TWENTY-EIGHT KILLED.

Grand Trunk Railway Wreck Near Wanstead Station.

A despatch from London says: Twenty-eight killed instantly and nearly a score of others seriously injured is the net result to date of the most terrible railway accident in Ontario since the disaster near Hamilton in the spring of 1889. It took place at the little Hamlet of Wanstead, near Petrolea, on Friday night, when the Grand Trunk Chicago express collided with a freight that was moving out of its way into a siding. Details are coming in slowly, but the loss of life will be terrible. The announcement that at 6 o'clock there were 28 dead does not tell the whole story, for a number of the more seriously injured are likely to succumb. The list of dead shows that the victims were chiefly from Western Ontario.

HEAD-ON COLLISION.

It was a head-on collision between the Pacific Express for Chicago and an east-bound freight. The express was nearly two hours late and was making fast time. The freight was endeavoring to make a siding to have the track clear for the express and failed by a couple of minutes. The engines came together near the west end of the switch with a fearful crash and overturned into the ditch. The baggage and the express cars telescoped into the smoker with appalling results, while the other passengers were piled upon each other in a fearful wreck.

CRIES OF THE DYING.

There was an awful crash, the locomotive reared up and fell into the ditch, the baggage car of the express telescoped the smoker, and the shrieks and cries of the wounded and dying filled the air.

The loss of life is believed to approach to fully 30. The injured will number considerably more. These latter include many who may die from their injuries. They sustained all manner of hurts, and when they reached the hospital at London were so covered with blood that they could not be recognized. Their appearance simply beggars description.

Many of the dead had suffered frightful hurts, heads were cut off, legs were wrenched from the bodies, blood flowed like water and the scene of the carnage became more like the floor of a slaughter-house than a mere stretch of snow-covered highway in the midst of a sleeping farmland.

EXPRESS AN HOUR LATE.

The express should have left London at 7.57, but she was over an hour late. An operator's error is said to have caused the accident.

There was not a house to be seen anywhere through the storm, and it proved, when daylight came, that there was none within a distance too far to carry the maimed. Most fortunately, the two Pullman cars on the train did not sustain any damage. They were warm and comfortable, and what were a few moments before palatial sleeping compartments for scores of weary travelers, became a temporary hospital. They were placed in the berths, and what was possible to assuage the bleeding wounds which were sustained by nearly everyone was done.

This was, however, very little; there was scarcely any water to be had. Snow was brought in in the endeavor to quench the terrible thirst of the suffering. A few of the passengers chanced to have whiskey in their possession, and this proved a fortunate thing. The liquor is credited with saving the lives of a number of the terribly injured, who had given up hope but for the stimulating effects of the whiskey.

SAVED FROM ADDED HORROR.

The fear of a fire breaking out led to a determined watch being instituted; but, in spite of this vigilance, the wreck was scarcely saved from a fire that would have added untold horror.

One of the passengers, who was no more of a hero than his fellows, only that he had presence of mind and knew the better how to work, organized a snow brigade. To their unremitting struggles is due the fact that the fire was kept in check and did no damage.

The fire broke out in the very midst of the wreckage on one occasion, and, as there was nothing with which to quench it but the snow the extent of the battle in which those heroes engaged can better be imagined than described. They scraped the snow from the side of the tracks, and they brought it in handfuls from between adjoining tracks and the side of the railway. With the snow they fell upon the flames, literally smothering them with their hands and their coats, which they had flung from their shoulders.

The tiny fire broke out again, and again, fanned by the winds. Again and again the brigade returned to the struggle, and they finally succeeded; but the fire kept noble men from assisting in other work in the relieving of the imprisoned people.

The news of the disaster did not reach London till after midnight. Crews were at once ordered out with the auxiliaries from here and the Sarnia Tunnel. Three doctors from Wyoming and three from Watford went with the auxiliaries, and spent the early hours of the morning at the wreck.

GRADUATE OF TORONTO.

Dr. Basil Harvey of Chicago, whose parents live in Watford, Ont., one of the injured in the G.T.R. wreck near Sarnia, is a prominent graduate of the Faculty of Medicine of Toronto University, being a physician of some ten years' standing. He was one of the occupants of the day coach, where the hand of death was so relentless, was well enough to give a brief account of his experience at Victoria Hospital. The doctor had been visiting his mother in Watford, and was journeying down the road to Wyoming with the purpose of visiting his brother, Dr. Harvey of that place.

His story is as follows: "I was in the first car behind the baggage car at the front and talking to the Kingscourt agent, who was going down to Wyoming. We were waiting at the door ready to get off. I was leaning up against the door. Suddenly the lights went out, there was an infinite crashing and I found myself after rolling around among these noises, all wedged in. Some thing was over my head, and I could only move my right leg. The rest of me was fast. The Kingscourt agent lay across my leg. When I moved my right leg I disturbed him, much to his dissatisfaction, as he protested on account of a broken leg. About 3 o'clock they dug me out. I had great difficulty in standing the strain. I had hardly enough breath, but I decided it was enough to keep me living. I had even enough room to shake with the cold. I never shook so much in my life. It seemed an hour before they got there. They uncovered my feet first. 'Look at them wiggle,' some one said, having reference to my feet. They put jacks under the thing over my head and lifted it up. They gradually moved me; they then pulled me out from the hole underneath. That's my estimate of it, but I wasn't in a fit condition to have an accurate idea of their mode of pro(?dure."

Dr. Harvey did not see much of the scene of carnage that was scattered about him, but he said that many were killed in his neighborhood. His injuries are not extensive and he is very thankful for his miraculous escape.

ROBERT JACKSON'S STORY.

Robert Jackson of Petrolea, who was a passenger on the train, was sitting in an office at the Grand Trunk depot, with his left foot wrapped up in a stocking. In conversation Mr. Jackson related his experience. He was in the second car, just behind the baggage car, and was awake, as were also many other occupants. Several were dozing or sound asleep when the crash came. It seemed to come in from above, as if the baggage car had been hurled into the air and had fallen on the roof.

The lights, of course, went out, and in a twinkling the bright car with its load of happy, care-free humanity was a cold, dark mass of wreckage. Mr. Jackson could hear groans and cries. He himself was wedged in between something, so that he could not move, and he found it was two seats which were jamming him down. His left foot, which was crushed, was held fast and was paining him greatly. "I did not know what moment I was going to be hurled into eternity," said Mr. Jackson. "I remained there for three-quarters of an hour."

Mr. Jackson had been home for Christmas at Woodstock, and was expecting to change cars at Wyoming.

SMALLPOX SPREADS.

Lumbermen Carry It to Various Districts.

A Toronto despatch says: The present is a critical time in the smallpox situation. The outlook now from the reports made to the Ontario Health Department is for a clear winter, but it was just after this date last year and two years ago that the epidemic appeared in the lumber camps, which gave the department so much trouble. "The lumbermen," said Dr. Hodgetts, "take a couple of weeks off at Christmas, and go to their homes. There they meet with smallpox and carry it back with them to the camps. We will hear the result of it about the third week in January." Friday's bulletin includes half a dozen new cases. Two of them are from South Plantagenet Township, and two from Caledonia Township, in Prescott County, and two have been reported in the family already infected in Wainfleet Township, Monck County.

CANARY PIE.

At a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. John Pilney, of New Jersey, a special dish was put on the menu as "game pie." When this was brought in and the cover removed two dozen live canaries fluttered into the air.

NEWS ITEMS.

Telegraphic Briefs From All Over the Globe.

CANADA.

Peter Vereghin, the Doukhobor leader, has arrived at Winnipeg.

An exhibit of the products and manufactures of Austria is being sent through Canada.

The exports of poultry to Great Britain show a gain of $219,055 during the past six years.

The Kingston waterworks, controlled by the municipality, had a revenue this year of $31,741.34.

The chartered banks of Woodstock have decided to close at 1 p. m. on Fridays, instead of on Saturdays.

A Montreal despatch predicts the advance of rubbers, owing to the increase in the cost of crude rubber.

Six old women, ranging in age from 69 to 92 years, are in Hamilton jail charged with trifling offences.

Jacob Kreeger, a young Mennonite of Niverville, Man., was convicted at Winnipeg of "holding up" a citizen.

Parliament will not meet until the last Thursday in February owing to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's detention in the South.

Among the companies applying for incorporation at Ottawa are the Bank of Winnipeg and the City and County Bank of Toronto.

A 75,000 bushel elevator is to be built at Hartley, Man., next year on the farmers' co-operative plan. There are already six elevators there.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Premier Balfour is confined to bed, suffering from a sharp attack of influenza.

Oil fuel apparatus is now being fitted on board H. M. battleships Hannibal and Mars.

London workhouse boys are to be sent to Yorkshire and South Wales to work in the mines.

A profit of £3,300 was made on the Dover municipal waterworks during the last 12 months.

Electricity for lighting purposes is now being supplied through penny-in-the-slot meters in Lancashire towns.

A series of public meetings is to be held in London to call attention to the unsatisfactory state of the working classes.

Mr. Landfried, who was one of the few surviving trumpeters who sounded the charge at Balaclava, has died at Hove, Brighton.

The Swansea Harbor trustees are about to construct a new dock with a lock capable of accommodating the largest vessels afloat.

Next year legislation will be introduced with regard to a reduction of the interest payable on deposits in the Post-office Savings Bank.

The total number of non-commissioned officers and men serving in the regular army at home on the first of the month was 145,668.

The memorial of the late Queen in Whippingham Church, erected by the King and other members of the royal family, is practically completed.

Before the Channel Squadron goes to sea again all the ships are to be painted French grey, which is now the regulation color of the British navy.

The firm of J. and J. W. Pease of Darlington, England, private bankers, assigned with $2,500,000 liabilities. Two of the partners are members of the House of Commons.

A meeting of the promoters of the scheme for a memorial to Queen Victoria and a memorial to the sailors and soldiers who died in the late war was held in Edinburgh.

The nine o'clock Sunday evening services for West-end people in evening dress who find other service times inconvenient, are being renewed at St. George's, Albermarle street, London.

UNITED STATES.

Three firemen were killed at a Brooklyn fire on Friday.

The Duke of Newcastle is at New York for several months' visit.

Mrs. C. N. Beers, of North Adams, Mass., recently received through the mail a box of candy covered with poisonous powder.

The U. S. Supreme Court has decided that a policy of insurance on the life of a murderer is not valid, on the ground of public policy.

An unknown person tried to dynamite a Slav boarding house at Springfield, Pa., partly wrecking it, but none of the 14 inmates were hurt.

On Saturday a rat stole a $1,000 bill from C. H. Laudell's pharmacy, in New York, but fortunately the bill was noticed in the rat's hole in the wall, and was fished out.

For the first time in the history of the United States a woman's head is appearing on the design of the eight-cent stamp. The favored lady is Martha Washington, wife of the first President.

The general officers of the W. C. T. U. will take immediate steps to secure a law prohibiting saloons within four miles of United States forts, army posts, camps and all premises used for military purposes by the United States.

The residence of Robert Floyd, of Mannington, Va., was blown up with dynamite by robbers on Tuesday night. Mr. Floyd was killed instantly and his wife and servant seriously injured. One thousand dollars, which it is said Floyd had in the house, is missing.

GENERAL.

French shoemakers have resolved to advance prices ten per cent.

The condition of the winter crops in nearly all European Russia is regarded as bad.

The Russian Government is spending immense sums in relief work among famine sufferers.

Germany's largest battleship was launched at Kiel Saturday. She was christened Brunswick.

All cats, dogs and birds have been banished from the Kaiser's palaces, fearing that they may carry disease.

Chinese court officials state that the health of the Dowager Empress is declining. She suffers from insomnia.

French train thieves stole $25,000 worth of diamonds from the Earl of Carnarvon while the latter and the Countess were traveling between Calais and Paris.

The financial statement of the Minister of Finance of Italy for 1901-02, including the expense of the Chinese expedition, is most satisfactory to the people, showing a surplus of 32,000,000 lire. In the estimates for 1902-03 a surplus of 16,000,000 lire is calculated, and for 1903-04 a surplus of 4,000,000 lire.

AIDED THIEVES.

Policeman Stood Guard While a Store Was Looted.

A Chicago despatch says: Policeman Patrick Mahoney was found guilty, and Daniel Curran, co-defendant, not guilty, of burglary by a jury on Wednesday. The burglary was at a jewelry store, and James Clark and an accomplice have served terms in the penitentiary for the crime. Upon his release Clark told a story to the State attorney which resulted in the arrest of Curran, a saloon-keeper, and Mahoney, an officer well known and respected among his fellows. Clark testified that Mahoney, in full uniform, stood guard while the jewelry store was being looted.

LAND AND WATER.

Interesting Tables in First Volume of Census.

An Ottawa despatch says: The census volume just out contains an interesting series of tables prepared by Mr. James White, geographer of the Department of the Interior, showing the areas of land and water in the several provinces and territories in Canada. The total land area is given as 2,316,684,071 acres, and the lakes' area 80,483,222 acres, the total square miles of territory being 3,745,574. All tidal areas are excluded from the calculation. Ontario is credited with the greatest lake area, viz., 25,826,306 acres. The city of Toronto is credited with 28,910 houses, 30,572 families, and a municipal area of 4,517 acres.

LESE MAJESTE.

School Girl Gets Fourteen Days' Imprisonment.

A Berlin despatch says: A Polish girl named Kupre threw a brooch with Emperor William's picture on it, to the floor and stamped upon it. She has been sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment at Inwaslan for lese majeste. The brooch was one of those presented to the school pupils on the occasion of his Majesty's visit to Posen.

FLOATING GARDENS.

On the rivers of Cashmere are thousands of floating gardens, formed by long sedges which are woven together in the form of a gigantic mat. These sedge grasses, flags, stalks, and lilies are woven on the river or lake banks while their roots are still growing in the slime underneath. The required amount of earth is then superimposed upon the mat, the stalks are then cut, and the mat and its load are a full-fledged "floating-garden." They are usually about twenty by fifty yards in extent, seldom larger, the full depth of the mat and its earthly covering being about three feet. A dishonest Cashmiri will sometimes tow his neighbors garden away from its moorings, and sell the produce of the other's toil.

BY COACH TO SPION KOP.

Ladysmith is preparing to make herself another such center for the historic scenes around her as Brussels is for Waterloo. A regular coach service, it seems, is to be organized to Spion Kop, and when the passengers have walked over the fatal summit they will find refreshment and lodging at a "Spion Kop Hotel," which is to be built forthwith on Three Tree Hill.

"The fact that I am a good musician," said the lady from a country village, "was the means of saving my life during the flood in our town a few years ago." "How was that?" asked the young lady who sang. "When the water struck our house my husband got on the folding bed and floated down the stream until he was rescued." "And what did you do?" "Well, I accompanied him on the piano."

BROTHER SHOT BROTHER.

Was Mistaken for Burglar and Shot in Bed.

A Brantford despatch says: A tragedy, resulting in the death of Wesley Watson, aged 25 years, at the hand of his elder brother, James, was enacted on the Kearn farm, two and a half miles west of Middleport, in the Township Onondaga, on Tuesday morning of last week. The farm is situated in a lonely part of the township some distance from the main road, and is rented by Samuel and James Watson, while their brother Wesley was employed in Detroit. The brothers were alone, as their mother, who keeps house for them, was away on a visit. They had retired to bed, when their younger brother returned unannounced and made an entrance to the house. The two men thought their home was being burglarized, and, gathering a few clothes, made an escape through the bedroom window.

After remaining with a neighbor the rest of the night they returned to the house in the morning, armed with a shotgun. They saw the house had been entered, and proceeded upstairs, investigating. Through a half-open door they saw a man stretched out on the bed. At their approach the sleeper raised himself on his elbow, and immediately James raised his gun and fired. The charge, which was of small shot, blew the side off the man's head and killed him instantly. In a moment they saw their mistake, but it was too late; their brother was beyond the reach of aid.

The affair has been reported to the police, and the brothers were arrested and an investigation held. It is said there was the best of feeling in the family, and no reason can be suggested for the commission of a crime. The Watson brothers are reported to be of a very timid, nervous disposition.

LATER.

Samuel Watson, the man who shot and killed his brother Wesley at Middleport on Tuesday morning, mistaking him for a burglar, will be prosecuted on a charge of manslaughter. The police consider the case the most astounding one that has ever come to their attention, and since the two brothers have told their stories people find difficulty in imagining how it would be possible for two men, fully armed, to be so frightened as to shoot a man while he was lying asleep in bed. It is clear that even if the deceased had been a burglar, he was entirely in their power, without their using firearms.

FARMS BEING DRAINED.

Half-Million Dollars' Worth of Fertilizers Exported Annually.

A Toronto despatch says: "The Ontario farmer," says Mr. G. C. Creelman, "will realize what he is losing when it is too late. The time may come when he will have to import fertilizers from deer knows where to try and build up the soil. I don't like to see so much valuable fertilizers leaving the Province." This statement of Mr. Creelman's receives strong confirmation by the details. Fertilizing substances to the extent of over half a million dollars annually are being taken out of Ontario farms and exported to the United States through the single medium of the pork-packing houses. The pork-packer doesn't believe in waste, and the blood and the bones and hoofs and offal of the animals that he cannot make use of in any other way are made into a fertilizer and sold by the sack. The blood is evaporated in the process, the bones are ground, and the other parts properly treated, and the product is valuable, rich in all the chemicals specially needed by the soil. The factories in Ontario put up about 35,000 tons of this fertilizer annually, and it sells for $18 a ton. But not in Canada. The packers say there is no demand for it among Ontario farmers, but that across the line there is an eager demand, and every pound is speedily contracted for."

A PEST FROM CANADA.

Scotch Authorities Ask How to Destroy a Weed.

An Ottawa despatch says: Prof. Pougall, of Glasgow, Scotland, has written to the Fisheries Department asking in what way they can kill or get rid of a Canadian water weed called anacharis, which came to them from Canada some years ago. This weed has overrun one of the most famous trout fishing resorts in Scotland, Loch Leven, and the experts are at a loss to know how to get rid of it.

MANY NEW RAILWAYS.

Six Thousand Miles Constructed in United States This Year.

A Chicago despatch says: According to the Railroad Gazette, railroad building in the United States for 1902 aggregated 6,026 miles, a total not exceeded in any year since 1888. Second track, sidings, and electric lines are not included. Oklahoma leads, with 570 miles of new line; Texas comes second, with 496 miles; Arkansas is third, with 371 miles, and Indian Territory fourth, with 363 miles.