

invalidity was made at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Friendly Societies held at Reading, Berkshire. This conference represents over 5,000,000 members. A resolution was passed over calling upon the Government to produce their scheme at the earliest possible moment, as the delay in introducing it is detrimental to the progress of friendly societies. From a committee's report it appeared that in interviews with the Chancellor of the Exchequer they had insisted on the preservation of the present rights of self-government of the friendly societies and the protection of their funds. Mr. Lloyd George repeated his assurance that before definite action is taken by the Government the friendly societies will have an opportunity of discussing the scheme. Several speeches were made at the conference by leading members expressing hostility to State insurance schemes.

The Canadian Fire Record.

(Specially compiled by The Chronicle.)

TWEED, ONT.—Residence of Joseph Murphy, damaged, October 22.

CHATHAM, ONT.—Barge Lycoming, owned by J. C. O'Connor, burned to water's edge, October 24.

ARDEN, MAN.—Prairie fires in this district have destroyed a large quantity of hay in the northern sections.

MONTREAL.—Small blaze in sash and door factory of Larose & Larose, 2607 St. Hubert Street. Small damage.

HALIFAX, N.S.—H. E. Macarthur's wood working factory destroyed by fire, October 20, including large part of machinery. Loss placed at \$5,000. No insurance.

TORONTO, ONT.—Small blaze at Cement Product Company's office, 230 St. Clarens Avenue, October 24. Loss \$450.

SACKVILLE, N.B.—Two barns and contents property of Woody Ogden, destroyed, October 19. Loss \$1,000; no insurance.

KINGSTON, ONT.—Presbyterian Church at Sand Hill, destroyed, October 17. Loss placed at \$2,000 with insurance of \$800.

NANAIMO, B.C.—Three salteries, owned by Japanese, destroyed October 20, including salt, nets, etc. Loss placed at \$15,000.

VIRIDEN, MAN.—Farm house of A. Stocker, three miles east of here, burned to ground, October 21. Loss, about \$2,500; insurance, \$1,000.

BELLEVEILLE, ONT.—Fire at 199 Church Street, destroyed effects valued at \$200 of E. Moore, tenant. No insurance. Damage to building, \$200.

MELBOURNE, QUE.—Residence of Mr. E. Andrews, three miles from here, destroyed, October 24. Loss heavy, partially covered by insurance.

OTTAWA.—Home of George Tremble, farmer of North Gower, destroyed October 24, owing to child playing with matches. Two other children burned to death.

MONCTON, N.B.—S. C. Carpenter's grocery store on St. George Street burned October, 20; loss \$2,500—\$1,000 on building owned by Daniel White (insured) and \$1,500, Carpenter's stock (insurance, \$700).

ST. CYRILLE DE WENDOVER, QUE.—Sash and door factory owned by Mr. C. Caron destroyed, and residence of Mr. C. Chaudonnet burned. Losses estimated at \$15,000 and \$2,000 respectively. Little insurance.

WINNIPEG.—Blaze in double frame house in Redwood Avenue, started by boys playing with matches, October 17, damage \$250; old main building at exhibition grounds used as temporary isolation hospital destroyed. Everyone got out safely.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—Amasa Wood Hospital burned, October 18. Loss \$1,000. Origin unknown; barn at Sparta, owned by F. Mitchell, Chicago, and leased by S. Moutchin, struck by lightning and destroyed October 21. Loss, \$1,000; small insurance.

FIRE AT BISHOP STREET, MONTREAL.

Early this morning a fire broke out at Mr. James Howley's apartment house in course of construction in Bishop Street, Montreal, and the building was completely gutted. Insurance is as follows:—Caledonian, \$10,000; Queen, \$10,000. Total loss.

CONFLAGRATION AT VICTORIA, B.C.

What is reported to be the greatest conflagration in the history of Victoria, B.C., broke out late on Wednesday night, and practically destroyed the entire block between Government, Fort and Broad Streets and Trounce Avenue. The fire began in the store of David Spencer, Ltd., and thence spread to the Five Sisters Block and H. Young & Company's dry goods store. A number of other premises were badly damaged.

The total loss is estimated at \$1,350,000, and the insurance loss will be about \$1,000,000. Full details of the insurance are not yet to hand but it is stated that Lloyds carried a large amount of it, including the risks of Messrs. Spencer, who are the largest losers.

APPOINTMENT.

Messrs. A. McKim, Ltd., the well-known advertising agents of Montreal and Toronto, have been appointed sole agents in Canada for financial advertising in The Times, London, which retains its unique position as a medium for bringing to the notice of the monied classes of the old world, details of enterprises in Canada and in other parts of the world. With the establishment of the McKim agency, leading Canadian business men will doubtless find it convenient, as well as necessary, to utilize this means of publicity.

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