LABOR TROUBLES IN MONTREAL

Six Thousand Cotton Operators Went On Strike on Monday.

A despatch from Montreal says: Labor troubles are accumulating here very rapidly. Some six thousand cotton operatives went on strike on Monday because the Dominion Textile Company and the Montreal Cotton Company have decided to reduce wages by ten per cent. The mills were only running four days a week, being idle on Fridays and Saturdays, but the management feel that in view of the conditions of trade they will have to reduce expenses still further. Cotton operatives claim that an injustice has been done them, and have decided to quit work.

Speaking for the textile workers, Mr. Wilfrid Paquette, their Secretary, said:—"We can afford to be out of work till the autumn without any great suffering. We will never accept the reduction of wages. I fail to understand the action of the employers, because four weeks ago the Montreal Cotton Company declared a dividend of eight per cent., and the Dominion Textile Company of seven per cent. It is not going to make times better for them to cut our pay. We are prepared for a long struggle."

Four hundred and fifty bricklayers went on strike here on Friday morning. They want a uniform wage of fifty cents an hour, while the Builders' Exchange will give fifty cents to first-class and thirty-five cents to second-class men.

The stonemasons contemplate following the bricklayers' example.

TWENTY PERISH IN HOTEL FIRE.

Many Guests Die in Their Rooms From Suffocation.

A despatch from Fort Wayne, Indiana, says: A fire that is believed to have originated in the elevator shaft of the Hotel Aveline at an early hour on Sunday morning, resulted in the loss of twenty lives. More than a dozen persons were injured, some of them seriously. The fire was started at 3.30, in the elevator shaft, and bell boys were sent to warn the guests. Five minutes later, the entire shaft, from the main floor to the sixth, was in flames, and when the excited guests, clad in night clothes, reached the elevator, escape by that means was impossible, and the corridors of all the floors were filled with blinding smoke. The guests were forced back to their rooms, as it was impossible to make their way through the suffocating smoke to the stairways. In an instant every floor was in a state of intense excitement, men, women and children dodging into the corridors and back into their rooms screaming and calling for help. The fire alarm called the entire department out, and it was but a few minutes before ladders were run up at all available places, and many of the guests were taken down in safety. Many, however, could not be reached, and stood with agonizing cries in the windows and on the ledges around the hotel, appealing for help.

There were about 74 guests registered in the hotel, as near as can be learned. Thirteen bodies have been recovered, and twelve are missing. It is barely possible that other lives were lost, as this number, with the injured now in the hospitals, and those known to have escaped, does not make up the full number supposed to have been in the hotel.

Guests that opened their doors at the first alarm were driven back by the flames and smoke. It is believed many died from suffocation.

VAULT WALL TUNNELED.

Unsuccessful Attempt to Rob Bank of Commerce in Winnipeg Suburb.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: A daring but unsuccessful attempt was made last Sunday night to rob the branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Weston, a suburb of Winnipeg. The fact developed on Wednesday, when a hole six inches square was tunneled through the outer wall of the vault, but the burglars did not succeed in securing entrance or getting away with any booty.

BURIED UNDER MASS OF BRICK.

Two Men Met Death in Mine in British Columbia.

A despatch from Vancouver says: News has reached here of a fatal cave-in at the mine near Phoenix. Christopher Martin, aged forty-five, and Kingsley Smith, a young Englishman, were working on the 300-foot level on Sunday afternoon, when an enormous mass of rock was dislodged, completely burying them.

ITALIAN WOMAN KILLED.

Murdered by a Servian Miner Near Lethbridge.

A despatch from Lethbridge, Alberta, says: M. Zagaly, a Servian coal miner, employed as an engineer on screenings in Galt's mine, brutally murdered Mrs. Bracedi, an Italian woman, on the road between here and the mines on Friday. He had been boarding with her and her husband, and had given her money to keep for him. When he met her on Friday he asked for it and she refused to give it to him. This so incensed Zagaly that he shot her and then cut her throat. The murdered woman's nine-year-old son was with her at the time, but escaped. The murderer then turned his revolver on himself, shooting himself three times. Nine small children are left motherless.

C. N. R. MEN ACCEPT.

Reduction of Wages in Mechanical Departments.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: The agreement between the C. N. R. and its shopmen has been signed as a result of the conference between the officials and the men. The unions took a very fair and reasonable view of the situation, and in view of the company's decline in business agreed to accept a reduction in wages averaging about two cents per hour. Some classes of labor are not affected at all by the reduction, and the status of the unions will not be interfered with. Officials are greatly pleased with the spirit shown by the men, and it is believed the result will have an important bearing on the C. P. R. negotiations.

TO STRENGTHEN CHINA'S NAVY.

Large Number of Battleships to be Purchased.

A despatch from Shanghai says: The Board of War has framed a scheme which will greatly strengthen China's navy. It proposes the formation of three new squadrons, each to consist of one battleship, two first-class, four or five second-class and five or six third-class cruisers, several gunboats, destroyers, torpedo boats, one or two submarines, and transports. It is intended to build and maintain the navy with revenue from the coast provinces.

ATTACKED BY DERVISHES.

The Governor of Blue Nile Province Wounded.

A despatch from Cairo, Egypt, says: A British subject, Scott Moncrieff, Deputy Inspector of the Blue Nile province, and a native official have been assassinated at the instance of a local sheik, who proclaimed himself prophet at Mesalamieh, about one hundred and fifty miles from Khartoum. A small punitive force, led by the Governor of the province, was attacked by a murderous band of dervishes. During the fighting the Governor was wounded, and two native officers were killed.

EXPLOSION ON A CRUISER

Two Hundred and Forty Killed on a Japanese Warship.

A despatch from Tokio says: About two hundred and forty men and officers lost their lives on Thursday morning as the result of an explosion in the stern magazine of the training cruiser Matsushima. The explosion took place while the cruiser was anchoring at Makang, a harbor on the Pescadores Islands. Immediately after the explosion the vessel sank until only her bridge was visible. There were about 355 men and fifty cadets and officers aboard the cruiser at the time of the accident. Of these about 175 were rescued by boats from the cruisers Hashaidate and Itsukushima. The majority of the officers, however, and it is believed more than half the cadets, were lost. Among the latter were the sons of Prince Oyama, Field Marshal, and of Baron China, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Captains Yashiro and Yoshimori are also thought to have been lost. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, May 5.—Manitoba Wheat—For the opening, No. 1 northern, $1.17½; No. 2, 1.13½; No. 3, $1.08½; feed wheat, 64½c; No. 2 feed, 59c; Georgian Bay ports.

Ontario Wheat—No. 2 white, 92c at point of shipment; No. 2 red, 91½c at point of shipment; No. 2 mixed, 91c; goose, 89c to 90c.

Corn—No. 2, non offering; worth about 74c to arrive; No. 3 yellow, 72c to 73c, Toronto freight; No. 3 mixed, 1c less.

Flour—Manitoba patents, special brands, $6 to $6.10; seconds, $5.40 to $5.60; strong bakers', $5.30; winter wheat patents, $3.40.

Barley—No. 2, 52c to 55c.

Peas—No. 2, 90c, outside.

Rye—Strong; No. 2, 87c to 88c outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 64½c to 65c.

Oats—No. 2 white, 46½c outside; 48c on track Toronto; No. 2 mixed, 44c.

Bran—$25 on track Toronto.

Shorts—Scarce, $24 f.o.b. mills.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Wholesale quotations are:

Eggs—New-laid, 16c to 17c.

Butter—The market tends to be weaker on larger offerings.

Creamery, prints	29c to 31c
do solids	28c to 29c
Dairy prints	25c to 26c
do large rolls	24c to 25c
do solids	23c to 24c
Inferior	20c to 21c

Potatoes—Ontario, 85c to 90c; Delaware, 95c to $1, in car lots on track here.

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

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—14c for large and 14½c for twins, in job lots here; new-make, 13c for large and 13¼c for twins.

Maple Syrup—$1 to $1.10 per gallon.

Baled Straw—$8 to $9 per ton.

Baled Hay—Timothy is quoted at $15 to $15.50 in car lots on tracks here.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 10 to 10½c per pound in case lots; mess pork, $18 to $18.50; short cut, $21 to $21.50.

Hams—Light to medium, 13 to 13½c; do., heavy, 11½ to 12c; rolls, 9¾ to 10c; shoulders, 9½c; backs, 16c; breakfast bacon, 14c.

Lard—Tierces, 11½c; tubs, 11¾c; pails, 12c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal May 5.—Local and foreign demand for spring wheat flour is fairly active and a moderate trade is passing. Choice spring wheat patents, $6.10 to $6.20; second, $5.50 to $5.70; winter wheat patents, $5.10; straight rollers, $4.50 to $4.75; do in bags, $2.15 to $2.35; extra, $1.85 to $1.90.

Bran—The market for Ontario bran is easier and several cars were offered at $23.50 per ton, including bags, which shows a decline of $1 per ton on previous sales. Manitoba bran, $23; shorts $25; Ontario bran, $23.50 to $24; middlings, $26 to $27; shorts, $24.50 to $25 per ton, including bags; pure grain mouille, $34 to $35, and milled grades, $25 to $30 per ton.

Provisions—Barrels short cut mess, $21; half barrels, $10.75; clear fat back, $22 to $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 15½c; fresh killed abattoir dressed hogs, $9.75 to $10; live, $6.50 to $6.75.

Eggs—17c per dozen for single cases and 16c for round lots.

Cheese—Old colored quoted at 12¾c to 13c and white at 12¼c to 12½c; new make is quoted at 11¼c to 11½c. Receipts to-day were 938 boxes.

Butter—New-make creamery quoted at 28c to 28½c in round lots and 28½c to 29c to grocers.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, May 5.—Wheat — Spring, steady; No. 1 Northern, $1.09½, carloads; Winter, firmer; No. 2 red, $1.03½. Corn—Strong; No. 2 yellow, 72¼c. Oats—Lower; No. 2 white, 56c; No. 2 mixed, 52c. Barley—83 to 90c. Rye—No. 1, on track, 88c.

Minneapolis, May 5.—Wheat—Cash, May, $1.05⅛; July, $1.03⅜ to $1.04½; September, 90¼c; No. 1 hard, $1.08⅞ to $1.09⅜; No. 1 Northern, $1.06⅜ to $1.07⅜; No. 2 Northern, $1.04⅞ to $1.05⅜. Flour—First patents, $5.35 to $5.50; second patents, $5.25 to $5.40; first clears, $4.10 to $4.25; second clears, $3.30 to $3.40. Bran—In bulk, $21 to $21.25.

Milwaukee, May 5.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.09 to $1.10; No. 2 Northern, $1.07½ to $1.09; July, 87⅞c asked. Rye—No. 1, 80c. Barley—No. 2, 81c; sample, 64 to 80c. Corn—No. 3, cash, 66 to 67½c; May, 67⅜c.

New York, May 5.—Wheat — Spot, steady; No. 2 red, $1.06, elevator; No. 2 red, $1.08 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 northern, Duluth, $1.15⅝, f.o.b. afloat; No. 2 hard winter, $1.12⅞ f.o.b. afloat.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, May 5.—Choice cattle were perhaps a little firmer, as there were so few offered. No exceptionally fine cattle were on the market, only a few selling at over $5.50. Some heavy export bulls brought $4.25 to $4.60. There is a better demand for good butcher cattle for the local trade than for export, and some of these sold at higher prices than were paid for exporters. Cows and bulls were unchanged from last week, cows ranging from $2.50 to $4.60; and bulls from $3 to $4.60.

A number of stockers and feeders which were bound for the east stopped off here, but were not for sale. The few loads that were offered sold at $3 to $4.50.

Consignments of calves were reduced and prices were a little firmer. The offerings of sheep and lambs were also comparatively light, which kept prices steady. Spring lambs are becoming a little more plentiful, and are slightly easier.

The hog market is steady, but rather weak, as there was a large run of hogs. The average price for selects was $6.40, fed and watered, Toronto, and $6.15 for heavies.

BLIND MAN HEADS LAW CLASS

Two Brothers Graduated First and Second at McGill and Won Scholarships.

A despatch from Montreal says: An interesting story of brotherly love and courageous work under the affliction of total blindness was unveiled at McGill University on Thursday, when two brothers, Thomas S. and William Stewart, graduated in law, coming respectively first and second in their class, and winning two out of three scholarships. Thomas S. Stewart is totally blind, through the carelessness of an oculist. Nine years ago he injured one of his eyes with a knife, and specialists declared that to save the sight of the other the bad eye must be removed. Mr. Stewart underwent the operation, but by some extraordinary piece of carelessness the operator took out the good eye, with the result that when the patient came out of the ether he was completely blind. Undismayed by this, he undertook to pursue his studies in law at McGill, and ever since then his brother has devoted himself to him, making his studies with him and accompanying him to college sports and through all the phases of university life—practically making himself a seeing medium for his blind brother. As a result of this unusual devotion the blind Stewart came out at the head of his class, while his brother came second, and each won the Sir William Macdonald scholarship, which entitles them to a year's residence in Paris to perfect themselves in the French language and study law at the Montpelier Law School. Dean Walton paid a warm eulogium to the two brothers in conferring the degree, and the two were heartily cheered by the audience as they came forward.

BLOWING OUT FURNACES.

Steel Plant at the Soo to Shut Down Entirely.

A despatch from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., says: The Algoma Steel Company on Saturday followed the recent shutdown of the rail mill by blowing out blast furnace No. 1. No. 2 will blow out this week. This will leave every branch of the steel industry here idle, thus shutting 1,500 men out of employment. The company in a statement says that owing to financial troubles the Canadian railroads refuse to place orders for rails. No promises are made as to when the plant will resume, although it is said the company hopes to resume in June. This is the first shutdown since the resumption after the collapse of Clergue's old Consolidated Lake Superior Company. The plant is the second largest in Canada.

BOY SHOOTS LITTLE SISTER.

Was Playing With Gun When Weapon Was Discharged.

A despatch from Sackville, N. B., says: News has come here of a tragedy at Upper Rockport on Wednesday afternoon whereby the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tower had the top of her head blown off through the discharge of a gun in the hands of her six-year-old brother. It is understood that in the absence of the parents the boy took the gun from its place and in some way discharged it.

INDOMITABLE SWIFTEST VESSEL.

New Turbine Cruiser Made Twenty-eight Knots.

A despatch from Glasgow says: It is unofficially reported that the new cruiser Indomitable, which is now undergoing her speed trials, has beaten all records, making 28 knots over a measured mile on the Clyde, and 26¼ knots in the continuous steaming trial. The Indomitable is fitted with turbines, and her contract speed is only 25 knots. She is of 17,250 tons displacement, and 530 feet in length. She was launched on March 16 last.

$73,000 STOLEN FROM TRAIN.

Wells-Fargo Express Car Robbed Near Torreon, Mexico.

A despatch from City of Mexico says: Advices from Torren say that when the northbound passenger train on the Mexican Railroad reached that place on Friday it was found that a Wells-Fargo express package containing $73,000 was missing from the express car. There is no clue to the robbery and so far as known no arrest has been made.

IMPORTS FALLING OFF.

Dominion Customs Returns for the Month Show Decrease.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The customs revenue of the Dominion for the month of April was $3,449,947, a decrease of $1,018,446, as compared with April of last year, due to the continued decrease in imports, consequent upon the caution now being exercised by wholesale merchants and others in the matter of purchases abroad during the period of depression.

ANOTHER SLIDE OF RIVER BANK.

Further Damage at Quebec Village is Feared.

A despatch from Notre Dame de la Salette, Que., says: Another landslide occurred here on Thursday night, when about 20 feet of the west bank slid into the river. It is feared that if the rain does not cease the whole of the western bank within a distance of 100 feet will slide into the river. No more bodies have been reclaimed, and it is now feared that they will not be.

Martin Price was sentenced at Guelph to fifteen years in penitentiary for burglary.

THE CHILD WAS SACRIFICED

Uncle Killed Her Because He Had a Command From Heaven to Do So.

A despatch from Easton, Penn., says: A coroner's jury at Nazareth, near here, late on Wednesday returned a verdict charging Robert Bachman with the murder of Irene May Smith, his seven-year-old niece, who, it is alleged, was offered as a sacrifice by her parents and uncle, members of a fanatical religious sect. The mother, who had been arrested in connection with the child's death, was released from custody. The father remains in jail.

Bachman insists that the child was possessed of the devil and that he killed her by command from heaven. He maintains that he did no wrong and that God will protect him. He cries out from his cell that he is to be crucified, and pleads with the jailer to hurry the execution that he may appear before the throne of God, Who sent him to earth to perform a great mission for the salvation of mankind. Smith is in a pitiable condition both mentally and physically. On Wednesday he was seized with several fits and rolled from his cot to the floor, where he tossed about, shouting and praying. He appears to know little or nothing of the killing of his daughter, and when the subject is broached to him he insists that nothing wrong has happened and that his brother-in-law was directed by the holy spirit.

Mrs. Smith, on the other hand, is rational and realizes the awful gravity of the situation. She is heart-broken and wails piteously over the tragic fate of her child. She declares the religion she and her husband adopted is a myth, and that they were not acting by direction of God. She never had much faith in the teachings of the sect, but joined them in order to keep peace in the family. Her husband, she says, was good and kind to her, but when she objected to the new religion he would become furious. When she went to Nazareth last Saturday to attend the meeting that ended in the murder of her daughter she says she had no idea of the intentions of the party to kill her child.