FEARFUL HOLOCAUST IN MONTREAL NUNNERY

MORE THAN FIFTY CHILDREN PERISH IN THEIR COTS IN GREY NUNNERY, MONTREAL

Loss of Life Somewhere Between Fifty and One Hundred, But It is Probably the Total Deaths is Nearer Half a Hundred—About Two Hundred Wounded, Sick and Convalescent Soldiers in Institution Escape, as Do All But Infants.

Many Deeds of Heroism Done by Sisters, Nuns, Soldiers, Firemen and Citizens—Blaze Started Probably from Electric Wire, Igniting Curtain—Nunnery Not Seriously Damaged — Some of Aged People May Die.

(Continued from page 1)
night by fire in the fifth or top story of the west wing of the Grey Nunnery on Guy and Dorchester streets, and it is feared that the loss may run well up to a hundred. Thirty eight charred bodies were found by the firemen at 10.30, when the fire was under control and it is known that while firemen and soldiers were engaged in rescuing infants they were forced to leave many to die as the flames and smoke drove the rescuers from the building. The property loss is not excessive, as the blaze was practically kept to the floor. The fire started near the tower, supposedly from the electric wiring. The top floor was used as a dormitory for the infants being cared for by the Nuns and the lower floor part of the west wing was occupied by returned sick or wounded soldiers.

Very Young Babies.

The ages of the inmates of the Nunnery ranged from two or three days to almost a hundred years. Many of the babies, whose lives were destroyed in the fire and smoke, were but a few days or a few weeks old. The elderly inmates were housed in another section of the Nunnery, and were not immediately affected by the fire.

No Definite Figures.

The loss of life amongst the children in the infants' home department of the Nunnery could not be definitely ascertained tonight, but firemen at 10.30, when the top section was still smouldering, found the charred bodies of twenty children. Nearly as many were found later. It is feared that many more perished, and the loss of life may total well over fifty.

All the other inmates of the big building are believed to have escaped. These included the nuns, nursing sisters, returned wounded or sick soldiers aged sick or crippled men and women, to the number of about a thousand. They scattered in various directions, so that it may be some time before there can be a roll call.

Soldiers Removed.

A number of the soldiers were removed to hospitals, practically all the ambulances having been called into service in connection with the fire. None of the soldiers suffered injury through the fire or the consequent confusion and within half an hour of the outbreak all of them had been removed to places of safety and comfort. There were about 200 of them. Sixty of them were taken to the Khaki Club and the others were distributed amongst the military hospitals on Drummond street the Royal Victoria, Western and Montreal General hospitals.

Heroic Work.

Heroic work on the part of the soldiers whose homes were temporarily in the west wing of the Nunnery doubtless prevented the loss of life being much larger. So rapidly did the flames envelop the upper floor of the west wing, where the children were in their cots for the night, that the firemen and soldiers were quickly driven out and had time merely to grab as many of the little tots as they could and make a dash for the outside. It was impossible for them to return, but the soldiers were kept out only on the express orders of the fire chief.

One returned sergeant made five trips to the top story and with the flames threateningly close and in the midst of dense smoke he gathered two babies in his arms each time and safely returned. District Fire Chief Martin, who was one of the first of the firemen on the scene, and who himself carried out four babies at one time, said as many children were saved as possible.

Sisters Were Brave.

He said the firemen had difficulty in preventing the sisters from dashing into the flames in their frantic attempts to save the tiny creatures when to enter that section of the nunnery would have meant certain death. Two or three of the Nuns fell unconscious from their efforts at rescue in the smoke-filled dormitory behind a curtain of flame and were carried out by firemen.

Naturally there was much excitement in the other sections of the big nunnery, which faces on three streets, Guy, Dorchester and St. Matthew, especially where the aged and infirm inmates were, but there was little confusion. Many old people who had been bed-ridden for years were carried out in cots, wheel chair and blankets and were housed in nearby residences. The hospital ambulances were supplemented by police ambulances and private motor cars. It is feared that some of these people may die as a result of the shock. Some of the worst cases were removed to hospitals.

May Be 100 Dead.

Montreal, Feb. 15.—Late tonight Deputy Chief Mann, of the fire department, said the loss of life among the babies might be 100, but the number could not be definitely fixed as yet. On the floor of one of the playrooms were the bodies of the thirty-eight children whose fate was beyond question, the eldest being about two months old. A score or more had been rescued by District Chiefs Lapointe and Presseau, with the assistance of other firemen and some of the returned soldiers. These rescues were effected by way of windows and fire escapes. The recovered bodies were found by the firemen in little white enamel cots in which the children had been sleeping when the fire started.

Sister Talks.

Rev. Sister Laframboise said, "I was just leaving the chapel, where I was ending my retreat, when the fire alarm was raised, between seven and a quarter past. When I got there the two rooms were in flames, but I seized three little ones and managed to carry them to a place of safety. We do not know, but we think the fire was caused by a spark from the switch of the X-Ray machine in the soldiers' hospital."

Sister Laframboise, who is in charge of the records of the infants in the foundling home, said that the register today showed that there were 170 babies in the institution. Six had been taken to St. Paul Hospital, some hundred more were temporarily cared for by the sisters and volunteers in the Montifiere Club on Guy street, and many residents in the neighborhood took in more.

Saves Valuable Records.

"When I saw that it was impossible to save any more children," said Sister LaFramboise, "I thought of my records, and I was able to save these and take them to a safe place. And they were valuable too—the records of the Grey Nuns since 1737 when Venerable Mother D'Youville founded the hospital in Place Youville. But the records of the foundlings only dated to 1754 for it was in that year that the hospital began to care for little ones. Mother D'Youville one winter day found a baby in the St. Pierre river with a dagger in its neck and after that foundlings were taken in and cared for. We have only been at Guy street since 1871.

"All the sisters worked very hard to save the little ones and the soldiers worked hard with us. Mother Du Sacre Coeur, in charge of the Creche, told us what to do and then she saved all the records, papers and money in her charge."

"In the main part of the building we took the patients out without trouble. There was some excitement naturally, but there was no panic—the Sisters were there to guide and quiet the old men and women. We had eleven hundred inmates in the building. There 98 men and 112 women and perhaps one third of them were cripples, and had to be wheeled in their chairs from the building. We have many old people there—one Mr. De LaFramboise, he comes from St. Benoit, is 98 years old.

"The alarm was sounded during the recreation hour, when the old people were sitting quietly in their chairs. The poor little children were all in bed and asleep at five o'clock."

THE CANADIANS RAID TRENCHES SUCCESSFULLY

Number of Germans Killed and Prisoners and Machine Guns Captured—Canadians Sustain No Loss.

London, Feb. 14—The following official communication was issued by the war office this evening:

"Early this morning the enemy's trenches at Lens again were raided successfully by the Canadian troops. A number of Germans were killed and a few prisoners and two machine guns were captured. The raiding party returned to our lines without loss.

"Several other prisoners were brought in during the day by our patrols. On the southern portion of our front there was some hostile artillery activity today in the neighborhood of the Souchez river."

Berlin Admits Check.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 14—(British Admiralty per wireless press)—The text of the official statement reads:

"Western theatre: The British and French kept up their reconnaissances on many parts of the front. As a result there were violent engagements north of Lens and in the Champagne.

"The French obtained a footing in a salient of our position southeast of Tahure.

"In Flanders and on the heights of the Meuse our infantry brought in some prisoners. Elsewhere there was nothing new."

CREAM FOR CATARRH OPENS UP NOSTRILS

Tells How To Get Quick Relief from Head-Colds. It's Splendid!

In one minute your clogged nostrils will open, the air passages of your head will clear and you can breathe freely. No more hawking, snuffling, blowing, headache, dryness. No struggling for breath at night; your cold or catarrh will be gone.

Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist now. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic, healing cream in your nostrils. It penetrates through every air passage of the head, soothes the inflamed or swollen mucous membrane and relief comes instantly.

It's just fine. Don't stay stuffed-up with a cold or nasty catarrh—Relief comes so quickly.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS LIKE HOSPITAL RINKS

The Australian soldiers, like the Canadians, have seen a bit of the world in their military service, but according to the men from the southern commonwealth they have seen nothing in the way of sport that appealed to them more than the hockey matches they have watched on the Canadian rinks.

At Cobourg where a number of these men are under treatment in the Ontario Military Convalescent hospital they have enjoyed the open air rink in connection with the institutions, and learned to cut a few curves themselves. The fine expanses of skating surface in Canada are a novelty to them.

FOOD EXCHANGE

Washington, Feb. 14.—Negotiations for a freer interchange of foodstuffs and other products by the United States and Mexico begun here are to be concluded at Mexico City. Unable to enter into an agreement, Rafael Nieto, the Mexican commissioner, will leave this week for Mexico accompanied by Ambassador Fletcher to permit President Carranza personally to participate in the conferences.

OPERA HOUSE.

The regular weekly change of vaudeville programme opens at the Opera House tonight—no performance this afternoon—and it includes "The College Girls' Frolic, four classy girls in a "distinct vaudeville novelty" with songs and dances; Bonner and Powers in song, mirth and chatter; Milton, an artistic sculptor and wonder worker in clay; Larry and Sally Clifford in comedy blackface and tan; O'Meara Sisters sensational aerial whirlers, and chapter two of the new serial drama, "The Mystery Ship." Two performances tonight, at 7.30 and 9—two shows tomorrow afternoon and evening, as usual.

CRAVEN "A" VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

THERE is a COOL, CLEAN, SMOOTH taste—a rare flavor in Craven "A" Cigarettes that could only come from PURE tobacco properly matured and blended.

10c. Plain or Cork—Manoir Dry—Manoir Cork 10c.

THE BRITISH GOV'T TRIUMPHS OVER THE OPPOSITION

House of Commons Adopts Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne and Attacks Come to Naught.

London, Feb. 14.—Through the adoption tonight by the House of Commons of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, which was accomplished without division, the attacks against the government for the time being have come to naught.

Today's debate was on various subjects, including the food question, brewing and diplomacy. All hostile amendments against the premier's address were either withdrawn or rejected.

VETERANS PUT SALESMAN THROUGH THIRD DEGREE

Motor Mechanics Students in the M. H. C. Course Inspect New Models.

With life generally reduced to essentials, it was the "chassis," the bare skeleton of the motor car, stripped of its camouflage of supplementary elegancies designed to catch the eye of the rich, which held the centre of attention at the big Motor Show in Montrealwhile the luxurious limousine sulked in the corner.

In consistant contrariness it was the maimed soldiers with empty sleeves or crutches who displayed the keenest interest in the show while the barons of big business who placed their orders in other years at this time, were content to talk tires with an accessory man.

Down To Technicalities.

The salesmen from the New York show, accustomed to expatiate on the depth of the upholstering, foot warmers and time pieces added since the previous year for folk who would keep up with the "Joneses," found that they had to deal with technical veterans.

The soldiers for the most part were students in motor mechanics under training in the Montreal Technical School where the vocational re-education courses are being carried on under the Military Hospitals Commission. They knew a nut from a valve. They were interested in the interior workings. The chassis was the thing they wanted to see. In their courses they had taken motors apart and reassembled them. They knew all about carburetors, transmission and cooling systems. Their work had been chiefly on decrepit models but catalogues and "first aid" rendered to late models at various times had given them an insight into the advance of motor mechanics and they were eager to see.

HOSPITAL CANTEENS GET TOBACCO DUTY FREE

"Smokes" free from excise duty in the canteens of the military convalescent hospitals and clearing depots has caused general jubilation among the wounded men returned to Canada for treatment. The news that the Governor General, in Council, had ordered the same privilege enjoyed by the ed the same privilege enoyed by the canteens in camps and be allowel to sell tobacco and cigarettes free from excise duty has made the convalescent men see double. Their income is automatically increased and life looks twice as bright.

Long Agitated.

The question of duty free tobacco in the hospital canteens has been a long mooted question among the men. They could not see why they who had been overseas and done their part in the fight should not have the privileges as those extended to the men who had not seen overseas service. Considerable friction has arisen on the subject. The complaints registered with the officers in charge of the institutions were sent to Military Hospitals Commission headquarters.

The matter was taken up and upon the joint recommendation of the President of the Commission, the Minister of Inland Revenue and the Minister of Militia and Defence His Excellency, the Governor-General issued the order.

The effect of the order is not a saving for the men particularly, but the elasticity it adds to their allowance is a great boon. Nicotine is not listed among medicinal drugs, but to the wounded man it is the universal "pain-killer."

PILOTAGE PROBE

Halifax, Feb. 14.—No finding in the Halifax pilotage probe will be rendered by the commissioners for at least ten days, although recommendations for measures for the relief of temporary congestion will be made public tomorrow morning, according to a statement by Chairman Robb this afternoon in closing the enquiry.

WAS AGED 111

Bath, N. Y. Feb 14—Thomas Leonard died at the State Soldiers' Home here. He was 111 years old and was born in County Clare, Ireland. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and also of the civil war.

REGINA PAPER PESSIMISTIC

Advises Government to Make Sure First Class is Exhausted Before Calling Others Out.

Regina, Feb. 14.—Commenting editorially on the figures given out by Premier Borden yesterday of reinforcements to the Canadian militia, the Regina Post says:

"Fifty thousand men out of a class of over 500,000 is not a very satisfactory report on the operation of the military service act, and moreover, a great many of these came from the United States. Calling out other classes will mean leaving a number of dependents of every man called for the government to support. The government must make very sure that the possibilities of the first class are exhausted before calling others. It is something the country is by no means ready to accept yet."

ALL HAND WOVEN ART FABRICS IN DEMAND

Milliners and interior decorators are making constant demands for the fabrics woven by the soldiers on their hand looms in the hospitals of Montreal. The vocational officers of the Military Hospitals Commission are besieged with requests for these are materials and many of the men are laying aside substantial sums for the day of discharge through their convalescent occupation.

Hand wrought materials in this twentieth century are rare. The fabrics manufactured by the peasants of the old world are not to be had today. Cretonnes and tapestries from the French looms must be replaced by other art materials and the high class upholsterers and interior decorators are only too eager to get the materials which the returned men are turning ou on their bed looms.

Restoring Antiques.

Old Quebec is a district ful of old world charm and a Mecca for those in search of antiques. Clever cabinet makers can easily restore the woodwork of these old treasures but to replace the old upholstering in often a great problem. This offers a splendid opening for the returned soldiers.

Some of the fabrics which the soldiers have woven under the instruction of the Military Hospitals Commission instructors have sold in Montreal for as high as ten dollars a yard.

It is the lighter weight silk materials, the gold threaded stuffs, which are adapted for millinery and have been used so artfully that even Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire placed an order.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect Head.

Because of its tonic and laxative effect, Laxative Bromo Quinine can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature is on box. 30c.

HOW THE LATE "JOHN L." SWORE OFF

Here is the late John L. Sullivan's own story of how he "swore off," as told to a reporter for the New York Sun:

"The day I quit drinking—it was March 5, 1905—I was blind drunk; well, may be not blind drunk, but I had a skinful. I used to love the wine, not the red ink, but the real grape, champagne. I was in Grand Rapids one week with a show, and all I remember about that week was that one day I went into some drug store for something. I was boiled from Monday to Saturday. And I bet nobody knew it.

"Then I went down to Terry Hut, Ind. I don't know yet how I got there, but I guess it was the train that took yours truly, John L. Sullivan. It was a Sunday afternoon in Terry Hut, and I had to play a matinee. I don't remember going on the stage that afternoon or that night, but I did my turn—blind drunk.

"After the night show I and my manager, Frank Hall, beat it back to the hotel, I suppose. Anyway I cleared up at least enough to remember to this day what happened that night and that it happened in this here Terry Hut hotel. 'John, let's have a little drink before hitting the hay,' says Frank Hall to me. 'I'm on, eight to five, Frank,' I says, me still boiled.

"So we ordered a quart of champagne. The bellhop brought the grape up and I poured it. And I raised the glass—God, how I did want that drink, too!—and I was just about to down 'er when something stopped me. I put the glass down and I looked at it a long time. And I says to Hall, 'Frank, so help me God, I wont' drink this, and so help me God, I'll never take a drink again.'"

And he never did—even though, as John L. freely confessed to the reporter, he "woke up somebody else—the original John L. Hangover himself—and me laying there burning for a drink, and right on the table beside the bed nearly a full bottle of the grape—flat now, but still with the kick of the grape."

WAS TORPEDOED

London, Feb. 14—Thomas J. MacNamara, secretary to the Admiralty, announced in the House of Commons today that it had been established that the steamer Tuscania was torpedoed. He added that the Admiralty was satisfied with the system of convoy.

LOOK AT CHILD'S TONGUE IF SICK, CROSS, FEVERISH

When constipated or bilious give "California Syrup of Figs."

Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, it is a sure sign that your little one's stomach, liver and bowels need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once.

When peevish, cross, listless, pale, doesn't sleep, doesn't eat or act naturally, or is feverish, stomach sour, breath bad; has stomach-ache, sore throat, diarrhoea, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul, constipated waste, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of its little bowels without griping, and you have a well, playful child again.

You needn't coax sick children to take this harmless "fruit laxative;" they love its delicious taste, and it always makes them feel splendid.

Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. To be sure you get the genuine, ask to see that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

ANDOVER

Andover, Feb. 15.—Misses Gertrude Tibbits, Helen Colwell and Sophea Killison were guests of Mrs. LeBaron Anderson on Friday last.

Mrs. Holt returned to her home in Fort Fairfield on Friday. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. G. Porter.

Mrs. Nelson Manson entertained several ladies very pleasantly on Saturday afternoon.

Miss Mabel Peat was hostess on Saturday afternoon to a few friends.

Mrs. Frederick Sloat left on Friday for Vancouver, having received word that her sister, who resides in that city is very ill.

Mrs. Bennett McLaughlin has gone to Montreal to receive medical treatment.

Mrs. D. Larlee is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Wilmot Sherwood, in St. John.

Mr. Herbert Dickinson, Hartland, spent the past week at the home of his brother, Harry Dickinson.

Word was received by his family of the marriage of Mr. Paul E. Porter of Mont Jole, Que., to Miss Helen McKinnon of Fredericton. The wedding took place in Montreal on Friday, the 1st inst., Mr. and Mrs. Porter have the good wishes of many friends. They will reside in Mont Jole, Que.

Mrs. Wetmore Pickett spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Medley Miller, River de Chule.

Mrs. Alfred Morrissey, St. John, spent last week in the village.

Miss Cecil Sisson spent the week-end with relatives at Fort Fairfield.

On Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Guy Porter entertained several married ladies very pleasantly at her home.

Mr. Fred Pirie, Grand Falls, spent a few days here the past week.

Mrs. Robert Crawford is home from a pleasant visit with her daughter, Myrtle, in Fredericton.

Mrs. Edward Pickett spent last week with her mother, Mrs. C. M. Tibbits, who is quite ill.

THE WEATHER.

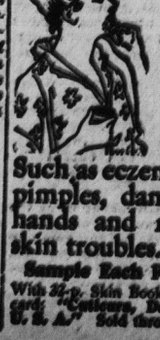
Maritime—Strong winds or gales, from south and southwest, with local rain.

Washington—Northern New England—Rain and warmer Friday; Saturday fair and colder; moderate south gales.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 14—The disturbance which was over the southwest states last night has moved quickly to the Great Lakes, causing rain and thunderstorms in western Ontario. The weather is mild in Quebec and the Maritime province and cold in the west.

	Min.	Max.
Dawson	*42	*32
Prince Rupert	22	34
Victoria	32	44
Vancouver	28	38
Calgary	*6	*4
Medicine Hat	0	4
Edmonton	*12	*6
Battleford	*8	*4
Prince Albert	*16	*2
Saskatoon	*16	6
Moose Jaw	*10	0
Regina	*17	*4
Winnipeg	*24	*4
Port Arthur	*4	10
Parry Sound	24	36
London	26	46
Toronto	28	40
Kingston	24	38
Ottawa	20	36
Montreal	24	38
Quebec	16	30
St. John	16	34
Halifax	16	40

SKIN TROUBLES THAT TORTURE



and Disfigure Quickly Healed by CUTICURA SOAP and OINTMENT

Such as eczemas, rashes, pimples, dandruff, sore hands and most baby skin troubles.

Sample Each Free by Mail

With 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card: "Cuticura, Dept. N, Boston, U. S. A." Sold throughout the world.

Of Special Interest

to men who appreciate good clothes at greatly reduced prices.

These odd suits and qualities we're clearing certainly are appreciated when men buy several at a time. They're wise, too, because such an opportunity will not occur again for a long time.

Suits that sold at $15 to $28 now

$10, $15 and $17.50

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

SAYS TROTZKY IS AHEAD OF WILSON

Vienna Zeit Draws Comparison Between the Men.

Amsterdam, Feb. 14—The Vienna Zeit draws a comparison between President Wilson and Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister. Both, it says, place the idealistic before imperative practical aims, with the difference that Trotzky is a proletarian, anti-capitalistic dreamer, not the head of a capitalistic state, which, the newspaper declares, has enriched itself on European carnage. Trotzky, it points out, made an end of the war at all costs, while President Wilson, it declares, has done nothing tangible for the warring nations.

BASSEN'S Counter-Thrust SALE BEGINS TODAY Feb. 15

We call your attention as it is to your interest to attend it.

14, 16, 18 Charlotte St.

No Branches