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41 PRINCESS STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN

Fires in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg had no less than three serious fires on Main street on Sunday last, January 17. The first fire broke out in the Grand opera house—the old Wesley hall block—adjoining the Manitoba hotel, at an early hour in the morning, and the block was completely destroyed. The block adjoining the opera house on the south was badly wrecked but the Manitoba hotel escaped with slight damage from the breaking of windows, etc. With a gale blowing at the time it was a hard fight to control the flames.

C. W. Sharpe, manager of the Grand Opera, loss \$3,000; insurance \$1,600. North-west Electric Light Co., some damage by water. The Manitoba Plumbing Co. occupied a store in the opera house block and was completely burned out. Likewise W. R. Richardson, upholsterer, who had a fine stock of expensive furniture destroyed. Coster Bros., plumbers, J. C. Lacey carpets, Pengelly & Co., upholsters, also lost everything. Mr. McNaught, late solicitor for the Northern Pacific Railway Company, owned the Opera house building and J. M. Graham, another Northern Pacific official, owned the adjoining building to the south. W. H. Sea b, who was associated with Mr. Sharpe in the opera house, will lose considerable by the fire and several citizens who had furniture and effects in the buildings are losers.

The second fire occurred in the fruit store of J. H. Dawson and the stock was ruined and the building badly damaged.

The third fire broke out in the large Assiniboine block, formerly known as the Conchon block. This block was badly gutted by fire a year ago and was remodelled and rebuilt last summer, making one of the finest tenement blocks in the city. The fire on Monday started in the northeast wing and was confined to this portion of the block, and even this wing was saved though somewhat damaged. A number of tenants will suffer considerable loss from fire, smoke and water.

Following is a later report of the losses: Grand Opera house building, value \$12,000, total loss. Adjoining building, owned by J. M. Graham, almost a complete loss, estimated at \$10,000. The Manitoba Plumbing Co., insurance \$500; Coster Brothers, plumbers, loss about \$3,000, insured for \$1,000; W. R. Richardson, upholsterer, loss about \$1,700, insured in the Lancaster and Imperial companies for \$1,500; J. C. Lacey, carpet layer, tools and store furnishings to the value of \$200, insured. Pengelly & Co., upholsters, loss \$3,000, insurance, \$1,000.

C. Sharpe's loss on the furnishing of the Grand was about \$3,000, insured for \$1,000. The Northwest Electric Light Co., fully covered by insurance.

In the Assiniboine block the losses are: Hyman Muller, furniture and clothing to the extent of \$1,500, insured for \$1,000; H. Bell's loss \$1,000, insured for \$500 in the Canadian Co.; R. H. Scott, of the Merchants bank, loss \$1,000; Mrs. Livingston's insurance \$300; Miss Turlock and Miss Scarlett, furniture and clothing damage by smoke, partially insured.

In the north and fire, J. H. Dawson is the only loser and that chiefly through damage to stock. His total loss will be between four and five hundred dollars.

The Commercial Bank.

At the court house Winnipeg, on January 18, an application was made to Justice Bain with regard to the appointment of a liquidator to continue the winding up of the bank. J. Stewart Tupper, Q. C., appeared for the bank, Mr. Perdue for the shareholders, and Isaac Campbell, Q. C., who had been appointed by the court to watch the interests of the creditors. At the last meeting of the shareholders of the bank a resolution was passed requesting the court to appoint Israel M. Ross as the sole liquidator as the shareholders were of the opinion that one liquidator was sufficient for the future. The court then made an order releasing Mr. Ferguson as liquidator from Jan. 16th, and he accordingly retired last Saturday. The same order also provided that the liquidation should be carried on by Mr. Ewart and Mr. Heseler at a salary of \$100 a year each, but Mr. Ewart having declined to act further in the winding up, the matter came up for further consideration. Mr. Tupper presented to the court Mr. Ewart's resignation and suggested the appointment of Mr. Heseler as sole liquidator at a salary of \$1200 a year. He stated there were certain matters of importance which required to be attended to at once and it was necessary someone should be appointed who was acquainted with the affairs of the bank, as Mr. Heseler was. Mr. Perdue stated that an adjourned meeting of shareholders would be held on the 28th of January and suggested that perhaps the appointment might be deferred until after that meeting.

Mr. Campbell did not oppose Mr. Heseler's appointment but suggested the remuneration should not exceed \$1,200 a year.

After reviewing the case Judge Bain appointed Mr. Heseler sole liquidator at a salary of \$1,200 per annum, subject to further order of the court.

After further discussion it was agreed that all cheques should be signed by the liquidator, Mr. Heseler, and countersigned by Mr. Hunter Cooper, the liquidator's accountant.

Distribution of Seed Grain.

During the past nine years, samples of those varieties of grain which have succeeded best in the Experimental Farms have been distributed on application in 3-lb. bags to farmers in all parts of the Dominion, free through the mail. The object in view in this distribution has been to aid to the productiveness and improve the quality of the important agricultural products throughout the country by placing within reach of every farmer pure seed of the most vigorous and productive sorts. This work has met with much appreciation and a considerable degree of success.

Instructions have been given by the minister of agriculture to make a similar distribution this season. Owing to the very large number of applications now received it is not practicable to send more than one sample to each applicant, but with this limitation it is hoped that the stock available will be sufficient to permit of every farmer who so desires sharing in the benefit of this useful branch of the work of the Experimental Farms.

The distribution now in progress consists of some of the most promising sorts of oats, barley, spring wheat, peas, field corn and potatoes. Requests for samples may be sent to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, at any time before the 1st of March, but after that date the lists will be closed so that the applications then on hand may be filled before seeding begins. All communication can be sent free of postage. It is desirable that each applicant should name the variety which he desires to test, also one or two alternative sorts in case the stock of the sort chosen should be exhausted, while no promise can be made that the variety asked for will be sent, the wishes of correspondents will be attended to as far as practicable. The samples of grain will be sent early, but potatoes cannot be distributed until the danger of injury in transit by frost is over.

WM. SAUNDERS

Director, Experimental Farms

Cheese advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ at Montreal on January 15 white touching 11¢, and there were bids of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for white and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for colored. Finest creamery butter was also firmer, on account of good local and export demand, but dairy grades were as usual dull.

A novelty in the calendar line has been distributed by the Bank of Hamilton among their customers. A daily calendar is given on a leaflet, which can be adjusted as occasion requires, and is held in place by record attachment. The financial statements and other information relating to the bank is given on the calendar.