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AWFUL RAILROAD ACCIDENT

Collision on Grand Trunk Railway Between Express and Freight.

LARGE NUMBER KILLED AND INJURED

The Express Was Late and Was Runing at High Rate of Speed—The Freight Was Endeavoring to Make a Siding Which it Missed by Only a Minute—Many of the Dead Were Terribly Mutilated and Some of the Injured Will Die—The Responsibility for the Accident Has Not Been Placed—A Blinding Storm Added to the Horror of the Situation.

London, Ont., December 27.—The most frightful railroad accident in the annals of the past decade, happened a short distance from the little station of Wanstead on the Sarnia branch of the Grand Trunk railway, last night. The trains in collision were the Pacific Express and a freight. The express was running nearly two hours late and was making fast time. The freight was endeavoring to make a siding to get clear of the express but failed by a minute or two.

There was a dreadful crash, the locomotives reared up and fell over in a ditch, the baggage car of the express telescoped the smoker and in an instant shrieks and cries of the wounded and the dying filled the air. The loss of life is twenty-five. The injured will number considerably more, and many of these may die.

Many of the dead were terribly mutilated. Heads were cut off, legs were wrenched off from the bodies and the level stretch of snow became crimson with the blood of the victims.

The responsibility for the accident has not been definitely fixed, but it is believed to have been due to a telegraph operator's error.

The operator at one of the stations where the two trains stopped gave an order to the freight to pass No. 5, the Pacific Express at Wanstead.

In the system of the Grand Trunk, this order should have been duplicated, a copy being given to the conductor and engineer of the express. Instead of this the conductor of the express received a clearance order, telling him to run right through. The freight train meantime had stopped at Wanstead, to side track and was telescoped by the express. The blinding storm which was raging rendered objects invisible at the distance of a few feet. The operator at Wanstead is not usually on duty at night, but last evening he happened to be in the office for a short time. He was going out at the door when he heard the telegraph instrument click repeatedly the message "Stop No. 5," "Stop No. 5."

Seizing a lantern the operator dashed for the door and as he closed it behind him, he heard the crash of the collision up the track.

There was not a house at hand to which the injured could be carried. Fortunately however, the two Pullman cars on the train did not sustain any damage. They were warm and comfortable and were converted into a temporary hospital. The injured were placed in the berths and everything possible done to ease their sufferings.

According to Master of Transportation Price, of this city, it was the agent and operator at Watford, the next station east of Wanstead who failed to deliver to the train crew of No. 5 their orders to pass the freight train at Wanstead. Train Master Price says that in explanation of the mistake that brought such terrible results, the operator says he understood the dispatcher to "kill" the orders for No. 5, to pass the freight at Wanstead, but it is denied in the dispatcher's office here that the order was killed.

The Pacific Express which was late and endeavoring to make up time was made up of two Pullman cars, two day coaches and two baggage cars. The engineer opened wide his throttle as he pulled out of Watford at 9:58 o'clock. A blizzard was raging and the air was thick with swirling snow. The train was crowded with people returning from holiday trips.

Number 5 was running fully fifty miles an hour through the blizzard when at the Wanstead siding the headlight of the freight engine loomed up through the snow and the trains crashed together almost before the engine crews realized that a collision was imminent. The impact threw the two engines clear of the track on the right hand side.

The two day coaches of the express were between the heavily loaded baggage cars and the weighty Pullmans. With a terrific grinding crash the rear baggage car was driven into the coach for three fourths of its length and in a twinkling a score of the occupants were dead and two score more were pinned down in the wreckage, crushed and mangled. The horror of fire was mercifully spared the suffering persons buried in the wreck. A little flame broke out, but the uninjured passengers extinguished it with snow before it could gain any headway. The occupants of the two Pullman cars and the second day coach swarmed out their cars to the rescue. A perfect bedlam of noises greeted them. The hiss of escaping steam from the wrecked engines mingled with the piteous cries of the unfortunates pinned down in the ruins. The bitter cold wind added to their suffering. Volunteer rescue parties were immediately formed and did heroic work.

Meanwhile a trakeman had rushed through the storm to the telegraph office and notified both London and Sarnia officials of the accident. Relief trains with surgeons and wrecking cars were on their way to the scene from both ends of the division in the shortest possible time. While they were steaming at greatest speed, the work of rescue was carried on by the uninjured passengers. They delved into the heap of debris and guided by the moans and cries found the sufferers, pried and chopped them out and carried them to the two Pullman cars which were transformed into temporary hospitals.

Tenderly the wounded forms were carried to the hospital cars and given what attention was possible before the surgeons arrived. There was scarcely any water to be had and the volunteer nurses melted quantities of snow with which they slacked the feverish thirst of the suffering. The surgeons on board the wrecking train from Sarnia were the first to reach the scene. They hastened around the wreck through a snow covered field to the temporary hospital and began making emergency dressings of the most serious wounds. The men of the wrecking crew took up the work of rescue. With their appliances they were able to penetrate deeper into the tangle of the wood and steel and extract those whom the passengers had been unable to reach. While they were at work, the wrecking train arrived from London with surgeons. As soon as it was positively known that all the injured had been found an engine was coupled to the hospital Pullman and the pitiful journey to London forty miles away was begun.

Opiates were administered to lessen the agonies, and aggravated as they were by the unavoidable jarring and jerking of the car. As soon as news of the wreck was received in London, the Grand Trunk officials began arrangements for caring for the injured at Victoria hospital on South street. The tracks of the Detroit and Lake Erie railroad are within a block and a half from the hospital and the hospital car was transferred to them and run as closely as possible to the hospital. Twenty extemporized ambulances were in waiting. Strong arms carried the wounded and torn people tenderly out of the car and they were hurried to the hospital. It was 5:30 o'clock when they arrived and in an hour all had been put to bed, temporarily awaiting examination and surgical treatment. Until noon the surgeons worked over them.

When the second Pullman car arrived in the city at 10 o'clock it was met with undertakers wagons instead of ambulances. Twenty five bodies were in the berths beside closed curtains. The dead forms were placed in coffins in the right sheds and then removed to the morgue where the work of identification was begun. At 10 o'clock tonight only one unclaimed and unknown body still remained at the Ferguson morgue.

Tonight at Watford, Dr. A. E. Harvey, county coroner, impaneled a jury to investigate the wreck and decide if possible on its cause. After electing a foreman, the jury adjourned until Monday, when the inevstigation will be begun. Up to a late hour tonight, Andrew Carson the operator at Watford, whose mistake Train Master Price, says, caused the wreck, had not been placed under arrest.

Conductor McAuliffe, of the express said today that the freight train crew had opened the Wanstead switch and the train had started to move into it when the collision occurred. A minute or two more and the freight train would have been safely side-tracked. Trainmaster Price says that $10,000 will cover the loss to rolling stock and equipment. The line was cleared soon after noon and tonight the shell of the baggage car lies on one side of the track, surrounded by the wreckage of the telescoped day coach. On the other side, the two engines are piled in a heap.

BANK AT UNION, MO., ROBBED.

Burglars Intimidate Many and Get Entire Contents of Vault.

St. Louis, December 27.—The bank at Union, Mo., was robbed of $15,000 in a sensational manner by burglars between 1 and 2 a. m., today ,according to a special to the Post-Dispatch.

Residents in the vicinity of the bank were aroused by the sound of an explosion and some of them rushed into the street. The burglars, then leaving the bank opened fire at random and were successful in intimidating the would-be captors until they had made their escape in safety.

Oscar Busch a hardware man, who put his head out of a window only to be confronted with the muzzle of a pistol, states that only two men left the bank. Other accounts place the number of burglars at seven.

With the departure of the robbers an examination of the vaults was made. It was discovered that all the money was gone. The building was completely wrecked. No clue to the robbers, who are believed to be professionals, has been discovered.

An Audience With the Pope.

Rome, December 27.—The pope today received in private audience, Commander William H. Reeder of the United States training ship Hartford and Miss Reeder, and Chaplain Edward J. Brennan and Lieutenant Henry J. Ziegemeier were in full uniform. The pontiff who was in good health and spirits, conversed animatedly with the American officers. He remarked on the smartness of the American naval uniform and said he regretted the Hartford was not coming nearer to Rome. He would have enjoyed seeing more of the officers and men as he had most pleasant remembrances of his meetings with Americans.

XMAS DINNER

To the Widows and Children of South African Martyrs.

BY THE QUEEN

This Great Celebration Was the Most Striking Event of Christmas Day in London—Oved Six Hundred Widows and Eight Hundred Children Partook of the Feast—There Were all Sorts of Entertainments Provided to Delight the Guests—Sir Thomas Lipton Acted in Behalf of the Queen—The Crowd Sent a Telegram of Thanks to Queen Alexandra.

London, December 27.—Queen Alexandra's dinner this afternoon to the widows and children of those killed in the South African war formed the most striking demonstration in London's observance of Christmas. Long before the festivities began crowds gathered in the streets adjacent to the Alexandra Trust building, which was gaily decorated without and within. Over six hundred widows and eight hundred children partook of the queen's Christmas fare. The bright clothing of the children formed a pleasant contrast to their mother's widows weeds.

Inside the building there were military bands on each floor, while Highland Pipers, Punch and Judy shows, theatrical troupes, performers from the music halls, nd tables full of toys, crackers and special chocolate boxes from the queen, all lent vivid color and meaning to the celebration.

Sir Thomas Lipton, who received the guests in behalf of the queen, was kept busy helping lift children up the steps, to relieve mothers who had brought families larger than they could carry. After very many turkeys and plum puddlings had been consumed Sir Thomas read the following message from the queen:

"Pray convey the expression of my very best wishes to all my guests at the Alexandra Trust. May they spend a very happy day and may God help and bless them throughout the coming year."

Sir Thomas' call for cheers for the queen was answered with a great shout from the happy women and jubilant children, which the crowds outside took up.

A telegram was sent to Queen Alexandra expressing the loyal and loving thanks of the children and their mothers and wishing the King and Queen a happy New Year.

METHODIST COLLEGE.

Location for Its Establishment Not Decided on by Executive Committee.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Greensboro, N. C., December 27.—A very important meeting of the committee of the Methodist Protestant conference, to determine upon the location of the proposed college of that denomination in the south, was held at the Southern Loan and Trust building last night.. After many hours of discussion and conference, the decision was postponed for sixty days at the urgent request of a delegation from Henderson, who desired more time to overcome the leading offer made by Greensboro.

The towns making bids or propositions for the college were, Hendersonville, Oxford, Henderson and Greensboro. A proposition was also made from a leading high school, seven miles from a railroad, but it was withdrawn from consideration by the proposers after a short discussion.

While the conference was strictly executive, it is learned that the offers were such as place the contest solely between Greensboro and Henderson. In the matter of money offers Greensboro made much the highest bid last night, but the extension of time, for sixty days, may put Henderson in the lead, with Greensboro's more favorable location as an educational centre always to the fore.

ROUMANIANS INDIGNANT.

In the Senate They Refer to the Calumnies so Widely Disseminated.

Bucharest, Roumania, December 27.—At today's session of the senate during a discussion of the question of the naturalization of Jews, the minister of Public Instruction, M. Harrat, referred to the "Calumnies against Roumania so widely disseminated" in connection with the Jewish question. The minister declared it was inexpedient to discriminate in the treatment of foreigners and said the laws must be applied with justice and equality to everybody. He concluded with remarking:

"It must be demonstrated that Roumania is tolerant and no handle must be given to her slanderers."

Naturalization of Jews was agreed to.

Sale of Lincoln Cotton Mills.

Charlotte, N. C., December 27.—J. A. Abernethy, of Lincolnton, N. C., today sold the Lincoln cotton mills to R. C. G. Love, of Gastonia, N. C., for $300,000. The plant is one of the pioneer fine yarn mills of this section.

FOUL MURDER

Was Quickly Avenged By Many of Jays' Infuriated Friends.

TWO LYNCHED

In Trying to Quiet a Fighting Husband and Wife, They Both Turn on the Would-be Peacemaker and Foully Murder Him—Each Accuses the Other of Crime—The Neighbors Quickly Form Posses and Soon Secure the Negroes—Before the Coroners Jury, They Acknowledged Their Crime—On the Way to Jail They Were Halted and Both Were Lynched.

Charleston, S. C., December 27.—A special to the News and Courier from Greenwood, S. C., says:

W. K. Jay, a prominent young farmer of the Troy section of this county, was foully murdered in his own yard, by a negro Oliver Wideman or his wife, both of them living on the place. Both of the negroes were lynched by Jay's infuriated neighbors.

Mr. Jay on returning home on Friday afternoon heard Wideman abusing or fighting his (Wideman's) wife. He went to the cabin and ordered the negroes to be quiet. Immediately afterward, Mrs. Jay heard the report of a gun and saw the two negroes running away.

Calling for her husband she had no answer and on looking over the yard found him dead in a pool of his own blood. Almost his entire head had been blown off.

The alarm was given and parties were soon scouring the country in pursuit of the negroes. They were captured. Before the coroner's jury both acknowledged the deed, but the man said the woman did it, and the woman accused the man. They never changed from this, but died accusing each other of the crime. While in the custody of a constable on the way to jail they were stopped at the Winterseat Bridge, by a crowd of infuriated friends and neighbors of Jay and both negroes were lynched. The lynching took place about midnight, seven hours after the inquest.

W. K. Jay was a good citizen and prominent Mason, having been a high official in the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

WRECK ON ILLINOIS CENTRAL.

Fast Passenger Crashes Into Work Train and Three Men Were Killed.

Louisville, Ky., December 27.—A fast passenger train on the Illinois Central bound for Cincinnati from New Orleans, crashed into a work train at Caneyville, eighty-four miles from Louisville this morning. Three men were instantly killed and two injured. One of the engines was demolished and the other engine and three cars were derailed.

The dead: Robert Smith, engineer, work train, Elizabethtown, Ky.; Thos. Bell, fireman, work train, Louisville; W. O. Roberts, fireman, passenger train, Central City, Ky.

The injured: Louis Coffer, engineer, passenger train, Louisville, badly bruised and cut; John Sandett, passenger, Louisville, arms cut and body bruised.

The train left New Orleans Friday morning and was due in Louisville at 7:45 o'clock this morning.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY MINISTER.

The New Diplomat Presents His Credentials and Meets the President.

Washington, December 27.—Baron Ladislaw Hengelmuller von Hengervar, who recently was raised from the position of minister of Austria-Hungary to that of ambassador, today presented his credentials to the president in his new capacity.

The ceremony occurred in the Red room of the White House and was witnessed by Secretary Hay, Secretary Cortelyou, Colonel Theodore Bingham, the president's military aid and two of the attachees of the Austrian ambassy.

In accordance with the recently established form of receiving ambassadors, the preseident sent Colonel Bingham in the presidential carriage to the Austrian embassy for Ambassador Hengelmuller. The ambassador and the attachees of the embassy were attired in the full uniform of their respective ranks. The exchanges between the president and the ambassador were felicitous, the former personally congratulated Baron Hengelmuller upon his elevation in diplomatic ranks.

Remains of Dr. Temple Interred.

Canterbury, Eng., December 27.—The remains of Dr. Temple, archbishop of Canterbury, were intered in the Cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral today. The obsequies were carried out as simply as possible in accordance with the late archbishop's desire. Representatives of King Edward, the Prince of Wales and Premier Balfour were present. The archbishop of York Dr. MacGean officiated at a portion of the services.

NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS.

Trying to Arrange the Preliminaries for a Successful Settlement.

NOTHING CAN BE SAID OF THE TERMS

The Negotiations Are in Such a Shape That it Would be Indiscreet to Make the Terms Public—The United States is Acting as "Good Friend" to all Parties Concerned and Will do all it Can to Bring the Powers Together — Minister Bowen Will Probably Not be Venezuela's Representative—All Negotiations Will Very Likely Take Place in Washington.

Washington, December 27.—There is now in progress an active exchange of notes between the allied powers, Venezuela and the United States respecting the method of submitting to arbitration the issues which have arisen between Venezuela and the allies. Questions are being put and answers are forthcoming, but it is said that the negotiations are in such shape that it would be extremely injudicious and indiscreet to make each phase public if there really existed a desire to reach a satisfactory settlement.

It is expainled at the state department that the part of the United States government just now is that of "good friends" to all parties; that it is not undertaking to draw up protocols, or impose limitation upon the parties, but is confining its offices to getting them together and keeping them so. In this view it will not be necessary for our government to prescribe how the Monroe Doctrine shall or shall not figure in the protocols; it will judge for itself by results how our interests are affected and will not indulge in premature or uncalled for protests.

As for the terms of the arbitration agreement, it is stated that they are in a fair way to be speedily adjusted, but nothing can be said of the details. It is presumed that the allies will agree to terminate the blockade, though no stipulation has yet been entered into on that point. Nothing has been heard recently of the part to be taken by the United States Minister Bowen in the final settlement, and it begins to appear that, after all Venezuela will probably be represented by one of her own people.

Berlin, December 27.—The German government is disappointed by President Roosevelt's declination to be arbitrator in the Venezuelan dispute, but in pursuance of his decision will correspond at once with Great Britain and Italy on the subsidiary questions that must now be agreed upon, such as raising the blockade and the definite form of request whereby Venezuela on one side and Germany, Great Britain and Italy on the other, will ask The Hague tribunal to adjudge the dispute.

The interchange of views on these and other requirements probably will take place at Washington, where the ambassadors can confer freely with Seceretary Hay and obtain through him, President Castro's assent to the precise propositions. The German foreign office considers Washington a convenient place for further negotiation. Foreign Secretary Von Richthofen regrets the long delay which is likely to ensue before the final adjustment of the controversy. He had relied upon President Roosevelt's personality to take up the case and reach a decision quickly.

The President's Declination.

Rome, December 27.—Ambassador Meyer today presented to the foreign office President Roosevelt's note on the subject of Venezuelan arbitration. The president says that although he is very gratified at the confidence the powers have shown in him by choosing him as arbitrator, which position he would have accepted if there were no other means of solving the question, he thinks it better to submit the case to The Hague tribunal, especially as all the powers concerned are willing. The president adds that as there is no question of national honor or cessation of territory involved, after thorough consideration and in accord with all the powers concerned, who have shown an honorable spirit of mutual consideration and moderation, he is glad to be informed that they all have agreed to submit the question to The Hague tribunal.

Note Received at London.

London, December 27.—The foreign office officials say a note from Secretary Hay similar to those presented at Rome and Berlin has been received here. Nothing has yet been decided regarding the cessation of the blockade or the terms of the arbitration protocol.

IMPORTING LABORERS.

Contractor to be Prosecuted for Violation of Alien Labor Law.

Laredo, Texas December 27.—H. M. Course, United States immigrant inspector at this port, assisted by the local customs officials today, captured a party of thirty-five contract laborers in the neighborhood of Fort Worth, Texas. The laborers are at present in the custody of the local customs officials and will be held to testify against the contractor a leged to have imported them, one Antonio Villarreal, who will be prosecuted for violation of the alien labor law.

THE DEPORTED BOY.

Dr. Herrera Gives Facts About the Case to Secretary Hay.

Washington, December 27.—Dr. Herrera, first secretary and charge d'affaires of the Uraguayan legation called on Secretary Hay today in regard to the case of young Joseph Preston Ames, who his aunt, Mrs. Sparhawk, alleges was deported from the United States with the assistance of officials of the Uraguayan legation here.

Dr. Herrera outlined the history of the case briefly to the secretary as he knew it. According to his statement the boy was brought to the Uraguayan legation some weeks ago by his maternal cousins who asked Dr. Herrera to take charge of him as they did not wish his father's relatives to get possession of the boy. Dr. Herrera is a batchelor and while he is always ready to lend a hand to his fellow countrymen he did not care to assume the guardianship of the young boy. The case as represented to him showed clearly that the boy was a Uraguayan citizen, having been born in that country. Furthermore his cousin declared that the boy's mother on her death bed had requested that her child be reared in Uraguay. Dr. Herrera, in view of these facts advised the boy's cousin, Edward Larroque, to make an affidavit to that effect before a notary that their action might not be challenged. The boy was taken to New York by his cousins and from there sailed for Uraguay. Several days later a notice of Mrs. Sparkhawk's appointment as guardian was presented to the charge d'affaires but the boy not being in his possession, he was unable to turn him over to his aunt.

Dr. Herrera is quite willing to throw all the light possible on the case, and so informed the secretary.

CASE OF COMMANDER ROLLER.

Ordered Home for Repeated Infraction of Rules of the Navy.

Washington, December 27.—Commander John E. Roller ,formerly commander of the old gunboat Monacacy has reached this country from the Asiatic station, having been ordered home by Rear Admiral Evans, commandng the station. The persistent infraction of the rules of the navy will prohibit the commander of the vessel from permitting his wife to make her home aboard his ship. It is charged that after offending in that particular several times, Commander Roller's attention was called to the violation of reguations, by the commander-in-chief but with no apparent effect for even after this implied reprimand, the naval officer again entertained his wife aboard ship for several weeks in Chinese waters.

When his last offense came to the cars of Rear Admiral Evans, the latter detached him and ordered him home, notifying the department here of his action. Commander Roller considers that he has been unjustly treated, but it is doubtful whether he will press the matter before the department as the regulations against such practices are explicit. Commander Roller is now on waiting orders.

NEW YORKER STAATS ZEITUNG.

A Handsome Souvenir Album Presented to the Management.

New York, December 27.—A committeee of newspaper men representing the guests at the dinner given the New Yorker Staats Zeitung to the American press on the occasion of the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia today presented to the management of that paper, handsome souvenir album in commemoration of that notable banquet. The presentation was made by St. Clair McKelway, on behalf of the committee at a luncheon at the Hardware Club and was accepted by Herman Ridder of the Staats Zeitung. In making the presentation Mr. McKelway made a brief address expressive of appreciation of the Staats Zeitung's public services. Mr. Ridder responded suitably, saying it was a fitting time to receive the album for it contains a record of an occasion when all the speakers voiced sentiments of peace and good will.

Mont Pelee in Violent Eruption.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., December 27.—The cable ship Newington which arrived at St. Lucia, B. W. I., yesterday reported having passed Mont Pelee, Island of Martinique at 10:30 in the morning. The volcano was then in violent eruption. Dense clouds of gray smoke and dust were pouring out of the crater and ascending to an enormous height. Other advices say that the cone was luminous during the night.

Street Car Accident in Atlanta.

Atlanta, Ga., December 27—One white man was fatally injured tonight in the wreck of a College Park blue line trolley car, which left the track and crashed into a brick building near West End. Seven other white people were injured, but not seriously. Six colored passengers also sustained slight injuries.