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TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Many Lives May Have Been Lost

Fire Victims Estimated At Fifteen To Hundred

THREE BODIES RECOVERED

High Building in St. Louis In Ruins After Early Morning Outbreak

Property Loss Estimated at Million Dollars

(Canadian Press) St. Louis, Mo., March 9.—Three men are known to be dead, dozens of others are believed to have been burned to death and two scores were seriously injured in a fire which early today destroyed the seven-story building housing the Missouri Athletic Club and the Bostonian Bank at Fourth street and Washington avenue.

At six o'clock this morning thirty-two men had been accounted for, and three of the dead had been recovered. The number of persons missing and supposed to have been trapped in the building is variously estimated between fifteen and 100. The manager of the club declared there were 126 persons in the building last night, while the clerk declared only fifty persons were in the house.

At six o'clock the fire was brought under control. The property damage at that time was estimated at \$1,000,000. The Bostonian Commission Company, and the St. Louis Seed Company, were not greatly damaged. Other buildings to which the fire spread are in ruins.

Jumping from High Windows The fire is believed to have originated in the dining room on the third floor of the building, although the police are giving some credence to the theory that safe blowers may be responsible, as two explosions were heard in the Bostonian Bank. When the fire arrived the entire building was ablaze and men and women were jumping from all floors above the fourth.

Three of the dead were killed in headlong dashes to the pavement. One man, Theodore Levy, of Jackson, Tenn., clinging to the sill of a sixth story window until both his hands were charred black. Just as he was about to let go his hold was rescued by firemen. When he had been treated at the dispensary Levy said two of the men who were killed had jumped from the window to which he had continued on page 7, sixth column.

PROBATE COURT

In the probate court today the will of William Herbert Clark, formerly of Charlottetown, P. E. I., and late of St. John, a marine engineer, was proved. He gives his estate to his wife, Mary Jane, absolutely, subject to her making provision for his daughter Lois M., until she comes of age. Besides the executor, he left two sons, all of whom are executors. He nominates his wife sole executrix. She was sworn in as such. There is no real estate, personal property \$800, besides some life insurance. Amon A. Wilson, K.C., is proctor.

In the matter of the estate of James DeWolfe Spurr, there was return of a citation to pass the accounts of James S. Harding, broker, the administrator, and an order for distribution. The accounts were found correct and passed and allowed as presented. The administrator waived his commission. Mrs. Spurr survived him, but has since died. A settlement having been made with the executor of her estate, the balance on hand was ordered to be paid to the executor of the estate of Mary Harding, the only sister of the deceased, who survived him, but has since died. William H. Harrison is advocate.

SIX BAPTIZED

Six persons were baptized in the Ludlow street Baptist church yesterday morning, and in the evening Rev. W. Robinson, pastor of the church, extended the right hand of fellowship to eight new members. W. B. Theakston of Halifax, representative of the Maritime Association for the Blind, sang two solos at the evening service. All the services yesterday were attended by large numbers.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—Pressure is low over the eastern portion of the continent, with generally high pressure prevailing. Fair, moderately cold weather prevails over the greater portion of Canada, excepting a few light local snowfalls.

HEARS CASE AGAINST A MONITION CONSTABLE

Moncton, N. B., March 9.—The case of A. V. Belyes, a constable charged with pointing a revolver at Mrs. James McMonion and William Garland, an I. C. R. brakeman, in a boarding house in Main street, on Friday afternoon, came up this morning in the police court before Judge Stevens. Mrs. James McMonion, her daughter Margaret and William Garland gave evidence.

City Shocked By Sudden Death of Geo. P. Allen

News of the death of George P. Allen at his home in Waterloo street late Saturday afternoon shocked the city. A host of friends about the city with whom he was a prime favorite and who

THE LATE MR. ALLEN

held him in high esteem were deeply grieved. He had been sick not quite two days, having been about his business on Thursday. On Friday morning he was compelled to remain in bed and during the greater part of Saturday he was unconscious, all medical effort failing to revive him. Mr. Allen was only in his 32nd year but already had established a name for himself as an active citizen.

Mr. Allen is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Bertha Collins, two young children, George and Norma; his mother, Mrs. John Allen, two sisters, Mrs. William Harrington and Miss Florence Allen, and one brother, Arthur, who is a student at McQueen's College. His father, the late John Allen, was widely known in this province.

The funeral is to take place tomorrow morning at 9:15 o'clock from his late residence, 21 Waterloo street, to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, for high mass of requiem.

For his wife and mother and their families deep sympathy is being shown on all hands.

Take Vote In Ulster Counties on Irish Home Rule Bill, Says Asquith

Premier Makes His Announcement In Commons

WILL BE EXCLUDED FOR SIX YEARS IF MAJORITY OF VOTERS SO DECIDE

Mr. Asquith Says This Offer is Made in No Fear Over Original Bill But to Make Its Success Sure From Outset—Irish Party Lured From Proposal in Earlier Session

London, March 9.—For many years no such rush of members of the House of Commons to secure seats for a debate had been seen as was witnessed today when, from an early hour, a steady stream of legislators poured into the chamber to take their places to listen to Premier Asquith's announced important statement on the Irish home rule controversy.

Only on those occasions when the king and long before noon the chamber presented a very animated appearance. The doors of the house were opened at eight o'clock, and at that time twenty members of parliament were waiting outside. Within two hours every seat in the house not reserved for members of the cabinet and under secretaries of state had been appropriated.

Those persons holding tickets for the public gallery also appeared early on the scene and long before noon the chamber presented a very animated appearance.

London, March 9.—Premier Asquith today laid before the House of Commons his proposed concessions to Ulster in regard to its position with the Irish home rule bill. The announcement which had been so long and anxiously awaited was to the effect that, before the bill became operative a poll of the parliamentary electors of each county should be taken to decide whether there should be an exclusion of the Ulster counties from the provisions of the bill for a period of six years from the first meeting of the new Irish parliament.

If the majority of the voters was in favor of this scheme, the county automatically should be excluded for the prescribed period.

Before Asquith began his speech he stated that the government made these suggestions today, not because it was running away from the original bill, but merely to allow the bill to start with the greatest prospect of success.

New York, March 9.—A London cable to the Tribune says: "Yesterday's steady rain, the deputation of Ulster suffragettes, who expressed their determination to interview Sir Edward Carson on the prospect of votes for women under the provisional government scheme, remained unscathed on the doormat of his house all day, but Sir Edward was confined to his bed with a chill. He is hopeful, however, of being able to go to the House of Commons today."

The charming young women, each with a big bag of chocolates, continued their weary vigil yesterday. They have picketed the house since Friday, and the quantity of chocolates consumed during their self-imposed task must have been enormous.

Sir Edward consented a little after noon today to receive a deputation of the suffragettes.

Ten of the militant suffragettes arrested during a demonstration yesterday in Trafalgar Square, when Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was captured by the police, were arraigned in Bow street police court today. Small fines were inflicted on the majority, who gave the prisoners the option of serving a short term of imprisonment.

Miss Zelle Emerson was not among the prisoners. The report of her arrest was erroneous.

AFTER THE BROWN TAIL

In an effort to stamp out the destructive brown-tail moth, a party of government men are in the vicinity of the city waging war on the insect. The men came down the west side of the St. John river last week, and after scouring the city and suburbs, went up to St. Martins, where they have been working all week.

Two of the party have returned to the city, and this morning went, one in the direction of East St. John and the other out the Loch Lomond road. So far but one nest of the brown-tails has been found near the city. The men report that as they approach the insects seem more scarce.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Further arrangements for the parade of the Catholic societies to the Cathedral to attend divine service on next Sunday afternoon were about completed at a meeting of representatives yesterday in the rooms of the A. O. H., in Union street. It is expected that the line will be lengthy and that the societies will make a fine appearance. Four bands have been engaged.

The lineup of the societies will be as follows: City Cornet Band; A. O. H., including the Hibernian Knights, Hibernian Cadets and division members; L'Assomption Society; Temple Band; St. Peter's, Y. M. A., and Branch 482; C. M. B.; St. Mary's band; Y. M. S.; St. Joseph's Father Mathew Association; L. L. & B. Society; Carleton Cornet Band; C. M. B. A. Branches 184 and 188.

Jap Steamer Is Sent to Bottom

Collision in Shanghai Harbor With the Britisher Oriental

NEW YORK GAS MAINS BLOW UP

Explosion Followed Bursting of Four Foot Water Main Under Heart of City

New York, March 9.—The bursting of a forty-eight inch water main and a subsequent series of explosions of gas mains in the heart of the city yesterday lifted a trolley car from the track, and an automobile containing Chief John Keaton and two other persons a distance of several feet, shooing buildings and flooded streets and cellars.

FALL TO DEATH TRYING TO SAVE LIVES BY USING ROPE ESCAPE

Water From Hose Freezes on it and Men Lose Hold—May be Six Deaths in Clarksburg

Clarksburg, W. Va., March 9.—Three men were killed and three others injured in a fire here early today. It destroyed the Low building and seriously damaged the ten-story building of the Union National Bank of Clarksburg.

While endeavoring to save important papers for the company, they dropped a rope out of the window and had reached the fifth story, when water, thrown by one of the engines, froze on the rope and they slipped off, dropping to the sidewalk. Another man jumped from the top story of the Low building and was crushed.

The dead are believed to have been burned with the Low building.

THEY WAIT FOR CARSON

Suffragettes Spend all Sunday Outside Home of Anti-Home Rule Leader

Winnipeg, March 9.—Mr. Justice Mathers on Saturday declined to grant an application from R. A. Bonnar to release from custody P. E. Hagel and John Westlake, charged with assisting John Krachenko to escape from custody.

The application was made on the ground that the accused could not secure a fair trial on account of the reports that had been published in the newspapers, and that at no time in the future would it be possible for them to secure a fair trial.

It will be recalled that Krachenko was charged with the killing of a Sussex man, Manager Arnold of a Bank of Montreal, western branch. Hagel was Krachenko's lawyer.

THE STEAMERS

R. M. S. Victoria, of the Allan Line, from Liverpool for St. John direct, was 200 miles southeast of Cape Race last night at 11:30 o'clock, and is due here on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

The steamer Brardene, taking the voyage for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line, replacing the wrecked Cobeguid, left Bermuda on Saturday with 900 passengers and mail for St. John.

A special train from Halifax passed through the city about 8:35 o'clock this morning carrying about 200 passengers from the steamer "Ascania."

SCOTCH AND IRISH MAILED DELIVERED A DAY EARLIER

New York, N. Y., March 9.—Mails from Scotland and the north of Ireland reached New York today twenty-four hours sooner than before, thanks to an arrangement by which the British post office department puts their steamer at Glasgow and Moville.

Hilbert's three mails were carried to Liverpool and were put on the mail steamer at that port. The assignment arrived on the Anchor Line steamer Cameronia.

Rebels Attack Town of Torreón

Huerta Sends 2,000 To Reinforce Defenders

PERHAPS TAMPIOCO SOON

(Canadian Press) Mexico City, Mex., March 9.—The rebel attack on Torreón by Villa's troops began early today and immediately 2,000 Federals were rushed to the town by special train to reinforce the defenders.

A dozen prominent citizens of Torreón were killed when the rebels blew up a passenger train near Hormos. Most of the passengers were refugees.

Salvador Cortes, one of the greatest poets Mexico ever produced, and who had allied himself with the rebels, was executed at Toluca, Yucatan. Four other rebel leaders were executed with him.

News that Texas Rangers had crossed the Rio Grande and seized the body of Vergara, created no excitement. Americans and foreigners feared that Mexicans might resent the act of the Texans and, professing to fear anti-American demonstrations, insisted on extra guards to patrol the streets of the capital, but they were unnecessary. The Mexicans seemed to view the affair as trivial.

Laredo, Texas, March 9.—A shoveling in the soft earth in the open grave and around the handle of the implement a card with the word "Requiescat" (reminiscent), was today the single trace of a mysterious night visit of a party of unidentified men to the Hidalgo Mexican cemetery. They discovered the body of Clemente Vergara, and returned it to Texas for burial by the family.

Vergara's body secretly was placed at a lonely spot on the Rio Grande for the night above Laredo in the early dawn of Sunday morning. It is found by an United States office, a state officer and a county deputy sheriff, but who was responsible for its removal from Mexico was a question still unanswered.

The body was here today waiting an examination which state authorities hope may disclose something to aid them in placing blame for the man's violent death after he was taken prisoner by Mexican Federals.

EXHIBITION MATTERS

The local department of agriculture has applied to the exhibition association for accommodation of the fall fair for headquarters for the Women's Institute. This organization for the women of the province has been increasing in membership during the last year owing to the work of expert organizers and it is desired to have their own headquarters for the convenience of the members while they are in the city for the exhibition.

W. W. Hubbard, superintendent of the Dominion experimental farm at Fredericton, arrived in the city today to attend a meeting of the prize-list committee of the exhibition association. J. B. Daggett of the provincial agricultural department was also expected but has not yet arrived.

The Spanish Elections. Madrid, March 9.—Balloting in the general elections for members of the Chamber of Deputies began yesterday throughout the kingdom. Among ninety-eight candidates returned without opposition were Count De Romanones, former premier, and M. Alvarez, former leader of the Liberal party. There are 308 seats to be filled in the elections.

Disturbances are reported from various places, but as a rule the polling passed off peacefully. In a riot at Benaguasil, two policemen and numerous citizens were hurt, while one policeman was reported killed. In the city of Bilbao, also, disorders occurred. The commander of the police and some rioters received severe injuries.

AN OCTOBER CASE. John Connel was before Magistrate Ritchie in the police court this morning. He had been arrested on an old warrant charging him with assaulting Max Gass on October 27 by throwing a stone which struck the complainant. The defendant had been absent from the city. According to the evidence of Gass he was struck on the nose with a stone thrown from a yard off Rockland road. The case was adjourned until Wednesday. In the meantime Connel was allowed to go on \$20 deposit.

FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER. The police have reported John Hood, contractor, for not having a light on staging in front of the new Royal Bank building in Main street on the night of March 8.

A bunch of keys found in St. James street await an owner at central station.

FURTHER ADJOURNED. The case against George Lifton which was to have come up today has been further adjourned until Thursday as Daniel Mullin, K. C. counsel for the prisoner, is still absent from the city.

TRAINS LATE

The Boston and Montreal trains were late in reaching the city today, the former arriving an hour and thirty-five minutes late, and the Montreal fifty minutes behind time.

English Society Wedding

London, March 9.—The engagement of Lord Kintore to Mrs. Edgar Lubbock is announced.