

MONCTON VISITED BY ONE OF WORST CONFLAGRATIONS SINCE I. C. R. FIRE IN 1906

Large Warehouses with Valuable Contents Owned by F. W. Sumner Co. and Reed Co. Wiped Out by Fire Early Sunday Morning, Causing Loss Estimated in Vicinity of \$125,000—Twelve Hours Before Fire was Completely Extinguished.

Moncton, May 14.—From the standpoint of property loss Moncton was this morning visited by the most disastrous fire since the million dollar conflagration that wiped out the greater portion of the I.C.R. shops in 1906, and apart from the I. C. R. fire this morning's fire caused the biggest property loss in the history of the city. As a result of the conflagration several large warehouses full of goods and owned by the two leading wholesale firms in the city were wiped out and the loss is placed at \$125,000 with insurance about seventy-five per cent. of the loss. The warehouses burned were owned by Sumner Co. wholesale and retail hardware merchants, and the Reed Co., wholesale grocers, and were situated on the river front along the wharf track. The buildings were located between Mechanic and Duke streets. The fire broke out about four o'clock this morning and as near as can be ascertained started in a very narrow alleyway between the Sumner Co. and Reed Co. buildings, and was well started in both warehouses when discovered.

Although the fire department made a quick response considering the hour it was apparent when they arrived that the wooden structures with all contents were doomed. By hard fighting the Reed Co. brick building containing offices and warehouse, immediately adjoining the burned wooden structure, was saved. The firemen worked for nearly twelve hours steadily before the fire in the burning embers was completely extinguished. The Sumner Co.'s wooden warehouses consisted of four or five buildings adjoining each other, the two largest of which were 140x44 and 50x28 feet in size. All the buildings were stocked full of all kinds of hardware. The buildings were valued at \$12,000 with \$6,000 insurance and the stock which, as stated is a total loss was valued at \$85,000, covered by insurance to the extent of about seventy-five per cent. Sumner Co.'s loss over and above insurance will be considerable. The goods in stock today could not be replaced today for \$30,000 more than the amount of the value at which they have been placed. The Reed Co. lost three wooden buildings, the largest being 75x30 and 100x25. The Reed Co. place their loss in buildings and stock at \$22,000, with insurance of about ninety per cent. of loss.

The insurance losses are divided among a number of companies.

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REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN CABLE SIGNALLING

Permits of Higher Voltage in Transmission, Making Range Greater and Two Cables Can do Work of Three.

Colonel George O. Squier, United States military attaché in London, made a really important improvement in cable signalling according to a writer in The Electrical Review and Western Electrician. The new system uses the Morse alphabet, but for the dots and dashes are substituted, respectively, single and triple strokes, each taking up only the same space as the ordinary dot. The record is read with ease by a novice, and there is a great saving of time. The current is never broken as in making dots and dashes, but is continuous. Higher voltages can be used in transmission, making the range greater, and it is claimed that two Atlantic cables can now do the work of three.

In a paper presented before The Physical Society of London, Colonel Squier describes his novel method of attacking the cable problem along lines of electric power transmission. By substituting for the time-honored make-and-break battery-current transmitter a low-frequency single-phase sine-wave alternator, the cable is never broken and a single time element for the differing durations of dot, space and dash, he achieves simplicity and economies which are truly astonishing.

The dot is a single stroke, the dash a triple stroke, but covering the same length of paper as the dot or space. The ease with which this record is read is most striking. Here at once the Squier method does away with the need of specially trained, highly paid cable-readers. The veriest novice can translate such tape with accuracy and present unknown over long cables.

Again, the abolition of the siphon-recorder permits the use of cheap paper tape, a trifling consideration until one realizes that the annual bill for siphon recording-tape of the Eastern Cable Company alone amounts to thousands of pounds sterling. This novel alphabet, moreover, permits relaying directly from cable to land wires, or vice versa, for it is "universal"—can be employed equally well and with like economies for both.

By use of the sine wave at the transmitter a relatively much larger percentage of transmitted power is received at the distant station. With the unbroken, pure sine wave, higher average potentials can be safely employed with a correspondingly increased energy delivered at the receiver. Furthermore, this advantage becomes applicable if the first 200 or 300 miles of a submarine cable were made of higher insulation than would be necessary for the deeper-sea portions.

Undoubtedly the most important of all advantages achieved by the Squier method is the economy of time effected. As sample comparative records show, from 50 to 100 per cent more letters per minute can be transmitted than with the old method and old alphabet. With the make-and-break methods, the transmitting end of the cable must be connected to the earth after each signal, to clear out the excess charge which was thereby unavoidably put in. In other words, to present the entire cable plant is idle for 25 per cent of the time—a plant representing a cost approximately \$2,500,000 shut down, so to speak, for sweeping-out purposes, six hours a day.

Major O'Meara, in a paper on the new Squier method, read before the Royal Engineers' Society of London, states that "two transatlantic cables can now do the work of three, representing a saving in initial cost of a plant of over \$2,500,000, to say nothing of savings in operation of the third cable."

"Now as to long landlines, where

Wheatstone or other rapid-transmission methods are employed, we need in this field the same revolution in change. When telegraph engineers also will adopt the sine-wave base of an uninterrupted alternating current for signalling purposes, not only will it be relatively simple to cut out the induction from such currents, but they will find a simplicity of operation and economies of time quite impossible so long as interrupted direct currents are employed. Surely America, with its pressing telegraph needs, its long lines, and its present freedom from bureaucratic restrictions, is the logical place for the evolution of the fruitful ideas which Colonel Squier has given us."

GERMAN SIDELIGHTS.

A Professor of Moderation. A very interesting letter has been sent to Professor Lorentz of Haarlem, by Dr. Max Planck, Professor of Physics and permanent secretary to the Berlin Academy of Sciences. In this letter Professor Planck recalls the remarkable letter addressed to the civilized world in August, 1914, by 93 German scholars and artists and in which these representatives of German Kultur not only defended the conduct of their own government, but, in language of remarkable extravagance denounced the action of the Allies. Dr. Planck himself was one of the 93 signatories. He says, by his colleagues Harnack, Norrm, Waldeyer, Wismowitz-Möllen-dorff, that letter of appeal was written and signed in the patriotic exuberance of the first weeks of the war.

It must not be taken for granted, says Herr Planck, that at the present time anything like a scientific judgment can be formed with regard to the great questions of the historical present. The question as to who bears the main responsibility for the rupture of the pre-war negotiations, and for all the consequent human misery flowing from this rupture, is a question which will be decided later by an all-sided objective investigation. "But what I wish to impress on you," he writes to Dr. Lorentz, "is that notwithstanding the awful events which I have come to the firm conviction that there are moral and intellectual regions which lie beyond this war of nations, and that honorable co-operation, the cultivation of international values, and personal respect for the citizens of an enemy State are perfectly compatible with glowing love and intense work for one's own country."

Commemorating the Dead. In the German press much space is devoted to discussing the best form which the home monuments to dead soldiers will take.

There seems to be a general aversion to the system followed after the war of 1870-71. Every town, important or insignificant, secured its "Krieger Denkmal," or its statue of Wilhelm I. or Bismarck or Moltke, hardly one of which has any pretension to artistic merit. But they were all big and bulky, with much stone and bronze, much garrison ornamentation. They were stuck up in market squares or public gardens all over the empire, and in hardly a single case was there a vestige of inspiration or real feeling. A writer in the "Deutsche Tageszeitung" is sick of them all, and remarks that were they all taken down from their ridiculous pedestals, now that copper is so scarce and melted into guns and munitions they would serve a far better purpose than they serve now.

With regard to the future, the most popular proposal for commemorating the dead is the formation of a "Helden-hain," or Heroes' Grove.

NEWCASTLE MAN HEAVY LOSER IN FIRE

J. D. Paulin's Warehouse Destroyed and Valuable Horse and Contents of Building Burned.

Newcastle, May 13.—Shortly after midnight this morning fire was discovered in J. D. Paulin's warehouse on Jane street. It was destroyed. A valuable horse and a quantity of hay, oats and seeds were burned. The total loss of Mr. Paulin was almost \$50, on which he had no insurance. The building belonged to Mrs. Robt. Macallister. It was insured.

The dance in Town Hall last night in aid of the 132nd band was a success.

The following have lately signed on at the recruiting office here: For the 132nd, James Barnhart, Northport, Ont.; and Ernest Merle Pringle, Stanley, York county; 4th Pioneer, James and Gordon Dunbar, Woodstock, N. B.

Dr. Kate MacMillan, medical missionary in Korea the last fifteen years and now home on furlough, and also Major W. T. Howe, recently a Methodist missionary in West Japan, addressed the Presbyterian Missionary Society's thanksgiving meeting in St. James' hall last night.

A NEW C. P. R. FOLDER.

"Acadia" is the name of a new folder gotten out by the C. P. R.—the most delicate and alluring of the new summer series. The description of the apple blossoms in Acadia might well rank as literature. It is so aloof from all thought of advertising that one might expect to come across it in a poetic study of the immortal theme of "Longfellow." It is a prospectus. "The apple blossom might well become the emblem of the land. There is nothing cloying about its perfume. Neither is there anything heady, portentous, unwise to be adventured on. Evangeline could have worn apple blossoms above her peaceful heart, as well as the best seller heroine of to-day would despise them, lacking a florist's brain."

"Evangeline sprang from the soil of Acadia as naturally as peace steals into the heart of the nowadays visitor. To be sure, she never lived in mere concreteness of seventeenth century. But the fact that she is a logical, institutional, and inspirational expression of Acadia accounts for the fact that among the descendants of those Acadicians who really lived there is no one so beloved as this gentle cousin with the steadfast eyes, whose sorrowful fate was built for her out of a poet's brain."

SCOTIA QUEEN ASHORE.

A Rockland, Me., despatch states: The British schooner Scotia, Queen, lumber laden, from Parrsboro, N. S., for Boston, went ashore on the kelp ledges on Hooker's Island, near the entrance of Port Clyde Harbor Thursday, but later was floated with the assistance of a volunteer crew and towed into Port Clyde. The schooner apparently was not much damaged.

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