

# The Daily Herald.

VOL XIII

FREDRICKTON, N. B. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1908.

NO. 302

## MONCTON WEDDING.

**J. C. R. Official takes a Bride to Himself.**

Moncton N. B. Dec. 28.—(Special).—An interesting wedding took place here this morning when Robert L. McKay of I. C. R. baggage department formerly of St. John was married to Miss Jennie Watson daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Watson. The ceremony was performed by Rev. James Strothard.

The groom is well known in athletic circles all over the province. George Larson and Hugh Parker, were arrested Saturday night for drunkenness and had between them two hundred and forty dollars.

There was one thing about your spring poem that impressed me very much, said the editor to the long-haired poet.

Yes? said the poet eagerly. Yes, remarked the editor. It was the typewriting. What make of machine do you use?

## Get your Discount

We are allowing 10 per cent Discount off all cash purchases made from us during the balance of the Holidays.

Our already low prices on Men's Overcoats, Clothing and Men's and Boy's general furnishings, with this extra 10 per cent off ought to make our Store a popular place to secure useful Holiday Gifts.

**LUCY & CO. Ltd.**

## PERFUMES

In all the Leading Odors, Prices from 15 cents to \$2.50 a bottle.

Our 25 cent and 50 cent Lines are Extra Good Value.

Perfumes in Bulk from 50 cents to a \$1.00 per Ounce.

**GEO. Y. DIBBLEE**

PEOPLES' DRUGGIST.

OPP. CITY HALL

*Chestnut says*

We are now showing our Christmas stock of Perfumes, Toilet Articles, Fine Meerchaum and Brier Pipes, Tobacco Pouches, Cigar Cases, Imported Cigars, Kodaks, Brownie Cameras, and so forth Your inspection is respectfully solicited.

**"THE QUALITY STORE."**

572 QUEEN STREET

THE

**COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON**

To our many Customers and Friends.

**F. E. Blackmer**

## CHRISTMAS

It will pay you to look over our goods suitable for the Holiday Season.

Perfumes at all prices by the best makers, Toilet Articles in great variety, Pipes, Tobacco Pouches, Cigars, Hair Brushes, Mirrors, Combs, Moirs Chocolates, etc., at

**WILEY'S YORK ST.**

## CATASTROPHE IN ITALY VERY LOOSE METHODS.

**Earthquake and Tidal Wave practically Destroyed three Provinces.**

**THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BELIEVED TO HAVE PERISHED.**

**Later Reports Place Dead at 75,000--A Horrible Night at Messina.**

ROME, Dec. 29.—(Special).—The disaster in the Province of Calabria and the Island of Sicily has today assumed staggering proportions.

Each successive report received from the stricken region makes it more apparent that the first stories of the widespread destruction were little, if any exaggerated.

Messina alone reports 12,000 victims, but it is feared that this is only a partial list of the dead, and wounded. Reports are coming in from other towns giving estimates of dead therein from 500 to several thousands.

Reggio still remains in its tragic isolation. It is impossible to get word from the stricken city and the silence gives rise to the most fearful apprehensions. News has come from Messina, eight miles north of Reggio, but no reliable estimate of the dead there has been made.

Vandalism of the worst kind has broken out, and the government has adopted the most energetic and most severe means for its suppression. Robbers and looters are shot on the spot. The prison at Messina collapsed. Some of the prisoners were killed, but the survivors made their escape and joined the other gangs who were sacking the city. Such confusion reigned that the robbers met with no resistance. The local chief of police lies dead in the rooms of his office.

The barracks at Messina were demolished. The commander of the troops was killed outright and there are many victims among the enlisted men. The government last night sent General Feira Di Cossatto an army corps commander to take full charge of the troops in the devastated territory. One of his first measures will be to declare martial law.

### A NIGHT OF HORROR

The robbers pillaged the ruins of scattered buildings and even stole clothing and valuables from the corpses of the victims. They were not deterred by the flames that broke out in several sections of the city, but took advantage of the light for their vandalism.

The night in Messina was one of horror indescribable. Fire, robbery, death and dying on every side in the city in the utmost confusion and the people panic stricken and under a spell of terror.

Troops began to pour into Messina last night and this morning a number of steamers arrived from the Peninsula with soldiers on board. Patrols were at once organized and efforts made to bring some order into the situation. Bands of citizens were formed and helped heroically in the work of rescue.

Many courageous acts were performed by soldiers and citizens and in some cases the rescuers themselves lost their lives in trying to help others. Towards morning several of the worst fires had been extinguished, the looting was under partial control and comparative order had been partially restored.

Everything possible is being done to succor the wounded, but the relief measures are still utterly inadequate owing to the immensity of the disaster.

The finest palaces, churches and theatres of Messina are now heaps of ruins. Countless dead bodies are scattered through the wreckage and their decomposition will doubtless bring pestilence to add to the horror of the situation.

The devastation over the entire district was more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio Di Calabria escaped.

### ENORMOUS DEATH LIST

A British squadron that was at Syracuse has left for Messina. It is taking a number of doctors and supplies of medicines etc, for the succor

of the wounded. There are also several Russian ships at Syracuse.

It is reported from Catania that the bishop of Messina is buried under the ruins of his residence. Signor Fucini a member of the chamber of deputies from Messina together with the members of his family is also reported dead.

The Dome of the Cathedral at Catania collapsed and other churches as well as the City Hall threatened to fall at any moment. The tidal wave sank numberless small boats in the harbor of Catania. At Riposto, the tidal wave was thirty five feet high. It swept in with appalling power and lasted forty two seconds.

ROME, Dec. 29.—A despatch from Palermo, Sicily, says that the dead at Messina are estimated at 12,000.

Scores are still alive beneath the ruins of the city.

Other despatches received here place the dead at Messina at even more appalling figures.

The Tribuna publishes a special telegram saying the casualties will reach a total of 75,000 people, but this report has not been substantiated.

ROME, Dec. 28.—The three provinces of Conzesa, Catanzaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the southwestern extremity of Italy, or "the toe of the boot," were devastated today by an earthquake, the far reaching effects of which were felt almost throughout the entire country. The town of Messina in Sicily was partially destroyed and hundreds of houses have fallen and many persons have been killed. Owing, however, to the fact that telegraphic and telephonic communications were almost completely destroyed, it is impossible to obtain even an approximate idea of the vast damage done.

The tidal wave which followed the earthquake on the eastern coast of Sicily sunk vessels and inundated the lower part of Catania. It is known that a number of people were killed at that place, but the rushing waters carried everything before them and caused such an indescribable confusion that it would be impossible for some time to estimate the damage and the lives lost.

### SEVERAL THOUSANDS -KILLED

The city of Messina population of 90,000 has suffered probably more than any other place, the latest information coming indirectly from the region saying that two-thirds of the town was destroyed and several thousand persons were killed. The steamers Washington and Montebello, which were in that harbor, afterwards proceeded to Catania, loaded with injured, who were so stupefied by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come. Five steamers left Catania for Messina to assist in removing the injured from that place who are reported to number thousands.

At Catania, the panic-stricken people, fearing new shocks, absolutely refused to re-enter their homes and are camping in the squares which are free from water, and the surrounding country. The tidal wave sunk five hundred boats there and did great damage to several large vessels and steamers, including the Austrian steamer Buda. Not only did Catania suffer from the effects of a tidal wave, but a similar body of water inundated the handsome streets of

What took you to Kincardine?—To let it blow by.

She added that it was her intention to go back to "Glesca" as a boy and work. "The other lassies lives there, an- naebody kens," she laughed.

The magistrates placed her on probation for six months.

(Continued on eighth page.)

**Famous Hyde and Webster Settlement Probed by a Committee of the Council.**

**Facts Brought Out Show That Auditor McKay's Report Was Justified.**

The special committee of the city council, called at the instance of Auditor McKay, to investigate the settlement made with the firm of Hyde and Webster, pipe contractors of Montreal, met in the mayor's office last evening. The members of the committee present were Alds. Mitchell, Clark and Weddall. Auditor McKay, who was unjustly censured by a majority of the council of 1907 because he felt it his duty to point to some irregularities in connection with the terms of settlement, was also in attendance, and was supported by Mr. J. D. Phinney, K. C. The city clerk was also present and took an occasional hand in the proceedings.

Mr. McKay was able to prove to the satisfaction of the committee that he was asked by resolution of the council to make a report on the Hyde and Webster matter, that he made such report, and that he had ample justification for every statement contained in said report. He was also able to establish clearly that he was not in the least deserving of the strong resolution of censure which the council of 1907, adopted on motion of that eminent municipal politician, Ald. Oldham, seconded by the great and wise Ald. Kelly.

Mr. Phinney at the outset said that he appeared for Mr. McKay, who felt that the council of 1907 had treated him unfairly by casting a reflection upon his conduct as a public official. He explained that Mr. McKay did not wish to reflect upon this or former councils, but all he wanted was to exonerate himself from the unfair and improper resolution which the council of 1907 had adopted. He intimated that Mr. McKay was prepared to stand by the report he had made to the council on the Hyde and Webster matter.

Ald. Clark for the benefit of Mr. Phinney, read a summary of the proceedings of the previous meeting of the committee.

Mr. McKay was questioned in regard to the tabulated statement of the amount of pipe supplied by Hyde and Webster prepared by Engineer Grimmer, which he had used in his report to the council. He explained that the figures had come to him in an official way and he had no doubt as to their authenticity. He had received statements from both Engineers Lee and Grimmer, and though unsigned, they had come to him in an official way. He said that he noticed, when the first invoice came in for pipe purchased independently of Hyde and Webster, that a higher price was being paid than the contract called for. He called the attention of the city clerk to this and he said the sewerage committee had authority to pay a higher price for pipe bought elsewhere. He was given to understand by Engineer Lee that the contract with Hyde and Webster set forth that if the city was compelled to buy pipe elsewhere the difference in cost should be charged to Hyde and Webster. In view of this information he considered himself justified in referring to the matter in his report to the council.

Mr. McKay went on to say that the statement of Mr. Grimmer included an item of \$85.85, for pipe which had previously been paid to Hyde and Webster. By calling attention to this he (McKay) had saved the amount to the city.

Mr. McKay next read an extract from a letter received from Engineer Lea in which the statement was made that his (Lea's) estimate of the amount of a pipe agreed with the check made by Mr. N. A. Laforest. Chairman Lea informed the committee that the statement of Mr. Lea had been corroborated by Mr. LaForest.

There was considerable discussion in regard to an item of \$170 in Engineer Grimmer's statement, which was referred to as the "value of pipe" as per Mr. Webster's inspection. Mr. McKay explained that he had received no invoice for this pipe and he had made enquiries about it from Mr. D. J. Shea, the agent for Hyde and Webster. Mr. Shea in-

formed him that the pipe had been left in a scow untallied, it had been found by himself and Mr. Webster who tallied it and placed it on the wharf. He (McKay) felt that this \$170 was not a legal claim against the city, and he considered himself justified in referring to it in his report to the council.

Mr. Phinney remarked that Mr. Grimmer's reference to this pipe in his statement hardly seemed right.

Chairman Mitchell said that Mr. Grimmer had always claimed that the statement he had submitted was not really his own.

Mr. McKay said that it was the only statement that he received from Mr. Grimmer.

The City Clerk said that Mr. Grimmer had not prepared a report but had merely summarized the report of Hyde and Webster. Mr. McKay contended that he had been justified in referring to it as Mr. Grimmer's report.

The city clerk, in reply to a question, stated that so far as he knew the account had not since been confirmed.

Mr. McKay said that in preparing his report he had no animus whatever against any member of the council.

He had spoken to Mr. McCready about having the Hyde and Webster account put in proper form for submission to the council, but Mr. McCready flew off the handle and they had some words.

The City Clerk said that he remembered telling Mr. McKay that he was meddling too much in matters that did not concern him. He added that the matter had been referred to the sewerage committee with full power to act.

Mr. McKay said that he had been appointed on the committee but had not been asked to give his assistance.

City Treasurer Golding was next, called, and produced the order signed by J. S. Scott as chairman of the sewerage committee, and H. F. McLeod as major, calling upon him to pay A. R. Slipp, \$2,088 in full settlement of Hyde and Webster's claim against the city. The witness went on to say that he had frequently advanced money on contracts, but had never previously made a final settlement without an order from the council. This account should have been audited by the auditor and passed by the council in the regular way. It would have been all right if the money had been paid, and an order made at a subsequent meeting. As it was he had nothing to show for the payment except the committee's order. It was the only case during his career as city treasurer where he did not have an order from the council to show for a payment.

Mr. Phinney read the resolution of censure on the auditor passed by the council, which was moved by Ald. Oldham and seconded by Ald. Kelly, and remarked that he considered it most severe and wholly unjustifiable.

Ald. Mitchell said that he was at the council board when the contract was made with Hyde and Webster. He had been given to understand by Mr. Barbour that the contract stipulated that in case Hyde and Webster did not furnish the pipe quickly enough to allow the work to proceed, the city had power to procure it elsewhere and charge the difference in cost up to the contractors. This was also the understanding of the mayor, but the contract for some reason did not contain a clause of that kind.

Mr. McKay said that he was not having the investigation made with the object of putting anybody in a hole, but he did want to free himself from the reproach that had been cast upon him as an official by resolution of the council.

After an assurance from Chairman Mitchell that the whole matter would be carefully considered the counsel and spectators withdrew.

REV. Father Carleton of Peterborough is in the city today.

Judge Gregory passed a rather uncomfortable night and his condition to-day is not quite so satisfactory as it was yesterday.

Griggs—That will be a fine marriage, a splendid alliance. The bride's