

46TH. YEAR. NO. 19578

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**A FIRE TRAGEDY
NEAR BRANTFORD****Four Persons In a Farm House
Burned to Death.****SUFFOCATED WHILE
IN THEIR SLEEP****Philip, Martin, Harry and Melitta
Vansickle Meet Tragic
Death.**

Hamilton, Jan. 31. — A shocking tragedy occurred yesterday morning two miles south of Lynden, at the home of Philip Vansickle, one of the patriarchs of that section of the country, and a descendant of United Empire Loyalist stock, a family of four persons having lost their lives in the burning of the house in which they lived. There are some unusual features to the story, but the authorities, who have investigated, are satisfied that there is nothing to warrant a suspicion of foul play.

The dead are:
Philip Vansickle, farmer, aged 78 years.
Martha Vansickle, son of Philip Vansickle, aged 24 years.
Harry Vansickle, son-in-law of Philip Vansickle, aged 35 years.
Melitta E. Vansickle, daughter of Philip Vansickle, aged 45 years.

In the early morning hours a fire broke out in some unknown way, in the Vansickle homestead, and while the inmates slept the smoke penetrated every nook and crevice in the house and the victims were suffocated as they slept. The affair has profoundly stirred the people of the township, for the Vansickles are connected by blood and by marriage to nearly every family in that vicinity. It has been thought best to have an investigation, that the doubtful points of the tragedy may be cleared up as much as possible, and Dr. Farmer, the coroner at Ancaster, will hold an inquest at Jerseyville on Wednesday afternoon.

Boy Gave the Alarm.

The fire was discovered about 10 o'clock yesterday morning by Stanley Vansickle, the 13-year-old son of Albert Vansickle. The lad was walking along the road and saw the first smoke coming out of the windows and signs of flame. He ran and gave the alarm to Peter Vansickle, a nephew of Philip Vansickle. Peter ran with all haste to his cousin Seth's house, which was but a few rods away from the Philip Vansickle homestead, and the two hastened to the scene of the fire. The alarm was sounded, and the residents in that district were soon on hand to render what assistance they could. As early as 8 o'clock Seth had been working around his own house and had noticed that there was a large quantity of smoke coming out of the chimney of his father's house, but he thought that, as the day was cold, the family was burning a lot of wood to keep the place warm. There was no sign of any smoke coming out of the windows, and he was greatly surprised when his cousin Peter gave the alarm that the house was on fire.

Found Old Man's Body.

When the two arrived they found that Albert Vansickle, another relative, was already on the scene and had crawled inside the house and tried to rescue the body of Philip Vansickle, which was lying on the floor beside the window which Albert had to break before he could get into the house. With the aid of the other two he was able to get the body out. It was found that life was extinct and the body was taken and placed in the barn where farm implements were kept. The rescuers then went back to see what they could do for the others, but from the first they had come to the conclusion that their efforts would be useless. The fire had evidently been smoldering for hours. The whole interior was packed with dense smoke that only needed sufficing to continue on page eight.

THE WEATHER.**TOMORROW—MILDER.**

FORECASTS.
Toronto, Feb. 1—S. a. m.
Today—Southwest winds; fair, rising temperature.
Tuesday—Fair and milder.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	Today.	Yesterday.
London, Saturday	14	28
London, Sunday	14	28
London, Monday	7	15
Calgary	4	14
Winnipeg	4	14
Port Arthur	14	28
Fort Sound	12	26
Toronto	12	26
Ottawa	5	19
Montreal	10	24
Quebec	12	26
Father Point	14	28
Dawson	32	24
New Westminster	42	40
Vancouver	38	42
Rainbow	28	40
Mooselaw	4	28
Battleford	2	20
Qu'Appelle	10	26
Regina	16	28

WEATHER NOTES.

The storm which was centred near Manitoba on Saturday has passed away to the Atlantic, and the western high area having moved southward, now covers the great lakes and Middle States. The temperature was below zero this morning in nearly all parts of Ontario and Quebec.

**Big British Ship Turns Turtle
Captain and 46 of Crew Perish****S. S. Clan Ranald Lost Off the
Coast of Australia.****Melbourne, Feb. 1.—The British
steamer Clan Ranald is a total wreck
near Edithburg, and the captain and****MONEY IS NOW
VERY MUCH EASIER****Banker Speaks of Condition to
The Advertiser — The
Situation Today.**

According to bankers and financial men in the city, money is much easier now than it has been for some time past.

"Money is coming into the banks pretty freely of late," said one banker to The Advertiser this afternoon. "We are making loans at the rate of from 6½ to 7 per cent, where we were getting from 7 to 8 per cent right along. Financial reports from head offices indicate that the money is coming in a great deal faster than it is being placed out. Many banks have taken in twice as much as they have loaned, and as they have to pay interest on all this money, indications are that money will continue to be easier right along. The outlook for improved business conditions is very good, and many firms will undoubtedly be for largely increased loans to expand their business with in the spring."

Reports indicate that wholesale houses have large orders on hand for spring delivery, and that they are buying freely is indicated by the fact that the customs returns are nearly one-third greater this month than they were last.

**INSPECTOR GALPIN
HAS THE POWER****To Close All the Bars in Military
Camps, Says Mr. D. A.
McDermid.**

In speaking of the decision of Magistrate Love recently in fining the members of the United Sergeants' Mess for having a bar in their rooms, Secretary McDermid of the Temperance League, stated to The Advertiser this afternoon that he would use it as a plea to have all bars in militia camps that may be held here closed.

"Inspector Galpin has full authority over all places where liquor is dispensed in the city," said Mr. McDermid, "and his action and Magistrate Love's are entirely in line with the feelings of the temperance people of London. There is no doubt that a great deal of drinking goes on among young men in places of this kind that could be stopped. As the inspector says it is no use cutting down the hotel licenses if you are going to allow a mess room bar to be open on every corner."

**CUSTOM RETURNS
SHOW IMPROVEMENT****Figures for January Show Increase
Over Those for December.**

The customs returns for the month just passed indicate a decided improvement in trade over the preceding months.

Compared with December, the figures show an increase of \$22,586.01, one of the largest increases that has been noted for some time. The figures for January totalled \$81,923.66 and December \$59,337.65.

Compared with January of 1908, however, there is a decrease of \$17,224.77, the figures for January of 1908 being \$99,148.43.

The returns indicate that merchants are buying much more freely than before, and anticipation of large orders to be filled for the spring trade.

**LONDON LADY WAS
MARRIED AT EL PASO****Miss Marion McLean Becomes Bride
of Athol Carr Harris.**

The marriage is announced of Miss Marion McLean, B. A. Queen's University, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacLean, of this city, to Mr. Athol Carr Harris, B. Sc., son of Prof. Carr Harris, of Kingston. The wedding took place in El Paso on Friday last, the ceremony being performed in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, by Rev. H. R. McFadyen. The young couple will reside in Cananea, Mexico, for the present, where Mr. Harris is associated with the Green Cananea Mining Company.

Hospital for Ingersoll.

On the recommendation of Dr. Bruce Smith, inspector of hospitals, the Ingersoll hospital committee has decided to purchase the fine residence of Dr. McKay for hospital purposes. The building can be easily altered for hospital accommodation, and its location is most desirable.

**SECOND VOTE
OBJECTED TO****Sunday Car Advocates Can See
No Reason for Second Ex-
pression of Opinion.****MATTER COMES
BEFORE COUNCIL****Six Aldermen Have Stated That They
Are Satisfied the People Want
Sunday Cars.**

At the council meeting this evening an effort was made to elicit the rider in the clause of No. 3, committee's report dealing with the matter to the effect that another vote must be taken on the Sunday car question next January.

Six aldermen have declared that they see no necessity for taking another vote, as the people have stated what they want.

Several of the aldermen could not be true if there is a contest on the matter to the effect that another vote must be taken on the Sunday car question next January.

"Six aldermen have declared that they see no necessity for taking another vote, as the people have stated what they want."

What They Say.

"I do not think another vote is at all necessary," said Ald. Stewart. "The people have spoken. Let the Legislature do the rest. I am of the opinion that if a vote on Sunday cars was taken next January, it would have a great deal larger vote than it did a few weeks ago. This will certainly settle the matter. I am of the opinion that this question agitating the people all the time, it must be settled soon or later. Why not let it go at that?"

Ald. Garratt's Opinion.

"The people have spoken, and that should suffice," said Ald. Garratt. "The matter is now a question for the Legislature to decide, as the people have given their pronouncement upon the question. Another vote would only more emphatically say what has already been said."

Send It to Legislature.

"Send it to the Legislature," said Ald. Saunders. "If they tell us to take a vote, let us take it. If not, I think the last vote is sufficient. I am of the opinion that this question is a source of agitation, and will cause friction. The people have spoken on the subject, and that should be final. Another vote is not necessary."

Ald. Cooper.

"Another vote would not change the opinion of the people," said Ald. Cooper. "They voted for cars, and they should have them. Send it to the Legislature and let it go."

**WATER PIPE BURST
SHOWROOMS FLOODED****Serious Mishap at the Works of
the McClary's Manufacturing
Company.**

One of the waterpipes of the fire-sprinkler system at McClary's uptown works froze during the night, and when it thawed out this morning the showrooms at the corner of York and Wellington streets were deluged with water.

Hundreds of gallons of water poured out over the street before the supply could be shut off, and for a while the place was swimming in water. It ran out into the hallways and under the doors, and all over. The damage has not as yet been estimated, but it is thought will be fairly heavy.

**TRACTION COMPANY
MADE AN OFFER****For the Street Railway Owned by
City of St. Thomas.**

St. Thomas, Feb. 1. — At the suggestion of the local commissioners, the Southwestern Traction Company on Saturday made an offer for the lease of the city's street railway, which has been going behind financially, last year about \$12,000. The company offered to take over the road, give satisfactory service, and reduce the deficit about half, provided the city expends about \$12,000 on improvements and continues to keep up the rolling stock and roadbed. This was not acceptable to the local management, who believe with the proposed rearrangement of the tracks during the coming summer, that the deficit can be greatly reduced. The company is now considering another suggestion, that they take over and operate the local road without any remuneration, in consideration of their bonds for extending their suburban line from the city to Avon, before guaranteed. The company declare no consideration will be given this last offer, unless the Legislature gives them the same powers as other suburban lines, and allows them to operate cars on Sunday.

Thanks to Mr. Calvert.

The Advertiser's Kerwood correspondent says: The morning mail train going west, and the evening train going east, will hereafter exchange mails with Kerwood. This is a boon never enjoyed before by this village. Thanks for the change are due to Mr. W. S. Calvert, our worthy M. P., who promised that he would have the mail service on the Sarnia branch improved. He certainly has carried out his promise to the letter, and our businessmen are indebted to him for his kindness in the matter.

**SECOND TEST WAS
NOT SUCCESSFUL****Well at Foot of Horton Street
Will Be Sunk Fifteen
Feet Lower.**

The test made of the second well on Horton street on Saturday was not as successful as expected.

After pumping several minutes the flow of water was not very encouraging, and it was decided to sink the well fifteen feet deeper in order to get farther into the coarse gravel where the water is.

There was some water in the well, but the air lift failed to bring sufficient quantities to call it a good well. It is thought that the lift was not sufficiently powerful to raise the water, and consequently greater force will have to be used at the next test on Wednesday.

Another well will be sunk immediately this one is completed. In all probability it will be an 8-inch one, as the 12-inch well does not seem to be as easily handled as the smaller size, nor do they produce as good results.

The first well was again tested and still shows over 200,000 gallons a day.

**MORE EXITS FOR
NICKEL THEATERS****Chief of Police Sounds a Warn-
ing—A Suggestion From
Factories Inspector.**

"Complaints have been made to the police recently regarding the unsafe conditions of the exits in many of the nickel theatres of the city," said Chief Williams to The Advertiser this afternoon, "and the police have instructions to summon all proprietors who allow their theatres to become overcrowded. It has been stated to us repeatedly that there are several theatres in the city in which if a fire were to break out very few people could escape. All the police can do is to try and prevent overcrowding, but I think the other authorities should take up the question of more exits. I was in a theatre one evening, and it was filled. My opinion is that if anything happened there would have been a catastrophe. It couldn't have been helped. Very few would have ever got out had there been a rush for the doors. Another thing, I think the authorities should take up the ventilation of these theatres. Some of them are simply vile, and have little or no means of ventilation."

A Suggestion.

Harry Clark, factory inspector for the city, was also present, and said he thought that operators of moving picture machines should be placed in a steel cage the same as they are in the United States.

"The celluloid films are of a highly inflammable nature," he said, "and they are in constant danger of taking fire. As things are at present the operators are in a little wooden structure, which would burn readily. A panic would easily be caused if one of these films got on fire, and many lives might be lost. If the operator were in a steel cage the fire could not spread."

**HUNDREDS PERISH
IN CANTON FIRE****Fleet of Flower Boats Consumed With
Great Loss of Life.**

Canton, China, Feb. 1. — At least 200 lives were lost in a fire which occurred today in a fleet of flower boats. The charred bodies of 170 victims have already been recovered, but many persons are still missing.

**THREE NEW HORSES
FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT****Ald. Garratt Says the Proper Breed
of Equines Are Hard to Get.**

Three new fire horses have been added to the fire department. The last was taken on Saturday, and he is now busily engaged in learning the intricacies of the fire alarm system. One of the animals was purchased near St. Mary's, the other at Thamesford, and the third on concession 5, London Township.

"We find suitable horses hard to buy," said Ald. Garratt, chairman of No. 3. "We looked over twenty the other day, but found only one that would do. We have several more in sight, and will look them over. We will have to get at least six more, perhaps seven."

Two of the horses are not in good condition, being thin. They weigh about 1,250 each, but will easily put on 100 pounds more. The third is somewhat heavier, weighing close on to 1,450.

DENIED A REHEARING.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The supreme court of the United States today denied the application of the Consolidated Gas Company of New York for a rehearing. The case involved the validity of the 30-cent gas law, and was recently decided against the company and in favor of the law.

**EUROPEAN TRIP
STANDING UP TO FRIDAY NIGHT****Too Many Votes Saturday
To Be Counted
Today.****SEVERAL MORE
NOMINATIONS****The Ballots Pouring In—Sat-
urday's Vote To Be Published
Tuesday.****LONDON PASTOR
KNEW VANSICKLES****Rev. Mr. Gilpin Speaks Well of
Family Wiped Out By Fire.**

Rev. Victor J. Gilpin, of this city, stated to The Advertiser today that he was very well acquainted with the Vansickle family, which were burned to death in their home near Lynden, Ont., on Friday night.

"I was pastor of Trinity Church, near Lynden, four years ago," Mr. Gilpin stated. "There is a settlement of Vansickles there, and almost every member of my church was a Vansickle."

"They were quiet, well-to-do, and very friendly. I am very sorry, indeed, to hear of their terrible death. The family was exceptionally well-known to me, and their death comes as a great shock."

**LONDON MAN MET
A TERRIBLE DEATH****James Mahon Fell Five Stories
in a Chicago Building.**

The remains of James Mahon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mahon, of Wilson avenue, West London, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon from Chicago, where the deceased was killed on Friday afternoon last.

Mr. Mahon was employed in installing a new elevator in a building, and fell five stories, the result being his death.

Mr. Mahon left London about 12 years ago. While in this city he was engaged in the butcher business. The remains were accompanied to this city by the wife and two children of the deceased, and also by representatives of the Elevator Builders' Union. A large broken wheel was sent by the union.

Besides his wife and parents, Mr. Mahon is survived by two daughters, Misses Lora and Muriel; two brothers, David, of Battle Creek, and George, of Chatham, and two sisters, Mrs. John Hodder, of this city, and Mrs. William Foster, of Detroit.

A funeral service was held this afternoon in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the services being conducted by Rev. Mr. Nixon, of Hyde Park.

**FIGHT FLAMES
AT EIGHT BELOW****Twenty Stores at Schenectady,
New York, Go Up in
Smoke.**

Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 1. — The Central Arcade, consisting of twenty stores on the ground floor, and offices, society rooms and printing plant above, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Two alarms were turned in shortly after 4 o'clock, calling the entire department, and the best endeavors of the firemen were futile to check the flames. The entire structure at 8 a.m. was a mass of ruins, though the walls had not yet fallen. The building is located between the New York Central tracks and the Erie Canal, and extends from Union to Liberty street. There are no adjacent structures, so the fire did not spread beyond the building in which it started.

The building was worth over \$100,000, was owned by Mrs. Anna E. Van Deusen, and was partly insured. The stock in the various stores is a total loss, and as yet no accurate estimate can be made.

The firemen fought the flames valiantly with the temperature 8 below zero, and scores of them were frost-bitten.

**GREAT CONFLAGRATION
IN MEXICAN CAPITAL****Half-Million-Dollar Blaze in Business
Section of City.**

Mexico City, Feb. 1. — Fire destroyed the city hall, the Hotel Pasje and two blocks of business houses and dwellings, yesterday. The loss is estimated at \$500,000.

In the Hotel Pasje sixty tourists escaped with only the clothes they wore. No lives were lost.

THE QUEEN'S HEALTH**Disquieting Rumors Current Regarding
Her Majesty.**

London, Feb. 1.—Disquieting rumors are current regarding the Queen's health. It is announced from the palace that her majesty has nearly recovered from her recent attack of influenza and hopes to return to London today. The Queen's physicians ask her to reserve her strength for her Berlin visit, for which reason it is probable she will not accompany the King when he goes to open parliament.

**MONTREAL SHAKEN
BY EARTH TREMOR****Citizens Badly Scared, But No Dam-
age Was Done.**

Montreal, Feb. 1.—Montreal was shaken by what is believed to have been an earthquake shock at 11:45 o'clock last night. People in all parts of the city were awakened by the shock, which was so sharp that it was believed to be an explosion. Men were sent out from police stations to investigate. While the shock gave a scare to the inhabitants, no damage is reported.