

FIRE INSURANCE EXPERTS NOT PLEASED WITH ST. JOHN

Report of Representatives of National Board of Fire Underwriters, Now in Hands of N. B. Underwriters, Contains Some Sensational Statements as to Conditions in This City.

It will be recalled that last summer four men from the National Board of Fire Underwriters spent some three or four weeks in the city charting and crawling it from every angle of fire risk. They dealt with the fire hazards in various phases, the fire fighting facilities, water supply, fire department, fire alarm system and fire department auxiliaries, and their conclusions are now presented in a report to the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters, just published.

They find that St. John is a hilly city with heavy grades. 53 per cent of streets, of which about four miles are paved. The paved streets in fair condition, the rest mainly poor. That the city is subject to high winds, as the records show that during last ten years winds of twenty-five miles an hour or over occurred an average of 193 times a year, the direction largely from the northwest.

Gross Fire Losses.

The gross fire losses for past five years, which were compiled from insurance losses paid, were \$1,127,525, varying between \$57,462 in 1911 to \$440,000 in 1912, of which amount \$300,000 was on the government elevator. The annual number of fires varied between 154 in 1915 and 237 in 1913, with an average loss of \$1,080 per fire, a very high figure. Based on population of 52,000, the average annual number of fires per 1,000 was 4.02, a moderate figure, and the average annual loss per capita was \$4.34—a high figure.

The Water Supply.

In dealing with the water supply the officials of the water department are progressive and capable. Plans in general complete but records of consumption were lacking. The fire service and emergency provisions were good. Loch Lomond furnished an ample and reliable supply for an extensive growth of the city, the head works were well arranged and of permanent construction. The supply line was single for three-sevenths of the entire distance and the reinforced concrete section of it in bad shape. The capacity of the entire line was insufficient to furnish adequate fire flow under the present consumption conditions. They found the per capita consumption extremely high. In the high value districts the pressure under present conditions was not sufficient to allow the installation of sprinkler systems or the use of hose from the hydrants. They found the carrying capacity of the main arteries to the principal mercantile districts and to the North End inadequate. The supply of hydrants sufficient in number but not large enough in size.

On the West Side they found the source of supply ample but the supply lines not sufficient to meet demands. The average daily consumption was high.

Recommendations.

They recommend in connection with the water supply: That the work of paralleling the line through the Dry Lake be completed as soon as possible, and that a new 24-inch supply line to Lake Lattimer be completed within five years. That a leakage survey of the distribution system, and a thorough inspection of plumbing fixtures be made immediately—this has already been begun—and that the department adopt the policy of metering all new services and ten per cent. annually of the old services for the next ten years.

That a 20-inch main be laid in Waterloo, Sydney, Charlotte, Kings Square and the north side of Kings Square; that a 20-inch main be laid from Gilbert's Lane to Lansdowne; that 16-inch mains be laid in Prince William street, Union and Crown streets and Queen street; that a 12-inch main be laid from Lansdowne Avenue to Newman street, and that all supply pipes to hydrants be 8-inch. That all the small fire hydrants be replaced within five years by hydrants of the size now being set and that a number of additional hydrants be placed in the principal mercantile district. For the West Side that a new 24-inch supply main be laid from Spruce Lake to the reservoir and that the pump mill be supplied by a 12-inch main.

Fire Department.

They found the fire department lacking in many features. The apparatus too small and the fully paid force undermanned. They found the chief experienced and the supervision good, but thought a higher standard of efficiency could be reached by systematic training and regular drills.

The auto engine was a good one but the steam engine they found were out of date. The hose wagons were good but too light to carry a sufficient quantity of hose. The aerial truck was obsolete and the chemical service lacked portable extinguishers. Not enough hose was kept on hand. The horses they found to be well trained and in good condition but found the fire stations not as good as they might be. The responses to box alarms were fully arranged and the fire methods fairly good and the department had done as good work as could be expected under present conditions.

Fire Alarm System.

They found the fire alarm system for the city proper of satisfactory type but that the superintendent had too many duties to perform to give it proper attention. The whole fire alarm service was endangered by the location of the headquarters in a building not properly protected. The apparatus was of modern type and in good condition but the batteries were poorly mounted. The method of handling telephone calls was unsatisfactory and improvement should be made in this respect. They recommended that fire alarm headquarters be removed to a fireproof building; that the St. John West system be combined with the city proper and additional apparatus be provided, in particular a motor-generator charging set in duplicate for charging batteries; that a number of additional boxes be placed; that all circuits be placed underground where at all possible.

Structural Conditions and Hazards.

They found the laws governing building construction not at all adequate as from a fire protection standpoint, many essential features had been omitted. Chimney walls were not thick enough.

WORKING GIRL FALLS HEIRESS TO THOUSANDS

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, Nov. 21.—A Fredericton girl, Miss Margaret Halliday, is one of two heirs to an estate valued at \$30,000. Miss Halliday is a niece of the late Charles Halliday who recently died at Beach farm, Vancouver, B. C., and his personal property was bequeathed to his two nieces, Mrs. Dalton Watson of Edmonton, Alta., and Miss Halliday. Charles Halliday was a native of Ireland and came to Canada about thirty years ago. He was one of the most successful farmers in British Columbia and accumulated considerable wealth in that province.

The Fredericton young lady, like her deceased uncle, is also a native of Ireland, having been born in Kilmee. She came to Canada about a year ago and has since been residing in this city, being employed at the residence of Very Rev. Dean Neales. Her parents are both living in Ireland but will probably come to Canada within a short time.

GREECE MAY DECLARE WAR

Athens, Nov. 20, via London, Nov. 21.—It is learned that while the son of the late Aristide Briand, the French premier, that King Constantine recall former Premier Venizelos in meeting with opposition in Athens, sentiment in favor of the King accepting the other principal suggestion, namely that he declare war on Bulgaria, is growing.

WORKING IN BEHALF OF PROVINCE

London, Nov. 21 (Montreal Gazette cable).—Hon. James Murray, minister of agriculture for New Brunswick, is conferring with people in various quarters with regard to an immigration scheme on behalf of his province. He asserts that recent legislation in this respect is the most advanced step of the kind taken in Canada. The scheme provides for the establishment of community settlements, made up of returned soldiers or any soldiers desiring to settle on the land, each community to radiate from a central farm, and to be thoroughly equipped with implements for the immigrants to get a good start.

VON JAGOW QUILTS HIS POSITION

Amsterdam via London, Nov. 21.—Gottlieb Von Jagow, the German minister of foreign affairs, has resigned, according to a Berlin despatch. The condition of his health is given as the cause of his resignation. Dr. Alfred Zimmerman, under-secretary of foreign affairs, the despatch adds, will probably succeed Herr Von Jagow.

Another Maine Man Victim of Gunner

Milbrook, Me., Nov. 21.—Daniel Carrigan, about 60 years old, was fatally shot yesterday. He was mistaken for a bear by Elias Simon, a Syrian, who was chopping wood a short distance from the village, saying his rifle with him. He says that when the mill whistle sounded for noon he started for home and had gone but a short distance when he heard a rustling in the underbrush. He says that he shouted several times, thinking that perhaps the bear would make a break for the open.

More Men Wanted.

About 2,500 men are required for the Army Service Corps. The recruiting offices have received word to recruit for the corps. The men enlisting in the A. S. C. will be stationed in the city for a while, after which they will be sent to Toronto, thence overseas.

Robert Maguire.

The death is announced in East Boston of Robert Maguire, formerly of St. John. He was thirty-eight years old. The funeral will be held today from his late residence, 224 Lexington street.

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SIR SAM HUGHES.

(Maritime Baptist).
The resignation of Sir Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia and Defense was noted in this column last week. This scarcely came as a surprise to anyone who was conversant with conditions in that important department. Yet we believe the news was received with genuine regret by a large number, even of those who were not his personal friends or political supporters. No impartial student of events will question his integrity or his honesty of purpose. His firm and unyielding attitude on the drink question won for him the gratitude of many. We asserted, at the close of the inquiry into contracts for fuses, that the only weakness in the Minister of Militia revealed by that inquiry was a lack of judgment. When to that we add that he was neither a politician nor politician the whole story has been told. The egotism of which many accused him was perhaps nothing more than had judgment. Yet it is scarcely possible, in view of all the facts, to acquit him of this charge. It is probable that the limit was by no means disagreeable to him, a weakness which is scarcely uncommon. He had, moreover, an overgrown and unfounded confidence in himself and his own policies. In view of these things it was not strange that he finally found himself out of harmony with his colleagues, and ultimately out of the cabinet. Yet for the service he rendered in a time of need Canada will not be ungrateful.

AN ASSAULT CASE.

Case of the King vs. Peter Holist came up before His Honor Judge Armstrong yesterday morning without a jury. The prisoner was charged with assaulting Charles Birch and doing grievous bodily harm. Both are Austrians. The trouble occurred about two weeks ago on a C. P. R. train between this city and Grand Bay. The complainant's teeth were knocked out, his lip split, and he was otherwise badly cut and bruised about the face. Several witnesses were examined after which the prisoner was remanded. U. J. Sweeney appeared for the defendant.

Canadian Officers Decorated.

On Saturday last in Buckingham Palace a large number of officers including Maj. T. M. McAvilly of St. John were invested with honors by the King for conspicuous or distinguished service at the front. Major McAvilly, who on more than one occasion has been reported for bravery, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Order. Other Canadian officers decorated on Saturday were: Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; Chaplain William Denton; Distinguished Service Order; Lieut. Col. Raymond Brutinel (Machine Gun Section); Lieut. Col. Charles Mitchell (attached to the local forces); Lieut. Col. Ethelbert Hardy (Medical Corps); Captain Charles Kimey (19th Battalion).

(14th Battalion), Major Wilfred White (2nd Battalion), Captain Charles Con-

thman (10th Battalion), Capt. Thomas O'Hagan (Medical Corps), Capt. Vernon Powell (Artillery), Capt. Lawrence Whitmore (Medical Corps), Chaplain Workman, Lieut. Cornelius Keller (4th Battalion), Lieut. Harry Quimley (Signalers).
Royal Red Cross: Myra Goodeve.

Soldiers Too Young.

Pte. Russell Scott, who left Backville as a member of the 14th Battalion, in a letter to a friend in Backville, states that there are too young soldiers in England who are too young to go to France. He said that the war office thought it best not to allow them to go across the channel for the present at least.

DIED.

BELL—Entered into rest this morning, November 21st, after a short illness, Janet L., beloved wife of William T. Bell, leaving her husband and one son to mourn.
Funeral on Thursday afternoon, at 2.30 o'clock, from her late residence, 195 Union street.

CLAYTON—in this city, on the 20th inst., Muriel B. Clayton, eldest daughter of Thomas and Clara Clayton, aged six years and two months. Funeral will be held on Wednesday at 2.30 from St. Paul's church to Fairhill. (Fredericton papers please copy).

Children Cry for Fletcher's CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

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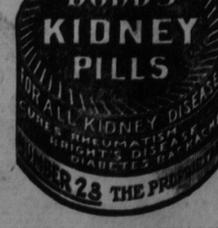
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