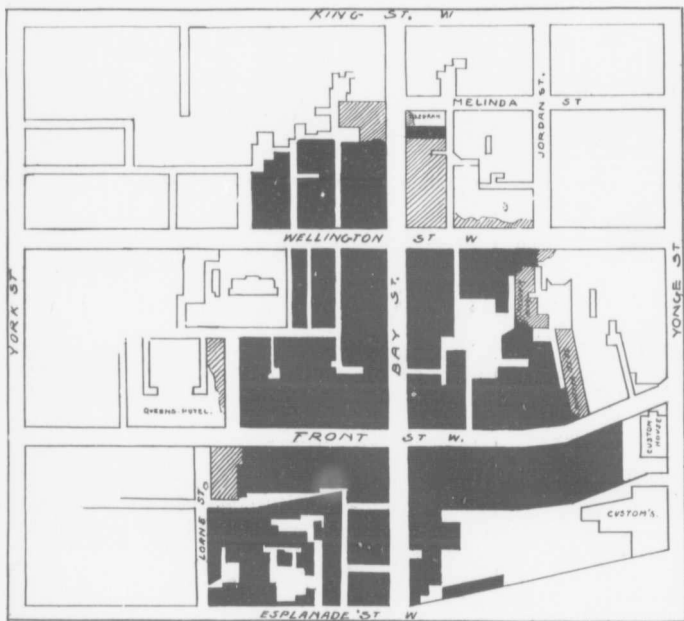


It had gone south as far as it could go—to the railway tracks and the Bay.

The battle ground lay to the east. From one o'clock until four the surging crowds of spectators speculated as to where the eastern limit would be. Would it be Yonge Street or the Market? Good buildings, water curtains and brave firemen checked it on Wellington Street before it had got half way from Bay to Yonge. On Front Street they were less successful.

tile establishments, both on Front Street east and Yonge Street, must perish. A small strip of ground on the west side of the Custom House aided greatly the efforts of the firemen, while the thickness of the western walls of the Minerva Building, unpierced by windows, and the general substantial nature of that structure also proved of great aid in this final fight for mastery.

The fear was that with the high and erratic wind prevailing the fire might



**Map of the burned District**—Esplanade St. is practically the waterfront—York Bay and Yonge Sts. run north. The white spot in centre black block above Wellington St. shows where the fire started.

On the north side of this street it swept from building to building until the huge Minerva Building was reached. Here the great fight was made. The Custom House on one side of the street and the Minerva Building on the other, being taken by the fire brigade as vantage points from which to direct their efforts. It was thought at this time that nothing would save either building, and with their fall many more blocks of mercan-

continue on its course eastward, and eat northward up Yonge Street into the heart of the retail section.

With this contingency facing them the brigade reinforced by a gallant squad of fire-fighters from Hamilton, and Buffalo, approached the supreme battle. Streams were kept playing on both sides of the street, but it was in the rear of the McMahon and Broadfield building that the decisive fight was made. The flames,