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President Harding Taking Part in Strike Settlement

He Believes Many of the Difficulties are Being Cleared Away and Prospects for Final Adjustment are Bright.

(Special to The Guardian.)
WASHINGTON, July 30.—Official announcement was verbally made at the White House late today that President Harding was prepared to submit formal proposals for settlement of the railway executives and of the general strike committee of the United States shop craft unions. The president, it was said officially, believes that some of the difficulties in the way of an adjustment of the trouble which has injured the nation's transportation system are "clearing away," as the result of the conference which he concluded shortly before the announcement was made.

Germany Has Ten Days to Accept Allied Decision

(Special to The Guardian.)
PARIS, July 30.—Germany has been given ten days in which formally to accept the decision of the Allied clearing offices in refusing to reduce the monthly payments made by the German government to the Allies for debts contracted by German National banks with Allied citizens prior to the war.

Ban The Exportation of Coal From U. S.

(Special to The Guardian.)
WASHINGTON, July 30.—A ban on the exportation of coal except in cases of great emergency has been decided upon by the board of the Government's fuel conservation plan during the mine strike. PHILADELPHIA, July 30.—Direct parley to bring about peace in the coal war now in its 150th day will be begun on Wednesday, when operators from Central competitive fields and miners come face to face in conference here, it was reported today.

German Exchange Reaches Low Level

(Special to The Guardian.)
NEW YORK, July 30.—Extreme demoralization was shown by German exchange in this market today, the mark falling to 15 1/2 cents a hundred, the lowest quotation ever reached here, an overnight decline of almost 2 cents a hundred.

U.S. Bankers Loan To Italy

(Special to The Guardian.)
ROME, July 30.—Negotiations for a two hundred million dollar loan to Italy by United States bankers are to be concluded within a month it is understood here following a series of conferences between retiring Premier Facta and Roland Ricci, Ambassador of the United States. Ambassador Ricci expects to return to Washington as soon as the ministerial crisis is settled.

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SUMMER BOARDERS WANTED.—Simon Pinesau, North Rustico has accommodation for a few numbers of boarders. Near seashore, food bathing and first class service provided. Address Simon Pinesau, North Rustico, July 29-31

TWO LIVES LOST YESTERDAY IN THE BRACE BUILDING FIRE

City Shocked By News of Double Tragedy at Fire on Queen Street Early Sunday Morning—Boarding House Over Burning Stores Becomes Horrible Fire-Trap—Young Ross and Chinese Boarder Suffocated and Rescued Too Late, Almost Within Reach of First Storey Windows—No Deaths Had Fire Escapes Been There, Declares Jury.

A bad fire which broke out at an early hour Sunday morning in the R. K. Brace building, Queen Street, resulted in the tragic death by suffocation of two persons, James Ross, nine years old, son of the proprietor of the boarding house which occupies the two upper stories of the building, and Wey Ling, a Chinese occupant of one of the rooms. Other occupants of the rooms suffered slight injuries and the building itself was very badly gutted.

Many of the members of the regular fire brigade had left Saturday for the firemen's tournament at Dartmouth and only an emergency brigade was on duty. This, however, under the command of Assistant Chief Ber Large, consisted largely of experienced and as yesterday's tragedy proved, they very capably supplied their places. For nearly five hours throughout the early morning they fought the flames which in the narrow confined space between the close packed buildings in this business section the city bid fair at one time to wipe out all the block. They were ably assisted by an increasingly large number of citizens.

The first intimation that the fire had been given by John Ling who said that a fire had broken out in the Spa delicatessen store. This store occupies a central place in the lower floor of the Brace building between the Ling's restaurant and laundry, S. Melsaac's electrical store and Bruce's clothing store. Densities of smoke were pouring through the top windows when the firemen arrived and a fierce fire seemed to be blazing at the rear in the centre of the building. The Spa door was smashed open and after some difficulty two lengths of hose were got through, and the water turned on. After wards more entries were secured for the hose through other doors and windows, six streams in all being played continuously from every available hydrant. It took nearly two hours to get the fire even partially under control, and during this time the excitement was increased to fever pitch by the anxiety for the occupants of the crowd of upper stories of the building, whose chances of escape were seriously hindered by the fact that only one door from a narrow stairway opening upon Queen Street, could be used.

While the work of getting through with the hose into the rear of the building was being carried on, other workers were busy raising the ladders to the windows. Mr. McInnis, a boarder, was rescued with two of the Ross children from one window on the first floor and Miss Arsenault, an other boarder, from a window on the second floor. Mr. Ross, his wife and oldest son gained exit through the lower door onto the street. One Chinaman escaped by jumping from the rear of the first story window to the shed in the yard. The heat and smoke in the upper stories, where now all interest was concentrated, was intense and while some were shouting that everyone was safely out, others cried out that there were more in the burning building. Fireman Vatcher reached the upper part by the stairs, passing the Ross boy coming down, and later was able to proceed all the length of the hall, though the smoke was stifling. He went through with a lantern but could not see or hear anyone and believed that everybody was clear of the building.

Mr. Ross still cried out that one of the boys was upstairs. In the midst of the confusion he did not succeed in attracting attention. Every fireman was working to beat the flames and the handling of the six hose alone required at most superhuman efforts in the dense heat and smoke through which they had to work.

Joseph MacDonald, one of the spectators who ably assisted in many others at the fire, heard Mr. Ross and after some difficulty went up one of the ladders, followed by his brother Wallace MacDonald and Fireman McAleer. In the hall-way he succeeded in finding two bodies, lying a little apart from each other. The smoke and heat was intensely uncomfortable but he managed to get them to the window, where they were taken down the ladder by the other helpers. Among many heroic acts at yesterday's fire this feat of MacDonald's is a noble one. Only a young and very strong man could have succeeded in such a task.

The bodies rescued from the flames by MacDonald and his mate were those of James Ross and Wey Ling. The Chinaman appeared to be quite dead but young Ross showed signs of life. They were quickly removed to the City Hospital in Dr. Ledwell's car, but upon reaching there it was found that both victims had expired.

Mrs. Ledwell herself drove the car while Dr. Ledwell remained upon the scene of the fire to be of further help if needed.

Mrs. Ross, who has been sick for the past week, was in a very feeble condition from the excitement and anxiety but after being taken to Mrs. McMillan's boarding house, Grafton Street, she rallied somewhat. Her little daughter, Verna, rescued from one of the windows, went with her mother.

Miss Arsenault, the young lady rescued from the second story window, was taken to the City Hospital suffering from the suffocating effects of the smoke, but is now considerably improved.

The deceased lad, James Ross, was nine years of age and was a bright, smart boy, a general favorite with his parents and with everybody who knew him. He is survived by his father and mother, two brothers, Garnet 13, and Wey 5, and one sister, Verna 7.

Wey Ling, the Chinese victim of the fire, was about thirty six years of age and came here from Montreal two or three years ago. He has several cousins among the Chinese population of the city and was employed by John Ling in his laundry.

Inspecting the bodies at the undertaker's room, Coroner Dr. McGuigan noticed a few injuries, evidently received from burning clothing; but these he did not believe would be sufficient to cause death, which no doubt came from the suffocating smoke-fumes.

The pity of it. A sad feature of the double tragedy was the nearness of the victims to safety when they fell to the floor overpowered by the smoke. They had succeeded, both of them, in getting down from the upper story to the first floor and were but a few steps from the windows where the descent of a few further feet on the ladder to the ground would have meant safety. They must have been passing by at least one fireman, as they lay unconscious and dying, but could not be seen through the thick pall of smoke, and if they cried out their voices were lost in the crackling of the flames and the noises of the rescuers.

They were found lying a few feet apart, the lad at least still breathing. He had come out from his bed-room with his older brother, both of them taking time to dress, and before reaching the lower stairway had fallen to the floor, while the other had walked down to the street, and to the wait of arms of his parents, thinking all the time little Jimmie was behind him, and not hearing, in his excitement, any cry or sound from him, if indeed he had time to even to make an outcry.

Heavy Damages

The total damage caused by the fire has not yet been estimated. The building itself is very badly gutted, thought chiefly in the rear parts. The goods in The Spa are practically all destroyed by smoke and water. It is figured that the approximate loss will be about \$25,000, one half of which is covered by insurance.

Gave The Alarm.

John Ling (sworn) proprietor of Ling's laundry and restaurant. Last night at 1.45, while going to bed saw a fire in The Spa kitchen. He ran to the Fire Station and when he came back he went in by the door to his quarters. There was smoke in his bedroom. He tried to get his trunk away, but could not do it. He made his escape without seeing anyone. The last time he saw the deceased, Wey Ling, was at 12 o'clock in his restaurant. He did not see the young Ross boy all night.

Rescued Two Children.

Leonard McInnis (sworn). At 2 a. m. heard John Ling and Charles Ross, shouting "fire" and afterwards the fire bell started to ring. Ross told him to take the children and come down. He ran along the hall to the back window and saw the blaze; he then went back to the bedrooms and told the children to get ready. He brought the two smallest children to the second floor and returned, but could not find the other child. The firemen passed up to the second floor by the ladder from the street and he and the two children were rescued. He did not see either of the victims of the tragedy. He took it for granted that Jimmie Ross had got down ahead, since he did not see him.

Fire Chief Large

Acting Fire Chief Large testified that at 2.15 the alarm in his house rang and the fire bell rang as he was going down stairs. He went to the station and was told that the fire was at the Spa. Arriving at the fire he found the building all ablaze and one or two streams of water from Hughes corner. Somebody was crying out that there were children in the house. He saw somebody whom he believed was Jos McDonald, carrying a form down one of the ladders from the second story. He did not see either one of the deceased at all during the night.

Ten Lives Menaced.

At the time of the fire there were sleeping on the second floor above the street, Mr. McInnis, Miss Arsenault, the four Ross children, and Louis and Wey Ling. On the first floor there were Mr. and Mrs. Ross. Had all the rooms of the building been fully occupied, the disaster would no doubt have overshadowed even the tragedy of yesterday.

The Inquest

Coroner Dr. McGuigan was requested at 9.30 a. m. by the Attorney General to carry out the investigation and at 11 o'clock he empanelled a jury consisting of James Stewart (foreman), Thomas Hogan, Douglas Smith, Stephen McIsaac, Ebenezer Wheatley, Lewis C. Wright and John McAleer. The bodies were inspected in the undertaker's rooms of A. A. Hennessy and Dudley Wright and at 1.30 the inquest was held in the Police Court.

Mr. Ross' Evidence.

Chas. S. Ross, proprietor of Ross' boarding house, was the first witness called. He testified that about 1 a. m. he was aroused from sleep by his wife, who was sick, and who wanted a drink of water. He heard a disturbance below in the Chinaman's restaurant while he was getting the water. Ten minutes after, while in bed, he heard two people going up stairs past his room. At 1.45 he heard John Ling crying out "Fire." Witness went to the front window and saw John Ling running up the street, going back to the kitchen in the rear of the house, he smelled smoke and shouted out to McInnis, one of the boarders, that there was a fire in the building, and asked him to look after the children. He went back to the bedroom, took his wife in his arms and went down stairs to the front door, where he gained the street in safety. Leaving his wife on a step outside, he went to the front door and saw one of his boys, Garnet, coming down. In the meantime the firemen had arrived. The next thing he noticed was McInnis coming down one of the ladders with two of the children.

Women Vatcher

Fireman Arthur Vatcher, testified that when he got to the fire Mr. Ross told him there were children in the building. He could not get in the front door leading upstairs to the boarding house so he kicked it in. He went upstairs, and there was a great deal of smoke. A boy passed him going down the stairs and he heard a child in the room in the back of the house in his way out and witness continued his way upstairs. He got to the top of the stairs, keeping close to the floor, but could not get any further. He came down again, got outside, and helped to put up a ladder to the first floor, where a man and two children could be seen through the window. Witness' gang out to keep cool, went up the ladder, and took down one of the children. Other firemen were hoisting a ladder to

Jos. MacDonald.

Jos. MacDonald (sworn) Witness was not a member of the fire department. On coming home from his mother-in-law's, where his wife was staying, he heard the fire-bell and ran up Queen Street, where he could see the Spa building afire. He helped the firemen put up a ladder. He heard there were some of the children in the building and asked for a lantern and for permission to go up the ladder. The firemen would not allow anybody on the ladders. Some time after he got up to the first story on the ladder and got out the two dead bodies, handing them out through the window to his brother on the ladder.

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Collins Cabinet

DUBLIN, July 30.—The Collins cabinet has flatly rejected peace proposals of a deputation of insurgents and demanded unconditional surrender.

Rejects All Peace Proposals

NEW YORK, July 30.—A persistent rumor, which, however lacks confirmation, is current here today that Eamonn De Valera the Irish insurgent leader, has left Ireland secretly and taken passage on a ship for this country.

Announcements, Coming Events, Meetings, Etc

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Grand Celebration at Lennox Island Yesterday

Large Crowds of People Attend Celebration of Feast of St. Ann and Witness Unveiling of Magnificent Monument Erected in Memory of Fallen Indian Soldiers

Yesterday at Lennox Island the annual celebration of the feast of St. Ann was held and was attended by about 3,000 people from Charlottetown and different parts of the Island.

The celebration commenced in the morning at 11 o'clock when High Mass was sung by Rev. J. A. McDonald, Parish Priest, Grand River and an eloquent sermon for the occasion was delivered by Rev. George F. Bradley, S. J., Montreal. Father Bradley took as his text "No greater love hath any man than that he give his life for his friend" in his discourse conveyed to his hearers the great truth that in serving God a man must also serve his country. He concluded by paying a touching tribute to the fallen heroes of the parish who had so willingly and promptly sacrificed everything, even their lives for that great cause which they had espoused, their God and their country.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, Mr. Sheldon Sharp occupying the chair, the magnificent monument erected in memory of the Indian soldiers who fought and fell in the Great War was unveiled by Chief Sark and an eloquent address was delivered by A. E. McLean, M. P., for Prince County.

Mr. McLean in his speech first congratulated those who had been instrumental in having the memorial erected and said that much credit was due them in bringing to such a completion the task which they had no doubt under great difficulties undertaken. He also spoke in glowing terms of the loyalty and sacrifice of the Indian soldiers who had fought and gave up their lives and also of those who were present. In conclusion Mr. McLean said that he had no doubt that the Micmac Tribes would live up to the traditions of their fallen brothers and that this sentiment would serve as an incentive to them by keeping fresh in their minds the memory of those who now sleep in Flanders fields.

Mr. McLean was followed by Rev. J. A. McDonald who conveyed his sincere thanks and appreciation to those present and offered for the help they gave and for the interest they had shown in the work just completed. He was proud, he said, of the monument, he was proud to be able to stand up and say that there was not one of the Indian members of his congregation who had flinched when the call of duty came ringing through their camp and he was prouder still, though sorely grieved to say that many of those Indian warriors had laid down their lives and were now sleeping in a foreign land.

There were a number of other speakers among whom were Rev. George F. Bradley, S. J., and Premier Bell and all voiced the opinion that the monument was a great credit indeed to the community and would as Mr. McLean stated be a great incentive to the present and future generations.

The monument which was designed by Messrs. Chappell and Hunter and built by Mr. William J. Hennessy, contractor, city is a magnificent piece of work standing 16 feet from the base to the top of the cross.

The base is 6 feet and one half long by 4 feet and one half wide and is 1 foot in height. Placed on top of the base directly in the centre is a large date stone bearing the dates 1914-1918. Resting on this is a bronze tablet on which the names of the Indian soldiers who fought and fell are inscribed. Both the date stone and the bronze tablet are flanked on either side by two pendants which consist of a mass of granite boulders set in cement. The top of the monument carries four moulded blocks one on each corner and the faces of the blocks each bear carvings numbering eight in all. Immediately over this is the shaft which also consists of granite boulders laid in cement. Inlaid in the shaft is a large cross finished in snow white and standing eight feet above a. l.

The monument, the back of which is similar to the front except that there is no date stone or tablet is so situated that it can be seen at a great distance and the white cross stands out in strong relief over the grey granite boulders of the shaft.

After the ceremony which was completed about 4.30 supper was served and the remainder of the evening was spent in visiting the different points of interest on the settlement. It was not until the sun had almost disappeared below the horizon and the shadows of the night were closing down that the last visitor took his departure from the Island.

German Fleet Getting Back To Pre-war Footing

(Special to The Guardian.)
WASHINGTON, July 30.—The German fleet is creeping back towards its pre-war tonnage, according to a cable to the commerce department today from commercial attaché C. E. Herring.

At Berlin on June 30th Mr. Herring reported that the German merchant fleet was estimated at 1,618,000 gross tons, as compared with a pre-war tonnage of 5,459,000 gross tons and with 1,600,000 gross tons for the calendar year 1921 figures for June 30, 1921 being unavailable.

Collins Cabinet Rejects All Peace Proposals

DUBLIN, July 30.—The Collins cabinet has flatly rejected peace proposals of a deputation of insurgents and demanded unconditional surrender.

NEW YORK, July 30.—A persistent rumor, which, however lacks confirmation, is current here today that Eamonn De Valera the Irish insurgent leader, has left Ireland secretly and taken passage on a ship for this country.

He has not been seen with the remainder of the Republican army for several days. It is believed by his friends here that he escaped from Ireland by making his way to a seaport and that he is coming to seek sympathy and fresh financial support in America for the anti-treaty faction.

Recent despatches received from Ireland indicate that the Republican army is on its last legs although still holding out in the southwest of the country.

(Continued On Page 3.)