

# THE WEEKLY ONTARIO

AND BAY OF QUINTE CHRONICLE

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BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1921

MORTON & HERITY, Proprietors.

## Brighton's Business Section Swept by Fire

### Two Blocks are Destroyed and Many Stores are Victims of Flames

## ESTIMATED FIRE DAMAGE CALLED \$250,000; TRENTON FIREMEN RUSH AID TO SAVE TOWN

### Three Firemen Slightly Hurt by Falling Debris—Belleville Man Taken Ill During Fire Starts Rumor—Details of Places Destroyed or Damaged.

(Special to The Ontario.)

BRIGHTON, Jan. 12.—The most destructive fire in the history of Brighton destroyed a large portion of the heart of the town early today. The fire was discovered about 4 o'clock this morning and at noon it had not been determined from what cause.

The flames were not brought under control for four hours and by that time two central blocks in the town had been completely gutted, they are almost a total loss. The south side of Main street was swept by the fire and this afternoon presents a sorry spectacle.

The Brighton fire brigade put up a stubborn resistance to the spread of the flames. Three of their men had sensational news from serious harm by the collapse of a brick wall which had noticed tottering. In their retreat from the place of per they were slightly injured by the debris. The serious nature of the fire was realized early and a call was sent to Trenton for assistance, the motor engine from that town reaching Brighton in approximately twenty minutes. This was of great assistance in quelling the flames.

### THE DESTROYED BLOCKS.

The destroyed blocks are the Nesbitt block owned by Mr. S. G. M. Nesbitt, of Trenton and the Sanford building, of which Mrs. T. Sanford and Mrs. C. M. Sanford are the owners. Both buildings are on the south side of Main Street. The loss on the Nesbitt block is estimated at \$250,000 and on the Sanford block at \$100,000.

- The places damaged were:
- Bank of Commerce.
  - Bullock's Grocery.
  - Robinson's Restaurant and Post Room.
  - Marshall's Drug Store.
  - G. N. W. Telegraph Office.
  - Sanford's Grocery Store.
  - The places damaged were:
  - McMaster's Hardware Store.
  - Frise Dry Goods Store.
  - Brighton Whitewear Co.
  - Hydro Electric Shop.
  - Ross Grocery.
  - Marshall's Drug and Barber Shop.

It was about ten minutes after four when the fire was discovered. It was then in the poolroom, which occupied a position in about the centre of the damaged structures. It spread rapidly east and west and soon both three storey buildings were in flames. Both buildings were of solid brick construction, and their fire walls prevented the further spread of the fire.

### APARTMENTS SWEEP BY FIRE

Several apartments over the building were swept by the fire, among the occupants being Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Sanford, Miss McConnell, Mr. Burley and Mr. James Stanley. All escaped without injury.

A well-known Belleville man, Mr. W. E. Bonter, who is operating a garage in Brighton and occupied apartments not far from the ruined blocks, was taken ill during the fire. This caused much concern as to his safety. Fortunately he was soon able to be around.

Two houses, two or three blocks away, were set afire by sparks, but the incipient blaze was extinguished without much damage having been sustained.

Had it not been for Brighton's good water pressure, a different story might have had to be told. The village gets its pressure of about one hundred pounds from a source some distance north, the water being piped into Brighton. As the greater part of the place lies south of Main Street, where the fire occurred, the value of this pressure can perhaps be estimated.

### Picton Magistrate Fines Man \$200

Douglas Wark was convicted before Magistrate Levi Adams in Police Court today on a charge of having liquor in a place in which he could not legally have it. He was fined \$200 and costs. Mr. R. H. Hubbs was the prosecuting attorney, the prosecution being by Inspector E. J. Naphin, assisted by Inspector W. J. Connor and Provincial Constable Ward.

### COMING EVENTS

THE LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE Y.M.C.A. will meet tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon, at 3.30 in the Y.M.C.A. Academy, Wednesday, Jan. 12th, 1921. Cards, refreshments, dancing. Admission 50c. J11-2td

### THEIR WIVES CAN'T BELIEVE IT

(By Canadian Press Ltd.)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Mrs. Stephen Farrell and Mrs. Walter Hinton, wives of two of the naval balloonists today characterized as unbelievable the story of the dispute between their husbands, over a letter Lieut. Hinton is alleged to have written to his wife.

Mrs. Hinton after expressing her disbelief of the affair, fled to her bedroom saying: "I have no statement to make until I hear from my husband."

"After what those men have endured," said Mrs. Farrell, "I cannot believe they will be anything but brothers for the rest of their lives."

### PROBE FIRE INSURANCE HERE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PLAN; INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY

Mr. D. V. Sinclair Heads Committee Undertaking Big Task—Chief Brown of Fire Department Lends Aid—Municipal and National Insurance Situation to Be Discussed in Detail.

The Belleville Chamber of Commerce is undertaking a systematic investigation of the fire insurance business.

This investigation has been undertaken at the request of the City Council, whose action was prompted by a letter on the subject of Municipal Fire Insurance by Mr. John N. Pringle.

Mr. Pringle strongly favors municipal insurance and in his letter asserted that Belleville could save from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually by having the municipality do the insuring.

The committee is at present endeavoring to find answers to these three questions, among others:

What have the results been in cities and municipalities where municipal insurance has been tried?

What has been the experience of local mutual insurance companies?

As a business proposition, is it safe to separate municipalities to undertake the risk of local insurance?

Messrs. Sinclair and McBride have agreed to look carefully into the subject of national or state insurance. They will go into the record of such countries as New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, and endeavor to ascertain if their experience would warrant Canadians in taking up national insurance.

They will try to secure answers to such queries as these:

What is the total annual premium paid in Canada for fire insurance?

What are the total annual losses in Canada?

How has state insurance worked out in other countries?

How are conditions there as compared with Canada?

What would be the effect of state insurance and regulations as a means of checking fire losses?

What practical steps could be taken by local bodies to bring about national fire insurance in Canada if that were found advisable?

### PLUCKY MERCHANT STOPS RUNAWAY ON FRONT ST.

Mr. Ted Clarke made a daring stop of a runaway team on Front St. below Bridge St. corner a few minutes before one o'clock today. Mr. Percy Thompson, whose farm is near Cannifton was on the market near the weigh scales with a load of hay. He had just stopped to the rear of the load when the horses started to run. They thrashed at Front street and on the corner upset the load of hay and rack. The team pulling the wagon back on its wheels and careering up Front St. Although several attempts were made to stop the horses, it remained for Mr. Clarke to do the deed. He ran out of the meat shop, having heard the noise, and was in time to reach the centre of the street when the runaway came along. He seized the bridle of one of the horses, their flight being stopped as they swung around to the sidewalk. No damage resulted to horses and but slight damage to the rack.

### RETAIL MEN OPPOSED TO DAYLIGHT SAVING

(By Canadian Press.)  
BROCKVILLE, Jan. 12.—The Eastern Ontario Retail Merchants Association this morning placed itself on record as being opposed to the adoption of Daylight Saving, unless it be Dominion wide.

It also agreed that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister with the suggestion that if a Dominion wide measure be taken, to come into effect on April 1st and continue until Sept. 15, in each year. The proposal of the Provincial Govt. to restrict the sale of a 2 per cent. beer to standard hotels was opposed with the recommendation that an effort be made to prevent the passage of such legislation at the next session of the legislature.

### NEW AGREEMENT MADE BY OTTAWA

Canada Concludes Arrangement With France on Better Basis.

USE MINIMUM TARIFF

Includes List of Articles in 1907 Pact and Some New Ones.

(By Canadian Press.)  
OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—Canada has concluded a new trade agreement with France. The agreement provides for the minimum tariff of Canada to be given in exchange for the same treatment by France.

The agreement remains in force until a more permanent commercial agreement may be negotiated.

It is subject to cancellation on four months' notice, by either of the parties thereto.

The agreement follows the general lines of previous conventions.

### Save Fingers For Man Badly Hurt

Mr. R. W. Burke, 74 Cedar St., an employee of the Belleville Sash & Door Factory, Mill street, was the victim of a painful accident this morning while at work at the factory.

He was operating a moulding machine and for some unknown cause got his left hand caught in it.

The index finger, and next two fingers suffered compound fractures. First aid was rendered to the injured man and later taken to the hospital. Drs. Faulkner and Robertson dressing the wound. No fingers were sacrificed, the doctors hoping to save them.

### Former Empress Is Growing Weaker

DOORN, Holland, Jan. 12.—"The condition of the former Empress of Germany is becoming steadily worse as her physical power of resistance is declining," said an official statement issued today by attending physicians. "Attacks of heart failure are increasing in number and violence," the statement said.

### SALVAGE OPERATORS SAVE "PRINCE RUPERT"

SWANSON BAY, B. C., Jan. 12.—The work of the salvage operators and divers in refloating the steamship Prince Rupert, which was accomplished recently, has received much praise in marine circles. Much credit is given to the six divers who were on the job and did all the submarine carpentering which made possible the construction of the cofferdam. These men put in sixty steady days under water, working sometimes at a depth of 63 and 70 feet, handling great timbers a hundred feet long and twelve inches square. The perfection of their skill was proven when the big vessel was lifted on the first trials.

### NEW YORK POST FLAYS SINN FEIN

Sees "Red Irish Grievance" Proposed by Boland as "Serious Harm Done to Cause of Ireland by the Hate-Mongers."

(By Canadian Press.)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Under the caption a "Real Irish Grievance," The New York Evening Post this evening dealt editorially with the recently proposed vendetta against British subjects, and the "tearing down of everything British in the United States," as advocated by Harry Boland, Secretary to Eamon de Valera at Madison Square Gardens. Boland's remarks, the newspaper says, are as "remarkable a tribute to the speaker's ignorance as to his foolishness."

"Sensitive and intelligent Irishmen have long been aware," says The Post, "that a serious disservice is being done to Ireland by the ignorant hate-mongers, who apparently dominate intellectual hooliganism, frequently translated into appropriate acts; is alienating all sympathy from Ireland in this country. If the Sinn Fein movement had been conducted in Ireland with the same incompetence and aggressive stupidity as some of its champions display here it would never have established itself as it has done."

"Sinn Feiners who feel the need for physical combat with their enemies should not select the unheroic territory of Madison Square Garden, but join the combatants and their victims whose sufferings they exploit. As Americans we are interested only in a peaceful settlement which will strengthen the bonds of friendship between our country and Britain and Ireland."

### TORS SAY HORRID VOTES?

erking the ending or the ending of that alliance, or pressure from the Do-

ht of these events, what to think of the horrid England six votes in the the League of Nations, her stily getting reprehensive Demotions? On the F. of those six votes are virtually against Eng-the United States. So ly and naturally prove fiers. Yet Republican led themselves hoarse any of the six votes. It that the election cough ave cleared their voices air heads."

### OW IN CITIES

pared of Men Sought refuge in

d have been gradually Dublin. Here they are rched for day and night em, it is believed, ever fights running in the

are regarded as safer es of sympathizers and recent invasion by the of even the best hotels ordinary visitors is of his sleep and with a ted at him is required fill his identity is satisf-

private houses are re-and again after failure anted man, in the hope turn up there some-

the search has been it is said that there are the North side of the people confidently aids and the names of are subjects of well-

in the whole neigh-

### EN MURDERED

adian Press)

D. Jan. 3.—W. W. W. George J. Fanner, vice W. W. Fly Foundry murdered by five pay who escaped with \$4-

holding up two men's last this morning. died instantly.

### OR DESEBONTO

r. Principal, division anigan, Cobourg, div-

E. Wagar, town, divi-

Hunt, town, division allas, Keene, division ollard, Kingston, divi-

Kelly, Colborne, divi-

Smith, town, division

### TEARS OLD

McElroy, of Colborne,

nated her one hun-

She is still in good extremely active. Mrs. born near Ottawa on 1820, and holds the having been the first in the vicinity.

### ding in all ty rms

### man's ANCE