



MAP OF THE DISTRICT BURNED—ESPLANADE ST. IS PRACTICALLY THE WATERFRONT—YORK, BAY AND YONGE STS. RUN NORTH. THE WHITE SPOT IN CENTRE BLACK BLOCK ABOVE WELLINGTON ST. SHOWS WHERE THE FIRE STARTED

## TORONTO'S GREAT FIRE

By *NORMAN PATTERSON*

**T**ORONTO has had several large fires during the seventy years of her civic history, but the conflagration which occurred on the night of April 19th was the largest and most disastrous. The loss will amount to about fourteen millions of dollars, of which eight millions must be borne by forty insurance companies and six millions by the three hundred and fifty business firms involved. The total premiums collected by fire insurance companies doing business in Canada last year was about eleven million dollars, so that this fire makes

it quite clear that the insurance business of 1904 will show a large deficit. The largest annual loss total ever paid out in this country was in 1877, when it amounted to eight and a half millions of dollars. The loss in this Toronto fire will alone exceed the losses of that record Canadian year. It is only by a full realization of the force of such a comparison, that one may get a correct and reasonable idea of the magnitude of this great disaster.

By recalling previous Canadian fires, it is possible to further emphasize this view-point. On June 20th, 1877, the great fire in St. John, N.B., destroyed