

3 HOUSES BURNED, CHURCH SINGED, IN EARLY BLAZE

Origin of Fire in Rossmore Village Just Across the Bay is Unknown

LOSS IS ABOUT \$5,000

Families Had Little Warning and Managed to Escape With Difficulty

Burned—Double frame building of William Semsmith and Edward Cronkite, frame residence of Raymond Belnap. Damaged—Rossmore Methodist Church, William Brickman's dwelling.

Loss—Approximately \$5,000.

Origin—Unknown.

The quiet village of Rossmore was awakened from its slumbers this morning when the alarm of fire was sounded. Soon it was evident that one of the heaviest calamities the village has experienced was upon it. Rossmore has had several serious fires within past ten years but this morning's conflagration was more serious and at one time, by reason of a heavy wind, threatened to wipe out a good section of the place. Today two fine residences are nothing but charred wood and ashes.

It was about three-thirty o'clock when the fire was discovered. It had started in the back kitchen of the double frame building occupied by Mr. William Semsmith and his family. It spread from the Semsmith kitchen to both sides of the partition, the Semsmith's experiencing difficulty in escaping. Mr. Semsmith and his wife and baby having to leave without any opportunity to save any furniture or clothing. So rapidly did the fire spread that the Cronkites were driven out, only a piano being saved. The house of Mr. Raymond Belnap which was only a few feet from the other, was caught in the flames and soon was an entire mass of fire. The Belnaps had little or no opportunity to save their belongings. A strong wind was prevailing at the time and blew the flames across the road to the Methodist Church, the roof taking fire. The William Brickman residence was also scorched.

Fortunately, the villagers who had formed a bucket brigade, prevented the flames spreading to other buildings and extinguished the blaze, starting on the roof of the church and the house.

An appeal was made to the Belleville Fire Department for help but the Merryweather engine could not be got in readiness to be of any assistance. Chief Brown went to the scene to lend what help he could.

The loss in buildings and contents will reach possibly \$5,000. This is partly protected by insurance.

Houses Paid For by Taxation is New Plan

FREDERICTON, N.R., April 29.—Building houses with government money is not without its possible difficulties for municipalities. A bill has been presented to the Legislature empowering municipalities to sell houses they have erected, below building cost, making up the difference by an assessment on the section in which the houses were put up. The bill is supported by the fact that on account of unsettled economic conditions, some municipalities endeavoring to solve the housing problem by taking advantage of government loans, have put up houses at a cost in excess of their present market value.

Athletic Padre, Rev. J. D. Morrow, is Dead

TORONTO, April 29.—Rev. John D. Morrow, former pastor of Dale Presbyterian Church, corner of Queen street and Bellwood avenue, with which the congregation of Western Congregational Church recently merged, is dead in California whether he went some months ago in an effort to restore his broken health. Word was received in Toronto last night of the passing of one of the most picturesque figures in the church life of Toronto, a man who built the Dale or "Athletes" church in the face of the opposition of the local Presbytery, raising the funds for the purpose by the most unconventional means, who was feverishly active in recruiting the Sportsmen's Battalion during the war and, who sustained a nervous breakdown while on overseas service from which he never recovered. He was only forty-four years of age.

Canadian Teachers' Tour Arranged by Winnipegger

Winnipeg, Man., April 28.—Arrangements have been completed for the Canadian teachers' tour, which will be conducted by Major F. J. Ney, of Winnipeg, Secretary of the National Council of Education, and honorary organizer of the Overseas Educational League.

The party will sail from Montreal June 30 for Glasgow. The programme for Great Britain covers one month. Edinburgh, York, Oxford and London will be visited. Two weeks have been set aside for a tour of the battlefields. Alternative programmes are being arranged for this period. The party will leave England about August 22, returning in time for the fall school term. About 200 teachers from all parts of the Dominion have decided to make the tour. Not more than 250 will be accepted.

In 1910 the Hands Across the Sea League was organized by Major Ney. Tours were made each summer until 1914 and exchanges of Canadian and New Zealand teachers were arranged. At the Quebec conference of Canadian educational representatives the name of the league was changed to the Overseas Educational League.

"Educationalists in all parts of the empire are thoroughly in accord with the work," Major Ney stated. "It should be but a question of time before the movement is empire-wide."

Three New Zealand teachers will sail for Canada April 12 and will probably exchange with British Columbia teachers. Twelve applications for New Zealand exchanges have been received from Canadian teachers, and it is expected that before the end of the year thirty exchanges to all parts of the empire will have been arranged.

FRONT STREET RUBBER FACTORY PREY TO FLAMES

Ideal Vulcanizing Co. Suffers Loss in Early Morning Fire Here

STOCK OF TIRES LOST

Gasoline Gets Afire and Almost Instantly Whole Place Was Ablaze

At eight thirty o'clock this morning the Ideal Vulcanizing Company's plant at 363 Front street, caught fire the building being almost ruined and the stock of tires mostly damaged.

Mr. George Deline, manager, was engaged at the time in getting ready to "cook" or vulcanize a rubber tire. Near him was a tank of oil. He was pouring some gasoline into the vulcanizer, when it took fire, the flames running along the tube to the oil.

Almost instantly the place was ablaze. Mr. Deline fought the flames on the start with his hands and suffered burns to both hands and arms in his efforts. Mr. C. C. St. Charles, a neighbor, seeing the smoke rushed in and persuaded Deline to desist and leave the fire as it was beyond control.

The fire brigade was summoned and soon Chief Brown had the blaze under control. The stock consisting as it did of tires and tubes was an easy prey to the flames. Most of the tires of which there was about twelve or fifteen hundred dollars worth were damaged. The oil and gasoline, however, were saved.

The building was owned by Mrs. Gribble and was insured. It was an old frame structure. Deline had no insurance on his stock.

Greenwood, Angry, Tells Inside Facts

LONDON, April 9.—In an impassioned address today in the House of Commons on the Irish situation, Sir Hamar Greenwood, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, described the Irish Republican army as "murderers" and declared deeds were being perpetrated in Ireland which it was difficult for British civilians, the military or police to believe could be done with human hands.

For example, declared Sir Hamar, the murder of Protestants was in progress as a deliberate plan, and there had been "a horrible case of the desecration of a Protestant church, while fifteen Protestants had been murdered recently, "without rhyme or reason and under revolting circumstances." It was not, however, a case of Roman Catholics against Protestants, he said.

There was also a deliberate plan to attack, intimidate and in some cases murder ex-servicemen.

The Chief Secretary said documents had been captured showing that an offensive was being opened in Ulster to interfere with the coming elections, the plans including possible action against the Belfast water supply and other methods of sabotage.

One document, said Sir Hamar, stated that if the Irish Republican Army had to contend with certain disadvantages in this hostile territory there was compensation in that it would not have to consider the population except to a small extent.

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LONDON, April 29.—French occupation of the Ruhr district it appeared today will not begin as soon as was expected.

Details of the plans formulated by Marshal Foch and his subordinates will be discussed tomorrow by the Supreme Allied Council but it appeared probable here today that the march into Germany's richest coal and industrial region, if ordered, would not be initiated until late next week. It was not improbable that the Feerenbach administration would make at least one more attempt to avert military occupation of the district by the French.

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It was all over an item of twenty-five thousand for paving driveways at the Government Armory in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The Liberals opened the fight by protesting against the introduction of estimates after midnight, stating they were prepared to sit all night and all day.

The motion by the Opposition to adjourn, shortly before three, resulted in a tie on division, twenty-two Deputy Speaker Bovin voted against the motion and the debate proceeded.

Hospital Aid Bill Passes Legislature

Word has been received in the city that the bill to amend the Municipal Act, suggested by the Belleville W.O.A., so as to secure a direct levy for hospitals in case municipalities wish to levy a rate for hospital purposes outside of the general rate, passed the Legislative committee yesterday and will today receive its third and final reading.

See Motor Club of 500 Members for Belleville

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Mr. L. E. Allen, president of the local club, was chairman of the meeting which was held in the Chamber of Commerce building. Col. S. S. Lazier introduced Mr. Hodgson to the club, who in his speech emphasized the following points with respect to the Ontario Motor League and the advantages of having a branch here:

1. Its influence in connection with legislation was important and he cited a number of instances in which the Ontario Motor League was able to direct legislation in the interests of automobile owners and the public alike.

2. He explained the arrangements that had been made by the Ontario Motor League with the American Association so that members of the Ontario Motor League who crossed the border into the United States found it greatly to their advantage to be a member of the Ontario Association.

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Mr. Robertson explained fully the objects of the league, many of the benefits to be derived therefrom, and the many things yet to be accomplished in connection with the use of motor cars. At the close the chairman explained the position of the Belleville Club, many of the plans that were being considered and especially referred to the opening of the bay bridge which the club wish to celebrate with a membership of five hundred as there are seven hundred automobile owners within the corporation of the city of Belleville.

Expect 500 Members. The chairman thought five hundred was not an excessive number to expect. He asked for questions or addresses from any of the members present.

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