

CASSELMAN FIRE SERIOUS AFFAIR

Town's Main Business Block Entirely Wiped Out by Blaze.

Casselman, July 31.—A closer inventory of the fire damage to the business section of Casselman yesterday will likely place the total loss in the neighborhood of \$140,000. The complete main block of struc-

burned to the ground, and today was nothing but a mass of smouldering debris. The buildings burned included: Grand Union Hotel, Commercial Hotel; A. Fillion, general store; J. A. Carrier, general store; St. Denis J. Verly stable; E. Chevrier, tailor; Damasse Racine, merchant; H. E. Lafleche, butcher; J. Thiffault, barber; Roman

Both the general stores in the destroyed section carried very heavy stocks of supplies, and nothing was saved. When the fire was first noticed the townspeople set out to remove personal effects from the two hotels which were destroyed, and very little

attention was given to the other contents of the buildings. Many persons who moved their belongings into the street were also property losers, as quite a number of thieves were active and took advantage of the plight of the unfortunate people, who looked forward to the streets as a place of safety for their belongings.

Up till 2.30 o'clock this morning, a continuous water stream was kept on the ruins by the members of the Ottawa fire brigade, who worked like trojans to keep the blaze in the destroyed area. The townspeople were also on the alert all thru the night for fear of the wind rising and the fire breaking afresh.

Even at noon today the heat from the ruins was terrific. Eighty tons of chestnut coal still burned at a sizzling heat in the rear of the destroyed hotel structures, and along with this approximately 100 cords of wood was demolished. The large and valuable stocks kept by the general merchant consisted of large quantities of flour

The Grand Trunk station at Casselman is within two hundred feet of the destroyed section and was in danger many times during the fire. Flying sparks set fire to the wooden platform, but pails of water were used in extinguishing the blaze before

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The outward tank of the Bowser was situated in the middle of the destroyed building and came thru the fire untouched, with the exception of a little scorching.

Several hundred pairs of shoes were salvaged from one of the burning buildings and placed on a lawn opposite the burning block. They did not stay there very long, however, for a band of thieves reported various articles stolen from belongings which had been moved there for storage in place of safety.

The buildings in the destroyed block were all fire structures, the majority of which were erected during the past year. Caselman had boasted of the fact that no building in the district was the finest of any town in the district.

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