

AWFUL NEW YORK FIRE.

FORTY LIVES SACRIFICED AND THE WINDSOR HOTEL IN RUINS.

Many More Badly Injured—Hemmed in by the Flames, Men and Women Leap From Great Heights to Be Dashed to Pieces in the Street.

A despatch from New York says:—Flames, which originated from the igniting of a lace curtain burst forth from the second floor of the Windsor hotel at 47th street and Fifth avenue, shortly after three o'clock Friday afternoon, just as the St. Patrick's day parade was passing the building, and in a few moments they had heaped up to the roof and enveloped the entire Fifth avenue and 47th street fronts of the hotel. Ten minutes later the flames were roaring through the interior of the hotel, and all means of escape by means of stairways and elevators was cut off. There was the wildest scene of excitement within and without the building. Hundreds of guests and employees were in the hotel when the fire broke out, and for many of them escape with safety was impossible.

Probably from 10 to 15 lives were lost within half an hour, and 30 or 40 other persons were injured in jumping from windows, and in rushing through the roaring flames in the corridors, and on the stairways. Many who were injured died later at near-by residences and at hospitals, and others, who made wild leaps to the stone sidewalk, were so badly injured that they are still hovering between life and death. It may be 24 hours or more before the complete list of fatalities becomes known, and it will be longer than that before it can be ascertained definitely how many charred bodies are in the mass of fallen masonry that marks the spot where the hotel stood.

A PANIC IN THE CROWDED HOTEL.

In addition to the regular guests of the hotel, the windows were crowded by a large number of spectators, residents of the city, who had congregated there to witness the parade. Soon after the first alarm was given, people in the lower floors of the hotel, those who had easy access to the street and the bar, commenced to pour out of the building in great numbers, but it very soon became apparent that a great majority of the occupants of the hotel were either panic-stricken or unable to make their way to the ground floor. Windows were thrown up on every side of the building, and guests, mostly women, in all stages of terror, made their appearance and commenced to make frantic appeals for help to the crowd below.

LEAPED FROM THE WINDOWS.

As the flames gathered about them they became more and more terror-stricken, and presently several of them stood upon the narrow window sills and beckoned to the spectators below that they were about to leap to the streets. The men collected upon the sidewalks ready to offer any assistance that they could, and in the meantime a number of women left the windowsills and dropped to the street. In most of the cases the efforts to catch them and break their awful fall were unavailing, for they struck the sidewalk, and in most cases broken limbs were the result. As soon as the firemen could get their hooking ladders into position they climbed the sides of the building and entered at every window where there was an unobstructed guest appealing for assistance, and many cases of heroic rescue were witnessed by the throng in the street. At the corner of 47th street and Fifth avenue, directly across from the hotel, is the home of Miss Helen Gould, and at her direction many of the injured were carried there, and were treated by physicians and nurses whom she had sent for.

In the meantime the chief of police had telephoned to every hospital in the city asking that assistance be sent to the fire sufferers. Ambulances forced their way through the crowds as quickly as possible, and the injured people who had made the frightful leaps from the hotel windows were placed in them and removed to the hospitals. Several occupants of the hotel appeared at the windows of the sixth and seventh storeys, and even on the roof, and made their leaps to the streets from those points. Very few of them escaped either instant death or injuries which resulted in their death a short time later.

THRILLING SCENES IN THE HOTEL.

There were many thrilling scenes in the hotel during the early stages of the fire. As soon as it broke out a hail of flames discovered the flames while passing along the fourth floor, immediately over the rooms occupied by President McKinley's brother, Abner McKinley, and his family. The boy pulled a chain attached to a fire alarm, but the chain broke, and then he cried out an alarm of fire and ran to the floor below. The blaze was then licking up everything on the fifth avenue end of the building, and the lad when he got to the floor above the main hall ran into the dining-room and gave the alarm to the guests there. When the fire reached the main floor, Warren F. Leland, the proprietor of the hotel, was in the rear of the long hall, and the boy shouted to him that the building was on fire. On Mr. Leland's instructions the clerks tried to save the books and papers and the boy then rushed down the basement stairway and alarmed the women who were at work in the laundry. It is believed that all of them escaped.

FIREMAN'S DARING RESCUE.

One of the most daring rescues by the firemen occurred on the fifth floor of the Windsor hotel. An elderly woman was seen at a window, and two firemen succeeded in reaching the window immediately underneath. One of them climbed to the coping over the

window on which he was standing, and then stepped over to where the woman was waving her hands despairingly. He then swung the woman clear of the window and landed her safely in the arms of his companion, who, with the assistance of several other firemen, passed the woman down to the street.

MET A HORRIBLE DEATH.

The first horror occurred just fifteen minutes after the fire broke out. A handsome woman appeared at the window of a room on the fourth floor. She held out her arms to the crowd below. Then she raised her hands, as if in supplication, and in a moment climbed to the window and leaped. She turned about like a top, and struck the iron railing in front of the hotel. Her body seemed to be impaled there, but it fell off and into the area-way. She was dead. The woman was identified as Mrs. Amelia Paddock, of Irvington, N. Y.

One of the most thrilling scenes of the fire, at a time when the building was a seething cauldron of flames, was the heroic rescue of several women from the upper storeys. One had been carried down from the fifth story. Mrs. A. H. Fuller, of Pittsburg, Pa., then appeared with her maid at the window of the fourth story. It seemed like an age before the ladder was lowered. Firemen ran up and with great difficulty got Mrs. Fuller and her maid down. Just as she was gotten down from the window a middle-aged woman appeared at a window just north of that at which the ladder was placed. The woman, fearing she would not be rescued, prepared to jump. She was warned to keep back, and became panic-stricken and stepped back into the dense smoke that was pouring from the window. It seemed as though she had jumped into the flames below in despair. A hook and ladder man below seeing the desperation of the woman, seized a scaling ladder and went up storey after storey through the blinding smoke. He climbed to the coping just as the woman reappeared. The fireman seized her by the waist, and holding her tightly to the wall of the building, crept, little by little on the coping and passed the fainting woman to another fireman who had braced himself to receive her. There was a dreadful suspense as the fireman drew the woman toward him, and finally had her safely on the ladder. A tremendous cheer went up from the crowd.

All of these rescues and many others occurred within a period of a few minutes. Meanwhile terrifying scenes of frenzied men and women were being enacted on almost every floor of the great building. How many persons are buried in the ruins is not known, but at least three or four persons were seen to jump whose bodies have not been recovered. A young man, apparently an employe, jumped from the roof out the 46th street side of the hotel. Another unknown man jumped on the Fifth avenue side, and two more were seen to jump from the rear. Shortly after that two women jumped from the roof to the courtyard below. It is known that two of these at least are dead. Eye-witnesses say they saw a woman throw a child from a window and fall a moment later. A tremendous cheer went up from the crowd. As yet no trace of these bodies has been found.

HOVERING AROUND THE WRECK.

Four Hundred Men Looting the Unfortunate Steamer Castellan.

A despatch from Halifax, N. S., says:—The Marine and Fisheries officials here say that the statement is ridiculous that if the Blonde rock buoy, which was out of position on Sunday morning, had been in its proper place the Castellan might have been saved. The steamer is 30 miles north of Blonde rock. The steamer is not submerged at high tide, nor has she a strong list. She is sitting almost upright and as straight as an arrow. Inside her deck is thrown amidsthip, caused by the swelling of the grain. The water at high tide covers her main deck about one foot. The live stock has mostly been saved, although the poor brutes have been subjected to a long fast. When watered and fed ashore the picture is an animated and pathetic one, as but a little can be supplied at once.

LOOTERS AT WORK.

Wednesday about 60 small vessels with a hundred or so dories, and 400 men were hovering about the wreck, carrying off whatever they could reach, some to be delivered to the proper authorities, and some no one knows where. Sad havoc has been made of the elegant and sumptuous fittings and furnishings of this palatial steamer. The Aberdeen went to the wreck on Wednesday, but remained only a short time. Complaint is made that she did not arrive sooner and remain to keep off the looters. There was a heavy gale on Thursday, but as the steamer is firm on the bottom her entire length, no further damage is immediately feared.

EXPLOSION ON A WARSHIP.

Enquiry Into the Accident on H. M. S. Terrible.

A despatch from Portsmouth, Eng., says:—An inquest was opened here on Thursday into the circumstances of the death of the stoker of the British first-class cruiser Terrible, who was killed by a boiler explosion on board the cruiser while she was on her way from Malta to Devonport. The evidence showed that during the course of the homeward voyage five steam-pipes burst, and that at various times three of the boilers in order to prevent a disaster. The stokers and engineers were almost in a state of panic, and were afraid to go on duty, not knowing at what moment an explosion might occur.

The Japanese Government is considering the wholesale Christianizing of Japan, making Christianity the official religion.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Notes of Proceedings in the Local Parliament.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, was presented to the Legislature. The attendance was the largest in the history of the college, with 333 on the roll—223 in the regular course, and 110 in the dairy course. Of those in the regular course 87 per cent. were from Ontario, 7 1-4 per cent. from the other provinces, and 5 3-4 per cent. from other countries. Their ages ranged from 16 to 31 years, and averaged 20. The dairy students were somewhat older. Increased dormitory accommodation was needed, and also two new buildings, one for a physical laboratory and the other to embrace the library, reading-room, and a medium-sized hall for meetings. The whole would cost about \$20,000. Another \$3,000 was needed towards maintenance expenditure. The college expenditure amounted to \$43,395, and the receipts to \$47,171, leaving the cost at \$34,924. Farm expenditures were:—Farm proper \$2,822; experimental plots and feeding, \$7,636; experimental dairy, \$5,166; dairy school, \$7,012; poultry, \$1,184; horticulture, \$3,171; mechanical department, \$1,493. Revenues were:—Farm proper, \$6,345; experimental plots and feeding, \$1,537; dairy, \$2,189; dairy school, \$3,328; poultry, \$293; horticultural department, \$70; mechanical department, \$172. The total net expenditure was \$56,961.

BILL ABOUT PASTURING.

A bill which reads as follows has been introduced by T. D. Hodgins, M.P.P., for East Middlesex—Every person upon whose lands horses, cattle, sheep or other animals are placed for the purpose of pasturing, shall have a lien upon such horses, cattle, sheep or other animals for the amount due in respect of such pasturing supplied, and in addition to all other remedies provided by law shall have the right in case any part of such amount remains unpaid for the space of two weeks to sell by public auction such horses, cattle, sheep, or other animals on giving two published in said municipality, in a newspaper, published in the municipality in which the said lands are situated, or, in case there is no newspaper published in said municipality, in a newspaper whose place of publication is nearest to said lands, of the intended sale, stating, if known, the name of the person or persons, who placed such horses, cattle, sheep or other animals on the said lands, the amount of the indebtedness and the name of the auctioneer, and giving so far as possible a description of the horses, cattle, sheep, or other animals, and after the sale the owner of the said lands may apply the proceeds thereof in payment of the amount due him in respect of pasturing supplied and the cost of such advertisement and sale, and shall pay over the surplus, if any, to the person entitled thereto on application being made by him therefor.

REGISTRATION OF LEASES.

With regard to the registration of leases, J. R. Stratton has a bill. By it it does not become necessary to register the lease in full, but simply to enter it in the regular book kept at the registry office. Registration in this way shall have the same effect as if the whole lease was copied. Under this proposed system the fee payable for registration of any lease not including more than four distinct parcels of land having separate heading in the abstract index shall be one dollar, and for each made under separate heading in the additional lot requiring entry to be abstract index five cents. After the registration of any lease the registrar claiming to be interested in the deeded lands and upon payment of the fees provided less the amount already paid for registration, shall cause such lease to be copied out in full in the book kept for that purpose in the registry office. The registrar shall indicate in the abstract index in the case of the registration of every lease hereafter whether the same has or has not been registered in full by marking in the words "registered in full" or "not registered in full" as the case may be. In this act the word "lessee" shall include the assignee of a lessee, and the word "lease" shall include the assignment of the lease.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT.

F. F. Pardee, M.P.P., for West Lambton, has a bill amending the Ditches and Watercourses Act. It gives the following definition of an owner:—"An owner shall mean and include the owner or possessor of any real or substantial interest in lands whether held in fee simple, fee tail for one or more life or lives or for a term of years not less than ten, the executor or executor of an owner, the guardian of an infant owner, any person entitled to sell and convey the land, an agent under a general power of attorney authorizing the appointee to manage and lease the lands, and a municipal corporation as regards any highways under its jurisdiction." The act is further to apply to the drainage of all lands required to be drained, whether for agricultural, mining, manufacturing or other purposes.

PAYMENT OF TAXES.

The Assessment Act is known well by J. R. Stratton, M.P.P., and as a result he has offered an important amendment. He has now a bill which will require in cities, towns and villages, the payment of taxes, including local improvement assessments, sewer rents and rates, and of other rents or rates payable as taxes, to be made into the office of the treasurer or collector by any day or days to be named therein, in bulk or by instalment, and may provide that on the punctual payment of any instalment the time for payment of the remaining instalment or instalments shall be extended to a day or days to be named, or may provide that in default of payment of any instalment by the day named for payment thereof, the subsequent instalment or instalments shall forthwith become payable. The Council may also by-law allow a discount for the payment of such taxes or any class, or of any instalment thereof on or before a day or days named, and may impose an additional such tax or of any instalment thereof by a day or days named, provided that no greater percentage charge than five per cent. shall be imposed on any instalment of taxes or on the aggregate amount of taxes; and such additional percentage charge shall be added to such unpaid tax or assessment rent or rate or instalment thereof and shall be collected by the collector or otherwise, as if the same had been originally imposed and formed part of such unpaid tax or assessment, rent or rate, or instalment thereof.

THE LICENSE BILL.

Another change has been made in the License bill. The amount of revenue which the distillers of the province will pass into the provincial treasury has been altered. By the change distillers with \$50,000 or less will pay a tax of \$1,000, which is the same as the former bill. Three thousand dollars will be paid by the distilleries having invested \$50,000 to \$125,000. Previously it was \$3,000 from \$80,000 to \$100,000. In the new bill, distilleries from \$125,000 to \$200,000 will contribute \$4,000. It was formerly \$4,000 from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Five thousand dollars will be the amount collected of distilleries having invested \$200,000 to \$500,000, and from \$500,000 upwards the tax will be \$6,500. Before they were to pay \$6,500 from \$400,000 upwards, and \$5,000 from \$150,000 to \$400,000.

SCHOOL ARBITRATIONS.

W. J. Hill's bill amending the Public Schools Act provides that in case of an arbitration between school sections, each section may name an arbitrator and the inspector will be the third. By the present law each section names an arbitrator and the inspector the third.

EXHIBIT OF POULTRY.

The Department of Agriculture has decided that there shall be a large exhibit of poultry at the next Fat Stock Show. During the past two years poultry has been dropped entirely. Now more than \$300 in prizes will be given for dressed fowl. There will also be poultry prepared for export. These will be from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. There will be men interested in the trade present to discuss the question of export.

REPORT ON IMMIGRATION.

The immigration report has just been issued. There was a decrease in the number of steerage passengers settling in Canada last year. The total number was 3,358, as against 3,718 in 1897. Both in mechanics and labourers there was a decrease. The number of immigrants settled on the free lands now is 29,516. During the past year 599 children were brought out. Of this number 423 were under the direction of Dr. Barnardo. The cost per head was \$2.11.

THE DRAINAGE ACT.

A bill introduced by Mr. McKay seeks to have the section relating to the notice to persons assessed in the Municipal Drainage Act repealed and a clause added so that upon the filing of the engineer's report with the clerk of the municipality, the clerk shall, by letter or postal card, notify the parties assessed of such assessment and the amount thereof. In case more than one municipality is interested in the proposed work, the clerk of such other municipality or municipalities shall forthwith, upon the filing of a copy of the engineer's report in their office, notify the parties assessed of such assessment and the amount thereof.

TREE PLANTING LAW.

J. A. Auld, M.P.P., for South Essex, has introduced a bill amending the Ontario Tree Planting Act. According to the present law incorporated villages have power to grant bonuses for tree planting. Mr. Auld proposes that this shall extend to police villages, when not less than 39 electors petition for it. The police trustees of such village shall appoint the inspector of trees provided for by-law of the Township Council, and the amount required for the payment of bonuses for tree planting under such by-law, and the remuneration of the inspector shall be raised by rate levied upon the property liable to assessment in such police village.

SCHOOL ELECTIONS ACT.

Col. Leys, M.P.P., for London, introduced a bill to amend the bill respecting municipal school elections. It provides that every person proposed for an office, the holder of which is required to have a property qualification, shall on the day of the nomination or on the following day, or when the succeeding day is a holiday, then or on the day, file in the office of the clerk of the municipality not later than five o'clock in the afternoon a statutory declaration that he possesses the necessary qualification, and in default of so doing, such person shall be deemed to have retired and his name shall be removed from the list of candidates and shall not be printed on the ballot papers.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c. in the Leading Ports.

Toronto, March 21.—We had a fair market here to-day, with no change in prices; buying was a little slow, as stuff was being held back for the more regular market. Still there was a moderate amount of steady trading. All told the receipts were 69 loads, consisting of 1,700 hogs, 550 lambs and sheep, and a few calves and milkers.

There was not much movement in shipping cattle; the best is worth from 4 3-4 to 5c per pound; but most of the deals here to-day were in light shippers, at from 4 1-4 to 4 5-8c per pound. Choice butcher cattle fetches from 4 to 4 1-4c per pound; the latter figure for selections; loads of choice stuff are worth from 8 3-4 to 4c per pound; secondary and minor grades are unchanged.

Stockers are a little better, selling from 3 1-2 to 3 7-8c per pound; good stockers are wanted. Shipping bulls are steady and unchanged since last Tuesday. Good milkers will sell up to about \$50 each. Here are some of to-day's sales:—A load of export cattle, average 1,200 lbs., sold at 4 3-4c per pound. A load of mixed cattle, average 1,000 lbs., sold at 4 1-4c per pound. A load of butcher and export cattle, average 1,025 lbs., sold at 4 1-8c per pound. Fifteen export cattle, average 1,111 lbs., sold at 4 3-8c per pound. A load of butcher cattle, average 975 lbs., sold at 3 1-2c, and ten dollars on. Several loads of butcher cattle, mixed with a few heads which would do for light exporters, sold at from 3 3-4 to 4 1-8c per pound. Good calves are in active demand, up to ten dollars each. Yearlings are worth from 4 1-2 to 4 3-4c for choice, and for anything extra choice 5c was paid to-day, and will probably be paid on Friday. Ewes and bucks are unchanged. Hogs are steady and unchanged to-day. Store hogs are not wanted. Following is the range of current quotations:—

CATTLE.		
Shipping, per cwt.	\$4.25	\$5.00
Butcher, choice do.	3.75	4.25
Butcher, med., to good.	3.25	3.60
Butcher, inferior.	2.87 1-2	3.12 1-4

SHEEP AND LAMBS.		
Ewes, per cwt.	3.00	3.50
Yearlings, per cwt.	4.50	5.00
Bucks, per cwt.	2.50	2.75

MILKERS AND CALVES.		
Cows, each.	25.00	45.00
Calves, each.	2.00	10.00

HOGS.		
Choice hogs, per cwt.	4.25	4.50
Light hogs, per cwt.	4.00	4.12 1-2
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	3.60	3.87 1-2

DAIRY PRODUCE.		
Butter—Coming forward freely, but market is being kept pretty well cleaned up. If anything there is a slightly easier feeling. The quotations are as follows:—Dairy tub, poor to medium, 10 to 12c; choice, 14 to 15c; large rolls, 15 to 16c; small dairy, 1lb prints, about 16c; creamery, tubs and boxes, 19 to 20c; lbs. 20 to 21c. Cheese—Prices well maintained. Choice stock is quoted at 10 to 10 1-2c. DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS. Market for dressed hogs about steady. The offerings are fair and dealers here buying freely. Car lots are quoted on track at about \$4.90 to \$5, mixed weights, delivered, and a fraction better for selects. On the street to-day farmers' loads sold at around \$5 to \$5.30 for mixed lots. Provisions are as follows:—Dry salted shoulders, 7c; long clear bacon, car lots, 7c; ton lots and case lots, 7 1-4 to 7 1-2c; and backs, 8 to 8 1-4c. Smoked meats—Hams, heavy, 9 1-2 to 10c; medium, 10 to 10 1-2c; light, 11c; breakfast bacon, 10 1-2 to 11c; picnic hams, 7 1-2 to 7 3-4c; roll bacon, 8 1-4 to 8 1-2c. All meats out of pickle to less than prices quoted for smoked meats. Lard—Tierces, 7c; tubs, 7 1-4 to 7 1-2c; pails 7 1-2 to 7 3-4c; compound, 5 1-2 to 6c. Buffalo, March 21.—Spring wheat—Dull, but sellers firm; No. 1 Northern, 77c. Winter wheat—Steady; No. 2 red, 74c; No. 1 white, 74c; No. 2, extra red, 72c; No. 3 red, 71 1-2c. Corn—Strong; No. 2 yellow, 37 3-4c; No. 3 yellow, 37 1-2c; No. 4 yellow, 36 3-4 to 37c; No. 2 corn, 37c; No. 3 corn, 36 1-2 to 36 3-4c; No. 4 corn, 35 1-2 to 36c. Oats—Strong; good demand; No. 2 white, 33c; No. 3 white, 32 1-4c; No. 4 white, 31 1-2c; No. 2 mixed, 30 1-2c; No. 3 mixed, 28 1-2c. Barley—Held to high for buyers; nothing doing. Rye—Quiet; No. 2, on track, offered at 63c. Flour—Weak and lower; best patent spring, \$4.25; bakers' straight spring, \$4; bakers' clear spring, \$3.15 to \$3.50; low grade spring, \$1.75 to \$2.25; patent winter, \$4; best family winter, \$3.50 to \$3.75; Graham best, \$3.50.		

Detroit, March 21.—Wheat—Closed—No. 1 white, cash, 70c; No. 2 red, cash, 70 1-2c; May, 71 1-8c; July, 68 1-2c. Toledo, March 21.—Wheat—Cash, 70 1-2c; May, 70 5-8c. Rye—No. 2 cash, 53 1-2c. Cloverseed—Prime cash, old, \$3.30; new, cash, May and April, \$3.50.

Milwaukee, March 21.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 67 1-4 to 67 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, 65 1-4 to 66c. Rye—No. 1 53 1-2c; Barley—No. 2, 46 to 47c; sample, 39 to 40c. Minneapolis, March 21.—Wheat—March, 66 1-4c; May, 66 1-4c; July, 67 1-4c, on track; No. 1 hard, 67c; No. 1 Northern, 66c; No. 2 Northern, 64 1-2c. Flour—First patents, \$3.60 to \$3.80; second patents, \$3.40 to \$3.50; first clears, \$2.40 to \$2.60. Bran, in bulk—\$11 to \$11.50.

Duluth, March 21.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, cash, 67 5-8c; March, 67 5-8c; May, 69 3-8c; July, 70 1-8c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 65 5-8c; No. 2 Northern, 62 1-2c.

Chicago, March 21.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 67 1-4 to 67 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, 65 1-4 to 66c. Rye—No. 1 53 1-2c; Barley—No. 2, 46 to 47c; sample, 39 to 40c. Minneapolis, March 21.—Wheat—March, 66 1-4c; May, 66 1-4c; July, 67 1-4c, on track; No. 1 hard, 67c; No. 1 Northern, 66c; No. 2 Northern, 64 1-2c. Flour—First patents, \$3.60 to \$3.80; second patents, \$3.40 to \$3.50; first clears, \$2.40 to \$2.60. Bran, in bulk—\$11 to \$11.50.

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