

NINE ARE TOLD TO SELL OUT LICENSE COMMISSIONERS ISSUE ULTIMATUMS

Many Other Hotelkeepers Are Under Orders to Fix Up in Limited Time or They'll Lose Their Privileges Too.

The license commissioners have spoken. Here are the edicts:

The following are given three months to sell out, the purchaser to undertake to erect new buildings according to the plans submitted to the commissioners: Ellen Melbourne, 614 East Queen-street; Catherine Proctor, 476 East King-street.

Three months to sell out—Edward McCormick, 547 Dundas-street.

Three months to sell out, purchaser to make improvements to the satisfaction of the commissioners—Thomas Mottion, 708 Dundas-street; A. M. Thomson, 116 East Front-street.

Three months to sell out—John W. Johnson, 240 West Queen-street; Catherine Clark, 773 Dundas-street; John H. Lamb, 405 East Front-street.

Two months to sell their stock—Cora Brown, 104 Spadina-avenue.

Three months to improve their premises—John Clinkumboom, 196 West Queen-street; Wm. J. Cook, 537 West Queen-street; Julia Gorman, 149 Bay-street; Henry Berk, 332 East King-street; Sarah Lemon, 153 East King-street; Patrick Langley, 56 Jarvis-street; John O'Connor, 139 East King-street; John Beacock, 157 East King-street; Frank Hawken, 113 York-street.

Three months to improve their premises and character of their houses—John M. McCue, 749 West King-street; Thos. J. Carley, 732 West Queen-street; John Meagher, 110 East Front-street; Ellen Fitzgerald, 135 York-street; W. W. Cook, 280 Yonge-street.

Sarah Sullivan, three months, as trustee of the Hugh Sullivan estate.

Three months to show their good faith in building, according to the plan submitted to the commissioners—Wm. Hassard, 8 Teraulay-street.

Three months to provide suitable premises—Michael McGarry, 56 East Adelaide-street; Joseph Trebilcock, 35 West Queen-street; Henry U. Layton, University-avenue.

The following new applications were refused—Angus Kerr, Bloor and Dufferin-streets; Marguerite Courtenay, 614 East King-street; Wm. Tomlin, Queen and River-streets; Thomas Jones, 129 East Adelaide-street.

Frederick Hynes, to await the erection of new building, according to the plans submitted to the board.

Deborah I. Cryderman, a transfer of an existing license would be favorably considered.

Commissioners' Statement.

The commissioners issue the following statement:

"The board of license commissioners for the City of Toronto have now completed the list of shopkeepers to whom licenses will be issued for the coming year, and also the hotelkeepers who will be granted renewals of their licenses."

"The commissioners spent many days in a thorough examination of hotels in certain districts. Many of them were found to be in a very unsanitary condition, and the hotel equipments, except occasionally the bar, were anything but satisfactory as regards quality, quantity or cleanliness. This applies to the dining-room furniture and fittings, and the bedroom furniture and bedding. In many of these cases the sanitary arrangements were simply impossible, and should never have been allowed to exist as they evidently have gone for a long period of time. Technically some of these hotels had the necessary number of bedrooms required by law, and made some attempt at furnishing meals to guests. Others had neither the bedroom nor dining-room accommodation, and made no pretence whatever to serve the travelling public; they were saloons pure and simple, and of a very inferior type."

No Real Reduction.

"In view of the very large vote polled at the last election against reduction of hotel or shop licenses, the commissioners felt that the citizens of Toronto did not think that there were too many licensed shops, and that there was need for all the hotel accommodation now provided, and, therefore, the commissioners have made very little change in the number of licenses issued, but have held a certain number in reserve. They have, however, given special attention to enforcing the provisions of the law in regard to the premises, character of the licensee and the manner of conducting the hotel business."

"The commissioners have been energetically and faithfully assisted in their work by the chief license inspector, and the board feel confident that his supervision and strict enforcement of the rules and regulations laid down will effect a perceptible and very decided improvement in the premises themselves, character of the licensee and also the way in which the hotel business in Toronto will be conducted in the future, and the licensees will be well advised if they strictly observe all the provisions of the law."

A Strict Enforcement.

"The board found that a number of the so-called hotels were conducted in such a loose manner that it was quite clear that those in charge were not suitable persons to keep a hotel in the way a hotel should be kept in this city, and these licensees were given periods varying from two to three months in which to dispose of their business to persons satisfactory to the board, or the licensees will be struck off altogether. In addition to these, some twenty licensees have been given three months' time in which to improve the character of their present premises to

the satisfaction of the board, or they will be provided new and suitable premises."

"In these cases the objection was not so much to the licensees themselves as to the premises. The premises, which had been pulled down or to be rebuilt entirely or very considerably enlarged. The improvements, when completed, that have been insisted upon by the board, and that are either in progress or for which plans have been submitted and approved by the board, will involve an outlay of nearly a quarter of a million of dollars when new buildings are completed."

POSTOFFICE WRECKED

Continued From Page 1.

out of the cellar in stifling clouds, but no sign of fire could be seen. No mention had so far been made of Letray, and the firemen did not get a hint into the cellar for a minute or two no trace of anyone was noticed.

The cellar was full of compartments, and the partitions were a source of great difficulty to the fire-fighters. In the southeast corner was an apartment for the electrical switchboard. Next was the boiler-room, then an apartment in which was stored the waste paper, and then the washroom. The only exit was by a stairway on the west side and at the rear of the office building proper. Under the sorting-room, in the low extension, was the employees' lunchroom, and another room used for miscellaneous purposes.

Spitting "Black Butons."

The hardwood, the paper and the bags in which the paper is kept seemed to combine to produce the worst smoke that the firemen have had to contend with in years. Chief Thompson declares that in this respect it was the worst fire in his experience, and others who had service bore him out.

It rolled out in suffocating volume, and the hose sections, who lay at full length directing the nozzles thru the windows, suffered punishment that was most severe. Somewhere in behind they knew there was fire, but where it was they knew not. They were fighting hidden foe, the advances of which they could keep track of only by the trail of smoke as it would continue to burst out farther and farther north along the building.

At 4 o'clock Chief Thompson sent out a general alarm, realizing that the only hope there was would be in an ability to swamp the blaze when it did burst out. It brought down Deputy Chief Boyle, and all the fire companies in the department with the exception of four in the outskirts. The two new 2200-gallon engines and the lighter ones had been early requisitioned, and, lest the fire should eat its way up between partitions, the aerial ladder was equipped with a line of hose and the waterworks prepared to go into action at a minute's notice. Nasty, threatening bursts of smoke that carried the reflection of waves of flame somewhere below were issuing from all parts of the building.

The Fire at Last.

Almost coincident with the arrival of the reinforcements and as if to bid defiance, over an hour after the alarm had been sounded there suddenly came a belch of solid fire from a cellar window midway along the building. With somewhat of a muttered cheer the men stumbled in choky atmosphere came into active touch with the enemy. Swish, swish and two heavy streams of water were tearing their way into the heart of it.

Then from other windows could be seen the red glare that revealed fire in full possession of the basement from east to end.

It was the burning away of the supports of the floor that allowed the blaze to mount up. The concrete and three-hundred-pound floors in the other sections had proved a good barrier but with the joists below gone the flames, mounding up for a short space of time, seemed likely to carry their ruin thru the entire building.

But no fire could live long hemmed in as it was from all sides by fifteen streams of water, and after a brisk encounter the flame again resolved itself into that awful smoke.

But not before gaining a secure entry into the double row of the sorting room. Here there is a foot space between the ceiling and the old roof of tar felt and tin. Two inches above it was the new tar paper roof. Once in there, it gave the firemen hours of chopping and washing before the fight was won.

At 8 o'clock it was practically all over. Then there was more hope than there had been since the big fire. There were rays from as far away as King-street.

"You have done wonderfully well," was Mr. Ross' hearty tribute to the chief and his men.

Recovering the Body.

The melancholy story of beginning the recovery of the mangled Letray was taken up without delay. There was five feet of water in the basement with considerable wreckage.

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plunged around for hours, opening up sewer vents and dragging for the body. About half past three Fireman Corbett of truck 1 found the vest. The silver watch had stopped at 3:23. An hour later Fireman Graham, also of truck 1, who had been making his way along the boiler pipes, and probing around in the water, discovered the body floating. It was in a partition corner of the boiler room about the centre of the building. He brought it to the window, and it was carried out into the courtyard. The patrol wagon was summoned and the body taken to Murphy's undertaking room. Letray's brother, who was present, was almost overcome, and postoffice officials, with whom Letray was a general favorite by reason of his obliging nature, were visibly affected.

Chief Thompson had sent for the Boustead engine and for a crew to pump the water out of the basement, and the engine had arrived just as Graham announced that the task was done.

A crowd of several hundred surrounded the building all afternoon, but few were present during the course of the fire, the absence of a reflection not giving a general notification of the blaze.

A Thorough Inquiry.

The cause of the fire will be thoroughly inquired into by Coroner J. E. Elliott. He informed The World last night that he would open an inquest to-day at 3 o'clock in Murphy's undertaking establishment. After allowing the jury to view the body, as they do their own would be postponed until later in the week.

I intend to make this a full investigation," continued the coroner. "I will endeavor to find out what was the cause of the fire, what fire-fighting appliances the building had, and the condition of the premises, and the building and the people are interested in the facilities possessed by such places, especially when so many have mail in their possession."

"After the jury views the body," said the coroner, "I will order a post-mortem examination to be made. That is the only way in which we can determine whether the man died of suffocation or drowning."

H. E. Strickland, electrical inspector for the Underwriters, stated, that to assign the cause to wires would be mere guesswork.

"It is a government building and happens to be one of the few risks I am not familiar with as they do their own insuring. It is just as likely to have been caused by hot ashes and rubbish as anything. The lights were said to have all gone out shortly after the fire started. This," said the inspector, "could be caused by the heat of the fire melting the lead fuses. There has been a first-class electrician around the buildings during the past year, and had there been any serious defects he would have known about it."

"Speaking of electric fires generally, my experience is that it is not the fault of wires but of the owners of buildings, who allow any man to install them, and when I call their attention to dangerous defects owners often ignore the warning and state that they have been like that for ten years and haven't done any harm. People install extensive electric wiring in their buildings and rarely ever look after it again, and when I point out defects it sometimes takes a lot of persuasion, and often the canceling of insurance, before they are brought to realize that they should overhaul their work. If people would install complete iron conduit systems and arrange to have their main service switches turned off at night they will have no fears from electric fires."

"I am willing to assist architects or owners in laying out their electric wiring, so that they may have their electric installations up-to-date and perfectly safe."

"It is most unlikely that at such an hour, when nearly all lights are off, the electric wires could do anything to do with this postoffice fire."

The switchboard located in the building was on a marble slab and the fuse protected.

The Dead Man.

Thos. Letray was 40 years of age and lived at 73 Tecumseh-street. He had been in the government employ since 1896. Formerly he was a painter. He was a Roman Catholic. A brother, George, lives at 90 Bathurst-street. He had only recently recovered from a severe illness.

When his coat was found last evening it was folded up and indented in a manner which led to the supposition that he had been sleeping in it. He was wearing a pair of slippers, and his hands were tucked into his pockets. He was wearing a watch, vest and coat.

Letray's dog died with him. The animal was a faithful collie, and there was a strong attachment between the two. The mother of the dead man passed away and he decided to give up his home and go to live with his mother. There was an objection to him keeping his dog at a boarding-house, although in the place he offered to pay \$3 a week for the animal's keep and shelter. So he kept on paying the rent of his house, and he and the dog took their meals at a restaurant. Letray was seldom seen without his dog. The body of the animal was recovered long before that of his master.

The pet dog of the Ross family was also suffocated. Once Fireman Montgomery, in groping his way in the upper rooms, had grasped its leg to

watch, vest and coat.

Two Dogs Die.

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