

INTRODUCTION

“SOUND THE ALARM” is the forth collection of articles long ago published in the Marmora Herald.

These stories are an exact re-print of articles that appeared in the Herald.

Obvious errors in spelling as well as grammar and their free flowing form of writing style have been literally followed.

That the reporters themselves would have reworked some parts of their stories, probably expanded others is evident, but we believe these stories stand on their own merit, offering a rare glimpse of early life and times in Marmora and area. The tragedies that occurred served to bring a village together and gave it the strength and character to survive all these years.

Gerald Belanger & Cathie Jones

other books in this series are

Stone Memories, Stone Memories Revisited & A Likely Story

Disastrous Fire

On Sunday morning about 4 o'clock fire broke out in the big mill belonging to the Canadian Gold Fields Co. at Deloro. The fire originated from the drying machines, where the men left fire at 12 o'clock, midnight, and went home. There was a big wind blowing, and one of men was awakened near by and went in to try and save some precious belongings, and he states the whole inner partitions were all ablaze when he got there. It is said that the mill was insured for \$41,000. The company was just erecting a new crusher in the same building, and intended to operate the machine this week. It is said that there was a quantity of gold under treatment in the laboratory, about \$8000. worth. The laboratory was a complete wreck, not one thing being saved. A pair of scales was burned valued at \$250. About 30 men were thrown out of employment. Loss estimated at \$75,000. The insurance was with Norwich Union.

North Hastings Review

May 12, 1898

Big Fire in Marmora

A fire at Marmora early on Saturday morning last caused the destruction of several business places and one dwelling, and a loss of about \$30,000. Between two and three o'clock in the morning fire was discovered in the butcher and grocer shop occupied by J. Rose and spread to John Green's harness shop adjoining, and from there to the large carriage shop owned by Dan Dunlay. From there it spread to the block owned by Capt. John O'Neill, and containing the general stores of Mark Keyfetz, and Lavine & Co. and the hardware store of Frank Carscallen. Over these stores were residences of a number of families, who lost part of their property. A residence in the rear of the O'Neill block was also burned.

Some of those who were burned out lost everything. Among them was Mr. Samuel Hatton, who had just removed all his household effects from Stirling to Marmora the day previous. They were stored in the rooms over Mr. Rose's shop, where the fire originated, and were a total loss. Mr. Clinton Hogle had his goods all packed for removal in the same building, and also lost everything. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Stirling News-Argus
March 29, 1900

Aftermath of the Fire

Main Street since the fire is desolate enough. Nothing remains of the Arcade block but the cellar walls and debris. Mr. Pearce has bought out Bleecker Bros. store and has this week commenced a fire sale to dispose of the goods saved from the fire and also the stock bought off Bleecker Bros. His insurance on the building and stock amounted to \$6500., his loss is heavy. Mr. Charles McWilliams, tailor, saved practically all his stock and contents. He has opened out in the up-stairs part of Bleecker Bros. store, now J. W. Pearce's. Mr. Sanderson, harness-maker, saved most of his stock and has fitted up a shop in the implement shed across the street. Mr. John hold goods and his daughter, Mrs. Drennan, lost a purse containing about \$75. Mr. Shannon and family have moved into the house formerly occupied by Mr. D. Conley. The "Herald" plant was completely destroyed, loss about \$3000. with no insurance.

North Hastings Review
May 25, 1905

Fire in Marmora

Just as we go to press we learn of a disastrous fire in the village of Marmora, which occurred last night. The fine "Arcade" Block, containing several stores, The "Herald" printing office, and up-stair offices, was totally destroyed, entailing heavy loss to the occupants. J. W. Pearce, M.P.P., occupied the largest premises in the block, with a large general store and he will be a heavy loser. Chas. McWilliams, merchant tailor; Wm. Sanderson's harness shop, John Shannon's dwelling, and the Herald printing office are completely wiped out. Parts of the stocks were saved. Further particulars can not be obtained before we go to press.

The Review particularly extends its sincere sympathy to Bro. Snell, of the Herald, in his loss, "knowing how it is ourselves"

Since the above was put in type, a note has been received by The Review from Mr. Rendol lost everything, amounting to about \$3,000. with no insurance. Through our columns Mr. Snell wishes to say to Herald readers that at present he has no definite announcement to make, but that he will in a short time give them information as to the future.

North Hastings Review

May 18, 1905

The Marmora Herald made its appearance again last week, looking 'spick and span' in its new dress of type and has resulted in a much better appearing Herald than before the fire. We extend our best respects on its very healthy looking re-appearance

North Hastings Review
September 28, 1905

Big Fire in Marmora

Marmora was visited by another disastrous fire. It started at three o'clock this morning in the St. James hotel sheds, burning the new cement stables and drive sheds. Mr. Hugh Warren's blacksmith shop, Wiggins & Gray's barn, sheds and storehouse, and Dr. W. G. MacKechnie's barn were also lost. J.W. Pearce's storehouse and barn, Mrs. G. W. Bleecker's residence, Mrs. Geo. Bleecker's residence, Gladney & McDonnell's store, Dr. Jones' residence, Mrs. Wilkenson's residence, B. McCoy's residence and the Pearce lumber yards were all on fire, but were put out before doing much damage.

There was a high wind blowing. Rain started to come down quite heavily, and, no doubt, this saved the town from being a total ash heap this morning, as there is no fire protection of any kind in Marmora.

North Hastings Review
October 12, 1905

Disastrous Fire

Last week Bancroft had a disastrous fire, the third one within a few months. Last year Marmora had two fires, A few years ago one corner of the town was swept out into carbonic acid. Tamworth has been laid in partial ruins several times. Fires, therefore, are bound to occur. They have them everywhere. Marmora will not be exempt from them. It's only a matter of time, who knows how soon, before another one will come? Has any adequate means been taken to combat it when it comes? There certainly has not. There has been a great deal of talk at election time, but the matter has not been squarely faced. The least that could be done would be to make a thorough study of the question.

Marmora Herald
May 31, 1906

Fire

On Friday afternoon the home of Mr. Jacob Archibald on the Norwood Road, west of Marmora, was destroyed by fire with all the contents. The fire was caused by pipes burning out and spread so rapidly that it was impossible to save anything. Mr. Archibald has been ill a good deal during the past year and has a family of five small children so is therefore left in a very destitute condition. He deserves the sympathy of the community in his misfortune.

Marmora Herald
March 3, 1907

Fire in Marmora

Last Thursday fire broke out in M. C. Johns' blacksmith shop which was a large frame building on the east side of Main Street. By dint of hard work the workshop adjoining was saved. The large storehouse belonging to the ground but not until most of the contents, chiefly salt, had been removed.

There was no insurance on the later building which was solid pine and one of the oldest buildings in town, having once been a depot for the Gilmour Company. The Pearce Co. hitched on their hose to the hydrant at the planing mill and prevented the fire spreading north but the hose was too short to save the storehouse. It demonstrates what good protection the Pearce's have and there is some talk in trying to utilize it.

Marmora Herald

October 10, 1907

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McDonnell entertained in the new store, which had just replaced the one destroyed by fire the latter part of 1907, for their only daughter Miss Helena. The second floor was used for dancing, Sprague's Orchestra of Belleville providing the music. Refreshments were served on the first floor.

Marmora Herald

Gladney & McDonnell's Store Burns Down

Shortly before six o'clock this morning some of the men who work at Deloro, and who go out in Webbs' carryall each day, discovered that the interior of Gladney and McDonnell's store was in flames. They at once gave the siren and a crowd soon began to gather, but by the time they got into the store it was impossible to save very much. That the adjoining buildings were saved was almost a miracle and it reflects great credit on the men who worked so faithfully to save it. The tailor shop caught fire a number of times and the heat was intense but those who were on the roof stuck valiantly to their post and poured water over the roof as rapidly as it could be carried from the adjoining wells.

The tailor shop, Miss Eastwood's Millinery Parlors, the telephone office, Mr. MacQueen's office, the dwelling apartments over these buildings and Dr. Jones' residence were nearly stripped of their contents. This was the day announced for Miss Eastwood's Millinery openings and everything was in readiness but hats, trimmings etc. were packed as quickly as possible and carried to the Herald office or other places of safety. While nothing was burned the loss will be considerable as many of these millinery creations are too dainty to stand handling this way.

The building was a very substantial structure and was one of the oldest in the village, being built at a time when lumber was plentiful and only the best used. It was owned by the

Gladney Estate, and although it was insured the loss will be considerable. The store contained a very heavy stock, and in addition there was from \$1500. to \$2000. worth of fixtures. The stock was fairly well insured but scarcely anything was saved and the loss will be very heavy. The origin of the fire is a mystery though a number of theories are advanced. One is that it had been smouldering all night as two or three who passed the store about ten o'clock last evening smelt something like the odor of burning rags. Others think that it might have ignited some way from the electric wires, but this does not seem probable.

Mr. Norman Pringle's barber shop and pool room also had a narrow escape as the wind was blowing in that direction, carry cinders etc. with it. The heat was also very great and if the roof of the building had been dry instead of wet with snow there is little doubt but that it would have been destroyed.

The Royal Hotel nearly had a fire too. One of the burning cinders lit on the sash of one of the windows in front of the building and burned through to the inside, filling the upstairs with smoke before it was discovered. However the fire was located in time and extinguished before much damage was done.

It is strange why some people would run a hundred yards with a pail of water and arrive at the building out of breath and with the pails half empty than stand in line and pass them along, although the latter can be done much more quickly and with very little effort. Another Argument in favor of fire protection. Will it have any effect.

Marmora Herald

April 2, 1908

Work to Begin

A number of men started work yesterday clearing away the debris from Gladney & McDonnell & Co.'s old store preparatory to the erection of a new building. Work is to be pushed forward as rapidly as possible and the new store will be up to date in every particular. Mr. Ed. Shannon has the contract for the building and the fact a new store is to be erected will be a source of great satisfaction to our citizens generally.

Marmora Herald
September 3, 1908

Harry Leal's House Burned

On Monday forenoon the residence of Mr. Harry Leal, west of the river, was burned to the ground. The fire ignited from the stove pipe, starting inside of one of the partitions. When first discovered it would have been easy to extinguish the blaze if they could have got at it, but Mr. Leal was unable to render any aid owing to his illness. They tried to give the alarm, but no one was within hearing and before assistance arrived the fire was beyond control. The piano was pretty nearly the only thing that was saved. The House and contents were insured in the Liverpool, London and Globe Fire Assurance. Considering the condition of Mr. Leal's health this is certainly a very serious loss.

Marmora Herald
March 5, 1908

Village Council

The regular session of the village Council was held on Monday evening. Council members Warren, Mackechnie and Pearce being present. Councillor Warren occupied the chair. On motion of councillors Mackechnie and Pearce a number of accounts were passed including small accounts for work on streets, the assessor's salary, etc. The clerk then presented a statement of amount of the County rate for this year which is \$1185.00 as compared with \$1370.00 last year.

Mr. Wiley, travelling representative of the International Harvester Co. of which firm Mr. Wm. Flynn is the local agent, was present and addressed the council in regard to the purchase of a fire engine for the town. He said they had placed on the market a six and eight horsepower gasoline engine with one of the most up to date pumps on the market. With these engines any well or cistern can be utilized and with 25 feet of suction hose and 400 feet of regular hose it will throw a stream almost equal to a town waterworks for any ordinary fire. The whole thing is mounted on wheels so that it can be used either with wheels or runners and as each part is stationary there would be no adjusting of belts or anything of that kind. The price would be almost \$850.00 for the 6 horsepower engine.

On motion of councillors Mackechnie and Pearce, Mr. Wiley was requested to submit a letter giving full particulars as to work done

by the engine, price etc. Council then adjourned to meet again on the 20th to take up the question of the purchasing of the electric light plant.

Marmora Herald

July 9, 1908

Fire Protection Needed

Most people in the village are now convinced that apart from the loss sustained by the parties concerned, a fire, where it destroys any of the business places is a serious matter for the village at large. Since Gladney & Mackechnie and Co.'s store was burned there has been a considerable amount of trade which formerly came here goes to, Madoc Stirling as other points. The profit lost to the village would go a long way towards paying the interest and money required for the purchase of suitable fire protection. The offer of the fire engine now before council should be thoroughly considered and for the money required it looks like just about the best thing the village could get hold of. As far as the International engines are concerned they are the most simple and at the same time the most reliable and satisfactory of any we have ever seen and if the pump is equal to the engine there can be no doubt as to its efficiency. If the town is ever to be built up to what it was before business men must have some kind of protection for their property and the time

to get it is now before any other
fires occur.

Marmora Herald
July 9, 1908

A fire in Marmora on Monday night destroyed the cooperage mill. The loss is about \$20,000, partially covered by insurance. The mill employed about 60 men. As this is the busy season in the making of apple barrels, its destruction is a great loss to its owner and the village.

Stirling News Argus
September 17, 1908

Was Nearly a Fire

What might have been a very serious fire was narrowly averted in the rear of Mr. B.C. Hubbell's premises on Monday evening. Mr. Hubbell had been getting some oil and dropped a match which quickly ignited. An alarm was quickly given and the fire wagon with buckets etc., was on hand in a couple of minutes when the blaze was extinguished without particular damage being done. Had the fire ever gained any headway it would have been impossible to stop it on account of the number of wooden buildings in the rear of this store.

Marmora Herald
November 18, 1909

Mill Burned Down

At an early hour on Thursday morning of last week Lynch & Ryan's new mill, north of Cordova, was burned to the ground. It is not known how the fire started but it must have spread with great rapidity. A thorough inspection of the premises was made late in the evening and no signs of fire was discovered. The fires were very low and were carefully banked so that the fire could not have started from them. Some of the men were at Cordova returning home quite late and parties passed along the road at various times until about four o'clock. The men hurried to the mill as soon as possible, but when they reached it they found that the whole building was down, not a timber standing.

This is a heavy blow to the Company as they have a very large cut of logs on hand, and although a new mill will be erected as soon as possible, they will hardly be able to complete the cut this season. There was only \$700.00 insurance on the premises which will only cover a small fraction of the loss. Last year Lynch and Ryan had a mill burned down on the 25th of March, and this is the third fire in less than four years. It speaks well for their aggressiveness and progressiveness that they waste no time in rebuilding and resuming operations.

Fire at Marmora

A serious fire occurred at Marmora Sunday morning commencing about 2:30, the Reeve telephoned to Reeve Coulter for assistance, asking to have our steam engine go as it looked very serious. Mr. Coultier thought this too risky but promised to take half the fire brigade and the small hand engine and within an hour 17 men under the direction of Chief Jas. Lagrow and the Reeve landed at Marmora and under an hour and fifty the engine got there. By that time the fire had been slightly checked. Our boys on their arrival set to work with a will and deserve great credit for the willing manner in which they responded to the call for assistance from our sister village in their time of need. They arrived home again about 8:30 Sunday.

Both Belleville and Trenton were appealed to for aid but refused to run the risk of sending men or appliances. The fire is supposed to have caught in the rear of Miss McWilliam's millinery store, which with Jones' Drug Store and a laundry were destroyed, it also extended to the Royal Hotel which with stables, outbuildings, furniture, contents etc, was also completely destroyed, saving very little.

The proprietor of the Hotel had just completed extensive repairs, refurnishing, painting etc., and his loss will be heavy, as it is thought he had not put on insurance.

Marmora Rebuilding

Nearly all the buildings that have been destroyed by fire in the last two or three years are being repaired or re-built. Following is a partial list of Marmora's re-building activity.

The Royal Hotel is rapidly nearing completion . The ground floor will be used for stores or sample rooms and the second floor for bedrooms.

Mrs. Pringle is planning to replace her block with an up-to-date building. The foundation is already completed. Charles McWilliams has the foundation built for a new residence to be completed this year.

Mr. Wm.Flynn has erected a liquor store on the south west corner of his lot, the building having a metal roof and sides, to make it fireproof. He is also erecting a fine new brick residence which will add greatly to the village.

Mr. Wm. Bonter is building a new residence and stable on Matthew Street opposite the Methodist church.

Mr. Stanis Bertrand has considerable lumber on a lot on east Hayes Street where he will erect a house.

Mr. Floyd Gray is also excavating for a new residence on west Hayes on a lot he purchased from John McCullough. A number of houses have had additions, new verandahs and fences and fresh paint has added greatly to their appearance.

Another Fire Scare

About four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon fire broke out in the top floor of the grist mill. It was first discovered by a couple of boys seeing smoke pouring out of the window. An alarm was given and a large crowd soon gathered but for some time it was impossible to discover the source of the fire owing to the density of the smoke.

The Pearce Co.'s fire pump was soon put in operation and a string of hose run through the window. The whole of the floor was thoroughly soaked and as the smoke began to clear away the fire was found to have started in the dust collector. It was apparently a case of spontaneous combustion as there was no fire of any kind near the machine.

The building was not damaged to any extent but the machinery will all need to be thoroughly overhauled owing to the water. A very large quantity of grain and chop bran were badly soaked and much of it will be a total loss. Fortunately most of the flour was in the stock room and escaped damage but forty or fifty bags will be injured.

There will also be a considerable loss owing to the time it will take to put the machinery in running order again.

The stock was partly covered by insurance, but there was no insurance on the building or machinery. It was a fortunate thing for the village that the fire was extinguished

before the building was destroyed as the mill probably draws more trade to the village than any other source.

Marmora Herald
July 9, 1914

Owing to the damage to our plant in the recent fire, we have been unable to issue a paper for the past number of weeks, and have only been able to do a small amount of job work. We are pleased to state our plant is again in fair shape and when our repairs are completed we will be in better shape to handle all classes of work. We extend our thanks to all who helped at the fire and to those who have helped us by renewing their subscriptions and paying their accounts as we have been under heavy expense.

Marmora Herald
June 18, 1914

Summer Hotel Destroyed

Mr. John Green's summer hotel at Crowe Lake was totally destroyed by fire last Sunday night. Mr. Alphonse Shannon and his mother were stopping at the lake and with his assistance a large part of the furniture was saved.

Marmora Herald
October 1, 1914

Public School Burned

Another very serious fire occurred yesterday afternoon resulting in the destruction of Marmora's fine eight room school. The alarm was sounded about 2 p.m. and a crowd quickly gathered but nothing could be done to prevent the spread of the flames. It is not known how the fire started, but it was in the basement. There was no fire in the furnace at the time and when first discovered by one of the younger pupils a pile of edgings was in flames.

He ran up and notified Mr. Haig, Principal of the school, who after a hasty investigation sounded the fire gong. He then went to his room and told the pupils he guessed they would have a little fire drill and all marched out in perfect order, almost before they realized what was wrong. The other rooms were quickly vacated but not without a good deal of excitement.

Most of them left their books and some their coats and hats. The fire burned slowly in its early stages and it was aggravating to have to stand back and see it burn without any possibility of checking the blaze. Dense volumes of heavy black smoke poured from the windows and doors. Once the flames got into the main part of the building it spread rapidly and every particle of woodwork was soon a mass of flames. Once the roof caught cinders were carried to the west and north and a lot of other places were threatened.

The Methodist church and the sheds and stables

had their roofs started several times. St. Paul's also had a narrow escape, and all the houses on both sides of the street were only saved by hard work. The white hall was also on fire in several places and the houses occupied by Mr. W. H. Hubbell and Mr. Jos. Brock also caught fire but fortunately all were extinguished before any serious damage was done.

There was a pile of nearly fifty cords of wood lying close to the school, but this was thrown back several feet and as the wood was green it was kept from burning.

A telephone call was sent to Deloro and they rushed in about 900 feet of fire hose, but even that was not sufficient to reach the fire. The distance is also greater than the pump at the Pearce Company's mill will force water to any advantage.

The value of the building, together with the furniture and equipment would be about \$15,000. and there is \$7,500. insurance. It may be possible a considerable part of the bricks may be used again which will reduce the loss a considerable amount.

This is one of the losses that could have been prevented by adequate fire protection. The Council should certainly have the support of every citizen in the steps which are at present being taken to provide up to date and efficient protection. Whatever plan is decided on will likely go into effect at an early date.

On Tuesday night the general store
at Deloro, operated by P. J. Gillen
& Son was totally destroyed by fire.
The origin of the fire is unknown.

Marmora Herald
February 18, 1916

Fire at Marmora Station

Marmora station narrowly escaped
being destroyed by fire last Thursday
evening, as the result of the C. N. R.
telegraph wires becoming heavily
charged from the Hydro-Electric line.
Fortunately the fire was discovered by
Mr. E. D. O'Connor before it made
much headway. He telephoned Mr.
Bell, who gave an alarm in the village
and then hurried to the station.
Accompanied by a number of others,
and a few minutes hard work ex-
tinguished the blaze. On behalf of
the railway company, Mr. Bell wishes
to thank all who assisted in anyway in
saving the station. The stations at
Eldorado and Anson also caught fire
from the same cause, but the damage
to both was small.

Marmora Herald
June 21, 1917

St. Paul's Shed Burns

On Monday night the village was roused by a fire alarm, and it was found that the Anglican church shed was in flames. Just how the fire started will probably remain a mystery, but it is just possible that it was caused by a spark which smouldered in a pile of ashes in the west end of the building, and was flamed by the high wind. The flames spread very rapidly and by the time a crowd had gathered the whole shed was in flames.

A line of hose was stretched from the hydrant on Matthew street, but it was found that, that one was frozen up, and had to be changed to the hydrant on the corner of Forsythe and Madoc streets. This took considerable time, and before the water was turned on the fire, the building was completely destroyed.

During the later part of the winter the chemical engines had been empty, owing to the cost of heating the hall and the danger of their freezing up and being seriously damaged.

The shed contained a number of tables, benches etc. belonging to the church, and a considerable supply of wood for next season's use. At the present price of lumber the loss of the building is a heavy one, but the loss of the material stored in the shed makes it more serious for the members of St. Paul's.

Note- since writing the above we have been informed that no ashes had been emptied in the shed for over a week previous to the fire, so that the fire could not have started from the pile of ashes. The cause remains a mystery.

Marmora Herald
February 28, 1918

Deloro Has Bad Fire

The worst fire in many years occurred at Deloro on Tuesday morning when the big building known as 'The Hub' was burned to the ground. It is thought the fire started from the pipe from the big range in the kitchen, but the top storey was in flames before it was discovered, and the fire spread with great rapidity. The building was very large and was a frame one with a lot of heavy timber. As a result there was no possibility of saving it when the fire got a good start.

'The Hub' was also known as the big boarding house and at times about three hundred men were boarded there. The ground floor was used as a big dining hall and kitchen while the basement was used as a store and bake shop. It was a busy spot. The total loss will be about \$40,000. partly covered by insurance. The Company are finding it difficult to provide accommodation for their men

Fire at Deloro

Another bad fire occurred at Deloro about noon last Saturday. The stamp mill and extraction mill, which were combined in one building, and the old power house were completely destroyed.

The buildings were constructed years ago when active mining operations were carried on at Deloro and were heavy frame structures. The origin of the fire is a mystery at present. The loss will be quite heavy but was partially covered by insurance. Fortunately it will not interfere with the operations of the company as the buildings were not in use at present except for storage purposes. The fire was a very hot one.

Marmora Herald
September 18, 1919

William Bonter and Sons suffered a heavy loss last Thursday when their saw and grist mill was destroyed by fire during a heavy thunder storm. The building was struck by lightning and the fire spread so rapidly it was impossible to extinguish it. The loss will be about \$10,000. with no insurance. The residences of J. W. and R. E. Bonter were also struck by lightning during the summer but fortunately did not take fire.

Marmora Herald
October 9, 1919

Pearce Co. Hit by Fire

On the night of Friday, August 20, the Pearce Company's office, dry kiln, planning mill and two sheds, containing a considerable quantity of lumber was destroyed by fire.

It was one of the worst and most spectacular fires that has occurred in the village in years. The cause of the fire is a mystery, although there are many surmises. It started somewhere in the rear end of the office and spread with wonderful rapidity.

Owing to the fact a quantity of new hose, which had just arrived and was not yet unpacked some delay occurred in getting the village hose into action, but the fact the grist mill and the adjoining buildings were saved, is sufficient evidence of the efficiency of the fire protection. Without it the north end of the village might have been wiped out.

Nothing was saved from the office or any of the other buildings. A great deal of valuable data in regards to the various limits of the Company, all their correspondence and sales records covering years of business and many other valuable papers were lost. The only thing saved was the books and papers in the safe. The books and records of the public and continuation schools were also destroyed.

It would be almost impossible to estimate the cost of the buildings and machinery destroyed, together with the stock, but the cost of replacing the whole of it at the present extremely high prices would probably be from \$30,000. to \$35,000. The insurance amounts to only a small proportion of that amount.

The company have not yet decided the extent to which they will rebuild.

The residence just north of where the office stood is being fitted up for a temporary office. They also contemplate using the building now used by the electric light plant or the old woollen mill for a planning mill, but whether or not the sash and door and wood-working department will be continued is for the future to decide.

Marmora Herald
September 2, 1920

Inadequate Fire Equipment

There is still much to be done in the way of organizing Fire Companies throughout the Province.

The Lack of a properly trained fire-fighting organization with the necessary apparatus and equipment is a serious menace to any community.

The Fire Marshal's office recently received a communication from a Municipal official stating: "We have no Chief at present. The engineer of the engine is paid \$50.00 a year to have it in order, and the Constable has charge of the rest of the fire apparatus.

The fire company has always been kept together. The Council have the matter under consideration."

Mayors, Reeves and Councils frequently do not realize the responsibility that rests on them as representatives of the people. To safeguard and protect from fire and lives and property of the citizens is paramount. To protect large industrial institutes on which the growth and prosperity of a community depends is simply ordinary common sense.

Marmora Herald

September 30, 1920

Fire Prevention Day, October 9

The governor General has, by proclamation, set aside Saturday, 9

as a day on which to specially emphasize the great loss which Canadians, individually and collectively, are sustaining through destruction by fire of both natural and created resources.

At a time of high building costs and acute scarcity of material we are burning buildings at criminal rate. Our fire loss last year, was \$23,500,000 or approximately \$2.90 per capita, was the highest per capita in the world.

Not only is it a complete loss of national wealth, but its replacements creates increased competition for available building prices for new buildings. How can we hope to overcome the housing shortage when, in Ontario alone, last year 5,804 dwellings were damaged or destroyed, causing a loss of \$1,753,833. There were also 744 farm barns destroyed, at a loss of \$1, 189,908. of which \$557,736 were uninsured.

Lightning damaged or destroyed 1,102 buildings in Ontario, involving a loss of \$506,895 of which \$212,778 was not covered by insurance. None of these farm buildings were equipped with lightning rods, whereas but two buildings protected by lightning rods were damaged, and them to the amount of \$22.00

Matches were again responsible for the largest number of known fires, 11,148 in Ontario originated from carelessness.

Fire Prevention Day will give a splendid opportunity for bringing this subject to the attention of pupils and should produce results.

Fire Strikes Marmora

Early Tuesday morning B. C. Hubbell's new block and the large frame residence just south of it belonging to Mr. Thos. R. Warren were destroyed by fire. It is probable the fire started from the stove pipes or chimney and spread through the partitions, as the cold weather on Monday made hot fires necessary. Mr. Hubbell's loss will be heavy as only a small amount of insurance was carried. The Warren residence was occupied by three families who got practically all their household effects out although a lot was considerably damaged. Mr. Warren's loss will also be quite heavy.

Marmora Herald
January 27, 1921

Blaze at School

Shortly after noon last Monday fire was discovered in the new Continuation School. The blaze started in the basement and burned quickly. That it was possible to save the building at all was due to the good work of the chemical engines and the fact there was a large cistern in the building and a deep drilled well in the rear which provided lots of water. Loss is estimated at about \$1500.00

Marmora Herald
February 17, 1921

Another Fire in Marmora

Shortly after noon last Monday considerable excitement was caused in the Village when a fire alarm was sounded and it was discovered the New Continuation School was on fire. The blaze started in the basement, but the exact cause will probably never be known. The caretaker attended to the furnace about a quarter of an hour before the fire was discovered and everything appeared all right then. At first it was reported the boiler had blown up, but there was no truth to the rumour. One theory, which may be correct, is that someone had been smoking in the basement and dropped a match or a cigarette stub.

The fire started in or near a pile of wood in the basement and the wood blazed so hotly it was hard to extinguish it. That it was possible to save the building at all was due to the good work done by the chemical engines and the fact there was a large cistern in the building and a deep drilled well just in the rear, which provided lots of water. Bucket brigades also carried a considerable quantity of water from the neighboring premises. The effectiveness of the engines is largely due to the action of the chemicals, which smothers the flames. Many times the quantity of clear water would not produce as great results.

The lower rooms were badly damaged and the floor will likely have to be taken

up and new joists put in. The basement door and steps will also have to be replaced and the first form rooms will also have to be repainted and refitted. Quite a lot of equipment was either lost or damaged and many of the children had their books destroyed. The loss was estimated at about \$1500.00, and the valuator for the Insurance Companies, who was here yesterday, after going fully into the cost of repairs made a highly satisfactory settlement with the School Board for the sum of \$1400.00 The necessary repairs will be rushed as much as possible. The most serious loss will probably be the loss of time to the pupils, who will be thus further handicapped in preparing for their examinations. Both teachers and pupils have been working under adverse conditions a good deal of the time. For a considerable time after school first opened carpenters and painters were at work in the building and after that there was the installing of the furnace.

Mamora Herald
February 17, 1921

Two Fires in Village

During the past week two fires occurred in the Village which might easily have had serious results. Sunday afternoon Marshall Sopha tried to start a fire in the stove while his father and mother were away from

home. As the fire didn't burn fast enough to suit him he took a bottle of gasoline and started to pour it in the stove. In a minute the whole room was in a blaze and only by hard Work from neighbors was the fire extinguished. On Monday the little granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jas Gray, who lives with them, went to get a garment from the clothes closet. She lighted a match and unfortunately set fire to clothing. The loss is estimated at about \$200.00

Marmora Herald

June 8, 1921

The work of changing the fire pump to the water wheel, which formerly operated the planing mill, and of erecting a building to cover the pump, belts and gearing has been completed and the pump was given a test on Monday evening. The result was highly satisfactory. The hose was attached to the hydrants on Forsyth Street and the pressure was found to be the best since the fire protection system was first installed. As the pump is now in a building build exclusively for it, the water wheel is not at present used for any other purpose than operating the pump. The new system should be very convenient in case of fire

Marmora Herald

June 23, 1921

Arson Suspected

Shortly after one o'clock Saturday morning an alarm of fire was given and the old woollen mill was found to be on fire. As the water power was turned on the belt broke and it was discovered to be almost cut in two by a knife or other sharp instrument. After a hard fight to save the adjoining buildings the fire won and the building used for the village electric light plant was completely destroyed. An attempt to set fire to the saw mill was made but was discovered before much headway was made. A third attempt was made on the stables which also burned to the ground. The evidence of arson were so apparent that the Fire Marshall of Ontario made an investigation and an arrest has been made. Further developments are expected very soon.

Marmora Herald
September 22, 1921

Double House Burned

Shortly after 11 o'clock on Sunday night the village was aroused by an alarm of fire. The double house on William street owned by Miss M. O'Connor was discovered to be on fire and the blaze spread rapidly. Mr. Bruce Morrison and family occupied the

west half of the house and the fire started in their part. The fire had made such headway before they were aroused, that it was impossible to save any of their household effects.

Mr. Lorne Gray lived in the east half of the house and most of his furniture was removed before the flames spread to his part of the house.

A Crowd quickly gathered and the two chemical engines were brought from the hall, while a line of hose was run from the hydrant in front of the grist mill. By the combined work of the fire hose and the chemical engines the fire was prevented from spreading to Mrs. Nickle's stable, which was only a few feet from the house or to any of the adjoining buildings. In fact, in spite of the size of the fire it was extinguished before the north end of the building was consumed although it was so damaged as to be useless.

The fire insurance adjusters were surprised that it had been possible to force a sufficient stream of water up the hill to save any of the buildings, and thought it proved the effectiveness of the fire pump and the water pressure.

Marmora Herald
November 24, 1921

Marmora Visited by Fire

On Sunday night about 11:30 Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Marrin were returning home from Cecelia Dunlay's where they had been spending the evening when they discovered fire in the shoe store occupied by Mr. J. D. Narrie. At once Mr. Marrin sent in an alarm and in a very short time the fire department were on the scene, but the fire had gained such headway that the stock and building was totally destroyed, also were two dogs belonging to Mr. Narrie. The fireman helpers worked heroically and with three lines of hose playing on the fire kept it from spreading to adjacent buildings. The weather was intensely cold with high west wind, yet they saved Mr. C. A. Lummis' building and grocery next door and the home in the rear, occupied by W. Leonard. The fire was completely under control in less than one hour.

We understand Mr. Narrie's loss is practically covered by insurance

Notes of the Fire

Mr. Thomas E. Potts served lunch and hot coffee to the men which was very much appreciated.

That Marmora has excellent fire protection was fully demonstrated on Sunday night. Great praise is due the fire department and everyone who

assisted, for their efficient work.
The chemical outfit was responsible
for holding the fire in check until the
hose was connected to the hydrants,
thus saving the Lummiss block. The
water pressure was strong and did
splendid work.

When the lights were turned off in
town the pumps were in darkness.
It might be wise to supply light of
some kind independent of the town
lighting system, to the pumping station.

It was felt by those who were on the
job that some more adequate alarm
be installed, as few who were not
awake heard the bells.

Marmora Herald
January 24, 1924

Mr. John Lough's residence, Lot 19
in the 8th concession of Marmora
Township was totally destroyed by
fire about 8:30 last Sunday evening.
Flames were bursting from the roof
when T. B. Moffatt, a neighbor, dis-
covered the blaze and sent in an alarm.
Very little of the contents were saved.
The fire was supposed to have started
from the chimney.

Marmora Herald
January 26, 1925

Barn Destroyed by Fire

Mr. Hugh Farrel had the misfortune to have his barn completely destroyed by fire last Sunday afternoon. It is not known how the fire originated, as Mr. Farrel was away from home at the time, and when his housekeeper discovered the blaze it had made too much headway to go near it. The barn was 50 x 36 feet, with stables underneath.

It was built of heavy timbers, the entire length of the building, which cannot be secured at the present time.

The barn contained the season's crop of hay and grain, which caused it to burn very quickly once the fire started. Fortunately all the stock was out of the building at the time, but some implements, a set of harness and various other articles were destroyed. Mr. Farrel's loss will be heavy, but a considerable portion of it was covered by insurance.

**Marmora Herald
November 28, 1926**

Soap Factory Burned

Shortly before 5 o'clock Sunday morning a fire alarm was sounded. It had been discovered that the factory of Vegetable Oil Soap Co. Ltd. was on fire. Before the fire was discovered it had made such headway that it was impossible to save

the building. By the time a few had gathered the interior of the building was a mass of flames and the roof was blazing. In less than an hour from the time the alarm was sounded all that was left of the building was the stone walls. Fortunately, by the use of the chemical engines, it was possible to save the warehouse, which was only a few feet from the factory. The warehouse contained several thousand dollar worth of stock.

How the fire started is a mystery, but there appears to be two ways in which it could have started. It is possible the electric wires had become short circuited in some way, and the fire started from them. The only other solution is that some person or persons had been in the building and either accidentally or intentionally started the blaze. It may remain one of the unsolved mysteries, of which Marmora has too many at present.

The building belonged to the Pearce Company Ltd. and was one of the old landmarks of the village. We have been unable to discover when it was built, but it has been used for a number of purposes. In the early days, when Marmora was known as "The Works" it was used as an office by the Company which operated a smelter here at the time. It was also used as a school for a time, and a number of residents of the village learned the three "Rs" within its walls. It has also served as a hotel, a boarding house and a residence for two or three families. For the past five years it has been used as a factory by Marmora Vegetable Oil soap Co. Ltd. It was built in the days when labor was very cheap, as well as stone

plentiful, and the walls are thick and strong.

In addition to the loss of all their machinery and equipment the Soap Co. also lost considerable oil and other material in the process of manufacture. A large quantity of cartons, wrappers, labels etc. were also destroyed. In addition the Co. lost all its office equipment, except the books which were in the safe.

Probably seventy percent of the loss to the plant and stock will be covered by insurance, but it would be impossible to figure the loss as a result of the plant being out of business just at the time of year when business is usually the best.

Marmora Herald

April 14, 1927

Big Barn Burned

Mr. Sanford Meiklejohn, a well known Rawdon farmer, suffered a heavy loss last Thursday evening as a result of a fire which destroyed his barn, milk house, ice house, hen house and pig pen with most of their contents. The fire is thought to have been caused by spontaneous combustion. Mr. and Mrs. Meiklejohn had retired for the night and the younger members of the family were away with the car. When the fire was first noticed it had such a start that it was impossible to do anything to save the barn or nearby buildings. Neighbors soon gathered from all directions and by strenuous effort the house, drive shed and garage were saved. Stored in the barn was between 400 and

500 bushels of last year's crop, fifty loads of hay, thirty loads of barley and some oats, all of which were lost. The loss also included harness, wagons, tools and implements, 21 pigs, a large flock of fowl and one horse. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Marmora Herald
August 25, 1927

Fire at Deloro

On Sunday evening, June 20th a fire occurred in the Oxide Plant at Deloro which resulted in quite a heavy loss and might have had very serious results.

The fire is reported to have been caused by a break in one of the oil pipes. The oil became ignited and caused a spectacular blaze. The roof of the Oxide building was quickly destroyed and about everything that would burn in the building. The railroad locomotive, which was on the track beside the building was also destroyed. Fortunately no loss of life resulted and while the loss is heavy it will be covered by insurance.

As a result of the fire part of the operations at the plant will be interfered with for a time, but the building and plant will be replaced or repaired as soon as possible.

Marmora Herald
June 21, 1928

House Destroyed by Fire

Last Friday evening the village was aroused by a fire alarm and a large crowd quickly gathered on North Hastings Ave., where it was found Mr. Fred Vincent's house was in flames. The fire had made such headway before the alarm was sounded that it was impossible to save any of the contents of the house, except a couple of pieces of furniture, which were on the front verandah.

Just how the fire started is a mystery. When it was first discovered the whole back kitchen or woodshed was in flames. Mr. Vincent's son happened to open the door from the main part of the house, and as soon as he saw the fire he gave the alarm, but it spread so rapidly it was impossible to save anything. Mr. Vincent was away at the time working on a dam on the Trent Canal system near Peterboro and his wife and baby were visiting in Stirling. Only Mr. Vincent's mother and two older children were home at the time.

The house was built by Mr. Waite, who for a number of years was in the employ of the Pearce Co. and afterwards moved out west. That it was well built and solidly constructed was shown by the length of time it took to burn down. Some houses erected at the present time would not last half as long. A beautiful Maple tree, close to the house, fences and some other trees were more or less damaged. The

loss was partly covered by insurance but Mr. Vincent will be quite a heavy loser aside from the trouble and inconvenience of losing his home and household effects.

Marmora Herald
September 15, 1928

Fire at Lummiss & Bonter's

Last Thursday afternoon fire was discovered in the old store house in the rear of Lummiss & Bonter's store and bakery. An alarm was sounded and a crowd quickly gathered. By the aid of the chemical engines the fire was prevented from spreading to the adjoining buildings until the water could be turned on. Once the water was turned on the fire was extinguished in a comparatively short time, but the building where it started was destroyed and a shed full of wood was damaged also. Fortunately there was very little wind or the fire might have been a serious one, as quite a number of large wooden buildings are close to where the fire was. Marmora's fire protection system has saved the village the cost of the investment many times over since it was first installed. It is not known how the fire started, but it is thought it may have been from boys smoking and dropping matches.

Marmora Herald
June 13, 1929

Barns Destroyed by Fire

On Saturday, August 24th, Mr. Thos. Gawley suffered a serious loss from fire. Mr. Wm. Davidson was threshing at the time and had nearly completed the job, when fire suddenly broke out in a corner of the barn. As the fire started at a point some distance from where the straw was being delivered from the blower it is not known what caused it. The flames spread so rapidly there was no chance to save the building and the threshing machine was destroyed as well as the barn and its contents.

The blaze spread to other buildings and practically every building on the place was burned except the house and one shed. The season's crops, some harness and various other articles around the buildings were also destroyed.

As a result of a hard fight the house was saved, but the roof caught fire several times. A good deal of the furniture and household effects were carried out, and some of it was also damaged by the fire. The loss was partly covered by insurance but Mr. Gawley's loss was heavy.

Mr. Davidson was also a heavy loser as only a small amount of insurance was carried on the threshing machine.