

The City Hall Inquiry

Conflicting Testimony Given by Building Experts.

County Engineer Talbot Says the Beam Was Strong Enough

To Have Sustained the Weight of 50 Tons

And There Could Not Possibly Have Been That Weight On It

The Engineer's Staff Had No Fear of Its Safety.

Mr. Joseph Broadbent thought the beam insufficient to hold 200 people. A knot weakened its strength. The pillar put in the Treasurer's Office from Fear of the Window, Not of the Floor Above.

The city hall calamity inquiry resumed at 2 o'clock yesterday, in the court house, Coroner Flook presiding. The jury sat until nearly six o'clock, and heard a good deal of evidence, including the testimony of two experts, which was very conflicting.

Mr. James Macge, Q.C., crown attorney, examined the witnesses, and Mr. J. G. Meredith watched the case for the city.

Policeman McGuire, sworn, said he was on duty at the south end of the city hall the night of the accident. He estimated that there were about 1,500 people on the floor. It was not densely crowded in the hall, but the other part of the hall was very much crowded. He was satisfied the platform did not fail first.

A. G. CHISHOLM.
Mr. A. G. Chisholm said he, with his elder brother, was in the hall just east of the platform. His first sensation was a cloud of darkness and a sinking. The place where he stood was not crowded; between the platform and the east wall people moved around freely. Just before the accident the bulk of the crowd seemed to be around the door at the northwest corner. Apparently the meeting was about to break up, and a number rose to go out. This mass met the mass that still lingered around the door, making an accumulation in front of the platform. Witness and his son were slightly injured. He saw Ald. Turner get off the platform, and heard him make a remark about being tired and going home.

WM. BROPHY.
Wm. Brophy, master barber, said he worked in Mr. Sharkey's shop, under the city hall, 189 to 190, and remembered that a brick wall was removed from the shop, and a beam being put there. He knew of no support ever being under that beam. There was nothing in the center of the shop. When there was a dance overhead, it would shake the cups so that they had to be taken out of the case.

Mr. Magee—Was there any discussion with the city officials about the safety of the hall?
A—None that I know of.

Juror McGilivray—Was the case fastened to the wall?
A—Yes.

The Coroner—Did the shaking ever occur at any other time than during a dance?
A—No.

CITY TREASURER POPE.
John Pope, city treasurer, said he occupied the office south of the arcade. There was a beam in his office, corresponding to that in the city engineer's office. There was a pillar under the beam in witness' office, placed there about seven years ago, shortly after the changes in the hall.

Q—At whose instance were the pillars put in?
A—The engineer's.

Q—At whose instance?
Witness said that the vibration of the plate glass window during a dance prompted him to speak to the city engineer.

Q—Had you any fear of the safety of the hall?
A—No; I worked in my office right along. It was only the safety of the window I feared.

Q—You had no personal fear?
A—No.

Witness had never heard that the purchase of a pillar for the engineer's office had been mooted.

To Juror Taylor, witness said he could not say whether the pillar was put in by instruction of the council or by the engineer's own authority.

To Juror Tackberry, witness said the pillar stopped the vibration.

GEORGE F. JEWELL.
George F. Jewell, city auditor, said

that the front window was vibrating one night during a dance while the treasurer and auditors were in the treasurer's office. They were afraid the glass would break, and sent for City Engineer Tracey. Temporary supports were put up, and supported by iron pillars shortly afterwards. Witness had no fears for his own safety. The pressure of the air caused the vibration. Witness was in the treasurer's office the night of the meeting. Witness had no recollection of a pillar for the engineer's office.

To Juror Logan, witness said he knew nothing of the front wall of the city hall being sprung out during the time the changes were made. Mr. Logan said he had been told the wall was sprung, and had to be drawn in by iron shafts.

AID. O'MEARA.
Ald. O'Meara said he had been an alderman since 1881, with two or three years' exception. He was satisfied that during that period nothing had ever arisen regarding the safety of the city hall. He was on the committee before which such matters would come. He always considered the city hall one of the strongest buildings in London. He had never noticed any vibration in the city hall.

WELLINGTON T. ASHBIDGE.
Assistant engineer on sewerage construction, had been in the engineer's office for a year and a half. Before the accident he had heard jumping and rumbling overhead during the preparation. He had never heard any vibration except when heavy weights were rolled on the floor overhead. He had jokingly remarked two or three times that it would be a bad thing if the floor gave way, as he knew the safe was overhead, but he did not question the floor's safety, or he would not have stayed there. He was not aware of the beam, nor did he know the construction of the hall.

MR. R. KIRKPATRICK.
Mr. R. Kirkpatrick said he had been in the city engineer's office since May, 1900. When the beam was put in, it was crowded many times by different people, and he told me it never weighed 50 pounds to the square foot, though once or twice very near it. He was more inclined to say that 30 pounds was the average. People listening to speeches for one hour, like those at the city hall, could not have occupied more than 15 square feet each.

Witness considered the beam would support 300 people.

Mr. Magee—Then how did it break?
Witness—When people are jumping around you cannot tell what the weight is.

R. IRONSIDE.
Assistant City Engineer Ironside said the beam was put in the city hall in 1902.

Mr. Magee—I am informed temporary supports were put in on some occasion.

A—It is not true.

Q—Has the safety of that floor above been the subject of conversation in that office?

A—Not seriously.

In what way?

Witness said that while several firemen were decorating the hall for the hospital fair, a fire alarm was sounded, and the firemen dropped from the gallery to the floor. Witness was in the engineer's office and heard the noise overhead. He knew of no support being put in, and he never considered the floor dangerous.

Q—Has it ever been the subject of remark?

A—No.

Q—Have you ever noticed the floor shake when there was dancing?

A—No.

Q—You were working in the office the night of the disaster, I understand?

A—Yes; I left at 9:30, and the accident occurred at 9:30. I noticed no tremor whatever.

Q—You did not leave through fear?

A—No, I had an engagement.

Witness had never heard of any support being put in for a pillar in the engineer's office.

Juryman Taylor remarked that in the hall there was a large gathering of people, and that there was this year, and the platform was in the same place.

HERBERT WEIR.
Herbert Weir said he was employed by the London Drug Company. He took part in the disaster in 1896 and 1897. He noticed each time that the floor would spring at the north end of the hall, and he noticed there, when he could help it. Several others noticed the vibration. He saw no person's office. He noticed it the first time, but he went twice after that to balls in the city hall.

The Coroner—So you had not a great fear of the safety of the hall?

A—Not a great fear.

The inquest then adjourned until 10 a.m. today.

[For close of coroner's inquest see page 5.]

Diseases often lurk in the blood before they openly manifest themselves. Therefore keep the blood pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

The True Remedy.
Wm. Dumas, St. Albans street, Toronto, says: "We won't keep house without Ransom's HIVE SYRUP and Tolu for consumption, coughs, colds, croup or bronchial troubles. Experimented with many others, but never got the true remedy until we used Ransom's HIVE SYRUP and Tolu. No other remedy can take its place in our home, as in it we have a certain and sure cure for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, etc. We would not be without it in the house."

It is idle to experiment with other remedies, even if they are urged on you as "just as good" as Ransom's HIVE SYRUP and Tolu. They are not as good, because this remedy has a record of cures, and, besides, is guaranteed. It never fails to satisfy. 25 cents.

Nerves that never relax, eyes that never flash, thoughts that never wander, are the harbingers of victory. Don't go on suffering from nervous troubles that make strong men weak, impatient, and unable to do the right thing at the right time, all because the system is clogged. We urge you to test MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS; they will make the blood pure and rich, tingling with life and energy, and the man who feels old they make young and happy again.

At 402 Talbot street, T. C. THORNHILL'S jewelry store, all sorts of watches and clocks are thoroughly repaired at the shortest notice, and at moderate prices. The Umbrella and Faraday Hospital.

Some of their Remarkable Cures.
B. J. Lonsdale, Dunnville, Ont.—Cured of severe kidney and bladder trouble by Chase's Catarrh Cure, a cure that created a sensation.
Mrs. A. T. Stewart, Folgar, Ont.—Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine cured her little boy, who was sinking rapidly from Lung Disease.
R. D. Robbins, 148 Cowan Ave., Toronto, Ont.—Cured of an extreme case of Catarrh of the bladder. Chase's Catarrh Cure.
Miss Anna A. Howe, Eden, Ont.—Cured of Catarrh of 10 years' standing and Catarrhal Sore Throat by Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure.
Mrs. J. Querin, Ethelton, Ont.—Cured of Rheumatism of the Head and Face from which she suffered 5 years. Had a mass of scabs. Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure.
Dr. Chase's remedies may be had of all druggists, or of Biddison, Bates & Co., Toronto, Ont.

La Grippe Cured

This modern malady has become dreaded not more for its direct fatality than for the weakness of body and mind it leaves behind it.

Prolonged debility, permanent prostration, melancholy and suicide follow La Grippe. For this disease there is no remedy superior to Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

"The best remedy for La Grippe that I know of is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral."

Rev. John K. Chase, South Hampton, N. H.

"My wife and five children were taken down with La Grippe, while the disease was so widely prevalent. I doctored them with Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and before using quite two bottles my family was restored to health. I know of several obstinate cases of the same complaint which were also cured by this remedy."

"I was cured of La Grippe by the use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral."

C. S. Thompson, Pub. "Signal," West Farmington, O.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

Write to our doctor. We pay him to advise you free. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Piper, engineer of the Hamilton Bridge Company, once erected a large platform scale to ascertain the weight that could be placed on the floor of a certain bridge. Much of the scales crowded many times by different people, and he told me it never weighed 50 pounds to the square foot, though once or twice very near it. He was more inclined to say that 30 pounds was the average. People listening to speeches for one hour, like those at the city hall, could not have occupied more than 15 square feet each.

Witness considered the beam would support 300 people.

Mr. Magee—Then how did it break?
Witness—When people are jumping around you cannot tell what the weight is.

R. IRONSIDE.
Assistant City Engineer Ironside said the beam was put in the city hall in 1902.

Mr. Magee—I am informed temporary supports were put in on some occasion.

A—It is not true.

Q—Has the safety of that floor above been the subject of conversation in that office?

A—Not seriously.

In what way?

Witness said that while several firemen were decorating the hall for the hospital fair, a fire alarm was sounded, and the firemen dropped from the gallery to the floor. Witness was in the engineer's office and heard the noise overhead. He knew of no support being put in, and he never considered the floor dangerous.

Q—Has it ever been the subject of remark?

A—No.

Q—Have you ever noticed the floor shake when there was dancing?

A—No.

Q—You were working in the office the night of the disaster, I understand?

A—Yes; I left at 9:30, and the accident occurred at 9:30. I noticed no tremor whatever.

Q—You did not leave through fear?

A—No, I had an engagement.

Witness had never heard of any support being put in for a pillar in the engineer's office.

Juryman Taylor remarked that in the hall there was a large gathering of people, and that there was this year, and the platform was in the same place.

HERBERT WEIR.
Herbert Weir said he was employed by the London Drug Company. He took part in the disaster in 1896 and 1897. He noticed each time that the floor would spring at the north end of the hall, and he noticed there, when he could help it. Several others noticed the vibration. He saw no person's office. He noticed it the first time, but he went twice after that to balls in the city hall.

The Coroner—So you had not a great fear of the safety of the hall?

A—Not a great fear.

The inquest then adjourned until 10 a.m. today.

[For close of coroner's inquest see page 5.]

Diseases often lurk in the blood before they openly manifest themselves. Therefore keep the blood pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

The True Remedy.
Wm. Dumas, St. Albans street, Toronto, says: "We won't keep house without Ransom's HIVE SYRUP and Tolu for consumption, coughs, colds, croup or bronchial troubles. Experimented with many others, but never got the true remedy until we used Ransom's HIVE SYRUP and Tolu. No other remedy can take its place in our home, as in it we have a certain and sure cure for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, etc. We would not be without it in the house."

It is idle to experiment with other remedies, even if they are urged on you as "just as good" as Ransom's HIVE SYRUP and Tolu. They are not as good, because this remedy has a record of cures, and, besides, is guaranteed. It never fails to satisfy. 25 cents.

Nerves that never relax, eyes that never flash, thoughts that never wander, are the harbingers of victory. Don't go on suffering from nervous troubles that make strong men weak, impatient, and unable to do the right thing at the right time, all because the system is clogged. We urge you to test MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS; they will make the blood pure and rich, tingling with life and energy, and the man who feels old they make young and happy again.

At 402 Talbot street, T. C. THORNHILL'S jewelry store, all sorts of watches and clocks are thoroughly repaired at the shortest notice, and at moderate prices. The Umbrella and Faraday Hospital.

LITERAL "LOGROLLING."

Remarkable Experience of a Wardsville Hunter in Following a Rabbit.

Wardsville, Jan. 11.—Frank Davis, of this place, met with a most peculiar accident while hunting in the woods. Davis had succeeded in wounding a rabbit, which endeavored to escape by crawling into a hollow log. As the log ran only part way through the log Davis crawled in the aperture after it. The log happened to be on a side hill, and being disturbed from its resting place by the hunter's efforts to capture the rabbit, it began to roll, sliding down against a bank and blocking Davis' only means of exit. The prisoner immediately began a most desperate fight for freedom, kicking and screaming and using every other means in his power to attract attention.

He remained confined inside of the log for 24 hours, but finally a Mrs. Tull, attracted by his cries, came to the rescue, and succeeded by means of an axe and spade in releasing him.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Mr. Southworth Cole, license inspector, died suddenly at Brantford, Ont.

Messrs. Ziegler & Hynch, general stockholders, of Guelph, have assigned their liabilities to J. J. FAVINER, Pauletto, Miss.

Mr. Patrick O'Connor, carpenter, of Guelph, had his leg broken by falling from a roof he was shingling.

Mr. J. Kelly, of Carleton Place, Elgin county, assisted by W. H. Farr, slaughtered and dressed 25 swine, averaging 200 pounds, in two hours and a half.

The wrecked steamer Cambria will be rebuilt. It is estimated that \$12,000 will have to be spent to make her seaworthy—\$8,000 on the hull and \$4,000 on the machinery.

Stella, the 7-year-old daughter of W. Peters, of Windsor, who was so severely burned in the fire at her father's house three weeks ago, died Sunday morning.

A Springfield correspondent says: It is a common student story that the past twelve months have been more flourishing from a business standpoint than for the last twenty years.

The Waterloo Waterworks Company has decided to construct a plant early this year in order to give that town an ample supply of water. The company is negotiating for a suitable site.

John Teft, who pleaded guilty in the Stratford police court to a charge of misappropriating money belonging to his employer, Mr. W. Hebling, of East Zorra, was yesterday sentenced to a term of two years in Kingston Penitentiary.

Joseph Hinde, a highly respected retired farmer, who had been a resident of Colborne, Ont., for a number of years, died at his home in Stratford Monday after a few days' illness, aged 74 years.

B. Hawkins, of Tilsonburg, is getting his Klondike outfit ready, and hopes to be able to start for the far-off Eldorado about Feb. 1. He expects to be accompanied by Mr. Wm. Johnston.

Mr. John A. Richardson, manager of the Imperial Bank, has been offered and has accepted the management of a branch of the Imperial Bank at Stratford, which has just been opened in that city.

A tattoo mark on both arms is what gave away John Teft, and he was sentenced to two years in Kingston Penitentiary.

Mr. John A. Richardson, manager of the Imperial Bank, has been offered and has accepted the management of a branch of the Imperial Bank at Stratford, which has just been opened in that city.

Christopher E. Williston, one of the prominent and most respected residents of Chatham, Ontario, died on Saturday at his home on the river road, aged 42 years. He was a junior partner of the firm of Williston Bros., Chatham.

Miss Lilla Kearsley Harrison, wife of Frank Harrison, assistant postmaster of Vancouver, B. C., died at the home of her mother in Stratford on Friday morning, Jan. 10, 1901, aged 24 years.

The late John Hamilton, collector of customs of Stratford.

Medals have been distributed to the following members of the Guelph hospital nursing staff: Miss Lizzie M. Campbell, Miss M. G. Bowler, Campbellville; Miss Hattie Batho, Kewlinville; Miss F. Elliott Anderson, Guelph; Miss Maria Nixson, London.

Patrick King, a Windsor pioneer, died Thursday morning at his residence, 118 Aylmer avenue, after a long and painful illness, at the age of 71 years. He had lived for over 43 years in Windsor, and was an employee of the Grand Trunk Railway up to the time of his sickness, over a year ago. He leaves a wife, two daughters and four sons.

The annual reports of the Howard Mutual Fire Insurance Company show the amount of new and renewal business taken for the year to be \$800,000. The company has cash in bank and municipal debentures, and residue of \$2,476,932; losses during the year, \$2,504.56. Mr. Henry Butler has been elected president, and John Crawford vice-president.

SOUVENIR RANGES

Give Others Perfect Satisfaction.

Messrs. Wyatt & Sons: London, April 20th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—The Domestic "Souvenir" Range purchased from you for our Wellington street paragonage has given the most perfect satisfaction. I take great pleasure, therefore, in bearing testimony to its merits, not the least of which is its economy of fuel. I am yours sincerely,

J. D. ROBERTSON, 361 Carlton avenue, 20n eod

Messrs. Wyatt & Sons: Gentlemen,—Money could not purchase the "Souvenir" Range I bought from you unless I could get another. It gives genuine satisfaction, and cannot be excelled as a heater, and am much pleased with my purchase.

J. D. ROBERTSON, 361 Carlton avenue, 20n eod

Rev. Charles Fish, Methodist Minister Dunn Ave., Toronto, Cured of Eczema.

About ten years ago I felt the beginnings of Eczema. The disease commenced in my ears and spread entirely over both sides of my head. It crept up to my hands. During those ten years I was a great sufferer. Specialists on skin diseases treated me. As I write this I am commencing on the fifth box of Dr. Chase's Ointment, and, judging from the rapid improvement effected, I am certain that before the box is used I shall be completely cured. Charles Fish, Methodist Minister, 192 Dunn Avenue, Toronto.

You Have No Right to Marry

if you are a consumptive, and the day is not far distant when such an act will be illegal—a crime against the state, as it is a crime against nature. Men and women who have inherited or acquired a tendency to pulmonary weakness should guard well against the first approaches of consumption. They should, above all things, keep their general health up to the normal standard by keeping the digestive system in good order, because consumption is a disorder of mal-nutrition. Such persons should beware of colds, for no cough is unimportant. They should avoid dampness; dress in pure wool, and have plenty of sleep. A cough shows either the lodgment of matter in the bronchial tubes, or else an irritated condition of the lungs and air passages. Do not neglect digestive symptoms! I have before me the portrait of a lovely young girl.

When I first knew her she was but seventeen; at nineteen I saw her lying in the coffin, white and pure as the roses clasped in her attenuated fingers. Her first symptoms pointed to stomach trouble; but they were neglected. She grew frail and slender as a lily. Her lover—for she was engaged to be married—urged her to wed and go South with him; but she gently refused. Her family did not realize that the doom was upon her. Mothers, do not neglect such symptoms in your dear ones, or you may see them drifting from you, as did my dear young friend from her heart-broken mother. Stomach troubles are the initial symptoms of that fatal form of consumption which attacks the whole system, but does not most deadly in the bowels. Tune up the stomach by means of some good preparation of herbs, and break up the cough with Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure. A grand remedy, pure, harmless, healing, tonic and expectorant. You will not waste your money if it is sold on a guarantee to refund the price if it fails to relieve.

Messrs. S. C. Wells & Co., Le Roy, N. Y.

GENTLEMEN—Three weeks ago I contracted a severe cold, which settled in my chest and brought tubes, giving evidence of a severe habit to last for months, as my previous colds had always affected me. More as an experiment than anything else, I decided to try Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure, and was most gratifyingly restored to health. I disengaged the enemy; the second entirely expelled it from my system; and it is with sincere belief in its efficacy that I add my testimony in its favor.

PIERRE CUSHING, Rector of St. Mark's Church, Le Roy, N. Y.

signal to go ahead, and pitched into the other freight about the middle as it was moving over the crossing switch. The engineer and fireman saved themselves by jumping. The cars were derailed. A flat car loaded with a \$5,000 fire engine consigned to Montreal was damaged to the extent of \$1,000. The locomotive was also wrecked.

Is Your Wife Ill Tempered? Examine her feet, and if she has corns buy her Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Home will then become an Eden. Much of the misery of married life is due to corns. Putnam's Extractor is sure, painless and prompt.

FREE TO BALD HEADS. We will mail on application, free information how to grow thick hair again, and quickly but surely restores Lost Manhood to old age. Address: Allenheim Medical Dispensary, Dept. N. E. Box 778, Cincinnati, Ohio.

London Presbytery

Met for Conference in Glencoe on Monday.

Strong Expression in Favor of Systematic and Proportionate Giving.

The Presbytery of London met for conference in Glencoe on Monday evening, in the Presbyterian Church there, the moderator, Rev. J. G. Stuart, London, presiding. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. Ross, pastor of the Glencoe congregation.

Mr. John Currie, Belmont, presented a report of the work of the church. The contents were briefly as follows: The appointment of a standing committee on the schemes of the church, composed of as many members as there are schemes, an hour to be spent in favor of the principle of systematic giving.

The discussion was interesting and vigorously carried on by Messrs. Milroy, Currie, Clark and Little, the general expression of opinion being strongly in favor of giving being systematic and proportionate.

Mr. A. C. Macdonald, elder from St. Andrew's Church, London, introduced the question of how the presbytery should deal with congregations not contributing to all the schemes of the church. He claimed that such methods were unscriptural, as well as unwise, and that every Christian should give to the work of God systematically and proportionately.

The discussion was interesting and vigorously carried on by Messrs. Milroy, Currie, Clark and Little, the general expression of opinion being strongly in favor of giving being systematic and proportionate.

Mr. A. C. Macdonald, elder from St. Andrew's Church, London, introduced the question of how the presbytery should deal with congregations not contributing to all the schemes of the church. He claimed that such methods were unscriptural, as well as unwise, and that every Christian should give to the work of God systematically and proportionately.

The discussion was interesting and vigorously carried on by Messrs. Milroy, Currie, Clark and Little, the general expression of opinion being strongly in favor of giving being systematic and proportionate.

Mr. A. C. Macdonald, elder from St. Andrew's Church, London, introduced the question of how the presbytery should deal with congregations not contributing to all the schemes of the church. He claimed that such methods were unscriptural, as well as unwise, and that every Christian should give to the work of God systematically and proportionately.

The discussion was interesting and vigorously carried on by Messrs. Milroy, Currie, Clark and Little, the general expression of opinion being strongly in favor of giving being systematic and proportionate.

Mr. A. C. Macdonald, elder from St. Andrew's Church, London, introduced the question of how the presbytery should deal with congregations not contributing to all the schemes of the church. He claimed that such methods were unscriptural, as well as unwise, and that every Christian should give to the work of God systematically and proportionately.

The discussion was interesting and vigorously carried on by Messrs. Milroy, Currie, Clark and Little, the general expression of opinion being strongly in favor of giving being systematic and proportionate.

Mr. A. C. Macdonald, elder from St. Andrew's Church, London, introduced the question of how the presbytery should deal with congregations not contributing to all the schemes of the church. He claimed that such methods were