

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Fresh to strong westerly winds, fair and cold.

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AT OTTAWA IN RUINS AS RESULT OF INCENDIARY FIRE LAST NIGHT; 2 KNOWN DEAD

Broke Out in Reading Room Which it is Believed Had Been Sprayed With Chemicals by Conspirators and Fired by Time Fuse -- House Had Just Assembled For Evening Session When Alarm Was Raised -- Chamber Soon Sheet off Flames and Members Forced to Fight Way to Safety -- Premier Borden Had Narrow Escape -- Hon. Mr. Burrell Badly Burned and Dr. Clarke Injured -- Two Lady Friends of Speaker and Mrs. Sevigny Trapped in Flames and Perished -- Four Men Also Lose Lives?

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—Canada's Parliament buildings, the finest Gothic structure in America, were completely destroyed by fire tonight and only the bare walls are now standing. Parliament was in session when the conflagration started at 8.50 p. m. By midnight all hope had been abandoned of saving any portion of the wings except perhaps the parliamentary library, but even that is doubtful. It is probable that parliament will meet tomorrow in the Russell Theatre. The fire is believed to have been the work of incendiaries and General Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, has issued orders to the militia, who are on guard duty at every point of ingress and egress on the Canadian border, to exercise the utmost vigilance so that no persons may pass without thoroughly accounting for themselves. The Dominion police have also been notified everywhere and the United States authorities have been apprized of the occurrence at Ottawa tonight so that every effort will be made to prevent the escape of any persons suspected of participation in the firing of the buildings. At one o'clock one of the walls of the building collapsed and four men lost their lives, two policemen and two messengers who were endeavoring to save some valuable parliamentary records that had been thrown out of windows earlier in the evening. Two lives were lost within the building, a number of persons are badly scorched and many are suffering from suffocation.

The House was in session at the time the fire broke out. W. S. Loggie, of New Brunswick, was discussing the improvement of the Canadian fish trade when the chamber was started by Frank Glass, member for East Middlesex, rushing in the front door and shouting "The buildings are on fire."

EXPLOSION LIFT PORTION OF ROOF

At once the startled members and a few members of the parliamentary press gallery made for the entrances followed by the Speaker and sergeant-at-arms. They were astounded to find the corridors filled with heavy dark smoke and the members barely had time to grab their coats, indeed most of them ran for safety bareheaded. With members scattered all over the main building in their various rooms, it will be impossible to say until morning how many, if any are missing.

Fortunately there were few visitors in the galleries, or the loss of life must have been appalling as it was almost impossible for them to reach safety. A half dozen soldiers who were in the public gallery turned their khaki handkerchiefs into respirators, seized a couple of their companions who were overcome and carried them down the stairway. They stated that they feared there was loss of life in this gallery as there were a number of visitors there, and they believed they were overcome. They tried to locate them but in the black smoke and darkness they were unable to find them. It is feared also that there is a loss of life in the library. It is an octagonal building, and the interior is of wood, so that when the fire started it burned with extraordinary fierceness and rapidity. The library which is the finest in Canada, and one of the finest on the continent, will be almost a total loss. There are many priceless treasures in it which it will be impossible to replace.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN LEADS IN RESCUE WORK.

Sir Robert Borden took command of the work of rescue and fire fighting but there was little that could be done. At 9.35 p. m. there was a loud detonation just to the west of the centre of the main building where the Commons chamber is located. The explosion was followed by the lifting of the roof and a flash of flame high into the sky. It is now certain that the conflagration is the work of incendiaries and it is confidently believed that they are Germans. There has been fear of this for some time. All but the mail doors have been kept locked and guards have been constantly on duty. How the conspirators succeeded in getting past the guards is a mystery, but the hour was the most favorable that could be chosen.

The House rises for dinner at six o'clock and meets again at 8. At 8 o'clock a fair crowd re-enters the building and as it was ten minutes before nine that the fire broke out the incendiaries had time to arrange for their deadly work. Nor are the corridors so busy at that hour in the portion of the building selected for starting the conflagration so that they would be enabled to complete their preparations without as much interruption as might be expected at any other time. No doubt the time chosen was as good for their purpose as could be got.

PREMIER HAD A NARROW ESCAPE.

Almost all the ministers, Sir Robert Borden, Sir Thomas White, Sir George Foote, Messrs. Hazen, Rogers, Crothers and the rest were all either in the chamber or in their offices nearby. A few seconds more and the premier would have been caught. When the word of alarm was given Speaker Sevigny was in the chair and at once rushed to his own apartment to find Madame Sevigny. The flames spread so fast that they were cut off and were only rescued by jumping into a fireman's net. Several of their staff were saved in the same way. Some of the staff are missing and there are rumors that three have lost their lives.

Dr. Clarke of Red Deer reports that when he left the Commons chamber there were still three members there. Dr. Clarke was only rescued with the greatest difficulty and he is alarmed lest those three members have been burned to death. The members missing are James Douglas of Strathcona, George Elliot of North Middlesex, and W. S. Loggie, who was speaking when the alarm was given. Thomas McNutt, of Saltcoats, was another member who had a narrow escape. He was almost overcome when he reached the entrance, but had with him Dr. Cash, member for Yorkton, whom he had carried out in his arms. Dr. Cash was nearly suffocated but soon recovered.

E. W. Nesbitt, member for North Oxford, also had a close call and he is badly burned and bruised.

HON. MR. BURRELL BADLY BURNED.

Hon. Martin Burrell is very badly injured. The skin has been burned off both cheeks and he is suffering severely from shock.

At 9.50 the centre of the main building was completely gutted and the west wing was a mass of flames. The firemen are devoting their efforts to saving the east side which contains the beautiful Senate chamber and offices.

At 10.30 p. m. it is definitely assured that every member of parliament escaped.

Although several including Mr. Elliott and Mr. Loggie had difficulty in getting out of the chamber which at once became dense with smoke. They took hands and guided one another out.

AT LEAST TWO KNOWN TO HAVE PERISHED

At least two lives are known to have been lost. Two lady visitors of the Speaker and Mrs. Sevigny got lost in the maze of corridors in the Speaker's chamber and were overcome by the smoke. They were taken out by the firemen, but were quite dead when discovered. They were Madame Bray of Quebec and Madame Dussault. It is feared that some of the stenographers in the upper stories and some of the public may have been trapped.

Hon. Martin Burrell states that the flames shot at him like a flash. It was no ordinary fire. The flames were spontaneous all over the reading room where the fire first broke out. Mr. Burrell's office is



The above picture of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa shows the main building and the East Wing. The departments are housed in separate buildings, and consequently were not damaged. The high peaked tower showing at the right hand side of the picture, indicates the position of the library.

The Commons Chamber proper is situated almost in the centre of the building, and may be generally indicated as being near the large centre tower. The Speaker's apartments are in the rear half of the main building toward the left hand side of the picture. The restaurants from which employees were miraculously rescued are on the upper floor of the building, toward the left hand side of the picture. The suite of rooms set aside for the Press Gallery representatives are on the lower floor of the main building, at the western end. The Premier's office is on the second floor at the western end of the building. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's office is on the main corridor on the ground floor. The room set aside for the use of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island members is on the upper floor near the centre.

Latest reports indicate that the entire structure shown herewith has been destroyed.

beside the reading room and to gain safety he and his secretary, William Ide, had to dash through the flames in the reading room. They accomplished this although severely burnt and were then assisted out.

HON. MR. HAZEN AMONG LAST TO LEAVE

Amongst the last to leave the Commons chamber were Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and A. K. MacLean, M. P. for Halifax. They also declare that the flames met them with extraordinary velocity and unlike ordinary combustion. The consensus of opinion now is that chemicals had been scattered around the reading room and that the place had been fired by a time fuse. Mrs. Verville, wife of Alphonse Verville, M. P. for Malouine, was in the reading room at the time and saw the fire start. She states that all she saw was a sudden sheet of flame and she ran immediately for the corridor. Charles Stewart, the chief page, and Francis Glass, M. P., sounded the alarm.

At 10.40 the light in the clock of the great tower went out and shortly afterwards the lights all over the building. It was then seen that the fire had begun to travel eastward into the senate side; half an hour afterwards, despite the efforts of the fire fighters, the beautiful senate chamber was doomed.

The only hope now is that a portion of the library will be saved. The wind has changed and is blowing from the northwest, in which direction the library is. The library staff managed to get out of the building.

The senate was not in session so that very few of the members of the upper chamber and their staff were in the house.

THRILLING STORIES OF ESCAPES FROM THE FLAMES

Exits Blocked by Smoke—Occupants Had Hard Battle—Some Jump from Windows—Towels Tied Together to Make Rope Used by Some in Race from Death.

Ottawa, Feb. 3. (Canadian Press.)—Mayor Martin, of Montreal, first alarmed the members in the chamber. He was on his way to his room, which was near the library, when he heard an explosion, which may or may not have been caused by spontaneous combustion among the newspapers. He immediately rushed to the chamber and shouted, "fire—and a big one." As a precautionary measure, Mayor Martin ordered the chief of the Montreal fire brigade to send as many men and as much apparatus to the capital as could be spared.

Despite every effort of the firemen, the fire rapidly spread through the great corridors of the main building, quickly eating its way through the Commons chamber, the roof of which fell in. The speaker's chambers were destroyed, with their many valuable paintings and costly furnishings.

There were a number of persons in the galleries of the Commons, and they had great difficulty in fighting their way down the narrow stairways to safety. Several soldiers assisted the people in making respirators of their clothing, and aided many to battle their way out. Two soldiers were taken to the hospital badly cut with falling glass.

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 ex-

CORNER STONE LAID BY LATE KING EDWARD 7

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 Messrs. Fuller and Jones was selected, and the contract awarded to Thomas McGreevy at \$384,500, 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 fête 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 472 feet in length and three stories in height. The central tower was 160 feet in height, surmounted by crown and flagstaff. The elevated position 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

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tingler, 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 beginning 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, and it seemed 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.

KNOCKED DOWN BY FORCE OF EXPLOSION.

Mr. W. R. Bradbury, stock broker, of Elgin street, also related some interesting incidents in connection with the big fire. Mr. Bradbury was standing in the main corridor of the House of Commons, near the post-office, when he heard a crash. He rushed along the corridor toward the main entrance to the chamber.

"It appeared to break out in an instant," said Mr. Bradbury. "I was standing near the postoffice when I heard the crash. Then I turned and saw several of the policemen and messengers hurrying along towards the reading room. I then went into room 16, where many of the Conservative members were and shouted 'fire.' Before reaching the room there was another explosion of some kind, which knocked me off my feet. The members soon came running out of room 16 and from the chamber. I helped get Mr. David Henderson out. He was not injured at all.

"Within a few minutes that section of the building near the reading room was a mass of seething flame. One of the messengers told me that all the members had escaped from the chamber."

Major Gerald White, M. P., confirmed the announcement of Mr. Bradbury with regard to the separate explosions. He was in room 16, when the alarm rang out, and was one of the last to leave, assisting others of the older members out. The majority left coats, hats and everything behind. Major White was in uniform, and after leaving the building he assisted with the work of rescuing several who had been trapped in the upper rooms in the southwest wing.

SIXTY FEET ABOVE GROUND AND STAIRWAYS BLOCKED BY SMOKE.

Some of the most spectacular rescues were made in this section of the building. There were many employees in the restaurant at the time, and the lower corridors filled with smoke so quickly that they were un-

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