

**ST. JOHN FIRE SWEEP
46 YEARS AGO**

The Conflagration of 1877 is Recalled.

Millions Loss in Property and Eight Lives Sacrificed—Business Men Speak of Scenes During Fearful Day.

When the sun set on the City of St. John forty-six years ago today, it allowed the charitable mantle of night to fall darkly over a scene of desolation unparalleled in the annals of the city. For the night of June 20, 1877 saw two-fifths of the entire city laid in ruins from the devastating blaze which in the short space of nine hours leveled 1,612 houses, leaving behind more than 2,000 acres of smoldering ashes on about 9.6 miles of streets. At least eight people lost their lives during the fire, eleven schooners in the harbor, four wood-boats and four scows of lime were destroyed and two other schooners badly damaged by the flames. The total damage was estimated at \$27,000,000.

The fire originated in the building of the late Joseph Fairweather, York Point, at 230 on Wednesday afternoon, June 20, and, driven by a high wind, it spread with terrible rapidity, until half an hour later flying sparks and embers had started the city blazing in a dozen or more places. The area destroyed was bounded roughly by the following streets—Union, Mill, Dock, Market Square, King street to Pitt, Pitt street to the harbor and thence around the water front to the point of starting.

Amongst those who lost their lives were Captain W. M. B. Prith, Samuel Corbett, Joseph Bell, Timothy O'Leary, Michael Donahue, Mrs. Coughlan and Mrs. Fitzgerald.

The buildings destroyed included the following—Academy of Music, German street; The Freeman, Prince William street; Lawrence Hotel, Prince William street; Bank of New Brunswick, Princess street; Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal, Market Square; Eastern Express Co., Prince William street; The Daily Telegraph, The Evening Globe and Printer's Miscellany, Prince William street; Maritime Bank, Market Square; Masonic Hall, Princess street; Oddfellows' Hall, Germain street; Royal Hotel, Prince William street; Russell's Hotel, King street; St. John Gas Light Co., Parkmerthen street; St. John Board of Trade, Market Square; Temperance News, Canterbury street.

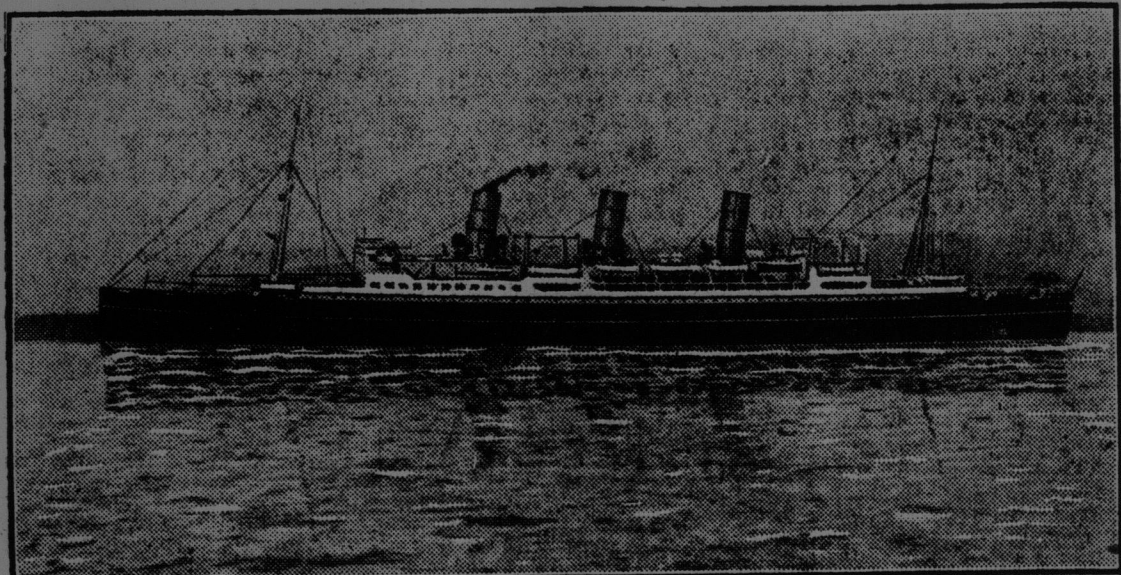
Stons McAvity of the T. McAvity & Sons, Ltd., said that he could vividly recall the scenes of desolation and ruin. He said his firm conducted the hardware business near the corner of Water Street and South wharf then, and that the majority of retail business stores were along Prince William street. As the flames swept down Dock street and Chipman Hill, leaving charred ruins in their wake, he took the firm's books and his father drove to their home in Dorchester street. They then started to return to their place of business, but the fire had reached such proportions that they had to go along Charlotte street to Duke before they were able to turn towards the harbor front. When they reached the establishment all the buildings on Market Square were in flames and the fire had started up King street. Hot ashes and pieces of burning wood were dropping all around their store and realizing that it was merely a matter of minutes before that section would also be prey to the flames they started with their horses and teams for Red's Point where a large number of people were congregating. They had delayed their departure until they were forced to make a run for it and the hot ashes kept falling on their clothing and the heat had become almost unbearable. While passing the old Victoria, Valise, etc., piled up on the sidewalk, and some smoke issuing from the building, the fire having been started by flying embers. As they hastened to Red's Point they saw large quantities of goods, which had been placed on the sidewalk by merchants, burning. From Red's Point their horses and vehicles were taken to Capleton on a ferry boat and later brought around to the city via the old Suspension Bridge.

A. O. Skinner recalls. Speaking about the memorable occasion A. O. Skinner said that he was then a member of Skerton, Son & Skinner, and they conducted a carpet and house furnishing business in Prince William street. When the fire started in Bradley's Block, Skerton and Dunlop's rigging loft in Pond street, there was no thought of its reaching such astounding proportions, and when it did spread hope was felt that it would be brought under control. But as it grew worse with alarming rapidity some firms started removing goods from their stores and piled them on the sidewalks but they were unable to secure teams to haul them to places of safety, and all soon became a prey to the devastating flames. He said that the majority of the business men, realizing that their efforts to save stock or belongings would be futile, left the burning area and sought places of safety.

**MOVIE MAD GIRLS
TO WEST BY SCORE**

Autoist Says They Line the Lincoln Highway, Waiting for Lift to Los Angeles.

Omaha, Neb., June 20.—Moon-struck movie maidens line the Lincoln Highway, according to Wilbur Hartnett, a newspaperman of Washington, D. C., who is touring the country in an automobile. "The woods are full of them," said Mr. Hartnett here, "and the roads are lined with them. They range in age from 18 to 19 years. Some of them have won local beauty contests, but I saw no evidence where the winners got any appreciable amount of money in prizes—never enough to pay car fare to Los Angeles. "So they are on their way, weary, sore and often penniless, but still undaunted. They walk because they have no money, and they are mighty glad to get a lift. Not one of them refused the invitation, and many a one



C.P.S.S. "Empress of Canada."

When, running at an average speed of 20.6 knots, the Canadian Pacific S.S. "Empress of Canada" crossed the Pacific from Yokohama to Vancouver in 8 days, 10 hours and 53 minutes, she established a new trans-Pacific record. The "Empress of Russia," of the same line, which has held the record since 1914 is now forced to relinquish her time of 8 days, 15 hours and 31 minutes actual sailing time, in favor of the larger Empress. The "Empress of Canada" has a gross tonnage of 22,000 tons, and is arranged to carry about 3,769 passengers, all classes, and a crew of 500 men. Her equipment is the latest word in modern travel comfort, and on account of her speed, appointments and seaworthiness, she has been chosen to make a "Round-the-World" cruise of 30,000 miles, leaving New York in January next, with over 500 globe-trotters.

we passed up simply because there was no more room in the car." Hartnett said that of nearly 200 to whom he gave a lift, thirty were college graduates, young women on pleasure hikes to the Colorado mountains and eighteen were waitresses or servants seeking new jobs. The rest were girls and women bound to the movies. Of men, there were about twice as many, in age from 18 to 60 years. A few of these were college students on vacation jaunts, and the rest were laborers or hoboes, with one man who had just been released from a prison.

J. A. Poulson Demonstrates to Boys With His 11x10-Foot Rocket—Says He's World Champion.

AT 76 FLIES KITE
2 1-2 MILES IN AIR

Judges were just picking the winner in the annual Jersey City boys' kite-flying contest held recently at West Side County Park, near the Hackensack waterfront, when suddenly some eye, keener than the others, discovered an "outlaw" kite poised higher by far than any the boys were flying. It was a mere speck seen only in occasional glints when the sun picked it out against the blue.

Yesterday the old man, James A. Poulson, of 21 Dor Avenue, Jamaica, and storekeeper in a U. S. bonded warehouse at 71 South Street, Manhattan, was beamed by Jersey City on invitation of the kite contest officials. Before a breathless audience of grand-children Mr. Poulson gave a demonstration of high kite flying as he had perfected it in the seventy years he had been at it, man and boy. When, despite the youngsters' pleading, he had to pack his prize 11 x 10 ft. kite, Rocket, his Eddy box kite, his collapsible kite coverings, his folding reel any angle might have envied and the other features of his wizardry he dropped that he was "world's champion kite flyer" and challenged all comers. There were none to say him nay.

Mr. Poulson first explained how the Chinese had invented kites to send messages to bad spirits. He showed the boys his reel, plainly a priced improvement, which had a capacity of five miles of kite string. He regretted he had only time to load with a two-and-a-half mile length, yesterday. He beamed as he displayed the 11-footer Rocket, "that always brought home the bacon," as fine upstanding a kite as ever a boy saw, to judge from the bulging eyes around him. He showed an Eddy box kite. He said he had a sentimental interest in this kite, because he had met and talked with its inventor, a quarter of a century before during experiments along that same track, this contrivance, which was approved during the Spanish War, had contributed importantly to the theory of flight. This developed in part through the Wright Brothers into the modern airplane. Not an instructor in physics but would have given coin of the realm to have got the boys' rapt attention for the classroom.

And then the actual flying. Mr. Poulson handed Rocket to a friend, John Musterman, whom he had brought from the warehouse. "You see I've pretty much demoralized all the boys over there on South Street," he smiled. "I've got them all at it—the secret of the Saturday afternoons and Sundays till the women folks think there's something wrong with them." He winked wisely. "There's nothing wrong with them, if you know what I mean."

Musterman went down the field, holding the kite with trained fingers by its fragile ribs, tall looped over one shoulder as carefully as though a woman's gown. Frequently he seemed hard put to hold the great kite against what appeared to be almost an instinct to be off and away as it felt the wind. Mr. Poulson explained that this hinted at the lift and buoyancy he had contrived to put into the secret of the extraordinary climbing power Rocket soon revealed.

Poulson holding reel and heavy string waited till Musterman had got the distance. Then, testing the air with his check, he suddenly nodded his head energetically to Musterman. The "mechanic" sailed the kite into the air with an upward nod of the arm. Poulson trotted backward, not too fast, just enough to keep string taut. Without a falter the kite swanned into the air, up, up and up. When the kite finally went out of sight overhead Poulson called excitedly: "That's a mile! You can't see 'em after a mile!"

The kite continued till the spinning reel was bare, and that was two and one-half miles. He kept it aloft half an hour. Reeling in, he told that he had been

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Senator Sir James Loughheed.

In a recent speech in the Senate Chamber he suggested that bills which the Commons could not defeat in the face of public opinion, were handed on to the upper chambers to receive their death warrant. "There is too much disposition on the part of the House of Commons to save its face by putting through this sort of legislation, expecting us to deal with it," he said, in reference to the Anti-Gambling Bill.

The earliest known surgical instruments are copper knives found in a tomb, 1800 B. C.

Hon. Frank Oliver, of Edmonton, who was minister of the interior in the Laurier government from 1905 to 1911, is likely to be appointed to the Senate, to succeed the late Senator Forget, of Banff, it is reported.

A LITTLE WETNESS DOES NOT MAKE A SWIMMING HOLE.

—From the Indianapolis News.

**URDANG'S
Great
School Closing
SHOE SALE**

Begins Thurs., June 21st
at 9 a.m.

To The Public of St. John

We have again put on sale our entire stock of footwear for Men, Women and Children at prices that are a great saving to everybody. Remember that this stock is not a cheap bought up stock for sale purposes, but is our regular stock of good wearing shoe qualities at prices far below. This is your opportunity to get your children's footwear for school closing and holidays.

These are only but a few lines from our many bargain tables displayed; so be on hand early.

These prices will speak for themselves See our window display and come in.

Men's Black Goodyear Welt Boots, box toe and velvet calf uppers—a good fitter and stylish boot. Regular \$5.85— \$3.95	Children's Tan Sandals, made of extra heavy leather soles and counters. Just the shoe for summer. School closing sale. 89c	Children's Patent Slippers with strap and button—very dressy. Sizes 4-7 \$1.29 Sizes 8-10 \$1.49 Sizes 11-2 \$1.69	No Reason why every child shouldn't have a new pair of Shoes for school closing. Just see our White Canvas Oxfords with Elk soles and tan trimmed. Sizes 5-7 \$1.39 Sizes 8-10 \$1.59 Sizes 11-2 \$1.79	For the child that likes a tan shoe we have a brown 1-Strap Slipper with a Goodyear welt sole and well finished inside. School Closing Sale \$1.69	Women's Patent Oxfords with spool heel. A neat Shoe and nicely finished with white kid lining. Regular \$4.85. Sizes 2 1/2 to 7. School Closing Sale \$1.98
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Where many Bargain Tables are Displayed for Your Convenience

If you don't see what you want in our windows come in and tell us, as we are sure to have it.

It's Urdang's Shoe Store, 221-223 Union

We never forget the Boys. Let us fit them with a pair of our solid leather box kip double sole boots with a good leather inner sole. Sizes 11-13. \$2.69	High Grade Oxfords. Men's mahogany Oxfords. Brown or black calf. Plain or Brogue style. Genuine Goodyear welt soles. Our famous Tuxedo line. Regular \$8.50. School Closing Sale \$6.98	Men's Mahogany, Gun Metal, Calf Blucher or recede toe Boot, Goodyear welt soles, rubber heels—a genuine Dress Shoe. Regular \$6.00. School Closing Sale. \$4.98	Women's Patent Colonial Pump with Louis heel and Suede quarter. Made of a nice Patent leather that will give good wear. School Closing Sale. \$4.79	Children's Patent Leather Sandals. Made on a good roomy last, with sewn soles. An ideal shoe for dress and playing combined. Sizes 5-7—\$1.29 Sizes 8-10—\$1.49 Sizes 11-2—\$1.69	Girls' Patent or Brown 1 Strap and Buckle Slipper. A nice fitting last and very popular this season. Sizes 11-2. School Closing Sale \$2.69	Women's Black Patent or Brown, with combination Suede medium heels; roomy fitting last. A nice Dress Shoe for the season. School Closing Sale \$3.98	Women's Black Suede One Strap Two Button, with rubber heels. A neat street or dress shoe. School Closing Sale \$4.48
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URDANG'S

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Remember This: That our store will be open Saturday Afternoon and every night during the summer.