

RIVER BRIDGE COLLAPSES

DEAD WILL NUMBER 84 OR MORE

Section of New Structure Being Erected at Length 23. Lawrence River Near Quebec Crashes Into Water Carrying Scores of Bridge Workers and Mechanics—Crash Came Just as Whistle Announced Close of Work Day and Few Workmen Had Time to Escape—Twisted Iron and Steel Boils Victims in Terrible Death Grip—Steamer Lowers Boats to Aid in Rescue.

Quebec, Que., Aug. 29.—The great Quebec bridge collapsed late this afternoon and now the vast mass of steel work lies a tangled wreck across the St. Lawrence channel. A careful estimate of the loss of life is that the bridge fell at exactly 23 minutes to 8 this evening just as many of the workmen were preparing to leave. The accident was so terrible in its effectiveness in wiping out the lives of the men employed that very little is known as to the cause of the disaster.

The bridge was about a mile and a half in length and half of it, from the south shore to midstream, crumpled up and dropped into the water. Ninety men were at work on the section of the structure and the whistle had just blown for the men to quit work for the day, when there came a grinding sound from the bridge midstream. The men turned to see what had happened and an instant later the cry went up, "the bridge is falling." The men made a dash shoreward but the distance was too great for them to escape. The fallen section of the bridge dragged others after it. The snapping girders and cables booming like a crash of artillery.

BUT FEW REACHED SAFETY.

Terror lent fleetness to the feet of the frightened workmen as they sped shoreward, but only a few of them reached safety before the last piece of iron work on the south shore was dragged into the water.

Near the shore the wreckage of the bridge did not go below the surface of the water and eight workmen who remained above water were rescued and taken to the hospital at Lévis.

The steamer Glenmont had just cleared the bridge when the first section fell. The water thrown up by the debris went clear over the bridge of the steamer. The captain at once lowered boats. The small motor boats plied backward and forward over the wreckage for half an hour, but there was no sign of life.

The twisted iron and steel had its victims in a terrible death grip. A few twisted timbers and the broken struts of the bridge toward the north shore were the only signs that anything unusual had happened. There was not a ripple on the smooth surface of the St. Lawrence as it swept along toward the gulf. All the men drowned were employees of the Phoenixville Bridge Company and sub-contractors of Quebec and Montreal.

SIXTEEN BODIES PICKED UP.

At 10 o'clock to-night sixteen bodies had been picked up and of the eight men in the hospital two are not expected to live. The night of the Quebec bridge was begun about seven years ago and it was to be finished in 1909. Subsidies had been granted by the Federal and provincial governments and the city of Quebec and the estimated cost of the work was \$10,000,000.

The Phoenixville Bridge Company, of Pennsylvania, had the contract for the construction of the bridge and were working from both sides of the river.

WALLS OF THE WOUNDED.

The horror of the situation is increased by the fact that there are a number of wounded men pinned in the wreckage near the shore. Their groans and shrieks can be plainly heard by the crowds who have gathered at the water's edge, but nothing so far can be done to relieve their sufferings. There are no search lights available and by the feeble light of lanterns it is impossible to locate some of the sufferers.

Doctors and Newspaper Men Leave on Steamer For Scene.

Quebec, Aug. 29.—A steamer with 20 doctors and newspaper men left here at 8:15 for the scene of the bridge disaster. It is reported that the loss of life was over 50. One half of the bridge beginning with the south shore fell into the river. The bridge was about a mile and a half long and was nearly finished.

\$200,000 FIRE AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

Plants of Courier-Journal and Evening Times Suffer Almost Irreparable Damage—Believed All Employees Escaped From the Building.

Louisville, Ky., Aug. 30.—The plants of the Courier-Journal and the Evening Times suffered almost irreparable damage by a fire which broke out shortly after midnight. The flames spread with unusual rapidity, but it is believed that all employees escaped from the building.

Less than an hour after the fire was discovered the third floor of the five-story structure fell and the efforts of the city fire department seemed in vain. As soon as the extent of the conflagration became known "The Morning Herald" offered the use of its plant to the Courier-Journal management. The fire started in the north end of the building at the top of an elevator shaft. It is supposed to have been caused by defective insulation on electric light wires. The loss is estimated at \$200,000.

Charleston, S. C., and Portsmouth, N. H., Navy Yards Not Needed.

Newport, R. I., Aug. 29.—Congressman George A. Loud, a member of the House committee which is inspecting the naval stations along the Atlantic seaboard, in an interview today said that it was too bad that so much money should be appropriated for the maintenance of the Portsmouth, N. H., and Charleston, S. C., navy yards. He added that these yards were not actually needed. Congressman Loud said that it was the plan to place a dry dock in every navy yard in the United States.

Builder Files Petition in Bankruptcy.

New York, Aug. 29.—Jacob S. Halprin, a builder here, has filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States Court here, showing liabilities of \$1,144,922 and nominal assets of \$150,000. Halprin, it is stated, engaged in extensive building on a small island and while money was easy to obtain was successful and was looked upon as a millionaire.

Loss From Fire \$15,000,000.

Tokohama, Aug. 29.—Advices received from the American consulate at Hsokodate place the loss caused by the conflagration there at \$15,000,000. About 15,000 homes varying in value were burned and 50,000 people rendered homeless. Former estimates are regarded as having been too low.

French Schooner Goes Down With 18 Men on Board.

Gravelines, France, Aug. 29.—The French schooner Violette has gone down in the English channel and 18 men on board were drowned. No further details of the accident are obtainable.

RELIGION MAKES HIM CRAZY

Louise Harris, of Shelby County, Becomes Demented and Calls a Number of People the Devil—Tries to Kill His wife and is Put in Jail on Disposition Thought to Be the Cause of the Trouble.

Special to The Observer. Albemarle, Aug. 29.—Mr. Lemuel Harris, of Big Lick township, has been confined in the county jail here owing to a severe attack of religious mania. His case is a peculiar one and recalls one of the dark ages. Last Friday while attending a religious meeting at Big Lick he was converted and united with the Baptist church at that place. On Saturday, the day which he will remember to his dying day, he was baptized. He was so overcome by the baptism that he refused to be baptized until he had seen the minister of the church. No one thought of his being insane until the baptism was over and the congregation had repaired to the church for the service. At the close of the services he called the attention of Mr. Davis, the minister, and asked to be allowed to speak a word. Mr. Davis told him to go ahead.

He talked so long that Mr. Davis became weary and waiting and proceeded to pronounce the benediction when Harris told the congregation that he was the one they should listen to as he was God. He said that the Holy Spirit was in the church and must be ejected at once in order that the church might be clean. He said he saw him and intended to make him leave, and thereupon proceeded to pounce upon the brethren over the head with his fist in such a violent manner that the bystanders caught and held him until the so-called devil could get out. He then went home Sunday night and he had been converted and joined the church and therefore denied his baptism. The minister agreed to baptize him and thereupon the congregation again went to the water and asked if he was ready to be baptized. Harris remarked that he was not, that the Lord would not permit just men to be baptized by the devil. He then went home and attempted to kill his wife with a chair, and became so unmanageable that his friends were compelled to bind him and bring him here to the county jail. He has grown steadily worse until he is in a horrible condition.

INTEREST IN MEETING GROWS.

Rev. Dr. Orr preached at Villa Heights Church last night on "Pleasures of Sin"—Nine Persons Profoundly Converted—The Meeting Continued—Large Congregations Present.

The meeting which has been in progress at the Villa Heights Associate Reformed Presbyterian church since Monday night grows in interest, and the congregations have increased steadily throughout the week. The largest congregation of the week was present at last night's service. Several members of the choir of the East Avenue Tabernacle attend the meeting regularly, and their singing is an attractive feature of every service. There will be preaching again to-night. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Last night Rev. Dr. W. W. Orr, preached on the subject: "Pleasures of Sin," and his sermon was marked with great earnestness. He spoke first of the pleasures to be derived from the indulgence in sin, and showed how natural it is for the sinner to derive pleasure from such a source, because the sin itself does not look higher for its satisfaction. In this connection he showed also that while pleasure may be gained in this way, joy cannot be, and the pleasure gained is not lasting but soon passes away, while the joy which is derived from the Christian life is never-ending.

Dr. Orr spoke next of the cost, which is loss, to the body, the mind, the reputation, and the character, which comes to every man who indulges in the pleasures of the sinful life. The last point he emphasized was the final cost of sin, which is death, which cost must be paid in the end by every individual who clings to sin instead of seeking salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. He closed his sermon with a plea to reject the fleeting pleasures of sin and gain eternal joy by the acceptance of Christ.

SIX OF EIGHTEEN ACQUITTED.

Three Persons Charged With Plotting Against Emperor Nicholas and Government Sentenced to Hang, Five to Be Banished, Others to Serve Terms in Prison.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 29.—The court-martial which has been trying the 18 persons accused of plotting against Emperor Nicholas and the government last May, has found three of them, Nikitenko, Simaevy, alias "Purkin," and Naumoff, guilty of organizing a plot, and sentenced them to hang. Four others were found guilty of organizing a plot to overthrow the existing form of government. Three of these were sentenced to eight years imprisonment and one to four years penal servitude.

Five of the prisoners were convicted of having "supported a conspiracy" and were sentenced to banishment, while six persons, including M. Foodoroff, a lawyer, and his wife, were acquitted.

Albemarle Editor Beats His Wife.

Albemarle, Aug. 29.—The first term of school at the Albemarle Normal & College Institute opened Monday with a large number of girls in attendance. The large new dormitory is full and many are boarding in private homes. A new teacher has been obtained to assist Misses Northrop and Uford, and a good school is expected.

Yesterday Editor Jones of the Albemarle Chronicle, a Republican paper of this city, was arranged before Recorder Boston for a hearing. The fight occurred at the printing office of the Chronicle and became so violent that he proceeded to arrest the offender, who brought them before the recorder, who fined them \$5 and the costs. Mr. Jones said the trouble was due to his wife's wanting to leave Albemarle and his refusal.

Two Suicides From Steamer.

New York, Aug. 29.—Two suicides, both by boys, occurred from the steamer Patricia which arrived today from Hamburg. Baruch Jaffe, a teenage passenger, and his Jewish brother, a crew member of the crew, jumped overboard two days ago, in both cases the steamer was stopped and a search was made for the boys, but without success.

Arrested on Charge of Peonage.

Shreveport, La., Aug. 29.—Five well-known residents of Caliborne parish, State, have been arrested by Deputy United States Marshal Leas on charges of peonage. The indictment alleges that the five men all of whom are named Gray, held several negroes under restraint.

New Rate Effective Sept. 2d.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 29.—The Seaboard Air Line Railroad has announced that it will put in effect September 2d the new passenger rate of 2-1/2 cents a mile ordered by the State railroad commission.

OLD INDIA IS WAKING UP

INDUSTRIAL LIFE TAKEN ON

Manrajah Gaekwad, Who Last Year Visited America, Employs an American Economic Adviser—Communication Opened With Bureau of Manufactures at Washington on Subject of Cotton Seed Oil Mills—A Possible Opening For American Machinery—Other Parts of Orient Also Revisited—Syria Wants Direct Ship Lines to New York Coast—Vessels Only Touching That Country Now.

Observer Bureau, 1417 G Street, N. W., Washington, Aug. 29. Of great interest to all of the South is the commercial awakening in India, for among the first manifestations of new life in that great Eastern empire is the installation of a plant for the utilization of the cotton seed of that country. Heretofore the cotton seed of India has not been utilized there except for shipping abroad.

But now India is waking up and the first of the treasures it discovers in its midst is the seed of the cotton. The ruler of Afghanistan, emulating the Emperor of Germany, is pushing the development of the resources of the country and installing all kinds of manufacturing enterprises, not to speak of the adoption of modern improvements like electric lights and telephones; but he is being surpassed by the celebrated ruler of one of the States of India, who is called Maharajah Gaekwad, titular dignitary of the State of Baroda. He has created an office to be known as economic adviser to the Maharajah and this office is filled by an American, Mr. R. C. Whitenack. It is this American who has opened communication with the Bureau of Manufactures here on the subject of cotton-seed oil mills.

It seems that the seed of the India cotton is harder or in some respect less acceptable to commercial treatment than the cotton seed of the South, for heretofore the chief use made of it has been to ship it out of the country. Now, however, a company has been formed to press the oil from the seed, and the Hindus and Mohammedans do not use animal fats. It is thought that a great future awaits the manufacture of cotton-seed oil in India, and in fact throughout the world.

In his letter to the Bureau of Manufactures Mr. Whitenack says: "You are doubtless aware that India is exporting thousands of tons of cotton and other oil seeds and the country does not boast a single spinning and refining plant for cotton seed. These facts would seem to me to indicate a large field for American machines and enterprise."

It appears that the Maharajah's economic adviser secured some suggestions from Mr. W. A. Graham Clark, a special agent of the Bureau of Manufactures, some of whose reports have created wide interest in the country; for after Clark's departure from Baroda Mr. Whitenack wrote to him at Calcutta, indicating his intention to pursue further the study of the cotton-seed industry. Among other things he said:

"So many persons are approaching me nowadays with reference to the cotton-seed oil business that I am sure some definite developments will come as soon as we can satisfy ourselves that machinery can be had to handle the Indian seed, and the experts can be had at reasonable salary to superintend the crushing and refining of the oil. . . . I need hardly tell you that if the industry is introduced here there would be a warm fight on the part of the British agents to place English machines. Therefore, if you can give me any trustworthy information as to the comparative efficiency of the English and American machines, it will be of considerable advantage. We shall depend on you and the department at Washington to see that the information sent to us is thoroughly reliable."

TESTING THE SEED.

In accordance with his expressed intention to learn of the efficacy of American machinery in treating the Indian seed, and also the value of the latter, Mr. Whitenack caused to be shipped to a mill in North Carolina 500 pounds of cotton seed, including both the best and poorest qualities. The information desired includes the following points:

1. The chemical analysis of the Indian seed.
2. Comparative showing of Indian and American seeds as to percentage of oil.
3. Expert opinion as to whether the percentage of oil is large enough to make its extraction a paying business.
4. A careful report on the possibilities of satisfactorily delinting and decorticating the Indian seed with American machines.

There were other questions relating to the separation of the husk and other "somewhat technical" matters. It was stated that extravagant salaries could not be paid for experts, but that a good man competent to manage a mill could expect \$2,000 a year, his expenses and some interest in the output, and it was thought that if he made success of the business it would be highly advantageous for him.

The Bureau of Manufactures is interested in the possible opening of a new field for American machinery and will try to get the Department of Agriculture to send an expert to Charlotte to visit the tests of the Indian cotton seed and make a report on it. The seed was shipped from India July 20th, and it was thought that it would be about one month on the way.

LINE TO SYRIA.

Another instance of the awakening of the Orient to trading opportunities was furnished a few days ago when New York considered an important merchant of Beyroot, Syria, where he is interested in the silk business, called on Major Carson, chief of the Bureau of Manufactures, and suggested that if a direct line of communication could be established between Beyroot and New York considerable business might result, and that the importation of raw silk from Syria might be made a flourishing business. It was suggested that some of the steamship lines from New York, which now touch at Port Said, might make Beyroot a port of call. At present there is no communication with the coast of Syria except by coasting vessels. The matter was referred to some of the big steamship lines.

ZACK McGHEE.

Easterner is Pelled to Floor in the Seventh Round by a Low Blow—Referee Refuses to Allow His Claim of Foul.

San Francisco, Aug. 29.—Al Kaufman to-night defeated Mike Schreck of Cincinnati in the seventh round. Kaufman in that round struck Schreck a low blow and the Easterner fell to the floor. He claimed he had been fouled, but Referee Hoche refused to allow the claim and so Schreck was not on his feet in 10 seconds the fight was given to Kaufman. A physician who at once examined Schreck decided that there was no evidence that a foul blow had been struck. Kaufman had a slight lead up to the time the fight ended.

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Notice of Good Roads Bond Election.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 75 of the Public Laws of 1917, has this day called an election, to be held on Thursday, the 10th day of September, 1917, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of said county the question as to whether or not the said county shall issue bonds in the sum of \$300,000 the proceeds of which shall be used for the purpose of paying of the present floating indebtedness of said county and erecting, building, repairing and otherwise improving the public highways and roads therein.

This the 4th day of August, 1917.
Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County.
BY W. M. LONG, Chairman.

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