

FIRE SWEEPS BLOCK, LOSS NEAR MILLION

Continental Building, at Fifteenth and Douglas, Completely Destroyed.

MANY FIRMS ARE LOSERS

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streets was directing the operations of a dozen pipemen when he was pinned by a falling timber. An instant later on Fifteenth street Captain Cogan of company No. 9 was injured in a similar way. Neither was hurt seriously, but were taken home and treated by police surgeons.

Lodges Will Suffer.

The top floor of the Continental block was divided into three lodge halls. One of these was used by the Modern Woodmen of America camp No. 120 and Beech Camp No. 1454. The lodges owned the furniture and fittings in this hall. Clerk W. D. Wood of Beech camp would not make any estimate of his loss. He said it was insured.

Alpha camp, Woodmen of the World, occupied another of the lodge rooms and had converted a third into a club room, which was lavishly fitted out. The loss here will be rather heavy.

Police roped off the burning area to keep spectators thronging about the scene from danger. Owners of buildings near those destroyed stood in the crowds estimating what it would cost them to replace the broken glass windows.

Foley's Losses.

T. J. Foley estimates his loss at \$36,000. He carried insurance for \$16,000. In his place was the largest elk head in the country, a personal gift to the proprietor from the late "Buffalo Bill," who shot the animal himself. Two guns which Colonel Cody gave to Mr. Foley were also burned, as was a huge oil painting, "Camp Foley," which was painted by J. Farrington Ellwell of Boston. The scene showed Colonel Cody seated before a brightly burning camp fire. Friends said it was a very excellent likeness of the old scout. Mr. Foley said he refused \$10,000 for the picture.

A fine old oil painting by Ellwell, depicting Chief Yellow Hand in the act of truncating the scalplock of a naturalized citizen, was one of the relics which were destroyed in Foley's salon. Three gold pieces, dated 1849, and which were inlaid in the floor, were among the other curios lost by Mr. Foley. He valued each of the pieces at \$250.

General Alarm Sounded.

Repeated fire alarms summoned all the fire apparatus in Greater Omaha to the scene. A fierce northwest wind fanned the flames to fury and threatened buildings on every side of the blaze for entire blocks.

Thousands of people lodging in nearby hotels and rooming houses rushed from their beds in panic to the street in all stages of dressability. Every available police officer was summoned to the scene to keep the crowds from interfering with the work of the fire fighters to keep them out of the danger zone.

While Frank Rose, policeman, was passing in front of Hartman's a great pane of glass fell upon him. Rose carried out a Chinese boy from Ahko's place.

Value of Building.

The Continental block, which is four stories high, is estimated by A. C. Kennedy, former local agent for the building, to be worth from \$150,000 to \$200,000. It is partially covered by insurance.

The building was erected about thirty years ago. It is of brick construction. It is owned by the Buyers Building and Farm company of Topeka, Kan. The company is a close corporation, consisting of the four teen leirs of Buyers, who erected the building. They live in various parts of the country.

The present local agents for the building are Wheeler and Welphton. Hartman occupies four floors, Berg clothiers, two stories and the basement. Most of the fourth floor is used for the Modern Woodmen of America hall. Various officers occupy the building.

The building occupied by T. J. Foley was owned by the Alvin Saunders estate, while J. A. Fuller owns the corner location of Jabez Cross and Robert Beard owned the Beard building.

Berg in the East.

O. E. Berg, president of the Berg Clothing company, was in Chicago yesterday, enroute home from New York. In his absence other officials of the company would make no estimate of the loss. The safe, which contained valuable papers and which had lodged on the balcony of two floors to the cellar. When it took the plunge, firemen say, its walls were intact. But it was buried in a pile of burning debris and the fate of the safe and its contents will be unknown until workmen recover it from the ruins. The offices of the Berg Clothing company will be at 716 Brandeis building for a while.



New Arrivals in Cheney Silks Wonderful Variety 65c and \$1.00 Quality Shop 214 So. 15th St.

Berg's Loss Heavy

O. E. Berg, proprietor of the Berg Clothing company, was returning from New York at the time of the fire. He had been buying spring goods. It was stated that \$150,000 worth of these had been unloaded during the last week. Among these was a car load of overalls received Thursday. Spring goods for the Berg ladies' department had not arrived.

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thanks to the offer of Thomas Quinlan, manager of the Brandeis stores.

Windows Broken.

All the big plate glass windows in the stores on the south side of Douglas streets between Fifteenth and Fourteenth were cracked by the heat. Damage by smoke will necessitate the expenditure of thousands of dollars in repainting the walls in the places of the J. T. McVittie cigar store, Wolf furnishing, Pearl barber shop, Bedden clothing, Tracy Bros., Calumet restaurant, Budweiser saloon, Washington market, Beselm & Son and Maurice Brody.

The Continental block was the scene of a big fire twenty-two years ago. One fireman was killed there. It was at that time occupied by Orchard & Wilhelm company and the Continental Clothing company.

There was a snow storm within the two blocks south of the fire in the early morning. Spray from the hose congealed and fell to the ground in great flakes, coating much of Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets between Douglas and Farnam streets.

Thought Calumet Gone.

"I would have taken \$3.50 for this place at 4 o'clock Friday morning," says Sidney Swanson, manager of the Calumet restaurant. "The north wind was blowing a mighty gale and brought sizzling blasts of heat across the street from that furnace of fire. Our big plate glass windows cracked and pieces, half-melted, fell to the street. The paint on our woodwork blistered and I was just getting ready to take all valubles from the safe when the wind veered a bit and carried the fire down toward Fourteenth street. It was a lucky and narrow escape."

Plan New Building.

Owners of the Continental property will make plans at once for erecting a big new building on the site of the fire.

This information is vouched for by C. A. Patterson, rental manager of

the Wheeler & Welphton company.

representing the owners. He said: "I know the owners of the property are financially able to rebuild at once and that they are progressive property owners. I am sure they will at once go ahead with plans for a fine, modern structure to replace the one just destroyed."

E. P. Marquis of Kansas City is said to be the active business representative of the owners of the Continental property. He has been notified by telegram of the fire.

D. B. Welphton of the local rental agency was in Chicago and was also notified by wire of the conflagration. He is expected home Saturday morning.

It is said that the Buyers company four years ago refused an offer of \$330,000 for the Continental building and grounds, which include a quarter of a block.

"It was very remarkable that the fire department stopped the fire when it did," Fire Warden Edward Morris declared. "The strong wind and the old-fashioned type of construction of the Continental building offered every opportunity for the blaze to get entirely beyond control and spread through the business district."

The building was erected, or rather rebuilt, after a similarly disastrous fire years ago, when the Continental Clothing company occupied the location. Fire Warden Morris was one of the bricklayers who worked on the job.

He said that it was a good building, complying with building ideas and standards of those days. It was of lumber and mill construction, contained wooden lath and few partitions and incorporated no fire-proof qualities. In addition to being a poor risk for a congested district, the furniture stock added to the fire hazard, he declared.

The loss from the big fire is well distributed among many fire insurance companies, according to local agents, and so will not hit any one company very hard.

"Still doing business" is the motto of the Hartman company. Manager Harry Fellheimer has opened temporary offices at 116 South Fifteenth street. Leon Hartman and other heads of the company are hastening to Omaha in response to telegrams. They will rapidly formulate plans for continuing their furniture and carpet business in Omaha.

Sewers in the fire district were taxed beyond their capacity by the immense quantities of water poured onto the fire by Chief Salter's men. Many basements of buildings not touched by the fire were flooded.

BRITISH FOOD STOCKS LOWEST IN NATION'S LIFE

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year, 32 shillings for the next two years and 24 shillings for the three following years. The price of potatoes would be guaranteed for the coming season only at £6 a ton.

The opinion was expressed by the premier that food prices were not likely to decrease for a long time after the war, inasmuch as Germany would then be a heavier purchaser than ever before. Therefore, it was safe to grant to the farmers a minimum price over a definite period of time, which was the only way to bring about immediate action.

The premier also proposed a minimum wage of 25 shillings weekly for agricultural workers.

For wheat the government will guarantee the farmer the following minimum prices per quarter: For the present year, 60 shillings; for 1918 and 1919, 55 shillings; for 1920, 1921 and 1922, 45 shillings.

Brewing will be cut down to 10,000,000 barrels annually. A similar reduction will be made in the output of spirits, effecting a saving of 600,000 tons of foodstuffs.

The importation of aerated, mineral and table waters will be prohibited. Power will be given the Board of Agriculture to compel land owners to cultivate their ground.

The minimum wage for farm labor announced by Mr. Lloyd George, 25 shillings a week, represents an increase of 50 to 80 per cent over the present prevailing payment.

The importation of paper, the pre-

mier announced, must be curtailed by a further 640,000 tons annually.

The only exceptions made in the prohibition of fruit importations will be in the cases of oranges and bananas, in which the amount brought in will be restricted 25 per cent. The same restriction will apply to nuts. Canned salmon importations will be reduced 50 per cent. The importation of foreign tea, coffee and cocoa is prohibited and even the amount of India tea which may be brought in is reduced.

The premier said it was expected to save 900,000 tons of shipping yearly on foodstuffs.

In announcing the decision to restrict the importation of paper Mr. Lloyd George said the government had arrived at the conclusion that a very substantial reduction was necessary and that the amount would be cut to half of what is now allowed. This would reduce the allowance to 640,000 tons. All essential articles of food, he continued, would be on the free list, but certain articles would be reduced or prohibited. The stoppage of importation of coffee, tea and cocoa for the time being was due to the fact that large supplies were on hand. The premier said he regretted very much the cutting off of certain luxuries which came from France and Italy.

Man Wedged Between Roof Of Barn and Bale of Hay

It took a pulley manned by four men to free Joe Serenglanz, employe of Ed Bobonka, from his place between a bale of hay and the rafters in the roof of the hay barn at Twenty-fourth and Q streets. He was driving a load of hay and was perched on the top when the accident occurred. Physicians at South Side hospital fear that he may have suffered internal injuries that might be fatal.

Senator Martine Introduces a Bill For Food Embargo

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—Senator Martine today introduced a bill to empower the president to declare an embargo on food exports. It was referred to the foreign relations committee. Similar resolutions are pending without prospect of action.

Senator Lewis of Illinois today introduced an amendment to the revenue bill a provision to authorize the president to seize foodstuffs deemed to be monopolized in violation of law. Foodstuffs so seized would be disposed of at public sale under government supervision.

Date Set for Mustering Out The South Dakota Soldiers

The date for mustering out the Fourth South Dakota infantry now at Fort Crook, has been set for March 3 by Captain James Everington. The Nebraska Field Hospital No. 1, will be restored to its former status of a state organization on the same date.

The South Dakota troops will establish a record in the time required for them to be mustered out. It took fifteen days for all work necessary to muster out the Fourth Nebraska infantry and thirteen days for the Fifth. It will be but nine days from the time the South Dakota soldiers arrived at Fort Crook to the time they are sent to their homes. The fast work of the South Dakota regiment is attributed to the fact that they did a great deal of the preliminary work necessary to being mustered out, while still on the border.

WILSON WILL TAKE OATH IN PRIVATE

President Will Be Sworn In Sunday and Special Session of Senate Meets Monday.

DETAILS NOT ARRANGED

Washington, Feb. 23.—Plans for President Wilson's inauguration, hitherto indefinite because March 4 falls on Sunday, were cleared today by announcement that the usual special session of the senate will be called for March 5 to consider nominations. This will permit the inauguration of the vice president in the senate chamber, as is the custom.

President Wilson himself, it was also announced, will take an oath of office privately in the White House Sunday, March 4. It was not made clear whether he has decided to take the oath again at the public open-air ceremonies on the plaza at the capital on March 5, or whether he merely will make the ceremony the occasion for delivering his inaugural address.

Files Cured in 6 to 14 Days. Druggists refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure itching, blind, bleeding or protruding piles. First Application gives relief. 50c.—Advertisement.

Wreck Bank Vault. Greenfork, Ind., Feb. 23.—Safe blowers wrecked the safe in the First National bank here early today and escaped with about \$8,000 in currency.

Spain Acts in Islands. Washington, Feb. 23.—At the request of the German government Spain has taken over German consular interests in Porto Rico and Hawaii.

Give your Want Ad a chance to make good. Run it in The Bee.

Advertisement for Budd's shoes, featuring 'Ladies' Saturday Specials' with prices like \$2.95, \$3.45, and \$4.95. Includes the Budd's logo and store address: 16th and Farnam Sts.

Advertisement for 'A Special Representative of the Ladies' Home Journal Patterns' in Now at Our Pattern Department. Mentions Mrs. H. Sadowski and 'The Home Book of Fashions'.

Advertisement for 'White Dotted Swiss For Waists and Dresses' with a special Saturday price of 28-inch Dotted Swiss, 30c regularly, for one day only, 19c a yard.

Advertisement for 'Silk Hose Special' in Black and White Silk, regular and out sizes. An exceptional value for \$1.19 a pair.

Advertisement for 'Saturday Toilet Goods Specials' including 'Ideal' Rubber Cushion Hair Brushes, waterproof, \$1.10; Ricksecker's Face Powder, 15c; Nail Enamel (stick), for 10c; Almond Lotion, 17 1/2c a bottle.

Advertisement for 'Warner's Misses' Corsets' featuring a beautiful figure, designed to give a correct, natural support to the growing girl. Saturday, Warner's Model A208, for \$1.00.

Advertisement for 'Filet Curtain Nets' in The new, much in demand filet lace weaves, in attractive patterns; ecru and ivory, 25c a yard.

Advertisement for 'Washable Leather Gloves' Very practical for present wear. In white, ivory and gray, \$2.25. In white, Newport and Smyrna, \$1.75.

Advertisement for 'Serosis Models for Spring' Wherever Fashionable Folk Gather You Will Find a Majority Wearing Serosis Shoes. Lists various styles and prices like \$9, \$10, \$11, \$10.

Large advertisement for 'THOMPSON BELDEN & Co' featuring 'Belding's Quality Silks'.

Advertisement for 'Mr. Robert Nicoll' The Personal Representative of Thompson, Belden & Co. In New York City.

Advertisement for 'The Store for BLOUSES' First Time Showing of Recent Arrivals. Exquisite Georgette Blouses, for \$10.50, \$16.50, \$25, \$35.



Advertisement for 'Redfern Corsets \$3.50 Upwards'.

Advertisement for 'Belding's Quality Silks' Obtainable in Omaha Only at The Thompson-Belden Store. Why pay more for ordinary silks? Belding's are all yarn dyed, wear guaranteed. New arrivals daily.

Advertisement for 'Saturday--New Fashions' In Suits, Coats, and Skirts. New tailored models, \$25, \$35, \$45. Popular attractive styles, \$25 and \$35. Much in vogue silk models, priced, \$25.

Advertisement for 'Saturday A Display and Sale TAILLEUR and DRESS HATS' In New Spring Styles—At \$10. They have been arriving daily from New York and from our own workrooms.

Advertisement for 'Needlework Orders' Those who wish to have work done in a most attractive manner, will find our service correct. Includes 'Mme. Leemax Rubber Sheeting' and 'Outing Flannel 12 1/2c Yd.'.

Advertisement for 'Beaton's Prices "Can't be Beat"' listing various products like Palmer's Talcum Powder, Jap Rose Soap, and Rubber Goods. Includes 'New Arrivals in Cheney Silks' and 'Mail Orders Receive Our Prompt Attention.' Address: 15th and Farnam.