

LOUIS CYR, le légendaire champion du monde, décédé, hier, chez son gendre.

LOUIS CYR PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY

Mother-in-law Collapsed in
Sick Room and Died on
Saturday

Doubly tragic circumstances attend-
ed the passing of Louis Cyr, the great
French-Canadian strong man, and un-
defeated champion of the world, who
died in Montreal yesterday.

While attending the sick man dur-
ing his illness, which has been of sev-
eral weeks' duration, Mrs. Evangeliste
Comtois, mother-in-law of Mr. Cyr,
suddenly collapsed in the sick room,
and died immediately. Death was due
to heart failure. Mrs. Cyr, suffering
from the shock of her double bereave-
ment, is confined to bed, and her con-
dition is regarded as serious.

Louis Cyr succumbed to chronic ne-
phritis, from which he had been suf-
fering on and off for some years. The
funeral will take place from the home
of Dr. Z. M. Aumont, 719 St. Cather-
ine street east, on Wednesday morn-
ing. The remains will be conveyed to
St. Jean de Martha, on the Joliet
train leaving Place Viger station,
where, in accordance with wishes of
the deceased interment will take place.
The body of Madame Comtois has al-
ready been taken to St. Jean.

During his professional career Cyr
won many valuable prizes, as well as
considerable money, and is said to
have left a tidy sum. In the course
of his European tour, on which he
spent 25 months, he appeared under
the patronage of the Prince of Wales,
at the Westminster Royal Aquarium,
as well as at the Trivoli, South Lon-
don Crystal Palace, the Trocadero and
other places. He toured England, Ire-
land and Scotland; later he proceeded
to Germany and Italy.

LA PRESSE

Canada sans exception.

Nos livres pour la vérification de nos

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MORT DU CHAMPION LOUIS CYR

Le célèbre athlète canadien
succombe hier à l'âge de
49 ans.

IL ETAIT CONNU DANS
LES DEUX MONDES

Biographie de ce Samson ca-
nadien qui ne connut jamais
la défaite.

Louis Cyr est mort.
L'ancien champion des hommes
forts du monde qui était très mal
depuis quelque temps a succombé.

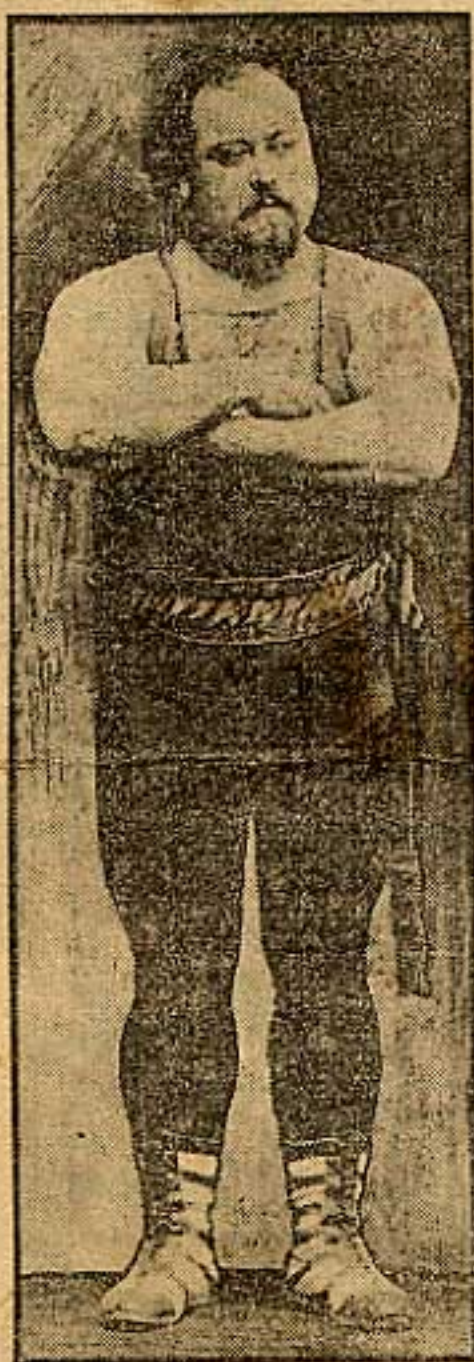


Louis Cyr, ancien champion des hommes forts du monde qui vient de mourir à l'âge de 49 ans après une glorieuse carrière. — Photographie prise quelques jours avant sa mort par J. N. Laprés, 460 rue Saint-Denis, angle de la rue Sherbrooke.

hier, au mal qui le minait depuis des années, la maladie de Bright. Il a expiré dimanche, à midi et quart. Sa fin a été calme. Dans ses derniers moments de lucidité, il a exprimé le regret de s'en aller.

"Que c'est donc malheureux de se séparer!" a-t-il dit à la compagne de sa vie.

Toute la famille de Louis Cyr: sa fille unique, Mme Aumont; son gendre le docteur Z. M. Aumont; ses petits enfants, ses frères: Pierre, Léon, Napoléon et Johnny; ses sœurs: Mme Emilien Perron, de cette ville et Mme Moïse Hébert, de



Louis Cyr tel qu'il était aux beaux jours où il établit toute une série de records lors de son voyage en Angleterre.

Sainte-Hélène de Bagot, étaient à son chevet lorsque la fin est arrivée.

Les dernières heures de l'ancien champion ont été marquées par un événement dramatique. La belle-mère de Louis Cyr, Mme Evangéliste Comtois, de Saint-Jean de Matha, qui était accourue auprès de son gendre mourant il y a une semaine, a été foudroyée, samedi avant-midi, par une syncope. La douleur de voir sa fille dans la peine et son gendre à l'agonie a été trop forte pour elle, et elle est tombée morte dans la chambre voisine de celle de M. Cyr. Mme Comtois était âgée de 72 ans. Ses restes mortels ont été expédiés le soir même à Saint-Jean de Matha. Son mari qui vit encore est âgé de 78 ans.

Mme Cyr a été si péniblement affectée par ce décès et par l'émotion que lui causait la fin imminente de son mari qu'elle a dû prendre le lit et qu'elle n'a pas eu connaissance

A suivre sur la page 3

Suite de la première page

du départ du cadavre de sa mère, et jusqu'à ce matin, elle n'avait pas eu la force de pénétrer dans la chambre mortuaire où se trouve le corps de son mari. Son gendre, le Dr Aumont, l'a crue en danger jusqu'hier après-midi. Mme Cyr est âgée de 50 ans.

Les funérailles de Louis Cyr auront lieu, jeudi matin, à 8 hrs 30, à Saint-Jean de Matha. Le corps partira mercredi matin de chez le docteur Aumont, 719 rue Sainte-Catherine-Est, pour prendre le train de Joliette, à la gare Viger.

NOTES BIOGRAPHIQUES

Cyr venait d'une famille de cultivateurs, son père étant fermier à Saint-Cyprien, de Napierville, où Louis vit le jour le 10 octobre 1863. Son père comme son grand-père, son arrière-grand-père, et comme tous les Cyr depuis leur arrivée au pays, portait le prénom de Pierre. Louis était l'un des membres d'une nombreuse famille. Dès son enfance, le jeune Louis montra qu'il était doué d'une force phénoménale, et il exécuta dans ses années d'enfance des exploits qui sont restés légendaires dans Saint-Cyprien.

Cyr a levé jusqu'à 4,400 livres sur son dos et il a retenu avec ses bras les plus forts chevaux qu'on lui a amenés et qu'on faisait tirer en sens contraire. Il était un Samson dans toute la force du mot.

Cyr voyagea alors avec plusieurs cirques, le cirque de Gus Lambert, le cirque Muldoon et Kilrain, le cirque Robinson, le cirque des frères Ruggling et le sien propre. Partout, il émerveilla les populations. En 1890, Richard K. Fox, de la "Péace Gazette" ayant entendu parler de lui le fit venir à New York, et Cyr exécuta devant lui des tours qui le convainquirent qu'il était l'homme le plus fort du monde. Il offrit alors de le faire rencontrer avec qui que ce soit pour un pari de mille louis. L'année suivante, Cyr se rendit en Angleterre et exécuta à Londres une série de records qui proclamèrent la supériorité de Cyr sur tous les hommes forts de l'époque. Aucun de ceux qui se trouvaient alors à Londres ne voulut entreprendre la lutte contre Cyr. De retour à Montréal, il battit Cyclops, le Suédois August W. Johnson, Sébastien Miller, Otto Ronaldo et autres dans des matchs demeurés fameux. Le célèbre Sandow refusa toujours de le rencontrer.

Alors qu'il avait commencé à perdre de sa force, il se mesura avec Décarie et fit portie-nulle.

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LOUIS CYR DIED HERE YESTERDAY

Ex-World's Champion Strong
Man Succumbs After Long
Illness.

DIED WAITING ON HIM.

Mother-in-Law of Invalid Vic-
tim of Heart Failure While
Nursing Him—Mdme.
Cyr. Ill.

Louis Cyr, ex-world's champion strong man, passed away at the home of his son-in-law, Dr. Z. M. Aumond, 719 St. Catherine street east, shortly after twelve o'clock yesterday, death following an illness of several weeks' duration. Tragic circumstances accompanied the passing of the champion, as his death was preceded by that of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Evangeliste Comtois, who had been in attendance upon him, during his illness. Mrs. Comtois died early Saturday morning, whilst ministering to the wants of her son-in-law. She had entered the sick room shortly after eight o'clock, when she fell to the floor. When assistance reached her she was beyond human aid, as she had succumbed to heart failure. Mrs. Cyr, suffering from the shock of her double bereavement, is confined to bed, and is in a serious condition.

Louis Cyr succumbed to chronic nephritis, from which he had been suffering off and on for the past twelve years. He was forty-nine years and one month of age, having been born in St. Cyprien, October 10, 1863. The funeral will take place Wednesday morning, from the residence of his son-in-law, and the remains will be conveyed to St. Jean de Martha, on the Joliette train leaving the Place Viger station. In accordance with the wish of deceased, interment will take place at St. Jean, where the deceased champion had been residing for some years past. The remains of Madame Comtois have already been conveyed to St. Jean.

In the 28 years he has been in the public arena, as champion strong man, Louis Cyr managed to amass a tidy competence. Simple in his mode of life, he was of a saving disposition, and when he retired two or three years ago, he purchased land in St. Jean de Martha, whilst he was also the proprietor of real estate in the city. No later than last June, he acquired a block of houses in the eastern part of the city for \$25,000, whilst he was also interested in several local ventures. In the course of his career he became the possessor of innumerable trophies, medals, etc., and his home at St. Jean is a veritable museum so extensive is his collection of souvenirs of his many tourneys in various parts of the world.

Twelve years ago, the deceased weighed 365 pounds, which, taking into consideration that his height was but five feet ten inches, was excessive. He then entered upon a regime, and took no other food than milk. Within a short time he succeeded in bringing down his weight to a considerable extent, and a few months before his death, he tipped the scales at 250. For fifteen years before his death he had never lain on a bed, but was forced to take his night's repose in a Morris chair. He suffered from heart trouble, as well as from asthma, these maladies rendering it extremely difficult for him to take a reclining position.

Cyr started his career when at the age of 17 he matched strength with Michaud, of Quebec, who was regarded in his time as an invincible strong man. Cyr, then an unknown, outclassed Michaud in the first contest. He later matched strength with the same adversary, and always with the same result. A notable contest was one that took place in Quebec on a St. Patrick's night, in the Auditorium Hall.

Shortly after this, he became a member of the Montreal police force, and figured in several noted captures of criminals and stick-up men. Early one morning, he walked into his station and handed over three husky toughs, whom he had arrested in the downtown section. At first the arrested ones had endeavored to put up a fight, but Cyr, taking one under each arm, and carrying the other in a vice like grip in front of him, marched off to the station with all three prisoners clear of the ground.

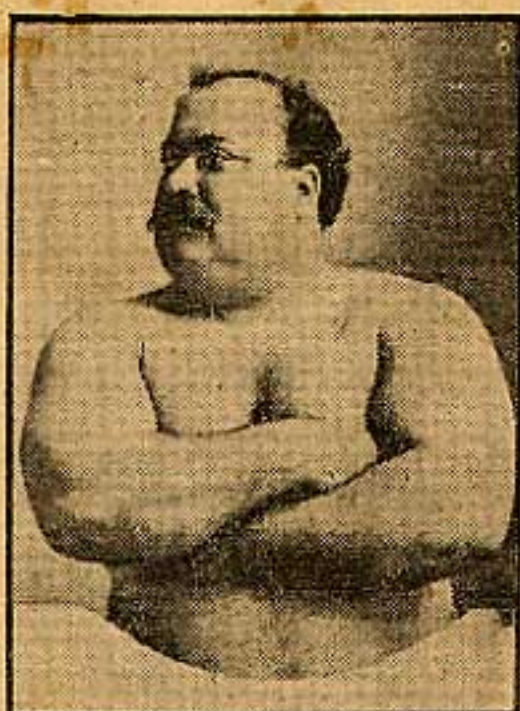
Abandoning the force, he opened a restaurant in St. Cuneo, where he featured a gymnasium. He soon tired of this inactive life, however, and again took to the public arena. In 1888, at an exhibition at Berthierville, he made his first record, by a back lift of a platform containing 3,536 pounds of pig iron. In 1889 he made another record by lifting 265 pounds with one hand, straight lift from ground to shoulder. In 1890 he established another record by winning in a straight pull against four horses, each weighing 1,000 pounds. Two horses were attached by traces to each of his arms and though they did their utmost, the champion held them in.

It was then that the champion was taken in hand by Richard K. Fox, of the Police Gazette and after a tour through the United States he went to London in 1892, where, in his first performance before an audience of 15,000, he broke seven world's records. Amongst his other exploits on this occasion, was a back lift of a platform with a number of men on it, the total weight being 3,653 pounds. He also lifted a barrel of cement weighing 314 pounds, clear from the ground to his shoulder, without touching his knees. Notwithstanding the fact that there was a standing offer of \$1,000 open to all comers to do better than Cyr in any one of his feats or \$100 to equal any one of them, the wager was left unclaimed. On his return to America, however, Cyr met a Michigan man named Therrieh, who performed one of the feats and thus won \$100. In the course of his European tour, on which he spent 26 months, he appeared under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, at the Westminster Royal Aquarium, as well as at the Tivoli, South London Crystal Palace, the Trocadero and other places. He toured England, Ireland and Scotland; later he proceeded to Germany and Italy.

On his return he appeared at Boston and Chicago, and at the latter place in 1896 he established two other records, by lifting 987 pounds with one hand, and 532½ pounds with one finger. He also lifted a barrel of wet sand, weighing 433 pounds, clear of the ground to his shoulder, and in Boston made a back lift of 4,300 pounds, this being the combined weight of eighteen fat men on a platform.

Besides a widow and daughter, the

deceased leaves four brothers, Pierre, ex-champion middleweight strong man, Leon, of Montreal, and John and Napoleon of St. Helene de Bagot. Two sisters, Mrs. Emilien Perron, of Montreal and Mrs. Moïse Hebert of St. Helene de Bagot, also survive.



LOUIS CYR.

CANADA'S WORLD FAMOUS STRONG MAN IS DEAD

Louis Cyr, Famous French-
Canadian Weightlifter,
Breathes His Last.

Louis Cyr, the greatest strong man of modern times, died yesterday at the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. Z. M. Aumont, 719 St. Catherine street east.

Cyr, who was born at St. Cyprien, province of Quebec, in 1863, attributed his great strength almost entirely to the magnificent physique of his mother, who stood 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighed 267 pounds. When only 15 years of age he met and defeated David Michaud in Quebec in 1881. Michaud, who was a dozen years older than Cyr, was considered at that time to be the champion strong man of the country. Cyr lifted a stone weighing 480 pounds, which Michaud could not raise an inch. Under the management of the late Harry Phillips, Cyr later toured Canada, the United States and Europe, meeting and defeating scores of strong men. Richard K. Fox, of New York, presented Cyr with a championship belt and offered a purse of \$10,000 to any man who could equal one of the many feats of strength for which the French-Canadian was noted.

There were some of the strong men who could perform tricks with the heavy weights that Cyr could not do, but for straight lifting he never met his equal. His greatest feat was lifting with his back a platform on which stood 20 or 25 men, totalling in weight about 4,500 lbs. It is said that his record for that feat was 4,562 pounds, made at Sohmer park in this city eighteen years ago. He also had a record for raising slowly from the ground above his head a dumbbell weighing 247 pounds. Cyr retired from active competitions seven years ago, handing his title over to Horace Barre, of St. Henry.

Before he fell ill two years ago Cyr weighed 365 lbs., was 5 feet 10 1-2 inches tall; had a chest measurement of 59 1-2 inches; expansion of chest, 7 inches; waist, 47 inches; biceps, 2 1-2 in.; forearm, 19 1-2 inches; thigh, 23 inches; calf, 29 inches—really a wonderful physical development.

In the 28 years he has been in the public arena, as champion strong man, Louis Cyr managed to amass a tidy competence. Simple in his mode of life, he was of a saving disposition, and when he retired two or three years ago, he purchased land in St. Jean de Martha, whilst he was also the proprietor of real estate in the city. No later than last June, he acquired a block of houses in the eastern part of the city for \$25,000, whilst he was also interested in several local ventures. In the course of his career he became the possessor of innumerable trophies, medals, etc., and his home at St. Jean is a veritable museum so extensive in his collection of souvenirs of his many tourneys in various parts of the world.

Twelve years ago, the deceased entered upon a regime, and took no other food than milk. For fifteen years before his death he had never lain on a bed, but was forced to take his night's repose in a Morris chair. He suffered from heart trouble, as well as from asthma, these maladies rendering it extremely difficult for him to take a reclining position.

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As stated before, there was a standing offer of \$1,000 open to all-comers to do better than Cyr in any one of his feats or \$100 to equal any one of them, the wager was left unclaimed till on his return to America, Cyr met a Michigan man named Therrien, who performed one of the feats and thus won \$100. In the course of his European tour, on which he spent 26 months, he appeared under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, at the Westminster Royal Aquarium, as well as at the Tivoli, South London Crystal Palace, the Trocadero and other places. He toured England, Ireland and Scotland; later he proceeded to Germany and Italy.

On his return he appeared at Boston and Chicago, and at the latter place, in 1896, he established two other records, by lifting 387 pounds with one hand, and 552 1/2 pounds with one finger. He also lifted a barrel of wet sand, weighing 432 pounds, clear of the ground to his shoulder, and in Boston made a back lift of 4,300 pounds, this being the combined weight of eighteen fat men on a platform.

For a couple of years he had a small circus on the road through the eastern part of Canada.

The funeral will take place Wednesday morning, from the residence of his son-in-law, Doctor Aumont, and the remains will be conveyed to St. Jean de Martha, on the Joliette train leaving the Place Viger station. In accordance with the wish of deceased, interment will take place at St. Jean, where the deceased champion had been residing for some years past. The remains of Madame Comtois, his mother-in-law, who died suddenly at his

bedside Saturday morning, have already been conveyed to St. Jean.

Besides a widow and daughter, the deceased leaves four brothers, Pierre, ex-champion middleweight strong man; Leon, of Montreal, and John and Napoleon of St. Helen de Bagot. Two sisters, Mrs. Emilien Perron, of Montreal, and Mrs. Moise Hebert, of St. Helene de Bagot, also survive.