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THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

VOL. 60.—NO. 3142

DURHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1927

\$2.00 a Year in Canada; \$2.50 in U. S.

Succumbed To Injuries Received When Gravel Train Was Wrecked

John McLean, Well-known and Popular Durham Man, so Severely Scalded and Injured Internally That He Passed Away Two Hours After Accident.—Widow and Small Family Left to Mourn.

One of the most tragic accidents ever to occur in Durham or vicinity happened last Monday morning about 8 o'clock when Mr. John McLean, 38 years of age, met with such serious injury that he passed away shortly before 10 o'clock.

Mr. McLean had charge of one of the "dinky" engines at the plant of the Durham Stone & Sand Company, used for hauling gravel from the steam shovel to the trestle, from where it is taken to the big crushers. He had made one trip on Monday morning and was on his second journey when the engine jumped the track and the oncoming cars, loaded with gravel, crushed in the engine cab, imprisoning the unfortunate man and pinning him up against the boiler jacket in such a manner that he could not extricate himself.

Just how the accident happened or what occurred will never be known, as Mr. McLean was alone at the time and out of sight of the steam shovel crew and the trestle. In the accident, a steam pipe was broken off and the escaping live steam played on the unfortunate man literally cooking his face and the upper part of his body. This alone is thought to have been sufficient to cause his death, but a badly broken leg, mashed almost to a pulp, and other internal injuries were also a severe shock to his system and would probably have resulted in his death even if the steam pipe had not broken.

Accident Seen From Hill

The first man to see that something was wrong was Mr. James Nichol, who was working on one of the hills south of the track, but some distance from either the steam shovel or the wrecked train. Mr. Nichol ran along the brow of the hill, got the attention of the men working at the gravel pit, and they, sensing something out of the ordinary had happened, had the other engineer, Mr. Dan McCallum, uncouple his engine from the other gravel train and draw up to the scene of the accident. H. W. Wilson, manager of the plant here, immediately shut down the plant and had the men go to the assistance of Mr. McLean.

In the meantime the second engine had coupled on to the loaded cars behind Mr. McLean's engine, the cars were pulled back and the injured man taken out of his demolished cab. Dr. Bell had been telephoned for immediately it was known there had been an accident, and he had the unfortunate man taken to the Red Cross Hospital, where he passed away a few minutes before 10 o'clock. It is thought that Mr. McLean was imprisoned in the wrecked cab about ten minutes before released.

Empanelled Jury

Coroner Dr. D. B. Jamieson had a jury empanelled, who viewed the remains, visited the scene of the accident and adjourned until Friday, September 9, when they will meet in the Town Hall at 2:30 to determine the cause of the accident. The jurors were H. J. Snell (foreman), W. S. Hunter, E. Kress, R. Burnett, E. W. Limin, J. A. Robb, D. McLean, A. Noble and J. A. McLachlan.

Was Good Citizen

The late Mr. McLean was a good citizen, a good workman, and a man highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was a prominent Odd Fellow, having become a member of the Hesperia Lodge when he worked there a few years ago. Since coming to Durham he has been actively identified with Grey Lodge No. 169, of which he was Past Grand, the highest office in their power to bestow, and there was no member held in higher regard. He was also a member of the Canadian Order of Foresters.

Mr. McLean was very highly regarded by his employers, the Durham Stone & Sand Company and his tragic death is regretted by all. Mr. McLean was first and last a home man. He was never happier than when with his family and seldom left them, the exception being the regularity of his attendance at the weekly meeting of the Odd Fellows. It will be in his home and in his lodge that his absence will be felt most.

A sad feature is the absence of Mrs. McLean at the time of the accident, who with two of her children, were visiting her sister, Mrs. Thompson at Ford City. Mrs. McLean was not told more than that her husband had been seriously injured until she arrived at Palmerston Monday night where she was met by motor and the sad news broken to her by her two sisters-in-law, Mrs. G. A. Thompson of this town, Mrs. W. J. Rabb of Harrison, and her brother-in-law, Mr. Robert McLean of Durham. It was indeed a sad home-coming. Mrs. McLean stood the ordeal well until she entered her home when she collapsed and was in a semi-conscious condition for several hours before she

(Continued on page 5)

recovered. The little family, too, miss their daddy sorely, for he was more of a chum or a pal than a parent to them.

The occurrence has thrown a gloom over the whole town. Its awful suddenness makes it hard to realize, and even as we write, knowing too well that all is real, we somehow cannot seem to collect our thoughts sufficiently to adequately express our feelings.

Was Born in Egremont

The late Mr. McLean was born on the second concession of Egremont in November, 1889. He was a son of Mrs. Hugh McLean and the late Mr. McLean of this town, and with the exception of a very few years had spent his life in Durham. When only two or three years of age the family moved to Durham and since grown to manhood the deceased had been mostly employed in the place where he met his death, first with the National Portland Cement Company, and later with the Durham Stone & Sand Company. Four years ago he met with an accident when a steel splinter deprived him of the sight of one eye.

For years, he was fireman and switchman on the larger railroad engine employed around the yard in placing cars, but early this spring took out his engineer's papers and was placed in charge of the smaller engine used in conveying gravel from the steam shovel to the trestle.

Fifteen years ago he was married to Miss Gertrude Hoy, and with the exception of a time spent in Hesperia their family life has been lived in Durham. Besides Mrs. McLean a family of four daughters survive, Abigail, Jean, Florence and Anna. He is also survived by his aged mother, and by four brothers, Robert and James of Durham, Hugh of Galt and Donald of Seattle, Wash., and three sisters, Mrs. D. B. McFarlane and Mrs. G. A. Thompson, Durham, and Mrs. W. J. Rabb of Harrison. All of these, and especially the heart-broken widow and his aged mother, have the sincerest sympathy of this whole community in their hour of trial and sorrow.

Funeral Held Yesterday

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon from the home on Garafra street and was one of the largest ever seen in Durham. Held under the auspices of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Canadian Order of Foresters, there was a large attendance of the brethren of both lodges present. The service at the house was in charge of Rev. H. E. Fiddes of the Queen Street church, assisted by Rev. J. Taylor of the Baptist church, Rev. Mr. Fiddes had charge of the service at the grave. The large concourse of cars through the town was an impressive sight and was a tribute to the esteem in which the deceased was held, as well as the sincere sympathy felt for the sorrowing widow and family.

The pall bearers were members of the Odd Fellows and the Foresters, Messrs. J. McCallum, D. McCallum, W. McNeill, C. Lang, W. Ritchie, J. Lloyd, W. Erwin and H. Murdoch. Amongst the beautiful floral tokens of sympathy were pillows from the Durham Stone & Sand Company, the Canadian Order of Foresters, the Family, Wife and Children, a wreath from the Odd Fellows, a broken wheel from the employees of the Durham Stone & Sand Company, and sprays from Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. D. McCallum, Mr. and Mrs. W. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. James Donnelly, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Vollett, Mr. and Mrs. S. Trafford, Mr. and Mrs. J. McCastin, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McGirr, Mr. and Mrs. Les. Rabb, Miss Margaret Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. S. Combs, Mrs. A. Marshall, the Queen Street United Church, Mrs. C. Lang and Mr. and Mrs. Thompson of Ford City.

Following the services at the grave by Rev. Mr. Fiddes, both the Odd Fellows and the Canadian Foresters performed the last rites over their deceased brother.

The death of Mr. McLean is one of the saddest that ever occurred in this community and the whole vicinity feels deeply for the bereaved widow and the surviving members of his family.

A WORD TO SPORTS

One of the world's greatest hockey players gives good advice to them. Perth Expositor seems to know what it is talking about:

It is sound advice. Frank Nighbor gave Pembroke boys when he was their guest at a banquet to the Pembroke hockey team. "Watch your company will come with more effect from Nighbor, the greatest of all hockey players, than it will through a sermon. There is a feeling in every town against sports, and it is held that sports lead a young man into bad company. Sports do if a young man is weak enough to yield. But sports or athletics build young men. They develop him mentally, physically, morally and spiritually. Boys who play the games have no time for the bottle or cigarette. The one undermines the stamina and the other takes their wind.

DOWNFALL OF RAIN OF MUCH BENEFIT

Land in Vicinity Was Becoming Very Dry and Rain Badly Needed.—Harvest Operations Well Under Way.

The rain on Monday and Tuesday of this week was most welcome visitor, and although there is considerable harvest out yet, the farming community is content, the continued dry spell doing much more damage than what the rain could do to crops already cut and being got ready for the barn.

It was a nice rain, too, and every particle of it soaked right in and went to the place where it would do the most good. It was not a downpour, but a steady fall, almost what might be called a drizzle, and during the whole two days there was never a semblance of a heavy downpour.

Yesterday, too, was an ideal day and, turning warm, the moisture would do inestimable good to the root crops which have been badly scorched for the past four weeks of dry weather. While quite a lot of crop is still in stook, with weather like yesterday, the rain would do practically no harm and it will not take long to make it ready for storing. To put it in the vernacular, Monday and Tuesday's rain "looked like a million dollars."

Crops in this section generally are away above the average. To the west of town it is mostly in hand this week, but the section east is not nearly so far advanced.

DIED LAST WEEK IN CALIFORNIA

Late Mrs. James B. Batty Was Former Resident of Durham Over Forty Years Ago.—Had Been Ill Over a Year.

Mr. T. C. McGirr received word from Mrs. James Batty of Los Angeles, Calif., informing him of the death in that city on August 24 of his wife, formerly Miss Margaret Vollett of this place. Mrs. Batty passed away in the Alhambra Hospital from paralysis suffered over a year ago, during which time she had not walked, talked, or partaken of any solid food.

The late Mrs. Batty, who was about 70 years of age was daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vollett of this town, and over forty years ago moved to Toronto. Here she was married to Mr. Batty and they resided in that city up to ten years ago when they moved to Los Angeles. There is no family. The deceased was a cousin of Mrs. Thos. C. McGirr, Mr. W. C. Vollett and Mr. Hugh McDonald of this place.

INTERMENT MADE SATURDAY

Interment was made Saturday, the 27th ult., in Inglewood cemetery, Los Angeles. The present editor of The Chronicle has no knowledge of the deceased, but doubtless many of our readers will remember her when a resident here. We extend sympathy to Mr. Batty in his loss.

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES MET

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church met Thursday of last week in the church basement in their regular session. Mrs. A. Derby was in the chair. The meeting opened with the singing of hymn, followed by prayer by Mrs. B. D. Armstrong. Mrs. Hepburn read the scripture lesson, which was followed by the singing of another hymn.

Besides the regular business session at which a good deal of work was done, an excellent paper on "Christian Stewardship" was given by Mrs. J. H. McFayden. This proved most interesting and instructive. The singing of a hymn and the Lord's Prayer in unison brought the meeting to a close.

Among other business done by this church organization was the despatching of a bale of supplies for hospital use to the Presbyterian Secretary in Toronto.

MIXED TOURNAMENT

The local bowlers held a mixed tournament on the greens here last Thursday afternoon at which a good few hours' sport was enjoyed. The prizes were a fancy plate for the ladies' and handkerchief for the men, which were won by Mrs. Gilbert McKechnie and Mr. J. S. McIlraith, respectively.

Last week at Arthur a rink composed of Dr. Pickering, Mrs. Pickering, Miss Winnie Blyth and Mr. T. C. Goodchild won first prize, the ladies receiving coffee percolators and the men electric irons.

There will be a Scotch Doubles tournament on Durham greens this Thursday afternoon.

SENT CHEQUE TO HOSPITAL

The local Red Cross Society, through the President, Mrs. D. Jamieson, wish to publicly thank Mr. John E. Russell of the Durham Stone & Sand Company, for a cheque for \$100 to be used toward the erection of a new verandah at the Red Cross Hospital here. Mr. Russell has, since its inception, been one of the most consistent supporters of this local institution and his interest and liberal donations are very much appreciated by the local Trustee Board and the ladies of the Red Cross, under whose direction the hospital is doing much good work in the community.



BEAM TELEPHONE FOR CANADA

Rt. Hon. F. G. Kellaway, managing director of the Marconi Wireless Company in Great Britain, has just announced that the beam telephone between England and Canada will be available before this year is out. Recent tests have been highly satisfactory.

LIKES "CHRONICLE" FOR NEWS FROM HOME

Mrs. J. C. Capper Says She Would Not Like to Be Without Weekly Visit of This Journal, Which Keeps Her Informed As To What Is Taking Place Here.

Though a resident of the State of Montana for quite a number of years, Mrs. J. C. Capper, a former resident here, and daughter of Mrs. William Saunders of this place, is still interested in Durham, her old home town, and in a letter received from her recently she says she would not like to be without the weekly visit of The Chronicle to her home, as it keeps her in touch with all that is transpiring in her native town.

Mrs. Capper naturally cannot follow all the news that appears in these columns each week; since she resided here there have been many changes, but in a general sense she is able to follow the bigger events and keep up with the happenings.

We were pleased to learn that she and her family are all well. The past summer has been a very hot one for Montana, and with an abundance of rain there are exceptionally good crops this season. Mr. Capper is connected with a Portland cement company in Hanover, where the family has resided for a number of years, and on looking up our reference book we find that this flourishing town is in Fergus County, seven miles from Lewistown on the Great Northern Railway, is also on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul a little over 100 miles east of Great Falls.

Mrs. Capper tells us that her eldest boy, Chester, is in the U. S. Navy and has been since last April. He is signing up as machinist's mate and was selected as one of eight in his company as eligible to take the examination at Annapolis Academy. Should he be successful he will get four years at Annapolis and a naval lieutenant when he graduates. Referring to other members of her family, Mrs. Capper tells us that her mother no doubt, is in her last year in High school. Two other sons, William and Jasper are in various grades in High school, and the youngest girl, Joyce, starts to school this month.

Enclosed with Mrs. Capper's letter was a newspaper clipping telling of a number of boys of the town being guests of the Rotary club at Lewistown at which Chester Capper and his father, J. C. Capper were present. Among other things the newspaper report said: "Chester Capper has completed the course in naval training in San Diego, Calif., and expects to enter the naval academy in Annapolis in September."

Old friends of Mr. and Mrs. Capper in Durham will join with us in extending congratulations on their evident success in the Western States, and extend them an invitation to come East and enjoy themselves for a week or longer if Durham's Back Home Week materializes next year or in 1929.

SPECIAL SERVICES WELL ATTENDED

Evangelist Caswell Greeted With Full House Last Sunday Evening.—Meetings to Continue For Some Time.

The opening night in the evangelistic campaign being conducted here by Mr. Harvey H. Caswell in the Veteran Star Theatre saw a crowded house last Sunday night, when the evangelist, an old Ben-tinck boy who is appearing here under the auspices of Atmees Semple McPherson, delivered his appeal to his hearers. The theatre was crowded to the doors, and we are told the services will continue indefinitely.

In connection with the services there was a musical program by local talent. The meetings are being held on Sunday and Wednesday evenings of each week.

Durham Midget Lacrosse Team Are Now O. A. L. A. Champions

"BACK HOME WEEK" SUGGESTED AS NAME

Suggestion Comes From Indianapolis Subscriber That Durham Go Ahead and Arrange for "Old Back Home Week" Next Year.

Evidently some of the old-time residents of this section are intensely interested in the announcement that Durham may hold an Old Home Week next year, and already The Chronicle has received a communication from one of our readers in the United States, Dr. John A. Conkey, who suggests that we call it the Durham Old Boys' and Girls' Back Home Week.

Dr. Conkey says that this is merely a suggestion, but we think it is a good one and one that will probably be followed. Since going to Indianapolis many years ago, the Doctor, who is a Pricewille old boy, has been a continuous reader of The Chronicle and is still very much interested in Durham, Glenelg, Pricewille and the contiguous territory. He says: "I will try and be there, but whether I can or cannot, it is a mighty fine thought, and wish you abundant success in bringing about its consummation."

There are doubtless many hundreds of old-time residents of this section who, like Dr. Conkey, are only awaiting an invitation from back and spend a week with their pals of many years ago. And what a glorious re-union it would be! We don't think there is a town in Ontario whose sons and daughters have travelled farther afield than those from Durham and the country immediately surrounding. They are scattered all over goodness knows where, and a gathering such as a Back Home Week would bring them together from all quarters of the globe.

What a glorious week of reminiscence, and what a week of notes comparing between the Johnnies and the Nellies telling of what they have done during the intervening years! The idea looks better the more one thinks of it.

The preliminary step in the big idea has already been taken with the meeting called by the citizens a week or so ago. A committee has been appointed to wait on the Town Council, explain the approximate cost, secure their co-operation, and make further arrangements. This by no means assures the holding of the Back Home Week, however. It is but a preliminary step. The movement is a citizens' movement, and their full consent and co-operation will have to be obtained before any further action can be taken.

Whether or not a Back Home Week will be celebrated in Durham in 1928 or 1929 is not yet definitely decided, but, like Dr. Conkey, we think the idea is a good one. It is, however, a citizens' movement, and as such will have to be advocated and run under a committee of the citizens elected for the purpose.

CHIMNEY FIRE CALLED OUT BRIGADE

Fortunately No Damage Was Done Last Thursday Night From Miniature Conflagration in Southern Part of Town.

When the chimney of Mr. Arthur McDonald's house caught fire last Thursday night it caused quite as much excitement as even a burning chimney should expect. Some one no doubt thought that the big blaze was more serious and sent in an alarm, but for a time we are told no one could tell exactly where the fire was in progress, and it was located only with some difficulty.

The incident reminds us of a similar fire in Hanover a week or so ago when some rubbish caught fire near the plant of the Ball Furniture Company. The fire department of the town could get no information as to where the blaze was and when finally located proved to be a bonfire in one of the local Hanover yards.

The incident once more proves the correctness of the contention of numerous citizens that the town should have a more up-to-date system of calling out the fire brigade than the present one of blowing the factory whistle. With the number of extra freight trains running around on the C. N. R. and C. P. R. tracks here at all hours of the day and night, some distinctive alarm is a necessity if the fire laddies are to be given a fair chance in showing what they can do.

HAD FINGER AMPUTATED

John Finucan, an employe on the C. N. R. gang here engaged in putting in the new Y south of town leading into the Durham Stone & Sand Company's plant, was the victim of an unfortunate accident Monday morning when a heavy rail dropped on his hand. He was taken to Dr. Jamieson's office where one of his fingers was so badly crushed that it had to be amputated.

Read the Classified Ads. on Page 7

Won Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association Championship Here Last Saturday When They Defeated Fergus 11 to 1.—Big Crowd Saw Contest.

When they defeated the fast travelling Fergus midget team here last Saturday afternoon by 11 to 1, and won the round of the two games played by 15 goals to 7, the Durham midget team for the first time in lacrosse history brought an Ontario championship to Durham and incidentally showed that, despite persistent rumors, lacrosse is not yet dead in this neck of the woods.

Their victory is all the more notable when it is considered that "the kids" did it all themselves. During this season and for a number of seasons past, Durham has been anywhere but on the lacrosse map. Last spring, so far as the usual bunch who control sporting affairs in town was concerned, there was to be no lacrosse here this summer, but the youngsters got together, made their own entry in the O.A.L.A. and as a culmination of their efforts they now have the championship honors tacked away for the 1927 playing season.

Saturday afternoon lacrosse in Durham is not altogether popular pastime, but as the O. A. L. A. executive had ordered it, there was nothing else for it and the game went on. Had almost any other day been selected there would undoubtedly have been a larger crowd. But no blame can be attached to the Executive. They did the best they knew, but are not conversant with the sporting ideas of this part of the country. Down around Toronto and in other parts of the province Saturday is considered the best day to pull off these affairs from an attendance standpoint, but up in this centre of the farming community where Saturday afternoon and evening is "shopping day" it is a different story. However, there was quite a large crowd present and there are no complaints that we have heard.

The game as a whole must be considered something of a disappointment, but turned out just about what Manager Hespeler expected it would when the team returned from Fergus after their game there. At one time the Durhams, who were beaten in the Thistle town 6 to 4, were behind 5 to 1. This was before they solved the Fergus home problem, and after that the Fergus team could only annex one goal. At the game here Saturday it proved the contention of the Durham manager that his team would conquer the boys from the south.

Advertised to commence at 3:30, the game got under way about 3:45 with Courtney of Hespeler as referee. It took Fergus 16 minutes to get their first counter, the first score of the game, and as they were playing some pretty good lacrosse that 2-goal lead they brought with them looked mighty good about this time. The Durhams were always pressing.

(Continued on page 7)

STANDING BY POINTS GRAIN CROP CONTEST

Marks Obtained by Various Competitors Were Received Last Week, Though They Do Not Show True Merit of Lower Placed Crops.

Since last week the points obtained by the winning contestants in the Field Crop Competition held under the auspices of the South Grey Agricultural Society have been received from the Department, and are as follows:

A. Herd 97, J. C. Hamilton 96, A. Grierson 94, W. J. Ritchie 92, Thomas Young 90, W. Mather 87, M. Barber 86.

This year it will be noticed that there is quite a difference in the number of points obtained between the winner and the lowest competitor. This at present cannot be explained but is either a difference in the method of marking, or the judge on this occasion did not mark so closely as in former years.

While the standing of the contestants is not affected in any way, in former years the judging was done by half-points and there was a possibility of there not being more than four or five full points between high and low contestant. We are unable to explain the departure this year, but, as we have said, there would have been no difference in the standing had the old method of marking prevailed.

We have been told, however, that while the judging was fair and impartial in every way, that there is not really a difference of 11 points in the two standing crops as this years marking indicates.

TEMPERATURES OF PAST WEEK

Following are the temperatures of the past week, with the highest and lowest registered every day during the preceding 24 hours.

	8 a.m.	Max.	Min.
Thursday	51	71	42
Friday	54	73	44
Saturday	54	71	48
Sunday	55	70	43
Monday	54	60	51
Tuesday	56	64	54
Wednesday	58	70	51