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A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL IS THE WISH OF THE TIMES

RAFS FOR PARTY LEADERS

Halifax Has Half Million Dollar Fire

Several Firms Burned Out in Vicinity of George, Granville, Duke and Hollis Streets—Massive Walls Prevent Further Spread.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 24.—A half million dollar fire in the business district of Halifax this morning destroyed the dry-goods store and stock of Woods Bros. Ltd., and seriously damaged the premises of W. A. Gibes, music store, and a building occupied by Alfred Deniger, furrier, and owned by the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Apparently originating in the Woods Bros. establishment, which is situated between Granville and Hollis streets, sometime during the night, the fire was first seen when flames were noticed leaping through the roof of the wooden building at six o'clock this morning. It spread through the store and adjoining structures so rapidly that firemen were unable to bring it under control until about eight o'clock. By that time the Woods building was a mass of ruins and the other stores had been seriously damaged.

LATER. The buildings destroyed were Woods Bros. Co. Ltd., dry-goods and ladies' furnishings, and City Music Store, the two furriers, and the Bank of Nova Scotia. The building gutted was the century old Kelly and MacAnay, confectionery and building and housing contractors by Russell and MacAnay, Speciality Co. The buildings include, Longways Ltd., steam fitters, Hillis and Longways Ltd., and the Bank of Nova Scotia banks and the old Kelly and MacAnay buildings, that the proportion of the loss is estimated at \$500,000.

Clerks in the office of the C. P. R. telegraphed that a fire was burning in the Woods Bros. building at 6:15 o'clock and phoned in an alarm. A few minutes later a great tongue of flames shot through the roof and when the fire arrived on the ground the building was under control shortly before ten o'clock this morning by the firemen who fought the flames mainly from the roofs of the Granville office of the Commerce and Bank of Nova Scotia buildings. Captain James H. Cody and two firemen had a close call when the walls of the Woods building fell in and the huge steel girders of the building crashed into the street, but otherwise the task of fighting the fire was attended by no untoward incidents.

Members of the Woods Bros. firm are at a loss to explain the origin of the fire. Their building they say was apparently in perfect order when they left it last night and only yesterday it had been inspected by officials of the fire department.

Just a year ago the Woods Bros. establishment was badly damaged by fire originating in the old Kelly and MacAnay building at that time occupied by the Richmond Paper Co., and the fire re-established themselves in permanent quarters, following the disastrous Roy building fire.

AN AGED NEGRO PREACHER LYNCHED. Purvis, Miss., Dec. 24.—Following the finding of the body of Coleman Brown, an aged negro preacher, hanging from a tree and riddled with bullets soon after his release on bond in connection with the murder of a fourteen year old negro girl, Sheriff Williamson announced today that he believed negroes were responsible for the lynching. He said yesterday after investigation had shown that he knew little of anything of the murder. The body of the girl was found suspended by a clothes line from a tree.

ARRIVED SAFELY AT RIO JANEIRO. Joseph Irvine, of 45 High street, re-cited last night that his daughter, Bessie, wife of Capt. C. S. Richards, had arrived at Rio Janeiro on Dec. 23, all well, having made the voyage from Norfolk, Virginia, in about fifty days, or ten days less time than the captain had anticipated. Capt. Richards and Mrs. Richards were married in New York on Oct. 20, and this voyage was their honeymoon trip.

WORRIED OVER MONEY LOSS; KILLS WIFE, CHILDREN AND HIMSELF. Bradshaw, Neb., Dec. 24.—Worried over depreciation of the value of a large tract of land he purchased some time ago, and by neighbors of Carl Nickerson, to have prompted him to kill his wife, three children and himself here today. He used a hammer to slay his wife and a razor to kill himself and children. He killed the wife and children while they slept.

SHIP ON FIRE

London, Dec. 24.—The British steamer Mavaria, which sailed from New York on December 9 for Hamburg and Rotterdam, reports by wireless that a fire broke out in her cargo on December 17 and that it is spreading. The steamer reports that she is making for Queenstown.

MORE COMMENT ON THE EMIGRATION SPEECH OF PREMIER

London, Dec. 24.—(Canadian Associated Press)—A statement issued by the colonial office emphatically declares that "never for a moment was there any idea of promoting emigration to the dominions except after consultation with and the concurrence of the dominion governments."

It was also said that there is not the remotest prospect of anything being done till after the imperial conference next summer. Mr. MacNaughton, the vice president and chairman of the overseas settlement committee says that Premier Lloyd George's misstatement of misrepresentation by those who he declared stated that he said in his speech in the House of Commons yesterday that the government contemplated putting forward a scheme of emigration at once.

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LIQUOR CASES

The attention of the police court, which was presided over by Magistrate George A. Henderson, was attracted this morning with several liquor cases, arising out of the activities of the inspectors and police during the night. Tony A. Difazio was charged with having liquor in his possession other than in his private dwelling. For other than in his private dwelling, for other than in his private dwelling, for other than in his private dwelling.

CHRISTMAS MEAL. The mayor announced this morning that he would be in his office from 8 until 4:30 o'clock on Christmas day, and issue tickets for a lunch which is to be served for the unemployed on Christmas day in the basement of the Brunswick street church. He said that the meal would consist of a bowl of hot soup, coffee and light refreshments and that no charge would be made.

Sussex All Right. C. E. Dalton, representing Lloyd's, and George Waring, representing the ship owners, made a survey this morning of the steamer Sussex at No. 4 berth, and ascertained that she had suffered no damage from her sojourn on the Navy Island wharf. She was not making a drop of water, Mr. Waring said. He also said that the ship would sail this evening.

BYE-YAW MATTERS. Abraham Levine was in the police court this morning on report that he allowed pieces of wood and paper to fall from his wagon in Main street and on his back road. He said the paper and wood fell and he picked them up but did not pick them up as he was in a hurry to appear in court. Abraham paid a fine of \$4.

Maritime-Fresh to strong northwest winds, local snow flurries but mostly fair and somewhat colder tonight and Saturday. Gulf and North Shore-Strong northerly to westerly winds, mostly fair and cold tonight and on Saturday. Washington, Dec. 24.—Forecast: New England weather tonight and Saturday, colder tonight, fresh west winds.

As Hiram Sees It

"Hiram" said the Times reporter to Mr. Hiram Hornbeam, "has Mrs. Hornbeam, has pressed her views of the suggestion of the American farms that every farmer should have two wives?" "Well," said Hiram, "I prefer to have one wife for a long time, but I don't think that I would put anything in the paddocks for breakfast in the morning that wouldn't agree with me. I guess I won't try it."

WARN GERMANY

London, Dec. 24.—(Canadian Associated Press)—Lord Milner, colonial secretary, said that representations have been made to the German government with the object of enforcing the terms of the 1919 treaty with a view to preventing a recurrence of the actions which he said were the cause of the present situation.

NEW TRUSTEE

In the probate court sentence of granting appointment of new trustee was passed in the matter of the estate of William E. Ewing as her executor by her last will and testament Arthur W. Adams and C. F. Sanford was appointed trustee in place of the late William E. Ewing.

MUST SIGN HIS NAME

The mayor received another anonymous letter complaining that outside help is being brought to the city. There is still lots of room in the city for the unemployed, the mayor remarked, "but I will be only too pleased to take up any question submitted to me by a correspondent, if he will just sign his name in confidence."

THE FERRY FLOATS.

A survey of the west side ferry floats and the piling in the wings will be made this afternoon to ascertain the damage done to them during the time that the steamer Sussex rested on the Navy Island wharf yesterday. Commissioners Bullard said this morning that damage had been done to both wings and also to a portion of the backing behind the north wing.

WEATHER REPORT

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Crime Wave, Checked For Day, Sweeping Again

New York Hope Dashed by Murray Hill Hold-up—Series of Outbreaks in Many Parts of States.

MORE PLANTS CLOSE

New York, Dec. 24.—The hope that New York's crime wave had begun to recede, engendered by an apparent lull in serious outlaws during the last two days, was dashed this morning when a hold-up was staged in the Murray Hill Hotel in Park avenue.

Temporary Shut Down by Several Industries in the United States.

Pawtucket, R. I., Dec. 24.—J. & S. P. Coats, thread makers, announced yesterday that their mills would be closed tonight until the 27th. About 5,000 are employed in the plant. Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 24.—More than 1,500 men were thrown out of work until Feb. 1, when the Edward Ford Plate Glass Company plant at Roseford closed.

GREAT RUSH FROM EUROPE TO THIS CONTINENT

Toronto, Dec. 24.—Gustav Mann, a Danish journalist of Copenhagen, who is touring Canada studying immigration and colonization, in an interview here yesterday, spoke of the pending great movement of Europeans to the North American continent. He said there is no power existing to stem this tide. "It is impossible to build a wall between the old world and the new," he said.

OTTAWA THINKS THE WORST OVER IN A FEW WEEKS

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Cancellation of the luxury taxes has had a salutary effect, according to advisers received by the government. Already business is showing signs of improvement. The unemployment situation continues bad, but there is every hope that the next week or two will see the worst of it over.

FAMILY PARTY OF EX-KAISER IS BROKEN UP

London, Dec. 24.—The former German emperor's Christmas family party has been broken up by the departure of his daughter and her husband to the Daily Mail's dormitory.

NO LIQUOR AT NEW YEAR'S EVE TORONTO DINNERS

Toronto, Dec. 24.—Liquor will not be permitted at New Year's eve dinners in the hotels in this city. A resolution passed last night by the Ontario Board of License Commissioners who had not forgotten that this rule was devised from at last New Year's eve festivities.

QUEBEC CIVIL SERVANTS WITH T. & L. CONGRESS

Quebec, Dec. 24.—(Canadian Press)—At a large meeting of the Civil Service Association of the Province of Quebec, held last night, the association received its charter as a member of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

WAR CORRESPONDENT DEAD

London, Dec. 24.—George Herbert Ferris, writer and speaker, especially on international affairs, died in London yesterday. He was born in Liverpool in 1866 and was a war correspondent on the London Daily Chronicle in France from 1914-18. He published a large number of works dealing with Russian, German and eastern affairs.

SAYS BIG FIRMS IN COLLISION IN PRICE FIXING

Control Nearly All of White Lead Output in the United States. New York, Dec. 24.—Five manufacturing concerns controlling more than ninety-five per cent of the United States' output of white lead, the principal ingredient of paint, were accused yesterday of collusion and price fixing by the New York commission on investigating the alleged "trust."

LEADS ONTARIO LABOR MEN

G. G. Halcrow of Hamilton, who has been selected by the Labor group in the legislature of Ontario.

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STARVATION IS PLAN TO DEFEAT D'ANNUNZIO

London, Dec. 24.—Starvation is expected soon to bring to an end the state of war now existing between the republic of Quarnaro at Fiume and the forces of Italian. The forty-eight hour time limit given civilians to leave the city expired last night, and it appears that the Italian government troops have settled down to wait for hunger to defeat D'Annunzio's plan for the enforcement of the treaty of Rapallo.

TWO YEARS FOR CONFIDENCE MEN

Montreal, Dec. 24.—Two confidence men were given stiff sentences yesterday by Judge Decarie when Battl Monte and Ernest Roy were each given two years in the penitentiary for robbing Alphonse Andre, a Belgian, of \$4,000.

IRISH REPORTS

Cork, Dec. 24.—Military forces yesterday raided the village of Clonduane, county Cork, and made twenty-four arrests. The prisoners were taken to the barracks in Fermoy, a mile and a half west of Clonduane.

MANITOBA POLITICS

Winnipeg, Dec. 24.—The confidence of the Manitoba government in its ability to carry on has not been at all shaken by the decision of the farmer party to maintain an attitude of independence when the house is in session. It was on behalf of the government last night.

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MONTREAL HOUSE ROBBED; \$1,700 WORTH TAKEN

Montreal, Dec. 24.—Another during house robbery was reported last night by T. J. Duggan, of 146 St. Joseph Boulevard. He said that Mrs. Duggan had left her home for a few minutes and that when she returned she found that someone entered the house and had carried off the front door.

GET \$5,000 FROM MONTREAL SAFE

Montreal, Dec. 24.—Burglars this morning dynamited the safe in the office of Rubiolo Brothers, Craig street, and stole \$5,000.

SIXTEEN STILL STRANDED HERE

Out of a party of eighteen young Canadians, who are ex-service men of the British navy and army, who arrived here yesterday on the Empress of France, sixteen are still in the city. They were left destitute in London and through the efforts of the Canadian high commissioners they were provided with transportation to this city.

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BURIED TODAY

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Clancy took place this morning from the residence of Mrs. John Stack, Glen Park, to St. Joseph's church. Requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. C. J. Carleton and interment was in the Catholic cemetery.



G. G. Halcrow of Hamilton, who has been selected by the Labor group in the legislature of Ontario.