

FARMER AND DAUGHTER ARE BURNED TO DEATH

A Christmas Evening Tragedy Near Brighton—Rescue Attempt Fails.

Brighton, Dec. 26.—Christmas festivities in the home of William Firman, two miles from this village, terminated in tragedy last evening. Mr. Firman and his infant daughter were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the farm house. Mrs. Firman and a 12-year-old son escaped, but their heroic efforts to rescue the other two members of the family were unsuccessful.

Mr. Firman early in the evening fell asleep on a lounge, his little daughter sleeping beside him. The house caught fire from an overheated or defective furnace connection. It is thought that Firman, when he awoke, was immediately overcome by smoke and unable to make his escape. Meantime the wife and son, after unsuccessful attempts to save him and the child, made a difficult escape from the blazing house.

Mr. Firman was about 65 years of age, and, in addition to being a prosperous farmer, was the driver of a rural mail route. He had lived in this section all his life and for some years taught school.

Start the Whig's new story "If Winter Comes," with the beginning of the New Year. Hutchison's famous novel will begin in the Whig on January second.

Fire on James street in the Italian section of Sault Ste. Marie, caused damage of twenty thousand and wiped out a quarter of a business block.

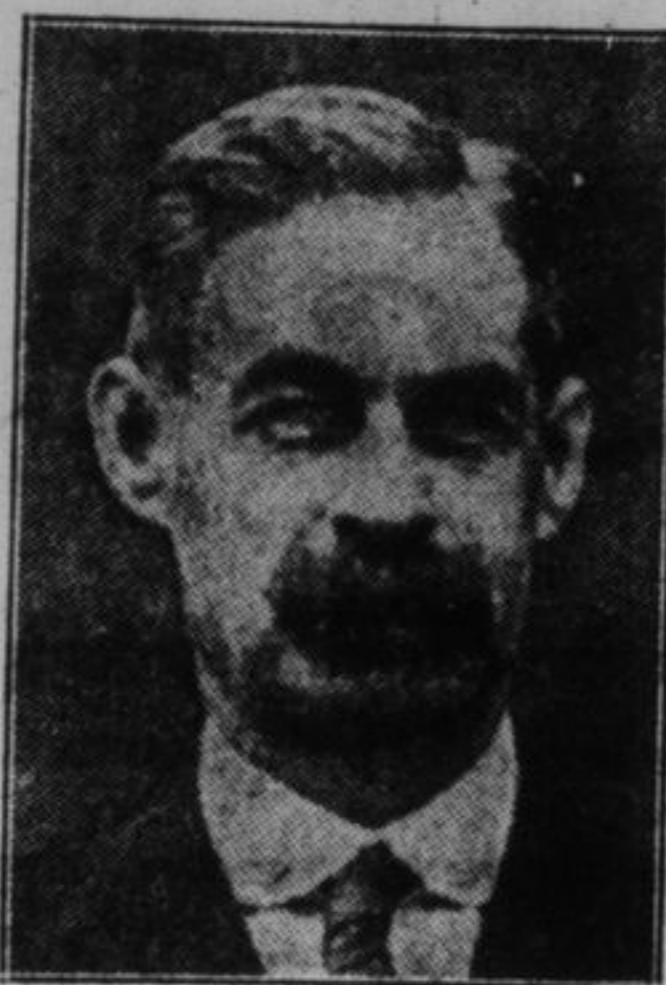
The Pulford block valued at a quarter of a million was burned at Winnipeg.

Christmas telephone messages have been sent from Cuba to Canada.

THE ARBUCKLE FILMS BANNED IN ONTARIO

They Cannot Be Produced in This Province, So the Censors Say.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—The ban on the presentation in Ontario of Fatty Arbuckle films remains exactly as it was when put into effect following the arrest of Arbuckle in the Hollywood case. Action looking to the lifting of the prohibitory order has been commenced. Such was the information given at the office of the Ontario board of censors, today, in reply to an inquiry as to whether Arbuckle pictures would be shown again in Ontario in consequence of the decision of Will H. Hayes, head of the movie industry, to give the fat comedian a chance to come back. It is improbable that the Ontario board will in any way be influenced by any action which may be taken by the censors across the line.



CANADA HAS A DRUG PROBLEM. Dr. J. A. Amyot, Deputy Minister of Health, in a speech in Ottawa last week declared that Canada has between 12,000 and 15,000 drug addicts who constitute a serious menace to the Dominion. His department is at work combating the evil.

Increase in Canada's Saving Bank Accounts

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—An increase of over eleven million dollars in the total amount of savings deposits in Canadian banks in November and of nearly thirteen millions in demand deposits is shown by the statement issued today through the finance department. Demand deposits at the end of November totalled \$544,446,720 as compared with \$531,491,428 at the close of the previous month. Notice deposits totalled \$1,167,609,065 as against \$1,156,442,453 on October 31st.

Mrs. Connaughton's Hearing Postponed Till Thursday

Sudbury, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Sadie Connaughton, Chapleau, accused of the murder of John McKee, did not appear for preliminary hearing at the police court this morning. A request for adjournment to Thursday morning was granted, as witnesses would have had to leave their homes in Chapleau on Christmas day if the hearing had proceeded today. The local court house was crowded, mostly with women. A plea of not guilty has been entered by G. M. Miller, defendant's counsel.

"If Winter Comes—can spring be far behind?" No, not very, and while you are waiting for it read "If Winter Comes," starting in the Whig on January second.

A. E. M. Hutchinson wrote "If Winter Comes" and became famous. Read it in the Daily British Whig, starting on January second.

BERNHARDT IMPROVED AND IS ABLE TO RISE

Great French Actress Uses Mysterious Will Power to Fight Off Death.

Paris, Dec. 26.—Sarah Bernhardt is greatly improved to-day, and was able to rise. The famous actress, who has been critically ill for a week, brought rejoicing to hundreds of friends and prominent political, social and theatrical personages who had gathered at her home upon reports that she was dying, by recovering from a severe relapse and getting up out of bed. Mme. Bernhardt was stricken with a rattling spell December 17th during final rehearsal of Sacha Guitry's new play. Despite the critical nature of her illness, the tragedienne used the mysterious will power to fight off sinking spells, declared that if she must die she would do so while actually on the stage.

PEDDLERS TO FIGHT RETAIL MERCHANTS

They Are Starting an Organization in the Province of Quebec.

Quebec, Dec. 26.—Fear that they will be liable to a very heavy license to operate in this province if the recommendations of the Retail Merchants' Association are accepted, has prompted the peddlers in this province to start organizing and forming an association to protect their rights. This will likely be the first "peddlers' association in Canada and is to resist some of the demands made by the retail merchants by which they would be licensed at a rate of \$1,000 in each district where they operate.

Beck Terms Story As Bordering on Insanity

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Sir Adam Beck today characterized as absurd and bordering on insanity the story that he has an option from the Pennsylvania railway to get two of the six tracks on the water front and intends to sell the rights for \$2,000,000. The Hydro chair man said: "This story should not alarm anybody. There is no authority whatever vested in the Hydro commission to dispose of any properties whatever. Under the radial railway act, the Hydro may administer on behalf of the municipalities."



DRAWN FIRE OF DEPARTMENT

Dr. W. J. Roche, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, has been taken to task for his address before the Ottawa Rotary Club this week, on the subject of civil service reform.

MURDER FOLLOWS FEUD.

Girl to Wear Bridal Gown to Christmas Funeral.

Weirton, W. Va., Dec. 26.—Miss Mary Tingley, wore her bridal gown to the funeral of Roy Ledson, her fiance, Christmas morning. A family feud brought an abrupt ending to the wedding plans when Ledson was killed at sunrise Friday. The couple were to have been married Saturday. James Pearson, formally accused of the slaying, is still at large in the hills, hunted by Ohio deputies and West Virginia state police. Both the Ledsons and the Pearsons are prominent families in this section. The cause of the feud between them has not been divulged.

Skate, Curl and Play Golf In Calgary on Christmas

Calgary, Dec. 26.—A unique feature of Christmas Day was the coincidence of skating, curling and golfing all at the same time. Golfers enjoyed themselves on all city links, the chinook winds of the past few days having completely cleared the fairways of snow. More than 100 enthusiasts played at the Municipal Club over the week-end.

The death occurred of Miss Julia Tighe, a respected resident of Brockville, at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital after a brief illness. The late Miss Tighe was born in Brockville, sixty-four years ago, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Tighe.

To-day's Radio Programme.

Wednesday, December 27.
WGY (Schenectady, N.Y.) 400 meters, General Electric Co.
12.30 p.m.—Noon stock market quotations.
12.45 p.m.—Weather report on 485 meters.
2 p.m.—Music.
6 p.m.—Produce and stock market quotations; news bulletins.



HISTORIC QUEBEC BASILICA DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Dating back several centuries, the French basilica at Quebec, one of the oldest and finest churches in Canada, is in ruins, together with its numerous art treasures. The loss will exceed a million dollars. Definite word that the fire was the work of an incendiary was given by Chief Detective Lorrain, of Quebec.

CATARAQUI'S ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

In view of rumors that outrages were contemplated during the celebration of midnight mass, special police squads guarded Roman Catholic churches, Montreal, Sunday night.

Public School Christmas Closing—Water Shortage Continues.

Cataragi, Dec. 23.—The electric lights have arrived. The rectory and the two stores were brilliantly illuminated last evening. Other people are now expecting the power very shortly. The transformers are not in place, as yet.

Thunder Bay Released.

Port Colborne, Dec. 26.—The steamer "Thunder Bay," which has been ashore on Morgan's Point since December 14th, was released last night, and is now in Port Colborne harbor with about half of her cargo of grain dry, and the other half wet. The steamer will be taken to Buffalo in a day or two if the weather conditions permit.

No Election in Pembroke.

Pembroke, Dec. 26.—There will be no municipal elections here January 1st. Three were nominated for both mayor and Reeve, but owing to the fact that none of the new nominees qualified by the specified time Mayor W. L. Smyth and Reeve A. M. Thompson will carry on for another year.

Henry R. Williams, Held by the Police of London, Ont., Charged with Negligently Driving his Auto into the Parading Salvation Army, Injuring six members.

Otto H. Kahn, New York banker, announced a plan for easy payment by Europe of debts to the United States.

Hood's Pills

The painless, purely vegetable cathartic; cures biliousness, constipation, all liver ills. Pleasant to take. Work every time. 25c.

Dressed Spruce

New stocks of select grades from the best mills in Quebec and New Brunswick.

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Suites in Oak, Golden Finish.
6 Chairs, including 1 arm, genuine leather.
Buffett, large case, best quality of Mirrors.
Extension Tables for \$100.
Oak Finished Suites, \$75 up.
Solid Walnut Suites, worth \$350, for \$300.
Solid Walnut Suites, 8 pieces, worth \$275, for \$225.
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22 Years of Good Furniture. Directors of Funeral Service Ambulance 577.

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