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VESSEL WRECKED AND BURNED TO PIECES

Terrible Tragedy During Storm on Lake Winnipeg—Str. Premier Turns Turtle—Fate of Crew in Doubt.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 7.—(Special.)—At least eight persons met a horrible death by burning on board the Dominion Fish Company's steamer Premier, some two hundred miles up Lake Winnipeg, early Thursday morning.

In addition grave anxiety exists for the fate of the crew and other passengers. The known dead are: Madame Couture of St. Laurent, Man. Miss Copaz, school teacher, Winnipeg. W. W. Fryer, son of the late Captain Jones of Winnipeg, owner of company. Cook and cook's mate, names unknown.

The disaster occurred at the far end of the lake in trackless wilds and a couple of hundred miles from any telegraphic communication, the first news being brought to Selkirk at the cabin of the fishing tug Wolverine, which passed some of the wreck on the way south from Norway House.

From scanty information to hand, it appears that the Premier, which is a large fishing steamer, chartered to carry two hundred passengers, besides freight, was caught in the heavy gales of Wednesday last and after vainly battling all day and half the night was finally driven on to the reef where she turned turtle in shallow water, catching fire and cremating at least eight persons.

The same storm struck fishing craft were wrecked on Spider Island and fate of another fishing tug is unknown. The ill-fated Premier was a sister ship to the Dominion Fish Company's vessel Princess, which was wrecked about the same time last year on Snake Island, some half dozen persons losing their lives.

Lake Winnipeg has a sinister reputation, and its shores are strewn with the debris of vessels caught on its inhospitable shores in gales which in summer tear up its shallow waters, no haven offering in all its length and breadth. It was that tragedy, Commander Spain, held a government enquiry which resulted in censure being passed on the crew for deserting passengers.

word was given to the Premier's crew, but it is supposed they escaped and are marooned on the bleak coast line.

LAST UNDER LEMIEUX ACT UNLESS EXPERTS CAN ACT

Why the Railroaders Have No Confidence in the Findings of the Board.

The impression among railroad men, according to the press committee of the strikers, is that there will be no more arbitration under the Lemieux Act, if they can prevent it.

While we recognize that the principle of arbitration is right, we do not care to have technical points settled for us by men without the necessary knowledge of either the technical or the economic side of the question.

"What does a wholesale grocer know of railroading? We have a grievance as great as the western men, too. They had evidence taken on their differences, but the board added a clause that we could have the benefits of the findings they had made on western matters."

"The unions are fighting for their very lives, but we would not have forced the issue while trade was only recovering from the setback of last fall and winter, had not the company, in its effort to smash the union, given notice of the abrogation of the working schedule in the west on April 1."

"They did not anticipate any such move on our part as the filing of a notice of amendment, calling for a 30-day halt until we could get things in working order. Had we not done that, the company would only have had the western men to fight and might have succeeded in crushing them alone."

"We want a nine-hour day and other things, but would not have pressed for them had we not been forced into it by the company itself. 'Moreover,' he continued, 'the trainmen recognize their danger as well, and realize that if our union is beaten theirs will be next to be attacked. Whether we are beaten or not, the next strike will be not by any one union, but will be one that will make the company stop and consider a little.'"

"A strike like ours does not have its effect for a week or so, but then something can be looked for when the stock of available locomotives begins to be exhausted. The men feel quite confident of winning. Reports from all over the line show that the men are holding their ground, and that the company are not obtaining even an appreciable number of good mechanics."

The C.P.R. is doing its utmost to secure telegraphers in the west. Many men around town who have not any knowledge of railroad work are being offered jobs in the west, and it is stated on good authority that men are being sought for from as far south as St. Paul and other points.

The Toronto World

FOURTEEN PAGES—SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 8 1908—FOURTEEN PAGES

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LORD LOVAT, Distinguished Scotsman, Who Will Be the Guest of the Fraser Clan in Toronto on Monday.

ORGANIZER TELLS WHY MECHANICS HAVE STRUCK

Not to Obtain New Conditions or Wage Increase But to Maintain the Schedules Long in Use.

In response to a request from The World, James H. McVety, organizer of the C.P.R. mechanics in the strike now in progress, has wired the following clear statement of the men's position. The public should read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the arguments set forth.

The strike of the employees of the Canadian Pacific is the result of an attempt of the company to cancel agreements and to change rules in force for a period of ten years.

In order to comply with the law, the men asked for the appointment of a board under the Lemieux Act to investigate the demands of the company. When the board was first appointed, considerable delay occurred in considering whether the Eastern Line questions should be considered by the board, and the decision being in favor of considering all questions, whether east or west, the company withdrew their representative from the board.

Further delays occurred here, due to efforts of the government to have the company suggest someone else as their representative, G. F. Galt finally being appointed by the government, but in reality by the company, his name having been suggested by their officers as chairman of the board.

Findings Contrary to Evidence. During the investigation of the western line questions every opportunity was given the men to place their evidence before the board, but the decisions were apparently made with an eye to the company's interests, making the findings farcical and leaving the contestants in the same position as before the board was appointed.

The decision purports to be against a reduction of wages, but in reality 75 per cent. of the boiler-makers employed are reduced 8 3/4 per cent. by an apparently innocent clause classifying the men. The evidence presented on this, as on the apprentice clause, was altogether against the finding, it being clearly shown that no precedent exists for classifying boiler-makers, or for a ratio of apprentices of one to four, an increase of 20 per cent. in the number of apprentices. Long years of experience show that with this ratio the boys do not receive a proper grounding in the trades.

The western men had made no demand on the company and were engaged in trying to hold the schedules obtained during the past eight years. A policy of compromise had evidently been adopted by the board and their findings removed many of the rights conceded by the railway companies throughout the continent for a considerable number of years.

On the Eastern Lines. On the eastern lines the men had asked for a shorter working day, with the same pay per day, but the policy of compromise vanished entirely when considering this question, the board ruling against the men, although no evidence was heard, the board refusing to go to Montreal or to allow the men to bring witnesses from Eastern Canada to Winnipeg.

The company had asked no change in the east, but the board decided that the concessions made to the company in the west should also apply in the east, thereby reducing a large number of men on their own initiative. If this legislation is to continue in force, the schedules of the men may be entirely wiped out in the course of a few years, merely by the company asking for their total abolition and the board's adopting a policy of compromise and taking away the important clauses, one or two at a time.

After the decision had been rendered the men attempted to open negotiations with the company, but their efforts have been unsuccessful, the company having decided to put the award into force at once. Rather than accept the sweeping changes recommended the men decided, by a vote of 99 per cent., to strike to maintain the existing conditions and the walkout has been very satisfactory to the committee in charge.

SEE THE REPORT ON CITY HALL METHODS

Civic Auditors Sharply Criticize the Methods of Book-keeping in the Water-works Department.

Perfidious practice of "under" and "over" banking. Routine book-keeping in arrears thru poor system and lack of official energy. Errors in cash entries, frequent inaccuracies in additions and untidiness of books.

Carelessness and looseness in the handling of civic funds, showing weak discipline. Mistakes thru slipshod use of adding machines. Attendance register carelessly kept. Meter users are taxed too high for the water used.

The foregoing are some of the outstanding defects which Auditors Barber and Vigeon state in their report to the board of control that they have discovered in the administration of the waterworks branch of the city treasurer's department.

Their recommendations summed up, are: (1) Tellers should balance their cash books before leaving their boxes. (2) Attendance register should be enforced or discontinued. (3) The departmental work should be rearranged and simplified by discarding present books and using a new form of account.

(4) Water rates should be payable at the head office. The campaign was very briefly discussed by the board, only the portion dealing with water rates being taken up. Controller Spence advocated a reduction of the meter rate, and said that if the waste of water were checked, this could be done without increasing the flat rate. No decision was reached, however.

The auditors said they had found routine book-keeping away behind, which was the "fault" largely of the system in use, but arising also from lack of earnestness and energy on the part of the officials. The "under banking" evil scored, signifies the holding over by clerks of part of one day's cash to "make up" and deposit another day, a week or a month later.

"No explanation is given as to the reasons for these deductions, further than that it is claimed that the adding machines are slow and that the old additions on which are carried forward one or two instances of this were found."

The reason may be valid, but if so, it is simply another evidence of carelessness and looseness in the handling of civic funds. The fact that the staff, the internal discipline of which we consider weak.

The auditors said their work in checking was hampered by the unmethodical manner of treating dates in various books, indeed, taken generally, the books (with the exception of those in the meter department) are untidy and frequently inaccurate in their additions, pencil entries and corrections being frequent.

The auditors deduced from the finances of the waterworks that meter users, who have to pay 10.60 cents per 1000 gallons as against 2.75 cents by ordinary users, are unfairly discriminated against.

City Treasurer Coady said last night that he had no comment to make on the report for the present, but that he might feel called upon to make a written report to the civic authorities later.

WOMAN OF WEAK MIND SCATTERS HER CLOTHING

Queer Conduct on City Streets Causes Final Arrest in East End of City.

Dazed and wandering in her mind a young woman giving her name as Miss Mildred Mikill, Highland Park, Ill., was arrested in Munro Park yesterday by P. C. Lang at 6.30 in the evening.

She was first noticed in the city hall, where during the morning she began to empty a valise which she carried. The contents were gathered and kept by Special Constable Nolan.

From there her route is described by a young man who followed her till her arrest. With a pair of silk stockings over her arm, she walked down Bay-street from the city hall to King-street to the King Edward Hotel. She was seen there for a moment, when she went down to the railway tracks and west. She came north thru St. Clarens-square, and east to Spadina-avenue, when she went north to College-street. She then came south again to Queen-street, and walked east to Queen's Park, where she was taken into custody.

Upon her was a pin of the St. Luke's training home for nurses at Chicago. She said that she remembered starting from Chicago on the Mackinac trip. She had on her an address, 32 Falls-street, Niagara Falls, N.Y., at which she had received a telegram from Mrs. M. A. Mikill, Highland Park. It was dated Aug. 6, 1908, and read: "No card come. Money order will be there Thursday."

Whitney or Gibson--Which is Boss?

The recent action of the aldermen of Hamilton and the threatened action of the City of Brantford makes it imperative to once more direct public attention to the power policy of the Whitney Government, and to the danger of its being weakened, even the possibility of its being destroyed.

The opposition of the electric ring in Toronto and throughout Ontario is highly organized, is rich, has its secret friends in every direction, in some places even where they might not be suspected, and above all it is entrenched in legislation, the result of the long and arduous efforts of Hon. J. M. Gibson and the lawyers of the power ring. It is also entrenched in a highly organized and very smooth newspaper support—of newspapers that are willing to be "voices" and "organs" of the government if they can only cut the throat of the power policy. The most ardent newspaper defender, apologist of the government to-day is a paper which did two things: it fought the power policy and the municipalities tooth and nail and told Sir James Whitney and his government that they were in substance wreckers of innocent investors and that they had destroyed the credit of Ontario in England because of their power policy. The same paper has also taken the stand that the vote of the people given in the late election did not mean a mandate to carry out the power policy, it only meant that "honest government" on the old lines was all that was wanted!

The great danger to the Beck power policy, therefore, lies in this, that the power ring is organized while the public side is unorganized, and our contention to-day is that the Whitney Government must not even appear to be passive in the matter. They must undertake to carry their policy thru, and to assist the municipalities.

We wish to point out to Sir James what we think he already knows, that ever since Hon. J. M. Gibson was a member of the Ross Government, whether as provincial secretary, more pronouncedly when attorney-general, he deliberately, continuously and designedly introduced legislation that was hostile to public rights, to municipal rights, and in the interests of the power ring. It was he that created the power ring, and gave it all the legislation it acquired. He it was who tied up the province to the power companies in that notorious clause that the province should not engage in the production of electricity. He engineered thru Ottawa's the great franchise that allows his Cataract company to be water fed for a nominal sum from the public property known as the Welland Canal. Not only did he get the first privilege, but he got the privilege strengthened. The Cataract Power Co. would collapse like a balloon if it were not for the fact that to-day it gets its water from the Welland Canal, which cost the people of this country millions and millions of money, and it is this enemy who, entrenched behind legislation and legal agreements, fortified by great concessions in connection with the public works of the country, is attacking the people of all Ontario and the public power policy in particular. Years ago The World was the one paper that described Col. Gibson as a great public enemy. At that time the Liberal papers defended him, but subsequent events have shown him to be the most mercenary man that ever was in this province in the matter of corporation privileges and the greatest enemy this province ever had of public rights. To-day he has his Cataract Power Co. and street car franchises capitalized at twenty-five or thirty millions of dollars, where the actual investment has not been above four millions, and his whole effort is to float this investment of three or four millions into twenty-five millions, and he proposes doing it if he can out of the public. Everything to himself and his corporations, which are altogether public creations, and which are altogether dependent on a public water supply! It was the legislation secured by Col. Gibson from time to time, stealthily slipped into the law, which strengthens the power ring in this country, and the Premier, if he wishes to vindicate the Beck power policy, must offset the manipulations of Gibson and company, and the public must to-day have the assistance at every point of the government, and especially of the attorney-general of this province, to arrest the aggressions now being made under legislation that a government hostile to public rights gave some years ago. In other words, an apathetic policy of resistance by an existing government cannot meet an active policy of aggression based on the legislation of a former government.

The World believes that Sir James Whitney feels more than ever his responsibility to the people in the matter of this power policy, but The World is doing him an act of kindness in telling him that there are men in his government whose friendship to the power policy is questioned by the people. There are ministers who seem to act as if they were inspired by Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, a very able lawyer, and very much associated with the power interests; and Col. Hendrie has had the misfortune of having endorsed on two occasions the candidature of Mr. Scott as his colleague in the legislature from Hamilton, a candidate who was an out-and-out hostile to public ownership, and the Beck power policy especially. A great many people thought that inasmuch as Col. Hendrie was a member of the power commission and of a government committed to public ownership in regard to power and a government whose main asset in the way of holding the support of the people was this power policy, it should have been his care to have had the Conservatives put up a candidate sympathetic with the policy. A direct and avowed enemy was put up twice and beaten twice. Mr. Hendrie, if earnest in support of the power policy, should have refused such a colleague. He tried to elect him!

Surely the Premier must see that the day has come to legislate forthwith that no municipal council can hereafter part with any public franchise until approved by a vote of the electors. The scandal of the Hamilton aldermen ignoring the twice expressed vote of the people for a contract with the public power commission must be cured and prevented hereafter. This was entirely manipulated by Hon. J. M. Gibson, once attorney-general of Ontario! He is trying to repeat the trick in Brantford! What does Col. Hendrie think of the Hamilton aldermen repudiating the public wish? What does he think of the Hamilton aldermen using the Hydro-Electric Power Commission's terms with Toronto as the basis of their own infamous agreement? In other words, Hamilton would have been forever sewed up to Gibson if it had not been for Beck and they use the work of Beck to make terms for themselves in the very agreement with Gibson that betrays the Beck policy! The people of Hamilton have not done this, but the aldermen have done it in spite of the people!

Mr. Premier, the time has come for you to get off your coat, to re-examine your surroundings, to read the Riot Act, maybe, to meet Gibson on his own ground!

The public power policy will win out, but it must win out quick and win out impressively. And it will win out all the easier by joining immediate issue with its enemy.

What will Mr. Borden's fight for public ownership in the coming federal election amount to if Gibson bursts the Whitney power policy in Ontario? Well, that is just what the ex-attorney-general of Ontario is trying to do!

WIFE MURDERER CAUGHT. Louis Armour is Convicted in a Michigan Town.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Aug. 7.—(Special.)—Louis Armour, who shot his second wife while she was on the way to church a week ago last Sunday, and who has a wife in St. Catharines, Ont., was captured to-day at Blissfield, Mich., near here.

FREAK INSURANCE MEN WARNED. NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—According to Danie T. Gordon, acting second deputy superintendent of the insurance department, if an agent of Lloyds of London solicits or accepts insurance against Bryan's election, failure of the sheath gown or like risks, the district attorney will prosecute the agent for violation of the New York insurance laws.

HIS DIAMOND JUBILEE. Many happy returns to ex-Ald. Geo. S. Macdonald, the veteran editor of the East Toronto Standard, born at Ogdensburg, N.Y., August 8, 1848.

BADEN-POWELL COMING. LONDON, Aug. 7.—Among the passengers of the Empress of Ireland are General Baden-Powell, the defender of Mafeking, Bishop McCormack, Judge H. S. McDonald, Rev. Charles Scadding, Sir John Sinclair and Hamar Greenwood.

HOODWINKED IN JANUARY. That the campaign for power was carried out with ability and finesse is just beginning to dawn upon the people. In electing Mayor Stewart and carrying the Hydro-Electric system nearly to the whole attention of the ratepayers was concentrated, and they believed their success in this respect made the victory of cheap power sure. The council was largely lost sight of, and aldermen who had taken a prominent part in the movement to free Hamilton from the grasp of the octopus were left open to attack and allowed to go down to defeat on minor issues and cries skillfully played up, while the electric interests were left free to elect a bunch that has played into the hands of the company.

The day of election, a ticket known as the "Cataract ticket," was circulated amongst the employees of the company and among the "faithful." On it were names of some of the best known and to be so sincere in the cause of the people that it was thought those who made up the ticket did so in a fit of mental aberration, but recent developments show that they knew what they were doing. Without exception, they were either voted for the company or have played its game. No fewer than eight of those on the ticket were elected.

Now, awakened to what was allowed to be done, the ratepayers are angry, and are taking steps already to see that the mistake of last year is not repeated. The Hydro-Electric power, and then deliberately turned around, and supported the Cataract.