

FINE STRUCTURE LIES IN RUINS

Parliament Buildings at Ottawa Destroyed by Fire Thursday Night SEVEN LIVES WERE LOST

Including a Member of Parliament, Mr. B. B. Law—The Enemy is Suspected of Starting the Fire

THE DEAD

- Madame Morin. Madame Bray. B. B. Law, M.P., Yarmouth, N.S. J. B. Laplante, Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons. A. Desjardins, plumber. R. Fanning, waiter. Adolph Desjardins, policeman.

A chapter of supreme tragedy has been added to Canadian history. The Parliament Buildings, at Ottawa, one of the greatest gothic structures in the world, and the supreme triumph of the architect's skill is now a mass of crumbling ruins. Fire originating from a cause at present unknown, broke out at 3.50 on Thursday evening and with incredible swiftness spread through the structure causing death to two women and five men, and doing damage to the extent of several millions of dollars. Many theories have been uttered as to the cause, but just how or where the fire originated may never be actually learned. The only thing that is known is that five minutes after the fire was discovered, the building inside was like a roaring inferno in which no human body could exist. It was not until five o'clock Friday morning that the firemen got the fire under control. The main building of the Houses of Parliament are doomed to total destruction. The loss cannot be estimated in money but probably it exceeds four million dollars. The building was valued at about \$1,500,000, but the contents are of inestimable value. There is no insurance as the Government carries its own insurance on its buildings. At midnight the Commons and Senate Chambers had been destroyed, and as the great clock boomed out the hour flames were swirling up the magnificent tower and licking their way to its top. The Parliamentary Library at the rear end of the building was saved from the flames after a desperate effort by the firemen. The library itself, which contains volumes unable to replace owing to their value, was damaged by water and smoke, but thanks to the heroic efforts of the fire-fighters, it is the only part of the edifice which remains intact. Fears were expressed that it would share the fate of the rest of the building and soldiers on guard started to remove the priceless volumes, but the desperate tenacity of the firemen drove back the flames and saved the building.

Members' Narrow Escapes

Members of the House of Commons, in the Chamber and in 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.

The House was in session when the alarm of fire was given. Deputy Speaker E. N. Rhodes was in the chair and Mr. W. S. Loggie was speaking. Suddenly a member appeared at the entrance to the chamber and excitedly announced, "The building is on fire." The members at once left their desks without waiting for the Speaker to leave the chair. They were apparently not impressed at the moment with the seriousness of the fire and while they hurried from the chamber they did not succumb to panic. Dense smoke was beginning to flow from the corridors north of the chamber connecting the reading room and the west wing, erected in 1908, was already flowing into the lobbies and soon filled them and the main corridors of the building. The fire and smoke spread through the corridors with amazing rapidity. Members, clerks, and visitors had the utmost difficulty in escaping through the dense, suffocating clouds that filled the lobbies and staircases.

Premier Just in Time

Sir Robert Borden, whose office is in the far northwest corner of the building had a marvelous escape. He was working in his office and was totally unaware of anything untoward. He was suddenly aroused by an attendant and even then he endeavored to get his hat and coat before making his way to safety. It was through a member urging him to escape as he was that undoubtedly saved his life. He had no sooner left his apartment than the fire burst through and within a few minutes left it a shapeless mass. Other also had thrilling adventures with the grim spectre. 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.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER ON THE DISASTER

Eloquent Leader of the Opposition Speaks of the Fire as Canada's Louvain

Sir Wilfrid at the assembling of the Commons in Victoria Museum said, in part: "I re-echo every word that has been spoken by the Prime Minister on this calamitous occasion. Sad, indeed, are the circumstances, under which we meet to-day. The old Parliament Building in which we sat yesterday, and which has been identified with the life of the Canadian people since Confederation, is a mass of ruins. Great though the material loss is to every member of Parliament, to those of the present day and to those of a generation still living, the loss is still more appalling, something like a personal one. But what can we say about the loss of life? We had yesterday in the full vigor of almost youth one whom we are not likely to see again in this life, and who gave his views on an important question a few hours before, now we know his body is in that mass of ruins. We had at the table an officer who had been for very nearly twenty years a faithful servant of the House of Commons, a man whom every one had learned to appreciate, whose courtesy, ability, activity and kindness, every member had learned to appreciate. How he disappeared we do not know, but unfortunately there is no hope that we will be able to see him again in life. And what have we to say, sir, of the loss of these two young ladies, young happy wives and mothers, visiting old friends in their present high station, and now no more. I have nothing more to say than to endorse what has been said by the Prime Minister that we should go on at once with the business of the country. When we look at the mass of ruins there on the hills, and when we know that it is the result of an accident, we are reminded of the ruins of Louvain, caused not by accident, but by the wickedness of a cruel foe. If there is anything the present calamity should impress upon us, it is the desirability of going on with our work and doing everything to bring the murderers to justice."

WHAT CAUSED THE FIRE?

An automatic fire alarm brought the city's fire brigade and in a few minutes all Ottawa's fire fighting equipment was on the Hill as pouring tons of water into the building. Outside a monster crowd had gathered. The gallant fire fighters were on the scene, and men never struggled more heroically than they to stem the conflagration. But in vain. The tongues of ruddy red flame leaped higher and higher, the din and crash of falling beams and mortar became louder and louder, and by nine-thirty it was realized that the historic structure was doomed. The cause of the fire is not definitely known though the predominant view is that it was the work of the enemy. As far as can be ascertained at present there were only two persons in the reading room at the time, Mr. Frank Glass, M.P. of Middlesex and Mrs. Verville, wife of the member for Maisonneuve, Que. Mrs. Verville's story is that she was standing reading a newspaper when suddenly she saw a sheet of flame flash along the whole length of one side of the room. In an instant the room appeared to be a mass of flame and she dashed through the door into the corridor which surrounds or surrounded the Commons Chamber. Mr. Glass saw the fire start in a corner of the reading room. He rushed to the door to tell the Dominion policeman, who was on guard there between the door and the door of Sir Thomas White's room. It did not take more than three seconds to do this, yet when Dominion Constable Helmer and Mr. Glass turned to look back into the room it was one mass of flames into which there was no possible entry for unequipped men to hope to extinguish the fire. In these three seconds at most it had grown to extraordinary dimensions. How then did this extraordinary blaze get up so quickly? It had gone away with a great roar which leared throughout the corridor nearby. Hon. Martin Burrell was one of the members who did not get off so lightly. He was in one of the rooms leading off the reading room. Both Mr. Burrell and Mr. Ide, when they reached safety, were suffering extreme pain and found it difficult to tell in detail the story of their escape. Mr. Burrell had apparently suffered worse than Mr. Ide. The skin has peeled off a large portion of his head and face and hands. Mesdames Morin and Bray, the former, wife of Mr. Louis Morin of Joseph-Beauc, Que., was 30 years of age, and the latter, wife of Mr. H. A. Bray of Quebec, was twenty-seven. Both leave a family. The death of these unfortunate ladies was due, according to the Speaker's wife, Madame Sevigny, to the fact that they went back to try and get their furs.

THE WAR SUMMARY

Little progress has been reported in the various theatres of war during the past week. According to Christiania reports a large German battleship struck a mine and immediately sank, although no confirmation of this report is to hand. The Italian troops had a clash with the Bulgars in Albania and owing to the enemy being superior in numbers were forced to retire. The fighting in the Cameroons has ended, according to Madrid despatches, the allies driving the enemy across the frontier to Spanish Guinea. In France, the British report the occupation of several mine craters and an air victory, shooting down six of the German planes. The Skoda gunworks, second only in importance to Krupp's, has been partially destroyed by a dynamite explosion, while the Johannisthal aerodrome near Berlin has been destroyed by fire. Rumors constantly arise that Germany and Belgium are to sign a separate peace and Lord Curzon has left London to see the King of Belgium on "important business."

HOUSE NOW MEETS IN VICTORIA MUSEUM

Sir Robert Borden Speaks on the Terrible Calamity—Tribute to the Dead

It was a saddened but stern Parliament that assembled in the Victoria Museum. The deep feeling manifested at the first war session was shown in an even greater degree, and what made the proceedings more solemn was the prevailing sadness at the great loss the nation had sustained in innocent human life and national historic monuments. Whether accident or crime had spread the ruin and desolation, the awful war results were brought home to all. There on Parliament Hill was Canada's "Cloth Hall of Ypres" and the tear-bedimmed speaker, the deep emotion of Sir Wilfrid, the deep feeling of the Premier carried home to all that an even greater loss had been sustained than the destruction of the famous edifice—the birthplace of the nation, the halls where our statesmen had declared for national honor and imperial unity for all and forever. Sir Robert Borden, on rising, said in part: "We are meeting here to-day under most unusual circumstances, and in the shadow of a great calamity when we think of the appalling and most unfortunate event of last evening. We are apparently called upon to mourn the death of a brother member whose voice had been in the House of Commons only a few hours before the event occurred which drove us from the precincts of the building. I have been associated for a number of years with Mr. Law as a fellow member of the House of Commons, and it is with the greatest possible regret that I voice the apprehension that he may have perished in the destruction of the Parliament Buildings."

"But it is not alone his death which we have to mourn. Two ladies, who were the guests of the Speaker of this House, unfortunately perished in the same disaster. And this does not end the toll, because it is apparent from all that we can learn, that a very highly esteemed officer of the House also lost his life. Mr. Laplante became an assistant clerk of the House very shortly after I became a Member of Parliament, and it is not too much to say that the House of Commons never had a more capable, a more industrious officer. It appears, further, that some of the employees of the House have lost their lives in the disaster of last evening. They lost their lives in the discharge of their duty in striving to do what they could to stay the progress of the flames and to take every possible precaution for the safety of the members of the House and to the families of these men, also, I am sure every member of the House will extend his heartfelt sympathy."

House of Parliament

"As to this historic building itself, my own association with it has now extended over a period of nearly twenty years. My Right Honorable friend on the other side of the House has been associated with it for more than twice that period. The building dates from the very earliest years of Confederation, or even before Confederation, in that chamber the great policies were debated and development of our country and its future destiny. The destruction of the building is the loss of a great historic monument. I believe that the Chamber of the old clock tower was prepared for the reception of the clock in 1877. When the tower fell, a monument which has been conspicuous in Ottawa and the surrounding country for many years fell also, and something seemed to pass away from the life of Parliament which I know we shall all miss in the future. I desire to present to the House a telegram from His Majesty, the King, which was received by H.R.H. the Governor-General this morning as follows: 'The Duke of Connaught, Ottawa.—I am grieved to hear of the deplorable destruction for many years the Home of the Dominion Parliament, and which I know so well. Please convey to your Ministers and the people of Canada my sincere sympathy in their great loss. (Signed) George R. L.' I have also a letter from H.R.H. the Governor-General, which it is appropriate that I should read to the House: 'My Dear Sir Robert:—I desire to express through you my warm sympathy to both Houses of Parliament on the terrible calamity of last night, by which these historical buildings were almost destroyed by fire. I know how universal will be the regret felt not only in the Dominion itself, but throughout the Empire. I deplore the loss of life, which has, I fear, occurred, and desire to express my deep sympathy with the families of those who have so unfortunately perished. Believe me yours most sincerely, Arthur.'"

Library Little Damaged

"It is, I am sure, a very great satisfaction to all the members to know that so little damage has been done to the Library. The appalling suddenness of the calamity must, I am sure, have impressed itself on every member who was within the precincts of the House at the time the fire occurred. Those who were not actually present within the building will hardly believe with what startling suddenness the gusts of flame came into the corridors. When I myself went down the corridor leading past the press room and the smoke and flame were rolling through the corridor which led to the reading room in appalling volume, and the fire and smoke seemed to be accompanied by a series of short, sharp explosions, indicating the fierceness with which the fire was making its headway. I am sure we have every reason to be grateful that the loss of life was not greater. I think it will stand out as a good example of the Canadian spirit of determination if we proceed at once with the public business and carry on our work without any unnecessary delay. What we may do by another session we do not yet know, but I commend to the consideration of the House our proposals to proceed with firm hearts and renewed resolve to discharge our duties as representatives of the people of Canada in this Parliament."

HYMENEAL HUNT—ARROWSMITH

A very pretty wedding took place yesterday, at half past twelve at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Arrowsmith when their only daughter, Maggie May, was united in marriage to Mr. Percy Hunt, of McGee, Sask. At the appointed time, to the strains of Lohengrin's Wedding March, ably executed by Mrs. (Rev.) Whaley, the bride entered the parlor on the arm of her father, who gracefully gave her away in the presence of only immediate friends and relatives. The bride was ably attended by the groom's sister, Miss Myrtle Hunt, of Oxford, Michigan, while the groom was sustained in the trying ordeal by Mr. Ernest Allen, a personal friend, of McGee, Sask. The ceremony was performed by the bride's pastor, Rev. Mr. Whaley and the young couple, realizing the serious nature of the contract answered the questions and took the vows with all due solemnity. The bride looked charming in a dress of pale blue silk nixon over lace, trimmed with cream rosebuds, wore a wreath of pink and white sweet peas, and a pearl necklace. The bridesmaid was dressed in pink satin with over lace trimming and the floral decorations were the choicest carnations. The bride's travelling suit was of black Duchess satin, trimmed with gold lace. Her hat was of black velvet trimmed with French roses. Over all was a rich Persian lamb coat and muff, the gift of the groom. The gift to the bridesmaid was an amethyst and pearl pendant, to the groomsmen, a signet ring, and to the pianist an envelope with its contents. The ceremony over, and congratulations extended, all sat down to two tastily spread tables beautifully decorated and lighted, with wax candles. The bride's cake was a four storey structure, the work of the bride, a real work of art in its outer adornment, and outwardly and inwardly a strong evidence of her culinary attainments. The happy young couple left by the C. P. R. train, and intend to spend the next ten days in Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo, Detroit and other places. They will then return for a couple of weeks, and early in March start to their home in the west. Guests from a distance were:—Mr. John Hunt, grandfather of the groom, Mrs. McKinnon, of Brampton, grandmother of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hunt, of Sask., the groom's parents, Mr. George Tucker, and daughter, of Grimsby, uncle and cousin of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. George Ismond of Norval, and Mrs. Albert Arrowsmith of Stamford. It was the twenty-ninth anniversary of the wedding day of the groom's parents, and herein is the opportunity to tender our double congratulations. The bride was the recipient of a number of useful and valuable presents, amongst them being cheques amounting to nearly two hundred dollars.

A LOGICAL LUNATIC "Lunatics frequently return amusing answers," says the superintendent of a great insane asylum. "One day a keeper was out walking with a number of harmless inmates, and the party met a pedestrian not far from the railway tracks. With a nod towards the tracks the traveller asked one of the lunatics; "Where does this railroad go to?" The lunatic surveyed him scornfully for a moment and then replied: "Nowhere. We keep it here to run trains on."—Youth's Companion. The Orator—"I tell you, my friends, the patriot on the stump, "our navy may not be the biggest and finest thing of its kind afloat, but we have two of the finest oceans lapping our shores to sail on that the history of the world has ever known."—Topeka Journal.

PLEASD NOBODY The proprietor of a fish store had a new sign; "Fresh Fish for Sale Here." "Why say 'here'?" said the first customer. "It's unnecessary," he painted "here" out. "Said the second customer, "Why 'for sale'?" Of course they're for sale." He painted out two words more. "Why 'fresh'?" said a third customer. "You wouldn't sell them if they weren't fresh, would you?" At last the sign read just "Fish." Along came a fourth customer. "What's the use of having that sign," he asked, "when you can smell them a block away?" Salesman—"Why not try one of our Rip Van Winkle rugs, madam. Prospective Purchaser—What kind are they?" Salesman—"They have an unusually long nap."

ALLAN PA Mr. and Mrs. Ross spent the first of the month in the patriotic rally. Quite a number in the patriotic rally. Mr. Brown our teacher pupils a holiday. Mr. and Mrs. Brown's mother and sister day evening with Messrs. Walter and Mervyn have exchanged Mervyn intends to buy a mer. Mr. Arthur Hopkins to his home after a month with Mr. Wm. Miss Edith Meyer's termoon with her friend Brigham. Miss Jean Bradley and Mrs. Douglass Domb evening with Miss E. Miss Agnes and E. spent Saturday night Bradley and family.

BORN VOLLET—In Bentin February 2 to Mr. and Vollett, a son, Harold. DIED McINTOSH—At 10 Sunday, February 4 becca Crisp, wife of Intosh, aged 73 years.

WALKERTON PUBL Mr. Wm. Wesley, of Walkerton Herald and on Friday last at the two years. Death was unexpected deceased had only been gripped. His heart beat and death came sudden. He was born in Baling his journalistic career. The Collingwood The Ridgeway Stan Bruce Herald, The Herald and Times, amalgamated some years leaves three sons, J. William, the latter being in France. He also daughters, Miss Be and Mrs. Captain McNorton, and Mrs. F. Wesley, formerly put Northern Advance, Barrie.

Person Pte. Ed. Havens, of talion, Stratford, is his week's leave of absence of sickness. Mr. James Watson was a guest of Mr. McElraith, over Sunday Lance Corporal St. 71st Battalion, Galt, Rally here, and spend day in town. Miss Edna Patterson Mary's and Miss McM were guests of Murdock for a few Mrs. George Rie is the west, visiting her Chas. McArthur, in G has been seriously ill. Mr. James Atkinson sell his farm and effect to Toronto, to live. Mr. George Todd, visiting in town. We are pleased to Mrs. W. D. Connor after undergoing operation a few days ago. Mrs. Thomas Fluke spent the past week friends in town. Mr. E. M. Carpenter N. Y., is the guest of for a few days.

After Grippe Tonic Pratt's Poultry and Animal Medicines Kreso Dip, 25 & 50 Zenolenn 25 & 50 Tick and Vermin Destroyer 25 Nyal's Condition Powder Excelsior Condition Powder

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THE DURHAM CHRONICLE W IRWIN, Editor and DURHAM, FEBRUARY THE PARLIAMENT DESTROYED The destruction of Buildings at Ottawa night of last week, to Canada, and will of millions of dollars the lost property. too, is a sad subject. The cause, possibly never be the present time opined. Many are of the destruction was the enemy, but there amongst the official who refuse to entertain. The monumental ruins has been there since before Confederation the loss is regretted Canadians and all together the world over only a matter of time and the walls will rise from the ashes, more massive and more artistic before. What a sad Canada, and how sad must be felt by the capital. Think of the and the old clock tower. It struck night, it struck eleven in its dying agonies complete the hour. While struggling to er fell and its tones ever silenced. It was a pathetic scene to see the sad ending of a man friend was a del of the crime, resulting of life and property ment can be too severe.