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TEN PAGES—THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 16, 1908—TEN PAGES.

28TH YEAR

PANIC AT ST. CATHARINES

SPARK IGNITED COMBUSTIBLE FILM AT MOVING PICTURE SHOW

Crowd of Half a Hundred Women and Children in Stampede, But Only One Person was Seriously Hurt.

ST. CATHARINES, Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Fire of a serious nature destroyed the Hippodrome, a moving picture theatre owned by Mrs. Hastings of Buffalo, this afternoon, but fortunately no lives were lost and only one person was seriously injured, tho the case may yet prove fatal.

About 50 women and children and a few men were witnessing the pictures of Ben Hur. The performance was about concluded when a spark from the electric light fell upon the combustible film and an explosion followed.

So soon as the report was heard the audience was left in darkness, but in an instant the whole rear of the theatre was in flames. Women and children were stricken with fear and in the excitement made a rush for the exits, both of which were located in the mouth of the flames.

Panic followed and several were trampled under foot, but owing to the few persons, all gained the street, no one being badly injured, tho several received painful bruises.

The machine was being operated by Lorne McDermott, a boy under 15 years of age. The lad was severely and seriously burned about the hands and all over the face. Dr. Mulock was quickly summoned and attended to the painful burns, after which the ambulance was called and the boy was taken to the General and Marine Hospital. Reports to-night state that he is doing nicely and may recover in time. Dr. Mulock stated that the burns were very bad, the skin being completely off the hands and face and the boy is also suffering from shock.

Firemen promptly responded to the alarm and fought for two hours, confining the flames to the Hippodrome building, the smoke and water greatly damaged Charles McDermott's store and also effected some loss to A. J. Gilmore's store, and The Star-Journal office. It required the continuous use of chemicals and three streams of water to quench the flames. As yet the loss cannot be accurately estimated, tho it is considered to be about $3000, partly covered by insurance.

THEATRE FIRE VICTIMS.

170 Bodies Recovered—Woman Had Premonition.

BOYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 15.—Bearing up bravely under the awful blow which it received in the destruction of the Rhodes Opera House by fire on Monday, this thriving little borough to-day came to a full realization of the fact that one-fifteenth of its population was wiped out of existence by the holocaust. The figures compiled by Coroner Strasser at nightfall show that there are 170 dead as a result of the fire. The list of dead includes one fireman, who lost his life fighting the fire, and one man. Jacob Johnson, who died to-day. Three charred bodies were recovered from the ruins of the building to-day, and of the 167 bodies, or remains that lie in the improvised morgues, 115 have been officially, or partially identified by sorrowing relatives or friends.

But two members of the cast, so far as can be learned, were killed. This was due to the precaution taken by Mrs. Della Meyer. She had a premonition that something would happen. At a luncheon given to the members of the cast in the hall several days ago, she said she feared something. There ought to be a means of escape, she said. The rear entrance was spoken of and at her suggestion the doors were taken off the hinges.

RESOLUTION OF DENIAL

Centre Toronto Orange Lodge Did Not Pledge Itself.

At the regular quarterly and annual meeting of the Loyal Orange District Lodge of Centre Toronto, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, that this district lodge of Centre Toronto deprecates the publication in the newspapers of false and misleading articles purporting to be a report of the proceedings of this district lodge, and particularly with regard to a statement recently published to the effect that a resolution had been passed by this lodge, pledging its members not to vote for Roman Catholics seeking election to political or other office. And this lodge hereby places on record its denial that any such resolution was passed or moved.

THE BIBLE RECORD LITERAL AND TRUE

Rev. Dr. Townsend the Chief Speaker at the League's Meeting.

To correct a false impression ,the Rev. Elmore Harris, D.D., chairman of the Toronto branch of the Bible League, made the statement at Association Hall yesterday morning that the league was in no way antagonistic to higher criticism, if by higher criticism was meant the fixing of the dates of the books of Scripture, their authorship and the circumstances under which they were written. But higher criticism (a pure academic term, conveying no idea whatever of superiority) had become identified with rationalism, to which conservative and the most able scholarship was opposed, and this it was the aim of the league to show.

"Some Aspects of the Attack Upon the Miracles of Our Lord" was dealt with in a masterly manner by Rev. William Jackson, D.D., of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal.

"What is a miracle? How shall we describe it? Well, certainly not as we were taught to do in childhood, as 'an event contrary to the established course of nature.' This definition was never true. Rather it may be said to be a creative manifestation of Divine power—not necessarily in matter, as matter is generally known, but always in force, and to our intelligence. A miracle is a token of Divine personal existence and presence in the world, and tells of moral being; of power in, yet exceeding the material order of things, and proves the truth of any statement so attested."

The possibility of miracles, Dr. Jackson affirmed, was a problem entirely outside the sphere of physical science, and could neither be judged nor determined by it.

In the afternoon Association Hall presented evidence of the rapidly growing interest in the conference. Prof. T. B. Kilpatrick, D.D., who spoke on "The Incarnate God," referred to the audience as a company of Bible-lovers. The Rev. Principal T. R. O'Meara, D.D., of Wycliffe College, presided.

In speaking on the subject, "How Man Did Not Originate," Rev. Prof. Townsend affirmed that at the present day we were face to face with one of the most interesting and suggestive facts in the whole field of historic-scientific investigation, namely, that no creature that wore the human form had an existence on the earth earlier than from six to twelve thousand years ago. And another fact, almost, if not equally interesting, was that during all the human era there had been, as to the essential characteristics of human nature, no noticeable change.

It was gradually dawning upon the minds of well-informed people that in the primitive times, of which there is any record, man enjoyed a degree of civilization not surpassed in any period of the world's history earlier than the middle of the last century. It was utterly impossible to account for the early civilization of Egypt and that of the Euphrates and Tigris valleys, except on the supposition that the Bible record of the supernatural beginning of mankind is a literal and a true record.

Convocation Hall was almost filled last evening with an audience of students, ministers, business men, church workers of both sexes and a plentiful sprinkling of society leaders. His honor the lieutenant-governor occupied the chair. Prof. F. H. Wallace, D.D., of Victoria University, led the devotional exercises. Prof. Ira M. Price, Ph.D., LL.D., University of Chicago, gave a most instructive stereopticon talk on "The Assyrian Empire and Israel." The chief lecturer was Dr. Townsend, and his subject, "The Fatal Tendencies of Evolution Theories and of Destructive Criticism Based Upon Them." Germany, he showed, was now reaping the harvest of advanced thought—the prisons were full.

In England there were worse agnostics than Ingersoll, and faith and hope had become so undermined in France that suicide had become a sort of religion. This modern tendency towards self-destruction had for its true cause the religious decay of our time. In the larger part of New England to-day the majority of the people had no idea of religion, nor did they want to have.

Dr. Townsend was vigorously applauded when he scored the professors and preachers who used their commanding positions to pull down the faith they had undertaken to defend, and who still drew their salaries for teaching and preaching the word.

THE BOYERTOWN HOLOCAUST—Building in Which 170 Lost Their Lives Thru Fire.

PRESBYTERIANS PROSPERED IN 1907

Four Congregations Vote Increase in Stipend to Pastors---Work of the Year.

The annual meetings of most of the Presbyterian churches were held last night. The reports were of a most encouraging nature. Four pastors received salary increases. The congregation of Erskine Church awarded Rev. James Murray a bonus of $200 and increased his stipend from $2600 to $2800. The church is free of debt. Dovercourt increased Rev. James Wilson's stipend from $1850 to $2000, and will build a Sunday school. Royce-avenue Church increased Rev. J. E. Reid's stipend by $150. Avenue-road congregation increased Rev. J. H. Stephen from $1800 to $2000.

New St. Andrew's will sell the institute on Nelson-street recently damaged by fire and will centralize the work at the church.

Chalmers congregation warmly discussed the question of gowning the choir. It carried on a close vote and will hardly be acted upon.

Bonar will erect a new church on St. Clarens-avenue, adjoining the present site, and the "baby" Rosedale congregation is erecting a church at Huntley-street and South-drive. Bloor-street have reduced the mortgage by $5500 and Dunn-avenue theirs by $1000.

Meetings to be held on other dates are:

Jan. 22—Central, St. Enoch's, Emmanuel (East Toronto).
Jan. 23—West Church.
Jan. 27—St. Giles.
Jan. 29—Chester Church, Victoria (Toronto Junction), St. John's, South Side (adjourned).
Indefinite — Cowan-avenue, Kew Beach (owing to pastor's illness).

Old St. Andrew's.

The annual meeting of Old St. Andrew's Church was attended by about one-third of the congregation. The cash received from all sources for general expenses was $13,930.49 and expenditure $13,325.85, leaving $604.59 balance. At the meeting last January it was decided to expend $4500 on decorating the church. The committee reported that the improvements had cost altogether $6252, with arrangements made to meet the excess of the expropriation. The amount raised for mission schemes was about $5000. A motion by W. A. Weir, seconded by Hon. W. A. Charlton, endorsing the Laymen's Missionary movement, and proposing that the congregation should aim at raising $12,500 during the coming year by weekly contributions, carried. Three new members were elected to the board of management, to serve a three-year term. They were J. G. Kent, H. T. Eager and George H. Smith.

New St. Andrew's.

The seventy-seventh annual meeting of the New St. Andrew's congregation showed large expenditures during the year on church improvements, an increase in revenue and a promising outlook for the future. The pastor, Rev. T. Crawford Brown, M.A., appealed to the congregation to stand by their responsibilities as members in order to ensure the maintenance of the church. A sum of $23,135.44 was accounted for in various balance sheets, $10,406 having passed thru the hands of the board of managers. Hon. Melvin Jones, Col. J. I. Davidson, J. W. McLaren and Geo. Bell were re-elected to the board of managers, and W. B. Maclean, Ralph King and Geo. F. Macdonell were added. It was decided to repair the damaged institute and offer it for sale, the intention being to erect new buildings on the manse grounds and thus to centralize the church equipment. The total bill for the new chancel, new organ and church decorations and repairs was $2,844, of which the organ cost $11,410. A sum of $24,500 is still due on the work, of which $10,000 is promised.

Erskine.

Heartfelt appreciation of the work of the pastor, Rev. James Murray, was expressed by the congregation. In addition to increasing his salary from $2600 to $2800, the meeting decided to grant him a bonus of $200, and passed a resolution of appreciation of his completion of nine years of successful labor, rendered much more arduous on account of the encroachments of foreigners in the district. It also dwelt on the work of Mrs. Murray. Reports from all the church organizations showed increased givings in every department. The treasurer's statement showed receipts of $5672.39 and in addition $3500 was contributed to mission schemes. The following were elected to the board of management: Messrs. Mackenzie, Moir, Cockburn, Radcliffe D. Munro, Dr. Todd, Wilson and John Thompson. The members of session elected were: G. Banks, S. T. Bastedo and W. H. Smith; W. R. Gibson and D. W. Ross, auditors, were re-elected. The treasurer, James M. Sinclair, reported the church free from debt and all liabilities discharged.

Bonar.

At the eighteenth annual meeting, Rev. Alex MacGillivray in the chair, there was a large attendance. The membership is 630. The additions were 97 by certificate and 57 by profession, including 52 from the Sabbath school. Seven members were removed by death. The ordinance was administered to 23 children and one adult. The marriages numbered 28. The total revenue is $5756. The debt, now standing at $8950, was reduced by $400 during the year. The balance on hand is $77.85. The building committee reported that, owing to the noise from the street cars, it was decided not to build on the corner of College-street and Lansdowne-avenue, but that a lot fronting on St.

Continued on Page 7.

AFTER SCANDAL BEAR.

OPPOSITION SPORT: Oh, don't you worry. Watch has his eye on him, all right, all right.

THAW'S QUEER CONDUCT PUT CIGARETS IN SAFE

Also Left Seventy-Five Telephone Calls Which He Forgot All About.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—Adhering to their promise to interpose no other defence than that of insanity in behalf of their client, the attorneys representing Harry K. Thaw at his trial to-day continued the examination of witnesses who swore that young Thaw at various times in his life appeared to them as irrational and mentally unsound. Practically all of the testimony was entirely new to the case and had to do with acts down to the day of the tragedy itself.

Then came the declaration of ten men who sat on the coroner's jury during the enquiry into Stanford White's death, all of whom declared that the defendant the day following the shooting acted rationally. His manner and appearance were such as to cause the inquest jury to discuss his state of mind after their formal verdict had been rendered.

In the day's testimony there was more delving into the history of the Thaw family, Alfred Lee Thaw of Richmond, Va., a third cousin of the defendant, taking the stand and telling of the taint of insanity that had caused his father and brother to die in state asylums.

Some of Thaw's alleged eccentricities, revealed for the first time, were related to-day by Christopher Baggan, steward of the New York Whist Club, by Miss Matilda Stein, a telephone operator, and by August Weber, a former butler in Thaw's household. Thaw spent a portion of the afternoon of June 25, 1906, at the whist club, and at this time—a few hours before the tragedy—was pictured by the steward as being highly nervous and as frequently exclaiming: "This is awful." He asked the steward to have a valuable package put into the safe. After the shooting the package was opened and found to contain three cigarets wrapped in tinfoil.

District Attorney Jerome, in the cross-examination of the club steward, brought out the fact that Thaw played bridge there with many prominent men. The witness declared he was not supposed to know what Mr. Thaw, Mr. Gates, Mr. Schwab and the others played for, but he was sure nothing but mineral water ever was served at the tables.

The telephone operator told of Mr. Thaw putting in seventy-five calls one morning at the Grand Hotel and then forgetting all about them. The butler told many details of Thaw's life at home in 1903, and was still under examination when adjournment was taken. The separate incidents of alleged irrational conduct on the part of the defendant was being put in evidence by Mr. Littleton as the foundation for the expert testimony that is to come. He also hopes to accumulate such a mass of testimony as to Thaw's erratic conduct as to make it impossible for the district attorney to fulfil the task the law places upon him of proving Thaw sane "beyond every reasonable doubt."

Criminal lawyers of prominence who are following the case outlined by the defence, and who are taking into consideration the fact that a specific plea of insanity has been entered this year, declare that acquittal under the circumstances can come only with the added clause, "on account of the insanity of the defendant at the time the act was committed." This, it is declared, would compel the presiding judge to commit Thaw to Matteawan Asylum, from whence a fight to prove his present sanity and thus gain freedom would have to be conducted thru habeas corpus proceedings.

CROSSED WIRES CAUSED FIRE.

Crossed wires at the head of a telegraph pole at the southeast corner of King and Yonge-streets gave the downtown firemen a run at 2.15 this morning. The blaze was trivial.

FRANCE FINALLY WILL OWN HER RAILROADS.

PARIS, Jan. 15.—An interview with Finance Minister Caillaux has been made public. In contrasting the French financial situation with that of other countries, the minister calls attention to the enormous assets the French Government and the communes hold against their liabilities.

"Within forty years," M. Caillaux declares, "these will be increased by the escheating to the local authorities of valuable franchises, such as lighting, etc., and between 1950 and 1960 all the railroads will become the property of the nation."

SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION PREPARE FOR BUSINESS

Annual Meeting is Held and Officers and Committees Appointed.

It won't be long before the political parties are competing for the influence of the Canadian Suffrage Association, if the meeting of the Dominion and Toronto bodies in the King Edward last night is to be accepted as a criterion. Nothing was said about getting either party to adopt woman's suffrage as a plank in the party platform, but legislative committees were appointed which will doubtless take the matter in hand.

It was the annual meeting of the Dominion Association, and the Toronto Association was organized according to the new rules by which the Dominion body has no individual members, but is made up of the subordinate associations. The fee for membership was fixed at $1 a year and $5 a year will be paid by local societies to the central.

The Toronto Association was formed on the motion of J. L. Hughes and William Houston and the officers elected were: President, J. L. Hughes; 1st vice-president, Dr. Rowena Hume; 2nd vice, William Houston; 3rd vice, J. M. Godfrey; 4th vice, Mrs. K. H. Glasgow; recording secretary, Miss A. Sims; corresponding secretary, Miss A. M. Pettigrew; treasurer, Dr. Isabel Wood.

Dr. Augusta Stowe-Gullen, who presided, spoke of the work done by English suffragettes, and Mrs. Miriam Brown read the annual report. Equal pay for equal labor by women was a principle to be supported. John Smith and Allan Studholme were thanked for their courage and liberality of view in the legislature. A petition in being circulated to that body asking for the franchise for women on the same basis as for men.

The officers for the Canadian Suffrage Association were elected, with the results following: Hon. President, Lady Aberdeen; president, Dr. Stowe-Gullen; 1st vice-president, Mrs. F. M. Denison; 2nd vice, Mrs. J. L. Hughes; 3rd vice, Miss Jessie Semple; 4th vice, Dr. Margaret Gordon; recording secretary, Mrs. Miriam Brown; corresponding secretaries, Dr. McAlpin and Miss Lila Ayres; treasurer, Mrs. S. Avery Kern.

The legislative committee is John M. Godfrey, Ald. Bengough, Ald. J. J. Graham, W. H. Merrill and Dr. Frank Stowe.

The finance committee, whose duty it was stated was to pay all deficits, consists of Messrs. Archibald, Thompson and Livingston.

Lost Ship Turns Up.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—(C.A.P. Cable.)—The abandoned barque Fanny Breslauer, Brazil to Halifax, was towed into Halifax, practically undamaged.

FOR LICENSE REDUCTION AND WARD LOCAL OPTION

Civic Legislation Committee Sends on Both Proposals With a Recommend.

The civic legislation and reception committee yesterday carried both "blue ribbon" proposals laid before it, namely, for the reduction of hotel liquor licenses from 150 to 110, and that the legislature be asked to permit the separate wards of the city to vote on the question of local option.

Ald. Bengough showed willingness to withdraw the latter motion, explaining that its intent was largely academic. If the government saw fit to grant the suggested legislation, well and good; if not, also well and good. He favored local option for the whole city.

Ald. Church declared that the way in which the Ontario Government was enforcing the liquor license laws created conditions entirely satisfactory, and that the exclusion of hotels in certain wards would result in their being hived in ward three, and in the upspringing of dives in the "dry" wards.

Ald. McMurrich thought the licensed victualers should be considered. The government was compelling hotelkeepers to maintain a good standard, and it was inadvisable to keep up temperance agitation, and the mandate of the people two years ago should be respected.

Ald. Church pointed out that members of council advocating reduction had studiously abstained from introducing the issue into their campaign talk, and asserted that the intention was to embarrass the Ontario Government.

Controller Spence agreed that the government should be given credit for enforcing the law. He was sure that the people would by an overwhelming majority carry any proposal to exclude hotels from residential districts.

Ald. Bengough's motion then carried on the following vote:

For—The mayor, Controller Spence, Ald. Bengough, J. J. Graham and Keeler—5.

Against—Ald. Church, Chisholm and McMurrich—3.

Controller Spence proposed that Ald. Hales' motion to reduce the number of hotel licenses be sent to the legal department to be put into proper form for submitting to council. Ald. McMurrich insisted that there should be a clause providing for a reference to the people. The question was one that demanded consideration. It could not be determined off-hand how many licenses should go. It might be well to cut off ten or fifteen.

Ald. Chisholm thought the voice of the people should be supreme, and Ald. Church said an inspector had told him that since the new Liquor License Act about $750,000 had been spent in improving Toronto's hotels.

Ald. McMurrich's amendment to have the licenses cut off, subject to the will of the people, was defeated on a vote similar to that in the previous motion.

EARTHQUAKE IN HAYTI.

Some Houses Destroyed, But No Lives Lost.

PORT AU PRINCE, Hayti, Jan. 15.—A serious earthquake has occurred at Gonaives, 65 miles northwest of this city. A few houses have been destroyed and others were damaged. No loss of life has been reported.

Gonaives is one of the most thriving towns of the Haytien republic. Gonaives is a bishop's see and has a population of about 18,000.

It was a year ago Tuesday that the Kingston (Jamaica) earthquake occurred.

CANADIAN CLUBS APPROVE OF THE PLAN

Will Rescue Plains of Abraham From Neglect and Erect Great Statue Thereon.

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—(Special).—That this conference of representatives of Canadian clubs of Canada heartily approves of the principle of acquiring the Quebec battlefields as a national park for a memorial of the heroes of France and Britain who rendered the locality forever illustrious by their valor and whose races, anciently descended from the allied stocks, have founded and formed the united Canadian people."

This resolution, moved by C. R. McCullough, father of the Hamilton Canadian Club, and seconded by E. F. Surveyor of Montreal Canadian Club, was unanimously adopted this afternoon at a meeting of representatives of a number of Canadian clubs.

Among those present were: From Toronto, John Turnbull, J. F. McKay, Eric N. Armour; Hamilton, D. M. Cameron, C. R. McCullough, Dr. D. G. Storms; St. Thomas, J. H. Courtenay; Perth, W. B. Hart; Guelph, Dr. A. T. Hobbs; London, Maj. Beattie, M.P.; Woodstock, George Smith, M. P.; Barrie, Houghton Lennox, M.P., and many others, including Hon. Dr. Pugsley.

The nucleus of a central committee to be drawn from various Canadian clubs was appointed to co-operate with another larger body in charge of the general details of the Quebec memorial project. William Whyte, second vice-president of the C.P.R., who is also president of the Winnipeg Canadian Club, was appointed chairman of this central committee. H. P. Hill, president of the Ottawa Canadian Club, vice-chairman, and Gerald H. Brown of Ottawa, honorary secretary.

The conference, which was presided over by Mr. Whyte, was entirely unanimous in its approval of the project set on foot by the governor-general before the Ladies' Canadian Club of Montreal a month ago. A resolution moved by John Turnbull of Toronto and Dr. D. G. Storms of Hamilton, asking for the approval of all the Canadian clubs of the plan to acquire the Quebec battlefields as a national park by stimulating public interest and support, was adopted.

On motion of J. F. McKay of Toronto and J. A. Stewart of Perth, the conference placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered to Canada by his excellency in inaugurating the movement.

Earl Grey Rejoiced.

Earl Grey said the meeting rejoiced his heart more than any incident that occurred in Canada since he became governor-general. He congratulated the Canadian Club, Ottawa, on its action and thanked all Canadian clubs for the most welcome assistance given in response to the appeal to celebrate the approaching Champlain tercentenary by rescuing the famous battlefields of Quebec from the present condition of neglect.

"The immortal associations which cling around the battlefields of Quebec," said his excellency, "are the precious inheritance of Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irishmen and Frenchmen. They contain enough, and more than enough, to feed and stimulate the national pride of all, not matter whether they be of British or of French descent."

"There is another aspect from which the battlefields of Quebec should be specially dear to you. It was on the battlefields of Quebec that French and British parentage gave birth to the Canadian nation. To-day the inhabitants of the Dominion are neither English nor French. They stand before the world not as English or French, but as Canadians. It is from the inspiring standpoint of Canadian nationality that the proposal to celebrate the 300th birthday of Canada by the nationalization of the famous battlefields of Quebec should win the enthusiastic support of every patriotic Canadian. If we regard the question sectionally, I would ask where a well-informed Briton is to be found, no matter in what part of the empire he may reside, who has not a personal interest in the Plains of Abraham, where the cornerstone of Greater Britain was laid. I might say the same of every well-informed American. It is known that the battlefields of 1759 was the parchment on which in 1775 the Declaration of Independence was inscribed. If the battle of the plains decided the fate of North America, it is equally certain that the battle of Ste. Foye won for the French-Canadians the enjoyment of their language, their religion and their laws. The nationalization of battlefields is thus a consecration of those principles which have enabled the British ground to win the heartfelt loyalty of all self-governing dominions of the British crown, and which made the British Empire the most potent force for the spead of freedom and righteousness that the world has ever seen!

A Statue of Peace.

The proposal, said the governor-general, was that a statue of peace should be erected at the extreme edge of th Citadel Rock of Quebec, where it may be the first object visible to incoming vessels on rounding the point of the Isle of Orleans.

"The statue of peace must not be banal or vulgar, with flowing and windy draperies. It must be noble, calm, majestic, reposeful, arms outstretched forward, with palms slightly downward as tho blessing incoming ships, and eyes lovingly bent on the people below. On the base of the statue can be represented different phases of Canadian life," said Earl Grey.

He hoped that every Canadian boy

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