

SUSPECT ALIEN ENEMY OF FIRE

Manufacturing Part of Munition Plant at Chesley Destroyed

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Owen Sound, April 26.—There is a strong suspicion that alien enemies are responsible for a disastrous fire which wiped out the manufacturing part of the munition plant of the Canada Beds, Ltd., at Chesley this morning. The fire started from the explosion of a resin pot, but, as there had been no fire near it since yesterday, there appears to be no doubt but that the fire was of incendiary origin. It is understood that a full investigation will be made at once.

The loss is a serious one, the entire machine shop and power house, together with thousands of shells in different stages of completion, being totally destroyed. It is estimated that the loss will be about \$40,000.

The fire broke out by the explosion of a resin pot in the machine shop about 6.30 this morning. The flames spread throughout the department with incredible swiftness. Before the fire brigade arrived the entire machine shop was a mass of flames, and it was only a short time until this section of the building was a complete wreck. The fire spread to the power house at the side, and this buildings was destroyed.

The firemen were successful in confining the fire to the machine shop and power house. The machine shop occupied the centre part of the main building, and fire walls and fire doors made it possible to save the heat treating department at one end and the store-house, inspection rooms and offices at the other end.

Several thousand completed shells ready for shipment in the store-house were undamaged, and large quantities of raw material in the heat treating department were saved.

Jasper Orange Hall Burned.

Brockville, April 26.—(Special.)—This afternoon at 12 o'clock fire started in the Orange Hall at Jasper, and in short time the building, a two-story frame structure, was destroyed. The fire was caused by a spark from a portable engine igniting the roof. For a time it looked as though the whole village would be destroyed. Assistance was about to be sent from Smith's Falls over

the C.P.R. when the fire was got under control and the order was canceled. The loss will be considerable.