

# BURIED 60 FEET DOWN A WELL AND RESCUED AFTER FOUR DAYS

Joshua Sanford of Paris, Ont., has a Marvellous Escape from Death.

DUG OUT BY BRAVE MEN

A Thrilling Incident that Outdoes Fiction and Stirs the Whole Province.

On Tuesday afternoon of last week a young man named Joshua Sanford was down in an 80-foot well near Paris, Ont., when it began to rain. The men above hauled him up as rapidly as they could, but before he reached the top a general cave-in occurred and he was carried down with the earth. All supposed he had been killed, until sounds of rapping on a 4-inch iron pipe that went down in the well told that he was still alive.

The work of digging him out was immediately begun. Hundreds of people flocked to the place and willing hands undertook the task of his release. This was attempted by sinking another well alongside the old one. This was cribbed up as fast as it was sunk, to prevent its caving in also. Work went on steadily till Thursday at midnight. Writing at that hour the Globe correspondent thus describes what was going on:

At midnight two thousand men and women pressing against the fences of the Skelley farm on the St. George road are watching the efforts made to release Joshua Sanford from a living tomb under fifty or sixty feet of earth, at the bottom of a shaft which has been sunk that distance. Two miners are endeavoring to force a passage through the shifting sand into the well, which collapsed on Tuesday afternoon and engulfed the young well-digger. The shaft is so small that only two men can descend and one man work at that depth, but every one of the relays who have worked throughout the night has heard the signals of the imprisoned man, rapping on the brick wall of his cell. Huge bonfires light up the scene, and the forms of the men who are directing the operations and waiting their turn at the head of the shaft stand out in the ruddy glow of the fires around them, and the road for a quarter of a mile is filled with farmers' vehicles and their owners are waiting in the hope that before daybreak the rescue will be effected. Sanford has been in what may yet be his grave for fifty-eight hours, and Dr. Dunton and the other physicians who are in waiting fear now that he will not survive longer. The cessation of work for three hours to-day, which followed the second cave-in of the well, and led the workers to believe that Sanford had undoubtedly met death, at least, may mean that when the well is finally opened the great fight for his life that he has made was lost by that delay.

### DIRECTING THE WORK

Mr. H. Jones, Brantford's civic engineer, is directing the plans for the tunnel, which it is hoped, will unite the two wells and will permit of the release of the imprisoned man. He has with him Prof. Cartwright of Ann Arbor University, an authority on sound, and the men under their direction are driving sections of iron pipe into the compartment made by the fallen walls of the old well. At intervals Mr. Jones lifts his hand to the waiting people, and instantly a hush falls upon them, while the tapping on the bricks of the well is renewed. The well which has been the centre of interest of the whole countryside for three days is situated on a farm tenanted by Mr. George Scott, near Braeside. It is an old well and was 86 feet deep and lined with bricks, set in cement. No water was being obtained from it, and the estate which controls the farm entered into an agreement with John Henderson & Son, well drillers of Brantford, to drill it until a supply of water was secured. Sanford was placed in charge of the drill, and he succeeded in driving a pipe down a distance of 158 feet from the surface. In carrying on this work it was noticed that the drill passed through a quicksand formation, but at the depth mentioned a boulder was encountered, and it was decided to drill again in a new place. An attempt was then made to secure the iron casing that had been driven into the earth, and in the effort to secure it the casing parted. Sanford on Tuesday afternoon last was lowered to the bottom of the well to investigate the break and also to ascertain if the indications for further drilling were favorable. At that time the first cave-in occurred. The man noticed a wooden casing at the bottom of the shaft sinking, and signalled to be drawn to the top, but when half way up, or about forty feet from the surface, the stout walls of the well collapsed.

### WALLS FORMED AN ARCH

It is evident that the walls fell in sections and formed an arch, the bricks being securely held together by the cement, and remaining firm under the weight of earth above. The walls directly underneath the man must have undergone a like change, and in the chamber thus formed Sanford lay for almost three days. The iron pipe had withstood the shock of the landslide, however, and it was through this medium that the imprisoned man first made it known at the surface that he was still alive. The iron pipe is four inches in diameter and is set in a five-inch casing. It is believed that the break in the casing mentioned was at the spot where the

natural cell formed above Sanford. Through the opening between the pipe and the casing he obtained air, and has until today been able to hear voices at the top of the shaft. The tremendous efforts made to rescue him which followed his rapping on this pipe have already been described. Mr. John Penman of Paris assumed control of this work and secured the services of Mr. T. Harry Jones, City Engineer of Brantford, and several gangs of sewermen and carpenters. Well-diggers and laborers were selected from volunteers for the work from Paris. Physicians were in constant attendance, ready to administer medical aid when the man was taken from the earth, under the direction of Mr. Jones. A well similar to the first was sunk close beside it. This shaft was securely cribbed to prevent a repetition of the cave-in and in it the well-diggers labored without ceasing, the carpenters providing the crib foot by foot.

### A CODE OF SIGNALS

Dr. W. W. Patterson of Paris discovered that his voice could be distinctly heard by the entombed man, and he arranged a code of signals for him to reply; three taps on the pipe to represent yes, two taps for no, and one tap "I don't know." By this means Sanford directed the operations of the party, and as he could hear the spade of the well-diggers he tried to tell the distance that they were from him. When Dr. Patterson asked him if he had plenty of air he answered "yes," and he estimated by giving sixty taps on the pipe that he was that many feet from the surface. At 11 o'clock this morning the second well had been sunk fifty feet and Sanford signalled that he believed the rescue party to be below him. A tunnel from the second to the first well was decided upon, and when this news came up the shaft, the crowd became wildly excited. Word was sent to the young man's mother that he would be saved.

### A SECOND CAVE-IN

The greatest care was exercised in the very critical work of extending the tunnel, but at the moment when the workers thought that at last they had won the prize they had fought so fiercely for the treacherous quicksand opened, and with a rumble the old well shot down a distance of seven feet. Sickened with the belief that death must have come to the brave man, the crowd turned away from the spot and the well-diggers came to the surface. It was then 46 hours since Sanford had been entombed. John Mott, the oldest of the drillers, was the one man who did not give up hope. He tapped repeatedly on the pipe, but although he and his friends waited with bated breath the silence of death was the only reply. Slowly the crowd filed away, and from noon until 3 o'clock only watchmen waited by the well.

### SANFORD STILL ALIVE

Shortly after 3 o'clock one of the men descended the second well for his tools, and as he was leaving a faint sound of rapping came from the other shaft, and, hardly waiting to confirm his hope, the man summoned his comrades and they also heard the rapping. Word was sent to Paris, and within a few minutes hundreds of men and women were being driven to the scene. The gangs of men returned to their task, and it was found that even better communication could be had with Sanford. The theory put forward to account for the imprisoned man's escaping iron being crushed to death in the second slide is that the brick and cement cylinder did not collapse, but simply sank or settled down, the greater depression of earth being where the weight was greatest, namely, outside the bricks, and the entombed man's position was thus practically unchanged.

The Globe of Saturday continued the wonderful story of the man in the well and said in part of Friday's operations: Sanford's voice was still aiding the workers in keeping them informed of his exact whereabouts, but his words had little meaning, for his mind was wandering. Carefully and slowly the opening was enlarged and the substantial timber supports inserted. The workers knew that the slightest disturbance of the earth would mean not only the destruction of Sanford but of themselves. The movement of a shovel of earth might at any moment precipitate the descent of tons of quicksand.

### THE MAN REACHED

The work progressed and soon the second entrance into the well was accomplished. The first one had been made below the prisoner. Sanford, it was found, was at the opposite side of the cylinder-shaped chamber. He was lying on his back and was partially covered with sand and bricks. As the air rushed in through the hole he swooned away, and remained in an unconscious condition for nearly half an hour. The amazing vitality of the man showed itself, however, and with returning consciousness he assisted actively in the work of his own rescue. The excitement attending his discovery apparently had more effect in stimulating life within him than the attending physicians hoped to find in all the restoratives they had prepared. Hot milk administered in small quantities revived him to a remarkable extent as the time passed, and he was even jovial in his utterances.

### THE RESCUE

Carnie found that directly underneath the first tunnel there was a bed of sharp, dry sand, excellent for this purpose. About three feet below this excavation the sand was taken out and a casing put in till the well was reached. The bricks which formed the lining of the well were standing end on end, and the entire pile which were supporting Sanford was so fragile that the workmen were exceedingly careful in disturbing any part of it. Fortunately, however, this pile was found to have a foundation of a bed of gravel, the debris, by a lucky accident, having apparently caught on this projection and formed a bed for Sanford when the landslide occurred. By means of scantling inserted through the lower tunnel, and shored up with ropes, the pile was sustained while Carnie removed the bricks one by one, handling them as if they were bird's eggs. Within two hours the foot was free. Sanford, however, was not out of the hole. It was deemed unsafe to endeavor to lift him to the upper tunnel, so a rope was passed around his body, and the men at the top of the shaft were told to ease slightly on the line when the order was given. Then Hamilton at the upper tunnel and Carnie at the lower reached through and guided the movement of Sanford while his body was slowly lowered until his head was on a level with his feet, and then he was lifted through the lower tunnel without disturbing a handful of sand. This was at 5:30 on Saturday evening, after being 91 1/2 hours in the well.

### CAME UP ON THE ROPES

Sanford was taken from the dark hole in the earth literally imbedded in sand. The tiny particles had been driven so far into the flesh that was exposed that the physicians say poultices have been necessary to give relief. He was perfectly conscious, although much wrought up when, after a somewhat perilous trip through the lower tunnel, he reached the shaft from which his rescuers had worked for days. He knew from conversations with the men that a great

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ment attending his discovery apparently had more effect in stimulating life within him than the attending physicians hoped to find in all the restoratives they had prepared. Hot milk administered in small quantities revived him to a remarkable extent as the time passed, and he was even jovial in his utterances.

The difficult task of removing the debris which buried the man's body and lower limbs was begun, and buckets of the debris and sand were sent to the surface at short intervals during the next three hours. Sanford, when he had recovered partial consciousness, asked Engineer Jones as to his whereabouts, and when told he was still in the well he seemed to realize his position, and used his arms, which were free, to assist in the removal of the bricks.

Sanford, who was lying with his head and shoulders in the tunnel, then voluntarily drew back into the well, and, being handed a stout crowbar, began the task of freeing himself. His strength was not equal to it, however, and, although one of the workers offered to enter the old well with him, permission was not granted on the ground that it was only endangering his life. Sanford then began again, and he and the rescuing party alternately used the crowbar. Little progress was made, and the same condition existed an hour after midnight. While working Sanford talked freely and showed that he knew absolutely nothing of the cave-in on Thursday, in which he evidently received the blows which rendered him insensible. The father of the imprisoned man, Eliza Sanford, arrived in the neighborhood after an absence of years, and, finding the farm, insisted in taking his place at the head of the shaft from which he refused to be moved. Two sisters of Sanford also arrived this morning, both in a condition verging on nervous prostration. They are waiting in the Scott farm house for news of the success of the rescuing operations.

Sanford was in a sitting posture and was entirely free, with the exception of his right leg, which was firmly wedged between the pipe and a pile of boards and brick. The men in the shaft had been unable to remove this obstruction, and Sanford had worked at it himself until his strength had given way. To reach this pile of bricks the deepening of the lower tunnel would be necessary, and to do this meant grave danger that not only Sanford, but the men in the shaft would be engulfed. Sanford's father and sisters declared that they could not ask such a sacrifice, and asked that the imprisoned man try again to aid himself, but weakened by the effort already made, Sanford had fallen asleep.

On Saturday then John Carnie, Robert Hamilton and Richard Doyle, all practical mechanics of Paris, came forward and said that if they were allowed their own way they would undertake the rescue. After considerable opposition their offer was accepted, and they were aided in carrying out their plan by George Blanchard, Henry Allen, George Went-

worth, William Thompson, John Soole and Thomas English. HE JOKED WITH WORKERS Sanford was comparatively easy. He had plenty of air and was being fed regularly but his foot was anchored as firmly as ever. He wanted cold water and was refused. "If I don't get that water tell the doctor I'll come up for it," he said. Only once did his spirits fall him, and that was when he slipped a few inches back into the hole. Several ropes had been passed around his body, and the attempt to pull him away from the obstruction by main force was made. This failed, and when Sanford felt himself going back he weakened a bit. George Blanchard said that he would go through the tunnel into the well and lift away the obstruction. Sanford refused to hear of this. One man in the well was enough, he said.

(Continued on Page 11.)

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### Coboconk, Fenelon Falls, Lindsay

"MANITA." July 1st to Sept. 6th, or till boats. Coboconk, leave 6.00 a.m. 7.40 p.m. Rosedale, leave 7.00 a.m. 8.00 p.m. Fenelon Falls, arrive 7.40 a.m. 6.00 p.m. Fenelon Falls, leave 8.30 a.m. 5.20 p.m. Sturgeon Point, leave 8.00 a.m. 4.50 p.m. Lindsay, arrive 10.30 a.m. 3.30 p.m. Connections at Fenelon with morning train for Toronto and at Lindsay for Port Hope. Time at Fenelon for breakfast and tea.

### Bobcaygeon, Chemong, Burleigh, Lakefield.

"OGEMAH." July 2nd to Sept. 6th, or till boats. Bobcaygeon, leave 7.00 a.m. 7.45 p.m. Chemong, leave 9.40 a.m. 11.30 p.m. Burleigh, leave 11.45 a.m. 3.00 p.m. Burleigh, arrive 12.45 p.m. 1.30 p.m. Connections made at Burleigh with Steamer for Lakefield and intermediate points. Meals served on board. Tickets and further information be had from GEO. WILDER, Express Office.

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