

# A DREADFUL DISASTER.

## \$20,000,000 Damage by Fire in Ottawa and Hull.

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 mills 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 plankings 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 Gilmore and Hughson lumber piles and mill are gone, together with the churches, schools, public buildings, and stores without number.

Ed'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 and prompt action, 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 Kivoss, 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. Baubert fire engine and 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, the 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 stories away, on becoming aware of the flying embers, 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 mass of flames.

### DISTRESSING SCENES.

The only day in Hull seemed to be a day 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, a victim and a witness of the disaster.

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.

**CROSSING 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 50 miles an hour, fanning the flames to 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 in an easy manner and the fire spread to 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 fuel to the blaze, and hundreds of the poorest of Ottawa's poor fled with only the scant clothing 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. The most pathetic sight was the aged women and helpless babies, who were without friends or shelter, and knew not where to turn for help.

**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 westward through 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.

### WILL RETREAT TO MOUNTAINS

The Lydenburg District Now Being Provisioned.  
The London Times' Lorenzo Marques correspondent says, that credible witnesses vouch for the statement that the Boer Government is collecting enormous quantities of provisions in the Lydenburg district. This lends colour to the reports that the burghers contemplate making a final stand in that mountainous region.

Meanwhile the districts round Johannesburg and Pretoria are being extensively entrenched. Begbie's foundry in Johannesburg is producing 700 shells weekly. Enormous quantities of silk have been commandeered in Johannesburg to make balloons.

### WEPENER IS RELIEVED.

The Boers are fleeing along the Ladybrand Road.  
London, April 25.—The War Office has issued the following from Lord Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, April 25, 3:25 p.m.:—"The enemy retired from in front of Wepener last night, and this morning fled north-eastwards along the Ladybrand road. Their number was between 4,000 and 5,000."

### LEFT FOR THE FRONT.

So-called U. S. Ambulance Corps Fighting With the Boers.  
The London Daily Mail's Lorenzo Marques correspondent, telegraphing under date of Wednesday, says that the Irish-American brigade, consisting chiefly of the members of the so-called ambulance corps, left Pretoria Saturday under Col. Blake, after being addressed by President Kruger. They responded to the address with an American college cheer.

### BURNED AS PUNISHMENT.

Farm-House From Which Canadians Were Fired Upon.  
A despatch from Bloemfontein says:—"Richter's farm, near Leewu Kop, from which, while flying a white flag, the Canadians were fired upon, has been burned as a punishment. Richter is a prisoner."

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

What the Legislators of the Province are Doing at Toronto.

## A VOLUNTEERS' MONUMENT.

Mr. Joynt asked: "Is it the intention of the Government to place a sum in the supplementary estimates for the purpose of erecting a monument in front of the Legislative buildings in memory of the Canadian volunteers who have fallen, or may fall, on the field of battle in South Africa in the defence of the Empire?"

The premier said it would be premature to place a sum in the estimates this year, but after the war, and when the volunteers had returned, the matter might be favorably considered.

## ALIEN LABOR BILL DEFEATED.

Mr. Wardell's bill providing that alien labor from countries having an alien labor law in force against Canada should not be employed on public works aided by the Province was thrown out by the special committee appointed to consider it.

## EXPLORING NEW ONTARIO.

In reply to Mr. Matheson, the Premier explained the vote of \$40,000 for exploration of that portion of Ontario lying north of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He said it was intended to send out ten or eleven exploring parties, beginning at the Quebec boundary in the east and extending as far west as Rat Portage and the Manitoba boundary. Each party would have certain territory to cover. It was intended to begin operations early in June and work until about the middle of October. Each party would be in charge, if possible, of a Provincial land surveyor, and would include among its members a geologist and a man skilled in agriculture. They would make careful investigation of all the agricultural, mineral and forest wealth, and of the location of all heights, rivers, lakes, etc. It was intended that the reports would be all compiled together and presented to the House next session.

## ELECTION LAW.

The House again went into committee on the election bill, when the Attorney-General consented to an amendment providing that re-counts might be had where the majority did not exceed 200.

## INSPECTION OF BOILERS.

The special committee appointed to consider Mr. Carcasson's bill providing for the examination of stationary boilers met yesterday and decided to take no action, although approving in principle of the principle of the bill. They recommended, however, that steps be taken next year to have a strict inspection of boilers in factories.

## LIQUOR LICENSE ACTS.

Several bills to amend the municipal drainage and liquor license acts were withdrawn. Among them was Mr. Gorman's bill permitting the sale of liquor to guests at a hotel during the prohibited hours.

## THE BONUSING POWER.

In committee on the municipal amendment act, containing the amendments to the municipal act made during the session, Mr. Whitney objected to limiting the amount of bonus which a municipality might grant to 10 per cent of its annual revenue. He said the effect of this would be to prevent a small municipality from granting a bonus, and suggested that the limit be fixed at 20 per cent.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's bill to amend the public schools act was referred back and amended by reducing the age limit of teachers applying for superannuation from 35 years' service as teachers to 30 years.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The supplementary estimates of the Ontario Legislature were laid on the table by the Premier. They amount in all to \$188,000, as follows:
Civil Government . . . \$ 6,150,000
Legislation . . . 400,000
Administration of Justice . . . 3,750,000
Education . . . 7,555,000
Public Institutions, maintenance . . . 2,268,000
Agriculture . . . 6,300,000
Government buildings, repairs . . . 2,301,311
Public buildings . . . 14,306,339
Public works . . . 13,750,000
Colonization roads . . . 21,050,000
Miscellaneous . . . 28,230,272
Total . . . \$106,060,979
In addition there is an item of \$80,000 to defray the expenses of legislation, public institutions, maintenance, and salaries of the officers of the Government and Civil Service for the month of January, 1901. It is understood that this is rendered necessary by the refusal of the Lieutenant-Governor to sanction an overdraft for the purpose before the Legislature met.

## THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—  
Respecting the Central Canada Loan & Savings Co.—Mr. Pardee.  
To amend the act respecting land surveyors.—Mr. Davis.  
To amend the act to preserve the forests from destruction.—Mr. Davis.  
Park act.—Mr. Davis.  
To amend the act respecting the Law Society of Upper Canada.—Mr. Gibson.

# BOERS WERE REPULSED

## Wepener Garrison Met Their Attack With a Withering Fire.

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# THE TORONTO 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 prices are notably unchanged stocks 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, weighing from 160 to 200 lbs., the top price is 61-4c; light hogs are bringing 61-2c per lb. Following is the range of quotations:

Cattle . . . .	\$1.25	\$ 475
Shippers, per cwt. . . .	3 60	412-1-2
Butcher, choice, do. . . .	3 25	3 50
Butcher, med. to good. . . .	2 50	3 00
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 60 6 25  
Light hogs, per cwt. . . . 5 50 5 50  
Heavy hogs, per cwt. . . . 5 50 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 light 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 for No. 1 hard. Corn—Is steady at 40c for Canada yellow west, American is quoted at 47 1-2c for new No. 3 yellow Toronto.

**Flour**—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.

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The signs of the siege continuing until the end may be producing strong reactionary effects. The bombardment continued, though the despatch does not indicate that it was any more severe or more disastrous than formerly. The bread eaten in the town, being made entirely of oats and full of husks, is causing much illness. There are many cases of nervous prostration and malarial typhoid.

**DOMINION PARLIAMENT.**  
Sir Wilfrid Laurier read a statement from the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce with reference to Japanese immigration. It showed that the number of Japs coming to this country had been greatly exaggerated, and of these who did come a great many were in transit to other countries. No emigrant is allowed to leave Japan except under Government supervision, and after obtaining a guarantee of character. It is, therefore, quite certain that the Japs coming to Canada are not paupers, because that class could not obtain the certificates of character required to enable them to emigrate.

**TRADE WITH WEST INDIES.**  
Sir Louis Davies informed Mr. Kaulbach that whatever trade arrangements Trinidad and other British West India Islands may make with the United States, the Imperial authorities will not permit these islands to establish any discrimination against Canada.

**RAINY RIVER RAILWAY.**  
Mr. Foster was told by Mr. Blair that several contracts have been entered into with the Rainy River Railway Company for portions of the line subsidized last session, but none of the money has yet been paid.

**THE PORTO RICAN TARIFF.**  
In reply to Mr. Kaulbach, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the legislation at Washington appeared to be intended to establish a discrimination between the duty on fish and other products of Canada, exported to Porto Rico from Canada, as compared with articles of a similar character exported to that island from the United States. In reply to the further question, whether the Government has made any overtures to the United States in reference to the matter, Sir Wilfrid stated that it was a domestic affair concerning the United States, to which the Government did not consider any representation could be made.

**STEAMSHIP SUBSIDY.**  
Hon. Sydney Fisher has made arrangements to continue the present system of subsidies to C. P. R. lines. He gives notice of a resolution to provide for the granting of a subsidy for steamship service between British Columbia and China and Japan, the amount not to exceed £150,000 per annum for a monthly service, or £25,000 per annum for a fortnightly service. Cold-storage apparatus will be installed in the vessels selected, and every effort made to push our trade with China and Japan in fresh meats, eggs, butter, fruits, etc.

# HEALTH.

## NERVES AND NERVOUSNESS.

Margaret Sangster in a talk to nervous women speaks some pertinent truths. She tells us: "Half our worries spring from some occult occasion, which we may overcome, and much of our so-called nervousness, it is acknowledged, is born in worry. Some of it comes from subtle springs which are located deep in the fountain of our being, and these are often so uncomprehensible to our friends that they never survey our weakness with little patience."

"Generations of us, from Mother Eve down, have shrieked in every note of the gamut at such of our pet aversions as have crossed our pathway, and the woman of the twentieth century has in her brain the wayward tracks made for her by her forebears.

"From knowing that a course of action is unwise and inconsiderate to seeing what may be done to rectify it is often the step that costs most and counts for most. Every time when we remain silent, though the desire to speak beats insistently at the door of our lips, every time when, though ready to rush or fly or exclaim with vehemence we are simply quiet, holding ourselves in with bit and rein, we make a real gain in self-restraint. And self-restraint in women marks the line of divergence between the untrained person and the thoroughbred, between the gentlewoman and her low estate, the noble self-pity, emphasized dislike, exaggerated statements of emotion, unreasoning terror, all help to demoralize the nerves and make the woman a sort of nervous degenerate, and her power to control herself—her power to shut off steam, to sidetrack an annoyance or conquer a fright—grows as she practices it. By every act of calmness she gains in the essentials which keep her spirit calm and free from agitation.

"To sum up, if we are at the head of a household it is not wise to set its machinery in operation as smoothly and as judiciously and as early as possible every day and then to let it alone? Is it not wise to allow others to carry their own burden and not force upon them what is their own business, submission to our will in matters involving no principle? And is not self-control, after all, the most winsome and beautiful accomplishment which can ever be attained by a human being?"

## EXERCISE AND BEAUTY.

The greatest impediment to beauty and the one most constantly met with is a tendency to embonpoint.

The luxury and ease of the lives they lead, the small amount of exercise, either physical or mental, which they take, the quantity of rich, indigestible food which they habitually consume, all these things and many more, gradually tend to spoil the figure and features of women by burying them in layers of superfluous flesh. Yet it is comparatively easy for a woman of correct and wholesome proportions to retain them. But she must not be lazy. She must sacrifice some trifles to the preservation of her good looks. It is no easy thing to diet off some of this "too, too solid flesh" when once it gets a headway in one's system. However, it can be done. Embonpoint can be treated as a disease, such as cancer, in but one way, all unwanted "reducers" and patent medicines to the contrary notwithstanding.

That way is to adopt a correct system of diet and to take a reasonable and adequate amount of natural, wholesome exercise. Any drastic and sudden treatment should, however, be carefully avoided.

One of the greatest magnets for attracting health is diet. But here it must be admitted that "what is one man's meat is another man's poison." The fat woman and the lean woman, the rosy woman and the anæmic woman, the robust woman and the weak woman—each one must adopt a different regimen. The woman inclined to embonpoint must eschew such fattening food as breakfast cereals, wheat, corn and graham breads; meats, soups and gravies containing a superabundance of fat; fish preserved in oil, such as salmon, sardines, anchovies, &c.; vegetables containing starch or sugar, such as peas, beans, beets, oyster plant, egg plant, potatoes, turnips, and carrots; sweets, pies, puddings, custards, and all farinaceous foods, such as barley, macaroni, spaghetti, noodles, vermicelli, &c. She should never drink liquors, wines, milk or malt beverages.

It is not necessary to enumerate the things she may and ought to eat. They are suggested by the very things she must avoid, being their diametric opposites.

## PRISONERS BADLY TREATED

The British Camp at Waterval Unfit for Habitation.  
A despatch from Durban says:—"Mitchell, the engineer of the Pretoria water works, who was expelled by the Transvaal Government, has arrived here. He reports that the British prisoners' camp at Waterval is unfit for habitation. The accommodation consists of wall and lean-to roof, with wooden uprights. The majority of prisoners are compelled to sleep in the open. No resident doctor at camp has been provided, though there are 150 cases of fever. Water is black and muddy. Pretoria sympathizers with prisoners have given £3,000 for providing them with comforts."

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