

HOBBS PLATE-GLASS WORKS WAS WIPED OUT
\$250,000 BLAZE ON RIDOUT ST. LAST NIGHTFifty Employees Thrown
Out of Work for the
Present.MATCH DROPPED
AMONGST STRAWIs Blamed for the Conflagration
—Firemen Did Good Work
In Preventing Spread.

The plant of the Hobbs plate glass works on Ridout street, near the G. T. R. was entirely wiped out by fire last night shortly after 6 o'clock, in one of the most spectacular conflagrations that have been seen in London for several years.

The loss amounts to about \$250,000, and is partly covered by insurance, \$70,000 of which is held in London, the remainder in Toronto.

"I was just leaving my office," said Donald Ferguson, who turned in the alarm, told The Advertiser last night, "when I noticed a little puff of smoke shoot from the elevator shaft of the Hobbs building. It was followed presently by another and larger one."

"Thinking there was a fire I started across to try and make sure before turning in an alarm."

"A moment's investigation convinced me that there was a big blaze in progress."

"Before I reached the fire alarm box the flames were shooting through the roof and by the time the brigade arrived, were bursting from many of the windows in the mirror department."

Brigade's Good Work.

The brigade made a splendid run and in a few minutes had nine big streams playing on the flames.

Chief Clark says the pressure last night was the best that he had ever fought a fire with in London.

It was seen that it was useless to attempt to save the mirror works and the brigade directed its efforts to preventing the flames from spreading into the wire nail works, adjoining and saving what could be saved of the polishing and grinding factory.

In the upper part of this building was stored one of the largest stocks of plate and stained glass that the firm ever had and it represented the entire winter's work.

It was being kept for the spring trade and was valued at fully \$150,000. Much of it was packed in straw and the intense heat from the mirror building set it in a blaze in a few seconds.

Fire Spreads.

With tremendous rapidity the fire spread from end to end of the building while dense clouds of the thick black smoke that burning straw makes rolled from the windows.

Foreman Atkinson, of No. 3 station, who was working with his men on the Grand Trunk Railway tracks fought the fire from the west end of the building and effectually prevented it from spreading that way.

The interior of the building to the east of the firemen was one mass of flames, and shortly after the men started to work the flames shot through the roof, and leaped many feet in the air.

One of the heaviest northwest gales of the season fanned them to a fury and blew them through the windows as from a blast furnace.

Thousands of blazing sparks filled the air and a close watch was kept on the big cold storage buildings, and also on Thomson's Mills immediately east.

Worked Scientifically.

The care and accuracy with which the brigade are trained was seen early in the fight.

The Eastern Flyer came steaming along and stopped east of Ridout street, expecting that lines of hose had been laid across the track.

Every line had been carefully laid, so that it crossed under the rails, where there were switches, and in a moment the Flyer was able to go on its way, the engineer in the big Mogul

THE BIG FIRE SUMMARIZED

Injured—Fireman Louis Ferguson, 565 York street, head badly cut, and Fireman Robert Haylock, 205 Bathurst street, back and legs injured by falling walls.
Men out of work—About 50.
Scene—Hobbs Plate Glass Works on Ridout street, adjoining the Grand Trunk tracks.
Loss—Will be fully \$250,000.
Insurance—Two hundred thousand dollars.
Cause—Started near elevator shaft, supposedly by someone dropping a match among straw used for packing.

CRUISER CUTS DOWN DESTROYER
THIRTY-SIX BRITISH TARS DIEH. M. S. Berwick Sinks Destroyer Off the Isle of Wight While
Carrying Out Maneuvers in the Dark—Commander
and Entire Deck Crew Perish.

Portsmouth, Eng., April 3.—Thirty-six men, including Lieut. Middleton, the commander of the torpedo boat destroyer Tiger, lost their lives in the collision off the Isle of Wight last night, between that vessel and the British cruiser Berwick. The vessels belong to the Portsmouth division of the British home fleet, and were engaged in night maneuvers in the channel while on their way to Portland. The night was dark and the Berwick was steaming slowly. When the destroyer attempted to cross the big cruiser's bow she was caught amidships, and cut in half with knife-like precision, sinking almost immediately. The deck crew, who were dressed in heavy oilskins and boots, went down with the vessel, not having time to free themselves from the heavy encumbrances. Most of the twenty-two men rescued were engineers and stokers, who, having light clothing, were able to keep themselves afloat until boats from other ships picked them up.

WATER QUESTION DISCUSSED
IN STAR-CHAMBER SESSIONCommission Was Unable to Come to Any Decision—Another
Meeting Will Be Held Next Week, and It Will Be an Open
One—Two Members Out-and-Out Spring Water Men.

There is still nothing doing in the water question. Yesterday afternoon the water commissioners met behind closed doors and wrestled with the problem for a couple of hours, but they decided on no scheme to be submitted to the people.

Another meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon next, and it is expected that by that time the commissioners will have fully made up their minds what to do with the question.

Some mention was made of the Titus scheme, but as Mr. Titus has refused to have further dealing with the commission, that scheme was laid away for good.

It was stated that Commissioner Darch was in favor of the filtration scheme going to the people, that he favored it, but it would be a good time to get rid of it, as he is of the opinion that the people will kill it.

Chairman Jones was in favor of the filtration scheme out and out, and thought it would carry. He was willing to submit any proposition that the people wanted. He was positive that filtration would carry, however.

Mayor Stevely was a spring water man and thought that the high-pressure would be the best scheme to insure the people spring water. He also mentioned the Titus scheme.

The meeting on Tuesday afternoon will be an open one.

Two Schemes. So far as can be learned, there were only two schemes seriously discussed—high pressure and filtration.

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Photo by The Advertiser Artist.

AFTER THE BIG BLAZE.

The Ruins of the Hobbs Glass Company's Factory on the Line of the G. T. R. Between Talbot and Ridout Streets.

CANNOT GIVE TO THE CLASSES
AND REFUSE TO THE MASSESSenator Scott's Reply To Oppos-
ers of Co-operative
Stores Bill.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, April 3.—The bill to establish co-operative stores in Canada came before the banking and commerce committee in the Senate today. There were delegations representing the Retail Merchants' Associations from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. The delegations were so large that the meeting had to be held in the Senate chambers, as there was no room in the committee-rooms. Hon. R. W. Scott explained the bill, pointing out that while there had been no such legislation in Canada so far, it was only right that the people should have co-

operative stores if they so desired. It was not right to give to the classes and refuse the same thing to the masses. He hoped, and he knew Canada would not take that view of the case. The wage-earners, the toilers and the people generally ought to have the same right that the capitalist enjoyed.

Mr. Monk was heard in favor of the bill. He said that it was strange that a bill which had passed the Commons without opposition should be met upon reaching the Senate with the opposition of one single interest and only one. If those in favor of the bill were to come forward, both Houses of Parliament and all the public buildings in Ottawa would not accommodate them. The bill was opposed by Thomas Mulvey, assistant provincial secretary of Ontario, and also by Quebec and Saskatchewan on the grounds that it was an infringement of provincial

REMARKABLE ESCAPE
IN G. T. R. YARDSIron Ventilator Fell From Tecumseh
House and Narrowly Missed
Albert Gibbs.

Albert Gibbs, a young man employed in the Grand Trunk yards, had a remarkably close call from being injured yesterday afternoon, when one of the big galvanized-iron ventilators on top of the Tecumseh House was blown down during the gale.

The ventilator in falling hit the rim of Gibbs' hat and knocked it from his head. Had it struck him on the head he would have been very seriously injured, if not killed.

A COLLECTION FOR
THE TERCENTENARYTaken Up By Lord Egin Chapter,
Daughters of the Empire.

A very interesting meeting of Lord Egin Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, was held yesterday afternoon at the residence of the regent, Mrs. Cl. T. Campbell. There was a large attendance of the members present.

After the business of the meeting was transacted, a splendid address was read to the members of Dr. Cl. T. Campbell, on the "Plains of Abraham."

Dr. Campbell graphically depicted the stirring scenes enacted on this historic spot, and spoke of the great interest it holds for Canadians, both French and English. He also spoke of the coming tercentenary celebration and told of the interest this event was creating both at home and abroad.

The lecture was much appreciated by the members, and it is expected that it will be repeated by Dr. Campbell very shortly.

As a result, a large collection was taken up on behalf of the tercentenary fund.

Colportage Extension.

His Worship Mayor Stevely has contributed \$5 in aid of colportage extension in the east. Rev. Dr. Beaumont will be glad to receive contributions from all who are interested in the encouraging work of Christianizing China and Japan. The Bible men employed are native Christians, who have themselves been rescued from heathenism by means of reading the Holy Scriptures in their own language.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—MILDER.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, April 3—8 a.m.

Today—Moderate winds; fine and moderately cold.

Saturday—Moderate west to south winds; fine, and becoming milder.

Local Temperatures.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. yesterday were: Highest, 44°; lowest, 24° above zero.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	40	26	Clear
Winnipeg	18	16	Clear
Port Arthur	2	—	Cloudy
Parry Sound	14	12	Clear
Toronto	24	20	Fair
Ottawa	14	12	Fair
Montreal	18	18	Fair
Quebec	24	22	Cloudy
Father Point	24	16	Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.

The first column in the above table records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperatures during the 24 hours previous.

WEATHER NOTES.

The depression which was centered in the Ottawa Valley yesterday morning is now over Newfoundland, and the pressure is higher over the Mississippi Valley. The weather is cold from the lake regions to the Maritime Provinces, and very mild in the far west.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 20—30; Atlin, 30—38; Victoria, 42—50; Vancouver, 41—54; Edmonton, 26—42; Calgary, 22—30; Battleford, 4—42; Prince Albert, 2 below—32; Regina, 10 below—32; Winnipeg, 2—26; Port Arthur, 2—30; Parry Sound, 24—32; Toronto, 28—36; Ottawa, 22—38; Montreal, 24—32; Quebec, 24—36; St. John, 20—28; Halifax, 20—28.

BROKEN STONE
COSTS \$6 CORDGravel Sells for \$3 Cord, Yet
Argued No Difference.

DUNDAS ST. PAVEMENT AGAIN

People Find it Difficult to Understand
Why Gravel Should Be Substituted
for Broken Stone.

A gravel foundation for the Dundas street pavement will not cost as much as broken stone.

That seems to be the consensus of opinion, in spite of the fact that the Barber Company and others declare that it is practically as expensive as broken stone.

"Gravel is recognized as being cheaper than broken stone for foundation," said Mr. F. W. Farncombe, a local engineer. "I do not know just offhand what the difference is, but I know that a difference in the price is recognized by the profession. Broken stone is the more expensive."

This is flatly contradictory to the statements made by the representatives of the Barber Asphalt Company, who declare that there is no difference, or practically no difference in the cost of the two materials.

The question is, are Engineer Graydon and his staff to be the guides for the city or are the statements of the Barber people to be accepted as final? The Difference.

The difference in this cost depends largely on the person who does the figuring.

In one instance it is between \$700 and \$800, and in another instance something about \$250, and in the last instance about \$150.

All of these are inconsequential sums.

On the other side of the argument was this statement of Ald. Ferguson, that there is a difference of \$2,160 according to the figures he presented to the council.

To reinforce that was the statement made by Ald. Stewart in the council that City Engineer Graydon had figured out the difference to be about \$1,950 on the Dundas street pavement.

Stands Pat.

Ald. Ferguson stands pat on his estimate. He was seen this afternoon by The Advertiser, and reiterated the figures brought to the attention of the council when he first brought this matter up.

"My figures are correct, in spite of what Mr. Judd or any representative of the Barber Company may say," said Ald. Ferguson.

"They were made by contractors who have had as much or more experience in pavement matters as Mr. Judd or Mr. Lackey, and were furnished to me. Everywhere I have gone, the difference in price has been recognized, and these men stake their reputations on them. In addition I have had them verified by engineers here in the city, and they were confirmed."

"Of course, I was prepared to accept a reasonable reduction on the pavement, as any man would in his own business, if gravel is substituted, but there must be a reduction. That is the way I will vote when the question comes up in the council."

Engineer Graydon.

City Engineer Graydon admitted that there was a difference, and he figured it out roughly for Ald. Stewart, and his figures made it about \$1,950.

Gravel \$3; Broken Stone, \$6. According to figures furnished by his department, gravel in the city costs \$3 a cord. Broken stone costs \$6 per cord.

Mr. Graydon states that the difference in the cost of these two would be about 80 cents on a cubic yard. There are 2,160 cubic yards in the Dundas street pavement, so the difference in price would be about \$1,728. His former estimate figured on a larger difference.

That five cords of gravel at \$3 a cord, will lay more than one cord of broken stone at \$6 a cord, is quite evident.

The Teamsters' Argument.

Then the argument that the teamsters would profit by using gravel instead of broken stone, would not hold good, if the street railway were to use broken stone in its allowance, as all the stone would have to be teamed. The gravel will not be teamed.

The aldermen on the board of works were interviewed this afternoon, and each explained his reasons for recommending the use of gravel.

"I asked the city engineer if there was any difference in the cost of gravel and broken stone, and he distinctly told me that there was no difference," said Ald. Saunders. "The Barber Company and others have told me that there was no difference, and I relied on what they said. I have held out for a rebate if there was any coming, but the Barber Company insists that there is no difference. I am not an expert on this matter, but when they tell me that there is no difference I believed them. I don't know now whether there is any difference or not. Nobody seems to know. I thought that it would be better to spend \$10,000 in our own town than send it out. I am convinced that gravel makes just as good a foundation as broken stone."

Believes the Barbers.

"City Engineer Graydon gave me figures on the difference in cost, amounting to about \$1,950," said Ald. Stewart this afternoon. "He figured on a cord for cord, and did not reckon on the fact that broken stone lays

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Inland Revenue Returns Increased
For March Compared With FebruaryBut Returns for the Fiscal Year
Just Closed Indicate a
Falling Off.

The inland revenue returns, published this morning, indicate that trade is picking up considerably. Notwithstanding the large decrease in the returns from cigars and raw leaf, amounting to several thousand dollars, under the average amount, there is an increase of \$3,601 28 over last month's returns.

The returns for the year ending March 31 show a decrease over last year's business of \$8,111 73, the figures being as follows:

Inland Revenue for the Year.	1906-07.	1907-08.
April	\$31,038 67	\$40,548 25
May	34,087 09	35,507 34
June	30,902 47	32,059 37
July	38,014 33	33,974 90
August	36,080 11	37,133 18
September	35,975 06	37,572 41
October	40,255 93	38,913 26
November	38,159 12	37,409 46
December	36,651 43	32,300 68

Meeting of Liberals in Hyman Hall

The election of officers for the Liberal Association of London will be held this evening in Hyman Hall.

The business of the association will be wound up for the year.

It was expected that Mr. Hugh Guthrie, M. P., Guelph, would be in attendance, but he was unavoidably detained.

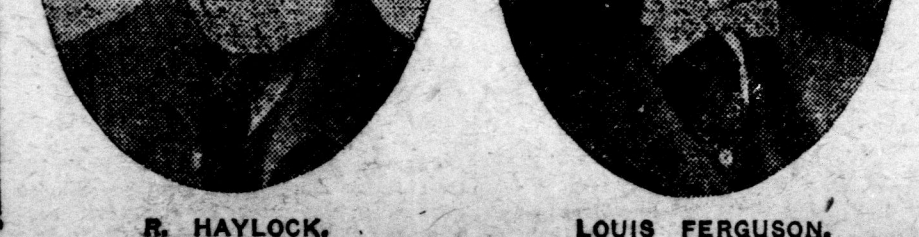
In his place will be Mr. H. H. Miller, M. P., of Hanover.

Mr. George C. Gibbons, K.C., will preside. Addresses will be delivered by Mr. Gibbons, Mr. T. H. Purdon, K.C., Mr. F. G. Rumball, and others.

Every Liberal is invited to be present this evening.

It promises to be one of the most enthusiastic yet held by the association.

Firemen Injured at Hobbs Fire



R. HAYLOCK.

LOUIS FERGUSON.