

Brigade From City Conquers Fierce Fire at London Hospital for Insane

FLAMES SWEEP THROUGH BALL ROOM BUT ARE CHECKED AT CONNECTING POINT WHERE FIRE FIGHTERS MADE STAND

Chief Aitken and Men From London Stations Operate Deluge Set With Remarkable Results—
Only for Their Co-operation the Whole Building Was Doomed.

FOUR PATIENTS ESCAPE, BUT
ARE DRAWN BACK BY SPECTACLE

Order Preserved Speaks Well for the Discipline at Institution
—Loss Will Reach \$20,000—Showers of Sparks Thrown
Upon Main Building, But There Was No External
Material for Ignition.

THE FIRE.

Location—Kitchen, Bake Shops, Ballroom Theatre of
Hospital for Insane.

Time—10:20 p. m. Duration of Fire—Five Hours.

Loss—Estimated, \$20,000. Insurance—None.

Patients Endangered—700. Cause—Unknown.

A fire of appalling possibilities raged for two hours and forty minutes in the rear portion of the London Hospital for the Insane last night and this morning, and the work of the London fire brigade is credited with having saved the entire main building and its adjoining sections from complete destruction. An estimated loss of \$20,000 is covered on a provincial system of insurance.

BUILDINGS SEEMED DOOMED.

The alarm struck fear to the hearts of many citizens, and, afoot, through fields, in automobiles, in hacks and in street cars, hundreds made for the scene, attracted by the great torch that flared into the eastern sky and seemed to proclaim that the hospital was doomed.

They found that the famous ballroom of the building was the section from which the smoke and steam and fire boiled up, and to them it seemed that the small building that serves as a link between the rear section and the main building, was the crucial point of the whole fight.

AIR THICK WITH EMBERS.

Up to the first wall of this little fortress the flames raged, and from this point the firemen fought as from a barricade. Smoke swept into the corridors of the main building, and cinders and heavy sections of rafters were blown by a heavy wind from the northwest over the roofs of the adjoining buildings. Water seemed to heighten the flames in the woodwork, for all outdoors was the compelling draught, but even then the surging waves did not cross over or over along the sides of the little building whose they meant everything.

SLATE ROOFS FOR SAFETY.

The storm of cinders fell upon slate roofs, and although the flames seemed at times to lick the sills of the big structure, there was no fire food within reach, and the men of the two brigades held the breach—meaning that tunnel-like passageway which was the vantage point, for the defenders at least, in the whole battle.

PATIENTS AROUSED.

After the big asylum whistle had shrieked out a warning, Miss Evelyn Bray, the matron, aroused the patients. Miss Bray had been notified of the fire by Miss Doyle, a nurse, who saw flames coming from the roof of the ballroom while returning from the north to the main building. From their windows many of the patients could see the flames spurring from the northeast corner of the bakeshop. The calmest persons would have become excited, and considering the condition of the inmates, there was but slight confusion. There was quite as much excitement on the west side of the building, where the men were confined, as on the east side, where the quarters of the women are located. Most of the patients dressed themselves, but some, both men and women, were panic-stricken, and there was trouble in subduing several of them.

FOUR PATIENTS ESCAPE.

They were hurried downstairs in the orderly rank followed whenever it is necessary to bring them out together. In the main hall there was not much noise, and although four patients managed to escape, they apparently thought more of seeing the fire than of securing their liberty on such a night, and were soon back in quarters. They had wandered through the grounds toward Dundas street, and then had been attracted back by the reflection. As the fire progressed, many of them rendered aid in the engine-room and at other points.

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EFFECTIVE WORK AT FIRE BY BRIGADE OF HOSPITAL

Put Up Fine Fight Until the
Arrival of the Apparatus
From London.

The activity of the fire brigade of the Hospital for the Insane counted for a great deal in the early stages of the fire last night.

The fire whistle sounded at exactly 10:20 last night, and in a few minutes the asylum brigade, with its reels, was

playing water on the flames. The brigade was in command of Engineer Ross, with Mr. Carpenter as his assistant, and several lines were laid from the hydrants, while the pumps in the engine house were started. An excellent pressure was maintained.

A new fire-fighting plant to be operated by hydro power has just been installed, but will not be in operation for a few weeks yet. As it has a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute at high

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DR. ROBINSON,
Superintendent at Hospital for Insane,
Who Aided in Direction of the
Fire-Fighters.

FEARED THAT COLLAPSE WOULD SMASH ENGINE

Firemen Propped Wall and Prevented it From Demolishing
Boiler House.

The fate of the Hospital for the Insane hinged on several contingencies last night, among them a swaying wall.

The rear wall of the kitchen was nearly three stories in height, and it towered over the engine-room, where the pumps were working. Had it collapsed on top of the lower building, the water supply would have been shut off, and the whole building would have been completely destroyed.

Fire Chief Aitken and Superintendent Robinson eyed it anxiously for hours last night. The chief apprehended the grave danger, and he directed his efforts for a long time towards saving that portion. At considerable risk the men kept it standing until the fire was absolutely under control and there was no further danger. They propped it up, and pulled off dangerous portions.

Swayed Perceptibly.
At times it looked as if nothing would keep the wall upright. It bulged and swayed perceptibly, but fortune favored the fire fighters.

"I was afraid of that wall," said Chief Aitken. "We kept our men trying to prevent it falling, and fortunately we succeeded. Had it gone over nothing would have saved the building, as it would have completely smashed the fighting apparatus. The asylum men did good work, and deserve credit. They followed instructions, and did not spare themselves. The city men did excellent service."

EXTINGUISHERS OUT OF ORDER

Inspectors Find That Not One
in a Dozen is Fit for
Service.

CHEMICALS ARE STALE

One Attendant Fell Thirty Feet While
at Work on the Amusement
Hall.

An inspection of the hand fire extinguishers located in the different corridors throughout the London Hospital for the Insane, conducted today by the officials from Toronto, revealed a rather peculiar state of affairs.

After the water had been taken off the building, it was found that fire was still smoldering in certain portions of the ruins. The hand extinguishers were called into service by the firemen, but the first half dozen "broken" refused to act.

Others were sought and not one in a dozen would work. Tags are usually attached to such extinguishers showing the date on which they were last charged, but there was no such evidence on the fire apparatus at the hospital.

Chemicals Stale.
It seems that the chemicals must be renewed periodically in order to maintain their efficiency, and according to those who attempted to use them this morning, this had not been done. While the losses have been estimated, no reliable information in this connection is as yet obtainable. All of the band instruments, together with a large and valuable collection of orchestra music belonging to Mr. W. J. Kitchen, who had charge of the amusement hall, were destroyed. The piano was also a very fine affair, having been purchased at a cost of \$1,200.

The attendants state that when the blaze was first discovered it did not appear to be of a serious nature. Three men were on the job in a short time, and played water from a single line with much effect, and for a time it was thought that the fire was under control. Suddenly, however, the flames burst through the roof, and from that time little or nothing could be done.

Falls Thirty Feet.
George Cowie, a carpenter on the asylum staff, narrowly escaped serious injury in fighting the fire. He stated that while in a rather awkward position about thirty feet above the ground, he suddenly lost his balance and fell. He was badly shaken up, but escaped without broken bones. The men were worn out from their exertions before the conflagration was well started, and the assistance rendered by the London department was most opportune.

Water Dept. Will
Stay in City Hall
Auditorium to Be Utilized for Staff of
Commission

The water commissioners will not leave the city hall to take up quarters elsewhere in the city.

It will be remembered that it was considered advisable last year to get quarters in some other building, but it is understood that plans are now being prepared to utilize the auditorium of the city hall for offices. This will keep the departments intact.

The city engineer's staff will be put up-stairs, and the present office room will be enlarged to give City Treasurer Bell and the others office space.

FORGED NOTES.
Washington, Jan. 31.—Comptroller of the Currency Murray today announced that the forged notes which caused the failure of the Alton National Bank, of Alton, Mich., amounted to \$144,098. The notes, according to the announcement by the comptroller, were placed in the bank by its cashier.

As the Asylum Ball Room Now Appears.



Photo by Henry, for The Advertiser.

A staff of men, composed of attendants and harmless inmates, was placed at work cleaning up the ruins at the Hospital for the Insane as early as possible this morning. The firemen remained at work, however, and as the wreckage was cleared away the blaze was effectively extinguished. Fire Chief Aitken is shown on the right of the group of three men. The man in the centre is D. M. Medcalf, of Toronto, mechanical inspector for the department of public works, one of the three experts sent up this morning to take charge of the situation.

DOES NOT WAIT FOR PERMISSION

Chief Aitken Lost No Time in
Getting His Men to Hos-
pital Fire.

INITIATIVE IS JUSTIFIED
Matron Gives Credit to Miss Doyle For
Manner in Which She Spread
Alarm.

Fire Chief John Aitken disobeyed a city ordinance when he rushed his men to the fire at the Hospital for the Insane, but he is not being condemned today.

According to resolution of council the brigade cannot go to a fire outside the city limits until permission has been granted by the mayor.

When the alarm was turned in, Fire Chief Aitken and his men did not stand on ceremony, but galloped out as fast as possible. What would have been the result had they gone through the "necessary" red tape is a conjecture.

When Dr. Robinson was informed at the London Club of the fire, he at once telephoned Mayor Beattie for permission. The latter at once issued orders for the brigade to go out, but Chief Aitken was already on the scene, and several streams were playing on the flames.

Aid. Ashplant was also notified, and he went directly to the institution to give what assistance lay in his power.

Feeding the Patients.
The attendants and patients are not living on turkey and plum pudding today. The destruction of the bake shop and kitchen left the hospital without supplies, and the staff were worried last night as to how the people were to be fed today.

For the morning meal they had Continued on Page Four.

NEW BOARD WILL MEET ON TUESDAY

Mr. John M. Gunn Will Be
Made Chairman, It Seems
Certain.

The board of education will hold its inaugural meeting on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. This is the date set by law.

There is no question but that Mr. John M. Gunn will be named chairman. He is one of the oldest in point of service, and has never occupied the chair. There will be no objection to him whatever.

The committees will be struck also. Mr. W. T. Strong will be chairman of No. 1 committee, and Dr. Wyckoff a chairman of the audit committee has not yet been made, but it is probable that Mr. A. M. Hunt will be given the position.

A choice for the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. C. M. R. Graham will be made. No decision has as yet been reached, but a new man will be chosen.

MR. MONK SLATED FOR THE BENCH

Rumored That Mr. Brodeur Will
Be Made High Commissioner
to France.

BOURASSA FOR SENATE

And Head of Nationalists Will Also Be
Given a Seat in the Cabinet
Say Rumor.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Jan. 3.—A well-founded rumor has developed pointing to the retirement in the near future of Hon. E. D. Monk, minister of public works, from the Government to accept an appointment to the supreme court bench. The vacancy on the bench will be made by the retirement of Hon. L. P. Brodeur, whose health is still giving some cause for anxiety, and who, it is understood, is desirous of consulting medical specialists in France. According to the information given your correspondent from a reliable source, Hon. Mr. Brodeur will be appointed Canadian high commissioner at Paris to succeed Hon. Philip Roy, whose retirement would probably have been demanded in any case. A vacancy will thus be created on the supreme court bench for Mr. Monk.

Mr. Monk's place as minister of public works will probably be taken temporarily at least by Hon. Geo. E. Perley, now minister without portfolio. Later on it is said to be the intention of the Government to appoint Mr. Boursassa to the Senate, with a seat in the cabinet, and Hon. Mr. Loughhead will be given the portfolio of trade and commerce, when Hon. Geo. E. Foster becomes chairman of the new tariff commission.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—COLD.

Forecasts.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—8 a.m.

Fair and quite cold today and on Thursday.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock this morning:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	22	10	Cloudy
Calgary	22	10	Cloudy
Winnipeg	14	24	Clear
Port Arthur	22	24	Clear
Harry Sound	22	8	Cloudy
Toronto	26	10	Clear
Ottawa	28	8	Fair
Montreal	26	16	Clear
Quebec	12	10	Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.
Cold weather prevails generally, the temperatures remaining very low over the greater portion of the Western Provinces, also over Lake Superior.

Heavy local snow has fallen in the Georgian Bay district, while light snow has occurred in Quebec.

BRAVE AND CALM, FACES THE WORLD

Mrs. Pankhurst Relates the
Struggles of Recent Years
for the Ballot.

A MAGNETIC SPEAKER

Simple Narrative Style Without Frills
and Her Glorious Message Won
Approval.

The lecture given by Mrs. Emeline Pankhurst last night in Wesley Hall was a masterly explanation of the militant suffragist movement. There was a large audience, the majority of its members being women, although the men were out in goodly numbers. Those who came to scoff, if any they were, remained to praise its leader, and to see in a new light the methods adopted to force upon the men of England a conviction of the justice of the women's cause.

Mrs. Pankhurst is truly an orator. Her command of an audience is in a direct, simple appeal, and she presents her case clearly, concisely and logically. There are few mannerisms in her style, or theatrical notes in her speech, but she holds and stimulates her audience. Her matter was epigrammatical, and the language purest English.

She reviewed the movement from its inception. The matter was treated historically, and the reasons for certain phases of it explained. Later she dealt with militancy, and declared that women were forced to do things that were unwomanly and wrong. Mrs. Pankhurst predicted a speedy victory for the cause, and informed her audience that if women did not shortly get the ballot, they would know the reason why.



MRS. EMELINE PANKHURST,
Head of Woman Suffrage, From Latest
Photograph, Given by Her to the
Advertiser Yesterday.

Rev. Richard Whiting presided, and briefly introduced Mrs. Pankhurst.

Not a New Movement.

"I have been asked to describe the movement tonight, and that is my theme," she stated. "I will deal with it historically, and will show you that the votes for women movement is not new, but old. For years, nearly half a century, women agitated for the ballot, but they did it patiently, quietly, with the result that nothing was accomplished."

"We are the practical politicians of the movement. The term militant has been applied to us. The term was not of our choosing, but imposed upon us from the outside. It is not the worst word that could be chosen for us. We have felt honored by the application of a term used in all ages to describe good movements. We have also been called suffragettes. This term was not of our choosing. It was a word of opprobrium, but it has been turned into one of honor." (Applause.)

The first beginnings of suffragist movement followed the reform bill of 1832. It was the first franchise bill.

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PAIR SKATING HOME GO THROUGH ICE

Young Couple Near Brockville Drown-
ing Returning From Choir
Practice.
(Canadian Press.)

Brockville, Jan. 3.—A double drowning accident is reported from Oxford Mills. Miss Hazel Christ and Arnold Streight, while skating home after choir practice, broke through the ice and perished before help could reach them.

TWO VACANCIES ON BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. John Graham and Dr. W. J. Stevenson Are the Retiring
Members.

Two appointments are to be made by the council to the board of health. Mr. John Graham and Dr. W. J. Stevenson are the retiring members. Mr. Graham has announced that he does not care for the position again, and his request will probably be granted. He has served some years. Dr. Stevenson will not be appointed by the present council, it is stated. He has been a member of the board for many years.

It is not known who the new members will be. The names of William Wright, Jared Vining, F. E. Perrin and others being mentioned.

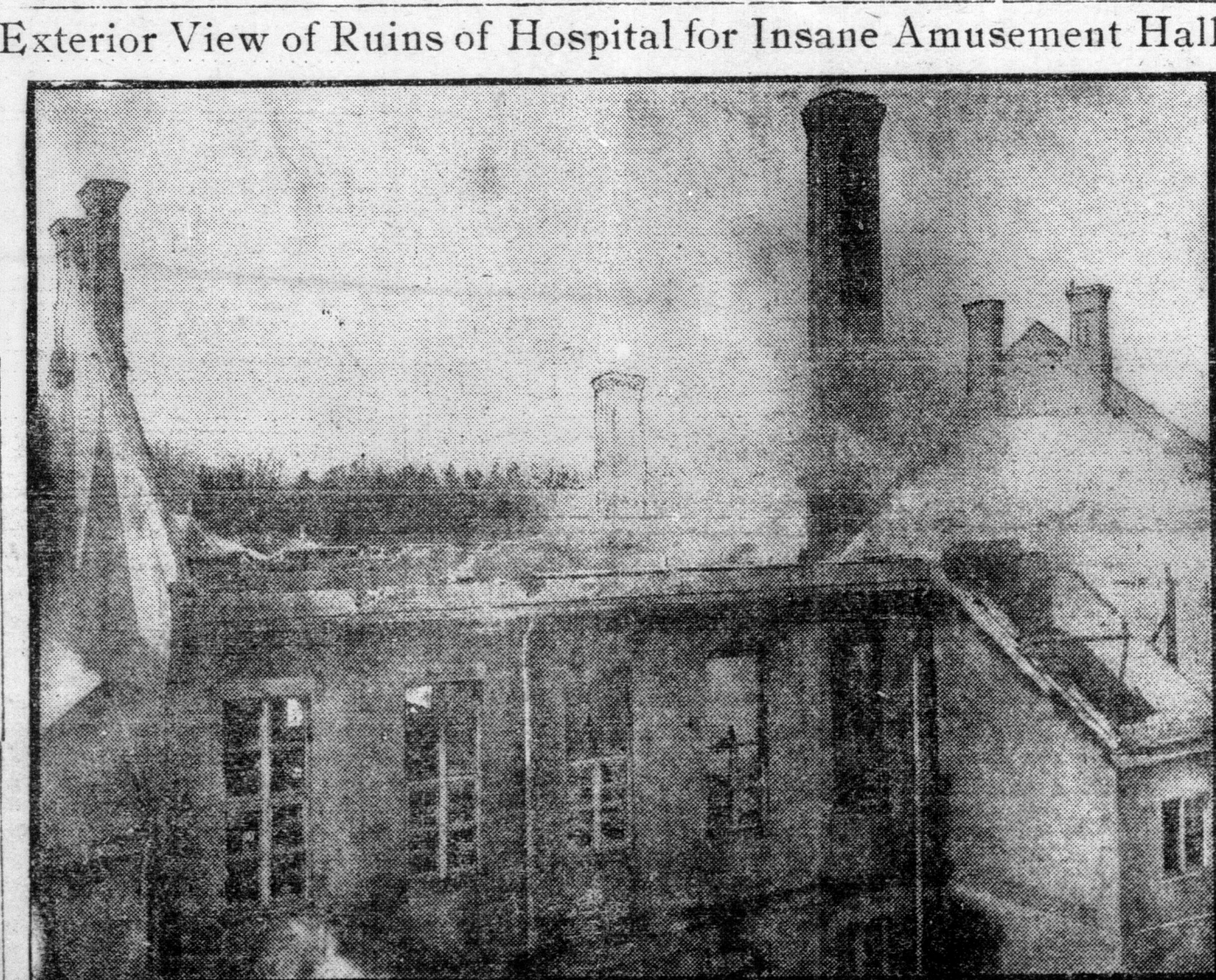


Photo by Henry, for The Advertiser.

Fire was first discovered in north end of the dance hall, shown on the right end of the picture, where a wing of the mechanical plant projects. The left end of the picture shows that portion of the hall connected with the main building by a narrow passage. The work of the firemen in this corridor, unguarded even by fire doors demanded in places where less care is necessary for the prevention of loss of life, saved the situation. The horrible possibilities of a spread of the conflagration in a place where hundreds of unfortunates are confined, affords ample opportunity for the most gruesome speculation. This photo is taken from the tower in the female quarters.