

# 46 POLICE HORSES BURNED TO DEATH: PROPERTY DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$125,000 CROWDS WITNESS SPECTACULAR FIRE

Gallant Efforts Made by Mounted Police to Save Their Horses Were Applauded by Spectators—Sufferings of Doomed Animals Lent an Element of Tragedy to Spectacular Blaze—Firemen Did Wonderfully Well in Preventing Spread of Flames to Adjacent Premises—Insurance Amounts to \$48,000 Exclusive of Insurance Government May Have on Mounted Police Animals and Property—Next Winter Fair Will be Held in Exhibition Grounds—Only Smoke Damage to Big Arena

The old Winter Fair building on Tenth Street was completely destroyed by fire Friday morning. The estimated loss will be in the neighborhood of \$125,000, the building being a complete loss. Forty-six horses belonging to the Mounted Police were victims of the fire, although heroic efforts were made to get the animals out. The new Arena was not touched by the fire, the firemen succeeding in blocking the spread of the flames, although there will be about \$1,000 smoke damage to the Arena. Two Mounted Policemen were overcome with smoke, but no one was seriously hurt during the fire.

Shortly after 8.30 Friday morning flames were noticed coming out of the centre part of the old Winter Fair building, part of which was occupied at the time as a stable for the horses belonging to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. An alarm was turned in at once, and the Fire Department was soon on the job. In the meantime an alarm was sounded to the Mounted Police in their barracks as the men had just finished breakfast and were cleaning up for a parade. Only two stable orderlies were in the stable at the time the fire broke out. Every man in the local squadron immediately turned out, and rescue work was undertaken for the horses in the barns.

No work of praise can be too great for the efforts made by the Mounted Police to get their horses out of the barns. The flames had gained great headway when the men arrived on the scene, but despite this, the police rushed in and soon had quite a number of horses out of their stalls. Great difficulty was experienced in getting the horses into the open, as the crackling of the flames made them excited, and in many cases they refused to leave the stalls, balking and kicking the while. The heat from the flames was intense and the men worked under heavy odds. Some twenty horses were taken out.

## Crowd Cheers Policemen

A cheer went up as one horse was brought out by a Mounted Policeman just as the flames were licking up the front stalls on the South side of the building. Smoke started to roll out of the windows, but the stable part was free from smoke until the building started to go. Constables Pratt and Larkin were two of the last men in the stables and they brought out their horses, only to drop when they got outside, overcome by the heat and smoke. They were the only members of the local squadron who were injured. When the flames had eaten their way to the South end of the building the doors were closed, so as to give as little air as possible to the fire.

## Best Horses Burned

The forty-six or more horses inside the building were soon victims of the flames, but their stamping and rearing in the stalls could be heard by the spectators outside. All the best horses of the Brandon squadron were destroyed, the officers' chargers being among the victims. The troop nearest the South door of the old Fair building got all their horses out, while a large portion of the saddles and equipment was also saved.

## Fighting the Flames

While the mounted police were endeavoring to save their horses, the firemen were endeavoring to save the buildings surrounding the Winter Fair building. It was almost a foregone conclusion from the start that nothing could save the Fair building, as the timber was very dry and the hay and straw piled in the building would do much to augment the flames. Therefore the firemen directed their main efforts to stemming the spread of the fire to nearby houses, as the sparks were flying in all directions.

If there was any fortunate thing about the whole morning's fire, it was the fact that there was no wind blowing, and that the weather was ideal for fighting the flames. Lines of hose were run from nearby hydrants and streams of water were soon pouring into the fire, and especially on the North end of the building, formerly known as the City Market. The big steam engine, only used by the Fire Department in big fires to increase the pressure, was brought into work, and steady streams were directed on all parts where there was a danger of the fire spreading.

## Protecting Nearby Dwellings

The sparks flying from the burning building threatened for a time to cause fires in other frame dwellings in the vicinity. Directly behind the Fair Arena and facing on Eleventh Street, in two houses the window glass was melted by the heat, but constant attention to the buildings and the application of water to smoldering places prevented the outbreak of fire. Falls of water, the use of the garden hose and other means were employed by the owners to stem the spread of the flames while the firemen were pouring water on the burning stables.

The houses on Tenth Street, just North of the fair building were possibly in greater danger than those on Eleventh Street. So great was the fear that the flames might get beyond control and reach their homes, that the residents began moving their household effects and piling them in the

wives were reported. Rumors were going round to the effect that some persons had been hurt by these cables but like many other rumors which commenced to circulate when the fire was under way, were not founded on facts. The City police were on the job and kept the crowd from pressing in around the dangerous sections.

## Good Water Pressure

Considerable comment was heard from spectators as to the water supply and the water pressure. However the Fire Chief has stated that the pressure was more than satisfactory and that the saving of the North wall is sufficient proof of this fact. The chairman of the Waterworks committee has also added his approval to the Chief's opinion and has added that the new pump at the Pumping Station did excellent work.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It is almost certain that the fire first broke out in the hay or straw loft of the Mounted Police stables. The flames were first noticed coming out of the upper story, and the orderlies in the stables proper could not have seen the flames when they first broke out. What caused the fire in the first place is a mystery and one which may remain so. There are any number of rumors going the rounds as to the probable cause but until an investigation is made, the origin will probably be shrouded in mystery.

## Loss and Insurance

An estimate of the total loss is given as about \$125,000. The Brandon Poultry Association had a large number of crates entirely destroyed by fire and their loss will be about \$2,000, almost entirely covered by insurance. The old building, complete with a steam plant for heating both buildings is valued at about \$100,000. The loss to the Mounted Police is not known at present, but as the best horses of the squadron were lost, their loss will probably run close to \$15,000. The insurance on the main building was in the neighborhood of \$40,000, while the City Market building carried \$8,000.

## WESTERN CANADA FLOUR MILLS SHOW PROFITS \$414,723

Balance Decreases in Comparison With Former Years Due to Lack of Export Business

Toronto, Oct. 29.—The annual statement of the Western Canada Flour Mills Company, Limited, to be submitted to a general meeting of the shareholders here today shows net profits of \$414,723 for the year ending August 31, last. After deducting the bond interest there remained available for application to the outstanding capital stock of the company the balance of \$335,470, or equal to 13.5 per cent. against 14.4 per cent. in 1919, and 19.9 per cent. in 1918. The decrease is due to lack of export business.

## WESTERN COAL TO ADVANCE SIXTY CENTS IN 'PEC

If Dealers Add Freight Rate Increase May Be Advance of Eighty Cents

Winnipeg, Oct. 29.—A local paper to will advance sixty cents a ton to Winnipeg buyers on November 1st, owing to increased cost at the mines, coal dealers announced today. The advance may reach eighty cents if the dealers decide to add twenty cents a ton, the increased cost due to freight rate increases.

## CHEAPER SHOES NEXT SPRING, ACCORDING TO TORONTO DEALERS

Toronto, Oct. 29.—From one to two dollars a pair is the extent of the cut in shoe prices expected by local shoe dealers. The reduction will come gradually next Spring it is stated, but there is no possibility of a return to pre-war prices owing to the heavy increased labor costs and overhead expenses.

## MANY APPROVE SCHEME TO SETTLE LONDON STRIKE

Sliding Scale if Adopted Applicable to Both Owner's Profits and Men's Wages

## MINERS TO VOTE

Next Wednesday on New Proposition—Leaders Favor Settlement Terms

London, Oct. 29.—Newspapers commenting on the settlement by which the coal strike may be ended if referendum among miners is available, generally recognize the scheme is a compromise. Neither the miners nor owners claim victory. There is universal approval of the arrangement by which a sliding scale would apply to the profits of owners as well as the wages of the men. For this reason, it is believed the plan will be endorsed by the miners. It is remarked that the settlement makes for future peace in the coal industry, and may prove an introductory step for a new era in British industry generally.

## National Wages Board

London, Oct. 29.—The prospect is that the coal strike will terminate by the end of next week through the miners' acceptance of the agreement arranged with the Government under which they will get two shillings advance unconditionally until the end of the year and in the future their wages will be settled by the creation of a National Wages Board.

In the event of any delay in starting the wages board, wages will in the interval be settled on the basis of increase or decrease according to surplus profits or otherwise from coal exports. This depends on such complex calculations as to render it hardly possible for any miner to understand. Therefore in the ballot to be taken next Wednesday, the miners must necessarily be guided by the rein of their leaders. The leaders favor a settlement on these terms.

## A Skillful Agreement

The agreement is skillfully arranged, so that all concerned, including the coal owners, will be interested in increasing the output as in case of a decreased output the owners will be penalized by a reduction in their percentage share of surplus profits.

The news of the solution of the crisis, for the time being at least, evoked loud cheers in the House of Commons when Sir Robert Horne, the President of the Board of Trade, announced the success of the negotiations.

## CAPTAIN WILL LEARN OF WIFE'S DEATH WHEN HE REACHES HOME PORT

New York, Oct. (By Canadian Press) 29.—When Capt. James W. Ford, of the Oriental Steamship Company's Chester Valley, returns to New York from Constantinople early in December, he will learn of the death of his wife, Ida M. Ford, who died in the Homeopathic Hospital, New York, early this month. His wife made a last request that her husband be not notified of her decease until his ship returns to New York Harbor. His ship was in Constantinople at the time.

## OLD WINTER FAIR BUILDING FIRST UNIT BIG PLANT

In March 1908, Big Fat Stock Show First Held There

## HOUSED PATIENTS

From Hospital for Insane When It Was Destroyed by Fire in 1910

The Winter Fair building destroyed by fire Friday morning was erected in 1907, and was the first big undertaking of the local Winter Fair officials. In March 1908 the building was first used for the holding of the big stock show which has now become famed throughout Canada. The building was of such a commodious nature at that time that it was used for two seasons as Brandon's theatre and many road attractions were held in the main auditorium.

When the Hospital for the Insane burned to the ground in the Fall of 1910, the Winter Fair officials turned their big plant over to the Hospital authorities for housing the inmates of the institution. The patients occupied the building for two years until such time as their new plant was ready, and in the meantime the Winter Fair shows were held at the Exhibition grounds.

In 1913 the City bought the North fifty feet of the Winter Fair building for use as a City market, and farmers from surrounding districts brought their produce for sale at this market. The place has not been used for that purpose however since the outbreak of war. When war was declared in 1914, Canadian officials at once began a round-up of all aliens in the country and Brandon was selected as one of the round-up stations. The building was secured for a place to house the aliens and until they were removed to Banff in 1916 the aliens were housed in the Winter Fair building.

In the Spring of 1914 the new Arena was completed and the old building somewhat remodelled for the holding of the first of a series of fat stock shows. Since that time the old building has been used merely as the stables while the big Arena is the centre of the attractions. However with the arrival of the Mounted Police in 1915 and the location of the men in the Armoury it was decided to rent the Southern portion of the Winter Fair building for stables. The Mounted Police have since that time stabled their charges to the Exhibition grounds when they were crowded out of there present quarters by Winter Fair entries.

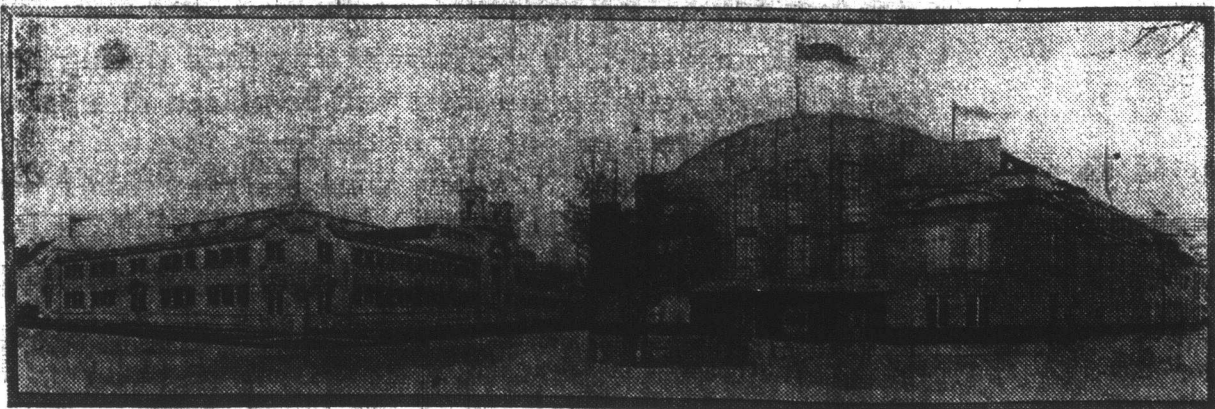
It is only a month ago that the old building was repainted and renovated. Some repair work was also done to the big steam plant which was in that building and which heated both the old and new buildings.

## CHICAGO MEN FOR ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY PLAN

Chicago, Oct. 29.—Mass statistics was presented to the International Joint Commission at its meeting here today in support of the proposed Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Waterway. Representatives of the Chicago Clearing House Association discussed the financial aspect of the scheme, saying Chicago banks were in a position to handle any development of foreign trade consequent upon the opening of the new route.

"We contend" said H. C. Barlow, Traffic Director of the Chicago Association of Commerce, speaking for the business interests of Chicago, "that the waterway will pay as a public investment. The project will pay strictly as a commercial enterprise in benefits which the people of both nations will receive."

## FIRE DESTROYS OLD WINTER FAIR BUILDING



No. 1. A fire which broke out about 8.30 this morning, completely destroyed the building marked No. 1 in the above picture. The illustration is from an architect's drawing and does not show the correct situation of the buildings. The burned building was constructed in 1907, and housed Brandon's first big Winter Fair in March, 1908. The estimated loss for the entire building is placed at \$125,000. Forty-six horses were destroyed in the stables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, occupying the Southern portion of the building shown in picture No. 1. Cut No. 2 shows the Winter Fair Arena which escaped destruction.

## QUEENS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FACULTY GRANTS LADY STUDENTS ENTRANCE

Kingston, Oct. 29.—The faculty of Queen's Theological College has granted applications from two Ontario lady-students of Queen's University to enter the classes in the Theological College.

## FEW BUYERS AND LOW BIDS AT SALE OF SHEEP AND SWINE

Many Manitoba Breeders Sent Stock Home Rather Than Accept Bids

## 129 SHEEP SOLD

Falling Prices and Condition of Wool Market Frightened The Buyers

The sheep and swine sale held in the Winter Fair Arena, on Thursday, was disappointing to those attending the sales. Very few buyers presented themselves with the result that the prices obtained for the animals that were sold were away below their market value. Only fourteen swine and 129 sheep were sold during the day, many animals being taken in and out of the ring without a single bid being made. The average prices obtained were very poor, while many of the breeders preferred to send their stock home than to dispose of them at sacrifice figures.

Expectation of a falling market was given earlier in the day as the cause for the small attendance and poor prices obtained, while it is almost certain that the unstable condition of the wool market at the present time had much to do with the low bids on the sheep in the afternoon. Splendid arrangements had been made previous to the sale for the handling of the stock and the seating of the buyers, but the stock outnumbered the buyers.

There were 162 pure bred sheep and 200 grade sheep offered in the afternoon sale, but of this number only 129 were sold. The highest price paid for an animal was bid on an Oxford Down, ram owned by J. B. Robinson of Belmont. J. Cockrill of Holmfield was the buyer and he paid \$65. George Gordon of Oak Lake bought another ram of the same breed from T. S. Somerville of Hartney for \$60, while Harry Leadley of Headingly paid the same price for a Shropshire ram owned by Maurice E. Hartley of Waskada. These were the highest prices paid, several other sales touching the \$50 mark.

J. S. Hunter of Devlin, Ont. was the largest buyer, as he bid in over seventy sheep at prices ranging from \$6 to \$10 each. He also bought the only two goats offered in the sale for \$5 each. Harry Leadley of Headingly bought quite a number of grade sheep at prices ranging from \$12 each down. The total revenue from the sheep sale was \$1,826.50.

In the morning, fourteen swine were sold out of the forty-five offered for \$820.

## WORLD SHORTAGE WILL FORCE A PRICE ADVANCE

Chicago, Oct. 29.—Shortage of the wheat crop and increased exports are factors that will force an advance in prices, regardless of the success or failure of the first "wheat strike" in the history of the United States, according to J. S. Howard, head of the American Farm Bureau of Federation, an organization representing 1,500,000 farmers. The general sentiment among agrarians is one of vigorous opposition to the "farmer's strike," according to Mr. Howard.

## BANDITS GET \$60,000 WORTH DIAMONDS FROM JEWELER

St. Paul, Oct. 29.—Three unmasked bandits held up an employee in a local jewelry store here early Thursday and escaped with diamonds said to be worth \$60,000.

## JOE KORCZASKI SLASHES THROAT DIES IN HOSPITAL

Suffering From an Incurable Disease New Canadian Ends His Life

## INQUEST NOT NECESSARY

Korcaski Permitted to Leave Hospital Found No One At Home

Despondent because of ill-health, and the fact that he might never be well again, Joe Korcaski slashed his throat with a razor Thursday afternoon and died one hour later in the General Hospital. The knife thrust was given at 59 Tenth street North, Korcaski's home. No inquest will be held as Dr. Beer, who held an investigation, stated that it was a clear case of suicide.

Korcaski has been in the General Hospital for about three months suffering from an incurable disease. It is stated that he suffered a great deal and this caused him to become despondent over the state of his health. On Thursday noon he expressed a desire to go home, and as he was in a good condition to do so, he was allowed to go. On his way home he talked with several persons and mentioned to them, "That life wasn't worth living." No one took any further meaning out of his remarks until an hour later.

About 2.30 a woman saw Korcaski staggering out of the house with blood streaming from his throat. He fell heavily to the veranda, dropping a razor beside him. Medical aid was quickly summoned and the man was conveyed to the Hospital where he died an hour later. Korcaski had lost a great deal of blood, and efforts to save his life were unsuccessful.

The suicide had spent some time in Ninette Sanatorium before entering the Brandon General Hospital and his disease was regarded as incurable. His wife and son had been up to see him last Sunday, but did not expect him home Thursday afternoon, with the result that they were out working when the man returned home. They did not arrive until after Korcaski had been conveyed to the hospital.

Following the man's death, Dr. Beer held an investigation, and it was quite evident that the man had committed suicide. Korcaski's conversations with various persons, and the fact that he has been despondent for some time, all pointed clearly to suicide. The deceased leaves only his wife and one son. The funeral was held this afternoon from Campbell and Campbell's undertaking parlors to the Brandon Cemetery.

## BALFOUR HOPES BIG NATIONS WILL JOIN THE LEAGUE

Brussels, Oct. 29.—In a speech at the closing session of the League of Nations council here Thursday, Arthur Balfour, British representative, declared he hoped "several big nations who are not now members will soon join." Until these big nations have joined the League, Balfour said, it will be most difficult to predict what the future will bring forth.

After the final session it was announced the council had advised that a plebiscite be held to determine whether Poland or Lithuania should have possession of the city of Vilna. The council insisted that Polish irregulars withdraw before the plebiscite.

The Military Commission which looked into the use of poison gas, reported it failed to see how use of gas in war-experiments in peace time could be stopped.

## BRANDON LABOR PARTY PROTESTS HANNA'S ORDER

That the recent order of the President of the Canadian National Railways prohibiting any employee from holding a public office should be cancelled, was the subject of a resolution passed at the meeting of the Labor party, held Wednesday evening. The resolution sets forth that the order of Mr. D. B. Hanna violates the rights of free citizens and places the rule of a company above the laws of the country.

## "DRY" VICTORIES ARE DEMAND FOR FEDERAL ACTION

Toronto, Ont., Oct. 27.—That the "dry" victories in Western Canada and Nova Scotia are a definite pronouncement by the people of Canada for a "bone dry" Dominion and a demand for Federal action to bring about that end, was the opinion expressed by the Rev. Ben Spence, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, when interviewed Tuesday night.