

DISASTROUS FIRE WIPES OUT PALACE THEATRE

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Small Had Narrow Escape in Big Blaze This Afternoon—Heroic Work of Firemen—Loss Heavy.

The Palace theatre was destroyed by fire which broke out shortly after one o'clock this afternoon and it was only by the heroic efforts of Fire Chief Brown and his fire fighters that the flames were halted. There were several narrow escapes.

The first intimation of fire came to a little child, who ran down Front street to the corner and notified Police Constable Charles Thompson, who rang in the alarm. He then ran to the scene and saw the flames coming from the direction of the basement. Other reports are that the fire did not originate in the furnace room. The fire had apparently been going for some time before discovered.

Before the brigade could reach the scene, the flames had burst out of the front and the building was a veritable furnace. When the doors were opened the flames shot over half way across the street.

The predicament of two women tenants was very dangerous. They had dashed out on the balcony in front of the theatre and screamed for help. A ladder was placed at one end of the balcony.

Women's Narrow Escape.

Mrs. A. L. Johnson, who occupies the front rooms over the Palace, and Mrs. J. W. Small who lives in the rear rooms, had very narrow escapes from smoke. Mrs. Small was able to make her escape down a ladder to the street from the canopy in front of the theatre, but Mrs. Johnson found her way of escape cut off and ran out on the canopy, jumping to the pavement below. Efforts were made to catch her, but she struck the roadway. She was carried into Lattimer's Drug store suffering from cuts caused by glass and had the side of her face touched by the flames. She was later taken to the home of one of her friends.

Mrs. Small lost her piano, and all her clothing, furs, carpets, and trunks full of clothing. She places her loss at \$2,000, without insurance.

Mrs. Johnson lost all her furniture and all her clothing. It is not thought to be covered by insurance.

Fortunately there were no children in the building. A report that a child lost its life proved fortunately untrue.

Building Gated.

Chief Brown staid up the situation in a few minutes. Every available lead of hose was called into requisition and water was poured in streams from the roof, rear and front of the doomed movie house. Soon the rear of the theatre was under control although it was almost gutted and the firemen were able to direct their attention to the front and central portions. The roof of the centre part fell in but half an hour after the fire started. Fire proved very obstinate in the front part of the house and the basement, for here the building rose to a height of three stories above the street, while at the rear it was only the height of the movie hall portion.

Loss is Heavy.

The Palace building is owned by Mayor Riggs and is insured for \$10,000. It was worth about \$15,000.

The value of the private fire fighting equipment was demonstrated at the Bank of Commerce. Manager Snider had a staff of men at work playing with four leads of hose from the bank building roof on the fire walls and the theatre ruins below.

Adjacent Property Saved.

At 2.30 the fire was under control, the Bank of Commerce building and the building south of the Palace being safe, although damaged by smoke and water. A fire door and heavy walls saved the adjacent buildings.

The entire loss will be very heavy, possibly twenty-five thousand dollars, being suffered by the tenants and owners.

The Palais had an imposing front and extended back for about one hundred feet.

The origin is unknown as yet. The theatre building was a substantial structure and the walls and a portion of the front and rear of the interior are intact.

When P. C. Thompson reached the scene first, he saw the flames in the basement and felt the intense heat.

Some Inside Stories of the Evening World Office

Irvin Cobb's Funniest Story Never Printed—How the World Got the Titanic Story—Man Who Discovered Cobb is Now Serving Life Sentence in Sing Sing Prison.

Irvin Cobb, as everyone knows, got half a vote for the presidential nomination at the San Francisco convention. And the man who "discovered" Irvin Cobb is in Sing Sing! He is Charles E. Chapin, for over twenty years city editor of the New York Evening World. Of course, unearthing the famous humorist isn't solely responsible for the life sentence which he is now serving. The full record of the sad tragedy which terminated the ex-editor's brilliant career is told in his book just published by Putnam under the title of "Charles Chapin's Story."

"Irvin Cobb was a small-earred reporter on the Evening Sun when my attention was first called to his work," writes Chapin in his book. "I asked him to come and see me, and was so favorably impressed that he got a job on the Evening World at double the salary he was then getting, and I doubted it again before the Saturday Evening Post grabbed him and sent him over to Germany before the war began."

Cobb is the homeliest man and one of the cleverest I ever knew. As an all-around newspaper writer he is worth his weight in gold, and he weighs something under a ton. He was a crack reporter in addition to being an accomplished writer.

"My only quarrel with Cobb was that he insisted on posing as a humorist. His idea was to turn even the most serious and tragic happenings into a laugh. One of the wittiest

he was to go on the Carpathia of the Cunard Line.

"When the news of the Titanic disaster was flashed into our office one morning and with it the information that the Carpathia had come to her rescue, I instantly thought of the Post-Despatch reporter and sent him a wireless to prepare a complete story and I would meet the Carpathia with a tugboat off Sandy Hook."

"Before sunrise the following morning several of the Evening World's reporters accompanied me to Sandy Hook on the fastest tug in the harbor, and we sat all day in the tower of the wireless station waiting for the Carpathia to show up. It was night when she entered Ambrose Channel. Our flag streamed alongside and when we spotted a megaphone for the Post-Despatch man he dropped a bundle of manuscript, tied to a life preserver, into my outstretched arms."

"There were a dozen columns of brilliantly told story with all the thrilling details of heroism; of wives refusing to separate from husbands who were denied a place in the lifeboats; of brave men who perished that women and children might be saved; of the Titanic's commander who swam to a lifeboat with a child in his arms and deliberately swam away to a grove beneath the sea."

"The tugboat nearly burst her boilers racing at full speed to the Battery that we might get to the office with our story. Newsboys were crying the extra throughout the city before the Carpathia was at her dock."

"Besides giving the Evening World a splendid beat over all its rivals, the story the Post-Despatch man brought enabled the Morning World to have a complete account in the edition that goes to other cities, while many hours in gathering a comparatively fragmentary story from survivors and crew after the Carpathia had been docked."

"Ralph Pulitzer, who inherited a spirit of liberality, presented the Post-Despatch man with a thousand dollars in cash that night and authorized him to double the time allotted for his vacation abroad. For the little I did towards securing the boat, he rewarded me almost as generously."

All About Some Famous Ghosts

EVEN QUEEN BESS APPEARS ONCE IN A WHILE

Palaces Are Favorite Haunts of Noble Spooks

The news that a "veiled spectre" has recently been seen on three separate occasions promenading the corridors of Windsor Castle recalls a story told by a young officer, Carr Glyn, of the Grenadier Guards, some twenty years ago, says London Answers.

Mr. Glyn was reading a book in the castle library, when, glancing up, he saw the black-veiled figure of a woman walk past him and disappear in the inner library. As she did not return, he followed her, but found, to his amazement, that she had completely vanished, although there was no means of exit from the inner room.

When he told his uneasy story the following morning it created consternation in the palace, especially when it was discovered that three centuries ago the room had had an exit at the very place through which the black lady had passed. It was generally believed that the mysterious figure must have been that of Queen Elizabeth herself, of whose midnight appearances in her old haunts in the castle many stories are told.

But Queen Bess is only one of the several royal spectres which are said to haunt our royal palace. The Duchess de Massin, one of the Merly Monarch's many favorites, has been seen more than once in the rooms and corridors of St. James' Palace, which is also said to be a favorite haunt of Nell Gwyn, of the saucy tongue and merry laugh, and of that formidable beauty, the Duchess of Cleveland.

Hampton Court Palace, too, has the reputation of being visited by the shades of several great people who have once "walked in splendor" within its historic walls. Strange tales are told of spectral figures which vanish when accosted; of mysterious noises, the uncanny opening of doors without visible agency, and of sounds of movement and snatches of song proceeding from empty rooms.

But the most terrifying vision of all is that of a white-robed figure running down a corridor, with her long hair streaming behind her, and disappearing into the chapel. This startling apparition is said to be that of the unhappy Catherine Howard, the second queen whom Henry

VIII. sent to the executioner's block, and who, so long after her tragic death, repeats an incident in her troubled existence when, escaping from her guards, she rushed into the chapel to bid for her life from the tyrannous lord who was praying there.

Catherine of Aragon is also said to haunt the Palace of Hampton, where her spectre has been seen many a time, clothed in black and lighted taper in her hand, walking up a certain staircase, and disappearing through the beautiful archway known as Queen's Gate.

On the night before the death of Frederick III., father of the present ex-kaiser, a sentry declared that he had seen the figure of an old woman, bowed with age, and carrying a broom in her hand; and his story would certainly have been scoffed at as the creation of a disordered brain had not a similar figure been seen on former occasions, notably on the death of the Emperor William I.

This grotesque old lady, whose visits bode no little good to the House of Hohenzollern, is disrespectfully spoken of as "The Sweeper."

Spectres in white or even in black are perhaps intelligible, but what are we to think of the "Red Man" who is said to haunt the Tulleries, and to have been seen no less famous persons than Catherine de Medici and the great Napoleon, the latter of whom is said to have held a long conversation with him on the eve of his ill-fated Russian campaign.

During the night before the late Empress of Austria was so treacherously assassinated, a sentry on guard in the Castle of Schonbrunn was frightened "out of his wits" by the spectacle of a beautiful woman, robed in white, and wearing a long, flowing veil, walking down the corridor where he was on duty. Thrice he challenged the trespasser and had started in pursuit of her, when she vanished, as suddenly and mysteriously as she appeared.

This is by no means the first appearance of the "lady in white," for she was seen as long ago as 1807, just before the tragic death of Maximilian, the ill-fated archduke, who was made emperor of Mexico; again, in 1889, on the very night when Rudolf, heir to the Austrian throne, who was so strangely done to death in the forest of Mayerling; and on other occasions when a member of the imperial family had died.

So coincident have been appearances with disaster to the reigning house of Austria-Hungary that her visits have always been greeted as the heralds of calamity.

Concrete Towers for British Coasts

Huge Crowds Witnessed the Placing of First "Mystery Ship" at Portsmouth

One of the "mystery towers," intended as a surprise for Germany, was launched recently at Shoreham and subsequently "sunk" off Portsmouth, where it will be used for defensive purposes. The towers have been objects of much curiosity and conjecture as to their ultimate use, and as a result they have become known as "mystery ships." Each of the towers is 180 feet in height, the first four tiers being of hollow blocks of reinforced concrete hexagonal in shape. Nearly 100,000 of these blocks have been used in each ship, and the total weight of concrete used is about 9,000 tons. The steel work of the superstructure weighs, roughly, another 1,000 tons. In spite of all this, the draught when afloat is only 14 ft., so that almost 170 feet rise above the surface of the water. Each of the towers cost about £2,250,000. The craft were designed by a Scottish engineer, Mr. Manley, while Mr. H. A. Clift, a Canadian engineer, volunteered to build the ships, and was sent to Shoreham in June, 1918, with orders to supply eight within six months—an order which the Armistice modified. Altogether 16 were required.

W.C.T.U. Provincial Convention

In the year 1900 the Ontario W. C. T. U. Convention was held in St. Catharines with an attendance of 108 delegates. Of this number seven were present in the 1920 Convention (Oct. 4-8) in the same town. In twenty years the Ontario membership has doubled, being now about 2,000. Of the band of women encircling the world with the white ribbon the Countess of Carlisle is World President; Mrs. Gordon Wright, Dominion President, and Mrs. Hattie A. Stevens, Ontario President. Mrs. Smith's Falls union and her citizens excelled in their system of transportation, billeting, registration and in hospitality, which was of the "pressed-down, shaken together and running-over measure."

In its twenty or more departments the W. C. T. U. includes a wide and varied program of work. Some of the progress may be tabulated, but much of it will only be known when the Throne of Justice is set, and the final records opened. Reports of the Evangelical, Prison, Franchise, Missionary, Indian, R. Road, Soldiers' Comforts, Y. Workers, etc., showed progress and increased interest. The press superintendent pays this tribute, "Some 135 Ontario newspapers allow space for W. C. T. U. happenings—Why, dear women! talk about opportunity—this is a case of opportunity inviting you home to tea, and allowing you to bring all your friends. Please do not treat the invitation lightly."

The citizenship report compares conditions in the past, when men did not always vote as they pray, with the present time tendency to cast off party affiliations and vote on principle.

For the maintenance of the Traveller's Aid, which meets thousands of trains, and helps about 30,000 weary and perplexed travellers, the expense averages \$3,000 annually. Users of Surprise soap may increase this revenue by half-cent each per wrapper. Same to be sent to Willard Hall, Toronto. The Law and Enforcement department deprecates the flooding of our country with liquor and bad literature, but sees encouragement in the amendments to the O.T.A. To equal suffrage the Citizenship Superintendent ascribes the more intelligent matters. "Citizenship means more than voting—it is striving to live up to the highest ideals." One evening program included a demonstration, by the "Y" of Smith's Falls, of the several departments of "findings," the W. C. T. U. publication and an address by the Dominion President. Another evening was given to echoes of the world's convention last summer in England. Of the 3,000 delegates in attendance Ontario had such representatives as Mrs. Asa Gardon, Mrs. Hattie Stevens, Mrs. Gordon Wright, Mrs. Corlan, Mrs. Blanche Read Johnson and others.

The World's Pageant, in which 250 people were staged, Mrs. Stevens describes as "the most spectacularly beautiful of the five world conventions I have seen."

The next world's convention will probably be held in South America. London claims the next Ontario Convention. Delegates at Smith's Falls experienced a "heart-tug" over the resignation of that valued, faithful, heroic worker, Miss Agnes Sproule, for years a missionary in the lumber camps of Ontario, travelling in all sorts of weather, and by all manner of conveyances.

The torch falls from the hands of the veterans, a challenge to the youth of Ontario to carry on to completion the work for prohibition so patiently and perseveringly brought to its present status.

Wedding Bells

On Tuesday, Nov. 16th at the Parsonsage, Shannonville, by Rev. W. W. Jones, B. D., Mr. Arthur Keene, 2nd line Thurlow was united in marriage to Ethel McCabe, of Marysville. After a brief honeymoon they will reside in their beautiful home in Thurlow.

HUOT-BLANCHARD

A quiet wedding was solemnized in St. Michael's Church by Rev. Father Killean, Tuesday morning at 7 a.m., when Adele, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Blanchard and Mr. Edward Huot, of Alexandria, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. After the ceremony a quiet wedding breakfast was partaken of at the residence of the bride's parents, 277 Church St. The bridal couple left on the noon train for Montreal. After a short honeymoon they will reside in Montreal.

Mrs. Wagner had booked Miss Alma Simpson for recitals in three or four of the larger cities in Canada. Mrs. S. D. Laster entertained last evening at Hotel Quinte a number of the musical people of the city in honor of Alma Simpson, the noted American singer.

as the ship passed the gates of the harbor. Once out in the roadstead two more tugs assisted in the propulsion of the great craft, while two more took up their position astern as "controls." The Tower Ship arrived in the precincts of the Port of Portsmouth about eight the next morning, and was taken to a temporary position off Culver, on the eastern side of the Isle of Wight. Operations were at once commenced to sink this floating mass of concrete and steel. The work proceeded slowly in calm weather, but so hazy that it was only possible to obtain an occasional glimpse of the tower. It was the intentions of the authorities that the concrete base should be ready finally to rest at the bottom of the sea at low water, and gradual sinking was accomplished by pouring liquid concrete into the hollow blocks in the base of the tower. Just after 7 p.m. it was reported that the difficult task had been successfully completed, and that the Mystery Tower had been converted from a floating object into a solid block of concrete, capable of withstanding the force of storm and tide, and becoming, at the same time, part of the defenses of the Solent, as well as a guide to mariners.

Social Evening and Concert

Held at St. Andrew's Church, Thurlow.

On Monday evening Nov. 1st a social and concert was given in St. Andrew's Church, Thurlow. Despite the unfavourable weather and the many other attractions billed for that night a large crowd assembled. A programme was given. Rev. Mr. Ramsay, and Rev. Mr. Kerr, of Belleville, were both present. Miss Jessie Tuite, one of Belleville's best pianists was present and the wise choice of her selections along with the capable way they were rendered won for her a place in the hearts of her hearers. Mr. McIntosh, Belleville, was there with his bagpipes, interesting as were his selections on the bagpipes. His waltz stories were more interesting. By these stories he showed us what a fine man he really is. A sack lunch was served, after which, brought to a close a very enjoyable evening. Proceeds \$70.

Anniversary services were held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thurlow, on October 31. The Rev. Mr. Ramsay, of John St. Presbyterian Church, Belleville, took charge of both morning and evening services in the absence of the Pastor, Mr. McDonald who took Mr. Ramsay's charge at Belleville. Both services were well attended. At the morning services Mr. Arthur Hall, Belleville, rendered a very suitable solo, and in the evening by Mrs. Arthur Hall.

Those whose privilege it was to attend those services, received a rare treat, which only Mr. Ramsay knows how to give so well. The memory of which will linger long in the minds of the people. The church was very tastefully decorated for the occasion and the choir rendered suitable music.

OBITUARY

WILLIAM HERBERT MINAKER

William Herbert Minaker, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Minaker, passed away yesterday afternoon at the family home, Mountain View, at the age of five years. He had been ill for only a few days from cold which developed into spinal meningitis. He was a bright little fellow and greatly beloved by his family and friends.

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TRANSVAAL SHARE CORP. TO HANDLE OIL FIELD

Mr. Reeves Leaving in Few Days For England to Arrange For Drilling Near Lonsdale—Report is Very Favorable.

"The prospects are so good that some of the leading South African financiers are coming, in with us," said Mr. Walter H. Reeves, of London, England, representative of the General Oil Fields Ltd., in an interview today in reference to the oil indications in Tyendinaga near Lonsdale. "The fields will now be worked by the Transvaal Share Corporation, Ltd., the General Oil Fields Limited being interested in this corporation."

The report made by Prof. McLean who went over the ground is so satisfactory that Mr. Reeves is more optimistic than ever. He and Mrs. Reeves are leaving for England on Saturday and after a fortnight in England will return to Canada, arriving back about the end of December. His purpose while across the sea is to arrange for drilling and other work shortly to be undertaken. Cables are daily passing between Mr. Reeves and the interests he represents.

Talk of the Town And of the Country

POLICE COURT

Magistrate Masson this morning levied a fine of \$15 and costs on a first offender for being found in an intoxicated condition on the street. P. C. Evans picked him up.

BOYS' CONFERENCE.

The Rev. D. C. Ramsay and Mr. Angus Buchanan were in Trenton yesterday in connection with a proposal to put on a boys' conference for the district in that town. If it is decided to hold the conference, the churches will assist.

SNOW TIES UP PUBLIC WORKS

The heavy snow fall during the night has completely tied up the public works activities. Patiently waiting to see what turn the weather will take is the attitude of the department. It is hoped that in order to get the work cleared away, the snow will disappear and a spell of mild and dry weather happen along. The department was waiting for a day or more to let Saturday's hill-bare-dry and it was hoped to go on with the surfacing tomorrow.

England Has Big Crop of Babies

Birth Rate Reaches Pre-War Standard—52 1/2 Per Cent. Boys.

LONDON, Nov. 17.—Throughout England a great crop of babies is being harvested. Almost everywhere the birth rate is up to the standard maintained before the war, and in several districts, particularly in Lancashire, the figures are higher than they ever have been before.

The greatest percentage of the new-born babies are boys. In normal times the percentage of boys born is 3 per cent. higher than the figure for girls, but now the percentage has raised to 5 per cent.

The doctors of England are discussing the peculiar manner in which nature is replacing the immense wastage of men during the war.

Money

PRIVATE MONEY TO LOAN ON mortgages on farms and city property, at lowest rates of interest, on terms to suit borrowers. F. A. WALLBRIDGE, Barrister, Etc. Cor. Front & Bridge Sts., Belleville. (Over Dominion Bank.)

GIFTS THAT LAST

Ready for Christmas Business

Our stock is superb—larger and better than ever. You are invited to inspect it. Don't wait for the rush that usually comes the week before Christmas. The early shoppers have the best assortment for selection. Many articles we have cannot be duplicated. A small deposit will secure your purchase for later delivery.

Angus McFee's

216 Front St.

Solved—a nola

children s, because y kind of e every mood. Music of all

ect your Christ- tock is complete. purchase when if desired.

Records 10 to \$3.00

gents position for a town in the culars, to C. ville, Agency

S elleville

TION

Your Coal Bill

Doors

Delivery

Dressed Lumber

ville Co., Ltd.

41 STATION ST.

derful feathers.

was secured by a long selection and in breeding, one and a half year, but various parts of the body times fall to moult. The were made from those feathers did not drop out, after generation was the tall feathers increasing each cycle until the present point was arrived at.

ckens used came originally the jungle fowl of Southern and to Korea forests, farmyards and lastly to

me for the benefit of How- r, Allentown, Pa., killed s in a football contest, fatal were received by another

ng that he had a barrel der in his barn and had ling it, Geo. Hill an Alder- mer, was fined \$100.

rk City is considering can- of all contracts for public because of testimony given committee investigating trust.

anagers in New York City to lower the price of bridal s cutting the high cost of, at least until the honey-

all children are subject to d many are born with e them suffering by using 's Worst Extremist, remedy.