

THE FIREMEN WON AFTER HARD FIGHT FLAMES HELD MASTERY FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS

The Commercial District of Baltimore is Now a Mass of Blackened Ruins.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—Baltimore is staggering tonight under a fire loss which no one has the temerity to put into figures. The important commercial district is a mass of blackened ruins, the result of a conflagration which raged for nearly 48 hours in spite of almost superhuman efforts, but for the hard fighting forces, which more than half a dozen cities muster, to-night the city is overcast with gloom.

At 2 p.m. the Associated Press sent out a bulletin saying the flames would be held in check at the Union docks and prevented from leaving Jones Falls. At 3 o'clock the bulletin was confirmed. A score of times small fires were found near the sides of lumber piles on the east bank of the falls, but these were quickly extinguished.

About seventy-five blocks, or 140 acres, are gone. The burned district is within the territory bounded on the west by Liberty street; on the east by Jones Falls, and on the south by the Basin.

The district thus swept by fire comprised nearly 2,500 buildings. Insurance companies have joined temporary offices in the Lexington hotel, but their representatives decline to estimate the loss. The answer of one is typical of all: "It's too big. We have not money to describe it. It's about \$100,000,000 is the best we can do."

The same indecision was true in regard to estimates concerning insurance. The city was early in need under martial law to prevent looting.

The struggle to-day has been with the one end of confining the fire to the west side of Jones Falls. That the fire was checked was the result of the meeting of concentrated labors of nearly 100 fire companies, aided by the powerful tug Cataract.

The programme adopted last night, blowing up buildings in an attempt to stop the progress of the flames, was continued until the fire was under control. With the fire under control, the waste which lies in the wake of the flames is a river of terrible in its grandeur. It can be likened best to oceans of great coke ovens shooting out its thousand leagues of flames from pyramids of brick, stone and masonry.

Business men prosperous Saturday are poor to-day. Expressions heard among these men reveal an astounding number who were but poorly protected by insurance. Few persons have explored fully even such portions of the burned district as the cooling ruins would permit, for the high wind made it dangerous to pass through streets bordered by crumbling walls and covered with masses of wires lashed about by a high wind.

Colonel Supplies, a competent authority on factory statistics, estimated the number of persons thrown out of work will reach 50,000.

Inspector of Buildings Peaston, after making a careful study of the burned district, placed the building loss at \$150,000,000.

Tonight it is feared that all must come from adjacent cities or a partial famine will be an added phase of the situation. Restaurants are entirely out of food and the destruction of the commission houses along the wharves has shut off the supply.

Preparations are being made to rush supplies from New York in order to avert suffering.

Tonight, it became necessary to locate the spot where the march of the flames were stopped. After the burning of the Maryland and American Ice Companies' plants, near the Tuna docks, few buildings were destroyed. The ice houses held the flames for three hours, though in the meantime Norfolk wharf was consumed.

The fire boat Cataract and the New York engine companies held this dangerous neighborhood, and when the fire coal yards the American Ice Company's brought it under control.

Local fire officials extend unstinted praise to the fire companies from New York and the brave and heroic men in the face of the conflagration. Time and time again they were driven from their position by fierce bursts of flame, but at the coal yards they made a stand and won a contest which finally ended the terrible spread of the fire.

When darkness fell to-night the people of this stricken city knew the worst was over. The firemen working manfully, and aided by a muddy stream, finally conquered a fire that will rank among the world's great conflagrations. Worn out by the night and day of terror, the great crowds that watched the ruin of their city turned homeward, and at midnight the streets were deserted save for the police and soldiers who guard the city. A real glow rises from the ruins of property that yesterday morning represented values to the extent of from \$75,000,000 to \$125,000,000.

One factor that will figure largely in the final estimate consists of securities in the banks and trust companies whose homes were destroyed. Their safes and vaults are to-night in the ruins, covered with tons of bricks. Experts who have seen them as close an inspection as possible, express their belief, however, that the contents are safe. On the correctness or falsity of this belief depends many millions of dollars greater or less of the final total.

Relief. Washington, Feb. 8.—A bill was introduced to-day by Representative Emrich, Illinois, appropriating \$1,000,000 for the relief of the sufferers from the Baltimore fire.

OUTING FOR FEBRUARY.

In view of the sensation created last month by Robert Dunn's frank diary of the Mt. McKinley expedition, the extracts in February Outing are bound to interest every reader. This month's article, "Into the Mists of Mt. McKinley," uniquely combines a fascinating story of exploration with all the blackings, the quarrels, the fierce tempers of weary, tortured men, lying under wholly abnormal conditions.

Many readers may prefer, at this time of disturbances in Morocco, to turn to Albert H. Dana's first-hand account of a journey "Through the Rebel Country of the Moors," with human-interest photographs by the author.

An article of very different character, but of almost equal interest, is Clifton Johnson's "Among the Georgia Crackers," a study from within of untoward conditions, where babies take snuff and women do all the work.

Caspar Whitney's graphic account of his experiences among the Sumatra Malays has a very Kiplingesque title, "In Abu Fins, an Elephant." Whitney intends to combine the series of travel-studies he has been writing into a volume called "The Jungle Hunter."

The fiction in this number is notable, including the most interesting chapter of Stewart Edward White's best story, "The Silent Places" or "The Trail of Jingsos," and a fragrant coaching story, "The Tip," by Emory Pottle, with some Pen-fish drawings that suggest a love story. Just as interesting as fiction is Emerson Hough's intimate study of "Sam Houston, one of his unique series of articles on the Outdoor Men of History."

The regular department devoted to "Outdoor Men and Women" contains characteristic anecdotes of two brothers, the angling craft, Wm. C. Harris, and Charles Hallock. Herbert K. Job, who has been photographing rare birds on Florida keys for using readers, has returned with some remarkable photographs, and Mr. Harris has something to say on when to fish in the same region.

Of equal interest to sportsmen and general readers are Dr. McKim's "Breathlessness," or the progress of fatigue as seen in the human face; Edwyn Sandy's monthly talk, "Hinton Perry's 'Animals in Art,'" and finally instructions from John A. Roosevelt and Dan Beard on how to sail ice yachts and the art of skate sailing. "A Country Club in Oklahoma" is suggestive of long strides from the days of Indian reservations.

In the Sportsman's Viewpoint, Caspar Whitney discusses in his usual vigorous way the development of horsemanship in this country and the intelligent effort that has made our Horse Show the equal of any in the world.

Photographs full of the outdoor feeling, a little nature verse and a great many inspiring drawings by the most distinguished artists, complete the magazine.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

More Information Concerning the Big Excursions Next Summer.

From a reliable source the Times has secured additional information concerning the visit to this city of a big contingent of members of the twenty-ninth annual convocation of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, of the United States, which is to be held in San Francisco from September 6th to the 8th. The Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, will carry their own special train of fifteen cars, and will come over the Northern Pacific. This party will comprise two hundred and sixty-five. They will leave Seattle for Victoria on August 30th at 7 o'clock a.m., arriving here at 11 o'clock.

Special arrangements will be made for their reception and entertainment. The members of Tatorcel Commandery, No. 48, on a number of the number, will not journey over the Northern Pacific to their special train. They will likely arrive in Victoria the same day.

In addition to these two excursions on the coast, the Knights Templar will have about fifteen other parties coming west over the same route, and most of these are expected to take a run to Victoria. Certainly every effort will be expended to attract them here. They comprise some of the most prominent people of the United States, and this city is bound to be the gainer through their visit.

It is to be noted that the Knights Templar are coming here from time to time. In addition to these two excursions on the coast, the Knights Templar will have about fifteen other parties coming west over the same route, and most of these are expected to take a run to Victoria.

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SWORE ROBERTS WAS VERY EXCITED

EVIDENCE ON CALLAM INQUEST ON MONDAY

One Witness Made Sensational Statement Regarding Conduct of Captain on the Life Raft.

Evidence was given by three witnesses at the inquest into the Callam disaster, which was continued yesterday afternoon. They were two of the passengers, Charles G. Bennett and H. D. Boney, and one of the crew, Alan McKee. All three made statements of a somewhat sensational nature.

The first one said that when the life raft was launched the captain ordered passengers to stay below on the main deck. It is corroborated by McKee, who, after telling of the order, added: "The captain then commenced to edge off towards the life raft."

On the other side of his examination, said he was pulled on the life raft by a man named Case, who afterwards told him that the captain tried to push floating about on the life raft because it was slightly crowded. Witness did not notice this, being too exhausted to pay attention to anything.

Charles G. Bennett, the first witness called, swore he was a passenger on the Callam on January 8th. He had some considerable experience at sea. He recounted the circumstances leading up to the disaster, and said that about 2:30 he noticed the captain and officers passing from the upper deck. Shortly before 3 o'clock the captain said to some of the passengers: "We'll be in Victoria in an hour."

Witness went down to the life preservers. He then saw the starboard lifeboats being lowered. Looking over the port side shortly after he saw that a small boat had foundered. People were clinging to her sides, and other boats cleared the vessel. Among those floating he recognized N. P. Shaw, who drifted between the small boat and the ship. He was about 15 feet away.

After assisting in lowering the small boat witness helped to bail. Between 9 and 10 o'clock the Holyoke came up and took the Callam in tow. "I noticed," witness continued, "that when the ship was taken in tow she commenced to settle rapidly. I knew this because previously we were kept flying even with the water, and then it began to sink. I thought the vessel was sinking. The latter looked over the side, but did not say anything."

"Was the captain there at the time?" Coroner Hart asked. Witness replied in the affirmative.

Continuing, the witness told of the arrival of the Sea Lion and the foundering of the ship. He escaped by getting on the life raft, which was occupied by the chief officer alone when witness reached it. Afterwards about 12 were rescued and 60 men clinging to the railing at the time the captain gave orders for them to stay where they were. He was of the opinion that all the water entered through the port. It is said that the small boat would have been left open if the ship would have sunk much more rapidly, because it was decided to submerge the vessel.

Before the adjournment Coroner Hart announced that he was in receipt of a telegram from Seattle stating that the builder of the Callam's hull and the contractor for the rigging would be on Thursday. They wished it arranged, if possible, to have their evidence taken that afternoon. The coroner said that he had understood the same would be in the city.

An adjournment was therefore taken until 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

CANADIAN NOTES.

Meeting of Railway Commission.—The Alleged Criminal Libel Case.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The first meeting of the railway commission was held this afternoon. British Columbia applications were discussed.

Committed For Trial.

Montreal, Feb. 6.—Hugh Graham, proprietor of the Star, and the manager of the Star, were committed to the Court of King's Bench to stand their trial on a charge of criminal libel preferred by Hon. Raymond Prefontaine.

Nominations.

The following candidates were nominated to-day for the bye-elections which take place next Tuesday in the riding of the House of Commons—J. E. Armstrong, Conservative; Charles Jenkins, Liberal; E. M. Phillips, K. C., Conservative; A. W. Robb, Liberal; Montague-Armand Lavigne, Liberal; M. Rousseau, Conservative; St. Hyacinthe, J. J. Banchet, Liberal; E. Tache, Conservative; Hochelaga (Montreal)—L. A. Rivet, Liberal; Dr. A. A. Bernard, Conservative; St. James (Montreal)—J. G. H. Bergeron, Conservative; Honore Gervais, Liberal; P. Lancelotti, Liberal; Workmen's candidate, St. John.—Dr. J. H. E. L. Horace Hazard, Liberal; A. McLean, Conservative.

Confessed to Embezzlement.

Brookville, Ont., Feb. 9.—A sensation has been caused here by the news that James A. Hutchinson, a leading barrister of this town, has given himself up to the extent of thirty or forty thousand dollars. The defaulter runs back as far as four years, and Hutchinson states that during that time he was successful in keeping all knowledge of it from his partner, Fisher. Last Friday he told Fisher of the fact and the latter advised him to call a meeting of his creditors. Hutchinson refused to do so, as he wished to surrender himself to justice. The money was lost in speculation on the market.

The French authorities at Papete have issued a notification that in future no foreign vessel will be allowed to enter or to carry cargo between the islands of the Society group.

COUNCIL SUPPRESSED ISLANDS

AND WILL URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST

Efforts Will Also Be Made to Secure Dominion Exhibition for Victoria.

Acting Mayor Graham again presided at the regular weekly meeting of the city council Monday. Probably the most interesting matters before the board were a couple of motions, introduced and passed, one favoring the construction of the Cowichan, Alberni & Fort Rupert railway, and the other directing action on the part of the city council towards securing the Dominion exhibition for Victoria in 1905.

There were some vacant places in the aldermanic circle, among the absentees being Aldermen Kinsmen and Fell. George Riley, M. P., wrote stating that he was in hearty accord with the resolution favoring the construction of the Dominion exhibition in this city, and offering his service in doing what he could towards securing an appropriation from the Dominion for the same.

The Tourist Association also communicated on the same subject, enclosing a copy of a resolution passed by that organization, which has already appeared in the columns of the Times. The resolution was that the city council should place a box drain on St. Charles street. Referred to the city engineer for report.

F. B. Pemberton asked for the extension of a box drain on St. Charles street. Referred to the city engineer for report. Referred to the building inspector and finance committee for report.

Crease & Crease asked that a special committee be appointed to investigate into the conduct of the city pound-keepers in regard to the loss of a cow, belonging to Wm. Donaldson.

In compliance with the request three aldermen were appointed on the committee, who will report to the Mayor, namely, Aldermen Goodacre, Oddy and Vincent.

John R. Giacomo applied for further time to make a sewer connection. Request granted.

Mrs. R. J. Riddell drew attention, on behalf of the W. C. T. U., to a number of idle men living on Humboldt street, and asked that the council do something towards supplying them with work.

Before the letter was dealt with, Acting Mayor Graham stated that he had already been regarding this matter, and he stated that in his opinion there were probably others in the city who had been here longer, and who were probably more deserving of the city's help. Just before the meeting the worst time of the year for civic employment.

On motion, the letter was referred to the Mayor to deal with.

T. P. McConnell, secretary of the Victoria Royal Club, asked for an appropriation of \$100 towards the club's next show in Victoria, and expressed the opinion that the city derived benefit to the amount asked, and more, in advertising its citizens here for the show. Referred to the finance committee for report.

City Engineer Topp recommended payment of \$10,000 to the Victoria Machinery Depot in accordance with the terms of the Point Ellice bridge contract. Received and adopted.

J. L. Baymore recommended the purchase of 25 1/2-inch valves for the use of the water works. Referred to the streets, bridges and sewers committee.

A petition was next read asking for the extension of the street from the junction of the Cowichan street. Referred to the city engineer for report.

The finance committee recommended payment of accounts totaling \$3,728.98, and also payment of \$10,000 to the Victoria Machinery Company. Approved.

The same committee also recommended that contract for drugs be awarded to Morrison & Co. Post tenders were received. Adopted.

On motion given early in the week, applications will be called for the position of cemetery keeper.

Ald. Beckwith next moved that steps be taken by the council to urge the government to support the Cowichan, Alberni & Fort Rupert railway project. Ald. Beckwith said that he was convinced that there was a great deal of the substantial behind the movement, and the step proposed would do a great deal of good. He said that he had been in the city for some time, and that he had seen the progress of the necessary legislation surveys would be out, and that within three months actual construction work would be started, and that he was sure that this had struck Victoria for some time.

Ald. Stewart said he would hold up his hands for anything which would develop the island, and that he would be glad to help the Island was beneficial to Victoria.

A SOWER

WENT FORTH TO SOW

Everybody knows the old parable. It was the good seed sown on good land that brought forth a hundred fold. It's the same story repeated.

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The very best seeds at reasonable prices has always been our aim and has built up our enormous business. Have no hesitancy in buying Steele, Briggs' Seeds, they are tested and tried, backed by over thirty years experience in handling; only the best that money can buy. You can get

OUR SEEDS FROM YOUR LOCAL DEALER and if he has not got all you want, send direct to us, you can't buy better seeds anywhere.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the Matter of Margaret Isabella Gill, Deceased, Intestate, and in the Matter of the Official Administrator's Act.

Notice is hereby given that under an order made by the Honorable the Chief Justice, dated 25th day of January, 1904, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate of the above deceased. All parties having claims against the said estate are requested to send particulars of same to me, on or before the 25th day of February, 1904, and all parties indebted thereto are requested to pay such indebtedness to me forthwith.

H. P. O'FARRELL, November 19th, 1903.

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W.M. MONTEITH, Official Administrator. VICTORIA, B. C., January 26th, 1904.

WANTED—Futuristic person to travel for well established house in a few counties, selling retail merchandise and agents. Local territory. Salary \$20.00 per week with expenses additional. All parties in cash each week. Money for expenses advanced. Position permanent. Business successful and rising. Standard House, 1000 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

most graceful and artistic effort. After the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln-Ullyot left on the Sound steamer en route to their new home in Langdon, Dakota, amidst the well wishes and congratulations of a large number of friends. The bride is a Victorian, well known in musical circles, both she and her sister having delighted local audiences with vocal selections on many occasions.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CANADIAN

VOL. 84.

London, Feb. 12.—In a dispatch from Nagasaki, February 10th, it is stated that the Japanese attack on the Russian ships and crews in the Japanese port of Port Arthur has been a renewed attack. The Japanese capture of the Russian ships and crews in the Japanese port of Port Arthur has been a renewed attack.

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