

## BIG FIRES IN DOMINION

### SIXTY-THREE YEARS OF GREAT CONFLAGRATIONS.

#### List of Disasters Where the Loss Was Half a Million Dollars or More.

May 28, 1845, Quebec—Over 100 houses burnt and 20 lives lost; property loss, \$1,000,000.

June 28, 1845, Quebec—1,200 houses burnt and 40 lives lost; property loss, \$1,500,000.

April 7, 1849, Toronto—City Hall, St. James Cathedral, and a number of buildings destroyed; property loss \$500,000.

June 25, 1850, Montreal—100 houses burnt; property loss, \$500,000.

July 8, 1852, Montreal—Nearly 1,200 houses burnt and 15,000 people rendered homeless; property loss, \$5,000,000.

October 16, 1868, Quebec—2,500 houses, 17 convents and churches in St. Roch and St. Saverus destroyed and 18,000 people rendered homeless; property loss \$3,000,000.

May 30, 1876, Quebec—700 dwellings destroyed in St. Louis Ward and 5,000 people rendered homeless; property loss, \$800,000.

June 18, 1876, St. John's, Quebec—The business section of the city (Richelieu and Champlain streets) destroyed; property loss, \$2,500,000.

September 3, 1876, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec—80 stores, three banks and 600 other buildings destroyed; property loss, \$1,250,000.

June 20, 1877, St. John, N. B.—The entire business section of the city, extending over an area of 600 acres, destroyed; property loss, \$13,500,000.

August 1, 1879, Hamilton—Several large warehouses on John and King streets destroyed, property loss, \$600,000.

June 8, 1881, Quebec—500 houses burnt and over 1,200 families rendered homeless, St. John's Ward; property loss, \$2,000,000.

January 6, 1895, Toronto—The Globe newspaper and other large buildings destroyed; property loss, \$700,000.

January 10, 1895, Toronto—Large number of buildings destroyed; property loss, \$750,000.

March 3, 1895, Toronto—Simpson's buildings; property loss, \$600,000.

October 17, 1897, Windsor, N.S.—The greater portion of the town destroyed, including a large number of dwellings; property loss, \$1,000,000.

September 11, 1898, New Westminster, B. C.—The business section of the town entirely destroyed; property loss, \$2,000,000.

December 20, 1898, Montreal—Wholesale warehouses of Green-shields and McIntyre on Victoria Square, former entirely destroyed, latter badly damaged, besides other adjoining buildings; property loss, \$800,000.

April 26, 1900, Ottawa—Hull—Fire broke out in Hull, destroying two-thirds of the town; jumped across the river to Ottawa, destroying most of the property in the Chaudiere lumber district; 1,000 houses were burnt besides mills and fac-

ories and many million feet of lumber. Seven lives were lost and 15,000 people rendered homeless; property loss, \$7,500,000.

January 23, 1900, Montreal—The new Board of Trade building, erected at a cost of \$800,000, and a number of wholesale houses on St. Paul and St. Peter streets destroyed; property loss, \$2,500,000.

October 19, 1901, Sydney, C. B.—Over 60 buildings in the business section of the town destroyed; property loss, \$500,000.

May 10, 1903, Ottawa—300 houses and many million feet of lumber, covering an area of from 70 to 80 acres, destroyed; property loss, \$500,000.

May 20, 1903, St. Hyacinthe, Que.—400 houses, a boot and shoe factory and a number of stores (30 blocks in all) in the section known as "Lower Town," destroyed; property loss, \$500,000.

April 19-20, 1904, Toronto—Wholesale warehouse district destroyed, extending from Wellington street to Front street; property loss, \$13,500,000.

June 22, 1903, Three Rivers, Que.—Conflagration in business and older residential section; property loss, \$2,000,000.

August 1-3, 1908, Fernie, B. C.—and surrounding districts—Forest fire devastated Elk River valley district for an area extending 30 miles in length by two to ten in width. Town of Fernie practically wiped out and serious damage done to other towns and to lumbering, railroad and mining industries; property loss, \$4,000,000.

## CHOLERA AND THE GANGES.

### Whitewashing the Reputation of the Sacred River.

The revolting customs which prevail among pilgrims to the Ganges, including promiscuous bathing by those who are well and those who are suffering from diseases of all sorts and the drinking of water from the bathing places, make the following item from the Indian Review somewhat of a surprise: "The reputation of the water of the Ganges among the Hindu millions of India is known to all, and most of us were content to believe that in a hot and thirsty land like northern India such a magnificent river as the Ganges had many claims to be highly thought of, but it would appear as if modern science was coming to the aid of ancient tradition in maintaining a special blessedness of the water of the Ganges. E. H. Hankin, in the preface to the fifth edition of his excellent pamphlet on 'The Cause and Prevention of Cholera,' writes as follows: "Since the cholera epidemic originally wrote this water let I have discovered that the is hostile to the growth of the cholera microbe, not only owing to the absence of food materials, but also owing to the actual presence of an antiseptic that has the power of destroying this microbe. At present I can make no suggestion as to the origin of this mysterious antiseptic."

Mrs. Hashe-Howse—"Why do you put butter in your coffee, Mr. Starbode?" "Starbode—"Because, madam, I believe it is the duty of the strong to help the weak."

## A Good Samaritan Dolly

AFTER many, many years the Doll Fairy decided to visit her people on earth and to endeavor to make them happy. Her people, of course, are the little girls and the very little boys. And among these are the very wisest among mortals—she chose to make her appearance in the form of a doll.

"Mother, I should so like to have that beautiful doll!" cried the little girl, who was going shopping with her mother. So because the mother was rich and her daughter always had whatever she wished, the doll with the flaxen curls and the large blue eyes, which opened and shut, and the



movable joints, became the possession of this little girl.

At first the lass was proud of her beautiful doll and she was as happy as could be. But she was already beginning to tire of it, as rich little girls often do, on the day Nurse took her for a stroll in the park. Dolly was carried in the arms of her mistress.

Perhaps you have guessed that the lovely doll was none other than the Doll Fairy. And as the fairy had great power, when the little girl had finished her romp among the trees and upon the gorgeously tinted leaves laid in a carpet on the ground, she was made to forget all about the doll resting at the base of a great oak. So rich little girl began her journey homeward.

However, the Doll Fairy did not intend to remain idle. She had made one little girl happy for a time; now she wished to bring joy to some other girl—one who would appreciate the

## DEADLY DRINKING FEAT.

Sheffield Miner Drank Pint of Whiskey in Four Minutes.

An inquest was held at Sheffield, England, yesterday, at the hands of Mr. Regate, who drank a bottle of whiskey for a wager.

Regate was heard to remark that he could eat as much tripe as would make him a suite of clothes and a top coat, and then he "could sup a pint of whiskey in twenty-five minutes."

The bottle of whiskey was brought, and three men offered to pay for it. He did this easily, drinking the whiskey in four minutes. He had to be helped home, where he lay for a day unconscious, and afterwards developed gas-

## FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND

### NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

#### What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

A. R. Taylor, light porter, Edinburgh, was killed recently while crossing the line.

A new shed to cost \$25,000 is about to be erected at British Tube Works, Coatbridge.

Hamilton Central Co-operative Society opened new premises at Quarter, which have cost \$5,000.

During last quarter there were registered in Wishaw parish 277 births, 105 deaths and 56 marriages. The Parish Church of Hamilton is in the happy position of having no less than \$100,000 securely invested.

The decline of Oban as a tourist centre is causing some concern. The season has been a poor one, and another "lean year" or two would be attended with serious consequences.

Peter Mills, working gardener, 2 Canal street, Clydebank, died suddenly while working at a villa in Dalmar.

Peter Hughes, residing in Chapel street, Mossend, and John Scott, residing in Motherwell, were seriously injured by being run down by an empty hutch in the Old Orbiston Colliery, Bellshill.

An elderly woman named Mrs. Crawford was found lying dead at the foot of the stair leading to her dwelling-house in East Clyde street, Helensburgh. It is supposed she had fallen down the stair, her neck being broken.

Considerable damage to rolling stock was done recently by a collision of goods trains on the new single line between Brunstane and Portobello.

Drunkennes, as measured by the apprehensions and convictions for the various forms of the offence recorded in the returns of the Police Court, has been increasing in Edinburgh.

The Scottish Patriotic Association have issued an appeal on behalf of the Glasgow establishment of the Scottish History and Literature.

The Hugh Reid bequest for a Wallace and Bruce memorial in Edinburgh now amounts to \$19,685, and \$4,208 for repairs. The money is invested in corporation stock.

A cavalry establishment for Scotland is now practically assured. It lies with the Government of the Heriots to be on the ground they recently acquired, with doubtful legality, a building speculation, in the parish of Colinton.

The evening concerts which have been carried on in the City Hall, Glasgow, by the Abstainers' Union for 54 years were resumed for another season on the 3rd inst.

The Caledonian Railway Company have met a long felt want by placing a number of seats at the Central station in Glasgow, for the convenience of travellers.

An outbreak of fire in the Temple Sawmills, Glasgow, recently, caused damage to the extent of \$75,000, buildings, machinery, and valuable

timber in the yard being destroyed. Death has caused away a well-known Glasgow man, and native of the Local Council street.

The Local Government have insisted on the local authorities carrying out a scheme of water supply and drainage for Newcastle.

By going in for a refuse destructor at a cost of \$17,125, Galashiels hopes to reduce the cost of disposing of the town's refuse from 84 cents to 20 cents per ton.

Skelmorlie Gas Company is about to apply to Parliament for powers to establish an installation of electricity for service as far as Inverkip on the one side and to the confines of Largs on the other.

## RUSSIAN EDUCATION.

### Middle Class are Better Educated Than English Middle Class.

The "Intelligenzia" of Russia, writes the Hon. Maurice Baring in "A Year in Russia," is, properly speaking, composed of every one who can read or write. But the term is generally used to designate those members of the middle class who belong to the professional classes—doctors, professors, teachers and literary men. The average man or woman of the Russian middle class is better educated than the average English man or woman of the same class.

They are saturated with the foreign classics. They often speak two languages besides Russian, and they are conversant with modern thought in the various European countries, so far as it is allowed to reach them. They are taught at school things which will be useful to them.

Every one receives a general foundation of knowledge. The average Russian boy knows more about English history than the average English boy, let alone European history. A cultivated Russian of the middle class is saturated with John Stuart Mill, Ruskin, Morley and Carlyle, and Shakespeare, Milton and Shelley are treated as Russian classics.

## THE COLORS OF EGGS.

Mr. A. R. Horwood of the Bicester (England) Museum remarks that the colors of birds' eggs can be traced to the necessity of "protective resemblance."

White eggs are usually laid by birds nesting in holes in trees, or in dark situations, like owls, woodpeckers and some pigeons. Most birds nesting on or near the ground lay eggs of an olive-green or brown ground color.

The eggs of grouse, ptarmigan, and so forth, resemble the heather amongst which they are laid. Those of the ringed plover, little tern and oyster-catcher resemble the sand and shingle of the beach. The lapwing's eggs closely simulate bare soil or dried dents. The young chicks show similar "protective" colors.

## WHAT'S THE DIFF?

"Of course," said the optimist, "if a man gets into the habit of hunting trouble he's sure to find it."

"Yes," replied the pessimist, "and if he's so lazy that he always tries to avoid it, it will find him. So what's the difference?"

## 'FIZZBOOMSKI, THE ANARCHIST—YOUR NAME IS FAILURE

