

DISASTROUS FIRE.

Three Stores, a Hotel, and an Office
Destroyed at **Parkdale.**

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED.

A fire which resulted in great destruction to property took place in **Parkdale** yesterday morning. Shortly before four o'clock Mr. Devlin, druggist, whose place is on the North side of Queen-street, was aroused by a feeling of suffocation, and on getting up discovered that the building was on fire. There was no means of escape left for him but the window, to which he went, and called to Dr. Lynd, who lives across the road. The doctor fortunately heard his cries and was soon at the scene of danger, and several others who had been aroused came to render what assistance they could. Mr. Devlin was got out through the window, and the family of Mr. McKnight, to whom the building belonged, escaped, partly dressed. Mr. McKnight occupied the rear and upper portion of the building as a dwelling, and Mr. Devlin occupied one of the stores in front as a drug store, and a bedroom upstairs. The other store in front was occupied by Mrs. Ranciliff as a grocery and news agency. It was seen at once that nothing could save the building, and there was great danger of the entire business portion of the village being burned.

Dr. Lynd and Mr. Thompson, who realized the situation at once, went to the Dundas-street fire hall, and requested the aid of the firemen there, and also rung the Toronto fire alarm. The men at the Dundas-street fire hall went at once to the fire, thereby taking considerable responsibility on themselves, as they had been ordered not to go beyond the city limits. But their feelings could not allow them to stand by and see property destroyed while they had the means of saving it. The men of the Portland and Queen street Halls, along with Chief Ardagh, shared in the same feeling, and went out, although contrary to orders. But for this generous and timely assistance there is not the least doubt but the conflagration would have swept a large portion of the village. As it was Mr. McKnight's building (a rough-cast) was literally burned to ashes. Mr. McKnight lost all his furniture and clothing. Mr. Devlin lost all his stock, and Mrs. Ranciliff, who was moving to another store a few doors west, had a portion of her stock in McKnight's store, which was lost. Mr. McBeth's lumber yard immediately on the east side of the fire was saved, his only loss being his office, which was partly burned and partly pulled down. The office was valued at \$50 and insured in the Standard. The fire communicated to a brick building on the west side owned and occupied respectively by Mr. Worth as a fancy store, and Mr. Timms as a hotel, both of whom saved their stocks and furniture in a damaged condition. But the building, which was valued at \$5,000, is a total wreck, the north and east walls being down altogether and the front wall damaged. The windows in Mr. McMATH's office on the south side of Queen-st. were cracked with the heat, and Mr. Craig's house on Gwynne-avenue caught fire from sparks, but was put out.

In addition to Mr. McBeth's insurance already mentioned the following insurances exist:—Devlin, on stock and fixtures \$1,800, in the Queen Fire; McKnight, on building, \$995, in the Western; Worth on building \$1,500, on stock and furniture \$200, both in the British America; Timms on building, \$1,500 in the British America, and \$500 in the Citizens', Mr. Timms has a further insurance of \$1,000 on his stock and furniture, but he could not name the company.

The local fire brigade were on hand and did what they could, but being without anything with which to work were unable to effect much.

The Council had decided on a holiday, but on account of the fire a special meeting was called for last evening.

LATER.

Those who first saw the fire say that it commenced in the rear portion of Mr. Devlin's premises, and that coal oil must have been used, as the flame and smoke were so great. The origin of the fire is attributed to incendiarism. McKnight's building has been twice on fire previously during the past summer.