

300 PEOPLE BURNED ALIVE.

Dreadful Fire Horror in Theatre at Acapulco, Mexico.

Moving Picture Film Took Fire and Caused Stampede.

Men, Women and Children Trampled Upon in a Mad Frenzy.

Mexico City, Mexico, Feb. 15.—Between 250 and 300 people were burned to death last night in a fire which destroyed the Theatre Flores, in the city of Acapulco.

The building was of wood. More than 1,000 people last night packed it to the roof to witness a special performance, given in honor of Governor Flores, of the State of Guerrero.

One of the numbers was a set of moving pictures. The film slipped from the guides, caught fire, and flashed into flame with appalling brilliancy and speed.

In an incredibly short time, the whole gallery was a roaring hell. The audience recoiled from its first stupefaction to plunge into a delirium of terror.

There were but three exits, and the crowd jammed them like frightened sheep.

The strong men in the front ranks got out alive. The weak and the women and the children went down.

When they were down they did not rise. The frenzied mob passed over them, trampling them, mashing them, grinding them, without heed or pity, and pushed on by those behind, without power to do otherwise had the wish survived.

Owing to the rapidity with which the flames ran to all parts of the house, and the intense heat, rescue work was impossible.

The heat was burning bright, and those whom it touched were roasted alive—if they had not been more mercifully crushed to death.

Men stood helpless in the street and wrung their hands in horror at the shrieks of anguish from inside. There was nothing to do.

To-day, men, women and children are hunting the city theatre for dead. Many of the missing are from the best families of the state, for the performance was almost in the nature of an affair of state, and called out the wealth of the entire countryside.

The city authorities have caused large trenches to be dug for the dead. In most cases they have been burned to a crisp, and identification is beyond hope.

It is feared that there may have been Americans among the dead. Thus far, telegrams sent to the American Consul have brought no reply.

Acapulco is one of the three important ports on the Pacific coast of Mexico. Nearly all of the steamers make it a port of call, and the harbor is accounted the best in Mexico.

NO AMERICANS LOST.

Washington, Feb. 16.—No Americans lost their lives in the fire which destroyed the city theatre in Acapulco, Mexico, on Sunday night, according to a despatch received at the State Department to-day from United States Consul Moorhead.

More than 200 people were burned to death in the catastrophe, according to Consul Moorhead.

LIVES LOST IN THEATRE FIRES.

In the United States: Richmond, Va., Theatre, Dec. 26, 1821 ... 74

Brooklyn Theatre, Dec. 5, 1876 ... 297

Central Theatre, Philadelphia, April 28, 1892 ... 6

Front Street Theatre, Baltimore, Dec. 28, 1895 ... 22

Troquois Theatre, Chicago, Dec. 30, 1902 ... 506

Boyetown, Pa., Opera House, Jan. 13, 1908 ... 170

In foreign countries: Lehman's Theatre, St. Petersburg, 1836 ... 700

Carlisle Theatre, St. Petersburg, 1847 ... 200

Ring Theatre, Vienna, Dec. 8, 1881 ... 875



HIS HONOR LIEUT.-GOVERNOR GIBSON.

LIEUT.-GOV. GIBSON

Opens With Much Ceremony the Twelfth Parliament of the Province of Ontario.

Fine Military Display—Brilliant Assembly of Ladies and Gentlemen—Tame Speech.

(Special Despatch to the Times.)

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 16.—With trumpet and drum, with boom of guns, and all pride and circumstance, the twelfth Parliament of Ontario was formally opened this afternoon.

A new Lieutenant-Governor, His Honor John Morison Gibson, was there to represent His Gracious Majesty. After so many years of arduous service and unflinching support of the party to which he belonged, His Honor entered the chamber of so many of his fiercest battles the accredited representative of the Crown.

From Government House up University avenue the Governor's party swept escorted by a squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. The guard of honor was composed of a company of the 48th Highlanders, led by Lieut.-Col. Robertson, and their band.

On the west a battery of the 10th Canadian Field Battery blazed the salute. At the threshold stood the Premier, Sir James Whitney, to meet His Honor, and the two old political adversaries, always warm personal friends, went back to the waiting Chamber together.

His Honor wore the full Lieutenant-Governor's uniform, with cocked hat. He was accompanied by Major MacDonald, his military secretary, and several officers in brilliant uniform.

Upon learning that the Speaker had not yet been elected His Honor retired, and upon the motion of the Premier, Hon. Thomas Crawford, was re-elected Speaker. The Lieutenant-Governor then returned to the Chamber.

On His Honor's right stood the group of members of the Cabinet, on his left Hon. A. G. McKay, and Messrs. Proudfoot, McDougall, Clark, Bowman, and Tudhope. Great regret was expressed at the absence of Mrs. Gibson and the Misses Gibson.

They were not present owing to the recent bereavement in the family. Lady Mortimer Clark and the Misses Clark, wife and daughters of the previous Lieutenant-Governor, represented them.

Following the election of the Speaker came the speech from the throne. His Honor withdrew and the new Speaker mounted to his seat. The Premier made the customary motion to have the speech engrossed, and the House adjourned.

Following came a reception in the Speaker's chambers to visitors, members and members' wives. The Ministers' wives received. The weather was cold and dull, but the gathering was brilliant in the extreme.

(Continued on Page 5.)

30 LIVES LOST

By Earthquake Shock in Asiatic Turkey To-day.

Shock in Hungary Caused People to Flee in Terror.

Constantinople, Feb. 16.—A number of houses and Government buildings in Sivas, the capital of Villayet, of the same name in Asiatic Turkey, collapsed to-day as the result of an earthquake.

The loss of life has not been ascertained, but reports say that thirty persons have been killed and others injured. Many of the inhabitants are without shelter.

Sivas, sometimes spelt Sevas, has a population of about 6,000 families.

SHAKE IN HUNGARY.

Budapest, Feb. 16.—An earthquake shock, lasting for ten seconds, was felt to-day in the districts of Keszthely, Nagykeresztes, Csepel and Fellegyhaza.

The inhabitants fled in terror to the country. The walls of a number of houses were cracked, but otherwise there was no damage.

BROKE UP THIS HOUSE.

Fratick and His Wife Given Four Months in Jail.

Jail and Reformatory For Each of Two Others.

John McPride, On Indian List, Also Goes Down.

Police Magistrate Jells dealt with law breakers with a heavy hand this morning at Police Court, and many tears were spilt as a result.

William Fratick and his wife were charged with keeping a disorderly house. Fratick is the man who was seized with an epileptic fit yesterday morning in court, and the case was laid over till to-day.

This morning A. M. Lewis pleaded not guilty on behalf of the pair, and the constables who had watched the place for weeks put in a long line of evidence as to the number of men calling at the house each night.

Evidence was also put in that when the raid was made last Saturday night there was a three-year-old baby girl in the house, and its mother was lying ill of an incurable disease at the time.

Mr. Lewis argued that the fact of people going in and out of the house might be consistent with illegal liquor selling or with a gambling house, as much as with a disorderly house.

Magistrate Jells did not go into his reasons for doing so, but at once found the pair guilty. The girls all pleaded not guilty to the charge of frequenting and being inmates of the house.

They were also found guilty on the testimony of the officers who watched the comings and goings at the house at the foot of East avenue.

Fratick and his wife were sent to the jail for four months each, Lillie Boucher was sent down for two months without the option of a fine, Marie Lester and Annie Visbeau, whose real name is Annie Mellon, but who has used her stepfather's name for years, was sent to the Home of the Good Shepherd for an indefinite period.

Annie Mellon left that institution on parole only a month ago, and he still serves till the end of this year. She cried bitterly when she learned that she had to go back but her worship was not moved by her tears, nor by the pleadings of her counsel.

He said it was for the protection of the girl, and some day she would realize it. Lillie Boucher was quite affected by her sentence, and tried to faint, but the faint refused to come on.

She said her father sent her money from their home in the country, but this did her no good. The little colored girl and the other white inmate, who were fined \$20 each, were weepingly affected.

Fratick's wife made a pathetic plea for a shorter sentence, but his worship was adamant and she and her husband were led away. Hubby failed to throw any more His as he went over the bridge.

John Kavanagh, found guilty yesterday, was sentenced to the reformatory for two years.

(Continued on Page 14.)

M'CALLUM AT \$3,500 AS CITY ENGINEER.

Possibility That Mr. Barrow May Not Hand In His Resignation.

Andrew B. McCallum, of Toronto, will be Hamilton's new City Engineer, if the Council acts on the recommendation of the special committee, which was appointed to reorganize the engineering department.

There is every reason to believe that it will do so. The committee yesterday talked matters over with Mr. McCallum and then decided to advise the Council to appoint him Engineer.

This action was unanimous, three aldermen who stood by City Engineer Barrow last year approving of it. Mr. McCallum demands a salary of \$3,500 a year, and will be prepared to enter upon his duties here on May 1.

The committee will leave the salary question to the Council. Yesterday was the time set by Mr. Barrow himself to give an answer to Chairman Perogine's demand for his resignation.

The Mayor was informed yesterday that the Engineer was unable to leave the house on account of illness. The Mayor and aldermen say they have every desire to be fair with him.

Chairman Perogine said to-day that he believed the Council would be quite satisfied that Mr. Barrow should remain for another year, but this should not be permitted to interfere with the appointment of the new man.

The chairman is of the opinion that Mr. McCallum is an engineer of superior ability and will make good.

Mr. Barrow still refuses to talk for publication, more than to say that he would not hand in his resignation to-day, and it is believed he has not yet made up his mind not to fight.

He has some supporters in this year's Council who are willing to stand behind him, and if he can convince himself that he has a chance to win he will likely let the matter be fought out in the Council.

The committee proposed giving the new engineer a free hand in the organization of the department. Mr. McCallum has had a great deal of experience in railway work, having superintended the construction of nearly a hundred miles of the Transcontinental and other big jobs.

He has also had some experience in sewer and water systems. He is the engineer who reported on the route back of Dundurn Park for the Hamilton, Waterloo & Guelph Railway.

Tomorrow night the Fire and Water Committee will deal with the request of Chief TenEyck for apparatus for the new St. Andrew station and arrange for the opening of the building. The Hamilton Building Trades Council has written to the secretary, asking that the firemen be prevented from doing any work in (Continued on Page 8.)

SHOT ONE.

Former Glanford Young Man Wounded One Highwayman.

Mr. Ernest Stuart, a former resident of Glanford village, and who has a large number of friends in this city, had an experience day or two ago which he will not soon forget.

He is now engaged as teacher at Manotick, Carleton County. He was returning home alone, and had almost reached his destination, when he was set upon by three masked men, who demanded his money.

Mr. Stuart drew a revolver and fired at the foremost of the trio, and the footpad fell, wounded. Before he could shoot again he was felled by a blow on the head.

The other two men then quickly relieved him of \$96 and made off, leaving Stuart and his wounded companion on the road. Stuart soon regained consciousness, and gave the alarm. The wounded man was taken into custody, and is in a dangerous condition.

He gave the name of Bill Black, and said his home was in Buffalo. Mr. Stuart was able to resume his teaching in two days.

THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

Murderer Walked Calmly to Death—Died in Ten Minutes.

Danmonera, N. Y., Feb. 16.—Apparently unmoved by the fate awaiting him, Leslie Coombs, slayer of Harry Hosmer, of St. Lawrence county, walked coolly from the death cell to the electric chair in the state prison here to-day, and ten minutes later was officially declared dead.

A current of 1,800 volts with 7 1/2 amperes was used for the initial shock, the high voltage being reduced in ten seconds to 200 volts.

In one and one-half minutes, after a careful examination by four physicians, Dr. D. Branson, the prison physician, declared life extinct.

The crime for which Coombs paid the penalty was committed in the town of Fine, St. Lawrence county, on the night of Sept. 26, 1908. Robbery was the motive.

THE MAN IN OVERALLS

Toronto is to make another attempt to steal the Royal Templar headquarters from Hamilton. Anything that is not nailed down is always in danger from those people.

If you have nothing better to do take a book out of the Public Library. A good book is good company.

The made-in-Hamilton idea is taking hold. Up to last week lots of people had no idea of the number of articles that are made in Hamilton.

No wonder Mr. Barrow is sick. After all, we would prefer to have Jack the Hutter with us than Jack the Ripper.

We certainly need a new snow-blow. A cleaned sidewalk is now sometimes more of a curse than a blessing.

This weather may be hard upon the coal bin, but if it holds it may give a few hundred men work cutting ice.

Mr. Sothman's figures may be merely allegorical, or, in other words, figures of speech.

Wouldn't it be great if all our churches were as beautiful as St. Mary's?

Now, be careful, don't mix up the baking soda with rat poison.

When he is misrepresented you surely would not try to prevent Mr. McFarlane from protesting.

Yes, Mr. Mayor, you better look into that under-assessment business. Property is just as liable to be under as over assessed.

Somebody should tell Mr. Sothman that 8 hours a day is the union rule here.

Now that Mr. Sealey is making good at Ottawa, the county Liberals are in 'oh, oh, he joyful' mood once more.

As to the weather, I would rather have it now than wait until March.

But there is no guarantee going with Mr. Sothman's figures. They are still at best but guesses.

Has anybody any idea what the Easter bonnet is to be like this season?

If we had given Mr. Barrow \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year, and a high priced assistant for outside work, with a consulting engineer thrown in, no doubt he would have given the best of satisfaction.

KING OPENS PARLIAMENT.

All London Turns Out to See King and Queen.

Neither Suffragettes Nor Socialists Make Disturbance.

House of Commons Crowded—Guy Fawkes Farce.

London, Feb. 16.—A greater crowd than usual gathered at Westminster to-day for the State opening of Parliament by King Edward, who was accompanied by the Queen.

Wales and other members of the Royal family. A day of bright sunshine, and the fact that this was the first public appearance of their Majesties since their return from Berlin, whither they went last week to visit Emperor William, was largely responsible for the outpouring of the people who lined the route to Buckingham Palace and gave the Sovereigns an enthusiastic greeting as they passed in procession with an escort of the Guards, to the House of Parliament.

Another and greater crowd had assembled in the immediate vicinity of St. Stephen's. These people were curious to see what would be the outcome of the threats made by the unemployed and the women suffragists to indulge in demonstrations. The police at this point were out in force and ready to deal with any disturbance.

Within the chamber the members of the two Houses and a select few who had been invited to witness the actual ceremony, expectantly awaited the reading of the King's speech. Urgent whips had been issued by the leaders of both Houses and had brought into a great majority of the members, particularly of the House of Commons, among whom there were only a few absentees. Some appeared in the House as early as midnight last night to secure seats and from that hour until midday, with short intervals, as the stream of members of Parliament made their way into the building.

Following close upon the heels of the first members to arrive came the mounted Yeomen of the Guard, who, under the escort of a detachment of police, made their customary inspection of the vaults under the two Houses, a formality that has been carried out since the discovery of the Guy Fawkes's plot.

The House of Lords, when their Majesties appeared, was filled with peers and peresses, members of the House of Commons, diplomats and other representatives of the official and social life of London.

King Edward's speech from the throne contained no surprises, and as had been anticipated, the projected legislation forecast by His Majesty is largely social in character. The King opened with a graceful allusion to his recent visit in Berlin. "I was much impressed and gratified at the warmth of the public reception given to the Queen and myself by all classes of the people."

"I afforded me great pleasure to meet the Emperor of Germany, and I feel confident that the expressions of cordial welcome with which we were greeted in Berlin will tend to strengthen those amicable feelings between the two countries that are essentially the basis of our peace and the maintenance of peace."

Immediately after the usual references to the continued friendliness of the foreign relations of Great Britain, the King spoke of the waterways and fisheries agreements with the United States.

"Satisfactory progress has been made," he said, "in the negotiations on outstanding questions with the United States. A treaty to regulate the use of waterways adjacent to the international boundary between Canada and the United States has been arranged, and this question being one of special Canadian interest, the advice of the Dominion Government was sought and followed throughout."

"My Ambassador in Washington has negotiated also, with the co-operation of the Canadian and Newfoundland Ministers of Justice, an agreement for reference to arbitration of the North American fisheries question, and I trust that this agreement will be the means of effecting a final and friendly settlement of matters which have been long under discussion between this country and the United States."

After mentioning the continued anxiety concerning the situation in Persia and the "imperative demand" for the introduction of representative institutions in that country, the King said: "I am happy to hear that there is now an improved prospect for solution of the difficulties that have arisen in the Balkans, and it is my earnest hope that a settlement may be arrived at satisfactory to all the states wherein they are concerned."

A BAD NIGHT.

There Was Little Sleep For Beach People Last Night.

Winter residents at the Beach had much last night—but it was not the soothing kind. It was the double forte, doubled and trebled again and again until sleep was out of the question.

The wind howled, old Lake Ontario roared and the waves hammered and pounded, driving up the beach in tons of slush and packing it on shore. It was one of the wildest nights in several years.

The storm, however, has not interfered with steam or electric traffic much. The steam railway trains are running on time and the awneers have kept the electric lines open.

Country roads are drifted a good deal and the snow is a bad sort, heavy and hard to handle.

Clarified Cider.

Just received, one barrel clarified sweet cider, another lot of marmalade oranges, new coconuts, cranberries, Educator crackers, California rock, Oka cheese, English Stilton, Osobad beefs, Huntley & Palmers biscuits, fresh cut lettuce, mixed meat, pigeons, Neufchatel and square cream cheese.—Bain & Adams, 89, 91 King street east.

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NO FUNDS.

Alleged Frauds Upon Boarding House and Restaurant.

James A. Dexter is the name being used by a man who is going around the city doing up boarding house keepers.

Dexter sponged a meal at 157 King William street yesterday on the strength of a story that he was going to board there. He called at the tea house of C. P. Chutey and had \$2.85 worth of tea sent to the house and gave the Chinese tea merchant a \$5 cheque for the tea. The Celestial paid \$2.15 change and James A. and the tea are among the missing also the change.

The cheque was not a forgery, but merely called for funds from an account that did not exist.

Gone to the Dogs.

We had to send in another order for Spratt's Dog Biscuits and dog remedies. We keep a full line of dog remedies. Dog biscuits, puppy cakes, toy pet dog cakes, etc. Dog brushes, dog combs, in fact almost every dog necessity. Our line of dog remedies include Spratt's, Glover's and an English line. Call and get booklet on dogs, Parke & Parke, Druggists.

SIR JAMES P. WHITNEY, Premier of Ontario.

SAD DEATH.

Little Daughter of P. C. Meritt Swallowed Washer.

Mirtle Olive Meritt, the little daughter of Constable James and Mrs. Meritt, died this morning, aged 2 years and 7 months. Death was caused by a small iron washer which the little girl swallowed about a week ago.

Various means were taken to remove the washer, but to no purpose, and yesterday she was operated upon. The funeral will take place on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of all.

MASONIC VISIT.

Burlington Lodge No. 165, A. F. and A. M., of Burlington, paid a fraternal visit to Doric Lodge, No. 382, last evening. About fifty came up on a special car, and after arriving at the hall the third degree was exemplified and a pleasant evening spent. Worshipful Master W. M. Harvey occupied the chair.

Just For a Smoker.

A rubber tobacco pouch is the correct thing for your cut tobacco. It prevents waste and keeps the tobacco in good condition all the time. Fine rubber pouches are sold at peace's pipe store, 107 King street east.