

EARLY MORNING FIRE CAUSES \$350,000 LOSS TO KANSAS AVENUE STOCK AND PROPERTY

Palace Clothing Company Store Guttled by Flames.

Water and Smoke Did \$50,000 Damage in Other Stores.

CONFINED TO ONE BUILDING

Remarkable Work of Firemen Prevents Conflagration.

Fire Had Made Great Headway When Discovered.

BIG STOCK OF SPRING GOODS

Stores Were Filled With Heavy Expensive Materials.

Several Hours of Constant Fighting With 15 Hose Lines.

EARLY MORNING FIRE LOSSES.

Palace company, stock.....	\$140,000
Palace fixtures.....	60,000
Palace building.....	50,000
Berkson company stock.....	50,000
Payne shoe company.....	7,000
Geratley company.....	2,000
Adjoining building.....	8,000
Miscellaneous losses.....	5,000
Total losses.....	\$300,000

Fire at 3:10 this morning gutted the Palace clothing company building at 709-13 Kansas avenue for a loss to the Auerbach-Guettel interests of \$250,000, while fire, water and smoke damaged adjoining properties to the amount of about \$50,000. Probably 80 per cent of the aggregate loss is covered by insurance.

Origin of the fire is unknown. The blaze started in the waste room in the basement of the Palace company building. So rapidly did the fire spread that when the fire arrived from central station, little more than a block away, flames were shooting through the roof and the building was doomed. All of the city's fire fighting equipment was called into service and every line of available hose was used to furnish the twelve streams that finally checked the blaze and prevented its spread to the Crosby Brothers store and other buildings.

Auerbach in Excelsior Springs.

Henry Auerbach, resident manager and senior member of the firm of Auerbach, was in Excelsior Springs, Mo., when the fire started. When he arrived in Topeka at 9:35 this morning, his company's building and stock of goods had been completely destroyed, while the building was wrecked. This is the third serious fire at this number, the Palace firm having suffered a complete loss 18 years ago, and a fire 20 years ago gutted the building.

Locked in the building when the fire started this morning was J. G. Loper, 31 Swiss avenue, night watchman for the Palace company. Loper's call from the box in the building was registered at 3:11, a minute after a call had come from the National hotel.

Watchman Discovered It.

Loper declared today that he had visited the basement 15 minutes before turning in the alarm and that he found no evidence of fire. He was returning from a visit to the upper floors when he discovered smoke and saw flames lapping their way up the elevator shaft that acted as a flue and carried the fire to the roof and all of the four floors of the building. It was impossible, Loper said, to enter the basement. After turning in an alarm, the watchman stood at the Kansas avenue entrance of the store until Patrolmen Wonders and Ferguson told him to break the door and leave the building.

For more than an hour after the first alarm came, the Berkson and Geratley stores and Security hall containing the Walk-Over shoe store and the Vollard store on the north, were threatened. But the fight was not alone to protect the north buildings. The Payne shoe store and the big Crosby Brothers on the south were for two hours in constant danger.

Fire Wall Saved Crosby.

A fire wall, separating a reserve stock of the Palace company and the Payne shoe store, held. This saved the big Crosby store, which for a time threatened to add several hundred thousand dollars to the aggregate loss.

An hour after the fire was discovered, the third floor of the Palace building fell. This minutes later, a section of the roof went. The roof and third floor carried a section of the lower floors to the flooded basement and dumped the company's \$50,000.

112 MILES OF PRISONERS.

Berlin, April 10.—To visualize the number of Russian prisoners and guns taken by Von Hindenburg in the so-called "Winter battles," one of the German papers has figured out what a great procession they would make. If the 104,000 to the east of the Masurian lakes, prisoners, the 300 pieces of artillery and the 2,000 wagons. It says, were to form a procession with four men abreast, with the artillery and wagons in usual marching order, they would reach 112 miles in length. It would require thirty hours for such a procession to pass a given point. In the same way it figured that all the prisoners of war now held by Germany—a total of 230,000 men—would make a procession 625 miles long.



Fire at Palace Clothing Store as It Looked at 8 O'clock This Morning.

DUEL TO DEATH STREET WAKES UP

Brothers in Warring Clans Wild Excitement on New York Pair Off and Fight.

Two Dead, Two Dying and Two Badly Wounded.

Letart, W. Va., April 10.—Two men are dead, two are dying and two more perhaps fatally wounded today as the result of a strange triple duel yesterday in which six brothers, representatives of two families, paired off as if for nothing more deadly than a dance, drew their knives and faced opponents selected with regard to age and strength. The fight was a wild and bloody one, and the fighters cursed and groaned, several hundred men, women and children stood by, some crying, some praying, but none dared to stop the duel.

The dead are: Earl Shirley, age 28, and Urson Bosworth, 38, both eldest brothers of the feudist clans, who were paired in the duel. They were first to meet and cut and slash until both dropped. Then Jackson Shirley and John Bosworth, the next in age of the fighting clans clashed, fighting a few yards from the place where their brothers were stabbing each other to the death. Jackson Shirley and John Bosworth are dying, physicians said today.

Harry Shirley and Tom Bosworth paired off a few minutes later. They are boys in their teens. They are desperately wounded but may recover.

The fight began over a baseball game many months ago. The crowd which watched the duel had been attending an entertainment at the Howell schoolhouse, four miles from here. As the entertainment was nearing the close, those inside the school heard quarreling outside. The program was cut short and the people poured out of the building to see the fight. The fight of the eldest brothers was the fiercest. Earl Shirley fought until life left him. He was dead, spectators say, when he fell. Both he and his opponent were disemboweled and their throats were hacked to shreds.

Sheriff Lescher and a posse remained guard at the schoolhouse all night, fearing other members of the family would clash.

COLORADO IS HAPPY.

Legislature Finally Agrees to Quit 'Do Nothing' Session.

Denver, Colo., April 10.—The Colorado legislature will adjourn at midnight tonight.

When this date was decided on by joint resolution, one Denver afternoon paper cartooned the public dancing for joy and shouting, "Three Rousing Cheers." All this was under the heading, "Oh Glory, Legislature Ends April 10, and Let Us All Arise and Rejoice." Another afternoon paper's head was, "Cheer, Brother, Cheer!"

The cause of this hilarity was the legislature's alleged "do-nothing" record. Up to the eleventh hour of the session it had passed only one important bill, the measure carrying out the people's referendum mandate that Colorado be saloonless after January 1, 1915.

Oppose Hay Rate Increases.

Chicago, April 10.—Hay and broom-corn manufacturers and dealers from all parts of the west were represented here today to oppose freight rate increases proposed by the western railroads in the interstate commerce commission's hearing in the "western advance rate" case.

New Warden at Federal Pen.

Leavenworth, Kan., April 10.—It is reported here that A. J. Renoe has been selected for deputy warden of the federal penitentiary to take the place made vacant by the promotion of Frederick Zerbst to be warden at Atlanta. Renoe has been in prison service twenty-five years, the last six here as record clerk.

HUSBAND WOULD ABANDON OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS NOT TAKE A BATH OUT OF SERVA

Sarah Hawker Waited Eight Months for Hubby to Act. Against Her Little Neighbor.

"I don't Never Dabble in Water," Her Love Replied. Troops Will Be Sent to the Italian Frontier.

THEN SHE GOT A DIVORCE SOUND RUSSIA ON PEACE

Kindly Wife Also Bought a Cow and Pigs. Vatican Denies Pope's Intervention Has Been Asked.

Minnie Kroft Tells of a Once General Staff Concedes Loss of Happy Home. 26,000 at Dukla.

Because her husband didn't take a bath in the entire eight months of their married life Mrs. Sarah Hawker decided she would have to draw the line somewhere, she told Judge Dana in the district court this morning: So she left him.

"I went in where he was lying down," she told the judge, "and I spoke to him just as nicely as I knew how. I asked him if he wouldn't please to clean up just that once, but he said:

"I don't never dabble in water!"

It was after that refusal to do anything she wanted him to that Mrs. Hawker, according to her own statement, left his farm near Carbonade and came to Topeka to stay. But that wasn't the only shortcoming she discovered in him, she told the judge.

Bread, Coffee and Fat Pork.

Marshall Hawker was an elderly man when she married him and he objected to live upon a restricted diet of bread, coffee and fat pork. She wanted sugar but he announced that he didn't use it and that she shouldn't unless she bought it herself. She said:

"I ask him to get a cow but he said he didn't use milk, so I bought one myself. Then I asked him to get some pigs to feed the spare milk to but he told me he had gotten rid of his cows, his pigs and his chickens so he wouldn't be bothered with them. I asked him to grow wheat but he said he wanted to kill one and eat it. But you bet I wouldn't let him. I sold them myself and kept the money."

It has been six months since Mrs. Hawker left her husband. Evidently having no objections to his solitary comfort on the farm he did not appear to resist the divorce proceedings and Judge Dana awarded her the decree.

Some Other Cases.

Lizzie Lang was given a divorce from Frank Lang in the first division of the district court today upon her showing of desertion.

The case of Minnie against Charles Kroft in Judge George H. Whitcomb's court was set for trial today. Kroft is suing for divorce on the grounds of desertion and extreme cruelty and there appears to be no contest. Mr. Kroft went away from home some time ago with the evident intention of making it permanent.

Mr. Kroft's Farewell.

"When he left," said Mrs. Kroft on the witness stand, "he told me he was going to resist the divorce proceedings in Kansas would never be able to find him. I don't know where he is now."

Mrs. Kroft mentioned that on the night he left her two married friends in the back after she had reproved him for failing to come home until after midnight when he had promised to do so. She said, however, she had spoken to him about it in a pleasant way because she was not one to provoke family quarrels. She said that her friends said they had seen their father slap their mother and knew he had not treated her well.

United States steel, the leader of yesterday's spectacular movement, was again the chief feature, opening with a block of fifteen thousand shares at 67 1/2 to 67 3/4, and advanced to 58. Bethlehem steel was the only prominent stock to hold back, declining 2 points. Rock Island was the most erratic issue, rising almost four points and soon losing all its advance.

Trading during first half hour was on the largest scale for that period in the recent history of the exchange. Recessions, ranging from a fraction to 2 points, ensued soon after the initial outburst on heavy profit taking.

Sales in the first hour exceeded half a million shares, which surpassed all records since 1903, the year of the great speculative boom. Prices continued to react under the weight of increased realizing sales and many gains were wiped out, some of the standard shares selling materially under yesterday's close. Steel was conspicuous in this connection, declining to 55 1/2. Its contribution to the business of the first hour was 117,000 shares.

IT IS THE PUBLIC

Krutzchnitt Says the People Decide All Labor Troubles.

Compulsory Arbitration Scored by Railway Magnate.

Chicago, April 10.—Julius Krutzchnitt, first assistant to the late E. H. Harriman and himself one of the leading railroad authorities of the country, expressed to the United States commission on industrial relations the opinion that the only solution of labor troubles is the designating of a vehicle through which the public, which is always right, shall decide the merits of controversies.

"One of the duties of this commission," said Commissioner James O'Connell to Mr. Krutzchnitt, who was the first witness at today's session, "is to ascertain the causes of industrial unrest, and to recommend a remedy, if possible. What is your opinion?"

"I have observed many strikes and in the end public opinion decides—justly, as a rule, replied the witness. "No strike that I recall ever succeeded with public opinion against it. The great American public settles them all. The older I grow the more I am convinced that the remedy of settling labor troubles is the task of keeping the public informed."

EDITOR IS PINCHED.

L. E. 'Aguinaldo' Claypool Surrenders to Officers.

Kansas City, Mo., April 10.—L. E. Claypool, editor of a weekly pamphlet sold on the streets here, surrendered to the county attorney today on the issuance of a warrant for his arrest, charging violation of the state law, prohibiting the editing of a publication devoted mainly to scoundrels.

Almost 100 newsboys who were selling the pamphlet were taken to police headquarters and their shaves confiscated.

Claypool is a former Kansas City and Topeka newspaper man and his publication was in its fourth issue.

SUGGESTION, KANSANS!

Burlington, Ia., April 10.—The Burlington Automobile club has adopted a suggestion from Dr. I. P. Wilson, and is heading a state wide movement to adorn the roadsides of every important highway in Iowa with flowers. For several years the doctor and his wife on their auto trips have planted flowers beside the roads. As a result several roads near the city have been made beautiful. Now the auto club has taken up the movement and asked other clubs to assist in making Iowa highways the most beautiful in the country.

ETERNAL FEMINIST!

St. Paul, Minn., April 10.—A mirrorless elevator is never used by women when one with mirrors is available, according to an observing elevator boy. He works on an elevator, which is regularly used for freight. During rush periods, the freight elevator, exactly like the passenger elevator, except that it does not have mirrors, is used for passengers. But the women fight shy of it.

ROCK ISLAND CASE

Election Restraining Order Denied by U. S. Court.

Stockholders Haven't Given Up—Will Try Again.

Chicago, April 10.—Judge Carpenter in the United States district court today denied an injunction restraining the annual meeting of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway from being held in this city next Monday. The application was filed yesterday by minor stockholders who asserted that they had been hindered in their attempt to elect directors.

Despite the ruling, further proceedings will be started to prevent the election of directors, according to Attorney Jacob Newman, representing the petitioning stockholders. He refused to say "for tactical reasons" what steps would be taken, but said "this is only the beginning of the fight."

In denying the petition, Judge Carpenter said:

"As far as I can see, the conduct of this meeting is the same now that it has been for several years. I can see no special reason why the election should not be held now. The conduct of the elections in the past appears to have been regular and in accordance with the law."

BACK TO KANSAS

Jess Willard Wants to Run a Ranch Here.

Ring Champion Unloads His Pet Ambitions.

Chicago, April 10.—That Jess Willard does not think he is destined to remain long in the fighting game, despite the great popularity that is sure to be his now, is shown by the fact that the champion has been making plans for the future, and few of these plans involves anything in the fighting line.

The Ring champion has an ambition to become at once proprietor of a horse and mule ranch in his native state of Kansas. He hadn't been crowned with the title more than ten minutes before he shouted to a lifelong friend in the crowd, "Well, old boy, we'll get that ranch now sure." This led to some questioning as to it was discovered that Jess long had possessed an ambition to have one of the biggest breeding establishments in the western country.

In fact when Jess was questioned on the point 24 hours after the little affair at Marianna, Cuba, and while the yelling and pinning noise were still flocking about him in Havana, he was willing to talk horse while little could be obtained out of him on the subject of fighting.

"Didn't know, did you, I was considered one of the best horse traders in Kansas?" he said with a big laugh. "Well, the best I know of in the world I know quite as well as I know horses, and I'll be breeding them soon, too. Of course, I like to know my own business, but I don't think I'll be a good state as well as if I make anywhere near as much as they expect I will from now on, and I don't think I'll be any more in there in such a way that I'll get a good return on the investment."

VILLA ON THE RUN

"In Full Retreat After a Shameful Defeat"

Is Word Sent Out From Headquarters of Carranza.

Washington, April 10.—"Villa, after a shameful defeat administered to the Carranza forces, is in full retreat," received by the Carranzista headquarters here from General Obregon, dated Culaya, via Vera Cruz, April 9, "is in full retreat."

"He passed through Salamanca with 18 trainloads of soldiers, five of them containing wounded," the message stated. "Many of his troops have deserted him. We have buried more than 2,000 dead soldiers left behind by Villa on the battlefield. He claims his defeat is due to humanitarian sentiments, a pity, but let us hope that he will develop these humanitarian sentiments dead in him so long."

Regardless of his boast of being a great general, his defeat is due primarily to his inability in directing operations and his total disregard for the safety of his soldiers.

"Due to his useless charges, many of his best troops perished by the hundreds without accomplishing anything of advantage. When he noticed that his troops were reluctant in carrying out his orders to go to certain slaughter, he became enraged and killed a number of soldiers whom he found seeking shelter."

"Villa did nothing that a capable military man would have done to prevent his defeat. As soon as he realized his defeat, he abandoned his infantry and fled for safety with his famous 'Dorados.'"

General Carranza was quoted as reporting Obregon's men marching along the railroad track on San Luis Potosi, the evacuation of Dolores Hidalgo and the northward flight by the Villistas.

WEATHER IS IDEAL

Sunday, Too, Will Be of Favorable Variety, Says Sunny Flora.

The weather was ideal today and the forecast promises of the same brand of atmospheric conditions for Sunday.

There were scattered April showers in Kansas late Friday and Friday night. The precipitation at Topeka was 15 of an inch. The weather could not be more favorable for those who are putting in their gardens.

The lowest temperature at Topeka today was 49 degrees which was eight degrees above normal. The mercury went down to the freezing point in the northwest portion of the state. The sky was clear early this morning in all parts of Kansas with the exception of the east.

The temperature averaged nine degrees above normal today.

The hourly readings:

4 o'clock.....	49 1/2 o'clock.....	64
8 o'clock.....	51 1/2 o'clock.....	67
9 o'clock.....	55 1 o'clock.....	68
10 o'clock.....	61 2 o'clock.....	70

KANSAS POSTMASTERS

Appointments Announced Today—Action on Topeka.

Washington, D. C., April 10.—The postmaster general has announced the appointment of the following postmasters for Kansas:

Richard G. Egsworth at Burlington; Thomas F. Mannion, El Dorado; Rodney Torrey, La Crosse; Louis W. Johnson, Pittsburg; George Harman, Valley Falls; Cora L. Gu, Burdick; Mabel A. Kerley, Peck; Matthew Kelley, Richmond.

The postoffice department has ordered the abandonment of Station G-1 at Topeka, to be effective April 20. In lieu thereof Station G-6 will be established.

On May 1, the postoffice at Norton, Kan. will be removed to the southeast corner of Kansas avenue and Washington street. The Hillsboro (Kan.) postoffice is also to have a new location on Main street, between Grand avenue and Elm street.

LIFE TERM FOR HIRING TO KILL

Supreme Court Says Walter Mullins Must Suffer.

Charged With Death of Anthony King at Alta Vista.

OTHER DECISIONS DOWN TODAY

Topekan Can Collect Damages From Santa Fe.

Harley Harper Received Blood Poisoning in Shops.

Walter Mullins must serve a life term in the Kansas penitentiary for hiring a man to murder Anthony King, a restaurant keeper at Alta Vista, under a decision of the Kansas supreme court today.

King was a police officer in Junction City, where Mullins lived. They got into an altercation on the streets there and King beat Mullins severely. Some time after this King moved to Alta Vista, where he ran a restaurant. He was charged with hiring Paul Roberts, a dope fiend and undesirable character of Louisiana, to kill King. The man was killed by a charge of buckshot, fired through a screen door one evening.

There were no eye witnesses. Roberts was convicted of the actual murder, but died in his cell in the jail before the jury returned its verdict. Mullins was tried later and was convicted of inciting Roberts to do the murder. The supreme court sustained the conviction. The attorneys for Mullins announced that there would be a petition for a rehearing filed at once.

Will of Wisner Good.

The supreme court today reversed the Barber county district court and held that the will of Henry Wisner, wealthy Barton county land owner, must stand and that the children receive only a minor portion of his estate. Because of the prominence of parties interested in the case, the trial of the action two years ago attracted unusual attention, especially when the trial court held that the will should be set aside.

In passing on the case today, the court held the Wisner was virtually insane at the time of his death. Yet a former will had made no greater provision for two sons, Charles and Henry Wisner, than the second and for this reason the court declares [Continued on Page Two.]

CUT GAS WASTE

Kansas Utilities Board Issues Severe Order.

Distributing Companies Must Be Economical.

Gas waste by distributing companies must be reduced to the minimum, according to an order late this afternoon from the public utilities commission. In the letter, the commission states that gas waste will be investigated at the rate hearing to be held in Topeka May 12.

Late Friday afternoon receivers for the Kansas Natural Gas company filed with the commission an application for an increase in rates. No specific increase is asked, the petition merely stating that it is impossible to do business on the present schedule. A hearing has been set for May 13. Now the commission expects to take another look into the matter and will inquire concerning gas waste at the time the rate question is aired.

Recent complaints filed by the public utilities commission have been to the effect that gas waste by distributing companies has in some instances amounted to 8 per cent. The commission has notified distributors that it will take evidence concerning the average necessary waste and will establish a maximum for the state. According to complaints, the leakage is due to inferior municipal facilities under jurisdiction of the gas companies. This trouble has in many instances occasioned a greater loss between city limits and the consumer's stove or furnace than between the southern Kansas gas well and the town purchasing gas. The commission is natural through a distributing agent.

FRENCH SHIP SUNK

Torpedoed by German Submarine Off Isle of Wight.

La Treport, France, April 10.—The French three-masted ship Chateaubriand, from London for New York with a cargo of chalk was sunk by a German submarine off the Isle of Wight at 11 a. m. Thursday. The crew was saved.

Captain Grondin and the 24 men aboard the vessel were given refuge by their German commander to launch their two boats. The Chateaubriand was then torpedoed. After drifting about all the rest of the day and that night in bitter cold weather and without food the crew sighted the French coast yesterday morning, landing here safely.

The Chateaubriand, a ship of 2,029 tons, sailed from London April 4.

PREACHER TO MAKE SHELLS

Glasgow, April 10.—A call for recruits here to assist in the manufacture of shells brought forth a clergyman, who was promptly accepted.

He is the Rev. Stuart Robertson of Pollokshields church, a tall athletic figure who now serves from 6 o'clock in the morning until 5 at night in a large engineering shop. His day's work over, the Rev. Robertson attends to his recreational duties as his evening's recreation.