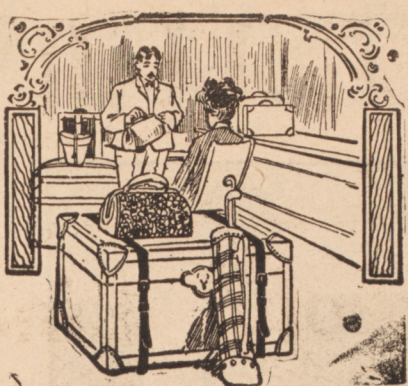


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The Appalling Catastrophe at the Montreal Herald Premises

At Least Twenty-Nine Persons are Believed to Have Perished
in the Fallen Buildings, Besides Upwards of a Score who
Have Received Serious Injuries---Many Deeds of Heroism
were Performed in Attempts to Save Those in Danger---
Victims Chiefly Girls Employed on Top Floor.

Montreal, June 13--At least twenty-nine persons are believed to have perished in the disastrous fire which took place today at the Herald Publishing Company's premises; but owing to the appalling suddenness with which the catastrophe came, and the completeness of the destruction of the building, it has as yet been impossible to gain anything more than an approximate list of the dead. In fact only four bodies have yet been recovered, the rest being buried under hundreds of tons of twisted and tangled wreckage, which burned for hours.

Just how many bodies the ruins contain can only be guessed by finding how many people are missing, and with over 300 working in the building at the time and the destruction of the payrolls, this has proven an almost impossible task so far.

The disaster was caused by the collapse of a huge water tank on top of the building, containing 30,000 gallons of water for fire purposes. About 11 this morning this tank, weighing 150 tons, broke down, and was hurled through the four stories of the building, instantly killing many of the employees, including a number of young girls employed in the bindery.

Fire followed in the wake of the destruction, and those who were not fortunate enough to be killed outright were burned to death.

The property loss is very considerable. The Herald losses approximate \$175,000, with insurance amounting to \$125,000. The building which is owned by J. S. Brierley and Fred Abraham of the Herald directorate, was valued at \$90,000, with \$52,500 insurance. The loss in each instance is complete, with the possibility of slight salvage.

So suddenly did the huge mass of timber with its thousands of gallons of water destroy the building that few if any directly below had a chance to escape. And so great was the subsequent confusion that it

has as yet been impossible to definitely state the number of the dead. It will be hard to determine this until the enormous mass of burnt and twisted wreckage, which is all that is left of the greater portion of the Herald building, has been turned over, and its tale of horror told.

After the reservoir had smashed its way through the five stories of the building, carrying death, injury and destruction with it, there was a brief interlude of almost silence, broken only by the shrieks of the injured and the mad efforts of those who survived to escape from the doomed structure.

TERRIBLE DEATHS OF INJURED

Then fire, the inevitable accompaniment of such a disaster, broke out amidst the ruins. A few of the injured were rescued before this, but the continuity of the catastrophe, with flames piling upon destruction, prevented much work being done along this line. Those who could get out made their way to safety. Those who were left died as they were pinned down. Some were killed outright. Others were probably drowned in the floods of water let loose by the broken tank which filled the basement with four feet of water. Yet others suffered the most terrific death of all, and, after being pinned in anguish by broken timbers and beams, died in the flames. Who these were and how they died, was for the most part of the day a mystery which was hidden under an immense pile of rubbish, burned and broken and twisted into a chaos of entangled material, part of which is deep in water and the rest lying on smoking heaps.

The only present method of disclosing an approximate list of those who lost their lives was by finding out who were the living, and every effort was made to do this. In some cases as with members of the Typographical Union, this is a fairly simple

matter. But the sad feature of the disaster is that it has hurled to death a number of quite young girls, who were employed in the bindery on the top floor. And in the complete wreck of this part of the building it is stated that the books with the records of the various girls employed have been either burned or lost in the wreckage. So that the task of finding who have died will depend upon the celerity with which the list of living can be secured.

CAUSE OF DISASTER

As to the cause of the disaster, it was due to the sudden collapse of the big water tank perched above the building for the express purpose of furnishing protection from fire. Its weight evidently proved too much for the building, and it broke its supports, carrying everything in the rear with it on its mad rush to the ground.

The appearance of the building after the disaster was remarkable. The rear portion seemed to have been razed off, the floors being smashed through and even the dividing walls cut down as though by a knife, and the whole rear portion of the building dropped in a heap of ruins, in which human bodies, bricks, beams, steel work and machinery of all kinds were mingled in a chaotic mess.

After the first excitement of the fire itself was over the firemen settled down to the task of searching the ruins, with the intention of keeping up the task until the whole mass had been thoroughly turned over. A weird sight resulted as darkness fell. Arc and searchlights had been installed and turned upon the mass of debris which marked the site of the Herald office. The lane at the rear was several feet deep in rubbish and from there the mass rose two stories high in a tangled mass of bricks and broken beams and machinery. From these as yet only two bodies have been recovered.

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HILLSBOROUGH IS VISITED BY A VERY DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Hillsboro, N.B., June 13--Hillsboro was visited with a disastrous fire this afternoon and as a result the handsome Baptist church edifice and parsonage are in ashes tonight. At one time it looked as if the whole town would be fire-swept and it was only by strenuous efforts on the part of the fire brigade, assisted by many other citizens that the fire was prevented from spreading.

The fire broke out in the church about 3 o'clock and when discovered it had gained such headway that the edifice and contents were doomed. The efforts of the fire brigade and citizens were devoted to prevent the flames communicating nearby buildings and this proved a hard task. At times there was a stiff breeze blowing and this added to the peril of the situation. The parsonage, situated alongside the church, was in the greatest danger and efforts were first concentrated to save this, but to no avail. The flames soon spread to the parsonage, occupied by Pastor Rev Z. L. Fash, and it was soon evident this was also doomed.

Willing hands succeeded in saving the furniture from the parsonage but nothing was got from the church. On the west of the church is Dr. Randall's residence, while to the east of the parsonage is the town hall. Both these buildings were on fire several times but by hard work the flames were prevented from making headway and both buildings were saved. Had the town hall been destroyed nothing could have saved practically the whole town.

The destruction of the church is a serious loss to the congregation. Two years ago it had been remodelled and finished in first class condition. Two years ago the Baptists installed a \$3,000 pipe organ and this was also destroyed.

The fire originated in the church basement, it is supposed, from a spark smouldering since yesterday, when there was a fire in the church. The church, building and contents were valued at \$18,000 and the parsonage at \$3,000, with a total insurance of \$5,000. There was \$3,000 on the church, \$1,000 on the organ and \$1,000 on the parsonage. The loss over and above this was \$12,000 or \$13,000.

There were some costly memorial windows in the church which had been occupied by the Baptists for a good many years.

The fire was under control at 7 o'clock. The church is situated in the

FRENCHMAN INVENTS PROCESS FOR MAKING CLOTH FROM SPRUCE

A recently invented French process for the manufacture of cloth out of spruce wood is being investigated by a number of New England cotton experts. The cloth is said to resemble the finest mercerized cotton in texture and sheen, while it takes on dyes more brilliantly in the bleaching and finishing than does the real cotton fibre. The cost of the new fabric will be much below that of cotton cloth. In fact, it is stated that the finished wood pulp cloth will be cheaper than the raw cotton in bales.

C. J. H. Woodbury of Boston, President of the National Association of Cotton Spinners, has given some details of the new process. The first step, he says, is to reduce the spruce wood to cellulose, much after the method used in the initial steps of making pulp for paper manufacture. That consists, speaking generally, in reducing the wood to a liquid by a combination of chemicals and applied heat. The reason that spruce is preferred is because of its lack of color, which, of course, is a feature in bleaching and dyeing the finished cloth.

After the wood is reduced to cellulose, or synthetical cotton, since bleached cotton is nearly pure cellulose, this liquid is then pressed out into threads by two different methods. For the coarse fibre the pulp is pressed through perforated steel plates, and as it hardens when it strikes the air it may be wound on spools or drums in any lengths desired. For the finer fibres the holes through which the wool cellulose is pressed are in glass tubes, drawn out to very small orifices, such as are found in fountain pen fillers. When made from spruce this fibre is almost white, and it may then be bleached before being dyed.

It has been brought out also that this wood pulp cloth or "soyouse," to give it the French name, will resist boiling water or caustic potash solutions for several minutes without change. Also it burns no more rapidly than does cotton, and this is a most important point in artificially-produced textiles. A substitute for silk that is much used in the cheaper grades of ties is already made from wood pulp treated after a

upper part of Hillsboro and the wind was luckily blowing towards the river or the conflagration would probably have been serious.

ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH ON EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS IS DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT

London, June 13--Theodore Roosevelt's Guild Hall speech led to a lengthy discussion of Egyptian affairs in the House of Commons tonight. The Conservatives demanded what course the ministers proposed to pursue and some of the Liberal members denounced what they termed Mr. Roosevelt's interference.

Arthur J. Balfour, leader of the opposition, expressed warm appreciation of Mr. Roosevelt's sympathetic and kindly treatment of the subject. There was nothing in the speech, he said, to which the most sensitive being could take exception and he hoped that the government would take steps to support the British representatives there, without which they would be helpless.

Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, replying to the criticism in behalf of the government, said that Mr. Roosevelt's speech was communicated to him before it was delivered. He had seldom listened to a speech with great pleasure. Its friendly intention, he said, was obvious, and taken as a whole it was the greatest compliment to the work of one country ever paid by a citizen of another.

There was nothing in the present situation in Egypt, the foreign minister declared, to occasion disquiet or justify a sudden resort to unusual methods but if the symptoms already noted, of anti-British agitation continued, the government would take measures to assert its authority and protect the Egyptian ministers who followed the government's advice.

Interpellations were submitted to the house during the course of the day bearing on the same subject to which the secretary of foreign affairs made a brief reply.

different process from the French method of making the cotton substitute. But this imitation silk is highly combustible. It is easy to tell it from the real silk by touching a match to a thread from it. If the thread is real silk it will burn more slowly and leave a little ball of a black carbon. The thread of imitation wood pulp silk, on the other hand, will burn up rapidly and entirely. It is this extreme combustibility that has been a charge against imitation silk, but to the new substitute for cotton there is no such objection."