

THAMES RIVER CLAIMS THREE BATHERS AS VICTIMS SUNDAY

**WILLIAM BAKER, OF YORK ST.
ALFRED CLARK, OF KING ST.
R. ERNEST NEIL, OF ELIAS ST.**

Clay Banks, Adelaide Street Bridge, and Springbank the Scene of the Tragedies—All Got Beyond Depth and Lost Their Lives in What Appeared To Be Shallow Stream.

WOULD-BE RESCUERS WERE ALMOST DROWNED BY STRUGGLING VICTIMS

Terrible Tales of Death in London On Sunday—Neil's Body Recovered at Noon Today—All Were Unmarried—One Victim the Support of His Widowed Mother.

ONE DAY'S DROWNING RECORD.

WILLIAM BAKER, aged 24, employed at Gorman & Eckert's, was drowned at 7:30 a.m., at Clay Banks, immediately east of the Vauxhall bridge, Egerton street, on the south branch of the river. Body taken from the river at 10:30.

ALFRED CLARK, aged 22, a young Englishman, employed at McCormick's, boarded at 624 King street, drowned in North Branch, Adelaide street bridge, shortly before 1 o'clock. Body recovered in a couple of hours.

R. ERNEST NEIL, aged 22, barber at Tecumseh House, resided at 757 Elias street, drowned near dam at Springbank. Body recovered near place where Neil was drowned.

Three young men, all under 25 years of age, lost their lives Sunday in the treacherous Thames.

The excessive heat of the past few weeks drove hundreds of young men to the river to bathe, but by some whim of fate, the death toll was not mended until Sunday, with a cool wave within striking distance. Three deaths with several narrow escapes mark the heaviest toll of the season, and of many years.

In two of the cases, heroic efforts were made to rescue the drowning men. In none did the rescuers succeed, but rather were most fortunate to escape drowning through the struggles of their dying fellows.

By a peculiar coincidence, the North Branch, the South Branch, and the main stream of the Thames, each claimed a victim.

THE FIRST DROWNING.

The first accident occurred shortly after 7 o'clock in the morning. William Baker, of 688 York street, employed at Gorman & Eckert's, took his 14-year-old brother Jack for a bath at the Clay Banks. Neither could swim. Jack, who was decked in a red and white striped suit, was seen to be struggling in the water. Baker waded into the cool stream, from the north, towards the Clay Banks on the south, and went out a considerable distance. His brother became alarmed and called him to come back.

"I am all right," he answered.

William Baker continued his journey, and suddenly falling into a hole, he called for help. His brother Jack rushed up and down the bank, calling to the other bathers further up to assist him in getting his drowning brother out.

But they would not risk their lives in the treacherous Clay Banks. In the meantime William Baker had disappeared under the water.

Jack rushed to the nearest telephone, and a message was sent to High Constable Hughes. The latter was soon on the scene, and the work of recovering the body was commenced.

BODY RECOVERED.

In a short time the word was passed about the east end that a man was drowned at the Clay Banks, and a large number assisted in the work of recovering the body.

At 10:30 the body was located in deep water, and was removed to Smith's undertaking parlors.

Deceased was the eldest son of Mrs. Mary Baker, 688 York street, and was the main support of his widowed mother. She had repeatedly warned him not to go swimming at the Clay Banks, and when he left Sunday morning she again spoke to him of the dangers.

Besides his mother he is survived by three brothers, Jack, George and Chester, and three sisters, Lizzie, Allie and Harriet.

The Adelaide Street Tragedy.

The second drowning occurred shortly after noon. Alfred Clark, 624 King street, with his brother, Jack, who was a son of Mr. Harris, with John Webb, 387 Adelaide street, and Walter Webb, 387 Adelaide street, the three young men jumped into the water, and paddled about for an hour. Webb and Harris then went out on the bank to rest, while Clark walked up the river.

At this point the stream is deep and treacherous, although quite narrow. "Look out, it is pretty deep there," Clark's companions called to him, knowing that he could swim but little. Clark answered them and kept on going. They chatted a minute and when they looked around Clark had disappeared.

Both quickly rushed to the edge of the water and Walter Webb dived for Clark.

"An Awful Struggle." The latter grabbed him in his struggles for life, and Webb had a battle for his own life.

The drowning man held on with a vice-like grip, and slowly dragged Webb down. The latter, with a sudden wrench broke Clark's hold, and he crawled to shallow water much exhausted by the struggle.

"When I looked for Clark he had disappeared," said Webb. "Harris and I rushed to the river, and I dived for him. I felt him, and in an instant he caught hold of my legs. I tried to free myself, but he held on with a terrible grip. We started to go down, and I thought I was going to be drowned. I struggled as hard as I could and finally succeeded in breaking his hold. I was very tired, and went to the bank. Clark did not come up."

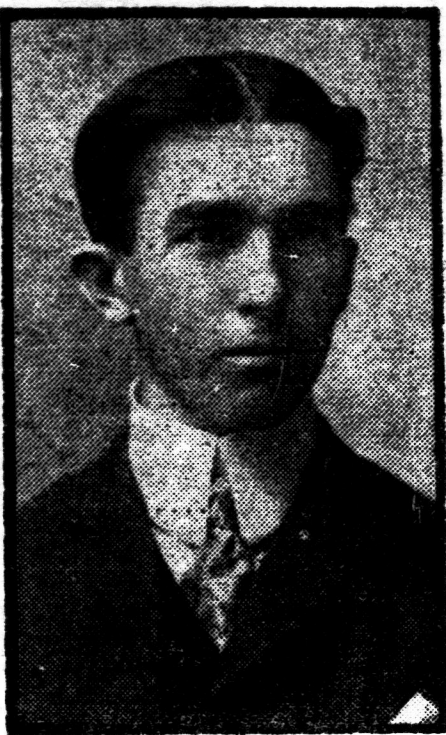
Police on Scene. The police station was notified and Sergeant Birrell and the patrol wagon went to the scene of the accident.

In a few minutes a large number of swimmers arrived and they dived for the body.

After an hour's work Mr. Thomas Burrows, of 1032 Mabel street, located the body and brought it to the surface. It was taken to Logan & Ball's undertaking parlors.

Clark was a young Englishman, who had been in the city about three years, during which time he has been employed at the McCormick Manufacturing Company. He was a Barrow boy and came to this country a little less than three years ago. He was first employed by Mr. Carmichael on a concession 13, London Town.

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R. ERNEST NEIL, Young Londoner Who Lost His Life in the Thames at Springbank.

LONDONER HAD VERY CLOSE CALL

Mr. Harry Rehnitz Almost Drowned in the Lake at Port Stanley.

CAUGHT IN UNDERTOW

Mr. Fred Lawrason Made an Heroic Rescue—Brought Mr. Rehnitz to Shallow Water.

While in bathing at Port Stanley yesterday afternoon, Mr. Harry Rehnitz, of this city, had a narrow escape from drowning. The prompt action of Mr. Fred S. Lawrason, and a Port Stanley man alone saved his life.

Mr. Rehnitz was swimming near the pavilion. He had gone out a considerable distance from shore, and had turned to come in, when he was caught in the undertow and swim as he might he could not make shore.

He called for help to some lads in a rowboat, but they paid no attention to him. He went down once, when Mr. Lawrason and the Port Stanley man noticed him.

Mr. Lawrason swam quickly to him, and carried him to shallow water. Here the stranger took him to shore, as Mr. Lawrason was quite tired.

Mr. Rehnitz was revived in a short time. The undertow was very bad at the Port yesterday, and all bathers were cautioned to be very careful.

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Pennsylvania Lady Likes London

Chief Williams received a letter this morning from Mrs. Selma M. Thompson, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, in which a dollar bill was inclosed. Mrs. Thompson stated that while going through London she was much struck by the beauty of the city, and regretted that she was unable to stop long enough to secure picture postcards of some of the prettiest places. She asked the chief to invest the dollar in views for her. She will be sent a choice collection immediately.

WATER RESERVE HAS INCREASED OVER TEN FEET IN RESERVOIR

Cool Weather Has Improved Conditions—Wells Will Also Give an Increased Supply—Local Situation Is Greatly Improved.

The water situation is much improved today.

There are now ten feet, two inches in the reservoir the water being within four feet of the top.

On Saturday there was a good gain, perhaps 22 inches. Sunday the reservoir gained a foot, and today the demand is not so great as during the past few weeks, and the reserve is steadily going up.

This increase was made in spite of the fact that the temporary pumping plant on Horton street was shut down from 3 a.m. Sunday to 12:30 in order that the boilers could be cleaned.

More Well Water. The new addition to the plant will be ready by tonight.

All Saturday night and Sunday wells were examined, and changes made in the machinery. The portable engine was brought to the wells, and was thoroughly overhauled. The air lift was changed also, and by tomorrow morning a million and a half gallons of water will be added to the city supply with equipment to bring the quantity up to a million and three quarters gallons in case of necessity.

That will make a great deal of difference to the supply, and will insure the citizens of a good quantity of water during the remainder of the summer.

Watching the Supply. "We are doing nothing but attend to the water supply," said Chairman Pockock. "We have the machinery now in place for the additions to the pumping plant, and we will be ready by tomorrow morning. A couple of other wells will be added. The air lift has been changed so that it can handle the increased supply. That should relieve us of any deficiency, provided the water is delivered. We have the reservoir up to ten feet now, and we intend keeping it there."

"There are now ten feet, two inches of water in the reservoir," said Engineer Simmie. "We will not let it get below that amount if it is possible to prevent it."

The pressure is much improved. At noon today there was about 60 pounds registered at the city hall.

\$800 FIRE IN RIDOUT ST. HOUSE

Residence of Mr. Percy D. Dewar Seriously Damaged This Morning.

A MATCH IS BLAMED

Blaze Started in the Attic Amongst Some Clothing—House Owned By W. J. Clark.

Fire did about \$800 damage to the residence occupied by Mr. Percy D. Dewar, 494 Ridout street, this morning. The property is owned by Mr. J. Clark.

The house is a private hospital, and there were three patients in the place, taking the rest cure.

The loss is estimated at \$800. One woman had a year-old child, and she and the baby were taken to a neighbors, where they were cared for. None of them were in any danger.

The flames were confined to the upper stories. The blaze started in the attic among some clothing and the like, presumably from a match thrown among the stuff.

Loss Is \$800. The blaze gave the brigade an hour's battle. The loss is estimated at \$800. One woman had a year-old child, and she and the baby were taken to a neighbors, where they were cared for. None of them were in any danger.

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Tomorrow—Cooler. FORECASTS. Toronto, July 4—8 a.m. Moderate to fresh northerly winds; fine and comparatively cool today and on Tuesday.

TEMPERATURES. Max. Min. Weather. Victoria 66 46 Clear. Vancouver 64 46 Fair. Winnipeg 74 40 Clear. Port Arthur 72 46 Clear. Parry Sound 72 46 Clear. Toronto 72 46 Clear. Ottawa 72 46 Clear. Montreal 72 46 Clear. Quebec 72 46 Clear. Father Point 72 46 Clear.

WEATHER NOTES. Showers and thunderstorms are occurring this morning in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Elsewhere in Canada the weather is mostly fair.

Cooler conditions for the most part fair. A few showers and thunderstorms are occurring during the night in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but the fine weather has continued in Manitoba.

SUNDAY'S WEATHER. A few local showers have occurred today in Southern Alberta and local thunderstorms in Quebec. Port Arthur, 62-72; Winnipeg, 50-60; Swift Current, 52-62; Parry Sound, 62-72; Toronto, 62-72; Ottawa, 56-76; Montreal, 60-76; Quebec, 56-72; Halifax, 56-76.

THE EAST—Fresh winds, with occasional showers. Lake Superior—Light variable winds; fair, not much change in temperature. Manitoba—Fresh easterly and southerly winds; fair and very warm. Ontario—Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf—Fresh to strong easterly and northeasterly winds; cool, with occasional showers.

A RECORD PASSAGE. Montreal, July 4.—The Allan Line steamer Hesperian, from Montreal and Quebec, for Glasgow, arrived at Greenock at 9 a.m. Saturday. Her passage from Father Point occupied 6 1/2 days, a record passage. The Allan Line steamer Southwick, from Glasgow for Quebec and Montreal, passed Father Point 9 a.m. yesterday.

DOG BIT WOMAN PROTECTING HER PET. Mrs. Edward Wilfong, of Simcoe Street, Tried to Separate Battlers.

A dog belonging to Leonard Phillips, of 197 Grey street, bit Mrs. Edward Wilfong, of 122 Simcoe street, on the arm on Saturday evening while she was trying to separate it from her dog, which it had attacked.

Both dogs had muzzles on, but had managed to get them shifted to one side, so that they could bite, and when Mrs. Wilfong took hold of the dog to pull it away it turned on her and inflicted a deep bite in her arm.

A doctor was called and dressed the wound. Dr. J. H. Tennent was notified and placed the dog in quarantine.

FELL WITH ELEVATOR. Toronto, July 4.—Albert Morris, aged 30 years, of 1404 Dufferin street, a driver for the Toronto Delivery Company, fell 40 feet on a runaway elevator at the Time Recording Company's premises, 19 Alice street, this morning, but sustained no more serious injuries than a broken left arm, and a bleeding nose. He is now in St. Michael's Hospital. A clock Morris was carrying at the time was uninjured.

The accident was caused by a cable slipping.

DROWNED IN HUMBER. Toronto, July 4.—Arthur Burt, a young man residing on Howland avenue, was drowned in the Humber River this morning. He had gone in for a swim, and some time afterwards his clothes were found on the bank, but there was no sign of the man.

COLT JUMPED BEFORE CAR DRIVER HAD MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

F. Hopkins, of Ingersoll, Had His Sulky Smashed—Clung to Car and Saved Himself From Going Under the Wheels.

Mr. F. Hopkins, of Ingersoll, a well-known horseman, who is in this city training a string, had a miraculous escape from death on Dundas street east of Clarence street today, when a spirited three-year-old jumped directly in front of westbound Dundas car No. 11, which was travelling at a very rapid rate.

Hopkins threw himself on the fender and clung to the railing while Motor-man Fred Young plugged his car and brought it to a standstill within a few feet.

The horseman escaped serious injury, while the animal sustained only a slight cut on the fetlock.

The Accident. Hopkins had driven his horse along the main street for half an hour, and while on Richmond street was warned by a policeman that he was endangering the lives of pedestrians with such a spirited animal in the crowded thoroughfare.

He then turned on to Dundas street and drove his horse up close to the Dundas car as it ran up beside him. A short run sent the speedy trotter past the car and across in front of it, the fender catching the high wheels of the rig, which turned on its side.

The driver was thrown against the front, under the motor-man, and clung to the railing with his back against it, until the car stopped. The horse's hoof was caught under the fender, the light shoe being wrenched off.

A bullock, who got in the midst of the mix-up, wound up beneath the car, but escaped the wheels and was pulled out by the crew.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PAYMENTS ILLEGAL SAYS ALD. RICHTER

City Financier Claims That This and Past Councils Have Exceeded Their Powers, and That the People Can Be Made Pay the Whole Shot—Mayor Beattie Says Alderman Richter Is Wrong.

Are the payments being made by the city for local improvements illegal?

Have the city councils of this year and past years exceeded their authority, and in consequence, must the ratepayers bear the whole burden of taxation for the walks and curbs and gutters in the city?

These questions will be asked by Ald. Richter at the meeting of the council tonight, and it is probable that some discussion will take place on the question.

Grave Doubts, These. Ald. Richter takes the ground that the city councils have exceeded their authority both this year and in past years, and consequently there are grave doubts of the legality of the expenditures now being made by the city for these purposes. In other words, he holds that according to the act, the city is not liable, and consequently the whole burden of the cost should be placed upon the ratepayers.

Ald. Richter's Opinion. "We cannot as a council go beyond the specific rules laid down in the act for our guidance," said Ald. Richter to the Advertiser. "The municipal act specifically states our powers. I am convinced that this year's council have not lived up to the letter of the law in this regard, and consequently have exceeded their authority. The legality of the expenditure from the city revenue of money to meet the city's share of the local improvements is a question. For my own part, I do not think we have the authority to expend this money without a vote of the people."

Other Years, Too. "The same is not only true of this year's council, but of other years. Large sums of money have been paid out annually for local improvements that are not legal. The act was violated, and in order that the expenditure should be legally made, the council should have had the authority of the citizens by vote. They have not received that authority, and consequently the legality of the payments in question. Comes Up Tonight."

"I shall bring the matter up before the council tonight, and I shall move for the appointment of a special committee to confer with the city solicitor and the city auditor as to the best method to overcome the difficulty, and place the local improvement matter upon a sound basis. At the present time I do not believe that it is."

Mayor Beattie would not discuss the matter today, but it is understood that he has been informed of the move of Ald. Richter, and has obtained the opinion of City Solicitor Meredith. That opinion, it is also stated, is to the effect that the councils of the past have been within their rights in respect to local improvements.

Some Confusion. The opening of the problem will probably cause some confusion. A citizen may object to the payment of his local improvement taxation, and a field of legal entanglement is thus opened.

Ald. Richter's move is a bold one, and it is also stated that the city is not liable for any share of the cost of a large number of local improvements, and not about 40 per cent., as the proportion now stands.

Last year the city paid out over \$60,000 for local improvements, or considerably over 2 mills on the dollar. The aldermen are taking a deep interest in the subject, and the debate will add much to the length of the council session tonight.

THE FIRST ANNUAL REUNION OF WESTMINSTER OLD BOYS

Three Hundred Gathered for the Celebration at Wilton Grove Friday. Many of Them Coming From Distant Points.

The first annual reunion of the Westminster Old Boys took place at Wilton Grove on Friday, and was a great success. Upwards of 300 people gathered at the beautiful natural park situated on the old J. P. Elliot place, now owned by Mr. A. Barber. A number of old boys and girls from a distance were present, among whom the following may be mentioned: Mrs. James Elliot, Nelson, B. C.; Mr. John Beattie, of Sanford; Mrs. F. Ballantyne, Misses Grieve, Mr. Elliot Grieve, and Mr. J. F. Elliot, from London, and many others.

Sports and Games. Various sporting events were run off, the most interesting being two baseball games. In the first game the Westminster Plovers, a team famous for its victories twenty years ago, battled with the Wilton Grove team of 1910. The game was a most interesting one, and the spectators witnessed some amusing incidents. The veterans were too strong for the younger set, however, and the final score stood 21 to 15 in favor of the former.

The second game was one between the Wilton Grove team and a visiting team from Chelsea Green. This, too, was a hard-fought battle, but the home boys were eventually successful, winning from their opponents to the tune of 6 to 5. They were presented by the latter with an official league ball as a prize for their victory.

In addition to the sports, a splendid programme was given on the grounds. Brief addresses were made by Messrs. Elliot Grieve, John Lawson, Adam Nichol, Dr. McCrae and others. Music was provided by the Topping Orchestra, from London; Miss May Beattie, Pond Mills; Messrs. John Beattie, Seaford; W. E. Grieve, T. H. Nichol and W. Newell.

A Picnic Dinner. An old-fashioned picnic dinner was served at noon and altogether the day was a most pleasant one, and all went forward with increased enthusiasm to the next reunion.

The thanks of the committee were tendered to all who helped to make the gathering such a success, and especially to Mr. and Mrs. Barber for their kind hospitality. The reunion was brought to a close by all joining in the National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne."

The accident was caused by a cable slipping.

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