
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

In order to ensure changes
copy must reach this office
not later than 9 a. m. on the
day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER

Moderate to fresh winds mostly
southerly, partly cloudy and
mild today and Tuesday.

VOL. XXXV., NO. 104 FREDERICTON, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 6, 1929 TWO CENTS PER COPY

Provincial Normal School Building Wiped Out by Fire

The City Visited on Sunday Afternoon by One of
The Worst Conflagrations in Its History—
Large Crowd Watched Imposing Structure
Fall a Victim to Flames—Loss Close to \$250,-
000 and Building and Contents Insured For
\$92,100.

The main building of the Provincial Normal School, erected in 1876, and the largest and most imposing brick structure in the city, was completely destroyed by fire on Sunday afternoon, with most of its contents. Good work on the part of the firemen prevented the flames from reaching the annex, which was erected in 1912 and is more in the nature of a fire proof structure. The loss is estimated at \$250,000 against which there is insurance on the building amounting to \$88,100, and on the contents \$4,000, a total of \$92,100.

Origin a Mystery.

How the fire originated is considerable of a mystery, but one theory is that it may have been caused by spontaneous combustion, as the flames are known to have been carried to the top floor by a dust shoot which extended right up from the basement. It is thought that the work of the Normal School can be carried on in the annex, while the pupils of the Model School will be housed for the remainder of the term in the buildings under the control of the city School Board.

Second in Four Months.

It is claimed that yesterday's fire was even more disastrous in the matter of property loss than that which in January last destroyed four brick buildings on the opposite side of Queen Street and within a stone's throw of the building which fell a victim to the flames yesterday. The combined losses of the two fires are said to exceed that of any other conflagration in the history of the city. It is a peculiar fact that all of the buildings wiped out by the two fires were of brick.

The First To See It.

Bessrs. George L. Haviland and Stephen Estabrooks were the first to discover that the Normal School building was on fire. At 3.15 o'clock they walked down the upper side of Phoenix Square to the concrete wharf to look at the river and on glancing at the Normal School building they their attention was attracted by a heavy volume of smoke pouring from the chimney. On looking closer they also noticed smoke issuing from the eaves of the building. Thinking that all was not right, they entered the grounds and tried the door at the upper side of the building but found it locked. Then they repaired to the police station and notified Policeman Hartt who was on duty there. The latter at once telephoned the central hose station and in response to his message several firemen ran across the vacant lot caused by the January fire and made a hasty investigation. It didn't take them long to size up the situation and after instructing some pedestrians to ring in an alarm they returned to the hose station for the fighting apparatus. The firemen responded with commendable promptness and were not long in finding out that they had a big job on their hands. They soon discovered that the huge building was filled with smoke due to flames burning beneath the floors and within the walls and while the water was turned on quickly it seemed to do little good.

Fire Doors Closed.

A detachment of firemen gave their attention to the annex in the rear of the main building and lost no time in closing the fire doors, separating the two structures. Within a short time seven heavy streams of water

were playing on the building but the flames continued to make steady progress and great volumes of dense smoke began pouring from the roof of the main building as from the funnels of a huge Atlantic liner. A strong wind was blowing at the time but fortunately came from a southerly direction and carried the smoke in the direction of the river.

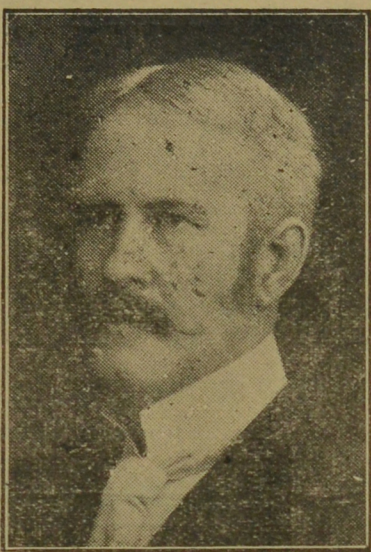
Burned Like Tinder

Within a short space of time the firemen had seven heavy streams of water playing upon different parts of the building, but there was no possible chance of checking the progress of the fiery element. The floors and stairways of the building were built of pitch pine, the most inflammable of all wood, and the heavy wooden trusses of the same material gave ample scope to the flames to rage underneath the floor and within the walls. While the fire may have started in the basement or on the ground floor it had ran to the top floor before it was discovered. In less than two hours after the firemen began work the interior of the main building had been transformed into a seething roaring furnace, and the heat thrown off from it was something intense.

Firemen Entrapped

A number of firemen who made their way inside of the building soon after their arrival found themselves cut off by smoke and flames and made their escape with some difficulty. Their efforts to close the fire doors leading to the annex, however, were successful and justified their incursion into the building.

Shortly after five o'clock the heavy roof, its supports weakened by the flames, tumbled in, and the floors followed soon afterwards. The heavy



DR. H. V. B. BRIDGES
Principal of the Normal School

crash broke the plate glass windows in Dibblee's drug store and also in the store of R. B. VanDine, across the street.

It was thought at one time that the fierce heat might set fire to the city hall, the next building above which is separated by quite an open space, and a sharp watch was kept on it. A provincial policeman climbed into the tower, and remained there until the danger was past.

Big Crowd Collected

An enormous crowd of people gathered along Queen street and Phoenix Square and watched the progress of the flames with great interest. A detachment of provincial police joined with the city police in keeping the crowd in check and they did splendid work. When the roof and walls began to tumble the police saw to it that the crowd was kept at a safe distance.

Some Articles Saved

Owing to the fierce heat only a small portion of the contents of the building were removed to a place of safety. These included a piano, the books containing the student enrollment since the school was established and a number of other articles. Nothing was saved from the school library which was located on the top floor opposite the Assembly Hall. A number of books belonging to instructors and pupils, and located in class rooms in the main building were of course destroyed. Everything which had been left in the annex was saved. The contents of the splendid laboratory also went up into smoke. The firemen remained on duty throughout the night and streams of water were poured onto the ruins up to noon today. All that now remains of one of the city's finest public buildings is a portion of the brick walls, including two which ran through the centre of the structure and the two chimneys. The building was constructed of pressed red brick, which is said to have been imported from the United States, as at that time it was not produced in Canada.

Legislature Met There

For two sessions following the destruction of the old provincial government buildings by fire in 1880, both branches of the Legislature met in the Normal School, and during the sessions a number of the students were are said to be the only officials temporarily housed in the stone barracks. Mr. John Black of this city, who was employed as an engrossing clerk, and J. W. Biggs, messenger of the Legislature, when it met in the Normal School who are now in the land of the living.

From a statement given this morning it was learned that the provincial government carried insurance on the burned building to the amount of \$88,100, besides \$4,000 on its contents, a total of \$92,100. The amount is distributed in companies' represented locally by F. I. Morrison & Son.

(Continued on page four)

C. N. R. WILL FOLLOW UP EXPERIMENT

Radio Phones to be Installed on Roads
Crack Train.

TESTS WERE
SUCCESSFUL

First Two-way Phone
Conversation Ever
Made from a Train

(Special to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

Toronto, Ont., May 6—Officials of the Canadian National Railways speeded plans today for the installation of radio telephones on the Trans Continental Limited the crack train of the road, running between Chicago and Montreal. Their decision was made as the result of successful tests yesterday in which telephone communication between a moving train and an office was made for the first time on this continent. It also was the first "two way" telephone conversation ever made from a moving train.

COSGRAVE SAYS IRISH WANT PEACE

(Special Cable to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

Dublin, May 6—The authority of the Irish Free State Government has been established generally and civil war undoubtedly is ended President William T. Cosgrave said in an interview today.

"Traditions only die out slowly and there may still be some people who think they can achieve their ends by force, but I am convinced the majority of Irish men and women want peace and that their number is growing," Cosgrave said.

LABORITES MAY ABOLISH ARMY AND NAVY

(Special cable to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

Copenhagen, May 6—Speculation on the exact plans by which the newly elected Labor party hopes to carry out its avowed intention of completely abolishing the army and navy was causing the greatest interest throughout Denmark today.

It was believed in some quarters that the government proposals would resemble the disarmament bill of 1925 for which Dr. P. Munch, now the new Foreign Minister, was responsible, and which contained provisions for drastic changes in both services.

OVERLOADING CAUSED THE S. S. VESTRIA TO SINK

(Special Cable to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

London, May 6—A combination of circumstances including overloading caused the sinking of the liner Vestria, Leslie Watson, second officer, testified today at resumption of the Board of Trade's inquiry into the disaster. Watson on the stand for recess examination denied that an SOS should have been sent out earlier than it was.

City Visitors

Among the visitors to the city today are: W. Hamlet, of Toronto, Ont.; John S. Boa, Chicago; Mrs. and Mrs. Bidlake, of Saint John; F. Tracey Overton, of Montreal; A. B. Tippet, of Saint John; M. Y. Long, Saint John; Charles Patterson, of Lincoln.

Earthquake in Persia Wiped Out Villages And Took 900 Lives

The Death List Included 650 at Kefin and 250 at Rabad—Minor Shocks Being Felt Along the Turkestan-Korassan Frontier—Medical Aid Promptly Sent Forward.

(Special to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

MOSCOW, May 6—Frontier reports received here today said nine hundred persons were killed and several villages wiped out by an earthquake in Persia. The dead included six hundred and fifty at Kefin and two hundred and fifty at Rabad.

Minor Shocks were being felt through the Soviet and Persian territory along the Turkestan Korassan frontier.

Casualties in Turkoman, Soviet Republic apparently were slight. Medical aid for the stricken Persians was rushed from Askabad and Turkestan, near the border.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN ON THURSDAY NEXT

(Special Cable to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

Bangkok, Siam, May 6—Two scientific expeditions began to make preliminary observations today in preparation for the sun's total eclipse Thursday afternoon.

The principal thing worrying the scientists at present is the weather outlook. If it rains on the afternoon of the eclipse all their efforts and travels will have been in vain and they will be forced to return to their countries without the all-important pictures of the eclipse.

U. S. READY TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL

(Special Cable to THE DAILY MAIL by the British United Press.)

London, May 6—The naval expert of the London Daily Telegraph said today it was understood that the United States has changed its attitude on the question of further restriction on the size of battleships and that it was ready to reconsider the British proposal that battleships be restricted to 30,000 tons.

MEN PAY LARGE SUM YEARLY ON BEAUTIFIERS

New York, May 6—Try and get any man to admit that his sex spends even half as much as the women do in aids to beauty.

But they do—and its more than half, according to a survey based by Dorothy Gran a beauty specialist, on trade statistics and Department of Commerce figures. For facials, hair tonics and barber shop luxuries men spent in 1928 in this country \$1,050,000,000, the survey shows. The feminine beauty bill was \$1,825,000,000. Facials alone cost father \$100,000,000.

Undergoing Treatment

Miss Mary Donnelly, twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Donnelly, of Lake George, is undergoing treatment at the Victoria Public Hospital for an injury received to her leg some time ago.

ISAAC WALTON SUPREME IN N. B. LATELY

Fishing Parties from all Points in States Visit Waters of Cain's and Miramichi—O. L. Webber and a Party From Wisconsin Left Today With Guide Allen.

Fishing parties from United States are arriving in abundance during these spring days of salmon fishing on the Cain's and Miramichi rivers. Within the past two weeks, no less than ten parties have spent from a day to two weeks in consorting with Isaac Walton in the angling sport in popular New Brunswick fishing waters. Among the newcomers over the weekend, a party of authorities on the art of angling. They registered at the Queen Hotel and this morning left for the Cain's river with guide Harry Allen.

The party consists of O. L. Weber, of the Weber Lifelike Fly Company, of Stevens Point, Wisconsin; W. R. Cook of the same company; R. H. Ames of Amarilla Texas commissioner of conservation for that state, and Dr. Arthur W. Rogers connected with the health resort of Oconomowoc, Wis.

Yesterday afternoon, the entire party was entertained by members of the A. & B. club to a motor boat drive in the waters of the Saint John river directly across from this city, and afterwards witnessed the Normal School fire.

Crash On Corner

An automobile collision occurred at the corner of Saint John and Brunswick streets on Saturday evening which resulted in a bad mixup. Watson Jamer, of Devon was driving one of the autos, a light car, while Dudley Coy was operating the other a heavier machine. The two cars came together at the intersection and resulted from one of the vehicles, being unable to make the turn in time, as the other car also went to go by. Mr. Coy's car was turned over and he was rather badly scratched up. The injury was not serious, however, and today Mr. Coy is around again.

Cleopatra's Night

Cleopatra's Night, will be sung over the radio from station WEA-F, New York at eleven o'clock this evening.