

NOTE:-

It is the usual practice for the stablemen to throw down enough feed on Saturday to last over Sunday. All the hay on the floor had been used for the Sunday morning feed, and for the evening feed it would have been necessary to have pulled down the hay in the chute; so that there was no hay in the passage in front of the horses on Sunday morning at the time of the fire.

TAWSE, W. J. Lecturer in Horticulture:-

Tawse stated that at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning he went into the building, letting himself in by his own key, and visited the loft. He was accompanied by his little boy of about six. He opened the west door of the southern loft as he thought that the cool weather would be good for some corn stored there. He said that the loft was cool and clear. He left the building, and went over to the greenhouse and talked with Archie Walker, florist, who was working there, stating that the material in the loft was in good condition. Looking out from the greenhouse (whilst talking with Walker), he noticed the opened doors in the southern loft. He returned home about 11.30 a.m. At the time of the fire this door was closed and barred. He stated that the bar could be seen on the middle of the door after the top half of the door was burnt. The bar was difficult to close, and the door did not open when the hose was turned on it. He did not understand how this door became shut, because the suction from the fire would tend to keep the door open.

A number of school boys, Rolf and V. Smith, H. Crawford, R. Lamb, R. Groom and K. Farmer, passed the building between