

DRESDEN'S EX-MAYOR KILLED WITH REV. GEORGE H. LONG IN A BAD FIRE ON SUNDAY!

Blaze Broke Out at an Early Hour in Aiken's Store, and a Terrific Explosion Followed, in Which Spectators Lost Their Lives.

THE FINANCIAL LOSS IS ABOUT \$100,000

Half a Dozen Persons Were More or Less Injured—The Loss is Partially Covered By Insurance—Ev. Mr. Long Well Known in This City.

THE DEAD.

Ex-Mayor C. V. Hicks.
Rev. George H. Long, Methodist Minister.

THE INJURED.

Walter Dynes, badly bruised and cut, leg broken.
Robert Aiken, cut and bruised, not serious.
Dr. McDonald, several cuts, painful, but not serious.
Charles Aiken, bruised and cut. Others had narrow escapes.

BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

Edward Watson's grocery.
C. A. Jeffrey's millinery store.
Masonic Hall.
John Adkins's billiard hall.
Robert Aiken's drygoods store.

LOSS IN PROPERTY.

Estimated at \$100,000.
Insurance about \$90,000.
Heaviest Losers—C. B. Watson, owner of buildings, and Robert Aiken.

Cause—Unknown.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Dresden, Ont., Dec. 25.—Two men are dead, half a dozen are more or less seriously injured, and \$100,000 worth of property was destroyed by a fire that broke out here this morning.

Ex-Mayor E. V. Hicks was instantly killed, and Rev. George H. Long, Methodist minister of this place, was so badly injured that he died this evening at 8:30 o'clock.

Dr. McDonald, Walter Dynes, Robt. Aiken and Charles Aiken were cut and bruised by flying debris, but it is expected they will recover. Others had miraculous escapes.

C. A. Jeffrey's millinery store, Edward Watson's grocery, the Masonic Hall, Robinson's millinery store, John Adkins's billiard hall, and Robert Aiken's premises were practically destroyed.

The Bank of Commerce was on fire several times, but was saved. During the progress of the fire, the explosion took place, resulting in the death of the two men. The cause could not be learned, but it may possibly have been owing to gas, or some explosive in Aiken's store.

Coroner Willey will hold an inquest to discover the cause.

A Bad Fire.

The fire broke out early this morning in Aiken's store. When discovered it had gained much headway, and it was seen that a good portion of the business section would be wiped out.

The firemen made a gallant battle, and they were ably assisted by scores of citizens. The fire was well under way when there was a terrific explosion in Aiken's store.

Rev. Mr. Long and ex-Mayor Hicks were across the street watching the blaze. They were directly in the path of the explosion, and they were struck by bricks and heavy timbers.

The life was crushed out of Mr. Hicks instantly. Mr. Long was crushed and bruised, and it was seen that he was fatally injured. He was removed to his home, where he died this evening at 8:30 o'clock.

Dr. McDonald, Mr. Dynes and the Aikens were together near the fire, and they were hurled off their feet by the force of the detonation. Much glass and debris were thrown over them, but fortunately they were far enough away to escape the full force of the explosion.

Others were close at hand, and while they received slight scratches and bruises they were not injured seriously.

Blaze Under Control.

The firemen were badly affected by the fearful calamity, but they worked with dogged determination, and soon had the blaze under control.

The Bank of Commerce was threatened on several occasions, and the efforts of the men were directed to saving this building, thus preventing a further spread of the fire.

Aiken's store was completely demolished. The explosion smashed the building, and the stock was ruined. The other stores were gutted, and the stocks are practically a total loss.

The tragedy has caused gloom over the entire town, and all festivities have been suspended.

The Dead.

Ex-Mayor Hicks had been identified with the town of Dresden for many years. He was a man 65 years of age, and had served in various capacities in Dresden. He was popular with all classes, a good citizen, and his death is much mourned.

The gloom was increased when it was known that Rev. Mr. Long had succumbed to his injuries. He had been here a couple of years, and was very popular with all classes.

During his ministry he had served in several towns in Ontario, among them being Dundas, Hensall, Highgate, Pinal and other places. He is survived by a widow, one son, George Long, a newspaper man formerly of London, now in Macon, Georgia, and one daughter.

For many years Rev. Mr. Long rendered valuable services as secretary of the London Conference.

The injured men are doing nicely, and they will recover unless complications, not anticipated, develop.

Inquest Ordered.

Coroner Willey took charge of the bodies of the dead men, and ordered an inquest. A thorough investigation will be made into the matter, in order to discover the cause of the explosion.

The exact loss cannot be ascertained. In conversation with The Advertiser the various parties interested approximated the loss at \$100,000.

It may be more, but it is likely that it will be under that amount. The details of the insurance could not be learned.

Mr. C. B. Watson, who owned the buildings, and Mr. Robert Aiken, owner of the drygoods store, are the heaviest losers.

THE WEATHER

TODAY—MILDER.

Meteorological office, Toronto, Dec. 25.—(8 p.m.)—Gales with rain have occurred today in the Maritime Provinces, and light snow has fallen in New Ontario and Manitoba, while elsewhere in Canada the weather has been fine. It has been cold in Ontario and Quebec, with temperatures below zero in many localities. Minimum and maximum temperatures:

	Low.	High.
London	14	22
Edmonton	16	40
Calgary	14	40
Winnipeg	4 below	12
Parry Sound	12 below	8
Toronto	7	18
Montreal	zero	15
Halifax	30	48
Prince Albert	16	28
Qu'Appelle	2	24
Port Arthur	10 below	26
Ottawa	2 below	4
Quebec	2	24

Forecasts.

Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Fresh to strong southerly to westerly winds, milder with moderate snowfalls.
Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Moderating, with snow by evening.
Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf—Fine and decidedly cold today; light snowfalls by Tuesday.
Maritime Provinces—Northwesterly and westerly winds, decreasing in force; fair and decidedly cold.
Superior—Light snowfalls.
Toronto, for 24 hours, which he says the latter got from the bank on Dec. 19, while he knew or had reason to believe that the bank was unable to meet its obligations. He asks an injunction restraining Saunders from negotiating the notes.

JUDGE BARRON ACCEPTED PROBE OFFER OF MR. HAYS

Stratford, Dec. 24.—Judge Barron stated today that he had decidedly decided to accept the offer of President Hays, of the Grand Trunk Railway, to undertake an investigation of the facts relating to the failure of the company to reinstate certain conductors at Toronto, Brockville, Stratford, Sarnia, Port Erie, Niagara Falls, London, etc., and to report in each individual case to the president.

His honor has forwarded a letter to Mr. Hays accepting the task, provided he is given an absolutely free hand. He asks to open his investigation about the first of the new year.

WINNIPEG EXPECTS A RIOTOUS HOLIDAY

City Street Strikers and Strike-breakers May Clash.

Winnipeg, Dec. 25.—What almost amounts to a general premonition appears to exist that the holiday will not pass without a serious affray between striking carmen and strike-breakers. Until now the situation has been very quiet, barring one or two minor incidents, where police protection has been poor, but a few broken heads and piles of broken glass are the most serious results of the strike to date.

The striking union men appear to realize that without public sympathy their case is lost, and there is none.

FIRE AT LATCHFORD RAZES MANY STORES

Hundred Thousand Dollar Blaze in Northern Town Sunday.

North Bay, Ont., Dec. 25.—Fire broke out at 2 o'clock this morning in the business section of Latchford, and had gained such headway when discovered that attempts to check the flames were futile, and the frame business places were soon licked up by the devouring element.

The King Edward Hotel, which stands in an isolated position near the station, escaped, but the main business section was destroyed at a loss of \$100,000 estimated.

Among the sufferers are: Latchford Hardware Company, Jamieson Meat Company, Abdallah, P. Curtis, Patterson's general store, Morrison's general store, A. Murchison's restaurant, Andrew Napier's poolroom and barber shop, and Mrs. Birdwell's fancy goods store.

The insurance is light.

STEAMERS COLLIDE MANY OF CREW LOST

The Finland and Baltic Come Together in the North Sea.

Antwerp, Dec. 25.—The steamers Finland and Baltic were in collision today at the mouth of the River Escut, the Baltic sank quickly, and all the crew excepting six men, were drowned. The rescued were taken on board the Finland.

The identity of the steamer Baltic, reported sunk at mouth of the Escut, or Scheldt, as it is more commonly called, has not been definitely ascertained. A number of steamers Baltic are registered, the most important of which is the White Star liner. This vessel, however, sailed from New York Dec. 24. There was a Swedish steamer Baltic, and a Norwegian steamer of the same name.

The Baltic sea. The British steamer, arrived at Rotterdam, Dec. 10, and a Norwegian steamer Baltique, sailed from Antwerp Dec. 12 for Tyne.

CHRISTMAS AT VATICAN

Pope Spends the Time Quietly With His Relations.

Rome, Dec. 25.—Christmas Day passed off tranquilly at the Vatican, where Pius X., after pontificating at early mass before specially invited guests, spent the morning quietly in his private apartments with his sisters and his niece. Later he saw some of his household, and the secretary of state, Cardinal Merry del Val, but all the audiences were private.

His holiness received messages from sovereigns, heads of states, high ecclesiastics and prominent laymen.

EARL ANCASTER DEAD

Was Privy Counsellor and Hereditary Great Chamberlain of England.

London, Dec. 25.—The Earl of Ancaster died today.

William Henry Heathcote-Drummond Willoughby was born Oct. 1, 1830. The earldom of Ancaster was created in 1892. The earl was a privy councillor and joint hereditary lord great chamberlain of England. His cousin, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, in 1905 married Miss Eloise Breeze, daughter of the late W. L. Breeze, of New York.

ISSUES WRIT FOR BANK

Liquidator Says Large Sum Was Illegally Withdrawn.

Toronto, Dec. 25.—Alleging that he received the money within less than thirty days before the commencement of the winding up against the bank, G. T. Clark, son, liquidator of the Farmers Bank, has issued a writ against J. S. Saunders, of Toronto, for \$45,000, which he says the latter got from the bank on Dec. 19, while he knew or had reason to believe that the bank was unable to meet its obligations. He asks an injunction restraining Saunders from negotiating the notes.

FRENCH SERMONS OR NO MONEY

Ottawa Dispatch Tells of An Alleged Ultimatum Delivered at Windsor By French Canadians.

BILINGUALSCHOOLSAGAIN

Delegation Is Said to Have Waited on Parish Priest With View to Having Sermons in Their Own Tongue.

The Toronto Sunday World publishes the following article, which is signed "H. E. W.":

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Gossip among the French-Canadians in the capital and the surrounding country is concerned just now with the joint effect of the campaign conducted against the bilingual schools by His Lordship Bishop Fallon, of the London Diocese, together with the recent incidents and also with an alleged "strike" which has been declared on at Windsor by certain dioceses of Bishop Fallon.

Rev. Father Downey, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, soon after the advent of Bishop Fallon to the See of London, decided to discontinue his sermons in the French language. The reverend father is one of the best French speakers in Ontario.

Nothing was said at the time. With the publication of the now celebrated Hanna-Fallon-Payne letter things took a sudden change down Windsor way. The French-Canadians, who were the chief contributors to the building fund of the new church—for there are only 30 English-speaking families in the parish—demanded that sermons in French should be resumed. Their request was met with a flat "No" from the parish priest. The delegation then adjourned to hold meetings to discuss ways and means. They have hit upon a plan which they think assures them success. They have delivered their ultimatum, which is this:

"No French, No Money."

"Very well, if you wish to preach only in English, you can do so. You may also call upon your English-speaking parishioners to pay off the church debt." And so the matter stands.

The "walking delegates" in this somewhat amusing "boycott" on salvation, have prepared an agreement which has already been signed by over 100 heads of families, wherein they engage not to contribute a single cent towards either the support of the church or the building fund.

Continued on Page Ten.

POWDER CAN EXPLODES BENEATH DANCERS

Three Killed and Many Injured at a Miners' Celebration.

Greensburg, Pa., Dec. 25.—Three persons are dead, eight are in danger of death from their injuries, and ten more are in the Westmoreland Hospital with painful burns, as penalty either for somebody's carelessness or somebody's vengeance, while miners were holding a Christmas celebration at Larstone shaft near here last night.

The accident occurred at the home of Michael Wilding, while he was entertaining a party of about 25 men and women, some of whom had come from Youngstown, Ohio, to seek work in the mines here. It is believed that one of the men in the party while a dance was in progress, threw a cigarette butt carelessly under the stairway of the house. Twenty-five pounds of black mining powder are said to have been stored there in an open can. Rumors were current that striking miners had thrown a bomb under the stairway, but there was no confirmation of the report.

Flames from the powder shot through the room and the acrid smoke blinded the dancers as they broke away for escape. The three who were fatally hurt and died soon after removal to the hospital are:

Joseph Hine Fagitt, aged 24 years, married, of Youngstown, Ohio.
Michael Wilding, aged 22, the host, of Kristone shaft.

John Heminger, aged 30, single, of Kristone shaft.

The clothing of nearly all the dancers took fire from the explosion, but, although the room was burned and blackened, the house was not seriously damaged.

Men in adjoining houses rushed in with blankets and wrapped them about the burning women, saving many from death. Superintendent H. B. Boyard of the mine, arranged for a special train, which brought the injured to the city.

IN HARD LUCK.

Dover, England, Dec. 25.—Claude Grahame-White, who had a narrow escape from serious injury a week ago in an attempt to fly across the English Channel, met with a further mishap today. He was ready to make a second attempt for the prize, when his biplane caught fire and was destroyed.

BORN AT SEA.

Halifax, Dec. 24.—The Allan liner Tunisian, which arrived last night from Liverpool after a stormy passage, landed 261 passengers. There was a birth during the voyage, and the boy was christened Allan Terry Younger, first in honor of the Allan line, and the second after Edward Terry, the well-known English actor on board, who opens his Canadian tour here Monday.

RUSSIANS ARRAIGNED IN MURDER CHARGE

Charged With Killing of Three Policemen in Old London.

London, Dec. 25.—Three Russians were arraigned in the Guild Hall police court yesterday charged with connection with the murder of three policemen who were killed while frustrating a burglary last week. A witness swore that he saw two of the prisoners carrying away from the scene of the shooting one of the burglars who subsequently died of his wounds. The prisoners pleaded not guilty and were remanded pending further inquiries.

CHRISTMAS EXAMS AT THE COLLEGIATE

Results of Tests in Local Institute Are Made Known By Principal McCutcheon.

A SPECIAL MENTION LIST

Students in Lower and Upper School Who Made Exceptional Showings—The List of Students.

The results of the Christmas examinations have been given out by Principal McCutcheon. The students as a rule did excellent work, the majority of them taking high percentages.

In the statistics, Class I, are those who have taken over 70 per cent, Class II, are those over 60 and under 70, and Class III, are those between 50 and 60 per cent.

Those in the Lower School who have taken Class I, or Class II, standing will undoubtedly be promoted in the summer. Those who have not made sufficient marks to obtain that standing may improve, as the final marks are based on the standing taken in the Christmas, Easter and June examinations.

In the Upper School, those who take 40 per cent on each subject and 50 per cent on the total, have an excellent chance of being successful at the departmental examinations, provided they continue to make the same rate of progress they have made since June last.

In the Lower School 183 wrote, and 78 took over 70 per cent, a very fine showing. Only 37 took less than 60 per cent. In the Upper School 133 wrote, of whom 72 took over 70 per cent and 37 alone took less than 60 per cent.

Special Mention.

In the Lower School the following students did extremely well, and are worthy of special mention: Gladys Baldwin, Eusebia Benson, Muriel Lancaster, Marjorie Talbot, Ethel Pulling, Fern Nash, Edna Shouldice, Mary Snodgrass, Myrtle Stanley, Frank Curran, Oswald Luney, James McGeech, Cyril Smith, and Austin Wright.

In the Upper School, the following, who have done remarkably well, are: Gladys Wright, Velma McPherson, Eva Dann, Edith Aiken, Hazel Taylor, Martha Weir, Ross Belton, Vernon Hughes, Russell Palmer, Sydney Slater and Gordon Mumuch.

"The results are highly satisfactory," said Principal McCutcheon. "The majority of students took high marks, and few indeed fell below our expectations. Those who did not obtain the higher percentage need not be discouraged, as there is considerable time between now and June for marked improvement. We are most pleased."

The results are the following:

Continued on Page Two.

FLYER HITS BUGGY AND TWO ARE KILLED

Rev. Mr. Hill's and Companion Killed in Level Crossing Accident.

[G. N. W. Dispatch.]

Dunnville, Dec. 25.—Yesterday morning about 11 o'clock, at the Ditt road level crossing of the Wabash Railway, about five miles from here, a terrible accident took place, in which the lives of two men were lost. The unfortunate victims were Rev. Mr. Hill, the United Brethren minister at Elcho, and Eugene Pyle, of St. Romness, Mr. Hills was driving to Dunnville in a covered buggy, and had picked up Mr. Pyle, who was walking only a short distance from the track. They evidently did not notice the approaching Wabash flyer and the train struck the buggy in the centre, throwing both occupants into the ditch and evidently killing them both instantly, and also the horse. The engineer immediately stopped the train and backed to the crossing.

Coroner Maeson, of Dunnville, was notified and the bodies were brought here, where an inquest will be held on Monday.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Philadelphia, December 24.—While delivering Christmas packages in a big automobile truck for Strawbridge & Clothier, a Philadelphia department store, two men and a boy in the vehicle were killed tonight when a Baltimore and Ohio passenger train struck the truck at Moore, ten miles from this city. The dead are:

John Eccles, 22, driver.
Edward Laude, 25, helper.
Leon Malsberger, 16, helper.

A BLOODY FIGHT IN WEST LONDON

Woman at Bottom of Row in Which Two Men Hack Each Other With Knives.

ONE MAN IN HOSPITAL

James B. Fowler Badly Wounded, and His Assailant, William Heslop, Now in Cell in Police Station.

A woman was the cause of a sensational knife duel on Saturday night in West London. As a result, James B. Fowler, butcher, 44 Blackfriars street, is in St. Joseph's Hospital, with a score of wounds, and William Heslop, cigarmaker, 52 Blackfriars street, is in jail awaiting the outcome of Fowler's injuries. The latter's condition is serious, but it is expected that he will recover. If no complications set in, Heslop is suffering from several cuts also, but they are not dangerous.

Saturday night, it is stated by the police, there was a little party at Heslop's. Fowler came in during the evening and remained a short time. About 11 p.m. he left, and at the same time, it is alleged, Mrs. Heslop disappeared.

An Encounter in the Dark.

Heslop noticed that his wife had gone out, and he went to Fowler's butcher shop, which is but a couple of doors away. He listened outside for a while, and, hearing voices within, he smashed a small window and crawled in.

In the darkness of the store, he saw Fowler and the woman, so the story goes. He grabbed a couple of butcher knives, and made a race at the man. Slashing right and left, he cut Fowler about the legs and arms. The latter backed away and seized a cleaver. A blow from one of the knives in Heslop's hands cut Fowler across the forearm, severing the nerve and rendering him powerless.

Seeing that it was impossible to evade the fury of the husband, Fowler raced about the store. The doors were locked, and with one spring he plunged through the big plate glass window, with Heslop at his heels, slashing and cutting at every step.

Out on to the street the two rushed. Blood was flowing from a score of wounds on both men, and the noise of the screaming woman and men aroused the neighbors. They came out of their houses and saw Fowler and Heslop battling, and a hurly call was sent to police headquarters.

Police at the Scene.

P. C. McRoberts was close by and hearing the noise ran to the street, perhaps in time to prevent a tragedy. He grabbed Heslop, who was still slashing and cutting Fowler, who was weak from the loss of blood, and was able to offer but little resistance.

Heslop was hurled to the station. In the patrol, while the ambulance took Fowler to St. Joseph's Hospital, where his injuries were attended to.

Dr. W. J. Tillmann was summoned, and dressed the wounds. The man is badly wounded. His right arm is terribly cut, and it may be possible that it will be useless, as the nerve is severed. His legs, back and shoulders are slashed in many places.

Fortunately, no vital part was struck. Several veins were cut, but no arteries were severed. Fowler lost much blood, and was very weak Saturday night, Sunday he rallied, and is doing fairly well.

Husband Also Wounded.

Heslop is cut also. Fowler apparently did not strike him, but in jumping through the window the glass cut his legs. There is a particularly deep gash on the thigh.

Dr. H. A. Kingsmill attended to him, and he will be all right in a few days. Heslop is well known in the city. He is a cigarmaker employed at McNeel's and is a very steady young fellow. For years he was manager of the West London Stars, and has been connected in baseball matters for a long time.

Fowler is a young unmarried man, living with his parents at 9 Charlotte street. He has always borne a good reputation.

Heslop feels his position very keenly, and today expressed satisfaction that Fowler would not die.

"I did not want to kill him or disfigure him for life," he is alleged to have said to the police yesterday morning. "I lost my head for the time being and slashed him. I hope he gets better."

Heslop has two children, both boys.

STEAMERS ARRIVED.

At Philadelphia—Graf Waldersee, from Hamburg.
At Liverpool—Michigan, from Boston.
At New York—Hannan, from New York.
At New York—Caledonia, from New York.
At Portland—Hibernian, from Glasgow.

LOST AN EYE.

Quebec, Dec. 25.—An employee of the Lake St. John workshops named Feitz, was the victim of a grievous accident while at work last night. He was repairing a safety valve under an engine and was using a cold chisel when a fragment of steel struck his right eye, piercing the optic. He was conveyed to the hospital, and an operation will be performed.