NEWS SECTION.

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

PAGES 1 TO 8.

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JAP LINE IS BROKEN

Report that Kouropatkin Succeeds in Piercing Oyama's Left Wing.

NOW THREATENS HIS COMMUNICATIONS

Russians Rumored to Have Begun a General Turning Movement.

MAY FORCE JAPS FROM WINTER QUARTERS

Czar's Army Loses One Thousand Men in Battle of Thursday.

BEGINNING OF GENERAL ENGAGEMENT

Japanese Reports Say Fight Has Been in Progress for Two Days and that Russians Are Repulsed.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 29.—12:50 a. m.—According to reports current in military circles General Kouropatkin has broken through Field Marshal Oyama's left wing and threatens his communications with Yinkow. Whether or not the report is true the Associated Press learns from a high military source that General Kouropatkin has undertaken a general offensive movement on both flanks with the object of threatening both lines of Japanese communications and forcing the Japanese from their winter quarters. The informant of the Associated Press said:

"After General Mistchenko's advance General Kouropatkin decided that General Oyama's position could be turned westward from the plains. The advance has absolutely no connection with events in European Russia. If, as has been reported, the Russians have already succeeded in piercing the Japanese left, they doubtless will be able to reach a point west of Liao Yang, in which case the Japanese will be outflanked. A similar movement southward from Bentsiaputze will strike the Japanese line of communications toward Yalu. Although cold, the weather is ideal for winter campaigning. The ground is hard and the rivers frozen solid, making the handling of artillery easy."

No further official news was received from the front Saturday night. General Kouropatkin has something short of 300,000 men and 1,100 guns. The troops engaged on the right, in addition to General Mistchenko's and General Rennenkampf's cavalry, are believed to be principally Siberian and part of the First European army.

Russian Loss One Thousand.

A telegram from Chansiamutun says the Russians lost forty-five officers and 1,000 men killed or wounded at the capture of the village of Sandepas January 26. The Russians took 102 Japanese prisoners besides arms, wagons and ammunition.

The general staff has received the following dispatch from General Sakharoff, General Kouropatkin's chief-of-staff:

Our troops continue on the offensive at Sandepas. South of there our cavalry encountered four Japanese battalions and six squadrons of cavalry advancing from Heikoutai. The Japanese fled, throwing their arms into ambulance wagons. One of our columns took thirty prisoners and another captured twenty.

General Engagement Begins.

MUKDEN, Jan. 28.—10:44 p. m.—(Delayed in Transmission)—A general engagement is progressing. Only the left flank is not involved. The hospitals here and at Harbin have been put in readiness to receive large numbers of wounded, of whom about 1,000 have already arrived at Mukden. Several hundred Japanese were made prisoners. The battle commenced on the right flank on General Kouropatkin's initiative. The Japanese were driven back five miles from their advanced positions defended by the reserve brigades. The fighting extended January 26 to the center. The Japanese endeavored to take Poutiloff hill, but were driven back with heavy loss.

The men going into battle are well prepared for the weather conditions, being warmly clad and shod, well fed and in good spirits.

The activity of General Mistchenko's fast riding cavalry continues. A large Japanese transport train was captured on the extreme right of the west flank.

Fight Lasts All Day.

The most important cannonade since the first battle on the Shakhe river, was maintained all yesterday in a continuous storm against the Japanese left, which Field Marshal Oyama has been reinforcing with troops from Port Arthur since General Mistchenko's raid. The attack was centered about seven miles west of Shakhe station and it resulted in the Japanese withdrawing from Holantai and Funchuang-Chiatsu, which the Russians have occupied. The cannonading and snowstorm continued undiminished today. It is considerably colder.

The cannonading indicates that an extended contest is progressing. The driving wind and snow favor the Russians, thus offsetting the advantage the Japanese had last October when the sun shone in the Russian's eyes.

Today's reports indicate that the Japanese are continuing to fall back, while the Russian cavalry have, it is understood, advanced their lines ten miles. The Japanese yesterday flew a large kite into the Russian lines. The kite was covered with photographs showing the treatment of Russian prisoners in Japan. It was evidently intended to attract the Russian soldiers.

On January 27 there was a heavy cannonade on the right flank. It subsided entirely shortly after noon and quiet now continues throughout the center and right.

Oyama Reports.

TOKIO, Jan. 28.—The long inactivity on the Shakhe river was broken January 25 when General Kouropatkin advanced a full corps from the vicinity of Shengisu. Field Marshal Oyama immediately assumed the aggressive and engagements occurred at Chenchiehpao and Heikoutai. Oyama reports that he defeated the Russians at Chenchiehpao. The engagement at Heikoutai was progressing when the field marshal reported. The official telegram does not disclose the object of the Russians and does not indicate the prospects of a general engagement.

Oyama's report follows:

The enemy on the right of the Hun river began activity January 25. Over one corps advanced from the district south of Chengtan toward Heikoutai and Chenchiehpao. Our army assumed the offensive January 26. Our detachment repulsed a division of the enemy at Chenchiehpao. The Russians retired to Lautiako. Another detachment has been engaging a division of Russians at Heikoutai since January 28.

Japs Capture Ship.

TOKIO, Jan. 28.—(2 p. m.)—The American steamer M. S. Dollar, enroute for Vladivostok with a cargo of provisions and forage, was seized yesterday by the Japanese in the Pacific ocean east of Hokkaido island.

A dispatch from London, dated January

(Continued on Second Page.)

STORIES OF LOUISE MICHEL

"Red Virgin" of France a Woman of Deep Sympathy and Broad Charity.

PARIS, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—Louise Michel, whose death was announced recently, was a petroleuse, during the commune, helped to light the first which destroyed several monuments of Paris in 1871, fought like a demon against the Versailles, being severely wounded on Issy fort, and at her trial by court-martial cried: "When you charge me with having had a share in the shooting of the generals by the communards, I reply that had I been there when they gave the order to fire on the people I would have shot them down myself."

Much more than this the "Red Virgin" did and said, and yet she was the best, kindest and most tender-hearted of women, and if any one ever practiced Christian charity she practiced it when she was not revolutionizing. She went literally hungry, barefooted and in rags to help others, and it was no fine figure of speech, but the actual truth, to say that she gave all she had. Anecdotes of her boundless charity, which no deception or trickery ever arrested, are innumerable. Georges Clemenceau found her one day in a wine shop looking at a man eating a plate of soup at her expense. Clemenceau knew him for a notorious rogue, and whispered to Louise: "Do you know that man is a swindler?"

"I can't help that," she said; "he was hungry."

When Henri Rochefort and she, with other communists, were transported to New Caledonia, Louise Michel distributed all her shoes and stockings among her fellow prisoners and remained barefooted in bitterly cold weather. The captain of the convict ship Virginie said to Rochefort, "I should like to give Louise Michel a pair of slippers, but she would never take them from me. Here they are, you give them to her." Rochefort passed the slippers to Louise Michel through the bars of the iron cage in which, like all the prisoners, she was confined on deck, and she put them on. The next day she was barefooted as before. "I gave them to so and so," she explained, "I did not want them so badly as he did."

Nothing that she had belonged to her, she believed, and she acted up to the belief. Not many months ago she turned up at the office of Rochefort's paper, L'Intransigeant, dropping with exhaustion, having had no food for two days, and having tramped across Paris, as she had not three halfpence to take the outside of a 'bus. Rochefort gave her a 100 franc note. On leaving the office she met two anarchists, who told her they were in want. She turned into the nearest wine shop, changed the note into two of 50 franc notes, gave one to each man, and trudged home again supperless. Another time, meeting Rochefort, she cried to him joyfully, "I am going to my publishers, where I am to draw 300 francs." That very evening, walking homeward by the fortifications, she came across a family in rags. She did not even wait for them to ask for alms, but gave them the entire 300 francs.

INSISTS ON A CONFESSION

Parishioners Say Children Are Refused Communion for Failure to Follow Rules.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—A petition has been presented to the bishop of Chichester by seventy of the parents who recently addressed him on the subject of their children being refused by the clergy of St. Andrews', Worthing, to be presented to the bishop for confirmation, because the children had declined to attend confession. The petitioners say that they have been anxiously awaiting the result of his lordship's promised investigation, "but in the meantime regret to learn that most aggressive measures are being taken against these children, some of whom have already been expelled from the Guild of the Holy Child, on the ground that they had not been confirmed. The fact that only twenty-six out of fifty-seven candidates were presented is quite sufficient proof that no misunderstanding exists as to the cause, and we feel that we should be utterly wanting in our duty to our children if we failed to use every possible means of removing the unwarrantable slur that has been cast upon them, and confidently appeal to your lordship to assist us in our determination to do so."

To this communication a reply has been received from the bishop stating that he can only confirm those whom the clergy present to him as being properly prepared, and are duly qualified for that important rite. His lordship was also understood to say he had before him a statement made by the vicar of St. Andrews', that the young persons in question were not presented at the late confirmation service, as in the opinion of the St. Andrews' clergy they were not considered spiritually fit, and for no other reason. This reply has not been deemed satisfactory to the parents, who are now endeavoring to induce his lordship to hold an inquiry into all the circumstances and especially to hear the parents' version.

CAKEWALK IS UNDER THE BAN

French Dancing Masters Protest Against Innovation by Negroes of the West.

PARIS, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—French dancing people of the academical, or conventional and classical, school are now up in arms against the cakewalk and other modern innovations of the kind. An association has been formed for this campaign, and it is called the Societe Academique des Professeurs de Danse de France. The director of the association is Prof. Desrat, who proposes, with his colleagues, to run the minuet, a graceful and elegant dance of old times, in opposition to the exotic and inartistic terpsichorean movements borrowed from the black people of San Domingo and elsewhere.

All this, and more, appears in the program issued by the anti-cakewalkers who have formed the new academy of dance, and assert that they are determined to make their influence felt.

INTENSELY COLD IN ITALY

Eleven People Overcome in Tunnel and Trappist Monks Are Dead.

MILAN, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—Turin papers report that a party of Italian workmen, numbering eleven, while returning from Switzerland through the St. Bernard pass, were overcome by the intense cold of the night. Six of them died from exposure and the other five were taken to a hospital in a precarious condition.

Near Magazzano, in Lombardy, about eighty Trappist monks, recently expelled from France, have settled. Their rule obliges them to sleep only scantily covered on a little straw and without any fire. Ten of the monks have succumbed to the intense cold.

CAUSE OF UPRISING

Russians Issue Statement Telling of Horrors of Police Action at Moscow.

PROMINENT MEN SIGN THE MANIFESTO

Neither Age Nor Sex is Spared by Soldiers of the Czar.

WOMAN STAMPED WITH HEAVY BOOTS

House Watchers Are Made Drunk Before Turned on Populace.

PRINCE MIRSKY REFUSES TO TAKE ACTION

Sends Cynical Reply to Protestants, Telling Them He Cannot Be Responsible for Work of Local Police.

BERLIN, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—A sensational manifesto, signed by 150 of the most prominent men in Russian political, literary and scientific circles, has been published in the revolutionary organs of Stuttgart and Zurich, in the form of an address to the whole civilized world.

The signatures appended to the manifesto make it an important contribution to contemporary history. It deals with the events in Russia on December 11, on the occasion of the famous students' demonstration in favor of political reform. The manifesto gives the following account of the scene:

"The demonstration began at 1 o'clock. A troop of mounted police immediately rode out of a place of concealment to disperse the crowd. The students, who were singing revolutionary hymns, ceased and offered no provocation. The police, however, drew their swords and charged the students, slashing wildly right and left. When the students attempted to escape other police beat them with knouts.

"No warning was given to the general public and the streets were full of people. The police made no distinctions. They rode over everybody, whether connected with the demonstration or not. The dvorniks, or house watchers, were even more zealous than the police, belaboring harmless men and women with great brutality, knocking out teeth and tearing out hair. In one street 100 police and dvorniks surrounded eight victims, some of whom were women. They threw one woman to the ground, satmped on her with their heavy boots and finally threw her with great violence against the wall.

Wounded Thrown in Sacks.

"The bodies of wounded victims were thrown into sacks, in obedience to the order of the commanding officer, who directed that all evidences of cruelty should be removed with the greatest possible rapidity. The swords of the police were red with blood.

"A number of female students who had taken no part in the demonstration, and merely desired to get out of the way, sprang on a passing tramcar. A police officer saw them and sent a troop of mounted police in pursuit. They held up the tramcar, dragged off the terrified women, threw them violently to the ground and stamped on them with thick nailed boots.

"The officers encouraged their men by shouting, 'Give it hot to the rebel dogs. See that they remember this day.' Several police officers ordered their men to hold girls while they struck them in the face or flogged them with knouts. Four policemen held a student while another slashed him with a sword. Dvorniks dragged men and women to cellars and backyards and treated them with atrocious cruelty.

"It transpired that the police made the dvorniks drunk before letting them loose among the crowd and promised them liberal rewards if they suppressed the demonstration effectively. A protest addressed to Prince Mirsky, minister of the interior, led to no result except a cynical reply, stating that the prince could not be held responsible for the manners of dvorniks."

TURKISH SOLDIERS SUFFER

Officers and Men Are Not Paid and Pawn Their Arms for Food.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—In an article devoted to the work of Victoria hospital at Damascus, published this week, Colonel Henry Knollys mentions a pretty incident which he witnessed in one of the wards.

A little girl patient drew from under her pillow her most cherished possession—"a rough, common, frayed picture, which she had rescued from some sweepings of illustrated newspapers, and which represented Queen Alexandra. The picture was bordered with colored paper and decorated with a loop of blue ribbon."

Asked if she would like to send a message to the queen, the Arab child replied: "Tell the beautiful woman in England I send her my wish that she may have the peace of God."

The lot of Turkish army officers in Damascus, says Colonel Knollys, is a pitiable one, owing to their pay being withheld from them by dishonest officials. Last winter a colonel would have exercised anyone's horse and a captain swept out a yard for a very small payment. A major who appeared on parade without his sword defiantly declared that he had sold it to buy bread for his children.

HAS FLOATING LABOR BUREAU

Salvation Army Will Bring a Thousand Idle London Men to Canada.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—The first floating labor bureau ever established will be on board the Vancouver, which sails from Liverpool to Montreal on April 25. The vessel has been chartered by General Booth. It will sail under the Salvation Army flag and carry more than 1,000 workless Londoners to places in which work is awaiting them.

Members of the Army's Canadian contingent—labor experts fully qualified to advise British emigrants as to the conditions of work and chances of remunerative employment—will be on board, and it is hoped that the Canadian government will also be represented. Every emigrant who wants work will enter his name at the office of the floating labor bureau, and any who are not able to secure situations before landing will be taken under the Army's wing to the Toronto headquarters.

The emigrants, it is expected, will be chiefly unemployed clerks, artisans, unskilled laborers and domestic servants. One and all will go out with the certainty of work being found for them.

Fifty families will be conveyed free of charge at a cost of £2,000, but the remainder of the emigrants will pay the ordinary passage money.

NEW SYSTEM IS NOT LIKED

Some British Officers Think Change in Army Organization is No Improvement.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—That the new system of organization detailed in a recent special army order issued by the War office, does not satisfy all military critics is shown by the following interview with the Hon. Claude Simmons, a well-known military expert:

"Mr. Frederick," he said, "turned the Army upside down and created Army Corps which were costly and unneeded. Mr. Arnold Foster and the Esher committee have brought in its place an equally costly and far more complicated system, which I firmly believe will not work and will have a mushroom growth. In the meantime officers are leaving the regulars, militia and volunteers without censing, and nothing is thought of as a means of attracting good recruits to the army; and the War office, in spite of the optimistic utterances of its parliamentary chief, is in hopeless chaos—every war official, high and low, whom one meets asserts this."

Specifying the chief grounds of his objection to the new order of things, Mr. Simmons says:

"I think that the old division of the country into districts under a general, who was entirely responsible for all things in connection with the troops under his command, was the soundest and best system for our army; it always worked well. The present change has grown out of the Army Corps system and is, in fact, much the same under another name. The appointment of a separate general officer under the area that commander is a new departure—an outcome of the Esher committee. Except in cases of principle or policy, he may correspond direct with the War office. This system will not work, and will produce jealousy and friction, as did the authority given to the adjutant general, quarter master general, director general of ordnance, and inspector general of fortifications to go direct to the secretary of state behind the back of the commander-in-chief (Lord Wolseley) when the duke of Cambridge left the War office.

"The commander of an army area should be supreme in all things concerning his command. Dual commands are always productive of friction and confusion and that the actual commander of the troops should not be allowed to have a say in their administrative arrangements is unworkable and absurd. Fancy a business conducted on such principles."

MERCHANTS TO ORGANIZE

Great Britain Hopes to Win Trade by Making a Systematic Effort.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—British merchants are taking a great interest in the movement looking to the formation of a Merchants' and Manufacturers' association, with a view to the promotion of British trade abroad.

The Express, commenting on the movement, says: "Let us begin in a small way and start right by educating ourselves to the requirements of people in other lands. If there is a man in Portugal with whom you wish to do business, do not write to him in English, but send him a letter in Portuguese. He will like it better, and will probably be able to read it. In any case, it will put you on a level with your German competitor, who is almost certain to have written to him in his own language. If you intend to do business with a man in Austria, do not send him, as we frequently do from this country, a young man who is only able to express himself in English and who regards all foreigners as inferior beings for whom anything is good enough. That mode of doing business has long ago been exploded. What we require is alertness, coupled with proper qualifications, particularly the knowledge of languages and customs of the people with whom we trade. If we once break through the old tradition that anything British which is good enough for us must be forced willy-nilly down the throats of continental customers, we shall be on a fair way towards realizing that ideal of affairs for which we all pray so earnestly.

"It would be an excellent thing for trade in general if an association of British merchants and manufacturers could be organized with a view to grappling with the vital question of keeping ourselves in the forefront. Associations of this kind are already flourishing in the United States, in France and Germany. There are also in this country several similar organizations, which, however, do not seem to answer the purpose. Whether it is due to petty jealousies or incapacity, we have not yet been able to reach that stage which gives us a wider vision over affairs abroad. Insularity has its compensations in that it gives us a glow of satisfaction at our own self-sufficiency, but it also has its drawbacks in reduced dividends."

BEATS INSURANCE COMPANIES

French Conspiracy Has Been Effective in Insuring Men Ready to Die.

PARIS, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—The French police have made a number of important arrests in this city and the provinces in connection with a series of ingenious frauds on insurance companies, notably La Monde, La France, La Conservateur and La Victoria. The men in custody include a picture dealer named Frager, the chief of the gang, and a doctor named Lacombe.

When the latter was called in to attend a patient, who could not live more than a few months, he would give his name to Frager, who would presented himself at the sick man's house and persuaded him to insure his life for a large sum, telling him that by means of a certain system of counter insurance it would not cost him a penny.

The necessary papers were then given to a third accomplice in sound health, who personated the invalid and was duly insured. When the patient died Dr. Lacombe furnished plausible explanations and the money was paid. By their system of swindling the gang are alleged to have made a total profit of £200,000 ($1,000,000).

LIBERIA AND FRANCE DISPUTE

Black and White Republic Each Claim Valuable Land in Africa.

PARIS, Jan. 28.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—Some 5,000 square miles of territory in West Africa are at present the subject of dispute between Liberia, the negro republic, and France, which claims the region as part of the ivory coast.

The Liberian government admits that its sovereignty over this territory has never been asserted, and recent attempts to enter into closer relations with the inhabitants have met with opposition, but it is contended that the Liberian explorer, Anderson, made a treaty with the king of the territory which conferred upon the black republic certain political rights.

FIRE LOSS OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND

One of Most Disastrous Blazes in History of City in Wholesale District.

TENANTS OF MERCER BUILDING LOSE ALL

Occupied by Commission Houses, Dry Goods Warehouse and Drugs.

JUMPS ALLEY TO KIRKENDALL SHOE STOCK

Firemen Make Great Fight Here and Save Two Floors.

SOUTH OMAHA AND THE BLUFFS HELP

Fire Is Now Under Control, but It Will Be Hours Before Firemen Will Be Able to Leave.

LOSERS AND LOSSES.

S. D. Mercer, on building	$225,000
M. E. Smith & Co., on stock	75,000
J. R. Snyder & Co., on stock	20,000
Bingham & Sons, on stock	15,000
C. H. Mullin & Co., on stock	5,000
Marsh & Marsh, on stock	3,000
Tremaine, Moore & Co., on stock	2,500
Vogele & Dinning, on stock	30,000
Porter-Ryerson-Hoobler Co., on stock	40,000
F. P. Kirkendall, stock	100,000
F. P. Kirkendall, building	20,000
Total	$606,500

Smoke issuing from the front doors of the room occupied by J. R. Snyder & Co., commission dealers, at the northwest corner of Eleventh and Howard streets, about 9:50 last night, led to the discovery of a fire that destroyed over $600,000 worth of property. It gave the Omaha firemen the hardest fight they have had in many a day and finally defied their utmost efforts, and merrily laughed away with all it could reach. Assistance in the fight that finally checked the flames was given by the firemen of Council Bluffs and South Omaha.

The building is owned by S. D. Mercer, and was a five-story brick and stone structure. On the first floor, with the basement, were five commission firms, J. R. Snyder & Co., C. H. Mullin & Co., Marsh & Marsh, Tremaine, Moore & Co. and R. Bingham & Sons. Snyder and the Binghams carried heavy stocks, while the other commission firms were rather small concerns. The four upper floors were occupied by M. E. Smith & Co. as a warehouse where duplicate stock was stored. On the Howard street front were Vogele & Dinning, manufacturing confectioners, and the Porter-Ryerson-Hoobler Drug company. The entire building was gutted from the foundation to the sky.

Defies the Firemen.

When the first engine company reached the fire it was thought that the blaze was in the Snyder store, but this was soon discovered to be a mistake. The fire had caught in the Mullin store, apparently from an overheated stove, and was spreading rapidly in both directions. The nature of the contents made it almost impossible to reach the blaze, but tons of water were poured on the mass of crates and boxes, and by a little after 10 o'clock it seemed that the blaze was under control. The construction of the partitions was such as to baffle the firemen, and just when it looked like the water had done its work the flames broke out on the second floor among the dry goods stored there.

Full Force in the Fight.

Now the fight was on in earnest. Chief Salter had already called for the second battalion, and he now brought in the reserves. For the first time the monitors, recently purchased were put into service and the water tower was connected up. The firemen were greatly handicapped by bursting hose.

Every window in the second floor was attacked, men standing on the iron covered porch that ran along the east side of the building with hand hose, and pouring in steady streams along with those from the slamesed connections of the monitors and tower. And just as steadily did the fire gain. Flames, the first real glimpse of the fire, burst from the north windows on the second floor and then the advance was from window to window. Again and again was the fire driven back, so it seemed from the street, but beyond the reach of the water it was gaining headway.

Beautiful But Costly Spectacle.

Just before 11 o'clock the flames broke through the windows on the second and third floors, and then the fight was to keep the fire confined to the one building. A heavy fire wall separated the building burned out from the one next west, occupied by the Vogele & Dinning company as manufacturing confectioners, but the flames ate their way through this. When the flames burst out on the third floor, the real spectacle of the affair was afforded. Great billows of dense black smoke curled away from below, while above the flames, red and angry, licked up the sides of the structure and lighted the scene that had been clouded by the dense fog of steam and smoke the light wind could not lift. It was but a few moments until the entire building was blazing like a torch. Just about 11:15 a portion of the facade facing on Howard street fell, but no one was in the way. The floors had been giving way with dull crashes and the roof soon followed the facade, and the flames shot through, high into the air, lighting up the sky magnificently.

It was thought the heavy wall between the eastern half of the Mercer building and that occupied by the Vogele & Dinning company, manufacturing confectioners, would be sufficient to check the spread of the fire. It was not, nor was the similar wall between Vogele & Dinning and the Porter-Ryerson-Hoobler company, manufacturing pharmacists, sufficiently strong. These establishments went in succession, but the heavy west wall of the main building proved again strong and stopped the fire before it entered the Great Western Type Foundry plant.

Great Fight for Shoe Stock.

In the meantime the flames had crossed the alley to the north and ignited the roof of the big five-story building occupied by F. P. Kirkendall & Co., as their shoe and rubber warehouse. The flames burned down through the top floors, but were checked at the second floor. This was the most stubborn fight of all. At one time it looked as if the entire building with its immense stock of goods was doomed, but Chief Salter directed every available man to the work of checking the blaze and finally succeeded in holding it. The great crowd watched this part of the fight with more interest, probably, than any. Men with hose were on the roof of the building occupied by the type foundry and were sent up the stairs to the interior of the Kirkendall building, while the monitors and tower emptied tons of water through the windows. It was not so spectacular, maybe, as the struggle with the Mercer building, but it was more successful.

It was 2 o'clock before the fire was fairly under control, and for hours afterward the ruins were blazing, the heavy timbers and great piles of goods requiring the constant attention of the full fire fighting force of Omaha, aided by a company from South Omaha and one from Council Bluffs. The M. E. Smith stock was all in the original packages, and the Kirkendall stock was mostly boxed, also Vogele & Dinning had just finished putting in the last of four carloads of sugar, and the drug company was well stocked for the opening of the spring business.

The insurance in detail could not be obtained last night, and may not be entirely known for several days. The Smith stock was insured in companies represented by Isaac E. Coles, Webster & Howard had the line of the drug company, John W. Robbins wrote the insurance for Snyder and E. E. Howell carried most of the Dinning line. The Kirkendall insurance is all written by eastern underwriters, the belief being that none of the local agents have any of it.

Owners Are Summoned.

The interested owners were early summoned to the scene, but could do little beyond watch the destruction of their property. Ward M. Burgess of the Smith company estimated the stock in the burned building belonging to his company at $75,000, which he said was fully insured. J. R. Snyder could not give exact figures, but said his company's stock would reach at least $20,000, fully covered by insurance. W. W. Bingham placed the loss of his company at not less than $15,000, with full insurance. The other commission firms are said to be without insurance.

The building occupied by the Porter-Ryerson-Hoobler company was the scene of a fire six years ago, in which four firemen lost their lives by being electrocuted. This fire occurred during the afternoon.

THE BEE BULLETIN.

Forecast for Nebraska—Snow Sunday. Monday Fair.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	11	1 p. m.	8
6 a. m.	10	2 p. m.	9
7 a. m.	8	3 p. m.	10
8 a. m.	7	4 p. m.	11
9 a. m.	6	5 p. m.	11
10 a. m.	6	6 p. m.	10
11 a. m.	7	7 p. m.	9
12 m.	8		

Large Crowds Witness the Fire Despite the Late Hour.

EASILY CONTROLLED BY THE POLICE

Street Railway Company Runs Cars Until After Two O'clock.

WATER FREEZES ON WALLS DURING FIRE

Firemen Are Also Seen a Mass of Ice from Head to Foot.

CAPTAIN NEWHOUSE ONLY ONE HURT

Caught by Falling Ceiling in Kirkendall Building and is Taken to the Methodist Hospital.

Until an early hour this morning there was a steady stream of people to the fire. Another throng, which was on the scene earlier in the evening, moved away from the blazing district. At 3 o'clock Sunday morning Eleventh street was a tangle of hose between Howard and Harney streets. A solid cordon of people lined the street on one side and extended up Howard and Harney streets for nearly the length of the block.

At 1 o'clock excitement was caused by the falling of part of the north wall of the Mercer building. A story was circulated that two firemen were buried under the falling walls and the crowds began surging toward the alley where it was believed the men were buried. Fortunately no one happened to be within range of the walls when they fell.

At 2:30 o'clock a wall of red flame was shooting upwards through the center of the building. Shortly afterwards the west wall of the building swayed and a moment later fell with a roar.

Ice Coat the Walls.

Nothing remained of the building but a wall and this was outlined against the background of flame like an ink drawing. Despite the heat the walls became fluted and caked with ice, which added to the spectacular effect of the conflagration.

Although extra men were sent for, the police found it difficult to keep the crowd back. Howard and Harney streets were kept fairly clear, but Twelfth street, where the fire showed to its best advantage and the human stream pressed forward in spite of the best efforts of the police.

Spray Freezes on Men.

A few of the business places near the scene of the fire were kept open and occasionally firemen went inside to get warm or change a pair of gloves. On most of the men the spray froze in a sheet of armour and the men who handled the nozzles were practically living icicles.

There was a constant shower of sparks, but they were carried upwards by the heat of the blazing buildings and they fell within the streets surrounding the burning buildings. There was a manifest lack of the spectacular features which usually attend a conflagration of this kind, owing to the fact that practically no air was stirring. Occasionally the boom of a falling section of wall or the rumble of a sinking floor gave some excitement to the scene, but otherwise there was a dearth of the incident which usually attends a fire of this kind.

The flames ate their way with slow, measured and obstinate persistency through the adjoining walls in spite of the fight put up by the firemen. All the hose that could be filled with water was pressed into service, but water seemed to have little effect. The flames until 2 o'clock seemed to have just a trifle the best of the fight. Long before that hour they had found their way under the iron blinds of Kirkendall's warehouse and the top floor of this building was soon one colossal torch.

Fire Spreads Downward.

At one time it looked as if the flames would be confined to the rear of this building, but they gradually ate their way north and west, and shortly before 3 o'clock they had eaten their way down to the floor below. The efforts of the firemen were then directed to saving the lower floors, and at 3 o'clock the dull glow at the windows showed that they were getting the best of the fire.

The only accident reported was to Captain Newhouse of No. 5, and Fireman Wainwright of No. 4 hook. They were caught by a falling ceiling in the Kirkendall building. Wainwright managed to extricate himself and companions got Newhouse out. The captain was so badly injured he was taken to the Methodist hospital in an ambulance. He suffered injuries to his back and the right hip, but the physicians at the Methodist hospital where he was taken believe that his injuries are not fatal.

Bluffs and South Omaha Help.

Chief Salter very early realized the desperate nature of the struggle he had on hand, and lost no time in calling for all the force of the Omaha department. Later he sent a call for relief to Council Bluffs and South Omaha. One company from each city responded, and Chief Nicholson, from Council Bluffs, came over and gave assistance in the direction of the forces. The night was cold enough to freeze the water as it fell in sprays, and soon the firemen were heavily encrusted with ice and snow, which fell lightly during the greater part of the time. In the streets the water ran in torrents and turned the snow into deep slush, adding another difficulty to the work of the companies and the handling of the hose. The fire engines in service gave adequate pressure to the water at all times, but the direct coupled lines were a little feeble in their streams.

Police Kept Busy.

The police were kept busy with the crowds, but had little trouble in keeping them in restraint. Officer Heelan was the victim of a cowardly assault by some unidentified man. Heelan was stationed at