

A VERY MYSTERIOUS FIRE EARLY SUNDAY MORNING DESTROYS RESIDENCE

House Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leighty, Who Were Away From Home at the Time, and No One Had Been About the House for Several Hours Previously.

About 3 o'clock Sunday morning, when the thermometer was hovering near to below zero, the fire whistle sounded and the fire laddies hustled from their warm beds to grasp the nozzle and direct the ice-cold water on the blaze that was consuming Charles Leighty's residence. Shortly after the fire alarm sounded the men had the white cart from the central hose house at the scene of the blaze on South Seventh street. Mr. and Mrs. Leighty were away at the time, Mrs. Leighty having gone to Omaha on the fast mail Saturday afternoon and Mr. Leighty followed on the M. P., expecting to visit friends over Sunday.

The origin of the fire at that late hour is a mystery which the chief of the fire department cannot fathom. The fire was first noticed by Mrs. Brown, who was up at the time, attending to the wants of her little child, and happened to smell the wood burning. At first she looked about her own dwelling to see if it was on fire, and on looking out of the door saw the Leighty home in flames.

The fire seems to have started under the floor, as the joist were burned from the under side, but not on top. The fire spread to the interior of the dwelling and the roof, and little was left of it but the sides. The fire boys did excellent work, and Henry Zuckweiler, who resides in the neighborhood, was awful popular with the boys and they will not soon forget his kindness in starting up

a fire in his range and making two boilers full of hot coffee, which the boys relished very much. Henry knows how to make coffee to suit the taste of the fire boys and they will be under everlasting obligations to him for his generous treatment of them Sunday morning. It is not known whether the dwelling was insured or not. It was valued at about \$1,000.

The excellent work of the fire company cannot be over-estimated, and had they not responded promptly to the alarm the way the wind was blowing and the fire-brands flying the fire would probably have spread to neighboring dwellings. The fire had gained considerable headway before it was discovered and the alarm sent in. The boys had to contend with the steep upgrade from the central house up South Sixth street, and the ice and snow on the street made the footing precarious and headway in climbing the hill was made slowly, but when this difficulty was overcome the boys went at the fire with some celerity. C. F. Weber of the water company was on the ground and did all he could to aid the boys in getting the stream of water playing on the building.

The contents of the building, including furniture and Mr. Leighty's moving picture apparatus, were all destroyed by the flames. Mr. and Mrs. Leighty returned last evening on No. 14, and until they arrived at the station they knew nothing of their loss.

SMITH & MAUZY'S NEW DRUG STORE

One of Beauty and Well Arranged for Business—New and Up-to-Date Fixtures.

Have you dropped in at the new drug store of the Smith & Mauzy Drug Co.? For convenience and elegance there is not a drug store in the state which will eclipse the new store just opened. When the visitor enters the door the first impression which attracts his attention is the harmony in color of the furnishings of the store room with the walls and ceiling and fixtures.

The tincture and patent medicine cases, which are lined upon either side of the room, are finished in oak. The cases are enclosed with ballbearing sliding glass doors, entirely dust-proof, and mounted with ornamental bronze-covered mortars and pedestals, the signs of the profession. In the rear of the store room, on the right is a neat office; on the left one of the most complete prescription cases it has ever been the lot of the writer to behold.

Taking the place of the mirror which usually is found on the exterior of the prescription case, is beautiful art glass, and the same covers the exterior of the front of the office, making a very beautiful and pleasing effect. Modern show cases line both sides of the room, in which are displayed the stock of toilet articles, brushes, leather goods, confectionery and the numerous other articles kept for sale by druggists.

An all marble, iceless soda fountain occupies the front on the east side of the room. The entire store room is carpeted with heavy linoleum; antique light and gas fixtures adorn the ceiling and the most beautiful show clusters are found in each window, which are resplendent with beauty at all times, and especially when the electric lights are turned on in the evening.

The tincture and patent medicine cases, as well as the fine cabinet work on drawers and flask racks and medicine cupboards and prescription cases, as well as all other carpenter work, are the handiwork of that skilled mechanic, Al Despain. The artistic frescoing and painting and graining on all the inside woodwork was done by artists of long experience, this work being done by Beal & Son.

From this it will be seen that the money expended by the Smith & Mauzy Drug Co. in fitting up their new building and rendering it one of the most elegant stores

in the city, has all been expended at home. The material men of Plattsmouth, as well as the home mechanics, each got a piece of the money, and the members of the drug company are both men that believe in living up to the city's slogan. "See Plattsmouth Succeed." If you have not already been in to see them, drop in and take a look at the new store—one that will reflect credit to the city.

The proprietors of the store are both men of much experience in the drug business, C. H. Smith having been a resident of the city for about forty years, and formerly was in the drug business in this city before being appointed postmaster. James Mauzy is a Plattsmouth boy, having been born and raised in this city, and is a son of Henry Mauzy of Plattsmouth. James has achieved success in his chosen profession and conducted a drug store for a firm in Missouri for a number of years. Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Mauzy are skilled pharmacists and genial gentlemen, just the right turn to be successful merchants.

Railroad Man Married.

The friends in Pacific Junction of Superintendent Edward E. Young of the western division of the Burlington, will be interested to know that he was married to Dr. Alice M. Day of Denver on last Wednesday. The couple left for an extended honeymoon of several weeks. They will go first to New Orleans, from whence they will take boat for Cuba, Porto Rico, the Isle of Pines, coming home by Birmingham, Ala. Mrs. Young was one of the most well known woman doctors in the country and the daughter of an Ohio banker. They will live at Alliance, Neb. Mr. Young spent a dozen years or more at the beginning of his railroad career here at the Junction.—Glenwood Tribune.

Mr. Young has many friends in Plattsmouth who extend congratulations and wish him and his bride all the happiness and prosperity imaginable.

Lost, Strayed or Stolen.

Two-year-old White-face heifer, about December 18, 1911. She is a perfect type of the White-face breed. Any information will be thankfully received by telephoning Line 4-H, Platts. Phone, or address, Guy Keiser, Mynard, Neb.

Box Social at Bestor School.

A box social and girls' play will be given at the Bestor school, District 42, on next Saturday evening, February the 10th. Everyone come and bring boxes. Nora Batten, Teacher.

2-5-21w-21d.

20% Discount!

20% Discount!

OUR ANNUAL

Clearance Sale!

COMMENCING

Thursday, February 1,

AND CONTINUING FOR SIX DAYS

This will NOT be a half-price sale on a few Winter Goods that we want to dispose of. Our per cent of profit won't allow us to sell FIRST-CLASS Merchandise (and that is sure the kind we sell) at 50 per cent discount. Now we are going to offer you with a very few exceptions the entire stock of Dry Goods and Shoes at

20% DISCOUNT! 20%

That means that every dollar's worth of Merchandise you buy out of this big up-to-date stock, will only cost you 80 cents. Remember the dates—

FEBRUARY 1st to FEBRUARY 8th

Groceries, Carpets, Rugs, Linoliums, Oil Cloth, Butterick Patterns, O. N. T. Thread, Carpet Warp and Muslins are not included in this Discount Sale.

E. G. DOVEY & SON,

PLATTSMOUTH,

NEBRASKA

AGITATION FOR TESTING SEED CORN

The Public Schools of the State to Be Enlisted in Selecting Good Seed Corn.

School superintendents, principals and teachers all over Nebraska are to be enlisted in the work of securing seed corn tests to prevent the planting of fields next spring with grain which may not possess proper germinating qualities. State Superintendent Delzell has started the movement to utilize the educational machinery of the state for this purpose, by sending out a circular letter to all superintendents and principals.

It is thought that the supervisory officers of the schools can get their teachers interested in the work, that the pupils will become interested and through them the parents. By conducting tests during February in the schools, the pupils will be shown how to determine the growing qualities of corn and in turn can make tests at home, thus aiding their parents.

The fact that a large proportion of farmers are already in the habit of testing seed corn each year is recognized by State Superintendent Delzell. He hopes, however, that the schools can be made the medium of universalizing the practice. In this letter to superintendents and principals, he says:

"After a conference with Prof. G. W. Pugsley of the state university farm, on the subject of seed corn for Nebraska farmers, it seems advisable that county superintendents and town and village superintendents instruct the teachers under their charge how to test seed corn.

"To follow the above suggestion would be one of the most practical ways of convincing the farmer that it is worth while to teach agriculture in our schools.

"The loss of the farmers of Nebraska by planting poor seed corn has been a very heavy drain on the income from that one product. In one section there are 640 acres of land in one township

there are 24,400 acres. If one-eighth of that acreage were planted in corn, and a loss of four bushels per acre were caused by planting poor seed corn, that township would lose 11,520 bushels, which, if corn is worth 50 cents per bushel, would make a loss of \$5,760. That is not a very large loss, but there are about 2,100 townships, equaling 49,177,600 acres. A loss of four bushels per acre on one-eighth of the above would mean 24,588,800 bushels, which, at 50 cents per bushel would make a deficiency of \$12,294,400 in the cash funds of the farmers of the state.

"The total number of bushels of corn raised in 1911 was 133,400,303, which, at 50 cents per bushel, would equal \$66,700,151. Thus a loss of four bushels per acre would be about one-fifth of last year's crop of corn. Now is the time to select good seed corn and to know that it is good. You will probably see many articles in the papers along these same lines. This letter and inclosures will be added incentive to help boost for good seed corn.

"You will find inclosed three forms of testing seed corn. Use the one that seems most suitable to your locality and conditions. The 'rag baby' system appears to me as being the most practical.

"Urge the testing of seed corn this spring. Make a special campaign on this one item of agricultural study and you will have done the state a lasting good.

"Yours for a practical education and a great crop of corn."

Instruction for the 'rag baby' test are given as follows: Take a piece of muslin, one foot wide and three feet long. Mark it off lengthwise into spaces three inches wide and number from one to ten, leaving a blank space at each end.

Select ten ears of corn. Number each ear from 1 to 10, using the tag in butt of ear fastened by pin or shingle nail. Preserve the identity of the ear until the test is complete. Remove 6 kernels from each ear.

Dampen the cloth. Place the kernels from ear No. 4 in space No. 1, fold again over kernels on space No. 2, and continue until roll is completed. Tie securely at each end with a string. Keep in a warm, damp place, or, better,

bury in warm, damp sand or sawdust.

Organize a corn testing contest between four or more teams, a boy or girl and father to constitute a team. Each team selects its best ears of corn for the contest. At the end of a week or eight days have a public meeting at the schoolhouse and examine the rag babies.

Plant no corn which does not show at least 80 per cent of strong root and stalk sprouts.

Get your farmers to test all their seed corn. The condition is critical.

Red Hog Sale.

V. E. Perry and Guy Keiser, from near Mynard, were in the city today for a short visit and to look after some business matters. Mr. Perry called at this office for the purpose of making advertising arrangements for his Duroc-Jersey breed sow sale, that will be held on Friday, February 23, at his farm, southwest of Plattsmouth. You will find an advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the Journal announcing the sale. Mr. Perry has some of the finest red hogs to be found in the county; in fact, his strains are as good as the best, and his offerings at this sale will prove valuable additions to any herd in the country.

In the District Court.

Judge Travis entered a decree Saturday afternoon, granting a divorce in the case of Alice E. Sherwood vs. Ralph Sherwood. The order gives the custody of their 8-months-old babe to the mother, with a proviso that the defendant may visit the child at times convenient to the mother, until further order of the court.

In the case of J. N. Haskell vs. Almira Davis, a sale of the real estate, being the Wetenkamp block, was confirmed and the sheriff ordered to place the purchaser in possession of the property.

Steve Barker and wife drove in from the farm west of the city today and transacted business with the merchants. They found the sleighing good in spots, while in places the roads were quite bare, the wind having swept the snow into the low places.

DEATH OF MRS. JOHN KOUKAL

After an Illness of Several Months Mrs. Koukal Passed Away Saturday Morning.

After an illness of some months Mrs. John Koukal died at her home, west of this city, Saturday morning. Mrs. Koukal's maiden name was Miss Svoboda, she being the eldest daughter of Joseph and Albina Svoboda of this city. She was born in Europe about forty-two years ago and came to America and to Plattsmouth with her parents, and about twenty-five years ago was married to John Koukal.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Koukal—Julia, Joseph, John, Emil, Raymond, Louis, Gust, Henry and Harriett. Besides her husband and children, Mrs. Koukal leaves her father and mother and two sisters surviving, the sisters being Mrs. Maravek of Racine, Wis., and Miss Julia Svoboda, who is employed by Hess & Svoboda, florists, of Omaha. Mrs. Koukal's funeral occurred this morning at 10 o'clock from the Holy Rosary Catholic church, Father Vleck conducting the same.

A Serious Experience.

Dewey Hobaek had an experience Sunday evening that will teach him the danger of throwing kerosene on a smoldering coal fire. His father sent him to the church about 7 o'clock to see how the fire was, and Dewey conceived the brilliant idea of throwing kerosene on the fire as a means toward quickly kindling it. The resultant explosion knocked him down, singeing his eyebrows off and burned his face quite painfully. He is staying out of school on account of it and it is hoped there will be no permanent ill-effects.—Nehawka News.

Murray Dancing Club.

The Murray Dancing club will give another dance in the Jenkins' hall in Murray on Saturday evening, February 10. The music will be furnished by the popular Jacobs' orchestra of Omaha. You know there is a good time in store for you, so do not make any other date.