

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 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 postponed.

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

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.

RAILWAYS CARRIED OVER 46 MILLIONS.

Records of Passenger Traffic in Canada.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The annual report of the Board of Railway Commissioners for the last fiscal year shows that out of 46,702,280 passengers carried by Canadian railways during the year, eight were killed and 239 injured. Out of 159,142 railway employees 99 were killed and 873 injured. Trespassers on railway property to the number of 170 were killed. The report notes that the Board is taking up with the Attorney-General of the various Provinces the question of instituting more rigorous prosecution for trespassers on railway lines with a view to further decreasing the number of casualties.

The Board also recommends further action by the Government towards assisting the elimination of grade crossings, where the question of expense is so great as to prevent municipalities from carrying out the

share of the cost of eliminating grade crossings is limited to \$5,000 per crossing.

Montreal Sends Aid.

A special train brought a detachment of the Montreal fire brigade. Many members and employees 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 Saltcoats.

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 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.

TRAIN WRECK AT PARIS COSTS LIVES OF 16.

A despatch from Paris says: Latest reports of the wreck of the Calais Express at the St. Denis railway station near Paris show that the number of casualties is larger than at first reported. The total death list probably will not exceed 16. Nine of the dead were women. A majority of the passengers was made up of soldiers returning to their homes on leaves.

Sunday is a day of rest for men and a day for others to wash their hair.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—Manitoba wheat—New crop, No. 1 Northern, \$1.25 1/2; No. 2 do, \$1.23; No. 3 do, \$1.20 1/2; in store, Fort William.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 45c; No. 3 do, 42 1/2c; extra No. 1 feed, 42 1/2c; No. 1 feed, 41 1/2c; in store, Fort William.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, 82 1/2c; track, Toronto.

Canadian corn—Feed 76 to 77c; track, Toronto.

Ontario wheat—No. 3 white, 44 to 45c; commercial, 43 to 44c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, \$1.13 to \$1.15; wheat slightly sprouted and tough, according to sample, \$1.09 to \$1.13; wheat sprouted, smutty and tough, according to sample, \$1.02 to \$1.07; feed wheat, 90 to 95c, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, \$1.80; do., according to sample, \$1.25 to \$1.75, according to freights outside.

Barley—Mating, 64 to 66c; feed, 57 to 60c, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—78 to 79c, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 1 commercial, 93 to 95c; rejected, according to sample, 83 to 85c, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, \$7.20; second patents, in jute bags, \$6.70; strong bakers', in jute bags, \$6.50, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, \$4.90 to \$5.10, prompt shipment, seaboard, or Toronto freights, in bags.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights—Bran, per ton, \$24; shorts, per ton, \$25; middlings, per ton, \$26; good feed flour, per bag, \$1.75.

Country Produce.

Butter—Fresh dairy, 27 to 30c; inferior, 23 to 26c; creamery prints, 32 to 34c; solids, 34 to 35c.

Eggs—Storage, 28 to 29c per doz; selects, 31 to 32c; new-laid, 33 to 35c, case lots.

Honey—Prices, in 10 to 60-lb. tins, 12 to 12 1/2c; combs, No. 1, \$3; No. 2, \$2.40.

Beans—\$4.20 to \$4.40.

Eggs, fresh, 35c; selected, 29 to 30c; No. 1 stock, 27c; No. 2 stock, 24 to 25c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, \$1.85 to \$1.90.

Winnipeg Grain.

Winnipeg, Feb. 8.—Cash quotations.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.25; No. 2 Northern, \$1.22 1/2; No. 3 Northern, \$1.20; No. 4, \$1.16; No. 5, \$1.09; No. 6, \$1.02; feed, 98c. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 44c; No. 3 C.W., 41c; extra No. 1 feed, 41c; No. 1 feed, 40c; No. 2 feed, 39c. Barley, No. 3, 66c; No. 4, 61c; feed, 55c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., \$2.08; No. 2 C.W., \$2.05.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Feb. 8.—Wheat—May, \$1.30 1/2; July, \$1.28 1/2; No. 1 hard, \$1.37 1/2; No. 1 Northern, \$1.31 1/2; No. 2 Northern, \$1.27 1/2 to \$1.31 1/2. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 77 to 78c. Oats—No. 3 white, 47 1/2 to 48c. Flour—Fancy patents, \$7.15; first clears, \$5.40; other grades unchanged; shipments, 59,305 bbls. Bran, \$19.25 to \$19.50.

Duluth, Feb. 8.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.32; No. 1 Northern, \$1.31; No. 2 Northern, \$1.28; No. 2 hard Montana, \$1.29; July, \$1.30 1/2. Linnseed—Cash, \$2.32; May, \$2.34 1/2; July, \$2.33 1/2.

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—Butchers' cattle, choice, \$7.50 to \$7.75; do., good, \$7.10 to \$7.35; do., medium, \$6.15 to \$6.75; do., common, \$5 to \$5.65; butchers' bulls, choice, \$6.50 to \$6.90; do., good bulls, \$5.75 to \$6.10; do., rough bulls, \$4.50 to \$5; butchers' cows, choice, \$6.10 to \$6.50; do., good, \$5.75 to \$6; do., medium, \$5.25 to \$5.60; do., common, \$4.25 to \$5; feeders, good, \$6.25 to \$6.75; stockers, 700 to 900 lbs., \$6.10 to \$6.75; canners and cutters, \$5.25 to \$4.50; milkers, choice, each, \$75 to \$100; do., common and medium, each, \$35 to \$60; springers, \$50 to \$100; light ewes, \$7 to \$8.50; sheep, heavy, \$5.25 to \$6; do., bucks, \$3.50 to \$4.50; yearling lambs, \$7 to \$7.75; lambs, cwt., \$10 to \$12; calves, medium to choice, \$6.75 to \$10.75; do., common, \$4 to \$4.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$10; do., f.o.b., \$9.65.

Montreal, Feb. 8.—Butchers' steers, \$5.50 to \$7.50; canning bulls, \$4.25 to \$5.50; cows, \$4.50 to \$6; canning cows, \$3.25 to \$4; milkers, \$60 to \$80. Sheep, 5 to 7c pound; lambs, 8 to 9 1/2c. Hogs, \$9.15 to \$10.50; cows, \$7.50 to \$7.75. Calves, 8 to 9 1/2c pound.

NEW RUSSIAN PREMIER DEFINES HIS POLICY.

As has been noted 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."

CANADIAN TRENCHES IN BETTER SHAPE.

A despatch from London says: Brigadier-Gen. Leckie, of the third brigade, who is on leave from the front, reports satisfactory conditions, with the trenches in better shape than for some time, and so far no heavy casualties.

BILLION-DOLLAR YEAR ON FARMS OF CANADA.

An Increase of \$300,000,000 in Products in 1915.

"The Empire may depend upon the farmers of Canada doing their full duty in this great war if the situation is fully and frankly put before them," declared Dr. C. C. James, Commissioner of Agriculture, who organized the Patriotism and Production campaign last year, speaking to the members of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association at a banquet at the Carls-Rite Hotel, Toronto.

He pointed out that the farmers needed no flag-waving and martial music to stimulate them to their patriotic duties. As but one illustration of the sacrifice of the rural folk he pointed out that County Councils were making huge grants to the Patriotism Fund—some of them giving amounts equal to all their other expenditures. "When farmers double their taxes for war purposes it simply means that they are giving as they understand the needs," said Dr. James.

"Must the farmers give men, too?" he asked. "If Canada calls for men from the country they will come. They have enlisted by the thousand west of the Great Lakes, and with thousands more going one wonders what may become of the farm production of the prairies."

"Lumping all the farm products together, and deducting the food fed to stock, we estimate that in 1915 the farms, orchards and gardens of Canada gave a net product of over a billion dollars. The wheat crop of the prairies was worth about \$275,000,000, a big crop, the biggest ever known in Canada, but, after all, only a little, if any, over one-quarter of the entire farm production."

Word for the Dairy Cow.

"In Ontario the dairy output was twenty per cent. over 1914, and the market value was increased ten to twenty per cent. In 1910, according to the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, the milk products of Canada were worth approximately \$110,000,000. It is a safe estimate to put the dairy output of Canada for 1915 at \$150,000,000. While discussing wheat we should not forget the dairy cow. She had done more for Canada during the past ten years than have our wheat fields, and in view of what is now happening the world over, there is a possibility that the dairy products of Canada in 1916 may exceed wheat in value. The wheat fields reached their maximum yield per acre in 1915. The dairy cow is only getting into her stride. She is now producing 4,000 lbs. of milk a year.

"The farm products of all Canada in 1915 exceeded in value the farm products of any previous year by at least \$300,000,000. It is well for our public men and our writers to know that the increase in the value of the farm products in 1915 was at least double in value our entire output of war munitions."

The prospects for 1915 were bright, and the slogan would be: "Go to it, all ye dairymen of Canada, and make the dairy record equal to the wheat record of 1916."

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 linens, 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.

Von Papan Laid Welland Canal Plot.

A despatch from London says: According to a statement made by the authorities here on Wednesday, Bridgman Taylor, detained here on the charge of having failed to register as an alien enemy, has made a confession to the effect that Captain Franz von Papan, recalled German Military Attaché at Washington, organized the plan for blowing up the Welland Canal.

OTTOMAN HEIR COMMITS SUICIDE.

A despatch from London says: The suicide of Yussuf Izzedin, heir-apparent to the Turkish throne, is reported in a despatch received by Reuter's Telegram Company from Constantinople, by way of Berlin. The message says the Crown Prince ended his life, by cutting arteries, in his palace, at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, ill-health is given as the reason.

The Fellow who Neglects the Little Chances that Come His Way is Just Wasting His Time Wishing for the Big Opportunity to Show Up.

The fellow who neglects the little chances that come his way is just wasting his time wishing for the big opportunity to show up.

MANY OPIUM DENS IN LONDON

WOMEN MORE ADDICTED TO VICE THAN MEN.

Feared It Will Become Widespread Unless Drastic Action Is Taken.

London is becoming cursed with a new vice—that of opium smoking, and unless the authorities take drastic action to prevent its growth the evil will become widespread and incalculable harm will be suffered by a large number of people who for the most part are acquiring the habit through innocent curiosity, says the Weekly Dispatch, London, in a recent issue.

It is an evil arising out of the depression that war inevitably brings. The earlier closing of clubs and restaurants, the dark streets, and all the various restrictions which have brought about the disappearance of the gaiety of London at night—admirable and necessary as these precautions may be—have resulted in the craving for some new diversion which shall take the place of the old.

Some evilly disposed persons have started this opium-smoking craze in the West End, and their victims—many of them persons of weak wills—are succumbing to the vice.

Women are the Victims.

Women are far more addicted to the habit than men. There are young girls in the theatrical profession, strong and healthy who started smoking opium because it presented an inviting picture of Oriental picturesqueness and glamor. They are now being ruined by the vice. There are women in society—mostly of the blasé neurotic type—who have taken eagerly to a new and novel form of drug-taking akin to the morphia habit, just as insidious but still more alluring.

A well-known West end doctor who takes a grave view of the evil told a Weekly Dispatch representative of the case of a girl who admitted that she had been smoking opium. It has made her ill and she suffers from its peculiar after-effects of the smoking—fits of continuous yawning. The drug has got a strong hold of her and she has not the strength of will to resist it.

At the present time there is a clever young girl in the theatrical profession whose prospects are being seriously prejudiced because of her addiction to the vice. She has been warned by her friends, and unless she gives up the habit she will break down utterly.

Dens in the West End.

There are flats in the West End that are nothing more or less than secret opium dens. The smokers lie upon divans with their heads resting on cushions. They have the long narrow pipes with the shallow bowls. The drug is of a substance like treacle. A piece of wire is dipped into it and the stuff sticking to it is held in the flame of a lamp until it begins to burn. Then it is pushed into the bowl and the smoker draws and inhales the smoke. The quantity in the bowl only lasts about half a minute and then the pipe has to be refilled. Much smoking produces a state of semi-unconsciousness, and finally if the smoker goes on complete insensibility is the result.

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.

The Fine Canadian Breed.

The Canadians have a right to be proud of themselves, says the New York Times. They have shown readiness to enlist, zeal in training, fine vigor and courage in fighting. Voltaire's "few acres of snows" are a nation full of fire. There are nearly 120,000 Canadian soldiers in Europe. There have been 212,000 enlistments. The first 250,000 is almost complete. There are 50,000 already on the firing line. The Government calls for 250,000 more, and will get them. A hardy, rosy, "fit" set of fellows, those Canadian youngsters. The old breed in the new environment has improved.

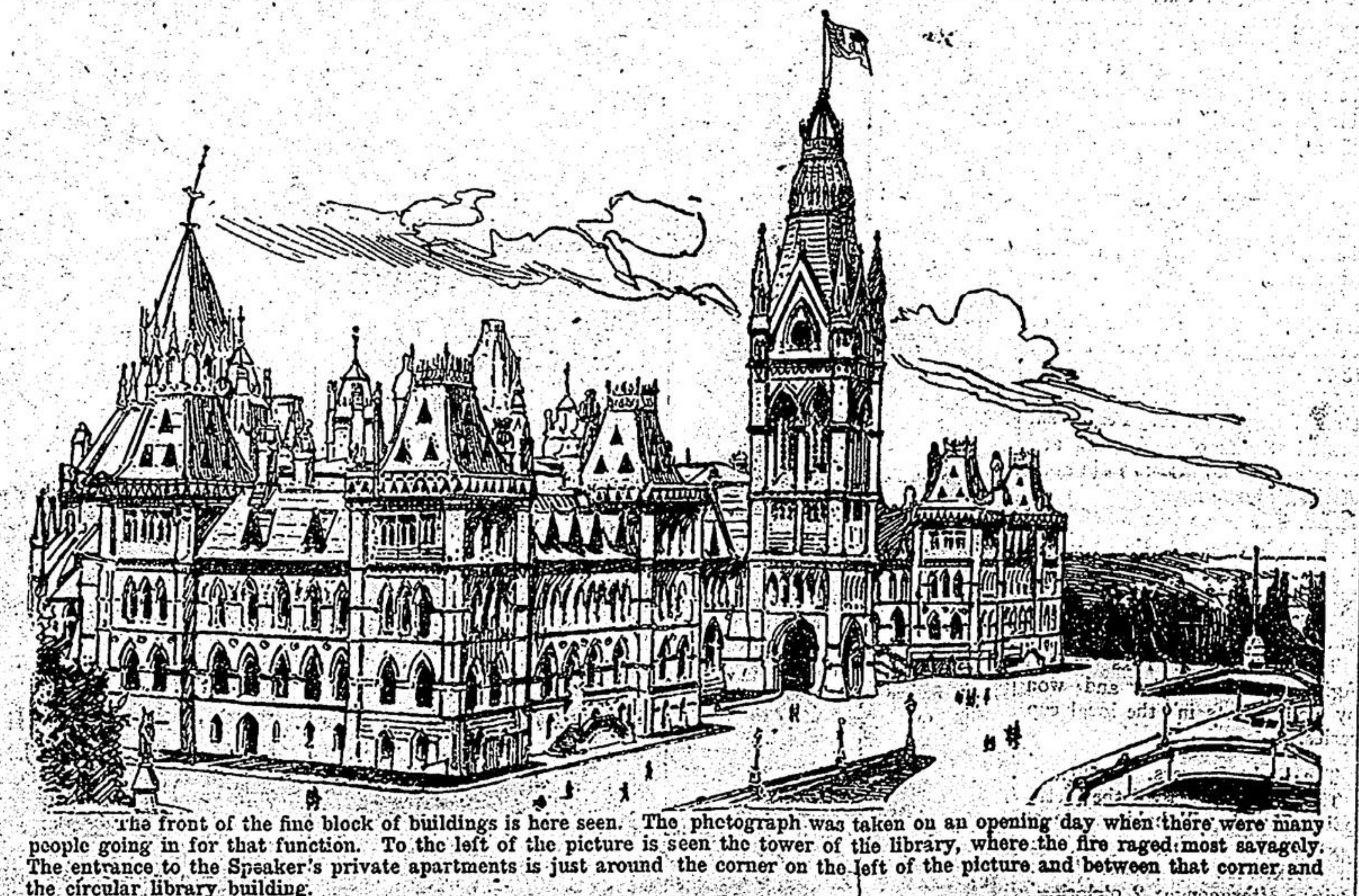
Foe Will Tax All Bachelors.

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

As long as you pay compliments only you will not be forced to eat your words.

As long as you pay compliments only you will not be forced to eat your words.

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.