

ST. QUENTIN IS DESTROYED BY GREAT FIRE

Town on International Railway Wiped Out — Many Narrow Escapes — Help Being Sent Sufferers — Other Fires.

A forest fire completely destroyed the new town of St. Quentin, formerly the village of Anderson, on the International division of the C. N. R. in Restigouche county, about 3 o'clock on Friday afternoon. The only buildings spared were the Roman Catholic church and presbytery. The loss is roughly estimated at from \$400,000 to \$500,000. The insurance is comparatively light because of the great fire hazard in that region. Fortunately no lives were lost in the conflagration, but had it not been for the presence of a train at the town at the time it began to burn the lives of many women and children would undoubtedly have been lost as people were confused and almost helpless in the intense pall of smoke and firebrands. Many saved only the clothes they wore, and there is great need of help for the stricken sufferers.

Hon. W. E. Foster heard yesterday of the disaster at St. Quentin with great regret. He authorized Arthur T. LeBlanc, M. P. P., of Campbellton, to procure all necessary supplies up to a reasonable amount and forward them to the fire sufferers. The provincial government will provide all the aid in its power, and Mr. LeBlanc is working energetically to rush much needed food and other things to the unfortunate people of the burned town.

St. Quentin was the largest place along the one hundred and eleven miles of railway between Campbellton and St. Leonard's, on the St. John River. It was originally a small settlement built on provincial government land, set apart during the regime of Premier Haas and was called Anderson. The town was about nine years old and had been growing rapidly until the residents, nearly one thousand in number, decided to apply for incorporation as a town. The town was about to have a mayor and council and had planned extensive improvements. It was re-named St. Quentin during the war in honor of the victory of the Canadian boys, at the French

town of that name, where Restigouche soldiers fought. St. Quentin was located forty-two miles east of St. Leonard's and seventy miles from Campbellton by rail. The nearest villages are Five Fingers, a mile to the eastward, and Haas, two miles and a quarter to the westward. Many of the homeless inhabitants of St. Quentin found refuge in Haas, Five Fingers and other settlements along the International railway line.

Among the buildings burned in St. Quentin were the following: Canada House, Lavoie's Hotel, J. E. Michaud's mill, store, warehouse and dwelling; Roy's window sash and door factory; Banque du Provincial de Canada, Michaud & Chouinard's bakery, Theatre in course of erection, C.N.R. railway station, Post-office, school house, tinware shop, skating rink, town lock-up, Gauthier's bowling alley, Lynch's lumber mill, Lynch & Fournier's store, Chouinard's store, Yesbec & Co's store, Michaud's store, Seneschal & Co's store, Savoie's store, Leveque & Co's store, Cagnon's store, Nadeau and Lynch store.

Dozen Cars on Sidings Burned.

Several stores and warehouses were destroyed. In addition the flames licked up seven cars loaded with pulp wood and five cars of logs on the sidings. Mr. Levesque, who arrived in Campbellton yesterday, said that of all the large stock of goods in his store he saved only a sweater he wore. The other merchants lost much of their stock, the majority all of it.

Many of the fifty or sixty dwellings burned were comparatively new and well fitted up. Women and children fled in terror from their burning homes, some taking what they could, but the majority lost everything but what they stood in. A train was standing at the station at the time and the railroad hands worked heroically to calm the population. They helped the women and children aboard the cars and made them as comfortable as possible. The train then pulled out of the danger belt.

Parish Church Saved. The men of the town were able to save the St. Quentin parish church and the residence of the pastor, Rev. Father E. Martin. These buildings stood on higher ground than the rest of the town, and remain standing as monuments to what was a thriving and prosperous community. Father Martin was injured while working on the roof of the presbytery and did grand work to aid the stricken population. There were many instances of heroism in face of terrible danger, and although many of the people feel the loss of their fine town keenly yet are discouraged, and hope to rebuild. Some, however, have lost all, and these consider that they were fortunate to escape without serious injury.

Victoria County. In Victoria county seven buildings have been destroyed by woods fires. In addition to the recent fire at Plaster Rock, where the Baptist church and three other buildings were burned, James Burgess & Sons' lumber mill at The Camp and 120 cords of pulp wood have been destroyed. In the Blue Bell district two buildings have been burned and also five hundred cords of pulp wood.

Yesterday two other fires got under considerable headway, one in the vicinity of Fairfield and another along the upper Quaco road. A. F. Bentley, councillor for St. Martin's parish, and others went to the scene of the fires in automobiles. Both of these fires are still in the woods and have not reached any buildings. Smoke from them could be seen from the city yesterday afternoon. St. George, May 30.—On Saturday afternoon fire starting in the bush and fanned by a high wind swept over the property owned by J. Sutton Clark at L'Etiang, and when the smoke cleared away the wharf, sardine factory, hotel, three houses and two barns were in ashes. A new motor boat, owned by F. Hatt, was burned with the wharf, and weir twine and seines worth thousands of dollars went up with the smoke. The loss will total between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Only one of the buildings, that occupied by F. Hatt who saved his furniture, was tenanted. The village is some distance from the settlement at L'Etiang and most of the men were away at their work.

The factory was owned by Lee & O'Leary and was equipped with valuable machinery. The loss also includes ploughs, wagons and sleds and equipment for farming stored in the barns.

Nova Scotia Fire. Truro, N. S., May 30.—Forty-seven buildings, including four churches and a school, were totally destroyed at Londonderry, twenty-three miles north of here, in a destructive fire which broke out at 8.30 o'clock this morning and, fanned by a strong north wind, raged with terrific intensity for two and a half hours, coming to a stop only when its available fuel was exhausted. The property loss is more than \$100,000 and may reach \$200,000. More than twenty families are homeless, and in all cases they have lost some, if not all, of their household furniture. Scattered about the burnt area are small groups of household goods, in some cases pitifully few, but all that was saved from the fire fiend. The whole flat-iron shaped district between the Great Village river and a small brook to the east with the exception of two small buildings, was laid in ashes and is a scene of utter desolation, here and there an ember burning. The churches destroyed are the Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Anglican, which were all close together

in the devastated area. The only church building remaining is the Methodist, which is located in another part of the village. The school building was a six-room structure of three departments. Other buildings destroyed include St. Bridges hall, owned by the Roman Catholic church, the Giebe House of the Roman Catholic church occupied by the priest in charge, Rev. L. L. Graham; the rectory of St. Paul Anglican church, occupied by Logan McSwen; the old Scourrah Hotel, owned by the London derry Iron & Mining Company, but not occupied, and The Lindens, a beautiful property formerly used as the residence of the General manager of the Iron and Mining Company and since occupied by Mrs. Barker.

NOTED WRITER DEAD IN LONDON

London, May 30.—Dr. George Morrison, political advisor to the president of the Chinese Republic and famous as the Pekin correspondent of the London Times, died at a nursing home in London today. He had been ill for a long time. He leaves a widow and three sons.

A motor party from Hillsboro arrived in the city on Saturday and registered at the Dufferin. The party included C. J. Osman, Jr., G. I. Jones, J. F. McRae, G. C. Blight and James Steeves.

GENERAL CURRIE WARMLY WELCOMED

A royal welcome was given at the Union depot last night to General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., L.L.D., commander of the Canadian army in France and new principal of McGill University, upon his arrival in the city from Moncton. Lady Currie accompanied her husband and they were escorted from Moncton by Brigadier-General A. H. Macdonnell, C.M.G., D.S.O., commander of the New Brunswick military district, and Major O'Connor, his aide.

Last night the distinguished visitors were the guests of Premier and Mrs. W. E. Foster, at their town house, Coburg street. Included in the company were Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. William Pugsley, Sir Douglas and Lady Haas, Mrs. William Yassie, L. P. D. Tilley, Mrs. Tilley, president of the Women's Canadian Club; Brigadier-General Macdonnell and Major O'Connor.

It is announced from Ottawa that all Dominion mail contractors are in future to be paid monthly instead of quarterly.

HOLD UP KEEPER AND ESCAPE FROM ERIE COUNTY JAIL

(Canadian Press Despatch) Buffalo, May 30.—William Marweg, alleged murderer and Joseph Brady, charged with larceny, escaped from the Erie county jail this morning after holding up a keeper at the point of a revolver and taking away his keys. Marweg was convicted of first degree murder several months ago, but the conviction was reversed and he was brought here to await a second trial. Brady was charged with violating the federal law against interstate transportation of stolen automobiles. He is said to be wanted in Newark for alleged theft of \$10,000 worth of gold leaf and also as a witness in a police investigation there.

The auction of the D'Arcy estate at Sand Point and Burpee avenue, which was called for Saturday last in settlement of a mortgage claim, was postponed to a future date.

SOLDIER BONUS BILL DOOMED TO LONG SLEEP

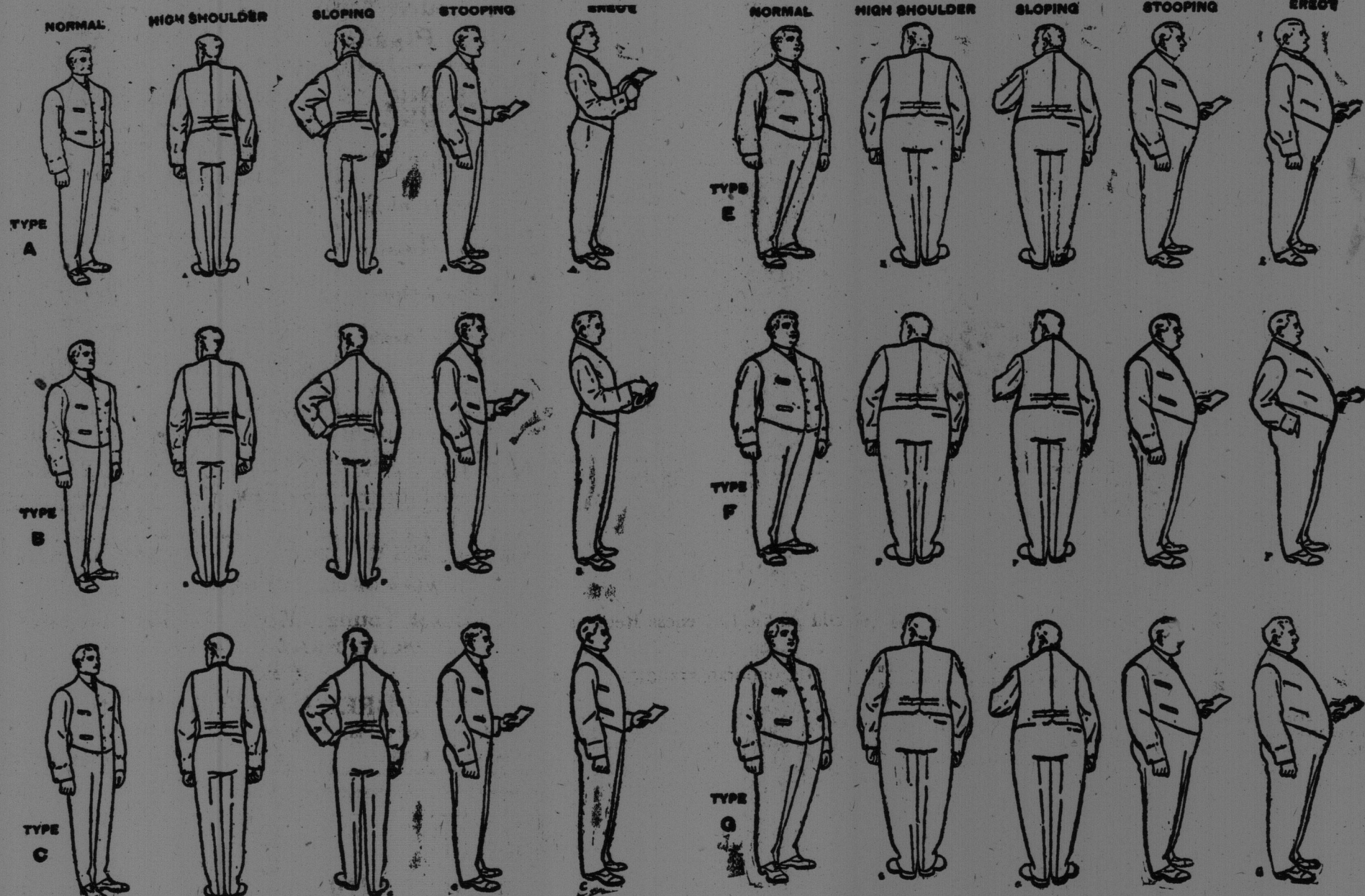
(Canadian Press Despatch) Washington, May 30.—The soldier bonus bill passed yesterday by the house 289 to 92 will be received tomorrow by the senate. The measure will follow the regular course and be referred to a committee. Inasmuch as a recess and possibly adjournment, will be taken by congress Saturday until after the political convention, the bonus bill seems doomed to a long sleep in the senate committee. If a recess is taken leaders do not contemplate convening until about September 1. Some senators are quite frank in saying that the bill will never get any further and that tomorrow's references to a committee will in fact be interim.

At a meeting of the Sugar Workers' Union yesterday afternoon the matter of an increase in wages was discussed but no action was taken.

GREEK TROOPS ARE OCCUPYING TURKISH THRACE

(Canadian Press Despatch) Constantinople, May 30.—Greek troops began the occupation of Turkish Thrace on Friday and the first trainload has a river at a point opposite Adrianople. M. Canellopoulos, the Greek high commissioner at Constantinople, says the occupation so far has been without incident. He added that Bulgarians had made representations to the French that they suffered indignities at the hands of the Greeks, but that the French commandant declared the complaints were unfounded. M. Canellopoulos said that he did not know whether a complete occupation of Turkish Thrace would be carried out once. Surprise was expressed by Turkish officials that the occupation had begun prior to formal action on the treaty with Turkey.

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MUTT AND JEFF—THE LITTLE FELLOW GETS AWAY WITH SOME OLD STUFF

By "BUD" FISHER

