



DISTRICT WHERE FIRE STARTED.

# WHERE THE FINAL STAND WAS MADE "UPON THAT WE STAND OR FALL"

How the Brave Fire Fighters Saved Retail Section.

The Premier Reiterates Government's Railway Policy.

## STORY OF THE SUPREME BATTLE

## SCORES ALTERNATIVE SCHEME

A Two Hours' Combat On Front Street, Which Ended With Victory For the Men.

Mr. Borden's Proposition to Give Rights to Three Roads Would Stifle Competition.

Toronto, April 21.—It was exactly four minutes after four yesterday morning when the greatest and most devastating fire that Toronto has ever experienced was declared to be under control. Subsequently events proved that this was true, as the firemen, weary firemen fought the flames throughout the day, it was with the assurance that the mastery had been gained over the elements.

The old iron block on Front street, just east of the customs' house, proved to be the seat of the situation. This building was occupied by McMahon & Broadfield, pottery and crockery dealers, and it was at that point that the great and deciding battle was waged. From Wellington street south and west, as far as the Queen's Hotel, and extending to the Esplanade, practically everything had been consumed, and the devouring elements had spread east on Front street to the Minerva building on the north, and the McMahon-Broadfield building on the south. It was a question if the flames could be held in check, and all the energies of the brigade were directed to saving the customs house and the Minerva building. The fear was that with the high and erratic wind prevailing the fire might continue in its course eastward, and eastward up Yonge street into the heart of the retail section.

With this contingency facing them, the brigade, reinforced by a gallant squad of fire-fighters from Hamilton, approached the supreme battle. On Front street a number of streams were kept playing on both sides of the street, but it was in the rear of the McMahon & Broadfield building that the decisive fight was made. The flames, fanned by the high breezes, poured out of the rear of the building in volumes, at times completely enveloping the receiving or express building in the rear of the customs house proper. The rear of the building could be heard for blocks, and as volume after volume of fire and smoke came pouring out, it was at once evident that the building was jammed to the ceiling with goods of a most inflammable and combustible character.

Here within eight feet of this raging conflagration fifteen men from the Bay street fire hall pluckily kept two streams of water playing upon the flames. At times the water would be played directly against the roaring, seething volume of fire, while at other times it would be directed over toward the fifteen feet of space intervening between the two buildings, licking with its forked tongues the water-soaked roof of the building, and the draught from the fire drove the water scalding hot back into the very teeth of the firemen. At the command of District Chief Smith, the water-soaked roof of the building was to be alternately turned on either building. For about two hours this great fight was waged, and to the thousands watching the struggle it seemed that the elements must conquer, as it was felt that no human beings could live in the heat, while the flames threw out. A section of five men desisted long enough to carry a length of hose into the receiving house, and from a window a stream was soon playing on the fire. The other section, however, held to their post.

On every hand could be heard "Isn't it a great, plucky fight?" So intense was the heat that the great walls of the doomed building fairly surged and swayed. Just at a juncture when it seemed that all hope of retarding the spread of the fire must be abandoned, an ominous crackling sound was heard, and a moment later the whole west side of the McMahon & Broadfield building fell outward with a resounding crash.

To the thousands of spectators it was a most awe-inspiring and dramatic incident. Just a moment before the whole neighborhood was illuminated by the most brilliant of lights, and within eight feet of a great body of fire six men were being directed by a steady stream of water against it. Then there was a great crash, and as if by magic all was darkness, and "Poor fellows, they're all killed," was the involuntary cry, and disregarding the fire lines and the police the crowd rushed toward the scene of the supposed catastrophe. A great sigh of relief went up when it was ascertained that all the valiant fire laddies had practically escaped unscathed.

### NAVAL OFFICER SUICIDES.

San Francisco, April 21.—Robert Nicholson, chief boatswain's mate of the United States gunboat Petrel, after twenty-two years of honorable service in the United States Navy, has shot and killed himself here rather than face a charge of having brought liquor on board the ship. Nicholson was born in the Shetland Islands, had a good record and served through the Spanish war with credit.

# TORONTO'S BUSINESS MEN ALREADY PLAN FRESH START

The Great Business City Will Spring From Desert of Ruins.

## HOW QUEEN'S HOTEL WAS SAVED

Splendid Work Done by Volunteer Brigade, Amongst Whom Were Many Ladies.

Toronto, April 21.—With fourteen acres of the east wing of the Queen's Hotel laid waste, the hand of the destroyer was stayed early yesterday. While the embers of the ruined warehouses were still aglow, Toronto's business men were planning a fresh start. From Lorne street through the very heart of the old business city to Yonge street, and north half-way to King street, there stretches a desert of tumbling walls and twisted girders, from which will spring the new city of the future. Toronto's financial interests will stagger under such a blow as few other Canadian cities ever received, but the business men are already here. Thirteen to fifteen million dollars in property were swept out of existence by the fire of Tuesday night. Five thousand clerks and operatives who have daily thronged Bay street and from their employment came down yesterday to gaze on the ashes and the piles of hot bricks, and wonder where their wages would come from. Nearly nine million of dollars are to be lost by the insurance companies, some of which have within the past few months experienced heavy losses. Such is the position of Toronto after its great fire. There is no despair. The business community will feel the loss, but it is recognized that the best way to meet the situation is to back on the city's progress. Manufacturers who escaped the fire are offering their former rivals opportunities to re-establish themselves at the same place. The city is to be maintained, and the aid which came so willingly from other cities to Toronto to fight the flames is being extended in other ways to help fight the results of the fire.

It is impossible to traverse the burned district, even the firemen work only in the skirts of it. At the southwest corner of Front and Yonge streets the custom house stands as a barrier to the desolating fury of the destroyer. Yesterday a solid block of great warehouses filled the space between it and Bay street; today only portions of the walls are standing. On the Esplanade side the smouldering debris is scattered to the foot of the custom house walls. All morning the firemen waded through the fifth and mud of the Esplanade. There the telephone and telegraph poles have been buried, and the cables are hanging in new ones, while the poles are strewn with a snarl of tangled wires and cables. At the southeast corner of the Esplanade, the old stone wall of the McLaughlin flour mill still stands, with the street wall leaning menacingly, while the entire street is piled deep with brick and water. Across Bay street is a counterpart of ruin. North arises the impenetrable wall of smoke, and the debris of other buildings, and there, rise the skeletons of walls, smoking, with their shroud of white smoke, like ghosts of departed prosperity.

### STILL ON GUARD.

At half a dozen points on the scene of battle smoke is being burnt fitfully, and over them the tired veterans are standing guard. These are the dying embers of the fire, and the debris swept through fourteen acres of business buildings yesterday morning. The fire has been conquered, conquered through the courage and bravery of the fire department and their allies from sister Canadian cities and the sister city across the water. The fire was a disaster, but it is a disaster which has been met with a supply, with the fire chief stretched on his back, injured at the outset of the fire, the fire department, the side of the flames, the department, not reinforced by the detachments from outside, won a victory. The fire was beaten, the odds all in its favor at the Telegram building, the loss of which would have meant the destruction of the city. The fire was a disaster, but it is a disaster which has been met with a supply, with the fire chief stretched on his back, injured at the outset of the fire, the fire department, the side of the flames, the department, not reinforced by the detachments from outside, won a victory. The fire was beaten, the odds all in its favor at the Telegram building, the loss of which would have meant the destruction of the city.

### DYNAMITE TO LEVEL INSECURE PORTIONS OF THE RUINS OF THE FIRE WILL BE USED.

The work of leveling insecure portions of the ruins of the fire will be begun today, when dynamite will be used to raze to the ground the tottering walls which threaten the lives of the men and limbs of the firemen who are playing the hose on the smouldering debris, and the workmen who will be set immediately to the task of clearing the obstructed streets. A start will be made on Front street, in order that the street railway company may begin as soon as possible the repairing of its line from Lorne street to Yonge street.

### NOT ONE WAS FIREPROOF.

A. H. Gregg, of Gregg & Gregg, architects, stated.

"The most notable fact about the fire is that at among all the warehouses there was not one that was really fireproof. It has been proven that even the best of buildings have a hard time in large conflagrations. If the buildings had been fireproof where they stood, and reasonably protected, it might have been restrained. We try to show our clients the desirability of building with a view to reducing the risk of fire, with slow burning materials and fire sprinklers. All those buildings should be protected against extension of fire from an adjoining building by automatic water curtains on the windows, or fireproof shutters."

### MAY MOVE TO LENOX

Durand Seeks Pleasant Summer Quarters For the Embassy.

Washington, April 21.—It is probable that Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, will establish the British embassy at Lenox, Mass., for the summer, but he will not leave Washington until late in June. Mr. Durand, the first secretary, and Mr. Waterlow, the third secretary, will go on leave shortly, and it is probable that both will be transferred.

### LONDON ON THE FIRE.

London, April 20.—The Graphic says Toronto has the sympathy of the whole empire in the terrible destructive fire that has devastated that beautiful city.

Being an open city, Toronto is structurally considered as being free from the risk of fire. It gives a suggestive conception of the distance of the American city from Toronto, that fire engines were sent from Buffalo and it is a consolation that the University buildings were saved.

### LADIES FOUGHT FLAMES.

Volunteer Brigade Helped to Save Queen's Hotel.

No little praise is due volunteer efforts to fight the flames. A small party separated the east wing of the Queen's Hotel from the Warwick Bros. & Rutter building, but after the earlier experiences of the night this promise was not kept. Mr. Henry Winst, of the Queen's, and Messrs. Henry Barber, M. P. P., and R. L. Joynt, M. P. P., with the assistance of some firemen, organized an amateur brigade and saved the hotel. The window-shutters were blistered by the heat and a hopeless task. Every inch in the east wing was filled with water and heavy blankets were soaked in them. The upper window sashes were lowered and the blankets hung outside, the windows then being closed. When this had been accomplished every window on the east side was protected by a wet blanket. The intense heat caused the roof to ignite several times, but the hotel employees were able to keep the fire under control. The blankets would dry in a few minutes, but lady guests of the hotel working with the house-keepers, poured water on them, and on the sashes and inside shutters. All of the guests were notified that they might have to leave their belongings, and they were told to take their belongings to other hotels. All of the silver and valuables were taken to the Queen's Hotel. The offices of the Verral Transfer Company, which company also removed the effects of the guests, Colonel Matheson, M. P. P., whose room was in the east wing, was one of those who went to another hotel, but Mr. J. Whitney, M. P. P., contented himself with taking another room at the Queen's.

### THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The losses of the insurance companies are as follows:

Royal	\$800,000
London and Lancashire	400,000
North British and Mercantile	400,000
Scottish Union	380,000
North American	300,000
Home	290,000
Aetna	190,000
Phoenix of Brooklyn	145,000
Calumet	100,000
Sun	100,000
North American	185,000
Union	200,000
Atlas	275,000
Alliance	400,000
Commercial Union	350,000
Guardian	250,000
Hartford	250,000
London Insurance	100,000
Manchester	200,000
Mercantile	200,000
Insurance Company of North America	300,000
Northern	350,000
Queen	350,000
Calumet	100,000
Phoenix of Hartford	100,000
Anglo-American	250,000
Equity	200,000
Western Assurance	200,000
Gore	150,000
Western Assurance	210,000
Hand-in-Hand	50,000
Millers and Manufacturers	50,000
Monarch Fire	24,000
Independent Mutual	2,000
Total	\$3,041,000

## CAGE DROPPED 350 METERS

Twelve Miners Hurlled to Death in Mexican Colliery.

Mexico City, April 21.—A telegram has reached this city from Capachula, capital of the State of Hidalgo, stating that a mine disaster occurred there in which twelve miners lost their lives by being precipitated to the bottom of a shaft. The cause of the accident was the breaking of a cable to which was attached the cage containing the men. The accident occurred in the La Benita mine. All of those who lost their lives were Mexican miners belonging to the poorer classes.

### A MONTREALER KILLED.

Philadelphia, April 21.—Michael Cole and Emil Laquille, telegraph line-men, employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, were struck by a train on the Pennsylvania Railroad today and instantly killed. Laquille's home was in Montreal.

## WEATHER BULLETIN.

### TOMORROW—FINE AND MILD.

Sun rises 5:25 a.m., sets 7:08 p.m. Moon rises 9:52 a.m., sets 12 midnight.

On April 21, 21-3.—Moderate snowfalls have occurred today at some few points in the St. Lawrence Valley and Maritime Provinces and also in Western Manitoba, but generally in the Dominion the weather has been clear. The cold wave is now disappearing and the outlook is more promising.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 32-52; Victoria, 50-56; Kamloops, 46-56; Calgary, 24-54; Winnipeg, 24-46; Port Arthur, 22-38; Toronto, 18-38; Ottawa, 22-38; Montreal, 18-34; Quebec, 32-36; St. John, 34-42; Halifax, 40-46.

Thursday, April 21, 8 a.m.

### FORECASTS.

Moderate winds; fine and milder. Friday—Easterly winds, fine and mild.

### TEMPERATURES.

Calgary	24	32	Cloudy
Winnipeg	24	32	Cloudy
Parry Sound	26	30	Clear
Toronto	18	38	Clear
Ottawa	22	38	Cloudy
Montreal	18	30	Clear
Quebec	32	36	Clear
Father Point	30	36	Clear

### WEATHER NOTES.

The weather is now milder in the Dominion, and the outlook is more promising. The general outlook is favorable for more springlike conditions throughout the country.

Local temperatures: 7h. highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the observatory on Wednesday, April 20, were: Highest 25, lowest 18.

## WORLD'S IRON MEN IN SESSION

Meeting at London Tackles the "Dumping" Problem.

## AN AGREEMENT AS TO PRICES

Great Britain, Germany, Belgium and United States in Secret Convention.

New York, April 21.—A special dispatch to the Sun dated London, April 20, says: A secret conference of the highest importance to the steel manufacturers of the world began its sessions here yesterday. Its object is to arrange for the preservation of home markets, the prevention of dumping and the fixing of uniform export prices.

The countries represented are Great Britain, Germany, the United States, Austria and Belgium. The project originated with the German syndicate, the Deutscher Stahlwerksverband, of which Herr Thyssen is the chief representative.

Pourparlers began three months ago, with the result that dumping was greatly restricted during the last two months. The original proposal was to regulate prices only in the neutral markets. The British manufacturers objected that this proposal was not feasible, unless it included Great Britain, where Germany dumped a million tons a year. Germany agreed to this in principle and a conference was held in London for a discussion of the whole question of export prices of markets, including those of plates, rails, structural steel and semi-products. A parallel agreement to the one proposed is now in successful operation between the manufacturers of wrought iron pipe. This encourages the steel makers to believe that a combination in their trade is practicable. The conference is expected to last some time.

Even the most sanguine do not expect immediate results from the exchange of views, now in progress here between representatives of the United States, Germany, Great Britain, Austria-Hungary and Belgium, with the object of establishing among the steel makers of the important exporting countries an agreement whereby export prices will be fixed and indiscriminate dumping prevented. The movement, which was initiated by the Germans, will, it is thought by many interested persons, find an influential body of Britishers who are equally interested as producers and consumers of steel in turning out the more highly finished class of goods, and who profit from the "dumping."

## IT COMES HIGH TO WAR

Russia Spending \$750,000 Daily—Plans to Raise Funds.

St. Petersburg, April 21, 2:25 p.m.—Russia has made a new issue of 15,000,000 in paper currency against free gold in the state bank. At the ministry of finance it was explained that it was an ordinary issue and in no sense was forced. Under the law paper is issuable, to double the amount of gold, up to 150,000,000 gold, in excess of which paper issued must be covered by gold.

In the state bank there are in round figures \$400,000,000 in gold, which would permit of an issue of \$500,000,000 in paper. But the proper issue at present only amounts to \$350,000,000. All sorts of figures of the cost of the war are printed abroad. The correspondent of the Associated Press is authoritatively informed that the daily expenses are averaging \$750,000, and it is estimated that a year's expenditures for the war will total \$250,000,000. To meet this there existed a free balance of \$20,000,000, which was increased to \$115,000,000 by reductions of the ordinary budgets, leaving ostensibly \$100,000,000 to be found. But a portion of the latter is made up by the increased earnings of the railroads owned by the Government. It being in a question of book-keeping, how the balance is to be raised has not yet been determined. No foreign loan has been arranged and none is desired, if it can be avoided, as practically the total amount of the war expenditure will be raised at home. The ministry of finance believes it may be easy to float an international loan late in the summer or fall.

## TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION

Dominion Alliance Takes Up the Question at Toronto.

Toronto, Ont., April 21.—About 450 temperance people have answered the call of the officers of the Dominion Alliance and are in convene here today. At the morning session a strong letter was read from Rev. Dr. Carman. The doctor's belief is that the present Government will do something in the direction of prohibition. Answers of resolutions were submitted, but were referred to a committee for the afternoon session. About 15 voters' leagues have been organized, but the report by Rev. R. H. Abraham, field secretary, said there was great apathy among temperance workers. Mr. Abraham had written to 175 in one section and got answers from 15 only. The first resolution adopted by the convention expressed regret that no legislation had been introduced. The executive committee of the Dominion Alliance, who refused to make any statement of the bar, etc., and the formation of voters' leagues throughout the Province.

## A GREAT STRIKE LIKELY

City of Chicago Threatened With a Gigantic Tie-Up.

Chicago, April 21.—This city is menaced by a strike of greater magnitude than any since the disturbance of 1894. After negotiations extending over several weeks, the Truck Drivers' Union and the Chicago Team Owners' Association are in a deadlock and the drivers have asked an increase of wages amounting to nearly 10 per cent and a 12-hour day. They now work 12½ hours.

The employers, 88 per cent of whom are represented by the owners' organization, have refused to make any concessions and offer only to renew the old agreement.

## FOUND SCORES OF HUMAN HEADS

Gross Discovery by the British After Destroying Tibetan Fort.

London, Thursday, April 21.—A dispatch to the Times from Gyantse, Tibet, reports that the fort there has been blown up because it overlooked the residence of the British mission under Col. Younghusband. Among the strange discoveries made in the fort was a room containing scores of human heads, some of which have been recently severed. This points to regular executions by the Tibetans, notwithstanding prohibition against the taking of life.

## CLASHED AGAIN

Messrs. Oliver and Macoun in Hot Debate On Peace River.

Ottawa, Ont., April 21.—Another strong scene was enacted this morning before the agricultural committee. Mr. Frank Oliver, of Alberta, and Mr. J. M. Macoun, of the geological survey, came again in conflict over the latter's report, derogatory to the Upper Peace River country. Mr. Oliver denounced Macoun's deductions as unfair and his aspersions on the Peace River district as scandalous. Macoun frequently interrupted.

## Home Rule for the Irish Issue of English Election

### John Redmond Tells Nationalists That Unionists Are Doomed to Defeat.

Dublin, April 21.—The annual National convention at the Mansion House here today was well attended and excited much enthusiasm. John Redmond, who presided at the opening proceedings, said the Unionist Government and party were in a condemned cell, waiting for the execution of its sentence, which had been pronounced on them, and in all human probability

## SAYS BRITISH HELPED BOMBARD

Manchuria Believes British and Americans Aided Japs.

## RUSSIANS HANG ENGLISH SPY

Feeling Against Anglo-Saxons Is Intense—A Canadian Named Davidson Missing.

Berlin, April 21.—A correspondent of the Frankfurter Zeitung, writing from Harbin, Manchuria, under date of March 26 says:

"Great bitterness has been aroused throughout Manchuria against Americans and British because it is believed American and British vessels took part in the bombardments of Port Arthur under the Japanese flag. This belief apparently is due to the fact that the Japanese fleet was larger than the Russians anticipated, and included unknown types of vessels. The feeling is so strong that Americans and British are not safe anywhere in Manchuria. One, Raily, an American, and several others, including Davidson, a Canadian, have disappeared. The authorities are looking for them."

"It is reported that an Englishman was arrested in Port Arthur as a spy and was taken to Mukden and hanged."

"The plying of the so-called flour boats on the Liao River, mostly under the American flag and carrying American goods, has been prohibited."

"Southern Manchuria has been scoured for several months, for supplies of flour destined for Port Arthur, which is reported to be provisioned for two years."

## GREAT FLOODS IN FAR WEST

Rivers in the Manitoba and N. W. T. on the Rampage—Winnipeg a Sufferer.

Winnipeg, April 21.—Latest reports from along the Moose Jaw state that the water has reached points in the valley never before known to be covered by water. Many bridges have been swept away. Several settlers have been rescued from their homes in boats, and some loss to property is reported.

Brandon, Man., April 21.—The water in the Assiniboine River rose 18 inches last night and flooded a great portion of the flats of the city. Three families were rescued in boats.

North Portal, N. W. T., April 21.—One hundred cars of settlers' effects were being moved across of a washout on the Soo line at Roche River.

Winnipeg, April 21.—All the low-lying lands along the Red River are submerged. The water is 18 inches deep, over the transfer tracks at one point in the city. All the wholesale firms east of Main street are busy removing goods from their cellars.

## WAR NOTES.

The two Japanese officers, who were captured in Manchuria, disguised as Lamas, and who had a large quantity of explosives in their possession, have been taken to Port Arthur. An examination is being made in order to discover how they procured Chinese passports. They will be dealt with according to martial law.

It was reserved for the representatives of Ireland to give the blow which would end their existence. They had denied Ireland home rule, had broken their pledges, and had introduced a budget, which would impose an additional burden of \$2,500,000 yearly on Ireland. The question of home rule of Ireland was a deciding factor in English elections, and when the dissolution of Parliament came it would be found to be a deciding factor as to what Government should rule this Empire.

The convention passed a resolution in favor of home rule and expressing confidence in the Irish members of Parliament.