

EIGHT BUILDINGS WRECKED BY FIRE ON PORTLAND BRIDGE.

Loss Heavy and Insurance Light—All Night Battle for the Firemen, Who Did Well to Save Any Part of the Block—One of the Hardest Struggles They've Had in Years.

Seven Mill street buildings containing dwellings and stores were practically destroyed and three or four others were badly damaged Saturday night by one of the toughest fires the city brigade has had to fight in years. For nearly three hours they waged battle before they had the flames controlled but it was 6:30 o'clock Sunday morning before Chief Kerr sent in the one blow telling that all was over. Twelve places of business suffered from fire, water, smoke or in removal of stock. Thirteen or fourteen households sufficed. The cause of the fire is not known but the harsh word incendiary is heard once again. If not applicable in this case, it is in three others Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Since the Indian town conflagration the city has known no outbreak which has rendered so many families temporarily homeless as that which occurred Saturday night. The district was thickly populated, and in the majority of instances, all the households could do was to take what they could conveniently get out and hurry. The destructiveness of the flames was measured only by the terrifying swiftness with which they spread.

Started in a Barn.

First there was a slender coil of fire somewhere in the rear of the bakery, supposed in an old barn. Then, fanned by a gusty wind, it broadened out and soared aloft, and barely had the number of the second alarm called before orange billows were pouring upon the dry shingled roofs of all the buildings adjacent to the bakery, and eating through to the street itself. This was shortly after 9:30 o'clock. The department never was to work with more rapidity, but it required all of three hours to gain the mastery, although at midnight it was quite evident that the fire was being successfully cornered.

Seven buildings have been practically destroyed, and more than a dozen places of business establishments are in the same condition, while other houses are damaged. A wether of oranges, sheds and barns are today a huge jumble of charred boards and ashes. Thousands of dollars worth of valuable stock, if not utterly consumed, has been seriously damaged.

Thought Her Baby Was Lost.

The most acute distress has been felt by those unfortunate who were compelled to hurry, in a state of alarm, from comfortable homes into the street. There were several instances of women fainting. One woman, under the impression that her infant had been left in the burning home, had to be forcibly restrained from re-entering the house. She became delirious, and was calmed only when the child was placed in her arms. It had been borne away early in the fire by a neighbor.

The burnt or badly damaged houses comprise two owned by James Quinn, one owned by Peter Ward, one owned by E. J. Heist, of the Hygiene Bakery; two the property of the Corkery estate, the building owned by Mrs. Wm. Quinlan, next to George Chamberlain's undertaking rooms, is quite badly gutted, and one of the Corkery houses has perhaps received the least damage of any of those affected. There is insurance on each house.

Those whose homes have been destroyed are Isaac Komack and M. C. Colahan, occupying quarters in the Corkery house adjoining the building which forms the corner of Mill street and Bond's alley. In the next house, also in the block, is the entire street, is constructed of wood, lived George A. Friars, Sarah Friars and Mrs. Corbett. Over the Hygiene bakery lived the family of E. J. Jenkins, in the flat over R. J. Jenkins' confectionery store a Chinaman had his home. The adjoining house, the property of Peter Ward, had as occupants Arthur Martin, Joseph F. Martin and Peter Ward.

In the next house, owned by James Quinn, the occupants were Mr. Quinn and J. Moore. The Quinlan house, also, with the exception of the flat was occupied solely by the family. Beginning near the corner of Bond's alley, the stores beneath the houses are, from west to east, Central Boot & Shoe Company, M. T. Colahan (tailoring), Miss H. A. McCarthy (millinery), Douglas Brown (boot and shoe repairing), E. J. Heist (bakery), E. J. Jenkins (confectioner), Fook Wah (small store containing Chinese curios and ornamental ware), Chas. H. Drager & Son (clothing), Sam Wall (laundry), Rich (restaurant), James Quinn (saloon), and W. A. Wetmore (dry goods). Of these, all but the Central shoe store, M. T. Colahan, and Wm. A. Wetmore are burned out, while those three lost quite heavy because of water and in hurried removal of goods. Not all the establishments had insurance, and in but few cases had any of the residents of the district insurance on their furniture, for the rate is about three or three and a half per cent.

More Than Half the Section Gone.

Had five more structures been consumed the entire side of the street would have been burned. Those left standing on one end are Mrs. Hennebery's (occupied by herself in one flat and Mr. Sheehan in the other); and four buildings. On the other end are George Chamberlain's undertaking establishment and home, a four-story dwelling occupied by Mrs. Robertson, J. H. Fowler and Mrs. Thompson, with T. O'Brien's saloon on the first story. Next to these premises is the Halifax Hotel, J. A. Richardson, proprietor, the bottom part of which is taken up by S. H. Hawker's drug store. This makes the corner of Paradise row and Mill street. From this group of corner structures down to the Hennebery home all is smoldering devastation, all is ruin. How did the conflagration originate? That question has been asked many times. It is easier to tell where it originated, but the stories of incendiarism told elsewhere are pointed.

Among the first of the merchants along Mill street to discover the fire was James E. Carpenter, victualler, whose business premises are about opposite the Hygienic

ating into the walls and thrusting through into the street. The noise of the explosion could be heard above the roar of the conflagration and the regular rattling of the engines.

Along Bond's alley, one of the first houses to catch was that of Mr. Perkins. He lived over Jas. Quinn's barn, where it is believed the fire originated. His goods were nearly saved, but much was broken and scratched in forcing them down a very narrow pair of stairs.

In the different barns along Bond's alley there were a number of horses stabled, but it is not believed that any have been lost. In the Chamberlain barn (which was uninjured), there were ten; in the Hygienic bakery, there were five; in the Quinn barn, two belonging to Saul McConnell. In other barns there were horses and equipments owned by Coachmen and Mr. Stewart.

Nearly every owner had his property damaged in some way. In this alley a Jew had serious losses. Down in the wagon near the street, a horse was hauled out, the intention being to run it along to Paradise row. Eager hands seized the shafts and progress was easy, but as the wagon neared the street, the horse, being hauled the vehicle became sensible of a volley of shouts levelled apparently at them. They looked up, and saw they were pulling a horse into a space where as yet the fire had not penetrated.

For the moment the danger was grave, for a brick wind was blowing the flames directly toward an immense appearing shed. The wagon, though, was attacked from both sides with all sorts of implements, some absurd and some effective; but the fire was at last rounded out. The streams operating in the rear of the destroyed section were from the I. C. R. elevator equipment. Had the wind been blowing strongly toward the depot there would have been reason to fear for the safety of the elevator. A special danger existed in the presence of the chute. Had the fire effected a gain, the chute, being the elevator would in all probability have caught. With a strong draught blowing through the chute it would only have meant an immense fire extending to the building at the end would have caught.

So the hose was produced as a precautionary measure, and also to assist in the work of trying to save the building, and ready in flames. From the fire pump in the elevator an extremely powerful pressure was obtained. The I. C. R. engineer and firemen worked under Chief Kerr's direction.

When the bells first sounded and the people in the Quinn and Ward houses looking out, saw the ominous reflection of a short distance away, they grew nervously apprehensive, and wondered if the situation was sufficiently dangerous to warrant an immediate evacuation. It did not require long to show, with stunning force, that the flames in their rear were bent on destroying all that lay between them and the street.

B. J. Jenkins, upon being acquainted with the fact of the fire, ran out to see where it was. So swift was the advance of the fire that his return was not possible to re-enter the store for any distance. On hands and knees he crept pluckily in as far as possible and groped for what he could salvage. He just installed a valuable soda fountain in anticipation of a brisk summer trade. He valued the fountain at \$600. Of all those who were in the millinery there was a mixer he valued at \$1,000. Everything has been practically destroyed.

Out of Business the First Day.

There is one merchant of Mill street who will have special occasion to remember the fire for it was on Saturday morning that he made his last sale to the public of the city. He is a Chinese and desires to be known merely as the Oriental Storeman. His shop was in the James Street building, a most inviting stock of Chinese decorative ware—painted vases and bowls. He valued the stock at over \$4,000. Saturday morning he paid \$100 to certain goods. He had long been preparing for his opening night, but instead of an influx of customers he was confronted by a patron who took nothing, unless it was in spectacular coin. All the quaint curios and fragile vases are shattered or damaged. This was not the only calamity. In a strong box the proprietor had laid away several hundreds of dollars. He did not have it by him when the curio store fell to pieces in the flames. The proprietor was compelled to stand by and watch his hard cash burn. However, he did not yield to total despair. As soon as the ruins had cooled yesterday morning he procured a shovel and began his labor of love. There was one chance in many that the money would be found. He carefully picked his way around the charred remains of what was a costly stock, and with the assistance of brother Celestine executed a systematic and thorough search. And they did find it. The fire had not touched the money. To watch the owner open the box and regard the contents was something delicious. The edges of the bills were scorched and it is doubtful if the notes would stand circulation but the proprietor is considering redeeming them. He had money stored away yesterday afternoon, despite diligent search, he had not found it.

He was interviewed yesterday morning, relative to his misfortune. He did not appear particularly overwhelmed. He smiled and pointed to a heap of blackened chinaware behind him. Then he explained how unfortunate he had been. He had just established himself in time to be burnt out.

Can't be that when an Asiatic smiles he is feeling overpoweringly melancholy? As he surveyed the ruins the expansion on his face suggested content—even joy. "Are you going to commence business again?" "Must." That was all he said. It sounded like a chuckle.

Chinese Rendezvous Gone. He was not the only Chinese to suffer losses. Sam Wall's laundry was annihilated. He was wiped out cleaner than any shirt he ever laundered. He was one of the oldest in the profession. His laundry was virtually the pioneer in the business here. The site of it is now a heap of boards and ashes.

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MANCHESTER ROBERTSON ALLISON, LIMITED, - - ST. JOHN, N. B.

THE WEDDING SEASON IS HERE.

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Dr. J. Collis Browne's CHLORODYN

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Sold in bottles at 1/12, 2/9, and 4/6 each.

For School Children!

In connection with the International Exhibition, St. John, N. B., 171-244 September, 1904, 7-00 offered in prizes for THE BEST COLLATIONS OF FIVE WEEDS—these to be correct named; common and botanical names to be printed on each leaf, and to be sent to the principal of the school in which the collation was made. Should the collector be unable to name the weeds, a sample sent with request to the principal of the school, and a reply will be sent.

First Prize \$5.00 Second Prize \$3.00 Third Prize \$2.00

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First Prize \$10.00 Second Prize \$7.00 Third Prize \$4.00

NEW PAIL--EDDY'S ANTISEPTIC JAM DAIL. Impervious to water and tasteless. No hoops to dro off; bottom cannot pull out. It will not shrink or flake in pieces. Always neat; always sweet. Always light; always tight.

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OBITUARY. Eliakim Tupper. James Tupper, of Colbis, has received the announcement of the death of his father, Eliakim Tupper, which occurred Tuesday at Stoneham (Mass.). Mr. Tupper was born in Nova Scotia and removed to Princeton about 25 years ago. He went into business there and continued in business there until about 12 years ago when he went to Colbis, removing to Stoneham about three years ago. He leaves four children, James H. and Laura, of this city; Grant Tupper, of Princeton, and Mrs. Etta McIntosh, of Milltown (N. B.).

Mrs. Herb-rt H. Wry. The death occurred at Moncton Thursday morning of Mrs. Herbert H. Wry. Deceased had been ill for the past three years, having suffered from paralysis of the brain. She was thirty-seven years of age. Mrs. Wry leaves, besides her husband, two children, aged fourteen and ten years. She was formerly Miss Mary A. Killam, of Salisbury.

Mrs. J. H. Howatt. The death occurred of Mrs. John Howatt at the residence of her son, Horace Howatt, Bedouque (P. E. I.), on Thursday last. Her demise came as a shock to her many friends. She was a sister of Mrs. Farquharson, Southport; Mrs. Thomas Frizell, Summerside; Benj. Rogers, Charlottetown, and David Rogers, Freestown. Besides her sisters and brothers, there are left to mourn a husband, one daughter, Mrs. (Rev.) A. C. Bell, Westford (N. B.), and two sons, Dr. Fred H. Hammond, Indiana, and Horace, B. E.

Mrs. M. L. McDonald. The death occurred at Miramichi Saturday of Martha Jane, widow of late Murray L. McDonald, who was about three years ago while sitting in a chair. Deceased was forty-five years of age. Two sons survive.

Anthony Gallagher, a farm laborer for some time past has made his home with John Kelly, a well known farmer of Kingsclaire, dropped dead this morning while working in the field. He was 70 years of age and a brother, who resides at Kingsclaire.

BASKETFUL OF TROUBLE.

Inspector Colter Inquiring into Incident Which Led to Suspension of Geo. F. Beverly—What the Evidence of Principals and Others Showed.

Though small in the beginning, the post office strike Saturday night, which resulted in the suspension of Geo. F. Beverly, has grown, and Friday an investigation was begun by Postmaster Wm. Colter, and will be continued this morning.

Mr. Beverly and Clarence Clark, two post office clerks, asked for and obtained \$100 from the Beverly messenger, baskets he used in bringing samples to the post office to be mailed. These baskets are of little value and are given by Mr. Estabrook to his customers. Postmaster Hanington ordered Mr. Clark to return his basket, which he refused to do, and his interview with Mr. Beverly ended in the latter's suspension after a lively scene.

There is great interest among the civil service employees and they have the case already tried and pronounced "not in favor of the postmaster."

They're saying, too, that one piece of evidence indicates that the affair is taking a different course than was figured by an employee who had previously started it all. This is P. Cronin, a porter. In his evidence, the latter admitted that he had a grudge against "George" Clark, one of the men in the basket case, but he said this was not why he reported Messrs. Clark and Beverly. However, it's Beverly upon whom the brunt has fallen.

The witnesses examined were Postmaster Hanington, Geo. F. Beverly, Clarence Clark, T. P. Cronin and Joseph H. Ritchie. Frank Kerr appeared as counsel for Mr. Beverly.

Notes from the Evidence

Mr. Hanington, after telling of the basket incident, said he knew it was customary for the men to receive little gifts, such as calendars. There was nothing in the post office against this, but he was opposed to it and certainly the men had no right to ask for such things. He had thought to put his foot down on it. Speaking of the suspension of Beverly, he said he was suspended for insubordination after he had used violent language to him.

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