

GROWING BELIEF THAT FIRE WAS OF INCENDIARY ORIGIN

Ottawa, Feb. 6.—The special committee which is to investigate the burning of the parliament building will be constituted today or tomorrow. It will consist of two members nominated by the government and one by the leader of the opposition. R. A. Pringle, K.C., of Ottawa, will probably be the government nominee.

The commission will issue as soon as the name of Sir Wilfrid's nominee is received by the government and the commissioners will be given authority to employ all expert assistance that may be necessary for the purpose of making the investigation thorough and complete.

The search for the four bodies still in the ruins of the Commons wing was continued all day today but without success. A report that the body of Bowman Law, M.P., had been found, was circulated this afternoon, but proved to be without foundation. The searchers did succeed in reaching the part of the ruins where the members' telephone cabinets had been. Mr. Law had been in this part of the building just before the fire broke out and had telephoned friends in the city, accepting an invitation for today, and it was thought that he might have been overtaken by the fire or smothered while still in the cabinet. A mass of debris was cleared away but the body was not found and it seems more than ever likely that Mr. Law met his death on the third story in or near the room occupied by the Nova Scotia Liberals.

BELIEF OF INCENDIARISM.

The official view still is that the fire was of accidental origin but this view is held less strongly than was the case on Friday, in view of the subsequent events, such as the burning of the Grant, Holden & Graham factory here, and the Jardine plant at Hespeler.

To those in official circles who believe that the fire started from a match or cigar stub dropped by a careless visitor to the reading room, the most puzzling feature is the rapidity with which the flames took hold of the building. A well known con-

tractor, who is familiar with the manufacture of munitions, has suggested the possible use of cordite, a powdery substance which could have been sprinkled along the corridor and remained for days undetected until ignited from a time fuse when it would have carried the flame in any direction desired.

Many of the theories held by those who believe the fire was of incendiary origin, however, have been already disproved. Investigation has shown that the chemical fire extinguishers in the building, which it has been reported had been filled with gasoline instead of fire-smothering liquid, had not been tampered with and that their contents were what they should be.

There is a strong sentiment in favor of the reconstruction of the building by making use of the walls as they stand with the addition of steel concrete in the interior, thus preserving the familiar outline of the old structure. On the other hand, the need for increased accommodation has been pressing for years and the necessity of meeting this need now may require the construction of an entirely new building. Whatever is the decision of the government in this respect, no time will be lost in getting to work. The loss of the parliament buildings is expected to shorten the session materially.

Messages of condolences have been received from Premier Asquith, Lord Kitchener, Bonar Law, Earl Grey and others.



HON. R. J. RITCHIE OF ST. JOHN AND MAJOR PINCOMBE THE SPEAKERS

Another Big Audience Attended the Sunday Night Recruiting Meeting--Striking Arguments Advanced by Both Speakers Why Young Canadians Should Respond to the Call.

The third of the series of Sunday night recruiting meetings was held at the City Opera House last night, Ald. J. M. Lemont was in the chair. The audience, as usual, was as large as the capacity of the building would permit. The speakers were Major C. G. Pincombe, officer commanding C Company, 104th Battalion, quartered in this city, formerly pastor of the Main Street Baptist Church, Marysville, and Hon. Robert J. Ritchie, Police Magistrate of St. John city.

Both speakers were in excellent form and made impressive addresses. Major Pincombe put the question of recruiting up fairly to the people of New Brunswick. Hon. Mr. Ritchie made his first appearance before a Fredericton audience during the recruiting campaign. His humorous style took well.

Ald. J. M. Lemont.

Ald. Lemont in his introductory remarks pointed out that there was no truth in that phrase "Business as usual." He believed that there was nothing more important than the work of the Church of God; but the time had come when even that had to be interfered with. In the ranks of the French army were eight thousand priests serving as privates. It was significant that the first speaker of the evening was one who had abandoned the garb of the church to don the khaki. He had much pleasure in introducing Major C. G. Pincombe, officer commanding the local company of the 104th Battalion. (Applause.)

Major C. G. Pincombe.

Major Pincombe was given an enthusiastic reception. He opened his remarks by pointing out that two of the outstanding features of the British character were pessimism and optimism. Pessimism compelled many to state that Germany had the better of the war so far. That was not true, Germany had not attained one object which she had sought. (Hear! hear!) British arms had made a glorious record. They had lived up to the glorious motto, "What we have we'll hold."

Major Pincombe paid a glowing tribute to Russia, whom he characterized as Britain's greatest ally. The Russian character, he said, contained the elements from which victory could spring. Britain recognized her mistakes in her policy toward Russia in the past, and was going to remedy that policy.

The speaker stated that the war had produced a wonderful change in both Britain and Canada. Non-military nations both, they had been turned in a few months into powerful military powers. Lord Kitchener had said that it would take one year to stem the tide, a second year to prepare, and a third in which to win. (Applause.)

The trouble with New Brunswick was that the people did not care enough about the war. They were too careless. Their life was too easy. He spoke of New Brunswick because he had lived in it for eight years and knew it, not because he thought it worse than any other province. Within five miles of Fredericton he had heard the mother of six sons say, "I would rather see all my boys dead than in khaki."

It was not recognized what the lack of soldiers had cost Britain in this war. Gallipoli had to be abandoned because 50,000 troops could not be sent. The rush at Neuve Chapelle because 100,000 troops were lacking. In Mesopotamia British troops fell back one hundred miles because 50,000 were not to be had, and they were not yet available. That is why Canadian youth was being appealed to.

Major Pincombe closed his address with a recitation of patriotic verses which brought out of storm of applause.

Hon. R. J. Ritchie.

Hon. R. J. Ritchie, Police Magistrate of St. John, followed Major Pincombe. He said he was pleased to have young men before him on a Sunday night—but not on a Monday morning. (Laughter.) He at one time knew everyone in Fredericton, but a few years made a big difference. He had frequently spoken in Fredericton before Catholic societies, but now he was not here for that. No one thought about being Catholic or Protestant now. All were Canadians. (Applause.) He noticed Judge Wilson on the platform. He remembered when he and Judge Wilson did their best to say a good word for their political party; but now there was no more Grit and Tory, Liberal and Conservative—all were Canadians.

(Cheers.)

Judge Ritchie made a telling appeal for tolerance with regard to the troops now in training in Canada. Because one man had got drunk, should every man be blamed? The 26th Battalion had been blamed in St. John for misconduct. Personally he had been lenient toward them. What had they done since? They had gone to Flanders, some of them mere striplings, and now they were Canadian heroes. (Applause.)

Judge Ritchie made an appeal on account of the German atrocities in Belgium. He mentioned one incident reported from that country. To a British officer with an arm disabled came a German officer, who said, as he drove his sword into the sound arm, "Call on your Christ to help you." He should have been struck dead at once. But that was only a sample of German materialism. Was it any wonder that there was a call to exterminate the hungry Huns, the treacherous Teuton, the baby-killing Kaiser! (Applause.)

What did Germany want? What had she gone into the war for? What was her prize? It was Canada. Every young man of military age should remember that. Was it necessary for the Germans to come into the country and destroy all churches and public buildings before they went to the

colors?

The elevator in St. John had been burned. The Parliament Buildings at Ottawa had been blown up. It looked as if the Germans already were here. Let every young man think of what would happen if the Germans ever got here. Love of native land should inspire every man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five.

RURAL NOTES

LOWER HAINESVILLE.

Lower Hainesville, Jan. 27.—We have had a very mild winter up here. Last week we were visited by a cold wave and today we are getting wintry weather, cold and blustery.

Mrs. Judson Kearney and son Arthur, of Hartland, Carleton county, are at present visiting relatives and friends in this place.

A little son arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Wharton on Dec. 31.

Mr. Amassa Clark of Maine, has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Geo. A. Clark.

Mrs. James Carten has returned from a pleasant trip to Plaster Rock.

Mr. Gilford Allen returned to this place by last evening's train. He was spending the Christmas holidays with his brother, Mr. George W. Allen of Calais, Me. He will remain here for a few days, after which he will go to Marysville to spend the remainder of the winter.

Mr. Frank White is home after having spent the last two months in Griswold, Me.

Mr. Geo. A. Clark, an aged resident of this place, passed to the Great Beyond on Friday night, Dec. 24. He was aged seventy-four years and had been in failing health for some time so his death was not unexpected. He leaves besides a widow, four sons and two daughters. They are Mrs. Samuel Hoyt of Central Hainesville, Mrs. John Foss of Hartland, Me., Amassa, also of Maine; Benjamin, William and Cleveland, all of this place. Rev. E. W. Lester conducted the religious services with Mr. B. R. Burt of Millville, in charge of the funeral arrangements.

MRS. MOHR FREED OF MURDER CHARGE

Providence, R. I., Feb. 6.—Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr was acquitted last night by a jury in the superior court of a charge of having instigated the murder of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr.

C. Victor Brown and Henry H. Spellman, who were accused of the killing, were found guilty. The jury was out seven hours.

The trial began Jan. 10 and the jury has been kept together all the time. Dr. Mohr, a physician, was shot and fatally wounded on the evening of Aug. 31, 1915, as he was sitting in his stalled automobile in a lonely spot in Barrington.

George Healis, the chauffeur, made a confession in which he charged that Mrs. Mohr had agreed to pay him, Brown and Spellman \$5,000 if they would murder her husband.

The police also claimed that the other two negroes made confessions that were subsequently repudiated. Heals pleaded guilty to manslaughter and became a witness for the state.

Dr. and Mrs. Mohr had been living apart for two years as a result of quarrels growing out of his alleged attentions to Miss Burger and other women. Separation suits were pending and the state claimed that Mrs. Mohr sought her husband's death for revenge and to obtain his estate. The defence maintained that Mrs. Mohr loved her husband and that she had been involved by the actual murderer, who hoped thus to mitigate his own punishment.

TURKISH GENERAL DIES IN PARIS

(Canadian Press.) Paris, Feb. 7.—General Nicholas Victor Elindotte has died from illness contracted at the front. He was one of the heroes of the treat from Chanteleroi, during which he commanded the rear guard brigade of the French Seventeenth Army Corps.

\$400,000,000 FOR PRAIRIE PROVINCES

A Talk With J. S. DENNIS, Assistant to C.P.R. President

IN wheat alone the three prairie provinces yielded last year 340,000,000 bushels against 140,000,000 bushels in 1914, while the yield of wheat, oats, barley and flax amounted to 700,000,000 bushels in 1915 against 320,000,000 bushels in 1914.

These four crops in 1914 gave to the farmers approximately \$219,000,000, while a conservative estimate places the value in 1915 at \$400,000,000.

Probably no man in the West is better qualified to speak on past and present conditions there, and the prospects for the future, than Mr. J. S. Dennis, Assistant to the President of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, who, with other officials of the Department of Natural Resources, is at present in Montreal, attending the annual meeting of that department.

Mr. Dennis has spent the past 40 years in the West, in the service of the Dominion and Provincial governments, the Hudson's Bay Co. and for the last 14 years with the Canadian Pacific, and during all that time has been more or less identified and connected with immigration and colonization and the development activities of the West.

"The West," he said, "is wonderfully prosperous this year as a result of a bumper crop—a crop which may well be termed a double-crop, with yields running all the way from 20 to 72 bushels of wheat. Never has the West made such a record; never have the prairies so demonstrated their fertility, and, I may add, never, both from our point of view and that of the Empire, was it so necessary for the West to come through. In wheat alone, the three prairie provinces last year yielded more than all other grains put together—340,000,000 bushels, as against 140,000,000 in 1914, and if you take wheat, oats, barley and flax, we have a yield in 1915 of over 700,000,000 bushels against 320,000,000 in 1914. These four crops in 1914 returned to the farmers approximately \$219,000,000; this 1915 crop on a conservative basis, will return \$400,000,000. I have never attempted to boost the crop yield, and have always endeavored to be as accurate as possible, but it is quite evident that the 1915 crop surpassed anything in the history of the West, and that the financial returns per acre are greater than for any previous year; in addition, favorable late fall and early winter weather has permitted the farmers to thresh the greater part of their crops. Figures issued by the Provincial Governments just prior to my departure from Calgary, give Alberta a wheat yield of 36.16 bushels per acre; Saskatchewan 28.75 bushels per acre; and Manitoba, 28.50 bushels. Such yields are much in excess of those in any other portion of the hemisphere, but must, of course, be looked upon as phenomenal. Conditions are also much improved in British Columbia. The fruit districts of the province had the largest crop in their history, and the lumbering and mining industries showed marked revival and improvement during the year."

"What about immigration?" he replied, "and is our big—our main problem—to-day; we want more population and a readjustment, as far as possible, of the present distribution of rural and urban population. The desired end can only be reached through stimulating and increasing the immigration of people of the right class, and so colonizing them as to produce the best results. In all the provinces of Canada there is an economically unsound distribution of the present total population; too many people live in the urban centres, and the rural and producing population is too small a percentage of the whole. This is

particularly true of the four Western Provinces, where the population is divided on a basis of 43 per cent urban and 57 per cent rural, and this, in spite of the fact that these provinces contain one of the largest areas of good agricultural land, available for settlement and immediate development, in the world. Occupying a territory greater in area than that of the United States, Canada has a population of approximately 8,000,000 as compared with 100,000,000 south of the international boundary. Possessed of natural resources in our forests, mines, fisheries, and vast areas of agricultural land, Canada to-day is importing great quantities of manufactured products and foodstuffs, which could be and would be here were the population increased and distributed on a producing basis.

"Coincident with our remarkable urban development, the past decade has shown great expansion in our manufacturing and industrial plants, but we have not always built the superstructure on sound basis. Industrial development—particularly in the West, has established many industries, the raw product for which has to be imported, while sufficient attention has not been paid to those which would handle the raw products of the country, particularly those resulting from agriculture and animal husbandry. This fact is especially noticeable in connection with the flour industry. It is economically unsound that we should ship such a large bulk of our wheat out of the country instead of milling it at home, shipping the finished product in the shape of flour and retaining all the by-products, which are urgently needed to assist in expanding our stock-feeding and stock-finishing activities. Not only do we need more people on the land, but to build up our industries, and put our country on a self-producing basis."

"In these trying times, Mr. Dennis, where are you looking for immigrants?"

"If you take the Dominion Government reports," he replied, "you will find that the total immigration for the past 10 years has been a little over 2,500,000, of which approximately 1,000,000 are reported to have come from Great Britain; if these figures are correct, it is quite clear that only a small proportion were looking for farm homes and the greater number were of the laboring class. The report further shows that about 900,000 came from the United States and the balance from other countries. Whatever the total may be, I am convinced that, if we are going to have any success in solving the problem of increasing and properly distributing the population of Canada, we must so stimulate our immigration as to provide at least 500,000 a year for the next ten years."

"How are we going to do it?"

"For the present, at least, we can't do very much other than advertise our prosperity as widely as possible and prepare for the time when we can. The United States is, unquestionably, the field which should first be considered. They sent us approximately 60,000 in 1915. Conditions there, particularly in the Northern States, are analogous to those existing in Canada, and residents there, whether native-born or foreign, are accustomed to similar systems and methods of agriculture similar to our own, and to similar systems in connection with taxation, schools, currency, weights and measures, transportation and general methods of living common to the two countries. The population of the United States is expanding so rapidly and the opportunity of obtaining cheap land or suitable employment decreasing correspondingly, that, inevitably, there must be and will be an increase

ing 'spilling over' into the adjoining countries, if the openings there are attractively presented.

"Great Britain supplied, during the past decade, the largest number of immigrants, but the smallest number of agriculturists. The reason for this is readily understood when it is remembered that Great Britain is not an agricultural country, less than 15 per cent of the population being engaged in agriculture. Some 20,000 families in all, and under such conditions any marked progress on the part of the overseas portions of the Empire to reduce the present small agricultural population of the Mother Country is not good policy. Large numbers of the laboring class have been, and can be, obtained from Great Britain, but outside of skilled laborers, and a small number of farm laborers, the field is restricted.

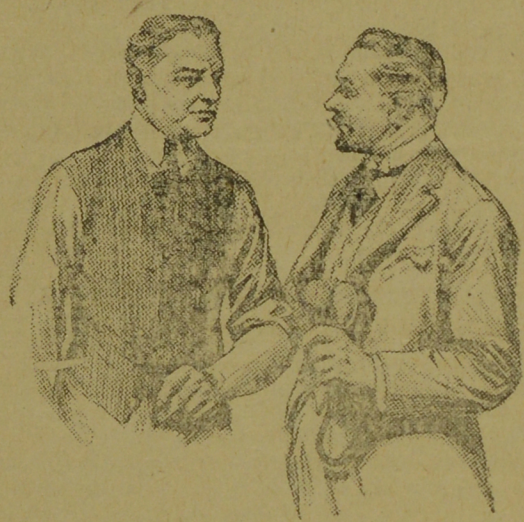
"Of the unskilled immigrants in the above statement, the majority come from Northern Europe, including Belgians, Dutch, Scandinavians, Germans, Russians and Hungarians, and it is to the countries from which these people came that we must look for the large percentage of our immigrants on the conclusion of the war."

"That there will be a large movement of these people to America when the war terminates is my firm opinion. There has been such a movement following every European war of modern times, and, though it may be expected that all countries engaged in the present awful struggle will be desirous of and attempt to keep their people at home to assist in rehabilitating conditions, it is inevitable that all who can will be desirous of getting away from enforced military service and excessive war taxation, and move to the United States and Canada. It must be remembered also that there are numbers of people of all the nationalities engaged in the war already resident on this side of the Atlantic, and they will make every effort to get their friends and relatives to come and join them.

"There will of course, for a time, be a sentiment both in Canada and the countries with whom Great Britain is at war against the immigration of people of those countries into Canada, but this feeling will eventually pass."

"The question of returned Canadian soldiers after the close of the war and disbanded soldiers in Great Britain is going to be one of the serious problems following the war. It has been an acute problem following all wars, and our earliest colonization in Canada was by discharged soldiers after the war of conquest in Canada, and the Napoleonic wars of Europe. Active military service unsettles and unfits the majority of men for the occupation they followed before joining the army, and, without question, the problem of rehabilitating in civil life the men that Canada is providing for the present war is going to be a serious and troublesome one. In addition, consideration should be given to the possibility of helping Great Britain in the solution of this difficult problem by bringing suitable men and their families to Canada."

"The West has suffered a serious drain in the young men who have responded to Canada's call to join the army and help the Empire in the present crisis, and this loss and the other difficulties mentioned are ahead of us to be solved. They will, however, be grappled with energetically, and with the prosperity that is now in the country, the new wealth from industrial and agricultural sources, I foresee an era of continued growth and development beside which our progress of the past decade will be comparatively insignificant."



The Health Alarm

often sounds first in the doctor's office when some healthy looking specimen of humanity, undergoing examination for life insurance, is told that his blood pressure is too high.

Increased blood pressure is no longer confined to old age; it is frequently found in men in their 40's who are otherwise healthy. In such cases it points to approaching degeneration of the arteries—a condition which in turn indicates those errors of diet that often end in various diseases of the stomach, kidneys, liver, nerves and heart.

Among these errors of diet are tea and coffee drinking, because of their drug, caffeine, the constant use of which weakens the walls of the arteries. Medical authorities now insist that in all cases of high blood pressure there must be total abstinence from tea, coffee and other harmful beverages.

Hard to give up tea and coffee? Not at all, when one uses instead the pure food-drink—

Instant Postum

This delicious beverage is made of wheat, roasted with a little wholesome molasses. It is then reduced to a soluble powder, a level teaspoonful of which with hot water makes a perfect cup instantly.

Instant Postum has a delightful, snappy flavor, but is absolutely free from the drug caffeine, or any harmful ingredient. It does contain those vitalizing elements of the grain which make for normal balance of the system.

"There's a Reason"

Canadian Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Windsor, Ontario.