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INCENDIARY FIRE CAUSED LOSS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR IN WARD STREET LAST NIGHT

The Warehouse of C. H. Peters' Sons Gutted — Total Loss About \$20,000 — Heavy Smoke Hampered Firemen — New Automobile Fire Engine Worked for an Hour.

The flour and grain warehouse of C. H. Peters' Sons at the corner of Ward street and Walker's wharf, was gutted and the stock completely destroyed last night by fire, which was supposed to have been of incendiary origin. Although people were working in the warehouses near the fire was not seen until the flames burst through the side of the structure in the alley towards the building of W. F. Hatheway. An alarm was immediately sent in and the department answered promptly, but just as the teams arrived the flames shot through the roof of the building.

Second Alarm

A second alarm was necessary to secure additional hose and men, but when they arrived it was considered dangerous to send them into the building and they were kept at work pouring water into the different windows and doors. Mr. Peters said he had no idea how the fire started. When he left the office, about six o'clock, everything was in order and there were no signs of fire. One of the office staff of Baird & Peters has been in the office of their building up to eight thirty o'clock and no fire was in evidence then. Shortly after nine o'clock the whole structure was a mass of flames. Mr. Peters was of the opinion that some one had gone into the warehouse during the afternoon with the idea of staying all night. After the place had been closed there had likely been a cigarette smoked and this had started a flame. It was his idea that some one had gone out the door leading into Walker's wharf for after the firemen arrived this was opened from the outside. The door had been secured with a bolt that could only be removed from the inside.

The Loss

Mr. Peters placed the loss at about \$20,000, with \$16,000 insurance, \$9,000 on the stock and \$7,000 on the building. The policies were placed with the office of A. C. Fairweather & Son.

Large quantities of grain and hay as well as flour were in the building and these were soon responsible for huge clouds of smoke. The sheet from covering on the outside of the structure hindered the work of the firemen for they were unable to pierce the side walls. Messrs. Peters had stored a large quantity of sacks and the fire got into these too. Oats and other grain in large quantities were in the warehouse but the smoke and water would make these unfit for any purpose.

New Fire Engine.

The new automobile fire engine, which only arrived in the city a few days ago, was put into service and from a plug at the corner of Prince William and Church streets sent a strong stream to the fire via Jardine's alley and Walker's Wharf. The engine worked for about an hour in a manner satisfactory to Chief Blake, who said he was particularly pleased with the demonstration, and that the machine was capable of throwing three streams equal to that supplied. The stream used was driven through twelve joints of hose. Thousands of people were at the fire, and as soon as word was passed that the new engine was at work they flocked to Prince William street and secured as intimate an inspection as possible. The engine seemed to be a better attraction than the fire.

Cars Blocked.

On account of the hose across Prince William street the cars

were blocked and those coming north along Prince William had to reverse near Princess street. The south bound cars used King street.

Besides the stream from Prince William street, a steam pump was stationed at the corner of Water street and Walker's Wharf, and two streams were run down the wharf. Another line was taken down the alley and two mere streams were used from Ward street. The supply of water was all that could be desired.

A Land Mark.

The building destroyed was a two-story structure, which was erected just after the big St. John fire and was first known as the iron warehouse. It was covered on the outside with corrugated iron. The remainder of the structure was of wood. C. H. Peters' Sons took possession about thirty years ago and have since conducted their business there. The site has become one of the business land marks of the city. It is understood that a new building will be erected.

The fire drew one of the largest crowds in attendance at a fire for some time but there were many policemen at work keeping the crowd back of the ropes. Chief Simpson was directing the police in person.

The new fire engine worked until after eleven o'clock, when it was sent back to the station. It negotiated the Princess street hill in fine style.

During the progress of the fire the smoke settled like a fog over the central part of the city and many people thought the fire to be much larger than it really was. Long after midnight clouds of smoke hung over the city. It was about one o'clock when the firemen gained an entrance to the warehouse. The fire was located deep in the piles of bundled hay and a great amount of work was necessary. The bundles had to be trucked out into the street.

Great piles of grain, which before the fire was neatly bagged, were smouldering in different parts of the ground floor. A mixture of bran, flour, grain and water was on the floor and a stream of the semi-liquid mass had found its way to the street.

Some of the grain might be utilised for hog feed but it was said that very little could be used for the purposes originally intended. The loss to Messrs. Peters will be particularly felt at this season of the year.

The fire was still smouldering at 2.30 o'clock and the firemen were working with two streams of water. It was then believed that the all out would not be sounded until about six o'clock.

The English prisoners. No, they shall first starve, slowly but surely.

"We are not afraid like England, with her old-woman-like politicians, to insist that our prisoners in England should be well treated."

"I think 200,000 Russians will be exchanged this month for ditto Germans. But with English prisoners, I say no. Let the English prisoners join us in our starvation, let them die, like swine if needs be, when the hunger arrives. Certainly, mein friend, your proposal has been under discussion, and is to be taken to the Kaiser for the discussion by your faithful friend, and then will I write again."

Stephen Graham, speaking at a London meeting the other day, said that when the order for mobilization was issued the women of Russia were left to do the harvest work; they were quite equal to it, and worked without the irregularity of men due to vodka-drinking. The next Russian harvest would probably be as good as the last. The women of Russia were better able to work in the fields than the women of England; they were less engrossed by house cares. They had not degenerated in physique, though they had labored in the fields for generations. Because of the work of her people on the land Russia could face the war with less misgiving than other nations.

P. N. Furber, a well-known commercial man in London, who has just returned from a visit to Russia, has been giving an account of his impressions. A feature which struck him most was the extent to which Russia, before the outbreak of the war, had become Germanized. All this, however, he says, has been changed, and the feeling against Germany now is most intense. Every German, whether naturalized or not, had been interned; every German woman and child sent out of the country, and all property belonging to German companies or individuals confiscated by the Russian government. Mr. Furber was told by one banker in Petrograd that he knew of property valued at over 100,000,000 rubles which had been confiscated, and this by no means represented the total figure.

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