LONDON A CITY OF CALAMITY

Terrible Disasters in 1881, 1883, 1898 and Now That of 1907.

TALES OF THE DISASTER.

Miss Ethel Earle, one of the girls who was caught in the falling ruin of floors and walls in the terrible disaster at London on Tuesday of last week, but who was extricated, is one of the patients in the hospital. In conversation with a reporter she described her experience.

DEATH OF CLARA MULLIN.

"I was standing near the centre of the Brewster store with Libbie Smith and May Hardingham, when, without any warning at all, there was a splitting crash and a roar that sounded like an explosion, and the walls of the building seemed to be sliding westward. I remember crying out, 'Libbie, we will never get out of this alive.' I took about two steps and was then hemmed in by the ruin. Libbie ran to me and we placed our arms around one another, and the debris seemed to surround us in a minute. It was the most frightful experience I ever went through, and I tell you that the ordinary person has no idea of how it feels to be caught in a trap like that. One reads of a tragedy like the San Francisco earthquake, but cannot begin to realize it, unless they have an experience like mine. Poor Clara Mullin was standing near us, and after the walls had fallen I could hear her moaning where she lay. She must have been in great pain, for we heard her sobbing and crying, and yet we could not move to do anything to assist her. Not long after her moans ceased, and instinctively we knew that the poor girl was dead.

"We were hemmed in on all sides. We lay in perfect darkness. We might have been five or fifty feet under headheavy walls, bricks and beams for all we knew, for we could hear nothing. It seemed like eternity before help came. I wonder my hair is not grey."

Miss Libbie Smith, who is a stenographer, was injured internally, but she worked with the instinct of one to whom life is dear and death is not far distant, to retain her senses after the crash.

ESCAPED SUFFOCATION.

"If it had not been for the fact that my right arm was free and uninjured, I would, undoubtedly, have choked and suffocated after the accident," she said. "[illegible] without a moment's warning, [illegible] Earle and I were not far apart [illegible] it seemed to me that the whole building shivered. Then there was a deafening roar and clatter and the building seemed to crumple up. It was a most terrifying moment. The next thing I knew I was swept off my feet and was caught fast in a mass of debris. A dense, choking dust rose from around me and a stream of dust and what seemed like ashes began to rain down around from the ruins above. In a short time this filled my ears and got through my hair. I got my right arm free and I warded off the stuff as it trickled down from entering my mouth and nostrils. Otherwise I should have been suffocated."

PRAYED TO DIE.

"While my plight seemed most desperate, I shall never forget one terrible part of it. Where I lay I could hear the moans of Frank Smith, manager of the store, who was afterwards taken out dead. The poor fellow was not more than half a dozen feet away, it seemed, and I heard him moan and cry as I never before heard anyone. He prayed repeatedly that he might die and have his terrible sufferings ended. I heard him gasp finally, 'O, my God, let me die.' It seemed more like a prayer of resignation than anything else, although I knew that his injuries must have been terrible from the agony in his voice. I heard no more from him, and he must have died soon after.

IN A TRAP.

"No words can begin to picture the horror of this time. To be alive, yet hemmed in by solid substances that seemed as if no human force could ever move them, sends the blood to the heart in a sickening feeling of fear. One would do anything, I think, in a time like that, to save his life, but when is added to that the cries of others badly hurt, it is terrible.

"I wonder my hair is not grey. It is difficult for me here in this cool place, surrounded with attentive doctors and kind, cheery nurses, to realize that I am not still in the wreck. If I go to sleep I awake with a start and a cry. In my fancy the walls have just fallen again."

FULL INVESTIGATION DEMANDED.

By common consent it is admitted that there must be a thorough investigation into the cause of the disaster and the responsible parties brought to book. What was the immediate cause of the collapse is still a matter of surmise, and the ultimate verdict must be based upon the expert testimony which will be adduced at the inquest. At first the supposition was that the inner portion of the Crystal Hall gave way, carrying with it the outer portion, which crashed into and demolished the Brewster store. Another theory is now advanced that it was the outer portion of the building fronting on the alley which first gave way, and this opinion is firmly held by City Engineer Graydon. Six windows were being inserted in the wall facing the alley, and the suggestion is made that the supports were altogether inadequate. This, however, is a point which will have to be cleared up at the inquest, and although in certain quarters blame is being attached to certain individuals, the bulk of the citizens are wisely withholding their censure until they have obtained proper grounds upon which to base their verdict.

PREVIOUS DISASTERS IN LONDON.

London, Ontario, seems to be a city of terrible tragedies.

It is only a little over nine years ago since the collapse of a platform at the city hall killed 23 people and injured over one hundred others. A meeting in celebration of a municipal election was in progress, without the slightest warning, the platform and the floor of the hall gave way, precipitating about 150 persons to the floor below. Near the platform stood a large iron safe, which, going down with the floor, added its terrible crushing weight to the falling timbers, and pinned fast the unfortunate victims, who might otherwise have had a chance of escaping. The cave-in occurred immediately over the City Engineer's office, and more than 200 people were precipitated into the funnel-shaped death trap, with the safe and a heavy steam coil falling on top of them. Groans from the dying and agonizing cries from the injured, mingled in an appalling and never to be forgotten chorus. Numerous thrilling escapes were recorded.

FLOOD CLAIMED 22.

It was the flood that caused the historic disaster preceding that. On May 10 and 11, 1883, the Thames overflowed its banks, and twenty-two people were drowned. They were chiefly residents of the west of London.

WHOLE FAMILIES WIPED OUT.

But the greatest tragedy of all — a tragedy which it is hoped will never be duplicated—occurred in 1881. It happened in the midst of merriment and thoughtless mirth of the celebration of the Queen's Birthday, May 24. Five hundred excursionists were returning on a steamer "Victoria" on the River Thames. Carrying a load far in excess of her capacity, the steamer collapsed and 187 of the excursionists were drowned in shallow water. Struggling women and helpless children went to watery graves, and whole families were wiped out in that brief but agonizing catastrophe.

UNDER TERRIBLE SHADOW.

And now comes the great calamity of 1907 with its toll of victims again well up in double figures. No sooner is one tragedy almost forgotten than another occurs. Truly the shadow of calamity seems to perpetually haunt this otherwise beautiful Canadian city.

WIFE'S PATIENCE GONE.

Pours Gasoline on Erring Husband and Lights It.

A despatch from Vancouver says: R. Hebblethwaite, a character well known about town and figuring frequently in the Police Court, was arrested on a charge of drunkenness and failure to provide for his wife and children, and is in the hospital brooding on a foretaste of fiery torment. He came home drunk, and, failing to get into the house, went to sleep in the back yard. His wife heard him, went out and read him a lecture, which he never heard. Becoming incensed at his failure to answer, she poured a can of gasoline over him, set fire to his clothes and left him. Hebblethwaite, waking speedily, ran yelling about the yard until neighbors in night clothes appeared with blankets and smothered the flames. He was badly burned and was removed to the hospital, where he will be confined for some time, but will probably recover. Meantime the wife lays another charge of drunkenness, and when he is able to leave the hospital he must go to jail. The Attorney-General's department was notified of the wife's action, but refused to prosecute unless he makes complaint.

ADRIFT ALL NIGHT.

Four Port Ryerse Girls Went Out in a Punt.

A despatch from Simcoe says: Four young girls, Misses Winter, Stickney, Hoyck and her sister, residing near Port Ryerse, went out for a boat ride on Saturday about 5 o'clock in a hunter's punt, with only a pole to guide the punt. The land breeze drove them over to Long Point. Their absence was not noticed until nearly dark, when word was sent to Port Dover, and a general search was organized by the fishing tugs of that place. The search was unsuccessful until about 12 o'clock noon on Sunday, when the young ladies were found near the cottages at Long Point. They were none the worse for their night's experience, except greatly fatigued. They were brought to Port Dover by the tug Angler, and driven to their homes at Port Ryerse.

Spain and Switzerland have signed a treaty of arbitration.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, July 23.—Ontario Wheat — Dull; No. 2 white, 88½c to 89½c.

Manitoba Wheat—No. 1 hard, nominal; No. 1 northern, 98c; No. 2 northern, 95½c.

Corn—Continues normal; No. 2 yellow, 61½c to 62c.

Barley—Nominal.

Oats—Ontario—No. 2 white, 44½c to 45c, outside. Manitoba—No. 2 white, 45½c to 46c, on track at elevator.

Peas—Nominal.

Rye—Nominal.

Flour—Ontario—90 per cent. patents, $3.45 bid, $3.50 asked; Manitoba first patents, $4.75 to $5; seconds, $4.40 to $4.50; strong bakers', $4.20 to $4.30.

Bran—$17 to $17.50, outside; shorts, about $20 outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—Creameries are quiet, but dairies are in good demand.

Creamery prints	21c to 22c
do solids	19c to 20c
Dairy prints	18c to 19c
do solids	17c to-00c

Cheese—12c to 12¼c for large and 12½c for twins, in job lots here.

Eggs—Prices are firm at 17½c to 18c.

Beans—$1.65 to $1.70 for hand-picked and $1.50 to $1.55 for primes.

Potatoes—Dull. Delawares, 90c to $1, in car lots on track here.

Baled Hay—$14 to $15 for No. 1 timothy; No. 2, $12.50.

Baled Straw—$7 to $7.25 per ton, in car lots on track here.

PROVISIONS.

Dressed Hogs—$9.25 for lightweights and $8.75 to $9 for heavies.

Pork—Short cut, $22.75 to $23 per barrel, mess, $21 to $21.50.

Smoked and Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, 11c to 11½c for tons and cases; hams, medium and light, 15½c to 16c; heavy, 14½c to 15c; backs, 16½c to 17c; shoulders, 10¾c to 11c; rolls, 11½c; out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

Lard—Steady; tierces, 12c; tubs, 12¼c; pails, 12½c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, July 23.—Oats remain firm, with small demand. Sales of Manitoba No 2 white were made at 49c to 49½c; Ontario No. 2, at 48½c to 49c; No. 3, at 47½c to 48c, and No. 4 at 46½c to 47c per bushel, ex-store.

Flour—Choice spring wheat patents, $5.10 to $5.20; seconds, $4.50 to $4.60; winter wheat patents, $4.85; straight rollers, $4.10 to $4.25; do., in bags, $1.90 to $2; extras, $1.60.

Millfeed—Manitoba bran, in bags, $19; shorts, $23; Ontario bran, in bags, $18.50 to $19; shorts, $22 to $23; milled mouille, $24 to $28 per ton, and straight grain, $30 to $32.

Rolled Oats—The demand for rolled oats is limited at $2.25 per bag; cornmeal is unchanged at $1.45 to $1.50.

Hay—No. 1, $16 to $16.50; No. 2, $15 to $15.50; clover, $13.50 to $14, and clover, mixed, $12.50 to $13 per ton in car lots.

Butter—Townships, 20½c to 20¾c; Quebec, 20c to 20¼c; Ontario, 19¾c; dairy, 17½c to 17¾c.

Cheese—Ontario, white, 11¼c; colored, 11½c to 11⅝c; eastern, 10¾c to 10⅞c.

Eggs—No. 1 candled, at 17c; No. 2 candled, at 14c, and No. 2 straight, at 12½c per dozen.

Provisions—Barrels short cut mess, $22 to $22.50; half barrels, $11.25 to $11.75, clear fat back, $23.50 to $24.50; long cut heavy mess, $20.50 to $21.50; half-barrels do., $1075 to $11.50; dry salted long clear bacon, 10½ to 11½c; barrels, plate beef, $14 to $16; half barrels do., $7.50 to $8.25; barrels heavy mess beef, $10; half barrels do., 5.50; compound lard, 10¼c to 10¾c; pure lard, 12¼c to 12¾c; kettle rendered, 13c to 13½c; hams, 14c to 16c, according to size; breakfast bacon, 14½c to 15c; Windsor bacon, 15½c to 16c; fresh killed abattoir dressed hogs, $9.75 to $10; alive, $7.25 to $7.40.

BUFFALO MARKET.

Buffalo, July 23. — Flour — Steady. Wheat—Spring, easy; No. 1 Northern, $1.03¾; Winter, quiet. Corn—Little demand; No. 2 yellow, 58¾c; No. 2, white, 57½c. Oats—Steady; No. 2 white, 49½c; No. 2 mixed, 46c. Barley—Little doing. Rye—Chicago cash, 86c.

NEW YORK WHEAT MARKET.

New York, July 23.—Wheat—Spot firm; No. 2 red, 97c elevator; No. 2 red, 89¾c f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 northern Duluth, $1.11 f.o.b. afloat; No. 2 hard winter, 100⅝ f.o.b. afloat.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, July 23.—Buyers complained about the poor quality of many of the butchers' cattle brought forward. Choice cattle kept up well in values, the range being from $5 to $5.25 per cwt. Medium and fair butchers' cattle brought $4.25 to $4.75 per cwt. A steady trade obtained in choice cows at $3.75 to $4.25 per cwt., but common and rough cows were a little hard to sell at $2.25 to $3. Butchers' bulls were quoted at $3.50 to $4.25 per cwt.

Choice stockers were worth $3.50 to $3.75, and common from $2.50 to $3 per cwt. Feeders were saleable at $4.40 to $4.80 per cwt.

Milch cows continued to sell at $35 to $55 each for choice, and $25 to $30 for common.

Veal calves were quoted at 3 to 6 cents per pound.

Ewes were worth 4.50 to $4.75 per cwt., and bucks and culls sold at $3.50 to $4 per cwt. The prices of lambs ranged from $8 to $8.40 per cwt.

Select hogs sold at $6.90, and lights and fats at $6.95 per cwt.

CRIPPLE PLUNGED TO DEATH

"Tell My Friends That I Have Gone to Glory."

A despatch from Niagara Falls, N.Y., says: People who had on Thursday evening gathered in Prospect Park and in Victoria Park, were startled at 7.40 o'clock to see the body of a man come dancing down the rapids of the American channel and plunge over the American Falls. As the man came sweeping along with the currents and waves it looked as though he was waving farewell to those on shore, but it is likely that the waves gave the motion they felt was a human effort to say fareewell.

This latest suicide is known to have entered the bridge between the mainland and Green Island from the island end. He walked out to the second bay on a crutch and a cane, and there he climbed over the wall of the bridge and dropped into the rapids. He left his crutch and cane behind, also a note which reads: "Tell my friends that I have gone to glory." This note as well as the crutch, bears the initials "J.D.," and no doubt they will be a great help in identifying the man. Inquiry at the hotels does not reveal that any of the guests are missing, nor do any of them report having a guest who was lame.

The body made the awful plunge over the brink about 20 feet out from Prospect Point, and when it was announced in the park that a human being was plunging down the rapids toward the Falls there was a hurrying of many to the point to witness the terrible plunge to eternity. The rush was impulsive on the part of some, and many were saddened by the sight. Superintendent Perry has the articles left behind.

STATESMAN STOLE $500,000.

Signor Nasi, Former Minister, Arrested by Order of Italian Senate.

A despatch from Rome says: General surprise has been caused here by the arrest of Signor Nasi, ex-Minister of Public Instruction, who is charged with having embezzled $500,000 from the State treasury. His secretary was also arrested. Signor Nasi protested through counsel that his arrest was illegal. The arrests were made at the direction of the Senate, before which the ex-Minister will be tried. He recently took his seat as a member of the Chamber of Deputies.

JUMPED TO DEATH.

Chicago Stenographer Leaped From Fifteenth Floor to Pavement.

A despatch from Chicago says: While talking to friends on the fifteenth floor of the Masonic Temple, on Thursday, Miss Anna Normoyle, a stenographer, deliberately walked to an open court window and without a word of warning threw herself to the stone pavement of the rotunda, 250 feet below. The girl was mutilated almost beyond recognition. No cause is known for the suicide.

CHILD IMPALED ON HAYFORK.

Terrible Accident to a Four-year-old Daughter of Southwold Farmer.

A despatch from St. Thomas says: The four-year-old daughter of James Jones, of Southwold, was terribly injured on Saturday. The child was caught in the hooks of a hayfork. One of the prongs, after entering the back, passed completely through the body. The child is in a critical condition.

Mr. C. E. Dewey has been appointed Assistant General Freight Agent of the G. T. R.

Wolves have destroyed a number of horses, valued at 25,000, in the Dunvegan and Fort St. John districts in

SHOT HIS WIFE DEAD.

North Ontario County Farmer Used Gun With Awful Effect.

A despatch from Sunderland, Ont., says: Adam Lodwick, of Vallentyne, about 4½ miles west of this place, shot and killed his wife at an early hour on Saturday morning. It seems Lodwick had been in a low state of health during the last few months, and while his wife was in bed with a four-weeks-old infant in her arms, he procured a shot gun and placed the muzzle almost close to his wife's face and literally blew off the top of her head. Strange to say, the baby was not injured. T. H. Glendinning, J.P., and County Constable Davidson, of Sunderland, were telephoned for, and on arriving found Lodwick in an unconscious condition, seated in an armchair. Dr. Blanchard was sent for, and after a few hours Lodwick recovered sufficiently to acknowledge taking the entire contents of a bottle, which the doctor found to be a preparation he had left for the man for his nerves, with which he had been troubled. Deceased was a daughter of Mr. Philip St. John, a highly-respected farmer of Vallentyne, and leaves a family of five to mourn her terrible death.

DASHED BABE TO DEATH.

Terrible Crime of a Drunken Negro in New York.

A despatch from New York says: In a frenzy, John Hester, a negro who had been drinking, seized the year-and-a-half-old son of Mrs. Samuel Fischer, at Long Branch, N. J., on Wednesday, and swinging him high above his head dashed the child upon the pavement. The baby may die. The Fischer child, who was only able to toddle about, was playing in front of his home when an organ grinder came along. The baby's attempts to dance to the music caught the negro's eye. Hester caught him up and began to whirl around with the boy in his arms. Alarmed, Mrs. Fischer called to him to put the baby down, whereupon he hurled him wrathfully to the stone pavement and ran. The negro was caught.

Nearly two thousand ore dockmen are on strike at Duluth, Superior, and other Lake Superior harbors.

Five persons died in New York yesterday from the extreme heat.

At Utica, N.Y., Charles Stucka fell seven storeys and was instantly killed, and struck a pedestrian who may also die.

TRAINS COLLIDE, MANY PERISH

Thirty Persons Killed on the Pere Marquette Railroad.

A despatch from Salem, Michigan, says: Thirty persons are known to be dead and sixty are injured as the result of a wreck on the Pere Marquette Railroad, near this place, shortly before 10 o'clock on Saturday morning. A special train of eleven coaches left Ionia with between 800 and 1,000 of the employes of the Pere Marquette for the annual excursion to Detroit, and about half-way between here and Plymouth the special train had a head-on collision with a west-bound freight train.

The passenger train had been given the right-of-way, but because of some blunder on the part of the crew of the freight train it kept on instead of waiting at Plymouth, which is the despatching headquarters for this division, to let the passenger pass.

The passenger train was just rounding the curve at Washbourne Crossing, when it sighted the freight train. Both engineers apparently saw their danger at the same moment, shut off steam and applied the brakes. With the passenger train travelling at 45 miles an hour the crash was terrific.

Above it rose the screams of panic-stricken pasengers, who had been pitched into the middle of the cars, nearly all of them more or less injured and crazed with fright. There was a stampede, the terror-stricken people fighting to get out of the doors and windows, while from the pile of wreckage came the cries of those who were pinned down by the weight, suffering agonies from broken bones and mangled flesh and with no hope of being extricated until a wrecking train arrived from Detroit.

The fear that the pile of wreckage, in which many persons both dead and alive were buried might catch fire, nerved the survivors to the work of rescue, a work in which they were assisted by the farmers in the vicinity. With their bare hands or with improvised tools they set to work to raise the heavy timbers, under which human beings were lying, and one after another was released until when the wrecking train arrived nearly 20 bodies had been extricated, besides several wounded people. The dead were nearly all crushed beyond recognition, and their clothing was literally torn off them.