

FIRE WIPES OUT PART OF RETAIL SECTION WITH LOSS OF \$880,500 BETWEEN 300 AND 400 HANDS ARE THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT

Six Stores Fall Prey To Flames Heroic Fighting of Firemen Saved Other Places From Destruction

Premises of J. H. Chapman and Co., T. F. Kingsmill and Co., Wilfrid Mara and Co. and Brewster's Fancy Goods Store a Complete Loss
--- Purdom's Hardware, Roome, Corbett & Co. and R. J. Young and Co.'s Stores Damaged With Others.

INVALID WOMAN CARRIED OUT BY POLICE TWO OTHERS WERE TAKEN TO SAFETY

Many People Had Narrow Escapes When Walls of Doomed Structures
Fell In With a Thunderous Crash.

WATER PRESSURE WAS EXCELLENT FIFTEEN STREAMS DID NOT AFFECT IT

Business of Many Stores Paralyzed For the Present, But
All Will Shortly Be In New Premises---The
Individual Losses and the Insurance.

The most destructive fire in London in a quarter of a century completely destroyed six of the largest business houses this morning.

The loss is roughly estimated at three-quarters of a million dollars, and between 300 and 400 people are thrown out of employment.

The fire broke out at 3:57, and was first noticed by Sergt. Macdonald and P. C. Fowler.

At 6 o'clock all the six places were burned out: Purdom Hardware Company, J. H. Chapman & Co., Kingsmill's, Mara's, Brewster's, and Roome, Corbett & Co.

Shortly after that time the firemen got control of the blaze. That the fire was not more far-reaching in its destruction is due altogether to the splendid efforts of the firemen, and the great pressure furnished by the new water system.

Shortly before 4 o'clock a squad of night policemen were returning to the station to be relieved after the night's work. On reaching there they smelled smoke, but could see no trace of fire. Sergt. Macdonald, on Dundas street, had previously been endeavoring to locate the cause.

As P. C. Fowler came out of the station he noticed fire issuing from the rear of Chapman's store. He at once turned in an alarm and the brigade responded promptly. Mr. Michael Foley, manager of the City Hotel, saw the fire about the same time, and he, too, turned in a telephone alarm, and Sergt. Macdonald also rang a box.

A SEETHING FURNACE.

It seemed but an instant when the whole interior of the Chapman store was a seething furnace.

Flames were shooting clear across the street when the firemen arrived. Fifteen streams were turned into the blaze in very quick order, and the fight for the mastery commenced. In a few minutes the fire got into Kingsmill's drygoods store, and in an incredibly short time that place of business was in flames.

Fire Chief Aitken remembered that in the basement of the Purdom Hardware Company at the rear on Carling street was a lot of gunpowder and oils stored, and he sent some of his men down to bring the stuff out.

This was done and that source of danger got over. Then the fire laddies grimly set themselves to the task of conquering the blaze, which had now reached the proportions of an inferno.

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CROSS TO IRELAND IN A DIRIGIBLE

Vanman Hopes to Make Attempt in
Few Days.

[Canadian Press.]

Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 3.—There is little likelihood of the Vanman airship Akron making a trial flight today, as the wind is too high. If weather conditions are favorable tomorrow, Mr. Vanman hopes to make the trial test.

The huge gas bag, fully inflated, hangs in the hangar in which it was built, ready to be taken out into the open and sent aloft. Mr. Vanman is confident that the airship will give a good account of itself, and he says that if all goes well on the trial trip, preparations will be at once begun for the journey across the ocean. He hopes to land somewhere on the Irish coast.

THE RIOT ACT READ BY MAYOR OF FERNIE

Due to Violent Outbreak on
the Part of Coal Miners.

[Canadian Press.]

Fernie, B. C., Nov. 3.—The riot act was read in Fernie last night by Mayor Broadwell after a violent outbreak on the part of the miners when a train arrived from Coal Creek with men on board who had gone to work in the mines without waiting until the agreement now under consideration at Frank had been signed and ratified. Large numbers of miners were on hand when the train reached here, and the men who had worked were greeted with hisses and derisive language. One man was hit upon the face with a stone, thrown by someone in the crowd. The men were escorted down town again by the police, and went into the office of Ross & Lane, where a mob threatened them for hours. They dispersed after the riot act was read. Today all is quiet.

FINE NEW STORES WILL REPLACE BUILDINGS BURNED TODAY

Merchants and Other Owners of Structures Are Not Daunted—
Temporary Premises Will Be Secured to Carry
on Business.

DUNDAS STREET RUINS ARE STILL SMOLDERING

But There Is No Prospect of
Any More Real Fire.

While the ruins are still smoldering, the fire is, to all intents and purposes, extinguished.

Shortly before noon, Chief Aitken relieved some of his men, whom he sent to have something to eat. About 12:30 o'clock No. 3 company was sent back to the fire, and later No. 4 and No. 5 were allowed to go. The Central station men, with the east end company, remained, and continued to pour many streams on the blaze.

The whole street car system was tied up until the firemen got work at 4 o'clock. One company was left in charge to look after the ruins to prevent a further outbreak of the fire. A number of volunteers have been pressed into service.

TOTAL LOSS OF FIRE, \$880,500 TOTAL INSURANCE, \$900,000

Purdom Hardware Company, building, value, \$15,000; insurance \$15,000; loss \$10,000. Stock, value \$60,000; insurance \$45,000; loss \$50,000.
J. H. Chapman & Co., three stores, value \$50,000; insurance \$35,000; loss \$50,000. Stock, value \$200,000; insurance \$150,000; loss \$200,000.
T. F. Kingsmill & Co., three stores, value \$40,000; insurance \$35,000; loss \$40,000. Stock, value \$225,000; insurance \$200,000; loss \$225,000.
Brewster's, two stores, value \$40,000; insurance \$35,000; loss \$40,000. Stock, value \$40,000; insurance \$30,000; loss \$40,000.
Mara & Co., one store, value \$25,000; insurance \$15,000; loss \$25,000. Stock, value \$75,000; insurance \$60,000; loss \$75,000.
Roome, Corbett & Co., one store, value \$25,000; insurance \$20,000; loss \$20,000. Stock, value \$40,000; insurance \$25,000; loss \$40,000.
R. J. Young & Co., two stores, value \$45,000; insurance \$35,000; loss \$45,000. Stock, value \$125,000; insurance \$100,000; loss \$125,000.
Total value of buildings, \$240,000; insurance \$180,000; loss \$130,000.
Stock, value \$685,000; insurance \$655,000; loss \$680,000.
Total loss—\$880,500.
Gray & Parker one store, value \$28,000; insurance \$20,000; loss \$500. Stock, value \$80,000; insurance \$65,000; loss estimated \$10,000.
Totals—Value of buildings, \$268,000; insurance, \$210,000; loss, \$190,000.
Stock—Value, \$845,000; insurance, \$690,000; loss, \$690,000.
Total loss on buildings and stocks—\$880,500.
Total insurance—\$900,000.
Total value of buildings and stock—\$1,113,000.

POLICEMEN DID ALL POSSIBLE TO LOCATE THE BIG FIRE

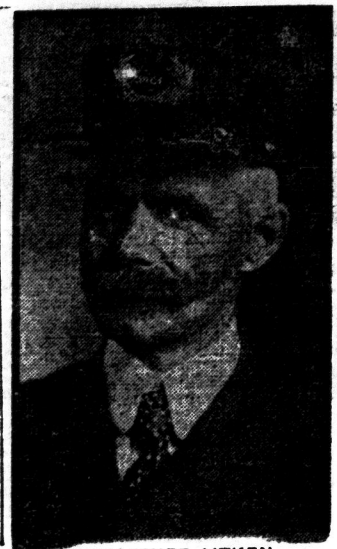
Smell of Smoke Was Very Strong for Some Time, But It Was
Impossible to Detect the Source of the Trouble.

While Chief Aitken has been quoted as stating that the fire gained its start through the negligence of those who are supposed to keep watch over the city, members of the police force are most emphatic in their denials.

It is admitted that there was a strong odor of smoke for about three-quarters of an hour before the alarm was given, but it is contended that the police were at a loss to locate the source of the trouble, and that for that reason they could not bring the fire department out on what might prove a wild-goose chase.

The first alarm was struck at the corner of Dundas and Richmond streets was pulled by Sergt. Macdonald. As the apparatus pulled out of the halls the telephone also went off.

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FIRE CHIEF AITKEN.

Janitor Had Narrow Escape In Store of Gray & Parker

Rear of Building Burst Into Flames and Only
Warning of Mr. James Gray Saved Him
---Firemen Did Good Work.

The main attack of the firemen was directed from the rear of the fire on Carling street. The three hydrants directly behind the burning buildings were each coupled with three streams, and nearly a dozen lines of hose were playing on the flames. Shortly after the fire started, the rear of the Chapman store was a raging furnace, and the flames spread to the Purdom store on the right and the Kingsmill store on the left in no time. The firemen had three streams playing on the Purdom building, and these practically checked the advance from that end. Ladders were hoisted to the roof of the Roome-Corbett building, and three lines of hose were taken up to fight the flames from the top.

with three lines of hose leading to one nozzle, making a deluge set, and the firemen were able to do some effective work with this. The pressure was splendid, and the force of the water thrown by the deluge was strong enough to break a heavy plate glass window. The firemen on the roof did great work in preventing the spread of the flames to the buildings occupied by the Ashplant shoe store and Gray & Parker. Before the store occupied by R. J. Young & Co. had become ignited, many were engaged in carrying out overcoats and other kinds of clothes, and piling them in the police station. The whole rear of the store was practically cleared out before the flames put a stop to the work.

SMOKE WAS CHOKING.

The fire in the rear of the Purdom Hardware Company was gotten under control about 5 o'clock, and the whole

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OFFICER CARRIED WOMAN OUT; INVALID IN ROOM NEXT TO FIRE

Two Other Ladies Were In Room But Were Unable to Find
Their Way Out Until Police Assisted Them.

Three ladies, Misses Kate, Bertha and Mary Freeman, who room at 66 Carling street, over the Gurney Oxford store, had a narrow escape in the big fire this morning, and but for the prompt action of P. C. Fowler and P. C. Sam Probyn might have suffered serious accident.

They were in their room sound asleep when the fire broke out. Shortly after 4 o'clock, some person informed the policemen that the women roomed above the store.

P. C. Fowler went up the front way, while P. C. Probyn made his way up the rear stairs. One of the ladies, Miss Bertha, had been awakened by the smoke and noise of the firemen, and I could not see where to go. I awakened my sisters. One is an invalid, and we did not know how we could get out. We would not leave her. Then the policemen reached our rooms, and one of them carried her out, and we were taken out by the other officer."

invalid, and P. C. Fowler picked her up in his arms, and carried her down the stairs. She was taken at once to Smith's undertaking parlors across the street. P. C. Probyn brought the other two to safety.

They felt the cold keenly, being clad only in their night clothing. A few minutes later, the policemen went back and got their valuables out, and also brought them clothing. Fortunately the fire did not spread to their quarters.

"It was a fortunate thing for us that while P. C. Probyn made his way up the rear stairs, one of the ladies, Miss Bertha, had been awakened by the smoke and noise of the firemen, and I could not see where to go. I awakened my sisters. One is an invalid, and we did not know how we could get out. We would not leave her. Then the policemen reached our rooms, and one of them carried her out, and we were taken out by the other officer."

MANY PEOPLE OUT OF WORK BUT WILL SOON BE EMPLOYED

The conflagration threw about 400 people out of work, and it may be some time before a majority of them again find employment.

Nearly one hundred of these, employed by the Purdom Hardware Company, R. J. Young & Co., and Gray & Parker, will be back in a few days, possibly by Monday.

T. F. Kingsmill employed 50 hands, J. H. Chapman about 170, Mara's 35, Roome, Corbett & Co. 10, and Brewster's 50, a total of 345. It will be some time before all these are back at work again. A few of the clerks will be given employment at least.

As soon as these merchants can open new places of business, but that may take a few weeks, possibly months.

The others will be running full blast in a week's time, losing only that much time.

This morning Smallman & Ingram had applications from 50 clerks who wanted positions.

As three of the largest drygoods houses in London have been wiped out, it is expected that several of those now idle will be given temporary employment at least.

PRESSURE UNIFORMLY GOOD DURING PROGRESS OF FIRE

Horton Street Wells "Delivered the Goods" and Pumps Running
at the Limit Gave Fine Service.

The water pressure during this morning's big conflagration was uniformly good.

At the Horton street pumping station the registers showed that the pressure varied from 100 to 108, but never less than the lower figure.

At the city hall it was practically constant at 86 pounds. Once it dropped to 80 pounds shortly after 7 o'clock, but it soon ran up, and kept at 86 pounds. The reservoir dropped from 12 to 9 feet between 4 o'clock and 9. After that it gradually rose.

The extra air compressor, which is run by gas, was put on immediately after the alarm was sounded, and thousands of gallons of water was poured into the reservoir from the main. The pumps were run at their fullest capacity, and never made a skip during the time they were in use.

"We had plenty of water and excellent pressure," said Superintendent Gaultier. "We kept the pressure up to 100 all the time. The reservoir dropped from 12 to 9 feet between 4 to 9 o'clock, showing that in spite of the enormous consumption of water the wells kept pretty well up with it. I was delighted with the way they fed the firemen."

"I think the department should be given two or three more deluge sets. The one Fire Chief Aitken had in use

did excellent service and poured immense volumes of water into the flames, and it told."

"The pumps could have supplied more than enough water for three sets. However, the wells delivered the goods in the conflagration, I can tell you."

Mayor Beattie and Chairman Pocock, of the water commissioners, made tests of the pressure during the fire to see that it was right. Both report that it was better than the tests made by the fire underwriters a few weeks ago.

SAW GLARE OF FIRE AT DORCHESTER TODAY

Railwaymen on the Grand Trunk and C. P. R. lines reported this morning that the flames of last night's fire could be seen a distance of 20 miles east and west of the city.

Fred Ruse, a G.T.R. engineer, who resides at Grey and Maitland streets, told The Advertiser that he watched the fire from Dorchester for some time while waiting there. The blaze could be seen quite distinctly, and was an unusually brilliant sight.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—MILDER.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, Nov. 3—3 a.m.

Today—Fresh, west and southwest winds; fine.

Saturday—Southwest winds; fair and milder.

TEMPERATURES.

The following are the highest temperatures recorded yesterday, and the lowest at 4 o'clock this morning:

Stations.	Max.	Min.	Weather.
LONDON	55.5	20	Clear
Victoria	44	14	Clear
Calgary	40	26	Clear
Winnipeg	38	18	Clear
Port Arthur	34	18	Clear
Barry Sound	34	22	Fair
Toronto	55	28	Clear
Ottawa	28	22	Fair
Montreal	28	22	Clear
Quebec	28	16	Fair
Father Point	28	20	Clear

WEATHER NOTES.

The area of high pressure is now centered in the Middle States, and the barometer is falling in the Western Provinces, with southerly winds and warmer weather.

Light snowfalls have occurred in the Maritime Provinces.

Today's Probabilities.

Western Ontario—Fresh to strong westerly winds fair, with a little higher temperature.