

# FIRE LAST NIGHT DID \$150,000 DAMAGE TO MARKET SQUARE BLOCK OF W. H. THORNE & CO.

**"OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE."**  
Divide the troop into equal numbers, preferably by patrols. The two sides must sit in two rows facing each other. At both ends of the double line is a chair or stool, and on one stool are placed two reels of cotton to represent dark blue and light blue. The Scoutmaster calls: "Are you ready?" and each Scout places his right hand on his right knee, palm upward. At the word "Go," the two Scouts

next the reels snatch their own reel and pass it to the boy next to them, and so on right down the row, the last boy bounces the reel on the other stool and passes it back down the row again. When the first boy receives his reel back, he bangs it on the stool and then holds it up at arms' length. The game is won by the quickest side. Two rules must be observed—(1) If the reel is dropped it must start again from the end from which it was traveling. (2) The reel must be taken by each boy's right hand—no "skipping over."

**Most Spectacular Fire in Years—Explosion of Thousands of Cartridges Added Terrifying Element to Roar of Flames—One Building Guttured from Third Floor to Roof—Upper Building Slightly Burned and Very Valuable Stock Heavily Damaged by Fire and Water—Firemen Fought Against Difficulties but Confined Blaze to Thorne Stores—Damage \$150,000 with Insurance of \$250,000 to \$200,000.**

The brick block on Market Square, occupied by W. H. Thorne and Company Limited, was the scene last night of the most spectacular fire St. John has had for many days. As the net result the third, fourth and fifth floors of the lower building, nearest to King street have been reduced to a shell, the roof has been burned off and the valuable stock consumed. The lower part of the building is blocked with debris and very heavy loss has been occasioned. The upper building is somewhat damaged. The estimated total damage is \$150,000 while the insurance is between \$250,000 and \$300,000. No accidents occurred during the fire and the water pressure was good.

For more than two hours, last night, the St. John fire department battled with the fiercest blaze it has had to contend against for a long time. Shortly before ten o'clock a citizen passing along Market Square noticed a ruddy gleam from the third floor of the lower building occupied by W. H. Thorne & Company, Limited. He at once sent in an alarm from box 6 and the fire department responded at once.

The fire had gained headway before being discovered and soon the upper front of the big building was wrapped in vicious flames which shot above the roof and far into the sky, at the same time illuminating Market Square with a radiance as of daylight. The fire department worked its way up from the floor of its origin and reached the floor where ammunition, shells and firearms were kept the sharp crack of rifle and revolver cartridges and shells added a weird and terrifying element, and the thousands of spectators on the square pictured to themselves what might happen if the blaze should reach a powder keg. Fears of the sort were groundless, however, for no powder was kept in the building, that being stored in a special warehouse.

The fire had evidently been burning for some time, but while the lower stores were thronged with customers there was no word of anything wrong. After the last customer had departed and the clerks were preparing to close the word spread and in a very short time the upper portion of the big building was in flames. From that time until after midnight the firemen worked valiantly, first to save the building itself and then, when this was found to be beyond possibility to keep the blaze from spreading to other buildings in the vicinity. In this they were successful, for although the Thorne establishment is in the very centre of the business district, where a fire once gaining headway could do incalculable damage no other firms were inconvenienced.

**Progress of the Flames**  
From the packing room where it started, the blaze worked up to and through three floors to the roof, which was so badly burned that it finally collapsed. The fire contained in the ammunition department included in which was a heavy stock of loaded shells. When the flames reached these, there was a succession of detonations, alarming in sound but carrying little or no actual danger to the thousands of people who had gathered in the Market Square and converging streets. The fire also worked its way in through the fire doorways on the third floor into the upper building but was confined to the vicinity of those doors except where it ran up the elevator shaft and in along the roof of the upper building, doing damage to the roof timbers.

**How the Fire was Fought.**  
The fire department was quickly on the scene at the alarm and when the magnitude of the conflagration became apparent additional apparatus was summoned. The motor engine was stationed near the fountain in the Market Square and threw three powerful streams into the burning building. Number 3 engine was at the Western Union corner and worked with three streams. Number 1 was stationed at the Bank of Montreal corner working with two streams. Number 4 engine, from the City Road house, took up a position in front of Manchester Robertson and Allison's establishment on King street working with two streams. Hose from Number 3 cart, with Motor nozzle was in front of the building and worked three streams. The aerial truck was also in front of the building and from this a deluge of water was poured into the burning structure.

**Don't Shoulder Loss**  
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plied by Cowie & Edwards and the Western Union Telegraph Company's building on the corner of King and Prince William streets would catch. Fear was also expressed for the safety of the Montgomery building on King street in which the silverware, fine cutlery and cut glass were kept as well as the special stock of Christmas goods. This, however, escaped damage. Slight water damage was done to some of the stock of T. McAvity & Sons, Ltd.

The police protection was particularly good. Chief Simpson was in charge himself with an ample force of men. Men from the military units in the city, including a company from

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## LATEST WHAT WALL ST. IS TALKING ABOUT

The sale to investors of \$250,000,000 of the Anglo-French loan of \$500,000,000 is anything but disappointing. If all factors are considered. The placing of a single bond issue of \$250,000,000 has never before been approached in this country since the Civil War. Our own government in 1942 put out an issue of \$150,000,000 six per cent, which it took many months for the country to absorb, but with this exception has never put out a loan as large as the \$250,000,000 Anglo-French bonds which have been placed; the Spanish War loan was only \$200,000,000 and no railway or corporation has ever placed more than \$100,000,000 by public subscription.

The balance placed in the strongest hands—a wide circle of city and country banks and bankers—there is no danger of its being forced upon the market, as it affords a high yield from highest class security, for the employment of a part of the vast amount of life reserves. This attractive yield will undoubtedly render the gradual absorption of the unsold amount by investors, certain.

**The Great Harvest**  
It has been, as in the business up-lift, the impulse of the war which has given the American farmer the splendid results of his own extra efforts in the crop world, aided, of course, by Nature's exceptional bounty in weather. The high prices of grain last year impelled the farmers to plant every acre possible, and the acreage of the chief crops this year is estimated to aggregate 486,570 square miles—an area larger than the size of Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Switzerland combined.

The final report of the Department of Agriculture estimating the crop results of 1915 is full of interest. New records are made in nearly the whole list—wheat for the first time in the history of the country showing a billion bushels, and corn for the second time over three billion bushels. The 35,355,000 tons of hay, against 70,071,000 last year, are estimated to be worth \$912,520,000, making hay the third highest of the crops in money results. The total values of the principal farm crops are estimated this year at \$5,568,775,000, the largest ever shown, and some \$600,000,000 larger than last year, which foot up \$4,973,527,000. In 1913 the amount was \$4,966,497,000, and in 1912 \$4,757,458,000.

**CHICAGO GRAIN AND PRODUCE**

Chicago, Dec. 23—Wheat, No. 2 red, 1.23 1/4 to 1.25; No. 3 red, 1.16 to 1.20; No. 2 hard, 1.22 1/4 to 1.24 1/4; No. 3 hard, 1.14 to 1.16; No. 4 yellow, 68 to 69 1/2; No. 4 white, 67 to 68 1/2.

Oats—No. 3 white, 41 to 42 1/2; standard, 43 1/2.

Rye—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, 85 to 92.

Barley—61 to 70.

Timothy—5.00 to 7.25.

Clover—10.00 to 19.00.

Pork—16.05; lard, 9.52; ribs, 9.75 to 10.25.

**Wheat.**

	High.	Low.	Close.
May	125 1/2	122 1/2	123
July	116	113 1/2	113 1/2
Dec.	124 1/2	121 1/2	121 1/2

**Corn.**

	High.	Low.	Close.
May	75	74 1/4	74 1/4
Dec.	71 1/2	70 1/2	70 1/2

**Oats.**

	High.	Low.	Close.
May	46 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
Dec.	42 1/2	42 1/2	42 1/2

## SHIPPING

**MINIATURE ALMANAC.**  
December Phases of the Moon.

	New Moon.	1st Quarter.	Full Moon.	Last Quarter.
6th	2h., 4m. a. m.			
13th		7h., 38m. p. m.		
21st			8h., 52m. p. m.	
29th				8h., 59m. p. m.

**PORT OF ST. JOHN.**  
Arrived Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1915.  
Sch Harold B Cousens, 360, Gayton, Philadelphia, P. McIntyre, coal.

**FOREIGN PORTS.**  
Civita Vecchia, Italy, Dec 21—Sld: Str Sefkasia, Abbott, Hampton Roads, for orders.  
Boston, Dec 20—Sld: Schs Beth W Smith, St. Stephen, N B; Arthur J Parker, Plympton.  
Portland, Dec 20—Arr: Str Michigan Finch, Liverpool; Sch Quetay, St John, N B, for Boston.  
Portland, Dec 20, 1915.  
Portland Approach, Me.  
Old Anthony Gas and Whistling Buoy, 22, registered December 19, having been found burning dimly; heretofore erroneously reported extinguished.  
Seacoast of Maine.  
Boon Island Ledge Gas and Whistling Buoy, BIL, registered December 17, having been found showing improper characteristics.  
Pigeon Bay, Me.  
Turtle Island Ledge Bell Buoy, 2, reported adrift December 20, will be replaced as soon as practicable.