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**END OF THE ENQUIRY**

**INTO THE EMPRESS WRECK IS NEAR AT HAND.**

Evidence Practically all Before Commission—The Court Will Have Difficult Time Owing to Contradictory Evidence.

Quebec, June 22.—With Saturday's adjournment of the inquiry into the sinking of the Empress of Ireland, the close of the investigation may be said to be near at hand. There still remains some considerable evidence to be called. There are still some of the crew of the Storstad, and the divers who during the last few days have been exploring the sunken wreck have still to make their report. But evidence of unskillful navigation, except so far as the divers found it in the damaged hull, is virtually complete.

They have been five strenuous days that the investigation has been in progress. Almost from the moment he first took his seat with his colleagues on the bench, Lord Mersey made it plain that no dilatory tactics would be tolerated. The commission signed by the minister of marine and fisheries was read, counsel for the dominion government gave a brief recital of the disaster, and immediately Captain Kendall was called into the box. Should counsel put some leading or irregular questions to a witness there are no long speeches of protest from the opposing lawyers. In a flash the president of the commission has interposed with some dryly caustic remark, and the line of inquiry is hurriedly abandoned.

There are many of Lord Mersey's neat little interjections and descriptions which will long be classics in Quebec. His long vowels and rather peculiar intonation, his habit of pausing over his words are added touches of the picturesque which pack the galleries of the court day by day. On Friday one of the witnesses referred to a third party as a lawyer.

"A liar?" asked his lordship in a tone of horror.

"Not a liar, a lawyer," the witness persisted.

"Oh, a lawyer," Lord Mersey grimly replied as he beamed on the crowd of counsel in the well of the court. "Well, well, there is not much difference sometimes."

The Norwegian names of the crew of the Storstad gave his lordship some interesting moments. Few of them could speak English with fluency and the interpreter occasionally became mixed.

"Let us have an interpreter to explain the interpreter," he courtly rang with laughter.

The witness named the Storstad whose name begins with a "T." Lord Mersey called First Officer Tuttenes, "The neptune inn," he cynically called Quartermaster Galway, of the Empress, in sarcastic reference to the place where Galway is staying in town. Another witness earned from Lord Mersey the sobriquet of the "Gentleman from Crows-Nest."

The evidence submitted can scarcely be said to have thrown much new light on the collision. The committee of the two vessels are emphatic as ever in their contradictions. Capt. Kendall persists that the Storstad changed her course in a fog. Capt. Anderson declares that the Empress made three blunders—blunders in steering and blunders in her signaling. But how the great error of seamanship which brought the ships together in so wide a waterway was made, has not yet been told.

So late in the proceedings as this morning, there seemed some possibility of solving the problem. The third officer of the Storstad was on the stand. He related how, on coming through the fog just before the collision he had heard the order given to port the helm a little. The vessel did not answer, he claimed, and he himself, acting without orders from the navigating officers, threw the helm hard a-port. Again and again he was questioned whether this throwing over of the wheel without orders hadn't been responsible for the collision. The witness was equally insistent. He said he had merely kept the Storstad on her course.

There is, too, some unexplained mystery over the scrap log of the Storstad engine room. The third engineer was on duty in the engine room when the collision occurred, yet the chief engineer admitted on the stand this morning that he had himself made entries in the scrap log the same evening. Pressed over and over again why he had followed this singular course, the chief engineer pleaded that his third engineer could not spell.

Did you ever think what a lot of good you might have done had you begun yesterday instead of waiting until to-morrow?  
Don't get too ambitious in paying off fancied insults.

**When the Liver Gets Torpid**

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Mrs. C. L. Cook, 248 Tenth street, Brandon, Man., writes:—"I have used Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills for the last four years for liver trouble, and can say that I have had great satisfaction and relief from them. In fact, I do not need a doctor if I use them when the liver gets torpid, and believe that they are exactly suited for my case. My husband has used them for kidney trouble with good results, and my daughter in Winnipeg has been helped a great deal by the use of these pills. We say we can't keep house without them, and have cheated the doctors here out of a good many visits. I think Dr. Chase's medicines are just the thing, and have recommended them to many people who have used them with good results."

By keeping the liver active and the bowels regular Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills prevent and cure such disorders as biliousness, constipation, chronic indigestion and headache. One pill a dose, 25c a box, 5 for \$1; all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

**FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE**

**Canoto Notes.**

Canoto, June 20.—James Moore and a gang of men are laying out a grant of money on the Folger Road. The farmers wear pleasant faces for the rain of last Friday which was badly needed. Strawberries are beginning to ripen and are quite plentiful here. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cox of Ardoch, were recent guests of Mrs. Jarbeau. Mr. and Mrs. Modasthead, of London, Ont., spent a week with her brother, William Bedour, of Canoto.

**Bunker Hill's Great Hen**

Bunker Hill, June 19.—The rain of to-day was welcomed by every one, as hay, grain and gardens began to look dry and doubtful. Strawberries are ripening and there seems to be a good crop of them. Many people are glad to see Mrs. Bennett back as cook at the spar mine. John Babcock has a hen which laid an egg which measured 6 3/4 by 7 3/4. Visitors: Mrs. Hiland, of Kingston at her sister's, Mrs. James Wilson's; C. Garrison at Andrew Seamon's; M. G. Hoppin and G. Snider at Alexander Hoppin; Lucretia Hoppin and R. Wilson at A. B. Hoppin's.

**Notes From Glendower.**

Glendower, June 19.—The ground is getting very dry on account of the lack of rain during the past couple of weeks. The work on the new road is completed. Sanford Leeman is training his colt. The death occurred of T. Nefcy, an old resident of this place. Warner Switzer, of Latchford, paid a visit to this place. The cheese factory, which broke down, is running again. A large number of deaths have occurred in this vicinity this summer. The caterpillars and worms are gradually disappearing. Mrs. T. Leeman is visiting friends. Mrs. Hyland, of Kingston, is visiting at James Wilson's.

**At Washburn's Corners**

Washburn's Corners, June 19.—On invitation, on June 17th, a number from here and other localities met at the home of Mr. Vincent Yates, near Frankville, to bring Mrs. Yates' seventy-ninth birthday. Despite her advanced age she is still hale and hearty. The house was decorated with roses, lilies of the valley and ferns. The guests and their families, including the children, at one o'clock all sat down to a sumptuous dinner. A few hours were spent in social conversation, which Mrs. Yates greatly enjoyed. At four o'clock the guests departed wishing Mrs. Yates many more happy birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Bland Webster and family, of Warburton, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. Washburn on Wednesday. Mrs. C. Snyder, of Lynn, spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. H. Erwin. Miss Alice Harton has returned home after visiting friends at Caintown. Miss Lillian Blackburn, of Phillipsville, called on friends who were pleased to see her so greatly improved in health. On Wednesday evening last Miss Annie Wright entertained a number of musical friends in honor of her sister, Miss Mahel. On Tuesday, Master Robert Swaine returned to his home at the rectory, where he had been attending school.

**Budget From Verona.**

Verona, June 18.—Nearly everybody here was at the circus in Kingston. The dry weather has had a bad effect on hay and other crops. Free Methodist quarterly meeting will be held here on Sunday. The Kingston Valley, John Deane has recovered from a severe illness. Lindsay Irvine, Owen Sound visited with H. Percy last week. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Vandusen and little daughter, visiting at Dr. Geddes' have returned to Deseronto. Miss Hattie Steele is visiting friends at Pleasant Valley. John Deane has with her daughter, Mrs. Johnston, is ill. Rev. Mr. Howarth is indisposed. Quite a number from here are at the military camp at Petawawa. C. W. Leadlay has gone to Montreal. Miss Nellie McCarron, professional nurse, Toronto, is here on a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Asselstine. Miss C. Grearx, Deseronto, is the guest of Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Geddes. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Lakin's Perth, are visiting at Wesley Burleigh's. The infant child of Miss Hattie Revell, is somewhat better. A. A. Ludbrook is visiting at Wilton. Samuel Revell is better of tonsillitis. Free Methodist quarterly meeting is being held here to-morrow. Camp meeting starts next week. Frank Lammings left yesterday for Volle Island to visit his parents.

**News From Melville.**

Melville, June 19.—N. W. Rowell, the liberal leader, addressed a large and representative gathering of the electors of Prince Edward county in Picton, Wednesday evening. W. J. Locklin, S. Kinnear, R. Lander and W. H. Anderson were among those who attended from Melville. Grit and tory agreed that Mr. Rowell's address was excellent and worthy of special attention and consideration. A jolly wagon-load of young men, provided with every conceivable noise-producing instrument, left the village on Tuesday evening, their destination being Frank Benway's, and their object a welcome home to Charles Benway and his bride by the old-fashioned custom of the charivari. The sad news has been received by friends here of the death of Mrs. A. D. Caldwell, of Manitoba (formerly Miss E. Poste), of Melville. Miss Elva Locklin, B.A., of the teaching staff of Napane Collegiate, is spending her holidays at her home in Melville. Percy Dempsey, the conservative candidate for legislative honors in Prince Edward, was in this community on Thursday. Mrs. Albert Davern, Toronto, who, with her sons, William and Laverall, will spend the vacation at their summer residence, Concession Lake, has purchased a new car. Workmen are now busy in the construction of a garage. Miss Vera Zuleit is visiting friends in Melville. Miss Ella Locklin is spending a few weeks with friends in Wooler. Miss Oral

**FOUR CANADIANS CREATED KNIGHTS.**

**A NOTED BLACKFOOT SCOUT.**

Subscribes Regularly to a Canadian Magazine—A Unique Distinction. Whenever a North-West Mounted Police has patrol work on an Indian Reserve, he must have an Indian scout to assist him. This officer is employed by the Mounted Police, lives at the barracks, and wears a uniform provided for him by the department. He must be able to understand and speak English for he is the medium between the red man and the officer of the law in the Indian territory.

Usually the scout becomes a very important personage among the Indians and is not much loved by them. While they are not usually averse to police control, yet they cannot help some of the old ideas that the Medicine man and chief of the tribe should be the only Indian authority under which they must bend.

One of the most enlightened scouts in the employ of the forces is Eddie Spring in the crowd, who for short is called plain "Eddie." What his father saw at the time of his birth to suggest such an uncommon name for his child is not known. Eddie is one of the few Indians of the blood reserve who gets mail at the local post-office. For some years Eddie has been a subscriber to a Canadian periodical, and while the police affirm that he does not read the literature, yet they believe the pleasure of having a magazine come addressed to himself more than offsets the small subscription he pays for it.

**Headman Botches His Job.**

Although there is no movement in Germany to do away with capital punishment, there is one in favor of substituting the sword of the headman's sword employed in Prussia and several other German states. The reformers contend that, while it is almost impossible for anything to go wrong with the gallows, guillotine or electric chair, it is not infrequently happens that the headman "botches his job." It is also held that decapitation by the sword is far more gruesome than need be, and that the sight of the black-covered block and silent executioner leaning on his short broadsword is a far greater tax on a condemned man's nerves and courage than the scaffold or chair.

In Berlin the execution takes place in the courtyard of the Plötzensee Penitentiary, in which the executioner awaits the arrival of the condemned man on a large flat flagstone, which gives him a firm footing. The culprit—after a sentence has been read to him by one of the officials who are present, clad in evening dress—is thrown face downward on a crushed hole for his head to rest. He is then strapped down, and the headman raises the sword of death up to the level of his own chin and then lets the heavy, razor-edged blade swing down.

Possibly the reason that there has been no movement before toward the abolition of this medieval form of execution lies in the fact that details of executions are never published in the German press, says the death sentence is rarely carried out, the public does not often hear of the Saxon execution.—Philadelphia North Am.

**The Testing.**

When in the dim beginning of the years  
God mixed in man the rapture and the tears,  
And scattered through his brain the stars,  
He said: "Behold! Yet this is not enough,  
For I must test his spirit to make sure  
That he can dare the vision and endure."  
"I will withdraw My face,  
Vell Me in shadow for a certain space,  
And leave behind only a broken clew,  
A crevice where the glory glimmers through;  
Some whisper from the sky,  
Some footprint in the road to track Me by."

**A Tax on Duels.**

When the new French Chamber meets, a freshly-elected deputy intends, so it is said, to propose the imposition of a tax on duels. His argument will be that duels are a form of advertisement, and as such are liable to taxation as posters and prospectuses.

**A Versatile Organist.**

Geoffrey Norris, a well-known character in the country parts between Wigan, Southport, and Preston, England, is a man of remarkable versatility. Although he has a wooden leg, he has played the pedal organ at Warrington Parish church for a period of nineteen and a half years. Secord and parish clerk for twenty years, he digs all the graves unaided, and has personally directed about 500 interments. He has held office in connection with every phase of Sunday school work, and has sung Good Friday "massing bell" for twenty years. For twenty-three years he has missed only one Sunday service, and that was when his own banns of marriage were called, as it is customary for those "named" to abstain from going to church on "banns Sundays."



SIR R. L. BORDEN



SIR GEORGE E. FOSTER



SIR ADAM BECK



SIR J. A. M. ATKINS, K.C.

**THE THRILLING TALES "I HAVE GAINED FIFTEEN POUNDS"**

**TOLD BY SURVIVORS OF ALBERTA MINE DISASTER.**

There are 107 Bodies Still in the Mine—Eighty-Six Dead Removed From Wreckage.

Hillcrest, Alta., June 22.—Thrilling tales are told by survivors of the Hillcrest disaster. Some described themselves as being brought from the dead, having fallen under the effect of the black damp before reaching safety. Some heard the explosion and knew nothing until revived, while others dropped to their hands and knees and crawled to safety.

There are forty-four of the survivors, the latest official figures from the offices of the Hillcrest Collieries, Limited, giving 237 as entering the mine in the morning. Eighty-six bodies have been taken out, and one hundred and seven still remain in the mine. It is practically certain every one of these latter is dead. Not a sound is heard in the mine, save that made by the rescuers themselves, and the presence of fire makes it impossible for them to conduct their gruesome but self-imposed task. But still the work goes steadily on.

"Yes, I was one of the lucky rescued party," said H. Yeaden. "And I feel as though I had been brought back from death. I was working in North 15 at the time of the explosion. That location is about one-quarter mile from the mouth of the mine. I can remember hearing the explosion, and that is about all I know, with the exception of dropping down to the floor of the drift near some water. Possibly it is to that I owe my life. The next thing I knew I was told physicians had been using the pulmotor on me forty-five minutes."

Wm. Gurrie, another of the few saved, had a thrilling escape to safety. Rushing with others to the mouth of the mine, he was caught in a frog of the track, but quickly drawing a knife he released the boot from his foot, and walked to safety in his stocking feet.

Malcolm Link and Chas. Jones had similar experiences in getting to safety. They were in 15 chute when the explosion occurred. They just heard a report as though they were shot in a battleshop, so they dropped to their hands and knees and crawled to safety.

Chas. Ironmonger was thrown from the mine by the force of the explosion, and was seriously injured. He was removed to the hospital, and died shortly afterwards.

Arnold Varley was another of the saved. "I just heard the report," he said, "and then I rushed to safety. There were a number of others around me, and I can remember stumbling over a dead corpse on the way."

Chas. Murray gave up his life in an attempt to save his two boys, who were entombed in the mine. Hearing of this he rushed in, but never came out again.

An inquest was held here Saturday afternoon on the bodies of those already taken from the mine, and a funeral was held yesterday. This inquest was but a formal matter, in order to allow a ready disposal of the bodies, but an inquest proper will be held two weeks later on July 2nd, when all bodies are recovered. A carload of coffins has been sent from Calgary and Macleod.

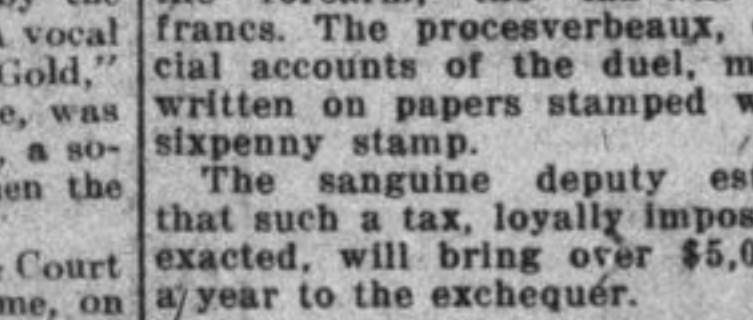
General Manager Brown, one of the most active of the rescuers, collapsed when it became certain that his brother, William Brown, was among the men imprisoned in the mine.

Some idea of the colossal force of the explosion can be gained when it is realized that one man who was working over 500 feet away was blown against the side of the room and his safety lamp snapped in two. Not a man who did not escape within five minutes of the explosion has lived. An engineer at the hoist-house outside the mines, and several hundred feet away from the scene of the explosion, narrowly escaped death, while his building was completely demolished. It is stated that a small boy, who was in this building at the time, was blown to atoms.

Many a man makes a strenuous effort to recognize his duty so that he will be in a position to dodge it. There's no reason why lightning shouldn't strike twice in the same place—if it can find the place. I had as soon a man would abuse me as my horse.

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