

JUBILEE RINK IS RAZED AND HOMES NEARBY GUTTED

Places Damaged By East End Fire

The following is a list of the buildings destroyed or damaged by the fire on Lyle street this morning

Jubilee rink, 385 Lyle street.

John R. Scott's home and garage, 376 Lyle.

Mrs. McGillivray's residence, 359 Lyle.

Thomas Joyes' residence, 662 Marshall street.

Edward Bryant's residence, 684 Marshall street.

T. J. McDougall's residence, 659½ Marshall street.

Vacant house at 689 Marshall street.

Home Gone, One Family Now Lives In Garage

Spectacular Blaze In Early Morning Renders Score of People Homeless.

INCENDIARISM SUGGESTED AS CAUSE OF THE FIRE

Neighbors Busy For Time Aiding In Rescue of Children of Tender Years.

Five families were rendered homeless to-day in a spectacular early-morning fire which destroyed the Jubilee Rink on Lyle street and caused property damage estimated at \$50,000. The blaze, which was one of the biggest in the history of East London, broke out from undetermined origin in the northwest section of the rink at 3 a.m. Fanned by a west wind, it quickly spread toward the carbarns and for a time endangered thousands of dollars' worth of valuable property in the vicinity.

Awakened by smoke pouring into

Caretaker of Church Also Finds Quarters For Some of Those Evicted By Fire.

A vacant garage and the basement of Adelaide Street Baptist Church are two of the places in which shelter has been found for the families which were evicted from their homes by the early morning fire in East London to-day.

Immediately after the fire the owner of a large, new garage just south of the scene of the fire offered Mrs. McGillivray and her two children the use of one section of his building, which is partitioned off and is equipped with a stove. This temporary accommodation was accepted by the widow, who was this morning removing her salvaged furniture into her new quarters.

When Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bryant, living at the head of Marshall street, and just opposite the corner of the rink where the fire is believed to have started, were awakened by the blaze, they immediately betook themselves and their children to Adelaide Street Baptist Church, of which Mr. Bryant is caretaker. Here they will be obliged to spend a few days until another house can be secured to take the place of the one which was destroyed.

Other families commenced searching for a future home early to-day and in the meantime are being cared for by sympathetic neighbors who this morning aided them in saving what belongings and furniture they could from the path of the destructive fire.

JUBILEE RINK TO TO BE REPLACED

their homes, many persons in nearby houses had but a scant few minutes in which to escape with their children from their burning homes. Little furniture was saved from any of the buildings and in most cases the occupants considered themselves fortunate to get away from their homes, scantily clad in their night robes.

HOUSES DAMAGED.

In addition to the rink there were six residences and one garage razed to the ground or badly gutted by fire and water. John Scott, who lives immediately to the south of the rink, had his home badly damaged, while the garage to the rear was completely destroyed. On the other side of the rink, facing on Lyle street, the dwelling owned by Mr. Morrison, and occupied by Mrs. McGillivray, was partially burned. Four cottages at the head of Marshall street, and just west of the rink, were almost completely ruined. They were occupied by Thomas Joyce, Edward Bryant and Thomas J. McDougall, the fourth cottage being vacant. George Heaman is the owner of these cottages.

Much of the building loss is covered by insurance, but the contents of the houses was not protected in all but one or two instances.

The Jubilee Rink, which was built 25 years ago, was one of the landmarks of the city and the scene of practically all of the hockey games held here in recent years. It was built by J. W. Smith, Toronto, and owned by the London Curling Club, who used it for curling and rented it for the O. H. A. league games. It occupied a large section of the block off Lyle street and was regarded by many of the residents of the district as a public eyesore.

THEORIES OF CAUSE.

Two possible causes of the fire are given by the fire chief and those who

Curlers Will Build New and Much Larger Structure.

Before next winter the Jubilee rink, which was burned to the ground this morning, will be replaced by a new and much larger structure, according to intimation given to The Free Press by Frank Ashplant, treasurer of the London Curling Club, which owned the destroyed building. It is understood, however, that it will not combine an arena as well, but will be devoted primarily to the interests of East End curlers.

The Jubilee rink, which was built 25 years ago by J. W. Smith, has long been considered too antiquated by the curling club, and it was their intention at some future date to either build a new rink or enlarge their premises. The opportunity has now been presented the club to go ahead with their plans and provide adequate accommodation for the future.

At the last valuation of the building it was estimated that it was worth between \$16,000 and \$18,000. It was well covered with insurance, \$15,000 being the amount placed upon it. Replacement value, of course, will be easily two or three times that amount.

An effort will probably be made by promoters of the London arena to combine the erection of an arena for hockey games and ice skating with that of the curling rink with artificial ice. It is believed that the present site could be extended somewhat so as to permit the erection of a building that will serve a dual purpose for winter enthusiasts.

were first affected by the conflagration. Incendiarism is contended by some, while others hold that lightning was responsible for the blaze. The fact that the storm had practically spent itself shortly after midnight would indicate that the former theory is more probable, particularly in view of the unusual hour at which the fire started.

Three or four alarms were turned into the department. Boxes 43 and 46 were rung and several telephone calls followed in quick succession. Difference of opinion exists as to the time which was taken by the brigade before it was on the scene, Chief Aitken contending that not two minutes had elapsed and other persons, who turned in alarms, estimating the interval at from 15 to 45 minutes. P. C. Tomlin, who turned in one alarm, stated that the force responded in record time. Jack Scott, who also sent in a call, is positive that some 20 minutes were taken by the department in getting to the scene of the fire. Thomas A. Joyes, one of the first persons aware of the fire, had Mr. Marley, on Dundas street, send an alarm, and he places the time lost by the department at three-quarters of an hour.

AN INFERNO OF HEAT.

Chief Aitken informed The Free Press that the conflagration gave the firemen one of the hardest battles to contend with. The heat from the blazing rink made a regular inferno, which kept the brigade from fighting it at close distance or from gauging the way in which the flames were working their way. The efforts of the fire fighters were not confined alone to putting out the blaze, but

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Jubilee

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more particularly to prevent its spread across the street to the car barns on Lyle street and to the residences and stores on King and Dundas streets.

Nos. 1 and 2 companies attacked the fire from the head of Marshall street, and due to the intensity of the flames were separated from No. 3 and 5 companies, which were stationed on Lyle street. Ten streams of water were got into play, one of them being directed on the car barns, which was blistering with heat. It was well after 4 o'clock before the fire was brought under control and one or two lines of hose were still playing on the ruins until late this morning.

Damage to the street railway barns was confined to the blistering of the paint on the big barn doors and on two cars, that were standing near the entrance. The house immediately to the south of the barns was protected by a large tree, soaked with the rains of the night, that acted as a barrier to the clouds of sparks which were blown in its direction.

RUINS LEFT BY FIRE IN EAST LONDON



In the upper picture is a general view, looking west, of the havoc wrought by the blaze which razed Jubilee rink, on Lyle street, and gutted several houses in the vicinity. Below is a "close-up" of the rear of John Scott's house, which escaped with comparatively little damage. A score of persons, including little children, were turned out of their burning homes at 3 o'clock this morning.