

**Big Fire at New Westminster.**

KAMLOOPS, Sept. 15.—The fire started Saturday, Sept. 10, about 11.15 p.m. Brackman & Ker's warehouse, on the water front, was found to be ignited. A large quantity of hay was stored in the building which at once took fire, and in a few minutes the steamers Edgar, Gladys and Bon Accord were ablaze. The mooring of one of the steamers were burned through, and the floating fire was drifted among the scows and wharves along the river front, spreading the conflagration all along. Before 11.30 Front street was ablaze the whole length. Soon the fire was burning on Front street from Telegraph hotel to the end of the C.P.R. depot, and was rapidly spreading along Columbia street. The wind carried the flames and sparks up the hill till Agnes street was all ablaze. By this time the flames were leaping hundreds of feet in the air, and sparks were falling in every direction for over a mile around. The fire reached its highest at 2.30 a.m. It had enwrapped the entire business portion of the city, enclosing within its area 10 distinct streets. The wind dropped somewhat, and by 5 a. m. only a few chimney stacks and several giant skeletons of stone and brick were left to mark the centre of industry, shipping, law and administration—the Royal city of British Columbia.

The loss has been estimated at \$3,000,000, some have it \$4,000,000; and the insurance believed to be about \$1,500,000. Relief was promptly sent from Vancouver. The fire brigade of the latter city reaching New Westminster, over rough roads, in one hour and a quarter, and mostly contributed to check the spreading of the

flames. At 8 a.m. the citizens of Vancouver held a meeting for the purpose of affording prompt assistance to the victims of the conflagration. A thousand loaves of bread, with other necessaries, were dispatched to the unfortunate city with as little delay as possible. Before evening the same day relief came from Nanaimo and Victoria, principally in the shape of tents and blankets. Other cities, such as Seattle, who was the prey of a similar conflagration a few years ago, expressed the deepest sympathy with the sufferers, and prepared to send in prompt relief.

Four churches have been destroyed in the Westminster fire. But the Catholic Cathedral, the Indian Church, the Bishop's house and St. Louis College, as well as the St. Mary's Hospital, and the Convent of the Sisters of St. Ann, also the Nazareth Seminary, are out of the limits of the burned district.

The shorthand pages of this number are filled with the History of Our Lady of Lourdes, by Reverend Father Le Jacq. These pages have already been published in the WAWA, but only one at a time, but as most of the Indian readers do not yet understand the way of connecting together the consecutive articles of one subject, it has been found necessary to republish them together in this number. The continuation to the end will appear on next issue.

The following is quoted from the *Jaffna Catholic Guardian*:

"We heartily recommend the publication of a system of shorthand for the Tamil language, invented by the Reverend Father P. Dunne, O.M.I., Principal of St. Patrick's College. The sys-