

HOW PAINTING WAS FOUND

"Mona Lisa" Missing Two Years, is Recovered.

THIEF OFFERS TO SELL IT

Conceived Idea of Returning Masterpiece to Its True Home to Avenge Looting of Nation by Napoleon.

FLORENCE, Italy, Dec. 13.—"Mona Lisa," Leonardo Da Vinci's great painting, which was stolen from the Louvre in Paris more than two years ago, has been found. It is now in the hands of the Italian authorities and will be returned to France.

"Mona Lisa" or "La Gioconda," as it is more popularly known, the most celebrated portrait of a woman ever painted, has been the object of exhaustive search in all quarters of the globe. The mystery of its abstraction from the Louvre, its great intrinsic value and the strange fascination of the smile of the woman it portrayed, Lisa Del Giocondo, the wife of a wealthy Florentine, have combined to keep alive interest in its recovery.

The picture was recovered under curious circumstances. As Italian wrote to Signor Geri, an antiquary of Florence, several weeks ago, saying: "I am in possession of the missing Mona Lisa, but being a patriotic Italian, I desire that it shall remain in Florence, the center of Italian art."

He signed the letter, "Leonard," and the antiquary at first paid small attention to it, thinking he had to do with a madman. Later, however, he communicated with Dr. Foggi, director of the Florentine Museum, who suggested that he continue the correspondence with the man. This was done and an appointment was arranged whereby Geri was to view the picture at Milan. The date set was November 17, but unforeseen circumstances prevented the meeting.

Recognizing the picture as "Mona Lisa," a young man, fairly well dressed, visited Geri yesterday. He said he was "Leonard," and was staying at the Hotel Tripoli. He asked Geri to go with him to see the picture. The dealer notified Dr. Foggi, who hastened to the hotel and on being shown the painting, recognized it as the genuine "Mona Lisa."

Dr. Foggi asked Geri if he would like to compare it with other works. He made an appointment to meet "Leonard" this afternoon at the hotel to agree upon the price. The director took with him several officers, who placed the man under arrest.

On being interrogated the prisoner said his real name is Vincenzo Peruggia, that he was born in the province of Como, in Italy, and that he had lived in France for three years, where he was employed at the Louvre.

Peruggia posed as a patriot. "I was ashamed," he said, "that for more than a century no Italian had thought of avenging the spoliation committed by Frenchmen under Napoleon, when they carried off from the Italian museums and galleries, pictures, statues and treasures of all kinds by wagon loads, ancient manuscripts by thousands and gold by sacks."

He had often observed he said in the Louvre many works of art stolen from Italy and conceived the idea of returning to its true home Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece. He entered the Louvre early in the morning, detached the picture and removed the painting from the frame.

Hiding it under his blouse, he concealed the frame under the back stairs, where it was afterwards found. He hid the picture under the workman's blouse and succeeded in leaving the place without attracting suspicion.

At the time of the theft Peruggia was not employed in the Louvre, but he knew all the exits and entrances and how to avoid attention. He kept the painting concealed, he said, until his patriotism led him to offer it to the Italian people.

The painting has also been identified by Dr. Corrado Riboldi, director general of the department of fine arts, who was dispatched hurriedly to Florence from Rome by the minister of public instruction, Luigi Credaro. After a careful examination Dr. Riboldi telephoned to the minister, who was incredulous. Riboldi said: "I will stake my head."

To this Signor Credaro replied: "I do not care for your head; but if this news,

after it is published, is found not to be true, you will be dismissed. Dr. Riboldi answered: "I will take full responsibility and am ready to risk dismissal."

News of the discovery of the "Mona Lisa" spread in the Chamber of Deputies, in session at Rome, where extremists members were engaged in ratiocuffs in an endeavor to prevent a vote on the election of a nationalist deputy.

Disorder Ceases at Once. The disorder ceased immediately. The deputies surrounded the minister of public instruction, who exhibited a telegram from Dr. Riboldi confirming the statement he had already made by telephone.

All laughed at the alleged motives of the thief. One of them remarked that Napoleon's deeds were too antiquated to constitute grounds for feuds. If it were not so Italy would quarrel with the whole world, as all countries, including the United States, had taken minor pieces from it. The famous "Assolli Cope," stolen from the cathedral at Assoli, which was returned by J. Pierpont Morgan, was cited, however, as an instance of American generosity.

Signor Cenero announced that Italy would show the same generosity. He said he had immediately notified the French ambassador, Camille Barrere, of the discovery of the painting. He added: "Mona Lisa" will be delivered to the ambassador with a solemnly worthy Leonardo Da Vinci and a spirit of happiness worthy of "Mona Lisa's" smile. Although the masterpiece is dear to all Italians as one of the best productions of the genius of their race, we will willingly return it to its foster country, which has regretted its loss so bitterly, as a fresh pledge of friendship and brotherhood between the two great Latin nations."

The painting is in an almost perfect state of preservation, notwithstanding the vicissitudes it must have undergone. Peruggia, although he has not made a complete confession, has admitted that he concealed it under the false bottom of a trunk, or fixed behind the canvas of a worthless sketch.

Sensation in Paris. PARIS, Dec. 13.—The sensation caused by the recovery of "Mona Lisa" was only equaled by that caused by its disappearance in August, 1911.

Special editions of the newspapers carried the news the length and breadth of Paris and tonight it was the sole topic of conversation. The finding of "Mona Lisa" had been so often announced, only to be contradicted, that the news was at first received with skepticism, but Ambassador Barrere's dispatch from Rome to the French minister of public instruction, though brief, was explicit and the names of the eminent Italian experts mentioned seemed a sufficient guarantee that it was the original painting.

Henry Marcol, director general of the French National museum, for a moment was inclined to doubt the news, saying: "We have so often been cruelly hoaxed that it is only natural that we should feel skeptical that the painting has been found. The telegram which I have read seems so clear and shows such detailed knowledge, however, that it seems to me the news must be true this time. In any case, the theft undoubtedly was the act of a madman. The motive given—to avenge thefts committed in Italy by Napoleon—clearly shows this."

"If the experts' examination proves the picture to be authentic, we will restore it to its former place and give it so that theft will be impossible."

The Florentine dealer, Geri, it is believed, will be entitled to claim rewards amounting to 200,000 francs (400,000) offered by the Society of Friends of the Louvre and Paris newspapers.

M. J. T. Homolle, who is director of the Louvre when "Mona Lisa" was stolen and who was suspended by the French cabinet because of the loss of the picture, has been given joy when he learned of its recovery.

Seymour G. Rieff, an eminent art critic of Paris, declared his faith in the certification of Dr. Corrado Riboldi at Florence of the authenticity of the "Mona Lisa."

"I do not think there is the slightest doubt," he said, "that the painting will be immediately restored to France."

Italy has no claim whatever on the "Mona Lisa" and has given or sold to the French king, Francis I, by Leonardo da Vinci himself.

M. Viviani, minister of public instruction, and M. Jaquier, under secretary for beaux arts, were both highly elated over the auspicious event, which ushers in their terms of office. The Italian government has advised them that it will deliver over the picture and they considered the best and safest way of conveying it to the Louvre.

The French government will take the earliest opportunity to express its gratitude to the Italian government for the service it has rendered in recovering the lost treasure.

Peruggia resided near St. Louis hospital. He left here hurried on Wednesday, saying he was obliged to go to Italy on important business.

He is 33 years old, the son of a carpenter. He came to Paris every year during the season and earned about eight francs a day, returning to some village when work was slack. Outside of a few compatriots, humble workers like himself, he was not known to have friends in Paris.

A neighbor of Peruggia described him as an ordinary workman, having no special technical knowledge and completely ignorant in artistic matters. The neighbor therefore was astonished to hear that Peruggia was accused of stealing the painting and believed that if the accusation were true he could only have been acting in the instigation of some one who had exploited his patriotic sentiments.

Nebraska Debaters Win Two Victories

LINCOLN, Dec. 13.—By a vote of 2 to 1 on the part of the judges Nebraska university tonight defeated Minnesota in debate. The question was: "Resolved: That immigration into the United States should be further restricted by a literacy test."

Nebraska debaters, Homer G. Hewitt, Reed B. Dawson and Harold A. Prince, had the affirmative and the three Minnesota men, Dean Campbell, Donald Pomeroy and Harvey Hoshour, defended the negative.

IOWA CITY, Ia., Dec. 13.—By unanimous decision of the judges, Nebraska university's debating team won a victory over Iowa last night. The rebuttal of the visitors was especially brilliant and won many compliments from a very critical audience.

The Nebraska speakers were Raymond E. Klier of Kearney, Otto K. Perrin of Sargent and C. A. Sorenson of Loup City. The Iowa debaters were Clarence B. Isaac of Iowa City, Theodore Garfield of Humboldt and Harry Reed of Waterloo.

The persistent and successful use of Newspaper Advertising is the Road to Business Success.

AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Democrats Deplore the Fight Between Bryan and Hitchcock.

GOOD JOBS STAY UNFILLED

Bourbons Forced to See Christmas Approach With Republican Holdovers Holding the Fort While Principals Scrap.

With resounding indignation a number of South Omaha democrats met last night at the city hall where they passed resolutions against the quarrel between Bryan and Hitchcock. The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 10 to 2.

It appeared from the sentiments of the meeting that the little affair in Mexico between Seniors Huerta and Carranza is a mild diversion in comparison with the tragic results of the status of bullfighting now existing between the Peerless one of Grape Juice fame and the Brilliant Defender of Bankers and the "dear pee-pul."

Whereas, The term of office of collector of Internal Revenue for Nebraska has expired several months ago, thereby creating a vacancy for some good democrat to fill.

Whereas, The statesman from Columbus whom Senator Hitchcock has in view for the place is not as able as Secretary Bryan and is not as popular as Secretary Bryan.

Resolved, That we here assembled recommend to Secretary Bryan and Senator Hitchcock that they arbitrate their difference of opinion as regards their choice as to who should occupy the office of Internal Revenue collector, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Congressman Lohbeck with instructions to him to take up the subject of arbitrary and capricious removal of Bryan and Senator Hitchcock for us believe in the policy of Andrew Jackson.

The committee on resolutions was composed of Jerry Howard, G. W. McGrath, Hugh Kennedy, Jack Gaughman, John Frank, Jess Vankut and F. J. Holly.

Wosniak to Lose License. Peter Wosniak, a saloonkeeper, Thirty-third and I. streets, was the first to fall under the blade of the law this year, and as a result of the court's finding yesterday Wosniak will lose his liquor license. Wosniak was found guilty of selling after hours on Saturday night last by Police Magistrate James Callahan, who fined him \$100 and costs.

The complaint under which Wosniak was tried was sworn out by a woman, Mrs. Katie Broda of 3113 I. street, who claims her husband drank beer in Wosniak's saloon last Saturday night after 8 o'clock. The cause of the information on the part of the woman was a fight in the saloon between her husband, Louis Broda, and Steve Stackavitch, in which it is said Broda got the worst of it.

Police Judge James Callahan said yesterday that under the law he could not do anything but fine Wosniak. The sentence makes it mandatory on the Fire and Police board to take Wosniak's license. This was the first liquor law infraction tried before Judge Callahan this year. Heretofore the erring saloonman has been "reported" to the Fire and Police board, which held a "trial," in which many of the witnesses were not even sworn.

City Prosecutor E. R. Leigh said yesterday: "Wosniak, according to the evidence, appeared to have been running out of hours. But I hear that he is not the only saloonkeeper breaking the law. Any one of these men who comes up before the police magistrate for breaking the liquor laws will be prosecuted to the full limit of my power."

It is understood that another attempt to nullify the Stocumb law will be made by resurrecting the so-called disorderly house ordinance. The disorderly house ordinance is destined to permit the police judge to fine saloonkeepers for keeping disorderly houses without trying the case on its merits under the Stocumb law. Members of the city council held the ordinance the last time it came up because it was said to mean the unfortunate day laborer caught in the saloon after hours would be arrested under the same law as applied to the saloonkeeper selling liquor after hours. The saloonkeeper, it was said, would be able to pay a fine, whereas many of the laboring men would not be able to do so and would have to lay in jail. Councilman Henry Harnsted led the fight against the proposed disorderly house ordinance and Councilman John Cavanaugh backed him up.

Morris Welds Axe. With the exception of two or three department heads, practically all the bosses of Morris & Co. have been changed. Men who for years held their places in the accounting changes of hands in the ownership of the big plant have been dropped from the rolls without previous notice, they claim.

When the Morris people took over the plant a year back it was with the express understanding that the employees would be retained for a year at least. When the year was up a few months back the work of despatching began without delay and has continued until now only three oil department heads are said to hold their old places.

General Manager Harry Culver resigned to accept a position with a Chicago packing company. Superintendent Fred Sheehy was called to Chicago and his position here taken by another. Other department heads followed in quick succession. Jim Austin, for many years hiring boss and head of the plant's police, has been supplanted and it is said that other changes will be made before the work is over.

Health Officer's Battle. City Physician E. J. Shanahan says the work of introducing sanitation laws among the foreign residents of South Omaha is the hardest and most trying work he ever attempted. The work of Dr. Shanahan is not a mere reform movement with no other purpose than a change from old conditions. It is a fight to save many people from the clutches of scarlet fever, diphtheria and other contagious diseases which have caused so much worry to the health department within the last few months. Dr. Shanahan's greatest trouble is to enforce quar-

A WORD TO CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

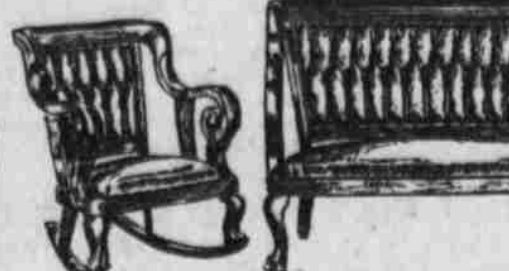
Come to us tomorrow, say, "I want to open an account" then pick from our stock such Christmas furniture or rugs or novelties as you may wish, tell us when to deliver and you need not start paying until next year. We will store your goods until you tell us when to deliver and charge you nothing for the storage. You will find this quite a wonderful help in your Christmas shopping.

Our buy-now—pay-next-year plan is a special credit inducement which we are only too glad to afford you. You will find us easy to deal with; you will find our employes thoroughly courteous; you will find our terms easy and convenient. We ask but one thing—and that is, that you come now while shopping is a pleasure and not a bore. NOTE THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS.



\$19.75 for This Massive \$30.00 BUFFET

Just like cut and an ideal Christmas gift. Made throughout of solid oak, finish golden. Top is set off with a beautiful French plate bevel mirror.



NOTHING NICER THAN A PRETTY PARLOR SUITE FOR AN XMAS GIFT

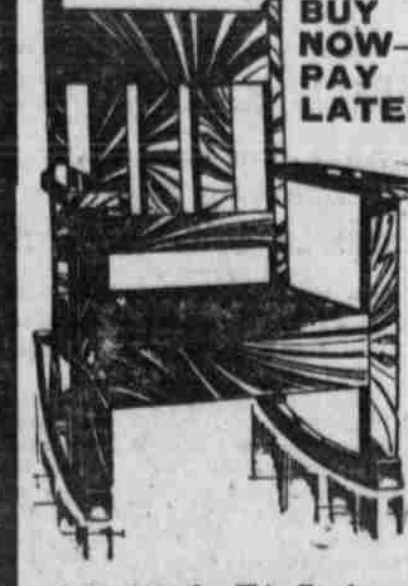
We offer you by far the largest line of parlor suites in the city to select from. Here are two special values. \$27.50 Three-Piece Parlor Suites, upholstered in imported materials, heavy frame, mahogany finish— Sale price \$14.95

\$55.00 Three-Piece Parlor Suites, similar to illustration; upholstered in genuine leather; massive birch, mahogany frames; sale price \$39.50



\$9.75 for This Splendid \$15 KITCHEN CABINET

Exactly like illustration except does not include dishes. A gift that mother or wife will enjoy for many, many years.



\$3.95 for This Handsome \$7.00 ROCKER

Finished in fumed oak and made of quarter sawed oak. A gift that will be appreciated by all of the family.



\$4.95 FOR THIS ALL STEEL CHILD'S CRIB

A sensible gift for the baby. Both sides drop; has patent spring and sells regularly at \$7.50.



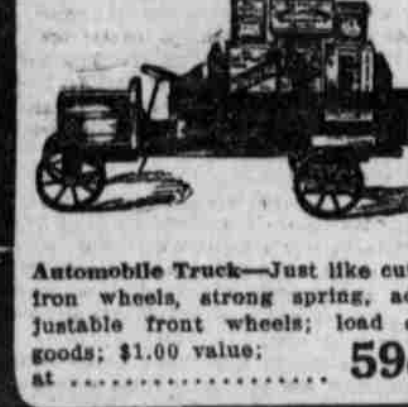
\$5.50 For a Handsome Ladies' Desk

Similar to illustration and one of the prettiest gifts that you could possibly make.



\$23.75 For a \$35.00 UNIFOLD BED DAVENPORT

A gift that the whole family will certainly enjoy.



Automobile Truck—Just like cut; iron wheels, strong spring, adjustable front wheels; load of goods; \$1.00 value; at 59c

UNION OUTFITTING CO. S. E. Cor. 16th and Jackson Sts. Established with The Express Store. 75c

An Honest Doctor

Advised Peruna.



Dr. Sylvester M. Smith, 259 South Grand Ave., St. Louis, Mo., writes: "Peruna is the best friend a sick man can have. A few months ago I came here in a wretched condition. Coughs and dampness had ruined my once robust health. I had catarrhal affections of the bronchial tubes, and for a time there was a doubt as to my recovery. My good honest old doctor advised me to take Peruna, which I did and in a short time my health began to improve very rapidly, the bronchial troubles gradually disappeared, and in three months my health was fully restored. Accept a grateful man's thanks for his restoration to perfect health. Ask Your Druggist for Free Peruna Lucky Day Almanac for 1914"

A BRACER BEFORE SERMON

Irreverent John Smith Goes to Church and Does Strange Things.

Members of the Congregational church in Patchogue, Long Island, did not say the reason they failed to speak more emphatically to John Roe Smith, aged 55, when he wore his hat during services last Sunday night, was because only a couple of months ago, Mr. Smith rowed across Great South Bay in the teeth of a gale and tossed a couple of trespassers off his land. They gave no reason.

But everybody in the congregation became nervous upon entering church to observe Mr. Smith, his derby hat on, sitting in a split-bottom chair tilted back against the wall near the last row of pews on the left of the entrance.

It is no more customary in Patchogue than elsewhere for gentlemen to wear their hats in church. But it is customary in Patchogue to expect anything unusual from Mr. Smith, who, besides being one of the oldest, is one of the wealthiest citizens.

Pious members of the congregation breathed a sigh of relief, when at the start of the prayer, Mr. Smith reached for his hat. But after scratching his partially bald head, Mr. Smith replaced the hat.

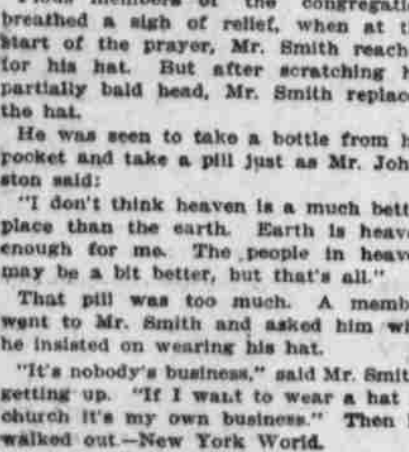
He was seen to take a bottle from his pocket and take a pill just as Mr. Johnston said: "I don't think heaven is a much better place than the earth. Earth is heaven enough for me. The people in heaven may be a bit better, but that's all."

That pill was too much. A member went to Mr. Smith and asked him why he insisted on wearing his hat.

"It's nobody's business," said Mr. Smith, getting up. "If I want to wear a hat in church it's my own business." Then he walked out—New York World.

TALKING TEDDY BEARS

With adjustable arms and feet and head, stands 20 in. high; a delightful toy; worth \$1.50; sale price—75c



"38" PACKARD "48" Packard cars receive their highest endorsement from experienced users of other cars, who when driving a Packard have realized for the first time the nearest approach to complete motoring satisfaction. A prominent motorist—owner and driver of nearly every so-called high grade car produced in America or Europe—reported in a personal letter, after a summer of high speed and strenuous touring in a Packard "48": "I did not believe it possible that such a perfect vehicle could be made." Orr Motor Sales Company 2416 Farnam Street Omaha, Nebraska LINCOLN HIGHWAY CONTRIBUTOR Ask the man, who owns one

antine. The city health department makes an endeavor to enforce the sanitary regulations, but with but medium success. Both City Physician Shanahan and Health Inspector Ed Burman will continue to enforce the sanitation and quarantine laws, they say.

High School Program. South Omaha High school, which a few weeks ago won renown for its archaic logical work among the bones of prehistoric settlers of Nebraska, added to those laudable last night by distilling the remains of a dead language and staging a play in the Latin tongue. The high school auditorium, where the program was given, was comfortably filled with a large crowd of parents and patrons of the high school present to encourage the walking of the ancient shades upon the modern boards of a western speaking town.

Not a great many were present who did not appear to be conversant with the niceties of the Ciceronian diction which fell from the nimble tongues of Prof. Moore's Latin scholars. The applause came at rather unexpected periods, but it was none the less genuine. There was much of the "salvos" and "aves" to the Latin master or school teacher, who enacted the role of the ancient pedagogue. The playlet was entitled, "A Roman Schola." The actors carried their work off with much success.

With lightning-like speed the solemn dignity of the Latin school room gave way to the rollicking noise of western cowboy drama. The laughter and applause of the audience was much more natural.

Arrangements have been made with the Omaha Water board whereby the teachers in the South Omaha public schools will receive their pay without having to turn them over to the Omaha Water board. Pay day will be Friday, December 13.

Workmen Elected. Pennant lodge No. 286, Ancient Order of United Workmen elected the following officers for the ensuing term December 11: Past master workman, J. I. Kubat; under workman, A. W. Fisher; foreman, Fred Prostler; overseer, Julius Withler; recorder, James Pett; financier, Frank Andrews; treasurer, M. J. Rowley; guide, J. Kramolich; inside watch, E. E. Gilliam; trustee, Thomas J. Deo; medical attendant, F. O. Beck and William M. Davis.

Pivonka Very Ill. Joseph Pivonka, former police commissioner, lies at his home, 138 South Twenty-third street, in a condition giving very little hope for recovery. He is suffering from pneumonia and the physicians say he has but slight chance for recovery. He contracted a bad cold a week ago and rapidly grew worse.

Pivonka served on the Fire and Police Board in South Omaha for more than two years. He is a young man and is married. He is known as one of the younger business men of the city. Miss M. Dean, superintendent of the South Omaha hospital, is one of the

Magic City Gossip. P. D. Ferrine is seriously ill at the South Omaha hospital.

Joe Lioack has sold out his meat market and will engage in another line of business.

Rev. W. J. Hastic has returned from Craig, Neb., where he gave an address on "Church Efficiency."

The P. E. O. society will meet this afternoon at the home of Mrs. G. W. Davis, 1509 North Twenty-fifth street.

Mrs. A. L. Jacobs of Clairmont, Ia., is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. A. Hunter, 1529 North Twenty-seventh street.

George R. Childs, conductor on the Fort Crook interurban railway line, is able to return to work after a two weeks' illness.

The Equal Suffrage league held a business meeting yesterday afternoon at the home of Dr. Adda Wiley Balston, 1604 North Twenty-fourth street.

Church Services. First Baptist church, Twenty-fifth and I streets, Rev. W. E. Hill, pastor. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Preaching at 11 o'clock and at 7:30 p. m., by the pastor. Fort Crook Baptist mission, 1421 Broadway, Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Hillsdale Baptist mission at 2:30 o'clock.

St. Luke's Lutheran church, Twenty-fifth and K streets, Rev. S. H. Verlan, pastor. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Preaching by the pastor at 11 o'clock, subject, "The Question of John." Confirmation class at 4 p. m.

First Christian church, Twenty-third and I streets, Rev. W. J. Hastic, pastor. Bible study at 10 o'clock. Preaching at 11 o'clock and at 7:30 p. m., by the pastor.

BIRTHPLACE OF "STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" AFIRE

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 13.—Fire, fanned by a high wind, for a time this afternoon, threatened to devastate historic Fort McHenry, birthplace of "The Star Spangled Banner." Burning grass ignited the administration building and the officers quarters and barracks were endangered. Before the fire was extinguished three rooms of the administration building were wrecked.