

Huller

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

To all parts of Canada and Newfoundland, \$2.00 per year; United States of America, \$3.50 per year.

THE DAILY MAIL.

WEATHER REPORT.

Toronto (noon)—Decreasing N. W. winds, becoming colder. Tuesday, strong N.W. winds, fair and much colder.

VOLUME 1, No. 4.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1914.

PRICE:—1 CENT.

G. Knowling

BOYS'

G. Knowling

CLOTHING DEPARTMENT

Having received our full stock of Boys' Suits and single garments, we are now showing the best and most approved styles in Boys' smart wear-resisting Clothing, and

Our Prices are Far Below

anything you can get elsewhere. We can fit all boys of all ages and requirements.

SUFFOLK!

A new feature for the Winter trade is the Suffolk Suit, similar to the Norfolk, but it has the advantage of a collar on the coat, and with a Sham Vest-buttoning up to throat, which everyone appreciates, especially for this time of the year. The colours are good, the prices right, and it will please all. Our prices:

\$1.80 to \$4.00

according to size and quality. Fit boys age 2 to 13 years.

NORFOLK

Our stock in this shape was never so complete. The patterns are exceptionally good, it is well finished and perfect fitting, and suitable for school or Sunday wear. For boys, age 2 to 13 years. Our prices:

\$1.40 to \$4.90

according to size and quality.

SAILOR

In good strong Union Serge, with plain or fancy collars and whistle attached with white cord. These are very special and we would advise an early call. Age 2 to 9 years. Our prices.

75c to \$4.30.

CLYDE!

This popular Suit, with Long Coat and Belt, is the height of fashion for small boys, with or without detachable White collar. Fit boys age 2 to 8 years. Look at the prices.

\$1.20 to \$4.20.

RUGBY!

This splendid 3 garment Suit in the usual smart style, which is always admired, for all occasions and weathers, as the Jacket may be worn loose or fastened. The patterns are good, and may be had in Navy Serge, if desired. Our prices:

Short Pants in Tweed, age 10 to 13 years, \$2.90 to \$5.20.

For age 13 to 18 years, \$2.90 to \$7.40.

Navy Serge, \$3.30 to \$6.60

Long Pants Suits, age 13 to 18 years, \$2.70 to \$7.70.

OVERCOATS!

Boys'

We have a splendid Selection of Boys Overcoats, which will prove interesting to mothers, both in price and quality. The colors are exceptionally good, the make and finish is perfect. For age 2 to 16 years.

\$2.20 to \$6.60.

Men's

We have been Leaders in the Overcoat line for many Winters, and we have to-day some Overcoats, in Single or Double Breasted style, and Men who care about Style, Fit and Comfort, should see these at once. The best shades of Tweed, Light or Dark Patterns and Black are as usual very fashionable. TWEED 6.50, 8.00, 9.50, 12.00, 15.50. BLACK 4.75, 6.50, 8.00, 9.50 to 10.50.

GEORGE KNOWLING.

SPECTACULAR BLAZE AT COCHRANE STREET; METHODIST CHURCH RAZED TO THE GROUND; GENERAL CONFLAGRATION IS BARELY AVERTED.

At one Time it Looked as if a Large Section of the City would be Swept by the Flames.

THE SNOW-COVERED ROOFS KEPT FIRE FROM SPREADING.

Burning Brands Carried Great Distances By The High Wind.

The most spectacular fire since the blaze which destroyed the premises of the Messrs. Baird, and the second since the big conflagration in 1892, when the eastern half of the city was swept out of existence, occurred last night when Cochrane St. Methodist Church was totally destroyed, causing a loss of \$60,000.00.

To many it was the grandest yet most horrible scene they had ever witnessed and an impression is left that will never be effaced. For nearly four hours more than ten thousand citizens, men, women and children seemed rooted to the scene, and in spite of being exposed to the weather—snow, hail and rain, they remained to witness the awful destruction which razed one of our prettiest churches and an ornament of the city to the ground.

Leaped High

The flames leaped high into the air and the illumination could be seen for miles. Not alone did thousands of citizens hurry to the scene, but residents of the country and western suburbs were drawn to the scene by the magnificent nature of the sky.

Those who first saw the fire at a distance feared there was another general conflagration and they braved the elements and made haste to the city to render whatever aid was possible. Thousands remained gazing until the last wall had tumbled in and nothing was left but smouldering embers to remind them of the stately and beautiful church, where during the day many had worshipped and to which all citizens, not alone the Methodists, had pointed with pride in the past.

Was Splendid Building

Cochrane St. Church was one of the largest and most comfortable of the Methodist churches of this Conference, was rich in its denominational history and now as the result of three hours destruction only the memory of it remains.

It was a pitiful sight, and as the thousands of spectators gazed and saw the feeble effort of the scores of willing fire-fighters, they could not help feeling and realizing the weakness and insignificance of man.

Hardly a stick of the pretty edifice remains unburnt, so fierce was the fire and so futile the work of the brigade and those who assisted them.

Fire Was Discovered By Mr. Henry Bartlett.

The fire was discovered by Mr. Harry Bartlett, contracting stevedore at Messrs. Harvey & Co. He resides at "The Heights," the nearest building on the south side of the church.

At 8.30 p.m. while the snow blizzard was at its zenith, Mr. Bartlett from his window saw a blaze at the porch situate at the south side of the building, between the old and new parts. The fire was then a mere trifle and Mr. Barrett ran to the scene and with buckets of water endeavored to extinguish the fire. For a moment it seemed that he had succeeded, but then it blazed forth again.

Realizing that he could not cope with it alone Mr. Bartlett hastened to his phone and asked 'central' to acquaint the firemen. He then re-

turned to the scene and aided by some others who quickly congregated did their utmost to quench the flames, but with the facilities at hand they were powerless.

The alarm brought out the firemen in the space of a few seconds. The Eastern men were first to arrive and attached their hose to the hydrant at the head of Cochrane Street. The Central brigade were close behind and made fast to the hydrant near Government House gate.

Three good streams of water played on the building with great force and for awhile the firemen thought they would be masters of the situation.

The head of the department, I. G. Sullivan, was at his residence at the time, but got to the scene promptly with Supt. Grimes and nearly the whole of the police force.

The firemen worked with a will, and it seemed they would save the building.

The fire was apparently under control, but a few moments later the fire made its appearance in the interior of the church, and Mr. Sullivan and his men saw they were up against a hard proposition.

The eastern hose wagon which had fourteen lengths of hose, found they had not sufficient and the wagon was sent back to the station for a further supply.

The fire was now in progress over a quarter of an hour and was confined to that section of the church where the addition joined the old portion. The flames had made their way through the roof and illuminated the sky, lighting up the country for miles.

Chief Sullivan who was personally directing his men, summoned the Western firemen and directed the Fire Reserve men to assist. Commander Atlay of H.M.S. Calypso, seeing the serious proportions of the fire despatched a squad of twenty men and placed them under the direction of the fire chief. Citizens too, rendered aid and helped the regulars to pull the hose around and did whatever else they were directed. During this time the blaze could be seen from all quarters.

The news quickly spread that a serious fire was in progress and from all directions men and women hurried to the scene. Many had prepared for the storm and were clad in winter clothes, but hundreds who left their homes hurriedly had no overcoats, yet they stood and watched unmindful of the fact that they were saturated.

Before long eight streams of water were at work. The Central had one at the Governor's gate, and two at the corner of Bond and Cochrane Sts. The Eastern had two at the head of Cochrane St., one at the Governor's gate and one at Colonial and Bond Sts., while the Western company had one at Colonial and Bond Sts.

All the water possible was directed to the eastern part of the town by the turnkeys at Rawlins' Cross.

Very Little Use. The chemical, which was present early, was of very little service, as the flames had spread over too large an area for it to accomplish much. Three streams of water were worked from the eastern end, two on either side, and one at the western end. The latter came along Bond St. and could only get at the fire by being taken through a residence on Bond St. It was run through the house of Joshua Mills, and while it had very little effect on the church, was in a favorable location had the small

dwelling which surrounded the western part of the church, caught fire. The Naval Reservists were stationed there ready to work on the houses, if needed.

The Church Doomed. The fire had now been in progress an hour and while the eastern end had not ignited the flames were steadily travelling in that direction, in spite of the fact that the wind was from then orth-east direction. The blizzard which prevailed an hour previous had changed to hail and then rain.

The downpour was heavy, soaking all who stood and watched, but it made no impression on the church. In fact the water which fell from the heavens and that poured on by the firemen seemed only to increase the fierceness of the conflagration. Oil could seemingly have done little more to help it along. Gradually the wave of flame worked its way along the roof and then the eastern chimney, standing about seventy feet high, was seen to tremble and with a tremendous crash it fell through the roof.

Chimney Falls. As the tons of brick and mortar fell on the red hot rafters, huge flankers and sparks leaped into the air and were carried for a long distance floating on the high wind. A regular rain of burning brands fell thickly on the houses on Bond and Bannerman Sts., but the roofs being thickly coated with wet snow did not ignite and the burning atoms died out, to the great delight of all. The people living on these streets were under the impression that nothing could save them. Many children who had retired, were taken out in their night clothes and carried to place of safety. Household goods, trunks and personal effects were bundled off to the street by many. These people carried little or no insurance and they intended saving what they could while the opportunity lasted.

Removed Goods. One man took out his stove and deposited it on Bannerman St., while close by were beds and bedding and scores of other articles.

The wind took the flames and smothering smoke to Bannerman and Bond Sts., principally, and it is no wonder that the residents received a big fright. Two women hurrying along with bundles got into a ban of snow, and fearing they would be burned to death, cried for help. Two young men ran to their aid and for a moment had some difficulty in locating them, so black was the smoke. It then cleared and the fears of the women were allayed.

Centred Their Efforts On Buildings Nearby. There being no hope for the church the firefighters directed their efforts to the nearest buildings—Mr. Bartlett's residence on the south and Mr. A. S. Rendell's on the north. Mr. Bartlett's was most in danger as the wind was blowing in that direction, and hundreds of live brands were dropping on the roof or striking the sides each minute. Mr. Bartlett's house was somewhat preserved by the fact that there was a concrete wall facing the fire, but the extension is of wood.

Fierce Heat. Two streams of water were kept on the house and the heat can be imagined from the fact that when the cold water would strike a dry part it immediately began to hiss and boil.

Mr. Rendell's garage containing three automobiles ran a great risk. Several firemen stood on the roof and from there kept the garage and Mr. Rendell's residence soaked with water. These men worked under the greatest difficulties. The heat was terrific and only by wetting their clothing could they prevent it catching on fire.

Then a most serious handicap was noticeable—the firemen were almost dismayed and on all sides the loudest condemnation of citizens was heard—the supply of water gave out. Early in the evening the force was strong and no fault could be found, but after an hour or so, the force in a couple of the hose was not sufficient to drive

the flow fifteen feet from the branch pipe. It would not carry from the garage to Mr. Rendell's house and one of these branches went off entirely.

Water Falls. At the front of the church it was almost ludicrous. Two streams were centred and they could not reach the top of the porch. Then the heat became so intense that the firemen had to retreat to the side walk the water did not touch the church at all.

The hose operating on Mr. Bartlett's house gave better service, and it was well for the score of buildings in that direction that it did. The side of the house was kept wet and by this means the place was saved. Had the water been no better there than on the fronts and on Mr. Rendell's side, then many would be homeless to-day and the damage much more extensive.

Firemen Worked At Risk of Their Lives. The thousands who saw the blaze poke in the most flattering manner in which the firemen worked. Almost every moment their lives were in danger. Some seemed to expose themselves unnecessarily and when the eastern wall fell in three men were standing almost directly under it. They fortunately became aware of their danger and rushed out of the way and so escaped the burning debris.

When the chimneys toppled over, and the southern and western ends collapsed, firemen were not far distant, but they succeeded in getting out of harm's way.

Spectators were terrified at the positions of the men who worked on unmindful of their personal risks. We are glad to be able to say that no serious injuries were sustained.

Spire Went Last. For two hours the stately spire stood. The body of the church had been practically demolished, but the lofty tower stood on, a monument to the last of the pretty building.

The south and west sides burned fiercely, the copper roofing ignited, throwing off a colored blaze, but above the flames the spire remained until its foundations were consumed. That it would fall everyone knew and all eyes were focussed on it.

There was much conjecture and apprehension as to the direction in which it would fall. Some feared it would tumble across Mr. Rendell's house, which would certainly settle back building; others feared it would strike Mr. Bartlett's, which would end a similar fate for that, while hundreds thought it would drop out in Cochrane Street, and they gave hat section a wide berth.

Crowd Watched. For nearly half an hour the crowd watched it. At 10.10 it was seen to waver a little and there was at once a loud cry from hundreds of throats "look out." Then it went back to its former position and remained stationary for a minute or two. At sixteen minutes past ten it bent over again and this time did not upright itself.

Slowly it lowered to an angle of about thirty degrees and then with a roar, the like of which spectators had never heard before, the tower fell in the burning building.

An immense volume of black smoke and thousands of burning cinders rose above the burning pile and the all tower, which had been a pride to many, was no more. This helped along the fire for ten minutes and caused it to burn fiercer, if that were possible.

Many of the spectators left the scene after the tower collapsed, but thousands remained until midnight, when part of the western wall, the only part standing, fell in, shooting up a tower of sparkes.

Ended at Midnight. At midnight, less than four hours after the outbreak, Cochrane Street Church was no more.

Not only those who worshipped there, but those of other denominations, gazed on the scene with sadness. The building escaped the big fire of '92, and while Gower Street Church was in course of erection, many of the members worshipped there.

Many of the Methodist people of the city have happy recollections of it. The church was renowned for its preachers and music. Only last Wednesday a pretty recital was given there, and the church was filled. Now, nothing remains of the costly organ.

(Continued on page 2)