

Are Angry at The "Scorcher"

Accident at Vancouver Brings Home to Victorians Danger of Fast 'Cycling.

A General Desire That Reckless Riders May Be Severely Punished.

The lamentable accident which occurred at Vancouver on Monday afternoon, by which Miss Shannon, of London, Ont., lost her life by being struck by a bicycle, was the subject of much discussion among Victorians yesterday; and it was pointed out by many that the time was opportune for an agitation to be commenced here looking to the punishment of those silly individuals who will persist in "scorching" along the public streets, endangering the lives of pedestrians.

A rumor gained currency early in the day that the Miss Shannon who was killed was a well-known young lady employed in a drygoods store in this city. Happily this turned out to be incorrect. The unfortunate victim of the accident was a Miss Rachel Shannon, of London, Ont., and she had been in the province about six months, being largely interested in British Columbia. She arrived in Victoria about a week ago, and Saturday morning left for the Mainland, intending to go to the Okanagan country from Vancouver. Deceased was born in Brantford, Ont., but resided in London for upwards of 20 years. She was 45 years of age.

Much speculation was indulged in by those who discussed the matter yesterday as to what form of punishment could be meted out to the 'cyclist responsible for the accident. Sections 253 and 254 of the Criminal Code provide the imposition of a sentence of two years' imprisonment to persons who cause bodily injury "through wilful neglect of legal duty."

There is very little doubt, now that this lamentable accident has occurred at Vancouver, that the police will be at once given instructions by the civic authorities for stringent enforcement of the bicycle by-law. Very few people know what its provisions consist of, so it is herewith reproduced:

1. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle, or bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of similar character, upon or along any public street, park, road or highway, at a rate of speed faster than eight miles per hour, and when turning corners at a speed faster than five miles per hour.

2. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, upon or along the sidewalk of any public street or highway within the city, or upon or along the foot paths in the park.

3. Any person riding or driving a bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, shall keep to the left of the centre of the road, and when passing any other bicycle or vehicle, other than a tramcar, travelling in the opposite direction, shall pass to the left of such bicycle or vehicle.

4. Any person riding or driving a bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, when overtaking any other bicycle or vehicle, other than a tramcar, travelling in the same direction, shall pass to the right of the bicycle or vehicle.

5. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, without having at all times one or both hands on the handle bar of said machine, nor shall any such bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other machine or vehicle of similar character, be ridden at any time recklessly or in any manner or position in which the rider forfeits control of the machine.

6. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, at any time without having a warning bell, which must be sounded while approaching and passing over a street crossing or intersection, or when approaching pedestrians who may be on or passing over the roadway of any street.

7. A bicycle, bicycle tandem, or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, is entitled to all the general rights and the privileges enjoyed by any other class of vehicle when in use upon the public streets, park roads, or highways of the city of Victoria.

It will interest bicyclists and the public generally to learn the particular manner in which the late Miss Shannon was struck by the bicyclist to have caused death so suddenly. The Vancouver Province thus describes the accident:

"It is stated that young Blackmore was coasting down the upper part of the street, and took hold of the handle-bars again only 30 or 40 yards away from the crossing. The lady, seeing him coming, stood still, and as the machine was not perfectly under control, the rider found it impossible to change his direction sufficiently, and in consequence ran into her with such force that the crash was heard for some distance, and the blow on the head which the lady received as she was flung on the asphalt was distinctly audible inside a neighboring store. Mr. Blackmore, who seemed very much distressed by the occurrence, remained to see that everything necessary was being done, and when asked gave his name without hesitation.

"About 15 minutes after the accident Dr. McKechnie was found, and made his way promptly to the spot. He announced that the patient was suffering from concussion of the brain, and had her transferred to the ambulance, which had by this time arrived. On arrival at the hospital it was found that the unfortunate lady was suffering from a broken collar-bone, as well as concussion of the brain, and was altogether in a serious condition."

The Colonist's Vancouver correspondent writes as follows.

"The shocking accident by which Miss Shannon lost her life has startled Vancouver, and the sympathy of the whole community has gone out to the friends and relatives of the dead woman. Miss Shannon was for 18 months housekeeper at the Minto, a fashionable boarding house at the West End, but had recently returned from Victoria, where she had been making an extended visit. Miss Shannon's nephew, Herbert T. Stint, is an employee of the passenger department of the C. P. R. She was well connected, having prominent relatives in Kootenay and in London, Ont.

"Blackmore, who is the son of a prominent architect in the city, is well known here, and very popular among the younger people."