DYNAMITING THE DANGEROUS WALLS AFTER THE FIRE—PHOTO TAKEN AT INSTANT OF THE EXPLOSION

their losses, only to return in a few hours with renewed courage to seek new offices, give orders for new machinery and to plan the rebuilding which will not be completed for, at least, two years.

The conflagration presents the same lessons that go unheeded by the public year after year—the lessons of faulty construction by the individual owner who builds his house upon the sand, of municipal neglect, of postponed precaution. To the lack of water pressure and an unorganized fire brigade may be assigned the spreading of the flames, but unprotected openings opposing each other, well-holes, wooden cornices, skylights, narrow lanes, overhead wires, all played their part in aiding the destruction. The manner in which Brock's and Kilgour's sprinklered buildings resisted the furious heat was strong evidence of the value of these equipments; two buildings in such a seething mass were of little avail, but they gave a breathing spell for the fighters, and one of them stopped the progress east on Wellington. The mercantile section of a great city, containing its millions of money value, should be constructed of fire-resisting materials only, and each building should be equipped with an approved automatic extinguishing apparatus.

Some valuable discussion has taken place since the fire concerning the fire-fighting system of Toronto. The pressure of the water in the mains in the burned district varies from 60 to 90 pounds to the square inch. In Buffalo, in the similar district it is 150 pounds; this is maintained by a special main, running up Washington Street, the water for which is pumped by a fire-tug carrying strong pumping engines. There is nothing of this kind in Toronto, or in any other Canadian city.