MANY PICTURES BURNED.

$8,000 FIRE IN THE CANADIAN ACADEMY'S EXHIBITION.

Complete List of Exhibits Destroyed.
The Exhibition Will be Opened as Usual Today—Loss Covered by Insurance.

Damage to the amount of about $8,000 to the pictures alone was done yesterday by a disastrous fire which broke out at 8:30 a.m. in the galleries of the Ontario School of Art, where an exhibition of pictures, under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, has been in progress. An even greater loss would have to be recorded but for the fact that the fire, which broke out in the hall at the head of the main stairs, was, through the efforts of the firemen and the fortuitous aid of the partition separating the hall from the main galleries, practically confined to the hall.

As it is, every picture and piece of statuary in the hall is completely destroyed with the exception of Leslie Victor Smith's portrait of Miss Ellis, which is badly blistered at the upper right hand corner.

On the other hand, the damage to the pictures in the two main rooms is very slight. Only one picture, that of "Early Spring," from the brush of Mr. G. Horne Russell, of Montreal, is so badly damaged as to be incapable of restoration. It occupied a place at one side of the opening from the hall to the east gallery, and the flames from the hall had swept round the wall and scorched it badly. The canvas on the other side of the opening, a much-admired oil painting, called "The Chess Problem," the property of Miss Muriel Boulton, of Quebec, is only damaged to a very slight extent.

Yesterday afternoon a large staff of workmen were kept busily engaged clearing away the debris and Mr. G. A. Reid, the President of the Academy, states that the exhibition of pictures will be open to the public at the usual hour today. The complete edition of catalogues was destroyed, but a new edition is being hastily prepared.

Among the principal works of art which have been completely destroyed, some of the most noteworthy are: Mr. Clarence Gagnon's beautiful "A Japanese Fantasy," a work which attracted particular notice from the critics; a magnificent decorative panel called "Spring" by Mr. G. A. Reid, the President of the Academy; a case of excellent miniatures exhibited by Miss Mary E. Wrench, and a large plaster cast of Venus de Milo, the property of the Academy.