

FOUR SUFFOCATED BY GAS

Only One Survivor of Family, Saved by Neighbor's Child

A despatch from Niagara Falls, Ont., says: Wednesday afternoon at 4.45 o'clock a little girl named Campbell hurried into the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Harris, on Ferry Street, to get warm after skating in the neighborhood. She entered the door, and was attracted by a voice that called to her for help. Looking about she discovered an 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris on the floor. The girl feebly asked to be taken outside, as she was choking, and the Campbell girl helped her into the open air. She realized that something was wrong, and called a man working nearby. This man ran to the Harris house, and on going inside made the horrifying discovery that Mr. and Mrs. Harris, their 13-year-old son and their 3-year-old daughter were all dead, having been asphyxiated by escaping natural gas.

Mr. Harris was 45 years old, and employed by the Acker Process Company, of this city. He was to have gone to work at 4 o'clock, but he sat dead in his chair near a stove, half clad. Mrs. Harris was found dead in the hall, and it

was clear that she had tried to escape from the house after she felt the weakness of approaching death creeping upon her. Her strength was not equal to the task, and she died on the floor. The boy and his sister had both been overcome by the deadly gas.

Neighbors agree that the Harris family was seen about the house as late as 12 o'clock, but nobody appears to have seen any of them after that hour. If the life of the 11-year-old daughter is saved it will be because the Campbell girl dragged her out of the house before the gas had fully overcome her.

As the news of the asphyxiation spread through the city it frightened users of natural gas to a remarkable degree. It was difficult to understand how this family of five was so thoroughly overcome as to cause the death of four right in the middle of the day. It is thought that Mr. Harris, as he was to go to work at 4 o'clock, had been sleeping, and was partially overcome when he sat in the chair where he was found dead. The Harris family occupied a flat, and it had but a single stove in it.

CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

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

The Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway has paid \$158,000 into treasury. Fire in the business portion of Niagara, Man., on Friday, caused a loss of \$500,000.

It is estimated that 45,000 immigrants settled in Ontario during the year, and that next year the total will be over 50,000.

A Russell Cameron, a wealthy and popular young man, was found dead in his room at Ottawa, on Friday, with a bullet wound in his temple.

A verdict of murder has been returned against Frank Capallo, the Italian, who stabbed William Dow in a quarrel near Snakeskin Lake on Christmas night.

A big panther was shot on the grounds of Senator Macdonald, at Victoria, B. C.

Carberry, Man., is in the pinch of the fuel famine, the town being almost without coal.

Railroads in Canada have spent this year about \$62,000,000 in construction work and equipment.

The Hanson Consolidated Mines, near Port Arthur, shipped a carload of silver ore, valued at \$15,000, to Omaha, on Thursday.

Munson & Allen of Winnipeg have been given charge of the Canadian Northern legal business west of the lakes.

The C.P.R. audit department employees in Montreal have been granted a 10 per cent. increase in wages.

An electric railway running through Canadian territory from the Detroit River to Niagara is projected by Michigan capitalists.

John Dyer was sentenced at Hamilton on Monday to a year in the Central for stealing articles from churches.

Steps are being taken at Hamilton to secure the release of five men sentenced for rioting in connection with the street railway strike.

His Imperial Highness, General Prince Fushimi, of Japan, will pass through Canada on his way home from a visit to King Edward.

It has been discovered that the chim-

ney of the Harris dwelling at Niagara Falls was completely blocked with soot, which explains how the family were suffocated.

A. Ferguson's barn, stock and implements at Southwyn, Man., were burned on Monday. His entire family were stricken with typhoid quite recently, and a prairie fire last fall destroyed his hay.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Right Hon. Augustine Birrell is mentioned as a possible candidate for the Chief Secretaryship of Ireland.

It is expected that the Right Hon. James Bryce will be named head of the British delegation to the next Hague Peace Conference.

UNITED STATES.

Fifteen persons have been killed in the race war in Mississippi.

Alexander J. Cassatt, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, died suddenly at Philadelphia on Friday.

Rev. T. K. Crowley, of St. Patrick's Church, Denison, Texas, while putting on his vestments to celebrate High Mass, dropped dead on Wednesday.

Three men were killed and four probably fatally wounded in a fight on Tuesday night between guards employed by the West Kentucky Coal Company at Sturgis, Union County, Ky., and the striking miners at that place.

Falling into a sponge mixer full of dough at the Bliss bakery at Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, H. D. Vankirk, a baker, was whirled round and round until every bone in his body was crushed. When the machine was stopped he was taken out dead.

GENERAL.

A committee has been appointed to revise the laws of Cuba.

Rebellion in Ecuador has been suppressed and a new president elected.

The Dutch troops in the East Indies have won a victory over the Rajah Goa.

Disorders have broken out in Serbia, threatening the overthrow of the present dynasty.

Eleven Mexicans and one American were killed near Valencia, Mexico, by a band of Yaqui Indians.

Socialists at Lodz, Russia, have threatened that they will compel citizens to feed and lodge the unemployed.

M. Pichon, Foreign Minister of France, has announced that the policy of his Government is to be "peace and dignity."

The Indian National Congress has expressed indignation that Hindoos are denied the right of citizenship in the Transvaal.

Admiral Nebogatoff and three other officers were condemned to death by a Russian court-martial for surrendering at the battle of the Sea of Japan.

The cotton harvest in Central Asia is extremely good, 17,000 carloads, instead of the usual 12,000, being available for export. The railroads will require special facilities to transport the cotton.

The French, German and Russian expeditions have arrived at Tashkent, Asiatic Russia, to observe the eclipse of January 14. In addition to making the usual observations the expeditions will study the condition of the upper air by means of balloons and automatic instruments.

FREE COURSES.

Bulletin From the Ontario Agricultural College.

For over thirty years the Ontario Agricultural College has provided courses of study and practical field work for farmers' sons, and thousands of young men have taken advantage of it. At first the course was two years. This was found to be too short, and in 1888 a third year was added. Still later it was found impossible to do justice to the work in three sessions, and the regular college course, leading to the degree of B. S. A. now covers a period of four years.

But there are many farmers and farmers' sons who cannot spare the time to take the long College course, and others who might find the time, but have not the means or education sufficient for matriculation. For the sake of such men we have supplemented our regular work by adding short courses to meet their special requirements.

A judging pavilion, with a fifty-foot ring, and with seats all around capable of seating comfortably 350 persons, has been built especially for the convenience of those taking the short course in live stock. Into this ring all classes of horses, beef cattle, sheep and swine are brought for criticism. The animals are judged by the members of the class themselves, and finally judged by some recognized authority, so that students may have a good opportunity to compare their judgment with that of others. No money will be spared in bringing in some of the best representatives of all these classes from the stables of our leading Ontario breeders. The work will be conducted by G. E. Day, Prof. of Animal Husbandry; H. S. Arkell, Lecturer in Animal Husbandry, and Dr. J. H. Reed, Prof. of Veterinary Science, with the assistance of other competent stockmen who are regarded as authorities on the most valuable breeds of farm animals.

One hour each day will be spent in lectures on seed selection and the best methods of cleaning seed, and in the judging of oats, barley, wheat, peas and corn; and of the grasses, clovers, and various fodder crops and in the identification of the weed seeds most commonly found in grass and clover seed. This course will be conducted by C. A. Zavitz, Prof. of Field Husbandry; J. Buchanan, Lecturer in Field Husbandry; and J. E. Howitt, Lecturer in Botany.

In the poultry course, which lasts for one month, instruction will be given in the following branches of the poultry business: Preparations of plans, specifications and estimates of poultry houses for various purposes; location, construction, ventilation and furnishings; breeds and varieties of fowls; origin and characteristics; principles of breeding and mating; judging; natural and artificial incubation and rearing, feeding, care and management; the production of eggs in winter, demonstrations and practice in fattening, killing, and preparing chickens for home and foreign markets.

The demand for trained men in dairying, too, far exceeds the supply, and young men thoroughly equipped in the science and practice of buttermaking and cheesemaking are in constant demand. The dairy school is well prepared to give a good course in dairying. (The term is three months.) A herd of about 40 cows, heifers and calves representing three different breeds of dairy cattle, gives an excellent object lesson in the handling, feeding and caring for a dairy herd, besides supplying specimens for class-room work. A record is kept of each cow's milk, that students may see the importance and simplicity of a cow record.

These courses are offered as was stated before, for these farmers and farmers' sons who have not the time nor the money to take the regular college course and it is to be hoped that a large number will avail themselves of the opportunity to attend during the coming January.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE BURNED.

Governor McInnes' Residence at Dawson Completely Destroyed.

A despatch from Dawson, Y.T., says: The residence of Governor McInnes, of Yukon Territory, known as Government House, was burned on Christmas Day, with all its furniture. The building was valued at \$100,000. It was probably insured through the Government officials at Ottawa. Government House was the finest building north of Vancouver, and contained much personal property belonging to Mr. and Mrs. McInnes. The fire started before noon. It is supposed to have originated from an explosion in the furnace. There was no wind or the police barracks and garrison building adjoining might have been burned. The temperature was only zero, but the firemen were covered with ice, after fighting a fierce battle with the flames for four hours. Only the tottering walls and gutted floors are left. The building is a total wreck.

Governor McInnes is at present on a visit to New York.

MANITOULIN'S OIL FIELDS

One Hundred Wells Sank at a Cost of \$50,000.

A despatch from Montreal says: Further facts were received by Mr. L. O. Armstrong, colonization agent of the C. P. R., on Wednesday, which deal with the discovery of oil in Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron. It is now known that 100 wells have been sunk at a cost of about \$500 each, and, as a result, the discoverers believe that they have an even greater oil ground than Pennsylvania had in its greatest days.

To add to this, St. Joseph's Island, which is of the same geographical formation as Manitoulin, is known to have the same oil qualities. In Pennsylvania it is estimated to sink a well, as against \$500 in Canada to-day. There is a belief in many quarters that this is the beginning of a great deal to the Standard Oil Company, which to-day controls the world's products of petroleum.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Bran—\$17 bid. Wheat—Ontario—No. 2 white, 70c asked outside, 69c bid; No. 2 red, 69c bid C.P.R.; No. 2 mixed, 70c asked, 68c bid.

Wheat—Manitoba—No. 1 northern, 81c asked, 80c bid, track, Point Edward.

Peas—81c asked, 80c bid. Oats—No. 2 white, 36c asked, outside, 35c bid, main line.

Corn—No. 3 yellow, 48c asked, Toronto, to arrive. Rye—No. 2, 70c to 71c outside.

Corn—New No. 3, 49c to 50c; old, No. 2, 53c, Toronto rate points.

Barley—No. 3 extra, 49c to 49c; No. 3, 47c to 48c; No. 2, 50c.

Bran—Scarce and nominally \$18; shorts, \$18.50.

Flour—Dull; Ontario, \$2.70 asked for 91 per cent. patents for export, buyers' bags outside, \$2.65 bid; Manitoba first patents, \$4.50; second, \$4; bakers', \$3.90.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—The market is steady and firm, with a brisk demand.

Creamery 25c to 27c
do solids 24c to 25c
Dairy prints 22c to 23c
do pails 19c to 20c
do tubs 18c to 20c
Inferior 15c to 18c

Cheese—Prices are holding firm at 13c for large and 14c for twins.

Eggs—New-laid are very scarce. Storage, 24c; limed, 22c. New-laid are quoted from 30c to 35c.

Poultry—The market was quiet this morning.

Chickens, dressed 7c to 9c
Fowl 6c to 10c
Ducks 8c to 10c
Gese 8c to 10c
Turkeys 11c to 14c

Potatoes—Ontario quoted at 55c to 60c per bag, in car lots here; eastern, 65c to 70c.

Baled Hay—\$11.50 to \$12 for No. 1 timothy, and \$9 for No. 2 in car lots here.

Baled Straw—Firm at \$7 in car lots here.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 31.—A firm tone prevails in the local market.

Buckwheat—56c to 56c per bushel, ex store.

Corn—American, No. 2 yellow, 55c; No. 3 mixed, 54c, ex store.

Oats—On spot, No. 2 white, 42c; No. 3 white, 41c to 42c; No. 4, 40c to 41c per bushel, ex store.

Peas—Boiling peas, \$1 in carload lots, \$1.10 in jobbing lots.

Flour—Manitoba spring wheat, \$4.25 to \$4.60; strong bakers', \$3.90 to \$4.10; winter wheat patents, \$4.10 to \$4.25; straight rollers, \$3.60 to \$3.70; do., in bags, \$1.65 to \$1.75; extras, \$1.50 to \$1.55.

Millfeed—Manitoba bran in bags, \$20 to \$22; shorts, \$21.50 to \$22; Ontario bran in bags, \$18.50 to \$19; shorts, \$21.50 to \$22; milled mouille, \$21 to \$25; straight grain, \$28 to \$29 per ton.

Rolled Oats—Per bag, \$1.95 to \$2 in car lots, \$2.10 in jobbing lots.

DEATH IN THE SNOWSTORM

Sixteen People Killed in a Scottish Railway Wreck

A despatch from London says: In a railroad collision on Friday, caused indirectly by the heavy snowstorm of the last few days, 16 persons have been killed and over 30 injured. The accident occurred near Arbroath, on the North British Railroad, between Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and some distance north of Dundee. Among the persons injured is Alexander Wm. Black, member of the House of Commons from Banffshire, Scotland. The accident is attributed to the heavy fall of snow, owing to which trains from London for Aberdeen were held up at Arbroath. The line was cleared, however, and one train proceeded for Dundee. It had stopped at Elliot Junction, but the danger signals, which were thought to have been set, failed to act through being clogged up with snow, or from some other cause.

An express train dashed into the rear of the waiting train. The continuing snowfall has created a situation the worst known in 30 years in Great Britain, and the conditions existing here apparently are general throughout Europe. From all parts of Great Britain come stories of trains buried in snowdrifts, the worst case being that of a train bound from Dundee to Edinburgh, which ran into a snowdrift at 6 o'clock on Thursday night, three miles from St. Andrew's, and is still embedded. A relief train sent to its assistance stuck in the drift, and all the efforts during the night to reach them were futile. Friday morning a small quantity of provisions was conveyed to the hungry passengers and crews. The equipment of the British railroads is quite inadequate to deal with the conditions, heretofore almost unknown in this country.

MILLIONS LIVE ON ACORN MEAL

Startling Story From the Russian Famine Districts.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says: Prince G. Lyoff, who has just returned from a long tour in the famine-stricken regions, gives, in the Russkiya Vedomosti, a heartrending account of his experiences. It is not in the economical sense, but in the direct meaning of the word that the populace are dying. They are actually living from day to day, from loaf to loaf, without the slightest hope of being able to prolong the struggle for life until the spring.

The crops have failed completely. There is neither food nor forage. The granaries stand absolutely empty. In over a stretch of 1,000 versts the Prince saw no trace of either oats or buckwheat. Cattle and horses are sold for trifles. Horses are valued at the price of their skins.

In the Buzuluk district a prickly, worthless herb has been gathered for fodder, also oak leaves, to gather which

the people often travelled many versts to the Crown forests. It is doubtful if any animal can be kept alive until the spring on such fodder.

The people have fallen into a state of pitiful apathy. In one district the Prince found only seven out of 33 villages in which acorn flour was not mixed with the rye to make the scanty bread. Acorn flour bread alone was eaten, and has formed the staple food of millions of people since September. Such as it is, there is nowhere enough to give more than one feed a day to each person. The children are given usually this acorn flour mixed with hot water into a sort of gruel. The people have a strange look from feeding on this "hunger bread," as it is called. They are pale, exhausted, with dimmed eyes and shaking limbs. Where hunger bread is eaten there also is found scurvy and typhoid. What, asks the Prince, will it be seven months later?