

An Awful Fire at St. John's, Nfld.

At four o'clock last Friday afternoon a man lit his pipe in a barn at St. John's, and threw his match among the straw. A few minutes later the barn was in flames and a high wind prevailed. The old wooden buildings in the vicinity were just the kind of fuel needed to feed a fire. The flames spread with startling rapidity, leaped from roof to roof and from street to street, and almost before the people realized the situation the devouring element had fastened its grip upon the doomed city. The gale carried the live embers in all directions, and soon the fire was raging in a score of places at once. The fire department was utterly helpless. For 24 hours the flames raged with irresistible fury, and when the fire had spent itself the vast area from the parade ground on the northwest down to Beck's cove on the water front, then sweeping easterly, had cremated almost everything in the entire area. Some 2,500 houses, public buildings, churches and business establishments have been cremated with all their contents, and 14,000 people rendered homeless, of whom over 5,000 are absolutely destitute.

The scene during the fire was terribly grand, but is now terrifying in its desolation. Thousands of people who were in comfortable circumstances on Friday were destitute and penniless the next day. They have been bereft of everything they owned; their houses, food, clothes, everything, was burned up before their eyes, and they barely escaped with their lives.

Two little children were burned to death, and five men were either burned or drowned by the burning of the steamer Alert, and it is feared that many other lives have been lost which have not been reported.

The magnificent English cathedral which cost \$250,000, the splendid Masonic temple, St. Patrick's hall, the great Orange hall, the Supreme court building, the post office, the customs house, all the newspaper offices, and many other prominent and historic buildings have all been swept away.

The homeless people are encamped in fields under such temporary shelter as could be provided. The weather, fortunately, is fine.

The need of outside help is great and appeals are being sent in all directions and liberal responses are being made.

Some Fun With the Salvation Army Up in Warton.

The irrepressible "Punch and Judy" show visited Warton on Dominion Day. About 7 o'clock p. m., Punch, in the shape of a darkey as black as the ace of spades, or "Old Nick" himself, for that matter, commenced beating the drum in front of the tent. Shortly afterwards the Salvation Army came marching north on Bedford st., about 15 or 20 strong—all men and boys. They halted right in front of the tent, and then the war began. Punch jabbered through his artificial nose and chin. Judy banged the drum and cymbals. The Army banged their drum—the captain beating an overhead strike with both sticks; tambourines played furiously, and the song and dance knocked Big Bear's war dance cold. Citizens gathered in hundreds and watched the fun for over an hour and a half. Bets were freely offered which side would first vacate the ranch. Finally Col. Ely came out of his house and ordered the army captain to stop their d—d noise and racket on the street. He was grabbed by the flag-bearer, and in return seized his assailant. A scuffle ensued, and another officer of the army joined to rescue the standard-bearer. Constable Gilbert grabbed this party and pulled him away. It seemed as if the melee would soon become general, as a Cape Croker Indian made a dead set to scalp the darkey. Finally Chief Hull and his specials separated the combatants, and ordered the Army to move on. This they refused to do, and once more the tom-toms and noise of the opposing factions made the streets a Bedlam. Word was passed to turn the hose on them. Some young men acted upon the suggestion, and a length was procured from somewhere about the station or dock, and attached to the hydrant. Water was turned on and fizz, swish, zip went the water into the ranks of the army. Friend and foe scattered. The big drum was sent up the street and the army changed their quarters, getting out of the reach of the water, and although thoroughly drenched, they kept up their noise. At this stage of the fun the Reeve appeared and seeing a riot was imminent he asked the Army to move on. Still they refused, being out of reach of the water, and he ordered the police to arrest them. Another set-to ensued. The army declared they had resisted water and the dirt, and would resist the devil in any other shape than a darkey or the police.

It seemed as if they could do so successfully, as the police would not make any arrests. This exasperated the Reeve, and he ordered some members

of the fire brigade to bring some hose and declared if necessary he would sweep the streets from end to end in order to stop the row. Just as the order to turn on the water was given the Army capitulated, and offered to turn into a side street, give a short service and return home. This was done. There was the usual songs, speeches, etc., and shortly before nine o'clock peace prevailed once more.

During the row a refreshment booth caved in and an entire stock of lemonade, ice cream, cakes, candies and sandwiches was sent to destruction. Several ladies and children, in the booth or standing by, had their dresses torn or soiled, or were slightly bruised.—Warton News.

Teeswater, July 10.—This afternoon Robert Hassard, a moulder, during a fit of temporary insanity, jumped into Howson's mill-pond. When he arose for the second time he was caught by Mr. Fulton on a pike-pole and held above water until assistance arrived, when the man was rescued and resuscitated.

Over 40 cases of smallpox have been reported at Victoria, B.C., and there is a general panic in the city.

An old man named Catten, of Tilsonburg, was attacked by two bulls and received such injuries to his back that his whole body is paralysed.

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