

Extensive Fire in Montreal.

The fire broke out about four o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday last, in a carpenter's workshop, at the corner of Gabriel and Nazareth streets, Griffintown, and extended through St George, Nazareth and Prince Streets to Wellington Street, destroying much valuable property in its course—it then crossed Wellington Street, and was only checked in the immediate neighborhood of the large forwarding stores bordering the Canal. The St. Anne's (English) Church was totally destroyed and the Montreal Gas Works on the opposite side of the street very narrowly escaped. Mr Wm Spiers' and many other extensive wood yards and buildings fell also before the devouring element. The area over which the fire extended, and which is now left one heap of mouldering ashes, was very extensive and could not have contained under a couple of hundred houses.

A multitude of poor persons, by this melancholy occurrence have been deprived of shelter; emigrant sheds have been thrown open, and every provision made for their comfort so far as the emergency permitted.

We regret to learn that an aged woman, named Livingston, was burnt to death, and that several children are missing. Mrs Livingstone's remains were found in the ruins.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

To the kindness of the Proprietor of the Montreal Gazette, we are indebted for the following account of the dreadful conflagration of Saturday last:—

The awful calamity with which our city was visited on Saturday last was produced in consequence of some idle boys playing with Lucifer matches and firework crackers in the yard of Mr. McNevin, carpenter and joiner, one of our most enterprising house-contrators, a most careful man, and most respectable citizen. The yard was covered with shavings, and the fire being once communicated ran over it like gunpowder. Mr. McNevin was not at home, and the first intimation the men at work in the shop had of the danger, was from the fire bursting the floor from under the building. So rapid was the shop in a blaze, that the men in the lower part had just time to give the alarm to those above and make their escape, without being able to save any of their tools. The yard being full of dry lumber, partly worked and partly as from the saw, soon became an extent of terribly heated surface, from which the eddies of wind carried burning flakes in different directions. St. Ann's Church (belonging to the Church of England), a handsome stone structure, situated on an adjoining street, soon had the roof on fire in various parts. At this time, about four o'clock P. M., the alarm had brought the engines to the scene; but both sides of the street being in a blaze, the men of the Union made a dash through the fire to reach the church, and were, some of them, severely scorched; the poor horse was much burned, and is for the present useless. Their exertions were, however, of no avail; the church was totally consumed, while masses of fire from it and other buildings rose with sudden force into the air, and were scattered on the shingle roofs, in the direction of the canal, in shovers and buildings in several quarters began to blaze, among which an oat meal mill, formerly belonged to Mr Goudis, and now turned by steam, was a conspicuous object.—The attention of the firemen was in consequence distracted.

It now became certain that a dreadful calamity was inevitable, and the very want of prospect as to its limits, made it more terrible. Having crossed into the large wood yard of Messrs Spiers and Son and been driven into Wellington Street, the fire now seemed perfectly resistless, and as it came on towards the city, people looked on appalled.

Again new courage was thrown into the firemen by the appearance of a large detachment of the gallant 20th regiment. In all emergencies it is customary to observe how men in action look to a leader and how mechanically the confidence of men accustomed to act together is strengthened by stern command. The discipline of the regiment, under the general command of the veteran Town Major McDonald, for whom an unbounded respect is felt among all classes of our citizens under the particular command of their immediate officers, reassured the courage and energies of the firemen. A large cistern of water was also discovered in Mr McDonald's yard, and was instantly made use of. The military and men of the Union Company by tremendous exertions at length succeeded in driving the enemy back, upon the field of fire towards the canal, and saved the city from general destruction. The back buildings of the large row of brick houses in King street were however destroyed.

Thus foiled in its approach to the city, it rolled in aggrandised volume, over Wellington street, the principle street of the suburb, containing many large houses of brick and stone, on fire, up as far as Ann Street; the extreme cross street to the south. Doubling down Ann street, the mill front of the fire now turned to reach the large warehouse and store on the Canal and river, filled with produce from Upper Canada, and goods from Europe.

Along the line of Gabriel street on the west, and asked by George and Ann streets, on it came pouring down upon these valuable stores. The east side of Gabriel street, both sides of Nazareth street, Dalhousie street Wellington street, and one side of Ann street, were now in one blaze.

The Hero Company here earned praise for the and they made to save the stores on the canal; but they could not have succeeded, had it not been that men got out on the roofs, and, with brooms and buckets of water, swept off the heavy shower of burning embers, which fell thick around them. Several times the stores of Messrs Hooker & Holton, Phelps & Crane, Gillespie & Moffatt, and those belonging to the Hon. Thomas McKay, were on fire, and happily were again extinguished. Messrs Gillespie & Moffatt we believe have an engine of their own, and to it they may principally attribute their escape on this occasion.

The fire now checked in this quarter, was left to burn itself out in every other. Several times the Gas Works were on fire, and by superhuman exertions extinguished, and finally saved. Had they ploded, the effects would have been terrible.

The general loss of dwelling houses as far as we could learn yesterday, was as follows:—

Wellington Street	51
Dalhousie do	37
Nazareth do	25
George's do	22
Gabriel do	7
Ann do	6
In lanes do	30
Artisan's shops on front streets	15

Total 193

Besides these there were shops of blacksmiths, carpenters, and other mechanics, in rear of their houses and on back streets, which we could get little account of; there were also back buildings, sheds, stables, &c., to all the dwelling houses, which it is impossible to ascertain the number of, or estimate the extent.

The loss in value cannot be less than \$300,000 on a moderate computation, not reckoning furniture nor goods; and it falls upon a class of persons who will feel it most severely, being principally mechanics. The insurance offices have not yet received sufficient returns to enable them to make up an exact statement of their losses, but the following is a near approximation:—

Mutual	\$9,300
Atlas	9,200
Montreal	2,000
Quebec	1,200
North Western	750
Total	\$22,450

The houseless sufferers are entitled to, and will doubtless receive, every commiseration and aid. The emigrant sheds have been thrown open for their accommodation in the meantime.

The different churches will, in all Christian charity, see to their own poor.

There are various rumours of children being burnt, but we have not ascertained the fact with certainty. One unfortunate widow woman of the name of Livingston, after saving her cows, returned to get some money from her house, but never returned. Part of her remains was found on Sunday, and a coroner's inquest held on Monday, but nothing was elicited.

We learn that Mr Wm Stafford commenced rebuilding on Wellington Street.—Transcript.

Observance of the Sabbath

A meeting of the citizens of Toronto, to promote this most important object, convened by the Mayor in requisition, was held on Friday evening, in the City Hall. The meeting was called for half-past seven, but the chair was not taken for some time after, in consequence of speakers who were to have taken motions, not having arrived. The meeting was a large one, and so respectable and attentive an audience we have rarely seen in Toronto. It was very evident throughout, that the proceedings met the cordial approbation of those assembled who were of all religious distinctions.

J. S. Howard, Esq., Treasurer of the Home District, was called to the chair, and the Rev. John Barclay opened the meeting with prayer.

A letter was read from the Hon. Adam Ferguson, who was to have moved the first resolution, apologizing for his absence in consequence of the death of his brother.

The Chairman having made a few remarks on the general object of the meeting, he called on Rev. Dr. Burns to introduce the first motion.

We have a full report of the speeches delivered, and had hoped up to the last moment that we would be able to make room for them, but find it impossible to do so.

Dr. Burns moved, seconded by J. H. Hagerty, Esq.—

1. That the institution of one day in seven as a day of rest, and to be devoted to religious uses is of God and obligatory on all men, and that its right observance is inseparably connected with the moral and spiritual interests of mankind.

This resolution having been carried by acclamation, it was moved by Rev. Mr Pyper, supported by Hon. Malcolm Cameron, and Rev. Mr McGregor, of Guelph, and adopted:—

2. That as the Sabbath is most beneficial to the interest both of man, and the inferior creatures placed under his care, and as its desecration is an interruption of the peace of society, a violation of social rights, and a fruitful source of crime and wretchedness, it is our duty to employ all the legitimate means within our reach to suppress its infraction in our community.

It was then moved by the Rev. John Reaf, seconded by John Shaw, Esq., and carried:—

3. That, maintaining the views proposed in the preceding resolutions, and with the object of checking, if not eradicating evils among us, such as the growing encroachments of the Postal arrangements—the plying of vessels in and from our harbor with passengers or goods—and the toleration of taverns open for traffic on the Lord's day—an association be formed by the name of "The Sabbath Protection Alliance," to be conducted by a committee composed of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, to choose the Secretary, and to make such rules as may be necessary.

COMMITTEE.

All Clergymen favorable to the object, and Messrs. Justice McLean, Hagarty, Wm. McMaster, Wm. Mathers, W. A. Baldwin, A. T. McCord, John Whit, James Shaw, Edward McPhail, Hugh Cochrane, John McMurich, John Doel, Sen., Oliver Mowat, Robert James, S. Shaw, Robert Walker.

The Rev. John Jennings, seconded by John McMurich, Esq., then moved and carried the following resolution:—

4. That the following memorial from this meeting, and signed by the chairman in name thereof, be presented to His Worship the Mayor, and other members of the Corporation of this City, earnestly desiring their corporate interference in behalf of Sabbath observance, in its civil and social relations: To His Worship the Mayor, and other members of the Civic Corporation of the City of Toronto.

The Memorial of the Public Meeting held in the City Hall, on the 14th of June, 1850.

SHERWOOD—

That it is the duty of all men to recognise and obey the authority of God in regard to the sacred observance of the Sabbath.

That its proper observance is especially obligatory on a community which publicly professes christianity.

That the Civil Executive of that community has an important part to discharge in checking infractions and abuses of that day, which interfere with general order and morality, and when the public voice condemns them, and requests that they be disallowed.

That, when the Sabbath is violated, and avenues to vice are opened and tolerated, the most disastrous moral and social consequences are sure to follow.

That in this city there are certain great social evils now allowed on that day, which we consider ought to be strictly prohibited, such as, the plying of boats for hire to and from the Peninsula—the sailing of a steam boat to and from Hamilton—the open or covert traffic in licensed and unlicensed houses for the sale of spirituous liquors, and which is believed to be contrary to a Municipal Act. Also, the congregating of considerable bands of boys and young men in various parts of the city for idle and dissolute conduct and conversation, and for several kinds of games; all which are highly offensive to various neighbourhoods, and in some cases interfere with the comfort of public worship in churches and disturb that sacred quiet which is seemly and desirable.

It is therefore memorialised that your Worshipful Corporation will be pleased to take the whole subject into consideration, and strictly enforce those laws which are in existence, or enact such new ones as you may deem advisable, that your corporate interference may be beneficially felt in maintaining due order in regard to the civil and social relations of this precious Institution.

And as in duty bound, your Memorialists will ever pray.

Signed in name, and by authority of the Meeting.

J. S. HOWARD, Chairman.

The meeting was completely successful, and we trust the society growing out of it will be the means of effecting much good.—Globe.

BOSTON, June 18.

The Supreme Court opened this morning, and delivered their opinion in the case of Dr. Webster, to the effect that every form necessary to constitute a legal trial had been complied with. They were unanimous in dismissing the petition.

It was the general impression in Boston, that the Governor would next month fix the day for the execution of Professor Webster—and that there is no possibility of the prisoner escaping from the extreme penalty of the law.

Death of Mr. Wetenhall.

We deeply regret to say that John Wetenhall, Esq., late Commissioner of Public Works, and representative for the County of Halton, expired here yesterday morning. A more painful event it has never been our lot to announce, and we are sure it will be received by many beyond the wide circle of the personal friends of the deceased, with deep grief. Mr. Wetenhall's mind never completely recovered from the shock it sustained by the excitement of a contested election acting on an enfeebled constitution; but it was bodily disease which terminated his career.—His memory will long be cherished by those who knew him well. He was, in the best sense of the term, a gentleman; highly educated, manly and honorable in feeling, a warm friend, and a most agreeable companion. As an agriculturist he stood among the foremost in our country, and as a public man he was independent and liberal.

This sad termination of Mr. Wetenhall's brief political career carries with it a striking lesson of instruction. For the first time he obtained a seat in Parliament in January, 1843; and though but one Session in the House, he was called to take a share in the Government in Dec. 1849. The writer well recollects meeting him the morning of his appointment to the Commissionership of Public Works, and warmly congratulating him on the event; he had just been appointed, and was on the point of starting for his county, naturally elated with the new and honorable position he had acquired, and buoyant with hope for the future. How little did he or any other then suspect that that very step which he had gained and probably regarded as the summit of his ambition, was, in the inscrutable workings of Providence, fraught with consequences to him so distressing!—Ib.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MRS. LABOUCHERE.—We regret to announce the sudden death of the wife of the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, the President of the Board of Trade. The deceased was the youngest daughter of Sir T. Baring, Bart, and sister of First Lord of the Admiralty.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, June 17.

Court of Chancery.

Col. Prince withdrew his notice of a bill to abolish the Court of Chancery. He had read the new rules carefully, and he had no hesitation in saying that if they were properly carried out they would do much to forward justice, and at a very reduced cost.

Law Reform.

Mr Notman introduced a bill to alter and amend the practice of the law in the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas.

Attendance of Witnesses

Mr Sherwood (Brockville) introduced a bill to authorize the Superior Courts to compel the attendance of witnesses. Second reading Monday next.

Fines in Lower Canada.

On motion of Mr Duchesney a committee was appointed to enquire into the payment of fines imposed by Justices of the Peace in Lower Canada.

School Bill Lower Canada.

In answer to an enquiry from Mr McConnell, Mr LaFontaine said it was not the intention of Government to amend the present, or to introduce a new School Bill for Lower Canada.

Mr Robinson moved for leave to introduce a bill to prevent the payment of any claims under the Indemnity Act of last Session, until certain information moved for, was laid before the House.

A warm debate ensued, as to whether Mr W. H. Boulton had the right to speak on the motion, it having been put by the Speaker. The Speaker at first decided he had not the right to speak; after the motion was put, but finally decided that, in his opinion, Mr Boulton had the right.

A debate then ensued on the question. The ministry opposed the motion. On being put to the vote, it was negatived by 48 against 16.

Mr W. H. Boulton moved for the introduction of certain Resolutions for an address to Her Majesty on the subject of amending the Constitution of the Province. After speaking upon them at some length, the House adjourned at 8 P. M. from the want of a quorum.

Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of Kings College.

In answer to an inquiry from Mr H. Sherwood, Mr Baldwin said the Government had not got a formal inquiry from Kings College respecting certain statements relative to the Commission of inquiry into the affairs of Kings College; but he had learned from one of the Secretaries that the information would be forthcoming.

The Constitutional Act.

Mr Boulton (Toronto) rose to move certain resolutions, with a view to an Address to Her Majesty, on the subject of amending the constitutional act.

While Mr Boulton was speaking the House was counted out for want of a quorum, there being only 18 members present.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, June 19.

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

Hon. Mr. Irving moved to withdraw the motion which he had made to move an address to the Queen relative to the summoning of persons to the Legislative Council. The motion was granted.

BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

The Bill to restrain within certain limits the system of voting by proxy in Banking Institutions or other Incorporated Companies, was read the first time.

Hon. W. Morris explained the provisions of the Bill. He said the 2nd clause enacted that no officer of any Incorporated Company shall hold proxies.—The 2nd clause provided that a list of shareholders, stockholders, or partners, should be printed annually and sent 90 days previous to the annual elections, to each shareholder, &c. The 3rd clause provided, that no officer of the past or current year should hold or use proxies at any election of Directors, or use any question which may arise at the meeting for such election. The 4th clause enacted that no one but shareholders shall hold proxies; and the 5th clause provided, that it should not be lawful for any one person to give more than fifty proxy votes. The 6th and last clause enacted, that a statement shall be inserted in a book every six months, verified by the oath of the President, or other presiding officer, showing the whole liability to the Bank of such President or Chairman, and of each Director of the Bank, at the time of making such statement, and also the average amount of their liabilities during each of the six months next preceding the making of such statement; and that the Cashier of every Bank should keep such book open to the inspection of the Stockholders.—He held that the provisions of the Bill were much needed; and would be productive of much good.

Hon. Mr. McGill said he would make a few remarks upon two of the provisions of the Bill. He said some of the Directors of the Bank which he represented—the Bank of Montreal—had liabilities in them, not personal ones, but connected with them as partners of commercial firms. He thought it would be improper that the private affairs of such be exposed to public gaze. He would also object to that clause which enacted that no Stockholders should hold more than 50 proxies, because many persons in foreign countries held stock in the Montreal Bank, and if that provision was adopted, many of such foreign Stockholders would not be represented.

Hon W Morris made a few observations in reply. Hon Mr Lesslie said, in Lower Canada, previous to the time of the Special Council, there was a provision similar to that in the proposed Bill, which enacted that a statement of the liabilities of the Directors should be laid before the Stockholders, and that practice had worked well. The Special Council, however, had repealed that enactment.

Hon Mr McGill said, the aggregate, but not the individual liabilities of the Directors were then given. He did not object to that provision on account of the Montreal Bank in particular, because the amount of the liabilities of the Directors of that Bank was ridiculously small, but he objected to it on the principle which it involved. He was not opposed to the general principle of the Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

The House then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, June 18.

Sixteen Petitions were brought up and laid on the table.

Mr Gagy, from the Select Committee on His Excellency's Message, with the accompanying documents, on the subject of the Industrial Exhibition to take place in London, in 1851, presented the Report of the said Committee.

Mr De Witt introduced a Bill to enable the Judgment Creditors of Public Officers to seize a portion of the salaries and emoluments of such officers in certain cases; second reading Thursday next.

Mr Polotte introduced a Bill to transfer to the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the town of Three Rivers, the administration of the Common Council of the said town, and for other purposes;—second reading Monday next.

On motion of the hon Mr Baldwin a call of the House was ordered for Friday, the 23th June, inst.