CANADIANS LOSE $45,015,930 DURING 1921 IN FIRE DAMAGE

Added to This Enormous Waste is the Incalculable Loss Arising From Forest Fires—$5.22 Per Capita Throughout the Dominion.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Fire losses in Canada for 1921 amounted to $5.22 per capita, as compared with 90 cents per capita in Great Britain, according to information made public by the Dominion Fire Commissioner. During the year the 25,916 fires reported to the Department of Insurance occasioned property damage amounting to $45,015,930, exclusive of incalculable loss arising from forest fires, the commissioner points out.

The 1921 fire loss, of which approximately $34,000,000 or 75 per cent., was covered by insurance, constitutes a substantial increase over the losses of the three previous years. In 1920 the loss amounted to $28,745,590; in 1919, $25,361,240, and in 1918, $33,817,050. During 1921 the fire losses in Great Britain amounted to only $36,400,000.

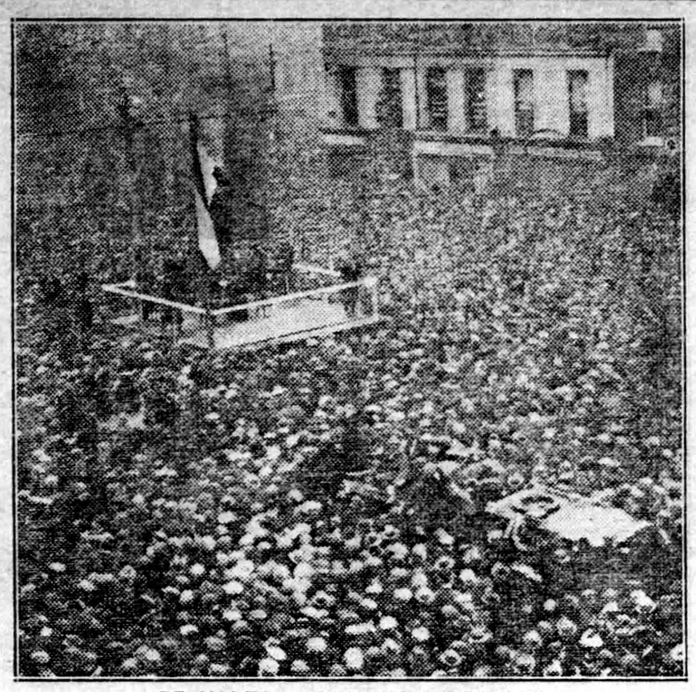
By provinces the distribution of fire losses during 1921 was as follows: Alberta, $2.875,000, or $4.95 per capita; British Columbia, $3,050,000, or $5.82 per capita; Manitoba, $2.864,000, or $4.67 per capita; New Brunswick, $2,725,982, or $7.02 per capita; Nova Scotia, $3,177,000, or $6.06 per capita; Ontario, $15,444,817, or $5.28 per capita; Prince Edward Island, $216,478, or $2.44 per capita; Quebec, $10,897,653, or $4.64 per capita, and Saskatchewan, $3,755,000, or $4.93 per capita.

Reports by municipal officers show that the losses in cities having populations of more than 10,000 population amounted to $13,616,951, or $4.29 per capita; in towns of from 1,000 to 10,000 population, $6,184,085, or $7.32 per capita, and in villages and rural districts, $25,214,894, or $5.31 per capita. In places having municipal fire protection systems the loss was $4.90 per capita, and in unprotected places $5.25 per capita.

There were 59 fires where the loss exceeded $100,000; 46 with losses of from $50,000 to $100,000; 261 with a loss of from $10,000 to $50,000; 3,992 with a loss of from $1,000 to $10,000, and 21,558 with a loss of less than $1,000. The 59 larger fires entailed an aggregate loss of $15,824,801, and the 21,558 smaller fires a loss of $4,644,817.

Classified according to the character of the property involved, the more destructive fires occurred as follows: 49 in industrial property, with a loss of $8,188,200; 32 in mercantile property, with a loss of $5,659,000; 9 in institutional property, with a loss of $1,948,561, and 15 in miscellaneous property, with a loss of $4,301,465.

The amount of money spent by the Dominion and Provincial Governments upon fire prevention work in 1921 amounted to $125,000, all of which, with the exception of $12,000, was raised by a tax upon insurance companies.



DE VALERA SPEAKING IN DUBLIN

The photo shows a small section of the huge crowd which gathered in O'Connel Street, to hear him speak against the Irish Treaty. There was little enthusiasm. Note the new Irish flag on the platform.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OPENS FIRST SESSION OF FOURTEENTH DOMINION PARLIAMENT

Business of Session Commences With Delivery of Speech from the Throne Setting Forth the Legislative Proposals of the New Administration.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Parliament has been formally embarked upon the business of its session and the members of both Houses may now take up the first item of their program—the debate upon the address in reply to the speech from the Throne.

The ceremonies incidental to the opening of the first session of the fourteenth Parliament of the Dominion in themselves differed but little from those of previous years. Procedure following tradition was carried out as in former sessions. The play was to many a familiar one, the principal persons on the stage had changed. The new Governor-General, Lord Byng of Vimy, delivered to the members of the Senate and House of Commons, the speech from the Throne, embodying the legislative proposals of a new Government. A new Prime Minister, Hon. Mackenzie King, clad in the gold-laced uniform of a Privy Councillor, stood to the right of the vice-regal chair, and new speakers headed the Senators and the Commoners who listened to the address.

The speech from the Throne, which was rather more lengthy than is customary, disclosed in general terms the legislative plans of the new Government insofar as they have been completed.

The following proposals were mentioned in the speech from the Throne:

1. Co-ordination at an early date of the Government-owned railway systems.
2. Some tariff changes this session.
3. The arrangement of conferences with the railway heads to secure a reduction in the freight rates on basic commodities.
4. Renewed efforts to attract settlers to undeveloped lands.
5. Negotiations with other countries looking to trade expansion.
6. Co-ordination of the country's defence forces.

MONTAGU FORCED TO RESIGN OFFICE

Made Public India's Demand That Turkey be Raised to Status of World Power.

A despatch from London says:—Publication of the Indian Government's demand that Turkey be raised to the status of a world power to appease Moslems in India led to the resignation of E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India. He had given his consent to the publication of the Indian Government's telegram without consulting the Cabinet, Austen Chamberlain, Coalition Leader in the House of Commons, announced.

Mr. Chamberlain explained, in answer to a question about the Indian situation from a member, that the Government felt it could not accept responsibility for the unauthorized action of Mr. Montagu. In other words, the Secretary was practically forced to resign.

Just what effect this will have on the position of the Viceroy of India, Earl Reading, is not yet clear. There were reports that he might resign, but this idea was scouted in the best informed quarters, as the Government is not now desirous of changing.

The effect in India itself of the Indian Government's far-reaching concessions to the Turks, and their repudiation by the British Government, will, it is stated, serve to intensify the Moslem agitation.

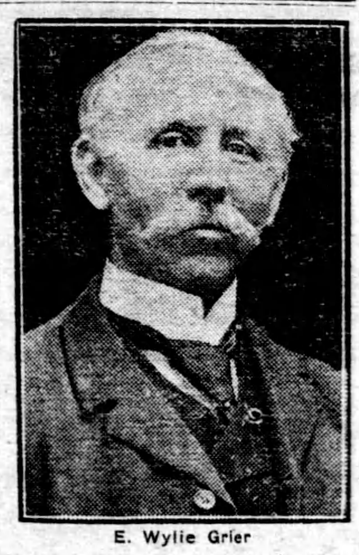
In high quarters here the correspondent was informed the Indian Government is really asking the country to approve a policy which would transform Turkey from a defeated enemy into a sort of preferential ally. It has no intention of adopting a policy toward Turkey which would raise her to the status of a world power.

It was frankly stated, however, that Britain would go to the Near Eastern conference prepared, if necessary, to make some further modifications in the treaty of Sevres. For example, it is possible she will propose giving Smyrna outright to the Turks.

United States Declines to Join Genoa Parleys

A despatch from Washington says:—The United States will help only those European countries which first help themselves. And this Government will exert "tactful pressure" to make those nations feel the necessity of getting back to normalcy.

This is the real meaning of the policy with regard to economic rehabilitation in Europe, as enunciated in the United States note declining to participate in the Genoa Conference, and the plan of action behind that policy.



E. Wylie Grier

Noted Canadian artist, who is among the exhibitors at the Art Exhibition held in St. Catharines under the auspices of the Arts and Crafts Guild of that city.

Free Public Lectures.

This week there terminated at the provincial university a unique and a very successful experiment. To a number of the alumni and friends of the university it seemed that people who live near the university should enjoy an educational service similar to that which has for years been available, in the form of extension lectures, to organizations throughout the province. These alumni arranged, therefore, for a series of six lectures on topics of literary, historical, and scientific interest, secured the co-operation of the professors concerned, engaged Convocation Hall, and offered six educational evenings, free of all cost, to the general public. The response was magnificent. On the evening of the first lecture Convocation Hall, with its 1,800 seats, could not accommodate all the people who sought admission. The interest was maintained from week to week in a most remarkable manner and many hundreds of people acquired the habit of attending university lectures. Indeed, during the past two years there has been evident on the part of the public almost everywhere a very general desire to learn more, to make leisure hours both profitable and pleasurable rather than pleasurable only, to cultivate the mind by taking advantage of all available educational opportunities. To this very laudable tendency the successful experiment carried out by the Alumni Federation of the University of Toronto has given a very considerable stimulus.

Canada From Coast to Coast

Charlottetown, P.E.I.—A healthy increase in Charlottetown industry in recent years is recorded in the latest statistics of the Dominion Government. Between 1917 and 1919 industrial establishments increased from 62 to 84; capitalization from $1,100,823 to $2,340,341; employees from 730 to 772, and the value of production from $2,033,085 to $3,201,061.

Halifax, N.S.—A discovery of ankerite, an iron deposit of much more than ordinary value, has been made in the past year in Pictou county. The research work so far has largely been in tracing the extent of the seam. Further prospecting will be done this spring, when it is expected that the full extent of the deposit will be determined.

Montreal, Que.—Canada heads the list of countries from which the United States imported iron and steel during 1921, according to a report emanating from New York. Canada exported 24,079 tons to the States, of which amount 21,251 tons consisted of steel rails. Canada and Belgium furnished 65 per cent. of the total United States imports for the past year.

Ottawa, Ont.—The total population of Canada in the census of 1921, according to figures just issued is 8,769,489 as compared with 7,206,643 in 1911, an increase of 1,562,846 for the ten years, or nearly twenty-two per cent. Nova Scotia shows an increase of 6½ per cent.; New Brunswick, 10 per cent.; Quebec, 17½ per cent.; Ontario, 10 per cent.; Manitoba, 34½ per cent.; Saskatchewan, 80 per cent.; Alberta, 55 per cent.; British Columbia, 35 per cent.

The Pas, Man.—From the beginning of winter until the end of January, fur to the estimated value of $1,000,000 passed through The Pas, which is in excess of the value of any similar period since the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway. Furred animals are very plentiful this year, and there are a great number of trappers out and it is anticipated that the aggregate catch in the district will reach a value of $2,500,000.

Regina, Sask.—Cattle in Saskatchewan in 1921 numbered 1,563,332, an increase of 339,280 over the number of 1920, according to a report of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. It is interesting to note that the greatest increase is in milk cows, which now number 421,706, or 70,000 more than in the previous year.

Edmonton, Alta.—Nearly one and a half million bushels of wheat, oats and barley have been brought down from the Peace River and Grande Prairie districts by the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway since the first of September, according to figures issued by the railroad. Nine hundred and five railway cars have come down from the north country with 718,624 bushels of wheat, 676,983 bushels of oats, and 100,699 bushels of barley.

Victoria, B.C.—The Provincial Minister of Lands reports that the waterborne lumber export from British Columbia in 1921 was in excess of 188,000,000 feet, an excess of about 44,000,000 feet over the record of 1920. A large share of this export went to Japan and China.

Thousands View Princess Mary's Presents

A despatch from London says:—Nearly 20,000 women inspected Princess Mary's 1,400 wedding gifts at St. James' Palace on the opening day of the exhibit. Mile long lines gathered at the palace entrances before dawn, waiting for hours in the wind and rain before the doors opened. Traffic was blocked and special police were called to regulate the impatient women.

The greatest interest was shown in Princess Mary's wedding gown, which was exhibited by order of Queen Mary.

They paid a shilling each for the privilege of seeing the presents. The proceeds will go to a charity to be selected by the Princess. The exhibition will be open five hours daily for the present.

Cannada's Debt Decreased by $699,882

A despatch from Ottawa says:—A decrease of $699,882 in the net debt of Canada during the month of February, as compared with an increase of $4,290,143 in the same month last year is shown by the financial statement issued from the Finance Department. The net debt of Canada now stands at $2,371,886,102, as compared with $2,372,585,984 on January 31st, 1922, and $2,307,013,156 on February 28th, 1921.

Awarded Prize

The National Geographic Society has awarded the Grant Squires Prize to Vilhjalmur Stefansson in recognition of his book "The Friendly Arctic," as the outstanding geographic production of 1921.

The Oldest Love-Letter.

The oldest love-letter in the world is in the British Museum. It is a proposal of marriage for the hand of an Egyptian princess, and was made over 3,500 years ago. It is in the form of an inscribed brick, and is, therefore, not only the oldest, but the most substantial, love-letter in existence.

FIRE AGAIN BREAKS OUT IN ARSENAL

Dominion Arsenal Buidings at Quebec Ablaze for Second Time Within Ten Days.

A despatch from Quebec says:—For the second time within less than ten days Dominion Arsenal buildings owned by the Federal Government have been menaced by fire which, in both cases, broke out from unknown causes. Last week the Dominion Cartridge Factory, located on the Cove fields, was partially destroyed and damage estimated at $20,000 caused by a blaze which broke out late in the evening. At 5.30 o'clock Thursday afternoon the main building, properly called the Dominion Arsenal, where some 200 men are employed, was in danger of being completely destroyed by a fire which was not under control until 9 o'clock Friday evening.

The authorities are perplexed by these two fires in so short a time. A suspicion is entertained that they are the work of some dissatisfied former employee.

More Lives Destroyed in Belfast Riots

A despatch from Belfast says:—There was a continuation on Thursday of the shooting which has been prevalent in the city for some time. The firing was particularly heavy at the noon hour when a baby boy received a bullet wound in the thigh.

There was considerable sniping in the evening in Stanhope Street area. A blind man, who was groping his way along the streets, and a youth, were shot dead.

Sir Hamar Greenwood is slated for the portfolio of British Home Secretary in succession to Hon. Edward Shortt.

Weekly Market Report

Toronto.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.60½.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 CW, 61c; extra No. 1 feed, 58c; No. 1 feed, 59c.

Manitoba barley—Nominal.

All the above, track, Bay ports.

American corn—No. 2 yellow, 77c; No. 3 yellow, 76c; No. 4 yellow, 75c, track, Toronto.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, nominal.

Ontario wheat—Nominal.

Barley—No. 3 extra, test 47 lbs. or better, 57 to 60c, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 78 to 80c.

Rye—No. 2, 86 to 88c.

Manitoba flour—First pats., nominal.

Ontario flour—90 per cent. patent, bulk seaboard, per bbl., nominal.

Millfeed—Del., Montreal freight, bags included: Bran, per ton, $28 to $30; shorts, per ton, $30 to $32; good feed flour, $1.70 to $1.80.

Baled hay—Track, Toronto, per ton, extra No. 2, $22 to $23; mixed, $18 to $19; clover, $14 to $18.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, track, Toronto, $12 to $13.

Unofficial quotations—Ontario No. 1 commercial wheat, $1.30 to $1.36, outside; $1.35 to $1.41, delivered Toronto.

Ontario No. 3 oats, 40 to 45c, outside.

Ontario flour—1st pats., in cotton sacks, 98's, $8.20 per bbl. 2nd pats., (bakers), $7.20.

Manitoba flour—1st pats., in cotton sacks, $8.70 per bbl.; 2nd pats., $8.20.

Cheese—New, large, 20 to 20½c; twins, 20½ to 21c; triplets, 21 to 21½c. Fodder cheese, large, 18½c. Old, large, 25 to 26c; twins, 25½ to 26½c; triplets, 26 to 27c; Stiltons, new, 24 to 25c.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 22 to 28c; creamery, prints, fresh, fancy, 41c; No. 1, 39c; No. 2, 35 to 37c; cooking, 22 to 25c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 30 to 28c; roosters, 18c; fowl, 24 to 30c; ducklings, 35c; turkeys, 45 to 50c; geese, 30c.

Live poultry—Spring chickens, 22 to 28c; roosters, 18c; fowl, 24 to 30c; ducklings, 35c; turkeys, 45 to 50c; geese, 30c.

Margarine—20 to 23c.

Eggs—New laid straights, 32c; new laid, in cartons, 36 to 38c.

Beans—Can. hand-picked, bushel, $4.40; primes, $3.85 to $4.

Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., $2.50; per 5 imp. gals., $2.35. Maple sugar, lb., 19 to 22c.

Honey—60-30-lb. tins, 14½ to 15c per lb.; 5-2½-lb. tins, 17 to 18c per lb.; Ontario comb honey, per doz., $5.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, med., 32 to 34c; cooked ham, 43 to 48c; smoked rolls, 26 to 28c; cottage rolls, 30 to 32c; breakfast bacon, 29 to 33c; special brand breakfast bacon, 37 to 40c; backs, boneless, 35 to 40c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, $17 to $19; clear bellies, $17 to $20; mess pork, $34; short cut backs, $36; lightweight rolls, $39; heavyweight rolls, $43.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 17 to 17½c; tubs, 17½ to 18½c; pails, 17 to 17½c; prints, 18 to 19c. Shortening tierces, 16 to 16½c; tubs, 15½ to 15¾; pails, 16 to 16¼c; prints, 17 to 17½c.

Choice heavy steers, $7.75 to $8.50; do, good, $7 to $7.50; butcher steers, choice, $6.75 to $8; do, good, $5.75 to $6.25; do, med., $5 to $5.50; do, com., $4 to $5; butcher heifers, choice, $6.50 to $7; do, med., $5 to $6; do, com., $4 to $4.25; butcher cows, choice, $5.50 to $6.25; do, med., $3.50 to $4; canners and cutters, $1 to $2.50; butcher bulls, good, $4.50 to $5.50; do, com., $3 to $4; feeders, good, $5.80 to $6.50; do fair, $4 to $5; stockers, good, $4 to $5; do, fair, $3 to $4; milkers, $60 to $80; springers, $70 to $90; calves, choice, $12 to $13; do, med., $10 to $11; do com., $5 to $7; lambs, choice, $13 to $15; do, com., $6 to $7; sheep, choice, $6.75 to $7.50; do, good, $5.50 to $6; do, com., $1.50 to $3.50; hogs, fed and watered, $12.50; do, f.o.b., $11.75; do, country points, $11.50.

Montreal.

Oats, Can. West., No. 2, 68 to 69c; do, No. 3, 65½ to 66c. Flour, Man. Spring wheat pats., firsts, $8.50. Rolled oats, bag 90 lbs., $3.10 to $3.20. Bran, $32.50. Shorts, $33. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $28 to $29.

Cheese, finest Westerns, 16½ to 17c. Butter, choicest creamery, 36½ to 37c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, 90c to $1.

Cattle, com., $3 to $4.75; canners, $2; calves, choice, $9; do, good, $8; do, med., $7 to $7.50; hogs, $14.

REGLAR FELLERS— By Gene Byrnes