QUEBEC BRIDGE DISASTER

Report of the Royal Commission Investigating It.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The report of the Royal Commission, appointed to investigate the collapse of the Quebec bridge, has been presented to the Minister of Railways. The findings of the commission clearly show that the collapse was due not to any defect in material or construction, but to basic defect in the design. The general details of construction were worked out with the greatest care and thoroughness, but in proceeding on the general formulae now adopted as standards for bridge construction, the designers in the mass of detail seem to have lost sight of one great basic point, namely, the making of proper provision for the maximum strain on the great central span across the river. In an undertaking greater than ever before attempted in bridge construction it appears that the engineers failed to recognize that the usual working formulae as to weight and strain were not applicable without considerable modification in the present instance. The design was a beautiful one, and the details of construction were worked out with the finest care, according to the best principles of modern bridge-building, but the weight of the great middle span was too great for the supporting members, hence the collapse. No flaw was found in any of the material supplied by the Phoenix Company.

That, in brief, is the conclusion at which the commission has arrived. For the design the chief engineer of the Phoenix Bridge Company was primarily responsible, his design being afterwards approved by Mr. Cooper, consulting engineer of the Quebec Bridge Company, being recognized as authorities on this continent in the matter of bridge construction. After both had passed on the design it was approved by the Government. In carrying out the design, when once approved, the commission, it is said, found no carelessness or any reason for criticism.

That the defects of the present design can be remedied and the bridge finally constructed is now the opinion of the engineers.

The commission, of course, makes no judicial finding as to the responsibility of the Government or of the Phoenix Bridge Company for the collapse beyond the statements outlined above. Responsibility for the financial loss involved, etc., will have to be settled later.

WINNIPEG BANK HELD UP.

Three Desperadoes Ordered Employes to Hold Up Their Hands.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Saturday night this city was the scene of a sensational attempt at bank robbery, which recalls the days of Jesse James and which indicates that the bad gang which has been operating in the Dakotas for some time past have probably crossed the border. A number of branch banks remain open on Saturday evenings to accept deposits on savings bank accounts, and this gave the desperadoes an opportunity that would be impossible in regular banking hours.

It was shortly after 8 p.m. when C. E. Rae and F. W. Sussex, cashier and manager of the little suburban branch of the Union Bank on the corner of Nena and Logan streets, close to the C. P. R. stockyards, were startled by the entry of two men, armed with automatic revolvers, who ordered them to throw up their hands. Rae promptly ducked under the counter, but Managare Sussex could not get out of sight so easily, and the bandits fired point-blank at him, one bullet going through his left arm. He then got under the counter also, and the robbers were evidently afraid to follow for fear of being shot by the concealed men, who they fortunately did not know were unarmed. They contented themselves with shooting at both of the men, and with a man confederate, who stood guard outside, made good their escape. Eight bullets were found afterwards in the walls and fixtures. The police were promptly notified by telephone, but, owing to the distance from the station, it was nearly half an hour before the detectives reached the scene. They followed the tracks of the bandits in the fresh snow away out into the C. P. R. yards, where the trail was finally lost in a labyrinth of tracks.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange has been practically closed as a result of the new act of the Manitoba Legislature.

JUDGE KILLAM IS DEAD.

Head of the Railway Commission Dies at Ottawa.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Canada sustained a national loss by the death on Sunday of Judge Killam, chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners. His untimely demise was entirely unexpected. The late chief commissioner left Winnipeg with great reluctance over three years ago, but he amply demonstrated the wisdom of the Government's choice. He still maintained his home in Winnipeg and made frequent visits there, while from time to time Mrs. Killam visited Ottawa. She came here two weeks ago, when the Judge and Mrs. Killam took up their quarters at the new Russell. Three or four days after Mrs. Killam's arrival the judge had to lay up with a cold. On Thursday pneumonia set in, and about 9 on Sunday morning the chief commissioner passed away. Mrs. Killam was with her husband to the last. Profound regret is felt in the city at the death of the chief commissioner. In connection with the reorganization of the Railway Commission, the Government had counted upon him to carry out the task, and none could have done it better by reason of his knowledge of the law and of railway affairs. It will be difficult to replace him.

BAD ITALIANS FINED.

Recorder Weir, of Montreal, Threatened With Death.

A despatch from Montreal says: Recorder Weir sentenced six Italians who were found with concealed weapons on Thursday. The sentences ran from $25 or one month at hard labor to $50 or one month. Each one will have to furnish two reliable securities of $250 each that he will keep the peace for one year. After the sentence was imposd on he Italians a number of them met and threatened to kill Recorder Weir. Their party was broken up, and the police are seeking the men who made the threats against the Recorder.

SUSTAIN LIFE ON WEAK TEA

Hardships of Seamstresses in London Workshops.

The New York Herald has received the following cable despatch from London:— In on interview on Wednesday Mr. J. J. Mallon, Secretary of the National Anti-sweating League, cited a number of instances of sweating which had recently come to his notice. Appalling cases, he says, are continually occurring in factories and in homes particularly in the cheap laboring trade.

A terrible story has just been told to a Coroner in the East End. A trousers finisher created a sensation in court by saying that she got two pence (four cents) a pair. She had often worked until 4 o'clock in the morning to get a crust of bread. She had to fetch her work and take it back again.

An officer of the Anti-sweating League had found that a trouser worker laboured very often from daybreak until she no longer was able to see the garment upon which she was engaged and she earned five shillings ($1.50) a week. When food was lacking she sustained herself entirely upon weak tea, which she sometimes drank to the extent of fourteen cups a day. At night her covering was the trousers which were being finished. With much plying of the needle the worker's hands had become misshapen.

Shirt making is equally as bad in some of its branches, and in Woolwich cheap shirts are made for as little as sixpence (twelve cents) a dozen. Again and again one hears of poor seamstresses who have pawned the material given them for shirt-making to get food.

"In homes in East London there are a number of comparatively small trades in respect to which there is much sweating. The brushworker for filling a thousand holes with bristles, which she has first to pack into appropriate bundles and then secure with wire, gets sixpence halfpenny (twelve and a half cents.

The bill against sweating which the league has been promoting has passed its second reading in the Commons and will probably become law this year.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, March 3.—Manitoba Wheat—No 1 northern, $1.20½; No. 2 northern, $1.17; feed wheat, 66c; No. 2 feed, 61c, lake ports.

Ontario Wheat—No. 2 white, 96c outside; No 2 red, 95c to 96c; No. 2 mixed, 95c; goose, 91c to 92c.

Corn—Firm; No. 3 yellow American, 64½c to 65c, Toronto freights; No. 3 mixed, ½c less; old corn, about 72c; none offering; inferior, 63c to 63½c.

Barley—No. 2, 71c to 73c, according to quality.

Peas—86c to 87c.

Rye—No. 2, 84c to 85c.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 67c.

Oats—No. 2 white, 52c to 53c outside, 54c on track Toronto; No. 2 mixed, 49c to 50c outside.

Flour — Manitoba patents, special brands, $6; seconds, $5.40; strong bakers', $4.30. Winter wheat patents, dull, nominal around $3.50.

Bran—Full cars, $24.50 per ton

Shorts—$24, buyers' bags.

Call board quotations:—

Rye—No. 2, a car offered at 91c outside; no bids

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Poultry:—	
Young turkeys, extra choice	13c to 15c
Young geese	9c to 11c
Young ducks	9c to 11c
Chickens, choice	9c to 11c
Old fowl	6c to 8c
Inferior chicks and fowls	5c to 7c
Butter:—	
Creamery, prints	30c to 31c
do solids	29c to 30c
Dairy prints	25c to 27c
do large rolls	24c to 25c
do solids	23c to 24c
Inferior	20c to 21c

Eggs—Storage, 21c to 22c per dozen, in case lots; limed, 19c to 20c; selects, 25c to 26c; new-laid, 28c to 29c.

Honey—Strained steady at 11c to 12c per pound for 60-pound pails and 12c to 13c for 5 to 10-pound pails. Combs at $1.75 to $2.50 per dozen.

Cheese—Steady at 13¾c for large and 14c for twins, in job lots here.

Beans—Firm; $1.70 to $1.75 for primes and $1.80 to $1.85 for hand-picked.

Potatoes—Ontario, 90c to $1; Delaware, $1.05 to $1.12 in car lots on track here. Receipts are fairly large and trade active.

Baled Straw—About $10 per ton on track here.

Baled Hay — Timothy is quoted at $16 to $17 in car lots on track here.

PROVISIONS.

Pork—Short cut, $22 to $22.50 per barrel; mess, $18 to $18.50.

Lard—Tierces, 11¾c; tubs, 12c; pails, 12¼c.

Smoked and Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, 9¾c for tons and cases; hams, medium and light, 14c to 15c; hams, large, 12½c to 13c; backs, 16c to 17c; shoulders, 14c; rolls, 10c to 10½c; breakfast bacon, 14c; green meats out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, March 3.—An active local business is being done in flour. Choice spring wheat patents, $6.10; seconds, $5.50; winter wheat patents, $5.50; straight rollers, $5 to $5.20; do., in bags, $2.35 to $2.50; extras, $1.80 to $1.90.

Manitoba bran, $22 to $23; shorts, $23 to $24; Ontario grain, shorts, $22 to $22.50; middlings, $24 to $25; shorts, $22.40 to $23 per ton, including bags; and pure grain mouille at $32 to $34.

Rolled oats, $2.75; corn, $1.60 to $1.70 per bag. The local demand for oats was better to-day, and light trading was reported at steady prices. Eastern Canada No. 2 white oats, 53c; No. 3, 49c to 49½c; No. 4, 48c to 48½c; rejected 46c to 47c, and Manitoba rejected, 49½c to 50c per bushel, ex store.

The feature of the local dairy trade is the very high prices of butter and the strong tendency towards higher prices. Grass goods are selling at 31c to 33c per pound, and current receipts at 29c to 30c per pound.

There is a very firm tone to the local cheese market. September westerns are selling at 13c for white and 13¼c for colored; September easterns, 13¼c for white and 13½c for colored.

There is no change in the local egg situation. Canadian fresh, 32c to 33c; American fresh, 30c to 31c; Canadian select, 27c to 28c; Montreal limed, 20c to 22c.

Provisions—Barrels short cut mess, $21; half barrels, $10.75; clear fat backs, $23; long cut heavy mess, $20; half barrels do., $10.50; dry salt long clear backs, 10½c; barrels plate beef, $13.50 to $15; half barrels do., $7.25 to $7.75; barrels heavy mess beef, $10 to $11; half barrels do., $5.50 to $6; compound lard, 8¼c to 9c; pure lard, 11¼c to 11¾c; kettle rendered, 11½c to 12c; hams, 12c to 13½c, according to size; breakfast bacon, 14c to 15c; Windsor bacon, 14½c to 15c; fresh-killed abattoir-dressed hogs, $8.25 to $8.50; live, $5.75 to $5.90.

BUFFALO MARKET.

Buffalo, March 3.—Wheat—Spring steady; No. 1 Northern, $1.09; No. 2 red, $1.03; winter higher. Corn — Higher; No. 2 yellow, 65½c. Oats — Higher; No. 2 mixed, 53c; No. 2 white, 57½c. Barley—95c to $1.10. Rye — No. 1, 90c.

NEW YORK WHEAT MARKET.

New York, March 3.—Spot easy; No. 2 red, $1 elevator; No. 2 red, $1.01 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 northern, Duluth, $1.15½ afloat; No. 2 hard winter, $1.11½ f.o.b. afloat.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, March 3—Limited offerings of exporters' cattle were made. A load of export bulls sold at $4 to $4.25 per cwt.

The bulk of the cattle brought forward were butchers animals. Some select steers were sold around $5 per cwt., while choice loads brought from $4.50 to $4.85; medium lots sold at $4.20 to $4.50, and common at $3.50 to $4 per cwt. Butchers' cows were selling as high as $4.25 per cwt., while a lot of common cows sold as low as $2 per cwt.

There was no market in feeders and stockers.

Calves were slow of sale at 3 to 6c per pound.

Grain-fed lambs were worth $6.50 to $7 per cwt., and common lambs were quoted at $5 to $6 per cwt. Export ewes were selling at $4.25 to $4.75 per cwt.

Hogs were dull owing to the heavy deliveries. Selects were quoted at $5, and lights and fats at $4.75 per cwt.

MONTREAL'S BAD STREETS.

The Cartage Companies Threaten to Sue the City.

A despatch from Montreal says: It is very probable that actions will be taken against the city owing to the wretched condition of the streets. Mr. E. E. Belcourt, Manager of the Shedden Forwarding Company, stated on Wednesday morning that his company had put up with Montreal's bad streets for many years and that the directors were in favor of suing the city for $20,000 damages. Representatives of the Canadian Transfer and Dominion Transport Companies said that if the Shedden people took action against the city they were practically certain to follow suit.

AUTOS OFF COUNTY ROADS.

Drastic Legislation is Proposed by Dr. Clapp, M. P. P.

Anti-automobile legislation is to be one of the features of the Legislature this session. Dr. Clapp, M.P.P., will bring down a bill giving counties power to prohibit the use by automobiles of county roads during certain days of the week. In order that the measure shall be most effective, Dr. Clapp suggests that the "close season" shall include Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. The measure is the immediate result of an eight-foot-long petition on the subject from Brant township.

Mr. P. H. Bowyer also has an automobile bill before the Legislature. It provides that machines on meeting a funeral must turn down a side lane or street or the driver be penalized by a fine of $10 or $15.

CASH BOX STOLEN.

Bridgeburg Merchant Robbed by a Clever Thief.

A despatch from Bridgeburg, Ont., says: Reeve C. W. Vahey was robbed of $200 on Thursday night by a clever thief. Vahey conducts a grocery store in the village. About 7 o'clock on Thursday night a stranger entered the store and asked for a parcel he claimed to have left earlier in the day. Vahey could not find the package, and stepped to a telephone to ask his daughter about it. The stranger in the meantime slipped behind the counter and secured the cash box, containing $200, and disappeared. The robbery was not discovered until an hour later. The stranger is believed to have crossed to Buffalo.

THE ALLOWED OPIUM.

Percy Brown Sentenced at Montreal to Five Years.

A despatch from Montreal says: Percy Brown, a dangerous thief and pickpocket, was sentenced to five years in penitentiary on Thursday by Judge Choquet. Brown asked Dr. Picott, police physician, for opium, saying that he had been used to taking between fifteen and twenty grains every day, and that he might die if the supply were altogether cut off. Dr. Picott allowed him one-quarter of a grain every three or four hours.

JAP WAR TACTICS IN INDIA

Lord Kitchener's Army at Work Against the Afridi.

A despatch from London says: Lord Kitchener's little frontier war in the Bazar Valley against the Zakkakhel tribesmen is making rapid and successful progress. The purpose of the expedition is to punish the tribesmen for numerous raids into Indian Territory, and in a remarkably short campaign they have been scattered and broken, their forts have been destroyed, and many of the tribesmen have been killed.

The expedition is thought here to reflect credit upon the reorganization of the Indian army as carried out by Lord Kitchener. Tommy Atkins is profiting by the lessons learned from the Russo-Japanese war. The British troops advanced on the enemy in open order with wide intervals between them. The men took advantage of all available cover. This method of procedure surprised and disheartened the natives, who were accustomed for their sniping tactics to the targets made by the more or less compact column formation employed by previous expeditions.

The Zakka Khels have from time immemorial been the most troublesome of neighbors to the people of northern India. They have for centuries been in the habit of swooping down from their fastnesses, situated in a land that has been described as "a country on end," and "an upside down country," and robbing and murdering whenever the fancy took them. It was they who hatched the plot whereby the British posts in the Khaibar were captured in 1897. It was they who formed the kernel of the resistance to British arms during the campaign in Tirah, and remained to the end unconquered and untamed. Since that campaign there has been almost no crime which the Zakka Khel have not committed. Neither the persons nor the properties of dwellers in the lowlands have been safe from these highland caterans.

The force sent against the Zakka Khel consisted of 7,000 men under Major-General Sir James Wilcocks. So far as British troops were concerned, only three battalions were engaged, but these worthily represented England Scotland and Ireland. They were the Warwickshires, the Seaforth Highlanders and the Munster Fusiliers. In addition there were detachments from various Sikh, Gurkha and Punjab regiments, squadrons of the 37th Lancers, mountain batteries and sappers.

WINNIPEG'S MAYOR THREATENED

Mr. Ashdown's House Guarded by Detectives During a Reception.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: A sensation has been caused here by the meagre details which have leaked through official circles of an attempt by the Black Hand to extort money from Mayor Ashdown, under threat to dynamite his residence if he refused. A week ago the Mayor received an anonymous letter, which informed him that unless $1,000 was left under a black cloth on the sidewalk on Broadway in front of his residence, that night his house would be blown up. The wording of the letter indicated that it emanated from Italian plotters. The Mayor was giving a reception that evening, and his beautiful home was thronged with prominent citizens. Unknown to any of these, private detectives were at once put on guard, and the guests came and went without knowing under what anxiety their host was laboring. Late in the evening the detectives captured an Italian who was sauntering backward and forward near where the money was supposed to be deposited, but they failed to secure any incriminating evidence, although the secret service men are convinced he was implicated. He claimed he had a perfect right to walk the streets if he chose, when and where he liked. Ever since the detectives have been at work on the case, but up to the present have no clue to the actual source of the threatening letter. This has not tended to allay the anxiety of his Worship, although he professes to believe the desperate characters would not dare to carry out their threat.