

ing, hurry and confusion, a good amount of work was done. The reels played from the slip on the lake, each engine driving two streams of water—one stream directed towards flooding the inside of the malthouse and the others to subduing the fire in the main building, wetting roofs and throwing a heavy stream upon the most exposed point, at the south-west corner of the new buildings. What gave perhaps peculiar power to the fire inside the building, were the two large elevators situated on the east and west ends of the roof. These were almost 12 feet square and served as draught holes, by which the intensity of the fire was greatly augmented. The volumes of flame which issued from these was prodigious. The heat at times was so intense that people who had congregated about the buildings were forced at times to retire out of the reach of the heat. For a time the fire seemed to be confined principally to the upper storey, but it gradually crept down, until the whole interior was completely destroyed.

The fire had been confined to the northern side of the building, but the wind from the north caused it to take possession of the southern side. The flames burst through the windows right across the railway track, destroying the telegraph poles and wires. About 7 o'clock an occurrence took place that gave a still more fearful aspect to the fire. Into a drain leading from the burning building the burning spirits got access, and all at once the centre of the still heaved and burst, and logs and stones and earth flew all round. Fortunately nobody was hurt, but it caused the people to withdraw to a safer distance.

About eight o'clock it was feared that the storehouse which stood to the north of the distillery would catch fire, as a fence and a quantity of waste lumber near it took fire, and burned most furiously. Added to this, a barrel of spirits which was lying near exploded, and the flames seemed to lick the bottom of the wall, as if anxious to be burning the storehouse. However, the attention of the firemen was directed towards it, and they set to work, and after an hour's labour this portion of the premises was saved. By 8.30 the fire had reached a range of storehouses situated to the west of the main building. The beams and rafters began to fall, and immense volumes of flames would burst forth. Then, now and again, an explosion occurred within the building, and blazing rafters would shoot into the lake, and be seen no more.

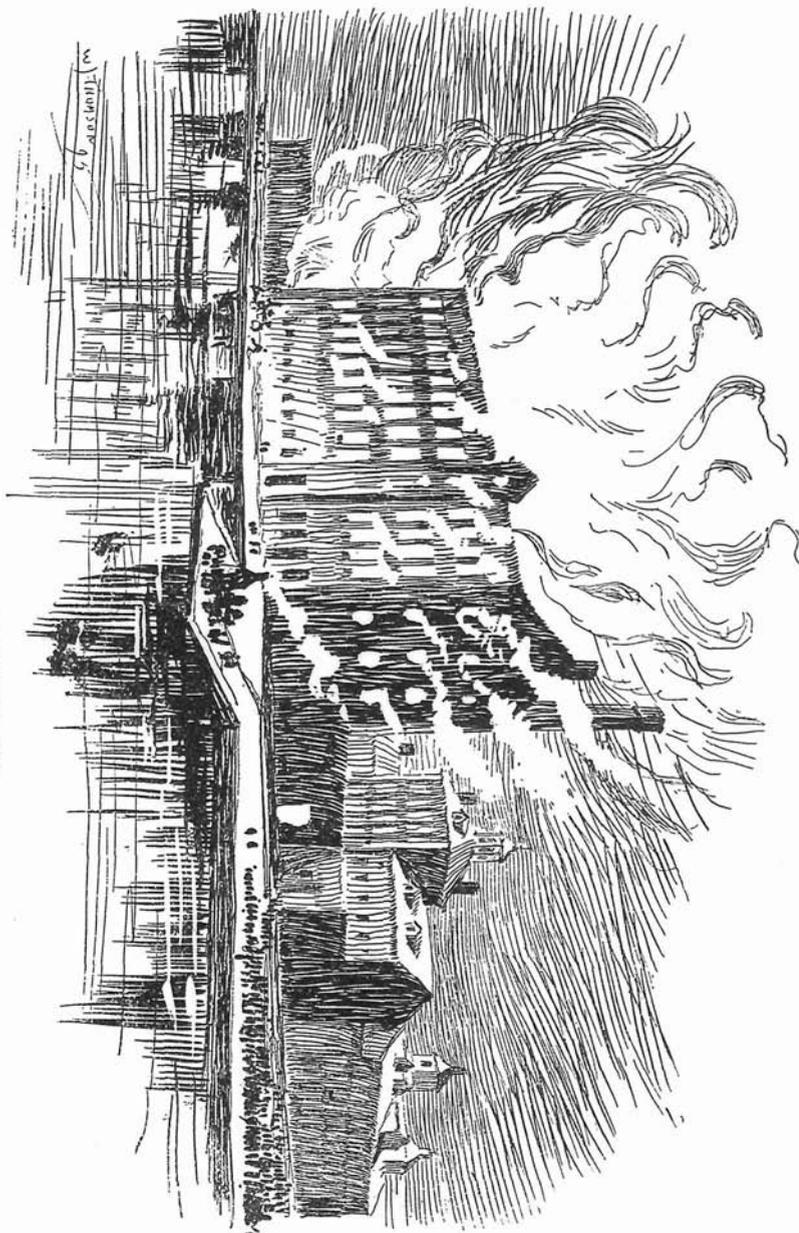
By nine o'clock it was evident that the fire had done its worst, and would

At six o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, October 26, 1869, a small cask of benzine, in the fermenting rooms of the large works belonging to Messrs. Gooderham & Worts burst, and set fire to the basement of the building. In a few minutes the flames spread along the floor, and, almost before the alarm could be given, had sprung up all along the flooring. Almost instantly workmen crowded to the place. Intelligence was sent to the fire stations, the alarm rang out over the city and the engines arrived on the scene, already sufficiently well indicated by the immense masses of flame which were now rising, and which lighted up the sky with a lurid glare. In a very short time the fire had obtained such ascendancy that the engines appeared almost hopeless, but, upon the arrival of two of the engines, the firemen set to work with a heartiness, good will and judgment which spoke well for their skill and pluck.

The works consisted of old buildings, erected some twelve years previous, which included the mill and fermenting rooms; on the south was the wharf, on which was stored a large quantity of spirits and other property. Running north from the east end was the new refinery or malthouse and storehouse, with spirits in the vaults underneath. Close by was the residence of Mr. Gooderham.

As soon as the firemen arrived on the spot the attempts to extinguish the fire and save the valuable property became systematized: and, considering the crowd-

THE FIRE AT GOODERHAM'S, 1869.



LANDMARKS OF TORONTO.

spread no further. But the interior of the building **was** still on fire. The very heavy timbers of which it was composed caused it to burn slowly. Then a quantity of grain in the mill, which, as the floors gave way, fell to the ground, and remained a **mass** of red heat for hours. It **was not** until one o'clock in the morning that the fire was extinguished, and the firemen **stayed** after that, playing water on the ruins. The main **buildings**, which were destroyed, cost **\$150,000**. The boilers, engine room and stone-hurst were valued at between **\$60,000** and **\$70,000**. At the time of the fire between **8,000** and **9,000** bushels of corn were stored in the building, besides **80,000** gallons of liquor in the process of **manufacture**, and about **2,000** head of cattle, which had been left to feed on the refuse of the distillery. Altogether the loss in buildings, **stock** and other expenses was between **\$100,000** and **\$120,000**.

The firm were their own insurers.

About **12.45 a.m.** on the morning of **March 1, 1870**, the Queen street bell sounded an alarm which was quickly taken up by the other bells in the city.

The steam engines promptly **turned out** and a bright reflection in the west end

well under way. of the building the **buildings** the The loss was wh

On May 14, 1 destroyed a lar on the south-east **Teraulay street** by Messrs. McBe Parish & Gorrie Bean's engine h **builders** yard of north side of H water could be During a delay, sufficient **hose**, t tery **over** every the **place**, and of **lumber** were street the fire of Constable

two new wo Parish & Gorrie burnt to the g **westerly** wind **fanned** the f sparks in ever alarm was felt rounding building evident that m