FOUR BURNED TO DEATH

Fire From Unknown Cause Destroys House and Its Contents.

A despatch from Brantford says: gedies ever recorded in this vicin-gedies ever recorded in this vi inity was enacted near the village of Lynden on Saturday morning, when the home of Philip Vansickle, a retired prosperous farmer, was destroyed by the devourig element. The disaster was complete, not only dealing destruction to the house, but claiming every one of the four inmates, including the father, son, daughter, and son-in-law. Nothing remains of the once substantial homestead and well-known family but ruined walls and charred bodies.

The Dead.—Philip Vansickle, aged eighty years, retired framer; Martin Vansickle, aged twenty-three years, his son; Harry Vansickle, aged thirty years, son-in-law; Melitta Vansickle, aged forty years, daughter.

The origin of the fire, which was at first a mystery, has been traced to the stove in the front hall. The supposition is that the glowing coals from it fell on the floor, setting fire to the oil cloth and kindling a blaze, which either suffocated the inmates in their sleep or cut off the means of exit when they endeavored to escape from the building when it became a mass of flames. Thus far, however, all theories are based on supposition.

But one fortunate circumstance stands out against the dark background. Mrs. Harry Vansickle, with her three children, all of whom resided at the destroyed homestead, were absent at the time of the disaster, being at Trinity, where Mrs. Vansickle was visiting her husband's father, Wesley Vensickle. They returned last night terribly affected.

THE GOVERNMENT MAY HELP

Fund to Assist Railways and Municipalities to Do Away With Grade Crossings.

A despatch from Ottawa says: In connection with the proposed investigation of the Railway Commission into the question of level crossings with a view to evolving a general line of policy to afford greater protection to the public in all parts of Canada, the commission have recommended to the Government the adoption of a system analogous to that in force in some of the States across the border. This system, recognizing that the expense of eliminating all the dangerous level crossings is more than the railways can be expected or made to bear alone, provides for a central Governmental fund to be applied to the gradual improvement of existing conditions. It is suggested by the board that the Provincial and Federal Governments, which chartered the railways should out of the public revenues assist the railways and the municipalities to jointly bear the expense of protecting or eliminating entirely the level crossings. The whole question is now under consideration by the Minister of Railways, but pending the further report of the commission as to the result of the investigation now proposed, it is unlikely that any definite decision will be reached and embodied in legislation.

THREE GREAT ELEVATORS.

To be Erected During Present Year at Fort William.

A despatch from Fort William says: Pile-driving on the foundation of the Thunder Bay elevator, situated a short distance from the Atikokan Iron Works, commenced on Tuesday, and a large force of men is already engaged on the work, it being the intention of the contractors, Messrs. Barnett & McQueen, to rush the work to completion at the earliest possible time. The site of the elevator is 1,000 feet from the shore line, though the water is nowhere more than two feet in depth. With the commencement of the Western Elevator Company's building in West Fort William and the work already going on on the Grand Trunk Pacific elevator this makes three large elevators which will be erected in the two cities during this year.

265 KILLED, 716 INJURED.

Victims of Locomotive Explosions in Fve Years.

A despatch from Washington says: In response to a Senate resolution, Chairman Knapp, of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, has forwarded to that body a table showing the number of employes and passengers injured during the years 1903 to 1908, inclusive, from locomotive boiler explosions, to be 265 killed and 716 injured.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

M. C. C. James and Prof. Zavitz Speak at Cobourg.

A despatch from Cobourg says: Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Prof. Zavitz, addressed the Counties Council on Wednesday. Mr. James gave an able address, showing the advantage of teaching agriculture in the high schools. The School Board, members of the Collegiate Institute and public school staffs, the Board of Trade, and others were present. Prof. Zavitz dwelt upon the advantages to be derived from reforestry. Northumberland county has 8,000 and Durham 7,000 acres of waste lands suitable for this. He showed how some foreign countries were deriving large revenue from lands reforested some years ago. A committee was appointed by the Counties Council, whose duty it will be to further the interests of agriculture in this district.

NEXT GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Opinion in Britain that it will be Mr. John Sinclair.

A despatch from London says: The Daily Mail declares definitely that Mr. John Sinclair's elevation to the Peerage is merely preliminary to his appointment as Governor-General of Canada. This appears to be the general opinion in Liberal circles.

STEAMER FLORIDA LIBELLED

Seized at New York for Sinking the Steamer Republic.

A despatch from New York says: Counsel for the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company, owners of the White Star Line steamer Republic, on Friday filed a libel in the United States District Court against the steamer Florida of the Lloyd-Italiano Line, which ran down and sunk the Republic off Nantucket lightship. Damages amounting to $1,500,000 for the loss of the ship and $500,000 for the loss of cargo and effects of the passengers and crew were claimed. It is asserted in the libel that the collision was due to no fault on the part of Captain Sealby of the Republic, but wholly to the fault of the Florida, which, it is alleged, did not keep a proper course, had no sufficient lookout, did not give proper whistles nor pay heed to the whistles of the Republic. It is alleged further, that the Florida failed to indicate her changes of helm, that she was proceeding at an immoderate speed and did not stop or back her engines.

The Lloyd-Italiano Societa di Navigatione, owners of the steamship Florida, also filed in the United States District Court a libel and petition for a limitation of liability against the Florida, her freight and passage money. The papers state that the collision was caused solely by the fault and neglect on the part of the Republic. The petitioners say that the damage value of the Florida now does not exceed $224,000, and ask the court to fix the liability at not more than that amount.

After the filing of the papers in the proceedings United States Marshal Henkel seized the Italian vessel under a writ of attachment.

CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

Telegraphic Briefs From Our Own and Other Countries of Recent Events.

CANADA.

Mr. G. F. Rice, jeweller, dropped dead at Orillia, on Tuesday.

Hamilton Council refused to pass the license reduction by-law.

The C. N. R. is asking Provincial aid towards extension in New Ontario.

The opening of the Quebec Provincial Legislature has been fixed for March 2.

The civil servants of the Province of Quebec are preparing for an increase in pay.

Toronto military messes, in view of the London conviction, may apply for club liquor licenses.

The late Mr. A. W. Hooper left fifty thousand dollars to the Montreal General Hospital.

Several Ancaster people have been bitten by a dog which, it is feared, is affected with rabies.

Wm. Seay was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment for attempting to kill his wife, in Toronto.

The western Premiers have replied to the grain-growers, finally deciding not to go into the elevator business.

Stove moulders at Hamilton' are said to have refused to accept a reduction in wages, and a strike is spoken of.

Father Forner was lost on the prairie in Saskatchewan, and drove two days in the storm before obtaining shelter.

The Ontario Government officials are surveying the townsite of Gowganda, which will be withdrawn from the forest reserve.

Emerson, Man., was visited by a destructive fire on Friday. The Alexandra block and several business establishments were burned.

Mr. Mackenzie King has presented an interesting report on the cotton mills of Quebec, in which the question of child labor is a feature.

Mr. E. J. Chamberlain has been appointed Vice-President and General Manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific, succeeding Mr. Morse.

Arrangements are being made between the Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie and a company for the starting of large shipyards in the town.

The Wentworth County Council decided to take no action on a letter from the Inspector of Prisons and Charities ordering the erection of a county house of refuge.

John R. Ray was sentenced at Guelph to two years' imprisonment for setting fire to the barn of Mrs. McGuire. He pleaded in excuse that he had made love to the widow and had been rejected.

The resolution to increase the salaries of the inside civil service was introduced in the Commons on Friday. Sir Wilfrid Laurier intimated that the claims of the outside service would receive attention.

Neil Macauley has just been acquitted of theft at Regina. When he was committed for trial he volunteered to convey himself to court and, after some difficulty, hunted up a mounted policeman, to whom he surrendered.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is suggested in England that the Earl of Beauchamp may be Canada's next Governor-General.

Mrs. Carrie Nation was pelted with eggs while lecturing in Canterbury, England, Monday night.

The British Labor Congress at Portsmouth endorsed the Socialist platform and denounced tariff reform.

Right Hon. John Sinclair, Secretary for Scotland in the British Cabinet, has been raised to the Peerage.

An English syndicate has been formed to extract radium from pitchblend deposits of an old Cornish copper mine.

UNITED STATES.

Four men lost their lives in a fire in a hotel at Fort Worth, Texas.

Three men are dead at Fort Dupont, Del., from drinking denatured alcohol.

An eighteen-year-old boy has been condemned to death for murder in New Jersey.

Four children lost their lives in a fire which destroyed their home near Pittsburg, Pa.,

Antonio Stuto of White Plains, N. Y., lost over forty relatives in the Calabrian earthquake.

A severe storm in the middle western States tied up railway traffic and crippled the telegraph service on Friday.

The Senate of the United States will amend the waterways treaty so as to provide for the division of the water-power in the St. Mary's River.

GENERAL.

Three Japanese spies have been arrested in Ecuador.

Benoit Constant Coquelin, the best known of French actors, is dead.

An unconfirmed Paris despatch tells that King Menelik of Abyssinia is dead.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Feb. 2.—Flour—Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents, $3.70 to $3.75 to-day in buyers' sacks outside for export. Manitoba flour, first patents, $5.80 on track, Toronto; second patents, $5.30, and strong bakers', $5.10 to $5.20.

Wheat—Manitoba wheat, $1.09½ to $1.10 for No. 1 Northern and $1.06½ to $1.07 for No. 2 Northern, Georgian Bay ports. No. 1 Northern $1.15 to $1.15½ all rail, and No. 2 Northern at $1.12 to $1.12½, all rail.

Wheat—Ontario, 97½c outside.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white 40½ to 41c outside, and at 43 to 43½c on track, Toronto; No. 2 Western Canada oats, 45c lake ports, and No. 1 feed, 42½c lake ports.

Rye—No. 2 quoted at 69 to 70c outside.

Barley—No. 2 barley quoted at 56 to 57c outside; No. 3 extra at 54 to 55c, and No. 3 at 52 to 53c.

Buckwheat—56 to 56½c outside.

Peas—No. 2 quoted at 86 to 87c outside.

Corn—No. 2 American yellow, 68 to 68½c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 yellow at 67 to 67½c, Toronto. Canadians, 64½ to 65c, Toronto freight.

Bran—Cars, $20.00 in bulk outside. Shorts, $22.00 in bulk outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Winter stock, $3.50 to $4.50 per barrel for good qualities, and at $2 to $3 for cooking apples.

Beans—Prime, $1.80 to $1.90, and hand-picked, $1.90 to $2 per bushel.

Honey—Combs, $2.25 to $2.75 per dozen, and strained, 10½ to 11c per pound.

Hay—No. 1 timothy $11 to $11.50 per ton on track here, and lower grades at $9 to $10 a ton.

Straw—$7 to $7.50 on track.

Potatoes—60 to 62½c per bag.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 12 to 13c per pound; fowl, 10c; ducks, 12 to 13c; geese, 11 to 12c; turkeys 16 to 17c per pound.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 24 to 25c; tubs and large rolls, 22 to 23c; inferior, 20c; creamery rolls, 27 to 29c, and solids, 26 to 27c.

Eggs—Case lots of cold storage, 25 to 26c per dozen; picked, 24 to 25c, and new laid 28 to 30c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, 13¼c per pound, and twins, 13½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 10¾ to 11c per pound in case lots; mess pork, $19 to $19.50; short cut, $22.50 to $23.

Hams—Light to medium, 13½ to 14c; do., heavy, 12½ to 13c; rolls, 10½ to 11c; shoulders, 10 to 10½c; backs, 16 to 16½c; breakfast bacon, 14½ to 15c.

Lard—Tierces, 12½c; tubs, 12¾c; pails, 13c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 2.—Peas, No. 2, 94 to 95c; oats, Canadian Western No. 2, 47c; extra No. 1 feed, 46½c; No. 1 feed, 45½c; Ontario No. 2, 46c; Ontario No. 3, 45c; Ontario No. 4, 44c; No. 2 barley, 63½ to 65c; Manitoba feed barley, 55½ to 56c; buckwheat, 55½ to 56c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $5.60; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, $5.10; Manitoba strong bakers', $4.90; Winter wheat patents, $5 to $5.25; straight rollers, $4.60 to $4.70; do., in bags, $2.15 to $2.25; extra, in bags, $1.75 to $1.85. Feed—Manitoba bran, $21 to $22; Manitoba shorts, $24; Ontario bran, $21 to $21.50; Ontario shorts, $24 to $24.50; Ontario middlings, $24.50 to $25; pure grain mouille, $28 to $30; mixed mouille, $25 to $27. Cheese—Finest western, 12½ to 12¾c; eastern, 12⅜ to 12½c. Butter—Finest creamery, 27 to 27½c; fresh receipts, 25½ to 26c. Eggs—New laid eggs, 35 to 40c; selected stock, 28 to 29c; No. 1 stock, 25 to 26c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Milwaukee, Feb. 2.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.11; No. 2 Northern, $1.08 to $1.09; May, $1.07¼ asked. Rye—No. 1, 75½c. Corn—May, 63c asked. Barley—Standard, 65c; samples, 59½c to 63c; No. 3, 60 to 62c; No. 4, 59½ to 60c.

St. Louis, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Cash, 62½c; May, 65¼c; July, 65⅜c.

Buffalo, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Spring firm; No. 1 Northern, carloads store, $1.13¾; Winter, firm. Corn Higher; No. 3 yellow, 64¾c; No. 4 yellow, 64¼c; No. 3 corn, 64c; No. 4 corn, 63½c; No. 3 white, 67½c. Oats—Firm. Rye—No. 2, on track, 81½c.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 2.—Export—Market is firm for choice export steers and bulls. Butcher—An active demand for choice butcher cattle, and market firmer. The demand for good butcher cattle was active, and everything offering in this class was soon picked up at firm prices. Sheep and lambs—Better demand for ewes and lambs; market firm. Hogs—Select at $6.40 f.o.b., and $6.65, fed and watered. Steady demand for butcher cows. Good export steers and bulls wanted. Milch cows of good qualtiy in demand; common not wanted. Good veal calves steady.

NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS

Various Denominations Are Represented About the Same as Last Parliament

A despatch from Ottawa says: An analysis of the personnel of the new House of Commons with respect to places of birth and religions gives the following interesting figures:—

In the last Parliament there were 200 native-born Canadians; in the new House the native-born number 204. There are six English-born as compared with four in the last House. Ireland sent four sons to the old House, but there are only two native Irishmen in the new House. In each House the membership included three men who were born in the United States. Scotland had three representatives in the last House; now it has only two. The new House also includes one member who was born in South America.

By religions the figures are equally interesting:—The Roman Catholics are of exactly the same as in the old House, the figure in each case being 70. The Presbyterians number 46 in the new House; last year they had 47. The Methodist Church is represented by 50 in the new House, as against 50 in the last Parliament. The Church of England has 41 as against 42. The Baptists numbered eight in the former House; in this they number six. One addition to the religions is a Universalist. The Congregationalists are two, the same as last year, and there is one Lutheran and one Farringdon Independent, just as in the last House.

MARRIED ON A TRAIN.

New Departure in Matrimonial Ideas in Nova Scotia.

A despatch from Halifax says: Births and deaths are not uncommon happenings on railway trains hereabout, but marriages are a rarety. One occurred on the Sydney Express shortly after the train left Sydney, on Friday, both bride and groom being named McDonald, which was also the name of the clergyman. This is the first train marriage in Nova Scotia that the railway officials have record of. The ceremony was performed quietly while the other passengers looked on. The bride and groom were unattended.

BIG JEWELLERY ROBBERY.

Mysterious Affair in Westmount That Baffles the Police.

A despatch from Montreal says: A robbery involving the loss of several thousand dollars' worth of jewellery was committed some time on Wednesday in the residence of Mrs. J. H. Stanford, who occupies suite sixteen in the Metcalfe Apartments, on Cote St. Antoine road, Westmount. Despite diligent investigations of the Westmount police no clue has yet been discovered which will lead to the apprehension of the burglar or burglars. There are no servants in the house, and so far the robbery is shrouded in mystery.

MONTREAL SHAKEN.

Shock of Earthquake Alarms the Citizens.

A despatch from Montreal says: Montreal was shaken by an earthquake at 11.45 on Sunday night. People in all parts of the city were awakened by the shock, which was so sharp that it was believed to be an explosion. Men were sent out from the police stations to investigate. While the shock gave a scare to the inhabitants, no damage is reported.

A MEDAL FOR BINNS.

French Government Will Recognize His Work.

A despatch from Paris says: The Government has decided to award a medal for life-saving to John Binns, of the Republic, for his fine conduct after the collision between that vessel and the Florida.

GANANOQUE'S HEAVY LOSS.

Turner's Block and the Opera House Burned.

A despatch from Gananoque says: At 3.30 on Sunday morning in the store of Jos. McCauley, Turner block, corner of King and Stone streets, flames were discovered coming out of the plate-glass window. The fire spread fast. A heavy north wind was blowing, which sent the sparks over the buildings. The fire department played five streams of water on the building. The fire spread to the Opera House block, owned by W. G. Rogers. It looked at this, time as if all of King street would go. The Turner block, owned by W. Y. Boyd, is a three-story brick building, occupied by Clifford Sine, druggist, stock $15,000, insurance $8,000, complete loss; Corrigan & Coy, dry goods, complete loss, insurance not known; Jas. McCauley, restaurant and billiard-room, insured. In the second flat the Tiger hockey team had their club rooms; W. Y. Boyd, insurance office, and Professor Jackson, musical studio. On the third story was the Colonial Theatre. Nothing was saved in the building. Insurance not known. The Grand Opera House, a concrete block building, and one of the most up-to-date opera houses in the Province, was completely destroyed. W. G. Rogers states he has $8,000 insurance on the building. Mr. Rogers' loss will be fully $25,000 Peters Bros. had a restaurant in the building, which is also a total loss. The Workmen and Canadian Order of Foresters had their hall over the stores in this block, and it, too, is a complete loss. The total loss is estimated at $104,000.

GRAIN CROP OF MANITOBA.

Provincial Report Estimates It at 113,058,188 Bushels.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: The provincial crop report was issued by the Department of Agriculture on Wednesday morning. The total grain crop of the province is estimated at 113,058,188 bushels, compared with 99,010,285 bushels in the previous year. The total yield of wheat is placed at 49,252,539 bushels, an average of 17.28 bushels per acre. The total area under grain is given at 4,818,611 acres and the area under all crops at 4,987,498 acres.

GRIZZLY MOUNTAIN RESTLESS

Danger of Volcanic Eruption Near San Francisco.

A despatch from San Francisco, Cal., says: Grizzly Moutain, located in Lake county, about 75 miles north of San Francisco, is reported to be showing signs of eruption. The mountain is located in the St. Helena range, which abounds in volvanic signs, while the geysers near by spout hot water and steam.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSION

Each Member Will Have Special Charge of a District.

A despatch from Ottawa says: An important re-organization of the Railway Commission is announced by which the Dominion is divided into districts, each in special charge of one of the commissioners as to the routine applications. Chief Commissioner Mabee will, of course, have a general supervision over each district.

The Province of Otario, with the exception of Port Arthur and the district west thereof, is placed under the immediate jurisdiction of Mr. D'Arcy Scott, the Assistant Chief Commissioner, and he will be assisted by Inspectors James Ogilvie and James Clarke.

The Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia are alloted to Hon. M. E. Bernier, who will be assisted by Mr. E. C. Lalonde, inspector.

Commissioner S. J. McLean takes charge of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and that portion of Ontario west of Port Arthur, with Mr. W. S. Blythe of Winnipeg as inspector.

Alberta and British Columbia will be looked after by Commissioner Mills, assisted by Inspector M. J. McCaul.