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* * For Table of Contents, see last page.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1910.

*Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace, S. W.,
April 26, 1910.*

Notice is hereby given that the King's Birthday will be celebrated in London and at all Home Stations on Friday, 24th June next.

At all other stations His Majesty's Birthday will be celebrated on Wednesday, 9th November next.

Whitehall, April 25, 1910.

The KING has been pleased to confer the Albert Medal of the First Class upon Mr. Thomas Reynolds, Railway Conductor, of North Bay, Ontario, Canada, for conspicuous gallantry in saving the lives of eleven persons on the occasion of the disaster on the Canadian Pacific Railway at the Spanish River Bridge, near Webbwood, Ontario, on the 21st January last, as detailed below:—

The ill-fated express train left Sudbury, Ontario, for Minneapolis, at noon on the day in question in charge of Conductor Thomas Reynolds. It consisted of the engine, a mail and baggage car, an express-package car, a second class coach, a colonist car, a first class coach, a dining car, and a Pullman sleeping car and, as it approached the bridge crossing the Spanish River at a point where the stream is 250 feet wide and 30 feet deep, Conductor Reynolds and several passengers were seated at dinner in the dining car. On reaching the bridge a part of the train left the track and plunged down the embankment.

Two of the vehicles, a first class car and the dining car, crashed through the ice, which is said to have been 18 inches thick, and sank to the river bed. The first class car falling into some 15 feet of water, it is not likely that any of the occupants escaped. The dining car was almost completely submerged, and but for the resourcefulness and heroic conduct of the conductor the

disaster would have resulted in a much heavier death roll.

The fore part of the car rapidly filled with water and the occupants, hurled to the end of the car, were in danger of drowning in 10 feet of water, their situation being made more perilous by the accumulation of debris. Reynolds, on coming to the surface, found daylight entering from the top of a window some 6 inches above the level of the water, and, grasping a hat rack, he smashed with his feet the heavy plate glass windows. He then turned his attention to the imprisoned passengers, rescuing those in danger of drowning, and urging all to make use of the only means of support, namely, hat racks, lamps, &c. The passengers having been assisted in this way, he turned to effect an exit, only to find that the car had settled down, and that the opening made was submerged. After swimming about and locating the broken window with his feet, he dived and cautiously pushed himself through the window, using his feet to keep a hold on the window frame, in order that his body might not be swept away by the strong current.

With great difficulty he brought his body between the broken ice and the submerged car and succeeded in gaining a foothold on the top of the car. He at once commenced wrenching the fan lights from the roof and succeeded in rescuing a lad and still another passenger through the small opening thus made. When, shortly after, an axe was brought to him, in response to his cries for help, he enlarged the opening sufficiently to allow of the rescue of the other imprisoned passengers.

Reynolds was badly cut and injured and was for some time under medical care.

The presentation of the medal, in the name of His Majesty, was performed by His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada at Montreal, on the 16th ultimo.