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CONSTRUCTION OF CONDUITS DOESN'T SUIT MR. VAN CLEVE

It Is Said Head Engineer Sees Possibility of Explosion of Gas.

FEARS ARE SAID TO BE UNFOUNDED

A Difference of Opinion On a Matter Which Appears Somewhat Important.

The action of Head Engineer Van Cleve in placing himself on record as not being willing to take any responsibility whatever in the laying of the conduits for the underground work for Niagara power in the downtown section, is creating much discussion about the city hall today. He makes it very plain that he desires neither credit nor blame in connection with the matter.

It is quite certain, however, that there is something behind the letter, not yet made public, and of which the water commissioners themselves may be entirely ignorant.

Mr. Van Cleve himself would not discuss the question at any great length, merely stating that the conduits had not been laid in accordance with his ideas, and, therefore, he objected to bearing any responsibility for them. It is reasonably sure, at the same time, that the fact that the mains of the City Gas Company which go through some of the manholes, is the real cause of the trouble.

Mr. Van Cleve's Position. "It is simply that I want to go on record as assuming no responsibility in the matter," declared Mr. Van Cleve. "The conduits were not laid according to my ideas, and as I had nothing whatever to do with them, I want to be placed on record as disavowing of having either praise or censure in connection with the matter. They may be all right, but they are not laid in accordance with my own ideas. That is all."

It is possible that a leak may occur in the gas mains in one of these holes. The Advertiser was told, and if a spark from the wires happened to ignite the gas an explosion might follow. This might be damaging to the pavement and occasion considerable other loss.

But the situation is not at all alarming, the reporter was informed. As a matter of fact the possibility of danger is there, nevertheless.

May Be Some Changes. It is probable that some changes will be made to correct the alleged evil. Manager Dark, who had much to do with the construction of the conduits, is authority for the statement that there is no danger—that the construction work is absolutely safe.

The settlement of the difficulty depends altogether on the question of authority over engineering matters at the city hall.

If Mr. Van Cleve is put in charge of all this work it is probable that in the spring elbows will be put in the gas pipes and they will be carried outside the manholes.

Some criticism was made that the conduits were built to carry 2,500 volts instead of 575, which is commonly used for street lighting.

Those in charge state that there will be no trouble whatever from the higher voltage, and that the conduits will carry this power safely.



ENGINEER VAN CLEVE, Whose Action in Regard to the Local Conduits Has Aroused Some Discussion.

WESTERN CHEESE OUTPUT 17 THOUSAND TONS

Last Year Shows an Increase Over 1909 of Over Sixteen Thousand Boxes.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Stratford, Jan. 12.—Chief Dairy Inspector Frank Hearn, of London, submitted his report this morning on cheese production for 1910. In western factories last year 17,832 tons of cheese were made, equivalent to 447,675 boxes of 80 pounds each, an increase of 16,525 boxes over 1909.

Mr. Hearn urged that each cheese factory should provide some simple equipment for demonstrating to its patrons the proper method of cooling milk at home.

WINTER ASSIZES BROUGHT TO CLOSE

A. D. Mullins Accepts \$214 in Settlement of His Claim Re a Will.

BATEMAN CASE OVER

Postponed Until 27th of Next May—One Case Will Be Tried by Judge Macbeth on Friday.

Chief Justice Meredith wound up the winter assizes at the court house this morning as far as he is concerned, and tomorrow the only remaining action on the list will be taken up by County Judge Macbeth. This is the alimony case of Bell v. Bell.

Archibald D. Mullins accepted \$214 as a settlement in his suit against the executors of his father's estate, Alex. J. McColl et al. The plaintiff claimed that his father, Henry Mullins, when stricken with a fatal illness, handed him two passes on banks of \$100 each, which he had deposited in the deceased's name. This Mullins claimed his father told him should be his should he die.

The action of Dr. Bateman, of Stratford, against the county of Middlesex, for \$25,000 damages for injuries sustained in being thrown from his buggy while driving before day-light in the road between Stratford and Mount Brydges, which was postponed until the next non-jury sittings in this city which will be held on May 27, next, before Justice Riddell. The next jury sittings will be held commencing March 27, before the same judge.

The grand jury will bring in its presentment tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock.

Chief Justice Meredith is arranging to hold the session of the weekly high court tomorrow instead of on Saturday.

STEAM ROLLERS ARE NECESSITY

Letter From Ontario Public Works Department Will Be Submitted to County Council.

County Engineer Charles Talbot has received a letter from the Ontario public works department to the effect that the county of Middlesex cannot expect to get results in the work for good roads without the use of steam rollers.

This will be presented to the county council at the first meeting, which will be held here commencing Jan. 24, and a discussion as to the advisability of purchasing road machinery is looked for. The county each year secures quite a sum from the Government in good roads grants, and for this reason the department takes an interest in the equipment possessed by Middlesex.

AGED MAN STRUCK BY OTTAWA CAR

William Thompson Had Miraculous Escape From Death Last Night.

MISJUDGED DISTANCE

Stepped in Front of the Trolley—Rushed to Victoria Hospital, Where It Is Said He Will Recover.

William Thompson, an elderly farm hand living in Westminister Township, was struck by Ottawa avenue car No. 123 last night shortly after 10 o'clock at the corner of King and Richmond streets, and sustained very painful although not serious injuries. His escape from death was most miraculous. His collarbone is fractured, his left arm is badly bruised, and his face is cut and scratched considerably. Unless some complications set in he will recover.

According to the story of eye-witnesses, Thompson was standing near the car tracks apparently waiting for a car. The motorman, George Hall, slowed down to pick up passengers at the corner.

Just as he reached the place where Thompson was standing, the old man either slipped or misjudged the distance between himself and the car. In any event, he stepped directly in front of it. He was thrown to the pavement and dragged by the fender for fifteen or twenty feet. The motorman made every effort to stop the car, and did so within a reasonable limit, considering the slippery rails.

It was thought Thompson was badly injured when taken out. P. C. Probyn hurried to the old gentleman's assistance and had him taken to Victoria Hospital in the ambulance where Dr. W. J. Treasdale attended to his injuries. He passed a very good night, and this morning was suffering considerably from pain, but is in no immediate danger. Mr. Thompson is a widower, over 60 years of age, and is employed on the farm of Mr. S. Riddle, Westminister Township. He has been in the one situation for twenty years.

YOUNG MAN STRUCK BY G. T. R. ENGINE

Was Hurrying Across the Maze of Tracks at the Local Depot.

A young man from Sarnia who was crossing the tracks at the G. T. R. depot last night, in a hurry to reach express No. 5, on which he was going home, failed to notice the International Limited coming in from the east. The cylinder of the big mogul pulled the limited struck him fairly in the side and hurled him twenty feet down the platform.

A large number of people were about at the time and assisted him to his feet, expecting that he would be badly hurt. Beyond sustaining a badly lacerated arm and considerable damage to his clothes, however, the young man was unhurt, although he suffered greatly from the shock. Had he made another step the young man would almost certainly have been ground to pieces beneath the wheels. He was assisted into a coach by Stationmaster John Gilman and was pretty well all right again before the train pulled out.

A WINGHAM HOTEL LOOTED BY STRANGER

Police Seeking Man Who Got Away With Money and Jewelry.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Wingham, Jan. 11.—A short, stout, middle-aged man, with chubby cheeks, straight black hair, and a short, dark mustache, who registered at the Brunswick Hotel here last night, exhibited a good deal of nervousness yesterday by going through the hotel and stealing whatever he thought was worth anything. The same man stole several articles from the Brunswick a year ago, so he was carefully watched there this time, and did not succeed in getting anything there.

While in money at the present time, and some valuable jewelry from the Brunswick. During the day he was around the stores advocating parcel delivery, but he didn't do any business in that line. The local police are in search of him, but so far have got no clue to his whereabouts.

THE WEATHER

Tomorrow—Snow. PORTLAND. Toronto, Jan. 12—5 a.m. Northernly to easterly winds; fair and colder today; light snowfalls on Friday.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	Max.	Min.	Weather.
Victoria	22	10	Cloudy
Calgary	12	4	Fair
Port Arthur	6	14	Cloudy
Perry Sound	28	2	Fair
Port Hope	42	2	Fair
Ottawa	40	2	Fair
Montreal	24	4	Fair
Quebec	24	4	Fair
Father Point	26	0	Fair
Minus	10	10	Clear

WEATHER NOTES. The great western cold wave is even more pronounced this morning. Alberta and the north of the province are under a general temperature of 40 degrees below zero. Much colder weather is expected over Northern and Eastern Ontario and Quebec.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER. The weather was comparatively mild yesterday from the lake region to the Atlantic, and rain fell in the southern portion of Ontario, while from Lake Superior westward it was fine and exceptionally cold.



A BRIGHT AND INTERESTING PAIR.

The illustration shows Mr. Joseph Mantell, aged 101 years, and his great-grandson, Ralph Mantell Edwards, both of Peterboro County, Ont. It is unusual to find a man of the age of Mr. Mantell who has apparently lost none of his faculties, and who so thoroughly enjoys the being about and mingling in the affairs of the day, as does Mr. Mantell. Mr. Mantell last summer made the trip from Peterboro to London unaccompanied, and is seen on the streets of his home town nearly every day for his daily outing. He is keenly alive to everything around him, and a remarkable and dear W. J. Treasdale attended to his injuries. He has been in the one situation for twenty years.

SIR GEO. C. GIBBONS SPEAKS OF LONG SAULT POWER PROJECT

Speaking in regard to the finding of the international waterways commission in regard to the Long Sault project, Sir George C. Gibbons, chairman of the Canadian section, made the following statement to The Advertiser today:

"At the time the Long Sault proposition was before the international waterways commission, the treaty between Great Britain and the United States dealing with the use and diversion of boundary waters, had not been ratified. As that treaty provided for the equal division of all waters diverted from boundary streams for power purposes, and provided that no diversion should be made excepting by permission of a joint commission, the Canadian section of the old commission felt that it would be wiser that the matter should be dealt with by a new commission when appointed, as such commission would have to deal with the matter in any case."

CANADA TRIUMPHS IN POWER SCHEME

There Will Be No Exploitation of Long Sault Rapids.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION

Given in Special Report of the International Waterways Commission.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The persistent attempt of the Long Sault Development Company, a Pittsburgh concern, to obtain from the United States and Canadian Governments the use of the St. Lawrence River, near Cornwall, thereby arousing one of the bitterest oppositions ever known in the history of the world, has at last been brought to a close.

Opposed to the Scheme. The American members of the international waterways commission have put themselves on record through a report, as opposed to the scheme of the company and advising that the use of the river for the development of the Long Sault project is not in the interests of the United States.

The report says that the use of the river for the development of the Long Sault project is not in the interests of the United States. The report also states that the Canadian Government would either be obliged to carry it out alone or with the aid of private capital. The members are agreed that the interests involved in the project are of such a nature that they should be considered by the Government.

LADIES HURT BY THE SLIPPERY WALKS

Three Cases Are Reported as the Record of Yesterday.

As a result of the icy condition of the streets yesterday many pedestrians sustained severe falls. Mrs. J. Mollat, 428 Ottawa avenue, while going down town, slipped and fell heavily. She was carried into Victoria Hospital, and upon examination it was found that she had fractured her wrist. The fracture was set by the house surgeons.

Yesterday afternoon, while on her way home, Mrs. Westland, of 1063 Dundas street, fell on the sidewalk and cut her arm so badly that several stitches had to be put in it. She will be laid up for several days.

Last night a woman, while getting off a street car on Richmond street, near Horton, missed her footing and fell in the slushy road. Fortunately she was not badly hurt, but her clothes suffered considerably.

SOME SIGNS OF A DEADLOCK AT RECIPROCITY CONFERENCE

Washington Dispatch Says Present Situation Points to a Positive Defeat For the Republican Government—Canadian Delegates in Communication With Ottawa.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Washington, Jan. 12.—An expected change has come about in the reciprocity situation during the last 24 hours. Although the effect of it undoubtedly is to stimulate the hopes of American negotiators toward a revision of some magnitude, yet it should be accepted perhaps more in the nature of an anti-climax. While the final curtain will likely ring down a positive defeat upon the Republican Government's petition for freer trade, the new aspect so suddenly developed in the course of a day, may, on the whole, cause a surprise to the most acute observer.

Advices From Ottawa. Your correspondent has learned that Messrs. Fielding and Paterson, after the deadlock of Monday and Tuesday, have been in communication with the Ottawa Government, and have been advised as to the handling of the situation, which until now has been practically an impasse.

This communication, it is understood, specified a more open, and, in spirit, a more reciprocal course in meeting the urgent representations of the American commissioners, and the Canadian ministers to negotiate to a greater degree in the future after the dictates of their own judgment. While such a letter of advice has undoubtedly been forwarded here from Ottawa, and would on its face argue that matters are to be wound up more speedily, and might mean an ultimate agreement of far greater latitude than was promised 24 hours ago, the mention of Ottawa's unexpected interference in the negotiations must carry some other burden of meaning.

Looks Like Deadlock. This much also may be stated as fact, that the negotiators at the close of yesterday were not far from a deadlock, with the chance of practical reciprocity pretty well driven on the rocks.

Canadians Cautious. Whether the supply of elasticity furnished from the Canadian capital at such short notice will alter the ultimate bearing of the conference, is at present past ascertaining. This latest turn to affairs here bears out fully what has been indicated from day to day in these dispatches, that the cautious and impassive partnership of Messrs. Fielding and Paterson has realized on nearly every hand the feverish eagerness of their American colleagues to clinch a bargain.

This nearly led to a prejudgment, which must have postponed the conference, had one side not come forward with a fresh suggestion. On Monday last Mr. Pepper, of the American Government, explained to your correspondent that negotiations would be suspended on Tuesday, because of Secretary Knox's call to other work. This excuse, in the light of subsequent events, was more plausible than complete.

The belief is now that the suspension occurred because negotiations were deadlocked. So in the eclipse of 24 hours the telegraph wires northward wound up more speedily, and might mean an ultimate agreement of far greater latitude than was promised 24 hours ago, the mention of Ottawa's unexpected interference in the negotiations must carry some other burden of meaning.

RECTORY STREET MAN INJURED BY TEAM OF RUNAWAY HORSES

Mr. John Hatton Terribly Hurt at the Corner of Dundas and Rectory Streets While He Was Attempting to Cross the Roadway.

Mr. John Hatton, of 418 Rectory street, is at his home today in a very serious condition as a result of being knocked down last night on the corner of Dundas and Rectory streets by a runaway team. He was attended by Dr. Cline, who found that several of his ribs were broken, and that one of them had pierced his lung. Should complications set in the result of the accident would be difficult to forecast.

BRITISH ISLES STORMSWEEP

HUGE SEAS BATTER COASTS

[Associated Press Cable.] London, Jan. 12.—A gale of hurricane force accompanied at many points by heavy snowfall, broke over the British Isles early today. Much damage was done both on land and at sea.

Huge seas were running off the coast and many minor wrecks with few casualties were reported. The bays were filled with shipping, at many places.

KIDNAPPERS KILL BOY FROM WINDSOR

Force Carbolic Acid Down the Throat of a Five-Year-Old Boy.

FOUND DEAD AT ALBANY

Victim of Friend May Be Missing Child of a Canadian Family.

[Associated Press.] Albany, N. Y., Jan. 12.—Aid of the police in every large city of the country has been sought, thus far in vain, in the effort to learn the identity of the chubby, five-year-old boy, whose body was found yesterday in a swamp on the Schenectady road. Today an autopsy will be held to determine the cause of death, but the police have little doubt that the boy was slain by friends, who forced carbolic acid down his throat. A half-empty bottle of the acid bearing the label of an Albany druggist, was found under the body.

Any idea that the boy was found, taken the poison himself, either by accident or design, is denied by a number of circumstances, chief of which is the fact that the body was without shoes, and the stocking feet showed no trace of mud, as they would have had the child walked to the place where he was found dead.

May Be From Windsor. The police today advised Windsor, Ont., to find if a boy named Scott, who was kidnapped there on May 25, 1910, has been found. Information concerning this lad was discovered in a circular sent out by the Windsor authorities at the time. In this the boy is described as about 4 years old, light hair, and plump, which agree with the description of the murdered child here. The circular says that the

REORGANIZATION MOVE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL

All the Old Officers and Directors Will Likely Control Fair This Year.

Another meeting of the executive of the Western Fair board was held last night, but little progress was made toward the reorganization of the board. It is taken for granted now that nothing will be done this year, and that practically the same board will conduct the business during the coming season as existed in 1910.

The rumor is prevalent that there was a private meeting prior to the public meeting, where there was any reorganization of the board this year? he answered, "It looks as if practically the same directorate will be on duty next year. I do not anticipate any radical