

Believe Burglar Started Fire Causing Destruction of East Kildonan Church

A lighted match left by a careless burglar is believed to be the cause of the fire which burned John Black United church, East Kildonan, to the ground early yesterday morning. According to officials of the congregation, the cupboards of the church have been broken into on several occasions lately. It is thought that the same thing may have happened last night and that, in lighting a cigarette, the thief dropped a burning match on the floor.

Reconstruction will commence as early as possible, in order that the congregation may be housed before winter. At a joint meeting of the session and the board of managers last night, plans were made for future action. Committees were appointed, one to deal with plans for rebuilding and one with the raising of subscriptions to supplement the insurance. This amounted to \$7,000, of which \$500 was on the contents of the building. The committees will

report to a meeting of the congregation at an early date.

The church will be rebuilt on the same site, but will be constructed on a larger scale, to meet the growing needs of the community.

Rev. H. J. Robertson, pastor of the church, was on his vacation at Kenora, when the news reached him by telegram. He hurried home to find himself without pulpit, organ, pews or a place to put them. There was nothing left of the church but the chimney, which has since been pulled down. The fire broke out at 5.30 a.m., and for three hours the East Kildonan firemen and other men in the neighborhood who came to their assistance worked hard to save the building. The fire had gained too great headway before the alarm was turned in, however. The building was dedicated in October, 1914, and since that time has served a large congregation.

Tomorrow's service will be held in the Kitchener school at 11 a.m.