

42ND YEAR. NO. 17523

THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1905.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

\$75,000 DAMAGE DONE BY EARLY MORNING FIRE

Dymont-Baker Company's Mill and Part of Machine Tool Company's Works Destroyed.

CARS OF MACHINERY AND OVER MILLION FEET OF LUMBER ALSO CONSUMED

Firemen Had a Difficult Task to Prevent the Flames From Spreading—Were Aided by a Favorable Wind From the Southeast—Residents of the Locality Hurriedly Moved Out of Their Homes—Boy With a Rocket Blamed for the Blaze.

A boy and a rocket are held responsible for the most serious fire which London has known since the Masonic Temple block was destroyed in 1899.

The conflagration broke out about 2 o'clock this morning, and burned until noon. In its sweep it carried away the splendid big mill of the Dymont-Baker Lumber Company, together with all the machinery and about 1,000,000 feet of lumber which was piled in the company's yard, on the northeast corner of Bathurst and Wellington streets, causing a total loss to the company of not less than \$50,000, and probably \$60,000.

The large molding shop of the London Machine Tool Company was destroyed, with a loss of \$12,000.

The hardwood lumber yard of Tambling & Jones, in which was stored \$3,000 worth of quartered oak, fine birch, and other woods which now cost in the neighborhood of \$85 a thousand, was cleaned out.

Three freight cars of the Michigan Central, valued at \$2,000, and three carloads of agricultural implements, consigned to the Deering Harvester Company, of this city, valued at \$8,000, were also burned.

H. Bonser, a woodturner, who occupied part of the south end of Dymont-Baker's mill, lost \$500 worth of tools. He had no insurance.

Besides these losses, the Michigan Central roadbed has suffered severely for a couple of hundred feet, where the cars were burned, the rails being warped.

Mr. George Heard, whose residence is immediately next to the mill where the fire broke out, will suffer probably to the extent of \$100, through water which was poured into his house to save it from the flames. All losses with the exception of Mr. Bonser's are covered by insurance.

The origin of the fire can only be traced to the boy with the rocket. At 9 o'clock last night the family of Mr. Heard were seated on the lawn when they noticed a boy set off a rocket. It fell in the lumber-yard immediately to the rear of the box factory and big dry kiln, and knowing the danger of fire around the mill, a couple of members of the family made an investigation. They could find nothing, however, but one member of the party remarked that if there wouldn't be a fire there before morning he would be mistaken.

Speaking of the incident the young man stated to The Advertiser that he very much regretted he did not carry out a thought which entered his mind at the time and notify the firemen.

Mr. Thomas W. Baker, one of the partners of the Dymont-Baker firm, was seen at the fire this morning.

"The rocket caused the fire," he said. "There had been no fire in the mill since Tuesday night. And all the boilers had been cleaned out."

Mr. Baker roughly places the loss at \$50,000, which includes 1,000,000 feet of lumber at \$20 a thousand.

"Will your firm build at once?" the reporter asked.

"I cannot say just yet what we will do," was the reply.

"How many men are thrown out of employment?"

"We employed about fifty hands."

Mr. Wm. Yeates, of the London Machine Tool Company, said that the loss on the molding shop will be about \$12,000. Many valuable patterns were destroyed but in most cases the firm has duplicates of them, so that present contracts will not be very seriously

delayed. Twelve men are thrown out of work, but the firm will rebuild the shop as fast as men can be paid to do it.

Mr. Wm. Jones, of Tambling & Jones, stated that his firm's loss will not be less than \$3,000.

"The lumber we had in stock was very valuable," he said, "some of it having been seasoned for years. It is very hard to say just what our loss will be."

The Deering people place their loss at \$8,000, but the Michigan Central Railroad will be held responsible for this, as the goods were burned on the company's tracks. The railroad company's loss, outside of the machinery, will not be less than \$2,000.

Discovery of the Fire.

The fire was discovered by a couple of young men who were on their way home. They at once sent in an alarm, and the firemen responded with out delay.

The fire was at this time burning very fiercely in the 2-story frame building which stood just south of the main mill building, and which was used as a box factory and dry kiln. The whole structure was a mass of tinder, and it burned with a fierceness which almost appalled the fire-fighters. While the men were laying the hose, the fire chief made a hasty survey of the situation, and in a very short time half a dozen streams of water were playing on the flames. The pressure was very fair, but the heat was intense, and the hands of the firemen were blistered as they held the nozzles toward the flames and for a while they were compelled to draw back. Realizing that a big fire was on, the chief sent the supply wagons back to the stations, and every foot of available hose was brought to the scene and connections were made with every possible hydrant.

The men worked like heroes, but their efforts appeared to be abortive. In spite of the deluge of water with which the place was flooded, the flames shot up in tongues fifty or sixty feet in the air, lighting up the scene for half a mile around. Roaring and crackling so that it could be heard many blocks away, the fire quickly spread to the big mill, and soon it was seen that the latter, too, was also doomed. Immediately to the south is the residence of Mr. Heard, and the inmates lost no time in removing their household goods. This house the firemen made a determined fight to save, and with the aid of the slate roof which covers it, they at last won the battle. All the time streams of water had been playing on the mill, in the hope of checking the fire. The chief was everywhere directing his men, but the flames were not to be checked.

Firemen's Hard Task.

Foot by foot they fought the firemen back, until finally the chief gave orders to protect the adjoining properties at all hazards. One line was then kept playing on the Heard house, and all the other streams were kept playing on the big lumber piles across the road which now began to burn, on the piles of lumber in the rear of Tambling & Jones' shop, on Horton street, and on the shops of the London Machine Tool Company. For a while the firemen were successful in their efforts, but just then a stiff breeze blew up and fanned the flames into renewed vigor. In the center of the big lumber piles a spark ignited the dry pine, and the fire jumped from one vantage point to another. One hundred feet to the north, across the Grand Trunk tracks, stands the big freight shed, and immediately sparks from the burning lumber were blown across to it. A score of times these sparks set fire to the shingles, but a boy of about 15 years ran from place to place on the roof and stamped out the incipient flames. Then a gang of men were sent up by Freight Agent Gordon, who was

early on the scene, and they succeeded in soaking the shingles with water. All the while the firemen fought the flames scientifically, keeping them in check, so as to save the freight sheds.

Between Two Fires.

On the Michigan Central siding, a few yards east of Wellington street, stood three freight cars loaded with agricultural implements consigned to the Deering Company. They were between two fires, and in the cauldron they soon were a mass of flames. In half an hour all that was left was the ironwork of the cars and implements, and this now forms a huge pile on the street. The awful heat of the fire can be gauged from the fact that the ties were burned out of the ground, and all the rails were warped so that they pulled out the spikes for a hundred feet or more.

The Mill and Store.

The mill and store yard of the Dymont-Baker Company backs up to within eight feet of the shops of the London Machine Tool Company, and as the fire worked its way to the east it looked as if nothing could save the Machine Tool Company's premises from total destruction. But the firemen disputed every inch of progress made by the fire, and the wind, which continued to blow from the southeast, fought on the side of the firemen. The molding shop caught fire, and it was soon consumed, the roof falling in with a tremendous crash. Things looked pretty black for the big machine shop at this time, but happily a number of the employees arrived on the scene at the crucial moment, and they rendered the most valuable assistance to the fast-tiring firemen. In the yard at the rear of the shops stands a big hydrant, and in the minute the men had two lines of hose attached to it. These streams were kept playing on the roof of the shop, at the west end, and with the streams the firemen kept in play, the fire was confined to the molding shop, planing mill (or what was left of it), and to the mass of lumber and timber in the yards.

Sparks Carried Many Blocks.

When the fire had been in progress an hour or more, the roof of the planing mill fell in, and sparks were scattered a distance of three blocks. One of these lodged on the roof of the residence of Mr. Lance Schooley, 382 Waterloo street, near King, and immediately set fire to it. Only the prompt work of the family saved the house from destruction.

On the west side of Wellington street the bricks in the buildings were so hot that one could barely place a hand upon them, and the people were kept busy pouring water on the roofs. South of the planing mill, on Wellington street, the residents were in a panic, and some of them sat huddled in the early morning on the most valuable of their household goods which had been hastily removed to the street, as it was thought that nothing the firemen could do would save the entire block from destruction. On Horton street the people were also somewhat excited, as the flames spread south and east in the lumber yards of Tambling & Jones. But the wind remained true to the cause of the fire-fighters, and continued to blow the sparks for the most part into the wide expanse of Wellington street and away from the many frame cottages which front on Horton street. On Bathurst street, however, the fire on each side of the street, caused another and a very strong current of air to circulate, and by this means many pieces of burning lumber found their way to the roof of the freight sheds, and as far north as King street.

Under Control.

It was well on to 7 o'clock before the firemen had the fire under control, but even then it continued to burn fiercely in the ruins of the mill, and in the huge piles of lumber on the north side of the street. From the lumber piles (Continued on page 6.)

LOSSES IN THIS MORNING'S BIG FIRE

Dymont-Baker Lumber Co.	\$50,000
London Machine Tool Co.	12,000
Deering Harvester Co.	8,000
Michigan Central Railway	2,000
Tambling & Jones	3,000
H. Bonser	500
George Heard	100
Total	\$75,600

LEGISLATURE PROROGUES; THE SPEECH FROM THRONE

Lieutenant-Governor Clark Pleased With Legislation of Session and Thanks the Members.

Toronto, May 25. — After a sitting lasting two months and three days, the first session of the Provincial Legislature held under a Conservative Administration in 20 years was prorogued by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

In all 134 acts were assented to by the Lieutenant-Governor today. Mr. Clark drove up to the Parliament buildings, escorted by a bodyguard of 100 men of the Royal Grenadiers. The galleries of the house were filled with interested spectators of the proceedings, which were short. The Lieutenant-Governor simply entering the chamber and reading the address relieving the members of their duties. Following was the speech from the throne:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

In relieving you from the labors of the session, I thank you for the attention you have given to your public duties, as well as for the beneficial legislation which I have just sanctioned. Since the opening of the session the Province has been honored by two visits from Her Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess Grey. The evident interest taken by both their excellencies in all that touches the prosperity and well being of this Province, and the graceful courtesy of her excellency have endeared her to us all.

I thank you for the liberal appropriation you have made for the public service. The supplies granted by you will be expended with economy and in the public interest. In closing the session I desire again to commend your zeal in the public service, and to join with you in expressing the hope that the Legislature will continue to rest upon our country and our people.

act is the second great event in the history of our provincial university. The situation has become indeed acute, and the effect of the act will undoubtedly be to place the finances of the university on a sound, stable and permanent footing, relieving all anxiety as to its future, and by means of it we will be enabled to do our manifest duty towards the youth of the country and to hold our own in an educational sense, among the other communities on this continent.

I have noticed with satisfaction the interest you have displayed with reference to the possibilities which the future may have in store with regard to electric power, as well as the determination on your part that the interests of the Province in this very important question shall be carefully safeguarded.

I observe with pleasure the various amendments you have made to the statute law, the municipal law and the succession duties act, all of which I believe will be found to be beneficial.

The activity in business circles, together with the increasing wants of our people, are shown by the growing volume of private legislation. Some of this legislation is of the most important character and bears evidence of having been the result of careful supervision, which always desirable, has become for several reasons very necessary.

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NO BATTLE YET; ROJ IN PACIFIC

Manila Reports Jap Defeat, But St. Petersburg Discredits It.

Manila, May 25. — There is an unconfirmed rumor that the Russian and Jap fleets have met south of Formosa, and that the Japanese were defeated.

St. Petersburg, May 25, 5:25 p.m. — The admiralty has no information concerning the report of the Japanese victory. While it is considered possible that there may have been a brush between scouts, the idea of an open battle is not credited in the best-informed naval circles, where the opinion is expressed that Admiral Togo would not date to risk bringing his fleet highly exposed, and that the Russian Admiral Rozhkovsky. It is believed that Togo will try to keep in touch with the Russians by means of fast cruisers and await his approach of the Japanese coast. According to the admiralty's calculations, Rozhkovsky should now be far out in the Pacific, almost a thousand miles northeast of the place where the battle is reported to have occurred.

The evening papers here got out extracts from this report of Rozhkovsky's victory, and the newsboys crying the tidings on the Nevski Prospect, were almost mobbed by the people in their eagerness to learn the details.

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow — Showers.

London, Thursday, May 25. Sun rises, 4:42 a.m. Moon rises, 1:13 a.m. Sun sets, 7:45 p.m. Moon sets, 12:26 p.m.

Local showers have occurred today in the Territories and Manitoba. Elsewhere the weather has been fine and generally warmer.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Edmonton, 44-52; Calgary, 38-52; Winnipeg, 45-56; Port Arthur, 40-74; Toronto, 38-58; Ottawa, 40-52; Montreal, 42-53; Quebec, 32-50; St. John, 44-52; Halifax, 41-52.

FORECASTS.

Thursday, May 25-8 a.m. Fresh southwest to south winds; fair and warm; light showers and showers and thunderstorms during the night and of Friday.

Stations. S. a.m. Min. Weather. Calgary, 44, 32, Clear. Edmonton, 44, 32, Clear. Winnipeg, 45, 38, Cloudy. Port Arthur, 40, 52, Cloudy. Toronto, 38, 58, Clear. Ottawa, 40, 52, Clear. Montreal, 42, 53, Clear. Quebec, 32, 50, Clear. St. John, 44, 52, Clear. Halifax, 41, 52, Clear.

Local showers have occurred from the Rockies to the Lake Superior district. Elsewhere the weather has been fine and warmer. Fine weather is now indicated for the Northwest, and showers in Ontario and Quebec.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Wednesday were: Highest, 66.5; lowest, 31.5; above.

PERE MARQUETTE OFFICIALS MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY

Action of the Dominion Government in the Matter Meets With the Approval of the Labor Men.

MR. HYMAN GUARDED INTERESTS OF CANADIANS

ORDERED DEPORTED.

Ottawa, May 24. — The Government has lost no time in acting on Judge Winchester's report as to the employment of aliens in the executive positions of the Pere Marquette Railway.

An order-in-council has been signed bringing into play the penalty for infraction of the alien labor law, and the necessary warrants for the deportation of the twelve officials have been issued.

It is believed that habeas corpus proceedings will be started on behalf of the officials.

The prompt action of the Dominion Government in dealing with the officials of the Pere Marquette Railway Company, who were brought into Canada in contravention of the alien labor act, to take the places of Canadians, meets with the complete approval of local labor men.

It is pointed out that for many years the United States Government has been in the habit of deporting Canadians on the smallest pretext, and the Government's action is heartily indorsed by Canadian workmen. The order for the deportation of the officials has already been issued, and it will be served at once on District Passenger Agent Britton, of this city, and also on the other officials of the company in St. Thomas, Windsor, Ridgeway and elsewhere.

The periods in which the deportations must take place vary according to the importance of the positions held by these gentlemen. Some of them must leave forthwith, while others are given all the way from seven to twenty-four days in which to leave the country.

Before taking this action the Minister of Justice secured the opinions of prominent railway labor men on the subject, and acting upon their advice, he fixed the periods in which deportations must occur as given in the following letter. As the Government does not desire to unnecessarily disturb the management of the road in Canada, it was decided to ascertain from complete sources just how long it will take the company to fill the places of the men deported, and the periods agreed upon are deemed fair to the company.

Where Credit Is Due.

The investigation, which has resulted in the order for deportation, was made at the instance of Hon. C. S. Hyman, who exerted his influence to have a prompt and thorough inquiry. Mr. Hyman was given valuable assistance by Mr. Joseph Marks, of this city, editor of the Industrial Banner, the organ of organized labor in this part of Canada, and in the whole affair the interests of the labor men, as advised by their representatives, have been considered by Mr. Hyman, the department of labor and the Minister of Justice. The manner in which the deportation of labor has handled the case has also immensely pleased all labor men, and that it is alive to the interests it was instituted to serve is apparent to all.

Today a reporter called at the local Pere Marquette office to interview Mr. Britton, but the staff informed him that the district passenger agent is out of the city.

The correspondence in connection with the deportation is of interest. On May 23 the following letter was sent by Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King to Mr. E. L. Newcombe, deputy minister of justice:

"In connection with the warrants being issued by the department of justice for the deportation of certain persons in the employ of the Pere Marquette Company, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication by the Honorable the Minister of Labor to request that the department of justice instruct the officer to whom may be entrusted the execution of these warrants to have the persons therein named deported as follows:

"J. S. Pylett, superintendent, at the expiration of 24 days from this date.

"J. McNamara, master mechanic, at

the expiration of 24 days from this date.

"E. C. Cain, trainmaster, at the expiration of seven days from this date.

"James R. Gilhula, chief dispatcher, at the expiration of seven days from this date.

"Owen S. Lessor, assistant engineer, forthwith.

"George M. Osbourne, instrument man, forthwith.

"John W. O'Loughlin, stenographer, forthwith.

"Charles E. Shoemaker, boilermaker, forthwith.

"William L. Hunker, storekeeper, forthwith.

"Edgar Britton, district passenger agent, forthwith."

On the same day the following letter was sent to Superintendent Pylett, of the Pere Marquette Railway, at St. Thomas:

"I am directed to inform you that the following persons, having, as appears from the report of his Honor Judge Winchester, commissioner, appointed under royal commission, to inquire into the matter, been brought into Canada at the instance of the Pere Marquette Railway Company, in contravention of the provisions of the alien labor act, their deportation from Canada has been ordered, and that warrants to that end have been issued by the Attorney-General of Canada to the chief of the Dominion police, and that such warrants will be executed in respect of such persons, if then in Canada, at the following dates:

Then follows a list of the officials and the dates they must leave the country.

The Official History.

This month's Labor Gazette gives the following official account of the inquiry which has led up to the deportation of the officials:

On April 29 a royal commission was issued to His Honor Judge Winchester, of Toronto, to inquire into the alleged employment of aliens, to the exclusion of Canadian citizens and British subjects, by the Pere Marquette Railway Company upon that portion of the company's line operated in Canada, and on the 22nd of the month Judge Winchester commenced the examination of witnesses under the commission.

On the 2nd of March the Hon. C. S. Hyman, M. P., Acting Minister of Public Works, in a communication to the Hon. Sir William Mulock, K. C. M. G., Minister of Labor, pointed out that strong representations had been made to him in reference to the continued violation by the Pere Marquette Railway system of the alien labor law, and that if such a state of affairs existed as he had been informed of, he thought that immediate action should be taken by the department of labor to remedy it. In his communication, the Hon. Mr. Hyman further said:

"I may explain that some time since the Pere Marquette system of Michigan obtained control of the Canadian portion of the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway (Erie and Huron), and that they have now added this to their American system."

"My information is that they have been persistently replacing Canadian employees of the old system by employees from the United States, and I would respectfully urge the immediate attention of the labor department. Might I suggest that some one be officially instructed to carefully inquire as to the truth of the reports to which I refer, and that thereafter your department be kept advised."

Continued on page 6.

THE CITIZENS OF CHICAGO CALLED TO POLICE DUTY

Mayor Issues a Call for 1,000 Able-Bodied Men—Shea in Contempt of Court.

Chicago, May 25. — With the strike spreading each hour in the lumber district, and no signs of peace in sight, affairs in the teamsters' strike assumed a serious aspect today.

Unable to meet the demands for police protection, Mayor Dunne issued a call for one thousand able-bodied citizens to report at Chief O'Neill's office and be sworn in as policemen to do strike duty.

Sheriff Barrett continued to swear in deputies. The number of deputies sworn in since the beginning of the strike now numbers 4,000, one-fourth of whom are active deputies assigned to protect non-union drivers and wagons.

Armed sentries were guarding the various arteries located in the city, and the officers expected a call to arms at any moment. Fifty thousand rounds of ammunition have been distributed among the four regiments in the city and the naval militia.

Shea May Go to Jail.

Before leaving for Judge Kohlsaat's court, where he was instructed to appear to answer to a charge of contempt of court, President Shea conferred with several labor representatives and outlined plans for the carrying on of the strike today and tomorrow. Later he remarked laconically:

"I have only one conference on today. That one is with Judge Kohlsaat."

Referring to the defiance of court, Mr. Shea said:

"I am in contempt of court. They will put me in jail. They may never let me out. If they keep me in jail until I lose my contempt, I don't know how many years I may have to serve. The whole proceeding is worthy of contempt. It was the most outrageous thing in the name of justice I have ever seen anywhere. It did not resemble a court in any way."

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