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# FIRE IN BRANTFORD BELIEVED INCENDIARY

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## DISMISSAL OF ALIENS THOUGHT A POSSIBLE CAUSE—MAYOR DENIES A STATEMENT.

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(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Brantford, Jan. 31.—Fire which broke out in the southern wing of the packing plant of Matthews, Blackwell & Co. early this morning gutted the wing and caused a loss of \$10,000. It is believed that incendiaries were responsible. Fire Chief Lewis had a narrow escape with his life when he went in and closed the fire doors separating the building from the main wing. This and four streams of water kept the fire to the one three-story building, which was gutted.

A significant fact which gives rise to the belief in incendiarism is that within the past two weeks alien enemies employed there have been discharged. The same is happening in many other factories here, and foreign-born residents who have taken out citizenship papers and own their own homes are protesting loudly against the policy of dismissing all born in enemy countries.

In this connection Mayor MacBride to-day denied the statement of T. Y. Thompson, Chief of the Labor Bureau here, who reported that all mechanics were being placed here that no veterans were out of a job and that only untrained youths could not be placed. The Mayor declares that there are from 500 to 600 men out of work, including many veterans, and that the city is working or plans to introduce much local improvement work to do away with unemployment. There was no use of veterans or others from other cities coming to Brantford for work, as Brantford had its own problems which the authorities were trying to face.

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