

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED HERE TO HELP IRELAND OBTAIN LONG DESIRED HOME RULE

\$300 Subscribed at Meeting
Held in This City Yesterday—
Eloquent Addresses Delivered

At a meeting of those interested in the Irish National Cause, held yesterday afternoon in the L. L. and B. rooms in Union street, several forcible addresses were delivered by prominent citizens of Irish descent, who deem this an opportune time to lend aid to the Irish Parliamentary party, that they may be successful in their effort to obtain home rule, which for centuries their ancestors have been striving to bring about. At the conclusion of the meeting subscriptions were taken up, and as a starter, the handsome sum of \$300 was collected.

The meeting was well attended, over a hundred persons being present. Mr. O'Brien was chosen chairman of the meeting, and Jas. B. Daly acted as secretary and E. P. Greaney as treasurer. At the opening of the meeting the question of home rule for Ireland was ably discussed by those present. Among the speakers were: Very Rev. W. P. Chapman, V.G., Dr. F. R. Quigley, Ald. W. E. Scully, M. B. Agat, James Barry, James H. McHugh, E. P. Greaney, T. M. Wistard, T. Donovan

John Keefe, and Thomas McKim. All the speakers predicted that Ireland would see the day when she would have home rule. That day must come, soon, and the quicker the better.

On motion of Ald. Scully, a committee of two was appointed in each ward in the city, to make a thorough canvass of the city. The funds collected will be forwarded direct to the treasurer of the Parliamentary fund, before March 1st, when the fund closes. It was urged that this movement be made a non-sectarian one, that all Irishmen who desire to see the native land of themselves or their forefathers free of more, might have an opportunity of pushing forward the movement.

It was suggested at the meeting that this movement, instead of being confined to the city, be extended to the limits of the province. Such has been the success so far, that in all likelihood it will be made a Provincial movement. If such comes to pass, the amount raised in New Brunswick will no doubt be of material assistance to the struggling Irish party.

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY TABBOO MEAT AT DINNER

600 Manufacturers Dine on Vegetables on
and Fruit — Meat Situation Seems to
be Approaching Adjustment

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Six hundred representative manufacturers, mostly men of wealth, ate a dinner today at the Machinery Club, of nothing but vegetables and fruit. There were no speeches, but an informal discussion of the advanced cost of living indicated that the universal protest of the nation has the support of business men as well as working men.

There were some slight recessions in prices today in the butcher shops, but quotations on the whole seem to indicate that demand and supply were beginning to approach an adjustment.

The war of words between the packers, the wholesale dealers and the meat retailers, continues with the injection today of a new issue. Wholesalers are agitating for a repeal of the duty on Canadian, Argentine and Mexican beef. "Look at the London market," said one of them. "Free competition with beef from Canada, the Argentine and even from Russia, rules there, with the result that an Englishman can eat Canadian beef, grown just across the border from us, cheaper than Americans can eat their own western steers."

A mass meeting at Madison Square, at which a movement in imitation of the Boston tea party, was to have been launched against meat by the National Progressive Woman's Suffrage Union, was postponed owing to the weather.

"Eat no meat," in large letters was pasted all over the west side on shop windows and in many private houses. Twelve of the posters are in butcher shops.

CREW ADRIFT ON SHIP'S HOUSE A WHOLE DAY

Crew of Wrecked Schooner George A.
McFadden Have a Harrowing Ex-
perience

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The crew of the schooner Geo. A. McFadden, which was wrecked off Diamond shoals, January 27, has been transferred from the gunboat "Paducah" to the steamship city of Atlanta for transportation to New York, according to wireless advices to the navy department today. The vessel was a complete wreck and while the crew was saved, Capt. F. H. Mender and his eight men spent a day of harrowing experience at sea before assistance

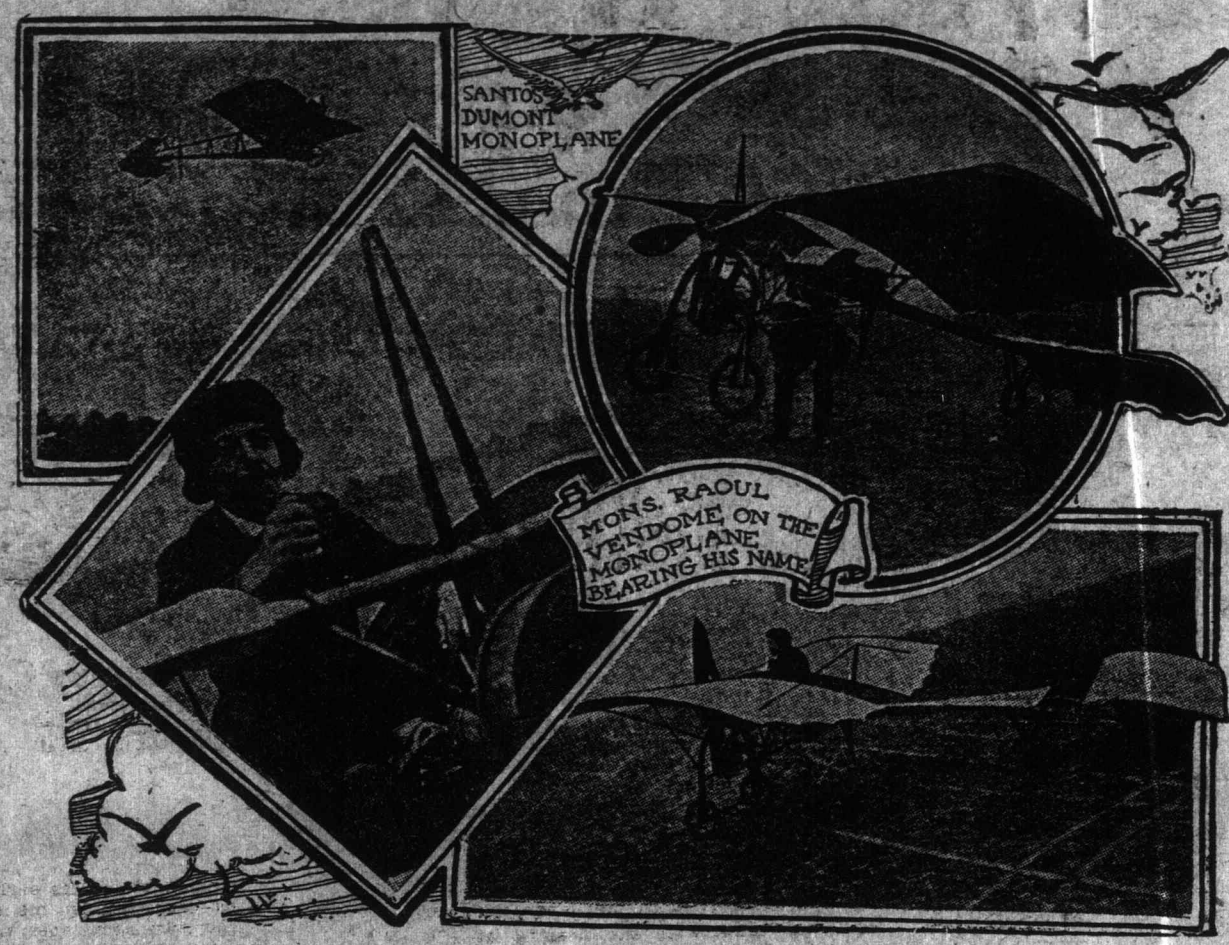
hove in sight. The wreck took place at two o'clock in the morning, but the vessel held together until seven, when it broke up and the men were forced to take to the top of the house, which was the largest piece of wreckage in sight. They drifted in this manner all day until 5 p. m., when the British steamship Katherine came to their rescue. The following day they were transferred to the Paducah, which in turn gave them over to the City of Atlanta.

Forcery

At suffer's end, at ease before my fire I sat and listened to the voice of doom. The golden story crumbling in the gloom— The north wind's challenge and the summons dire; Upon the heartstone sang the friendly choir. Remember melodies of bud and bloom. Until it seemed that April filled the room.

Bringing her dreams of beauty and desire. Then fainter grew the songs that came to me; Soft slumber held me captive for the night; And when the morning with her magic key Unlocked the door—memorable sight— A silent world of wizard sorcery— The winter's camp, immaculately white! —Frank Dempster Sherman, in Scribner's.

WITH THE AERIAL NAVIGATORS



DISASTROUS FIRE IN ONE OF ST. JOHN'S PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

One of St. John's thriving industries went up in smoke and flames yesterday morning in one of the most spectacular fires of recent years, when the wood-working factory on Erin street owned by A. E. Hamilton was burned to the ground.

The fire started at 6.25, and by eight o'clock the buildings were a heap of ruins. The loss to the owner was estimated at not less than \$20,000 for the building and equipment and another \$20,000 for stock in the factory, while lumber piles outside were destroyed to the extent of at least \$5,000. This does not represent the actual loss, however, as it is estimated that the factory cannot be replaced for less than \$40,000. The loss on uncompleted contracts will also be heavy.

The insurance carried amounted to only \$10,000 and the blow is a serious one to Mr. Hamilton.

MR. HAMILTON WILL REBUILD.

Although feeling his loss very keenly, Mr. Hamilton bravely declared his intention of rebuilding immediately, provided he could make the necessary financial arrangements.

Forty men were thrown out of employment and suffered the loss of all their tools.

The fire seems to have started near the furnace, but its origin is a mystery. It broke out in the few minutes' interval between the departure of the night watchman and the arrival of the engineer.

The fire started at 6.25. Five minutes before that the night watchman, John J. McElwaine, left the building, and everything in good order and no trace of fire. It was his custom to leave at this time, and the engineer, Frank Hexter, usually arrived a few minutes later. McElwaine had scarcely reached his home on Clarence street when the alarm from box No. 17 rang in. He turned and ran back, but by the time he reached the place the building was filled with smoke and flames.

THREE ALARMS SENT IN.

The employees who were in the cotton mill at that hour heard an explosion, and running to see what was the matter found the factory building in flames.

One alarm had hardly been rung in when the seriousness of the fire was realized, and another alarm was rung, followed soon by a third to summon the North End apparatus.

In a few minutes practically all the available apparatus in the city was on the spot fighting desperately to subdue the flames. No engine was placed in the cotton factory grounds, pumping a single stream. No. 3 was at the corner of Brunswick and Erin streets immediately opposite the fire, with two lines of hose connected, and No. 4 was located at the corner of Hanover street with two more lines.

SAVING THE LUMBER.

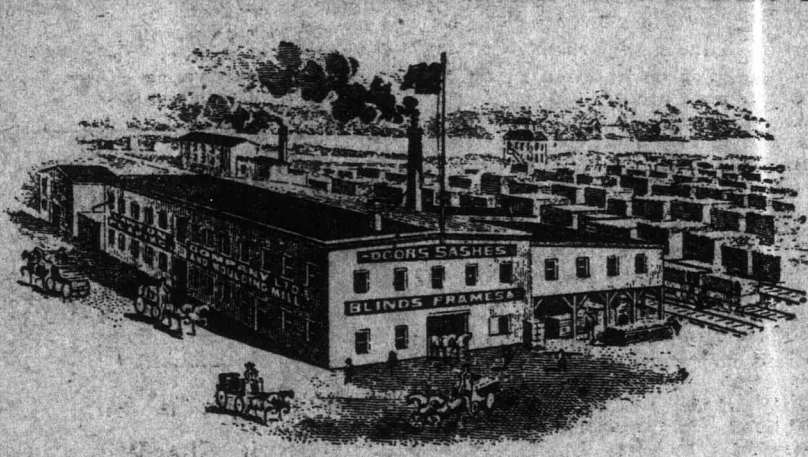
As the main factory building proved a hopeless proposition the firemen turned their energies to the work of saving the immense piles of lumber stacked in the rear, and the surrounding dwelling houses. A gallant fight was also made to save the drying house at the eastern end of the building, which was filled with valuable lumber, and this was partially successful. By the time that the factory was burned to the ground the flames on the drying house were checked and finally the walls of the corner remaining were torn down in order to get at the building still unburned.

In the meantime the surrounding houses were threatened with the flames, but close attention on the part of the firemen, aided by the efforts of some of the tenants armed with buckets, prevented the spread of the conflagration.

A large quantity of lumber stored in the rear of the building was also in serious danger, but here again the firemen prevented any damage.

The Brunswick street end of the newly built St. Thomas school received a severe scorning and the intense heat cracked a lot of bricks in the ornament at the corner, sending them in a shower to the sidewalk below and narrowly escaping hurting several people who were in the street.

The buildings on the opposite side of Erin street, owned by Mrs. Geo. Moses and George Bashara, escaped untouched, although the intense heat was near to the factory on Erin street owned and occupied by Mrs. Catherine Griffin, although on fire at one time, was practically unburned. The furniture was removed from the latter house.



No. 2 engine is laid up for repairs and the other east side wharves are being worked with the use of Siamese couplings about eight streams were available for the fire fighters.

BOILER ROOM WAS SHEATHED.

There is no information as to the origin of the fire as by the time the first persons reached the building the whole interior seemed to be filled with smoke and flames and the flames were already shooting through the roof. The engines and boilers were located in an iron sheathed compartment on the southeast corner of the building and here the fire apparently originated. It is thought that a spark may have got into the shaft which leads from the furnace room to the large vault in which sawdust and shavings are stored and thus started the blaze.

Another theory is that the fire may have started from the big chimney which leads right up through the paint room. The latter is situated over the boilers and when the fire did start the paint and oils contributed much to the rapidity with which the blaze spread.

The whole building, however, was as inflammable as a tinder box and needed no encouragement to burn.

BURNED VERY RAPIDLY.

The wind which was blowing from the north kept the flames towards the rear and by seven o'clock the rear walls were entirely gone. Fifteen minutes later the front walls fell and in a few minutes the wall on Brunswick street gave way. All that was left of the main building was then a pile of severely blazing ruins.

The blazing factory illuminated the whole sky and the reflection was visible for miles around the city. Hundreds were attracted to the scene by the illumination and the gorgeous but pitiful spectacle of a thriving industry going to destruction was watched by an immense crowd of people.

THE INSURANCE.

The insurance carried was as follows:

Factory and Contents—

Queen Ins. Co. \$1,500

New York Underwriters' 1,000

Royal 1,000

Hartford 1,000

Richmond & Drummond 1,000

Lan. Union and Crown 750

Union Ins. Co. 750

On Lumber—

Royal Ins. Co. \$500

Hartford Fire Ins. Co. 500

Barns and contents

New York Underwriters' 1,500

The barns are situated on the far side of the track and were not damaged. On the other risks the loss to the insurance companies is complete.

Edgar H. Fairweather and E. L. Phillips have been appointed adjusters and will make an inspection this afternoon.

One important feature of the fire was the total loss of the tools owned by the employees. Some of the outfits were very valuable, one man estimating his loss at almost \$300.

DEFECTIVE HOSE.

When the fire started there was a noticeable lack of water, but this was overcome before very long and a good pressure was secured. Several lengths of hose burst during the fire and drenched those who happened to be near. Other lengths in use were defective with the water spraying through small holes. This condition of the hose is ascribed partly to the fact that the heavy fire apparatus is allowed to drive over the hose with nothing to protect the latter from injury.

Nothing was saved.

Practically the only things saved from the fire were Mr. Hamilton's desk containing some valuable papers and a couple of cases of account books. The ledgers and a small amount of money were locked in the safe and until it has cooled off enough to allow it to be opened it is impossible to tell whether the contents are unharmed. The books and papers saved are, however, sufficient to enable Mr. Hamilton to straighten out his affairs.

Speaking to The Star while the fire was in progress, Mr. Hamilton said that the destruction of the building and equipment represented a cash loss of between \$30,000 and \$35,000. As he secured the plant at a very low price the actual loss is estimated at a much higher figure when the cost of replacing the plant is taken into consideration.

The stock destroyed included 500,000 feet of mahogany, birch, pine, oak and spruce. A large amount of unfinished work was on hand and this also was lost.

The factory had been working at full capacity and lately the contracts on hand had grown to such an extent that they were about to begin night-work. Three cars of birch had just been stacked in the rear of the factory and this was burned with the drying house, which was filled only a few days ago with valuable white pine.

A LONG-ESTABLISHED CONCERN.

Half a century ago Wm. Lawton established a wood working business in the abandoned Doherty brewery at the corner of Union and St. Patrick streets. A few years later William Scott became associated with him and they continued in business at the same place for a number of years. Previous to this the property at the corner of Erin and Brunswick streets was occupied by a blacksmith and iron knee foundry owned by Jones and Thomas and later by Jones and Emery. This shop was leased in 1870 by Scott and Lawton and transformed into a wood working plant. A few years later a third partner in the person of Mr. Love was admitted and the business continued under the name of Scott, Lawton and Love. In the course of time Mr. Love dropped out and Mr. William C. Ellice joined the partnership. Mr. Ellice removed from St. John and some years afterward Mr. Scott retired, through age and failing health. The old building was burned.

MANUFACTURED BY THE NATIONAL DRUG CO. OF CANADA.

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One of the lengths of hose burst a large hole nearly two feet in length was noticed near by, evidently having come through the break.

General sympathy was expressed throughout the city at Mr. Hamilton's loss. He is still a young man but has built up a large business by his energy and enterprise. His workmen are devoted to him and a number of them

FREE UNTIL CURED



Forty years ago, when I first discarded drugs and devoted my whole attention to the study of Electricity, I could not afford to do business on today's basis, but I have so perfected my Electrical Appliances, and the knowledge I have gained from all these years of experience, and research is so great, that I will now give my wonder-famed Dr. Sanden Electric Belt, with Electric Suspensory, to any man who suffers from Nervous Debility, Varicose, Losses, Rheumatism, Lame Back, Stomach, Liver and Kidney Troubles, absolutely

FREE UNTIL CURED

I don't ask you to pay or deposit one cent until I convince you. Simply call or write for a Belt and wear it for two months, and if cured pay me the usual price. If not cured, return the Belt, and that ends the matter. Be sure you get the genuine. My great success has brought forth many imitators, and I must caution the public against their worthless, blistering imitations.

Call today and take a Belt along, or write for one of my two valuable books on Electricity and its medical uses. Sent, sealed, free by mail.

DR. E. F. SANDEN, 40 YONGE STREET, TORONTO, ONT., Office Hours—9 to 6; Saturdays Until 9 p. m.

expressed the sentiment that the whole staff would be willing to work without wages until the factory was rebuilt. Speaking to The Star, Mr. Hamilton said that he would make immediate arrangements to complete the contracts he had on hand and would probably divide the work among the other local factories. When asked about rebuilding on the same site he said that the site was the best in the city and that he would build a new factory, right away provided he was able to arrange to do so.

The ruins of the factory were still smoldering this afternoon and the fire department will continue at work playing water on them until this evening.

Cargo for the steamers at Reed's Point and the other east side wharves was held up today by the fire which destroyed Hamilton's factory as for a time the flames were sweeping across the track and later the lengths of hose across the track prevented traffic passing.

The employees of the Maritime Commercial Mill and McLean, Holt and Co., Ltd., whose factories are near the scene of the fire were kept busy for a while keeping their premises wet to prevent them catching fire, but they were not called on to fight any serious blaze.

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