train from the Docks at St. John was held up at Welsford.

West of McAdam on the lines of the Maine Central and C. P. R. conditions were reported as extremely bad. Serious conditions at Danforth, Me. threaten the railway bridge there, while the tracks were flooded for a distance of some 400 yards.

The dam at Pleasant River, which crosses the railway about a half mile east of Brownville Junction, broke yesterday afternoon and the tremendous freshet which was loosed threatened the bridge east of Brownville. No large run of logs occurred, however, and the bridge was considered safe today. The lines between St. Stephen and Edmundston were all affected by the floods including all the branch lines. Heavy swollen rivers, together with heavy rains adding to the

(Continued on page two)

POTATO SHIPPERS RESENT REPORTED CHARGE OF RING

Representative Says Charge Reflects
on Integrity of Firm—To Present
Their Case at Ottawa

Much interest was created here by the Canadian Press report of the hearing of the House of Commons special committee to inquire into agricultural conditions which appeared in Friday's Telegraph, especially the remarks made by F. W. Pirie of Grand Falls, before the Commons. H. H. Hatfield, on behalf of Hatfield, Porter, Gallagher, Ltd., the leading potato shippers of New Brunswick, remarked that the report involved the business integrity of firms which had done more to help the farmers out of their difficulties than the agricultural committee would ever accomplish by its present methods.

Mr. Hatfield will appear before the committee himself on Wednesday to present the shippers' side of the case.

According to the report Mr. Pirie told the committee that he believed that potato prices and shipments to Cuba were controlled by a powerful ring which operated at both ends. Potatoes bought in New Brunswick at \$1 per pound barrel were sold in Cuba at \$4.50 per 180 pound sack. The total charges for getting these potatoes into the Cuban market were approximately \$2, leaving a profit to the shipper of \$1.50.

Prices were frequently increased by the ring against an independent buyer at a certain place and on the same day at another place, where there was no competition, prices were often decreased, he said, according to the report.

"This ring was composed first of three large shippers, and any of the others who bothered them were taken in," he declared, the report said.

Contending that the report had done considerable injury to their business the following telegram was sent to A. R. McMaster, M. P. Chairman agricultural committee, and T. W. Caldwell, M. P., Ottawa: "Please

"mail us copies of F. W. Pirie's evidence before your committee. Owing to false statements made before your committee and published in the press regarding shipments to Cuba, alleging excessive profits, reflecting upon our business methods and creating the impression that they were improper and dishonest, thereby working much injury to our business and personal integrity, we request you to arrange the opportunity for us to appear before your committee and submit evidence to correct such false statements. We await this opportunity. Please arrange and notify. (Signed) G. O. Porter, C. F. Gallagher, C. W. Clark, H. H. Hatfield, O. R. Estey, B. F. Smith, Herb. Johnston."

Mr. Hatfield also contended that these shippers lost thousands of dollars during the last two years. It is locally well known that the firms named are the only organization shipping potatoes by chartered steamers from New Brunswick to Cuba and that they have lost heavily in their transactions. The Cuban market is exceedingly hazardous and no small shippers dare undertake the risk involved. The companies mentioned have made an earnest endeavor to clear the province of its surplus potatoes and their shipments to Cuba have afforded practically the only relief the farmers have had this year.

Mr. Hatfield received a telegram from Ottawa this evening summoning him to appear before the special Parliamentary committee on agriculture on the morning of May 8. He has been requested to bring all data respecting the potato trade with Cuba for the two years prior to March 1923. It is probable he will be accompanied by his associates who will give evidence if required.

F. W. Pirie has made the statement that he was incorrectly quoted in the Ottawa dispatches.

SERIOUS FIRES

On Thursday forenoon fire broke out around the chimney of James Pratt's house situated on the Waterville road. In a very few minutes the flames were beyond control of the appliances at hand, and the house and barns were completely destroyed. Mr. Pratt was absent at the time and neighbors were trying to save what little of the household goods were saved, while a horse, cows, pigs and poultry in the barn was lost. The whole loss for Mr. Pratt was a severe one and the insurance carried does not nearly cover it.

On Friday afternoon fire broke out in similar manner in the house owned and occupied by John Glass on the Rockland road. This was formerly the John M. Sewell house and it was totally destroyed with most of its contents. In this case as in the former the insurance does not cover the loss. Before the heavy rains came everything had become very dry and were tinder for quick fire. Extra precautions should be taken until vegetation springs up and the leaves bud out as there is much to provide fuel for a carelessly thrown match.

SOME JOKE

The editor of Fort Fairfield Review finds mirth in a marriage recently consummated near here. He says: "Miss Ethel Swin of Coldstream was married April 11 to Wilmet Shaw of Mainstream, the ceremony being performed by Rev. H. V. Bragdon. Evidently some of the Swims think the swimming in Mainstream is better than that in Coldstream. Perhaps being bragged on (Bragdon) helped in the decision."

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