

of Bay and Wellington and of Bay and Front Streets were the centres of the wholesale district, and more wealth was gathered upon the few blocks destroyed than on any other blocks in the city where there are not public buildings. The total number of buildings burned was about eighty.

The burned district is bounded on

shaft of the Currie building. He ran to Front Street and turned in an alarm. A citizen who had seen it about the same time ran to King Street and did the same. The policeman did not run fast enough, and he missed fame by a few seconds. The citizen won. Yet it was a sad night for both policemen and citizens.

The fire should have been confined to the Currie building, but the water pressure was low and the building across the lane had unprotected windows. Besides, the general who is supposed to direct the Toronto firemen so far forgot himself as to do some scouting which should have been done by a ranker; the result was that he lost his way in one of the buildings, and slid down a waterpipe to safety and a broken leg. The army that fought the fire that night, fought it without its general, although perhaps the subordinates were just as good men. Finding itself unimpeded by the brigade, the fire leaped into the adjoining building to the east



CORNER OF BAY AND WELLINGTON STS.—WATER TOWER AT WORK

the south by the Bay, on the west by Lorne Street, on the east by Yonge Street and on the north by Melinda. All the buildings in that district did not become a mass of crumbling walls and twisted girders, but most of them did. A police constable had just received the passbook from the man he was relieving at the corner of Bay and Wellington Streets at eight o'clock when he saw flames shooting up the elevator

and then into the next. By this time it looked as if it would be a dangerous fire. Some people began to prophesy that it would jump across Wellington Street and eat up some of the buildings on the south side. It did and Brown Bros.' building was soon ablaze. Other buildings around the original seat of fire caught, and in a short time the conflagration was beyond control. Fanned by a fierce