

turned to where the fire was. Ouellet arrived with one extinguisher at the same time as I did. All this was done in a few seconds. The fire did not seem to have made any progress since I had first seen it.

I then made use of the extinguisher, which I discharged entirely upon the fire. Judging by the fact that the fire had not increased in that spot, I inferred that it must have made headway in another direction of the ceiling, and seeing that the smoke had increased, I thought all further resistance impossible and that the fire was beyond control.

As I had the whole responsibility, I reasoned thus: "Perhaps the fire was controllable, but if not, and that we should lose valuable time in trying to control it, we would risk the lives of all the patients (about 100) in that part." I then gave a general order to save the patients.

The men in the Chapel had then had time to return and were all with me. I sent one to town to inform the proprietors and to ask help from the firemen. I also ordered the furnance of the fire engine to be lit, if it was not. I ordered also the ringing of the bell, to call in those who were out of the building. During all that time men and women were busy saving the patients.

I then went up to Ward thirteen, which is immediately above number nine, and cut off the gas to prevent an explosion similar to the one which had taken place in the Court House. Hyppolite Lessard and his nephew, I think, followed me to number thirteen. Having no gas, we used candles, but the smoke was then so dense that they were of no use, and we were obliged to grope our way with the patients we saved. This part was immediately above the one where the fire had been discovered. As it was the