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FOUR BURNED TO DEATH FROM USE OF OIL IN LIGHTING FIRE

A tragedy similar to that occurring last week near Drinkwater Pit happened at Gowgama some days ago. It was a quadruple tragedy costing the lives of a mother and three daughters at the lumbering village of Gowgama, one hundred miles north of Sudbury on the Canadian National main line. Like the tragedy at Drinkwater Pit the accident was caused by the use of oil to light a fire. In the Gowgama tragedy the dead are Mrs. A. Labrie, aged 49, who was burned to death in her sick bed on the second story of her home, and three daughters, Bertha, aged 20, Dorothy, aged 9, and Clarinda, aged 4. A fifth member of the family, Joseph, aged 13, was badly burned while making an heroic effort to save his mother and sisters. He was removed to No. 4 C.N.R. train and taken to St. Joseph's hospital at Sudbury.

The fire which started about 4:45 on Tuesday morning, was caused by an explosion of gasoline which Bertha poured on the kitchen stove, mistaking it for coal oil. Instantly the entire house was in flames and the girl dashed upstairs in a vain effort to carry out her sick mother and sisters, perishing in the attempt. A similar story of heroism is related about Joseph, who was cutting wood in the yard when he saw the smoke and rushed to the rescue. A fourth sister saved herself by jumping through a window on the second story of the house.

In the absence of a fire brigade neighbours rallied quickly to the scene and the Ontario Forestry Branch took charge of the battle to bring the blaze under control. At seven o'clock none of the bodies had been found, having apparently been burned to a crisp.

Ottawa Journal.—Add the name of Molison to the roster which knows Aleck and Brown and Byrd and Lindbergh and a host of others. He is clearly as good as the best of them.

Tribute Paid to the Late Prof. J. Sharp

Large Crowd at Funeral of Well-Known Pioneer of the North at New Liskeard Last Wednesday.

Reference was made last week to the death of Prof. John Sharp, of New Liskeard, father of W. C. Sharp, and of Mrs. W. C. Ringsleben of Timmins.

The funeral was held at New Liskeard on Wednesday of last week and was very largely attended. The following reference to the funeral was given in a despatch from New Liskeard last week:—

"I think it is true that most people as they grow old, tend to live in the past, but I wonder if it is not true that the measure of our success, as we grow old, is the measure of how we escape from that state," said Rev. M. N. Omond, pastor of the United Church at New Liskeard, in the course of the sermon he delivered at the funeral of the late Professor John Sharp, pioneer citizen of Temiskaming, on Wednesday afternoon. Continuing Mr. Omond paid his tribute to his former parishioner by declaring that the deceased gentleman to the end had kept thinking, not only of the things that have been, but of the things that may be, retaining to the last "that eager pushing forward that was the chief characteristic of the friend we are lamenting."

A congregation that filled the church gathered to render the final homage to Professor Sharp, who had been present at the morning service in the same building the previous Sunday, a few hours before he died in his sleep. Rev. W. A. Beecroft, minister of the United Church at Haileybury, conducted the devotional exercises, and Rev. R. B. Cochrane, North Bay, superintendent of Home Missions for Northern Ontario, spoke briefly at the service. Two hymns, both paraphrases of well-known psalms, were sung, the first "The Lord's

My Shepherd," to the tune "Wiltshire," and the second "Unto the Hills," to "Sandon." Previously, there had been a private service in the home, and after the public ceremony, burial was made in the cemetery at New Liskeard in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends of the dead pioneer.

"I think it is true that we will not catch up with him for many years," said Mr. Omond, and Mr. Cochrane spoke of his old friend as having "work on a big perspective." Mr. Cochrane referred to Professor Sharp's work in the Presbytery in the cause of missions, and said that "the instinct we all have is that life is worth while enough to be immortal and that this hope persists because of the deathless quality about some lives." Jesus took immortality for granted, Mr. Cochrane declared. He said he felt the Presbytery had lost a valued guide and counsellor. Speaking of the "things of survival value," Mr. Cochrane said Professor Sharp was always reminding his brethren of the truth and that it was progressive, and he closed with the declaration that "that was perhaps the finest contribution that any man can make to any Presbytery."

Mr. Omond based his address on a passage from the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, and he said it was true that each faithful life, faithfully lived, "becomes in its own way, a revelation of spiritual truth." Referring to "those abiding qualities which make life eternal," the preacher said that "two things were exemplified in a marked degree in that life whose present phase we are closing today." These were truth and love, the first being revealed in honesty of heart and mind and integrity of purpose, and the second manifested in the common human relationships of life. Professor Sharp, said the minister, had been delivered, as far as possible from prejudice, self-centred opinions and narrow views, and he had brought a warm personal sympathy to those of other views, with a readiness to be of service to all.

"Many of us are deeply conscious that these two things were found richly in the life of him who is gone," said the preacher. Mr. Omond said he knew of many men, some of them holding very eminent positions, and others scattered up and down this district, who had confessed their indebtedness to the sympathetic understanding and the encouragement of Professor John Sharp. In conclusion Mr. Omond said that "a life so lived constitutes a contribution to the life of any community whose value cannot be estimated."

The Haileyburian refers to Professor Sharp's life spent in quiet service for his fellow men. "He had perhaps the keenest mind in the North Country" is another tribute given the late Prof. Sharp in the columns of The Haileyburian, the quotation being from the words of a prominent United Church minister.

"Temiskaming District in general and the community surrounding New Liskeard in particular, lost another highly respected resident in the sudden death of Professor John Sharp, which occurred at his home on Lake Shore Road, New Liskeard, early on Monday morning last," said The New Liskeard Speaker last week. After making reference to the activities for the welfare of the community and the North in which the late Prof. Sharp had interested himself, The Speaker concluded:—"Few men were more widely or more favourably known throughout the agricultural area of the North Country than the late Professor John Sharp, and the floral offerings and large attendance at the funeral services conducted in the United Church here on Wednesday by Rev. M. N. Omond, M.A., B.D., minister of the United Church, bear mute evidence of respect to the memory of the deceased and sympathy to the bereaved members of the family. There remain to mourn the departure of this grand old man the widow, two sons, W. C. of New Liskeard and Timmins, and George, residing at home, and one daughter, Dorothy, Mrs. W. C. Ringsleben, of Timmins."

Report of Superintendent District Children's Aid

The following is the report for March of the superintendent of the District of Cochrane Children's Aid Society, A. G. Carson:—

Applications for children for adoption	3
Office interviews	61
Complaints received	25
Investigations made	27
Children involved (apart from Shelter)	58
Mail received	54
Mail sent out	51
Children placed in foster homes	1
Children in Shelter	19
Children boarding out	1
Court attendance	1
Juvenile Court cases	1
Children sent to Industrial School	1
Parents or Guardians prosecuted	2
Official warnings given	2
Mileage travelled	1367
Wards visited	7
Wards heard from	3
Unmarried Parent's cases	1

St. Thomas Times-Journal:—For nearly six months a boy, Clarence Hastings, existed in a respirator in the city hospital, Syracuse, before he succumbed to infantile paralysis. So far as he could co-operate by keeping his spirits up under these conditions, he did his best, earning the title of "The Gamest Kid in America," and receiving thousands of letters, telegrams, etc., from all sorts of people, important and unimportant. While he put up a great fight for his life, science put up a still greater.

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Vimy Night Banquet Here This Saturday

Canadian Legion Putting on Event at the Oddfellows' Hall in Commemoration of Great Canadian Victory of 1917

All arrangements are now complete for the sixth annual Vimy Banquet of the Canadian Legion in Timmins. The battle of Vimy Ridge took place on April 9th, 1917, when the entire Canadian forces under the command of Lord Byng, after months of preparation launched the most desperate attack upon the Germans who had held this wonderful strategic position from the early days of the Great War. The ridge upon which was situated the town of Vimy was in such a position that from the top one had complete observation of the country for miles around. The Germans could see the towns of Bruay and the city of Bethune with hundreds of small villages between. On the other hand when the ridge was finally captured the Allies could see the city of Lens and all other important centres, in the hands of the Germans. The capture of the ridge was of vital importance to the Allies and at day-break April 9th, the heaviest barrage ever put on a given spot, started the fireworks. Shells began to fall at around six o'clock continuing all day and it was with the greatest of difficulty that one could move at all, the ground being a regular sea of mud. The artillery men, being unable to move their own guns, turned the captured guns and continued the firing, the infantry keeping well after the retiring Germans. Near the outskirts of Lens the attack was stopped, and the Canadian troops, because of being unable to get adequate artillery support, withdrew to the old German positions at the top of Vimy Ridge. It was a glorious victory and Byng of Vimy and his Merry Men take good care to celebrate the anniversary in fitting way. One outstanding feature of the work of the gigantic machine that had been prepared was the vast amount of labour which had to be done before it was possible to launch such an attack. Miles and miles of telephone and telegraph wires were laid. Thousands of rounds of heavy ammunition carried in under cover of darkness! Four complete divisions of men changed in two nights! Hundreds of light field guns placed in position and light railways and roads built and hidden by clever camouflage from the eyes of the Germans during the day! One could enumerate hundreds of items by which this was carried through, but it is sufficient to say, "The Canadians Captured Vimy Ridge."

On Saturday, the returned soldiers in Timmins and district are celebrating the event and the Canadian Legion are putting on a fine soldier show. The Oddfellows' hall should be crowded for this event which commences at 7:30 and ends at 12 midnight. A short sketch by the Legion players will be offered, as also a programme of outstanding talent in new and up-to-date numbers. Be early on parade; the attack commences at 7:30 p.m.

Results of McIntyre Bowling for Last Week

Cooke's team won the second half of the McIntyre Bowling schedule by taking three points from Angrignon and winning four points from Ines, Morandin and Cooke divided, with two points each. The play-off this week will be between Morandin's team, winners of the first half of the schedule, and Cooke's team, winners of the second half. The league standing for the second half of the schedule is as follows:—Cooke, 30 points; Angrignon, 28 points; Ines, 24 points; Morandin, 19 points; Jenkins, 13 points; Arnot, 6 points.

Should Build Road from Sudbury to Porcupine

An editorial note in The Northern Tribune, of Kapuskasing, last week says:—"Sudbury and Timmins do not intend to be flouted in their demand for a connection highway by high-hat cabinet minister's remarks about it being 'fancy tourist stuff.' It is nothing of the kind; it is a long overdue connecting link between existing mining camps which have already contributed many millions of dollars to public exchequers, and it would do much to develop new mining camps. Around by the Ferguson highway, it is 325 road miles between the two places, while little more than 100 miles of direct road would link them together. Both the provincial and Dominion governments are plastering heavy taxes on the mining industry, which will greatly retard it. They need to change their point of view. Kapuskasing approves the Sudbury-Timmins highway, and will expect it to be carried farther north to Smooth Rock Falls at a not distant date."

Toronto Mail and Empire:—Oddfellowship Seen as Communists' Foe.—Headline. In fact, Communists seem to be running out of friends.

Answers the Unfair Censure of Minister

Haileyburian Makes Effective Reply to Criticism in Parliament of the Work on Haileybury Airport.

In the House of Commons recently there was very ill-advised and unconsidered criticism of the Haileybury airport. To this The Haileyburian last week made very effective reply. The Haileyburian said:—

"While all men in public life are subject to criticism, there are usually certain rules of etiquette observed, even in parliaments. One of these, we should think, is that when an attack is made on one member by another of the opposite party there should be some attention paid to facts and conditions generally. We refer to the attack made on Hon. W. A. Gordon, K.C., in the house last week over the work being done to improve conditions at the Haileybury airport, an attack which was apparently made with an almost total lack of knowledge, both of the way in which the work is being done and the reasons for it. Mr. Wm. Duff, a Nova Scotia member, was the man who took Mr. Gordon to task over the affair, during the absence from the House of the member for Temiskaming South.

"Chief among the complaints of the Nova Scotia man was the fact that the building of the breakwater has been carried on without the calling of tenders. This is easily explained, as the whole undertaking was placed under the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, with the sole purpose of distributing the work among as many jobless men as possible. To those of us who have watched the progress of the work, and who know the circumstances, this object has been carried out satisfactorily. The expenditure has been distributed over a wide area, hundreds of men have received part time employment, both on the actual construction and the furnishing of materials required. A committee of local citizens, among them the Mayor of Haileybury has assisted the man in charge of the work, Jos. Isherwood, in selecting the men to be taken on and seeing that there was a fair distribution. The work has not been confined to Haileybury men; many from the adjoining district and other towns have been employed and so far as was humanly possible, all have received equal treatment. Anyone who knows local conditions realizes that if the job had been let by contract this would have been impossible, and the object of relief employment would have been defeated. In addition it has been found that the work, so far as it has been carried on, has been done well within the Departmental estimates as to cost.

"The critic appears to doubt the necessity for the airport in the first place. This shows that he is entirely unfamiliar with conditions in this North Country. Everyone who is at all familiar with the mining industry knows the place which aircraft have come to take in the development of that industry and the increasing importance of providing safe harbours at strategic points. Haileybury has been one of these points ever since there was a mining industry in this part of the North, was the headquarters of the first commercial air service to serve the mining fields and the lack of proper protection for aircraft has been keenly felt by all who take this means of communication with the mines. Planes have been blown from their moorings and either damaged or lost on more than one occasion and mining men, prospectors and fliers alike have been pressing for some improvement to the harbour.

"Another criticism offered is that 'The Minister of Labour deliberately appoints one of his own friends as foreman to do the work.' All one need say in this regard is that it would have been extremely difficult for Mr. Gordon to have appointed anyone that wasn't 'one of his friends,' without going far outside his constituency. We believe that the whole of South Temiskaming is behind the Minister of Labour in what he has done and is doing in the interests of the North Country, and that the unjust criticism which has been offered in this instance has not come with any sincere intention to better conditions, either for Temiskaming or the country as a whole."

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Sudbury Star:—Maxie Bennett, the Cub Wolves' star right winger, is reported to have been a bit surprised and dazed at all the cheering in Toronto when he scored his epic-making tallies. There was no need for surprise, for, as the Toronto Telegram trenchantly remarks, "Cheering for Bennett is an old Tory custom" in Toronto.

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