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## MONCTON HAS A \$30,000 FIRE IN BUSINESS SECTION

**Blaze which Started in Elliott's Hardware Store Completely Destroyed Four Large Buildings**

Moncton, N. B. Dec. 21.—With four buildings destroyed, and most of their contents, a business house out of commission, and a property loss of about \$30,000, Moncton was visited last evening by the worst fire for a number of years.

The fire originated about 8 o'clock from an explosion of gas in the basement of the hardware and gun store formerly conducted by the late Chas. Elliott, three doors west of the city market, on Main street, and before

the fire department had it under control, four or five hours later, Elliott's, the Boston Five and Ten Cent store, owned by W. G. Lee, Fredericton; H. L. Bay's shoe store, M. J. Steeves' confectionery and stationery; Moncton fuel, ice & carriage Co., and Foster Keith's barber, were burned out, besides several families living in the upper part of the buildings were homeless.

Not in the experience of the Moncton fire department have men had a

more difficult fire to handle, owing to the nature of explosion and constant exploding cartridges and tins of powder in Elliott's gun store.

Before the fire a arm could be pulled in, flames were breaking out of the top of the Elliott building and they spread with great rapidity. The firemen made a quick response and the use of the chemical engine only succeeded in slightly checking the exterior blaze. By the time the water was turned on the fire it had assumed threatening proportions, volumes of smoke issuing from two or three of the buildings.

In Elliott's store at the time the explosion occurred, were Miss Elliott, her sister, Mrs. Chandler; and daughter, of Edmonton, and a clerk. They were startled by a sudden explosion in the basement and the report was heard blocks away. Plate glass windows were blown out and the floor raised by the force of the concussion. In a few seconds flames burst out and there was barely time for those on the scene to carry out some powder near at hand.

Miss Elliott and her brother, an invalid, occupied the second story over the store. The invalid was quickly carried out and all escaped in safety.

During the progress of the fire, which was witnessed by thousands, there were frequent explosions resembling artillery fire as the flames reached the large stock of cartridges in the Elliott store. Fortunately no one was injured by the exploding shells, although firemen were working in close proximity.

The fire spread east and west, seemingly fed on escaping gas. The four burned buildings were ablaze at the same time, but by hard work the flames kept the flames from extending to J. T. Ryan's grocery store on the west and John O'Neill's dry goods establishment on the east. Several times as the flames shot up through the top of the buildings in an unexpected quarter it looked as if other buildings would be lost.

All the buildings burned were two and three-story wooden structures, and the total loss on the buildings will not exceed \$10,000. The greatest loss is to stock, as the merchants, especially the five and ten cent store, were heavily stocked with Christmas goods.

All the parties carried more or less insurance, but several of them suffer quite heavily. The Elliott building and stock, including household furniture, was valued at about \$6,000, with a total insurance of about \$4,500, leaving a loss of \$1,500. The business, since Mr. Elliott's death two or three weeks ago, has been carried on by Miss Elliott. The building to the west of the Elliott store was owned by Harvey C. Bass, who occupied one-half the store and shoes; the other half being occupied by the Moncton Fuel, Ice & Carriage Co., and W. G. Jones, who sells broken; Mrs. Bass had \$4,000 with \$1,000 insurance. The building was valued at \$2,000, with insurance of \$1,000. The Moncton Fuel, Ice & Carriage Co., moved out and had practically no loss. The second story of the Bass building was occupied by Contractor J. T. Ryan, as a residence. He lost all his furniture, clothing, etc. His loss will probably be \$200, with probably no insurance. Adjoining the Bass building, west-

ly, was the two-story building owned by Mrs. Barbara Fowles. The building was valued at about \$3,000, with insurance of \$2,000. M. J. Steeves carried from \$1,500 to \$2,000 stock, with insurance of \$400. He saved about \$500 worth of stock. Foster Keith, barber, saved his furniture. His loss is covered by insurance.

The Five and Ten Cent store, east of Elliott's, was the largest loss. The building was valued at \$3,500 or \$4,000, and Manager Parker states he carried \$10,000 worth of stock, all of which was practically lost. Mr. Parker was unable to speak of the insurance carried. Mr. Lee, of Fredericton, the owner, has been notified, and will be here tomorrow.

Mrs. Bourque, dressmaker, and George Colpitts, who occupied the second flat in the Fowles building, saved nearly all their furniture, and have only a slight loss.

The fire was stopped at the store of J. T. Ryan, who suffered a loss to stock by water and a damaged building.

John O'Neill, adjoining the Five and Ten Cent store, while not burned out, sustained probably \$1,000 or more damage to goods through water. His building was also scorched and some what damaged.

At midnight the firemen were still pouring water on the ruins, but all danger of further spreading was past. Owing to the fire originating from a gas explosion there were many rumors as to natural gas being the cause, but the natural gas was not turned on in the city today on account of some valves at the Petitcodiac river bridge being frozen up. The explosion was from manufactured gas which was used in the building, but just what caused it is a mystery. It is supposed a pipe in the cellar has been leaking some time and was probably ignited by the furnace in the basement.

Natural gas, it is expected, will be turned on the city tomorrow.

## Death Messenger Arrived Ahead

New York, Dec. 20.—An hour after John B. O'Brien, formerly a sailor on the battleship Connecticut, fell down a flight of stairs at his home to-day and broke his neck, a special delivery package was delivered at the door. The package contained a medal awarded to O'Brien by the navy department for his brave services in rescue work after the Messina earthquake of 1908.

## Big Lock Out Threatened

Liverpool, Dec. 20.—The weavers in three Hosiery Mills at Accrington went on strike to night because of the employment of non-union labor. The strike threatens to spread to other mills in Lancashire unless the employers meet the demands of the men. On their part the mill owners threaten to retaliate by a general lockout, which will affect 100,000 cotton operatives.

## FORMER N. B. CLERGYMAN TAKES DOSE OF VERONAL

**Rev. David V. Gwilym Found Dead in Bed in a New York Hotel--Was Rector at Richibucto.**

The New York Sun prints the following:—The Rev. David V. Gwilym who used to be minister at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 310 East Eighty-eighth street was found dead last night in Hollander's Hotel, 140 West 125th street. A half emptied bottle of veronal was found near his bedside. He had been in the habit of taking veronal for sleeplessness.

The Rev. Mr. Gwilym, who lived at 500 West 179th street, went to the hotel at about 8 o'clock yesterday morning. He asked Victor Preidler the proprietor, for a quiet room, saying that he was very tired and wanted to sleep all day. He gave Preidler a dollar and went up stairs. Preidler heard nothing of him and about 7 o'clock last night sent a man to call him. The clergyman was dead in bed.

A doctor from Harlem Hospital said that half the bottle of veronal would be a fatal dose. Mrs. Gwilym was sent for and came with the Rev. James V. Chalmers, now minister at Holy

Trinity. Mrs. Gwilym said that her husband left home the night before. The Rev. Mr. Gwilym was born in Brynmor, Wales, about sixty one years ago. He was educated and ordained in England. In his young manhood he moved to Nova Scotia.

About ten years ago he came to New York as minister at Holy Trinity, which is in St. James' parish. Later the Rev. Mr. Chalmers was made rector at Holy Trinity and Mr. Gwilym became his assistant. Still later he went to Bay Side, R. I. and had charge of a church. Recently he has been doing missionary and evangelistic work, some of the time in Indiana.

Rev. Mr. Gwilym was rector of Richibucto in the late eighties. The Rev. gentleman when stationed there was considered a man of scholarly attainments, out of a very nervous temperament.

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