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Vol. 43.

TORONTO, CANADA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 1916.

No. 6.

THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, OTTAWA Completely destroyed by fire on Thursday night, February 3rd, 1916.

The King's Message

"I am grieved to hear of the deplorable destruction of the noble pile of buildings which has been for many years the home of the Dominion Parliament, and which I know so well. Please convey to your Ministers and the people of Canada my sincere sympathy with them in their great loss.

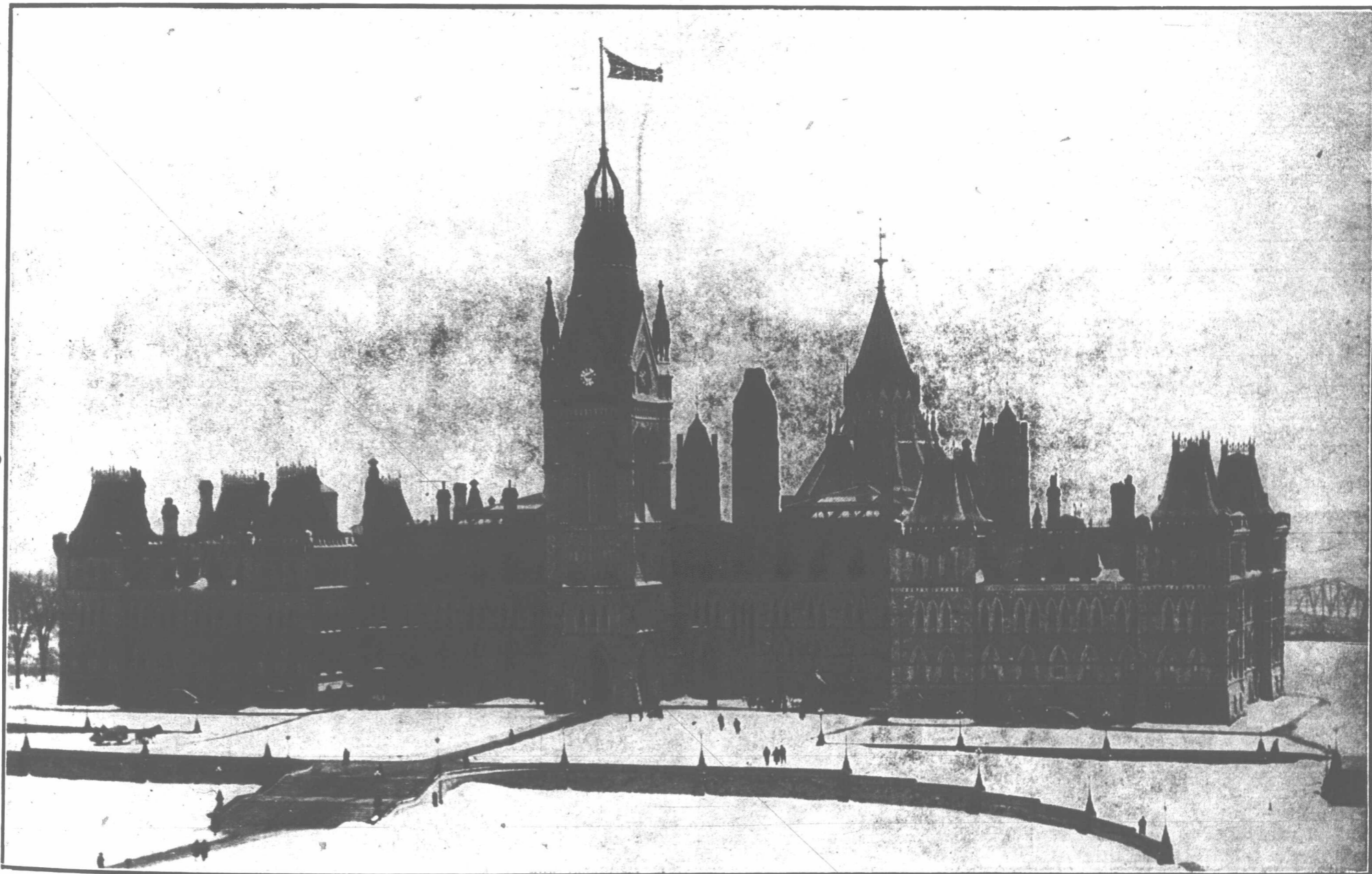
"(Signed) George R. I."

[The gracious words of sympathy from His Majesty were conveyed to Parliament by the Prime Minister.]

Duke of Connaught

"My dear Sir Robert,—I desire to express through you my warm sympathy to both Houses of Parliament on the terrible calamity of last night, by which these historical buildings were almost destroyed by fire. I know how universal will be the regret felt, not only in the Dominion itself, but throughout the Empire. I deplore the loss of life which has, I fear, occurred, and desire to express my deep sympathy with the families of those who have so unfortunately perished. Believe me, yours most sincerely.

"(Signed) Arthur."



Ottawa, February 4.—Canada's Parliament met to-day under tragic and unique circumstances. The short and memorable session was held in the Victoria Memorial Museum. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrived in Parliament together and stood for some time conversing. Both men showed strikingly the terrible stress under which they had laboured for the past eighteen hours.

Premier Borden's words:

"As to the historic building itself, my own association with it has now extended over a period of nearly twenty years. My Right Hon. friend Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been associated with it for more than twice that period. The building dates from the very earliest years of Confederation, or even before Confederation. In that Chamber the great policies were debated and worked out which have touched the development of our country and its future destiny. In that Chamber the great men who founded this Confederation spoke and did their duty as representatives of the people in Parliament from the inception of Confederation through the active period of their lifetime."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

"Mr. Speaker, I re-echo every word that has been spoken by the Prime Minister on this calamitous occasion. Sad indeed are the circumstances under which we meet to-day. The old Parliament Building in which we sat yesterday, and which has been identified with the life of the Canadian people since Confederation, is a mass of ruins. To the people of Ottawa especially it will be a sad loss, because it was part of the life of the community as it was the pride of every Canadian who came to Ottawa to see the British flag floating on the topmast."

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