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TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR
SUNDAY, MARCH 19

TWELVE PAGES—TUESDAY MORNING MARCH 20, 1906—TWELVE PAGES

\$100,000 UP IN SMOKE FIREMEN'S PLUCK STOPS CONFLAGRATION McCANN MILL IN RUINS

In Hottest Blaze Since "The Big One," Two Four Storey Buildings on Esplanade Are Utterly Destroyed—Heroic Work Saves Surrounding Property.

One of the most spectacular fires Toronto has had in a long time occurred yesterday evening, when the McCann Milling Company, at the foot of Jarvis street, the Canadian Portable Fence Company, Armour's Limited and the Craig-Cowan Company were burned out. All that remained in an hour's time of two four-storey buildings was a big bonfire.

Although nearly \$100,000 damage was done by the blaze, which broke out shortly after 6 o'clock, the frame buildings, faced with metal, burnt like tinder. A gale was blowing along the waterfront and the building was a very mass of flame within a few minutes, which was fanned directly toward the Wilson Scale Works, across a driveway. It was in this line that the firemen, directed by Deputy Chief Noble, made their supreme effort, and may it be truly said, never did the firefighters do better work.

"They worked like Trojans; never better in all my experience," was Deputy Chief Noble's tribute when, after one hour's endurance of the heat that was almost enough to shiver, the blaze was under control. Had the fire got into the scale works it would have done worse perhaps to Yonge street.

The fire broke out in the second floor of the McCann Mill, originating from one of the machines, and it spread like lightning.

From the mill the fire went into the annex to the south, occupied by three firemen's quarters.

A stable and pattern shop and now again the scale works ignited, but the flames were promptly drenched out. Over 150 firemen were "playing water" on the fire when it was at its height.

Harry Potter was in the room when the fire started and saw his best chance of being unable to put it out he ran for the telephone and gave a still alarm. This was followed a minute later by a box alarm from the corner of King and Jarvis. The general alarm was sent in at 6:03 p.m.

The loss is apportioned as follows: A. A. McCann Milling Co., insured by both buildings, loss \$60,000, insured in standard companies for \$18,000 on buildings, \$30,000 on stock and \$14,000 on machinery; Armour's Limited, beef extract, loss \$10,000, insurance \$3,000; Craig-Cowan Co., Ltd., glove manufactory, loss \$15,000, insurance \$4,000; Canadian Fire Insurance Co., Canadian Portable Fence Co., loss \$6,000, insurance \$3,000 in Commercial Union.

The McCann Co. suffered by fire on King-street some time ago. The Cowan Co. were burned out last Easter Sunday.

So suddenly did the fire spread that the McCann Co. were unable to save the books in the office.

A brief shower of streams of water were playing on the ruins all night.

REPORT NEXT WEEK.

Province Soon to Know Prospects for Niagara Power.

Berlin, March 19.—(Special.)—Adam Beck, M.L.A., addressed a big meeting here to-night, advocating distribution of Niagara power by the Ontario government, and gave statistics which conclusively showed that it would be of great benefit to Western Ontario manufacturers. Mr. Beck announced that the report of the Niagara Power Commission would be made public next week.

The meeting passed a resolution favoring the conserving of Niagara power, and advocating that steps be taken for its early distribution to various manufacturing centres of the province.

Following the meeting Mr. Beck was a guest of honor at a banquet held at the Berlin Club.

WILFUL MURDER.

Kingston, March 19.—Lord Ashner, inspector-general of the military forces of Canada, is here and will inspect the local batteries as well as look over the entire garrison. It is surmised that the visit has something to do with the improvement of the military buildings, and possibly the occupation of Fort Henry.

BIRTHS.

HODGSON—On March 16th, 1906, at 563 Shaw-street, Toronto, to Mr. and Mrs. George A. Hodgson, a son.

DEATHS.

MOORE—At the residence of his father, 463 Euclid-avenue, Toronto, on Sunday, the 18th March, 1906, William E. B. Moore, B.A., 65, beloved son of George W. and L. A. Moore in his 25th year.

Funeral on Tuesday, the 20th, at 2:30 o'clock. Interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

STONES—At Malvern, on Monday, March 19, 1906, Thomas W. Stones, in his 42nd year.

Funeral Wednesday, at 2 p.m., to King's Chapel Church, Plymouth St. at 8 o'clock. Interment in St. Charles Cemetery.

English papers please copy.

"My wife used Club Coffee." Does yours? It makes a perfect drink.

RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS SO GOVERNMENT PROPOSES CONTROL TELEPHONES

Indication as to Coming Legislation—Independent Companies Make Request For Early Information—Railways Refusing Them Privileges.

Ottawa, March 19.—(Special.)—The introduction of a bill by W. F. Maclean (S. York), to repeal all the increased indemnity for members and attorneys and the pensions for ex-cabinet ministers, and the intimation by the government that some legislation would be introduced dealing with the telephone question, were the features of the session this afternoon. In presenting his bill to repeal the salary grab, which, by the way, does not affect the compensation of the premier, or the salaries of the judges, Mr. Maclean said:

"The bill is a very simple one, and it proposes to repeal the two acts passed last year: one dealing with indemnities and the other with pensions. Whether it will carry or not I do not know, but it will give everyone in the house an opportunity to vote upon it, and it will also give the government probably an opportunity to revise the pension bill, an announcement to that effect having been made by the present postmaster-general."

Telephone Matters.

Just before the adjournment Mr. Maclean read the following letter from the Canadian Independent Telephone Companies' Association:

"Markham, March 17.—To W. F. Maclean, M.P., Toronto, Ont., Dear Sir:—I am instructed by our president to write you regarding the position of the telephone company by the special committee of the House of Commons. We have been patiently waiting for some announcement from the government, and we are at a great loss to know what action is to be taken by the committee or parliament, and whether we shall have an opportunity to present facts and evidence before the committee. If we shall be allowed to present the views of this organization within whose membership are nearly all the independent companies of Canada. We are unable to make proper preparation. You are probably unaware of the magnitude of this independent movement and its tremendous strides which it has made in Ontario, largely since the sittings of the committee sprang up in great numbers, and the older companies extended to a great degree; their systems doubled and tripled; their subscribers; and they have invested large sums in poles, lines and equipment."

A Big Proposition Now.

According to the reports received up to date by the House of Commons, the capital actually invested in telephone companies, and a conservative estimate places the total at \$750,000. These railway companies are so numerous and so situated that in several parts of the province we have 100 miles connected lines or more running into four ridings.

The Bell Company announced that during the past year had installed 12,000 new telephones, including all Canada and the cities. In the same time we have had 4000 to 5000 new subscribers, and these are the most part in towns, villages and cities. It is, we submit, due to the farmers that parliament should have a full knowledge of this great and evolutionary social movement spreading thru all settled Canada, and that the full light of day be given to the impediments in its way.

The companies find that legislation is required to amend the Railway Act, modifying the onerous and altogether unnecessary conditions regarding the crossing of telephone lines over the crossing along the highways.

Railways Obdurate.

In the matter of connections with railway companies we find it impossible to obtain the consent of these public chartered common carriers, to give twelve inches of wall to our phones. These companies will give no definite answers to our inquiries in terms and frequently our letters are altogether ignored. The public are inconvenienced to a tremendous extent and our association is constantly making local systems asks of parliament relief as a matter of public convenience and policy. There are many other similar cases of this nature, and we ask you as representing a rural constituency to bring our request for information as to our present standing before the house. Yours respectfully,

A. F. Wilson, Secretary.

Mr. Maclean said it was an urgent matter. He was glad to hear the premier say that the railway minister would introduce telephone legislation later on, but thought it only fair that the premier should make some announcement as soon as possible.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced that the telephone question would be dealt with in the bill introduced by Mr. Emmerson, now on the calendar, and entered a bill to amend the Railway Act.

Proposed Legislation.

It is announced to-night that the government will propose legislation to regulate the operations of the various telephone companies of the Dominion under the control of the railway commission in order that the public interest in telephone matters may be fully protected, as it is already by the railway commission in railway matters. The provisions of the proposed bill, it is said, will be introduced by W. F. Maclean, putting express companies under the jurisdiction of the railway commission, and also telephone companies. It requires all independent telephone companies to



OLD CROW: Come on, fellers, he's all right.

OVER ONE THOUSAND DEAD AS RESULT OF EARTHQUAKE

Further Details Add to Horror of Disturbances in Formosa.

London, March 20.—A despatch from Tokyo to The Daily Telegraph says: "Advice from Taihoku (capital of Formosa), state that the earthquake on that island was more serious than at first reported. In the prefecture of Kagi alone 1400 houses were completely destroyed, and 1014 persons killed and 985 injured."

"The war department has issued the following: 'One-hundred of Kagi has been destroyed. The garrison was marched outside, where they are now camping. All the soldiers are safe. We are sending them to Taiwan. Trains between Kagi and Toroku have stopped.'

BRITISH WORKHOUSE RASCAL GOOD ENOUGH FOR CANADA

Marylebone Guardians Vote on Proposition to Dump 24 Paupers into This Country.

(Canadian Associated Press Cable.) London, March 19.—Another hundred of the church army emigrants sail on Tuesday from Liverpool. Before leaving London on Monday they were entertained at supper, and each man presented with a prayer book and hymn book by the army. Another party sails Thursday.

At a recent meeting of the board of guardians of Marylebone workhouse a motion was made to emigrate 27 paupers to Canada. Action was deferred, it being stated that some were unsuitable. Thirteen having been eliminated the proposal was renewed to-night, to send 24. F. J. Morris, vice-chairman, protested against sending what he termed "rascals" from the workhouse to Canada. He was convinced that if the Canadian authorities were aware of the class of pauper it was proposed to send out they would not think of allowing the men to enter the country. The vote stood eight to eight and the proposition was dropped.

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SENATOR MILLER GETS ANGRY

"TOOTHLESS VIPER" HE SAYS

Has Reference to Senator Ross and Trouble Dates Back to Confederation Days.

Ottawa, March 19.—(Special.)—There was a sensational scene in the senate to-night when Senator Miller of Nova Scotia made a savage attack upon Senator Ross of Halifax, for whom he said that he entertained a "most profound contempt."

He charged that during the pending debate his colleague had revamped the charge that he (Senator Miller) had received a senatorship as the price for his sudden conversion to the idea of confederation in 1866, a slander that at the point of a libel suit had long ago been the subject of a complete and abject apology and retraction.

He commented on Mr. Ross' services in the Mackenzie cabinet and his alleged unfitness for the place later held by him in the customs office at Halifax. "Toothless viper" and "Base perfidious traitor" were among the terms used.

Senator Ross defended himself, and appealed to Mr. Mackenzie, as well as to his official service at Halifax. A vast amount of ancient history was expounded by both the venerable combatants. Mr. Ross is 84 and Mr. Miller well past 75.

WAS WILLING TO RESIGN.

Mr. Forgas, M.P., and the Q. & S. Railway.

London, March 19.—(Special.)—In three weeks' time work will be started on the Quebec and Saguenay Railway, of which Mr. Forgas, M.P., is president. The line to be built extends from St. Anne de Beaupre to the mouth of the Saguenay River, 110 miles, and the rails will reach Murray Bay, 58 miles, by next fall.

The Quebec government will give a land grant and the Ottawa government is slated for \$200,000 a mile.

It is said that Mr. Forgas told Sir Wilfrid that if his present as M.P. for Charlevoix was in the way of government sympathy he was ready to resign, but the prime minister said "No, we will work together."

Newspaper Syndicate's Purchase.

Halifax, N.S., March 19.—(Special.)—A report from a reliable source states that The North Sydney Herald has been purchased by the Pearson syndicate, which recently acquired the Glace Bay Gazette.

The Herald is the oldest newspaper in the Island, and had been successfully conducted by A. C. Bertram for 32 years.

W. Harper, Customs Broker, 6 Melinda

Money Gone; Takes Life.

Nelson, B.C., March 19.—An unfortunate man named Lund came out of lodging camp with his winter's earnings, and fell a victim of gambling. After losing his money he threw himself into Arrow Head Lake.

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Continued on Page 4