FOUR CHILDREN BURNED

Lamp Exploded While the Little Ones Were Being Put to Bed.

A despatch from Toronto says: Four children of Ernest Oldfield, a harnessmaker, of Wychwood Park, were burned to death on Thursday night in the bed in which they had been tucked away by their loving mother but a few minutes before. Mrs. Oldfield herself had a narrow escape, as did also her eldest boy, Ernest, and it was only by a miracle that the whole family was not wiped out. Mrs. Oldfield managed to save Ernest from death in the flames by throwing him from the upstairs window, and leaping after him to the ground, about ten feet below.

The frantic woman tried in vain to save her four younger children, who were huddled together in their bed in the room from which any chance of escape was cut off by the flames which were fast devouring the house. Many times she was driven back by the fierce heat, and as she felt herself being overcome by the smoke and heat she thought of the chance of saving at least one of her family. Seizing Ernest, who was by her side when she discovered the house on fire, she dropped him out of the window and quickly followed, just in time to save herself from a terrible death in the flames. All that remains of the four children are their little bodies burned to a crisp and totally unrecognizable, it being impossible for friends of the family to tell one from the other.

It was about 9.30 o'clock that Fred Lucas, a neighbor, passing along the Vaughan road, heard cries for help coming from the Oldfield home. As he rushed over he saw that the rear of the house was in flames. He tried to force the door, and just as he had succeeded Ernest Oldfield dropped from an upstairs window, closely followed by his mother, who cried piteously for someone to save her children. Had she not been restrained Mrs. Oldfield would have returned to the burning house through the door which Lucas had just a minute before forced in. She could not be persuaded to leave, but finally she was overcome and fell in a faint in the arms of Mr. Lucas, who made several heroic attempts to save the little ones, who met a terrible death in their bed in the upstairs room.

The dead children are: Charles, aged seven years; Albert, aged five years; William, aged three years; Edward, aged one year.

"WHEAT IS COMING UP"

The Season in the Prairie Province Is Not Late.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: "Wheat is coming up" is the welcome message the crop report of the Canadian Pacific Railway sends out this week. The weekly report of the company's agents along the system was compiled on Wednesday by Grain Agent Atcheson, and has the effect of wiping out all the ideas that the season is very late and the crops will not do well. In very few cases do the agents report the seeding delayed. In these instances it is on account of rain, which only means that the land will be in much better condition to receive the seed.

The weather throughout has been generally favorable and the rain that has fallen has been a blessing. It is what was wanted to give the wheat a start. The work of sowing the coarse grains has been commenced, and in many parts this seeding is very far advanced. Reports from Alberta show that as much as ninety per cent. of the oats and barley has been sown.

QUEBEC BRIDGE.

Semi-Official Announcement That It Will Be Rebuilt.

A despatch from Ottawa says: A semi-official announcement given out on Thursday, indicates that Messrs. Bautlet, Mojeska and Fitzmaurice, the engineering commission appointed for that purpose by the Government, have prepared plans for the new Quebec bridge. Should these plans be approved by the Government, tenders may be called for and the contract let at an early date. It is announced that the present piers, which cost a million and a half dollars, will be utilized for the new bridge, which will have a span almost as great as the 1,800-foot span of the wrecked bridge. Instead of the single tower, which was the weakness of the first bridge, the present piers will probably be duplicated on the river side, thereby reducing the central span to about 1,600 feet. The structure will be on the cantilever principle, and built of nickle steel.

GALLERY FELL.

Tragedy During Service in a Portugese Church.

A despatch from Lisbon says: A serious accident occurred on Thursday in the church belonging to a monastery near this city. During service a gallery containing 200 persons collapsed and fell upon a crowded congregation beneath. A panic followed. Seven bodies have been extricated from the ruins. Thirty-five persons received serious injuries and 50 were less badly hurt.

TWO CARS LEAVE RAILS.

Trainmen Injured in Wreck That Could Have Been Worse.

A despatch from North Bay says: No. 97 westbound C.P.R. express, with a big passenger list, met with an accident at Red Sucker, near Jackfish, 434 miles west of North Bay at 3 o'clock on Wednesday morning. From some unknown cause the baggage car and express car jumped the rails and plunged down the steep embankment, the engine and other cars fortunately staying on the rails. The express car was demolished and Messenger Demere, of Montreal, was severely injured, but will recover. Engineeer Ben Ward of White River was injured, but not seriously. Passengers were severely shaken up. Traffic was delayed eight hours.

YOUNG FOOTPAD SENTENCED.

Term in Central as Penalty for Hold-up Near Beamsville.

A despatch from St. Catharines says: Jesse Strickler, the young man who held up ex-Warden Calder at the point of a revolver, on the road near Beamsville, last week, and afterwards compelled a boy to drive him to Beamsville Station, after firing several shots at his pursuers, was brought before Judge Carman on Wednesday, and pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to four months in the Central Prison, and if not deported before the expiration of his sentence he is to be given 48 hours to leave the country, or he will be rearrested and sentenced on a charge of shooting at Calder.

TO INSURE THE UNEMPLOYED

Winston Churchill Announces a New Scheme in Britain.

A despatch from London says: In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Winston Churchill, president of the Board of Trade, outlined the Government's scheme for establishing labor exchanges and State insurance against unemployment. The exchange will be designed to organize existing employment, and to furnish seekers after work information as to where it can be obtained. There will be about 230 exchanges throughout the country, with advisory committees representing employers and employes. The estimated cost of working this scheme is 200,000 pounds yearly for the first ten years and thereafter 170,000 pounds. A bill establishing the exchanges was introduced in the House on Thursday.

The insurance scheme will be dealt with at the next session. It will involve a compulsory contribution from employers and employes, in addition to a State grant as regards seven specified trades, in which unemployment is considerable and chronic. The scheme provides for benefits somewhat lower than those paid by the strongest trades unions. The Labor members gave the scheme a hearty reception as a whole, but criticized some of its details.

CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

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

CANADA.

Alberta farmers look for a record-breaking crop this year.

Navigators are warned to look out for a shoal near Goderich harbor.

Mrs. John Rehberg, of Stratford, on Thursday, fell downstairs and broke her neck.

Three young Montreal men were fined and sent to jail for beating a horse to death.

Trade returns for April show an increase of $4 028,267 over the same month last year.

The resignation of Chief of Police Parnell has been accepted by the St. Catharines commissioners.

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Carr of Kingston, who claims to be 104 years old, has been sent to jail for a month on a charge of vagrancy.

A man locked up in the police cells at Moncton, N. B., for violating the Scott Act, found a hundred-dollar pearl in a dish of clams.

The Allan steamer Tunisian, which had her bow plates injured in the ice near Newfoundland, has arrived at Quebec with 1,200 passengers.

Reports from different sections of the Province indicate that crops are in better condition than was supposed, after the long spell of wet, cold weather.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is reported in England that Germany has a great depot of arms and ammunition in London.

UNITED STATES.

President Eliot, who has been forty years at the head of Harvard University, retired from office.

Workmen digging in a peach orchard in Niagara county, N.Y., found a pit containing about fifty human skeletons.

Dr. G. H. Wynkop, one of the first surgeons in America to operate for appendicitis, died of appendicitis at New York on Monday.

C. B. Schmidt, Commissioner of Immigration of the Rock Island-Frisco lines, says more people are emigrating from Canada to the United States than are going in the opposite direction

GENERAL.

Floods in Porto Rico have seriously damaged the sugar plantations.

The General Federation of Labor at Paris has declared a general strike, but no notice is being taken of it.

The palace of King Apries of Egypt, a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah, has been unearthed at Memphis.

Fifteen thousand workmen in Paris, on Thursday, pretended to be strikers and caused a riot, in which numbers were injured by the police and soldiers who attempted to quell the disturbance.

TREATMENT OF INSANE.

300 Medical Men to See Methods at London Asylum.

A despatch from London says: Three hundred medical men from all over western Ontario are expected here on June 7 in response to invitations which are being sent out by Dr. Robinson, Superintendent of London Hospital for the Insane. Hon. Mr. Hanna is expected to be present and the idea is to show the work which is being done at the institution in the alleviation and cure of mental troubles.

TO RUN INTO PORT ARTHUR.

Grand Trunk Pacific Conferring With City on Question.

A despatch from Montreal says: It was stated on Wednesday at the offices of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway that Mr. E. J. Chamberlin had gone to Port Arthur to confer with the city regarding the matter of the G. T. P. securing a route of entry there. In the meantime, in order that Port Arthur can be made the terminus of the Superior branch, arrangements may be made with the Canadian Northern to use their tracks from West Fort.

AN IMPUDENT BURGLARY.

Thieves Loot a Trunk in North Bay Police Station.

A despatch from North Bay says: North Bay police station was burglarized on Wednesday afternoon, the office door being forced, and a trunk opened, the loot including a number of "phoney" gold rings confiscated from a faker, several jack knives, and Chief Rayner's revolver. Wm. Flowers, released from jail on Tuesday, after serving a term for attempted housebreaking, was arrested while trying to sell some of the rings in Little Italy. A man named Freedlander, also released on Tuesday, after doing time for stealing whiskey from a C. P. R. car, was arrested as being implicated in the burglary.

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, May 25.—Flour — Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents, $5.40 to $5.50 in buyers' sacks outside for export; on track, Toronto, $5.60 to $5.70. Manitoba flour, first patents, $6.20 to $6.40 on track, Toronto; second patents, $5.70 to $5.80, and strong bakers', $5.50 to $5.60 on track, Toronto.

Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.29½, Georgian Bay ports; No. 2, $1.26¾, and No. 3 at $1.25¼.

Ontario Wheat—No. 2 $1.30 to $1.35 outside.

Barley—No. 3 extra, 62 to 63c outside, and No. 3 60c outside.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white 52 to 52½c on track, Toronto, and 49½ to 50c outside; No. 2 Western Canada, 52½ to 53c, and No. 3 at 51½c, Bay ports.

Peas—No. 2 95 to 96c outside.

Rye—No. 2, 74 to 75c outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 63 to 65c outside.

Corn—No. 2 American, yellow, 82½ to 83c on track, Toronto, and No. 2, 82c on track, Toronto; Canadian yellow, 76 to 77c on track, Toronto.

Bran—Manitoba, $23.50 in sacks, Toronto freights; shorts, $24.50 to $25, Toronto freights.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—$4 to $5 for choice qualities, and $3 to $3.50 for seconds.

Beans—Prime, $2 and hand-picked, $2.15 to $2.20 per bushel.

Honey—Combs, $2 to $2.75 per dozen, and strained, 10 to 11c per pound.

Maple Syrup—95c to $1 a gallon.

Hay—No. 1 timothy, $13 to $13.50 a ton on track here, and lower grades $11 to $11.50 a ton.

Straw—$7.50 to $8 on track.

Potatoes—Car lots, 90 to 95c per bag on track. Delawares, $1.10 per bag on track.

Poultry—Chickens, Spring, dressed, 35c per pound; fowl, 12 to 14c; turkeys, 18 to 22c per pound.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 20 to 21c; tubs and large rolls, 16 to 18c; inferior, 14 to 15c; creamery rolls, 23 to 24c, and solids, 19 to 20c.

Eggs—Case lots, 18 to 18½c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, old, 14 to 14¼c per pound, and twins, 14¼ to 14½c; new cheese, dull at 12¼ to 12½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 13 to 13½c per pound in case lots; mess pork, $22 to $22.50; short cut, $24 to $25.

Hams—Light to medium, 15 to 15½c; do., heavy, 13 to 13½c; rolls, 12 to 12½c; shoulders, 11 to 11½c; backs, 17 to 17½c; breakfast bacon, 16 to 16½c.

Lard—Tierces, 13½c; tubs, 13¾c; pails, 14c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, May 25.—The market for oats is strong, with prices 1 to 2c a bushel higher; peas, No. 2, $1.05 to $1.06, oats, Canadian Western No. 2, 54¾; extra No. 1 feed, 54¾c; No. 1 feed, 54½c; No. 3 Canadian Western, 54c; barley, No. 2, 70 to 72c; Manitoba feed barley, 61 to 61½c; buckwheat, 69½ to 70c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $6.30; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, $5.80; Manitoba strong bakers, $5.60; Winter wheat patents, $6.15 to $6.25; straight rollers, $6 to $6.10; straight rollers, in bags, $2.80 to $3; extra, in bags, $2.50 to $2.60. Feed—Manitoba bran, $22 to $23; Manitoba shorts, $24 to $25; Ontario bran, $23 to $24; Ontario shorts, $24.50 to $25.50; pure grain mouille, $33 to $35; mixed mouille, $28 to $30. Cheese—12¼c to 12½c, and easterns 12 to 12¼c. Butter—21½ to 22c. Eggs—19 to 19½c per dozen.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Minneapolis, May 25.—Wheat—May, $1.29½; July, 1.27¾; Sept. $1.08⅝ cash, No. 1 hard, $1.32; No. 1 Northern, $1.31; No. 2 Northern, $1.29; No. 3 Northern, 1.27; to $1,27¾. Flour—First patents, $6.10 to $6.30; second patents, $6 to $6.20; first clears, $4.75 to $4.95; second clears, $3.35 to $3.55. Bran—In Bulk, $24 to $24.50.

Chicago—Wheat—Cash, No. 2 red, $1.49½; No. 3 red, $1.40 to $1.47; No. 2 hard, $1.30 to $1.36; No. 3 hard, $1.25 to $1.30; No. 1 Northern, $1.30 to $1.31; No. 2 Northern, $1.28 to $1.30; No. 3 Spring wheat, $1.25 to $1.29. Corn—No. 2, 76c; No. 2 white, 76¾c; No. 2 yellow, 76½c; No. 3, 75½ to 75¾c; No. 3 white, 76½c; No. 3 yellow, 76 to 76½c; No. 4, 74½ to 75¼c. Oats—No. 3 white, 58 to 60c; No. 4 white, 58½ to 59c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, May 25.—Prime beeves sold at 5½ to a little over 6c per pound; pretty good animals, 4½ to 5½c; milkmen's strippers, 3¼ to 4¾c; common stocks, 3¼ to 4¼c per pound. Milch cows were in demand at from $30 to $65 each. Calves sold at $2 to $10 each, or 3 to 5¾c per pound. Sheep sold at 5 to 6 c per pound; lambs at $4 to $6 each. Goods lots of fat hogs sold at 8¼ to 8½c per pound.

Toronto, May 25.—While there were not many straight loads of exporters', shippers were able to pick out a goodly number of choice well finished heavy cattle, which sold readily at $6 to $6.30. Choice butchers' cattle were in strong demand and trading active. The same may be said of stockers and feeders, but the supply was small, those on offer selling firm at about $5. Milkers and springers.— Unchanged. Sheep and lambs—Slightly easier. Calves — Unchanged. Hogs—Strong; selects were quoted $7.60 f.o.b., and $7.85 fed and watered.

PROROGATION CEREMONIES

Earl Grey Delivers the Speech From the Throne.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The first session of the eleventh Parliament of Canada was prorogued at 3.30 on Wednesday afternoon by his Excellency the Governor-General, with the usual pomp and circumstance. The session, which had lasted just four months, has been one of the shortest in many years, and, with the exception of the debate on the question of Canada's part in naval defence, has been perhaps one of the most uneventful. In all a hundred and sixty-one bills have been passed, of which some forty have been Government measures. The chief items are contained in the speech from the throne.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Honorable gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In relieving you from further attendance on this session I thank you for the assiduity and diligence which you have given to the discharge of the duties entrusted to your care, and it must be a source of satisfaction to yourselves that you have been able to perform your labors in a comparatively brief space of time.

I am pleased to notice that your attention has been engaged in some measures of great importance.

AMENDMENT TO RAILWAY ACT.

In the first rank of such measures is to be noted the amendment of the railway act, under which by the joint action of the national Government, Provincial and municipal authorities, together with the railway companies level railway crossings are to be gradually removed, and a constant menace to life and property thereby effectually done away with.

LOAN TO GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

The loan of ten million dollars to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company will no doubt ensure the completion during the coming season of the prairie section of the National Transcontinental Railway, and will secure to the fast developing western Provinces for this year's crop a new and competitive outlet towards the sea.

The act to place the Department of Labor, which has been in existence for some years, under the direct responsibility of a Minister of the Crown, exclusively entrusted with its management, is in accordance with the oft-expressed wishes of labor organizations, and is a further step in a field of legislation wherein Canada has already taken a not unimportant part.

WILL FACILITATE BUSINESS.

The act charging the Secretary of State with special responsibility in regard to the external affairs of Canada will faciliate the transaction of business in connection with tht most important branch of the public service.

The resolution adopted by the House of Commons for the organization of a Canadian naval service, in co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial navy, is a proper acknowledgement of the duties now appertaining to Canada as a nation, and as a member of the British Empire.

The financial conditions throughout the world seem to be more hopeful than they were four months ago when I opened this session, and whilst in Cadada we have undoubtedly suffered less than other countries during this period of universal depression, it will still be the part of prudence to exercise care and economy in all branches of the service.

PROVISIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provisions which you have made for the public service.

Honorable gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I sincerely hope and pray that Almighty God will continue to pour His blessings upon our country, and let us now offer Him the fervent expression of our gratitude for the signal favors which we have received from Him.

CANNON BALLS OF ICE.

They Killed Eight Men in Uvalde County, Texas.

A despatch from Galveston, Texas, says: An unprecenented hailstorm on Monday in Uvalde county cost at least eight lives—James Carpenter, seventy years of age, and seven Mexican hired hands—while many were injured, and from 1,500 to 2,00 head of live stock killed. The hailstones were like cannon balls, weighing six and seven pounds, some weighing from ten pounds. They measured from ten to seventeen inches in circumference, and fell for thirty minutes in two storms about two hours apart. Rumors of many more persons killed are not confirmed. Searching parties are out scouring the ranges.

BUFFALO FOR ALBERTA.

A Herd of Three Hundred Is Now on the Way.

A despatch from Ronan, Montana, says: The expedition sent by the Dominion Government to secure the remaining 300 buffalo, bought from Michael Pablo for Buffalo Park, Wainwright, Alebrta, arrived on Wednesday in charge of Mr. Howard Douglas, Commissioner of Canadian National Parks. Sixty Mexican cowboys have been busy during the past fortnight persuading the buffalo toward the corral in the valley of Pend D'Oreille River. An attempt will be made to force them into the corral, which, if successful, will make the balance of the task somewhat easy. These buffalo are the outlaws of the herd, and the task is fraught with some difficulty.

"OUR ARMY IS A SHAM"

These Are the Words of Field Marshall Lord Roberts.

A despatch from London says: "Our army is a sham. We have no army," exclaimed Field Marshall Lord Roberts, earnestly, during a debate in the House of Lords upon the Duke of Bedford's motion for an inquiry into the condition of the reserve, on Wednesday. Earl Roberts, who is known to favor compulsory military training, declared that he was amazed at the manner in which both Houses treated the army as a party question, and at the apathy of the nation regarding military defence.

The nation, he said, did not believe in the danger of invasion, and no wonder, for their leaders told them there was no fear of it. He added: "I know perfectly well that the leaders in both Houses are anxious about the future, but they do not tell the country that we have neither an army to send abroad or to defend the country at home. While we are sitting here, taking it easily and comfortably, the danger is coming nearer and nearer to us daily, and unless you cease telling the people they are living in safety and get an army fit to deal with any enemy we shall one day come to such utter grief that you will bitterly regret your inaction.

"It is a perfect marvel to me how Great Britain can see what is going on around us in Europe and be content with the condition of our army. No country in the world would attempt to defend itself with the paucity of men and with the untrained men we have got. You will never have a real army until you have taken the nation into your confidence and tell them their danger. You may think you are safe, but you are not.

"Be frank and tell the nation what is before them. They will respond."

His admonitions were addressed to the Government representatives. The Peers showed their approval by carrying the Duke of Bedford's motion against the Government by a vote of 73 to 22.