Startling Confession by a Miscreant Who Brought Ruin to Thousands.

Happenings of One of the Great-

a Pen Picture of the Devastated City

Relief for the Sufferers Pours in From All Sides and the Crv Is for More.

Victorians Realize the Need of Prompt Action and Adopt Systematic Measures.

Seattle and Vancouver Prove That They Have Profited by Similar Cruel Experiences.

Vancouver, Sept. 13 .- (Special)-The man who set fire to New Westminster was arrested there this morning at Kennedy's (of the Columbian) ranch. He confessed to Kennedy. The prisoner is said to be the convict who was spoken of yesterday.

Westminster, B.C., Sept. 13.-(Special.)-New Westminster this morning is in a fever of excitement and all are discussing the latest sensation in connection with the fire. Up on the hill. locked securely in the jail, with guards watching him most closely, is a man selfaccused of having started the vast con-Hagration.

He is a farming man, a resident of Surrey, South Westminster, on the opposite side of the Fraser, named Shep pard. He seems to be a man of average intellect and apparently in full possession of his senses. Several times of late when going on the ferry to his home he has been heard making threats of vengeance against New Westminster, on account of his incarceration in jail. He spent a term there a short time ago, but it seems he is not the man spoken of as having been recently discharged. Among those who heard him make these threats against the city was Wm. Kennedy, a brother of Kennedy Bros., of the Columbian. Many others have also heard the threats. Last night Sheppard was in New Westminster and talked exultingly of the ravages of the fire. He proclaimed it on all sides, and meeting Kennedy he said: "Didn't I say so?" and laughing, continued to noise abroad his jubilation at the disaster. He went home early to his farm and Kennedy and others

went and notified the police. Sergeant Dillabough and special officer Julian at once went over and arrested Sheppard, who, when arrested, acknowledged that he had fired the hay at Brackman & Ker's wharf and had done so in revenge. He continued such expressions all the way to the jail and more than once said: "This will not be all before the 29th. Westminster will see worse and the work will be completed before then." He was hurried to jail and none were allowed to see him.

In the Police Court. Sheppard was brought before Mr. Corbould, the police magistrate, this morning on the charge of setting fire to Brackman & Ker's wharf. He had changed his attitude since he was arrested and says that his conversations with Kennedy were all "chaff." As to finishing it by the 29th he says he was referring to prohibition. He pleaded an alibi, say ing he was not in New Westminster since Saturday noon, and gave the names of places on the other side of the river were he was up to Sunday night.

He was remanded for eight days and taken back to jail. The police have gone across the river to verify his statements. Magistrate Corbould discredits the whole matter and says there is nothing in it, but the Kennedys are very sin cere, and people on the streets are asking for retribution.

A Tented City. New Westminster, Sept. 12 .- (1 p.m. by steamer Rithet.)-As the accompany ing map shows, the city of New West minster was literally obliterated-wiped off the face of the earth by the great conflagration of Sunday morning. To-

day the scene in the stricken city is an

awful one. In the midst of a number of avenues of charred gables with chimneys standing here and there like monuments in a graveyard a tented city has sprung up which is inhabited by people who, on Saturday evening did not know what it was to be without a home or to feel in nced of bread. To-day several thousand people—the majority of whom would never have thought they would be dependent on their fellow mortals for the staff of life and a canvas roof to shelter them from the elements, are camped amidst the ruins, and the members of the relief committee are going about the tented avenues distributing articles of food, which, though such dishes as patede-fors gras are not included, are greatly appreciated by the sufferers. Many sorscenes were witnessed as I treaded these avenues of ruin. Again and again I have witnessed men sitting with their heads resting dolefully on their

ery of the unfortunates who have lost all, and have no large insurance, or no other means of retrieving their lost for-tunes. There are some who look at their

losses most philosophically and say "it is kismet, and who can avoid his kismet."

Among these fatalists is John Collins, a hotel keeper whose establishment was lost when the flames swept down Columbia direct. Naturithe est Conflagrations of the

Pacific Coast.

Pacific Coast.

Our Own Correspondent Draws

| lost when the flames swept down Columbia street. Notwithstanding that he had saved nothing save the clothes he stood up in he made no murmur. His sole thought was of the continuation of his business and before the embers of his hotel had ceased to smoulder he had lumber on the ground and a carpenter at work beginning the erection of a new hotel

after building in our principal street go down. When the Vancouver brigade got over it gave us a ray of hope, and it was undoubtedly due to its efforts that the east end and the Royal City mills were sayed. The fire was got pretty well under control by five o'clock in the morning.

"The path of the fire extends for over half a mile. Most of the business buildings were built of stone or brick and were very substantial and costly.
"It is hard to say what we will do in regard to the provincial exhibition. I suggested that it be transferred to Vancouver, and perhaps this may be done.

"About 500, Chinese are homeless.

They fought hard for their property, but never had a ghost of a show after the

blocked by flames, which were incircling the building. There was only one chance left—to dash through the fire, and taking their children in their arms Mr. and Mrs. McGonegal chose to die in the attempt to save the lives of their children and themselves rather than perish in the and themselves rather than perish in the building. How they got through the barriers of fire neither of them can tell. They only know that when they did get through the children's clothes were on fire. There seemed to be no help anyfire. There seemed to be no help any-where, and it was probably because the children were only clad in night dresses that their burns were not tatal. As it was the two elder children were severebodies and Mrs. McGonegal was burned about the neck. The family were taken to the home of Mrs. Freeman, Agnes where medical attendance was

pronounced the city doomed. Our work, hard though it was, seemed to be the work of children, and for a time we simply had to work on and see building. There was only one chance tailed information is reached, as to whether money or supplies are most

FIRE SPARKS.

All the firemen's personal effects were removed from their hall to the Masonic building, but they were burned even

The fact of the standing of Sing Kee's store when almost everything in that vic-inity burned is remarkable. Sing Kee was one of the biggest of Westminster merchants, white or Chinaman, and besides having thousands of dollars worth of goods in his store is credited with a great deal of savings in his safe.

Among the losses of S. J. Thompson, the photographer, were a set of negatives

easty accident shortly after on the scene. The chief's h o the buggy, had been tied sidewalk. Becoming horse broke loose and bolted ily tried to grab him, but f the rig passed he was struck by the rear wheel of the thrown headlong against the His head was badly cut an "Westminster has received a terrible blow, but retuilding will commence to-morrow."

Mr. McGonegal lost everything he for a descriptive book to be entitled Halifax to Vancouver.

It was a harvest for Vancouver livery men—both horse and biovalor. bruised, but the injuries posed to be serious, though While the great fire obliterated area and the business part of t out of existence, it by no means ed the entire city, or anything approaching it. The loss is bad enough, but is should not be magnified or misrepresent ed to outsiders.

DETAILS OF THE LOSSES. The following is the revised and correct list of buildings completely destroyed by fire, with the values and the insurance con panies interested: Front Street-South Side.

the C. P. R. station found a hose wiff

stream of water spurting with no one apparently in c

yards away were a mob of tulating and jabbering whi

ombine action and occ

the Celestials were

ed out some sawdust which

like nine-pins. A volley stones and Chinese profanit

bic feet in area greeted

who after a parting volley

ing fluid retreated honorably

Fireman Gill, of No. 2 hall.

The alcoholic one will

City Market, partly insured, valued \$6,000, insurance \$5,000.

Brackman & Ker's warehouses and mill. ing establishment, value \$30,000, in \$10,000, North British and Mercantil Creighton's coal sheds, New West Gaat, Company, value \$5,000, in \$500. C.P.N. wharf and contents, value \$10,000, insurance \$5,000. Stuciar Canning Company cannery and all their salmon pack for the season, value \$50,000, insurance \$30,000, London & Lancage, where shire.
Western Fish Co., premises and season's salmon pack, value \$50,000, insurance \$30.000, London & Lancashire.

May 3 fire half, value \$2,000, no insurance \$30.000. ance and warehouse, value s3,000, no insurance, North.

C.P.R. station, value \$4,000, insurance in All Chinese buildings, about 30 in number, up to Telegraph Hotel, value \$5,000, no Caledonia Hotel and contents, value \$15, 000, insurance \$5,000, Commercial Union.

Kwong Wing Wo Uo.'s store and buildings, value \$60,000, insurance \$30,000, Commercial Union.

Lancashire, North British. Webster building, occupied by Brackman & Ker, value \$7,000, insurance \$5,000, Commercial Enion.

Douglass Elliott brick building, value \$180.000, insurance \$80,000, chiefly London Assurance \$80,000, chiefly Lon

Surance.
Building of the Society for the Propaga-tion of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, value \$4,000, Insurance \$2,000.
James Wise building, value \$2,000, no insurance Bushby block, value \$35,000, insurance \$18,000, Norwich Union and London & Lan-Cook Hotel and contents, value \$6,000, in surance \$4,500, Norwich Union, Loudon 8 Lancashire.
Hon. H. Holbrook building, value \$12,000, insurance \$8,500, Commercial Union.
Armstrong brick block, value \$20,000, insurance \$10,000.
Armstrong frame building, value \$1,000, no insurance. A insurance.
Erickhoff Hotel, value \$6,000, insurance \$5,000.
McGillivray building, value \$7,000, insurance \$1,000.

Vulcan Iron Works.
Elliott establishment, including livery stables, value \$3,000, no insurance.
Town building, value \$10,000, no insurance. Columbia Street-South Side.

Occidental Hotel, value \$5,000, insurance Occidental Hotel, value \$5,000, insurance \$500, London & Lancashire.
Todd.brick building, value \$40,000, insurance \$15,000, London & Lancashire.
Hambly block, value \$30,000, insurance \$11,500, London Assurance.
Ounningham block value \$80,000, insurance \$40,000, Phoenix of London.
Ellis building, including Bank of British Columbia, \$20,000, insurance \$10,000, London. Columbia Street—North Side.

Begbie block, value \$35,000, insurance \$12,500, Commercial Union.

Wintemute's frame warerooms, value \$35,with the water of the state water of the state of the sta ance.

Duncan McColl block, value \$35,000, insurance \$15,000, London Assurance.

Post office and customs building, value \$15,000, no insurance.

Blackey, value \$20,000, insurance \$7,000.

Commercial Union.

Colonial Hotel, value \$60,000, insurance \$20,000, London Assurance \$20,000, London Assurance. Globe House building, value \$20,000, in-surance \$7,000.

Elliott building, value \$10,000, insurance Mead building, value \$4,000. Guichon Hotel, value \$125,000, insurance S0,000.

Burns-Curtis block, value \$50,000, insurance \$25,000.

Armstrong block, value \$40,000, insurance \$7,000, London & Lancashire.

Trapp building, value \$3,000, insurance \$1,500, Actna.

Masonic Temple and Oddfellows' Hall, value \$20,000 Actna. Masonic Temple and Oddfellows' Hall, value \$80,000, insurance \$50,000, Aetna.

Lewis building, value \$3,000, no insur-

ance,
James Cunningham's buildings, three in
number, value \$4,000, insurance \$2,000.
Phoenix of London.
Gentral Hotel buildings, four in number, value \$3,000, insurance \$2,000.

Depot Hotel building, value \$4,000, no insurance.
Merchants' Exchange block, value \$3,000. all Chinese buildings on the street.
All livery stables on street, value \$1.500: no insurance. Chinese mission, value \$2,000, no insurance.
Mrs. Robson's mission, value \$2,000, no insurance. Devoy stables, value \$6.000. no insurance Dwelling-Houses.

Dwelling-Houses.

Following dwelling-houses were destroyed insurance being divided, except where named, between the Royal, Liverpool & London Union, Hartford, Connecticut, Atlas, Ena Guardian, Manchester. Western and North American. Burned districts, between Clark son, and Agnes streets:

Three dwellings belonging to James Cum Three dwellings belonging to Blakey.
Three dwellings belonging to Fred G.
Turner, value \$6,000, insurance \$3,000.
Etna. James O'Halloran's six dwelling-houses,

James O'Halloran's six dwelling-houses, value \$5,000, no insurance.
Ten houses belonging to Henry Efflott estate, value \$16,000, insurance \$6,000.
Alex. Ewen's residence, value \$35,000, insurance \$15,000.
Turnbull boarding house, value \$2,500, insurance \$1,000.
Ex.Mayor Shiles's dwelling, value \$4,000, insurance \$2,000.
Tales's factory and dwelling, value \$5,000, insurance \$4,000, London & Lancashire.
Five dwellings belonging to the Trew ostate, value \$7,000, insurance \$3,000.
Methodist church and parsonage, value \$15,000, insurance \$5,000.
Three buildings belonging to Lieutenaut-Governor McInnes, value \$4,000, insurance \$1,500.
Old Drill Hall, value \$500, no insurance \$1,500. Old Drill Hall, value \$500, no insurance. Bouson building, value \$1,500, no insur-Vanstone plumbing establishment, value \$4,000, no insurance.

Handcock building, value \$4,000, insurance \$1,500.

Wood's boarding house, value \$5,000, insurance \$2,500. wood's boarding house, value \$2.50.

Herring's ten dwelling-houses, value \$20.

Herring's five dwelling-houses, value \$5.

Ood, no insurance.

The New Westminster Fire Columbia Street, Looking Westward. (From the Province.)

THE FIRE'S SPREAD. Ross Describes the Start-Was It Is Feared That Some Lives Were

Fanned by a Gale. Andy Ross, insurance agent, who, like many others, lost nearly everything. was at Brackman & Ker's establishment

"How it caught I cannot say. The

this hay it seemed to leap in the direction of the river boats, and it seemed only a few moments before the Gladys and Edgar were in flames. They shortly afterwards diffed down the stream, setfear for his life. W. Brown, another fireman, will probably lose the sight of and Edgar were in flames. They shortly afterwards drifted down the stream, setting fire to the various wharves as they diffed. It was a magnificent sight, but who had been confined a day or two ago died while they were emoving her from a barge, loaded with coal caught fire, and drifted slowly

THE FATALITIES. Lost.

At the time of writing it is not known whether any people were actually burn-ed to death in the fire. It is very much was at Brackman & Ker's establishment feat to death in the first of the started will spread come that some lives are lost. A shortly after the fire started "It spread Chinaman greatly alarmed people by saying that five white men and one reporter.

"How it cought I county say The sback down in Chinatown. The report shack down in Chinatown. The report wants confirmation. Until a kind of roll general theory is that the sparks from one of the river boats set the hay on the wharf on fire.

"After the fire got good headway in "After the fire got good headway in named Campbell, fell off the roof of a

SEATTLE'S READY RESPONSE. Seattle has quickly responded to the necessity for immediate relief of the good people of New Westminster. The Red Cross Society of Seattle and philanthropic citizens are already at work. The first carload of supplies left this morning at 8 o'clock, attached to the Seattle and Intercolonial passenger train and will be carried through in a very few hours. This much has been done spon-taneously and without much system, the only object being to get in and afford re-lief while most needed. Hereafter the work will be carried on systematically and Seattle hopes to do not a little to relieve any distress caused by the big fire Answering a call of Mayor Thomas Humes, a mass meeting of citizens oc-

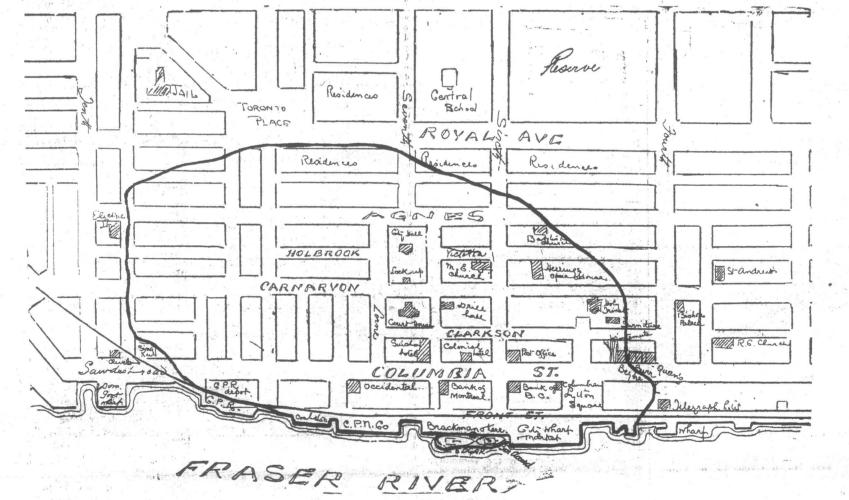
curred in council chambers. A relief committee was appointed which will have

tram company, though the latter will be losers to a considerable extent, about \$1,-000, through damage to trolley wires and

poles. Sections of the street were for a time a tangle of twisted wire.

There were many amusing as well as disactrous and pathetic incidents. A well known city barber was going down town in his old clothes when the fire broke out and seeing its fierceness he thought if he could not save anything else he would have his best clothes. So he locked himself in his shop and began to undergo a lightning change. However, long before he could get dressed again the fire was upon him and as it was he saved neither

the old suit nor yet the new. Camera votaries were on the ground early yesterday and it is expected that some excellent views will later be on ex-hibition in this city of the condition of



The New Westminster Fire-The Black Line Surrounds the Burnt Area. (From the Province.)

high wind, and this fauned the flames on the coal barge until they shot up into the air like small volcanies, lighting up both sides of the river.

"In the meantime our fishermen could do little with the fire raging on shore. The shacks occupied by the Chinese soon caught, and being very dry, went up like a flash almost. The buildings along Front street caught fire and were consumed in an incredibly short time. When the fire struck Columbia avenue it seemed to shoot across the street, making an archway of flame. Shortly after midnight the whole street seemed to me in a blaze. The high wind became a small gale as the fire progressed, and the flames appeared to be hurled in

out into the stream. There had been a suffering from typhoid fever, who had Sixty dollars was raised in less than six (store in Westminster contained, to be twice removed from the residences minutes and turned over to the commitwhich were in the burning zone, did not survive the shock. So extremely fierce were the flames that apples on trees on the side of the street opposite where burning were roasted as well as if put on the fire for the purpose.

DASH FOR LIFE. The McGonegal family, who lived in the back of a small store on Front street, had a most startling escape with their lives. The family had retired to bed early, and were all sound asleep when the fire broke out. About 11 o'clock Mrs. McGonegal was awakened by a crackling noise on the window chunks across the street, completely destroying the work of the firemen. | flames. With a scream of fire she with their heads resting dolefully on their hands, in many cases with their tears strickling down their cheeks, mourning over the losses of their home and businesses. Then again there are somethey who hold insurance policies—who do not seem sorry to have lost their all, but these, even though not deploring their own lot, are grief stricken over the missing the work of the firemen.

"The fire ran from east to west, lick-in sight. Its course was so erratic that it seemed almost impossible to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. We were all more or less to give any accurate account of its path. Its course was so erratic that it seemed almost impossible to give any accurate account of its path. We define the instance of the instance of

Mr. Weston, who started work early this morning, went to Frye-Bruhn Co. and ordered \$50 worth of meats and ordered it cooked and this will go out in the morning. The company promised to give a whole lot more than \$50 worth. Bread is being solicited also and will be forwarded, as will some kinds of perishable stocks.
Frederick, Neilson & Munro told Mr. Weston that they would give fifty cots and fifty blankets or would subscribe \$50

in cash. Mr. V Weston chose the former as being worth as much as \$100 anyway to the burned out people. These will go in the first car. George U. Piper acted with Mr. Weston this morning in what little work was done previous to the mayor's meeting. At the meeting a statement meeting. was made of what was done and the matter turned over to the committee. One hundred dollars and over subscribed was nearly all spent in securing supplies for the first car, which was expected to

have started out his evening.

It is expected that a carload of stuff

After the big Seattle fire a year or more ago there was just the same danger as at present exists in New Westminster from falling walls. The method pursued in reducing them was to throw large projectiles from a small cannon that was secured for the purpose and thus the ruins were torn down without anyone be-

ing hurt.
The remains of the Methodist parson age presented a peculiar appearance. In the centre was the chimney, standing its full height, and the fire place and irons in conection therewith were reposing as if contentedly waiting for the building of a new house over the remains.

A dusky native, dangerously filled with stolen tanglefoot, insisted on directing the movements of one of the hose parties stream was suddenly turned on him and he executed a double backsomersault which would have made Lemen Bros. artists blush. His "troua large square bottle, had been pre-sly abstracted from his hip pocket by a benevolent fireman and thrown into the flames.

A jovial gentleman, who meandered in

large circles down Columbia street, near

Cunningham's value \$5,000, no Public B City hall, value \$3,00 Court house (brick),

Surance.
St. Leonard's hall, val.
\$2,500.
Holy Trinity Cathedre.
surance \$12,000.
Opera house, value \$2
Olivet Baptist church
surance \$30,000. Agnes Street and linton block, value

Clinton block. Value \$7,000.
Armstrong dwelling.
ance \$500.
C. G. Major's two hisurance \$1,000.
Sheriff Armstrong's ty 000, insurance \$1,000.
Johnston estate dwellingurance \$2,500.
Cunningham's four doo, insurance \$5,000.
Orange Hall, value \$000. Offing Of

Robson Cate \$1,000.

Burns's dwellings (fi surance \$3,000.

Hambly estate dwell surance \$1,000.

Gilley's dwelling, va Gilley's two new hou surance \$1,000.

Telephone service, was the surance \$1,000. gurance. "Under

It was shortly before It was shortly bero Sunday morning that control. There is a gestion about the term was "under control" champion prize fighte be nasty after he ha in sight. in sight.

Men, women and tired. They were simmurky dawn broke to city in all the nakedna On all sides ruin and their deadly hand.

The scene was apparent the glare of he flames of the night New Westminster whad never been, but it had never been, but

dawn she was Men rose from t couches thinking per merely dreamed some the first glance told nightmares that eyer nothing more heart-From the upper hi ster the sight was of gotten. Where there bustling city there a Not one building sp fire-swept space! No

Help Is Until a regular rel the newspaper office scriptions in aid of New Westminster fi contribute in aid of so heavily by the t All subscriptions w ledged in the Times the amounts subscr of going to press, I Colonist P. & P. Co.

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A Too Zeak Vancouver, Sept. Cooksley, ex-treasur ster, went to the I ternoon, and after Nichol regarding th will kill New Westr go to Vancouver, he were soon separa Cooksley left the Province editor a

At a meeting late mayor, aldermen chants of Westmin a resolution was pe for subscriptions in province to raise \$ xhibition as adve

Westminst New Westminste minster is Phoenix-the ashes. Some for have already erect lumber and many claims by permissi property and erec an embryo Skas course, are very we having about six

cigar stores about cigars, and so forth Many vaults are business streets at in a great many conin a great many cas are destroyed. T have just been o found to be safe. ceived a great am Victoria Chinese, s