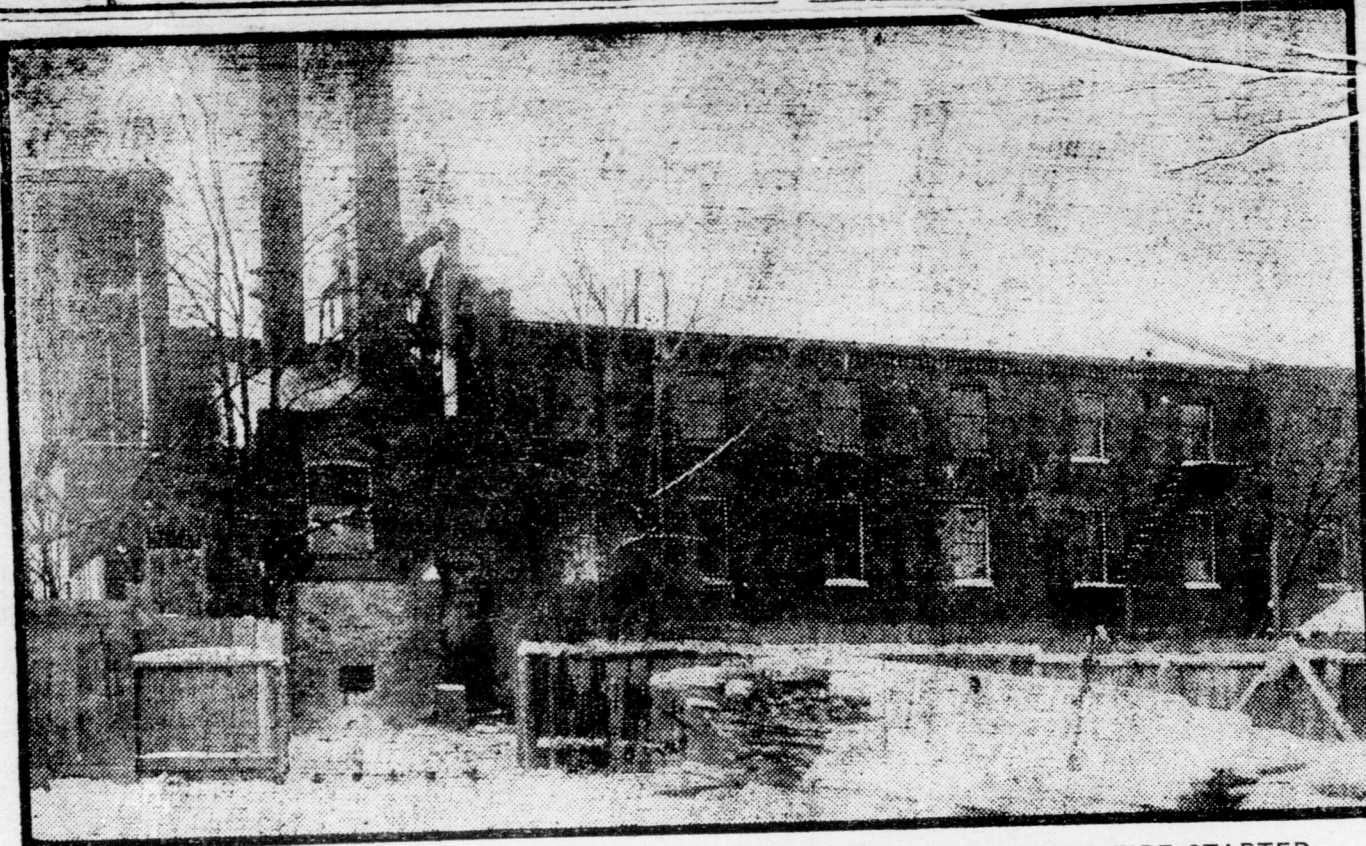


TEN



VIEW OF BECK'S BOX FACTORY, IN A SECTION OF WHICH TUESDAY NIGHT'S FIRE STARTED.

BRACE OF STUBBORN BLAZES GAVE LONDON FIRE FIGHTERS LONG BATTLE LAST NIGHT

Full Force Fighting Conflagration in Beck Box Factory When Called to Dangerous Fire on Dundas Street.

JOHNSTON & MURRAY'S COMPLETELY GUTTED

Amazing But Excellent Work of Fire Fighters Prevented Widespread Destruction in Heart of City.

London had a fire loss of \$40,000 last night, two fires, one at the Beck box factory on Albert street, and one at the Johnston & Murray shoe store, 138 Dundas street, having caused that damage. Both blazes were raging at the same time, the second fire, that of Johnston & Murray's, breaking out two hours and a half after the first, and while the entire fire apparatus was at the first.

CAUSE A MYSTERY.

Mystery surrounds both blazes. In the case of the Beck fire it might be said to completely shroud it, as no one has yet advanced any theory that seems reasonable, as to the cause of the blaze in the dry kiln there. Defects in the wiring of the second fire, but that supposition is formed solely on the fact that the hole in the first floor ceiling, near where the fire broke out, is in close proximity to electric wires. Throughout the entire evening, however, the lights in the store show windows remained lighted, something which is claimed would have been impossible had the electric wiring been really defective.

Just prior to the outbreak of the Johnston & Murray fire an alarm was sounded at fire headquarters on the automatic system attached to the sprinkler system at Robinson, Little & Co.'s warehouse on Richmond street. There was no fire, however, leading of the sprinklers, through excessive pressure, causing the alarm.

FIREMEN DELAYED.

It was twenty minutes after the alarm was sent in for the second blaze before the apparatus could arrive, and during that time flames had secured such a hold on the building that it was practically gutted before the blaze was under control. At the Beck factory the dry kiln and 75,000 feet of lumber was destroyed. The box factory was touched by the flames, but clever fire fighting by Fire Chief John Aitken and his men drove the flames from there and confined them to the kiln, and the damage to under \$10,000, despite the stubbornness of the blaze.

Both fires were cleverly stopped. Nothing but praise was heard for the work of Chief Aitken. He was ably assisted by his entire force, and by an exceptionally high water pressure.

Faykes & Sons and Ross, Limited, Co., on each side of Johnston & Murray's suffered damage from water approximating \$1,500 and \$1,200, respectively, as the flames could not escape from the building where it was confined, but where it was next to impossible for the water to reach it.

Fire Followed Explosion.

At eighteen minutes past six, Night Watchman Gleeson at the Beck factory walked through the dry kiln, in which the fire took place, and he declares that there was no sign of fire at that time. Three minutes before that Mr. John Gowdley, foreman of the mill and the kilns, left the building, and he also says there were no signs of a fire. Two minutes after Mr. Gleeson left the building and while he was standing in the lane between the factory and his house, the fire was discovered by Miss Irene Gleeson. Miss Gleeson was sitting near a window in the rear of the house when she heard an explosion. Glancing out of the window, she saw flames and smoke belching from one corner of the building, and, rushing to the telephone, sent in an alarm. In a short time the fire apparatus from the central station arrived, but before they came upon the scene the kiln was going like a furnace. Stored in the kiln, which is a structure of sheet iron lined on the inside with inch lumber and asbestos, was stored about 75,000 feet of thin cedar, all prepared and ready to be cut up for box manufacture.

Firemen Handicapped.

Lines of hose were run from the corners of Richmond and Albert streets, and from the hydrants in the middle of both Albert and Kent streets, and thousands of gallons of water were poured upon the building and through the windows on the east side, but it seemed to be of no avail. About 7:30 it seemed as if the fire would get beyond the control of the firemen, handicapped as they were, by the thick walls, the absence of doors on the ground floors, a passageway, heavily lined on both sides with asbestos, on the east side of the building, and an absence of windows or doors on the west side. The firemen fought from the roofs of sheds in the rear of some of the houses on Albert street, and also from the lane leading from the factory to Albert street.

Confined to Building.

Several times it was thought the houses in the vicinity would catch on fire, but those fears proved groundless, and the fire was under control, but in a moment or so it would break out afresh, and in the southeast wing a number of men climbed into the kiln

and threw the burning lumber from an open window. A stream of water was played upon the lumber thrown out, and it appeared as if the progress of the fire in that section had been checked. The firemen then withdrew to the northeast corner, but a moment later the flames broke out in the former place, and a fresh fight was necessary. About 11:30 the flames were well in hand, but the lumber, although soaked with water, was still smoking, and a guard of firemen were left to watch the place throughout the rest of the night.

Hundreds of citizens gathered at the scene of the fire in the early evening, and many of them got an impromptu ducking, while others received wet feet as they attempted to walk on the sidewalk over which a stream of water four feet wide and several inches deep was running in several places.

It was thought at one time that the intense heat in the building, augmented by the smoke and lack of air would cause an explosion, but the engineer of the plant was ordered to steam up, and a pressure of 100 pounds of steam was

FIRE AT JOHNSTON & MURRAY'S GOT A 20 MINUTES' START

With a twenty-minute start the fire that gutted the Johnston & Murray store was a raging furnace before firemen and hose could be brought from the Beck fire. Starting in the back between the ceiling of the second, where it was hard to reach with either hose or men, practically the entire rear section of the building was in flames before a stream of water could be directed against the blaze, while volumes of smoke were driving out through the front of the store.

Serious From Onset.

Handicapped by a lack of men, the experienced fireman, already tired through their fight at the Beck mills, with insufficient hose on hand to cope with the blaze, and with a fire that was well started before it was even noticed, the Johnston-Murray blaze was a serious one from the outset. The gravity of the situation was added to by the fact that the fire took more than 20 minutes before apparatus could be called back from the Albert street blaze to Dundas street.

Good Work By Firemen.

Had the entire apparatus of the department been available at the start, the second fire would not have been a serious one. With only a handful of firemen, the first efforts of the department were seemingly unavailing to stem the tide of the flames. Volunteers rushed into the breach and lent their hands, and foot by foot the firemen fought the blaze. The fact that it was prevented from spreading further than it did was a tribute to the efficiency of the fire department.

Attacked From Both Sides.

Fire Chief Aitken rushed as many men as he could from the Beck fire and sent for more hose. Sending Captain Dan McDonald and a squad of men to the rear, he led another detachment of firemen against the rear, where the blaze was at its worst. In little more than an hour the fire was under control, and by 11 o'clock was completely extinguished. The fire was turned into the building with the fire hose.

Efficient work by the department was all that saved the Johnston-Murray blaze from becoming the keystone of the tremendous start and the fact that the adjacent buildings are old ones was an invitation to a wide, sweeping blaze. Visions of another Chapman fire were a reality, but the fire department stood between the flames and such an occurrence as that.

While in the lower floor of the Johnston-Murray building there will be considerable smoke salvaging next door, the fire department stood between the flames and such an occurrence as that. While in the lower floor of the Johnston-Murray building there will be considerable smoke salvaging next door, the fire department stood between the flames and such an occurrence as that. All stock above the first floor is practically worthless.

How It Started.

Examination of the building this morning showed that the fire first started in the middle of the store between the ceiling of the first story and the floor of the story above. From there it ran between the joists to the rear part of the building and extended to the back stairway to the floors above. The back of the building from the second story up is almost entirely gone, while practically speaking the entire fourth floor is gone, nothing being left but a few charred joists, the stairway having been burned out.

Heat Was Intense.

The fire crept from the fourth floor of the Johnston store into the fourth floor of the building at the rear, and a merry little blaze was starting, when it was pinched out by the firemen, under Chief Aitken. The fire also gained an entry into the back stairs at the second floor, a hole having been burned through the roof of the rear section of the store, which is only one story high at the back. The fact that it had not spread further than it did was a tribute to the efficiency of the fire department. So intense was the heat that the roof in sections melted and ran down to the floors beneath.

The main damage to the Faykes store was by water, little streams running through on the joints from the burning building next door. It was 9 a.m. before Chief Aitken called the last of his men from the Beck fire, leaving one line of hose still attached to a hydrant in case of emergency, as it was thought some of the smoldering ashes might be fanned into life. The last of the firemen left Johnston & Murray's at 4 a.m., after

HOME RULE BILL WAS REJECTED IN HOUSE OF LORDS

Crisis Started As Result of Uncompromising Attitude of Both Sides.

Lord Curzon's Speech Thought To Be Highly Significant by Daily News.

London, July 16.—The House of Lords, by a majority of 238 for the second time in six months rejected the home rule bill.

The result was a foregone conclusion, but, says the London Daily News (Liberal) today, has nevertheless inaugurated a serious crisis between the two Houses.

On the one hand, Lord Curzon withdrew what he understood to be Lord Lansdowne's promise yesterday to accept the home rule bill if a general election were won upon it.

On the other hand the Prime Minister in the House of Commons announced definitely that the Lords' abolition bill will be tabled at the next session. The challenge on both sides, says the London Daily News, is complete and uncompromising.

The speech in the fact that for a whole afternoon he was in close consultation with Lord Lansdowne, who drafted what appeared to be an ultimatum to the Government.

Features of the Fire.

One of the features of the Dundas street fire was the illuminated sign, erected on top of the burning building, throughout the entire blaze the smiling baker, with his five loaves of bread, grinned down on the firemen, the flames and the smoke. Throughout the same time, the little green lights that surrounded the sign, shone through the clouds of smoke and helped illuminate the scene. Back-grounds of flame and smoke were hardly the usual environment of electric signs, but in this case the unusual was almost the ludicrous.

Well Insured.

Insurance well covers all losses through fire. While no definite figures could be obtained from the Beck company it was declared that the losses there were fully covered. George T. Hiscox, owner of the Johnston-Murray building, was protected against loss. The exact loss of the shoe firm is as yet unknown. The insurance was looked after by Kenneth Murray, who is with present in New York. Until his return the amount is unknown. It is believed, however, that over \$30,000 was carried.

Four Firemen Injured

In Last Night's Fires

Two Unable to Report For Duty Today Being Sickened By the Smoke.

Four firemen were injured at last night's fires. With the exception of Capt. Dan McDonald, of headquarters, the injuries are hardly serious. The other members of the department were laid out with the acid smoke of the Beck blaze, though two of them, Lieut. Beck Scott, of No. 3 station, and Pipe-miller Orval Little, of No. 1, were unable to report for duty. Lieut. Robert Haylock, of No. 4, was seriously overcome with smoke last night, but through the agency of the water commissioner's pumpmotor, the smoke in his lungs was pumped out and he pluckily returned to his work. He was laid out today.

McDonald's Leg Cut.

Capt. McDonald was injured at the Johnston-Murray fire, his leg being badly cut when a hose branch got beyond control of those who were handling it. The nozzle crashed against the captain's leg and sent him to the ground like a ninepin. George Aitken, son of Fire Chief Aitken, and Walter Carrothers, 233 Horton street, two civilians, who were assisting the fire department, were twisted off a one-story roof in the rear of Johnston & Murray's by the force of the water pressure. They were handling a line of hose when the water was suddenly released. The hose "jumped" and both men were thrown to the ground.

Volunteer firemen found that fire-fighting has its decided disadvantages. The force of the pressure kept them jumping all the time, and the hose, while flying sparks and streaming water was something they hardly relished.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS.

Name	Reported at	From
Kwara	Montreal	New York
Autonia	Montreal	Bristol
Man. Inventor	Montreal	London
Carraig Head	Montreal	Manchester
Room	Halifax	Bremen
Finland	New York	Antwerp
Ullanda	New York	Flume
Nagawa	New York	Bremen
Granplan	Glasgow	Montreal
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