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TIMMINS, ONT.

Timmins Fire Department From Its Start in Year 1912

In Address to the Kiwanis Club on Monday Fire Chief A. Borland Reviews the Progress Made by the Timmins Fire Department Since 1912. Incidents in Early History. Original Equipment Contrasted With Present Means of Combatting the Fire Menace.

At the Kiwanis Club luncheon on Monday the speaker for the day was Mr. A. Borland, for over eleven years fire chief at Timmins. He gave a most interesting review of the history and growth of the fire department and equipment in Timmins, and his address was received with the greatest appreciation by all.

Mr. C. G. Keddie, president of the Kiwanis, took occasion to express the satisfaction felt at the fact that the Ticket Agents' Association, who had

held their annual convention in Timmins last week, were particularly pleased with the excellent arrangements made by the Kiwanis Club for the dance given by the Association. The Ticket Agents' Association expressed their thanks for the kindly assistance given by the Kiwanis and also noted the fact that they were pleased with everything in connection with their visit here.

Report was made to the meeting that at a session of the directors last week it was decided to go ahead with the plans for a big community Halloween event here for the kiddies on Oct. 31st. The plans included a big bonfire on the cyanide, community singing, fireworks display and other features. Timmins Citizens' Band would furnish music for the occasion if the weather permitted. Each youngster attending would also receive a small bag of candy. The Canadian Legion and other organizations were co-operating to handle the event. In case the weather is too inclement for an outside affair, it is hoped to present a modified form of the programme in the skating rink for the youngsters.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the Midnight Revue this year were instructed to go ahead and make the event a humdinger, which will be done. This 1928 Midnight Revue will probably be given in November, and will be along original lines. The date has not yet been decided upon, but this and other particulars will be announced later.

The address by Fire Chief Borland was the big feature of the luncheon and was listened to with the deepest attention and interest. Timmins fire department, the chief said, was organized about 1912, the first lots for this townsite being sold in 1911. Among those connected with the first brigade were Mr. Stevenson, bank manager here, and Jack Mackay. The first equipment consisted of only 250 feet of hose. Nothing of importance, however, happened for some time, except that when the first five lengths of hose were laid on occasion four of them burst. The next step for fire protection was the purchase of a reel. It was kept outside, covered with a tarpaulin.

Then Jack Nolan was appointed fire chief and the first crude apparatus and equipment was placed in the Mountjoy Lumber Company's office. Then a steam engine was ordered from the Waterous Engine Co. While this was being built a second-hand engine was supplied by the company. This second-hand engine was destroyed by a fire that wiped out the building in which it was stored. Later on the new engine was put in service. This supplied water through a four-inch surface pipe to the corner of Pine street and Third avenue.

The first fire of any importance here was at the Ottawa House, when a girl of about nine years of age lost her life. The engine did good work in stopping that fire.

The next serious fire was on Palm Sunday, 1914, when the Hollinger bunk houses and three other buildings were burned to the ground, owing to the failure of the engine to deliver water. Nothing happened further until July 29th, 1916, when a bush fire, which swept the country from Cochrane to Liskeard, taking several hundred lives, also did some damage to Timmins. Nineteen houses northwest of the town were burned. "In my judgment this could have been prevented," continued the chief, "if the authorities had allowed the fire brigade to turn out." There were 500 feet of hose burned during the fire, the chief noted, this being due he thought to the fact that the line was manned by foreigners who became frightened and left the line. The water was supplied by the engine pumping from the hydrant on the corner of Third avenue and Birch street. This necessitated 1600 feet of hose being laid to get water to the fire.

"After this fire the town undertook to organize a more modern fire department. That fall they called for applications for a full-time chief," continued the fire chief. "I was chosen from a large number of applicants. I came to Timmins in November and met the council, Dr. J. A. McInnis being chairman of the fire and light committee, but after looking over the equipment and conditions that I would have to work under, I declined to accept the position. Chief Dey, of Collingwood, was induced to accept the position and took charge on Dec. 1st, but only stayed three weeks, returning then to Collingwood. Art King then took charge. The town built a fire hall and purchased a horse-drawn wagon and a couple of ladders in 1916. On March 1st, 1917, I returned and took charge of the department. There were three paid men and twenty volunteers that year. Through the energy of Dr. McInnis a modern fire alarm system was installed, composed of 12 alarm boxes, over striker, indicator and gong, and six tappers for volunteers' houses.

"During 1917 your fire department responded to 18 alarms, causing a loss of \$2140.00, covered by insurance of \$14,000.00. The brigade that year won the championship of the Temiskaming Fireman's Association at the annual tournament, held that year at Cobalt.

"During 1918 there were 39 alarms received, causing losses of \$15,800.00, covered by insurance of \$32,000.00. Besides the financial loss, two children of Mr. Clouthier, 14 Maple street, were burned to death on Sept. 11th. The Firemen's tournament that year was held in Timmins and so the brigade could not compete.

"During 1919, there were 28 alarms received, causing losses amounting to \$10,120.00, with insurance covering of \$25,000.00. The most serious fire during the year was on Dec. 2nd at Third avenue in the buildings owned by Jos. Theriault, P. McCormick and J. R. Gordon. It was intensely cold that night, registering 40 below. In 1919 the brigade won the competition at New Liskeard.

"During 1920 twenty-six alarms were responded to, the losses amounting to \$85,750.00, being covered by insurance of \$116,100.00. The most serious fire this year was the Marshall-Ecclestone building on Feb. 4th. The department was handicapped by lack of water at this fire.

"In 1921 we responded to 51 alarms, that causing a total of \$15,300.00 in losses, covered by insurance of \$68,000. This year was free from any serious fire.

"During the year 1922 we responded to 55 alarms, losses being \$66,500.00 covered by insurance of \$108,000.00. In this year we won the firemen's competition at Schumacher, breaking previous records.

"There were 77 alarms responded to in 1923. The losses were \$17,940.00, with insurance of \$157,000.00 to cover. The most serious loss this year was at the J. R. Gordon building, Pine street, occupied by E. Stevens' poolroom downstairs and by Ed. Ray's apartments upstairs. Mrs. Ray and children had to jump from the windows to save themselves. Mrs. Ray being severely burned about the face and hands.

"In 1924 the department responded to 94 alarms. The losses were \$6,135.00, with covering insurance of \$243,500.00. This year there was quite a controversy on the purchase of motor apparatus. The people voted on a by-law to purchase a motor fire truck and the by-law was defeated. The hall was then re-modelled and a second-hand horse-drawn wagon and a horse-drawn ladder truck were purchased.

"In 1925 the department responded to 108 alarms. The losses were \$11,376.00, and the covering insurance \$259,000.00. Our first piece of motor apparatus was put in service on July 1st, 1925, it being a National chassis. Although it is a lot better than the horses I think it was a mistake to buy it. I believe a real piece of fire ap-

paratus should have been purchased although it would have cost more money. I believe it would have been the cheapest in the end, besides giving better service.

"In 1926 the department responded to 191 alarms. Losses totalled \$31,700.00, and covering insurance \$322,200.00. The most serious fire during the year was that in the store owned and occupied by D. Ostrasser. This fire occurred on Feb. 24th, 1926.

"In 1927 the department responded to 192 alarms. Losses, \$185,200.00, covered by insurance of \$544,500.00. In this year there were two very bad fires. On March 2nd, E. J. Meyers Chas. Pierce and W. Rinn suffered heavy losses, although the fire was kept from spreading, through the good work of the department. On June 12th of the same year we had another bad fire, this being in the Reed block where two lives were lost. A man arrested on a charge of arson in connection with this fire was tried and acquitted.

"This year, 1928, we have had 129 alarms to date, but no bad fires. The council, with P. Dougall as chairman of the fire and light committee, acted on my recommendation and purchased a combination ladder, chemical and hose truck from the American La France Fire Engine Co., who have been building fire apparatus exclusively for seventy-five years. While costing a little more money than the commercial truck, it will prove to be the cheapest in the end."

FATHER OF EIGHT DIES AFTER FALL FROM LOAD

Frank Seaton, Farmer Living in McCart Township, Victim of Fatal Accident Last Week

The sad death of Mr. Frank Seaton, a farmer residing in McCart township, was recounted in a despatch last week from Iroquois Falls. The accident occurred about three miles from Porquus Junction and so far as can be learned the fatality was one of the results following the running away of a team driven by Mr. Seaton. A particularly sad feature of the tragedy is the fact that the late Mr. Seaton was the father of eight children. The particulars of the accident are given in the following despatch last week from Iroquois Falls:—

"Although there were no witnesses to the accident Seaton, a farmer residing in McCart township and the father of eight children, the eldest of whom is 22 years of age, was killed Friday afternoon about five o'clock when the team of horses he was driving evidently ran away, throwing him to the ground, the wheels of the wagon passing over his head inflicting injuries that were fatal.

"The accident happened on what is called the Wilson Lake road three miles from Porquus Junction. Seaton with his son Ross and a man named Jim Singh and another boy, Alex Woodrow, were loading pulpwood at Brown's Siding. At five o'clock Seaton started for home, driving Woodrow's team and leading his own behind. The first one to discover the unfortunate victim lying on the road was Howard Bolt, telegraph operator at the Junction. On his way to the Junction to notify the police, he met Magistrate Tucker, of Cochrane, who was on his way home after having held court at Iroquois Falls. As Magistrate Tucker is also a coroner he went to the scene of the accident and found that Seaton was dead.

He ordered the body brought to Iroquois Falls and an inquest will be held Friday at Iroquois Falls. A post mortem examination of the body was made by Dr. Young, of Iroquois Falls.

Beloit (Wisconsin) News—Fame is relative and Bill Shakespeare is known to thousands of moderns only because he is a friend of Gene Tunney.

Washington Post—A technical writer says there are some chemicals for which man has found no use. Evidently he has a limited knowledge of beverages.



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Frosh: "You're so modest you would not work improper fractions." Co-ed: "And you're so dumb you think a tutor carries a horn." —Exchange

Two newly-rich profiteers had been staying at the same hotel for a month. Said one "Well, Jim, what do you think of this hotel? Not bad eh?" "Fine, Erbert; but there's one thing I don't like about it. They charge two bob for a bath." "Get out! Do they?" —Exchange



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Advertisement for EVENING VOCATIONAL CLASSES at Timmins High School. TERM 1928-1929. Evening Vocational Classes will be opened in the New High School, Timmins, on Monday, October 1st, 1928 and will continue until Easter, 1929. Instruction will be offered in the following subjects: English for foreigners and non-English speaking students, English for advanced students, French (Conversational and Business), Arithmetic, Prospecting and Geology, Chemistry and Assaying, Business Courses: (a) Typewriting and Stenography, (b) Book-keeping and Business Practice, Machine Shop Practice, Wood-Working Shop Practice, Practical & Theoretical Electricity, Cooking, Sewing and Dressmaking. ENROLMENT: Students may enrol for the respective courses in the principal's office at the High School, from 7.30 till 9.00 o'clock September 26th to 28th. EQUIPMENT: The School has been fully equipped in all departments to meet the requirements of the various courses offered. TEACHERS: The classes will be in charge of trained teachers holding certificates from the Department of Education. FEES: A minimum fee of three dollars will be charged for each subject which will be returned at the end of the term to students that attend 70 per cent. of the lessons. For Further Particulars Apply to: J. W. TRELEAVEN, Principal High School, H. C. GARNER, Sec., 25 1/2 Fourth Avenue