

MAN CONFESSES FIRING 8 CAMDEN PROPERTIES

Is Held Without Bail—Police Long Baffled by Suspicious Blazes Until Arrest

In confessing to having started eight fires in East Camden, George J. Duffield, told the police that he had been drinking and did not know what caused him to kindle the blazes. He was committed without bail by Recorder Stackhouse. Duffield, is 32 years old, married, and resides at 437 North Forty-first street. He is a tinsmith and bears a good reputation. He is a brother of Harry Duffield, who is serving a fifteen-year sentence in State Prison for complicity in the murder of Karl Kellman, on October 13, 1912.

Duffield admits having fired Enterprise Hall, at Twenty-seventh and Howell streets, on October 26 and to setting fire to a vacant house, at Twenty-eighth and Howell streets on the following night. He confesses to having twice fired the Pennsylvania-freight station, at Pavonia, once on October 30, and again on November 6. He says that on the night of November 21, he kindled a fire in the cellar of the home of John Marshall, 4118 Westfield avenue, and that on the following night he started fires in two barns, one in the rear of the home of Rev. G. E. Walker, 758 North Twenty-seventh street, and the other in the rear of the home of George Maple, 2710 Sherman avenue. He also confessed to firing the barn in the rear of the home of Police Sergeant Horner, Twenty-sixth and Westfield avenue, on December 20. In addition to pleading guilty to the charges Duffield made a signed confession.

While the police have been baffled by the numerous blazes, which they knew to be of incendiary origin, they have long suspected Duffield by reason of the fact that in every instance he was one of the first to arrive with the firemen and aided them to conquer the blaze. He was taken into custody yesterday by Detective Moffett. The mysterious fires caused a fear of terror in East Camden and a detail of plain clothes policemen had been doing duty there for several weeks in an effort to catch the firebug redhanded.