

**\$1,000,000 DAMAGE TO COURT HOUSE AND CONTENTS RESULT OF MOB'S DESTRUCTIVE ORGY**

**Invaluable Records, That Took Years to Compile, Are Lost—1918 Tax Lists Are Gone Together With "Scavenger" Lists.**

More than \$1,000,000 damage was done to the Douglas county court house and its invaluable contents by the mob of Sunday night. This is a very conservative estimate, the county commissioners said Monday. It does not include another \$1,000,000 that probably will be lost because the tax records were burned.

"It will cost \$500,000 to repair the damage to the building and fixtures alone," said County Commissioner O'Connor. "The cost of replacing the destroyed records will be at least that much more."

County Treasurer Endres said the cost of replacing the records destroyed in his office, as far as they can be replaced, will be from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

**Building Cost \$1,198,820.**

The cost of building the court house and equipping it in 1910 was as follows:

Cost of building.....	\$1,000,000
Furniture and fixtures.....	80,520
Decoration of walls.....	26,000
Shades, rugs, etc.....	6,300
Vault fixtures.....	36,000
Steel cells.....	50,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,198,820</b>

"It would cost twice that sum to build and equip the building today," said John Latenser, the architect who built the court house.

"If the building and contents are damaged 50 per cent, as I have been told, you can figure out that damage estimated at present prices is well over \$1,000,000.

"I have not made an examination yet, but I do not anticipate that there has been structural damage to the building. The steel and concrete shell is evidently intact. The stone is ornamental and that will have to be replaced in the scores of places where it was chipped off by the heat."

Amazement was expressed that the record books of the county treasurer's office were not in the vaults. These are nearly all consumed, County Treasurer Endres said.

**Court House Practically Ruined.**

The beautiful court house, built in 1910, at a cost of \$1,000,000 and which could not be built today for twice that sum, is a mass of ruins today. The floors are covered with charred wood, mingled with the plaster that fell from walls and ceilings. Valuable steel filing cases are masses of twisted steel, revealing the charred remains of the records of the county. Adding machines, typewriters and desks are scarcely recognizable charred and twisted junk.

Everywhere the floors are covered with broken glass. The elevator gratings were smashed down on top of the elevators, which stand at the bottom of the shafts.

Men started yesterday morning clearing up the worst of the wreckage in the offices which escaped complete ruin. The water was mopped up in the corridors and the debris shoveled and swept into corners.

All the 1918 county tax records and the 1918 and 1919 city tax records were destroyed in the treasurer's office. "The 'scavenger tax' records were burned. These are the lists of property on which taxes have been overdue for years.

The sale of this property next January was expected to bring in between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000. This sum must be added to the \$1,600,000 estimate of actual loss to the building and records.

Most of the land indexes in the office of the county register of deeds were destroyed. These were in steel filing cases. The mob pried these open, took out about 40 of the big books, piled them in the middle of the floor, set them on fire and piled chairs and desks on top of them.

**Land Indexes Also Burned.** "It will cost at least \$100,000 to replace those books and will take months of time," said F. J. Norton, an abstractor.

The county clerk's office is completely gutted with the loss there of invaluable records.

The county assessor's office is entirely destroyed. Plats of the city property just recently completed after six months' work were consumed. "Those alone will cost \$20,000 to replace," said County Assessor Fitzgerald. He stated that the actual assessment records were in the vault.

**Sears Loses Valuable Library.** The private office of District Judge Sears was gutted and the judge's private library of the autographed works of famous writers was consumed together with a valuable law library.

District Judge Wakeley's office was completely burned out. Here also several large cases of books were consumed.

Sheriff Clark's office on the fourth floor, just under the jail, is nothing but a mass of charred wood, plaster and broken glass.

The office of the election commis-

sioner, the first to be entered by the mob from outside the building, was completely gutted. Election Commissioner Moorhead said the registration lists were all in the vaults.

**Red Cross Offices Gutted.**

The Red Cross offices on the ground floor, Seventeenth street side, are a mass of charred wreckage.

The private office of Robert Smith, clerk of the district court, was completely wrecked, but the district clerk's public office was not damaged except for broken windows and fallen plaster.

Asel Steere, deputy clerk of the court, when the fire started Sunday night, remembered that many of the valuable records were not in the vaults. He made his way to an entrance of the building, went up to the second floor and entered the office. The flames were raging on the floor below. He opened the steel vault and carried dozens of the big books in which the district records were kept, into the vaults.

**Injured Policemen in Vault.**

Three policemen who had been shot came or were brought into the office and Mr. Steere let them into the vault. The door was closed and the four men remained there while the conflagration raged.

As it happened, the office was not burned, but if it had been this action of Mr. Steere would have saved records that are unreplacable.

**Offices Damaged by Fire.**

The following offices were damaged to the extent of broken windows and fallen plaster and broken doors:

- Offices of Judges Estelle, Redick, Troup, Leslie and Day.
- Grand Army room.
- County attorney's office.
- County judge's office.
- Juvenile court room and offices.
- District clerk's public office.
- County surveyor's office.
- Public defender's office.
- Law library.

**DEMAND CITY PAY FOR SACKING OF STORES**

Townsend Gun Company and Pawnbrokers Say They Will File Claims. Some Firms Hope to Make Adjustment Insurance Claims.

Proprietors and managers of sporting goods stores, pawn shops and other establishments which were looted of firearms and ammunition by members of Sunday night's mob, declared they intended to file damages against the city for their losses, estimated at \$20,000.

"We intend to make a damage claim against the city," declared Harry H. McDuff, president of the Townsend Gun company. "We've been paying for police protection for years and haven't been getting it. The city authorities are at fault and it is to them we will make our damage claim."

"And this for comfort thou must know, Times that are ill won't still be so; Clouds will not ever pour down rain; A sullen day will clear again."

**ATTEMPT TO LYNCH MAYOR DEFENDING PRISONER**

(Continued from Page 1.) turned over, and someone applied a match to the escaping gasoline. The car blazed up, the gasoline tank exploded and soon only smoldering ruins were left.

**Firemen's Hose Is Cut.**

Several companies of firemen arrived in answer to a call, but were unable to accomplish anything. No sooner had the hose been laid than it was cut in a dozen places.

During all the trouble Sheriff Mike Clark and a half dozen deputies were in charge of more than 100 county prisoners on the fifth floor of the court house. The prisoners included

fifteen women.

**Sheriff Herds Prisoners on Roof.**

When smoke and heat from the blaze on the fourth floor grew so intense that it was impossible to keep the prisoners in their cells, Sheriff Clark marched them all up to the roof.

There they were safe until members of the crowd started shooting from neighboring buildings.

After three prisoners were wounded by bullets, Sheriff Clark decided to seek refuge for his prisoners on the west end of the fourth floor.

The police squad had been stationed at the foot of the fourth floor stairs after being pushed away from the second floor, and had successfully resisted all efforts of the crowd to go further. But the heat and smoke was too much for the police. Two officers were overcome by smoke before the remainder decided to abandon their perilous position.

**Prisoners Give Up Negro.**

As the foremost men in the mob started up the stairs, Will Brown, who was being sought, was hurled by other prisoners past the county officers and into the arms of the waiting crowd.

"Here's your man," the prisoners cried.

A score of men struck Brown and threatened to kill him.

"Let's show him to the crowd," yelled one man.

Brown was dragged, half unconscious, up the fire ladder, in sight of all. His head hung down and he was silent.

**Bleeding Victim Is Strung Up.**

Members of the crowd had a hard time keeping him from being shot as they jerked and dragged him to the electric light post at the corner of Eighteenth and Harney streets, where a rope was thrown over the iron beam.

One man, his face covered with a handkerchief, adjusted the rope.

Still silent and bleeding in a dozen places, Brown was swung off the ground. A score of men pulled on the rope.

**Bullets Sway Man's Body.**

No sooner had the body cleared the ground than hundreds of shots were fired at the swaying form.

It was a curious crowd that viewed the body as it swung to and fro. In the thousands that witnessed the scene were men, women and children. Mothers with babes in arms pushed forward to see the body.

A few women fainted, but more shouted in glee.

**Body Dragged and Burned.**

In twenty minutes the body was cut down and the rope was tied to the rear of the police patrol car, which members of the crowd had seized, and was dragged to Seventeenth and Dodge streets, where it was burned. Great quantities of gasoline were poured over the body.

By this time most of the crowd had dispersed, but a few hundred started to the police station, Eleventh and Dodge streets. On their way, every pawn shop that contained weapons was broken into and looted.

**Troops Take Charge.**

At midnight, in response to orders from Washington, detachments of soldiers from Fort Omaha and Fort Crook and 100 men from Camp Dodge, Iowa, took charge of the situation.

**A Few Negroes Attacked.**

While the mob was in progress a few Negroes down town were attacked and chased by crowds, but none was seriously hurt.

**Mob Threatened to Visit Residential Section.**

Threats were made that the mob intended to invade the northern section of the city where a large proportion of the colored people live and clean out the neighborhood. Fortunately for all concerned no attempt was made to carry out this threat. It is to the credit of our people that

they engaged in no acts of looting or violence.

The authorities have acted promptly in arresting members of the mob. About 80 have been arrested and are being held without bail. It is stated that the number of arrests will run up into the hundreds.

Only ten or twelve Negroes have been arrested for carrying concealed weapons, two of whom have been charged with making threats.

The troops under Major General Wood have acted with commendable judgment, discretion and impartiality.

**STORY OF CRIME OF WHICH BROWN WAS ACCUSED**

This is the story of the crime of which Brown was accused as reported in substantial agreement by all three of the local dailies.

Agnes Lobeck, 19 years old, 3228 South Second street, was assaulted at Second street and Scenic avenue by an unidentified Negro at 12 o'clock Thursday, while she was returning to her home in company with Millard Hoffman, a cripple, aged 23, 1923 South Thirteenth street, according to the police reports.

"We were walking along the street near my home when a Negro jumped out of the weeds at us," sobbed the girl. "He pulled a pistol and stuck it in Millard's back and told him to

throw up his hands. He robbed him of a watch and some money and told him to go off and sit down fifty feet away.

"Millard went away and sat down and the Negro man dragged me into the weeds by my hair and assaulted me. I tried to scream, but he covered my mouth with his left hand while he held the pistol on Millard."

"I know Millard wanted to help me, but the Negro kept the gun on him. My companion was afraid of getting shot. I did not want him to lose his life, for he is a cripple."

When the Negro released his victim he told the couple to stay where they were for ten minutes and then they could go home. They waited the designated time, but when they started to hurry to their homes, they saw the assailant sitting in a clump of weeds several yards from them.

They were so alarmed, they told the police, that they ran to the Lobeck residence and told of the attack.

Brown was arrested Friday and is said by the police to have been identified as the girl's assailant, both by her and her escort. The bravery of the police officers prevented Brown from being lynched at the time of his arrest. He was placed in the county jail which was considered mob proof.

He protested that he was innocent up until the last.

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