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\$14,000 Large residence, Imbelle Street, suitable for fraternity or boarding house; thirteen rooms, three bathrooms; in excellent repair throughout. H. H. WILLIAMS & CO., 38 King Street East.

PROBS: Fine and mild; lower temperature at night.

# The Toronto World

TWELVE PAGES—THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 7, 1911—TWELVE PAGES

STANDARD BANK A few offices still available—every known modern convenience—will pay attention to suit tenant. H. H. WILLIAMS & CO., 38 King Street East. VOL. XXXI—No. 11,417

## AGED WOMEN NEAR DANGER IN FIRE PLANING MILL FIRE

### North End Blaze From Lumber Piles to Belmont Street Home—Protest From Charitable Institutions Against Possible Future Menace Will Follow.

**THE FIRE IN BRIEF**  
Time—5.17 yesterday afternoon.  
Appliances attending—Twenty sections.  
Losses—  
W. A. Dunne's planing mill and lumber yard, partially insured, \$85,000  
Aged Women's Home, less fully covered, 5,000  
Dwelling-house at 96 Davenport-road and contents, contents insured, 2,500  
Stable in rear of 108 Davenport-road, 200  
Total, \$92,700

Fire, and the attendant flood from 50 lays of hose, thru which the streams were held at high pressure by several engines, damaged W. A. Dunne's lumber yard and planing mill, 108 Davenport-road; the Old Woman's Home, 35 Belmont-street, and surrounding buildings to the extent of \$92,700. The fire was a stubborn one to fight, owing to the exceedingly inflammable nature of the materials at hand, and to a defect in the roof construction of the home building, and the insufficient water pressure at the start.

While the water pressure was inadequate at the start, it was afterwards brought up to ninety pounds by the pumps at the high level station. The blaze started in the engine house of the planing mill. There are various stories as to its origin. Some said that there had been a boiler explosion, but the most likely story is that it was discovered by four boys who burst in the door, only to be driven out by fire, which caught a pile of shavings and sawdust just outside door. And the blaze was quickly away thru the surrounding buildings and piles of lumber. The first alarm was turned in by telephone from the home at 5.17, and a moment later the box at Belmont-street and Davenport-road was pulled. Four sections were sent. At 5.22 eight more sections were sent, and at 5.37 the last detachment of 7 sections was sent.

Chief Thompson, Deputy Chief Noble and District Chief Smedley were in charge of the fire fighting forces. They at once devoted their attention to quelling the blaze in the mill and lumber yard. But with the start which this had gained and the extremely difficult nature of the work, and the insufficient pressure at the start, this was soon seen to be hopeless.

**Inmates Gotten Out Safely.**  
Meanwhile the chief had devoted his attention to the old ladies. The home is equipped with a water curtain at the rear and with wired glass on the windows there. A private line of two-inch hose was also being operated inside. He did not think that there would be danger for the old ladies, 140 of whom are housed in the T-shaped, three-story brick building. He informed Supt. Miss Reid that it would be better for her to have all the inmates on the ground floor, so that they would be less liable to panic and could be got out quickly and easily should danger come. This was done, and Inspector Cuddy of No. 2 police division, who was in attendance with a number of his men, was asked to send two of them to get all the inmates in the Aged Men's Home, next door to the ground floor.

By this time a crowd of several thousands had gathered in the four streets which bounded the fire, but they were easily held in check by the largest detachment of police which has been seen in many a long day. Inspectors Charlton, Cuddy and Dixon were there in charge of more than 50 men from Divisions 5, 4, 3 and 2.

**Houses Around Emptied.**  
Fortunately there was little or no wind, but the fire was continually eating its way thru piles of lumber and threatening the surrounding buildings. The occupants of these proceeded to save as many of their belongings as were movable and the streets took on a lively appearance, with groups of men and women carrying out various articles of furniture.  
At last, owing to the fact that at the rear of the Women's Home, which backs against the lumber yard, there was an overhanging roof, the fire took hold in spite of the water curtain which was admirably protecting the wall. The men turned their hose upon it, but they would not reach, and it was only until two lines had been run up thru the building that the blaze was reached.  
Then it appeared to be quelled, but it was discovered that it had eaten was burning furiously along the attic or false roof at the top. A hole was made in the ceiling and it was stopped after a progress of forty or fifty feet in that part and a considerably less headway on the floors below, but

Continued on Page 7, Column 1.

## ON THE THRESHOLD



We are on the threshold of an agitation, not only for free trade with the United States, but also for a general reduction of tariff duties.  
—Hon. H. B. Emerson in Commons.

### T. & N.O. Will Be Built to Elk Lake

Chairman J. L. Englehart of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway announced yesterday that a branch line would be built into Elk Lake. Work will be commenced as soon as the weather permits next spring.

### EXPROPRIATION NOT APPROVED

Street Railway Question Fails to Pass Council—Comes Up Monday With Two-Year Term Proposal.

### URGENT THAT U.S. ABOGATE TREATY WITH RUSSIA

Prominent Speakers, Addressing Meeting in Carnegie Hall, Ask Concessions in Passports.

### EXIT CHINESE REGENT THRONE LOST TO SON

Premier Looks to Britain For Mediation—Rebels Pleased With Turn of Affairs.

### "THE GIRL IN THE TAXI."

"The Girl in the Taxi," which comes to the Princess Theatre Monday evening, has a supper scene that is filled with interest and laughs from start to finish. The manner in which Bertie Stewart (played by Ward DeWolf), the youth who is "dining out" with a young lady for the first time, manages to buy a fifty dollar supper with but ten dollars in his pocket, is one of the most original conceits in this rapid-fire importation from Paris.

## SPOILS SYSTEM AT OTTAWA? CHARGES MADE HOT DEBATE

### Under Secretaries for Ministers

OTTAWA, Dec. 6.—The adoption of the plan of under secretaries as followed in England is being seriously considered by the government. At present it is practically impossible for the ministers to give the necessary attention to details. As the country expands the work has kept increasing until it means now that a conscientious minister, to keep pace with his departmental duties, must labor day and night.

It is felt that the appointment of under secretaries would relieve the ministers, and would lend general efficiency. The under secretaries, as in England, would be members of parliament, but not members of the cabinet.

### HYDRO POPULAR IN OWEN SOUND

Hon. Adam Beck's Outline of Prospective Power Extensions Cheered at Large Meeting.

OWEN SOUND, Dec. 6.—(Special).—Over one thousand people heard Hon. Adam Beck explain his hydro-electric power policy this evening at the town hall at a mass meeting in the interest of G. M. Boyd, the Conservative candidate for North Grey. J. M. Devis acted as chairman and Messrs. Boyd and C. S. Cameron addressed the gathering briefly.

The most important statement made by Mr. Boyd was that he in no manner whatever had sought to do with the new notorious Haines-MacKay suit. Mr. A. G. MacKay, the Liberal candidate, had been attempting to obtain the sympathy of the electors of North Grey by representing himself as a much injured man, insinuating that the local Conservatives had been instrumental in having the Haines charge laid against him, and claiming that he was entirely innocent.

### Insurance Bill Passes

LONDON, Eng., Dec. 6.—(C. A. P.).—Chancellor David Lloyd George's national insurance bill passed its third reading in the house of commons to-night by a vote of 324 to 21. The Unionists for the most part abstained from voting, for, as explained in the amendment moved by them, while approving the objects of the bill they considered it neither adequately discussed in the house nor explained to the country. Therefore, they argued, further consideration of the bill should be resumed at the next session.

### Decapitation of Officials in Works Dept. Amounts to Petty Larceny, Declares Carvell—Sir Wilfrid Laurier Resents Changes in Waterways Commission—Foster Makes Defence.

### RIGHTING WRONGS SAYS PELLETIER

OTTAWA, Dec. 6.—"No one is more averse to dismissing an official than I, but when an official is guilty of wilful infraction of a rule laid down by this house, what other alternative would a government have in a case of that kind?"

These words Hon. R. L. Borden dealt with the charges of wholesale application of the spoils system brought against the government by A. K. McLean (Halifax). The debate which was precipitated, was one of the liveliest of the present session. Mr. Borden expressed the hope that the civil service act would soon be extended to a considerable portion of the outside service.