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ST. DAVID'S CHURCH
GRIP OF FIRE

Presbyterian House of Worship Very Badly Damaged, Only Walls Remaining; Valued at \$75,000; Insurance About \$40,000

St. David's Presbyterian church in Sydney street was gutted by fire on Monday and all that remains of the structure are the colossal brick walls. The fire broke out a little before one o'clock in a few minutes the building was a mass of flames. The fire was first seen by some men passing along Princess street and they notified Policeman Meese, who sent in an alarm from box 2. When the members of the department arrived on the scene the fire had assumed such proportions that a second alarm was rung in, and then a third. Just how the fire started is a mystery. Mr. Donnelly, the janitor, attended the service a little after twelve o'clock, at that time there was no sign of blaze. A carpenter was working in the rear of the church during the morning, but he was not using anything which would cause a fire. When the alarm was sent in the fire had apparently been burning for some time, for the rear of the building was a mass of flames. Before the fire department arrived volumes of smoke and steam were being poured out through the windows and the heat was intense. A short time they had three streams of water on, but force appeared lacking at the danger of serious conflagration was becoming pronounced, so they vented some streams to nearby houses which had already started to scorch. His undoubtedly saved many, for the dirt on buildings across the street has been burnt off and several buildings showed signs of burning into flames. The clouds of smoke and the great tongues of flames attracted thousands of people to the scene and they were full of consternation when it looked as if another serious conflagration was imminent. The news of the disaster in Halifax was fresh in the minds of all people whose residences were destroyed were naturally greatly alarmed. Fortunately there was little or no damage to the houses which were slightly damaged by scorching and the water which was poured into them the firemen prevented the loss of the premises.

After the fire had been burning for a short while great pieces of burning timber were thrown into the street and some bricks from the front of the church were hurled to the pavement below. Fortunately the firemen, who risked their lives in an effort to cope with the situation, were not struck, although several narrow escapes.

People Removed From "Home."

The flames were shooting out of all windows and for a time it looked as if the Mater Misericordiae Home would catch fire. The flames roared over the building adjacent to the church and were practically licking the walls of the home. The firemen, realizing the danger, hurried a hose along the street and carried it to the roof of the home, where the danger was greatest. Their efforts were rewarded with success for they extinguished pieces of burning material which alighted on the roof and prevented the building from falling a prey to the flames. Patients in the home were carried to places of safety in cots and cots, many citizens and soldiers rendering aid.

The body of Mrs. Ellsworth, lying in her home, was removed by Phillip Fitzpatrick to the undertakers rooms of Fitzpatrick Bros. At a half hour after the fire broke out a roof fell in and a mass of flames and volumes of smoke swept skyward. He slates from the roof scattered about at church grounds, and had they struck any person death or serious injury would have been inevitable. Fortunately Chief Lake anticipated this and kept his men in positions where the danger was not great.

The most effective work accomplished by the firemen was from the top of the structure adjoining the church. About ten streams were pouring thousands of gallons of water into the burning building and also playing on houses which were in danger of catching fire. The flames were great, however, that the water did not seem to be doing much good, and it was only when the interior of the structure was practically gutted that the firemen got the blaze under control.

Soon after the roof fell in the two corners at the western end of the building collapsed and for a time it was feared that the large walls would tumble down in order to avert loss of life in case this happened the firemen took precautions and would not allow any persons to pass front of the building. Only those who did to work near the walls remained in a danger zone.

A house owned by Sidney Gibbs, which is situated alongside the church in the northern side, and another the property of the church on the southern side were both slightly damaged by fire and water.

History of the Church. In the destruction of St. David's church the city loses an edifice which has not only been the place of worship for many persons but which has also been the centre from which has radiated a vast amount of public spirited work in the interests of the city generally and of the church interests in other fields. The structure which was gutted today was erected in 1877 to replace the church which had been destroyed in the great fire which swept the city in that year. About fifteen years ago the western end of the church was removed and an extension built to meet the growing needs of the church. This provided not only greater seating capacity in the church auditorium but also gave additional space on the ground floor for classrooms and committee rooms. A new

DON'T DESERT THE BOYS

Election heat is in the air. In spite of cold December; And we are spoken very fair. By such prospective member. That they will tread the narrow way. They're very keen to show us. We give our votes to them today. Tomorrow! will they know us? They'll promise anything, and so The fashion changes never. For men may come, and men may go, But bluff goes on forever.

Desert the boys! not while the sun shines on the glorious flag we trust; Nor when the righteous fight is won, And fell ambition bites the dust. O Canada! the brave and free, Keep thy white page unblotted! Still in the fight for Liberty Thy honor is unspotted.

And we will drive the faithful foe Across the Rhine's broad river; Let nations come, and nations go, THE UNION JACK FOR EVER! HOPE A. THOMSON. 819 Princess street.

LYDD GEORGE SPEAKS ON FOOD MATTERS

Arranging Credits in States—No Famine in Fourth Year of War

London, Dec. 12.—An official report of the reply of David Lloyd George, to a deputation of trades unionists on questions concerning the food situation, says the premier pointed out that one of the greatest difficulties for all nations after the war would be the securing of raw materials, but at present the situation of future fiscal policy was neither immediate nor urgent. The premier said he was only too fully alive to the inconvenience caused by the food question, and that during the morning he had been engaged in meeting American representatives, and endeavoring to arrange credits in America to secure purchases of food. He hoped in a few weeks that the tea supplies would be normal. After an allusion to the reduction in prices the government had secured in bread, meat and potatoes, the premier said: "We are now in the fourth year of the war, but there is no famine, and probably there is less hunger and privation than were endured by many unfortunate people in our towns in pre-war days."

ST. JOHN MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH HALIFAX DISASTER

Commissioner McLellan is in receipt of a letter from a Montreal man paying a tribute to the delegation of commercial travelers, who went to Halifax on last Friday to aid the grief-stricken people. The letter was in part as follows: "The deputation of commercial men who went down on Friday night and with whom I traveled to this city are certain by a credit to St. John and have earned a name for themselves since arriving here as being tireless and great drivers and they have accomplished wonders. Their organization is perfect, all difficulties are being met, and they are under the able management of Robert Sims."

Forty commercial travelers were sent from St. John when Commissioner McLellan was in charge of the relief organization in this city. Since going to Halifax they distributed bread to the grief-stricken inhabitants, assisted the Red Cross work and relief work at city hall, shoveled snow and worked continuously night and day. R. S. Sims is chairman of the committee and has his headquarters in room 48, Halifax Hotel.

Commissioner McLellan said that too much credit could not be given to the commercial travelers. Having had some experience in forwarding supplies, under difficult conditions, he was willing to accept their assistance and assistance to accomplish what at first might appear impossible. When he saw the names of the committee the association was sending forward, he was immediately stamped on the foremost line of successful endeavor in the work to be performed.

Sydney Ward Relief Workers. Contributions in cash for Halifax relief fund, from Sydney ward residents, will be accepted by the following Victory bond authorized collectors. Phone or notify them. They will call as they find it impossible to make a house to house canvass: (G. N. Hatfield, O. W. F. A. Watson, W. R. Stewart, Herbert Tonge, Edward Kee, Geo. L. Warwick, J. Harvey Brown received an enquiry from Halifax asking how many pupils could be accommodated at the School for the Deaf in this city, and has replied giving the desired information. Presumably some are to be sent here.

Miss Annie Stewart, of 7 Alma street, has received word that her brother, David Stewart, a resident Dartmouth, N. S., is safe, as is his family.

As a result of representations on the part of managers of St. John wholesale shoe and rubber houses, by wire on Saturday last to the upper Canadian factories which they represent, contributions of footwear aggregating about \$8,000 were made.

QUARTER MILLION LOSS IN OTTAWA FIRE

Ottawa, Dec. 13.—Fire which broke out in the Arcade building in Queen street at 2:30 this morning and spread to Sparks street, Ottawa's main business thoroughfare, did damage estimated at \$250,000 before it was placed under control.

IMMOBILIZED INTO COLLISION
HALIFAX HAS BEGUN

Captain of the Mont Blanc First Witness; Gave Account of Collision; Said He Placed Himself Under Police Care for Safety

Halifax, Dec. 13.—The official inquiry into the collision between the French steamer Mont Blanc and the Belgian relief steamer Imo on Dec. 12 was begun this morning before Mr. Justice Drysdale, judge in admiralty, who is assisted by Captain Howes, R. N., and Wreck Commissioner Demers, acting as nautical expert assessor. Counsel in the case are: W. A. Henry, K. C., for the dominion government; Humphrey Mellish, K. C., for the owners of the Mont Blanc; G. J. Burchell, K. C., for the owners of the Imo; Frank Bell, for the city of Halifax; Andrew Clancy, K. C., for the government of Nova Scotia, and J. F. Tolson, for the Halifax pilotage commission. Joseph P. Nolan, New York, regular counsel for the owners of the Mont Blanc, was extended the opportunity to all the members of the commission, counsel, witnesses and a few newspapermen were present.

Mr. Burchell asked for the exclusion of all witnesses except the one giving evidence. Mr. Henry asked of the exclusion from the court of all witnesses except the Mont Blanc and Captain Lamodec, the steward of the Imo, the principal witnesses. Mr. Henry, addressing the court, said he proposed to secure the evidence of witnesses in the hospital by statutory declaration. He would examine alternately the men from the ships so that the testimony for both sides could go in the records together. He also intended to take evidence in a number of acts of the French government. He described the testimony for both sides could go in the records together. He also intended to take evidence in a number of acts of the French government. He described the testimony for both sides could go in the records together. He also intended to take evidence in a number of acts of the French government.

Perfect Order Maintained. Captain Lamodec said when he saw a collision was inevitable he then ordered his engines astern and put the helm to starboard so that the Imo would strike the Mont Blanc on the pieric side as he knew the impact would set it on fire. He was not successful.

Mr. Burchell suggested that he be appointed to represent Pilot Hayes as it was a question of deciding which of the pilots had blundered. The judge asked Mr. Burchell himself to act on behalf of the dead pilot.

Captain Lamodec was the first witness called. Examined by Mr. Henry, he was asked to describe the collision. He said the Imo was on the starboard side of the Mont Blanc and was heading to sea on the west side, but was taking a direction across his course. The starboard side of the Imo was visible to them. She was two points on his port bow. He gave one short blast of his whistle to indicate he had seen the Imo and was about to pass her.

He was the last man to leave the ship and did so only after he had been informed that everybody was off the ship. He had wanted to stop on the ship but the officer took him by the arm and led him to the ladder.

Under Police Protection. Asked if he had passed the war vessel he went around before he saw the Imo, Captain Lamodec said he had. He did not know the locality and he had not placed himself under the protection of the police for safety's sake.

Mr. Burchell asked the witness if he understood what the two blasts from the Imo meant. Captain Lamodec said he thought the Imo was signalling wrongly, but as he had signalled his course first, he had no right to change it except in case of collision. He said the pilot blew the first two short whistles. He himself gave the two blasts, meaning "I am going to the left." The pilot did not know French, but the captain knew that the word "starboard" meant "to the left," thought to avoid confusion it was no longer included in French navigation. He did not know any other English and did not talk to the pilot. He did not surrender command of the vessel to the pilot, as under French law he was not required to do so. The helmsman did not understand English and he transmitted the pilot's instructions to him. When he passed the war vessel, he was going "half speed." This was changed to "slowly." He did not give three short blasts because the vessels were too close when he decided to reverse his engines.

Captain Lamodec said that there was a perceptible interval between the blowing of the whistles. The collision took place immediately after the Imo signalled she was going astern.

Captain Lamodec said the Imo was half a mile away when he first saw her. Mr. Burchell asked the witness if the

Cambrai Matter Holds Attention

Statements by General Maurice and The Chancellor WILL BE AN INVESTIGATION

GERMANS LAUNCH THREE BLOWS AT BRITISH LINES

Fail Twice But Penetrate Obliterated Trenches at Third Attempt—Heavy Gun Work From Front

London, Dec. 13.—Three attacks were made by the Germans in yesterday's battle. The first two were repulsed. At the third attempt the enemy penetrated the obliterated British trenches at the apex of the angle in the British lines near Bullecourt.

Local fighting continued until late in the evening without change in the situation. Paris, Dec. 13.—The French statement follows: "Along the whole front the artillery is showing a moderate degree of activity. We repulsed a raid in strength undertaken by the enemy in Caucuses Wood."

"From Dec. 10 to 18 nine German airplanes were brought down by our pilots. In the same period our aviators carried out various effective bombing operations, in which projectiles weighing 10,000 kilograms (22,000 pounds) were thrown down, especially on the aviation grounds at Colmar and Schiesmaldt, warehouses at Logelbach, factories at Rombach, in the region of Warville and at Chambley and Thiencourt, and on railway stations at Warnerville, Junville and Amagne-Lucy. Good results were observed."

SIR EDWARD KEMP IN CHARGE Takes Over Administration of Canadian Military Forces Overseas

London, Dec. 13, via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—Sir Edward Kemp has taken over the administration of the Canadian military forces overseas. At a luncheon given by Sir George Perley at the Carleton Hotel yesterday Sir George Perley introduced Sir Edward Kemp, who made a splendid impression by a business-like statement. "All realize," he said, "that we are custodians guarding the interests of the Canadian army for the Canadian people." He went on to outline his policy.

THE OVERSEAS VOTE Writing home from England, a Moncton soldier, Gunnar Thomas Williams, just drafted back to France again, says: "They have been holding meetings and posters are up all around the place to vote for conscription. As far as the soldiers' vote goes, it will be a clean sweep for union government. The sooner it comes the better, as we are very short of reinforcements."

Knowing what the men at the front are doing, how will the people at home be able to look them in the face unless they, too, vote for union government and the needed reinforcements?

pilot returned to the bridge before the ship was abandoned and moved the helm and he said nothing of the sort took place. He did not direct the ship into the basin and away from the city. Second Relief Ship Arrives. Halifax, Dec. 13.—The relief ship Northland, the second vessel sent from Boston with supplies and clothing for the destitute here, arrived today. Lord Mayor's Fund. London, Dec. 13.—The Lord Mayor of London has opened a fund for the Halifax disaster and Sir William Hartley heads the list with \$5,000.

"Canada has met the blow with the heroic fortitude she displays on the battlefield," says the Times. The Daily Telegraph says: "Throughout the English-speaking world the desire will be excited to do all humanly possible to repair the terrible effects of the explosion." The Daily Express adds that Canada may be sure that Great Britain fully shares her grief.

Money From New York. New York, Dec. 13.—Agents of the Red Cross Steamship Line in this city announced last night the receipt of \$8,487 from shippers and business associates toward a Halifax fund. Money subscribed will be forwarded daily.

Bonar Law's Interest. London, Dec. 13, via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—In the Commons yesterday afternoon Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, in announcing the donation of one million pounds to the Halifax relief fund, said the house had read with the deepest sympathy the account of the terrible disaster. Halifax was a city with which he had the most intimate relations. His another was born there. The disaster was really appalling. Men had been most readily and most enthusiastically from that city to play their part in the war.

GERMAN MILLIONS TO FINANCE REVOLT AGAINST BRITAIN

Evidence Given At Trial of 31 People Charged With Conspiracy in States

San Francisco, Dec. 13.—That twenty million dollars to finance a proposed revolution against British rule in India had been asked of Count Von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, by Srinivas R. Wagle, a Hindu, prominent in the plans for the revolution, was the testimony yesterday in the United States district court, at the trial of thirty-one persons charged with conspiracy to violate the neutrality of the United States.

Thomas B. Tunney, inspector of police in New York city, testified that he had been told of Wagle's request by Dr. Chandrak K. Chakravarty, one of the defendants. Chakravarty, according to the testimony told him he had received \$60,000 from a Wolf and Igel, confidential representative of Count Von Bernstorff, and further said that Heramba Lal Gupta, another Hindu defendant, had received \$21,000 from Captain Franz Von Papen, former military attaché of the German embassy at Washington.

Tunney says that Chakravarty told him that Ram Chandra, avowed revolutionist; Franz Bopp, former German consul general here, and Lieut Wilhelm Von Brincken, former military attaché of the consulate general, had attended to the shipment of arms and ammunition out of this country. Tunney added that firearms and munitions of all sorts had been received from the German embassy in a New York warehouse and had been sold, the proceeds going to the United States government. The prosecution alleges these arms were to be used in the proposed revolution.

NO PEACE CONDITIONS YET, SAYS BERLIN

Merely Armistice Negotiations With Russians—Defeat of Korniloff Reported

Amsterdam, Dec. 13.—No German peace conditions have been submitted to the Russian delegates, according to an official telegram received here from Berlin. Nothing has been discussed except the armistice.

Petrograd, Dec. 12.—The Bolshevik government issued a decree ordering the arrest and trial of the leaders of the constitutional democratic party assisting the country's revolution. The decree also orders the local workmen's and soldiers' councils to take the leaders of the constitutional democratic organization in view of its relations with Generals Kaledines and Korniloff.

WEATHER REPORT
Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, director of meteorological service.
Synopsis.—A shallow disturbance in the north of this morning over Indiana and another of greater intensity is moving northward near Sable Island. Cold weather prevails in nearly all parts of the Dominion.
Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence.—Easterly winds, with snow this afternoon and tonight. Friday clearing and becoming decidedly cold again.
Lower St. Lawrence.—Strong north-east winds with snow tonight, clearing on Friday.
Gulf and North Shore.—Fair and cold today, strong winds, or gales from eastward with snow on Friday.
Snow.
Maritime.—Northeast gales with snow in north districts; fair in west. Friday winds increasing to strong breezes or gales from eastward with snow before night.
Washington, Dec. 13.—New England.—Probably snow tonight and Friday, not so cold tonight; colder Friday, moderate northwest to north winds.

QUEBEC EXEMPTION CASE
Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Further enquiry into charges made respecting the Baie St. Paul, Quebec, exemption tribunal, has been postponed by Judge Duff, central appeal judge, until the 20th inst., to give Simard opportunity to produce any further witnesses he may have. Simard had made allegations against his colleague on the tribunal and the case was referred to the central judge for investigation.
PAVEMENT WORK.
Members of the public works department have been engaged tearing up sections of granite pavement in Mill street. Water got under the granite blocks and forced them up to such an extent that they threatened to become a menace to traffic. Owing to weather conditions it is impossible to replace the blocks and the excavations are being filled with cinders. Permanent repairs will be taken up in the spring.
WAS TAKEN ILL.
Richard Nairn, an employe at the coal shed of R. P. & W. F. Starr, Ltd., took a weak spell this morning and was taken to the General Public Hospital. He was sent home this afternoon.