

LAST SUNDAY'S FIRE.

Sunday afternoon fire broke out in the old Molleur factory on St. Charles Street. Many of us were there and witnessed, or engaged in, some stirring fire-fighting work. The blaze did damage to the extent of some \$9,000 before it was extinguished. Public Opinion as expressed everywhere throughout the City of St. Johns, gives the soldier-boys of the E. T. D., who dashed in to the assistance of the hard-working and then over-taxed local firemen, much credit for the part they played in the keeping of the fire from spreading, and in aiding so largely in finally extinguishing what looked likely to become a very serious menace to that part of the city.

"The News and Eastern Townships Advocate", reflects the sentiment of the citizens when it states:—

"A number of men from the Engineers lent a very helping hand and worked like trojans, and it was due to their assistance that a more serious conflagration was prevented. Several of the men were overcome with smoke and had to be treated by the Medical Corps, several of whom were on duty at the fire. One soldier unfortunately fell a considerable distance and had to be removed to hospital in barracks. At first the aid rendered was individual but the arrival of several officers concentrated the work of the soldiers and they went at it with a will, and their efforts were to a great extent, responsible for the short duration of the fire. The squad formed up after the fire and marched back to barracks. As they passed along Richelieu street they were cheered and applauded by the people on the sidewalks. Though they were begrimed with smoke and most had more or less of their uniform soiled or destroyed, they were as happy as a bunch of school boys."

In Montreal, the Press, both English and French, speak in high terms of praise of the good work the Engineers did at this fire.

It is regrettable that some of our comrades were injured as stated by the "News". They were heroes.

Great fearlessness was displayed by all and a desire to help the experienced firemen in the work. The only wonder is that more of our men did not suffer because "Danger lurks under many a mask at times like these." But it is as our friend from "Down East" once wrote us, again a case of:

"Canadian Engineers,
The Dears,
Always on Deck
By Heck!"

It is stated in our quotation that many of our boys had their uniforms soiled or destroyed. This is unfortunately the case. Great credit is due to the Authorities of the City of St. John's that they made enquiries from the Officers who were present at the fire, as to the extent of this damage. A generous cheque followed from Mayor Henderson Black and the men will be reimbursed for their burned uniforms; otherwise they would have had to suffer this expense each man personally. Mr. Black also stated to the Officers, who gave him the required information, that the Mayor and Council were unanimous in their praise and appreciation of our work at the fire, and that they wished to express themselves in this tangible manner.

Hurrah for the City of St. Johns and its Mayor and Council!

Since going to press we find that our esteemed contemporary "Le Canada Français" says in its account that Mr. Frs. Payette, merchant tailor, states that he is of the opinion that were it not for the assistance rendered by the soldiers from the barracks it is probable that a conflagration of disastrous consequences to that end of the city would have taken place" —also that Councillor Cloutier and Chief Turgeon, of the fire brigade, desire to express their grateful thanks to Colonel Melville, officers and soldiers who assisted in the fight, for the efficient aid rendered in getting the fire under control. "Canada."

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