

HESPELER MUNITIONS PLANT IS BURNED

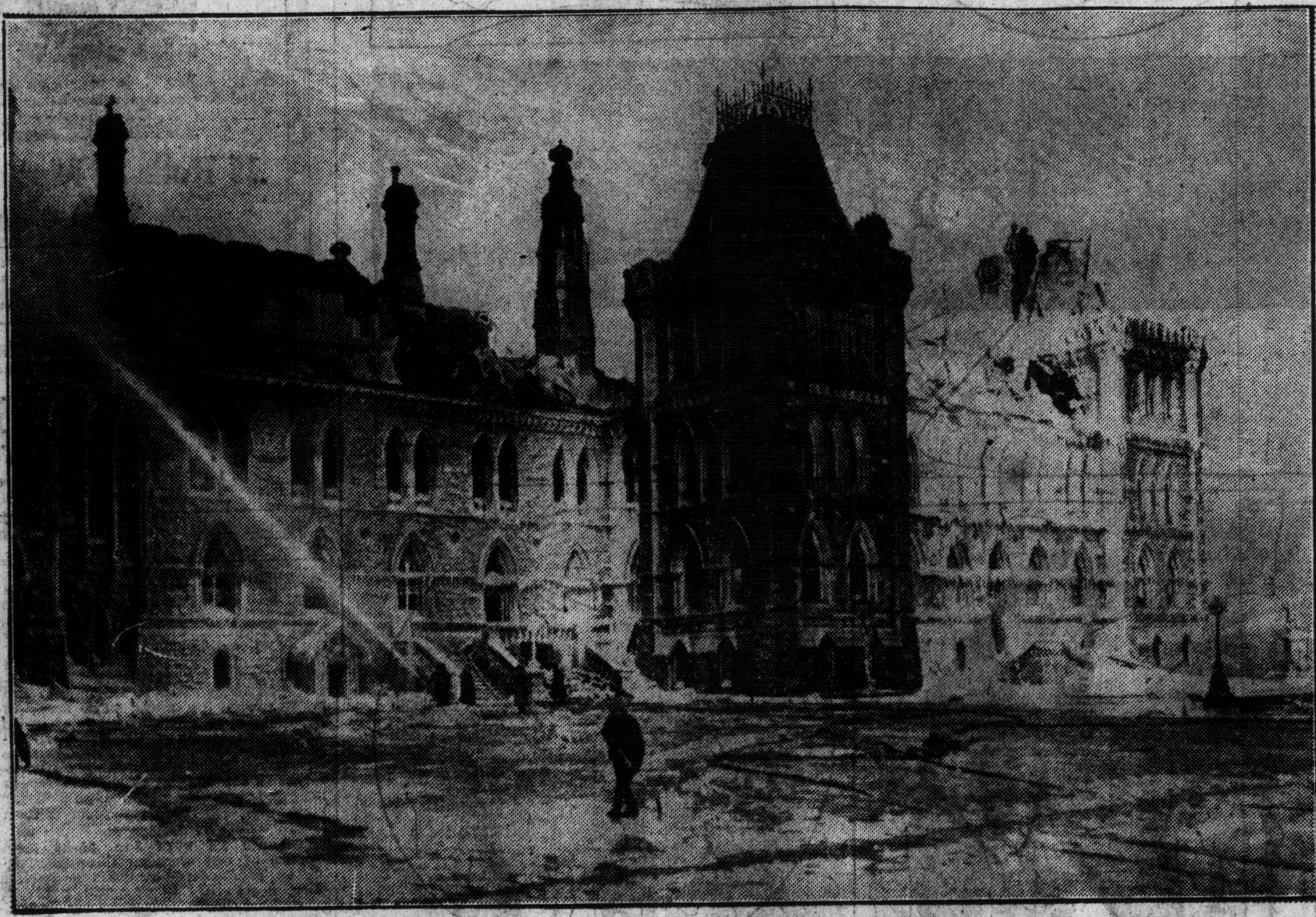
AUSTRIAN PLACED UNDER ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH FIRE

HESPELER MUNITION PLANT BURNED BY INCENDIARY

Fire Broke Out in Shell Factory Few Minutes After Employees Left and John Schmidt, an Austrian, is Arrested.

By a Staff Reporter.
HESPELER, Ont., Feb. 5.—Fire, believed to be of an incendiary origin, broke out in the munitions department, of the E. B. Jardine & Co.'s tool and shell plant at 12.30 today, and completely destroyed the shell department before it was extinguished.
John Schmidt, an Austrian, who has been a resident of the town at different times during the last few years, was arrested at the fire by Chief Wilson, and is being held pending an investigation. The chief states that he has had the Austrian under observation for some time, but that so far as he knows now he was not in the plant. He had not been working there.
The last man left the plant at 12.30 except the watchman, who was in another part of the building eating his lunch when the fire broke out. There was a celebration in town and a detachment of visiting soldiers were

there in connection with a recruiting campaign, and the meeting had just opened at the city hall a few minutes before the alarm was given. The firemen were quickly on the scene and succeeded in confining the flames to the shell department, the other portions of the building being untouched. There was nothing of an inflammable nature in the shell department which would be liable to cause a fire thru spontaneous combustion and the only explanation that the management is able to give is that it must have been started by an alien enemy.
The part of the works in which the fire broke out was recently fitted up with \$35,000 worth of machinery for the manufacture of shells, and this is a total loss. The entire loss is estimated at \$70,000.
Ask For Militia.
OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 5.—The militia department has been notified of a fire in the Jardine Munition Plant at Hespeler, and asked for permission to call out the militia to guard the plant.



THE SENATE CHAMBER GUTTED AND ICE-COVERED THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE

OTTAWA FIRE LIST OF DEAD IS UNCHANGED

Fatalities So Far as at Present Known Remain at Seven

LAST BODY FOUND

That of J. B. R. Laplante Discovered Saturday Morning in Deputy Speaker's Rooms

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 5.—The bodies of Mesdames Morin and Bray were taken to Quebec to the bereaved husbands, who came to the city immediately on receipt of news of the tragedy which brought the house party of Madame Sevigny to an abrupt and tragic termination.
While there is a possibility that there may be yet others who lost their lives in the conflagration, the list of known dead remains at seven. These are: Mesdames Morin and Bray of Quebec, whose bodies were recovered during the time the fire burned; the two Desjardins, uncle and nephew; B. B. Law, M.P., and J. B. R. Laplante and Randolph W. Hamms, a postoffice employe.
The body of J. B. R. Laplante, assistant clerk of the commons, was found this morning in the rooms of Deputy Speaker Rhodes.
From these rooms, Walter Hill, steward for the deputy speaker, escaped by dropping from a window, being severely hurt in doing so. The deputy speaker's rooms were a small suite opening from the main corridor on the second floor and looking into the courtyard adjoining the reading room, where the fire started. The suite contained a bedroom, bathroom, sitting room and small pantry.
Steward Hill was in the rooms when the fire broke out but knew nothing about it for nearly an hour, although within fifty feet of where the fire began.
How Laplante Died.
The door on the corridor was closed, and the fire did not get up into that corridor until after a considerable time. The walls were massive, and the double heavy curtains and portieres

shutting out light or sound from the courtyard. The fire started at 9 o'clock. At nearly 10 o'clock Hill was still reading a newspaper in the sitting-room unaware of any disturbance. Suddenly he heard a strange roar. He rushed to the door and opened it. A black smoke poured in. A man was staggering in the corridor and lurched into the room. A moment later a blast of flame came. Hill closed the door. In the smoke, and not knowing Mr. Laplante very well, he is not positive who the man was, but thinks it was Mr. Laplante, and this supposition is strengthened by the fact that Mr. Laplante had a room next to the suite of the deputy speaker.
Slid Down Curtains.
Hill rushed to the windows, and throwing open the curtains, realized that the whole place was going. He tore down two heavy portieres, tied them together, and smashing a window, he attached his improvised rope.
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PEEL CONSERVATIVES HAVE CHOSEN FALLIS

Candidate Who Resigned Again Selected to Sit in Legislature

MAY MEAN ELECTION

Liberals Have Intimated They Would Not Consent to Unopposed Return.

By a Staff Reporter.
BRAMPTON, Ont., Feb. 5.—J. R. Fallis, who recently resigned from his seat in the Ontario Legislature, following the finding of the Royal Commission criticizing his actions in connection with the purchase of horses for the government was unanimously renominated by the Peel County Liberal Conservative Association today amid great enthusiasm.
Eleven names were placed in nomination and five withdrew and on the first ballot Mr. Fallis received 84 out of 123 votes and the convention decided to make it unanimous.
The nomination of Mr. Fallis may result in a bye-election as the Liberals have intimated that they would consent to permitting any other candidate but him go in by acclamation but would contest his election.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSION WILL INVESTIGATE FIRE

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 5.—Sir Robert Borden announced this morning that a commission would be appointed to inquire into the cause of the fire. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be one of the members of the commission.
Ottawa is today in the grip of a spy scare and the city is taking steps to protect its waterworks system and civic buildings. Guards are increased on all government buildings.

SAW-EDGED BAYONET ON GERMAN PRISONER

Under Officer Also Had a Number of Soft-Nosed Bullets on Him When Taken, Declares Canadian Eye-witness in Weekly Report.

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—The following weekly communique is from Sir Max Aitken, at present serving with the Canadian corps in France:
"During the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 2, more than six successful minor operations were carried out by the troops under Sir Douglas Haig, one of the most successful being by parties of our northwest and Vancouver battalions on the night of Jan. 30-31.
"Wire cutting parties cut lanes thru the enemy wire opposite two of the strongest fortified places in this section of the enemy's front line. After sunset it was found that the enemy had succeeded in blocking the gaps with fresh entanglements. Sergeant Turner and Corporal Conlan and Lieut. L. A. Wilcot, Sergt. Kirkland, Privates W. R. Taylor and R. W. Lombard proceeded to reopen the lanes up to the German parapet. With enemy listening posts in vicinity and enemy trenches filled with men, it took both parties approximately five hours to complete the dangerous work. Reports from each battalion show that the road was reached by the first party, practically simultaneously at his post in the front trenches. Punctually at 2.30 a.m., about 30 men from each battalion went forward to the German lines. In both cases the enemy was taken completely by surprise.
"The party was under command of Lieut. L. A. Wilcot, who had cut the wire. With him were Lieutenants N. E. O'bryan and G. L. Gwyce. The party reached the enemy parapet unobserved. Two German sentries were patrolling up and down the trench. They met and exchanged greetings. As they turned our men jumped down on them and in the struggle both sentries were killed.
"Bombed and Bayoneted.
"Our party then moved on and bayoneted its way down the German trench. The enemy was in considerable force but offered very little resistance. As they turned our men jumped down on them and in the struggle both sentries were killed.
"Our party then moved on and bayoneted its way down the German trench. The enemy was in considerable force but offered very little resistance. As they turned our men jumped down on them and in the struggle both sentries were killed.
"After seven minutes in the German trenches our party withdrew, taking with them as prisoners an under officer, a sergeant and a private. The under officer, who was captured by Sergt. Tyford, was wearing the iron cross and was armed with a saw-edged bayonet and a revolver with flat-nosed bullets. Our casualties were Lieut. Wilcot and two men slightly wounded.
"Fires Fought Erased.
"The battalion party was under command of Capt. E. McIntyre and Capt. K. C. Taylor, bombing officer of the 1st Infantry Brigade. Capt. McIntyre took the lead and was the first to jump over the enemy parapets. The trench was found crowded with Germans, and a fierce fight ensued. In the course of which about 30 of the enemy were killed or wounded. A machine gun in an exceedingly strong emplacement was put out of action and three prisoners were taken. Our party remained about eight minutes in the German trenches, during which withdrawal two of the prisoners were taken.
(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

FIRM MEMBERS BELIEVE BOMB STARTED FIRE

This is Opinion Expressed in Ottawa's Second Mysterious Blaze

HAD WAR CONTRACTS

Think Enemy Agents Placed Explosive in Sample Room.

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 5.—The second mystery fire in as many days, in which incendiarism on the part of German agents or sympathizers is suspected, destroyed the manufacturing plant of Grant, Holden & Graham at an early hour today, and a loss of about \$123,000 largely made up of war contract goods, resulted.
Nine persons, eight of them employees working night shift in the factory, and the other, the night watchman, had narrow escapes with their lives, having to flee down the fire escape on the west side of the building to save themselves from suffocation.
Valuable War Contracts.
Grant, Holden and Graham up to last night had half a million dollars' worth of war contracts, and a large quantity of shirts were stored in the upper floor of the building. The firm was recently urged to complete an order for the 77th Battalion, and much work was in progress. Over \$50,000 worth of military shirts also were stored. Members of the firm are self-declared that the fire which wiped out their plant was the work of alien agents or sympathizers, and in some respects, it is very similar to the circumstances connected with the start of the parliament fire on Thursday night.
Did Bomb Start It?
One member of the firm gave voice to an opinion that reflected the thought that an incendiary bomb with a time fuse had been placed in a closet in the plant, where the fire started, and in a trice had spread to the roof above, and in two minutes over three floors of the building.
"Another opinion of one member of the firm is that an incendiary bomb had been deposited in the sample room by some one. Half an hour before the blaze burst thru the second floor, the night watchman had passed thru the sample room and had noticed no sign of fire.

BRIDGE SAVED FROM ATTEMPT OF A WRECKER

Guards Caught Him Approaching the Structure Over the Ice

TRIED GAME TWICE

Altho Detected Both Times, He Succeeded in Getting Away.

MONTREAL, Feb. 5.—An attempt to dynamite Victoria Bridge, the militia authorities think, was made last night.
About midnight a man was noticed by the guards to be approaching the structure on the ice. He was picked out by the searchlights and when challenged retired without answering.
About four o'clock this morning a man was seen again making his way towards the bridge on the ice. He was again challenged, and when he did not reply was fired at. He succeeded, however, in getting away.
The militia authorities have made an investigation and while they found nothing which would indicate that the man, whoever he was, had actually started to blow up the bridge they have little doubt that such was his intention.
The Victoria Bridge crosses the St. Lawrence and is used by the Grand Trunk Railway and the Delaware and Hudson Railway. It is a mile and a half in length.
It has been carefully guarded by a company of soldiers since the outbreak of war.
The police have learned that a man answering to the description of the suspect who was seen on the ice approaching the bridge got off a train at St. Lambert's, on the south side of the river. He stayed in a shack until turned out by the police, and then tried to get on the bridge. Suspicious, the guard turned him back. It was after this that he was noticed on the ice.
May Be Drowned.
An investigation made of the ice in the neighborhood of the bridge this morning disclosed footprints leading to and from the structure, those leading away ending at a pool of open water. The militia authorities think it possible that the man seen by the guards fell into the water in his hurry to get away.

WAR SUMMARY

THE WEEK'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BY W. H. STEWART.

GENERAL tameness has ruled in the operations in the various fields of the war in the past seven days. Beyond the raids of Count Zeppelin's airships on Paris and on several English counties, beyond the checking of a German commerce raider at sea by the arrival of the British passenger liner, Appam, in an American port, little beyond the usual monotonous incidents of a mid-winter campaign have been brought to light by the rumors, despatches and official communiques of the various belligerent war offices. Some exception to the usual dullness which accompanies winter operations has occurred in the Caucasus region and in Persia where the Russians have won another victory over the Turks south of Erzerum, and where they have dispersed a force of the enemy in the region of Kermanshah, on the communications between Bagdad and the east.

After winning considerable successes in Bessarabia, Bukovina and Eastern Galicia, the Russians have halted operations owing to the nature of the ground prohibiting an active advance. An extensive thaw has taken up the work of destruction that the elements have forced the Russians to suspend. It has released pent-up waters from the many rivers which have deluged trenches and embogged the heavy artillery of the enemy at many points. The Russians occupy higher ground and so they are in a more advantageous position to resist the assaults of nature. The Pripiet marshes have become flooded and the Germans who encamped amid their ices and frozen bogs for the winter have suffered severely from being flooded out of their trenches and marooned on higher levels of ground.

The air is filled with rumors of another imminent offensive of the Germans. Some persons believe that it will be undertaken against the Russians in the Riga sector, while other persons insist that it will be launched against the British and French positions in Flanders in an attempt to blast a way to the English channel and the northern parts of France. If the Germans plan to do this, they are vastly ignorant of the effects of sea power, for the British navy would proceed to blow away the waterfront. The Germans, it is true,

NOT TO FOLLOW FRANCE IN PURCHASE OF WHEAT

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A statement issued tonight regarding the government's operations in wheat says that the British and French governments in December bought 200,000 tons from Australia, of which Great Britain took 100,000. British firms in Argentina have been informed that the amount of Argentine wheat to be purchased by the government will not exceed 250,000 quarters.
The statement indicates the government will not adopt the proposal to take over the entire home crop at a fixed price, as France has done.

HON. FRANK COCHRANE ARRIVES ON BALTIC

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—The White Star liner Baltic arrived here today with only 25 passengers in her steerage and 153 in the first and second cabins.
Among the first-class passengers was Hon. Francis Cochrane, Canadian minister of railways and canals.
On Jan. 29 Henry Ballin, an American actor, who has been deported from England by order of the British war office, died from internal hemorrhages. He was buried at sea.

MRS. MOHR NOT GUILTY.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 5.—Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr today was acquitted of the charge of having instigated the murder of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr.
C. Victor Brown and Henry H. Suelman, accused of the actual killing, were found guilty. The penalty is life imprisonment.

KING GEORGE APPEARED IN PUBLIC SATURDAY

LONDON, Feb. 5, 4.05 p.m.—King George today made his first public appearance since he suffered injury from an accident while reviewing the British troops in France last October. His majesty attended a performance of Verdi's Requiem in memory of the soldiers who have fallen in the war.

FOG ALARM STATION DESTROYED BY FIRE

ST. JOHN, N.B., Feb. 5.—John C. Chesley, agent for the department of marine and fisheries, has received word that the fog alarm station and oil warehouses at Cape Spencer, on the Bay of Fundy, was destroyed by fire yesterday. The station was a large and important one, and was valued at \$6000.

LIEUT. GEORGES CODERE IS SENTENCED TO DEATH

Charged With Having Murdered Sergt. Ozanne, a Member of His Own Regiment.
LONDON, Feb. 5, 5.50 p.m.—Lieut. Georges Codere of the Canadian expeditionary force was sentenced to death today at Winchester on the charge of having murdered Sergeant Ozanne of his regiment.

WILL NOT EXCLUDE LAVERGNE FROM CLUB

QUEBEC, Feb. 5.—After considering the case of Col. Laverigne, and interviewing him, the directors of the Garrison Club have now decided not to exclude him from the club for his speech in the legislature contending that Canada should not help England by sending troops to Europe to fight.

INTERVIEW FRENCH PRESIDENT.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—President Poincaré today received Colonel E. M. House and American Ambassador Sharp, and talked with them for some time. It was Colonel House's second interview with the president.

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Silk Socks at 39c—1000 pairs
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Silk Socks, mostly
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