

HARDWARE STORE BURNS TO GROUND

More Bros., of Wimbledon. Sustain Loss of \$40,000, Covered by Insurance.

Fire of unknown origin totally destroyed the large More Brothers Hardware at Wimbledon Sunday morning. The fire was discovered at 3 o'clock, and then had such a headway that it was impossible to check the flames or save anything of value.

The total loss is estimated at \$40,000, \$20,000 on the stock and \$20,000 on the building. It is thought that spontaneous combustion from mops used in oiling the floors started the blaze. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

The building was a double store structure, two stories high, of brick construction. The fact that the building was equipped with fireproof windows prevented the flames from spreading to nearby buildings. The large machine shed used by the firm located nearby caught fire several times but the flames were put out and no damage was done to the machinery stored there. A frame store building adjoining the burned structure was saved.

This store was one of the largest and finest equipped in the state. Several men had been cleaning up in the building during the night and left at 1 o'clock in the morning, and there was no trace of fire at that time. Harry Hammond, an employe of More Bros., who lived on the second floor of the building lost all his furniture, household goods and clothing, the family barely escaping with their lives.