

DRAMATIC AND DISASTROUS FIRE

Half Million Dollar Blaze Sweeps
Montreal Biscuit Factory—

Thirty Dwellings Gone

Thousand Yard Wall of Flame—

Alleged Alien Among Three
Arrested—Narrow Escapes

Montreal, Aug. 5.—Damage of over half a million dollars, a factory, a public bath and thirty dwellings destroyed; three arrests of persons wanted as witnesses at the forthcoming enquiry, one of them suspected of being an alien enemy; four firemen hurt; girls leaping from windows; thrilling rescues; over a hundred residences placed in jeopardy—these were some of the outstanding features of the fire which broke out this morning at the premises of the Montreal Biscuit company, St. Henri, in this city.

Minor incidents were the burning of over a hundred feet of hose in the hands of the firemen; the moving from her bed of a woman with a nine-hour-old baby, a little girl frightened into hysterics, and the discovery by the firemen of a German helmet and a number of military decorations and badges.

The flames jumped the street as the high wind rose and fell and seemed to build up a wall of flame that covered the astonishing distance of over a thousand yards. Both sides of Brewster avenue, where the factory is located, were flaming fiercely from St. James to St. Antoine streets. Back and front of the factory, residences, was the scene of residents moving away their household effects as quickly as possible.

Eight Children Narrowly Saved.

So grave was the outbreak that both Director of Public Safety Tremblay, and his assistant Arthur Mann, who came to the blaze after the third alarm had been turned in, donned their old-time firemen's uniform and directed the work of the brigades with Fire Chief Chevalier.

The caretaker of the Letourneau-Lapointe public bath had only just time to rescue his eight children before the building burst into flames under the fierce heat of the adjoining blaze. He carried them one by one across the roof of the building to the back where he slid down a telegraph pole. His wife was also saved by him. Nothing of his personal effects were saved.

Factory Completely Guttled.

The factory was a large two-story building and was completely gutted. The fire is stated to have started in one of the waste paper machines in the cellar. The cellarman, the warehouseman, and the assistant shipper have been held as witnesses, they being the first men to have seen the fire. One of these men, it is alleged, has a German name, and Wallace Farquharson, one of the members of the firm, stated that investigation as to the man's nationality was being made.

The factory is insured for \$295,000 and in it were employed some two hundred hands in normal times, but owing to the scarcity of sugar about 150 had been laid off. As the fire broke out at lunch time there were only a few employees in the building at the time and all escaped.