

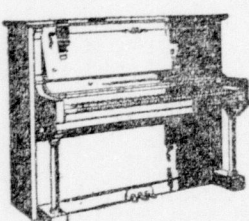


## Mason & Risch Pianos

"FROM FACTORY TO HOME"

**Twice as Many People Came To Us Last Year Than in Any Previous Year to Have Their Pianos Tuned**

That means that good work well done advertises itself—that our hundreds of regular customers have told their friends of the highly satisfactory results they obtained here, until our tunings have just doubled.



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**MASON & RISCH LIMITED**  
248 Dundas Street, London,  
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## WORKS MINISTER SEEMINGLY IN RECEPTIVE MOOD FOR INFLUENCE RE NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

"Get After Him," Urges S. F. Glass, in Regard Proposal For Joint Customs House and Postoffice.

In connection with the proposed new custom house and postoffice, S. F. Glass, M. P., has received a letter from Hon. F. B. Carvell, minister of public works, expressing a desire to have an interview with Mr. Glass at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Glass has been in communication with the minister of public works and has expressed upon the minister the necessity of a federal building in which the postoffice, custom house and all the Dominion Government offices could be located.

It is the opinion of the member for East Middlesex that the city council, chamber of commerce, and all other interested in the welfare of the city should get busy and let Ottawa know that the city as a whole is in support of the erection of a federal building as outlined.

**Oppose Low Building.**  
Several of the prominent citizens of the city have expressed their disapproval of the scheme to Mr. Glass. One of the phases in connection is the fact that the Government has been considering for some time the erection of a new postoffice. It has been intended to erect a two-story building on the Carling Block, spreading it out in order to get sufficient space.

This does not find favor with the majority of the citizens, as they think that a two-story building of this type would not be an architectural asset to the city. Mr. Glass is convinced that if the citizens will act together and express their opinions to Ottawa the Government can be convinced of the wisdom of adding a few stories to the proposed building in order to provide room for the custom house and all the other federal offices in the city.

**Will Provide Work.**  
Mr. Glass points out yet another reason for arguing that the Government take up the proposition and this is in regard to providing work for the returned men. The erection of a large building would employ many men and would be the means of clearing up much money in the city. It has been intimated to Mr. Glass that the Government is spending a large sum of money in London in military buildings and the intention is to spend yet more, that there will be lots of work without going ahead this year with the postoffice building.

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## CANADA'S FIRE LOSS IN 1918 33 MILLIONS

Great Deal of the Economic Loss Preventable, Declares Conservation Officer.

DOMINION LEADS WORLD

Bad Building Laws and Other Influences Are in Measure Responsible.

J. Grove Smith, of the commission of conservation, Ottawa, at a dinner held under the joint auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the two Canadian Chambers of Commerce, declared that the fire loss in Canada last year, excluding forest and timber fires, was \$33,530,000. This was very far in excess of the figures for any other country in the world, and he expressed the belief that a great deal of this economic loss was preventable.

Some of the reasons he adduced as the reason why the loss was so heavy were that building bylaws were not enforced and that the bylaws were not uniform. What was permissible in one city or town was forbidden by the municipal authorities in another.

Toronto, the building bylaws were different from those in London; both of them differed from the bylaws of other cities, and under these circumstances the bylaws could not be effective.

Referring to his statement that building bylaws were not enforced, he mentioned that on a certain occasion he was with a fire marshal in one of the provinces, and they passed a row of shacks in disreputable quarters which were a menace to a nearby factory. He asked the marshal why they were not torn down, and the provincial official said he preferred that the municipality rather than he should order their destruction. Asked why he was not inclined to exercise the authority vested in him by the province, he explained that the owner of the buildings in question was a member of Parliament, and that the attorney-general would certainly not "stand for" a prosecution.

In another instance, said Mr. Smith, he would announce the result of a building bylaw which had been modified and abrogated no less than thirty-two times for the benefit of influential citizens who wished to erect buildings not in conformity with the bylaw.

**Many Insurance Agents.**  
Another reason for heavy fire loss was to be found in the fact that fire insurance agents, accepted insurance on buildings which they never saw. He instanced a certain Canadian city in which it was found that four hundred people were agents for fire insurance companies. Only about one-quarter of this number were legitimately in the business of fire insurance, the balance being made up of clerks, bankers, lawyers, etc., who sold fire insurance only as a sideline.

He spoke of this matter, he said, to a minister of the Government of the Dominion, and the minister declared that so long as people had buildings to insure, and so long as they had three dollars to pay for their license to act as an agent, the license would be granted. "But," Mr. Smith stated he said to him, "that indicates that you are concerned solely with the catching of votes, to which the minister replied, 'Why, certainly.'"

**Montreal Beats Manchester.**  
Mr. Smith referred to the annual fire loss in Montreal, Canada, respectively, during a recent year. It showed that Montreal, with a larger population than Montreal, and with a fire loss of \$2,000,000. And that in spite of the fact that in and around Manchester were more numerous factories, involving a tremendous concentration of inflammable material than in any other whole country in the world.

So long, declared the speaker, as houses of different construction are scattered haphazard through our cities and towns, brick and frame construction mixed up, so long would our fire loss be much greater than it should be. Not one building in twelve hundred in Canada was fireproof, he declared. Poor construction was an important factor in the fire loss of the country.

**Must Be Remedied.**  
Mr. Smith declared that the condition of the fire loss in Canada, respectively, was determined on that point, if he had to move heaven and earth to accomplish it, and he asked his hearers to back him. He said that the next session of the Dominion Parliament he intended to endeavor to secure an amendment to the criminal code, such a nature as to make anyone who was found to have caused a fire, through carelessness or negligence, liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than \$1,000 or two years' imprisonment. He pointed out that although the general statute it was nearly so much as the French law on the subject in the time of Napoleon. That law made every householder responsible for the fire loss of his house, unless he could prove his innocence. The British code did not allow a man to be presumed guilty while he could prove his innocence.

The fire departments of Canada, said Mr. Smith, were as good as those of any country of which he knew, but it was a waste of energy to try to break out and then extinguish it. The better method would be to prevent the fire. The campaign against fire loss should be one of offence, not of defence. We should follow the example set by the Canadians in the war of carrying the war to the enemy, not waiting for the enemy to attack, and then concerning themselves only in stockpiling.

Seven years ago he came to England. Six years ago he organized the "Red Cross" of the Methodist Church, known as "The Handful Boys" and in the welfare of the Methodist Church generally he manifested a deep interest.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Miss Irene, a nursing sister overseas, and Miss Lillian at home. A memorial service will be held in the Methodist Church Sunday evening, and the remains will be taken Monday morning to Exeter for interment.

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Ten Thousand Dollars.

We have got our ear down to the ground and listening real hard. To hear Sir Adam cover that bet. For we love to see real sportsmen take a fifty-fifty chance. And ten thousand dollars these days are hard to get. Sir Holt comes from Missouri and his cold cash backs him up. In his search for truth regarding hydro light, "strangely" stirs our sporting blood. As the challenge flashes forth from knight to knight.

—FRED YOUNG, 15th Battalion.

with a defensive action. In order to do this united action was imperative, and he thought that the kind of spirit which had been bred of the war, the spirit of unselfishness, would help to bring about such co-operation.

**Every Fire Counts.**  
Every fire, Mr. Smith, pointed out, while it was part of the total fire loss of the country, was in itself a local incident. The municipalities must take care of the individual fires, and if this were done the country's fire loss would decrease. The local legislatures should co-ordinate the efforts of the municipalities, and the Dominion Government would supply the driving power.

Principal C. C. Waller of Huron College, who said that he had been interested for some years in the question of fire prevention, particularly of the prevention of forest fires, asked what was the approximate loss from forest and bush fires, and also what steps, if any, were taken to fix responsibility upon the railroads for fire damage caused by them along their rights-of-way.

Mr. Smith said the forest fire loss could not be estimated, because a great deal of the forest fire loss was caused by timber which was not insured, and therefore no estimate could be made.

**Government Only Offender.**  
As to the responsibility of the commission of conservation had jurisdiction over all the privately-owned railroads, and were given free passes so that they could travel up and down the lines and keep track of the damage done.

At the conclusion of Mr. Smith's address, which was received with many manifestations of pleasure and interest, J. V. Young moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

Whereas, Canada's annual fire waste is shown by the commission of conservation to be the highest of any country in the world;

And whereas these losses constitute a burden upon the whole country and endanger our economic future as a nation;

Therefore, be it resolved that this meeting, representing the London Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Canadian citizens, strongly urge this matter of being brought into effect promptly, and the inauguration of such policies as will result in the control of this serious source of loss.

Be it further resolved that a fire prevention association be formed as a branch of the Ontario Fire Prevention Association to co-operate with the provincial fire marshals in the work of his department.

And that the chairman be authorized to nominate a committee to carry out the matter for consideration.

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sir Thomas White, acting premier of the Dominion.

Mr. Smith stated he said to him, "that indicates that you are concerned solely with the catching of votes, to which the minister replied, 'Why, certainly.'"

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