

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS BURNED

Outbreak Came Suddenly While House of Commons Was in Session.

MOST PICTURESQUE PUBLIC BUILDING IN AMERICA IS A SHAPELESS RUIN.—TWO WOMEN AND FOUR MEN PERISHED.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Canadian Parliament Buildings are in ruins. Fire which broke out at nine o'clock on Thursday night in the Commons reading room swept with tremendous fury down the corridors, and leaped to the galleries, and in the space of three minutes had filled the whole wing with an impenetrable volume of smoke. It was followed quickly by flames.

Two people are known to be dead. They are Madame Bray, wife of Dr. Bray, of Quebec, and Madame Morin, wife of Dr. Louis Morin, of Quebec. They were guests of Madame Sevigny, wife of the speaker, and were cut off in their apartments.

Origin of the Fire a Mystery.
The origin of the fire is a mystery. It may never be known. There were suspicions of incendiarism, possibly by a German agent, but as policemen were on guard at both doors of the room where the fire started and others in the room itself, it would have been difficult for anyone to deliberately set the fire without being detected. A smouldering cigar butt might have done it, though smoking in that quarter is supposed to be prohibited. Filled with thousands of loose papers, the flames leaped from stand to stand with an almost inconceivable rapidity. At the same time the smoke rolled forth in dense clouds of suffocating volume. While an alarm was instantly raised, the escape of members of the House in the galleries, and the House staff, with so small a list of missing, is remarkable.

The Victims.
The case of Madame Morin is particularly sad, as she had intended to return to her home two days ago. She had put it off from one time to another, however, and finally delayed for another day when her departure had been fixed for this morning. While a guest of Madame Sevigny, Madame Morin had been taken ill and had spent some time in the Water Street Hospital, consequently she was not in the most rugged of health at the time the fire occurred.

It appears from what could be learned that when the fire started, Madame Sevigny managed to escape through the corridors of the building. Madame Henri Dussault, of Quebec, also a guest of Madame Sevigny, jumped from a window in the second story and escaped uninjured. The two young children of Madame Sevigny were rescued in firemen's nets and also escaped with nothing worse than a bad fright. Both Madame Bray and Madame Morin, however, appeared to have taken the wrong turning down the corridor when they left their rooms and to have been trapped at one end of the hall. When their bodies were recovered the smoke had proved too much and life was extinct as a result of asphyxiation rather than the fire itself.

Members of the House of Commons, in the Chamber and the various Parliamentary offices had to fight their way to safety. People in the upper storeys of the building had narrow escapes, many having to be taken out by ladders.

The flames started in the reading room between the Commons Chamber and the library. This room is sheathed in wood, very old and very dry and this, with the hundreds of newspapers, fed the fire until it was a roaring furnace.

Mr. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, was in his office off the reading room when he found himself confronted suddenly with a wall of flame and a curtain of black, suffocating smoke. He rushed through the fire and in making his escape was badly burned about the head and face. He was taken to the basement and treated by Dr. Dugal Stewart, of Lunenburg, and other members. His face was scorched and singed and his hands cut and bleeding.

Turned Up Safely.
After the escape of Hon. Martin Burrell and the appearance of Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, suffering from the effects of the smoke, a report spread that Messrs. Logie (Northumberland), E. W. Nesbitt (North Oxford), and Jas. Douglas (Strathcona) had failed to make good their escape from the burning chamber. This report, however, was subsequently contradicted and it was said that the members had been seen and that Mr. Nesbitt had sustained slight injury to his hand. When Mr. Martin Burrell left his office and made his way through the burning reading room his secretary, Mr. Ide, also escaped from the burning building. But Mr. Burrell turned to the west, passed through the Commons Chamber, the building, Mr. Ide went in the opposite direction and got out by the Senate wing. His hair was singed, but he was uninjured.

Mr. Edgar N. Rhodes, Deputy Speaker, who was in the chair, was the last to leave and he stated that the chamber as he left it was empty. The fire and smoke swept through the long corridors with amazing rapidity, and the members, clerks and visitors had the utmost difficulty in escaping through the dense, suffocating clouds that filled the lobbies and staircases.

Sir Robert Borden's Escape.
Sir Robert Borden, whose office is in the far north-east corner of the building, escaped without hat or coat into the lower lobby and ultimately made his way to his principal quarters in the east block.

Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, one of the last members to reach the lobby, was half choked with smoke and was very weak. He declared that other members were still in the chamber, but appears to have been mistaken in this. The fire soon enveloped the Commons Chamber on all sides and the historic old theatre was in ruins. It spread over all the west wing, including the addition built on a few years ago, in which are situated the Speaker's quarters, Premier's office, press room, members' rooms and restaurant. In the latter the staff were just getting things in shape after dinner when the alarm of fire was given. They raced for the exits and so far as is known all got away in safety.

Madame Sevigny, wife of the Speaker of the House, was forced to leave her apartments by one of the windows. The first effort to stop the rush of flames was made by the House officials and the Dominion police, who are constantly on guard in the corridors. Fire hoses were pulled from their racks and several streams of water were played on the flames. Simultaneously the automatic sprinklers opened, but nothing that this equipment could do had any effect on the on-rushing fire. An automatic fire alarm brought the city fire brigade and in a few minutes all Ottawa's fire fighting equipment was on the Hill and pouring tons of water into the building.

Montreal Sends Aid.
A special train brought a detachment of the Montreal fire brigade. Many members and employees who were caught in offices upstairs were assisted out of the window by the firemen. Dr. Cass, of Yukon, was helped out of a window by Mr. Thos. McNutt, of Saltcoats.

As soon as the seriousness of the fire was realized fresh detachments of Dominion police were rushed to the hill and efforts were made to hold back the thousands who had assembled to witness the fire. The police were reinforced by troops who formed a cordon about the burning building and assisted the firemen.

Two Explosions.
Many seem to take it for granted that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and in the absence of confirmation the stories of Mayor Martin, Mr. Bradbury and others were eagerly listened to.

Mayor Martin, of Montreal, who was one of the first to discover the fire, says he heard an explosion, but whether it was caused by spontaneous combustion or sudden fire among the newspapers he is unable to say.

W. R. Bradbury, stock broker, was standing near the post-office in the main chamber when he heard a crash. Before going any distance he heard another explosion of some kind which knocked him off his feet. Major Gerald White, M.P., also heard two separate explosions.

Ottawa Is Alert.
Ottawa, Feb. 4.—Ottawa is a military camp to-night. No less than 1,200 men of the 7th Regiment stand guard about the Parliament House grounds. No one is permitted to enter.

Fire engines continue to pour water on the still smouldering ruins. Rideau Hall, where the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and their daughter, the brilliant "Princess Pat," dwell, has a cordon of detectives drawn about it. Others are hidden below stairs in the kitchens and servants' quarters.

All the public buildings are strongly guarded. Soldiers are everywhere. The gold bullion under charge of the Finance Department is guarded by a special force with loaded rifles.

Toll of the Dead.
B. B. LAW, M.P. for Yarmouth.
MME. MORIN, Quebec.
MME. HENRI BRAY, Quebec.
J. B. R. LAPLANTE, Assistant Clerk of the House.

A. DESJARDINS, plumber, 259 Water Street.
ALPHONSE DESJARDINS, Dominion policeman, 239 Somerset Street east.
RANDOLPH FANNING, Postoffice Department employee.

GERMAN ARMY SUPPLIES ARE BECOMING SCARCE.
All Products of Textile Industry Confiscated by Government.
A despatch from London says: According to Berlin newspapers, as quoted by Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent, a new order was put in force on February 1 under which the greater part of all products of the textile industry was confiscated. The Tagessblatt says it is highly significant that on this occasion the Government does not seize raw material, but finished articles. Included in the list are all materials for clothing suitable for army or navy officials, all goods for under garments, blankets, inclusive of horse clothes, colored linen goods, linings and sailcloths. Berlin newspapers point out that this measure discloses a scarcity of these materials, and also indicates that Germany is preparing for a war of long duration.

Country Produce.
Butter—Fresh dairy, 27 to 30c; inferior, 25 to 26c; creamery prints, 32 to 34c; solids, 34 to 35c.
Eggs—Storage, 28 to 29c per doz.; selects, 31 to 32c; new-laid, 33 to 35c, case lots.
Honey—Prices, in 10 to 60-lb. tins, 12 to 12½c; combs, No. 1, 33c; No. 2, 32c.

Beans—\$4.20 to \$4.40.
Poultry—Spring chickens, 17 to 18c; fowls, 13 to 14c; ducks, 17 to 18c; geese, 15 to 16c; turkeys, 23 to 26c.

Cheese—Large, 19c; twins, 19½c.
Potatoes—Car lots of Ontario quoted at \$1.75 to \$1.80, and New Brunswick at \$1.90 to \$2 per bag, on track.

Baled Hay and Straw.
Local merchants are now buying on track, Toronto, at the following prices: Baled hay, new, No. 1, ton, \$18 to \$18.50; do. No. 2, ton, \$14 to \$14.50; baled straw, ton, \$6.50 to \$7.

Montreal Markets.
Montreal, Feb. 8.—Corn, American No. 2 yellow, 85 to 86c. Oats, No. 2 local white, 51½c; No. 3 local white, 50c; No. 4 local white, 49c. Barley, Man. feed, 62 to 63c; malting, 70 to 72c. Buckwheat, No. 2 80 to 82c. Flour, Man. Spring wheat patents, firsts, \$7.30; seconds, \$6.80; strong bakers', \$6.60; Winter patents, choice, \$6.70; straight rollers, \$6 to \$6.10; do., bags, \$2.85 to \$2.95. Rolled oats, barrel, \$5.25; bags, 90 lbs., \$2.50. Bran, \$24. Shorts, \$26. Middlings, \$28 to \$30. Moullie, \$31 to \$33. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$20 to \$20.50. Cheese, finest westerns, 18½ to 18¾c; finest easterns, 18 to 18¼c. Butter, choicest cream-

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—Manitoba wheat—New crop, No. 1 Northern, \$1.25½; No. 2 do., \$1.23; No. 3 do., \$1.20½; in store, Fort William.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 45c; No. 3 do., 42½c; extra No. 1 feed, 42½c; No. 1 feed, 41½c, in store, Fort William.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, 82½c, track, Toronto.
Canadian corn—Feed, 76 to 77c, track, Toronto.

Ontario oats—No. 3 white, 44 to 45c; commercial, 43 to 44c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, \$1.13 to \$1.15; wheat slight, 1½ sprouted and tough, according to sample, \$1.09 to \$1.13; wheat sprouted, smutty and tough, according to sample, \$1.02 to \$1.07; feed wheat, 90 to 95c, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, \$1.80; do., according to sample, \$1.25 to \$1.75, according to freights outside.
Barley—Malt, 64 to 66c; feed, 57 to 60c, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—78 to 79c, according to freights outside.
Rye—No. 1 commercial, 92 to 95c; rejected, according to sample, 83 to 85c, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, \$7.20; second patents, in jute bags, \$6.70; strong bakers', in jute bags, \$6.50, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, \$4.90 to \$5.10, prompt shipment, seaboard, or Toronto freights, in bags.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights—Bran, per ton, \$24; shorts, per ton, \$25; middlings, per ton, \$26; good feed flour, per bag, \$1.75.

United States Markets.
Minneapolis, Feb. 8.—Wheat—May, \$1.30½; July, \$1.28½; No. 1 hard, \$1.37½; No. 1 Northern, \$1.31½; No. 2 Northern, \$1.27½ to \$1.31½; Corn—No. 3 yellow, 77 to 78c. Oats—No. 3 white, 47½ to 48c. Flour—Fancy patents, \$7.15; first clear, \$5.40; other grades unchanged; shipments, 59,205 bbls. Bran, \$19.25 to \$19.50.

Duluth, Feb. 8.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.32; No. 1 Northern, \$1.31; No. 2 Northern, \$1.28; No. 2 hard, Montana, \$1.29; July, \$1.30½. Linseed—Cash, \$2.32; May, \$2.34½; July, \$2.33½.

Live Stock Markets.
Toronto, Feb. 8.—Butchers' cattle, choice, \$7.50 to \$7.75; do., good, \$7.10 to \$7.35; do., medium, \$6.15 to \$6.75; do., common, \$5 to \$5.65; butchers' bulls, choice, \$6.50 to \$6.90; do., good bulls, \$5.75 to \$6.10; do., rough bulls, \$4.50 to \$5; butchers' cows, choice, \$6.10 to \$6.50; do., good, \$5.75 to \$6; do., medium, \$5.25 to \$5.60; do., common, \$4.25 to \$5; feeders, good, \$6.25 to \$6.75; stockers, 700 to 900 lbs., \$6.10 to \$6.75; canners and cutters, \$3.25 to \$4.50; milkers, choice, each, \$75 to \$100; do. common and medium, each, \$35 to \$60; springers, \$50 to \$100; light ewes, \$7 to \$8.50; sheep, heavy, \$5.25 to \$6; do., bucks, \$3.50 to \$4.50; yearling lambs, \$7 to \$7.75; lambs, cwt., \$10 to \$12; calves, medium to choice, \$6.75 to \$10.75; do. common, \$4 to \$4.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$10; do., f.o.b., \$9.65.

Montreal, Feb. 8.—Butchers' steers, \$5.50 to \$7.50; canning bulls, \$4.25 to \$5.50; cows, \$4.50 to \$6; canning cows, \$3.25 to \$4; milkers, \$60 to \$80. Sheep, 5 to 7c pound; lambs, 8 to 9½c. Hogs, \$9.15 to \$10.50; cows, \$7.50 to \$7.75. Calves, 8 to 9½c pound.

GREAT MOVEMENT OF TROOPS ON THE HOLLAND FRONTIER

Transfer Supposed to be Connected With the Attempted German Drive to Calais

A despatch from London says: The Germans have closed the frontier between Belgium and Holland, according to a despatch from Amsterdam, which adds that great movements of troops are in progress. The transfer of troops is supposed to be connected with the reported plan of the Germans for an attempted drive to Calais.

The official communiques issued by the French War Office on Friday deal with artillery actions. French artillery bombarded an infantry column and convoys entering Roze, and other bombardments were directed against the German positions in the Tahure sector, in Champagne; the sector of

La Harazee, in the Argonne, and in the Nomeny-Morville front in Lorraine.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the London Daily Mail telegraphs: It is rumored from Berlin that the Kaiser has been for some time on the western front, where he inspected the Belgian frontier. Two days ago he was in the neighborhood of Loos when the attack on that city was made.

The Emperor is said to have taken a hand in the planning of the recent Zeppelin raids on Paris and England at conferences held by a council in Arras, at which Admiral von Tirpitz also was present.

BILLION-DOLLAR YEAR ON FARMS OF CANADA.

An Increase of \$300,000,000 in Products in 1915.

"The Empire may depend upon the farmers of Canada doing their full duty in this great war if the situation is fully and frankly put before them," declared Dr. C. C. James, Commissioner of Agriculture, who organized the Patriotism and Production campaign last year, speaking to the members of the Canadian Agriculture Breeders' Association at a banquet at the Carleton Hotel, Toronto.

He pointed out that the farmers needed no flag-waving and martial music to stimulate them to their patriotic duties. As but one illustration of the sacrifice of the rural folk he pointed out that County Councils were making huge grants to the Patriotic Fund—some of them giving amounts equal to all their other expenditures. "When farmers double their taxes for war purposes it simply means that they are giving as they understand the needs," said Dr. James.

"Must the farmers give men, too?" he asked. "If Canada calls for men from the country they will come. They have enlisted by the thousand west of the Great Lakes, and with thousands more going one wonders what may become of the farm production of the prairies."

"Lumping all the farm products together, and deducting the food fed to stock, we estimate that in 1915 the farms, orchards and gardens of Canada gave a net product of over a billion dollars. The wheat crop of the prairies was worth about \$275,000,000, a big crop, the biggest ever known in Canada, but, after all, only a little, if any, over one-quarter of the entire farm production."

Word for the Dairy Cow.

"In Ontario the dairy output was twenty per cent. over 1914, and the market value was increased ten to twenty per cent. In 1910, according to the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, the milk products of Canada were worth approximately \$110,000,000. It is a safe estimate to put the dairy output of Canada for 1915 at \$150,000,000. While discussing wheat we should not forget the dairy cow. She had done more for Canada during the past ten years than have our wheat fields, and in view of what is now happening the world over, there is a possibility that the dairy products of Canada in 1916 may exceed wheat in value. The wheat fields reached their maximum yield per acre in 1915. The dairy cow is only getting into her stride. She is now producing 4,000 lbs. or less a year; 10,000 lbs. a year is what the dairymen are working for."

Increase of \$300,000,000.

"The farm products of all Canada in 1915 exceeded in value the farm products of any previous year by at least \$300,000,000. It is well for our public men and our writers to know that the increase in the value of the farm products in 1915 was at least double in value our entire output of war munitions."

The prospects for 1915 were bright, and the slogan would be: "Go to it, all ye dairymen of Canada, and make the dairy record equal to the wheat record of 1916."

CAMEROONS CAMPAIGN ENDED.

Last of the Germans Driven Across the Frontier to Spanish Guinea.

A despatch from Madrid says: Franco-British troops operating in Cameroons the German Colony in Western Africa, have driven 14,000 German troops across the frontier to Spanish Guinea, probably ending the Entente campaign for this important German territory. Word was received in Madrid on Sunday that the German troops had been disarmed and interned as soon as they crossed the border. Only 900 of the German troops were regulars. The other were colonial recruits from among the African tribes in the colony.

Foe Will Tax All Bachelors.

A despatch from Copenhagen says: The German Government proposes to tax all bachelors, according to despatches received here.

Sunday is a day of rest for men and a day for others to wash their hair.

RAILWAYS CARRIED OVER 46 MILLIONS.

Records of Passenger Traffic in Canada.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The annual report of the Board of Railway Commissioners for the last fiscal year shows that out of 46,702,280 passengers carried by Canadian railways during the year, eight were killed and 239 injured. Out of 159,142 railway employees 99 were killed and 873 injured. Trespassers on railway property to the number of 170 were killed. The report notes that the Board is taking up with the Attorney-General of the various Provinces the question of instituting more rigorous prosecution for trespassers on railway lines with a view to further decreasing the number of casualties.

The Board also recommends further action by the Government towards assisting the elimination of grade crossings, where the question of expense is so great as to prevent municipalities from undertaking their share of the cost. At present Government assistance towards eliminating grade crossings is limited to \$5,000 per crossing.

During the year the Board issued 1,897 orders. The principal case heard was the application of the railways to increase rates on eastern lines. The decision on this application is still pending.

NEW RUSSIAN PREMIER DEFINES HIS POLICY.

A despatch from London says: M. Sturmer, the new Premier of Russia, has declared in an interview in the Novoe Vremya, of Petrograd, as quoted by Reuters' correspondent there, that his policy would be inspired above all else with the one idea of bringing the war to a successful issue. He said no proposals for a separate peace would provide a solution of the problems which confront the nations as a result of the world-wide conflagration, and added: "Those who speak of financial or economic exhaustion of Russia appear ludicrous to me, for the Russian people cannot be exhausted or conquered."

FOUR NEW PIONEER BATTALIONS TO RECRUIT.

One to be Attached to Each of the Canadian Divisions.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Four new "pioneer" battalions are to be recruited in Canada, according to an announcement made by Sir Sam Hughes on Wednesday. Plans are now being worked out for the organization of these battalions. They will include a considerable number of practical railway engineers and construction men. Col. Robert Low of Halifax, a well-known contractor, will probably have charge of one battalion. It is the intention to attach at least one "pioneer" battalion to each Canadian division at the front.

AUSTRIA'S ARMS FACTORY WERE BLOWN UP.

A despatch from Rome says: The Skoda gunworks, the Austrian works, which are second in importance in Europe only to the Krupp plant at Essen, were partially destroyed by a dynamite explosion on Sunday. Three factories, including the workshop where the Skoda 12-inch howitzer is made, were demolished. The number of casualties is variously reported, one report saying that 200 workmen were killed, while another says that the killed and injured together numbered 195.

GERMAN WARSHIP REPORTED SUNK OFF COAST OF SWEDEN.

A despatch from Copenhagen via London, says: A large German warship has been sunk in the Cattegat, between the Island of Anholt and the Swedish coast, according to a Copenhagen despatch quoting the newspaper Helsingfors Avis. The despatch says it is supposed the vessel struck a mine. Wireless calls for help were heard, but these ceased after a time.

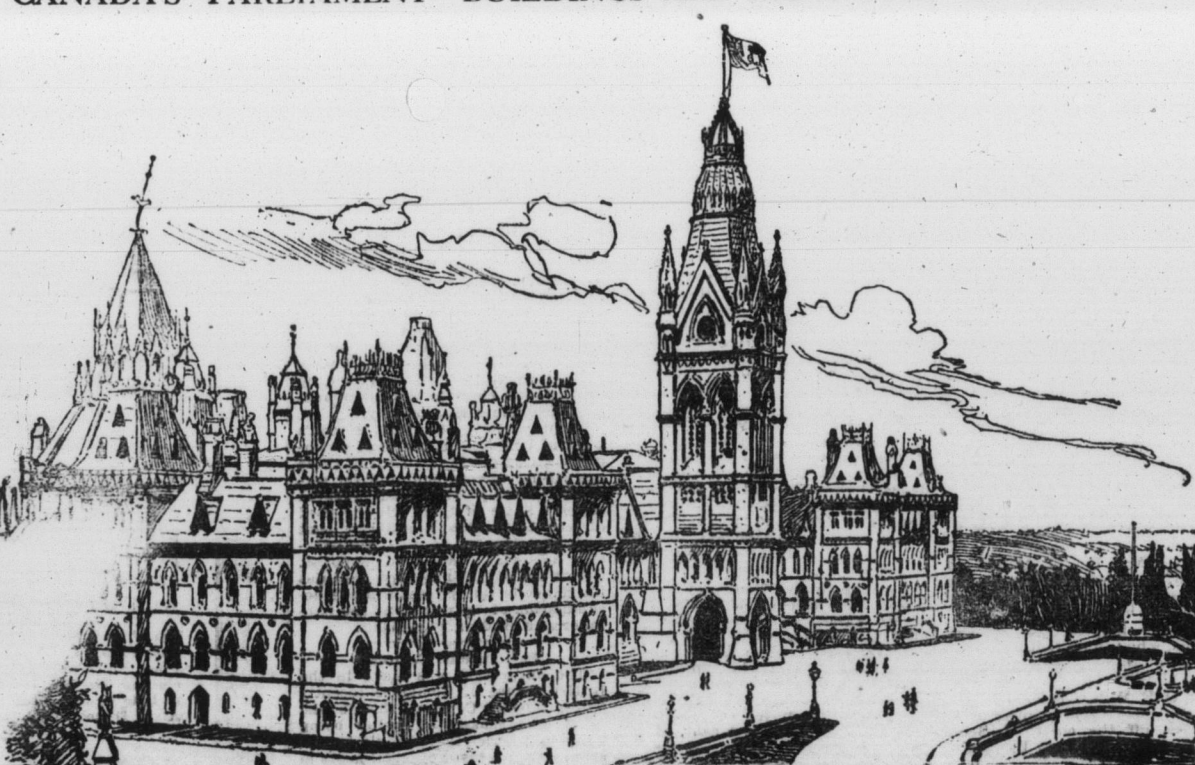
OTTOMAN HEIR COMMITS SUICIDE.

A despatch from London says: The suicide of Yussuf Izzedin, heir-apparent to the Turkish throne, is reported in a despatch received by Reuters' Telegram Company from Constantinople, by way of Berlin. The message says the Crown Prince ended his life, by cutting arteries, in his palace at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, ill-health is given as the reason.

TRAIN WRECK AT PARIS COSTS LIVES OF 16.

A despatch from Paris says: Latest reports of the wreck of the Calais Express at the St. Denis railway station near Paris show that the number of casualties is larger than at first reported. The total death list probably will not exceed 16. Nine of the dead were women. A majority of the passengers was made up of soldiers returning to their homes on leave.

CANADA'S PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ARE DESTROYED BY FIRE



The front of the fine block of buildings is here seen. The photograph was taken on an opening day when there were many people going in for that function. To the left of the picture is seen the tower of the library, where the fire raged most savagely. The entrance to the Speaker's private apartments is just around the corner on the left of the picture and between that corner and the circular library building.