

FATAL FIRE CLAIMS LITTLE TEN YEAR OLD RUSSELL MORRISON

FIVE OTHER LADS HAD VERY NARROW ESCAPE WHEN BARN AND CONTENTS OF JAMES MORRISON WAS ENTIRELY DESTROYED EARLY TUESDAY MORNING— WERE SLEEPING IN HAY LOFT.

A fire which entirely consumed the barn and stables of Mr. Jas. Morrison early Tuesday morning, was also accompanied with the distressing fatality by which Russel, the 10-year old son of Mr. Morrison, was burned to death in the building. Five other lads who were in the hay loft sleeping had a very narrow escape, while Mr. Morrison is badly burned about the face and head as result of his heroic efforts to save his son and horses.

Earl Hickey, aged 12, Albert Lapierre, aged 10, George Morrison, aged 13, Russel Morrison, aged 10, Jesse Morrison, aged 8, and Harold Morrison, aged 5 years, boylike prevailed upon their parents to allow them to sleep in the hayloft of the Morrison barn last Monday night. Two and a half tons of fresh mown hay had been placed in the barn on the previous Saturday and the boys got their blankets together and made their little beds for the night.

About three o'clock Tuesday morning Mr. Morrison was aroused by the commotion of the horses, principally, and the cries of assistance from the boys. The building was on fire. Rushing out in his night attire he met the boys on his way to the barn and enquired if they were all out and was assured that they were. His next concern was for his horses and going into the stalls he found them pulling so tightly on their halters that he was unable to release them. Mr. Morrison secured an axe as quickly as possible from a neighboring shed and slashed the halter on one of the horses standing double in a stall. As quickly as released the horse turned in the stall and the animal beside it, frantic and tugging at its tie strap, jammed the released animal and Mr. Morrison against the side of the stall with tremendous force. Escape from the stall seemed impossible for a few brief moments, (but what really seemed like hours to Mr. Morrison), and by the merest good fortune he was able to drop under the bodies of the animals and extricate himself, with the horses frantic and prancing about him. By this time the fire had gained uncontrollable headway, and Mr. Morrison had scarcely time to regain his thoughts when he heard a piercing cry "Pa!" It came from the hay loft. Rushing out of the building for the outside ladder to the loft he passed the other boys who by this time had made the discovery that one of their number was missing. Reaching the loft door Mr. Morrison heard another agonizing cry "Pa," and the sound seemed to come from the stable below. Believing the boy

had fallen through to the stable below Mr. Morrison hurried back and heard one more, and the last, frantic call of "Pa" for assistance, and nothing more of the little fellow was known until his charred remains were found by the firemen in the debris of the stable. Mr. Morrison dashed into the burning stable as a last hope to find the child, but all to no avail. He is severely burned about the forehead and ears, and his hair is singed to the roots.

The firemen responded and confined the blaze to the one building, which, however, was hopelessly gone before they reached it.

HEAT WOKE BOYS UP.

One of the six little bed fellows related how the heat on his feet woke him up. The loft was full of smoke and dark as pitch. Earl Hickey, taking little Harold Morrison by the hand, led the way out of the building, by following the walls of the loft until the door was reached. The boys were all together right to the loft door and kept track of each other by conversing. At this point Russel and Jesse Morrison appear to have become separated from the party, but Jesse came through the opening into the stable where the hay is put down, and, while he was precipitated practically into the crater of the fire for the moment, he came through with but slight mishap, singularly. Just how little Russel became separated will probably never be accounted for. With the other boys he had apparently reached the loft door safely, but in his bewilderment had probably turned back.

COMPLETE LOSS.

The barn and stable, 16 x 26, together with two tons and a half of hay, five sleighs, harness and all other equipment were completely consumed. Three horses were burned in their stalls, while the fourth, which Mr. Morrison had released by cutting its halter with an axe, was so badly used up that it had to be destroyed. The loss amounts to \$2,000, approximately, with no insurance.

The building was a frame structure. In the stable were three double stalls and a hay stall. Two of the double stalls were occupied with the four horses, the third being vacant and the hay stall full of hay. In the vacant stall or the hay stall is where the fire is believed to have originated, and was caused either by defective wiring or by someone who had sought a night's lodging in the vacant stall. No one was seen in the building or leaving it, but the fact that Mr. Morrison on previous occasions had evicted men sleeping there, gives some foundation for such possibility. The boys had no matches and were doubtless sound asleep for many hours before the fire broke out. No inquiry will be held.

The affair was most distressing to the wide circle of friends and acquaintances of the parents of the child, the family having been life-long residents of Copper Cliff. Private Albert Morrison, who is at Niagara camp, and left with the Sudbury contingent on July 28th, is a brother of the deceased.

Seven other children survive besides the bereaved parents, to whom the tragedy has been a severe blow.

The funeral was held this afternoon at two o'clock to the family plot in the R. C. burying grounds, Rev. Father Crowley conducting the ceremony.

LIBERAL TOWNSMEN

Mr. Morrison, who is in the wood business, was practically cleaned out of his means of making a livelihood, by the fire, in addition to suffering a most severe blow in the loss of his son, and Tuesday morning several fellow townsmen organized a fund which has been circulated among the business men and employees of the Canadian Copper Co. The response has been spontaneous and a fund of almost \$500 has been raised and will be presented to him.

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General Supply Co.**
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16-in. Tamarac, per cord \$2.50
16-in. White Birch, per cord.. 2.50
16 and 18-in. Poplar, cord.. 2.25
16-in. Mixed, per cord 2.25
16-in. Mixed Scaoped cord .. 2.25