

A \$35,000 BLAZE.

Mr. Fickler & Co's Departmental Store Gutt-
ed by Fire.

AT AN EARLY HOUR ON SUNDAY
MORNING.

Two Firemen Narrowly Escap-
ed Suffocation.

SPLENDID WORK BY THE FIRE DE-
PARTMENT—LOSSES AND IN-
SURANCE.

M. Fickler and Co's large departmental store on Queen street, popularly known as the Klondike, was badly gutted by fire at an early hour on Sunday morning, and the immense stock carried by the firm, consisting of dry goods, ready made clothing, fur goods, footwear, etc., suffered great damage. Thomas Howe, the well known base ballist, discovered the fire and sounded an alarm from Box 38 on Regent street. He was standing on the corner of Queen and Regent streets, shortly before two o'clock, and chancing to look up street, his attention was attracted by a reflection of fire on the officers' square. Upon investigation he discovered flames in the back part of Fickler & Co's lower store. After sounding the first alarm he waited a few minutes, then sounded another. Assistant Chief Rutter and members of No. 4 Hose Company, with their hose reel were the first to respond and were quickly followed by Chief Engineer Lipsett and the other members of the department with their apparatus. Mr Fickler who boards at the Barker house adjoining was notified and was soon on hand and had the shop doors open for the firemen. The place was found to be filled with dense smoke, and the rear of the lower store was enveloped in flames, which were shooting up the stairways to the floors above.

The firemen soon had two lines of hose laid to the hydrant in front of Mrs. McLearn's residence, and with the aid of the siamese coupling were enabled to turn three streams of water upon the flames. One line was taken in through the front entrance, another was carried up a ladder and put through a front window on the second floor and the third was taken around to the rear of the building, and also directed against the flames up stairs. A detachment of firemen, under the direction of Chief Lipsett, directed their efforts towards saving the books and papers in the office at the rear of the second flat, and aided James McGee in getting most of them out, but in a damaged condition. Mr. McGee also secured a sum of money amounting to about \$300, which had been left in a drawer in the office desk.

The members of the Salvage corps made entrance to the upper shop, and while the others were battling with the flames in rear the succeeded in rescuing a considerable quantity of dry goods and furs which were carried out and deposited in the middle of the street. They also spread rubber blankets and sheets of oilcloth over the goods which it was not deemed advisable to disturb. The night policemen formed a guard over the stock taken from the store, and very little of anything was carried away by pilferers.

In the meantime the flames had been making remarkable headway to the rear of the store and extended right up to the third floor. The firemen worked like heroes, but the situation was so complicated and the smoke so dense that for a time they found it difficult to make any great amount of headway. They stuck to their task with determination, however, and were not long in getting the upper hand of the flames on the lower flat. The hook and ladder men, under Capt. Smith, rendered yeoman service with their axes, following the flames up to the third floor. Every man was drenched to the skin early in the battle, but seemed to be wholly indifferent to a trifling matter of that kind.

The flames were communicated to the second floor by means of the ceiling and stairway, and played sad havoc in the footwear department, located directly over the lower store. Of several thousand pairs of boots and shoes on shelves and counters in this part of the building, scarcely a pair escaped destruction. The fire burned fiercely between the floor and ceiling and also inside the partitions, and the firemen on the second floor had a more difficult task than those below. Though half suffocated by smoke they never flinched as long as there was anything in sight to point a nozzle at.

While the firemen were at work on the second floor, it became evident to them that the flames had in some manner extended to the floor above and Capt. Wm. Clarke and fireman Miles Boone went up to investigate, taking a line of hose with them. No sooner had they ascended when another fireman came along and chopped a hole in the stairs, as he did this a column of smoke and flame shot up from the opening cutting off the retreat of the men above. Realizing their peril they began shouting for help, which action on their part led the other firemen to look about for means to effect a rescue. Clarke and Boone, on realizing that they had been entrapped, seized the hose and threw the end out the window and Clarke slid down upon it to the ground. Boone started to follow but was too weak to do so and it might have gone hard with him had not Capt. Smith succeeded in reaching his side a few moments later. Boone was carried out of the building unconscious and remained in that condition for over half an hour. Dr. Weaver having in the meantime been called to his assistance, Boone was taken to the Barker House and by noon had recovered sufficiently to permit of his being removed to his home.

The firemen worked splendidly under the direction of the chief engineer and by five o'clock had the flames subdued. They remained on the watch, however, until after daylight and were once called upon to extinguish a slight blaze which broke out inside of a partition.

The fire was one of the nastiest and most destructive which has visited this city for several years. The interior of the large store is badly gutted and the goods suffered great damage from fire and water. The firms books show that there was \$45,000 worth of goods in the establishment at the time of the fire, and only a very small proportion was saved without damage. There were nearly \$7,000 worth of footwear on the second floor which is a total loss, and \$10,000 worth of ready made clothing on the ground floor also went up in smoke. By far the greatest damage by fire and water occurred in the boot and shoe and clothing department. The shelf goods in the dry goods department were not disturbed, and the furs and carpets in the upper part of the building were removed

to a place of safety, but not without damage.

The damage to the building, though of a serious nature can readily be repaired. Two of the large plate glass windows were cracked by the heat and the walls and partitions were cut up and the plastering water soaked. The building is owned by Alexander Calder, and was uninsured, he having made it a practice for some years to carry his own risks.

Messrs. Fickler & Co. estimate their loss at over \$30,000, against which they have insurance amounting to \$17,000, the bulk of which is in companies represented here by Frank I. Morrison.

The origin of the fire is considerable of a mystery. It is quite certain that it caught in the back part of the lower store, but how is entirely a matter of speculation. Mr. Fickler was the last person to leave the shop on Saturday evening, and did so shortly after eleven o'clock. At that hour everything seemed all right and there was not much fire in the furnace.

The interior of the large store both upstairs and down is completely wrecked and presents a most gruesome sight. Hundreds of people visited the locality yesterday and gazed in wonder on the blackened ruins. In the lower store there are great stacks of ready made clothing and underwear, charred and water soaked. The goods rescued have been stored in the county court house for the present.

The insurance adjusters for several of the companies interested will arrive from St. John this evening to appraise the damage. As the uptown store is but little damaged, it is likely that Mr. Fickler will arrange to continue the business in that part of the building until repairs are made.

Prompt as Usual.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 16th, 1902.

Albert J. Machum, Manager, Agency
Union Mutual Life Ins. Co., St.
John, N. B.

Dear Sir—I desire to thank you and the company you represent for the very prompt and satisfactory settlement of claims under policy No. 41079, on the life of my deceased husband, James D. Macpherson.

The fact that both the policy-receipts and the policy cannot be found, make such a prompt settlement doubly appreciated, and I can certainly recommend the "Old Union Mutual" as a most satisfactory company with which to do business.

Yours truly,
(Signed) MARY A. MACPHERSON,
Beneficiary.

Fredericton, N. B. Jan. 17th, 1902.—Albert J. Machum, Manager Union Mutual Life Ins. Co., St. John, N. B.

Dear Machum:—Re policy 41079, J. D. Macpherson, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your two favors, of the 16th and assure you that Mrs. Macpherson and I very much appreciate the course of your Company, as well as your own prompt action in the matter of this claim.

Yours truly
(Signed) A. R. SLIPP,
Solicitor.

The local agent of this Company is W. S. Hooper. Jan. 21—d.t.f

Children for Adoption.

Parties wishing to secure children for adoption should call on Mr. J. W. Spurden for forms of application. It is desirable that all applications be in the hands of the secretary of the committee before April 1. See adv. in another column.—d.w.6i.

Wedding invitations, announcements cards, neatly printed at this office.

TENNANT, DAVIES & CLARKE

Men's Furnishing Dept.



Fine Flannelette Pajamas, neat patterns and well made. Flannelette Night Shirts, good value at 90c. each. White Twill Cotton Night Shirts, well made and full sizes at 95c. and \$1.00 each. Real Scotch Knit Wool Gloves, nothing equal them in wear at 45 to \$1.10. Arctic Sock, unequalled as a substitute for a hot water bottle for the feet and grand for house and chamber wear. Can be washed as often as needed.

TENNANT, DAVIES & CLARKE.

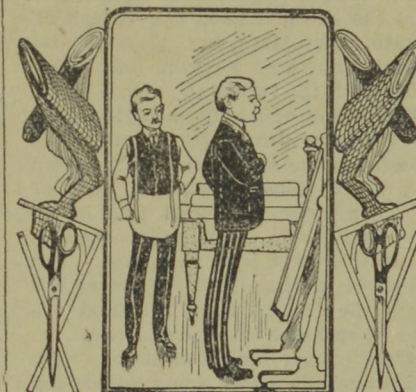
Dever Bros.

NEW
GOODS.

New Allovers, New Hamburg and Laces.
New Jetted Belts and Belt Ornaments.
New Tucking and Allover Net.
New Frilling,
New Corsets and Children's Waists.

DEVER BROS.

Regardless of Your SHAPE!



We can fit you. The demand for garments constructed by us is steadily increasing. The high quality of the materials we offer the stylish way the garments are cut, the elegance of the finish and perfection of fit are bringing us a host of customers. I am expecting in a few days the finest range of

SPRING
SUITINGS

ever brought to the city. The prices on these goods will be extremely low and it will pay you to look them over before ordering your Spring Suit.

JAS. R. HOWIE, 210 Queen Street.

STEAM FEATHER RENOVATING WORKS.

All kinds hair, flock and moss mattresses made over in any style and combination. Furniture Upholstered and Repaired. Carpet laying and stretching promptly attended to. Goods called for and delivered free of charge. Mail orders given prompt attention. P. O. Box 316.

ARTHUR H. WOODS,
KING STREET, just above McGinn's Wagon Factory.

McMURRAY & CO.'S

GREAT REMNANT SALE OF



ROOM PAPER.

23,000 Rolls of Wall Paper, in quantities from 2 Rolls to 100 of a pattern will be sold from 3 cents upwards. The sale will begin MONDAY, 3rd February and continue for ten days. We must have the room for new goods. This is the greatest chance ever offered to buy Wall Papers at these prices. Call and see the stock on the above date.

THIS SALE IS FOR CASH ONLY.

McMURRAY & CO.