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That the fire in the Norrish Block, Guelph, recently, which did \$20,000 damage, was not the result of spontaneous combustion of the heating or lighting systems, or of any act of the owner or tenants of the premises, was the verdict of the jury at the fire inquest before Coroner Dr. McLean. The fire brigade was commended for its work, but the police patrol was criticized, as the evidence showed the fire had been in progress for some time. Who the two men were who were seen to run from the building remains a mystery.

At a recent meeting of the London, Ont., Board of Trade it was decided to wait until the new waterworks system was in good order before asking the underwriters for any reduction in rates.

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**THE FREE PRESS**

WINNIPEG - MAN.

A mutual company of Montreal, La Compagnie d'Assurance contre le Feu, was put into liquidation by the Quebec Court of Review. An appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court, pending whose judgment an order has issued from the Superior Court, putting the company's property in sequestration.

It is the intention of the insurance men of Halifax, N.S., to confer with the wholesale merchants and council of the board of trade of same city regarding a reduction of insurance rates if the city purchase an aerial ladder. The matter of new insurance legislation will also be discussed at this meeting.