

BELIEVE ALIEN STARTED FIRE

**Half a Million Dollar Blaze in
Montreal Thought to Have
Been Caused by Pro-
German.**

**MANY LIVES ENDANGERED
DURING CONFLAGRATION**

**Living Wall of Flames Covered
Distance of More Than a
Thousand Yards.**

MONTREAL, Aug. 6.—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 inquiry, 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 yesterday 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 9-hour-old baby; a little girl frightened into hysterics; the discovery by the firemen of a German helmet and a number of military decorations and badges.

Thousand Yards of Flame.

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

Rescued Eight Children.

The caretaker of the Lapointe public bath had only just time to rescue his eight children before the building burst in 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 was saved.

The factory was a large two-storey building, and was completely gutted. The fire is stated to have started in one of the waste paper machines in the cellar. The cellar man, 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.

The factory is insured for \$295,000, and in it were employed 200 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.