

Big Fire at Grand Falls

Fire Started by Upsetting of Stove in Bunk Store—Company's Fire Apparatus With Large Number of Volunteers Fought Flames With Great Vigor

Yesterday afternoon a sensation was caused in the City when the news spread that a disastrous fire was raging at Grand Falls. Much excitement was caused when the report spread that the big mills and buildings of the A. and D. Company were in danger and that there was a possibility of the inland town being wiped out. As far as could be gleaned last evening and night, the plant of the Harmsworth Company which manufactures so much pulp and paper, was in great danger. At 4 p.m. a message was received which stated that all the pine and barked wood, in fact all the wood that made it possible to keep the big plant, and which is stored there on fire and burning fiercely, and that the town itself, which was in danger, was filled with smoke and flying embers, dangerous to the houses of residents and other buildings.

Another message received said that "The whole pile of wood is on fire, but the blaze does not seem to make any headway. The covering of the penstock is gone, and we expect the electric plant will go. No danger to the mills at present. Wind is now blowing across the river."

Shortly before 11 last night other messages received in the city stated that the wood stockpiled there was still burning, some 50,000 cords being on fire, with the likelihood of 100,000 cords being consumed. Company's fire apparatus was being used effectively to fight the flames and large numbers of volunteers were exerting themselves to, if possible, conquer the conflagration. The fight was a stiff breeze was blowing and up to a late hour last night the flames were raging with unsubdued ferocity.

The A. and D. Co.'s fire fighting apparatus is of a most modern kind and all the men available were fighting the blaze last night. People who have been at the mills say that about 150,000 cords of pulp wood is used annually at the works, and if all the wood reported on fire is consumed, it will be a serious matter for Grand Falls. According to the "Daily News" the fire was burning up to a late hour this morning, though it was then believed the danger to the mills and town had been averted.

While no positive information could be had as to the origin of the fire, it was rumored that it was caused by the overturning of a stove in one of the bunk houses near the penstock, the fire in the high wind blowing, spreading so rapidly that it could not be checked.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT ST. MARY'S.
At the Parish Hall, St. Mary's, South Side, last night the prizes for the Sunday school pupils were distributed and a large gathering of the parents and friends of the children were present. Very interesting addresses were made by Rev. Hy. Uphill, the Rector; Rev. H. Pike and Mr. Levi Chafe.

Mr. Uphill stated that another of the school librarians would soon leave them for the front, Mr. Charles A. Ellis, son of Mr. Archer Ellis, who follows the example of Ronald Williams, now fighting for King and Country, who went through the Dardanelles campaign. The kindly references to his connection with the school brought a neat response from P. Petite, 18; S. Keefe, 16; A. Brown, 12; A. Nichols, 10; H. Knnee, 8.

This contingent promises to be the best as far as the rifle is concerned yet raised here.

LOCAL ITEMS

Dr. Rendell will lecture before the Adult Bible Class of George Street Church, Sunday, on Tuberculosis.

The enquiry into the fire at Thompson's grocery store will be continued in the Magistrate Court this afternoon.

Mr. Frelich, manager of the British Clothing Company, left here by the Stepano and will visit the American and British markets to purchase goods for the concern.

Mr. Edward Kennedy of the firm of M. & E. Kennedy has been confined to his home for some days past with an attack of grippe, but is improving and will be about again shortly.

The hockey match, Victorias vs. St. Bon's, set for last night, was postponed till to-night as yesterday the ice gave promise of being poor. It will be played to-morrow night and the game scheduled for Friday night will be deferred to Monday.

Mr. R. J. Devereaux, M.H.A., will lecture to-night before the B.I.S. in their club rooms, taking as his subject "Our Fish Markets." This subject is a great interest to our people and no doubt the lecture will be largely attended.

Sgt. Mewell who went away from here and was with the Second Battalion at Arry arrived here by Tuesday's express. He has an injured knee but is not discharged and may be asked to assist in the drilling of the company now preparing here for active duty.

At the College Hall to-night there will be a prize distribution and contest which no doubt will be attended by a large number of people. The prizes will be distributed by His Excellency the Governor, and the Contingent "Britain and her Daughters" should in itself impel a large attendance.

The relatives of His Lordship Power living in the City had a message from him yesterday, which stated that he was leaving New York for Toronto. He has undergone some successful operations at St. Augustine, Florida, at the hands of Dr. Roddick, and all his friends here will be glad to know that his health is much improved.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers now training here are doing good work as rifemen and some of them have become very proficient. Tuesday, one of the youngest of the privates, Dan Carter, made the possible at the dip target and promises to become the crack shot of the Regiment. The scores that day were: D. Carter, 40; F. Matthews, 38; H. Twiner, 36; J. Field, 30; A. Reid, 30; M. Picco, 28; M. Oldford, 26; W. Sheppard, 26; J. George, 24; A. Guy, 24; A. Banfield, 24; J. James, 24; C. A. Reid, 20; W. McMurrer, 18; E. H. Walters, 16; F. J. Wornell, 14; E. Elsworth, 10.

These were the only men who practiced at this target. The best work done to date at the moving man target by any team was performed by the squad which went to the range yesterday morning. Five shots were fired in 30 seconds and the average was 16.6. Four possibilities were secured and the scores were: H. Cranford, 20; A. Davis, 20; W. Snow, 20; S. Locke, 20; K. Squires, 18; W. Andrews, 18; L. Brown, 18; P. Petite, 18; S. Keefe, 16; A. Brown, 12; A. Nichols, 10; H. Knnee, 8.

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That Collision Off Cape Race

Both in the public messages and by private wires it was learned yesterday that two steamers were in collision off Cape Race and that both were in a sinking condition. Both sent out wireless calls for aid, which it was not known up to last evening had been answered them. Both ships were badly damaged by the collision and were the "Silver Shell" and the "Takata Maru." For a while yesterday it was believed that one at least, if not both had gone down, though it was rumored last evening that they were still afloat, though badly damaged. If that is true and the ships manage to reach this port, it would be a matter of great advantage to our people as the repairs to both would give a deal of badly-needed employment to our labourers and mechanics.

From Bowring Bros. we learn that the "Silver Shell" is an oil tank steamer. She was built during the latter part of 1915 at Wilmington, U.S.A., by the Harlan and Hollingsworth Corporation. She is approximately 5,800 tons gross, 3,600 net, and up to the time of the last publishing of the appendix to Lloyd's register, her final survey was not completed. She is built to Lloyd's highest class and registered at San Francisco. She is supposed to be on her way from New York to Bordeaux.

The Takata Maru is a steel twin steamer, and only in commission about three months. She is 6,718 tons gross, 4,330 net, and is registered at Tokio, Japan, in the name of Nippon Yusen Kaisha Kaisha. She was built at Port Glasgow by Russell & Co., and engine by D. Rowan & Co., of Glasgow.

M.C.L.L.—To-night at 7.45. Resolved: That Confederation with Canada would promote the Industrial Life of this Colony. Leaders: Rev. N. M. Guy and Mr. William Drover. Visitors welcome.—ii

INTERESTING HORSE RACES AT QUIDI VIDI.

Yesterday afternoon a large number of citizens went to Quidi Vidi and witnessed a very interesting series of horse races. The course was taken from the East to the West End of the lake and there were four heats in all. The first place was won by W. Wiley's horse, second, M. McDonald, and third by Joseph Judge. There will be a challenge race between Messrs. Matthew Kelly and Joseph Judge at a date to be arranged later. The horse which Mr. Judge will then enter was not in yesterday's races. The proceeds of challenge race will be given to the W.P.A. and no doubt the event will be witnessed by a great many people.

LLEWELLYN CLUB MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Llewellyn Club of St. Thomas's Parish will be held in the Canon Wood Hall tonight commencing at 8 o'clock. His Lordship Bishop Jones will address the members who are asked to be present in large numbers and to bring along a friend with them.

A short musical programme has been arranged and an enjoyable time is promised. A hearty invitation is extended to all men who would like to attend and the Committee will be glad to welcome strangers and endeavour to make them feel at home so that they shall want to go again.

HAD FULL HOUSES.

The matinee "So Much For So Much" and the production of the drama, "Alias Jimmy Valentine" crowded the Casino theatre on both occasions yesterday. "Alias Jimmy Valentine" is a fine conception of the playwright's art and was given a splendid portrayal at the hands of the Company yesterday. It was staged here a few years ago and was highly praised when the Klark-Urban people then produced it. The specialties at each performance were also thoroughly enjoyed. The piece will be reproduced to-night.

A LAME DUCK HERE.

Yesterday forenoon the S.S. "Hogland," Capt. Anderson, was reported off the coast having suffered some damage and was making for this port, where she arrived shortly after 1 p.m. The ship was out 11 days from New York to Gothenburg, Sweden, with a general cargo and had terrible weather from the start with gales and high sea, and considerable damage was done about the decks and her rudder was smashed, so that she could steer only with considerable difficulty after it had been lashed up. The agents here are Furness Witby Co. She will receive repairs here. She was built in 1885 and is 1297 tons gross and 765 nett.

SHIPPING

The Clutha, Capt. Moore, from Brazil, passed Cape Race at 5 p.m. yesterday and should reach port to-day.

The S.S. Eagle, Capt. Couch, arrived here this morning to Bowring Bros., coal laden, after a good run from Sydney.

LATEST FROM FIRE, GRAND FALLS.

We learn that messages were received in the City this morning stating that the fire near the mills at Grand Falls was not then under control and looked very bad.

Messages received at 12.30 p.m., however, said that all danger was then past as far as the mills and town were concerned. It is estimated that fully 50,000 cords of wood will be destroyed, entailing a loss of about \$300,000.

IN AID OF W.P.A.

Hockey Matches: Ladies' Match, 7.30; East vs. West, 8 o'clock. Reserved Seat Tickets, 50c. each, on sale at Gray & Goodland's. Only front rows of galleries reserved.

HOCKEY FOR PATRIOTIC PURPOSES

The patriotic hockey matches to be played at the Prince's rink to-night should draw a large crowd. An interesting game between two teams of ladies will begin at 7.30 sharp and at 8 o'clock the East and West End veterans will meet in an exhibition which should be the most interesting ever held in the rink. The C.C.C. Band will give a splendid programme of music and ladies will serve tea and refreshments. The proceeds go to the W.P.A. Fund.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Yesterday the volunteers had a long route march under Lieut. Rendell. They had squad drill in the armoury and rifle practice for two squads in the forenoon and afternoon at the South Side Range. While on a route march Tuesday they were treated with coffee, cake &c. by Mrs. Dr. Duncan when near Waterford Bridge and highly appreciated the kindly act.

ANOTHER HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Mr. R. J. Devereaux, M.H.A., had a telegram yesterday afternoon saying that the residence of Mr. Geo. Coffin of Come by Chance, P.B., had been utterly destroyed by fire yesterday morning with all its contents. No further particulars were given. Mr. Coffin is a poor man and has lost his all by the unfortunate occurrence. We commend his case to the charitably disposed people of the city.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

The Best American Mayo's... 15c Plug.

At the Royal Cigar Store, Bank Square, Water Street.

At Canon Wood Hall Last Night

The musical entertainment at Canon Wood Hall last night was in every way a success and the audience, which fairly crowded the room, thoroughly enjoyed the programme, as was shown by the manner in which every item was received. Songs were splendidly rendered by Misses Strang, M. Shea and Russell; Messrs. Ruggles, P. F. Moore, F. Seymour; a violin solo by Miss Johnson; recitation, Miss L. Hanlin; an instrumental duet by Messrs. Penman and Jago and a French horn solo by Mr. A. Bulley.

While all the numbers were excellent, special reference perhaps may be made of those by Miss Johnson and Mr. Moore. The Calypso party—Messrs. Burley, Macklin, Lloyd, Luxon, Landry, Jago, Ashworth, Connolly and Gill—excelled all previous efforts in presenting the sketches "Somewhere at the Front" and "The Boys in Blue," which were staged in a very realistic manner. In the former Mrs. Macklin played the part of a nurse, perfectly. The selections by the Calypso Band added greatly to the pleasure of all.

Just before the closing sketch Scoutmaster Goodman thanked the audience for attending and announced the pleasing fact the proceeds were sufficient to put St. John's Troop No. 2 Boy Scouts on a sound financial footing. To the different performers; the ladies who by selling candies greatly increased the proceeds; and to Mr. Aubrey Crocker, who was largely instrumental in promoting the affair, and who acted as accompanist during the evening, congratulations are due on the success achieved.

PROCEEDED ACROSS.

News was received in the City to-day that the S. S. "Silver Shell," which was in collision with and sank the "Takata Maru" had proceeded on her voyage to Europe, after taking off the crew of the lost ship.

There is no fool like an old fool who doesn't realize he is getting old.



NOTICE.

There will be a meeting of the Patriotic Association of Newfoundland on to-morrow (Friday), the 4th inst., at 8 p.m. in the Board of Trade Building, Water Street.

Clover Leaf Tobacco.

Ask for Clover Leaf, the best Fisherman's Tobacco on the market. Try a Plug.

M. A. DUFFY, SOLE AGENT.

WANTED—A Mechanic with some experience of Gun and Lock Repairing to take charge of our Repair Department. Apply by letter, stating wages desired. MARTIN HARDWARE CO. LTD. —feb1,t

WANTED—Immediately, a Good General Servant; apply to UNION TRADING COY.'S office, Water Street.—jan31,t

War Messages.

FROM MESOPOTAMIA

LONDON, Feb. 2.—A Reuter despatch from Delhi transmits an official statement issued there regarding fighting in Mesopotamia, saying that General Aylmer's forces hold strong positions on the River Tigris. Recent floods have hindered and made a forward movement impossible. General Sir John Nixon, who has handed over the command of the British forces in Mesopotamia to Lieut. General Sir Percy Lake, will start homeward within a short time.

ANOTHER SUICIDE

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The suicide of Yussuff Izzedin, heir apparent to the Turkish throne, is reported in a despatch received by Reuters Telegraph Co., from Constantinople by way of Berlin. The messenger said that the Crown Prince ended his life by cutting his arteries in his palace at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. If health is given as the reason.

GERMAN SUBMARINES SEEN IN GREEK WATERS

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The Daily Mail publishes a statement from its Athens correspondent regarding recent complaint made by King Constantine on the action of the Entente Allies. The statement deals mainly with the reason for the Allies occupying various points on Greek territory, as a precaution against submarines, and makes the assertion that German submarines have been sighted on the coast more than three hundred times in three months. It is alleged also that these submarines have been supplied with petrol and provisions by Greek vessels. Concerning the destruction of the Demir Hisar bridge, the correspondent explains that this was done owing to definite information of the intentions of the opposing forces and declares that it was successful in preventing development of these plans.

RUSSIA CONFIDENT

LONDON, Feb. 2.—M. Sturmer, the new premier of Russia declared in an interview with the Novye Vremya of Petrograd, as quoted by Reuter's correspondent, that his policy would be inspired, above all else with one idea, the bringing of the war to a successful issue. He said no proposals for separate peace would provide a solution for the problems which confront the nations as a result of the world wide conflagration, added that these who speak of financial economy and the exhaustion of Russia appear ridiculous to me for Russia cannot be exhausted or conquered.

WAR LIKE MEASURES

PARIS, Feb. 2.—A Havas despatch from Berne says that the Swiss Federal Council has issued an order that all male citizens between the ages of 16 and 60, who have been exempt from military service, but who understand the use of firearms, shall come forward immediately for medical examination. It is further ordered that all residents of Switzerland, whether Swiss or foreigners, who possess rifles or carbines shall bring these arms to the military authorities for inspection.

THAT COLLISION OFF CAPE RACE

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The crew of the steamer Takata Maru is saved, but the ship has been abandoned in a sinking condition, according to a wireless message from Capt. Moses received to-night by the Anchor Line officials here.

Capt. Moses message stated that he and his men had been removed safely. The steamer Silver Shell with which the Takata Maru was in collision yesterday, he said, was proceeding to the English Channel. The Anchor Line steamer California left here to assist the Maru.

Lloyd's and the Appam Insurance

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Perplexity regarding the question of insurance on the Appam is admitted at Lloyd's as the case is an unprecedented one. The solution of the puzzle depends largely on the attitude of the United States government, as to whether the Appam is to be considered a merchant vessel or a German cruiser. She is considered a war loss by the underwriters, however, and it is believed she will not be announced at Lloyd's as having arrived safely in port as would have been done if she had completed her journey to England.

The sinking of the other vessels by the Germans means a large loss to the underwriters, it probably will amount to about three million five hundred thousand dollars.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Several morning papers urge immediate reprisals against German towns for damage done by zeppelin raiders in England. The Chronicle says the Allies have means of exacting not merely an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but three eyes for each eye, and three teeth for each tooth.

Such a policy of reprisals opens up a tragic perspective but a certain point the demand for it may be justified. Something must be done to safeguard human lives in this country, says the Daily Telegraph, and punish those who commit these barbarous acts. The British public has no desire to hear that the German women and children have been slaughtered by British bombs, but it feels that a point has been reached when vigorous steps are necessary to halt these German manifestations of frightfulness. The Graphic says our business now is to crush the enemy entitled to use the same weapons they use and in the same way. We shall henceforth use our aircraft in the same way as theirs, and not permit the possible consequences to German civilians to stand in our way.

The Daily Mail urges on the Government a programme of building a gigantic aeroplane fleet for a defensive and offensive campaign. The newspaper declared that from 25,000 to 30,000 aeroplanes should be built immediately. It predicts that engines of from 200 to 1000 horse power will be found practicable for aeroplanes within a short time.

BERLIN, Feb. 2.—Rumors have circulated here that the zeppelin raid on England Monday night was in the reprisal for the Baralong affair, but the Associated Press correspondent is assured, in authoritative quarters, that the attack did not come under that heading. It is stated that the midland section of England was selected for the raid because it is the centre of the munitions industry, and because Liverpool is the centre of England's commerce, and that there was a purpose to bring home to the people of Great Britain the fact that the boasted defences Germany's aircraft; and it was intended also to interfere with the preparations being made in England for carrying on British operations in France and Flanders. The admiralty office has no further details to give out regarding the raid, but reiterates the positive statement that not a single one of the raiding zeppelins was injured.

FRENCH DEPUTIES SUSTAIN GOVERNMENT

PARIS, Feb. 2.—The Chamber of Deputies voted yesterday, by a show of hands, confidence in the Government. The question was put after a debate on an order issued by General Gallieni, the War Minister, prohibiting soldiers from entering liquor establishments at Marseilles between the hours of 8 and 5. Several deputies made objections to this regulation.

ALLOWED ON SHORE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Collector Hamilton has been instructed to allow all persons aboard the Appam except the officers and men of the prize crew to come ashore. It was said the final decision regarding the ship's status had been reached.

FOR SALE!
CHEAP.
A quantity of Empty FISH CASKS —also— BARRELS.
Will be sold at a BARGAIN, if applied for at once.
Newfoundland Labrador Export Co., Ltd.
BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING.

CASINO THEATRE. FOURTH WEEK.
*** KLARK-URBAN COMPANY. ***
SATURDAY MATINEE AT 2.30, TO-NIGHT,
"ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE."
VAUDEVILLE BETWEEN THE ACTS.
FRIDAY EVENING,
:-: -: "AT BAY." -: :-:
Prices—Evening, 20, 30 and 50 cents; Matinee: Children 10 cents, Adults 20 cents; Reserved Seats, 30 cents. Seats on sale at Atlantic Bookstore.