

# Disastrous Fire Levels Plant of Kildonan Canning Company

A disastrous outbreak of fire occurred at the Kildonan Canning Company's factory at 600 Jamison ave. last Thursday night, rendering factory, buildings and machinery an almost complete loss. The loss approximated from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

The work of the fire-fighters to check the spread of the flames was hampered by an 18-mile-an-hour wind. Besides the loss of buildings some 200 units of machinery were a complete loss.

The fire broke out about 6 p.m. in the two-storey frame building, and within a few minutes the structure was a mass of flames. Fire-fighters were hard pressed to prevent its spreading to the company's adjoining warehouse, office and heating plant.

One eyewitness said the blaze appeared to have started around a second floor washroom. Men had been working on the roof until 4 p.m. Thursday, it was learned. Employees quit at 5 p.m. and at that time no fire was noticed.

Showering sparks, falling walls and exploding vegetable cans failed to keep the hundreds of eager spectators from closing in on the blaze.

Two eyewitnesses who turned in the first alarm at 6.10 p.m. claimed the fire started on the second floor.

East Kildonan firemen, aided by

municipal workers, were at the scene shortly after the alarm was sounded. The blaze was under control at 10.30 p.m.

Detachments from two city fire halls—one and seven—were at the scene of the blaze after the second alarm was sounded at 6.48 p.m. Under N. R. Matheson they prevented the spread of flames to the adjoining office buildings and warehouses.

Friday at 9.30 a.m. the fire was still smouldering. All that remained of the factory were portions of two walls, a tangled skein of metal machinery.

Up against the south wall a stock of cans containing peas, corn, beets, tomatoes and beans, was piled about 10 feet high and 20 feet in length. There was about 1,500 cans in the pile.

Towards the centre of the building the charred remainder of empty cans was lying in a heap. A brick boiler room, attached at the north-west end of the factory, was untouched by the flames.

Insurance partially covered the loss, said a plant official. He stated there were about 200 machines, large and small, in the plant. They included conveyers and canning elevators. Three of the large canning machines alone were valued at \$15,000.

When the fire reached its peak, around 7 p.m., it was feared the blaze might spread to the nearby Radio Oil Refineries, at Watt and Munroe ave. Hoses were played on neighboring buildings to prevent stray sparks igniting.

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