

MANY LIVES LOST IN FIRE

Until Debris is Cleared Away Exact Number of Deaths Will Not Be Known

THERE ARE MANY SCENES OF HORROR

Blaze, Starting From Unknown Source, Destroys the Dewey Hotel, Guests Trapped. Property Damage \$185,000.

Omaha.—At least a score of men and women—many of the former from some of the best families in this part of the country, and many of the latter from Omaha's outcast class, are believed to have perished in a fire early Friday morning that destroyed the Dewey hotel, Thirteenth and Farnam, and damaged adjoining business property, entailing a pecuniary loss of approximately \$185,000.

At this time it is known positively that three persons—two men and one woman are dead. Their bodies now are at a coroner's undertaking rooms awaiting inquests. No less than seven of the men and women rescued were injured, some seriously, and one man, whom friends believe did not die, is reported missing.

The Known Dead.
Charles Cummings, bartender at the Henshaw.
 Unknown man, about 50 years old.
 Mrs. Alice Bonnevue, sister of Mrs. C. E. Wilkins, wife of the proprietor of the hotel.
 A man named Beverly, who worked at the Cole oyster house. The injured:
 Mrs. C. E. Wilkins, serious burns and mental collapse.
 Miss Lida Nelson, chambermaid, broken leg and burns.
 Grace Lee, 104 South Eleventh street, minor burns.
 Izzie Stipp, mailer, at hospital with bruises.
 Iola Jennings, 838 North Nineteenth street, burned about face and body.
 Clara Newman, 838 North Nineteenth street, slightly burned.
 Mark Hemenway, Ewing, Neb., hands cut by glass.
 Robert Olved, fireman, foot hurt by flying hose.
 Grace Burton, 822 Spring street, condition serious.

Just what caused the blaze never will be known. It is not far wrong, however, to say that it originated in the furnace room in the basement of the hotel. This plant supplied heat for the entire building, including the business houses on the ground floor.

The blaze was first seen by an A. D. T. watchman, who was making his rounds. This was about 4:45 o'clock, so far as can be determined. At that time the flames appeared to be eating their way through the whole structure. There came a big puff like a muffled explosion, then death and ruin.

Policemen on their way to headquarters a few minutes before midnight, saw sparks issuing from the chimney of the hotel. House attaches were warned that a fire might exist, but after an examination it is declared no flames were discovered.

Firemen, led by Chief Charles A. Salter, battled desperately against overwhelming odds to stay the flames. Handicapped by almost zero weather, many for a time feared the blaze might get beyond their control and sweep the entire block that lies in the shadow of the W. O. W. building. However, a few hours after daylight the flames were under control.

The appalling loss of life is due principally, it is said, to the fact that the hotel was a fire trap, and secondly to the fact that the suffocating smoke made it almost impossible for the guests to find their way to the two fire exits.

Working feverishly, but with a system that accomplished wonders, more than 100 laborers are employed in the ice-bound ruins of the Dewey hotel, clearing away the tons of brick and mortar, charred timber and twisted metal supports in a frantic effort to reach the score of more of bodies believed to be buried there.

Flickering electric lights on uncertain strings and supplied with an uncertain amount of current shed a ghastly glow over the ruins of the burned structure Friday night. The great mass of debris, glazed with ice, threw off iridescent shafts of light that served to light the whole with the varied colors of the rainbow. It resembled an aurora borealis.

Despite the manner in which the place was cleared, however, but one of the bodies of the missing men and women were recovered. And when they are located, it is almost certain they will be frozen solidly in the water that fills the hotel basement almost to overflowing.

First Warning of Fire.

It was a few minutes before midnight Thursday night when Sam Morris and M. P. Ryan, policemen, passed the Dewey on their way to police headquarters. Sparks were flying from the chimney at the rear of the house, and the officers told Jesse D. Nold, manager, of this fact.

Preparations for removing the bodies were completed rapidly under the guidance of Charles A. Salter, fire chief. The gaunt walls of the burning building that menaced the lives of every fireman were torn down and this mass of brick and mortar was removed first of all.

Raze the Tottering Wall.
 Chains attached to heavy ropes, the latter being operated by means of blocks and tackles, were attached to the walls, and then a hundred or more men supplied the power necessary to raze them. With a roar that could be heard for blocks, the shaky piles of brick fell into the streets, sending the curious scattering in all directions.

By pulling the walls outward the work of recovering missing bodies was greatly facilitated. The debris already covering the victims of the holocaust is many feet thick and held solidly together by the ice. To have tumbled the walls inward would have served only to increase the firemen's work.

W. E. Caldwell, a soldier at Fort Omaha, was struck in the face by a brick. His upper lip was severely cut. He was a volunteer aiding city employees in razing the walls.

The exact number of lives lost in the fire still is problematical. Like all the other hotels in the city the Dewey was well filled with visitors, many of them from towns several miles from here. The house register is believed to have been destroyed, but even its recovery, it is declared, would not aid matters materially.

Among the first pieces of known property to be removed from the ruins was a trunk belonging to Charley Cummings, the dead bartender.

Loss Estimated at \$185,000.
 The estimated loss in the fire is \$185,000, the larger share of this being confined to the hotel. The Raphael-Pred Clothing company, which occupied the first floor, placed its loss at \$50,000, partially covered by insurance.

Representatives of John D. Creighton declined to place a valuation on the property, but others interested said the building and its furnishings were worth about \$130,000.

The Hiller Liqueur company, located at 1309 Farnam street, sustained \$6,000 loss, largely from water. Most of this is covered with insurance. The Adams Express company, 1307 Farnam, suffered about \$150 damage.

A Story of the Fire.
 The most graphic story of the conditions in the hotel is told by Mark Hemenway of Ewing, Neb.:

"My room was on the third floor," said Hemenway. "I awoke to find the room filled with smoke, and heard shouts in the corridors. I put on a few clothes and opened the door into the hallway. A cloud of smoke seemed to fill the room immediately.

"The smoke was hot and acid. I could not see the walls. I ran down the hallways, and found the stairs.

"I went down some stairs. I do not know where they were, and found an exit. I do not know where it was. The exit was locked tight and I could not break down the door.

"I finally got to the front wall and ran into a window. It was closed. I jammed my bared hand through the pane, and broke out the glass, and dropped from the window to the fire escape.

Dundee Man Rescues Many.
 J. J. Foy, a broker, residing at Dundee, corroborates the story of Hemenway that the door of the hotel was locked. He was passing the hotel when the fire broke out and at once started in the work of rescue. With the aid of another man he broke in the doors at the Thirteenth street entrance.

Vellet was reading a newspaper in the little office at the head of the stairs leading to the hotel floor from the Thirteenth street entrance about 4:45 o'clock when a puff of wind swirled a dense cloud of smoke into the room. He was almost suffocated before he could arouse Nold.

"For God's sake get up and awaken some of the people," Vellet cried to Nold, as he pounded frantically on the latter's bedchamber door. "There's a fire in the building.

BRIEF NEWS OF NEBRASKA

July 12 to 20 are dates announced for the Beatrice Chautauqua.
 F. B. Willatt and son will build and operate an ice plant in Albion.
 About twelve inches of snow has fallen at Geneva during the past week.
 A suffragist club has been organized at Nehawka with a roster of sixty-three.
 The Y. M. C. A. state convention will be held at Lincoln, March 13 to 16.
 Smallpox has broken out among the prisoners in the Gage county jail at Beatrice.
 Six wolves were killed on a roundup that covered sixteen square miles near Adams.
 Adam Colman, a jeweler at Diller, was found dead of heart disease in his place of business.
 Farmers near that place have organized the Wymore Elevator, Lumber and Coal company.
 Chief of Police William Otten of North Platte had his wrist broken while attempting to crank an auto.
 Walter Tice, living near Fairmont, who had his left arm badly mangled in a corn sheller, died from his injuries.

J. Frank Cadman, one of the oldest citizens of Lincoln, fell dead while shoveling snow from the walk in front of his home.

The first auto delivery truck ever installed at West Point was put in use last week by the proprietors of a department store.

Mrs. Jennie Wildman celebrated the ninety-fifth anniversary of her birth last week. She is the oldest woman in York county.

A miniature "Tom Thumb" wedding was given by little people of Fairbury last week. The little folks are under ten years of age.

William Danton, 75 years old, died Sunday afternoon at his home at Lincoln from where, one week before, his wife, Mrs. Mary Ann Dalton, was buried.

Word has been received at Nebraska City of the death of William Esser at Orient, Wash., where he went to purchase land. Mr. Esser had been a resident of Nebraska for many years.

Seniors at the Ohlowa high school will not have to present their senior orations before a public gathering this year, as in former years. A written treatise approved by the instructors will suffice.

Clarence Micker, a nephew of former Governor Micker, accidentally shot and killed himself while hunting rabbits near Osceola. A charge of buckshot entered his left breast and he died instantly.

Louis Janek, near Garrison, saw a large wolf eating the carcass of a calf that had been dragged out by a strawstack. Janek walked up behind the stack, then stepped out within twenty feet of the wolf and shot it.

Senator E. E. Placek of Saunders county is confined at his hotel at Lincoln by a severe case of pneumonia. He was taken ill Wednesday morning following a hurried trip which he made to Minneapolis during the week end recess.

Tests of seed corn in the laboratory of the agricultural department of the normal at Peru show that not all corn is fit for seed. Many of the tests ran from 40 to 70 per cent good, some testing 98 per cent strong, corn from the hill land testing best.

Without having ever experienced an illness of any nature before in the ninety-four years of her life, Mrs. Anna Lind was taken ill with a severe cold last week and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. E. Boden, College View, Sunday morning.

James Gion, a lad fifteen years of age, of Callaway, holds the record as a successful trapper among the boys. During the winter, besides attending school, he has trapped 292 muskrats, two skunks, three civet cats, two weasels, three rabbits and two wild ducks.

Arnold Martin of Table Rock has accepted the position of county demonstrator for Thurston county, with headquarters at Walthill.

Six hundred people living in the vicinity of Bower, six miles north of Fairbury, held a big wolf hunt Thursday and covered a territory nearly six miles square. Five large prairie wolves were shot.

The mysterious disappearance of Mrs. Leslie Close from her home at Pawnee City has caused the officers there and her relatives and friends a great deal of worry and still the mystery does not clear.

The bond issue for \$4,000 electric light and \$6,000 for water works extension at Hildreth was voted on and carried, \$5 to 18 and \$7 to 17, respectively.

Grippe, influenza and pneumonia are becoming real epidemics in West Point, large numbers of persons, especially those of advanced age, being victims.

Little Beulah Van Camp, the four-year-old Wymore child who was alleged to be the victim of abuse at the hands of her stepmother, has been adopted by her aunt, Mrs. Pearl Hicks of Wymore.

Benkelman is wrapped in the biggest snow of the season. It is about six inches on the level.

BOARD OF CONTROL

UNIVERSITY REMOVAL BILL IS FINALLY DEFEATED.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

The Work Being Done in Both Houses by the Lawmakers of Nebraska.

In executive session the state senate Wednesday formally received the message from Governor Morehead announcing the appointment of Henry Gerdes of Falls City, C. H. Gregg of Kearney and Charles Graff of Bancroft as members of the state board of control soon to come into existence. In accordance with a pre-determined plan, agreed upon at a republican caucus, Kemp of Nance moved that



JAMES PEARSON of Moorefield, Representative from Frontier and Gosper Counties, Elected Temporary Speaker of the House, January 7, and Chairman Committee on Public Printing.

a committee of five members be appointed to investigate the character and competency of the appointees and to report their findings back to the senate before action on confirmation is taken. The forenoon of March 6 was set as the date for hearing the report of the committee. Consideration of the committee's report will be in executive session.

Kill Bill for University Removal.

The question of university removal took up the time of the house Thursday from 2 p. m. until after 6 o'clock. Members refused to take a recess until a decision had been reached. This finally came after four hours of argument and resulted in the killing of the removal bill by the majority of 63 to 29. The question of appropriating one-half of one mill for six years for the extension of the present campus was then voted upon and carried by a vote of 80 to 18, Losey of Dodge and Brot of Cheyenne being absent. The extension bill went through without the provision of a donation from the city of Lincoln of \$100,000, that matter being left to the judgment of the city after the bill is passed.

See Necessity for Speed.

Members of the Nebraska legislature were brought to a realization during the past week that practically half of the session has already gone, with only a small proportion of the pending bills acted upon. Friday was the thirty-first day in the house and the thirtieth in the senate. The members receive pay for only sixty days, but some of them usually stay and work for a week longer before the windup comes. The necessity for speeding up is becoming apparent, especially in the house, if the legislature is to accomplish all that has been expected of it. Talk of a sitting committee for each branch has already been heard, although the rule in the past has been to reserve its appointment until after the fortieth day.

Against Capital Punishment.

By a vote of 59 to 39 the house went on record in committee of the whole in favor of abolishing capital punishment and also recommended a bill calling for the infliction of the death penalty by electrocution rather than by hanging. The abolition bill will come up for third reading ahead of the electrocution proposition and if the former carries the latter will be killed, very probably.

For Employment of Convicts.

Among the measures passed by the senate was the Dodge bill providing for employment of convicts of the state prison in making clothing and furniture for other institutions of the state. The Grace bill, requiring that railroads give transportation both ways for shipper of live stock, despite the fact that they may have shipped only one car of stock, was approved by the senate, with the provision that the exactness should not pertain to hog shipments.

Much Work Before Them.

Ninety-one bills have been passed by the senate and sent to the lower legislative house, while only thirty even measures have survived the latter body and been transmitted to the senate. The percentage in the smaller body, therefore, is considerably in excess of the number of measures acted upon by the larger and more unwieldy body. A total of 457 bills in the senate and 872 in the house constitutes the labor which the bodies faced when the barrier was thrown up against the further introduction of bills.

Dr. Hartman's Plain Talk to Young Men

My plain talk to young men in my last article certainly brought out many responses from young men. I take this means of answering them briefly, for the benefit of other young men who did not write me. One writer says:

"I was greatly interested in your talk to young men. I wish I was strong and well as you describe yourself to be. I am going to begin at once and follow your advice and take care of myself as I ought to. I will quit the use of all stimulants, tea and coffee, go to bed early. I will take the cold water towel bath every morning. I want to live to be old and useful, like you. And I shall also keep Peruna at hand, in case of slight ailments as they may arise. I thank

you in the name of thousands of other young men, like myself."

To this letter I replied:

My Dear Boy:—I cannot tell you how much good your letter has done me. To know that I am arousing the young men in matters of right living fills me with gratitude and enthusiasm. I want to help you in any time you wish and I will consider your letter strictly confidential and give you prompt reply. Follow the advice I gave in my article. Whenever you have occasion to consult me further do not hesitate. Let us be friends. If you will be obedient to me as a son ought to be I will be faithful and true to you as a father ought to be. Yours sincerely, S. B. Hartman, M. D., Columbus, Ohio. Peruna is for sale at all drug stores.



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POLYGLOT.
 "How many foreign languages can Jones talk?"
 "Well, he says he understands everything his baby says."

She Knew.
 Her Father—What are the young man's business prospects?
 Daughter—I don't know that, pa. All I know is that he means business.

Sea-food.
 "What's daughter doing?"
 "Making shrimp salad."
 "I didn't know we had any shrimp in the house."
 "We haven't, but there is one going to call on her this evening."—Houston Post.

Left Its Curse.
 "There are not many girls these days named Bedella."
 "No. I'm afraid it will be a long 'me yet before that blamed song is forgotten."

Taking a Lesser Chance.
 A government inspector was conducting an oral examination for marine engineers. Said one:
 "If you had tested your gauge cocks, had looked at your water glass and had found no water in the boiler, what would you do?"
 Came the answer, swift and true: "I would jump overboard."

Pa's Explanation.
 "Why did Diogenes go around with a lantern, pa?" "I suppose the automobile law required it."

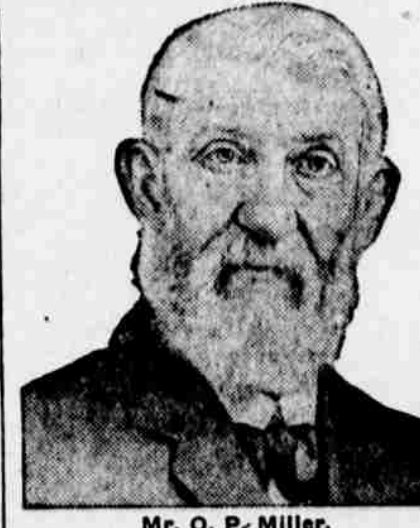
FILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS.
 Your druggist will refund money if FOLEY'S KIDNEY PILLS fails to cure any case of Itching, Burning, Bleeding or Pruriting Piles in 6 to 14 days. 50c.

Bowels Get Weak As Age Advances

The First Necessity is to Keep the Bowels Gently Open With a Mild Laxative Tonic

Healthy old age is so absolutely dependent upon the condition of the bowels that great care should be taken to see that they act regularly. The fact is that as age advances the stomach muscles become weak and inactive and the liver does not store up the juices that are necessary to prompt digestion.

Some help can be obtained by eating easily digested foods and by plenty of exercise, but this latter is irksome to most elderly people. One thing is certain, that a state of constipation should always be avoided as it is dangerous to life and health. The best plan is to take a mild laxative as often as is deemed necessary. But with equal certainty it is suggested that cathartics, purgatives, physics, salts and pills be avoided, as they do but temporary good and are so harsh as to be a shock to a delicate system. A much better plan, and one that thousands of elderly people are following, is to take a gentle laxative- tonic like Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, which acts as nearly like nature as is possible. In fact, the tendency of this remedy is to strengthen the stomach and bowel muscles and so train them to act naturally again, when medicines of all kinds can usually be dispensed with. This is the opinion of many people of different ages, among them Mr. O. P. Miller, Baroda, Mich., who writes: "I am 80 years old and have been constipated for many years. Since receiving your sample bottle I have procured two 50c bottles and find that



Mr. O. P. Miller.

It is the best remedy I ever used and does just what you claim for it to the very letter. I can not recommend it too highly."

A bottle can be bought of any druggist at fifty cents or one dollar. People usually buy the fifty cent size first, and then, having convinced themselves of its merits they buy the dollar size, which is more economical. Results are always guaranteed or money will be refunded. An elderly person can follow these suggestions with safety and the assurance of good results.

If no member of your family has ever used Syrup Pepsin, and you would like to make a personal trial of it before buying it in the regular way of a druggist, send your address—a postal will do—to Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 203 Washington St., Monticello, Ill., and a free sample bottle will be mailed you.

WHY INCUBATOR CHICKS DIE

Write for book saving young chicks. Send us names of 7 friends that use incubators and get book free. National Remedy Co., Brookville, Ohio.