

# 15,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS.

## Vast Portions of Ottawa and Hull Destroyed by Fire.

Ottawa, Ont., Friday, April 27.—Fifteen thousand people are homeless here to-night, 3,000 dwellings have gone up in smoke, \$20,000,000 worth of property has been destroyed. Ottawa and Hull to-night are suffering from the effects of the worst calamity in their corporate history. A fire began shortly before noon Thursday, and raged fiercely until one o'clock this morning, when it was got under control. At present the damage cannot be estimated with any great accuracy, but it will undoubtedly amount to several million dollars. Conservative estimates make it in the neighbourhood of \$20,000,000. Many large manufacturing establishments and lumber almost beyond computation have been destroyed. A distressing feature of the situation is the position of a large portion of the labouring people, whose dwellings and sources of employment have disappeared together.

**OTTAWA FIREMEN CUT OFF.**  
The fire started in the chimney of a labouring man's cottage in Hull. A very high wind was blowing at the time, but nobody had the slightest idea of the real extent of the danger. An hour later the main street of Hull was all in flames. The firemen of Ottawa hastened to the assistance of the neighbouring city, with the result that they were presently cut off and unable to return, when the fire leaped suddenly across the river, destroying in its course the plank of the bridge which formed the only communication.

This rendered the city of Ottawa to a certain extent helpless. Little could be done but watch the flames lead their way steadily all afternoon through the western part of the city. For a little while it looked as if nothing would be left of the capital of the Dominion, but, fortunately, the wind kept the fire away from most of the business districts and from the most pretentious residential streets. Those burned out are chiefly the working population, which fact serves to render the distress all the greater.

The vast lumber piles and mills of J. R. Booth, the lumber king of Canada and president of the Canada Atlantic railway, are gone completely. So, also, are millions upon millions of lumber belonging to the Hull Export Co., and the Export Lumber Co., both of which are heavy losers, as are likewise the Bronsons-Western Co., which had still mill lumber on hand. The Gilmour and Hughson lumber piles and mill are gone, together with the churches, schools, public buildings, and stores without number.

Eddy's pulp mills were among the first to succumb to the flames. Since early in the afternoon the city has been almost cut off from the outside world through the destruction of the Canadian Pacific railway station and the ruin of the track, the ties being set on fire and the rails spread by the heat of burning lumber piles. Most of the telegraph wires are also down.

Every effort is being made to relieve the distress of the homeless and ruined thousands who are wandering in the streets. The Dominion Government authorities have taken energetic hold of the problem, and the drilled and the public buildings have been thrown open as temporary shelters. Time has not yet permitted the organization of any further relief measure.

### ORIGIN OF THE FIRE

The blaze is said to have originated in the house of A. Kirouac, on Chaudiere street. A burning chimney is said to have been the cause. This house was in the thick of a lot of wooden buildings, and in a very short while more than thirty houses on Philomen, Bridge, Chaudiere, and Albert streets were in flames. The Hull fire brigade summoned assistance, and soon the E. B. Eddy firemen, the Union brigade of the Chaudiere, and a part of the Ottawa fire department were doing what they could to keep down the flames. The wind proved too strong and fierce, however, and, despite the many streams of water playing on the blaze, the fire spread rapidly. Even at considerable distances away from the original fire area many houses were set ablaze by burning embers.

It was thought at first that Main street, the business portion of the town, might be saved, but the fire came down there, destroying all the stores, the Bank of Ottawa building, the English church, the court-house, gaol, post-office, residence and offices of Mr. Champagne, M. P., and everything else on the street.

The original area of the fire extended over four blocks from the south side of Philomen street to Wright street and between Chaudiere and Bridge streets. A fact that rendered the fire more destructive was that most of the buildings which were burned at first were of wood. People who lived two or three streets away, on becoming aware of the flying cinders, started to pour water on their houses in the hope of saving the buildings. Many more people commenced to move their household effects. In spite of all these precautions, however, the flames would get at the houses, and in a few minutes they were a

### DISTRESSING SCENES.

The entire day in Hull seemed to be

rife with scenes of the most distressing nature. Many children who had been playing around their homes in their bare feet were compelled to seek safety without shoes or stockings. Scores of women carried babies in their arms and stood at a distance watching everything which they possessed go up in flames.

It was 1:30 when the fire was discovered on the Ottawa side of the river. It broke out in the lumber district adjoining the C.P.R. station, and tonight a vast area comprising the western section of Victoria Ward and practically the whole of Dalhousie Ward is destroyed.

### ACROSS THE RIVER INTO OTTAWA.

When the blaze crossed the river, the lumber piles between the McKay mills and the river caught first, and in less than five minutes were a raging mass. It was only the work of a few seconds when the small buildings between the piles and the mills were burned, and the great elevators of the McKay mills were soon in the cauldron of fire. The brigade made a plucky fight to stop the fire at this juncture, and save the power-house and the Booth property, but it was in vain. The immense deluge of water had no more effect than if fired from a squirt-gun. The wind was blowing a gale of 60 miles an hour, fanning the flames into such fury that the massive structures were soon reduced to a heap of ruins.

While the brigade were fighting these, the embers were carried over to the C.P.R. station, and in an incredibly short time more than thirty houses were burning. The station and freight-sheds fell an easy victim, and on sped the greedy element until the whole district to Pooley's bridge was a veritable ocean of flame. The old frame houses, for which the district was noted, only served to add fury to the blaze, and hundreds of the poorest of Ottawa's poor fled with only the scant clothing on their backs. The household effects, upon which not one in a hundred had a cent of insurance, were all lost, and crying women and wailing children were struggling on every side. The men worked as with superhuman strength, and many moved their furniture three or four times, only at last to see it go up in smoke. The most pathetic sight was the aged women and helpless babes, who were without friends or shelter, and knew not where to turn for help.

### EFFECT OF THE CALAMITY.

Ottawa, April 27.—A belt of over two miles, from north to south and from a quarter to half a mile wide is swept bare of everything except walls and chimneys, and during the night the fire simply burnt itself out in this belt, which fortunately was separated by a large vacant area, from the most popular of the western suburb, Hintonburg, towards which the flames were driving.

This area of Ottawa comprises probably 6000 people, who are homeless. In addition one-half of Hull is gone and probably 6000 more are homeless there. These are conservative figures.

The great majority are poor people. A very bad feature is that the manufacturing and industrial parts of Hull and the chief industrial part of Ottawa, the Chaudiere district, are destroyed and thousands of men deprived of wages for the present.

The Lumber Mills, which were all about to open, and which employed about 4000 men are destroyed, with the exception of J. R. Booth's big mill, which was fire-proof, but the neighborhood is so blasted that even that mill will be delayed opening for a time. The loss to Mr. Booth, on his other buildings, lumber yards, offices, house and other property is estimated at half a million dollars.

Eddy's loss in Hull will be larger, the paper mills, match factory, indurated ware mills, the storehouse, yards, tramways and residence being gone.

McKay's Milling Co., is gone, loss \$350,000. The main power houses of the Ottawa Electric Railway and Ottawa Electric Light Co., are gone, but auxiliary plants, which were saved, are giving enough power to maintain a partial service of both railway and lighting.

A great number of foundries, machine shops, factories, and other industries are utterly destroyed, as well as the Canadian Pacific station, freight sheds and yards.

### THEIR ESTIMATE.

The morning papers estimate the total loss in Ottawa and Hull at \$15,000,000. That is probably over the mark, as outside of the great mills and the main street and public buildings of Hull the greater part of the districts burned were of the poorer class. The insurance, which is impossible to estimate as yet, will be comparatively light for that reason, and for the reason that the lumbermen, owing to the high rates, did not carry heavy insurance.

Relief funds are being started in the city, and large numbers of subscriptions are being made, and arrangements to shelter and feed the distressed. Seven dead or missing are reported so far.

### VICTIMS OF THE FIRE.

In addition to Mrs. Bessie Cook, cremated in a house on Wellington street, and the unknown man found at the C. P. R. depot, reported last evening, another unknown man was found dead on Broad street.

The list of the dead so far as known is as follows:—Mrs. Bessie Cook, Wellington street, cremated in house; unknown man found on Broad street, remains charred beyond recognition;

unknown man found in C. P. R. station yard, lower extremities badly burned; John Matthews, 15 Division Street, reported dead; John Tumble, Somerset street, said to be missing;—Drost, Water street watchman for E. B. Eddy Co., reported dead; Fireman Dann and Engineer Peter Hamilton, of Hull, reported missing. It is said several bodies have been seen in Hull.

### HELP THE HOMELESS.

Fifteen thousand people have been rendered homeless by Friday's conflagration in Ottawa and Hull. It was the work of but a few hours. The fire commenced in Hull, swept through the streets of that city, licked up the lumber piles and the mills which separate Hull from Ottawa, and then drove with irresistible force through a populous district of the capital. The fire-fighters were powerless. Nothing could stop the progress of the flames. No time was given to the people to save any of their belongings. For them old and young, sick or well, it was luck if they escaped with their lives. Fifteen thousand of them are to-day without shelter. They are our own people. All Canadians with true Canadian hearts beating in their breasts ought to come liberally to their assistance. Let individuals, municipalities, in fact, all possible agencies, come at once to the relief of the homeless.

## THE BOERS' STRENGTH

### They Have Plenty of Ammunition, But Few Provisions.

London, Monday, April 30.—The Morning Post's correspondent at Bloemfontein sends a long detailed communication in reference to the strength of the Boers, and their Reoer commissariat, through whose hands the returns passed. It contains the assertion that the Boers up to March 13 had lost 6,500 prisoners, 8,000 killed and wounded, and 14,000 had slunk to their homes. They are extremely short of waggons, and were short of wheat until their raid into the Wepener district, where the harvest has been the finest on record. Their mealies are in bad condition. Smokeless powder for their big guns is almost exhausted, but other stores and rifle ammunition are plentiful.

There are no positions south of Pretoria which cannot be turned by the British. Even the Vaal river does not offer any protection to the Transvaal, it being fordable at every dozen miles. The position at Biggarsberg can also be easily turned.

## WILL HOLD THABA NCHU.

### British Force Likely to Stay in That District.

A despatch from Bloemfontein, Monday, April 30, says:—It is understood that the British will continue to hold Thaba Nchu owing to its strategic importance, and especially with a view to checking future raids. The commandoes that had recently been operating in the direction of Thaba Nchu are melting away, the Boers quietly returning to their farms, and many of them taking the oath of allegiance. Experience has shown, however, in many cases, that this is only a pretence to enable the Boers to create disturbances on the rear of the British, and vigorous methods will probably be necessary to force real disarmament.

The Boers are now evidently returning in order to concentrate for opposing the British advance. Now that Thaba Nchu, as well as the approaches, is strongly held, Ladybrand, with the unfriendly Basutos lining the border, is rendered a position of extreme danger for the Boers, the gravity of which will be accentuated from the moment the British advance begins.

## 15,000 FULL KITS WEEKLY

### Tommy's Clothing Being Rushed to South Africa.

London, April 27.—The army clothing factory at Millbank is sending to South Africa 15,000 full kits weekly. Up to March 200,000 pairs of drawers had been sent, and now 20,000 pairs are going out weekly in addition to vast quantities of socks and woolen jerseys. The orders are increasing, and it is expected that the factory will work at the present rate until the end of the war.

## BOER PLANS IN NATAL.

### Forces Arranged to Defend Any Pass British May Decide to Attack.

A despatch from Ladysmith, April 28, says:—The reports about the massing of the Boers at Tintwa pass appear to have no foundation. There are only small parties of burghers in that neighborhood.

Commandants De Beers and Vannierk have so arranged the Boer forces that they can be massed at any pass which the British might attempt to force.

## BURNED AS PUNISHMENT.

### Farm-House From Which Canadians Were Fired Upon.

A despatch from Bloemfontein says:—Richter's farm, near Leeuw kop, from which, while flying a white flag, the Canadians were fired upon, has been burned as a punishment. Richter is a prisoner.

# THE DYNAMITE OUTRAGE

## Two Kidnappers Try to Abduct Chief Witness in the Canal Case.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, Ont., says:—The dynamite outrage attempt becomes a deeper mystery every day. A correspondent visited the scene of the attempt of a week ago on Sunday. The crowds are not so great as last Sunday, and the soldiers keep everyone as far away as possible. Several sensational turns may be sprung at the trial. The Crown has some splendid evidence, as the following details which have been kept as close as possible will show. The conspiracy is evidently a deep one, every effort being made by friends of the men in gaol at Welland to save them. Thursday evening two men dressed as women, in dark clothes, heavily veiled, are reported to have attempted to entice the 12-year-old Constable girl away. She is the Crown's chief witness. She was an eye-witness of the deed. The masqueraders decamped when the father of the girl appeared. He has since asked protec-

tion, and a couple of special guards now stand in front of his house day and night. Several suspicious people have appeared at the hotels and about town during the past few days, but the presence of the soldier guard makes them very careful. The two men in the feminine attire asked a couple of lads to show them where the little girl lived who saw the dynamiters drop the charge into the canal. No trace of them has been found as yet.

James Hoover, one of the men living near the blown-up lock, has identified Dullman as being in town the Tuesday before making enquiries about the canal. Saturday night a farmer was halted by the soldiers. He refused to comply, and the soldiers fired and all the guard ran to the spot. The poor, frightened farmer was held for some time, but finally allowed to go. About thirty witnesses have been subpoenaed for the trial at Welland, and a great number of townspeople will also be present.

It is stated that after the preliminary examination the prisoners will be removed to Toronto gaol for safe-keeping.

## MARKETS OF THE WORLD

### Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c., in the Leading Markets.

Toronto, May 1.—We had a light run of only 35 carloads of live stock, including 1,400 hogs, 500 cattle, about 70 sheep and lambs, 40 calves, and a few milkers.

The market was again dull and uninteresting and showing no improvement. Much of the cattle was held over for Friday's market.

There was little done in butcher cattle. The better stuff sold fairly well at from 3 3-4 to 4c, and occasionally 4 1-8c per pound. Other grades had a weakening tendency.

While stockers are quotably unchanged prices are weaker.

Bulls, feeders, and milkers are about the same as on Tuesday. Being in such unusually light supply sheep and lambs were firm at the prices which have lately ruled here. There is not much enquiry yet for spring lambs, which sell at from \$2.50 to \$5.50 each.

Hogs are firm at the prices of last Tuesday. For prime hogs, scaling from 160 to 200 lbs., the top price is 61-4c; light hogs are bringing 51-2c per lb.

Following is the range of quotations:

Cattle.		
Shippers, per cwt.	\$4.25	\$ 475
Butcher, choice, do.	3 60	412 1-2
Butcher, med. to good.	3 25	3 50
Butcher, inferior.	2 50	3 00
Stockers, per cwt.	2 75	3 62 1-2
Sheep and Lambs.		
Sheep, per cwt.	3 00	4 25
Yearlings, per cwt.	4 50	6 50
Spring lambs, each.	2 50	5 50
Bucks, per cwt.	2 50	3 00
Milkers and Calves.		
Cows, each.	25 00	45 00
Calves, each.	2 00	10 00
Hogs.		
Choice hogs, per cwt.	6 00	6 25
Light hogs, per cwt.	5 00	5 50
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	5 00	5 50
Sows.	3 00	3 25
Stags.	2 00	2 25

Toronto, May 1.—Wheat—There is a moderate demand and the market is about steady. Red and white are quoted at 65 1-2c west. Goose wheat is quoted at 69 1-2c west and 70 1-2c on a low freight to New York. Spring wheat is steady at 66c east. Manitoba wheat is steady at 80c for No. 1 hard grinding in transit Sarnia, 68 1-2c afloat Fort William May and 79 1-2c North Bay.

Flour—Is steady. Cars of Ontario patents are quoted at \$2.80 to \$2.85 in barrels west, but the large mills are getting 20c to 25c more. Manitoba flour is steady at \$4 to \$4.10 for patents and \$3.70 for strong bakers.

Millfeed—The market is steady. Cars of shorts are quoted at \$16 to \$16.50 and bran at \$15 west.

Barley—Is steady. No. 2 is quoted at 43c east and 42c west.

Buckwheat—Is steady at 51c to 52c east and 50c to 51c west.

Rye—Is steady at 52c west and 54c east.

Corn—Is steady at 40c for Canada yellow west, American is quoted at 47 1-2c for new No. 3 yellow Toronto.

Oats—The demand is fair and the market is steady. White are quoted at 28c, east; mixed are quoted at 26 1-2c and white at 27c bid and 27 1-2c asked.

Oatmeal—Is steady at \$3.20 for cars of bags and \$3.30 for barrels here.

Peas—Are steady at 62c east and 61c bid west.

Dressed hogs in waggon lots on the street here to-day were quoted at \$7.40 to \$7.60 per cwt.

Pork—Shoulders mess, \$13.50 to \$14.

Smoked and Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, car lots, loose 8 1-4c, do cased 8 1-2c; ton and case lots, 8 3-4c; breakfast bacon, 11c to 12c; backs, 11c to 12 1-2c; shoulders, 9c; hams, 11c to 12c; rolls 9c to 9 1-2c; green meats out of pickle are quoted at 1c less than smoked.

Lard—Tierces 85-8c, tubs 83-4c and pails 9c.

Buffalo, May 1.—Spring wheat—Steady; No. 1 Northern, spot, 75 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, spot, 73 3-4c; No. 1 hard, 73 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 71 1-4c; No. 2 Northern, 69 1-4c; No. 3 spring, 67 3-4c; Winter wheat—No. 2 red, 73c mixed, 72 1-2c; No. 1 white, 72c asked. Corn—No. 2 yellow, 45 1-4c; No. 3 yellow, 44 1-2c; No. 4 yellow, 43 1-2c; No. 2 corn, 44 1-4c; No. 3 corn, 43 3-4c. Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 29 1-4 to 29 1-2c; No. 3 white, 28 1-2 to 28 3-4c; No. 4 white, 28c; No. 2 mixed, 26 1-2c; No. 3 mixed, 26. Rye—Fancy, spot, 62 1-2 to 63c; asked. Flour—Quiet and steady.

Chicago, May 1.—Flaxseed closed:—North-West and South-West, cash, \$1.73 bid; May, \$1.72; September, \$1.22 October, \$1.15.

Detroit, May 1.—Wheat—Closed. No. 1, white, cash, 71 1-2c; No. 2 red, cash 71 1-2c; May, 71 1-2c; July, 72 1-2c.

## BOERS TO WINTER IN NATAL

### Kaffirs Told They Must Furnish Forage for Burghers.

A despatch from Ladysmith, April 29, says:—The Boers are making preparations for spending the winter in Natal. They are visiting all the Kaffirs within the occupied sphere, demanding the payment of the hut tax and informing them they must not pay to the Natal Government in future, but to them.

The Boers are bringing their stock from the high veldt into Natal for the winter grazing, and have intimated to the Kaffirs, that they require grass for their animals, and that the natives must work for them or move south of Sunday's river.

The enemy are busy on new positions north of Elandslaagte. It has been ascertained by means of range-finders that they are not less than fifteen thousand yards distant from the station and the collieries, and therefore beyond the reach of our guns.

## ADVICE TO BOERS.

### Powers Tell Them to Sue for Peace—Intervention is Impossible.

A despatch from London, April 29 says—The Dresden Neueste Nachrichten fears from the very best source that at the conference held between members of the Boer mission and Dr. de Beaufort, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, the latter did his best to convince the Transvaal delegates of the hopelessness of their mission.

At the pressing request of the mission, Dr. de Beaufort put himself in communication with the Cabinets in Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, and Paris, and naturally received from all of them the answer that any intervention was impossible.

All the powers, without exception, advised the Boers to make overtures of peace to England. Even if their independence should be sacrificed, the conclusion of peace would at least put an end to useless bloodshed.

## IN MISERABLE CONDITION.

### Boers Evade the Main Roads in Their Retreat North.

A despatch from Maseru, April 29, says:—Firing was heard in the direction of Thaba Nchu for some hours yesterday. Many Boers are retreating from Wepener and De Wetsdorp, proceeding by cross-roads instead of the main roads near the Basutoland border.

It is reported that they are in a miserable condition, disorganized and depressed. Many have deserted and are hiding on the farms.

The main body was in camp last night near Leuw river mills. They were unhampered by waggons, using pack horses, mostly for purposes of transport. It is believed that most of the Transvaalers have gone north. They told the natives that they had been called away by President Kruger.