

ALL JOIN HANDS TO AD STRICKEN BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS IN RECOVERING FROM STAGGERING BLOW DEALT BY FIRE

LAST EDITION

The London Advertiser

LAST EDITION

51st YEAR. No 22011 Today's Weather—Fair and Cool.

LONDON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1914. TWELVE PAGES

Sun Rises 5:28—Sun Sets 7:07.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

WILL SEIZE AMMUNITION SENT HUERTA

Orders Issued to Admiral Fletcher to Take Vera Cruz Customs House.

MANY FIELD GUNS, TOO

These Supplies Are on German Steamer Expected to Arrive Soon.

MAY CHECKMATE HUERTA

Senate Committee Amends Congress Resolution and President Is Satisfied.

[Canadian Press.]

Washington, D. C., April 21.—While Congress is debating the Mexican situation, President Wilson has ordered Rear-Admiral Fletcher to seize the Vera Cruz customs house and prevent Huerta from getting several million rounds of ammunition and 200 field guns on a German steamer bound for that port.

The orders went out from Washington early today, when it became apparent that the delay in Congress was accruing to the advantage of Huerta.

At noon the cabinet was in session and so far as was known no word had been received from Admiral Fletcher of his action. The orders, officials said, left to the admiral's discretion when and how to act. As there is no blockade, the American forces could not interfere with the German steamer. The orders were to seize these guns and shells after they had been landed or seize the customs house to prevent their landing and keep them from going to Mexico City.

Has Authority.

Officials declared that President Wilson had ample authority for his action without the approval of Congress. Meanwhile both Houses and Senate are convened and the Senate went to work on the resolution of approval of the President's course.

The orders to the admiral, it was said, conferred the broadest authority upon him and directed that, if necessary, he take the town of Vera Cruz as well as the customs house, to prevent the landing of the munitions.

What May Be Done.

Officials here said the admiral might act in several ways. He might seize the German steamer and land the cargo unmolested, and then take the customs house and the munitions, or when the German steamer comes to the port he might seize the customs house and if the guns were landed they would come into possession of the American forces. That the steamer might take her cargo to some other port was a possibility of which officials were cognizant.

Democratic senate leaders believed an order to the American commander to begin actual operations would serve to hurry action on the resolution to back up the President's course.

The House resolution as amended by the foreign relations committee was held before the Senate soon after it met at noon.

Mexico Will Call Reserves.

Mexico City, April 21.—General Aguero, the Mexican minister of war, asked today whether the reserves would be called to the colors, replied: "In due time, if it should become necessary, they will be so called, as will every citizen in Mexico."

May Not Resist.

Washington, April 21.—There was a report this afternoon that Admiral Fletcher's forces would not be resisted, and that the Huerta forces intended to retire to the railroad station, twelve miles west of Vera Cruz. Officials refused flatly to discuss it.

Trying for Coalition.

Laredo, Texas, April 21.—It was authoritatively reported here today that two federal officers from the Nuevo Laredo garrison, bearing a flag of truce, went down the river yesterday to parley with rebel officers. Coalition of rebels and federalists against the United States was said to be the object.

Leaving Mexico City.

Vera Cruz, April 21.—A large number of Americans and other foreigners are on their way here from the capital today. They occupy two sections of the ordinary train, as well as a special train. Everything remains quiet in this city. The American war vessels have not changed their position.

Press Comments.

[Canadian Press.] New York, April 21.—Commenting editorially on President Wilson's message on the Mexican situation delivered to Congress yesterday afternoon, the Herald says: "Now we have the spectacle presented of a nation going to war without a cheer, without a note of martial music, because it is to that the United States is going, and to call it by any other name will avail little."

"If any criticism can be made of the President, it is that he did not allow the matter to rest in the hands of the rear-admiral commanding the naval forces at Tampico."

The Tribune says: "Until it appears that the people of Mexico are behind Huerta in his refusal to make adequate reparation for the Tampico incident, we should not assume that our rupture with him requires us to take measures affecting the whole of Mexico."

The Times says: "The President's wise and temperate words and his scrupulously constitutional procedure will increase the confidence reposed in him by the American people."

The American asks: "What is the present situation?"

WAS FORMERLY A CURATE AT ST. PAUL'S

Rev. Canon Hicks Dies at Simcoe After a Week's Illness.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Simcoe, April 21.—Rev. Canon Hicks died this morning at 1 o'clock from pneumonia, after an illness of only a week. He occupied his pulpit on Easter Sunday and attended vestry meeting the following evening. He had been pastor of the Anglican Church for 22 years. He leaves his wife and one daughter. Mr. Hicks was greatly beloved by his congregation, and most highly respected by all the citizens.

Well-Known in London.

"I knew Canon Hicks very well," said Rev. Canon Sage to The Advertiser this afternoon, when informed of the death of the former Londoner. "He was curate at St. Paul's Cathedral over twenty years ago, and remained in the city for five or six years. During that time he endeared himself to the congregation and to members of other churches as well by his kind manner and thoughtfulness."

"At one time he was a master at Dufferin College, and was secretary of the syndicate for some time. He took his degree at Huron College."

"I am very sorry to hear of his death."

MANY THEORIES AS TO CAUSES OF BIG BLAZE

Some Passersby Claim to Have Heard Report of an Explosion.

DID FIRE SMOULDER?

May Have Burned for Some Time Before It Burst Into Sight.

As is usual, many theories and no definite information as to the cause of the fire are forthcoming.

Several of those who were near the building at the time of the fire say that there was a sound of an explosion apparently near the elevator shaft of the building. Then the flames shot through the roof and quickly spread. The building had just been repainted and varnished, and this made the wooden parts of the structure more inflammable.

Another suggestion was that the fire had started in the waste-paper basket, which it had smoldered for some time in some section of the building before breaking out.

Chief Aitken has no reliable theory of the fire. Wiring, cigarettes, a match thrown into a waste-paper basket, may have caused the fire. The chief heard the theory of an explosion, but could not understand it.

INSURANCE ON BUILDING

How the \$85,000 on Dominion Savings Block Is Carried by Companies.

Although the whole of the cost of the Dominion Savings Building is protected by insurance, the owners state that the building could not be replaced short of \$200,000. The insurance carried amounts to \$85,000, distributed between the following companies:

Employers' Liability	\$15,000
Liverpool-Manitoba	20,000
German-American	10,000
Sun Fire	5,000
Royal	5,000
Guardian	5,000
Caledonia	5,000
North British and Mercantile	5,000
Palatine	5,000
Law, Union and Rock	5,000

The firm of J. A. Nelles & Sons carried \$50,000 of the insurance on the building.

Ed Nelles stated this morning that it looked as though the loss to the occupants would be about \$65,000. It is practically impossible to secure anything like an accurate estimate.

HAVE NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO REBUILD

Owners of Dominion Savings Structure to Consider Matter at Once.

The owners of the Dominion Savings Building have not yet come to a decision as to whether the property now occupied by the ruin of this morning's fire will be held a reconstructed building.

Although it is anticipated that work of rebuilding will commence at once on a building of some type, it will not be known until the company which owns the building has met whether the same sized building will be reconstructed.

Although the building cost \$100,000 at the time of its reconstruction after the fire in 1900, it could not be replaced for double the money at the present time. The company's insurance will amount to \$85,000 on the building.

LUKE TUCKER AND HIS CASH BOX IN SAFETY TOGETHER

With Housekeeper He Made Escape and Later Rescued His Valuables.

HIS SECOND CLOSE CALL

Veteran Janitor Feels Sense of Personal Loss as He Watches Flames.

"The first I knew of the fire was when I awoke with a choking sensation in my throat and found the flames eating their way through the doorway of my bedroom. There was no time to dress. I got up, threw open the window and in my nightclothes descended the fire escape to the ground. I hadn't even time to pick up a single article of clothing."

Such in brief, is the story told by Luke Tucker, aged caretaker of the Dominion Savings building that was consumed by fire early this morning. His escape with his life was not the first time the old man has been endangered. Fourteen years ago when janitor of the building which formerly occupied the site, he was awakened one night to find his rooms in flame and escape almost out of him.

Barely Saved Lives. With only time to rouse his sleeping wife and small daughter Mr. Tucker fought his way through the suffocating smoke to the fire escape. A ladder was placed against the wall and on its shaking rungs they descended to safety.

Standing in the centre of a little group of sympathetic friends, scantily clad in garments that obviously were not his own, the old man presented a pitiable appearance this morning. Silently he watched the flames licking up the contents of his little rooms on the second floor. They had been his home since his appointment as caretaker of the building, when it was rebuilt. He had grown to love these two little rooms. They meant much to him. It was there that his wife had died. He stood among the little knot and looked moody-eyed at the flames that were fast making a furnace of his home.

Continued on Page Eleven.

BLAZING BEACON SENDS REFLECTION FOR MANY MILES

Residents of Springbank Expected to See Business Section in Ashes.

VOLCANO TO ONE MAN

Likens Big Fire to Belching Crater—Operators Save Books.

The blaze which gutted the Dominion Savings Building early this morning was seen by many citizens in all parts of the city. As far east as London Junction flames from the doomed building were seen shooting up into the sky, while residents of Springbank, who came into the city on the suburban cars from the park this morning, stated that the fire had been seen quite plainly there.

"We saw the flames shooting up against the sky," said a resident of the Pipe Line road near Springbank. "From my home the entire downtown section of the city seemed to be ablaze. I expected to find half of the business section in ashes when I came in on the car this morning."

Illumined Whole City.

"It seemed to burn like a torch," said P. C. Williams, telegraph operator, who was in the city when the city was illuminated like day. I was at Cheapside and Colborne streets when I sighted the blaze first. Sheets of flame were rolling upwards. I was afraid that the entire section would go.

A north end man living on Victoria street, confirmed P. C. Williams' statement. "The entire downtown business section appeared to be ablaze. I was awakened by the clang of the fire bells, and going to the window I looked in the direction from which the sound came. The sight gave me quite a start. At first glance a huge volcano seemed to be in eruption. Sparks were flying high into the air. Fortunately the wind was light or several other serious fires might have resulted."

Gets the Books Out.

A number of tenants were on hand soon after the fire but few were able to get into their offices. F. J. Garceau, one of the C. P. R. telegraph operators broke into his office and got the books out.

Charles Case, of The Advertiser, an Associate Press reporter, was one of the first to enter the building with the first line of hose. His opinion was that the fire started under the stencil store in the back of the building. There were no flames shooting up the elevator shaft at that time. The fire seemed to have originated in the north-east corner of the building.

James Scott, of The Advertiser's office staff, smashed open the door of the C. P. R. office with an axe to allow a line of hose to be taken in. There was fire in the rear of the office at that time.

LUKE TUCKER AND HIS STRONG BOX.



Photo by Sanders for The Advertiser. The veteran janitor of the Dominion Savings Building who escaped from the building after close call. He was photographed just after his box of valuables had been rescued from the building.

BOOKS, FORMS, DOCUMENTS MIXED IN THE DEBRIS

Almost Every Office Has Lost Beyond Replacing, Though Vaults Safely Hold Most Precious Property.

Intermixed with the tangled masses of debris that lie twisted and charred between the four walls of the Dominion Savings Building are records of inestimable value to many business and professional men of London.

Practically every tenant of the company lost something of value in the shape of books or documents, although the vital facts that are beyond valuation were in most cases stored in the solid vaults of the building which withstood a previous fire and which are unharmed at present.

Many Forms Lost.

Insurance documents, of which there were thousands in the building, are preserved. Mortgage and loan papers will be found safe, but a great deal of the routine stationery forms of all the offices was destroyed.

W. G. Murray was one of the heaviest losers of important office records. His building plans since the time he started business were a prey to the flames, although he had a few of the contracts upon which he was working at his home.

"Only a day or two ago I resolved to duplicate all my plans and put them in safety deposit vaults," said Mr. Murray.

FACTS OF THE FIRE

SCENE—DOMINION SAVINGS BUILDING, RICHMOND AND KING STREETS. TIME—FROM 3 O'CLOCK TO 5:30 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING. LOSS—ON BUILDING, \$200,000; ON CONTENTS, \$60,000. MUCH VALUABLE PROPERTY ON WHICH NO VALUATION CAN BE PLACED. INSURANCE—ON BUILDING, \$85,000; ON CONTENTS (SMALL). CAUSE—UNKNOWN. RECONSTRUCTION—UNDECIDED. HISTORY OF BUILDING—BUILT IN 1880; BURNED 1900; RECONSTRUCTED 1900; BURNED 1914.

CRASHES INTO CELLAR

Immense Safe Falls Through Floors Into Basement of Dominion Savings Building.

Shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon an immense safe on the third floor of the Dominion Savings Building fell crashing through three floors into the cellar of F. H. Highway's harness shop on the west side of the building, and as a result the police are prohibiting all persons from entering the burned building.

THE WEATHER.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 12 hours previous to eight o'clock last night: Highest, 50.5; lowest, 31. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today, were: Highest, 33; lowest, 30.5. WEATHER—WIRES DOWN.

WILD SCRAMBLE FOR OFFICE SPACE BY OUSTED TENANTS

Western Fair Secures Ample Accommodation and Many Others Are Being Given Every Aid at Hands of Citizens.

London showed her powers of recovery this morning when, within two hours after the news of the destruction of their offices came to the tenants of the Dominion Savings Building, almost all of them had made arrangements, temporary, at least, for the conduct of their respective businesses.

Citizens everywhere have given their aid to meet the serious situation confronting scores of business men and their employees. It is estimated that 300 persons found employment in the building, and practically all of them were at tasks of one sort or another, in strange quarters, it is true, but meeting the difficulty as well as possible.

Wire Service Restored. Press and commercial wires were restored by both G. N. W. and C. P. R. and temporary quarters arranged.

The Associated Press wire was "cut into" The Advertiser office.

A. M. Hunt, secretary of the Western Fair Association, telephoned The Advertiser at 12:30, that he had secured rooms in the London and Western Trusts block, next the old board of trade rooms for the location of the fair offices.

"We have not been able to get near our old quarters yet," said Mr. Hunt, "so that I am unable to see how much we will save. Chief Aitken tells me that the vaults are still standing in which event we will probably recover more or less of our papers."

John Pringle, of the Bank of Toronto, at once offered quarters in the bank building to the tenants of the Dominion Savings Building, almost all of them had made arrangements, temporary, at least, for the conduct of their respective businesses.

All the tenants using vaults were glad to learn that all were standing. They are now being cooled off. There are many safes still in the ruins. Some of them have gone into the debris, but their contents will be secure.

In the Dominion Savings Building were the head offices of the Woodmen of the World and the Knights of the Macabees with all the books, records and papers. The building was also the headquarters of the Ontario Commercial Travellers' Association and all the society's books were there.

The building was the largest structure in the city devoted to offices, and almost the entire three upper floors were occupied by insurance men, financial agents and real estate brokers. In the centre of the building were two elevator shafts, and up these the flames leaped, quickly spreading to all the upper offices, and broke through the roof in an instant.

ONE LIFE LOST IN FIRE; HERMIT'S CANARY PERISHED

Only one life was lost in the fire that destroyed the Dominion Savings Building early this morning. President Dick Balfour and the members of the Hermit Club are mourning the loss of the club canary. The little bird, which for many moons, had made the clubrooms merry with his outbursts of song, perished in the blaze, which completely gutted the Hermit quarters.

The club furnishings and equipment were estimated by President Balfour to be worth more than \$2,000, with insurance of \$1,000. Only yesterday, the premium was paid on the policy, and the receipt sent to Treasurer A. E. Carrothers.

"We don't mind the loss of the furniture," said the president of the club to The Advertiser, "but we are worrying about the canary. If we could have saved the little fellow, we would be happy. The Hermit will stick together and we will come up again stronger than ever. We now have a couple of locations in view, and will get into new quarters at once."

FIREMEN GETTING TRUCK IN LINE



Losses Borne by Tenants and the Known Amount of Insurance

While it is impossible to accurately compute the loss that will be suffered by tenants of the burned Dominion Savings Building, at a most conservative estimate it will total \$60,000 and possibly double that amount. The inability of tenants to enter the building to find out the extent of the damage done prevents anything like an accurate figure being obtained. It may be days before the final figures will be secured.

According to insurance men the amount of insurance carried by the tenants of the building totals \$60,000 in round figures.

Company	Amount	Covered
Northern Life Insurance Company	\$7,000	Covered
Remington Typewriter Company	5,000	Mutual Insurance
C. P. R. Telegraph Company	3,000	Mutual Insurance
G. N. W. Telegraph Company	3,000	Covered
Western Fair Association	4,000	Covered
Waldron-Drouin Company	1,000 (estimated)	Unknown
Joseph Nolan, tobacconist	2,000	None
Norman Peel, stationery and books	2,000	Little
Edgett & Co., plumbers	2,000	None
W. G. Murray, architect	500	Covered
Hermitage Club	2,000	\$1,000
Edward Towe, insurance	700	500
Knights of the Macabees	500	None
Brunswick Club	2,000	\$400
Charles Brennan, barber	1,200	None
John Wright, broker	100	None
Western Ontario Travellers' Association	400	None
E. S. Hunt, real estate	400 (estimated)	None
C. B. Laur	400 (estimated)	None
Percy Millman Insurance Agency	500	\$500
Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company	800	Covered
W. C. Fitzgerald, barrister	300	Covered
Miss Annie Seaton, millinery	800	Covered
Purdum & Purdom, barristers	1,000	Covered
Dominion Savings and Loan Company	1,500	\$1,500
Federal Life Insurance Company	700 (estimated)	None
J. M. Young, broker	500	Covered
London Stamp and Stencil Company	1,500 (estimated)	None
Department of Agriculture	400	\$400
Miss Nina Stanton, stenographer	100	None
Walter Fairbairn, tailor	150	None
L. H. Sandrett & Son, brokers	1,000	\$600
E. A. Pocock, insurance	300	None
R. G. Donaghy, broker	100	None
Andrew Ellis, insurance	600	\$600
Gault Bros, drygoods	1,000	None
Woodmen of the World	1,500	Partially
F. Highway, harnessmaker	1,000	\$200