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PRAIRIE FIRE CAME UP CLOSE TO CITY

Sweet Ten Mile Area to the West of Calgary

DID SOME DAMAGE DURING AFTERNOON

But it Was Held Back By Some Very Strenuous Hand Fighting

A large prairie fire to the southwest of the city yesterday destroyed about ten square miles of good grazing lands and two ranch houses and stables. The fire started in the afternoon in the Sweet Ten Mile area and spread along a strong wind from the southwest soon spread over a vast territory of country, burning through stables and cow sheds as it travelled.

At five o'clock in the evening a heavy cloud of smoke could be seen coming from the hills to the west of the city, though at that time the fire must have been ten miles distant.

At six o'clock last night it had reached about five miles west of the city and about two and a half miles southwest of W. J. Trellius' ranch, and was travelling then as fast as a man could run, the wind increasing and the smoke becoming more voluminous as the flames leaked up the green brush and meadow.

At five o'clock in the evening a call was sent in to the Mounted Police for assistance and the men were sent out to take charge of the work. Backing was started and for a mile or more the grass was fired, the flames and checked as they came to the Spruce Knob.

At 8 o'clock it looked serious for the Trellius and other property in the Sweet Ten Mile area, and a call was sent in for assistance from the City Fire Department. Chief Smart with eight men went out in the morning and some more men were despatched from the Mounted Police barracks. The fire was held back by the men and some more men were despatched from the Mounted Police barracks.

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A Very Close Call.  
The nearest ranch was that of D. A. Campbell, which was occupied by Mr. W. J. Wyde, his wife, nurse and baby. Mr. Wyde gave the following graphic account of the experience in getting his family out of danger.

I was reading in the house about 3 o'clock when I heard shouting outside. On going out I saw an enormous amount of smoke and some of the men calling for help. I immediately went to my assistance and at that time the fire was burning in the direction of the Trellius ranch, and we thought we had some chance of saving it.

At 1:30 am the Mounted Police and City firemen reported that the fire was under control. Chief Smart stated that he had heard of two men being burnt, the names, he further stated that it was one of the Spruce Knob fire he had to contend with for some time.

SCENE IN THE TOWN OF ACME. This is Town as it Stood a Few Weeks Ago. Now it is a Thriving Town.

Contract For The Linsman-Lesson Block Has Already Been Let—It Will Cost \$150,000.

John Linsman, mayor of Okotoks was in the city yesterday, and reported that the contract for the new six story Linsman and Lesson block on Eighth Avenue west had been let to a Winnipeg firm of contractors, and that the work on the building has been started.

Porto Maurice, April 12.—Gifford Pinchof, the deposed inspector of forestry, spent the day with Theodore Roosevelt, ex-president of United States, who was in the city yesterday.

Democrat Was Elected.  
New Annual, Comb. April 13.—At the annual city election here today John M. Holloran, Democrat, was elected mayor over Orson W. Curtis, Republican, by a majority of 80.

Hamilton Industries Close Down.  
Hamilton, Ont., April 13.—The soft coal strike in the United States is causing inconvenience to Hamilton industries. In several cases industries have been compelled to shut down for lack of coal.

PROHIBITION BILL INTRODUCED IN PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.  
But Halifax is not included in the Prohibition.

Halifax, N. S., April 12.—A bill was introduced into the Nova Scotia legislature today which has for its object total prohibition of liquor in Nova Scotia with the exception of Halifax, but after 1911 retroactive of that city will have the power to vote liquor.

PATROL FROM EDMONTON TO KLONDIKE THIS YEAR.  
Sturdy Young Policemen Will Undertake the Arduous Journey.

Edmonton, April 13.—The first Mounted Police patrol to be sent from Edmonton to Klondike for some years is to be undertaken this year by Corporal Darling, a big strapping Scotch officer who has been with the force only five years, but who has seen some tough service in the Peace River district and along the construction of the G. T. P. During his long journey to the Yukon, he expects the trip to the Yukon will take all summer. He will go north by way of the Peace River and Finlay River to Whitehorse.

BORDEN ENDORSED WITH ENTHUSIASM.  
Conservative Members in Ottawa Are Quite Unanimous About it.

But the Convention Has Been Postponed.  
And it is Not Very Likely That it Will Be Held This Year.

ANTI-COMBINE BILL PASSES COMMONS

The Bill Was Pressed to the Surprise of the Legislators.

MR. KING DECLINED TO SIDETRACK THE BILL.  
Dr. Clarke of Red Deer Makes Strong Free Trade Speech

Ottawa, April 12.—The most important discussion today was over Mr. King's anti-combine bill. The bill authorizes the appointment of a board to investigate the period of ten years, or such shorter period as may be specified, in explaining the bill, said the people had experienced a great rise in the price of commodities during the last few years and they had observed at the same time the great increase in the formation of combines and trusts. There were other reasons than these for the rise in prices, but the bill was intended to place some form of restraint on these trusts on behalf of the public who have helped to make large combines possible.

Mr. King then quoted figures to show the enormous increase in prices of commodities during the past twenty years, and particularly during the past ten years. He also showed that there has been an increase in wages during the period of twenty years, of which calculations have been made. These for "putting trades" in Montreal had increased from 25 to 45 per cent. in the last ten years, and in Winnipeg from 11 to 44 per cent.

The Railway Promoter is Not in Edmonton, But is Promised.  
MINTY AND ROBSON LEAVE MYSTERIOUSLY.  
Hawes May Be Asked to Give Evidence at the Investigation.

Edmonton, April 12.—W. R. Clarke, president of the A. & G. W. railroad, has not yet reached the city to be present at the investigation of the transactions between him and his associates over the C. N. R. to the east, which opens in the government office's building tomorrow morning.

Edmonton, April 12.—Up to a few months ago the site of the brick kiln town of Irricana, about 24 miles north of Langdon, was a ranch lease held by D. C. Davy from the C.P.R. Mr. Davy's five year lease expired at the end of 1909 and owing to the rapid settlement of the country, the company refused to renew it.

Dr. Clark Talks Free Trade.  
Dr. Clark of Red Deer, who followed Mr. King, made a typical free trade speech, laying the cost of living at the door of protection. He pointed out that the cost of living had not gone up, as man got value for his money in the old land. Canada had an increased cost of account of her moderate tariff but the

Mr. McNeillie—District passenger agent, who assumes duties here in a couple of days.

United States had a vastly increased cost because of her high tariff. He did not think Mr. King's bill was workable. It was likely to be noxious, where it was not effective. The government by its fiscal policy had turned the country into a free trade trust. Competition of foreign countries was put out and took from the consumer more than the goods were worth. The government itself had created a monopoly under which smaller monopolies flourished.

Mr. Clarke urged Mr. Flindling to put comment on the free list and see if it would not cut down the cost of cement. The first thing was to find the cause of increased prices and he did not think Mr. King's bill would do this with its investigating boards. Mr. McLean supported the proposed legislation as a big step in the right direction.

Major J. A. Currie of North Elmwood caused his vote in support of Mr. King's bill to be recorded in the House. There was, he declared, not the slightest need of this legislation. By throwing the tariff wall as had been used by Dr. Clarke, Canada would escape from a "small trust" far immediately under the heel of a much larger one.

MUCH LAND WILL BE CLAIMED FOR TAXES

Very Important Decision Made by Mr. Justice Stuart on Question of Back Taxes.

Edmonton, April 13.—All lands in the province in arrears for two years, through non-payment of school taxes, local improvement taxes, or education taxes, will be proclaimed forfeited in the Supreme court. A list of lands in arrears has been prepared by the public works department under the direction of J. Perrie, the tax commissioner. This list will be submitted to Mr. Justice Stuart, who will proclaim the lands forfeited to the crown.

Edmonton, April 13.—The government's intention was to hold the general election in July, but the plan has been abandoned owing to the unsatisfactory outcome of the elevator bill.

The Bailiff Came Also.  
Ottawa, April 12.—While the members of St. Barnabas church were holding a vestry meeting tonight a bailiff came in and made a seizure for water rates. He was satisfied with half payment.

Edmonton, April 13.—In his annual report to the board of directors of the Dominion Coal Co., President Plummer this afternoon urged that a merger or amalgamation of the Dominion Coal and Dominion Steel companies would prove a wise thing, but the question was for individual shareholders themselves to settle.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN DIED SUDDENLY OF PNEUMONIA.  
Funeral of Constable Richardson to be Held This Afternoon.

Constable Richardson died at the general hospital on Monday after a four days' illness from pneumonia. He enlisted five years ago at Maple Creek and had spent three years of his time in the Calgary Division for a time being out of detachments at Gleichen, and latterly stationed at the barracks here. Deceased's home was in Saskatchewan and he has an only son living who is thought to be in California, but cannot be located. He was very popular with the men of his detachment and was considered a very fine officer of the force.

Quebec Puts Embargo ON ALL PULP WOOD.  
It Must Leave the Province in the Form of Pulp or Paper.

Quebec, April 13.—If the people of the United States want pulp wood from the crown lands of the province of Quebec, they must take it out of the province either in the shape of pulp or paper. Premier Gouin this afternoon announced in the legislature that that was the policy of the government and that it would be put into effect as soon as possible. In taking this step they were following the example set by the province of Ontario, which had found the policy beneficial. He said that it had been the intention of declaring this to be the policy of the government for some time, as he had announced in a speech made in the Windsor fair in Montreal. His government had no desire to embarrass the federal government and so it had delayed making his policy officially known, though it had not been requested by the Ottawa government. Premier Gouin also announced that it was the intention of the government to increase the stumpage dues which had not been raised for ten years, by about sixty per cent. and also to increase the ground rent from \$3 to \$5 per acre. The announcement was enthusiastically received by the house.

STETTLER THRIVES MOST WONDERFULLY.  
And Gator and Gadsby Are Growing At a Remarkable Rate Says Mr. R. L. Shaw, M. P. P.

R. L. Shaw, M.P.P., of Stettler, is spending a few days in the city on a business trip. Mr. Shaw reports that the Stettler district is going ahead very rapidly and that the new towns of Gadsby and Gator are becoming trade centers of considerable importance. Gator, he said, must have from 750 to 800 inhabitants where a year ago there was nothing but bare prairie. There will be fully fifty per cent more land under crop this year than last year, and Mr. Shaw says that both Gator and Gadsby are being built up very rapidly.

How West Indies Like It.  
London, April 13.—The West India royal commission report states that the recent tariff agreement between Canada and United States will remove the fears of Jamaica, Trinidad, Grenada and Dominica, that the latter would retaliate if preferential trade arrangement was made with Canada.