

ERSKINE CHURCH IN RUINS

TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

One Hundred and Fifty School Children Safely Dismissed—A Mysterious Water Pressure and Its Results.

At that is left this frosty January morning of the handsome white brick edifice known as Erskine Presbyterian church in Cedar-Howell street opposite Simcoe four-blocked walls and a heap of iron-covered ruins. The fire which raged within its sacred precincts last evening did its work to completion.

About 4:20 yesterday afternoon a boy ran into the room of the librarian, Mr. John K. Mitchell, and informed him that smoke was issuing from the basement. Mr. Mitchell hastily took to the situation and walked upstairs to the room where the Sunday school was in session and called Mr. J. A. Paterson, the superintendent, to the door and acquainted him of the impending conflagration.

With the aid of the teachers this was successfully accomplished as the little ones were aware that anything was happening, and every one of them was safely outside in a few minutes.

An alarm was quickly sounded from Box 32, which is attached to the front of the building, and the first reel to reach the scene was that from Queen street hall. The Yonge street section was detached a few minutes by reason of the patent snaps of the harness becoming loose, but they were secured and the fire, Bay, Portland, College and Court streets followed in quick succession.

Long before the first stream had been brought into play the whole of the floors over the basement were enveloped in flames, and the firemen and the fast gathering crowds at once concluded that the edifice was doomed.

In order that the readers of The World may understand the progress of the fire from its inception it may be stated that the building extends 90 feet back from Cedar-Howell street, with a width of 92 feet. The auditorium is an amphitheatre capable of seating 1000 people, but when the draw seats are brought into requisition 200 additional can be seated.

The congregation was just beginning to feel settled and sure of the future after the four years of uphill work that the building has cost \$20,000 on them in the British American company. To what extent they are damaged remains to be seen.

At a meeting of the managers and elders held at the residence of Mr. John Bain, 3394 Queen street west, to consider what steps shall be taken.

A RECEPTION IN STATE.

MANY PEOPLE PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO LORD LANSDOWNE.

Mr. Hawkins' Course in Telling his Story—Mr. Charlton's Selection Bill Revised—General Notes.

Mr. Hawkins' course in telling his story to parliament house at 7:30. The governor-general's reception last night was a brilliant affair. It was attended by a crowd larger than ever before assembled to pay its compliments to a governor-general.

Princess Louise dragon guards escorted the vice-regal party from Rideau hall to parliament house at 7:30. The governor-general's reception last night was a brilliant affair.

Mr. Charlton has given notice that he will introduce to-morrow his act to provide for the punishment of seduction and like offences. Mr. McCarty will introduce to-morrow an act for constituting a court of railway commissioners for Canada and amend the consolidated railway act of 1871.

Judging from the number of notices already given by Sir Richard Cartwright he intends to make it lively for the government. A deputation of fruit growers also waited on the government, asking to have fruit put on the free list.

The government of Manitoba has applied to the authorities here for an extension of Manitoba's boundary to the Hudson Bay.

It is said here that the new Quebec government will probably be composed of Hon. J. J. Ross, premier; Hon. L. O. Taillon, attorney-general and leader of the opposition; Hon. W. W. Lynch, crown lands; Hon. J. G. Robertson, treasurer; Hon. Louis Beaudin, commissioner of agriculture and public works; Hon. Jean Blanchet, provincial secretary.

A deputation of fruit growers also waited on the government, asking to have fruit put on the free list. The finance minister said the government would take the matter into consideration, and possibly some arrangement might be made with the fruit growers for an exchange of commodities.

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THE MERSEY TUNNEL.

A Great Engineering Work Almost Completed.

London, Jan. 20.—A number of gentlemen connected with the company which is constructing the Mersey tunnel walked through the opening yesterday from Liverpool to Birkenhead.

A company for tunnelling under the Mersey and for carrying out a line of railway through the tunnel was formed many years ago, and duly obtained the sanction of parliament for the proposed enterprise, but this company was not destined to be more than a pioneer to the actual undertaking.

The whole sub-aqueous course of the Mersey tunnel lies through new red sandstone of a hard and compact character, and no trouble from water was to be expected in excess of the necessary leakage through occasional fissures.

The Mersey tunnel is, therefore, not quite so long as the unmineralized tunnel under the Hudson at New York, which is to be 5500 feet in length.

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AT THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE LOSS OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.

Heartrending Scenes at the Identification of the Bodies—Some of the Lost—A Woman's Agency.

London, Jan. 20.—Edward Sprague Boston, who, with his wife, was lost, was one of the best-known conveyancers of Suffolk county, Oscar Isaac, consul-general for Turkey and treasurer of Vassabow woolen mills, was well-known among mercantile men.

Wright was a broker of Carrol D. Wright, chief of the bureau of statistics, Dr. Horace Lyman and his wife, Rich. Boston, whose name does not appear in the passenger list, because she bore her name to the vessel.

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LOCAL ELECTION APPEALS.

Three Conservative and one Reform Dismissed With Costs.

The appeal court delivered judgment on Saturday in a number of election appeals. Decisions were given in four cases, three conservative petitions and one reform being dismissed with costs.

South Victoria—The point was whether the giving of railway passes to voters by the director of the Midland railway was a corrupt act. It was decided that the giving of passes was not a corrupt practice within the meaning of the election act.

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CARNEGIE V. FEDERAL.

LOANS OF PLEDGED BANK STOCK DECLARED ILLEGAL.

And all "Loans" Must be Held as Sales—The Effect of the Judgment on Other Cases.

In consideration of the Federal Bank of Canada, hereinafter called the bank, making an advance to me of \$2773.33, repayable on demand with interest at 7 per cent per annum, I have assigned to the bank as collateral security for the due payment of said advance 300 shares Ontario bank stock (also sundry notes and papers) and agree to keep up a cash margin thereon of not less than 10 per cent.

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LOCAL NEWS PARAGRAPHED.

Inaugural meeting of the new council to-day.

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Vertical text on the left margin, including "ERSKINE CHURCH IN RUINS" and other fragments.

Vertical text on the right margin, including "PRICE ONE CENT" and other fragments.