

## STORY OF LAST NIGHT'S FIRE BIG CHURCH IS BURNT DOWN.

(Continued from page 1.)  
Nothing was saved. Mr. Mews, who has been organist for twenty years, lost his accumulation of music during all those years. Much of it was hand copied and had been given him by his father, Mrs. S. March and others, and he prized it highly.

He also had about a hundred dollars worth of organ selections purchased of late and this too, is gone. The choir music, and other books, all the papers and requisites of the Sunday School are consumed.

### TRUSTEES MEET TO-DAY TO CONSIDER SITUATION.

A meeting of the Trustees will be held this afternoon at 4 o'clock when plans for the future will be discussed. Of course, rebuilding will hardly be talked of yet, but arrangements will be made as to where services will be held, so that the work of the congregation may not be impeded.

The pastor, trustees and congregation will help and assist in the work of rebuilding when it starts.

It might have been worse; no lives were lost and no one is homeless, thanks to Providence.

We cannot close without saying a word of praise of the firemen and others who worked so assiduously last night.

No one can have but the highest feeling of admiration for these men. They labored against heavy odds, and if any mortals could have mastered the fire they would.

The loss to the Methodist people is a tremendous one, as the total insurance amount to only \$41,000, and there is also a debt of \$7,000 on the building, which the congregation had arranged to wipe off within the next five years. The insurance is as follows:

Building	
Percie Johnson	\$28,000.00
W. & G. Rendell	3,000.00
Total	\$31,000.00
Organ	
Ayre & Sons	\$3,500.00
Bishop, Sons & Co.	3,500.00
A. E. Heckman	3,000.00
Total	\$10,000.00
Grand Total	\$41,000.00

Registers All Right  
The church accounts and registers were not kept there, and so were saved.

The new organ was a beautiful instrument, the gift of the Hon. J. S. Pitts, a constant worshipper at the church until his present serious illness prevented him. This organ, which was one of the finest in the city, was completed only last June at a cost of \$12,000.00. It was admired by all who saw and heard it.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE IS STILL A MYSTERY.

There is much conjecture as to its origin. The conclusion arrived at by the church authorities is that it was caused by an electric wire.

Last night *The Mail* interview the sexton, Mr. George King, who has been employed at the church for eleven years. It was ten minutes past eight when he left and there was no sign of fire. It could not have been caused by the furnace as only one fire was on and very little in that. He visited the furnace room before quitting and everything was then in good order. The furnace is walled in with concrete, with only enough space for coal and he is positive the fire did not start there.

This is corroborated by Mr. Norman Burt, who attended the evening service. He hung his overcoat to dry in the furnace room and after service he found it almost as wet as when he took it off.

He looked in the furnace to see if there was much fire on and found very little.

Another member of the congregation who hung his coat there gives a similar report.

**May be Due to Wires.**  
Mr. H. Bartlett who discovered the blaze says he first saw a small ball of fire on the outside, and it was in

such a place that it could not have started from the furnace.

The electric wires enter the church where the fire was first seen and the switchboard is on the wall on the inside. Mr. Arthur Mews, Deputy Colonial Secretary, was the last to leave the church, excepting the sexton, and he told *The Mail* reporter that he was confident there was no sign of danger then. The sexton left by the basement door and would have seen the fire had it been burning then.

### THE STORY OF THE CHURCH THAT WAS BURNT LAST NIGHT.

The corner stone of Cochrane St. Church was laid in 1880 by Mrs. Stinton, wife of Rev. Job Stinton, then pastor of Gower St. Church, of which circuit Cochrane St. Church was once a part.

In May 1882 it was formally opened for service, at a cost of \$30,000.00, and since then the church's work has prospered and expanded.

**Addition Built.**  
Five years ago an addition, costing \$14,000.00, was made, providing greater Sunday School facilities, more seating in the church and a place for the new organ. The initial cost of the building and the extension amounted to \$45,000.00, and owing to the increased price of material and labor, it is felt that a similar building could not be put there for \$70,000.00.

### SUES FOR \$2,000,000

A suit against Imperial Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg is to be brought by the German Potash Syndicate, which demands from him the return of \$2,000,000, forming the so-called propaganda fund for advertising the merits of the German fertilizer at home and abroad.

### STUDENT ENDS LIFE UNDER SAD CIRCUMSTANCES.

Theological Student Embarrassed Financially, Hanging Himself in his Room.

The St. John Evening Times says: A tragic story of the end of a young life comes from Windsor, N.S. As the result of a worry over financial matters a student at King's College, who was completing his theological course, became demented and a short time ago his lifeless body was found hanging in his room in the college.

The trouble which drove the young man to this desperate course arose from some business upon which he had embarked during the summer holidays last year in an effort to earn some money to help him pay his way through college. He accepted the agency for a map publishing concern in upper Canada and secured a large number of orders. To fill the contracts he ordered maps to the value of \$500, but when they came the purchasers refused to accept delivery. He was unable to secure an arrangement with the publishing house and they insisted upon his paying for the maps, which he was unable to do. Soon afterwards he applied for another position and gave the name of the publishing house as previous employers. When the latter concern was asked for references they applied asking the local concern to hold the man as they were sending an officer to arrest him. The arrest was not made, but the matter preyed upon the mind of the unfortunate youth and it is believed that he became mentally unbalanced as a result of constant worry.

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