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The Weekly Monitor

VOL. XLIX — No 24

BRIDGETOWN, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, N. S., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1921

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Big Fire in Annapolis Royal Last Wednesday Night

A Cigarette Thrown in a Bundle of Hay Destroys a Large Portion of the Business Section and Many Dwellings. Causing a Loss of a Quarter of a Million Dollars. Insurance Less Than 50 Per Cent. Arrangements Being Made for New Buildings

When word reached here by telephone late Wednesday afternoon that a big fire was raging in the town of Annapolis Royal a MONITOR representative got there as quickly as an auto could take him. Several miles this side of the town dense smoke and thick fog were encountered which made rapid driving dangerous.

On our arrival we found at least a third of the town in a mass of flames, and while everyone was doing all they could to save property there was no water available to fight the terrible conflagration, except what could be hauled in barrels from the harbor. It appears that about 4:15 a small fire which could have been extinguished with a pall of water, was discovered in a bunch of hay in the barn at the rear of the Queen Hotel, probably caused by someone throwing down a lighted cigarette. Those who discovered it immediately endeavored to stamp it out by covering it with an old bag or mat, but the fire shot down through the dry hay and quicker than the story can be told the little blaze was beyond control.

An alarm was given, the firemen promptly responded but had no water pressure to fight the fire. There was water, however, in the reservoir, with which is installed a syphon system, but air had got into the pipes and rendered the whole service useless.

The Queen Hotel was the next building to catch and soon the east side of St. George St., the principal business thoroughfare of the town, was a roaring furnace. Eleven buildings burned at one time. These contained business places on the lower floors, with an occasional tenement above. The boundaries of the fire were along St. George St., with the old Church of England at the south end, and the Royal Bank of Canada at the north. In the meantime the southwest wind hauled gradually from the westward and the flames immediately started to devour the buildings along Victoria, Albert and St. James streets.

At 10 p.m. it looked as if everything would be destroyed between the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Church of England, and everything east as far as the Dominion Atlantic Railway tracks. The station and round house were not in immediate danger. The streets were filled with furniture and falling timber and walls from the burning buildings. Fort Anne park was filled with dry goods, groceries and contents removed from the burning buildings. In fact nearly every dwelling house in the town had its contents removed as no one could predict that any portion of the town could be saved should the wind increase. A dense fog wet the trees and in this way the flames were in many instances considerably checked.

The first man the MONITOR interviewed was B. B. Hardwick, the Mayor of the town, who was willing to give all the information available. It was impossible to talk insurance with any of the owners at that time,

but the Mayor thought that the loss in most cases was only partially covered. He was pleased to state, however, that very few poor people had lost their homes, and he thought that none would be destitute as the result of the terrible calamity which spread over the oldest town on this continent. Within an hour from the time the alarm was given Mayor H. T. Warne, of Digby, had reached the town, accompanied by several of his Councilors, bringing with him their Chief of Police Boyd Bishop, and fifty men ready to render every assistance possible.

Another man almost immediately on the grounds was W. W. Clarke of Clarke Bros. Limited, of Bear River, who was also offering every assistance available. The same can be said of Rev. A. W. L. Smith, rector of Clementsport, where several families whose homes were gone, were conveyed for the night. Mayor Hardwick said that Bridgetown had also rendered aid, and our town officials and citizens generally were doing all they could. Many automobiles carried down parties from here. Dynamite was used to some extent in destroying the buildings to prevent the further spread of the flames, but the supply available was limited. Annapolis was just recovering from its fire of a year ago last March, and it is fortunate that the new Bank of Nova Scotia building, and the reconstructed Government building are still standing unscathed. Crowds rushed to the scene of the disaster and as far west as Yarmouth.

BRIDGETOWN GIVING ASSISTANCE. Mayor Warren, of Bridgetown, the members of the Town Council and many of our citizens are still continuing to give the people of our sister town all available assistance in their time of need. The E. A. A. A.'s big tent was shipped to them cooked meats and other food furnished in his auto several loads of bread, cooked meals and other food furnished by our citizens. Their efforts have been appreciated well by a letter from Mayor Hardwick which appears on this page.

Among the agencies to render early assistance to the Annapolis fire sufferers was the Red Cross, Dr. Armstrong, of Bridgetown, the Annapolis County representative of that organization, arriving in the town shortly after the extent of the catastrophe was known.

One great regret is the looting which occurred while the fire was in progress and since it has been extinguished. Annapolis County is supposed to contain the largest number of regular church attendants for its population in any part of Nova Scotia. In an interview with Chief of Police Bishop of Digby, who guarded the goods in the old fort grounds from 8 p.m. Wednesday night until the following afternoon, he said there is still large room for improvement. The looting was the worst in his experience and he has attended many fires in the past. The looters went

so far as to steal two very expensive chairs from the Church of England, a building which was not destroyed.

THURSDAY MORNING

A visit to the Annapolis ruins Thursday morning found the fire practically extinguished, with only the hard coal bins and debris in the foundations smouldering.

A special train from Kentville in charge of Conductor Harry Taylor and Driver Will Ritchie reached Annapolis about 11:30 Wednesday night, with firemen from Kentville and a chemical engine.

FOUR PERSONS INJURED

In the dense fog and smoke in the railway yard while shunting a portion of a train telescoped the van of a ballast train, injuring four persons, only one being seriously hurt.

In the meantime another special was being rushed from Yarmouth in charge of Conductor George Balcom, with Percy Balcom at the throttle of locomotive Oberon No. 19.

This contained the steam fire engine "Neptune" with 1500 feet of hose and fifteen men in charge of Captains R. K. Smith and G. W. Halstead. This train made the run from Yarmouth to Annapolis in three hours and twenty-five minutes and the steamer "Neptune" was immediately placed on Edward's wharf and with a Siamese soon had two streams of salt water from the harbor playing on the ruins, which did excellent work, although the fire had reached its natural boundaries before their arrival.

THE FIRE LOSSES

Chas. Dargie and Son are probably the heaviest losers. Their big furniture establishment and its contents were worth at least \$50,000. Their insurance is about \$20,000.

Mrs. Potter's big dry goods establishment contained more than \$25,000 worth of up-to-date goods. She carried about \$5,000 insurance.

The list of buildings destroyed and firms put out of business are as follows:

J. A. Lingren's residence.
Chas. Dargie and Sons' furniture establishment.
Crowe and Bayer, plumbing shop.
Doctor A. B. Crowe, dentist.
Douglas Weir, grocery.
Alex. Blackie, tenement.
A. E. Runciman's dry goods establishment.
Oddfellows' lodge room and hall.
A. E. Wentzell, boots and shoes.
G. W. V. A. rooms.
Western Union Telegraph Office.
Mrs. McFadden's tenements upstairs.
Mrs. Potter's dry goods establishment (formerly Potter Bros.).
F. H. Northup, groceries and feed, with tenement upstairs.
Mrs. H. E. Burton, grocery.
Queen Hotel Block, containing Layton's Tailor shop.
Cummings' meat market.
Copeland's ice cream parlor.
The Central Telephone office.
A. E. Atlee's drug store.
George Rice's tenement.
Mrs. John Brittain's tenement.
J. A. Langille's jewelry store.
Geo. Vaschere's residence.
L. DeV. Chipman's residence.
Langille's jewelry store.
Tom Wood's residence and bakery.
W. C. T. H. building, containing Miss Ruby Chisholm's millinery.
Herbert's garage.
Burrill's vulcanizing works.
The Queen Hotel's barns and out-buildings.
Harry Gormley's blacksmith shop.
Doctor A. B. Crowe's residence.
Mrs. James Crowe's residence.
Hardwick's tenement block containing the homes of Clifford Herbert, Arthur B. Herbert, railway men, and Mack Archibald, planer.
Mrs. James McKay's residence.
Salvation Army building.
Mrs. Walter McCormick's residence.
Mrs. Margeson's residence.
H. A. West's residence.
Bijou Dream Theatre.

LOSSES AND INSURANCE

Incomplete and unofficial estimate of the losses involved in the blaze with the approximate amounts of insurance carried so far as can be ascertained, are as follows:

C. Dargie and Sons, building and part of stock destroyed, loss \$45,000; insurance approximately \$20,000.

Chas. Crowe and Bayer, plumbers, building and most of stock destroyed, loss \$6,000; insurance on building, \$2,000.

D. L. Weir, grocer, building, owned by W. Perkins, destroyed with most of the stock, loss \$15,000; insurance partially covered building with \$8,500 on stock.

A. E. Runciman, dry goods, building and most of stock destroyed, loss \$20,000; insurance \$8,000 on stock, and \$5,000 on building.

E. A. Wentzell, boots and shoes, building and most of stock destroyed, loss \$20,000; insurance, building partially covered, stock \$4,000.

Potter Bros., dry goods, building and stock destroyed, loss \$40,000; building worth \$15,000, partially covered by insurance with \$5,000 on the stock, worth \$25,000.

The Western Union Telegraph office was in this building.

H. Northup, grocery, and D. Wellington, loss \$11,000; partially covered.

Queen Hotel, \$15,000, partially covered.

Victoria block, occupied by Miss Copeland's ice cream parlor; The Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Co.; Cummings', meat dealer; A. E.

Atlee, druggist, and George Rice and Mrs. Brittain, residents, on the upper floors, was valued at \$15,000 for the building, and \$10,000 for stock, partially covered.

J. A. Langille, double house, occupied by Mr. Langille, Geo. Vaschere and Mrs. L. DeV. Chipman, loss \$6,000; insurance \$2,500.

J. A. Langille, jewelry store, loss building \$1,500, stock \$2,000, partially covered.

T. E. Wood, residence and bakery, loss \$4,000; insurance \$3,500.

Salvation Army barracks, loss \$1,500.

Mrs. Eliza McKay, dwelling, loss \$4,500; insurance \$1,500.

Mrs. Walter McCormick, dwelling, loss \$5,000.

H. A. West, dwelling, loss \$5,000.

Stable, W. McCormick and Son, loss \$800.

H. Gormley, blacksmith shop, loss \$500.

Mrs. Crowe, dwelling, loss \$3,000; insurance \$1,000.

Dr. A. B. Crowe, dwelling, loss \$7,000; insurance \$2,000 on house and \$3,000 on furniture.

Mrs. Hanna Margeson, dwelling, loss \$3,000.

R. W. Hardwick estate, triple tenement, occupied by A. B. Hebert, MacDonald Archibald and S. Hebert, loss \$8,000 on building.

Town Hall and Fire Station Building destroyed, fire equipment and instruments of town band, saved, loss \$3,000; partially insured.

Annapolis Fruit Co. garage, loss \$20,000; insurance \$1,000.

Bijou Dream Theatre, owned by A. M. King, loss \$4,000; insurance \$2,000. Mr. King managed to save the Motion Picture Machine.

Henry Rawding's, dwelling, owned by Mrs. Wm. Perkins, loss \$1,500.

Moore McDormand, loss \$3,500; insurance \$1,000.

I. O. O. F. regalia and furniture destroyed, loss \$700; insurance \$700.

After the completion of the "missing link" as that part of the D. A. R. from Annapolis to Digby was styled, the town of Annapolis Royal enjoyed a large business, the daily steamer to and from St. John, a weekly line of steamers to and from Boston, besides considerable coastal business by sailing craft. A small steamer, the "Evangeline," owned and commanded by Capt. Geo. E. Corbett, plied between Digby and Annapolis and a daily coach supplied transportation between Annapolis and Liverpool.

That was thirty years ago and the town was lively and prosperous. The building of the railway between Annapolis and Digby changed all this. The steamers made Digby their headquarters and the railway authorities abandoned the station which was in the centre of the business portion of the town and close to the waterfront for a new and smaller station on the new line of railway back of the town proper.

The first big fire destroyed the Whitman block, situated on Water street, which is the continuation of George street, the main residential centre. The second fire destroyed the Royal Hotel, which was located opposite the old railway station, as well as the J. B. Mills building, in which was housed the Annapolis Spectator.

But Annapolis took its losses philosophically. Men of the stamp of Pickles & Mills, F. C. Whitman, B. B. Hardwick, McCormack & Sons, Dr. Robertson, A. M. King and Son, A. E. Atlee, Runciman & Son, Charles Dargie, and others did not lie down and bemoan the hard knocks which their town received, but kept on "doing business" and if Annapolis lost on one hand it gained on the other.

Although the population had somewhat fallen off and certain streams of business had dried up, they kept their shoulders at the wheel and the result was that Annapolis Royal became an incorporated town, with modern lighting and water systems

ALL WERE HOUSED

All were housed Wednesday night including the sick who wished to go to bed, but the majority were out all night. Many thoughtful citizens from the uptown residential section where properties were not injured, were seen at an early hour the following morning supplying the less fortunate with bread and various kinds of food. Assistance is being given from the surrounding towns, and Mayor Hardwick is a busy man. Town Clerk F. W. Harris, who had left Wednesday on his annual vacation, returned home Thursday via auto before daylight.

BUILTINGS DAMAGED

Clifton Hotel block, containing R. L. Hardwick's millinery establishment; Mr. Bayer's tenement, H. A. Armstrong tenement, manager of the Royal Bank; H. W. Rawding's tenement, Reginald Miller's residence, Miles McMillan's harness store, L. D. Wain's store with tenement upstairs, Charles Ritchie's residence, slightly damaged, also Mr. Neville's; Church of England rectory, Doctor Horsefall's residence (owned by Doctor Byers) C. Odell's residence.

Ex-Mayor West says it is the worst blow that has ever struck the old town but everybody appears to be in as good spirits as possible under their sad conditions and many of them say that within a short time a newer and better and brighter Annapolis will arise from the ruins.

A few of the widows who met with loss could be seen on the streets crying, but it was fortunate that the fire did not visit the poorest section of the town and, as Mayor Hardwick said Wednesday night, he did not believe that any of the people would be destitute.

NOT DOWN-HEARTED

As will be seen by a circular distributed around Annapolis Royal Saturday, which is reproduced on this page, the people of that town are not down-hearted.

Merchants and other leading citizens of Annapolis Royal are losing no time in endeavoring to recuperate from the devastating effects of the terrible fire which ravaged the business section of that town Wednesday night. Hardly was the fire out, when, coincident with efforts to prevent its re-occurrence, plans were made by many of the heaviest losers to start up their business again. Already several have started.

William Cummings has re-opened his meat market at the old McClarity building, while D. Wear is opening up his grocery in the Charles Corbett block. Charles Dargie and Son have begun over again in the second flat of the old Masonic Building, formerly used by the Customs Department. The lower floor of the building is the location chosen by E. Runciman for a new start in dry goods. These, all burned out Wednesday night, and others who lost their businesses by the disastrous conflagration are looking to the future.

SUNDAY'S BAND CONCERT

Annapolis Royal was the scene of

and a determination to again retrieve more than it had lost.

The people of Annapolis never lost faith in their town. They were always planning for better things and they were setting out to get them. Another disaster has overtaken their town. This means another fight for advancement and it may be accepted as a fact that Annapolis, Phoenix like, will again rise from its ashes, a prouder, more beautiful, and we hope a more prosperous town.

There is one thing fire cannot rob Annapolis of—her splendid situation, her incomparable scenery. Situated at the head of the beautiful Annapolis Basin, at the mouth of the Annapolis and Lequille Rivers and overlooking the stately hills on the Granville side of the river, Annapolis Royal commands an outlook of considerable grandeur. Running from the town proper to what is known as "The Mile Board" is George street, a broad and level thoroughfare, shaded for its entire length by stately trees and containing handsome homes set in grounds delightfully conceived and laid out forming an almost entire garden for its full length of one mile.

Along this thoroughfare are the principal churches of the town, the Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist, while the Roman Catholic Church is situated in the heart of the town and near the waterfront. On this main thoroughfare is also situated the County Court House, the Annapolis Academy and the beautiful cemetery. On this street, but in the town proper, is old Fort Anne, the scene a few days ago of one of the most solemn and imposing anniversary celebrations ever held in North America.

attraction Sunday afternoon, when more than three hundred automobiles representing towns and villages all the way from Halifax to Charles Harbor, Shelburne Co., and even some from around the South Shore, conveyed to the town more than 1,500 people to view the ruins caused by Wednesday night's fire. The Annapolis Royal Concert Band, under the direction of Paul Yates, gave an open air concert on one of the band stands in Fort Anne Park, which was listened to by three thousand people. A collection was taken which amounted to \$171.00.

Coun. Frank Whitman, of Robin, Jones & Whitman, says that everything is being rapidly straightened out and that there will be no need of any further supplies of food from this or the neighboring towns. All received was carefully distributed. Meat markets are being opened and supplies can now be purchased from regular sources, and as already stated, practically none are destitute or in want. More people have visited Annapolis during the past six days than any time in the history of the old town, notwithstanding her many successful celebrations during the past few years. The following are two of the signs which have been placed among the ruins:

"Are We Down-hearted? No!"

"We Look Flat Now, But Watch Us Grow!"

There are others just as appropriate.

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE

YARMOUTH LINE

The summer schedule of six trips weekly will continue until Saturday, September 17th inclusive. Commencing September 19th, the Steamships PRINCE ARTHUR and PRINCE GEORGE will make four round trips weekly between Yarmouth and Boston, leaving Yarmouth on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, returning from Boston on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

This service will continue until about October 10th, when the regular schedule of two trips weekly will be in effect. From Yarmouth Tuesdays, and Fridays, returning from Boston on Mondays and Thursdays.

THE DEMPSEY-CARPENTIER FIGHT

The pictures of the Dempsey-Carpentier fight pleased a large audience in the Primrose Theatre last Saturday night. These pictures will also appear in the Gem Theatre, Lawrencetown, Friday evening September 23rd, and should also draw a large crowd in our sister town.

Dr. Warey, dentist, will not be at her office in Bridgetown from Thursday, 15th, till Monday morning, 19th, just as she is going to Kingston to do dental work there. 24-11.

Are We Downhearted? NO!

It might have been worse! What's a quarter-million dollars, anyway? No lives lost, nobody hurt.

Let's mix a lot of British sober common sense with a little Yankee enterprise, then add our own native grit to the mixture and

Put a "Made-in-Canada" Town on the Map

Old Port Royal is historic—antique. Let's build a better, bigger, busier, NEW Annapolis Royal. Emphasize the "Royal" and make the world sit up and take notice.

Wake Up! Cheer Up! Get Busy!

Take This Home With You

Annapolis Royal
Sept. 9th, 1921

My Dear Mayor Warren:

I wish to thank you and all citizens of Bridgetown for your kindness and help in our great disaster. Up-to-date Bridgetown stands No. 1 for favors received. Our council and citizens generally appreciate your kindness.

Respectfully,
B. B. HARDWICKE,
Mayor