

SCHOOL LANDS FOR LEASE

State Offers to Investors Property in Thirteen Different Counties.

MAKING BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM UNIFORM

At Present Each State Institution Has a System of Its Own Which Makes Settlements Difficult.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

SIOUX FALLS, Aug. 25.—(Special.)—The land commissioner has school lands vacant in thirteen counties, and these will be for lease after this date.

Banner County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Blair County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Box Butte County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Cherokee County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

DeWitt County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Franklin County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Grant County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Iowa County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

Jackson County—Nw and sw 36-20-36, 36 acres, appraised value, 50 cents; rental value, \$7.20 per year per acre tract.

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TWO BUILDINGS GO DOWN

Four-Story Structures at Fourteenth and Douglas Collapse, Starting Fire.

NO LIVES LOST AND ONLY ONE HURT

Work of Lowering Floors of One Building Assigned as Direct Cause of Accident—Other Buildings Impaired.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

With a rumbling crash which could be heard for blocks around, but fortunately preceded by premonitory signals, the brick store buildings Nos. 149 and 151 Douglas street collapsed yesterday morning, falling towards the dividing wall between them.

Fire broke out in the east side of the ruins, but was soon under control, and was extinguished without serious difficulty.

Though a number of persons were in each of the buildings, all save one escaped without physical injury of any kind, a workman named Jack Morrissey receiving a light cut in the forehead from a flying brick.

The east building, occupied by H. J. Hughes' grocery store, was owned by A. J. Hanscom, who purchased it about five years ago from Walter G. Clarke, it was four stories in front, and for about two years of the way back to the alley, 12 feet in the rear, where it was three stories.

J. W. Robbins, the agent for it, stated that he could not speak authoritatively, but believed that, following his policy of not holding any unimproved property which can be profitably improved, Mr. Hanscom, who now lives in New York, will rebuild at once.

New Building to Go Up.

The west building was stone-faced and three stories in height. It was owned by the Western Real Estate Trust of Boston. There was \$3,000 fire insurance and \$2,000 rental insurance on it. The McCague investment company was agent for the building, and Mr. Charles W. Bennett, of the opinion that a new building will be immediately erected on the lot.

The Hughes grocery store was fully insured. Robert Smith & Bro., who had conducted the grocery store for several years, sold it out a few weeks ago to H. J. Hughes. Whether or not any fire insurance on either buildings or stock is collectible is an unsettled question, and one which those most interested decline to discuss until the companies have stated their position.

Hughes suffered the greatest loss, the total on stock and fixtures being placed by him at \$20,000.

The value of the two buildings was not to exceed \$5,000, if it would reach that figure, as both were undamaged by their uselessness and plans to erect new buildings on the ground have been made more than once.

Robert Smith suffered a small loss on stock owned by him still in the Hanscom building, and the loss of the furniture, amounting to a loss of about \$200. The damage done to the two-story Kennard building on the corner and the Harbach building at 147 Douglas street cannot be ascertained until the debris from the two collapsed buildings is cleared away, but it is now thought it will amount simply to the cost of strengthening the walls, providing the owners do not decide to tear down the buildings and erect better ones in place of them.

Within a few minutes after the buildings collapsed all sorts of wild rumors were afloat, and notwithstanding the dashing rain an immense crowd collected around the ruins. It was reported at first that ten or more persons were in the ruins, but the reports later settled down to one specific one, to the effect that a man and a woman had been seen in the front of the grocery store and were buried in the ruins. But investigation proved them all incorrect; the last one credited to the fact that Michael Kiley, who gave the alarm, and Miss Helen Keller, book-keeper in the grocery store, were the last to leave it, and were not a moment too soon in doing so.

The employees of the Omaha Tea and Coffee company, 147 Douglas, were also warned to leave. As they did so several of the girls turned around (a la Lot's wife), and were enveloped in a cloud of dust, which hid them from view and gave rise to another rumor, to the effect that the debris from the buildings was so heavy that it was believed, weakened by the shock.

All of the buildings were old and of light construction, and the accident will result, it is believed by those interested, in the erection of much larger and better buildings in the future.

The deal was not made, however, but a similar one is now among the probabilities. A kind and gentle Providence was hovering about Douglas street yesterday, for otherwise a number of lives would have been snuffed out in the ruins, and there would have been many sorrowing homes in Omaha tonight. But sufficient warning, though no more, was given, and save for the temporary fright of those who escaped the alarm, and the anxiety of relatives, no good news, the damage was confined to brick and stone and easily replaced edifices.

Disaster Was Feared.

For several days the workmen engaged in lowering the floor of 149 Douglas have feared that the building might settle or sink, though none anticipated the catastrophe that came. But according to them had noticed that the foundation wall on which rested the west wall of the one above the east wall of the other building had been injured to such an extent, and was so loose, that when one brick was removed a dozen others tumbled out. Upon the top of the stone wall, which was laid in concrete, and underlain by an eighteen-inch course of brick, put in a number of years ago when the floor was raised. In 1882 the upper stories of the two buildings were added to them, and other changes were made, they having originally been two-story buildings.

Crackings of the walls were also noticed, but it was thought by Petrie Bros., who had the contract for lowering the floor, and by W. J. Hishop, the superintendent for the McCague investment company, that the building would be all right when the change were made. When, however, the plastering begun to slide from the walls in sheets and the noise of straining walls increased, the alarm was given and the eight men in the lower floor and basement rushed out. M. Kiley, one of them, dashed into the grocery store shouting a warning, which was for a moment not understood. Others warned people pushing on the sidewalk, and there was a general rush away from the buildings.

As described by an eyewitness the buildings fell from the bottom. That is the first floor first gave way, followed by the

DETAILS OF THE DISASTER

Walter Hughes was the first of the grocery employees to take the alarm of the impending disaster and warned his companions.

HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS

The two wrecked buildings, 149 and 151 Douglas street, were directly and indirectly intimately connected with the business and to some degree with the social life of Omaha, and several old settlers recalled a number of incidents connected with them.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

The three-story building No. 149 Douglas was the first stone front building in Omaha, and to it was moved the first drug store in the city. The store was started at 1110 Farnam street, where the Pioneer block, another of the old buildings of the city, now stands, by Dr. Henry, who played a prominent part in local affairs for a number of years. He was accused of the murder of a man named Hollister down near the Platte river, where the two had a dispute over a claim. The jury on the first trial disagreed—it was the first murder trial ever held in Omaha—and on the second trial acquitted Dr. Henry, who had, it may be remembered, been allowed his liberty on his own parole. He was the only drug store in the city in the young city, and attended to business as usual during the daytime. At night he was locked in the sheriff's office, and Uncle "Bill" Snowden recalls going to the office to get his medicine, and also to obtain the doctor on his promise to return him, which promise he fulfilled. Later Dr. Henry, it is alleged, located a townsite out near Fremont where an Indian village stood, and on representations in the east the two townsites were occupied by 800 to 1,000 people obtained a large stock of drugs and liquors, his two trials having exhausted his stock and cash.

Dr. Henry started the Pioneer block with part of his new wealth and sold his stock to Dr. J. H. Tuttle, who in turn sold it to Baum & Martin, who moved it to the building which went down yesterday. Auctioneer Cumming was the next occupant of the building, using it from 1875 to 1883, when it became and continued up to the present the home of hardware companies. Himebaugh & Taylor put in the first stock of edged tools and were succeeded by the Omaha Hardware company, which in turn gave way to A. S. Carter. Then the Dunning Hardware company occupied it and continued to do so for a few months ago.

The trading stamp people who have been trying to gain a foothold in Omaha a short time ago took a lease on the building and it was being fixed up for them. It was in it that Frank B. Kennard, a glass man and capitalist, first entered the drug business, afterward moving to what was for years known as the "Fuller corner," across the street on the northwest corner of Fourteenth and Douglas now occupied by a saloon.

Just as his neighbor ran to drugs and hardware so the building 149 Douglas has shown a preference for stocks of groceries. Sam Megeath, and succeeding him, D. Whiting, occupied it and carried a wholesale grocery and then it became and continued until it fell a retail grocery.

Speculation as to what effect, if any, the heavy stocks of hardware with which the floors of the one building and the also heavy stocks of canned goods and groceries with which the floors of the other were filled for years may have had on the falling of them was indulged in by the old-timers, who recalled when they were among the largest and finest buildings in Omaha.

REPUBLICANS NAME JUDGES

A. J. Evans of David City and Judge Smith of Aurora Are Nominated.

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ADJUDGED TO BE INSANE.

LOUISVILLE, Neb., Aug. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—On complaint of J. D. Darr, Fred Wilkenning, living near Paul, was brought to this city charged with insanity. When brought before the insanity commission he was adjudged insane and taken to the asylum at Lincoln.

MANY ATTEND REUNION.

LOUISVILLE, Neb., Aug. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—The district Grand Army of the Republic reunion which began here August 25, is well attended, considering the weather. The executive committee has decided to extend the date of closing from Friday evening, August 25, to Saturday evening, August 26.

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