

Johnson in the Toronto police court. It will be recollected that M. McIntyre was a prominent witness at the first hearing of the inquest last week. His evidence was so frequently contradictory that the coroner warned him. McIntyre was an employee of the tannery. The twenty-one fire insurance companies interested are not satisfied that the burning of the tannery was an accident.

On the night of September 1st, a fire broke out about 7.30, caused by the explosion of a lamp placed too near a benzine vat. The blaze was extinguished by McIntyre and the night watchman. Several hours later a fire broke out again; the whole structure was destroyed. The damage at that time was placed at about \$100,000, with insurance of about \$90,000. A policy for \$6,000 had been allowed to lapse several days before the fire.

Two detectives and an insurance agent at this week's adjourned hearing told of a conversation with McIntyre in a local hotel. He was said to have made the statement that H. B. Johnston, after the fire, figured that the building and stock were worth \$34,000 standing, and \$96,400 in ashes.

McIntyre was said to be under the influence of liquor when questioned by the detectives. But, it was added, his tongue was in perfect order. Another adjournment was made until last night. As we go to press no new developments have been noted.

SOME RECENT FIRES.

The following particulars are gathered from first Press reports of conflagrations. Upon these are instituted further inquiries, which appear under heading "Additional Information."

Brockville, Ont.—Thos. McGrory's bakeshop destroyed with 150 bags of flour.

Montreal.—Several old and unused G.T.R. cars on McKay guard pier burned.

Indian Head, Sask.—Kenlis village nearly wiped out. Loss unknown but heavy.

Woodford, Ont.—Emerson Long's barns and crop destroyed. Loss partly covered by insurance.

Carlyle, Sask.—Farmers' Elevator burned with 8,000 bushels of wheat. Estimated loss \$18,000; fully insured.

New Liskeard, Ont.—Residence of N. Wickett on Wedgewood Avenue destroyed. Building cost \$4,000. Insured for \$2,400.

Verdun, Que.—Protestant Hospital for the Insane damaged to extent of \$30,000. Supposed cause, match dropped by a workman.

St. Catharines, Ont.—Factory of the Welland Vale Manufacturing Company damaged, with total loss of about \$50,000. Fully insured.

Vancouver.—Premises at 53 Hastings Street East occupied by the Western Canada Land Company and a clothing concern destroyed. Loss about \$1,000. Partially covered.

Oakville, Ont.—Pop works destroyed, also stables in rear owned by A. T. Walsh and leased by B. E. Sprowl, and adjacent dwelling occupied by John Condor. Losses partly covered.

Brantford, Ont.—George Watt & Son's wholesale grocery premises of W. G. Craig and Co., destroyed. Loss on piano works \$90,000. Craig's loss is \$30,000, with insurance of \$26,000.

Edmonton, Alta.—Steam laundry burned. Building and machinery valued at \$22,000; estimated insurance \$12,000. C.N.R. freight sheds; estimated loss \$200. Cause, coal from stove burned through floor.

Woodstock, Ont.—Residence of Samuel Underhill almost destroyed. Cause, explosion of gasoline lamp. E. F. Twitchell's photograph gallery damaged. Caused by some fittings being ignited from a gas jet.

Port Dover, Ont.—Brick block owned by Mrs. John Tisdale and occupied by T. Schram, jeweller, slightly damaged. Cause, escape of natural gas. Residence and store of Alex. Shaw badly damaged. Residence of T. L. Gillies destroyed.

Belleville, Ont.—Hugh McAulay's residence on Jones Street damaged to extent of about \$500. Loss was covered by insurance. City engineer's and tax collector's offices damaged to extent of about \$200. Loss covered by insurance.

Toronto.—D. J. Johnston & Co., brass foundry, 14 Markham Street, damaged to extent of \$400 and the contents about \$500. Loss covered by insurance. David Caplan's butcher shop at 92 Agnes Street damaged to extent of about \$50. Cause, overheated stove. Shed at rear of 148 Euclid Avenue damaged to extent of \$50.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING FIRES ALREADY REPORTED.

Ottawa.—Six residences owned by James Daly, damaged to extent of \$1,400. Insured in the Standard for \$4,200 and in the Guardian for \$1,500.

Amherst, N.S.—Rhodes, Curry & Company's passenger car shed destroyed. Total loss about \$85,000. Insurance for \$76,000, nearly all companies doing business in Canada being interested.

Berlin, Ont.—St. Jerome's College damaged to extent of \$8,784. Loss on contents, \$3,788. Insured in the Norwich, Sun, North American Union, General, London & Lancashire, Canadian, Anglo, Merchants and Hand in Hand.

St. Johns, Nfld.—Baird's, Frew's and Garland's premises. The following are the companies which had insurance on buildings and stock: Phoenix of London, \$14,000; North British and Mercantile, \$18,000; Palatine, \$16,000; Commercial Union, \$14,000; Guardian, \$20,000; Equity, \$2,000; Caledonia, \$10,000; Sun, \$40,000; Western, \$1,000; Law, Union and Crown, \$15,000; London and Liverpool and Globe, \$15,000 National, \$5,000; Yorkshire, \$11,000; Phoenix of Hartford, \$5,000; Phenix of Brooklyn, \$5,000; Ontario, \$10,000; Alliance, \$10,000; Northern, \$16,500; Baloise, \$10,000; Home, \$10,000; Royal, \$25,000; Queen, \$33,000; Norwich Union, \$15,000; total, \$325,900.

This is divided on buildings and stocks as follows: Baird's Building \$35,600; stock, \$240,000; total, \$276,000. Frew's building, \$5,400; stock, \$18,000; total, \$23,000. Garland's building, \$4,000; stock, \$12,500; total, \$16,500. We do not know yet on what the Home Co.'s \$10,000 is effected. Mr. J. G. Keator, of Halifax, representing the Queen and Royal and F. W. Knight, of St. Johns, Nfld., representing all other companies interested, have made a complete adjustment of all claims. Baird-Gordon's building, wharves, stock, not including Garland's building and stock, Frew's stock and J. C. Baird's stock, was valued at \$450,000. The damage amounted to \$414,000. The total insurance on the above amounted to \$269,500. Besides the above total insurance of Messrs. S. E. Garland, W. Frew, J. C. Baird and M. Chaplin which will be paid is \$63,000. Most of the companies have already settled the claims. The value of the block and its contents before the fire was \$600,000 and the amount to be paid by the insurance companies is \$332,500.

NOVEMBER FIRE WASTE.

In the eleven months ended with November the fire loss of the U.S. and Canada was \$224,593,000. This exceeded by more than \$25,000,000 the same period of 1907. The November losses, however, were only \$15,834,350, which is four and a half millions less than the average monthly losses of 1908. These figures are taken from the records of the New York Journal of Commerce. Nine fires of November, one of them in Pembroke, Ont., destroyed property worth over \$200,000 each; and there were 109 fires of a destructiveness of \$10,000 to \$20,000 each.

The year thus far has proved a trying one for fire underwriting institutions. The record of 268 fires in November, each of which sent up in smoke \$10,000 to \$100,000 worth of property and thirty other fires of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each, would appal any European country. But it attracts apparently little attention in North America outside of insurance offices.

OTTAWA IS FIRE INSPECTED.

Mr. Robert Howe, inspector for the fire insurance underwriters, has made a report on the Ottawa water supply system. He says: "I am under the impression in conformity with modern fire practice that the time has arrived when the city should seriously consider the necessity for installing a high pressure fire system capable of 250 pounds pump pressure for the protection of the principal business centres with separate mains and hydrants, which latter should each be provided with an independent gate valve in the supply branch so that any hydrant may be cut out without interfering with others."

Mr. Howe reports that at the main station the pumping capacity is 24,000,000 gallons daily, at Ottawa East 1,417,700, and Hintonburg, 562,500 gallons.

An incendiary fire is being investigated in Philadelphia. It is thought that the motive for starting the fire was not revenge but that the man applied the match for the purpose of quickly extinguishing it, to show his watchfulness and in that way to recommend himself for advantageous consideration by his superiors.