

BIG CONFLAGRATION AT NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Started in the Porter Hotel and the Guests Had to Flee, Leaving Their Clothing Behind.

Barrels of Whiskey and Cartridges Exploded Adding to the Danger of Fire and the Scare.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., despatch: Fire started this morning in the basement of the old Porter Hotel, now a part of the Imperial Hotel, at Falls and Second streets, in the portion occupied by Faxon, Williams & Faxon, grocers. The occupants of the Porter Hotel were started by a terrific explosion down stairs, and almost immediately the flames began to shoot up through the building. Fortunately the force of the explosion was sufficient to arouse all the occupants, who were able to make their escape, but nearly all lost their clothing and personal effects. The fire spread quickly through the Porter Hotel, and to the store of J. & G. M. Rae, sporting goods, next door. Both Faxon, Williams & Faxon and the Rae stores are complete losses, about \$25,000 each. The Imperial Hotel caught fire from the Porter Hotel. The Temperance House across, just back of the Imperial, on Second street, caught fire, and the top storey was completely gutted and the second floor badly damaged. The roof of the Presbyterian Church on First street also caught fire, but the building was saved. Explosions of barrels of whiskey in Faxon, Williams & Faxon's cellar during the progress of the fire scattered their contents in every direction and added to the fierceness of the blaze, and the constant explosion of cartridges and other ammunition in the Rae store added another element of danger. When the fire appeared to be beyond control an appeal for aid was sent to Buffalo, but before the engines arrived the local firemen had the fire well in hand. Buffalo sent fire engines and firemen. The total loss is estimated at \$140,000. The Imperial Hotel building was damaged to the extent of \$15,000, and its contents valued at \$20,000, are a total loss. Other losses are: Temperance House, \$10,000; Buffalo, Niagara Falls Arctic Light Power Company, \$5,000; Presbyterian Church and Lucas Livery, \$2,000 each; Lehigh Valley Ticket Office, \$1,000; adjoining stores damaged by smoke and water about \$35,000.

REVOLUTION IN THE BALTIC.

These Provinces Will Have to be Reconquered. Revolutionists are Now Fighting in Three Armies.

A Child Throws a Bomb Among Cossacks.

A St. Petersburg, cable: Gen. Mischchenko, who commanded the Cossacks in Manchuria, has arrived in Moscow from the Far East. He had a narrow escape from capture. It is reported that he will immediately be employed in an important capacity, probably to repress the rebellion in the Baltic provinces, whither the First Army Corps in Manchuria will be sent when it arrives shortly.

Thus far little has been heard of happenings in these provinces, but it is believed, that, so far as Russian domination and unity are concerned, the situation there is far more serious than it is in Moscow, the trouble in the latter place being merely bloody rioting by a minority of enthusiasts in the Baltic provinces, while in the whole population is defying the authorities, bent upon an absolute and final separation. This is equally true of Finland, with the absence, thus far, of bloodshed and excesses that characterized the rioting in the Baltic provinces, while the Caucasus apparently must be entirely reconquered or lost to Russia.

The Slovo, declares it has learned that the bloodshed at Moscow has been frightful, that the casualties will reach 15,000, and that about 100 Red Cross workers have been despatched from St. Petersburg to Moscow to assist in caring for the wounded.

Three "Armies" Busy.

A message from Moscow says that during the night the artillery worked at destroying the barricades. The revolutionists, this message says, are divided into three armies, the first, consisting of 800 men armed with rifles and pistols, is operating between Moscow and Petrovo, on the railroad, which it controls. Artillery and cavalry are being employed against this force. The second army is armed especially with bombs and revolvers, and is composed of 3,000 persons, in whose ranks are many women, who display not only bravery, but ferocity. This force occupies the region between the Sadiovia

REVOLUTION IN THE BALTIC.

district and the Jewish market, and has many barricades to prevent the passage of troops, and is operating in small groups and attacking patrols. When pressed, these revolutionists disappear into alleys and houses. Artillery, cavalry and infantry are used against this body. The third and largest "army" is operating in the region between the Brest railway station and the Triumphal Gate. It also has many barricades, and is engaged in guerilla tactics, making it difficult for the troops to enclose it. Some of the barricades were battered down by artillery, but they were re-erected by the survivors.

Armed Rising on Large Scale.

According to information received by the revolutionists, an armed rebellion on a large scale has been planned in Poland. The Socialist revolutionaries, encouraged by the success of the insurgents in the Baltic provinces and of the situation at Moscow, are in Russia generally, have decided that the moment has come to try to cast off the yoke of autocracy.

CHILD SLEW COSSACKS.

Allowed to Approach He Hurled Bomb Among Them.

A London cable: The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at St. Petersburg, as an instance of the ferocity of the struggle conducted at Kharkoff, relates as follows what he calls a "typical incident": A little boy was seen approaching Konny Square, where a detachment of Cossacks was stationed. The Cossacks, however, drew the line at children, and the boy was allowed to approach unmolested. On arriving at the spot he paused, swung his right hand vigorously, and then turned and ran. A violent explosion prevented the Cossacks noting his further movements. The boy had thrown a bomb which plowed up the ground. Fragments of horses were all around, and some of the Cossacks were convulsed in the agonies of death, while streams of blood were flowing along the road. The tactics to be followed are the same as those adopted at Moscow. At Kharkoff yesterday the flag of armed revolt was raised, but according to reports, the troops put down the outbreak mercilessly.

The 22 members of the so-called provisional Government which had been sitting there were captured early in the day, and later, when the red flag was raised and barricades were erected around the Helfrich Engine Works, which armed revolutionists were holding, cannon were brought up and the revolutionists were given ten minutes in which to surrender. They sent out an emissary, who was seized by the military commander. The command was then given to the artillery to open fire on the works, and they were utterly battered down. The heads of the revolutionists. The latter held out until three-quarters of their number were killed or wounded, when the remnant, 137 men, surrendered.

Estimated Stock Liability. The permanent stock to date of class B was previously seen to be \$2,726,283; the fully paid-up stock of class C \$588,324.18, which, with the withdrawal of stock of \$2,208,000, totalled \$3,091,922.44; the total liabilities being estimated at \$3,192,208. The assets having been estimated at \$2,040,634, the deficit is over a million dollars nominally. A statement drawn up by the accountants shows the following state of the accounts: Amount of liabilities on permanent stock paid for was \$8,081,000; Amount paid account through withdrawals, maturity fully paid, and forfeits was 5,875,000. Liabilities due on terminating stock this date are \$2,208,000. This, however, may be reduced somewhat by forfeitures in 1905, which are not charged up. Books show loan fund, which represents liabilities on terminating stock less 15 per cent. charged expenses \$931,108. Amount loan fund

\$10,000

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YORK LOAN'S BIG DEFICIT.

An Unexpected Liability Has to be Charged.

Mr. Joseph Phillips's Story Told Yesterday.

Why He Organized the Various Subsidiary Companies.

Toronto despatch: You were not fully aware until we went through that account this morning of the liability to stockholders? This was the question put to Mr. Joseph Phillips, president of the York Loan Company, by Mr. C. A. Masten at the Government special examination yesterday. "There is nearly a million dollars more liability than you expected," continued Mr. Masten, and Mr. Phillips had to admit the truth of the implications, although he maintained that the unexecuted lapses would reduce the amount considerably. He had never gone into the question of the company's liability to the shareholders for the difference between \$78, the actual amount of cash received for each \$100 share, and the balance of \$22 expended in commissions, collections, and other expenses. The result is to increase the liability, which had so far been supposed to be almost balanced by the estimated assets, by an amount which will figure over a million of a deficit, or about thirty-three cents on the dollar. This, of course, is not final, and may be considerably reduced, as well by the increase in assets as by the reduction of liabilities.

Salary of Joseph Phillips.

When the investigation was resumed yesterday it was found that Mr. Phillips' salary stood at \$25 a week from 1893 till 1898. It was raised to \$30 in 1899. In 1904, having worked for thirteen years at the low rate, the directors raised all salaries in view of a prosperous period, Phillips getting \$4,000 in cash and \$2,000 in stock a year, and the other directors—A. T. Hunter, E. J. Burt, V. Robin and R. H. Sanderson—\$2,000 a year each and \$1,000 stock. It was found the company could not afford this, and they were cut down again. Mr. Phillips also received \$25 a week from the Southern Light and Power Company from August, 1904, afterwards increased to \$33, but latterly he got nothing. The Toronto Life Company paid him \$2,080 a year, but not in cash, the amount being credited in stock. He got no other advantages, commissions or remunerations, and stated on oath that the \$100,000 stock in the Southern Power Company was given him in trust for the York Loan. Mr. Joseph Barrett not wishing to have a company holding the power stock, Mr. Barrett will be examined this morning.

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should show due is \$2,206,000. Less 15 per cent. ... 330,900 1,875,100

Account is wrong then to extent of about \$ 944,000. Could Not Earn the Interest.

"You think that 66 per cent. would not represent the liquidation?" asked Mr. Masten. "There will be more than that—much more," said Mr. Phillips, who is always sanguine. "Taking a sample series of payments to agents over 100 weeks at 50 cents, the first payment was commission. Of the rest, \$300, \$200 was paid out in expenses and commissions, leaving \$73.60 in the account. This money was held for three years, and must earn at the rate of 17 1/2 per cent. profits to cover the liability incurred. The shareholders were given better terms than the company was able to maintain.

Piano Co. Transaction.

The Liszt Piano Company was then taken up. The agents of the York Loan Company had been selling pianos for various companies on commissions of \$5 and \$10 each. Mr. G. B. Burt had been engaged in the business for three years before Mr. Phillips met him. In conversation the matter of agents came up and Mr. Burt wanted them to act for his company. This was arranged and commissions were paid the agents for sales as high as \$50 for a piano sale. Mr. Phillips considered the \$80,000 lent the piano company a good asset, as the business was not established. Mr. G. B. Burt, President of the Liszt Company, corroborated Mr. Phillips' statement, that he had no connection with the company. Mr. E. J. Burt, who is no relative of Mr. G. B. Burt, read from the minute book the directors' authorization of the \$80,000 loan. A brother of E. J. Burt was rumored to have had a loan for his hardware business, but there was absolutely no foundation for it. Mr. Phillips subsequently explained that a Bay street firm got a loan of \$5,000, which was repaid some time ago. The report about the Oram Hardware Company getting a loan was quite incorrect.

Defended York Loan System.

Mr. Phillips defended the system under which the York Loan was conducted. It was raised in the field through industrial insurance system, having worked for the Metropolitan of New York. The inception of the York Loan was the application of the industrial insurance system to a building and loan company. He took more interest in the field than in the office work of the company. With a very large agency force, which the company was unable to support, and which could not be reduced, as the members were trained to weekly collection, anything by which the agents could earn an extra dollar was welcomed.

BURNS' IDEALS.

LARGER WAGES, LESS DRINK AMONG THEM.

In His First Public Address Since His Cabinet Entry He Attacked "Orientalized Imperialism" and Chinese Labor.

London, Jan. 1.—John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, made his first public address since his entry into the Cabinet, when he opened the election campaign at Battersea to-night. In a characteristically courageous speech, he said his accession to office was the elevation of his constituents to power—the honor was theirs, but the work was for him. He declared that he would pander to no section of the population, but would do his duty for the benefit of the whole community.

How the Magazine Started.

Never using more than a small circular for the York Loan, when industrial agents some years ago started adverse rumors, it was considered advisable to have some medium of defence, and The National Monthly Magazine was begun. The enterprise was entirely his own. The agents got thirty cents for each \$1 subscription. He paid all bills to the Methodist Book Room, and had lost \$2,000 or \$4,000 in the three years of its career. The York Loan advertising of one outside and two or three inside pages ran from \$100 to \$200 monthly. Latterly he got nothing. The Southern Light and Power Company was brought to his attention in 1903. Mr. Barrett unfolded his scheme and they got Mr. John Galt, the well-known German engineer, to report upon it. A young German engineer was also engaged, and both reports were very favorable. A loan of \$10,000 was passed by the board, the advance not to exceed \$50,000. Before the loan was granted an agreement was drawn by

FOR THE BALTIC.

FRENCH GUNBOAT LEAVES ON A "CONFIDENTIAL MISSION."

The Cassini Hurriedly Prepared for Her Trip—Will Stay at Copenhagen and Await Eventualities in Russia—Cruiser Admiral Aube Will Follow.

Paris, Jan. 1.—The orders to a portion of the French northern squadron to make hasty preparations to depart for the North Sea and Copenhagen, the ultimate destination of the warships not being disclosed, were undoubtedly issued as a precautionary move so as to have French ships available for service in Russian waters in case of emergency. The greatest activity prevails on board the gunboat Cassini at Brest, which has been ordered to sail for the Baltic to-morrow. The Christmas leaves of all the French officers and men were hurriedly cancelled and a large extra force of workmen was engaged to complete her equipment, provisioning and coaling. This will be completed to-morrow when it is expected the gunboat will sail. Her first stop will be at Copenhagen, where further orders are expected to reach her.

TORONTO ROBBERY.

MICHELIE'S LIQUOR STORE PLUNDERED BY THE WHOLESALER.

Two Clerks and Seven Drivers Under Arrest, Charged With Thefts That Have Been Going on for Many Months—Prisoners Refused Bail.

Toronto despatch: Still another system of thieving has been unearthed at a business house in this city. This time it is the firm of Michélie & Company, grocers and liquor dealers, 5 King street west, who are the sufferers. Two of their clerks and seven drivers of delivery wagons are under arrest, charged with theft, and it is said that the police investigation into the thieving has not yet been concluded. Mortimer and Jones are employees of the liquor store, and it is charged that they were in league with the drivers and had a knowledge of the stealing that was going on.

It is now over three months since an inmate of a downtown house gave the police information of liquor being taken from the Michélie store, but for some weeks the firm took no action, beyond acquainting their trusted clerks of the information from the detective department. After about two months' time the firm found that they had been heavy losers of stock, and, as one of the firm yesterday described it, the disappearance of the liquor was by the wholesale. The Noble Dominion Detective Agency was consulted, and one of their men was put to work in the warehouse, and in connection with the delivery. As a result of what he discovered and reported to the firm, Major John F. Michélie yesterday morning went before Magistrate Denison and laid information against ten persons, nine of whom were arrested.

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THE LATE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

Return of Admiral Chester From the Mediterranean With Valuable Photos, Etc.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Rear Admiral C. M. Chester, the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, who went to the Mediterranean last summer as the representative of the Observatory to witness the eclipse of the sun, returned to Washington last night. He said that while many good photographs of the eclipse had been obtained, the real results of the observations will not be known until those photographs are thoroughly studied. It will be two or three months before much can be known about what discoveries have been made, said the Admiral, and several years before the full results can be published. Continuing, the Admiral said: "This observation should be by far the most fruitful of any in astronomical history. We are particularly hopeful that it will throw light upon the nature of the corona which spectrum line must rapidly changing shapes, for several