

FOUR BURNED TO DEATH

Fire From Unknown Cause Destroys House and Its Contents.

A despatch from Brantford says: A fire which broke out in the vicinity of the village of Lynden on Saturday morning, when the home of Philip Vansickle, a retired prosperous farmer, was destroyed by the devouring element. The disaster was complete, not only dealing destruction to the house, but claiming every one of the four inmates, including the father, son, daughter, and son-in-law. Nothing remains of the once substantial homestead and well-known family but ruined walls and charred bodies.

The Dead.—Philip Vansickle, aged eighty years, retired farmer; Martin Vansickle, aged twenty-three years, his son; Harry Vansickle, aged thirty years, son-in-law; Melitta Vansickle, aged forty years, daughter.

The origin of the fire, which was at first a mystery, has been traced to the stove in the front hall. The supposition is that the glowing coals from it fell on the floor, setting fire to the oil cloth and kindling a blaze, which either suffocated the inmates in their sleep or cut off the means of exit when they endeavored to escape from the building when it became a mass of flames. Thus far, however, all theories are based on supposition.

But one fortunate circumstance stands out against the dark background. Mrs. Harry Vansickle, with her three children, all of whom resided at the destroyed homestead, were absent at the time of the disaster, being at Trinity, where Mrs. Vansickle was visiting her husband's father, Wesley Vansickle. They returned last night terribly affected.

THE GOVERNMENT MAY HELP

Fund to Assist Railways and Municipalities to Do Away With Grade Crossings.

A despatch from Ottawa says: In connection with the proposed investigation of the Railway Commission into the question of level crossings with a view to evolving a general line of policy to afford greater protection to the public in all parts of Canada, the commission have recommended to the Government the adoption of a system analogous to that in force in some of the States across the border. This system, recognizing that the expense of eliminating all the dangerous level crossings is more than the railways can be expected or made to bear alone, provides for a central Governmental

fund to be applied to the gradual improvement of existing conditions. It is suggested by the board that the Provincial and Federal Governments, which chartered the railways, should out of the public revenues assist the railways and the municipalities to jointly bear the expense of protecting or eliminating entirely the level crossings. The whole question is now under consideration by the Minister of Railways, but pending the further report of the commission as to the result of the investigation now proposed, it is unlikely that any definite decision will be reached and embodied in legislation.

BIG JEWELLERY ROBBERY.

Mysterious Affair in Westmount That Baffles the Police.

A despatch from Montreal says: A robbery involving the loss of several thousand dollars' worth of jewellery was committed some time on Wednesday in the residence of Mrs. J. H. Stanford, who occupies suite sixteen in the Metcalfe Apartments, on Cote St. Antoine road, Westmount. Despite diligent investigations of the Westmount police no clue has yet been discovered which will lead to the apprehension of the burglar or burglars. There are no servants in the house, and so far the robbery is shrouded in mystery.

MARRIED ON A TRAIN.

New Departure in Matrimonial Ideas in Nova Scotia.

A despatch from Halifax says: Births and deaths are not uncommon happenings on railway trains hereabout, but marriages are a rarity. One occurred on the Sydney Express shortly after the train left Sydney, on Friday, both bride

and groom being named McDonald, which was also the name of the clergyman. This is the first train marriage in Nova Scotia that the railway officials have record of. The ceremony was performed quietly while the other passengers looked on. The bride and groom were unattended.

NEXT GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Opinion in Britain that it will be Mr. John Sinclair.

A despatch from London says: The Daily Mail declares definitely that Mr. John Sinclair's elevation to the Peerage is merely preliminary to his appointment as Governor-General of Canada. This appears to be the general opinion in Liberal circles.

A movement for a civic federation has been started at London, Ont., to bring capital and labor into more friendly relations.

Some inquiries are being made about the steamer Hestia, said to have sailed from Glasgow for Halifax twenty-three days ago.

STEAMER FLORIDA LABELLED

Seized at New York for Sinking the Steamer Republic.

A despatch from New York says: Counsel for the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company, owners of the White Star Line steamer Republic, on Friday filed a libel in the United States District Court against the steamer Florida of the Lloyd-Italiano Line, which ran down and sunk the Republic off Nantucket lightship. Damages amounting to \$1,500,000 for the loss of the ship and \$500,000 for the loss of cargo and effects of the passengers and crew were claimed. It is asserted in the libel that the collision was due to no fault on the part of Captain Sealy of the Republic, but wholly to the fault of the Florida, which, it is alleged, did not keep a proper course, had no sufficient lookout, did not give proper whistles nor pay heed to the whistles of the Republic. It is

alleged further, that the Florida failed to indicate her changes of helm, that she was proceeding at an immoderate speed and did not stop or back her engines.

The Lloyd-Italiano Societa di Navigazione, owners of the steamer Florida, also filed in the United States District Court a libel and petition for a limitation of liability against the Florida, her freight and passage money. The papers state that the collision was caused solely by the fault and neglect on the part of the Republic. The petitioners say that the damage value of the Florida now does not exceed \$224,000, and ask the court to fix the liability at not more than that amount.

After the filing of the papers in the proceedings United States Marshal Henkel seized the Italian vessel under a writ of attachment.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Feb. 2.—Flour—Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents, \$3.70 to \$3.75 to-day in buyers' sacks outside for export. Manitoba flour, first patents, \$5.80 on track, Toronto; second patents, \$5.30, and strong bakers', \$5.10 to \$5.20.

Wheat—Manitoba wheat, \$1.09½ to \$1.10 for No. 1 Northern and \$1.06½ to \$1.07 for No. 2 Northern, Georgian Bay ports. No. 1 Northern \$1.15 to \$1.15½ all rail, and No. 2 Northern at \$1.12 to \$1.12½, all rail.

Wheat—Ontario, 97½c outside.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white 40½c to 41c outside, and at 43 to 43½c on track, Toronto; No. 2 Western Canada oats, 45c lake ports, and No. 1 feed, 42½c lake ports.

Rye—No. 2 quoted at 69 to 70c outside.

Barley—No. 2 barley quoted at 56 to 57c outside; No. 3 extra at 54 to 55c, and No. 3 at 52 to 53c.

Buckwheat—56 to 56½c outside.

Peas—No. 2 quoted at 86 to 87c outside.

Corn—No. 2 American yellow, 68 to 68½c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 yellow at 67 to 67½c, Toronto. Canadians, 64½ to 65c, Toronto freight.

Bran—Cars, \$20.00 in bulk outside. Shorts, \$22.00 in bulk outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Winter stock, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per barrel for good qualities, and at \$2 to \$3 for cooking apples.

Beans—Prime, \$1.80 to \$1.90, and hand-picked, \$1.90 to \$2 per bushel.

Honey—Combs, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per dozen, and strained, 10½ to 11c per pound.

Hay—No. 1 timothy \$11 to \$11.50 per ton on track here, and lower grades at \$9 to \$10 a ton.

Straw—\$7 to \$7.50 on track.

Potatoes—60 to 62½c per bag.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 12 to 13c per pound; fowl, 10c; ducks, 12 to 13c; geese, 11 to 12c; turkeys 16 to 17c per pound.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 24 to 25c; tubs and large rolls, 22 to 23c; inferior, 20c; creamery rolls, 27 to 29c, and solids, 26 to 27c.

Eggs—Case lots of cold storage, 25 to 26c per dozen; picked, 24 to 25c, and new laid 23 to 30c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, 13½c per pound, and twins, 13¼c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 10½ to 11c per pound in case lots; mess pork, \$19 to \$19.50; short cut, \$22.50 to \$23.

Hams—Light to medium, 13½ to 14c; do., heavy, 12½ to 13c; rolls, 10½ to 11c; shoulders, 10 to 10½c; backs, 16 to 16½c; breakfast bacon, 14½ to 15c.

Lard—Tierces, 12½c; tubs, 12¼c; pails, 13c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 2.—Peas, No. 2, 94 to 95c; oats, Canadian Western No. 2, 47c; extra No. 1 feed, 46½c; No. 1 feed, 45½c; Ontario No. 2, 46c; Ontario No. 3, 45c; Ontario No. 4, 44c; No. 2 barley, 63½ to 65c; Manitoba feed barley, 55½ to 56c; buckwheat, 55½ to 56c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, \$5.60; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, \$5.10; Manitoba strong bakers', \$4.90; Winter wheat patents, \$5 to \$5.25; straight rollers, \$4.60 to \$4.70; do., in bags, \$2.15 to \$2.25; extra, in bags, \$1.75 to \$1.85. Feed—Manitoba bran, \$21 to \$22; Manitoba shorts, \$24; Ontario bran, \$21 to \$21.50; Ontario shorts, \$24 to \$24.50; Ontario middlings, \$24.50 to \$25; pure grain mouille, \$28 to \$30; mixed mouille, \$25 to \$27.

Cheese—Finest western, 12½ to 12¾c; eastern, 12½ to 12¾c. Butter—Finest creamery, 27 to 27½c; fresh receipts, 25½ to 26c. Eggs—New laid eggs, 35 to 40c; selected stock, 28 to 29c; No. 1 stock, 25 to 26c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Milwaukee, Feb. 2.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.11; No. 2 Northern, \$1.08 to \$1.09; May, \$1.07½ asked.

Rye—No. 1, 75½c. Corn—May, 63c asked. Barley—Standard, 65c; samples, 59½c to 63c; No. 3, 60 to 62c; No. 4, 59½ to 60c.

St. Louis, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Cash, 62½c; May, 65½c; July, 65½c.

Buffalo, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Spring firm; No. 1 Northern, carloads

NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS

Various Denominations Are Represented About the Same as Last Parliament

A despatch from Ottawa says: An analysis of the personnel of the new House of Commons with respect to places of birth and religions gives the following interesting figures:—

In the last Parliament there were 200 native-born Canadians; in the new House the native-born number 204. There are six English-born as compared with four in the last House. Ireland sent four sons to the old House, but there are only two native Irishmen in the new House. In each House the membership included three men who were born in the United States. Scotland had three representatives in the last House; now it has only two. The new House

also includes one member who was born in South America.

By religions the figures are equally interesting:—The Roman Catholics are of exactly the same as in the old House, the figure in each case being 70. The Presbyterians number 46 in the new House; last year they had 47. The Methodist Church is represented by 50 in the new House, as against 50 in the last Parliament. The Church of England has 41 as against 42. The Baptists numbered eight in the former House; in this they number six. One addition to the religions is a Universalist. The Congregationalists are two, the same as last year, and there is one Lutheran and one Farringdon Independent, just as in the last House.

store, \$1.13½; Winter, firm. Corn Higher; No. 3 yellow, 64½c; No. 4 yellow, 64½c; No. 3 corn, 64c; No. 4 corn, 63½c; No. 3 white, 67½c. Oats—Firm. Rye—No. 2, on track, 81½c.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 2.—Export—Market is firm for choice export steers and bulls. Butcher—An active demand for choice butcher cattle, and market firmer. The demand for good butcher cattle was active, and everything offering in this class was soon picked up at firm prices. Sheep and lambs—Better demand for ewes and lambs; market firm. Hogs—Select at \$6.40 f.o.b., and \$6.65, fed and watered. Steady demand for butcher cows. Good export steers and bulls wanted. Milch cows of good quality in demand; common not wanted. Good veal calves steady.

GANANOQUE'S HEAVY LOSS.

Turner's Block and the Opera House Burned.

A despatch from Gananoque says: At 3.30 on Sunday morning in the store of Jos. McCauley, Turner block, corner of King and Stone streets, flames were discovered coming out of the plate-glass window. The fire spread fast. A heavy north wind was blowing, which sent the sparks over the buildings. The fire department played five streams of water on the building. The fire spread to the Opera House block, owned by W. G. Rogers. It looked at this time as if all of King street would go. The Turner block, owned by W. Y. Boyd, is a three-story brick building, occupied by Clifford Sine, druggist, stock \$15,000, insurance \$8,000, complete loss; Corigan & Coy, dry goods, complete loss, insurance not known; Jas. McCauley, restaurant and billiard-room, insured. In the second flat the Tiger hockey team had their club rooms; W. Y. Boyd, insurance office, and Professor Jackson, musical studio. On the third story was the Colonial Theatre. Nothing was saved in the building. Insurance not known. The Grand Opera House, a concrete block building, and one of the most up-to-date opera houses in the Province, was completely destroyed. W. G. Rogers states he has \$8,000 insurance on the building. Mr. Rogers' loss will be fully \$25,000. Peters Bros. had a restaurant in the building, which is also a total loss. The Workmen and Canadian Order of Foresters had their hall over the stores in this block, and it, too,

MONTREAL SHAKEN.

Shock of Earthquake Alarms the Citizens.

A despatch from Montreal says: Montreal was shaken by an earthquake at 11.45 on Sunday night. People in all parts of the city were awakened by the shock, which was so sharp that it was believed to be an explosion. Men were sent out from the police stations to investigate. While the shock gave a scare to the inhabitants, no damage is reported.

A MEDAL FOR BINNS.

French Government Will Recognize His Work.

A despatch from Paris says: The Government has decided to award a medal for life-saving to John Binns, of the Republic, for his fine conduct after the collision between that vessel and the Florida.

GRIZZLY MOUNTAIN RESTLESS

Danger of Volcanic Eruption Near San Francisco.

A despatch from San Francisco, Cal., says: Grizzly Mountain, located in Lake county, about 75 miles north of San Francisco, is reported to be showing signs of eruption. The mountain is located in the St. Helena range, which abounds in volcanic signs, while the geysers near by spout hot water and steam.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSION

Each Member Will Have Special Charge of a District.

A despatch from Ottawa says: An important re-organization of the Railway Commission is announced by which the Dominion is divided into districts, each in special charge of one of the commissioners as to the routine applications. Chief Commissioner Mabee will, of course, have a general supervision over each district.

The Province of Ontario, with the exception of Port Arthur and the district west thereof, is placed under the immediate jurisdiction of Mr. D'Arcy Scott, the Assistant Chief Commissioner, and he will be assisted by Inspectors

James Ogilvie and James Clarke. The Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia are allotted to Hon. M. E. Bernier, who will be assisted by Mr. E. C. Lalonde, inspector.

Commissioner S. J. McLean takes charge of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and that portion of Ontario west of Port Arthur, with Mr. W. S. Blythe of Winnipeg as inspector.

Alberta and British Columbia will be looked after by Commissioner Mills, assisted by Inspector M. J. McCaul.