

KEPT ON BLOWING

Glass-blowers Work With the Factory Burning.

**Works of the Toronto Glass Com-
pany Narrowly Escaped Destruction Last Night.**

The west wing and storehouse of the factory of the Toronto Glass Company was gutted by fire last night, the storehouse and contents being completely destroyed. The night shift of glass blowers was at work at the blowing ovens when smoke was seen issuing from the vicinity of the engine room. An alarm was rung in at the Parkdale Fire Hall and all of the west end detachments turned out.

The part of the building where the fire started was of very inflammable material, and the contents were composed of loose straw, used in packing glassware and other articles, in which the flames readily gained headway. The storehouse was a frame structure, while at the side were several piles of dry lumber, which added materially to the progress of the fire. The flames, therefore, had gained great headway before the firemen reached the scene, and by the time the hose were turned on they had practically gutted the west wing and were rapidly advancing toward the main building to the east.

The firemen at first gave their attention to the fire in the blowing rooms, and after about three-quarters of an hour the flames that were threatening the main structure to the east were overcome. The frame storehouse, in the meantime, burned like tinder, and made a very alluring spectacle to the large crowd that had gathered in the vicinity. The piles of lumber increased the volumes of the flames, and were burning for fully two hours after the fire originated.

The frame storehouse contained a quantity of fruit jars and other glassware, but, as the demand for "gem" jars has been unusually large this year, the stock was not so heavy as it generally is. The damage is variously estimated at from \$7,000 to \$10,000, the building and contents being about equally injured. The machinery in the engine room suffered considerably, but as the room contained about five feet of water it was difficult to ascertain to what extent. The insurance companies interested in the risks, amounting to \$25,000 on the stock and buildings, are the Liverpool, London & Globe, Union Assurance Society of London, Sun Insurance Company, Hartford Fire Insurance Company and the Imperial Insurance Company.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by a spark from the engine room igniting some shavings that were lying a few feet away. The dry and inflammable nature of the buildings burned made it almost impossible for the firemen to do more than keep the flames from spreading. During the progress of the fire the night shift of blowers continued filling the moulds with the molten glass that still remained in the ovens. The works will shut down in a few days for the season, as it is too hot to continue at work during July and August.