

HEAVY DAMAGE BROUGHT BY FIRE

Old Sehl Building Gutted in Early Morning Blaze Yesterday

MANY FIRMS SUFFER BADLY Damage Will Amount to Over One Hundred Thousand Dollars

(From Thursday's Daily) A fire of unknown origin, which broke out shortly after 5:30 o'clock yesterday in the Sehl block, Government street, resulted in one of the most destructive conflagrations in the recent history of the city. Within two hours the handsome block was almost completely gutted through the rear half and loss to buildings and contents occasioned to the extent of about \$100,000.

How the blaze started is a mystery but by the time the brigade arrived on the spot the interior of the building at the rear was a seething mass of flames which had burst through the rear windows and through the room while the smoke poured from the front and rear. The blaze had got a remarkable start before the alarm was sent in and while the firemen put up a hard fight and ultimately succeeded in subduing the flames it was only after the greater part of the building and contents were destroyed either by the flames or by smoke and water.

It was a most fortunate circumstance that there was practically no wind. The flames leaped to a considerable height through the roof and had there been any wind it is certain that the adjoining premises would have been ignited. With the exception of coming to its full limit and wholly unable to put up any further fight, a spread of the fire would probably have meant the destruction of a large portion of the business section of the city.

Owing to the fact that the Merryweather engine has been undergoing repairs and is in places, she was not in use, the John Grant engine being the only one available. The absence of the other engine was keenly felt as pumping ability is such as would have added materially to the volume of water thrown.

Chief Watson at present suffering from an injured foot. Whilst making his way into the building he slipped in the water and twisted his ankle. The sprain was not, however, sufficient to prevent him directing operations and in fact he did not suffer any inconvenience until after he had rested from his labors.

The following are the occupants of the building, their loss and insurance:

- Loss Ins. E. Mahon (building) \$40,000 \$38,000 Sea & Gowen 25,000 15,000 Ogilvie Hardware Co. 25,000 15,000 W. Blair, photographer 1,400 200 D. H. Burgess 4,000 400 Ellis & Shumate 250 250 Harry Howarth 250 250 Reid & Maysmith 500 500 Arthur Bell 1,000 1,000 J. C. & A. Bell 600 500 A. T. Frampton 500 400 Canavan & Mannell 250 250 George Morphy 150 150 Victoria Agency 250 250 Silica Brick Co. 100 100

Conservative rooms, Victoria. Perjury, J. L. Beckwith, and Dennis & Gillespie's losses will be small, due wholly to water and smoke. From the spectacular standpoint yesterday's blaze was a remarkable one. When the brigade responded at 5:45 o'clock, the flames were pouring out of the rear window and the roof at the back, while the dense volume of smoke made it a difficult matter for the firemen to successfully contain the flames. The interior was a roaring furnace, while the flames were belching forth from the rear windows half-way across Langley street. The first stream laid was from the hydrant at the corner of Fort street and Government street. Entrance was gained through the front door of the Ogilvie Hardware company, and barely had the water been brought to bear on the fire when, with a roar, the flames surged through the rear portion of the building, licking up the stock and fixtures as if they were paper. That the blaze had got a good start is shown by the fact that when the alarm was sent in by Arthur E. Kent, proprietor of the Pacific Transfer company, Fort street, the whole rear of the building was a mass of flames, the smoke was rolling to a great height, while the flames burst through the roof towards the rear. The heat was intense, and it was hazardous work for the firemen, who gained entrance from both front and rear, besides succeeding in getting two streams into the window of Blair's photographic gallery.

A Narrow Escape It was at this spot, where the flames were fiercest, that two of the brigade "Dutchy" Caldwell, driver, and Robert Amorse, hoseman, had a narrow escape, and it was only when warned by the cries of their fellow-firemen that they succeeded in escaping serious injury and possibly death. The two had worked their way through a window into Blair's photographic studio and were playing a stream on the burning mass within, when an ominous crash above warned them that there was danger to the roof falling. The firemen outside saw the danger more clearly, and crying to the two firemen inside to drop the hose, ran to the window to give assistance. Caldwell and Amorse had succeeded in reaching the window sill, the latter just jumping for the roof fall in with a crash, almost striking Caldwell as he sprang from the window.

Heat Intense The heat was so intense that the firemen could hardly face it. They stuck to their posts, however, and while the fire had practically gutted the interior towards the rear, the water was kept playing. The roof fell in about an hour and a half after the brigade arrived, but it was two hours before the flames were subdued suf-

sciently to allow of any portion of the brigade being sent back to the station.

The three hydrant streams were run from the corner of Government and Fort streets, while the engine, the John Grant, pumped from the hydrant at the corner of Government street and Broughton street. The pressure on the hydrants suffered a considerable diminution when the engine started working, but the severity of the blaze was such that had ten times the volume of water been thrown there is no doubt but that the loss would have been a great one, as the whole interior of the structure was a mass of flames when the brigade arrived.

Dropped Dead Vancouver, April 15.—While running to catch the Vancouver train yesterday at Bellingham, H. M. Miller, a shingle manufacturer, dropped dead.

Militia Inspection New Westminster, April 15.—The local militia companies are training hard for the annual inspection which will take place on Monday, April 27. Three more drills will be held.

Presentation to Instructor Dunnell New Westminster, April 15.—Teachers of the public schools who have been receiving special courses in drawing by Instructor Dunnell at the city schools in this city presented their instructor with a gold-headed umbrella at the close of the session yesterday.

Liquor in Dining Rooms Vancouver, April 15.—The license commission will make a re-arrangement of the provisions to provide for the sale of liquors in apartment house dining rooms, no matter how near to churches or public buildings.

Injuries Prove Fatal Winnipeg, April 14.—John Goer, who was fatally injured by being impaled on meat hooks in the J. Y. Gribble's company's pork packing establishment yesterday, died this morning. He leaves a wife and family.

Lake Wages Detroit, April 14.—The lumber carriers' association, of the great lakes, by the decision of its executive committee here today, will not follow the lead of the lake carriers' association in refusing to discuss wage conditions with the labor unions this year. Today a long secret session was held, and the committee announced that they had instructed the special labor committee appointed at the annual meeting here in January to notify the unions that they were ready to meet them in the annual conference.

Elevator Burned Neepawa, Man., April 14.—The Canadian Northern elevator at Eden, containing 7,000 bushels of wheat, was burned yesterday afternoon. The fire started from the upsetting of a lantern.

Immigration Agent's Denial Ottawa, April 14.—The superintendent of Immigration has received a denial from F. W. Adams, agent of the immigration department at Halifax, of newspaper reports alleging undue detention and ill treatment of passengers who landed from the steamer Tunisian last Friday.

Struck by Express Train Walkerville, Ont., April 14.—J. H. Churchill is dead here as the result of injuries received by being struck by a Wabash express.

Called by Pittsburg Church Pittsburg, April 14.—Rev. John C. Crosby, London, England, has been unanimously called to the pastorate of the First Christian church at Bradbrook, a suburb. He will take charge shortly.

Unwelcome Doukhobors Toronto, April 14.—The central prison has no room to accommodate the nineteen Doukhobors sentenced at London's penitentiary. The Doukhobors are not at all anxious to have them.

Influx of Settlers Swift Current, April 13.—35 Canadian settlers' effects have arrived here during the past month. Seeding is in full swing. The ground is in splendid shape and June weather prevails.

Destructive Prairie Fires Lethbridge, Alb., April 14.—Prairie fires are raging in all directions, and considerable damage has been done. The mounted police are active after those starting fires. Six arrests were made in Macleod yesterday. London's ranch near Bowell was burned with a loss of stables and five horses.

DANGEROUS SOCIETY "Dreamers" Take Revenge on a Neighbor by Trying to Burn Him and His Family Medicine Hat, April 15.—The arrest of nine leaders of a society known as "Dreamers" has resulted in a sensation. Joseph Lehr, a farmer, is alleged to have incited their enmity, and is being held on a charge of threatening to burn his house. On Saturday night his son was awakened by hearing a noise, and discovered that the house was in flames. The family barely escaped with their lives, and in their night clothes. Everything in the house was consumed.

Constable Ashe, of the Mounted Police, at Irvine, went out to investigate the occurrence, and immediately wired for reinforcements. Two constables were sent, and arrested the heads of nine "Dreamer" families. A demonstration of force was necessary to overcome the other settlers, who had been the greatest antagonist to a conviction.

Lehr says he was liberally used to insure the destruction of his house. Suit Over Brewery Stock Toronto, April 14.—The suit for the possession of a quarter interest in the stock of the Dominion Brewery, or an alternative of \$250,000 damages, which was brought against Messrs. Wm. Kenzie, Chas. Miller, Geo. A. Case, Jas. L. Lovell and the Dominion Brewery Co., was concluded in the non-jury assize court today. Judgment was not given, but it promises to be as complex as the details of the transaction leading up to the suit.

Superintendent Robinson Vancouver, April 14.—Alexander Robinson, superintendent of education of the province, left this afternoon for Dalhousie College, from which he will receive the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

MONTANA CITY IS VISITED BY FLOODS

Town of Craig Wiped Out, But Its Four Hundred Inhabitants Have Narrowly Escaped to Safety

MISSOURI COVERED WITH WRECKAGE

Boston and Montana Smelter, One of the Largest in the World, Is Threatened With Destruction

Helena, Mont., April 15.—An uncontrollable flood is rapidly advancing on Great Falls, a city of 15,000 people. It is believed that the Boston and Montana smelter, one of the largest in the world, is doomed to destruction. The town of Clay has probably been wiped out, but all of its 400 inhabitants have escaped. The Missouri river is dotted with the debris of ranch houses and many animals are battling for their lives in the flood. The bridges are threatened. The city seat of Cascade county, Montana, 97 miles northeast of Helena, and is located on the Missouri river and on the line of the Great Northern railway. It is in a productive mining region and is noted for its great copper, gold and silver smelting works. Besides these metals, lead, iron and bituminous coal are found in the vicinity. The city has also extensive manufacturing. There are two steel wad bridges, 1,000 feet long.

Fleet at San Diego San Diego, Cal., April 14.—The United States fleet entered San Diego harbor at 12:47 p. m. today.

Lady Treasurer Arrested Toronto, April 14.—Charged with the theft of the funds of the Grace Darling lodge, Daughters of England, Mrs. Carrie Rowland, the treasurer for the past three years, was placed under arrest today. The complaint was made by Leo G. Crozier, secretary of the order. He alleges that Mrs. Rowland is \$170 short in her accounts.

DAM BREAKS DOWN IN MISSOURI RIVER

Large Volume of Water Released—No Serious Damage Caused

Helena, Mont., April 14.—Without warning, the dam at Hauser Lake, on the Missouri river, 16 miles north of this city, was completely destroyed before three o'clock this afternoon, causing damage estimated at \$25,000. So far as can be learned, no lives were lost, and at 9 o'clock tonight no serious damage had been caused by the volume of water, estimated at 25 feet, which was precipitated into the channel beyond the structure. The narrowness of the river and its inter-winding had impeded the progress of the water, and no great loss of property is expected in the towns and villages north of the city. It is estimated that the dam, 70 feet high and 400 feet long, was completed last year at a cost of more than \$2,000,000, and developed a horsepower of 25,000.

KAISER'S FRIENDLY TOAST

Makes Reference to British and German Flags at Luncheon to Berlin, April 14.—A dispatch to the Lokal Anzeiger from its correspondent at Cortu, dated yesterday, says that Emperor William, during the course of a luncheon given in honor of the officers of the British battleship Implacable, made the following toast: "I drink to our two flags, and I wish they may ever be united in the welfare of the world's people." Captain Kerr, the commander of the Implacable, whose father was Lord Admiral Kerr, in response replied: "My father was slain while referring to your Majesty, and God had created a great Emperor out of a man who would have become a great admiral."

EDMONTON DEFAULTER

Captain Harbottle, Collector of Inland Revenue, Said to Be Short in His Accounts Edmonton, April 14.—The report of the disappearance of Captain Neville F. Harbottle, collector of inland revenue for Edmonton, during the past week, has been heard with surprise and regret by many people in the city. It is rumored that Captain Harbottle left the city a week ago last Tuesday, leaving a note stating that the cash was some \$300 short. It is thought there may be other shortages discovered.

Capt. Harbottle was one of the officers of the C.N.R. here, and previous to his appointment in the government service had been engaged in the real estate business. Some months ago he went to St. Paul, where he underwent a serious operation at heavy expense, but had since almost completely recovered. Friends of the missing man are disinclined to believe that there is any intention to defraud on the part of Capt. Harbottle. He has been employed for some time past as returning officer in all civic elections. The city officials have no knowledge of his alleged defaultations, except what they have heard by the report.

Grand Trunk Pension System Montreal, April 14.—The new pension system put in force on January first by the Grand Trunk railway, which had three months' trial, and the officials are convinced already that the move was a

NO COMPETITION FOR CONTRACTS

Profitable Dredging Work Reserved for Government Favorites

CHARGES BY MR. BENNETT

Further Inquiry Into System of Giving Away Fishery Leases

Ottawa, April 14.—In the House of Commons today Mr. Bennett moved the adjournment of the house in order to discuss the letting of the dredging contracts at Triffin and Victoria Harbor, Ontario. Mr. Bennett wanted the contracts produced before the public accounts committee, so that members might examine them "in all their nakedness and fraud, because there is fraud on the face of it."

Mr. Pugsley raised a point of order and a spirited discussion ensued. The speaker eventually decided in favor of Mr. Pugsley.

Mr. Bennett submitted that public tenders should be called and the order in council rescinded, which provided that no such public tenders should be asked. Mr. Pugsley admitted that some of the dredging inspectors had acted dishonestly and had been dismissed. He defended the department from the charges made by Mr. Bennett. Hon. John Haggart made a plea for the cleansing of parliament of all taint of fraud, contracts going to relatives of members.

Mr. Blair objected to contracts being awarded without competition. Mr. Esprout was also of the same opinion.

Mr. Tarvell objected that the opposition seemed to see graft in everything that the government did. It was only men steeped in crookedness themselves who could have such suspicious minds. Mr. Conmee accused Mr. Bennett of slander and misrepresentation. The department's system of awarding contracts was all right.

After five hours' talk Mr. Bennett's motion was declared lost. Mr. Verville then resumed the debate on Mr. McKee's motion to do away with the immigration bonus system. Mr. Verville was in favor of the motion. The bonus system was not legitimate. It was an injury to the cause of labor.

Mr. Miller and Dr. Chisholm continued the debate, which was adjourned at midnight on the motion of Mr. Verville. The house decided to adjourn tonight for the Easter recess. It will meet again on Tuesday next.

LOG SUPPLY REDUCED

Raising of Embargo Causes Small Export—Consumption at Mills Lowering Surplus Vancouver, April 15.—Despite the fact that the raising of the export embargo on timber by the provincial government is out having the effect of greatly reducing the surplus of logs in the province, the restricted demand of the saw mills is gradually satiating up the over-production, and authorities declare that two months from now will see the advent of a log famine for logs.

For several weeks past it has been possible for the poorer grades of all varieties of logs to be exported to Puget Sound, but instead of a great surplus of logs, a few million feet have been sent across the boundary line. It is now estimated that the logs which will be exported will not exceed fifteen million feet and the surplus of logs will consist of cedar, there being practically no demand for fir on the American side.

The present year was ushered in with not less than 100,000,000 feet of logs in the province, and the water. Much of this was low grade, and because the terebos were working night and day in the logs the provincial government raised the export embargo on timber, which is as high as possible. Now between the natural demand of the mills, the ravages of the terebos and a small amount of exporting the surplus has been reduced to about 80,000,000 feet and is expected that by the end of sixty days good fir will be on a rising market.

But little logging is now being carried on along the coast. It is estimated by those in touch with the industry that only about one-fifth as much logging is now being done as was the case at this time last year. The demand of the Vancouver mills is greater by a considerable amount than the output of the camps now operating, and it is probable that another week's delay will see other camps started up for the summer.

During the month of March the logs scaled by the government totalled 13,000,000 feet as against 3,000,000 feet during March last year.

VI-CIGARAL PARTY AT WASHINGTON

Washington, April 14.—The Governor General of Canada and Lady Grey, accompanied by Earl Grey's aide de camp, Capt. Newcombe, arrived here today and will be guests of British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce at the embassy for several days. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will entertain Earl and Lady Grey and Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce at luncheon at the White House tomorrow. The distinguished British party will remain in Washington until Saturday, when they will be taken to Asheville, N. C., by the George W. Vanderbilt at Biltmore near Asheville, N. C., before returning to Canada.

VETERAN PRIEST DEAD

Hamilton, April 14.—Rev. Father Heenan, one of the oldest priests in this diocese, died in St. Joseph's hospital tonight, at the age of 74. For the past year he had been in charge of St. Augustine church, Dunlop.

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NOTICE

We beg to advise our customers that through the courtesy of the Ideal Shoe Store in providing us with an office, and Messrs E. G. Prior & Co., and Drake & Horne offering to supply us with goods in our present calamity; we have opened a

Temporary Office

In the Ideal Shoe Store We will be pleased to take care of any orders to the best of our ability, under the existing circumstances.

OGILVE HARDWARE, LTD.

Care of Ideal Shoe Store. Phone 372.

Bold Bargains for Today and Saturday

You may look over, but do not overlook these grand values because they are, doubtless, just what you will need: Strictly Fresh Eggs, a dozen for 55c Large Navel Oranges, per dozen 55c

EASTER GIFT GOODS

All the up-to-date novelties; Rabbits, Chickens, Ducks, Eggs, Nests, etc. 5c to 50c

W. O. WALLACE, The Family Cash Grocery

Cor. Yates and Douglas Sts. Phone 372

NATURAL RESOURCES OF BULKLEY VALLEY

Church of England Missionary Speaks of Agricultural Possibilities Vancouver, April 15.—Rev. F. L. Stephenson, a missionary of the Church of England, located at Alderwood, speaks as follows of the agricultural resources of the Bulkley country: "The Bulkley valley proper, including Pleasant valley, is that portion of the Skeena division of the province lying immediately in the watershed of the Bulkley river, with its tributaries, the Morice, Bulk and Telkwa rivers. The length of the valley from the source of the river in Bulkley lake, apart from the adjoining valleys, is approximately 100 miles with an average width of from three to five miles. The formation of the land is rolling, with large tracts of open, level land and grassy hillsides, long stretches of poplar-covered areas, in the bottoms spruce and willows and on the higher benches long reaches of pine. The nature of the soil varies. In some places a deep, rich black loam is to be found; in others a sandy loam from two to three feet deep, underlain by heavy clay. From the contour of the country it may safely be concluded that at one time the whole surface has been more or less covered by water in the form of large lakes connected by sluggish streams which gradually have graded the deep channels, thus draining off the water. The presence of old beaver dams and workings, long distances from either river or lake, rotted and converted into deep rich soil, and the legends of the Indians both as to this theory, as well as the fact that small lakes are to be seen today which are but puddles compared with what they have been.

The growth of peavine of three different kinds, grasses, fireweed and other weeds, is phenomenal. In many places these attain a height of six and seven feet. Being in such close proximity to the coast range, the climate is much milder than places further south. The country is tree, being shut in by the mountains on both sides, from the violent windstorms so much dreaded both in winter and summer in the more open and unprotected parts. The summers are bright and sunny, with a few inches of rain, so that the matter of clearing presents no difficult problem. "Being situated east of the coast range, the climate is free from that excessive rainfall met with on the coast and lower Skeena. Being in such close proximity to the coast range, the climate is much milder than places further south. The country is tree, being shut in by the mountains on both sides, from the violent windstorms so much dreaded both in winter and summer in the more open and unprotected parts. The summers are bright and sunny, with a few inches of rain, so that the matter of clearing presents no difficult problem.

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Funeral of the Late William Hooper is Largely Attended The funeral of the late, William Hooper, of Dunceans, who suddenly succumbed on Cormorant street last Thursday evening, while he was on a visit to the city, took place at a very late hour at Dunceans. There was a very large number of friends of the deceased present indicating the high regard in which he was held in the community and regard of the residents of that village. The funeral took place from the undertaking rooms of the B. C. Funeral Home, Company, in Government street, to the E. & N. depot, and thence to Dunceans. The members of Alexandra lodge, Sons of England, of which the deceased had been a member, paraded in a body to the depot, and W. P. Allen, past grand master of the lodge, accompanied the body to Dunceans, where the members of the local Odd Fellows' lodge took charge. At the Odd Fellows' hall there, the services of the lodge were conducted with impressive ceremonies, and afterwards Mr. Allen, on behalf of the Alexandra lodge, made an oration. From the hall the cortege wended its way to the Somenos cemetery, where interment was made, over a hundred residents of Dunceans following the body to its last resting place.

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