TOWN THREATENED BY \$50,000 BLAZE

Virginia Village Is Saved as Three Buildings Burn to Ground.

WIND HINDERS WORKERS

The entire town of Clifton Station, Va., was threatened with destruction late yesterday morning when flames swept the business area and destroyed two two-story stores and a residence. Loss was estimated at between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Quick response from the Fairfax Fire Department, which was 12 miles away, saved the village. Nearby structures were already on fire when the volunteer firemen arrived, and so they turned their attention to them rather than to the three buildings which were enveloped in flames that mounted 100 feet.

A brisk wind that swept into the valley made the work of the firemen more precarious. The Fairfax department was soon joined, however, by volunteer firemen and trucks from Herndon, Manassas, Vienna, McLean, Falls Church and Ballston.

The fire was discovered at 10:30 o'clock, when a passerby rushed into the ice cream and soft drink store where V. V. Weaver, owner of the three buildings, was serving a customer. Before he could do more than notify his wife, who was in the residence, the three frame buildings were blazing.

The main structure was one of the two largest general stores in the community. All of the stock, most of which had just been moved in from a warehouse, was lost, as were \$2,100 in currency and \$500 in checks and money orders which were in a money box.

The origin of the fire could not be determined.

The Southern Railway Station, the postoffice, another general store across the street, and several houses were endangered as sparks set them ablaze. The store is owned by D. W. Buckley, county supervisor, who until last week has been a foe of the tax levied for fire departments in Fair-

Continued on Page 3, Column 3.



FLAMES MENACE TOWN IN VIRGINIA

Continued From Page 1.

fax County. Last Wednesday he voted for the levy.

Under the direction of Robert Buckley, residents of the town dug trenches under the railway track before the Fairfax firemen arrived, so that hose could be stretched from the water source under the rails and thus not hold up a train that was due.

William Bennett, Vienna fireman, and a volunteer from Fairfax were slightly injured in battling the flames. Mr. Bennett suffered a broken ankle. Both were treated by Chief J. H. Beattle of the McLean department.

The fire drew a large crowd, attracted from miles around, and it was late in the afternoon before the excitement had died down.

Mr. Weaver said he had only \$10,000 insurance on his property.

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