SWITCHBOARD HEROINES AIDED IN DISASTERS

Prompt Action of Hello Girls Has Counted Heavily in Cases Where Grave Danger Threatened; Examples of Cool Courage.

When Tessie McNamara stuck to her switchboard in the big munitions plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry company on the Jersey meadows, near Kingsland, and tingled the telephone bells in the various sheds to give warning of impending disaster she probably saved the lives of hundreds of workers by her coolness and heroic action. But telephone girls have a way of doing just that sort of thing.

Although Miss McNamara's courage in remaining at the switchboard in the munitions plant and doing what she considered her duty in the face of what seemed certain death was especially conspicuous, there are many other cases on record in which telephone girls have stuck to their posts in spite of danger. They have done so while fire was licking at the very doors of the rooms in which they were working; while floods have threatened the destruction of the building from which they were sending out the alarm.

The bravery of Miss McNamara brings to mind the case of another telephone girl who was placed in a somewhat similar position to that of the New Jersey heroine. Miss McNamara's act was doubtless the result of an impulsive idea of her duty under the circumstances. She had to think quick and act quicker. There was no alternative; she acted without giving the matter second thought.

But in the case of the other girl the danger that threatened came slowly. She had ample time to give full consideration to the peril she would encounter if she remained at the board. Undoubtedly she could have reached safety if she preferred to do so; but she didn't. Her decision to remain at her board and spread the alarm was the means of warning hundreds of persons, who were thus enabled to get outside the danger zone in time.

This was the case of Miss Arline Barnell, an operator in the exchange at Zanesville, Ohio, during the great flood in March, 1913. In spite of the fact that the water rushed through the street in which the telephone exchange was situated, at one time rising as high as the second story of buildings in close proximity to the exchange; in spite of the fact that fire caused by the flood at one time threatened the exchange, Miss Barnell remained at her post and spread the alarm up to the very moment that the local telephone system gave out.

When the local system gave out, there still remained open a wire to New York and over this Miss Barnell sent an appeal to the world at large to send relief in the form of food to the starving and pent up inhabitants of Zanesville. Because of the fact that the rushing waters had levelled all telegraph wires leading out of the city it was impossible to get to New York the true conditons that existed in the Ohio city, until Miss Barnell sent the facts over the one remaining telephone wire.

Miss Barnell's own version of the conditions that existed in the flood devastated city was picturesque. To the person at the New York end of the wire she said:

"From the front windows, we can see bodies floating in the water and everywhere the scene is awful. The town is in darkness, as the electric plant has been swept away and our only light is from the one gas main that hasn't broken.

"You cannot even faintly imagine how horrible it is here. The only telephone line left is long distance, over which I am talking to you in New York. All the way up Main street to Second street the water is very, very deep. It is at least 40 feet above high water mark. It is deep right up to Sixth street, where this building is located. We can see the buildings burning down from our windows. Tell the people everywhere to send us food.

"I'm pretty tired tonight, but I must keep on working. There are four girls here and we haven't rested since day before yesterday. But we don't think of ourselves when we remember the poor dead women and babies down there under the water. It's little enough we can do, but we'll do it as long as we can stay awake.

"Don't forget to tell people to send us food and clothes and medicine. We don't need money. It would be just in the way and it can't buy what we need. Don't forget to tell them that—good night, New York."

Now that the heroic deeds of Miss McNamara and Miss Barnell in the face of explosion and flood have been recorded it is time that the case of the telephone girls in the exchange in Suffern, N. Y., was considered. Those girls had to face the peril of fire when they committed themselves to the task of remaining at work summoning assistance from neighboring towns. The peril was so imminent that the heat cracked the windows beside which they worked.

The fire started early in the morning of September 29, 1915. It destroyed the largest hotel in the town, the Rockland House and for a time threatened the town itself.

From the windows of the exchange the telephone girls were able to grasp the extent of the blaze, which was fanned by a high wind. Without undue deliberation the girls summoned assistance from the fire departments in Paterson, Ridgewood, Spring Valley, Tuxedo, Ramsay, Waldwick, Lawrence, and other places.

The girls had been notified to leave their posts because of the impending danger. This they absolutely refused to do until they were assured that their efforts had brought the needed assistance.

In January, 1915, the West furnished proof that the plucky telephone girl was not a product of any 16 of that year that three yeggmen tried to break into the telephone exchange at Andale, Kan., and destroy the means of communication after cutting the telegraph wires in the Missouri Pacific station soon after 2 o'clock in the morning.

They might have succeeded had it not been for the courage displayed by Miss Clara Dressel, 19 years old, the telephone operator. She was awakened by the splintering of the door panels. She reached for an automatic revolver and began firing, the robbers retreating before the unexpected attack.

As she shot she pushed the plug into the number of Town Marshal Helder and notified him of what was happening. The marshal rang the fire bell. The town began to wake up. Miss Dressel in the meantime had got the Wichita police on the wire and eight policemen started along the Missouri Pacific tracks.

Despite the fact that their presence in town had been made known by Miss Dressel's prompt action in notifying the marshal, the robbers set to work to blow open the vaults in the State bank. For two hours while the safe blowers worked their pals outside stood off the citizens, who had been aroused by the telephone girl. With the entire town firing in their direction the yeggmen worked coolly. Three hundred shots were poured into the bank, and every window in the main street was broken by the fusillade.

After the third attempt to blow the safe had exhausted their supply of dynamite the robbers got into an automobile and drove off followed by many shots. The machine broke down and they were forced to take to the railroad tracks, where the police from Wichita, summoned by Miss Dressel, met them. Three of the yeggmen were captured, but a fourth escaped.

How varied may be the causes calling for prompt action by the telephone operators was illustrated by the experience of Miss M. M. Gildea, supervisor of the Flatbush telephone exchange, in March, 1915. This time leaking gas was the medium through which Miss Gildea's name was brought before the public.

Shortly after 1 o'clock on the afternoon of March 29, came a faint voice over the telephone to Miss Gildea, who was acting as chief operator at the time. The voice asked that Dr. Edward A. Keyes of 319 Rutland road be sent in a hurry, "as mother is dying." The operator heard a crash as if the speaker had fallen and then groans were audible.

Miss Gildea got into communication with Dr. Keyes and told him that the call had come from the home of Mrs. Carol Khouri, 503 East Twenty-sixth street, Brooklyn. Miss GHdea also notified Police Headquarters and Policeman John Seery, who received the message sent a call to the Kings County hospital for an ambulance. Drs. Figley, Stedman and Sage hurried to the house.

The physicians and several policemen from the Snyder avenue station broke open the hall door. They were almost overcome by gas. On the floor in the dining room, still clutching the telephone receiver, they found Mrs. Khouri unconscious. In the same conditon in an adjoining room lay Miss Horie and near a water heater in the cellar from which gas was gushing the searchers stumbled over the form of Assad Khouri.

It seems that a defective burner on the gas heater had allowed the gas to escape. Mr. Khouri had detected the leak appatently and was about to turn off the jet when overcome. Shortly after the women members of the household succumbed.

It is evident that if Miss Gildea had not been prompt in realizing the situation and summoning aid the three persons would have been asphyxiated.

Once again it was fire that gave the opportunity to two telephone girls of Lockport, Ill., to become heroines. It was on November 25 that opportunity knocked on the door of the exchange, and Miss Ethel Spangler and Miss Violet Shultz were ready.

Fire destroyed the plant of the Northern Illinois Cereal Company, 100 feet from the telephone office and while the flames crackled the girls stuck to their posts until they received promise of aid from Joliet.

The European war has not been without its telephone girl heroine. While others faced explosions, fires, floods, &c., this girl had the experience of sitting at her board and sending out bulletins while the enemy shelled the town in which the exchange was situated.

The young woman in charge of the post office and the telephone switchboard kept telephoning to Verdun every quarter of an hour. All the while the shells rained on the town. Suddenly the postmaster at Verdun, who had the receiver at his ear, heard the young woman say, "A bomb has just fallen in the post office." After

HIS HEART BADLY AFFECTED

"Fruit-a-tives" Soon Relieved This Dangerous Condition

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"For two years I was a victim of Acute Indigestion and Gas In The Stomach. It afterwards attacked my Heart and I had pains all over my body, so that I could hardly move around. I tried all kinds of Medicine but none of them did me any good. At last, I decided to try 'Fruit-a-tives.' I bought the first box last June, and now I am well, after using only three boxes. I recommend 'Fruit-a-tives' to anyone suffering from Indigestion."

FRED J. CAVEEN.

50c. a box, 6 for $2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

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Effect of Nerviline on Chronic Cases Is Almost Magical.

Exposure to wet or cold is apt to bring on an attack.

The muscles stiffen, the joints swell, and exertion brings on excruciating twinges.

Often the pain shifts from one part to another, and this is dangerous, as the heart is apt to be attacked. Death as a rule follows a heart attack.

The pain of rheumatism is quickly rubbed away with Nerviline.

This is a swift, lasting, and safe way to cure rheumatism. You can depend on Nerviline. It has the power, the penetrating force, the control over that is so essential to a rheumatic remedy.

Lots of testimony to prove Nerviline's certainty to cure.

The following letter is from Mr. E. G. Sautter, Port of Spain, Trinidad: 'Last year I was severely troubled with rheumatism. I had it in my arms, shoulders and knees. The pain was at time excruciating, and laid me up so that I couldn't work. I went to Smith Brothers' Drug Store and was advised by the manager to use 'Nerviline.' That was excellent advice. I used Nerviline as directed and was cured, completely cured of every trace of my old enemy."

Once you use Nerviline you'll realize it's different from all others—that it contains something that gets right "at" the pain the minute you rub it on. Sold by dealers everywhere, or the Catarrhozone Co., Kingston, Canada.

COMPOSITION CONTEST FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

A Series of Story—Writing Competitions, with Weekly Prizes

During the past year, the thousands of letters received in connection with the Children's Corner of The Standard, have revealed two outstanding facts. First, that the boys and girls of Eastern Canada are being particularly well trained in composition; Second, that in some cases whole grades, and country schools, have become interested, and joined the Children's Corner.

To still further encourage this, the following list of subjects for composition have been arranged, and published. Covering as they do, a wide range of subjects, including current history, local geography, literature, etc., it is hoped that hundreds of children in the Maritime Provinces, will sit down and write what their thoughts are on the subjects given. A good plan would be to have this list and conditions, pasted on a piece of cardboard, and then to get your teacher to hang it up in the room for reference.

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

Three prizes and five certificates will be awarded every week, and then at the end of three months to the boy or girl securing the highest number of marks, an extra valuable prize will be awarded, whilst the teacher in whose grade or school the prize winner is, will also receive a splendid award. Marks will be given weekly, as follows: First Prize—Five marks; Second Prize—Four marks; Third Prize—Three Marks; Certificates of Merit—Two Marks. All who enter—One Mark.

All communications to be addressed to

UNCLE DICK,
THE STANDARD,
ST. JOHN, N. B.

Whose decision must be consdered as final.

Subject.	Date for reaching this office.	Awards will be published.
1. What is the "Patriotic Fund" and why should we contribute towards it?	Jan. 23	Jan. 27
2. Tell what you know about the following capitals, as to their people, custom, etc: London, Paris, Petrograd, Rome and Berlin?	Jan. 30	Feb. 3
3. The British Prime Minister, Lloyd George?	Feb. 6	Feb. 10
4. Anything in Current History, now interesting the Public	Feb. 13	Feb. 17
5. The subject which interests you most at school, and why	Feb. 20	Feb. 24
6. A review of what you consider is your favorite book	Feb. 27	Mar. 3
7. Describe a journey taken by a Canadian Soldier from St. John to the battlefield in France, via Liverpool and London	Mar. 6	Mar. 10
8. Give a general story as to the work of the British Navy in the present war	Mar. 13	Mar. 17
9. This week's subject is left to the choice of those entering the contest	Mar. 20	Mar. 24
10. The legend of St. George, the Patron Saint of England	Mar. 27	Mar. 31
11. What is the most noble deed you have read of in connection with the present war?	April 3	April 7
12. What would you like to be when you grow up—and why	April 10	April 14
13. What is your idea of a kindly deed—Describe some kindly deed you have performed, or heard of being done by some other boy or girl	April 17	April 21

RULES OF THE CONTEST:

1. All entries to have the coupon as given below, filled in and attached.
2. No composition to be more than 300 words.
3. All entries must reach this office on or before the date given at the side.
4. Whilst writing will not be considered in the judging, all competitors are expected to send in the neatest work.

As this list will not be published more than once or twice, we would urge teachers and pupils to cut this one out, paste same on a card, and hang up for reference.

CONTEST COUPON

Name .....

Address .....

School .....

Age..... Birthday..... Grade.....

Name of Teacher.....

DON'T burn or bleach dirt out of your clothes. SURPRISE gently loosens all dirt and clean water does the rest.

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One cent per word each insertion. Discount of 33 1-3 per cent. on advertisements running one week or longer if paid in advance. Minimum charge twenty-five cents.

LOST.

LADY'S POCKETBOOK, on Monday afternoon about 4.30, somewhere between M. R. and A.'s store and St. James' street via Charlotte. Finder please return to Standard Office.

KILN WOOD WANTED

For particulars apply

The Provincial Lime Company Limited
St. John, N. B.
P. O. Box 968

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Six good working horses, each weighing 1450 lbs. Can be seen at Glenwood, Kings Co. A bargain for each. Address

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F. L. POTTS, Real Estate Broker, Auctioneer and Appraiser. All kinds of outside sales attended. Large salesroom for the receipt of merchandise, etc., 96 Germain street.

F. L. POTTS, Auctioneer.
'Phone 973. P. O. Box 931.

Canadian Government Railways.
TENDERS.

Sealed tenders addressed to J. W. Pugsley, secretary, Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, Ont., and marked on the outside "Tenders for Gaspereau River Bridge, Sub-structure," will be received up to and including twelve o'clock, noon, Monday, February 12th, 1917, for the construction of the Sub-structure of a Railway Bridge over Gaspereau River at Port Elgin, N. B.

Plans, specifications and blank form of contract may be seen at the office of the Chief Engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, and at the office of the Chief Engineer of the Canadian Government Railways, Moncton, N. B.

All conditions of the specification and contract forms must be complied with.

Tenders must be put in on the blank form of Tender, which may be obtained from either of the offices at which plans are on exhibition. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified bank cheque, payable to the Honourable the Minister of Railways and Canals, for $1,400.00.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

F. P. GUTELIUS,
General Manager,
Canadian Government Railways.

Dated at Moncton, N. B., January 27th, 1917.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST LAND REGULATIONS.

The sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. Applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the District. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency (but not Sub-Agency), on certain conditions.

Duties — Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres, on certain conditions. A habitable house is required except where residence is performed in the vicinity.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price $3.00 per acre.

Duties — Six months residence in each of three years after earning homestead patent; also 50 acres extra cultivation. Pre-emption patent may be obtained as soon as homestead patent, on certain conditions.

A settler who has exhausted his homestead right may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price $3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a house worth $300.

The area of cultivation is subject to reduction in case of rough, scrubby or stony land. Live stock may be substituted for cultivation under certain conditions.

W. W. CORY, C. M. G.,
Deputy of the Minister of Interior.

N. B. — Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for. — 64388.

WANTED.

Boys Wanted

Apply

T. S. SIMMS & Co. Ltd.

WANTED—CHOPPERS to cut box wood by the cord, on Morris property, Milford.

Wilson Box Co., Ltd.

BOYS WANTED—Boys 14 years of age and over to learn dry goods business, also for office work. Good opportunities for advancement. Apply at once, Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd.

ROOM WANTED—Young working man desires room, with or without board in private family. West Side preferred. Write Box No. 5, Standard Office.

WANTED—Six or eight first-class machinists. As we are increasing our Shell Plant, we will require within the next two months, thirty-five to forty men used to the different operations on 4.5 in. Shells. In answering state operations you worked on. Maritime Foundry and Machine Works, Limited, Chatham, N. B.

WANTED—A home for boy, five years old (Catholic preferred), in city or country. Address, stating terms, to Mrs. Patten, 133 Elliott Row.

WANTED—At once, second class female teacher for Inchby School. Apply to Edward Vallis, secretary of trustees, Inchby, N. B.

TEACHER WANTED for school District No. 22, any class. Apply stating salary, to R. W. Colpitts, Anagance, R. R. No. 2, Kings Co., N. B.

TO LET.

OFFICES TO LET—From the first of May next, two bright, heated offices in the McGaffigan building, 53 1-2 Dock street. Apply to Thos. Nagle, Globe building.

TO LET OR SELL—My brick house, ell and barn, No. 71 St. James street, 16 rooms, bath, gas, furnace, good condition, lot 106 x 100. Lease or price low, $1,000 cash, balance ten years mortgage. Can be seen any weekday from 2 to 4 p. m. W. Frank Hatheway.

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AGENTS WANTED—Agents $5 a day selling mendets, which mends graniteware, hot water bags, rubber boots, reservoirs, boilers, metal tubs and tinware without cement or solder. Sample ten cents. Collette Mfg. Company, Collingwood, Ontario.

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at residence of John S. Smith at Lakeside, Hampton, Wednesday, 7th inst., at ten o'clock. One cow, one heifer, sloven, carriages, single driving and working harness, sleighs, farm implements, stoves and other household furniture. Sale positive. No reserve. Terms five per cent. cash, six months' credit.

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St. John.

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American and European
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New and Up-to-date Sample Rooms in Connection.

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Opposite Union Depot, St. John, N. B.
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We guarantee a liquor or drug cure at the Gatlin Institute. Positively harmless. Liquor cure, three to five days. Drug cure, fifteen days. Can be administered at your home if preferred. Write Gatlin Institute, 46 Crown Street, or 'phone M. 1685. Terms Reasonable.

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RUBBER GOODS MENDED—Hot water bottles, syringes, invalid rings, etc., patched and mended at Wasson's Cut-Rate Drug Store, 711 Main street.

LARGE SLEIGHS for sleighing parties at Hogan's Stables, Union Street. Tel. Main 1557.

VIOLINS, MANDOLINS and all string instruments and Bows repaired.
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