

PARLIAMENT HOUSES AT OTTAWA ARE FIRE SWEPT

Main Building Destroyed— Damage \$10,000,000



OTTAWA PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

In the foreground is the Commons Wing, and the Library, with the tall Tower. The fire started in the centre of the building, to the rear of the entrance Tower.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 4.—The beautiful Canadian Parliament Building is this morning a mass of smoking ruins. The costly library is saved, but much damage is done by smoke and water. The new west wing is less damaged than the other parts. Most of the interior has been swept clean.

The fire was attended by possibly seven deaths, two of them women who were guests of Mme. Sevigny, wife of the Speaker. These two women were suffocated early in the calamity. Several others are missing. Officials to-day hazarded the opinion that some bodies are beneath the ruins, but it is impossible at present to find out definitely. If bodies are there, they possibly are buried beneath fifteen feet of debris.

STARTED AT 9 O'CLOCK.

At 9 o'clock the fire broke out between the Commons chamber and the library. In a few minutes the flames shot over the Commons chamber roof, and it was seen that the handsome Gothic structure was doomed.

The fire took a curious L-shaped course as it swept through the building, due, no doubt, to the location of the corridors and drafts. The reading room, where it started, is located in the rear of the Senate. The fire swung to the west, and reached the side of the building by way of the Commons chamber and members' corridors. It then turned eastward along the front of the building, and licked up the Senate chamber.

It did not turn to the west of the Commons chamber, except at the front of the building. The press room, along the west front, together with the office of the chief Government whip and of the Premier, were located in the new wing, and were undamaged.

The fire developed so suddenly as to give credence to the belief that it was of incendiary origin, though there are conflicting stories of the early moments of the conflagration, several reporting an explosion and others a sudden rush of flames as from loose paper.

When Deputy-Speaker Rhodes took the chair and opened proceedings at 8 o'clock, there was no indication of anything being wrong about the place. A discussion upon a resolution relating to fisheries was proceeding, with Hon. Douglas Hazen, Minister of Naval Affairs, Marine and Fisheries, leading for the Government.

There was but a small attendance of members. Suddenly the decorum of the chamber was broken by a messenger breaking in with a shout of "Fire! Run for your lives!"

WIRE GAINED SWIFTLY.

The fire had developed with such astounding suddenness that, although the place of origin could not have been more than thirty feet from the Commons chamber, and though the Commons chamber and the library were burning, the fire spread rapidly from all parts of the big building, making a scene of great confusion.

HON. BURRELL'S ESCAPE.

From the thickest of the smoke a man staggered forth and fell just in front of the postoffice. He was picked up by Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works; Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, and Hon. Pierre Mondin, Secretary of State. When they raised him they found that it was the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture. He was afflicted with the smoke and badly burned about the head. He had been working in his private room adjoining the reading room, when the fire started. When he left his room he had to plunge through flames in the corridor at his door, and then feel his way along fifty yards of dark, smoke-filled, crooked corridor to gain safety. That he escaped is remarkable.

Outside the weather was icy cold, and the members, dreading to leave without their coats, tried to get them. The corridors about the three sides of the chamber are lined with small lockers, and in these the garments were hung. Several men tried to get their coats, which were within forty feet of them behind a curtain of smoke. Not one succeeded in the attempt.

A few minutes after the fire broke out, it was found that the press room was cut off. There were several correspondents there, and they were compelled to climb to safety down ladders which firemen raised to the windows.

SIR WILFRID A WITNESS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier fortunately was at home when the fire broke out. He, like the Governor-General, witnessed from his motor car the destruction of the building where he had fought so many political battles. General Hughes was at the Chateau Laurier, dining with a number of newspaper men, when informed that the Parliament buildings were on fire. He drove down to the scene and ordered out the 77th Overseas Regiment, which is completing training in Ottawa. The soldiers lined the grounds, controlled the crowd, and, taking charge, General Hughes aided the firemen in the battle with the flames.

The fire is still smouldering to day and all spectators are barred from Parliament Hill. Most of the walls, save in the centre, appear to be solid, and the tower, now a hollow shaft of stone, is standing as far up as the clock room.

One of the most stubborn fights of the whole fire was that made to save the fine library building, which is not equalled for beauty on this continent, and the fight was successful. While the fire burned the passage from the reading room right to the walls of the library, its progress was stayed there. No damage is done to the building, but considerable loss to the books, particularly those which were in the basement, was caused by water. The fire was under control about 5 o'clock, though at ten this morning several streams are still being played on the interior.

NOT INCENDIARY.

The fire started in the reading room of the House of Commons, Col. Sherwood states that there is absolutely no ground for rumors that the fire was of incendiary origin. "It started right under the nose of a policeman," he stated.

The report of a warning from Providence two weeks ago is officially denied. The central part of the main building, including the chambers of both the commons and the senate, is gutted but the front and end walls are apparently in good shape, though experts will have to determine the structural damage. Both the east and west ends of the building are but little damaged, with the exception of the roof and top floors. The tower was completely gutted, the superstructure and finials falling with a crash though the masonry still stands gaunt and scarred.

LOSSES IN THE LIBRARY.

Great difficulty will be experienced in even attempting to estimate the damage to books, etc., in the Parliamentary library, as conditions have permitted of only a hurried survey of the ruined section nearest the Parliament Building. It is probable that 15,000 volumes, including an immense and invaluable collection of ecclesiastical literature, have been destroyed.

It is positively known that some hundreds of volumes of the Edinburgh Review, the Quarterly Review, and other such valuable periodicals, dating back as far as 1807, have been demolished. Copies of hundreds of newspapers that have long since ceased publication are destroyed, and will never be replaced. It is probable that a very large section of the law division has also been considerably injured.

It is definitely known that a large collection of beautiful polyglot Bibles has been destroyed. This collection included Bibles printed away back in the 17th century. They were all sorts and sizes, and probably one of the most valuable collections in the world. The Public Works Department has made arrangements to board up the windows to protect the books from the wind.

3,000 NEW BIG GERMAN GUNS

Have Been Shipped to Western Front Recently.

Allies' Heavy Artillery Busy With the Enemy.

London Cable.—Unceasing movements of endless artillery trains and the reported shipment of not less than 3,000 new big guns to the western front, as reported from Amsterdam to day, give new rise to the theory that the Teutons are planning a great drive in the west, probably at Cambrai. Violent artillery fighting reported in the German, French and British official reports tends to support this theory. The use of guns was particularly heavy during the last 24 hours on the Franco-Belgian front.

The Allies' big guns are constantly battering the German lines in the Neuveville sector, where the Germans gained considerable ground in their recent two days' offensive. This is supposed to follow up their successful attempts to follow up their successes at that region. Military observers attach much significance to the increasing signs of a Teuton offensive, whose chief object is believed to be to throw all available masses of troops against the allied left wing and push through to Calais.

Berlin announced the occupation by the Germans of two craters caused by the explosion of British mines northwest of Hulluch. Apart from this and the general artillery activity, the official reports claim only minor successes.

BRITISH REPORT.

London Cable.—The following British official statement on the campaign in the western zone was issued to-night:

"There was heavy hostile shelling during the day. It was directed against our trenches around Loos and against Loos itself. We replied effectively.

"There has been mining activity about the Hohenzollern redoubt and between this redoubt and La Bassée road. This activity was mainly on our part."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable.—The following official communication was issued by the War Office to-night:

"To the north of the Aisne we bombarded the enemy trenches on the plateau of Vanlers and at Laviale aux Bois. Troops in transit on the road from Berry-au-Bac to Juvincourt were taken under our fire.

"In the Argonne mine fighting was very active. We exploded a number of mines which shattered the subterranean works of the enemy, one at Les Courtes Chaussees, another at La Fille Morte, four at Hill 285 (Haute Chevauchee), and three at Vanquons, between Hill 285 and Haute Chevauchee.

"The groups of the enemy attempted against our small posts an attack which was checked after an engagement with artillery and grenades.

"On the heights of the Meuse we exploded a mine in the Bois des Chevaliers and bombarded Saint Maurice-Sous-Les-Cotes, north of Hattinchalet.

"In Asnes, to the south of the Thur, shells from our guns caused a fire in the enemy cantonments at Mehlenberg, northeast of Burnhaupt."

LINER SUNK 160 DROWNED

Shanghai, Cable.—The Japanese liner Daijin Mara was sunk Wednesday night in a collision with the steamship Llanan, and 160 lives were lost. Twenty-one persons were saved. The Llanan, badly damaged, is returning to Hong Kong.

NEAR REVOLT

Conditions in Portugal Still Continue Troublesome.

Madrid, via Paris Cable.—The Imperial states that disorders continue in Lisbon. A bomb was exploded in Rua Tobago, killing a corporal and wounding two men of the Republican Guards. The aggressors were dispersed by revolver shots from other soldiers. Several bombs, the newspaper adds, were exploded in other quarters, causing a certain amount of damage. The offices of the labor union bureau have been surrounded by troops, as the strikers are endeavoring to bring about a general strike. The street cars have stopped running. The agitation has spread to outlying places. At Montemor, the Imperial says, the Mayor was tortured and killed. At Aguarantes and other places the mob broke open the farmers' barns and carried off the grain. Troops have been sent to these localities.

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Mr. Harry Snyder was found dead on a lounge by Mrs. Primrose, at 115 Trinity Street, Toronto.

The Grand Council of Marine Engineers is now in session at the Carlton Hotel, Toronto.

Greece has requisitioned 24 Greek ships now in Argentine ports, and has ordered them to Norfolk for orders.

The Novoe Vryema says it has learned from a reliable source that the Russian Duma will assemble on Feb. 18.

Reg. Truckle is in Brantford Hospital with his sides crushed by a collision with a street car while driving a dairy rig. He will recover.

The Norwegian steamship Skard, from Baltimore to Moss, Norway, with a cargo of barley, rye and wheat, has been taken into Kirkwall by the British authorities.

The British steamer Franz Fischer, of London, has been sunk. Of her crew only three men were saved, Chief Engineer Birca, Steward Taylor and Seaman Hillier.

Robert A. Reid, barrister, was arrested in Toronto by Detective Twigg on a charge of theft. The warrant alleges that he stole the sum of \$1,800 from Mrs. Priscilla Kingsmill.

W. M. German, M.P. for Welland, is in the hospital at Ottawa. He slipped and fell on the ice on the way from the House of Commons and suffered a severe sprain of the ankle.

Catherine Brown, seventy-three years, a boarder at 152 Montrose ave., Toronto was found dead on the floor of her room by Miss Mary Cox of the same address. A gas jet was turned on in the room.

The short line railway from Petrograd to Sorokina, on the White Sea, a distance of 550 miles, has just been completed, giving another outlet to the north besides that of Archangel, and thus tending to relieve the congestion at the latter port.

ONT. HEALTH

Measles Are Spreading Throughout the Province.

Toronto Report.—An abatement of measles in Toronto, but an increase in cases throughout the province, is shown by the January report of the Provincial Board of Health. Toronto's contribution dropped from 2,159 cases to 2,026 cases. The rest of Ontario, however, increased its record to a rather serious extent. In December there were only 273 cases, but this increased in January to 992 cases. This is the largest number outside Toronto in months. The monthly returns show a marked decrease in smallpox, scarlet and typhoid fever.

The detailed returns for January, 1916, show:

Disease	Cases	Deaths
Smallpox	21	0
Scarlet fever	153	2
Diphtheria	297	42
Measles	3,018	59
Whooping cough	136	10
Typhoid fever	25	8
Tuberculosis	140	63
Infantile paralysis	1	1
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	21	17
Total	3,821	208

SHEEP BREEDERS.

Annual Meeting of Dominion Association at Toronto.

Toronto Report.—At the well attended annual meeting of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, the president, Colonel McEwen reported a rapid growth and improvement in the sheep breeding industry in Canada. Mr. Taylor told the breeders the kind of sheep and lambs the packers require at the present time. He said that 75 per cent of the lambs sent to market are too heavy for the trade and that 80 to 90 lbs. is a very satisfactory weight. Mr. Taylor, in answer to question, said that he could not guarantee the price for sheep, for the future supply becomes greater, yet there is every chance of fair prices as well as a good demand in the future. A proof of the need for a more widespread interest in sheep farming is the fact that five million pounds of mutton is imported annually that could be raised in Canada.

Mr. W. A. Dryden, of Brooklyn, Ont., gave an insight of the system of sheep-breeding carried on in Great Britain. He being a Shropshire man, drew attention to the good points of the smoother and fine-wooled type of sheep, and Mr. Duff-Blen, who was the next speaker, had something to say in favor of the long-wools. The present high prices for wool being one point in his favor.

FARMERS AND WAR SERVICE IN CONFLICT

Agriculturists in Convention in Toronto Discuss Their Duty to the Empire.

PROHIBITION

Strong Favoring Resolution Passed—Remove Duties Against British Goods.

Toronto Report.—What is the duty of farmers' sons—to go and fight in the trenches of Flanders or stay at home and till the furrows of Canada? This question exercised the minds of the farmers' Parliament, the United Farmers of Ontario, which resumed its deliberations yesterday in St. James' Parish House. The following resolution was carried by a standing vote:

"We desire to emphasize in the most forcible way possible the serious consequences which will result from any large enlistment of men from the farms of overseas service. Agriculture is already sadly undermined, and any further decrease in the number of those engaged in it cannot but reduce farm production very materially. As an increase of farm production is most necessary, not only for the assistance of the Empire, but for the maintenance of our own national credit, the imperative need for a large enlistment from the rural sections might be demonstrated beyond any question before such enlistment is encouraged. The campaign is resulting in either taking men from the farms who are more needed there than in the trenches, or as branding as disloyal or cowardly many young men who are neither, but are kept on the farms through a sense of duty more urgent than that of enlisting. We would urge, to remedy these conditions, that local Commissions of responsible citizens, on which agriculture is to be represented, be appointed to investigate the cases of farm youths enlisting, and to determine whether they are more needed on the farms or under arms; and that provision be made by which men not enlisting and left at home under these conditions, shall receive some badge by which reproach shall be removed from them."

SWEEPING RESOLUTION REJECTED.

Mr. W. F. Fisher, Burlington, protested against the first draft of the resolution, which was of a more sweeping character. He thought they would put themselves in wrong with the public, and be thought parsimonious and lacking in duty.

President Halton said that it was just as important to have men to grow food as men in the trenches. He quoted Napoleon, who said that "every man fights on his stomach."

Mr. E. C. Drury, Barrie, said there was need of a definition of duty for young men on the farm. Young men were being branded as unpatriotic and cowards if they did not go. It was shown that the men were needed more in the trenches than on the farms, they should go. The Government should define what was the duty of young men in rural life at the present time.

Mr. W. L. Smith, Durham, deplored the fact that the recruiting propaganda was being carried on by men of the cities, who were not acquainted with conditions in the country. He feared the result would be that the women will be forced into agricultural work.

PROHIBITION RESOLUTION.

The following resolution on prohibition was carried unanimously amid applause:

"Be it resolved that we, the United Farmers of Ontario, would urge our national Government to enact at the earliest possible date the sale, importation and manufacture of spirituous liquors in Canada during the period of the war, and that the traffic be not established for at least three years thereafter, and then only upon the vote of the people.

"As a possibly earlier reform we would express our hearty approval also of the proposal that the Ontario Government shall at its next session prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors in the Province for the same term and upon the same conditions."

A resolution was passed calling upon the Federal Government to remove all duties against British imports, with a view to drawing closer the relations of Canada to the motherland.

Mr. F. C. Hart, in a sensible address on co-operation, urged farmers to more closely study the requirements of the market and get down to cool business propositions.

Mr. E. C. Drury, of Barrie, gave an address on selling live stock. He said there was a lack of knowledge among farmers of the various grades of cattle, and consequently the drover who bought always got the best of the bargain. The drover might be dispensed with under proper organization. He thought they should have a market expert who could advise the farmer as to the best way of disposing of his stock.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers of the U. F. O. were elected for the ensuing year: President, R. H. Halbert; 1st Vice-President, A. J. Reynolds; 2nd Vice-President, W. C. Good; Directors: Messrs. Hunter, Drury, Blatchford, Van Allen; Auditor, Mr. Adams. Mr. B. C. Tucker was elected and Mr. E. C. Drury re-elected as directors of the Co-operative Company.

THE HOLSTEIN.

President Flatt, of Breeders' Association, Reports Good Year.

Toronto Report.—Progress almost unprecedented in the history of the organization was reported at yesterday's third annual meeting of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada. During 1915 the registrations had increased fully 20 per cent, and the 10,000 mark had been reached. 323 new members had been added, the balance in hand on the year's work amounted to \$1,507.15 and the total assets of the association were \$10,000.00 with no liabilities. Mr. D. C. Flatt, Hamilton, the president, in his review of the year referred to the success of the Holstein breed at the Toronto Fair and advised that the association should increase its grant to the C. N. E. because the breed received at Toronto at least ten times the amount of publicity afforded at any other fair. The officers elected were: President, Mr. H. Halsey, Springfield, Ont.; 1st Vice-President, W. Richardson, Caledonia, Ont.; 2nd Vice-President, Norman Mitchell, Red Deer, Alta.; 3rd Vice-President, Neil Sangster, Orilliana, Ont.; 4th Vice-President, Dr. F. S. Tomlin, Victoria, B. C. Directors for two years—F. H. Mallory, Frankford, Ont.; R. J. Kelly, Caledonia, Ont.; Directors for one year—J. A. Breiten, Norwood, Ont.; A. E. Dickie, Central Onslow, N.S.; Secretary-Treasurer, W. A. Clemens, St. George, Ont.

ALLIES BEAT THE BULGARS

First Clash On Greek-Serbian Border Won by Entente.

Stiff Reprisal for Air Raid On Saloniki Inflicted.

London Cable.—Reuter's Athens correspondent says he has received a report from a good source that an encounter between Bulgarians and Entente allied troops took place Tuesday on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier. The Bulgarians fired on French detachments reconnoitering at the point where the Greek-Serbian-Bulgarian frontier meets, but the allies repulsed the Bulgarians.

A German Zeppelin made another attempt to raid Saloniki last night, but was heavily bombed by British artillerymen and driven off, according to despatches received here today. The dirigible pitched violently in retreating and is believed to have been hit.

The Saloniki correspondent of the Daily Mail says:

"Two German regiments have arrived north of Lake Dolran, near the frontier to the north of Saloniki, replacing two Macedonian Bulgarian regiments. These are the first Germans to appear.

"The Turks have three infantry regiments and four cavalry squadrons at Gumuljina.

"As a reprisal for the Zeppelin attacks here Monday night, 16 aeroplanes went to Patrick, 53 miles northeast of Saloniki, where there are large enemy camps, and dropped 181 bombs, of which 16 were incendiary. Twenty-six fires were started. The aeroplanes all returned safely."

THE AYRSHIRE.

Canadian Breeders of That Type in Session in Toronto.

Toronto Report.—Mr. A. H. Trimble president of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, who is the 17th year breeder of Ayrshires in Alberta, gave an interesting account of his experiences in that country, where he has lived and farmed for 26 years.

The report of the secretary, Mr. W. F. Stephen, was a very full record of the work done in dairying in the past year, with special reference to performance of Ayrshire cows. The report showed that the increased demand for milk of high quality and the fact that many large dairy companies now pay for milk on the basis of butter-fat content, is decidedly in favor of the Ayrshire cow on account of the uniformly high quality of her milk. A Canadian-bred Ayrshire brought the highest price at public auction ever paid for an Ayrshire cow, the sum paid being \$4,000.

In 1915 Ayrshires passed the 25,000-lb. milk record, and it is phenomenal that a cow will give twenty times her weight in milk in one year.

The membership of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association on Dec. 31 last was 1,197, 3,522 pedigrees of animals were recorded, and 3,499 transfers made, an increase of 186 pedigrees and 43 transfers.

The following are the officers for 1916: President, M. St. Marie, Compton, Que.; Vice-President, W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford, Ont.; Secretary, W. F. Stephen, Directors: Western—A. H. Trimble, Red Deer, Alta.; W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford; John McKee, Norwich; A. S. Turcotte, Ryckman's Corners; Alex. Hume, Campbellford; Wm. Stewart, Jun., Campbellford; Frank H. Harris, Mount Elgin, Eastern—R. R. Ness, Howick, Que.; Hon. Wm. Owens, Montreal; Jas. Bryson, Brysonville, Que.; P. D. McArthur, North Georgetown, Que.; Fred McRae, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; M. St. Marie, Compton, Que.; L. J. Tarte, Montreal.

THE SHIRE HORSE.

Canadian Association Convention Elects Officers.

Toronto Report.—Members of the Canadian Shire Horse Association, at their annual meeting, held at the Shire Horse Club, Toronto, elected the following officers for the present year: President, G. E. W. Green, Toronto; Directors—A. A. Miller, Middleborough, Ont.; Alex. Davie, Ladner, B.C.; G. D. Morden, Ontario; O. J. James, Brantford, Ont.; J. H. Hopkins, Anversley, Sask.; J. M. Gardhouse, Weston, Ont.