

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS BURNED

Outbreak Came Suddenly While House of Commons Was in Session.

MOST PICTURESQUE PUBLIC BUILDING IN AMERICA IS A SHAPELESS RUIN.—TWO WOMEN AND FOUR MEN PERISHED.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Canadian Parliament Buildings are in ruins. Fire which broke out at nine o'clock on Thursday night in the Commons reading room swept with tremendous fury down the corridors, and leaped to the galleries, and in the space of three minutes had filled the whole wing with an impenetrable volume of smoke. It was followed quickly by flames.

Two people are known to be dead. They are Madame Bray, wife of Dr. Bray, of Quebec, and Madame Morin, wife of Dr. Louis Morin, of Quebec. They were guests of Madame Sevigny, wife of the speaker, and were cut off in their apartments.

Origin of the Fire a Mystery.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It may never be known. There were suspicions of incendiarism, possibly by a German agent, but as policemen were on guard at both doors of the room where the fire started and others in the room itself, it would have been difficult for anyone to deliberately set the fire without being detected. A smouldering cigar butt might have done it, though smoking in that quarter is supposed to be prohibited. Filled with thousands of loose papers, the flames leaped from stand to stand with an almost inconceivable rapidity. At the same time the smoke rolled forth in dense clouds of suffocating volume. While an alarm was instantly raised the escape of members, of people in the galleries, and the House staff, with so small a list of missing, is remarkable.

The Victims.

The case of Madame Morin is particularly sad, as she had intended to return to her home two days ago. She had put it off from one time to another, however, and finally delayed for another day when her departure had been fixed for this morning. While a guest of Madame Sevigny Madame Morin had been taken ill and had spent some time in the Water Street Hospital, consequently she was not in the most rugged of health at the time the fire occurred.

It appears from what could be learned that when the fire started Madame Sevigny managed to escape through the corridors of the building. Madame Henri Dussault, of Quebec, also a guest of Madame Sevigny, jumped from a window in the second story and escaped uninjured. The two young children of Madame Sevigny were rescued in firemen's nets and also escaped with nothing worse than a

bad fright. Both Madame Bray and Madame Morin, however, appeared to have taken the wrong turning down the corridor when they left their rooms and to have been trapped at one end of the hall. When their bodies were recovered the smoke had proved too much and life was extinct as a result of asphyxiation rather than the fire itself.

Members of the House of Commons, in the Chamber and the various Parliamentary offices, had to fight their way to safety. People in the upper storeys of the building had narrow escapes, many having to be taken out by ladders.

The flames started in the reading room between the Commons Chamber and the library. This room is sheathed in wood, very old and very dry and this, with the hundreds of newspapers, fed the fire until it was a roaring furnace.

Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, was in his office off the reading room when he found himself confronted suddenly with a wall of flame and a curtain of black, suffocating smoke. He rushed through the fire and in making his escape was badly burned about the head and face. He was taken to the basement and treated by Dr. Dugal Stewart, of Lunenburg, and other members. His face was scorched and singed and his hands cut and bleeding.

Turned Up Safely.

After the escape of Hon. Martin Burrell and the appearance of Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, suffering from the effects of this smoke, a report spread that Messrs. Logie (Northumberland), E. W. Nesbitt (North Oxford), and Jas. Douglas (Strathcona) had failed to make good their escape from the burning chamber. This report, however, was subsequently contradicted and it was said that the members had been seen and that Mr. Nesbitt had sustained a slight injury to his hand. When Hon. Martin Burrell left his office and made his way through the burning reading room his secretary, Mr. Ide, also fled from the burning building. But while Mr. Burrell turned to the west and passed through the Commons side of the building, Mr. Ide went in the opposite direction and got out by the Senate wing. His hair was singed, but he was uninjured.

Mr. Edgar N. Rhodes, Deputy Speaker, who was in the chair, was the last to leave and he stated that the chamber as he left it was empty.

The fire and smoke swept through the long corridors with amazing rapidity, and the members, clerks and visitors had the utmost difficulty in escaping through the dense, suffocating clouds that filled the lobbies and staircases.

Sir Robert Borden's Escape.

Sir Robert Borden, whose office is in the far north-east corner of the building, escaped without hat or coat into the lower lobby and ultimately made his way to his principal quarters in the east block.

Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, one of the last members to reach the lobby, was half choked with smoke and was very weak. He declared that other members were still in the chamber, but appears to have been mistaken in this.

The fire soon enveloped the Commons Chamber on all sides and the historic old theatre was in ruins. It spread over all the west wing, including the addition built on a few years ago, in which are situated the Speakers' quarters, Premier's office, press room, members' rooms and restaurant. In the latter the staff were just getting things in shape after dinner when the alarm of fire was given. They raced for the exits and so far as is known all got away in safety.

Madame Sevigny, wife of the Speaker of the House, was forced to leave her apartments by one of the windows.

The first effort to stop the rush of flames was made by the House officials and the Dominion police, who are constantly on guard in the corridors. Fire hoses were pulled from their racks and several streams of water were played on the flames. Simultaneously the automatic sprinklers opened, but nothing that this equipment could do had any effect on the on-rushing fire. An automatic fire alarm brought the city fire brigade and in a few minutes all Ottawa's fire fighting equipment was on the Hill and pouring tons of water into the building.

Montreal Sends Aid.

A special train brought a detachment of the Montreal fire brigade. Many members and employes who were caught in offices upstairs were assisted out of the window by the firemen. Dr. Cass, of Yukon, was helped out of a window by Mr. Thos McNutt, of Salcoats.

As soon as the seriousness of the fire was realized fresh detachments of Dominion police were rushed to the hill and efforts were made to hold back

GREAT MOVEMENT OF TROOPS ON THE HOLLAND FRONTIER

Transfer Supposed to be Connected With the Attempted German Drive to Calais

A despatch from London says: The Germans have closed the frontier between Belgium and Holland, according to a despatch from Amsterdam, which adds that great movements of troops are in progress. The transfer of troops is supposed to be connected with the reported plan of the Germans for an attempted drive to Calais.

The official communiques issued by the French War Office on Friday deal with artillery actions. French artillery bombarded an infantry column and convoys entering Roye, and other bombardments were directed against the German positions in the Tahure sector, in Champagne; the sector of

La Harazoe, in the Argonne, and in the Nomeny-Morville front in Lorraine.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the London Daily Mail telegraphs: It is rumored from Berlin that the Kaiser has been for some time on the western front, where he inspected the Belgian frontier. Two days ago he was in the neighborhood of Loos when the attack on that city was made.

The Emperor is said to have taken a hand in the planning of the recent Zeppelin raids on Paris and England at conferences held by a council in Armentieres, at which Admiral von Tirpitz also was present.

the thousands who had assembled to witness the fire. The police were reinforced by troops who formed a cordon about the burning building and assisted the firemen.

Two Explosions.

Many seem to take it for granted that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and in the absence of confirmation the stories of Mayor Martin, Mr. Bradbury and others were eagerly listened to.

Mayor Martin, of Montreal, who was one of the first to discover the fire, says he heard an explosion, but whether it was caused by spontaneous combustion or sudden fire among the newspapers he is unable to say.

W. R. Bradbury, stock broker, was standing near the post-office in the main chamber when he heard a crash. Before going any distance he heard another explosion of some kind which knocked him off his feet. Major Gerald White, M.P., also heard two separate explosions.

Ottawa Is Alert.

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—Ottawa is a military camp to-night. No less than 1,200 men of the 77th Regiment stand guard about the Parliament House grounds. No one is permitted to enter.

Fire engines continue to pour water on the still smouldering ruins.

At the Hall, where the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughter, the brilliant "Princess Pat," dwell, has a cordon of detectives drawn about it. Others are hidden below stairs in the kitchens and servants quarters.

All the public buildings are strongly guarded. Soldiers are everywhere. The gold bullion under charge of the Finance Department is guarded by a special force with loaded rifles.

Toll of the Dead.

B. B. LAW, M.P. for Yarmouth.
MME. MORIN, Quebec.
MME. HENRI BRAY, Quebec.
J. B. R. LAPLANTE, Assistant Clerk of the House.
A. DESJARDINS, plumber, 259 Water Street.

ALPHONSE DESJARDINS, Dominion policeman, 289 Somerset Street east.

RANDOLPH FANNING, Postoffice Department employee.

GERMAN ARMY SUPPLIES ARE BECOMING SCARCE.

All Products of Textile Industry Confiscated by Government.

A despatch from London says: According to Berlin newspapers, as quoted by Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, a new order was put in force on February 1 under which the greater part of all products of the textile industry was confiscated. The Tageblatt says it is highly significant that on this occasion the Government does not seize raw material, but finished articles. Included in the list are all materials for clothing suitable for army or navy officials, all goods for under garments, blankets, inclusive of horse cloths, colored linen goods, linings and sailcloths. Berlin newspapers point out that this measure discloses a scarcity of these materials, and also indicates that Germany is preparing for a war of long duration.

FOUR NEW PIONEER BATTALIONS TO RECRUIT.

One to be Attached to Each of the Canadian Divisions.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Four new "pioneer" battalions are to be recruited in Canada, according to an announcement made by Sir Sam Hughes on Wednesday. Plans are now being worked out for the organization of these battalions. They will include a considerable number of practical railway engineers and construction men. Col. Robert Low of Halifax, a well-known contractor, will probably have charge of one battalion. It is the intention to attach at least one "pioneer" battalion to each Canadian division at the front.

CAMEROONS CAMPAIGN ENDED.

Last of the Germans Driven Across the Frontier to Spanish Guinea.

A despatch from Madrid says: Franco-British troops operating in Cameroons the German Colony in Western Africa, have driven 14,000 German troops across the frontier to Spanish Guinea, probably ending the Entente campaign for this important German territory. Word was received in Madrid on Sunday that the German troops had been disarmed and interned as soon as they crossed the border. Only 900 of the German troops were regulars. The other were colonial recruits from among the African tribes in the colony.

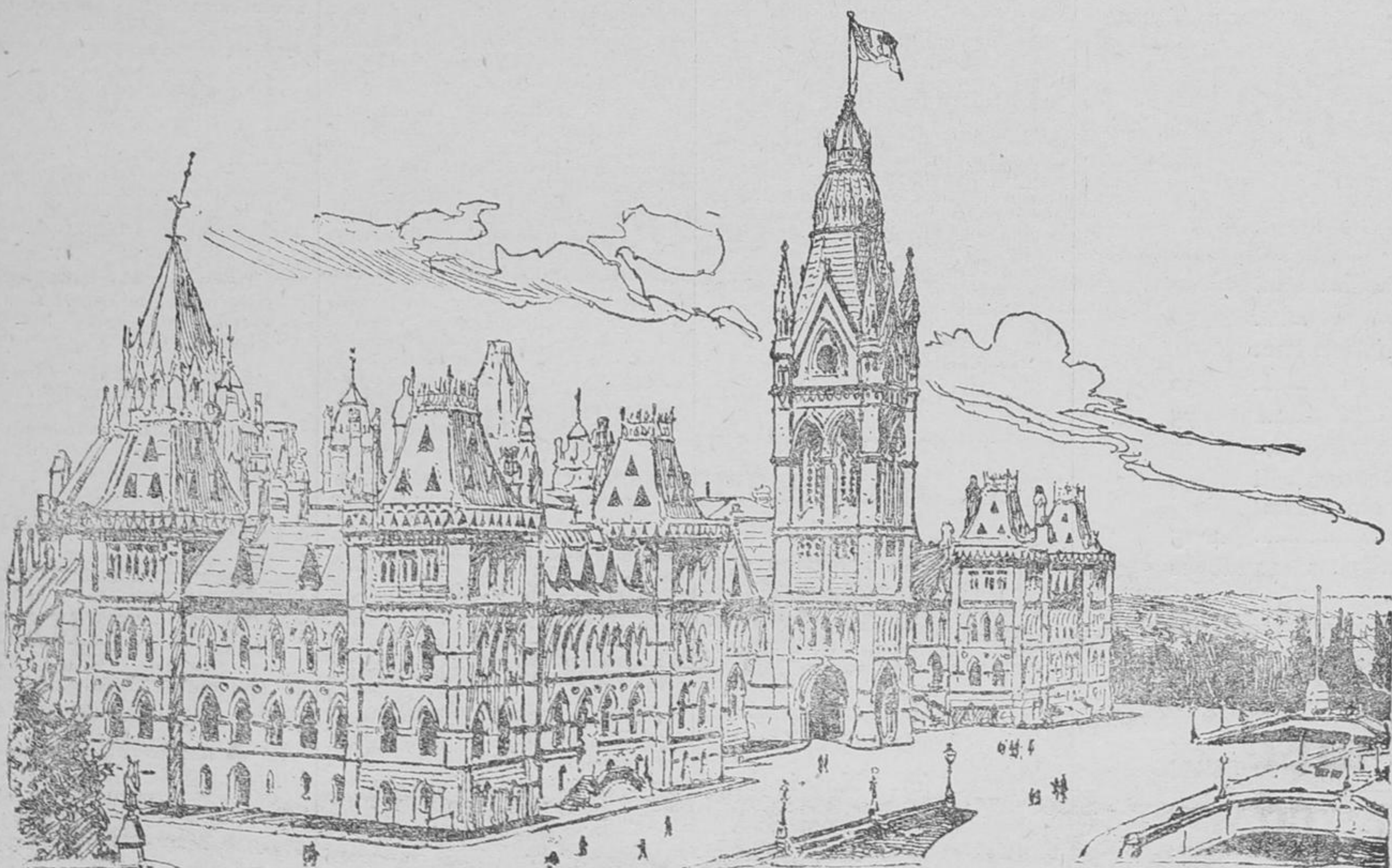
NEW RUSSIAN PREMIER DEFINES HIS POLICY.

A despatch from London says: M. Sturmer, the new Premier of Russia, has declared in an interview in the Novoe Vremya, of Petrograd, as quoted by Reuter's correspondent there, that his policy would be inspired above all else with the one idea of bringing the war to a successful issue. He said no proposals for a separate peace would provide a solution of the problems which confront the nations as a result of the world-wide conflagration, and added: "Those who speak of financial or economic exhaustion of Russia appear ludicrous to me, for the Russian people cannot be exhausted or conquered."

Foe Will Tax All Bachelors.

A despatch from Copenhagen says: The German Government proposes to tax all bachelors, according to despatches received here.

CANADA'S PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ARE DESTROYED BY FIRE



The front of the fine block of buildings is here seen. The photograph was taken on an opening day when there were many people going in for that function. To the left of the picture is seen the tower of the library, where the fire raged most savagely. The entrance to the Speaker's private apartments is just around the corner on the left of the picture and between that corner and the circular library building.