

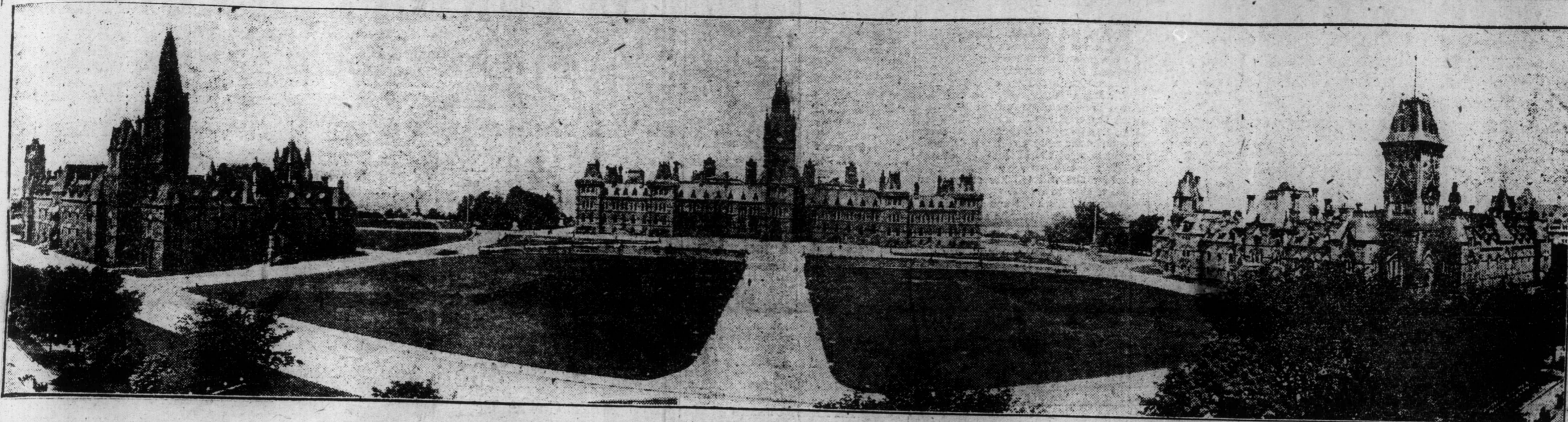
BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1916

PROBS: Saturday: Cold; light snow falls.

ONE CENT



EIGHT DEATHS IN OTTAWA FIRE

BODIES ARE PROBABLY BENEATH THE RUINS AND BURIED UNDER FIFTEEN FEET OF DEBRIS

At 9.30 p. m. Last Night, Glass Roof Over Commons Chamber Fell, and Flames Shot Fifty Feet Into the Air---Weather Was Icy Cold and Members Were Forced to Leave Without Their Coats---Department of Justice Not Warned by American Journal.

MONTREAL, Feb. 4.—The correspondent of the Montreal Gazette at Ottawa wires: "I learned from the Canadian Justice Department that no warning had been received there from the Providence Journal that there was to be an attack made on the Canadian House."

Washington Interested.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Thomas, Democrat, introduced a resolution to-day denouncing the fire in the House of Parliament at Ottawa as an act of "deliberately planned incendiarism" and "an unpardonable crime against civilization."

Senator Gallinger, Republican, objected to its consideration, saying he knew of no evidence of incendiarism.

Meet in Victoria Museum

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—It is announced by the Premier that Parliament will sit in the Victoria Memorial Museum. The spacious ground floor will be utilized, and the House will meet there until other arrangements are made. The first sitting of the Commons will be at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The Senate will reassemble at the Museum on Tuesday next.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Ont. Feb. 4.—The beautiful Canadian parliament buildings are this morning a mass of smoking ruins. The costly library is saved, but much damage is done by smoke and water. The new wing is less damaged than the other parts. Most of the interior has been swept clean.

EIGHT DEATHS.

The fire was attended by possibly eight deaths, two of them women who were guests of Mme. Sevigny, wife of the Speaker. These two women were suffocated early in the calamity. Several others are missing. Officials to-day hazarded the opinion that some bodies were beneath the ruins. It is impossible at present to find out definitely if bodies are there, they possibly are buried beneath fifteen feet of debris.

The Alexandra Hotel, of which M. B. Law, M. P., for Yarmouth, N. S., is a guest during the session, was trying to locate him this morning. It was stated that Mr. Law was at the House last night at the time that the fire broke out and had not, it was said, been seen since.

The hotel tried every possible means this morning to locate the member for Yarmouth. Every place in the city, where it was thought he would likely be, was reached, but to no avail.

"We are very much afraid that Mr. Law was in the House when the fire started and may have perished in the flames," the hotel management said to-day. "He left here last night to go to the House and we have been informed that he was there. We have tried by every means possible to get some trace of him; we have questioned members from his own province and others with whom he was known to be most friendly, but there is no sign of him."

No one, it is said, saw Mr. Law leave the House of Commons after the fire broke out. He was alone in the city, none of his relatives having accompanied him to Ottawa this year.

OTHERS MISSING.

Others missing are: W. Winslow, engineer. Alphonse Desjardins, Dominion pol-

Commons chamber and though in the library, reading rooms and the corridors, which surrounded the chamber on all four sides, police guards were on duty, when the members attempted to leave by the two main doors, but were driven back by smoke.

FILLED WITH SMOKE

With the opening of the doors of the Commons chamber, the place filled instantly with smoke, and there was a rush of members to the small doors at each of the four corners. The fifty odd members found they were able to reach safety through two doors nearest the main lobby in front of the post office. The crowd of spectators in the gallery were rushing out at this time, and attendants came stumbling through the smoke-filled corridors from all parts of the big building, making a scene of great confusion.

From the thickest of the smoke a man staggered forth and fell just in front of the post office. He was picked up by Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works; Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs and State. When they raised him, they found it was the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture. He was stifled with the smoke and badly burned about the head. He had been working in his private room adjoining the reading room, when the fire started. When he left his room he had to plunge through flames in the corridor at his door and then feel his way along fifty yards of dark, smoke-filled crooked corridor to gain safety. That he escaped is remarkable.

WEATHER ICY COLD

Outside the weather was icy cold, and the members dreading to leave without their coats, tried to get them. The corridors about the three sides

of the chamber are lined with small lockers, and in these the garments were hung. Several men tried to get their coats which were within forty feet of them behind a curtain of smoke. Not one succeeded in their attempt.

A few minutes after the fire broke out it was found that the press room was cut off. There were several correspondents there and they were compelled to climb to safety down ladders, which firemen raised to the windows.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier fortunately was at home when the fire broke out. He, like the governor-general, withdrew from his motor car the destruction of the building where he had fought so many political battles.

ORDERED OUT SOLDIERS

General Hughes was at the Chateau Laurier, dining with a number of newspapermen when informed that the parliament buildings were on fire. He drove down to the scene and ordered the 77th overseas regiment, which is completing training in Ottawa, to clear the grounds. He controlled the crowd and, taking charge, General Hughes aided the firemen in the battle with the flames.

LATER

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—Engineer Winslow is now safe. DAMAGE CANNOT BE ESTIMATED. Great difficulty will be experienced

in even attempting to estimate the damage to books, etc., in parliamentary library, as conditions have permitted of only a hurried survey of the ruined section of the Parliament building. It is probable that 2,000 volumes, including an immense and invaluable collection of ecclesiastical literature have been destroyed.

It is positively known that some hundreds of volumes of the Edinburgh Review, The Quarterly Review and other such valuable periodicals, dating back as far as 1807 have been demolished. Copies of hundreds of newspapers that have long since ceased publication are destroyed and will never be replaced. It is probable that a very large portion of the law division has also been considerably injured.

BIBLES DESTROYED.

It is definitely known that a large collection of beautiful polyglot Bibles has been destroyed. This collection included Bibles printed in all sorts and sizes, and probably one of the most valuable collections in the world.

LIBRARY SAVED

One of the most stubborn fights of the whole fire was that made to save the fine library building, which is not equalled for beauty on this continent, and the fight was successful. While the fire burned the passage from the reading room right to the walls of the library, its progress was stayed there. No damage is done to the building, but considerable loss to the books, particularly those which were in the basement, was caused by water. The fire was under control about five o'clock, though at 10 this morning several streams are still being played on the interior.

Six a.m. had not revealed any casualties other than those reported last night. Madame Bray and Madame Morin of Quebec, who were the guests of the Speaker, and who were caught and suffocated in a room, and the three men who are thought to be buried under fifteen feet of debris, comprising the list. They were caught when a turret at the north side of the building fell. The men are Alphonse Desjardine, a Dominion policeman, Alphonse Desjardine, his uncle, and employed in the building, and Robert Fanning, a waiter.

As yet the debris has not been removed off where they are thought to be.

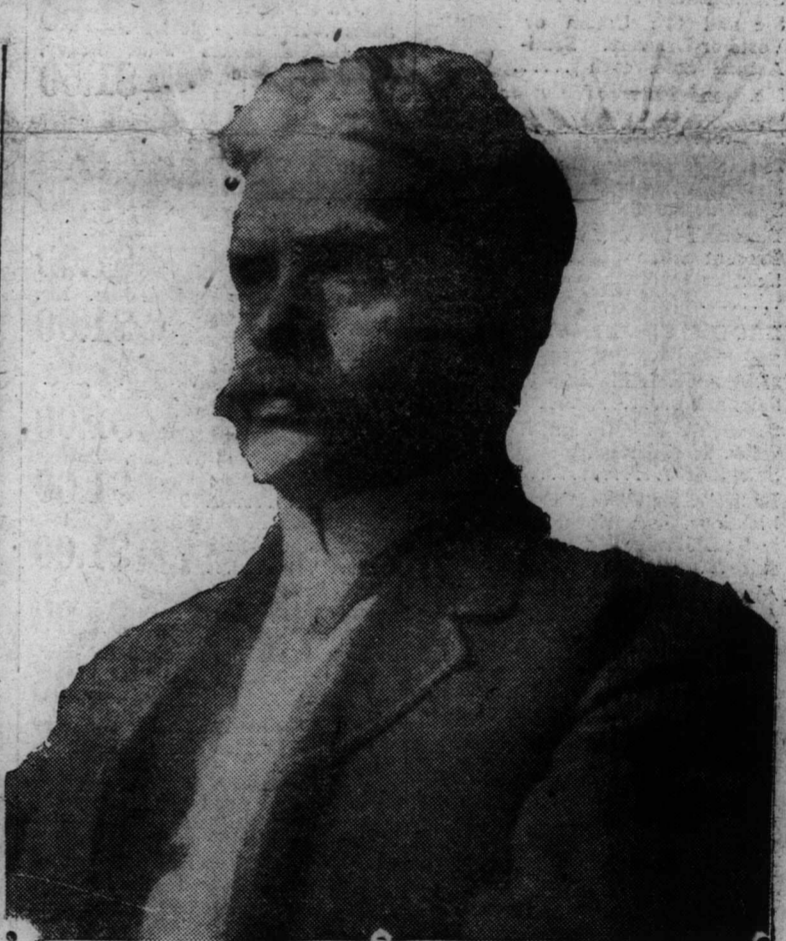
The fire started in the reading room of the House of Commons, Col. Sherwood states that there is absolutely no grounds for rumors that the fire was of incendiary origin. "It started under the nose of a policeman," he stated.

The fire spread with amazing rapidity, but this may be explained by the contents of the room, papers, light tables, etc.

The report of a warning from Providence two weeks ago is officially denied.

The central part of the main building, including the chambers of both the Commons and Senate is gutted, but the front end walls are apparently in good shape, though experts will have to determine the structural damage. But the east and the west ends of the building are but little damaged with the exception of the roof and top floors. The tower was completely gutted, the superstructure and finalis falling with a crash, though the masonry still stands, gaunt and scarred.

(See also Pages 7 and 9)



SIR ROBERT BORDEN Who Led the Fire Fighters

Sad Fatality Occurs to Mr. Elmer Kirkpatrick

Stepped on to the Brantford & Hamilton Railway Track Without Noticing an Oncoming Car.

Elmer Kirkpatrick, a young unmarried resident of the city met with a tragic death last night on the Hamilton and Brantford Electric Railway track.

The sad event occurred shortly after 8 o'clock last evening. At that time a car from Hamilton was running along in charge of conductor Frank Lane and Motorman Blaythway just near the Mohawk Park landing, and the rate of speed was about 15 miles an hour. Suddenly the motorman states he saw a man step on the track right in front of the car and before he could do anything, the unfortunate was struck down and run over. The car was stopped within a short distance and investigation showed the mangled body of the victim. Both legs had been cut off. There was a compound fracture of the skull and other terrible injuries. Death must have been instantaneous.

Dr. Fissette, the Coroner was notified, and the remains taken to Reid and Brown's undertaking establishment. Deceased was dragged quite a distance and one leg was only discovered this morning. Investigation by the police soon established the identity of the victim.

LEFT HOME IN GOOD SPIRITS. Deceased, who was 22 years of age

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON



OVERHEARD IN CAMBRIA.

Welsh Porter (excitedly): "See there is Davit Lloyd-George, look you?"
Calm Passenger: "Well what about it?"
Welsh Porter: "But it is Lloyd-George himself—the Minister of Munitions whatever!"
Calm Passenger: "Well I don't care. He's not the Almighty."
Welsh Porter: "No, indeed—but he is only a young man yet, look you!"—Fanning Show.

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