

POOR DOCUMENT

GIBSON IN ASHES.

The Entire Village Swept Out of Existence.

ONE THOUSAND HOMELESS PEOPLE.

83 Buildings Burned—\$100,000 Worth of Property Destroyed—\$60,000 Insurance.

Fire broke out Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock in the barn owned by Arthur Sewell, at Gibson. The wind was blowing a gale, and the dryness of the atmosphere aided in spreading the fire with great rapidity.

Within a few minutes Mr. Sewell's house and barn, which were situated at the upper end of the village, were one mass of flames, and the wind was carrying the cinders down upon the doomed village.

So rapidly did the fire spread that by the time the city firemen and salvage corps reached Gibson nearly the whole village was in flames. From Sewell's house the flames leaped from building to building and quickly demolished them. The C. P. R. round house and machine shop caught and burned like tinder.

Crossing the street the fire swept every house from the C. P. R. crossing to the new Baptist Church, soon leaving a mass of burning ruins. From there it rushed like a roaring demon down upon the closely packed wooden houses standing in blocks on either side of Miles street and between that and Miles avenue, taking in its course Robert Macklin's residence which was soon a heap of smoking cinders.

Turning the corner of Macklin and Miles streets the fire left not a building standing out as far as the Methodist church.

Crossing Miles street with a roar, it fastened upon the old C. P. R. station and corner tenement house owned by Alex. Gibson, from which it spread with amazing rapidity and terrific strength clear to the Nashwaak river, leveling 60 good buildings to the ground. The beautiful houses owned by A. D. Yerxa, registrar of deeds, J. W. Ruel, P. A. Logan and John Miles fell speedy victims to its ravages.

No houses were spared. The C. P. R. tenement houses on the river side of the street and next above the C. P. R. machine shops crackled and were consumed in a very few minutes. So heavy was the wind that the cinders flew to the barns of Thos. F. Barker below the mouth of the Nashwaak, they also being totally swept away.

Only a few buildings above the Nashwaak river, including the old Gibson lannery and machine shop and station were saved. The whole village is swept out of existence. Eighty-three buildings went up in smoke. One thousand people were left homeless and \$150,000 worth of good property lost. The insurance companies will suffer to the extent of \$60,000. So terribly rapid was the sweep of the fire that many had no time to save anything, and so great was the heat and so thick the cinders that a great deal of furniture which had been carried from the houses for safety was burned up on the streets and in the fields. The whole conflagration occupied only about two hours and a half. The alarm was sounded at 2.30 and by 4 o'clock the barns of Mr. Barker a mile below, were in flames.

The following buildings were burned—

Dwelling house and barn owned and occupied by Arthur Sewell.

Dwelling house owned by Arthur Sewell and occupied by Bradford Cummings.

Tenement house owned by J. F. McMurray and occupied by four families.

Dwelling house owned by Arthur Sewell and occupied by Wm. Nelson.

Tenement house owned by Allie Neill and occupied by four families.

Dwelling house owned by Mrs. Cowperthwaite and occupied by a family named McLean and herself.

Dwelling house owned and occupied by Malcolm Brown.

Dwelling house owned by Allie Currie of Woodstock and occupied by Alex. Heron.

Dwelling house owned by Chas. Chase of Burton, unoccupied.

Dwelling house belonging to Mrs. Currie of Woodstock, and occupied by Mrs. Colwell.

Dwelling house owned and occupied by Chesley Moore.

Dwelling house owned by Geo. Sherwood and occupied by Chas. Hall.

Dwelling house owned and occupied by Benj. Babbitt.

Dwelling house owned and occupied by Ezekiel Allen.

Dwelling house owned and occupied by Thos. E. Babbitt.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Mrs. Robt. Neill.

Dwelling owned by Hiram Brewer and occupied by himself and Charles Brown.

Dwelling owned by Hiram Brewer and occupied by Rev. Mr. Knight.

Shop owned and occupied by Malcolm Brewer.

Dwelling owned by Daniel Flinn and occupied by Abraham Rideout and John Calligan.

Dwelling owned by Abbie Neill and occupied by Widow Rideout.

Dwelling house owned by Chris Johnson and occupied by Widow Titus.

Dwelling owned by Justin Gill occupied by Mrs. Sherwood.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Jas. R. Gardner, postmaster.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Henry Garrity.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Benj. Babbitt.

Shop owned and occupied by Benj. Babbitt, Baptist church.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Emery Sewell.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Robert Macklin.

Large building on corner owned by Prof. Bailey, and occupied downstairs as a shop by Jas. R. Gardner and upstairs as a public hall. Tenement house owned by Alex. Gibson, occupied by David Cowie and Bevin Hughes.

Dwelling owned and occupied by G. S. Peters.

Dwelling owned by Mrs. Andrew McLaughlin and occupied by Chas. Morgan and David Wallace.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Thomas Hoban.

Dwelling owned by Chris. Johnson, of Madam occupied by Timothy Tribe.

Dwelling owned by P. A. Logan occupied by Rev. Mr. Parkinson.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Recorder A. D. Yerxa.

Dwelling owned by James Ruel, and occupied by his father J. M. Ruel.

Dwelling owned and occupied by John Miles.

Dwelling owned and occupied by James Pickard.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Beverley Jewett.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Stair Jewett and his sisters.

Shop owned by P. A. Logan, occupied by Miss Merrithew, dressmaker.

Dwelling owned by P. A. Logan, occupied by Wm. Dennison.

Dwelling owned by Morris Macklin, occupied by Robert Noble.

Dwelling and store owned and occupied by Charles Bailey.

Dwelling house and blacksmith shop owned and occupied by C. A. Parlee.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Harry Steele.

Dwelling owned by William Roseborough, occupied by James Semple and another family.

Dwelling owned and occupied by B. Webb. Dwelling occupied by Robert Johnson.

Shop occupied as feed store by Jas. Merrithew.

Dwelling owned by Wm. White and occupied by John Billings.

Blacksmith shop owned and occupied by Wm. Bradley.

Dwelling owned and occupied by David Evans.

Dwelling owned by Chris. Robinson, occupied by Jas. Merrithew.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Lewis Belyea.

Shop owned by Lewis Belyea and occupied by Lloyd Belyea.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Everett Johnson.

Building owned by John Kyle and occupied by him as a shop and dwelling. Mr. Kyle lost all his stock and like every one else most of his furniture.

Hotel on corner owned and occupied by Wm. H. White.

Beyond the corner a dwelling owned and occupied by Ed. Johnson and a dwelling owned and occupied by David Coombes were burned.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Fred Pond.

Dwelling owned and occupied by the wid. Wm. Byram.

Dwelling owned and occupied by John Taylor.

Dwelling owned and occupied by John Boyd.

Dwelling owned by the widow Wallace and occupied by Conductor Charles Sterling.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Horatio Fresham.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Sherwood Yerxa.

Dwelling owned by Mrs. McLaughlin of Boston, and occupied by Hartley Smith and Samuel Gouge.

Dwelling owned by Mrs. McLaughlin and occupied by Rainsford Estabrooks and Wesley Allen.

Dwelling owned by Mrs. McLaughlin and occupied by Turney Estabrooks.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Chas. Titus.

Dwelling owned and occupied by Moses White.

Babbitt's mill on the river bank and two small dwellings below the mill and back from the street, the one owned and occupied by John Allen and the other owned and occupied by Geo. Logan, were the only three buildings that escaped from the starting point of the fire down to the Canada Eastern depot, and out as far as the Methodist church on the road to Marysville.

The Insurance.

Mr. B. H. Babbitt, Gibson representing the Manchester Fire Insurance Company, held the following risks:

Arthur Sewell, furniture, \$800; George N. Babbitt, tenement, \$400, occupied by Mrs. C. Copthwaite; Mrs. C. Chase, on furniture, \$300; C. B. Moore dwelling, \$700 on furniture, \$300; T. E. Babbitt & Sons, \$300 on lumber; T. E. Babbitt, on house, \$500, furniture, \$200; Rev. P. R. Knight, \$400 on furniture; Mrs. M. Brown, \$200 on stock; Samuel Allen, \$200 on furniture; W. E. Johnston, on dwelling, \$500; J. R. Garden, \$600 on dwelling and \$200 on furniture; B. H. Babbitt, on dwelling, \$1,500, on furniture, \$300, on store, \$250, on stock, \$500; Baptist church, \$1,500, on organ, \$100; Emery Sewell, on furniture, \$750; Morris Macklin, on furniture, \$300; Geo. W. Bailey, \$700 on store, nothing on stock or furniture; David Coombes, \$800 on dwelling; Edward Johnson, \$700 on dwelling, on furniture, \$300; on Free Baptist Church, \$800; H. Fradabam, on dwelling; Mrs. Wm. Campbell Est., \$500 on dwelling and \$500 on furniture; C. H. Sterling, \$250 on furniture; Mrs. Boyd, \$300 on furniture, and on dwelling, \$500; Harry Pickard, \$400 on furniture; Thos. Hoban, \$800 on furniture; C. B. Morgan, \$300 on furniture, David Evans, \$900 on dwelling.

Mr. F. I. Morrison, representing various insurance companies held, risks on the following:

Mrs. Arthur Sewell, \$300 on tenement; George Kitchen, \$400 on store occupied by Mrs. Brown; Sherwood Yerxa, \$750 on dwelling; Hiram Brewer, \$400 and \$300

on two tenements; Mr. and Mrs. A. S. McLaughlin, \$3100 on three single dwellings and one double; P. A. Logan, \$100 on dwelling on Maryville road; Mrs. Robt. Neill, \$1000 on dwelling, occupied by herself; Morris Macklin, \$1000 on tenement; A. D. Yerxa, \$1200 on dwelling; John Kyle, \$1000 on dwelling, outbuildings, wagons, etc.; James A. Ruel, \$1550 on dwelling; Thos. Buckley, \$700 on tenement; Mrs. Chris. Johnson, \$800 on dwelling; Thos. Buckley, \$700 on tenement; Mrs. Chris. Johnson, \$800 on dwelling; Thos. F. Barker, \$300 on barna.

Mr. John Black, for his companies, held the following risks:

Mrs. M. Brown, barn and dwelling, \$500; Robt. Macklin, on dwelling, \$1,500, on crops \$500;

J. R. Garden, on hall, \$1,200;

John F. Miles, \$1,600;

Wm. Rossborough, on tenement, \$1,200;

Moses White, on dwelling, \$1000;

Mr. A. J. Gregory, for his companies, held the following:

Mrs. W. H. White, on buildings, \$2,700;

P. A. Logan, \$2,000 on house occupied by Rev. John Parkinson and Mrs. F. M. Peters, partial loss, \$300

Mrs. Arthur Sewell, on tenement \$2,000

Mrs. Geo. Peters, \$1,000

Everett D. Johnson, \$500

Harry Currie, \$500.

Mr. J. W. McCready, held the risks, for his companies:

Daniel Babbitt, residence \$1,400

Fred Pond, residence, \$800;

Mr. Wm. Wilson, held policies for his companies, on the following:

Henry Garrity, dwelling, \$800;

B. Webb, dwelling, \$500;

Lewis Belyea, dwelling, \$1,000.

Zekiel Allan had \$600 on his dwelling, in the Keystone Co. St. John.

The total loss is estimated at about \$150,000, while the insurance will amount to about \$60,000.

This was the largest fire ever experienced here, and immediate steps should be taken to assist the homeless, many of whom are without money, or even a change of clothing. The evening of the fire the immediate wants of the sufferers were supplied by the people of St. Marys and Marysville, provisions, etc. also going over from the city. The city council have provided meals and shelter for quite a number of the unfortunate. Steps will be taken for the further relief of the families who have lost all.

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Where will you spend Dominion Day? Have you ever visited the beautiful Annapolis Valley, the oldest settlement on the continent North of Florida, and today the garden spot of Canada, amid its blossoming orchards on the shores of the beautiful basin, framed in an emerald setting of glorious hills? If not, you can go there on Dominion Day at small cost, and return to St. John the same evening in time to catch the late trains on the I. C. R. and C. P. R. If you only wish to visit Digby, the steamer calls there both going and returning.

The people of Annapolis will celebrate Dominion Day with athletic and aquatic sports, horse races, games, music, dancing and feasting, and a grand concert in the evening.

St. John will share in the honors of the day, for the Hawker Medicine Co., who have presented gold medals for competition in the aquatic sports, have also engaged the steamer City of Monticello, and will run a big excursion; from St. John, sailing with them the splendid City Comet Band to entertain the voyage with music, and having on board a number of athletes to compete in the boat races and field sports. There will be a grand procession through the streets of St. John the night before which will be worth going to see.

The steamer leaves St. John at 7.30 a. m., local time. Fares for the round trip are: To Digby and return \$1.50; to Annapolis and return \$2. Care will be taken not to overcrowd the steamer.

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