GAGETOWN BANNERS FLUTTER IN TRENCHES CHRISTMAS DAY

Many Letters from Queens County Boys Express Gratitude for Comforts Sent

Trench Stoves Most Popular, Removing Danger of Drawing Fire—Boys Think of Slackers When They Face Difficulties—Some Cases of Illness.

Letters from the front, telling how Christmas passed with the Gagetown boys, scattered among the battalions on the western front, and elsewhere, make interesting reading for eager friends and relatives, and help to fill another page in that glorious book of records the Canadians are writing, day after day. Many of the letters refer to the Christmas boxes sent by the Gagetown Women's Institute.

Corporal G. K. Sheils, of the 14th battalion, Royal Montreal Regiment, thus writes to a friend in Gagetown:

"I was very glad indeed to get your letter, which arrived in the Christmas afternoon mail. The Christmas box came in at the same time and I would ask you to express to the women's institute my sincere thanks and appreciation of their kindness in remembering a lonely soldier on that day. I would especially thank the genius who suggested the small trench stove. This is the most useful thing it is possible to send to an infantryman at the front today. Every day or so we get into trenches where to make a fire or smoke of any kind is to invite half a dozen three-inch shrapnel; "whizbangs" being the name these little pests go by in the firing line. Just at present we are in a trench where we are able to make fires. They shell us here whether we have fires or not, so we make fires just for spite. But there the little trench stove comes in very useful. While on trench duty, between midnight and 3 o'clock this morning, I made some tea on it, and took some along the trench to the fellows on sentry, and they all gave thanks to the Women's Institute of Gagetown. By the way, I have my little Gagetown banner up in one end of my dugout. I haven't seen any of the Gagetown boys for a long time. However, it is rumored that our brigade will be given a three weeks' rest soon, and I shall try to look some of them up. This rest has been promised us for the last six months, so we don't place much dependence on it now.

My chum and I had eight days in London on leave a few weeks ago, and had a grand time. The only bad part is the coming back to the front. From Trench No. —— to the Gaiety was certainly quite a contrast. We saw a number of good shows while there and, needless to say, were very regular patrons of the best restaurants. It was a welcome change to walk in and order a dinner, instead of having to cook it ourselves.

Christmas Under Difficulties.

I wish some of the grumblers and slackers at home in Canada could have seen the lads in old No. "C" Platoon spending their Christmas eve. We had been in a support trench for some days, and getting flooded out of that, we retired to the cellar of an old ruined farm house behind the trench. On the morning of Dec. 24, water began to appear on the floor of the cellar, and by night it was nearly two feet deep. We couldn't move out of the cellar during the day, or the Huns would spot us, so we had to stick it out, and stand in the water all day. It wasn't exactly a cheerful outlook for Christmas eve, but don't think for a moment that we all sat down and wept over our unhappy fate. That's not the way the first contingent does business. We had a sing-song for a while, had two games of bridge going, and a series of selections on the harmonica by one of our talented artists. Not so bad under the circumstances, was it? We were relieved late that night, and came out to rest billets for Christmas.

I must now get busy on the duty lists for tonight. I am at present senior corporal in my platoon, and have to make out all these duty lists, etc. Again thanking you and those others who helped to make Christmas a reality over here, I am,

Yours sincerely,
KINGSLEY SHEILS.

German Treachery.

Lance-Corporal Alfred Ashburne, who is with the first battalion, thus describes the Christmas "festivities" of his company:

"I am writing this letter Christmas day, and I will never forget it. I have just finished my dinner. We had stew, which is a common thing, and a piece of Christmas pudding. That was quite a treat, indeed. Allen serves the dinner today. We just came out of the trenches Christmas ave, and it was raining hard. We are only about a mile and a half back from the firing line now, but out billets are very good. We are all in a barn. I sleep on the barn floor and the door facing the treaches is just full of bullet holes, from stray bullets. I expect we will get some before we get out of here. This Christmas will bring sad news to some homes. We had a few casualties this time in. One of the 3rd battalion boys got killed today. Both sides were singing today in the trenches, and not only that, but waving to each other and beckoning to each other to come over, till this poor fellow got a bullet through his head. These Germans are treacherous devils.

We all received the box from the Women's Institute and thank you one and all for your kindness. The burner comes in very handy. The cake was very tasty—I more than enjoyed that, and the chocolates. I am sure we all appreciated the kindness of the people of Gagetown. I don't know how we will be able to repay you all for your good work." (As if a soldier needed to say that!)

We go out in parties to the trenches, digging. We have a big party out today, and another one is going out tonight. The trenches are in an awful state. My platoon was on one communication trench four days, digging it out, and when we left it yesterday it was worse than ever—about three feet of mud and water. Several nights we had to get up and try to get the water run off. I must finish now. All the boys are well. With best wishes, I remain

"Yours truly,
"A. ASHBURNE."

Captured Postcard.

A German postcard has been received by Mrs. T. H. Crawford, Upper Hampstead, from Private Gavin Hamilton, of the 5th battalion. The card, which is, of course, written in German, shows a German soldier with knapsack and rifle on his back and a bunch of flowers on his coat, standing at the vine-covered gateway of a pretty cottage, with a charming fraulein. In the clouds at one corner of the picture appears a vision of his future exploits—a horde of Huns, with fixed bayonets, rushing savagely from a wood to capture two small Frenchmen, standing patiently in the foreground, one of them waving a white flag. Loving Good Wishes, runs the motto in one corner, and in the other, the following verse:

"And whenever there greets you a star or a flower,
Think of your dear one afar,
Who ever in joyous or woeful hour,
Thinks only of you where you are."

On the other side ,the message, which is addressed to Musketeer Karl Kuhnert, Infantry Regiment No. II., 12th Company, N. F. Division, 238rd Brigade, is not without its pathos and romance: "Dear Karl.—Now will I let you hear once again from us. I am now back again in Neisse. How are you? Well, I hope. I am yet free—still the same as ever. But come back soon. Now be heartily greeted and kissed. Anna Muller. Please answer." The card bears no stamp, only the postmark, and "Field Post," which apparently corresponds to "On Active Service."

Private Hamilton gives the following account of how the card came into his possession:

"I think I told you I was a scout, some time ago. A scout's work, when we are in the trenches, is to go out between the lines, that is, between the German trenches and ours, which are 300 yards apart. On Christmas night I was sent out to report on a certain place with another man. All we carry is revolvers and hand grenades. About 230 yards from our trench I saw something lying on the road, about ten yards ahead of me. I knew it was a German right away, but I did not know whether he was dead or alive. I soon had him covered with my revolver. When we watched him for fifteen minutes, but not a move did he make, so we crawled up to him slowly, but he was stone dead. His head had been blown off. It seemed a hard thing to do, to rob a dead man, but everything is fair in war, so we took everything off him that would give us information. He kept a diary, so we found quite a bit out of that. Our captain could understand German, so he read quite a lot of it to us. We also found what regiment was in front of us. The postcard was one that was in his pocket-book. All his belongings were then sent to brigade headquarters. The next night we went out and buried him, only fifty yards from their trenches. It just shows you what cowards the Germans are, when they can't come out fifty yards to bury their own dead, and we can come out 250 yards and do it for them.

I suppose you saw in the papers that the Germans sent over some gas here. That was the first time I ever smelt the gas, and I have had all I want of it. It was early on Sunday morning, Dec. 19. I came out of the hut about 6 p.m., and was standing there, smoking a cigarette, and m yeyes began to water. I thought it was the cigarette that was doing it, so I threw it away. I smelt something in the air, but I never thought of gas till someone told me what it was. We were seven miles from where the gas was sent over, so you may guess what like it is. If you once smell it you will never forget it.

They Germans built a barrier between our lines, so we went over one morning about 4 o'clock and blew it up, and took two prisoners, without any losses to ourselves.

Well, Christmas is past again, and everything was very quiet here. Christmas was the quietest day I have seen since we came over here. There was hardly a shot fired. I had no dinner on Christmas Day. I had breakfast at 10 a.m. and tea at 4 p.m., but we are going to have a big feed on New Year's Day.

Allen Otty Ill.

Private John H. Palmer, of No. 2 Canadian Field Ambulance, spent his Christmas "somewhere in Belgium." The country there is already showing signs of spring and the grass is quite green in many places. Writing to Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Otty, he says:

I was very sorry to hear that Allen had been sick. He passed through our hands yesterday. I was in the next room while he was in our dressing station and did not know he was there until he had gone. I would certainly like to have seen him. I first ran across him one day when I was up in the trenches, and since then I have seen him several times. The only Gagetown boys that I have not met out here are Kingsley Sheils and Walter Marsh.

This letter has been interrupted just here. Six of us aave just been up to one of the battalion aid posts to help carry down two wounded men. We had to carry them on our shoulders for over a mile, and the road is so dark that if it were not for the star shells, we could hardly see at all.

The weather here continues to be the same as ever,—rain, rain, rain. I don't believe we have had three perfectly fine days in the last two months. The frost has been nothing to speak of. We have not had more than a dozen nights of it, and the snow it "na pus,"—this is soldier's French, I leave you to decipher it.

With the 55th.

Sergeant John J. Graham, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Graham, of Lawfield, is another man from the vicinity of Gagetown, who, though it was difficult to leave, felt it his duty to serve his country, and is now doing good work at Bramshott Camp. Writing to a friend here, he says:

Just a few lines to let you know that your Christmas card and good wishes arrived today, and I need not say that I appreciate them very much. They mean a lot to a man so far from home on this business. We are having a tough time of it here. It rains most of the time, and is very damp and muddy. There are about 16,000 Canadians here now and more coming. I think this would be a nice place in summer. Even now, the grass is green, and the vegetable gardens are nice. All we wish now is that we could get to the firing line, and have some pastime. It is too slow here for anything. We don't hear much war news. Anwhow I am doing my bit. How about some of the Gagetown slackers—particularly the large families.

OBITUARY

Captain Samuel Williams.

The death of Captain Samuel Williams occurred on Saturday at his home, Carter's Point, Kings county. He was seventy-nine years of age and is survived by his wife, one son and three daughters.

Mrs. Arthur Craft.

Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The death of Mrs. Abbie G. Craft, wife of Arthur Craft of this city, took place yesterday, after an illness of only three days, at her home, 148 Acadia street. She is survived by her husband, two daughters—Mrs. James Whipple, of this city, and Mrs. H. Fothergill of Vermont—one son, Harry, of this city; her father, five brothers and four sisters.

Benjamin Evans.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 31.—Benjamin Evans, well known along the Nashwaak, died at the Victoria Hospital on Saturday night after a lingering illness. He was aged sixty-seven and a widower.

George F. Raymond.

Woodstock, N. B., Jan. 31—(Special)—Word has reached here of the death of George F. Raymond, of Bellingham (Wash.) He was born in Woodstock and went west in 1877, and for some years was in business in Seattle, where he was a member of the Seattle council. He also served in the territorial legislature. He moved to Bellingham in 1900 and at his death was mayor of that city. He was inaugurated Dec. 4 and presided for the first and last time Jan. 11. Hon. W. P. Jones and William T. Blake, of this town, are relatives.

Katherine Sullivan.

Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The death took place yesterday of Mrs. Katherine Sullivan, widow of John Sullivan, at the residence of her son-in-law, Wm. McCready, 628 Main street. She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. John Reardon, White's Cove, Queens county, and Mrs. John Holland, Mrs. William McCready and Mrs. Frank McDermott, all of this city.

Mrs. E. J. Corbett.

The death of Mrs. E. J. Corbett, of Middle Simonds, Carleton county, occurred at her home there on Friday, Jan. 28, after a brief illness of four days. The funeral, which was held on Sunday, was one of the largest that has ever taken place in that vicinity. The service, which was held at the Baptist church and which was conducted by Rev. Mr. Quigg, was a most impressive one. He referred to her character, her kindness to all with whom she came in contact, and the high esteem in which she was held by all who knew her. She is survived by her husband, one daughter, Mrs. Judson Rideout, of Middle Simonds, and three sons—George London, with the 55th Battalion,now in England; Wallace and Myles, both of Houlton (Me.) Mrs. Thos. Rathburn, of Rothesay, is a sister. Mrs. Rathburn returned home yesterday after attending the funeral.

Jude Robichaud.

Richibucto, Jan. 31—The death of Jude Robichaud, for twenty-three years keeper of the Lights at the South Beach, occurred on the morning of Wednesday, the 26th inst., at his home in town. Mr. Robichaud was taken with an attack of grip about two weeks before his death; apparently recovered from it, and going out too soon, suffered relapse. Pneumonia developed, with fatal result. Besides his wife, who was Miss Annie O'Brien, of the South Side. Mr. Robichaud leaves twelve children, seven sons and five daughters. The sons are William, of the South Side; Alexander, Richibucto; Albert, Quebec; Joseph, Richibucto; Richard, Tom and Theodore, at home. The daughters are Mrs. J. H. Jones, New York; Mrs. Fred. Mezerall, Richibucto; Miss Annie Robichand, New York; Miss Lizzie, Boston; Miss Alice, Pennford (Me.)

The funeral took place at 9.30 o'clock on Saturday morning, the services being conducted by Rev. J. J. McLaughlin. The following were the pall bearers: Leon Daigle, Anthony O'Brien, Alex. Cormier, James Flanagan, Nicholas Mezerall, Angus Durant.

Mrs. Sarah E. Skinner.

The death is announced of Mrs. Sarah E. Skinner, widow of W. H. Skinner. She was the daughter of the late Captain Albert Betts, a well known citizen in his day. She leaves one brother, Captain Henry Betts, now of New York and formerly of Liverpool, and one sister, Mrs. George B. Hegan,of 51 Hazen street, St. John. A. O. and Fred Skinner are brothers-in-law of the deceased. The late Mr. Skinner conducted a grocery business at the Oak Hall corner, on King street, before the fire of 1877.

Helen M. Newcombe.

Thursday, Feb. 3.

The death of Helen M., the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Avery Newcombe, occurred yesterday morning at the home of her parents, Charlotte street, West St. John. The child never had enjoyed good health and recently had suffered severely. Besides her parents, she is survived by one sister. The funeral service was held last evening by Rev. James Jenner at the home of the parents, and the body will be taken on the early train today to Hopewell Cape for interment there.

Mrs. William Ganter.

Mrs. William Ganter died at her home, 74 Chapel street, Tuesday evening, after a month's illness. She was a native of the Annapolis Valley and was a daughter of the late Louis Walsh. Besides her husband she is survived by two sons, Frank, who is a member of the 26th battalion now fighting in France, and Bert, R., who was a member of the first Canadian contingent, and who was invalided home after sustaining injuries at the front; also one daughter, Susie, and one sister living in Providence, (R. I.)

Mr. J. S. McLeod.

J. S. McLeod, Halifax, died on Sunday, aged 59 years. He leaves his wife, one son, Hugh, late of the Royal Bank, now a member of the 40th Battalion, C. E. F., in England, and three daughters, Mrs. G. Bell, of Saskatchewan, Agnes and Margaret at home. The deceased was born at St. Andrews Scotland, and was a member of St. Matthias' church, of which he had served a term as church warden. For the past 24 years he had been employed as clerk and storekeeper for the Royal Engineers, the latter part of the time with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He was a veteran of the Egyptian war of 1882, having taken part in the battle of Tel El Kebir. The deceased was a member of the Royal British Veterans' Society, Court Royal Jubilee, I. O. O. F., and Loyal Army and Navy Lodge, I. O. F. M. U.

Miss F. Fairweather.

Thursday, Feb. 3.

Many will learn with regret of the death of Miss Fannie Fairweather, daughter of Dr. W. A. Fairweather, of Sydney (C. B.), which occurred at half past ten o'clock yesterday morning at her residence. Her father practiced for some years in Rothesay (N. B.) She leaves besides her father, one brother, William of the Canadian naval service, and one sister, Helen, at home.

William Dunnett.

Newcastle, Feb. 2—The death of Wm Dunnett of Trout Brook, from pneumonia and pleurisy, occurred yesterday at noon. Deceased leaves five children—Douglas, at home; Weldon, of the 132nd Battalion here; and Misses Annie, Dorothy and Elizabeth, at home. Deceased was a prominent Methodist and orangeman, and will be buried under the joint auspices of those bodies tomorrow afternoon at 1.30.

Edmund Mutch.

Newcastle, Feb. 2—The death of Edmund Mutch of Silliker, whose mother died about ten days ago, occurred yesterday, from pneumonia. Deceased leaves a widow, several children, his father and following brothers and sisters: Harvey Mutch, Bangor; Mrs. John White, Shiloh (Me.); Chas. Samuel and David, of Silliker, and Mrs. Fred. Chambers, of Halcomb.

James Brogan.

Chipman, N. B., Feb. 1—The death of James Brogan, a well known and much respected resident of this place, occurred at his home here on Tuesday evening after less than a week's illness. The deceased, who was sixty-four years of age, had lived here all his life and was a man of sterling qualities who had many friends throughout the neighborhood, all of whom will hear with sorrow at his sudden death. Mr. Brogan leaves to mourn his loss a wife, seven sons, Alexander and Charles, Vancouver; George, Chicago; Samuel in Maine; Heriam with the 104th Battalion at Fredericton; Fred. and Frank, at home and six daughters, Tressa and Mary, Halifax; Mrs. James McNally, Mrs. Norman Smith, residing here, and Edna and Esther at home.

WEDDINGS

London-Izzard.

Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The wedding of Arthur Randolph London, to Miss Alice Izzard, was performed last evening by the Rev. Dr. Hutchinson, at the residence of the officiating clergyman. Mr. and Mrs. London will take up their residence in Sheriff street.

Bent-Donner.

The wedding of Clifford H. Bent, son of Mr. and Mrs Harry Bent, of Digby, N. S., to Miss Bessie E. Donner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Donner of West St. John, took place on Friday afternoon at the home of Rev. W. R. Robinson, who performed the ceremony. Miss Florence Bent of Digby, sister of the bridegroom, was among those present at the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Bent will reside in West St. John.

Thompson-Alexander.

Wednesday, Feb. 2.

The marriage of Miss Lyda M. D. Alexander, daughter of W. J. Alexander, of Thorne avenue, to Louis C. Thompson, took place quietly yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents. Rev. Canon Hoyt officiated and only a few close friends witnessed the ceremony. Last night Mr. and Mrs. Thompson left by train for Boston, New York and other American cities, and on their return they will reside at Thorne avenue.

Inches-Pierce.

St. Stephen, N. B., Feb. 1—(Special)—A pretty wedding was solemnized this afternoon, when Miss Lou Pierce, daughter of Rev. Thomas Pierce, was married to Lieut. W. W. Inches, of "D" company, 104th Battalion. The ceremony was performed at the Methodist parsonage, Oak Bay, by the father of the bride. The couple were unattended, only immediate relatives of the contracting parties being present. Lieutenant and Mrs. Inches left for St. John and will then go to Woodstock (N. B.), where the groom's company is at present stationed.

122 OTTAWA SCHOOL TEACHERS UNPAID FOR OVER A YEAR, STRIKE.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 3—Seventeen Ottawa bilingual schools were closed at one o'clock this afternoon, leaving 4,000 children in the streets, when 122 French teachers went on strike because they have not been paid their salaries since September, 1914.

OLEMNTRA	BEUQCE	OTOROTN	PNIENGIW

Can you arrange the above sets of jumbled letters into the names of four well known large canadian cities? If so, you can share in the distribution of the prizes below. It is no easy task. But by patience and perseverance you can probably make out 2 or 3 of them. To the person who can make out the largest number we will give the sum of One Hundred Dollars. To the person making out the second largest number the sum of fifty dollars. To the person making the third largest number the sum of thirty dollars. To the person making the fourth largest number the sum of twenty dollars. Should two persons send answers equally correct, the first two prizes will be divided between them (each receiving $75.00). Should three send in equally correct answers, the first three prizes will have to be divided (each receiving $50.00). Should four persons send equally correct answers, the whole sum of $200.00 will be equally divided (each receiving $50.00) and so on in like proportions, provided they comply with a simple condition about which we will write as soon as answers are received. We do not want a cent of your money when you answer this advertisement. If you can find any of the names, write us to-day enclosing stamp for our reply. Do not delay.

$200 IN CASH And Number of Valuable Premiums GIVEN AWAY FREE.

Address: CANADIAN MEDICINE CO., Dept. 72 Montreal, Que.

MAIN PARLIAMENT BUILDING, OTTAWA, DESTROYED BY FIRE

(Continued from page 1.)

ings of parliament and cause considerable confusion before the house can again resume its labors.

A cabinet council will be called tomorrow morning to deal with the situation, to prepare plans at once for the renewal of the building, and to devise ways and means of continuing the legislative work of the session. It is certain, however, that the house will not reassemble in the old building until the next session of parliament. Meanwhile it is possible that one of the churches in the city or the Victoria Museum building will be used as a temporary commons chamber providing the senate chamber is not available.

Early in the fire one of the firemen at work on the roof, near the reading room, slipped and fell to the ground. He was carried unconscious into the library where he recovered sufficiently in half an hour or so to be removed to the hospital. It is understood that he is suffering from concussion of the brain.

Red Chamber Doomed.

At 12.30 the main tower was a gigantic torch of flame and the fire was steadily eating its way into the senate side. The red chamber itself is doomed, but the firemen still hope to check the flames in the extreme east and west portions of the building.

Heroic efforts are being made to save the library but it is doubtful whether they can succeed. The flames have crept along the vaulted passage leading just to the door of the library. Troops have been mobilized and are busy salvaging much of the most important books and documents as can be assembled in haste. Salvage work is also going on with the furniture, pictures, etc., in the chamber of the speaker of the senate, while some salvage has also been saved from the rooms of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Robert Borden in the extreme west of the building.

General Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia, pending an official investigation of the fire, is not inclined to attribute it to incendiary work by some alien enemy.

According to the story told by the policeman just adjacent to the reading room, the fire started among some files of paper. At first it looked like merely a small blaze and he tried to extinguish it with a chemical extinguisher. However, just at that moment, he says, the door leading into the senate rooms was opened and a strong draught of air blew through, fanning the flames among the piles of papers.

Four More Missing.

It is feared at 1.30 this morning that four more deaths must be added to the toll of the fire. Two dominion policemen and two employes of the house are definitely reported missing. They are Robert Fanning, attached to the speaker's staff; and Alfred Desjardines in the commons post office department, and two Dominion policemen whose names are not yet available.

This brings the known fatalities to six. The four men with several others were helping to fight the fire in the rooms below the speaker's chamber when the roof fell in. They have not been since seen and others working with them who managed to escape are certain that they were caught by the falling debris. It will be impossible to look for the bodies until sometime tomorrow.

Shortly before 2 o'clock Fire Chief Graham stated that he was reasonably confident the fire fighters would be able to save the library, the quarters of the speaker of the senate and the extreme portion of the eastern wing, together with the fireproof addition to the western wing which was built six or seven years ago.

The East and West blocks, departmental buildings, separate from the main building, are unscathed.

Tower Collapsed.

The roof of the tower collapsed at 1.30, and fell to the northeast with a roar, sending a shower of sparks and embers into the sky.

The main building of the house of parliament is doomed to total destruction. The loss cannot be estimated in money. The building was valued at about $1,500,000, but the contents are of inestimable value. There is no insurance.

At midnight the commons and senate chambers had been destroyed, and as the great clock boomed out the hour flames were swirling up the magnificent tower and licking their way to its top.

The parliamentary library at the rear will likely be saved, although soldiers are busy carrying out the valuable volumes.

Two of the spectacular incidents of the fire were the escape of one of the employes in the boiler room through a tunnel with his clothes on fire and the carrying of one of the restaurant girls, who had fainted, down the stairs from the top story through the smoke by John Corrigan, assistant steward of the restaurant.

Grave fears are entertained for the safety of J. B. Laplante, assistant clerk of the house. When he left the commons chamber he started for his rooms on the second story. Since then apparently no one has seen him and all inquiries by anxious friends have failed to locate him. It is feared that he was overcome by smoke and perished in his rooms. No search can be made, of course, for some hours yet.

Mayor Martin's Story.

Mayor Mederic Martin, of Montreal, told his story to the Canadian Press shortly after his arrival at the Chateau Laurier. He escaped uninjured, but was mourning the loss of his fur coat, cap and other wearing apparel.

"I was on my way from the chamber to my room, which is near the library," said Mayor Martin, "and had gone through the door on the east side of the house of commons chamber, when I heard an explosion. Instantaneously flames shot out from the reading room, and I realized that there was a blaze. My first thought was of the fire extinguisher, which was nearby, but policemen were then endeavoring to press it into service, and I turned, running into the chamber.

"Deputy Speaker Rhodes was in the chair, and everything there was tranquil until I dashed through the door and shouted: 'Fire—and a big one!' I turned toward my room again, but by that time the corridor was filled with smoke and flames were begining to shoot toward the chamber. I then cried for the members to get out, and ran around by room 16, giving the alarm there and escaping into the open air. I saw them helping one of the ministers, I think it was Mr. Burrell, out of his room, and later I saw Dr. Clark, who had been burned about the face and hands.

"I put in an order for the Montreal fire brigade. I notified Chief Tremblay to send as many men as possible. Flames shot along the corridors at an awful rate, making it seem just a few moments until the whole place was black with smoke, making it impossible to see. There was not much confusion on the floor of the house, and to this many of the members probably owe their escape."

No Fire Escapes.

Major-General Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia, was in the crowd at this point and he, too, helped gallantly in the work of rescue. It was very difficult to get the men and women out here, as they were sixty feet above ground and there was not a fire escape to be seen.

Fire Chief Graham's men, aided by members of the 77th Regiment and the city and dominion police, rushed ladders up. For a time it looked as though their efforts would be fruitless, as the flames licked up the intervening space in no time, and soon threatened the room in which the unfortunate employes had been trapped. The ladder remained cool, however, and in about fifteen minutes ladders were run up to both sides of the room and they were able to scale down. Some of the firemen remained in the place long after they had saved those inside, and suffered severely from smoke.

One or two crashes shook the place as the sections of the roof collapsed, but the corner remained intact. Chief Graham's men did great work at this point, though it was necessary to relieve them from time to time.

Perhaps the greatest handicap to the firemen was the lack of fire escapes. The icy walks made things more difficult, and two or three were knocked out in their efforts to hustle the hose couplings.

Hon. Robert Rogers lost his overcoat, and scores of the members were in the same plight.

Work of Incendiary?

Many seemed to take it for granted that the disastrous outbreak in the seat of parliament was the work of an incendiary, and, in the absence of confirmation, the stories of Mayor Martin, Mr. Bradbury and others were eagerly listened to.

Thomas McNutt, M. P., for Saltcoats (Sask.), and Dr. Cash, M.P. for Yorkton (Sask.), had thrilling escapes. Both were in the lavatory when the fire assumed big proportions, but neither member knew that the building was on fire.

"I went in the wash room," said Mr. MacNutt, in telling his story, "and I had not been there three minutes when I opened the door and could see a mass of flames at the other end of the corridor. Dr. Cash came out at the same time. We could not go through that smoke and flame, so we looked around for a means of escape. We went to the nearest window. Never considering what was below, we seized the towels and made a rope with them. This rope of towels we tied to a stick which is used to open the windows. Dr. Cash went first through the window and down the rope. He must have fallen twenty feet. By now one of the caretakers, a French-Canadian, joined me. He came running along with a ladder. This we lowered and placed on the floor of the well outside. I went first and reached the ladder, with my feet. Then after making sure that it was safe, I called for the caretaker. He came through the window and I placed his feet onto the rungs of the ladder. This is how we got out. I never saw anything like it. There were six inches of water in the courtyard at that time."

Cornerstone Laid by Prince of Wales in 1860.

The first steps toward the erection of the massive Gothic pile that crowned Parliament Hill were taken in 1859, under the Macdonald-Cartier administration, and the governor-generalship of Sir Edmund B. Head, after the decision of the late Queen Victoria that the seat of government should be permanently located in Ottawa had finally prevailed against bitter opposition from a section of parliament. The design of Fuller & Jones was selected, and the contract awarded to Thomas McGreevy at $346,500, this amount being later deemed inadequate and increased. Work was begun on December 20, 1859, and in September of the following year the corner stone was laid by the then Prince of Wales (the late King Edward VII), the whole of the new capital being en fete for the historic occasion. Although completion was expected by 1862 it was not until 1866 that the building was far enough advanced for occupation.

The architecture was of pointed "Gothic" style, extremely picturesque and at the same time massive and imposing in appearance. Indeed, the house of commons building was conceded to be one of the most beautiful of its kind in any of the world's capitals. The outer facing of the walls was of local sandstone, while the dressings were in grey Ohio free stone.

The front facade of the commons building was 372 feet in length and three stories in height. The central tower was 160 feet in height, surmounted by crown and flagstaffs. The elevated positions of the structure made it appear much higher, and lent to the imposing nature of the handsome building.

Ten years ago extensive additions were made to the western wing by the Laurier government. The commons chamber was in the western wing of the building and the senate chamber in the eastern extension. The building was roughly oblong in form, with the library of parliament connected by a vaulted passage to the centre of the block. The library was one of the show places of the dominion, holding on its shelves and in its vaults scores of thousands of books of all kinds, many of them of inestimable value. The fire, though starting in the reading room immediately adjoining the library, burned in the opposite direction. Hundreds of volumes which were stacked above the reading room were destroyed.

The remainder of the building was occupied by offices, press room, restaurant, etc., all of which were destroyed or gutted.

The first session of parliament in the building was that of 1866, the year prior to confederation. The session opened on June 8, in the midst of the first "Fenian" invasion. This—the first sitting of parliament in the new capital—was the last of the old regime. On the first of July, 1867, the Confederation of British North America was royally celebrated in Ottawa.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PRODUCE IN ST. JOHN MARKETS

Very little change is noted in the prices of the various commodities during the past week. Flour has not made any further advance and provisions generally have not undergone any great change.

The contrary weather of the past week has caused a scarcity and consequent rise in the price of fresh codfish. As a result the wholesale price of this commodity has risen to six cents per pound, an advance over the previous week of two cents.

COUNTRY MARKET.

New potatoes, per bush	0.00	to	1.20
Beef, western	0.11	"	0.12½
Beef, country	0.07	"	0.10
Mutton, per lb	0.10	"	0.11½
Pork, per lb	0.09	"	0.12½
Veal, per lb	0.08	"	0.11
Eggs, case, per dozen	0.00	"	0.31½
Tub butter, per lb	0.25	"	0.27
Creamery butter,per lb.	0.34	"	0.37
Fowls, fresh killed, per lb	0.20	"	0.22
Fowls, frozen, per lb	0.14	"	0.16
Fresh chicken	0.25	"	0.28
Bacon	0.20	"	0.22
Ham	0.19	"	0.20½
Turkey	0.33	"	0.35
Cabbage, per doz	0.50	"	1.00
Squash	0.03½	"	0.04
Turnips, bbl	0.00	"	1.00
Retail prices are given for green goods:			
Radishes	0.00	"	0.05
Mushrooms	0.00	"	0.40
Cranberries	0.00	"	0.15

GROCERIES.

Choice seed raisins, 1s	0.10½	"	0.10¾
Fancy, do	0.10¾	"	0.11
Currants, cleaned, 1s	0.12	"	0.12½
Cheese, per lb	0.19	"	0.19½
Rice	4.90	"	5.00
Cream tartar, pure, box	0.50	"	0.53
Bicarb soda, per keg	2.90	"	3.00
Beans, white	4.25	"	4.30
Beans, yellow eye	4.50	"	4.55
Split peas, bags	6.25	"	6.50
Pot barley, bbls	6.20	"	6.35
Cornmeal, per bag	1.75	"	1.80
Granulated cornmeal	5.95	"	6.00
Liverpool salt per sack ex store	1.05	"	1.10

PROVISIONS.

Pork, Canadian mess	24.50	"	25.00
Pork, American clear	26.00	"	28.00
American plate beef	25.00	"	25.50
Lard, compound, tub	0.13	"	0.13¼
Lard, pure, tub	0.15	"	0.15¼
Molasses, fancy Barbados	0.46	"	0.47

SUGAR.

Standard granulated	6.75	"	6.80
United Empire, gran	6.65	"	6.70
Bright yellow	6.55	"	6.60
No. 1 yellow	6.35	"	6.40
Paris lumps	7.50	"	7.75

FLOUR, ETC.

Roller oatmeal	0.00	"	6.25
Standard oatmeal	0.00	"	6.75
Manitoba, high grade	0.00	"	8.05
Ontario, full patent	0.00	"	7.35

CANNED GOODS.

The following are the wholesale quotations per case:

Salmon, pinks	4.90	"	5.00
Salmon, red spring	7.75	"	8.25
Finnan haddies	4.50	"	4.60
Kippered herring	4.50	"	4.60
Clams	4.00	"	4.25
Oysters, 1s	1.70	"	1.75
Oysters, 2s	2.50	"	2.55
Corned beef, 1s	2.90	"	3.50
Peaches, 2s	1.75	"	1.80
Peaches, 3s	2.35	"	2.40
Pineapple, sliced	2.12½	"	2.15
Pineapple, grated	1.65	"	1.70
Lombard plums	1.25	"	1.30
Raspberries	2.12½	"	2.15
Corn, per doz	1.05	"	1.10
Peas	1.02½	"	1.05
Strawberries	2.35½	"	2.40
Tomatoes	1.22½	"	1.25
Pumpkins	1.05	"	1.10
String beans	1.05	"	1.10
Baked beans, 2s	1.15	"	1.20
Baked beans, 3s	1.55	"	1.70

GRAINS.

Bran, small lots, bags	27.00	"	28.00
Pressed hay, car lots No. 1	18.00	"	20.00
Pressed hay, per ton, No. 1	19.00	"	20.00
Oats, Canadian	0.58	"	0.62
Oats, local	0.53	"	0.55

FISH.

Small dry cod	4.75	"	5.00
Medium dry cod	6.00	"	6.25
Pollock	4.00	"	4.10
Grand Manan herring, half-bbls	3.00	"	3.10
Smoked herring	0.12	"	0.14
Pickled shad, half-bbls.	8.00	"	12.00
Fresh cod, per lb	0.05	"	0.06
Bloaters, per box	0.80	"	0.90
Halibut	0.12	"	0.18
Kippered herring, per box	0.00	"	0.90
Swordfish	0.12	"	0.13
Haddies	0.07	"	0.08

FRUITS.

Marbot walnuts	0.16	"	0.17
Almonds	0.17	"	0.18
California prunes	0.09	"	0.15
Filberts	0.14	"	0.15
Brazils	0.18	"	0.19
Peanuts, roasted	0.11	"	0.14
Bag figs, per lb	0.10	"	0.15
Lemons, Mesina, box	0.00	"	5.00
Cocoanuts, per doz	0.60	"	0.70
Cocoanuts, per sack	4.00	"	4.50
California oranges	3.00	"	4.50
Oranges	3.00	"	4.50
Apples	2.25	"	6.00

OILS.

Palacine	0.00	"	0.20
Royalite	0.00	"	0.16½
Turpentine	0.00	"	0.80
Extra lard compound	0.00	"	0.91
Extra No. 1 lard compound	0.00	"	0.82½
"Premier" motor gasolene	0.00	"	0.31

HIDES AND WOOL.

Tallow	0.05	"	0.06
Wool (unwashed)	0.28	"	0.30
Hides	0.13	"	0.15
Calfskins	0.15	"	0.17
Lambskins (Jan.)	1.00	"	1.65

BRITAIN BUYING DISCARDED RAILWAY TIES FOR TRENCHES

Boston, Feb. 3—An offer of five cents a piece for 100,000 cast-off railro