Investigation Into Fire at Gay's Dairy

Provincial Fire Marshal Heaton In City All Day Yesterday Holding Inquiry—Evidence of Witnesses.

Provincial Fire Marshal Heaton last evening concluded the investigation into the fire which destroyed the dairy of Mr. G. A. B. Gay in Sidney on April 29th last. The inquiry also touched on the fire which destroyed the barn and stock in January. Crown Attorney Carnew examined the witnesses, Mr. C. A. Payne of Porter, Butler & Payne, represented Mr. Gay and Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C., appeared for Mr. Harold Detlor, a former employee of Mr. Gay's. Officers present included Provincial Inspector Boyd and Officer Bishop, who has been investigating for some weeks the circumstances of the fire.

The inquiry, which was held at the court house, opened at ten o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Gay went on the stand at once and was examined for about four hours.

Mr. Gay Found Sign of Incendiarism

Mr. Gay gave details of the fires as he knew them and of the contents, insurance, value of property and so forth. He told of having on April 23rd, six days before the last fire, found signs of an attempt to burn the dairy, burning paper being discovered. He did not notify any officers or insurance companies of this find. Five pails of water extinguished the embers.

Mr. Heaton commented: "That little fire places you in an unfavorable light and you let the matter rest with absolute indifference."

Mr. Gay said that on the evening of the dairy fire the boiler was all right. The coal oil cans were empty when he went to supper. Afterwards he was through the dairy and found everything as it should be. When he left he shut the place up but did not lock it. There was a watch dog at large but no alarm was heard from him. When Mr. Gay left there was about twenty pounds of steam on the boiler. He often thought of the attempt on April 23rd but he took no extra precautions. When he retired on April 29th, the rest of the household was asleep. Awakening out of his sleep he was the first to see the fire. Dressing hurriedly, he ran out, and cut the horses loose. The upper part of the dairy was all afire. He was the first person to reach the scene. Later he saw Mr. Sinfield and his son trying to move the wagons from danger. The flames were beyond control then. The fire was fiercest in the same corner as the boiler smoke-stack was.

Bank Manager's Evidence

Mr. N. D. MacFadyen, manager of the Merchants' Bank, Belleville, testified that Mr. Gay was a customer of the bank. Mr. Gay had furnished witness with a statement on January 31, 1919 showing his assets and liabilities in detail. This statement showed 103 acres of land which with buildings was worth $10,000. The insurance was $5,500. There was an incumbrance of $2,700 on mortgage. There was a large amount of live stock. Sundry debts were given as $200.00. This was he believed the last statement. On January 29th, 1920, Mr. Gay owed the bank $8,226 which was secured by his note. In January, 1919, he owed $2,100 to the bank. The advances from the bank were required for new stock and implements. After the fire in January he reduced the debt of $8,226 to $1,630.

Gay was not being forced to reduce the advances before the fire. He was asked to bring his advances down, said Mr. MacFadyen. Gay proposed to sell a half interest in the dairy which would enable him to clear up the mortgage and leave him a cash surplus. He brought in a prospective buyer. This was in December 1919 or January 1920 before the fire. A statement was presented by Mr. Gay at the time he was discussing a half sale. The statement showed a little over $29,000 assets, real and personal. To secure the balance of $1,630, Mr. MacFadyen took a land mortgage on the farm since the first fire. It was made for a month.

To Mr. Payne for Mr. Gay—The loans were for improvements on the buildings and increasing the stock.

Mrs. Jennie Murphy, wife of William C. Murphy, William St., Belleville, testified that she knew Mr. and Mrs. Detlor. Witness knew Mr. Gay and had heard he had a farm. Mr. Detlor in December, 1919 told that Mr. Gay was talking of selling out. Detlor had once been employed with Mr. Gay. A few days after the fire Mr. Detlor called to see if Mrs. Detlor was in and she said he had been called from Oshawa on account of fire. Mr. Detlor had on Wednesday previous to that Saturday called to see Mrs. Detlor. Detlor on Saturday said he had gone up on Wednesday night to Oshawa and had been called back. On Saturday night Detlor said he told J. Robinson he had better get out as there was going to be trouble.

Detlor said on William street to Mr. Gay: "You burnt your building and also 37 cattle and you wanted to get $14,000 of mine but you didn't did you?" With that Mr. Gay struck him.

To Mr. Payne—Detlor gave no reason why he left Gay's. He seemed to have given up the idea of going into partnership with Mr. Gay. Witness did not take seriously Detlor's remarks about Gay's fire.

Butter Maker's Story.

John W. Graham of Hastings, Ont., swore that he had worked for Mr. Gay from Nov. 27 or Nov. 28th until the Saturday after the first fire in January 1920. His occupation was cheese making and butter making. He was never asked to make an inventory. There was made between 75 and 80 pounds of cheese per day. The butter was made in pound prints. At one time in January there was about 500 or 600 pounds of cheese in the dairy. Some of the cheese spoiled. Witness could not say whether a Mr. Elliott got any of the spoiled cheese.

Detlor who was working for Mr. Gay spoke about an inventory.

Wm. Orr on the Stand.

When the investigation was resumed last evening, William Orr, horseman, testified that Mr. Harold Detlor had told him he made $5,000 out of that fire of Gay's. Orr asked if he was a partner and Detlor said yes. At that time Detlor was talking of buying the place Orr was in. This was about three or four weeks ago and after the first fire.

Howard J. Clarke, of the Citizen's Dairy testified that two weeks ago he took over Mr. Gay's remaining route. After the first fire he looked over the Gay dairy to see if he would buy some equipment for his new dairy. Witness had no talk with Gay about the fire. This was before the second fire. Mr. Clarke saw some cheese in the dairy. Mr. Gay was sick at the time. Only the articles of equipment he was asked about by Inspector Bishop and Detective Boyd were worth about $1,500.

Mr. Gay recalled, testified that after a diligent search he had failed to find the statement desired. Perhaps the children had got hold of it.

Pedigrees of the cattle were exhibited but these have not yet been transferred.

Detlor on William St. said to witness that he (witness) had tried to burn his fourteen thousand he was going into business with. The witness hit Detlor.

Evidence as to Hay and Grain

Walter Tucker, employed by Mr. Gay, swore that Gay had about eight or ten ton of hay in the barn. On the day before the fire, there was perhaps not more than five tons. There did not seem anything like twenty-five tons. One load of hay only was bought while Tucker was there. Tucker was not employed by Mr. Gay after the first fire. The hay was kept over the stables in the loft. There was twelve bags of bran and shorts on the night of the fire. There were only six or seven hens that he saw. The empty feed sacks on the afternoon before the fire were put in the basement by Mr. Tucker. There was no sign of combustion about the bags. He picked every one up. Two of the bags he had picked up had dry snow on them but were not wet.

Everett Rollins, 66 Murney St., who drove a route for Mr. Gay from Jan. 1st to Feb. 16th, 1920, stated that in his opinion there was in the whole barn about a load and a half of hay, besides a smaller quantity of clover seed hay and eight or ten bags of feed, bran and shorts.

On William street he heard Detlor say to Gay something about "You burned your buildings and cattle. You didn't have my $14,000." Gay had struck Mr. Detlor before that.

Witness had read the press account of the fire. Witness asked Gay why he put that in the paper. Gay had said that he had to put something in the paper.

To Mr. Payne—Gay did not say he had written up the report.

Mr. Detlor sometimes "shot the bull" about what interest he had in the farm. Witness did not believe he had any interest in the farm.

Harold Detlor's Story.

Mr. Harold Detlor testified that he was working for Mr. Gay at eighteen dollars per week from Sept. 3rd or 4th until January 1920, a week before the first fire on January 29th. The agreement was terminated as Mr. Gay and Mr. Detlor decided to go into partnership. There had been a discussion about the business. Gay wanted to take him in. First Gay asked if he (witness) could lend him one thousand dollars. This was to be a straight loan to buy cattle. Gay told him everything was clear. Finally they talked of partnership, Detlor to pay $14,000 for his share. In December or January a stock taking took place and a list was made out by Mr. Gay's son. Everything was itemized. The 39 cattle were estimated, he thought at $3,900, seven horses $700. Mr. Detlor copied off the list. The ground total including land was twenty thousand and some odd dollars. Detlor was to pay $10,000 and $4000 more was to be spent in necessaries.

Witness interviewed Mr. MacFadyen, who suggested that things might be valued pretty high and told him there was a mortgage held by the bank. Detlor said he intended to get the money in Picton.

Detlor told Gay about it. Gay said he was going to put the business through another bank.

On Sunday morning (Jan. 19) Detlor asked Gay if he had insurance. Gay said the place was insured for $19,000. Detlor thought he had it insured pretty well. Gay said he had to have the $14000 right away. Mr. MacFadyen had said that all would be up if the money was not forthcoming.

After he was told about the $19,000 insurance, Detlor said: "If you could not get it one way, you could get it another. You could burn her up." Neither thought any more of it. Detlor went away to see if he could get any money to help Gay. Gay went to Oshawa. Detlor from Newburgh called him up and told him he thought he could get a $7,000 loan. Gay said if he got it, to hold it tight. Detlor was to meet him at the Crystal at Belleville if he got the money. They never met.

Detlor never spoke to Mrs. Murphy about any fire. He had said if the money was not forthcoming the place would go up, he meant financially, not in smoke.

Mr. Detlor told of the trouble with Gay on William St. He had understood Gay to say he (Detlor) had stolen on the milk route and did not need to work the rest of the summer. He asked Gay if it was true and said there had been some strange things doing. What he said brought a blow in the face from Gay.

Inspector Boyd produced a copy of a statement given him, by Mr. Detlor, who took it from Mr. Gay's list. All things on the list were on the premises at the time but not the quantities of hay, straw, fodder or pea straw.

Gay claimed, said Mr. Detlor, to own everything on the farm.

Detlor admitted to Mr. Payne that he was not worth a dollar. He was going to raise $1,000 or $3,000 from people he knew. He thought he knew of "a soul who would lend him $14,000" as he would have good backing on the farm. He would have had to put a mortgage on his share. Detlor had told about the farm that he was taking an interest in the place, but did not say he had taken a share.

Detlor declared he was never on the Gay premises after he left the place.

"Why did you make such a suggestion to Mr. Gay about burning up?" asked Mr. Payne.

"Well, I don't know. He was hard pressed for the money. I don't know if I could give you any reason for making the remark."

Only to Mr. Gay's face had he made a suggestion that Mr. Gay had burned his place. That was in a hot-headed argument. There was no truth in the statement at all as far as he knew.

Mr. Detlor denied having been near the scene of the fire.

Detlor denied telling Mr. Orr that he had got $5,000 out of the fire from the partnership.

On the night of the 29th of January he came home from Corbyville. He never told Mrs. Murphy that he was in Oshawa that night.

One Sunday morning he met Gay and said: "The dairy will be going up next." Gay called him a name he testified.

Mr. Rollins, recalled, said that Gay told him that Detlor had either to get the money or get out.

This completed the taking of the evidence and the court adjourned sine die.

Yesterday, Mr. Detlor, through his solicitor, W.C. Mikel, K.C., served a writ for $10,000 damages on Mr. Gay for alleged slander in a remark alleged to connect Mr. Detlor with the fire.

Bad Fire at Brighton

Several Shops and Offices and Doctor's Residence Destroyed

BRIGHTON, May 27.—One of the most disastrous fires in the history of Brighton occurred about 5 o'clock Saturday morning, completely destroying the paint shop and storage building of Butler Brothers' garage and boat works, twelve automobiles being completely destroyed, also some motor boats. Dr. Clarke's residence, garage, automobile and some furniture and clothing; M. Spencer's implement shop, Cheer & Tweedle's coal office, F. Jacque's harness shop, and Booth's shoe shop were also completely destroyed.

At one time it looked as if the Clarendon Hotel and a portion of Main street were doomed. Trenton was asked for assistance, and promptly sent the motor hose waggon, but by the time of its arrival the local brigade had the fire well under control.

The total loss is estimated at about $50,000, partly covered by insurance.

Falling Rail Crushed Foot

Serious Accident to C. Emerson at G.T.R. Today.

Mr. C. Emerson, of this city, a trackman on the G.T.R. was today the victim of a serious accident when a rail dropped on his foot, breaking and crushing it. He was rushed to the hospital and it is not yet certain whether the member will have to be amputated.

Rev. Geo. Marshall Replies to Circular

On Sunday evening last, as has been previously announced, Rev. George Marshall replied to a circular that had been mailed to him entitled "Catholic Faith and Catholic Ritual." The church was well filled. There were among the worshippers many representative Protestants and Orange-men. The rector, taking his text from John 7:16,—"My doctrine is not mine but His that sent me," said apparently there never was a time when there was no false teaching, always there had been those who were ready to dispute and contradict. It began in Eden. It was active in the Egyptian court, in opposition to Moses and Aaron, Korah, Dathan and Abiram kept it up. In the days of the prophets of God there was also false prophets. And when the Son of God came to this earth to set up the kingdom of God, contradiction and slanderers pursued him wherever he went; they were the wolves in sheep's clothing, these were the dissembling scribe. The false teaching Pharisee who rejecting the word of God, taught the traditions of men. So much opposition and prejudice had been caused in this way, that some were seeking our Lord in order to put him to death.

Contrary to their expectations, He appeared at the feast of Tabernacles and taught openly in the temple. It was in reply to their expressions of wonder at his teaching that our Lord used the words of our text. It was not a denial of his doctrine, but an assertion that His teaching had the authority of His Father. This bigotry and intolerance, however, continued until it resulted in His crucifixion. It seemed a thousand pities that false doctrine and bigotry could not have been crucified instead of the two thieves. What a difference it would have made to the reception of the gospel if these two enemies had been crucified one on the right and the other on the left of the world's redeemer, but no, it was not the day of death for these things, it was rather the hour of triumph, and in one form or another the followers of Jesus Christ has to meet it. It pursued to martyrdom nearly all the early ambassadors of the cross. It stoned Stephen. It flogged Paul and Silas. It lighted the Smithfield fires. It set up the inquisitive. It devised the torture rack and the thumbscrews. It slew Ridley, Lattimer and Craumer, and thousands of others of whom this world was not worthy.

Continuing, the rector said bigotry, erroneous teaching and spiritual insolence were by no means altogether things of the past. The mode of operative is as changed but the evil remained. Displaying from the pulpit a yellow circular which had been mailed to himself, he said as it was too long to read that evening he would have to be content with reading a few extracts, but before doing so, he would like, in justice to the Roman Catholics, to say that in an interview he had had with Rev. Father Killeen, he had repudiated and condemned it; it was not the production of any member of his church, nor had it any authority to speak for them. The preacher said he therefore wished it to be understood that any reference he might make that evening was not intended in any way to reflect upon Rev. Father Killeen, or any member of his church, it was his reply to the individual who omitted for certain reasons, to declare his identity.

The extracts stated that the Catholic faith alone can save. The Catholic faith alone is perfect. Only Catholics know how to enter the house of God with proper and due respect, and reverence and etiquette and good manners. Protestant churches were called meeting houses into which Protestants entered with their hats on, they chatted and joked. It said the founder of Protestantism was old Nick. The attitude of Protestants at prayer was a sitting position, all bunched up like a toad. There was much more of the same strain. Commenting upon them the rector said some were false some were sarcastic and the rest were impudent. He did wish somebody would father these four pages of insolence, who could have been responsible for it. The Catholics denied and disowned it, therefore perhaps it was not so very difficult to guess its parentage, and while he realized that he might be quite wrong, he imagined that he recognised some of its features as bearing a family likeness to what he had been accustomed to meet with in England for upwards of thirty years. Unless he was greatly mistaken it was the child of Protestantism, the finished product of Ritualism in another church.

He had every respect for a Roman Catholic in connection with his own church, but he did not pretend to any and feelings towards those who, while Catholic at heart, remained in the Protestant church. They were traitors to Protestantism and should be honest enough to go over to the Roman Catholic Church.

He was persuaded that this circular had been sent to him by one who had been reared in Protestantism but was now mean enough to blow cold upon the church that had kept them warm.

In closing, the rector said he would appeal to those present to remember the cost of their religious liberty and freedom. They were unworthy children of a noble ancestry if they held these principles so loosely as to be led away by a ritualism that left out or disfigured the gospel of Jesus Christ through whom alone we had eternal life.

Talk of the Town and of the Country

Last night some person or persons entered Vermilyea & Son's Boot store at the rear and extracted about eighteen dollars from the cash register, which was forced open. Whether any boots or leather goods were stolen is not ascertained.

Five thousand dollars is recommended for expenditure on the city hall and police station. The city hall is to be given three coats of paint, the roof repaired and painted and the brick work on the tower put in shape. Where necessary new awnings are to be put up on the city building. Among the expenditures are items for public toilets in the basement of the City Hall and the overhauling of the wiring. The police station repairs and improvements include the construction of a garage inside the building for the police motor car, repairs to andirons and roof, the moving of radiators and police cells. Pointing of the building outside. The city ambulance is also to be repaired and renovated.

The famous Fred Goyer and his team of Belleville will visit Port Hope Saturday. The Port Hope Guide says they still remember that 25 to 2 trimming, which Goyer handed them on their own grounds last year. Revenge is sweet and the Port Hope boys will be out for revenge Saturday.

At Christ Church parish hall last evening the annual choir supper was held. A sumptuous repast was placed before the choristers and the guests after which a program of speaking was given. The Rev. Rural Dean Swayne officiated as toastmaster. The pledge of the king being loyally honored, that of "Canada" was responded to by Miss Stinson. Mr. Trump proposed the health of "Our Rector," the Rev. Mr. Swayne replying. Mr. John Newton proposed the choir's health and Mr. D. J. Batchelor made a reply. Miss Gertrude Lloyd proposed and Mrs. Swayne replied to the pledge of "Our Guests." The event proved a most enjoyable one.

The grandstand at the Belleville Fair Grounds had two narrow escapes from destruction by fire last night. Mr. Wallace Parks, contractor had been requested by Mayor Riggs to look over the baseball diamond with a view to improvements and had gone up to the grounds with Mr. W. H. Patterson. They discovered a small blaze in the grandstand. Mr. Parks had two barrels of water handy and with this the flames were put out. Later a small blaze was found on the roof and extinguished. Had the fire had a worse start, there is no doubt the building would have been consumed.

A number of Royal Arch Masons from Belleville journeyed to Stirling last night to visit Keystone chapter to which Grand Superintendent Alex. McGregor of Napanee was paying an official visit. The companion of Keystone chapter exemplied the work of the first degree in Royal Arch Masonry in an exceedingly able manner and were highly complimented by the Grand Superintendent. They then repaired to the banquet room where happy addresses of a fraternal nature were made by Rt. Ex. Comps. McGregor and Fennell of Napanee and Dr. Potts, Stirling, Ex. Comps. C. B. Scantlebury, of Belleville and Yates of Stirling and Comps. Cherry of Belleville, Rev. A. J. Wilson, B.D., Napanee, Dr. Walt, of Stirling and others, Ex. Comp. Geo. B. Johnston, Principal of Keystone chapter presided very acceptably at the banquet, which was most enjoyable throughout.

On June 3rd, King's birthday, the veterans of all campaigns are expected to turn out in Belleville. These include the G.W.V.A. and the veterans of 1866, 1870, 1885 and 1900. Veterans other than those of the Great War may secure all information necessary from Lt.-Col. S. S. Lazier or Lt.-Col. W. N. Ponton. The old veterans' association used to turn out about this season of the year in commemoration of the battle of Ridgeway and of the going of the Belleville company to the part in 1865.

Inspector T. D. Ruston went to Trenton this afternoon to investigate a report of a child having been abandoned in that town.

The Bay of Quinte Press Association is holding its annual meeting at the Hotel Quinte this afternoon. Mr. A. R. Alloway, editor of The Oshawa Reformer and former assistant general manager of the Canadian Press Association will deliver the address of the day.

A boy named Cook while riding a bicycle on Mill street near Greenleaf's garage was struck by a Ford autoist and his wheel damaged. The boy was not hurt.

A horse belonging to Mr. McDonald of Point Anne was taken sick in a local stable with inflammation and died yesterday.

Two little boys, Donald Thomas, son of Mr. Edward A. Thomas, and Lyle Storts, riding down the north side of Bridge street west hill in a cart on the sidewalk last night about 7.45 collided with Mr. J. Brintnell's car on the Cedar street crossing. The Thomas boy was cut and bruised severely but escaped serious injury. The other boy was not hurt. The cart was smashed. Mr. Brintnell reported the accident to the police. He took Donald Thomas home.

A sealed letter was picked up addressed to William Bowerman, Deseronto and handed to the police.

Two bicycles were reported stolen last night but W. C. Deamand's which was found on Campbell street and Mr. E. Hefferman's which was not recovered.

The police had a long search all afternoon yesterday for W. G. Alford's Ford roadster believed to have been stolen. It transpired that his business companion, Mr. Dellor had taken the machine out to put it in another garage.

Corns are caused by the pressure of tight boots, but no one need be troubled with them long when so simple a remedy as Holloway's Corn Cure is available.

Chamber of Commerce Outing For June 16

First of Summer Meetings Being Arranged—Housing Commission Favored—Bay Bridge Problem.

Something new in the way of a summer meeting and outing is planned by the Chamber of Commerce for Wednesday, June 16th. The directors, at their meeting yesterday, decided to introduce this new note in the summer programme by having a "Get-Together" outing which will have a two-fold purpose. In the first place, it will enable the members of the Chamber to get better acquainted with each other and to discuss in an informal way the work of the organization; and in the second place, it will provide an opportunity of getting better acquainted with some of the near-by sections of the country that many of the members have never visited. The plan is to leave by auto from headquarters in the morning and tour by easy stages the section between this city and Deloro. Stops will be made at points of interest, and, upon arriving at the destination, a fine dinner will be served. There will then be a programme of a varied character and a speaker of prominence will be with the party to present some subject of general interest to the members. The return trip will be made over an equally attractive route, although this will be optional with the different cars because some of the parties may want to tour through different sections. In any event it is planned to reach Belleville in the early evening so as not to interfere with other engagements for that day. Sufficient cars will be provided by the members to take care of the entire party and it is estimated that at least one hundred and fifty will make the trip.

This is the first of a series of similar tours and outings which the Chamber will hold during the summer on all of which occasions it is planned to combine pleasure with profit as some speaker of note will be with the party on each occasion.

It developed at yesterday's meeting that the Bay Bridge situation has progressed to a point where some definite action is likely in the very near future. The directors are urging upon the city the necessity of appointing, immediately, a delegation from this city to confer with a similar delegation from Prince Edward County for the purpose of presenting to the Bridge Company a proposition for purchasing the Bay Bridge. The receipt of recent information from the Government Highways Department has given the city something to work on and the prospects of closing this matter satisfactorily are brighter now than at any time in the past.

The Chamber has also gone on record as favoring the appointing of a Housing Commission to take up the work of the housing programme which is in prospect for the city. This important work cannot be undertaken too soon as there is a growing demand for homes and it has been shown that on numerous occasions the city has lost valuable additions to its industrial and social life because of the lack of suitable homes for families that have contemplated coming here. In the case of one industry the heads of eight departments have been obliged to seek other locations because they could not find homes in this city. Other firms report that they have lost valuable employees for the same reason. It is believed that with the appointing of a Housing Commission the work of putting up homes can be started at once in compliance with the new Housing Act.

The directors heartily endorsed the G. W. V. A. celebration on June 3rd and will urge all manufacturers and leading merchants to do everything possible to make the affair a success. It is hoped that suitable floats will be provided for the parade and that all citizens will aid in making the day a memorable one