

SIXTEEN CHILDREN PERISH IN BURNING SCHOOL HOUSE

MONTREAL VISITED BY ONE OF THE MOST APPALLING DISASTERS IN THE CITY'S HISTORY—BRAVE TEACHER ALSO LOSES HER LIFE IN VAIN ATTEMPT TO RESCUE LITTLE CHARGES—NAMES OF THE VICTIMS.

Special to The Leader. MONTREAL, Feb. 26.—A total death list of sixteen in the tragic result of a holocaust which swept the Froehberg Protestant school in the East End of the city this afternoon. The plumed features of the disaster is that the whole loss of life appears to have been due to neglect of the most elementary precautions on the part of the authorities. The outstanding feature of the terrible affair is the dauntless heroism of the lady teachers of the school, who risked their lives to save their little pupils. The fire broke out about 1.45 p.m. in the basement, having evidently originated from an overheated furnace. Few of the children were cremated and subsequent examination showed nearly all died from suffocation before the flames reached them. All the dead with the exception of Miss Maxwell, range from four to eight years of age.

Fire Spread Quickly. So speedily did the flames spread that in a few minutes these children who had not escaped at the first call were penned in on the upper floor with a seething furnace of smoke and flames beneath them. At every window could be seen imprisoned children and teachers. The firemen hurriedly placed extension ladders up the side of the burning building and formed a living chain to hand the little ones to safety. Some forty of the children, all that were in sight had been taken from the windows and Capt. Carson had called on Miss Maxwell, the principal, to hurry down, but the latter turned and rushed down to an inner room where some twenty little ones were huddled. The firemen could not follow her and a step was made which was fatal, and that was the end. An hour later their charred remains were carried out. Miss Maxwell was a victim. All the dead with her life in an attempt to rescue her little charges.

This is the tragic story of the fire which was confusion at the time when confusion meant death. The building was an old one with a chimney.

Heart Rending Scenes. The scenes as the firemen gradually gained control was a sad one. As soon as the first signs of victory became apparent the volunteers swarmed up the ladders to lend assistance to any possible survivors, but it was a forlorn hope, and a groan went up from the thousands of spectators as the first corpse was passed through a window and hurled to a waiting ambulance. Women would rush out frantically, pull back the blanket in an endeavor to locate their loved ones. This was repeated many times until all the victims were finally placed in the morgue.

LIST OF DEAD. MISS SARAH MAXWELL, school principal, aged 31. WM. JOHN ZIMMERMAN, aged 7. JAMES PILKINGTON LINDLEY, aged 6. EDITH COLSON, aged 6. ALBERT EDWARD JACKSON, aged 6. LILLIAN RIDGE, aged 5. MYRTLE SPRAGGE and MABEL SPRAGGE, aged 5 and 3. EDNA DAVY, aged 6. JAMES McPHERSON, aged 7. ANNIE JACKSON ANDREWS, aged 9. CECILIA FORBES, aged 6. JOHN LOMAS, aged 6. PALMER FREDERICK ANDREWS, aged 6. LADY HINSTON, aged 5. JOSEPH JOHNSON, aged 7. JOSEPH LANDTON, aged 5.

Y.M.C.A. OFFICIAL GOES WRONG

PHYSICAL INSTRUCTOR AT MONTON LEAVES UNDER A CLOUD.

Special to The Leader. MONTON, N. B., Feb. 26.—William March, who came here from New York some months ago to act as physical instructor for the Y.M.C.A., left town last night under a cloud. The inmates of the boarding house where he stayed have been missing money and valuables from their rooms. A man was robbed \$10, another of \$20 and still another of \$10, and fountain pens, cameras and other articles had disappeared. The chief of police was called in March made a confession and disported part of his booty. No one was willing to prosecute and he was released and allowed to leave town. It is said he is wanted in New York. It has also been learnt that he recently forwarded a considerable sum of money to Germany.

FUNERAL BROKEN UP BY FERCE GALE

MOURNERS BADLY FRIGHTENED RETURNED HOME.

Coffin Broke Through Hearse Smashing Cover and Woman's Face Produced.

Special to The Leader. MONTREAL, Feb. 26.—A fierce storm broke up a funeral and frightened the mourners so badly that they returned home. The body of Mme. Emanuel Menard was being taken to Ile Perrot, when a gust of wind upset the hearse. The coffin broke through the side glass of the hearse and rolled down into a ditch, where it remained on end. The glass of the coffin broke and the dead woman's face protruded. The followers of the hearse stood against and then scattered. It was with difficulty that they were secured to right the hearse and restore the coffin to its place.

Mr. Shaw's New Job. By Associated Press. NEW YORK, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The Herald says Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, who will retire from the cabinet March 4, is to become president of the newly organized Carnegie Trust Company of this city. He will bring his family to New York and the future will disclose whether Mr. Shaw will relinquish his legal residence in Iowa.

ORDEAL OVER FOR MRS. THAW

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. JEROME CONCLUDED YESTERDAY.

By Associated Press Despatch. NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Mrs. Evelyn Thaw's four-witness stand at the murder trial came to an end today, when Mr. Jerome finished his cross-examination. By Dr. B. B. Brown will be called to-morrow. MONTREAL, Feb. 26.—Hattie Forsythe, an actress, who was a friend of the parties in the Madison Square of Standard White and a guest at many Tower, at which Evelyn Nesbit was also present, has been in Montreal for the last four or five days. She registered at one of the leading hotels under an assumed name, but on her identity being discovered she moved to Ottawa, it is believed. Miss Forsythe and Evelyn Thaw quarreled after the latter's marriage to Thaw, and it is understood she furnished Mr. Jerome with much of the information whereby he has been able to attack Mrs. Thaw's career. Miss Forsythe has been subpoenaed to attend the trial and it was to avoid the witness stand that she decided to make the trip to Canada. Miss Forsythe and Evelyn Thaw quarreled after the latter's marriage to Thaw, and it is understood she furnished Mr. Jerome with much of the information whereby he has been able to attack Mrs. Thaw's career. Miss Forsythe has been subpoenaed to attend the trial and it was to avoid the witness stand that she decided to make the trip to Canada.

REGINA HOCKEYISTS AT STRATHCONA

FORMER BEATEN 6 GOALS TO 3 IN EXHIBITION GAME.

Did Not Attempt to Exert Themselves in View of Calgary Games This Week.

From Our Special Correspondent. EDMONTON, Alta., Feb. 26.—Regina hockeyists made a bit in Strathcona tonight. The town at the north has a hockey team that has not been able to win a game on home ice this season and the boys from Saskatchewan very obligingly allowed themselves to be beaten six to three in the exhibition game there last night. The great is the rejecting especially after Edmonton's downfall on Monday night. After three hard games with Edmonton Regina was not feeling anywhere near the work but Strathcona was so anxious for the game that they consented but had no intention of letting it be a mere exhibition with two fast contests booked for Calgary for a few nights later. These were the two options, some \$15,000, was paid direct to Fowler. The sale of the Kamloops Company of the Shawmut Company, the Regina Foresters is given in great length, but the views of the various witnesses were remarkably contradictory. The report continues at great length and all the actions are fully covered.

BEAUTIFUL SLAYER IS RAVING MANIAC

MILLIONAIRES WIFE WHO SLEW ARTIST LIKE WILD WOMAN IN CELL.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Hopelessly insane, Mrs. Michael McDonald, the handsome wife of the millionaire politician, who shot and killed Webster S. Gurin, a crayon artist, in the Omaha Building, the object of her affections, following his alleged attempt to blackmail her, spent all of last night fighting the sunshine she fancied poured through the window of her cell in the Harrison street police station. Immediately following the shooting she went into hysteria and gradually became worse, and now, according to the attending physician, her mind is a hopeless wreck. Sitting beside her in the station, her husband remained until a late hour, holding her hands, but she did not recognize him. Besides being unrecognizable to her husband, she seemed impossible for her to understand where she was or why. The friends of Gurin question the blackmailing story. They say the woman was wild about the man; that she became infatuated with him when he was a lad of 15, thirteen years ago. His relatives say he went to California that he might rid himself of her attentions. She followed and pleaded and promised and threatened until he returned, they say, and when it became the old, old story, and she shot him, rather than see him possessed by another.

On the other hand, friends of Mrs. McDonald point to the disappearance of \$1,500 within two days to bolster up their belief of blackmail. One of the men who was close to her husband when he was a check for \$1,500 drawn in favor of the woman Tuesday night. All save \$12.20 had disappeared when the woman was arrested. Mrs. McDonald is known as "the \$20,000 divorcee." She was the wife of "Big Sam" Barkley, the ballplayer, and McDonald is said to have settled \$20,000 on the husband at the time of the latter's suit for divorce in which McDonald was named.

Women Want Chinks. VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 26.—A petition is being signed by the women of Victoria, asking that the Dominion government be requested to remove the head tax of \$300 on Chinese as domestic servants are scarce in British Columbia since the Chinese have been kept out by the imposition of the head tax.

SWAN RIVER AND WESTERN LAND DEALS

PART PLAYED BY I.O.F. CONDEMNED BY INSURANCE COMMISSIONER.

Report Brought Down in the House of Commons Yesterday is Voluinous Document and Discusses Subject Pretty Fully. Special to The Leader. OTTAWA, Feb. 26.—The report of the Insurance Commission was brought down in the House today. It is a voluminous document dealing with the subject of insurance generally, but the report on the I.O.F. affairs is that dealing with the doings of Messrs. Foster, Fowler and others in connection therewith. The early history of the company is reviewed. It deals with the expansion of the order in its effort to establish the order in Australia. The securing of the control of the Provincial Trust Company and later of the Union Trust Company were adversely reported on, also the Swan River and other Western land deals. The report next takes up the formation of the Great West Land Company by Messrs. H. F. Pope, Fowler, Bennett and Lefurgy. It explains the purchase of 200,000 acres of land from the C.P.R. for \$300 an acre and the manner in which the two options, some \$15,000, was paid direct to Fowler. The sale of the Kamloops Company of the Shawmut Company, the Regina Foresters is given in great length, but the views of the various witnesses were remarkably contradictory. The report continues at great length and all the actions are fully covered.

BRIEF SITTING OF LEGISLATURE

MR. HAULTAIN ASKS THAT CONSIDERATION OF BILLS BE LEFT OVER FOR A DAY.

At the opening of the Legislature yesterday afternoon Mr. Speaker gave his ruling that Mr. Haultain must accept the statement made by Mr. Calder and the consideration of the bills be left over for a day. The sitting of the House was brief, lasting about fifteen minutes. The business transacted was of a purely routine nature. The bills to establish the supreme and district courts were down on the Order Paper for second readings, but Mr. Haultain asked that they be allowed to stand, as he had not had sufficient time to examine them closely enough to enable him to discuss them. There being no further business before the House adjournment was made. Mr. Lamont gave notice of four bills, respecting the Devolution of Estates; respecting the Property of Married Women; respecting the Form and Interpretation of Statutes; respecting Witnesses and Evidence. Mr. Calder gave notice that on Thursday he would ask the Government what number of public libraries had been or are in course of being established under the Public Libraries Act of the last session. On motion of Mr. Calder it was resolved that on Wednesday the House will resolve itself into committee to consider the supply to be granted His Majesty. Before adjournment Mr. Lamont laid on the table the correspondence respecting the following memorials adopted by the House last session: Relating to a railway to Hudson's Bay; respecting the Government's refusal to grant the constitutionality of the Saskatchewan Act; respecting the claims of the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Co. for the various witnesses were remarkably contradictory. The report continues at great length and all the actions are fully covered.

FIVE SUPREME COURT JUDGES WILL RESIDE AT REGINA

BILL NOW BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONSISTING OF A CHIEF JUSTICE AND FOUR OTHER JUDGES—PROVINCE TO BE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

Several radical alterations in the judicial machinery of the province are contemplated in the act now before the Legislature respecting the establishment of a supreme court in and for the Province of Saskatchewan. By the act the supreme court of Saskatchewan is constituted as consisting of a chief justice, to be called "The Chief Justice of Saskatchewan," and four other judges, who shall be called justices of the supreme court of Saskatchewan. Every judge of the court is to have jurisdiction throughout the province and in all cases other than those usually dealt with by a court sitting en banc is to have and exercise all the powers and jurisdiction of the court. The act further provides for the appointment of a sheriff and other officials for each judicial district. By the act the supreme court of the North-West Territories, so far as it applies to the Province of Saskatchewan, is abolished.

THREE KILLED; 17 INJURED

TRAIN THROWN DOWN FORTY-FOOT EMBANKMENT AT TURNER'S CUT.

Special to The Leader. GUELPH, Feb. 26.—Grand Trunk train No. 50, leaving Toronto at 1 p.m., ran off the track three miles east of Guelph at Turner's Cut, about 2.40 this afternoon and the cars were thrown down a forty foot embankment. Three persons were instantly killed and several injured, many of them severely. The dead are John Donahue, ex-Mayor of Stratford; Charles Ratking, of Stratford, and the two year old child of H. C. Walker, of Peterboro. BAD FIRE AT VIRDEN. Man and His Wife Have Narrow Escape from Horrible Death. Special to The Leader. VIRDEN, Feb. 26.—A fire broke out this morning at the Palm restaurant run by a man named Beirnes. Mr. and Mrs. Newman who occupied rooms in building narrowly escaped. They were sleeping and their room was filled with smoke before they were aware that the building was on fire. Mr. Newman left the building with hardly anything on him and the thermometer was 18 below zero. The cause of the fire is believed to be an overheated furnace. The damage is estimated at \$18,000. The building and stock was covered by insurance.

JAPANESE SCORE GEN. KUROPATKIN

GENERAL OKU CONDEMNNS PUBLICATION OF RUSSIAN'S BOOK ON WAR.

TOKIO, Feb. 26.—Three prominent Japanese officers have been interviewed concerning General Kuropatkin's book on the Russo-Japanese war, a synopsis of which was published a few days ago. General Oku was scathing in his denunciation of General Kuropatkin, and doubted the authenticity of the alleged work, which he declared was not a history, but merely a defense of Kuropatkin himself. It was also an unconscious self-panegyric, showing that the author was lacking in the first essential of a commander in that while recognizing the errors of his subordinates, he neither punished them nor removed them from their positions so as to prevent further mischief. General Nogi, true to his reputation for taciturnity, merely made the comment that it was strange that the compilation of such a volume was permitted.

BRANDON MAN LAYS CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST F. BENNETT AND D. PURDY, C.P.R. ENGINEER AND FIREMAN RESPECTIVELY, FOR CAUSING THE DEATH OF A SECTION MAN NAMED MUIRHEAD AT DOUGLAS ON JAN. 19, WAS TRIED TODAY BEFORE MAGISTRATE JAMES AND BOTH WERE COMMITTED FOR TRIAL. BALL WAS ALLOWED AT \$500 EACH. A LARGE NUMBER OF WITNESSES GAVE EVIDENCE WHICH WENT TO SHOW MUIRHEAD WAS STRUCK BY THE SNOW PLOW AS THEY WERE CLEARING THE TRACK RUNNING THROUGH THE TOWN OF DOUGLAS. R. A. BONNAR OF WINNIPEG, APPEARED FOR THE DEFENCE AND R. N. MATHEWSON FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

Portrait for Sir Charles Tupper. By Associated Press. LONDON, Feb. 26.—Sir Charles Tupper will be presented with a portrait of himself on Friday afternoon at 6 o'clock at the Westminster Hotel.

Board of Control for Vancouver. Special to The Leader. VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 26.—The City Council last night decided to have a Board of Control similar to Toronto and Winnipeg. The salary has been fixed at \$2,500.

BRITISH ARMY REORGANIZATION

PRINCIPAL FEATURES MEET WITH FAVORABLE COMMENT BY PRESS.

By Associated Press. LONDON, Feb. 26.—While War Secretary Haldan's project for the reorganization of the British army is likely to stimulate discussion and much criticism on its details is possible, its main principles meet with the approval of both political parties and are favorably commented upon by almost all the newspapers this morning. For the purposes of the act the coming into force of the act. The legal year is not to be divided into terms so far as relates to the administration of justice, nor will there be any terms applicable to any sittings or business of the court. The court and the judges shall have power to sit and act at any place within the province, subject to the rules of the court, and so far as practicable all business is to be disposed of before a single judge. For the purposes of the act the province is to be divided into eight judicial districts as set out in the "District Courts Act," while the act also enjoins that the five judges constituting the supreme court shall reside at the provincial capital. The act further provides for the appointment of a sheriff and other officials for each judicial district. By the act the supreme court of the North-West Territories, so far as it applies to the Province of Saskatchewan, is abolished.

FIERCE EXPLOSION IN SANDUSKY

GAS ACCUMULATIONS CAUSE WRECK OF THREE STORY BUILDING.

SANDUSKY, Ohio, Feb. 26.—Accumulated gas in the basement of the Bittern building, a three-story structure on Market street in the heart of the city, exploded with terrific force today, blowing up the building and the structure of Dilgart & Bittner, retail dealers, is a total loss. TWENTY NEGROES PERISH. Large Number of Casualties in the Burning of the Steamer Marion. By Associated Press. CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 26.—That twenty negro passengers were drowned or burned to death and a dozen more are missing, as the result of the burning of the steamer Marion at Hart's Landing, about forty miles from Charleston, on Friday, was the report of Capt. Ferguson of that vessel, filed with the government inspectors. There were seven white passengers and about fifty negroes. The great loss of life seemed to be on account of the negroes becoming terrorized and neglecting to get life preservers. The Marion was licensed to carry 200 passengers and cost \$20,000. The value of the cargo, which consisted of general merchandise, was estimated at \$5,000.

ANT SUICIDE CLUB TORONTO

Branch of One in Philadelphia to be Established by Salvation Army.

Special to The Leader. TORONTO, Feb. 26.—The World is informed by officers at the Salvation Army Temple that in the near future there will be established in Toronto by the Army an anti-suicide bureau as a branch of the one now working in Philadelphia. The surprising success of the work in Philadelphia is the large number of applicants for relief who form the idea of self-destruction is all that the world held for them. Not only poor, sick, lonely and destitute men and women have visited the bureau, but men and women in all walks of life, many of them wealthy, have asked for aid in having themselves put to suicide.

STRANGE STORY FROM TORONTO.

Special to The Leader. TORONTO, Feb. 26.—There is a curious story in circulation here that the government has ordered the license investigation because a number of prominent members of the Conservative party had insisted that the commissioners send in their resignations.