

ISCHUA VALLEY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A MIDNIGHT BLAZE AT THE RAILWAY DEPOT

For the first time since our water system has been completed did the local fire department have an opportunity to show the utility and value of the plant, and right well and nobly did they acquit themselves.

Saturday night at shortly after 12 o'clock a fire was discovered by C.J. Sanders, Frank Adsit and J.M. Sherlock. Flame and smoke were seen in the direction of the canning factory and Sanders was the first to reach the alarm bell and bring his lusty lungs into active service. That he has good staying qualities, was evidenced by the fact that in a very few minutes the whole fire department was on its way to the scene of the conflagration, although all of them were rudely awakened from their peaceful slumber.

The fire proved to be in the Western New York & Pennsylvania railway depot and on arrival of the firemen, the north end of the building was a solid mass of flames. The nearest hydrants were those on Elm Street and the one in front of the canning factory. Hose couplings and hydrant attachments were soon completed and the order given to let the water come. It came! So did the nozzlemen. They soon had control and at about the same instant two solid powerful streams of Lyndon water shot into the seething flames.

At first the firemen could not get very close on account of the over-hanging roof, which was being slated. It kept the flames down and drove them straight out. In about three minutes, however, things looked decidedly different. The volume of the water immediately reduced the flames and now the windows were smashed. In another moment the water was being vigorously applied to the effected parts of the interior of the burning building. Straight up through the ceiling and rafters went the water and oh what a deluge! In fifteen minutes the fire was under control and the entire southern portion of the depot was saved and uninjured except by the smoke. In less than an hour many of the firemen were in their beds and all were satisfied that the water system was worth all that it cost.

The cause of the fire is unknown and of course more than a dozen conjectures have been made. Many think it caught from the little stove that was in the ticket office. This part was where the fire began. Others say, heaven forbid, that the fire bug is again at his villainous work. Be that as it may, we are now better prepared to fight the monster than ever before and we all feel safer on that account.

Many people visited the scene Sunday and Agent Judd and Operator Burlingame hastily constructed a temporary office to transact their necessary business. Mr. Judd was fortunate in searching out his last month's accounts, but there were many documents which were completely

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destroyed. Among them were several express packages which will be paid for by the company. The damaged end of the depot will be rebuilt at once. The loss will reach about \$800. Score one for the waterworks! Score again for the firemen!

Taken from the FRANKLINVILLE JOURNAL, November 13th, 1891 and submitted by William Watkins, Machias Deputy Town Historian.