

MASONIC HOME AT WICHITA IS BURNED

Five Persons Are Missing and Several of Aged Inmates Are Badly Injured.

LOSS IS QUARTER MILLION

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 22.—At least five persons were missing and several were suffering from injuries as the result of a fire that destroyed the main building of the Kansas Masonic home early today. In addition scores of old men and women and children were exposed to the effects of the flames and blizzard weather. Many were rescued with difficulty and several, made unconscious by the smoke and fire or overcome by the intense cold as they fled from the burning structure in their night clothes, were taken to hospitals and private homes.

Joseph Deck, who was believed to have been burned under a bed, where he was seen by a fireman, was later found at a nearby residence.

The home was the property of the Masonic lodge of Kansas. The chapel, valued at \$10,000, and the hospital, valued at \$9,000, were the only buildings saved. The loss was estimated at \$250,000.

The fire started in the boiler room and had gained great headway before being discovered by a passerby.

Two bodies, one that of a man, later were found in the ruins of the home. Both were so badly burned as to make identification impossible.

Two More Bodies Found.

Shortly before noon two more bodies were found, making a total of four that had been taken from the ruins. All the bodies were those of adults, but it was impossible to identify them.

The bodies were in the basement in eighteen inches of water. They were found directly under rooms which had been occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Brown of Wichita and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ferris of Atchison, Kan., all of whom are unaccounted for. Gertrude Weigle, 20 years old, of Burden, Kan., still was missing.

Ninety-Two in Building.

There were ninety-two inmates in the home, a large, three-story, brick building in the form of a key. Most of the number were rescued by the firemen, but there are several still unaccounted for. A boy sleeping in the basement of the building discovered the flames and in his efforts to sound the alarm shut off the lights. When the firemen arrived the flames had gained great headway and their efforts toward suppressing the blaze were hampered by frozen water plugs, the thermometer being about 8 degrees above zero.

Finding it impossible to get sufficient water to throw on the flames, the firemen directed their efforts toward rescuing the inmates. These were taken down ladders in that portion of the building where the flames had made more rapid headway and were carried down the stairways where these were available.

Colonel Thomas G. Fitch, member of the board of trustees of the home, said this morning he believed there were no bodies in the ruins.

"All the children have been accounted for," he said, "and we believe there was no loss of life among the aged. Some of them were taken to distant places, however, and we have not checked up accurately."

Built Twenty Years Ago.

The Kansas Masonic home was established by the grand lodge of Kansas in 1896. Since that time \$100,000 has been spent in buildings alone. The home is maintained by a per capita tax of 50 cents per annum from the grand lodge of Kansas and 10 cents per annum from the Order of the Eastern Star of Kansas.

The beneficiaries of the home are aged master Masons, their wives or widows and children of the members of the Order of the Eastern Star. It has given shelter to more than 200 of these needy old people and helpless children since its foundation. There were 102 inmates in the home.

Obituary Notices.

MRS. ELIZABETH THOMAS, a native of Cornwall, England, died at the home of a daughter at Fremont, at the age of 89 years. Mrs. Thomas had made her home in Fremont for the last ten years. She came to America with her parents who made their home at Racine, Wis., in 1848. Three daughters and three sons survive.

MRS. ANNA MARGARET OSTERLOH, a resident of Dodge county for nearly 56 years, died at her home near Hooper. Mrs. Osterloh was a native of Germany, where she was born March 13, 1839. Following her marriage to Mr. Osterloh they came to Hooper in 1867 and homesteaded. Mr. Osterloh died in 1902. Two of their six children survive.

MRS. EDITH A. FALLING, wife of A. A. Falling of York, was stricken with apoplexy yesterday evening while in the postoffice sending Christmas presents to friends. She was taken to her home where she died.

WILSON EXPECTS NEUTRAL NATIONS TO FOLLOW LEAD

(Continued from Page One.)

effort was made to remove this impression and to have the note considered entirely apart from any other events. The entire diplomats, at first very fearful, have now accepted this view.

Charles Grew reported to the State department today that the president's peace note had been received in Berlin.

London Press Comment.

Early London press comment that the note was painful, because it said the objects of the belligerents were practically the same, was not unexpected here, where attention has already been drawn to the fact that President Wilson specifically declared that the published views of the opposing statesmen left that impression.

It is stated officially that the president would not presume to say that the two groups were fighting for the same object, but merely that their official spokesmen had outlined much the same general program without going into the actual details which he now seeks.

Several hundred telegrams congratulating President Wilson on his note to belligerents arrived today at the White House. Practically all of them construed the note as a move for peace. They came from individuals and organizations. The White House telegraphers were kept busy for hours receiving the messages.

Reed Again Says Drawing for Sales Prizes is Illegal

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—In a statement supplementing one given ten days ago Attorney General Reed today emphasized a warning given merchants of Nebraska stating what constitutes a lottery. Since giving an opinion regarding the offering of an automobile to stimulate business at Bladen, Neb., the attorney general has received many inquiries from towns where similar propositions had been used. One popular plan is to give a ticket with each dollar's worth of goods purchased and at the end of a certain time ticket holders draw for a prize. Such a method, the attorney general says, constitutes a lottery and is illegal.

Roumanians Destroy Wells. London, Dec. 22.—An official communication issued this evening says: A satisfactory report has been received from the Roumanian mission in Romania of the destruction, under orders of the Roumanian government, of the oil wells and refineries in and near the principal oil fields.

Rail Rates Disapproved. Washington, Dec. 22.—Proposed increase of 5 per cent in freight rates on lumber from Chicago, St. Louis and other points to destination in Missouri were disapproved by the Interstate Commerce commission.

MOVING PICTURES IN THEIR HOMES

Three Omaha Families to Celebrate Christmas With Moving Pictures in Their Own Homes.

So that the boys and girls of Omaha and its suburbs, as well as the fathers and mothers, will become better acquainted with the Columbian Optical Company's store, they are giving away, absolutely free, three \$107.00 Moving Picture Outfits.

The only condition they are insisting on is that each boy or girl must bring a signed coupon in person to their store and deposit it in a box. There are three boxes labeled as follows: 1—Omaha; 2—South Omaha; 3—Florence, Dundee and Benson.

On December 23d, at 8 o'clock p. m., in the south window of their store, these boxes will be opened and a prize of a genuine Edison Home Kinetoscope with full equipment will be awarded to some boy or girl from Omaha, South Omaha and Florence, Dundee or Benson.

BELL-ANS Absolutely Removes Indigestion. One package proves it. 25c at all druggists.

ROSENBLATT Sells Quality COAL AT CUT PRICES 2000 LBS PER TON GUARANTEED PROMPT DELIVERY TEL. DQUC 530

Handing 'Em a Package?



Fire at Midnight Endangers Lives In Olmsted Home

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Olmsted and son, Robert, of Florence, barely escaped with their lives Thursday night when they were awakened about midnight by fire and smoke which had filled their bed rooms. The real cause of the fire is as yet unknown, but it is believed that it was started in the fireplace in the living room, as the chimney runs through Mrs. Olmsted's room just above, and it was there that the fire was first discovered. The extent of the damage has

not been determined, but the insurance will undoubtedly cover the loss, with the exception of some valuable and highly prized bric-a-brac.

The second and third stories are completely destroyed and only the walls of the first story remain standing, and the furniture that was not destroyed by fire was ruined by water.

Mr. and Mrs. Olmsted have been planning a Christmas family reunion and are expecting Mr. and Mrs. Bentley McCloud of Chicago Sunday morning, who will not be informed of the fire.

To Name Tariff Board Men.

Washington, Dec. 22.—President Wilson will announce the make-up of the tariff commission shortly after congress convenes next month. He discussed the question after today's cabinet meeting with Secretary McAdoo.

"The Store for the People"

OFFERS YOU ANOTHER CHANCE TO SAVE REAL MONEY SATURDAY—THE ONLY DAY LEFT TO WIND UP YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING—FEATURING SPECIAL PRICES THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE STORE. NOTE THE PRICES QUOTED.

LADIES' COAT and SUIT DEPT.

Ladies' Coats, Crush Plush, velvet collar—worth \$15. Saturday \$7⁵⁰

Children's Coats, corduroy, velvet, chinchillas, in all colors—worth \$10. Saturday \$4⁹⁸

Ladies' Eider-down Bath Robes in all colors, extra good values, worth \$5. Saturday \$2⁹⁸

Big selection in Children's Fur Sets, in all colors and shades. These are bargains. Prices for Saturday \$1.48, \$1.98, \$2.98, UP

MEN'S SUITS and OVERCOATS

Men's Suits and O'Coats, new models, great assortment, worth \$15 to \$18.50—Saturday \$7.45 TO \$9.45

Men's Tie and Scarf Sets, including cuff buttons, pin and tie clasp; worth double in value—Saturday 69c, 75c, \$1.48

Ladies' Fur Trimmed Felt House Slippers; all colors, worth \$1.50. Saturday 98c

Men's Fine Scotch Knit Gloves; all colors; big assortment; worth double. Saturday 25c

Men's Work Shoes—tan or black, all sizes, solid leather. Worth \$2.50. Saturday \$1⁹⁸

Men's Jersey Ribbed Union Suits; all sizes; worth \$1.00; Saturday 69c

THE NOVELTY CO. Where Your Dollar Does the Work of Five 214-216 N. 16th St. BERNSTEIN & KRASNE, Props. OMAHA, NEB.

BOPP TESTIFIES HE WAS SPIED ON

Telephone Line Tapped and All Watched, Declares German Consul on Trial.

TELLS OF BIG SLUSH FUND

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—German consulate telephone wire were tapped, mail and telegram; watched and a secret mechanical detector installed in his office by enemies of his government, Franz Bopp, German consul general, testified today in the United States district court. Bopp was a witness defending himself against federal charges that he conspired with consular attaches to dynamite ships and railroads in Canada and the United States to block shipments of munitions to Germany's enemies.

Bopp asserted he hired spies to watch recruiting and shipments of Canadian troops to Europe for the information of the German staff. Bopp's testimony throughout was an direct examination, intended to show that C. C. Crowley, Louis J. Smith, government informant; Mrs. Margaret Cornell and J. H. Van Koolbecken were hired by the German consulate as spies—not dynamiters, as charged by the government. Smith testified that he was engaged to dynamite.

"Why did Crowley and Mrs. Cornell correspond in code?" Bopp's chief counsel asked.

"I had reason to believe and still believe all my correspondence and telegrams were and are being watched

by enemies of the German government," replied the consul general.

"Did you ever find any voice registering device in your office?"

Bopp answered: "I was told one had been put in my office. More than that I was shown: burned ends of a tap wire to my telephone trunk line."

Existence of a "secret" German consulate "war fund" in San Francisco amounting to more than \$100,000 was admitted by Bopp on cross-examination.

"Some of it came from the embassy at Washington," said Bopp.

Teutonic Armies in Dobrudja Advance

Berlin, Dec. 22.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—Teutonic forces continue to advance in the Dobrudja and have taken 900 Russian prisoners, says the official statement issued from German general headquarters today. On the other fronts there has been but little activity.

Persistence in the Cardinal Virtue is Advertising.

The Quinine That Does Not Cause Nervousness or Ringing in Head

Because of its Tonic and Laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. It removes the cause of Colds, Grip and Headache. Used whenever Quinine is needed.

—but remember there is Only One "Bromo Quinine"

That is the Original Laxative Bromo Quinine

This Signature on Every Box

E. W. Grove Used the World Over to Cure a Cold in One Day, 25c.

Brandeis Stores

Unusual Price Reductions

Will Make Gift Buying Here on Saturday Easy and Extremely Economical

NOW YOU HAVE COME TO THE LAST DAY—and with the characteristic readiness which has always maintained this store's supremacy we stand ready to serve you in the most efficient way.

We have grouped together our Christmas stocks and will offer them at prices that are

33 1/3% to 50% Under Regular

This is wonderful news, indeed, because every item was bought by us for some special mark of merit, and everything we offer will make unusually good Christmas gifts.

The Jewelry Department Announces Big Reductions for Saturday

All the Ivory Toilet Sets, Manicure Sets, Silver Plated Toilet Sets, Shaving Stands, Brass Goods, Plated Picture Frames, etc., have been marked down about 33 1/3% from their regular prices for quick dispersal.

\$6.00 Sets at \$3.98 All Our 50c Novelties at 29c

\$3.00 Sets at \$1.98 All Our \$1.00 Novelties

\$3.00 Shaving Stands at \$1.98 at 69c

AND—ALL GOODS PURCHASED UP TO 7 P. M. on Saturday WILL BE DELIVERED THE SAME EVENING, within the city limits.

Shop in Earnest Now Until 9 P. M. on Saturday.

Buy Glove Bonds or Merchandise Certificates If you are in doubt at the last minute—you cannot go wrong on these for the recipient may then purchase whatever he or she most desires.



Unusual Hour Sales

No mail or phone orders filled on these specials, and we reserve the right to limit the quantity to each customer. While stocks are ample, we cannot guarantee these will last one hour.

| Saturday From 9 to 10 A. M. Only Serving Trays | Saturday From 7 to 8 P. M. Only French Limoges China Bread and Tea Plates Genuine French Limoges China Bread and Tea Plates, in the "Golden Rod" (Nebraska State Flower), decoration—all hand decorated. 500 Bread and Butter Plates. 800 Tea Plates. | Saturday From 7 to 8 P. M. Only Framed Pictures |
|---|---|--|
| Ebony, White Enamel and Mahogany. About 300 in all, inlaid with conventional patterns and some of each with the popular bluebird (happiness), pattern. 79c Each Sell here every day at \$1.50 and \$2.00. Third Floor. | 10c Each Sell here every day at 50c each. Main Floor. | One group of long panels, beautiful florals—36 inches long. One group of Landscapes and Marines and Figures. One group of Etchings, in wide variety. These are all framed in walnut, gold and oak. At 79c Each Sell here every day at \$1.50 and \$2.00. Third Floor. |

House Slippers Are Welcome Christmas Presents

You will make no mistake if you give house slippers for Christmas presents. All women want them—they are always welcome.

We have a big assortment of women's house slippers ordered especially for Christmas trade—among them many dainty shapes and styles in satin, velvet, suede and soft leather in black and the wanted colors.

Women's house slippers from \$1.25 to \$2.50

A full line of Men's Operas, Everetts, Romeos and Cavaliers, from \$1.50 to \$3.00.

FRY SHOE CO. 16th & DOUGLAS.