

ONLY THE WALLS STANDING

Grim Witnesses of the Devastation Wrought by the Fire.

STREET CAR LINES BLOCKED

Manager Discovers Fire at Same Time as Policeman and Two Reports Are Turned In—Thousands View Ruins.

Grim witnesses to a terrible and devastating spectacle which wiped out over \$200,000 worth of property, the walls of both wings of the Ames building which fronts on Sixteenth and Farnam streets, furnished food for comment to hurrying pedestrians yesterday morning.

The walls of both wings are standing upright, but standing on the street one can look through the first floor windows and have an unobstructed view of the sky above, the roof and ceiling to all floors being gone. Chief Butler and some of his men stayed in the vicinity until late this morning after the last spark had been extinguished and their bedraggled appearance together with the towering skeletons of what were once handsome buildings, lent a solemn air to the busy downtown district.

From 6 o'clock on this morning both Farnam and Sixteenth streets were lined with throngs who fastened their eyes upon the cold dead walls, looking as though they expected them to again burst forth in flames.

Many Out of Work.

Several scores of shop girls employed in the McCrory store came downtown early in the morning expecting to begin another day of work at their various counters and booths and they were considerably surprised to learn that they were jobless. Many of them instead of turning around and leaving the vicinity crowded the opposite curb and swayed the throng of curious who were keeping their eyes glued to the building.

It was not until after 7 o'clock that street car traffic on Farnam street was resumed and in consequence taxi drivers and liveries reaped a harvest from Dundee residents and persons living in the west part of town. Street cars could not operate on Sixteenth street until about the same hour.

Watchman Discovers Fire.

Fire was first observed by W. C. Baughman, second assistant manager of the McCrory store, and he turned in the alarm. The McCrory watchman having been sick, Mr. Baughman volunteered to take his place for the night. At 11:30 o'clock he made his hourly round and found everything all right. At 11:30 he started out again and heard a crashing noise in the ceiling, the sound apparently coming from the elevator shaft. He ran to the elevator shaft and opening the door he drove back by a volume of dense smoke. The fire was above and he ran to the fifth floor to find everything in flames. The alarm was then turned in from the nearest telephone.

Watchman Sees Fire.

About the same time that the assistant manager at McCrory's store discovered the fire, Patrolman E. C. Roy, who was walking that beat, passed by. As with the night watchman, the first intimation he had that something was wrong, was when the elevator fell from one of the upper floors and crashed in the basement. Then seeing smoke pouring from the fourth floor windows in the alley he turned in the alarm of fire.

Big Ladder Falls.

The huge alouette ladder which was employed by the fire departments in reaching the top of the McCrory store, fell early this morning, but fortunately no one was hurt. Just before it fell, the policeman had moved the crowds back from in front of the building.

Morning After the Fire



VIEW OF FARNAM STREET FRONT.

FIRE WIPES OUT INSIDE OF AMES ESTATE BUILDING

(Continued from Seventh Page)

to save adjoining structures. During the early part of the struggle the Brandeis building was the center of these activities.

Miss Brandeis rushed to the store a short time after the fire began and directed activities from within the building. Streams of water were kept playing by the firemen upon the walls from below from the side and finally the attack was improved by the directing of water from the Brandeis building to the Ames building.

WOMAN SEES IT ALL BURN

Owner of Drug Company at Store When Fire Started.

G. T. Haines, owner of the Haines Drug company, 120 Farnam street, with his wife was in the rear of the store pre-

paring to close for the night, when they heard the crackling of embers in the 15-cent store around the corner.

They ran to the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam streets and seeing the danger, hurried back to the store to save the books of the company. They watched the progress of the flames until their entire store, the Brandeis store new fitting department above them, and the 15-cent store were demolished.

The Haines Drug company's stock is almost entirely covered by insurance. Only a few cents' case recently put in is an absolute loss.

Gus Lips, manager of the Omaha Surgical Supply company, also was mourning the loss of uninsured stock. Thursday a \$500 stock of new goods arrived and was just being arranged in its place.

BIG SCARS CREATED BY MODEL

Crowd Mistaken One for Woman Among the Flames.

The great plate glass windows of the Famous millinery store withstood the flames for hours. A sheet of fire suddenly flashed from the rear of the second story window and the models were silhouetted in clear outline against the hitherto darkened windows.

At the same time a stream of water from the tower was turned against the windows and above the sound of crashing glass a cry of help arose.

"A woman! Help her!" One of the models had fallen backward before the pressure of the water, her hands thrown high and her head sagging.

The cry came from a group of women who were watching the fire.

When the flames appeared in the fourth story above the McCrory store and a stream from the water tower was played through the windows a stick used to raise and lower the windows was caught and balancing on the sill gave the impression of being held by some one who was struggling through the smoke for air.

Used Wrong Stamp, May Cause Retrial

Transposition of two rubber stamps on Judge Lee S. Estelle's desk may result in a new trial of the \$20,000 damage suit of Mrs. W. E. Kenneth of Los Angeles against the Miller Hotel company for the death of her husband, who was killed in an elevator accident at the Rome two years ago.

Before a jury is instructed attorneys for both sides request that certain instructions be given and submit the instructions to the court in typewritten form. If the court thinks it proper that they be given he stamps "Given" on the margin; if he does not believe them proper he stamps them "Refused."

Judge Estelle approved an instruction setting out the plaintiff's contentions and stamped it with what he thought was the "Given" stamp. After a verdict has been returned attorneys for Mrs. Kenneth learned of the incorrect stamping and moved for a new trial on the ground that the word "Refused" in the instruction caused the jury to disregard it. The motion will be argued next Saturday.

PATRONESSES ARE SELECTED FOR GERMAN FLOWER DAY

Thirty-two patronesses have been selected by the German women of Omaha for Flower day, which is to be held May 1. More will be announced later. The women interested in this move, which is in connection with the building of a new home for the German women club, will meet Monday night at the Maennerchor hall, 120 Farnam street. The following have been named as patronesses:

- Mrs. George Thomas, G. Stora, Adolph Stora, E. A. Higgins, Fred Metz, James Dahlman, C. B. Laver, A. Eggers, Fred Krug, E. A. Dreibus, Robert Uhl, Leo Hoffman, J. Baasie, F. E. Johnson, I. Raab, P. Menegolo, W. Brandeis, Les Barock, J. Metcalf, P. Gettschman, Valentin Peters, J. Drexel, F. Stoeker, F. R. Streibow, F. Brodegaard, R. Rosensweig, Albert Krug, C. J. Ernst, E. A. Dreibus.

U. S. BANK IS TO BUILD SOON

Gets Possession of Its Property Because of the Fire.

ALSO COLLECTS THE INSURANCE

McCrory Will Also Rebuild on the Sixteenth Street Site—Bank to Build Twelve-Story Modern Structure.

The United States National bank is a heavy winner because of the fire. While its bank building was not injured in any way it gains heavily financially because of contracts with tenants.

When the forty-four feet on Farnam street, occupied by the Haines Drug company and the Omaha Surgical Supply company, was bought from Helen Forbes, a contract was made whereby Mrs. Forbes was to have possession of the property until March 1, 1912. She was to take the rents, but was to insure the building in favor of the bank and the lease to her was to expire in case of fire.

The bank now gets possession of the property and will hasten its plans for building a twelve-story structure on the entire corner, extending as far north as the 10-cent store and including the Milwaukee ticket office on the west. This twenty-two feet is owned by Brandeis Bros. Arthur D. Brandeis is a director in the bank.

The bank will therefore get immediate possession of the property and will receive \$2,000,000 insurance money.

Victor B. Caldwell, vice president of the United States National bank, said yesterday morning that the directors would hasten plans for the immediate erection of the skyscraper.

McCrory to Rebuild.

Within ninety days a McCrory 10-cent store will replace the destroyed one.

H. E. Harmon, manager of the store, telegraphed to J. O. McCrory in New York City, while the fire was in progress and received a return telegram this morning stating that McCrory and the McCrory stores chief construction man had started for Omaha. The building will be rebuilt on the Sixteenth street front. They will arrive Monday or Tuesday and set about immediately making plans for the erection of a new building.

The McCrory company leased the old building from W. Farnam Smith and sub-leased to the Famous Cloak and Capting company, the Brandeis Stores company, the Haines Drug company and the Omaha Surgical Supply company.

The Famous Cloak and Clothing company lost from the fire about \$25,000, according to J. Engleman, the owner, yesterday morning. This, he says, is mostly covered by insurance. A valuable new spring stock was placed on the shelves in February.

Double Insurance.

H. H. Baldrige, one of the interested spectators, is the attorney for the McCrory interests. He said that only a year ago a new lease was given on the Sixteenth street building by the eastern estate which owns it, and that the Farnam street side was sold just before the United States National bank purchased the Farnam street block for about \$100,000. On this building Mr. Baldrige says he understands only \$5,000 worth of insurance is had. On the Sixteenth street building double insurance is held. The building proper is covered by about \$5,000 worth of insurance and "rental" insurance amounting to practically the same is carried, too. Rental insurance provides for the payment of a certain sum during the time the building is untenable or unoccupied in consequence of accident or fire.

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FIRE INSURANCE

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Phone Ind. A. 1503

Guest at Her Grand Robbed During Fire

W. E. Ward, a guest at the Her Grand did not make anything by the fire that occurred in that hotel yesterday.

BRIDGE COMPANY CLAIM IS PUT OVER FOR A WEEK

Action upon the Standard Bridge company's \$700 claim against the county for treating bridge timber with creosote was deferred for another week by the Board of County Commissioners.

Conductor is Given Advice and a Fine

Ernest Wolf boarded his car and presented an old transfer for a ride, L. O. Caldwell, a conductor on a Dodge street car, tried to put Wolf off Friday afternoon.

JUVENILE MOTORCYCLISTS ARE OBJECTS OF CRUSADE

Youngsters who ride motorcycles faster than the law allows are the object of a crusade by juvenile court officials.

Pioneer Commission Merchant Dead at Age of Eighty-Two

Richard Bingham, aged 82 years, old resident and organizer of the B. Bingham & Sons, commission merchants, died at the home of his son, W. W. Bingham, 1323 Spencer street, Friday night.

SOME ONE STEALS THIS LITTLE MISSOURI MULE

A "Missouri Nightingale" or mule, weighing 800 pounds and worth \$200 was stolen from the barn of Frank Reynolds at 1712 Webster street, Friday night.

To Our Patrons

Fire has destroyed our store but not our hopes and aspirations—from its ruins will rise even a grander and more beautiful Famous than ever before.

To our clerks we say, keep a brave heart. Our temporary location will soon be announced through these columns.



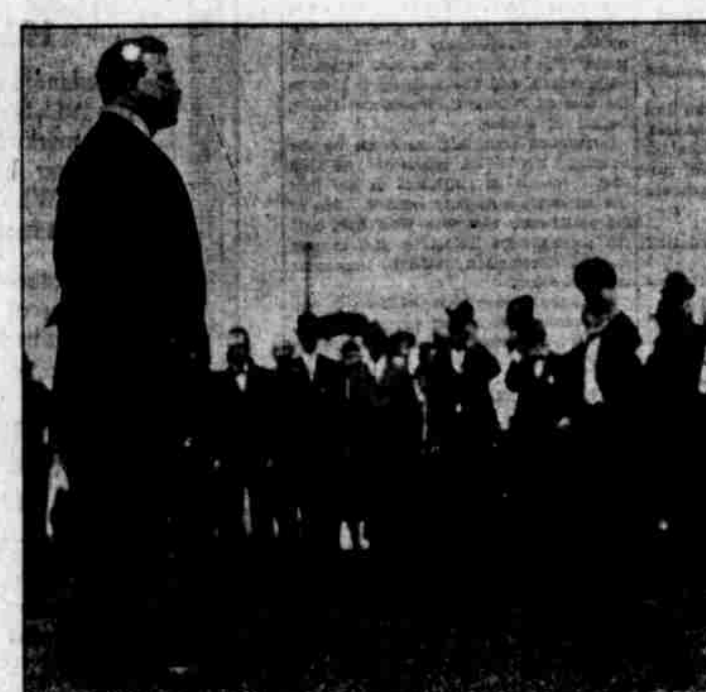
GRIPPLE'S HEROIC EFFORT TO WIN \$5,000 PRIZE

MONEY TO BE DEPOSITED IN TRUST FOR SOME PUBLIC CHARITY. GORDON GETS THE INTEREST DURING HIS LIFETIME—\$300 A YEAR

With the passing of Easter, John Gordon, who has lain paralyzed for eleven years with a broken back, is making a heroic effort to win the \$5,000 prize which the Curtis Publishing Co. will deposit in trust for some public charity—the interest of which will be paid to Mr. Gordon during his lifetime.



Mr. Gordon was injured in a railroad wreck and having neither friend or relatives has supported himself by conducting a general magazine agency. But his strength fails and he must provide for the future. He lives at 2423 South 24th St., Omaha, Neb., where he receives his orders by mail and by telephone. Douglas 7142. Send in your order or refusal today.



Col. Roosevelt says:

It is the fault of cranberry jelly if it does not stick to the wall. No fault can be found with Cranberry jelly made from Makepeace Evaporated Cranberries. Always reliable and satisfactory. Nail that fact to the wall! It will stick.

ASK THE GROCER Campbell & West, Omaha Distributors

Boston Transcript, April 9, 1912. The platform upon which Colonel Roosevelt spoke in Danville was so situated that the sun was directly in his eyes. He used his hand as a shade for a time and then said that with the permission of his hearers he would put on his hat. He donned his black alpaca hat of the style which he has long used in campaigning. "That's the same old hat," someone in the crowd called out. "That's right, it's the same old hat," the colonel replied. It was at this point that he said his hat was in the ring to stay. Colonel Roosevelt put himself on record as directly opposed to President Taft on the subject of reciprocity. He declared he would never sanction the reintroduction of a measure such as the Canadian reciprocity bill which Congress passed. "I see that Mr. McKinley's people," said he, "have been sending among the farmers statements about reciprocity. My desire was to support the Administration on every point where I possibly could, and at first supposed that the reciprocity agreement was one upon which I could support it and was glad to do so. I have looked into it carefully and under no circumstances, as far as I have any doubt of such an agreement. The colonel then turned to the subject of corporation control and declared that if the rich men of the country were wise they would support the policies which he advocated. The colonel brought out a shout of laughter when he introduced a new figure of speech. Speaking of the canal, he said: "Somebody asked me why I did not get an agreement with Colombia. They might just as well ask me why I do not get cranberry jelly to the wall. It would not be my fault or the fault of the wall, it would be the fault of the jelly."