

The Victoria Times

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1904.

VOL. 35.

NO. 36.

FIRE FIEND'S HAVOC IN CITY ON TUESDAY

The Flames Guttled Part of Albion Iron Works, Where the Blaze Originated, and Almost Completely Wiped Out Two Blocks of Residences.

Damages Estimated at One Hundred Thousand Dollars--List of the Dwelling Houses Which Were Destroyed--Number of People Lost All Their Possessions.

A considerable portion of the Albion Iron Works and about thirty-five houses, including an entire block of residences, were wiped out by fire yesterday afternoon, representing a loss of approximately one hundred thousand dollars.

The conflagration started in the pattern department of the big iron establishment and spread with appalling rapidity, the high southwest wind carrying particles of burning wood several hundred yards to houses north of Douglas street, which fell an easy prey to the fire fiend.

The firemen, assisted by bluejackets, soldiers and citizens, worked desperately for three or four hours before the flames were brought under control.

With the exception of two structures, the block bounded by Douglas and Blanchard streets, Queen's and Princess avenues, was completely destroyed, while rows on Douglas and Pembroke streets were also cleaned out.

The progress of the fire in the residential section was arrested by Finlayson's fields, or the area devastated would have been vastly greater.

The firemen and assistants were much hampered by the scarcity of water, but for which a number of houses would have been saved.

Besides being rendered homeless, many families were bereft of their personal effects, although the fact that the deplorable outbreak occurred in the daytime, and the efforts of the salvage corps enabled some of the sufferers to save a considerable portion of their goods.

street and a few yards up Pembroke the house occupied by Mr. Gallagher was discovered to be ablaze. Burning particles of wood from the main fire blown to the roof of this residence had speedily ignited it. Thither hurried a detachment of the fire-fighters and the crowd, but all their efforts were useless. The place was as dry as a match box and burned just as easily. Darting to the cabins on one side and to a cottage on the other it gathered the lot in its embrace, despite all possible resistance. Adjoining these was a vacant lot, but just around on Douglas street were three houses directly in the path of the destroyer. Huge splendid work was done by volunteers under Messrs. W. Northcott and E. W. Bradley, assisted by a squad of blue jackets. Mounding the roof they time and time again extinguished the blaze which persistently and insidiously attempted to gain a foothold, until they finally were out. But, after all, this was merely a glance at the work of destruction on the fire fiend's programme.

SPEED OF FLAMES.

Dwellings on Douglas Street and Princess Avenue Fell Victims to Fire Fiend.

Even while the house occupied by Mr. Gallagher was ablaze, and while desperate efforts were being made to stand off the flames, a half dozen houses higher up caught on fire. There were four on Douglas street between Pembroke and Princess avenue, while on both sides of Princess avenue, roofs, smoke and tongues of flame indicated that half a dozen or more fires had added to the lurid complication. People who stood

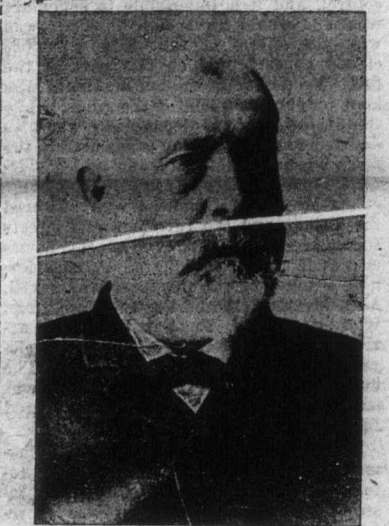
wake. Alex. Anderson's house, Capt. Caven's, J. Turnbull's, Mrs. A. R. Milne's, T. Toys, Geo. McCandless's and A. E. McCandless's, all went, with sheds and outhouses, leaving the block devoid of buildings with the exception of two solitary structures on Douglas street--the Leland House and the building owned by S. J. Pitts. There were few who apprehended that this row on Queen's avenue would be burned, and there is no doubt that had there been any water they could have been saved. It was this block, then, that suffered the most, and to-day it presents a very sad appearance. Like monuments stand the chimneys in uniformity that seems mocking and ironical, and one can only judge of the size of the houses destroyed by the size and height of the ruins that remain. More than twenty houses in this block are now but a memory.

THE LOSSES.

List of Those Who Suffered From the Fire--Many Made Homeless.

Conservative people estimate the total loss at \$100,000, or in that neighborhood. Of course it will be difficult to arrive at a total with any degree of definiteness until the damage to the Albion Iron Works is computed. The loss there will be considerably greater than all the others combined. In the pattern works were the accumulation of years--patterns that cannot be replaced. In the store room were engines, machinery and the finished output generally, representing a large sum of money. These were all destroyed. The wreck of 12 or 14 engines can be counted among the ruins. There then is the

five houses, John Kinsman; assessed all told at \$4,800. Queen's Avenue. From Douglas street--House, A. G. McCandless; assessed at \$2,400; house, Geo. McCandless; \$1,000; house, The Toy, \$800; house, Mrs. Milne, \$2,000; house, J. O. Turnbull, \$1,600; house, George Caven, \$650; house, Alex. Anderson, \$500.



ALD. JOHN KINSMAN, One of the Principal Losers Through the Fire.

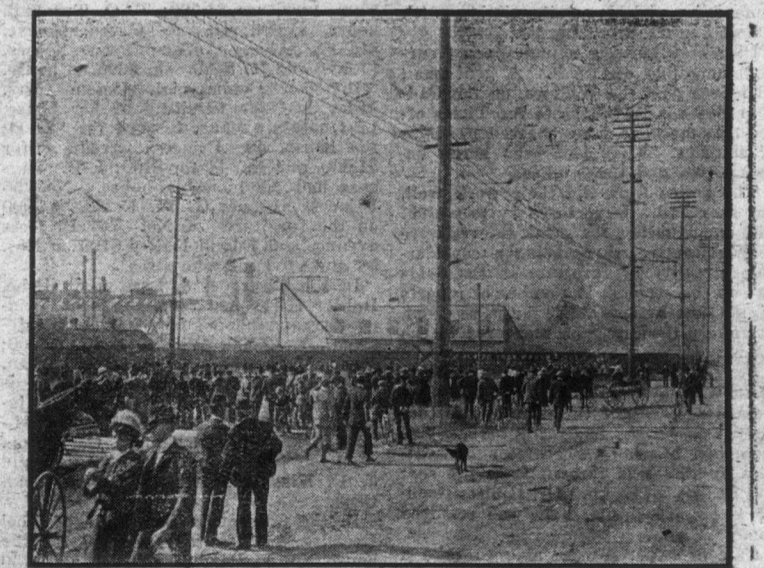
son, \$500; house, Mr. Keith, \$1,400. As already stated these figures will not come anywhere near the actual loss involved, because many of the houses mentioned cost a great deal more than they are assessed for. Take the five owned by Ald. John Kinsman for instance. Their destruction means a loss which will aggregate between \$7,000 and \$8,000, and unfortunately there is no insurance on them. The cottage on the corner of Princess avenue and Blanchard street was occupied by Mr. Sexsmith; the next house by Geo. Fugate, the next by A. Talbot, the adjoining one by E. Kinsman and the last of the row by A. Ashwell. Thus in one fell swoop the fire fiend has destroyed five good dwellings belonging to Ald. Kinsman. The residences occupied by A. G. and Geo. McCandless and Mrs. A. R. Milne, on Queen's avenue, were large substantial houses, while there were several good sized homes among those burned on Princess avenue, among them a two-story house owned by Wm. Scott.

SAVING FURNITURE.

Salvage Corps Did Good Work Taking Out Lots of Household Effects.

The fire attracted crowds to the scene and salvage operations were quickly conducted on a large and energetic scale. Those who realized their danger in time got to work as soon as their places were threatened and in some instances removed the greater part of their furniture to safety.

Unfortunately, a number of houses were destroyed before much could be accomplished in this direction, and it is these people, some of whom are unemployed and none too prosperous, who will feel the situation keenly. Offers of shelter for the night were not wanting, but the stern necessity of recuperating from the effects of the disaster will draw heavily upon their resources. Some of the residents engaged drays and vehicles of various kinds in which to convey their goods away. One of the



VIEW OF THE FIRE FROM GOVERNMENT STREET.

accompanying pictures shows one man drawing his effects in a buggy. A number of the sufferers were business men who were unaware that their homes were in danger until their roofs were ablaze. It will take considerable time for owners to collect all their belongings, which in the hurry and confusion have been scattered far and wide. Detective Sergeant Palmer, through the Times, requests all those who have furniture in their possession not accounted for to report to the police station. Mr. Green, the expressman, has a number of trunks in his possession whose ownership is unknown to him, which a lost parrot may be recovered by its owner at the Ship Inn.

QUESTION OF INSURANCE.

The List Will Not Be Available For Several Days.

Secretary Elliott, of the board of fire underwriters, informed a Times representative this morning that it would be some time before the list of insurance losses would be computed. That of the Albion Iron Works is \$75,000, carried chiefly through the agency of R. P. Ritters & Co. The Shawigan Lake Lumber Company has an insurance arrangement of its own. Its loss, however, will not run over \$500 or \$600. There is an estimate of \$40,000 on the Milne property, and insurance was carried in a number of other cases, some on furniture and some on the houses. The complete list will be given out as soon as it is ready.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Was Altogether Inadequate, Which Hampered the Fire Fighters.

Had the water supply been at all adequate not less than half the residential houses in the block between Princess and Queen's avenues would have been saved. Those who were early on the scene came out flat-footedly with this statement, and there are hundreds of eyewitnesses who will attest the fact. For instance, take the homes at the top of the hill--those owned by Ald. Kinsman. Had there been anything like a fair supply the houses would be standing today. A garden hose could have extinguished the incipient roof fires which continually blazed up, but with little or no water, it was absolutely impossible to fight the most insignificant outbreak. Everybody gave battle of course, but it was heart-rending to see them trying to throw a three or four foot stream about five times that distance. They therupon disgustingly desisted and did their utmost to save their furniture.

There were other roof fires which did not develop into anything serious because the fighters managed to get some water. Conspicuous illustrations of this were afforded at the coffee and spice mills on Pembroke street, right in the line of fire according to the direction of the wind, and three houses on Douglas street in the vicinity of the Le Laire property, which were destroyed. Messrs. Bradley, Northcott and a band of gallant tars, with an ordinary garden hose, saved these houses, and the same methods were successful in several other cases. The house occupied by W. Finlayson, on the corner of Queen's avenue and Blanchard street, became the easiest kind of prey to the devouring element.

All Victoria realizes the importance of this matter, and the impotency of the measures already taken to preserve the supply.

That some action will be taken by the city council after this warning is no idle prediction.

J. L. Raymer, the city water commissioner, was seen this morning and asked for a statement on the water supply question. He stated that there was no doubt but that the fire demonstrated the necessity for another water main. There were two mains coming into the city, one by way of the Saanich road and the other via Cook street. The one on Saanich road divided at the Fountain and one main comes in Douglas street and the other via Cook street. When the fire broke out the water was drawn to the Albion Iron Works. The Yates street pump, which supplied the higher levels,

MINERAL ACT.

Iron Knob, Olga, June, Helen and Amazon Mineral Claims, situate in the West Coast Mining Division of Rupert District. Where located: On the southeast arm of Quatino Sound.

Take notice that J. J. Herrick McGreggor, as agent for William Grant and Thos. S. Lapp, Free Miner's Certificate No. B58802, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 20th day of June, 1904. A. D.

"LAND REGISTRY ACT."

In the Matter of Lot 1,015, Victoria City, and in the Matter of an Application on Behalf of Charles William Ringler Thomson for an Indefeasible Title to Same.

Notice is hereby given that it is my intention to issue a Certificate of Indefeasible Title to the above land to Charles William Ringler Thomson on the 24th day of September, 1904, unless in the meantime a valid objection thereto be made to me in writing by a person claiming an estate or interest therein, or in any part thereof.

S. Y. COYTON, Land Registry Officer, Victoria, B. C., 21st June, 1904.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that 90 days after date I intend to apply to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described tract of land, to wit: Commencing at a point at the southwest corner of Margaret Street's lot, thence in an easterly direction 20 chains, thence in a southerly direction 20 chains, thence westerly 20 chains to the Skeena River, thence in a northerly direction along the Skeena River to beginning containing forty acres more or less, the said land being situated about five miles above Hazelton, B. C., and directly opposite the Indian village of Glen Vowell, Sic-dach Reserve, staked October, 1903. BRUNO FRIEDRICH.

MINERAL ACT.

NOTICE.

Hampton Mineral Claim, situate in the Victoria Mining Division of Victoria District. Where located: On the southeast arm of Quatino Sound. Take notice that J. Chas. E. Clarke, Free Miner's Certificate No. B58,214, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 6th day of June, A. D., 1904. CHAS. E. CLARKE.

WANTED--Agents to sell for Canada's greatest nurseries. Bigger and better selection of varieties and specialties than any. Liberal terms; pay weekly; exclusive territory; outfit free. Send 25 cents for our pocket microscope. Everyone should have one to examine plants and trees for insects. Stone & Wellington, Toronto, Ont.

AT THE ALBION.

Whole of Brigade Turned Out to Fight Fire When Alarm Reached Headquarters.

A general alarm was run in to headquarters shortly after 4 o'clock, and realizing the danger all the fire com-

as Government street, were in the grip of the foe.

Across the street to the lumber yards of the Shawigan Lake lumber yards flew the fire, and the firemen were more than ever convinced that they had the toughest proposition of their lives on their hands. The ends of three planing sheds caught ablaze, but the firemen, assisted by the lumber company people, fought the fire off; then it jumped clean over the lumber yard and laid low a stable, scorching the dressed lumber shed behind it. Fortunately it was in the direction of the wind was

gaining at the fire in the Albion looking toward the homes, and that they too had fallen victims and they hastened to protect their property. It was not long before the four houses on Douglas street, north of Pembroke, were in ashes, but strangely enough a house on each corner--Douglas and Pembroke and Douglas and Princess avenue--were left standing. One was a Chinese laundry and the other a one-story brick residence.

By this time the fire was burning furiously on both sides of Princess avenue. On the south side a cottage owned by W. Allen soon went, while three houses belonging to J. Madden and two owned by Mr. Hicks were quickly laid low. A house owned by Mr. Burgess was torn down to prevent the spread of the flames. Had this not been done it is not unlikely that a building in the rear of John Kinsman's residence would have become ignited and the residence itself destroyed. Although the fire was one of the most eccentric on record from start to finish, one of its most remarkable freaks was its treatment of the block of which Princess avenue is the northern boundary. It nearly took nearly half the section, indicating with wonderful accuracy the precise direction of the wind.

But if Mr. Kinsman escaped the loss of his home, he nevertheless is a very heavy loser, as a list of the destroyed residences will show. Bad enough was the predicament of the south side of Princess avenue, but it was not a circumstance to that of the opposite side. When the fire fiend got his mischievous grip on this section it never desisted until the entire block, bounded by Princess and Queen's avenues, Douglas and Blanchard streets, was laid in ruins. On the north side of Princess avenue it swept out a cottage and stable belonging to Mrs. Bennett, two houses of Mrs. A. R. Milne, two of McKinnon's, one of Wm. Scott, one of Alex. Anderson, and five belonging to John Kinsman, comprising two semi-detached double houses and one single. Beyond this the fire could not go towards the east for Blanchard street here intersected and across the road was a large field. But unfortunately it spread along Blanchard to the house on the corner of that street and Queen's avenue, occupied by W. Finlayson.

ON PEMBROKE STREET.

Burning Particles of Wood Started Blaze and Several Buildings Were Destroyed.

Around the corner via Government

ON QUEEN'S AVENUE.

Flames Cleared Out the Whole Row With Exception of Leland House.

Along Queen's avenue, tore the fire fiend, leaving a mass of ruins in his

LOOKING UP PRINCESS AVENUE.

HOUSES ON THE NORTH SIDE IN FLAMES.

Photo by Maynard.

flame plant, consisting of air-compressors, boiler riveters, rollers, in fact one of the best collections of machinery on the coast, which must be enrolled in the list of property demolished. To a Times representative this morning Messrs. W. F. and H. Bullen, who have leased the Albion Iron Works to undertake certain contracts, and who were on the scene early, said they were unable to estimate the amount of damage to the establishment. Neither were they in a position to give any information as to rebuilding. An insurance of \$75,000 dollars was carried by the company.

Across the street, the Shawigan Lake Lumber Company sustained comparatively little loss. Merely the ends of several buildings were burned, and an insignificant amount of lumber was destroyed. A stable was the only structure leveled. The company's office fronting on Government street was saved.

A Times representative called at the city hall this morning and secured from Mr. Northcott, the assessor, a list of the owners of the houses destroyed and their assessed values. Of course this valuation would be considerably under the actual loss, and probably 30 per cent. or more will have to be added to it. The list, exclusive of the Albion Iron Works and the Shawigan Lake Lumber Company buildings, is as follows: Pembroke Street.

Row of cabins, two-story houses, owned by Mr. Le Laire, but deeded to the Sisters of St. Ann's; cottage, owned by E. Dalley, and some cabins in the rear. Assessed value of the whole, \$2,300. Loss will be considerably greater, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Gallagher, who occupied the largest house, lost his furniture. Mr. Le Laire's property is insured.

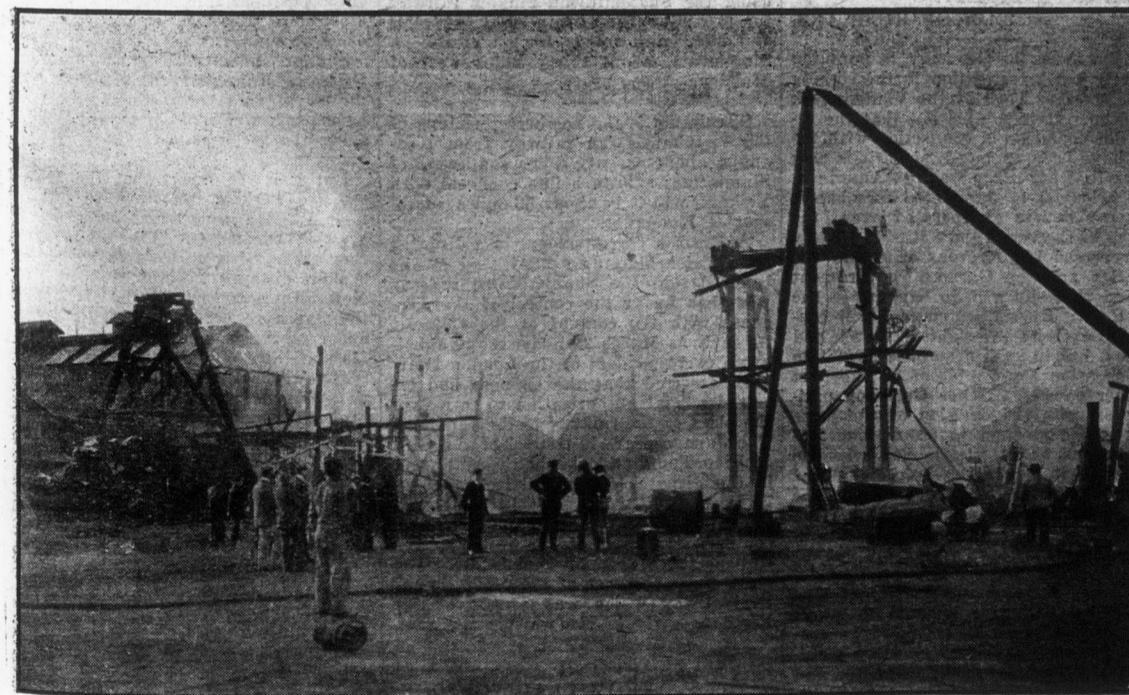
Douglas Street.

Between Pembroke street and Princess avenue--Four houses belonging to W. Allen; assessed at \$1,200.

Princess Avenue.

South side--House, W. Allen; assessed value, \$900; three houses, J. Madden; assessed value, \$2,350; two houses, Mr. Hicks; assessed at \$1,200; house, Mr. Burgess (torn down), \$600.

North side, from Douglas street--House and stable, Mrs. Bennett, \$450; two houses, Mrs. E. Milne; assessed at \$900; two houses, Mary McKinnon; assessed at \$1,500; house, Wm. Scott, \$1,800; house, Alex. Anderson, \$600;



THE FIRE AT THE ALBION IRON WORKS. FROM A PHOTO TAKEN ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER THE OUTBREAK.

bricks and a mass of debris.

There have been fires in this city involving a greater financial loss in proportion to the extent covered, but the outbreak of yesterday spread destruction over an area which runs into acres. Scarcely indeed have fire fighters been face to face with a foe so startling and it is not putting the case too strongly to say that seldom indeed have they fought under such a combination of adverse circumstances. As a result of the enemy Victoria has lost

batting apparatus in the city was summoned to the scene. This consisted of the two steamers, chemicals, hose reels and other conveyances manned by the whole force in the service. When they arrived at the Albion they found the flames leaping up from the pattern and store shops of the big concern, where it broke out, while against them were arrayed the work staff with all the facilities at their disposal. Quickly a number of streams were directed on the fire, but the unusually high wind carried it from one shop to another, until all the buildings on Discovery street, as far

not more northerly, or the conflagration would have destroyed the lumber yards and then the gas works would have been imperiled. What the consequence would have been had this occurred is awful to contemplate. But there was more destruction at hand and lots of it.

ON GOVERNMENT STREET.

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ALBION IRON WORKS.

Photo by Maynard.

was shut down and the valves at St. John's church and at the corner of Government and Yates streets were opened so that the full benefit of the Cook street main might be obtained. Eleven streams were playing on the fire on the lower level, which, Mr. Raymer said, naturally drew from the pressure on the upper part of Queen's avenue, 40 feet higher.

THE WIND.

Was Blowing Thirty-Two Miles an Hour When the Fire Broke Out.

The velocity of the wind at the time