

THE TRADER

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

To ensure insertion, changes or new advertisements must be sent to the office not later than the 20th of each month.

Editorial.

FIRE.

The destructive conflagration last month at Port Perry, Ont., affords another and a very conclusive argument if any were needed in favor of adequate protection against the ravages of fire. A few weeks ago Port Perry was one of the busiest and most substantial towns in Canada, to-day the entire business portion of it lies in ashes, and it has sustained a loss that will take it many years to fully recover from. Like nearly all other Canadian towns, Port Perry was largely composed of wooden buildings, and the events of the past decade have fully proven that when once fire gets a hold on such a place a clean sweep is almost certain to be made. Very few of our Canadian towns are provided with steam engines and a plentiful water supply and the consequence is that most of them, and especially in dry summer weather, are at the mercy of any tramp who has enough of the devil in him to put a match to the outbuilding of some one who has perhaps refused him shelter. The case of Port Perry merchants is doubly hard, for a long time they have been agitating to have the town buy them a steam engine and secure them against such a calamity as has just overtaken them.

This it appears the majority of the ratopayers have persistently refused, alleging that as it would benefit the merchants more than any one else, they should pay for it themselves. As things have turned out, it would have been wiser for the merchants to have stood the whole expense, but as they could not see into futurity they did not do so. Now, however, that the entire business portion of the town has been swept away, the kickers have come to the conclusion that they were going against their own interests, when they refused to go in for adequate fire protection. Too late they have found that their prosperity depended almost entirely upon the merchants whose energies made it a trade centre. For the merchants who lost their all by this disastrous fire, we have nothing but the heartiest sympathy, and trust that they may very soon recover the financial ground they have lost; for those, however, who selfishly opposed fire protection when it could have been of benefit, and who now feel the effect of the disaster, we can only say, "served them right." Through the energy of its merchants, Port Perry will soon phoenix-like rise from its ashes, a finer and a more complete town than the one destroyed; when it does so we are certain the lesson of the late fire will never be forgotten, but that by water supply and fire engines, it will be put as far as humanly possible beyond the reach of a similar catastrophe.

THE LESSON OF THE FIRE.

The individual lesson of the Port Perry fire is not far to seek. "*Be sure you have your stock and buildings fully insured, and then even if you be unfortunate enough to be burned out you are in a position to start afresh without compliment to anybody.*"

We have written up the subject of adequate fire insurance in THE TRADER several times, but it is just as important now as it was the first time we touched upon it. We would earnestly advise every one of our readers to attend to this matter at once, and don't delay it a single day. If you have not got your stock and building fully insured, do so before you go to bed. We don't understand how a merchant can sleep soundly at night, when he goes to bed with the knowledge that should a fire occur during the night, he would rise a beggar in the morning. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

WARNING.

If we were to tell our friend Mr. Blank, the jeweler in Jonesville, that we had certain information that his store was going to be burglarized to-morrow night, we are certain he would not rest until he had exhausted every precaution in making his property secure. If our information were correct and he did not, he would be an ass of the first water.

Now while we are not in a position to telegraph to any of our readers the precise day or hour that an attempt is to be made upon their safes, we wish to draw their attention to the fact that such a thing may overtake them any day. Burglaries have been so common lately that one can hardly pick up a paper without reading of them. Why is this? We think that many if not most of the burglaries that occur are, though not occasioned, made possible by the carelessness of the person robbed. Probably no class of merchants suffer more from the depredations of those midnight prowlers than do jewelers, because their stocks are valuable, small in bulk and easily disposed of, and yet we think we are safe in saying that no class of merchants are more criminally careless in their protection. We have written up this subject at length in THE TRADER on two occasions, and we know for a fact that in spite of our warnings in several instances lately, the ordinary precautions suggested by us were totally neglected. Why this is we cannot tell. In view of the recent burglaries in Aurora, Uxbridge, Peterboro, and Cornwall, we think this an opportune time to sound a few words of warning to some of our readers who may heretofore have neglected this very important matter. In the first place we think that very many of the jewelers in Canada are unaware of the fact that

A FIRE-PROOF SAFE IS NOT A BURGLAR-PROOF SAFE AND CAN BE OPENED BY AN EXPERT IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.

No safe we think is absolutely burglar proof, what the ingenuity of one man has constructed, the ingenuity of some other man can destroy, if he has the time and opportunity. A so-called burglar proof safe therefore is one that although it can be opened, will not be operated upon by the burglar because he will not dare to tackle it for fear of detection before he can secure the contents. Then again the question of security depends very much