

DISASTROUS FIRE.

OTTAWA, Nov. 2.—The most disastrous fire which for years has visited the vicinity of Ottawa occurred this evening, and in the course of three hours laid in ashes nearly \$1,000,000 worth of property, temporarily thrown over 1,000 hands out of employment, and for a time destroyed industries which have taken over a quarter of a century to build up. Among the many hard-working men who have converted wooded wastes about the "Big Kettle" into a hive of industry, who in most cases starting unknown and with comparatively little capital to back them, but who with undoubted energy and untiring perseverance have built up the lumber interests of Ottawa and Hull, it is no discredit to the others to say that the name of E. B. Eddy stands in the front rank. His name for years past has been identified with the best interests of Ottawa and Hull, and no misfortune which overtakes the vast industries which he controls can fail to be felt by the whole population. The fire alarm sounded last evening at 6:11 from box 21. This is one of the boxes considered dangerous by the brigade, and the whole force at once turned out. When the alarm was first heard there was no sign of any particular danger. It was also a time when most persons were at their supper, and as the public are now pretty well used to see the fire drowned out in a very few moments, little attention was paid to it.

In less time, however, than the reels could reach the point indicated, a bright light spreading over the whole north-western sky indicated that a more than ordinary blaze was in progress. In less than ten minutes from the time the alarm was first given the ruddy glare was so bright over the whole city that the smallest print was easily readable in the worst lighted streets. The exact locality of the fire was not known, and in Ottawa was first discovered by those who flocked to vantage points on Victoria street and the Government Hill. Then the news spread lightning-like, "Eddy's is on fire," and soon a stream of pedestrians and vehicles were rushing to the scene of the disaster. Those from the centre and lower portion of the city, no matter how rapid their progress, only reached the place in time to find the suspension bridge and the Hull causeway crowded with anxious spectators, while around the burning building hundreds of hardworkers crowded, doing their best to fight the unconquerable fire which raged with fearful fury from the outset. From one to another of the great area of the factory buildings the flashing tongues of flame leaped laughing at the puny efforts of the poor streams to stay their progress, and in less than an hour some ten acres of ground were covered with the debris of what had in the early part of the evening represented a handsome fortune. Such a rapid destruction of property has probably never been seen about Ottawa before, not even on the wild windy Friday night when the villages of Bell's Corners and Chelsea were swept away, when the fire devastated the whole Ottawa valley.

It was not possible to ascertain the origin of the fire this evening. Those who were best able to speak about the matter were too busy at work to give any reliable information. It is, however, pretty certain that it originated in the north-western part of the large saw-mill. At present, the mill is only running day time, and all hands had left at six o'clock. There was no light about the place but what was furnished by electricity, and the general opinion is that it was by friction. The rapid spread of the fire was almost incredible. The big mill was almost instantly in flames. From that the fire spread in every direction, taking in the stone offices on one side, and the ash and door factory and the rail factory, and other building on the other. It next licked up the wooden arch which spanned the causeway, and laid hold of the match factory, all of these falling victims to the fury of the flames.

The Union Fire Company turned out and did excellent service. One of the firemen remained so long on the second story of the match factory that he had to leap for his life, and broke one of his legs. Many others had narrow escapes. All the water that could be reached was utilized, but it was insufficient to stay the fury of the flames. The fire burned itself out

westward, while the efforts of Eddy's own appliances, the Chaudiere fire-engine, of Ottawa, and all the other appliances that could be had from the various lumber men, kept it from spreading eastward. Had the wind been blowing southward the probability is that not a house would be left standing in Hull. In addition to the buildings already mentioned being burned, McCormick's flour mills were also destroyed. The loss is generally estimated at from \$300,000 to \$700,000. It is partially covered by insurance. Mr. Eddy, who has been ill for some time past, is at present in Boston. The fire at the time of writing (midnight) is still burning, but entirely under control.

Mr. Eddy's loss will in all probability reach \$750,000, on which there is said to be an insurance of \$225,000. Mr. C. B. Wright owned the flour mill. He estimates his loss at \$30,000, on which there is an insurance of \$4,000. The occupants of the mill, McCormack & Co., lose about \$7,000; insurance, \$3,000. Mr. Eddy has been very unfortunate during the past six years, suffering extensively from fire, but through undaunted pluck and energy has succeeded in keeping his head above water. Within that time he has wiped out a liability of over a million dollars; and this year, had he been fortunate enough to carry out his programme, would have placed half a million dollars to his credit. Much sympathy is felt for him, and the feeling prevails that he will at once commence rebuilding.

THE INSURANCES—THE ANTICIPATED LOSS.

The Montreal Witness says:—The fire at Hull has created a good deal of excitement here. The following is a list of insurances on the Eddy property:—

Royal.....	\$ 33,000
Fire Insurance Association.....	22,000
The Aina.....	16,500
The Hartford.....	16,500
British American.....	11,000
Commercial Union.....	11,000
Royal Canadian.....	11,000
The Queen.....	11,000
North British & Mercantile.....	11,000
German American.....	11,000
Citizens.....	5,000
Quebec.....	5,500
Nagara.....	5,500
Connecticut.....	5,500
	\$176,000

The larger amounts are well re-insured. The insurance companies do not anticipate a loss of over sixty per cent of the above amounts. About half the property was burnt. The west half on which stands the match factory was simply injured.

Incendiarism is supposed to have caused the fire. The managers suspect a certain individual who was discharged a short time ago for stealing. Incendiarism suggests itself by the fact that the fire burst out in a place convenient to the public highway and at the time when there were few men around the premises. It was also a dark night and the watchman was in the other mills a quarter of a mile distant. Word has been received to-day that Mr. Eddy is lying sick in Boston.

Wooden Water Pipes.

In an account given in the London Daily Chronicle respecting the recent opening of the first portion of the inner-circle extension of the Underground Railway, the writer says:—"Not the least interesting feature was the antiquarian discoveries which have been made. Besides a singular collection of Roman pottery and other things, a large portion of the old London wall was found between the Crescent (in the Minorities) and Trinity Mews. The wall was 8 feet thick, composed of Kentish ragstone, and gave the employees no little trouble. Among the debris lying near the shaft in Trinity Gardens was a piece of rotten timber about a yard and a half long. On examination this proved to be a portion of the wooden piping first used by the New River Company early in the seventeenth century."

Tree Planting.

In the season of 1881-2 more than 3,000,000 trees were planted in Great Britain, out of which number Scotland claims about 2,000,000, England 600,000, Ireland 300,000, and Wales 40,000.

QUEBEC.

The Chronicle says:—Timber transactions are about drawing to a close. The shippers here having pretty well stocked themselves. But the few rafts remaining for sale are held at good prices. A raft of white pine, of about 52 feet average, was placed at 27 cents; 47 feet at 24 cents, and a large parcel of 47 to 48 feet average, at 29 cents. A choice parcel of waney board, and two or three other rafts, have also changed hands at prices which have not yet transpired.

Red pine is rather dull of sale, common and ordinary being worth about 14 to 16 cents. Good and Superior 17 to 18 cents, in the raft.

Oak is in good demand if of choice quality; but inferior wood is difficult of sale.

We hear of no sales in elm.

QUEBEC CULLERS' OFFICE.

The following is a comparative statement of Timber, Masts, Bowsprits, Spars, Staves, &c. measured and culled to Oct. 27:—

	1880.	1881.	1882.
Waney White Pine.....	2,150,339	2,637,935	2,758,325
White Pine.....	3,992,103	5,004,350	7,680,997
Red Pine.....	1,019,900	1,000,252	1,446,574
Oak.....	1,504,073	2,750,059	1,149,452
Elm.....	932,950	1,010,395	701,020
Ash.....	238,416	399,025	203,481
Basswood.....	363	3,939	1,348
Butternut.....	645	2,991	2,939
Tamarac.....	30,863	24,577	61,793
Birch & Maple.....	575,404	151,742	268,333
Masts.....	4 pcs	—	33 pcs
Spars.....	23 pcs	25 pcs	51 pcs
Std. Staves.....	195,711	368,722	352,032
W. I. Staves.....	485,415	467,010	1150,012
Brl. Staves.....	10,8210	—	75,4323

JAMES PATTON,

Quebec, Oct. 27. Supervisor of Cullers.

A Windfall.

The library of Cornell University received, not long ago, by the will of a friend an estate which at the time was believed to be of only moderate value. It was found, however, to be chiefly invested in Wisconsin pine lands, and turns out, at the present price of such property, to be worth something over \$2,000,000 in hard money. This is an addition to the \$5,000,000 that Cornell has derived, or will derive, from the sale of her scrip pine lands in the same state.

Advertising by the Car Load.

The Wisconsin Central railroad management is collecting a car load of samples of northern Wisconsin timber, gathered from points on the line from Stevens Point north. The car will be sent through southern Wisconsin, Illinois and other sections, and the samples exhibited at manufacturing towns for the purpose of showing what varieties of timber can be found in northern Wisconsin. The scheme will be under the direction of A. J. Perkins.

New Forests.

Several small prairies, which were common in the Wabash Basin at the time of its first settlement, have been transformed into woodland, and the area of the forest has increased of late years. Extensive woods of oak and hickory, more than 80 ft. high, and with trunks nearly 2 ft. through, are now growing upon what was open prairie within the memory of some of the present owners of the land.

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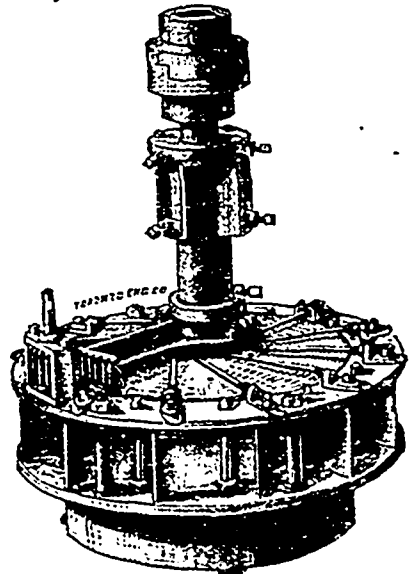
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