

# AUSTRIAN INVOLVED IN HESPELER FIRE?

**"John Schmidt," With Other  
Names, is Arrested on  
Suspicion**

**SUIT CASE CLUE FAILS**

**But Police Are Satisfied Blaze  
Was Due to an Ex-  
plosion**

Special to The Daily News.

Hespeler, Ont., Feb. 7.—The arrest of an Austrian giving his name as John Schmidt, is the latest development of the investigation into the cause of the fire which destroyed the shell department of the A. B. Jardine foundry on Saturday. The arrest was made merely on suspicion, and due to the fact that it was learned that Schmidt has been employed in various munition plants in Galt, Berlin, and Hamilton, under different names. Nothing definite is known to connect him with the fire, but the police are holding him for the present. The Chief of Police, Thomas Wilson, is certain that the blaze resulted from an explosion.

What at first was taken to be a significant fact was the statement of Mr. E. Radskie that he had seen a stranger enter the plant with a suit case some time before the fire. He left the grip behind him on leaving. This man, however, turned out to be an electrician from Galt, just employed by the company, who had arrived to assume his duties. He lost his suit case and its contents in the fire.

The blaze was discovered by Watchman Loveday during the noon hour, about 12.30 p.m. He was in another part of the building, but hearing what might have been an explosion, hastened to the shell department, which he found on fire. He at once turned in an alarm.

The firemen succeeded in confining the blaze to the section of the plant in which it started. The damage, it is estimated will amount to about \$50,000 or \$60,000.