

EXPLOSION IN PICTURE BOOTH IS REPORTED

Continued from Page 1.

who assisted him in the early attempts to fight the flames, both said that the building quickly filled with a thick smoke.

According to Harold Olsen, manager of the theatre, who was in the building, the fire started beneath the booth and came up the walls into it. He declared that the report a film had caught was unfounded.

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY.

Within a few minutes the fire spread through the interior of the building and it was not long before long tongues of flame were shooting through the roof. When this started the fire had everything its own way and the efforts of the West Side fire department, aided by one of the motor chemical pumps from the city proper, were largely confined to preventing a spread of the conflagration.

One or two other places in the neighborhood caught fire from the flying sparks but these slight blazes were easily extinguished. All the places on the east side of the burning building were wet down thoroughly with water.

STARTED IN FILM.

Policeman McAuley reported that the fire had started in the motion picture film and that the operator had tried to extinguish it before falling into the hallway, overcome either by the excitement or by the fumes from the burning film. Both he and Policeman Johnson assisted in trying to extinguish the flames after sending in the alarm but their efforts and those of the department, on arrival, were unavailing, the fire having got too good a foothold.

The house occupied by Thomas Ferguson, immediately opposite the hall on the east side, was wet down continuously by one of the lines of hose and, with the exception of one small blaze on the roof that was easily extinguished, was undamaged. The other nearby houses and the woodyard of James Carleton were also wet down. The distance to which the wind blew the showers of sparks was shown by the fact that small fires started behind the boiler room of the Union Foundry, owned by George Waring, and on Cowell's coal shed, the latter being about 200 yards from the scene of the blaze. These fires were put out easily and a close watch was kept to prevent their recurrence.

A crowd that numbered in the thousands stood on all sides at a respectable distance from the hall watching the fire fend at work. Many were considerably by the spray from the hose lines but refused to desert their posts while the fire still burned.

AUDIENCE ESCAPES.

When the fire was first noticed there were about 150 in the theatre. These were got out before the danger became very pressing and there were no serious casualties.

Louis McCourt, operator of the motion picture machine, fell into the hallway after he had been battling the flames with a hand chemical extinguisher and had to be carried out. He was taken to Allan's Pharmacy in King street, but was found to be unhurt. One or two women who fainted with the excitement were brought to and rescued easily enough.

POLICEMAN GIVES ALARM.

Policeman McAuley saw the fire and rang in an alarm from West Side Box B1. He also notified Chief Vaughan, who went over from the main city and took the chemical pump from No. 8 engine house with him. This was used on the corner of King street and Market Place. No. 7 steam engine was used on Duke street, on the west side of the burning building and No. 6 steam engine was stationed on Duke street, on the east side.

BAND SUFFERS LOSS.

The bandroom of the Carleton Cornet Band was on the second floor and it was said last night that about \$1,000 worth of instruments and music were destroyed.

The West End Progressive Association had a clubroom in the hall and a quantity of apparatus from the playground was stored there.

On the top floor was a large auditorium used for meetings. On Sunday nights recently a sect of faith healers had been using this floor and had had fairly good crowds present. Fortunately there was no one in this part of the building when the fire broke out as it would have been a risky business getting very many out in the time before the whole interior was burning.

GEYSER OF SPARKS.

The hall, with a fair wind blowing from the west, soon became a veritable geyser of sparks, the flaming fragments of wood flying for several hundred feet. As each part of the interior structure fell into the blazing inferno below millions of small firebrands rose in the air, were caught by the breeze and were carried out over the buildings to the east. Only the earnest and well placed efforts of the department saved some of the frame houses in the neighborhood and prevented what might have become a widespread conflagration.

The basement of the building was used by the water and sewerage department and contained about 100 joints of terra cotta pipe and a motor truck. The latter was saved and it was thought that the pipe, unless broken by the falling pieces of wood and other material, would be unhurt by the fire. The office of the department on the second floor contained a safe holding all the plans, papers and books in connection with many of the West Side water system developments. It was thought that these would be unhurt by the blaze.

BUILT IN 1863 OR 1864.

James Carleton, building inspector, last night gave a history of the building as well as he could remember it. The documents relating to it were unavailable last night.

The hall was built in 1863 or 1864, before Carleton and Saint John became one city, the contract being awarded to J. C. Littlehale and John Wilson with a man named Nelson as inspector. It was built entirely by day's labor. The last payment was made to the contractors on October 24, 1868. The bricks used were hand-made.

were burned on Negro Point. The carpenter work was all done under the direction of Mr. Wilson. The hall was about 100 feet long by 40 or 50 feet wide and was of three stories with a basement.

HELD BEST IN CITY.

Mr. Carleton said last night that, from his inspections, he believed it to be the best public building of the city. He could find no flaw in it anywhere, he declared. The roof trusses were of pitch pine and were as good last year as when they were put in, he said. Commissioner W. L. Harding had had the roof made water-tight last year.

When the agitation for a City Hall for Carleton was started it was decided to build it with funds taken partly from the waterworks and partly from the fisheries. The money paid by the West Side fishermen for their privileges was used in this work.

WEST SIDE LANDMARK.

During the years before the union of Carleton and Saint John the building was used as a meeting place of the citizens and the matters of public business were discussed there. After the union it lost its main purpose, but was often the scene of dramatic entertainments, lectures and political meetings. Of late years the motion picture theatre was started and parts of the building were put to various uses. The old City Hall was a landmark of the West Side, while Carleton and later as West Saint John, for more than 60 years and its passing will cause feelings of regret in the hearts of many of the older residents of that part of the city.

3 Will Stand Trial For Jail Breaking

WINNIPEG, Oct. 14—John Stanton, Alex. Shupeniuk and George Laboduk, who effected their escape from the provincial jail here on October 6, were today committed for trial on charges of jail breaking. All three pleaded "not guilty," when arraigned on the charge of escaping from legal custody. Stanton and Shupeniuk, both of whom are facing murder charges, elected trial by jury and Laboduk a summary hearing. Today they agreed to the taking of all evidence at the trial.

Not Guilty, Is Plea Of Mrs. Emily Gallop

ROBerval, Que., Oct. 14—Emily Sprague, Gallop, accused of having caused the death of her husband, Abraham Gallop, St. Joseph D'Alma, on Aug. 6, and who was arrested at Moncton, N. B., last Friday, appeared before Magistrate Bergeron here today and pleaded not guilty.

Preliminary inquiry was fixed for Oct. 21 and the accused placed in prison in the meantime. She had no counsel representing her today. Walter Simpson, a 20-year-old youth, is being detained as a material witness in the case. He was a boarder in the Gallop house.

M. L. A.-Elet Hurt While Cranking Car

GAGETOWN, Oct. 14—J. Arthur Moore, M. L. A.-elect, while cranking a car last night, was struck on the cheek by the handle, which inflicted a severe bruise just under the eye. For a time it was thought that the bone was fractured.

A Pittsburg church serves ham and eggs each Sunday to those attending Sunday school.

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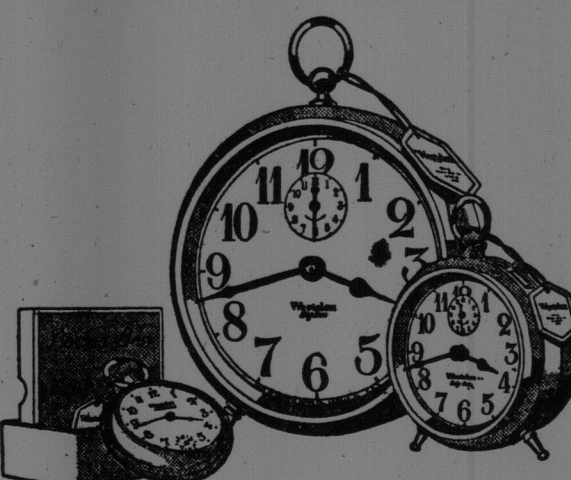
He is Walter Scott, and comes from Sheffield. Noted musicians who have heard his playing prophesy a great future for him. His rendering of an exact-

ing work by Kreisler was remarkably mature. The boy has brilliant technique, great confidence, and his bowing is distinguished by elegance of style. He received an ovation at the end of his recital.

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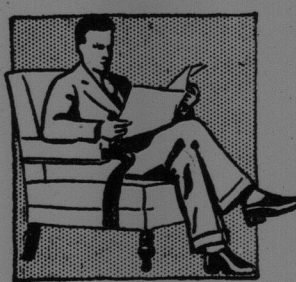
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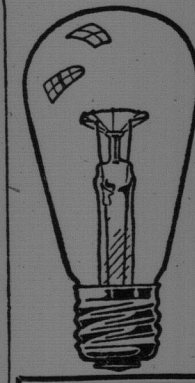
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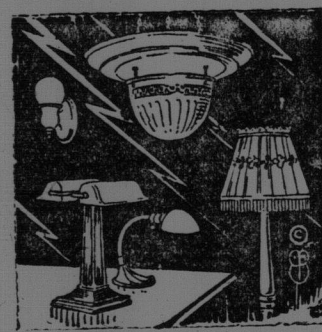
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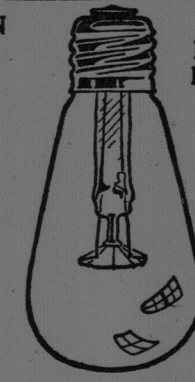
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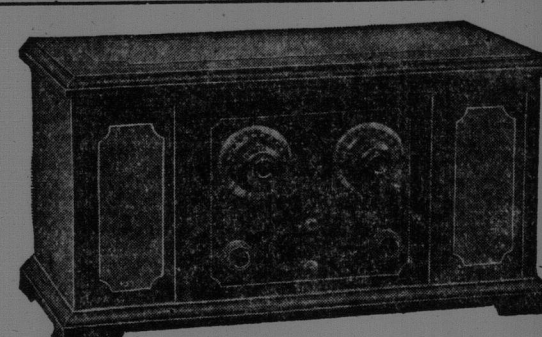


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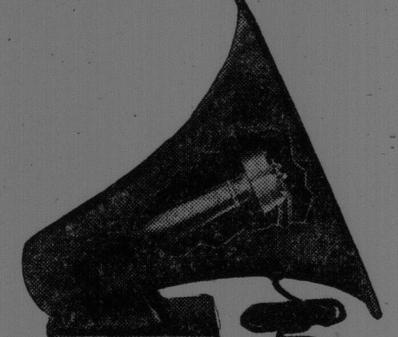
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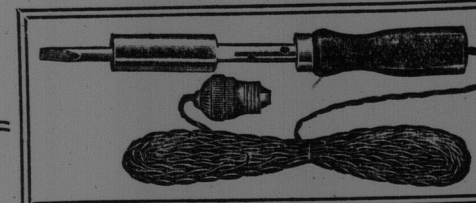
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