

## MOTHER EARTH NOW IN GRIP OF COMET

### But Beyond Magnetic Disturbances to Compass, and Perhaps Some Shooting Stars Nothing Unusual is Likely to Occur.

New York, N.Y., May 18—Today is comet day.

Halley's Comet will today come closer to the earth than any time during its present sojourn and as it turns this evening the pole of its orbit watchful astronomers tell us that the little planet earth with all its human freight will glide quietly through the long tail of the celestial visitor. To many, who are superstitiously inclined, the promised passage through the tail and the crisis in the comet's flight is an event regarded with fear and apprehension. The scientists fortified by the accurate knowledge of the comet idiosyncrasies have no fear of danger. But they regard the day as a most important one and all of them will be found this evening at their instruments eager to observe whether any faint phenomena—such as magnetic disturbance of the compass interference with wireless apparatus or showers of meteors and shooting stars—along the passage of the mysterious visitor.

About 11 o'clock tonight the comet will pass between the earth and the sun. No human eye will observe the passage, for it will occur on the other side of the earth in broad daylight where the glare of noonday will completely obscure the lesser brilliancy of the comet. The comet has been hiding itself in the sun's glare for the past two days, but it will be visible from the earth again by Friday evening, when it will be seen just after sunset in the western horizon just north of the planet Mars.

It will be there every evening for several weeks until it finally fades from view for 75 years.

As to the passage through the tail of the comet, the scientists have repeatedly assure us that there is nothing to fear. The earth has passed through very similar tails before—for example in 1861, when the globe was whisked through the tail of a comet without anyone being the wiser. In fact the event was not known until revealed by observations afterward. Prof. Bayard of Yerkes Observatory says the most probable phenomenon that all laymen observe tonight will be the antics of the compass.

It is generally believed that the resistance between the comet's tail and the outer atmosphere of the earth will so charge the air with electricity, while some astronomers, headed by those at Mount Wilson, go so far as to predict that there may be electrical flashes. It is generally believed that magnetized compass needles will be much as they do at the appearance of a strong aurora borealis. The speed of the comet is today about 1,642 miles a minute as it approaches the region of the earth the tail recently has lengthened according to some observers, until it is now estimated at 20,000,000 to 40,000,000 miles. The comet itself "its head or nucleus" is approximately 9,000 miles in diameter. To determine the character of the dust Halley's comet is said by some to be carrying in its tail members of the U. S. geological survey of Pasadena Cal. who will attempt to trap some of the particles at the Carnegie observatory on Mount Wilson today as the earth passes through the tail. Dr. George Hall director of the observatory has little hope of the success of the scheme.

## GRAND TRUNK ORDERS CARS

Chicago, Ill., May 18.—Orders for 2,000 seal freight cars have been placed with a Chicago concern by the Grand Trunk Railroad. Included in the order are 500 special automobile cars.

## ANOTHER TRAIN NEEDED

The success which has attended the placing of an extra train on the Gibson branch on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday was shown that the line is capable of large passenger traffic. It is suggested that a train to Fredericton early Monday morning would result in many people of the city spending the week end in the country. Such an extension of the service would undoubtedly be well received.

In the Queen's County Circuit Court at Gagetown yesterday there were no cases to be heard.

## LOCAL LUMBER DEAL AIRED IN COURT

### Chief Justice Barker Gives Randolph & Baker a Fortnight in Which to Deliver Logs Claimed by McLellan & Smith Co.

At the May sitting of the Chancery Division of the Supreme Court, held at St. John yesterday, Chief Justice Barker delivered judgment in the application made to continue the injunction granted by him in the case of the McLellan & Smith Lumber Company vs. Scott & Randolph & Baker.

A despatch from St. John to the Mail yesterday afternoon referred shortly to this case, but the details were so meagre as to give an incorrect impression as to the facts of the case. The matter in dispute is briefly that the plaintiff company had assigned certain timber limits to Scott & Randolph & Baker making it part of the consideration that Scott would give the plaintiff one-half of the lumber cut on certain lots, at the best available price which Scott could get in the market for the same. Scott transferred the limits to Randolph & Baker, who, it was said, had knowledge of the agreement between the plaintiff and Scott. Randolph & Baker claimed they were entitled to prices which the plaintiff considered excessive and refused to deliver the logs except at these prices.

The plaintiff brought suit for specific performance and the injunction was to prevent Randolph & Baker from disposing of one-half of the logs which, under the agreement, the plaintiff was to get. The sum of \$4,500 had been paid into the court by plaintiff and the Chief Justice considered the only point in the case was what balance was to be paid.

The plaintiff, the McLellan & Smith Company alleged that the logs were of a special kind not to be obtained in the open market. The defendants Scott and Randolph & Baker produced affidavits to the contrary.

The Judge was not satisfied with the defendant's affidavits as respects obtaining the goods in the open market. The logs might be got at St. John or below Burton, but he did not see that the plaintiff would be called upon to get them there and to them up stream to Burton. He agreed with the plaintiff's contention that an action for specific performance must lie because it was only in equity that the plaintiff had a claim against Scott and Randolph & Baker. All the parties to the suit however, were substantial parties financially. The plaintiff was able to respond to any judgment for payment of price fixed by court; defendants were able to meet any damages that the court in the exercise of its jurisdiction might award, and in view of this situation he did not think it would be a proper thing to tie up logs and suspend all work upon them until the suit was decided; especially as logs were subject to fluctuation in price. Under all the circumstances of the case it would not be advantageous to either party to continue the injunction. If defendants within a fortnight are willing to deliver the logs to the plaintiff he would make an order for the payment of them of the \$4,500 in court and the suit would go on, the balance of the purchase money and the damages the plaintiff had suffered to be adjusted in the suit; the costs of this motion to be costs in the cause.

The chief justice said he would go out of his way to make a suggestion as to settlement, a course which was at variance with his general practice. The case was one in which it was desirable that the parties should get together, and he would strongly advise that course being adopted, and he could see no reason why a settlement satisfactory to both should not be arrived at.

## DEATH AT CALAIS

(Special to the Mail)

Calais, Me., May 18.—Capt. Jas. Agnew, Customs officer at Red Beach, died this morning after an illness of four weeks. Capt. Agnew was born at St. Andrews, N. B., October 25th, 1844, and was appointed to the customs service March 1, 1891. He leaves a widow and four children. Before entering the customs service, Capt. Agnew commanded vessels sailing from this port.

## DISASTROUS COLLISION OFF NORTH SYDNEY TODAY

### The Reid - Newfoundland Company's Steamer Invermore Collides with Steam Trawler Beluga Cutting Her Down to the Water Line - The Latter Making Harbor Sinks Government Steamer Zardie

North Sydney, N. S., May 18.—(Special.)—The Reid Newfoundland Co.'s steamer Invermore, returning to port at three o'clock this morning with her stern twisted out of shape and a gaping hole in her bow as a result of a collision with the French steam trawler Beluga, off Lloyds Cove, an hour previously, while the government steamer Zardie lies on the bottom of the harbor, near Dominion, as a result of being crushed by the big trawler. No lives were lost. The Invermore left her berth here at 1.30 with eighty passengers for Port aux Basques, and when near Lloyds Cove sighted the Beluga. It was believed the trawler was at anchor as only her mast head lights showed. It was not until the two steamers had approached closely

to each other that it was seen that she was under way and heading straight for the Invermore. The course of the latter was changed, but too late. The Invermore struck the Beluga on the port bow, cutting her from the guard to below the water line, while ten feet of the Invermore's stern and her plates were torn out of shape, leaving a huge opening in the bow. Only a few of the saloon passengers and those in the after part of the Invermore were aware of the accident.

As soon as the steamers parted, both headed full speed for North Sydney, the Beluga's hold being full of water. The captain sought to beach her, in doing so crushed the government steamer Zardie against the structure and sent her to the bottom.

## APPALLING TRAGEDY RESULTS FROM FIRE

Sioux, Ariz., May 18—Only 71 out of more than 100 guests, who were in the Hotel Adams which was destroyed by fire yesterday have been accounted for, and fears are expressed that some have been burned to death.

The register of the hotel was destroyed in the flames which caused a damage of \$275,000 but many of those whose names were recalled by the clerks of the hotel have not been found. The debris is now being searched for bodies.

## SCOTT ACT CASES TRIED AT CHATHAM

Chatham, N.B., 18—(Special.)—Two Scott Act violation cases were heard at the police court this morning. James D. Johnston, proprietor of the Canada House was fined \$100 for a second offence and J. D. White, proprietor of the Adams House pleaded not guilty to a similar charge. Several witnesses were heard and the case was adjourned until Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Bruce Simmons went to Logville last evening.

## STOCKS INCLINED TO SAG ON RATHER LIGHT TRADING

New York, N. Y., May 18—Wall Street—Stocks opened at prices an eighth to a half lower than yesterday. There was a sprinkling of orders in the most speculative stocks. Great Northern Pfd. showed the maximum decline of  $\frac{1}{2}$ . National Railways of Mexico first pd. sold at an advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  and International Harvester,  $\frac{1}{2}$ . (Quotations from direct private wires of J. M. Robinson & Son, Bankers, St. John, N. B., Members Montreal Stock Exchange)

	OPEN	NOON
Amalgamated	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchison	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
Smelters	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brooklyn	81	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
Great Northern Pfd.	135	135
Canadian Pacific	192 $\frac{1}{2}$	192 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northern Pacific	131	131
Penna	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$
Reading	162 $\frac{1}{2}$	162 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$
Soo	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
Southern Pacific	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	125 $\frac{1}{2}$
Union	182 $\frac{1}{2}$	182
U. S. Steel Com.	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
LaRose	4 7-16b	4.38b
Nippissing	104b	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dominion Iron	67b	

MONTREAL MORNING SALES  
Canada Car Pfd.—55 @ 100.  
Molson's Bank—5 @ 207 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

## BUTCHERS COMPELLED TO REDUCE PRICES

Chicago Ill., May 18—A reduction of one half cent a pound was made in the price of the better grades of dressed beef cuts while the cheaper grades remained the same.

Packers said that since the public has awakened to the fact that beef plates, chucks and rounds are as nutritious as beef loins and ribs even though their cost is much lower, the demand for the cheap cuts has doubled. Consequently they say, they were compelled to reduce the cost of ribs and loins in order to equalize the demand for the inexpensive parts. This latest reduction brought No. 1 ribs to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  and No. 1 loins to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound as compared with 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 22 cents in January.

## VALUABLE TROTTER DEAD

Chatham May 18—James D. Bohnstons valuable trotter Lady Gazette, died this morning of lockjaw. The animal was valued at \$1000.

## FIRE WIPES OUT VILLAGE

Saranac Lake, N. Y., May 18.—The village of Faust was swept by fire today the damage is estimated at \$100,000.

## THE DEAD MONARCH NOW LIES IN STATE

### By Noon Today Upwards of 100,000 of Late King's Subjects Gazed on His Features For the Last Time.

London, May 18—From six o'clock this morning when the doors of Westminster Hall, where the body of King Edward is lying in state were again opened to the public, a sombre clad multitude in four deep formation filed past the bier. The police with some tact and much patience maintained order and kept the thousands moving steadily. The mourners entered at one end of the hall, double rows passing on either side of the catafalque and emerged at the opposite end of the building. When the doors were closed at ten o'clock last night between 50,000 and 60,000 persons had viewed the casket while perhaps half that number were still waiting in the adjacent streets. At 11 o'clock a new queue was formed and midnight found the waiting throng swollen by many thousands. These kept a night long vigil with a purpose of paying a tribute to the dead monarch that would not be abandoned despite a heavy fall of rain that made them most uncomfortable. The queue extended for a mile or more and was made up of men, women and children of many classes. It was a strangely cosmopolitan throng. Every land and every color was represented. There was no class distinction. The laborers in corduroys touched elbows with the frock coated west enders.

In today's files, women appeared to predominate. By noon the total of those who had paid their meed of respect had passed the hundred thousand mark.

## WOODSTOCK LOSES SOME OF ITS RESIDENTS

Woodstock, N.B., May 18—(Special.) Agnes, aged 2 years, daughter of Mr. Chas. Kelly, of Lower Woodstock, passed away at her home on Tuesday afternoon after an illness of two months. She is survived by four sisters, Mrs. R. Stevenson and Stella of Houlton and Grace and Myrtle at home, and three brothers, Arthur, Chas, and Burton. The remains were taken to the Holman burying ground in York County for interment. The Rev. J. C. Beakney of the United Baptist church officiated.

Lt. A. E. Vince son of Col. D. McLeod Vince leaves today for Montreal where he will sail for England on a six weeks' vacation.

The death took place this morning of Mr. Ernest Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hillman Hanson of this town. He was in his 39th year and suffering with dropsy for the past eight weeks. Besides his parents, he is survived by a widow and one daughter, three brothers, Harry, Norton and Guy, of Woodstock. He was in the employ of Moores Bros. at Griswold Me., as mill wright for a number of years and was a most competent workman.

## LOYALIST DAY GETS SCANT CELEBRATION

St. John, May 18.—(Special.)—There is little celebration of Loyalist Day, today being the anniversary of the landing of the loyalists at St. John. A salute was fired at noon and there was a holiday in the schools. It is recalled that 25 years ago the troops from St. John, Fredericton and Woodstock left here on their way to the Northwest to fight Louis Reil. They went to Sussex, where they were mobilized, but before further orders to proceed arrived, the rebellion was crushed.

It is probable that a body of 100 or more Montreal business men will tour the Maritime Provinces this summer.

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Potato water is excellent for cleaning stains from nearly any kind of cloth or garment.  
A great many blemishes on wall paper may be removed with a rubber on a lead pencil.

## DRIVING PROSPECTS NOT REASSURING

### Conditions On the Miramichi Will Become Serious Unless Some Rain Falls—Cost will Be Much in Excess of Normal Years.

Chatham N.B., May 18—Driving conditions are still bad on the upper waters of the Miramichi caused by many logs getting washed up on the meadows and marshes when the water was high and unless more rain comes soon the drives will be hung up altogether. The corporation drives are still 20 miles above Beliestown when they should be at this time well on the way to the booms. In fact the drives are not yet in the hands of the first corporation and have then to be passed on to the corporation operating on the lower waters of the Miramichi before finally reaching the booms.

J. J. Ritchie of Newcastle is perhaps the hardest hit, two of his drives are in especially bad shape and far from out yet. The Miramichi Lumber Co have experienced some difficulty but are moving their logs better now. Hon. J. P. Burchill has got two drives practically out and was more fortunate than most. At one point it is costing three lumbermen \$280 per day to keep their logs moving and all on the upper waters of the river, then their driving expenses will be much higher than normal. But on the whole it was fairly large, but owing to these conditions there will not be an average quantity brought out.

James Anderton one of the oldest members of the Miramichi Lodge A. F. & A.M., was the guest of honor at a supper in the Hotel Touraine last night given by the lodge. Mr. Anderton and family leave shortly for Vancouver and will be much missed from Chatham.

## MARRIED ONE WEEK WANTS ANNULMENT

Niagara Falls, Ont., May 18—One week of married life was enough to induce Leo Snell, the 18 year old son of a Syracuse professor, who married eighteen-year-old Ruth Vanbrooking of Syracuse here on May 8th to seek an annulment of the marriage. The wedding followed a romantic elopement, and was the result of a love affair of a years standing. The young husband has asked his father to secure an annulment, which the bride and her mother oppose.

## SURVEY MADE

A survey of Queen Street between Carleton and York Streets where telephone conduits are to be laid was made by N. B. Telephone Co. officials this morning.

## FISHING LICENSE SOLD.

At the Crown Land Office today a rod-fishing lease for one year for Bear Brook and Three Brooks in the Blue Bell tract was sold to Mr. T. J. Carter of Andover, at the upset price of twenty-five dollars. Three timber berths were put up but no bid was made.

## ANDERSON—OLDHAM

The wedding of Mr. Robert Anderson of St. John, and formerly of this city, and Miss Kathleen Oldham, daughter of ex-Ald. Oldham, will take place this evening at the Cathedral. The happy couple will leave by the evening train for St. John, from there they will go to Prince Edward Island, where they will reside.

## DECORATORS AT WORK

The paragraph in the Mail a few nights ago, calling attention to the fact that the Local Government authorities were a trifle backward in decorating their buildings as a mark of respect to the late King, evidently made somebody sit up and take notice. Yesterday men were set to work draping the entrance to the Parliament building, the Departmental building and the Normal School. Local dry goods firms are doing the work and doing it well.

## PERSONAL.

Mr. D. A. Noble, of Campbellton, of the Intercolonial Railway detective service, is in the city on business.