THE LEAVENWORTH WEEKLY TIMES.

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Weekly Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1871.

CHICAGO.

We have no language to express our sorrow over the blotting out of that pride of every American, Chicago. Chicago was not only the wonder of America, but it was the wonder of the world.

The fire fiend has struck a blow at the nation's pride.

The tens of thousands who, only forty-eight hours ago, were contented and happy at the humble fireside, or in the palace, are to-day thrown upon the world to commence life anew.

We cannot comprehend the extent and magnitude of the loss. It may be stated at $500,000,000, but who can tell how many littlehomes and marble fronts make up that sum? Who can tell the extent of the loss? What financial difficulties will this destruction of the finest city in the West bring upon the commercial centers of the East?" No one knows, no one can tell. Chicago has the sympathy of every man with humane feelings.

He who can even speak lightly of the burning of the world of hopes of an hundred thousand of human beings, is less than human.

Chicago will receive immediate material aid for the present wants of the needy. The heart will respond. Leavenworth nobly gave her mite last night, $10,000.

It was given to Chicago. Had Leavenworth suffered as did Chicago, Chicago would have given us ten times ten thousand.

Chicago was always the friend of Kansas. Chicago is gone. But history shall not record a parallel of the rapidity with which the new shall replace the old.

The destruction of Chicago is a national calamity. The rebuilding of Chicago is a national necessity. The moneyed men of the East will be obliged to rebuild the mercantile palaces, unequalled in the world. The hotels unexcelled in number and magnificence, and the grain store houses which made Chicago the granery of the world must be rebuilt. Ten years, yes, half ten years will witness Chicago more populous, richer, and grander than ever.

AN OCEAN OF FLAMES.

Thousands of Miles Devastated—The Fires in the Forests of Wisconsin—A Belt Thirty Miles Wide—Thousands of Square Miles Burned Over—Hundreds of Families Rendered Homeless and Destitute—Wild Beasts Fleeing in Terror—No Food Left for Man or Beast.

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 4.—The special correspondent to the *Daily News* to-day from Green Bay, says the fires which have been raging in the woods between there and Lake Michigan have extended across Fox River, and cover a strip of thirty miles wide in Shawanee and Oconto Counties, and the big lumbering towns of Morrutta and Peshleys, which are threatened with destruction. The fires are raging over three thousand square miles of territory. One hundred families have been burned out of house and home, and the refugees are in Green Bay and other towns, and at least one hundred other families are in equally as bad condition. Houses, barns, farm buildings, bridges, fences, absolutely everything, have been swept away. Thousands of square miles of valuable pine forests are destroyed. Bears and other wild beasts have been driven in dismay from the woods, and are fleeing in every direction across the fields. The entire population are fighting the fires without success, and many have fallen down suffocated by the heat and smoke and carried by their comrades to places of safety. All supplies of food for men and beasts throughout at least fifty townships have been destroyed, and starvation during the coming winter stares them in the face.

GREEN BAY, WIS., Oct. 4—The fires that are now prevailing in the six or seven northeastern counties of Wisconsin has never had a parallel since the settlement of the country. The drought which has prevailed since early in August has dried up the springs, and streams and vegetation, and has parched the ground to such a depth below the surface that the soil itself acts as a conductor, and living trees are falling from the action of the fire, which undermines them; all outstanding property is swept away, there being so little water in an available situation to stop the fires. Barns and their contents, haystacks, corn, wood and other property, together with hundreds of miles of fences, are burned, as no resistance can be offered to the approaching flames. There is no authenticated account of loss of life, though a family in Kewanee county, and some Indians in Shawnee county are reported burned. The hardest fights against the flames are made at many saw-mills, which are located among pine forests in the region, but many of them have been burned. All the available force that could be obtained from the adjacent places, has been called to the assistance of the threatened settlements, in some cases with water available, and in others not. The work has been so long and harassing, and the men so tried with the smoke and fatigue, that in a great many places the contest has been given up. In places where there was no water, the only available plan has been to dig trenches around the property; but the east wind carries large pieces of burning bark through the air, and renders such means useless.

The *Advocate* of to-day has accounts of the fire in the counties of Brown, Kewanee, Deer, Oconto, Outogimer, Manitowoc and Shawnee. It is estimated that an area of 150 square miles is being burned over. Three saw mills are definitely known to be burned; others are said to be burned out, but the reports need confirmation. In Kewanee county from sixty to eighty dwelling houses and barns have been burned, and the inhabitants are fleeing to the lake shore for safety. At Horne's Pier a store with goods, six dwellings, and shops with barns and other buildings, were burned, and it is said that the inhabitants saved themselves by fleeing to the pier and taking up the planks communicating with the shore. Two Rivers, Two Creeks, Ahaupee and Kewanee and other villages have been more or less damaged. In Deer county, next north, great quantities of cord wood, railroad ties, telegraph poles and other property got out for shipment have been burned, an addition to the houses and barns. On the west side of Green Bay and Fox River the flames extend from Menomonee to Oshkosh, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles in length and thirty miles in width.

Along the line of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad the fire extended close up to the track on either side, for many miles, between Depore and Appleton, threatening the bridges and culverts, burning the fences and cordwood, and requiring the closest vigilance in operating the road. Along the extension of the same road, now building northward, a considerable amount of ties have been burned. Deer and bears come out on the railroad and wagon road, and could be shot. Nobody has time to devote to shooting them.

On the line of the Green Bay & Lake Pepin Railroad garde, a half mile of corduroy substructure, three thousand ties, and hundreds of cords of wood belonging to the road were burned, besides property of much greater value belonging to the farmers. All the bridges on the line of the Manitowoc road for twenty miles east of Green Bay are consumed. Alder's circus passed over them only a few hours previous on its way to Manitowoc.

The fire extends to the city limits of Green Bay on the east, and is running over the adjacent marshes. The city is not regarded as in danger, though cinders and ashes are falling in the streets. The smoke is so dense that buildings two blocks off are not visible.

On the west fires have approached the village limits of Fort Howard, immediately opposite on the river, and large forces of men are engaged in staying its progress. What will be the result to the standing pine and other timber in these counties cannot yet be ascertained. No access to the forests is practicable, and nothing can be estimated, except from the effects of the fire near the settlements, where it penetrates the ground from one to two feet, and has destroyed the life of the trees. The atmosphere is heavy, with some appearance of rain. It will take a heavy and drenching rain to saturate the ground and stop the progress of the fires.

THE MEETING OF THE CITIZENS LAST EVENING AT THE COURT ROOMS.

Our citizens this morning, who were not present at the meeting last evening, will see from the awful accounts in the telegraphic columns the full extent of the most disastrous conflagration of modern times.

The city of Chicago is utterly destroyed. Within forty-eight hours its flourishing trade is stilled, its power paralyzed, and its very existence almost blotted from the face of the earth. Homeless, foodless and clotheless, its citizens are driven into the prairies by the advancing flames, or forced to leap into the waters to escape a fiercer death. Such a visitation is almost as awful as the avenging fires of God on the cities of the dead sea.

Picture to yourself as you read this morning the accounts of these scenes, the wan faces of the terror-stricken multitude, pleading in tears to the elements or shouting with frenzy as they battled against fate, the howling winds, the roaring flames, the thunder of falling walls, the shrieks of helpless children shrill and feeble, and above all the morning sky that hung over their heads like a sea of brass,—picture these things to yourself, and remember that he "who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." Let us heartily destribute of our means a portion to relieve the sudden and overwhelming calamity of our friends, the stricken inhabitants of the once beautiful Garden City by the Lake.

The great conflagration of London has transmitted its horrors to our imagination through the pages of history, we are told of the destruction of San Faxncisco, the disaster of New York, the ruin of ten thousand houses in Constantinople. The story of the burning of Paris sent a thrill of terror through every heart. But here, within a few hours ride of us, a great metropolis, armed with every modern safeguard, at an hour of unestimated prosperity, just on the edge of winter, is swept away, in a fiery vortex, carrying before it the lives of hundreds and millions of dollars in all kinds of valuable property. Even the hope of relief which is ordinarily repaged in the guarantees presented by insurance, fail in this instance. The calamity has consumed them like a feather in the fires of hell. And through them and through the other avenues of trade, the commerce of this country has been checked in its flow; the price of property has felt a serious loss everywhere, and men are standing still to see the issue of present events.

It is our duty to aid the sufferers and protect ourselves from a repetition of the calamity here. The same wild wind has fanned us with its wings, which drove the flames three miles through the glowing heart of Chicago. An insignificant spark would have lit our funeral pyre at any time within the last few hours. But through the ministrations of Providence we have been spared. For this as for other blessings, it is within our grasp to give a friendly hand to our neighbors, who sit amidst the ashes of their homes and warm themselves by the heat of their own door-sills. Will not our people respond liberally and back up the appropriations with a unanimous voice? We believe they will, and we bid them Amen in the noble charity which it is within their power to accomplish this day.

THE TIMES.

Our patrons will excuse us for referring to the fact that THE TIMES continues to be the recipient not only of the confidence of the people, but it receives that which is needed for its material support.

Our Book-keeper, in making his monthly statements, gives us $9,806.60 as the amount received during the last five months for advertising. This is pretty good. We most sincerely tender our thanks to our valued friends.

During the past week we have not published a railroad advertisement, and have had to omit from one to three columns of other advertisements. We will make good the omissions, and pledge to remedy the evil soon.

Our daily circulation is the largest of any paper in the city, and our weekly the largest in the State. Our home circulation of the weekly is ten times larger than any other paper in the city.

For these substantial marks of approval, we are determined to give our patrons in the future a better paper than in the past.

We are also determined, so far as possible, to avoid personalities, advocating through the columns of THE TIMES only such men and measures as the public good demands.

Envy and malice have assailed us. They come, however, only from those who fear the success of THE TIMES, and the consequent misfortune to their own subsidized papers.

Our patrons having substantially indicated their approval of our refusal to be drawn into personal controversies, we shall endeavor to avoid them wherever and whenever it is possible to do so.

And in conclusion, while we make no high sounding pledges, we hope, like President Grant, whom Mr. Greeley has said makes a better President each day after the other since he has been elected, to make a better editor each day after the other as long as we have control of THE TIMES, which shall be for our whole life-time; and if we do not entirely succeed in this, at least we will have the comfort, which many editors do not have and never will obtain, of having the example of a great and illustrious man to guide our footsteps and stimulate our exertions.

THE GENERAL AGENT OF THE C. & R. I. R. R.

The people of our city will hail with great pleasure the appointment of Judge Aller as the General Western Agent of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company for the Southwest, with headquarters at the city of Leavenworth.

We hail this appointment with the more pleasure because the Judge has always been the firm consistant friend of Leavenworth. He is an able man, capable of filling any position the company may assign him. He is known throughout the State as a genial, whole-souled man. He is active, wide-awake, energetic and will make known to everybody that the C. R. I. & P. is the *only* road operating a through line from Chicago to Kansas. This road is pledged to advertise and work for the interests of Leavenworth, and the business men of Leavenworth will with one accord give them the lion's share of their business. On and after Monday the officers of the road will be found at 100 Delaware street, the finest and best office in the city.

TELEGRAMS FROM MAYOR MASON, OF CHICAGO, AND MAYOR BROWN OF ST. LOUIS.

The following telegrams from the Mayors of St. Louis and Chicago, relative to the latter city, have been furnished by the Mayor of Leavenworth. Mayor Brown says:

"Your dispatch is received. Cooked food is most needed in Chicago; next clothing. We have an executive Committee there, Henry Overstal, Chairman. Our Chairman here is G. B. Allen. Better send your money to him. He will send it to Chicago to proper parties to your credit."

Mayor Mason telegraphs on yesterday evening as follows:

"We need cooked food and money. Send by express, because we have no banks."

Gov. Palmer of Illinois has also returned thanks for the liberality of Leavenworth.

Chicago in Ruins.

The People Destitute and Suffering.

One Hundred Thousand People Homeless.

An Appeal to the Country for Aid.

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—Shortly after 1 o'clock this morning the fire which raged furiously last night was got under control. It proves not to have been so devastating as supposed last night. The district burned over last, embracing but four instead of six blocks as reported last night, is bounded on the north by Adams street, west by Clinton, south by Van Buren, and easterly by the Chicago River. Some four or five buildings within this district escaped destruction, among them Vincent Nelson & Co.'s grain warehouse, one of the largest in the city. The grounds burned over were covered with lumber, coal and wood yards, a planing mill, box factory, vinegar factory, etc., and a large number of dwellings and saloons of the poorer classes. A close estimate of the entire loss places it at from two hundred and fifty to three hundred thousand dollars, with probably one-half that insurance.

CHICAGO, 11, P.M.—The fire fiend is again abroad to-night.

At 9:45 the fire broke out on Dekowen street, between Jefferson and Clinton streets, in the West Division, and spread with great rapidity.

At this hour some four blocks are burning, and there seems to be but little hopes of staying the flames. The wind is strong, and the fire surges through the frame buildings with fearful velocity, devouring everything in its passage.

The blocks burned were closely built with two-story frame buildings, occupied as stores, dwellings, boarding houses, saloons, etc., and the loss will probably exceed that of last night.

LATER, 12-45, a. m.—To-night is the worst in the annals of this city. The fire has swept over a space, at least three times as large as that of last night, and is still rushing on with greater fury than has marked any stage of its progress, the engines appearing almost powerless.

Fire Marshal Williams has telegraphed to Milwaukee for all of the fire engines they can spare. Not less than three hundred buildings have been destroyed, and more than that number of families rendered homeless.

The wind is blowing almost a gale from the south and showers of sparks and brands are sweeping over the city, threatening destruction on every hand.

THIRD DISPATCH, 1:15 a. m.—The fire is raging with increased fury; it spreads almost with the velocity of the wind, and has now reached West Union street, distance more than a mile from where it started, and covers a breadth of nearly half a mile reaching from the river to Jefferson street. The distance already burned embraces a large number of lumber yards, and the freight depots of the Chicago & St. Louis and Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroads, and an immense amount of other property, valued at several million dollars. The prospect of arresting the fire now seems ten fold greater than an hour ago, and no one can tell where it will end. Fire brands were blown across the river and set the wooden buildings close by the gas house in a sheet of flame. The flames spread in every direction, and the prospects are that the Gas works will be destroyed, and the city enveloped in darkness. A terrible panic prevails throughout the whole city, and almost everybody, men, women and children are in the street. Praying, weeping and wailing, are heard in every direction. It now looks as if the whole city might be destroyed. A large number of lives is believed to have been lost, but nothing definite is known. The alarm bells are now ringing increased peals, the design being to call every sleeper from his bed.

The panic is increasing, and the people are almost crazy with alarm. The vessels in the river are catching fire in every direction, and all the south side of the river will probably be destroyed.

FOURTH DISPATCH—1:45 a. m.—A raging roaring hell of fire envelopes twenty blocks of the city. It is already within a block of the office where this dispatch is being written and is sweeping onward in a whirlwind of devouring flames, against which human efforts are powerless, and it is impossible to tell where it will stop.

The bridge across Van Buren street is burned, and the Chicago, Alton & Ft. Wayne Railroad tracks, cars and depots are swept away.

No language can describe the awful scene. The flames sweep through the blocks of wooden buildings with the rapidity of prairie fire. Thousands of people fill the streets, rushing out of their dwellings, in many instances, barely in time to save life.

LATEST.—2:10 A. M.—The block across the street from the telegraph office is on fire. The wires have failed, and they are probably burned down.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9, 9-30, a. m.—The entire business portion of the city is destroyed. All of the Banks, Telegraph, and Express offices, newspaper offices (except the *Tribune*), six elevators, and the Water Works, are all gone.

There is no water in the city.

Not less than ten thousand buildings are already destroyed.

The fire has burned a distance of five miles and is still raging.

The wind is blowing a perfect gale.

CHICAGO, Noon, 9.—The awful work of destruction goes on with relentless fury. From Harrison street south to Division street north, and river to lake, an area of four miles long by one wide, the flames have swept everything before them. It is estimated that at least one hundred thousand people are homeless and in a suffering condition. The streets in the unburnt districts are lined for miles with such household goods as have been saved from destruction.

The most generous offers of assistance in money and food, or anything wanted, come from every city and town possible, by telegraph. The Mayor has responded to several offers, asking that cooked food be forwarded as soon as possible. The firemen are on the way here from Cincinnati, St. Louis and other cities. The water works are entirely destroyed. They are now blowing up the buildings in the line of the fire to attempt to arrest its progress.

LATER.—It is now believed that the spread of the fire southward has been stayed at Harrison street, but on the north side there is no dimunition of its fury and the entire division is evidently doomed to utter destruction. There are grave fears that the flames may spread to the west side of the north branch of the river, and the inhabitants of the streets nearest the river are already moving to places of supposed greater safety. The Western Union Telegraph have now six wires working east and South and running into a temporary office corner of State and Sixteenth streets. The Northwestern Railroad is running trains on both its branches, which are filled with fleeing citizens. It is now positively asserted by some that the water-works are still intact, but that the water had been shut off from the South and West Side on account of the quantity being used on the North Side. A reliable gentleman has just arrived from the North Side and brings the joyful intelligence that the water-works are uninjured. God grant that it may prove true.

It is impossible now give an approximately correct statement of the losses, but a fair idea may be formed when it is stated that every bank in the city is burned with the exception of two small savings institutions, one on Twenty-second street in the South Division, and one on Randolph in the West Division; all the wholesale houses, and all the large retail establishments, the Post-office, Court House, Chamber of Commerce, every hotel in the South Division, except Michigan Avenue, which is left standing at the extreme Southern limit of the fire and escaped burning, though badly scorched, every newspaper office, the Tribune building having finally succumbed every, theater, six of the largest elevators, the immense depots of the Michigan Southern and Illinois Central Railroad. Both the passenger and freight depot of the latter road were burned. More than a score of churches and much of the shipping in the river are also burned. Men who were millionaires yesterday are almost penniless today. But more terrible than all is the terrible certainty that many human beings found fiery graves. How many no one can now tell; perhaps no one can ever tell, but some are known to have perished and there is heartrending fears that the victims of the fiery master may be numbered by scores.

Hundreds of horses and cows have been burned in stables; and on the North Side numbers, though released from confinement, were so bewildered and confused by the sea of fire which surrounded them, that they rushed wildly to and fro, uttering cries of fright and pain, until scorched and killed. Any attempt at a description of the scenes of this appalling calamity would be idle. The facts are that the once great city of Chicago is destroyed; that hundreds of millions of active capital have vanished, and that nearly one-third of her inhabitants are powerless is enough, and any attempt to embellish would be but mockery. As this dreadful day draws to a close thousands of anxious eyes watch the dense clouds of smoke which still roll over the burnt district, with evident dread that a sudden change of wind may turn the flames upon that portion of the city yet spared. There seems, however, little cause for apprehension, and reinforcements from other cities are constantly arriving.

Col. J. J. Wilson, Superintendent of the telegraph, is in receipt of dispatches from the leading cities announcing that aid is being provided for the sufferers.

Mayor Brown, of St. Louis, telegraphs that seventy thousand dollars have been subscribed by the merchants.

Cincinnati promises $100,000, and Cleveland is proportionately generous.

All this and a great deal more is needed to relieve immediate and pressing wants.

About three-fourths of the United States mail was saved when possession of by Col. Wood, of the Postoffice service.

6 p. m.—The progressing flames in the South Division were finally arrested about 1 o'clock p. m. This was accomplished by the blowing up and demolishing of several buildings on Wabash Avenue and Congress Streets, by Lieut. Gen. Sheridan. The district burned over in the South Division embraces everything from the main branch of Chicago River to the Lake, embracing about one hundred blocks. This disirict contained all the leading business houses, the banks, insurance offices, halls, &c., a large number of churches, including St. Mark's (Catholic), St. Trinity, First Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian, St. Paul, Swedenburgian, etc. The Methodist Church, on the corner of Wabash avenue and Congress street, is saved. The Michigan Avenue Hotel, on the corner of Michigan avenue and Congress streets, and Congress Hall, directly adjoining on Congress street, were also saved. Michigan Terrace, on Michigan avenue, embracing the residences of Lieutenant Governor Bross, Hon. J. Young Scammon, J. C. Griggs and other leading citizens, is completely destroyed with the furniture and nearly all the other contents. All the newspaper establishments are totally wiped out.

The Tribune building resisted the fire for several hours, but finally yielded, when McVicar's theatre immediately adjoining which had also withstood the raging element, finally succumbed. In fact, all the buildings in the district which claimed to be fire-proof, shared the fate of those which could make no such claims. The great Central Depot at the foot of Lake Street, became a heap of ruins about 9 o'clock.

Most of the cars of the Michigan Central, Burlington & Quincy and Illinois Central were moved on to the breakwater and saved. The fire extended south as far as Polk St., sweeping everything before it. The district burned over here is some four blocks wide and over half a mile in length, numbering about 20 blocks. The buildings were generally of the cheaper character, embracing saloons, small shops, poor residences, &c. The district burned over on the West Side commenced at Taylor street and running from Canal to Jefferson street, it ran thence four or five blocks north and then moved diagonally toward the river, and finally the west line was established on Clinton street, and reaching thence to the river. It moved in this direction northwards until it reached the Northwestern (West Sice) depot, where it seopped, a distance of nearly two miles from where it started. The Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago, and Chicago & St. Louis depots were in this territory, both passenger and freight, and are wiped out. Almost the entire Northern Division, from the main branch of Chicago River to Lincoln Park, nearly two miles in length and one in width is completely desfroyed, including the water works, a large number of elegant churches, &c. This statement embraces the districts devastated, and embraces almost the entire business portion of the city south of Harrison street, in the South Division, and reaching out many miles and covered almost entirely with dwellings, composed largely of the more elegant class is untouched, and may now be regarded as safe from injury. For miles and miles in every direction the sidewalks, with the exception of vacant lots and front yards of dwellings are filled with people who have escaped from their burning dwellings, taking with them only a scanty amount of their furniture and clothing. The sight is truly pitiful and harrowing. They must receive immediate relief or many will perish of starvation.

As stated in my previous dispatch, it is utterly impossible to make an approximate estimate of the entire loss but it can scarcely fall below one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Of course, but a fraction of this amount can be realized from insurance.

Gen. Sheridan has, to-day, telegraphed to St. Louis to the Military Department there to send at once to Chicago 100,000 rations. He has also telegraphed to Omaha for two companies of regulars and 1,000 tents. They will all be here as soon as they can reach here by rail. He will also order another 100,000 rations.

Mayor Mason has issued a proclamation calling a meeting of the citizens to-night in the West Division, to see what can be done to relieve the sufferers. There are at least 100,000 people who know not where to get enough provision to satisfy the appeals of hunger.

A later rumor from the North Division says that the devastation is less wide spread than heretofore reported. I hear no deaths reported by the disaster yet, but undoubtedly many have perished.

The Remainder of the City Set on Fire.

CHICAGO, 10:?1 p. m.—Later word is just brought that a fierce fire is raging on Thirty-first street. This street is two miles south of the southern fire limit, on the South Side and a little less than that from the limit on the West Side. This has been set afire for the purpose, evidently of destroying the remaining portion of the city, largely occupied by wealthy residents. It is also known that two men were caught in the act of firing buildings, and shot, and two others were led off with ropes around their necks. As the wind is blowing a perfect gale the end cannot be foretold. Further news will be forwarded as soon as received.

Interesting Particulars of the Fire.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10—The fire continued to burn all last night on the North Side, but this morning it is under control. It is literally true to say that there is nothing remaining of that side from the river north to Lincoln Park on the north, and from the north branch of the river on the west This portion of the city, except along the main river where there were business blocks, was occupied by dwellings and two-thirds of the population are Germans who are now honestively asserted by some that the water-works are still intact, but that the water had been shut off from the South and West Side on account of the quantity being used on the North Side. A reliable gentleman has just arrived from the North Side and brings the joyful intelligence that the water-works are uninjured. God grant that it may prove true.

They can but their clothes pushed ready to start for the prairie at any moment, but God averted this last possible addition to our disaster.

At sun-down the wind lulled and at 3 o'clock this morning the rain so fervently prayed for came. It did not rain long but the roofs of the houses and the ground have been wet so that now it is possible to have fires to cook for the multitude. A meeting of citizens was held in the first Congresional Church on West Washington street which was continued throughout the night. Measures were taken to protect what property was left, and also to provide for the homeless. Messrs. Richard and Charles Craine, of the Northwestern Manufacturing Company have contrived a plan which is being put into execution, for providing water in case of the fire breaking out at any time. The machinery of their works is being used for that purpose like the engines and boilers used for pumping water from the river. 15,000 citizens were sworn in last night as an extra police force, and the Secretary of War has authorized Gen. Sheridan to employ all the available troops for guard duty, and to issue 100,000 rations.

Five hundred soldiers are on duty. This precaution was necessary, for, as remarkable as it may seem, there are fiends who still wish to extend the disaster.

Two men who were caught in the act of firing houses on the West Side, were seized and immediately hung to lamp posts. One was caught on Twelfth street, near the river, and the other three miles away, on Claiborn avenue on the North Side. This summary action has checked the thieves and murderers.

The arrival of fire engines and firemen from Milwaukee, St. Louis and other cities, has apparently restored confidence. The Cincinnati train arrived this morning with four engines, taxee from the city and one from Dayton. There was an inexpressible pleasure to see these experienced men go to work in a business way where work was the most needed. They are playing on the coal piles to save whatever of fuel is possible, and preventing further spread of the flames.

The vast plain was covered with people walking about and seeing the evidences of a wealth that has completely vanished in the flame and smoke. A few business men with some nerve are seeking houses for business.

On the West Side rooms that rented last week for $50 now readily command $5,000. There are not many of these, but enough to afford a nuclius for business. The newspapers will be started again in a few days or a week. Hon. Jos. Medill, of the Tribune, who is one of the heaviest sufferers, succeeded yesterday in leasing a building on Washington street at the tunnel. He also purchased two single cylinder presses, used in a job office on the West Side, and has telegraphed east for paper and type, there being nothing left here. Mr. Story, of the Times, will erect a rough one story building and begin to issue his paper as soon as material can be procured. The Journal is provided for on the West Side. The Post, Republican, and Staats Zietung will also arrange for business as soon as practicable, but everything must come from elsewhere as there is nothing left from the business.

THIRD DISPATCH.—It is now clearing up again, but instead of this being welcome the people are praying earnestly for more rain so fearful are they of a continuation of the flames.

The following report of the fire and its incidents specially prepared for the Associated Press by those who witnessed and fought the flames throughout: Late on Sunday evening a boy went into a stable on DeKowen street, near the river on the West Side, to milk a cow, carrying with him a kerosene lamp; this was kicked over by the cow and the burning fluid scattered among the straw. This was the beginning of the great fire. A single extinguisher on the ground, or active work of the police in tearing down one or two shanties would have prevented the spreading of the flames, but the engines were waited for, and when they arrived the firemen, stupified by exertion at the fire on Saturday night, worked slowly. Their efforts were unavailing. The wind from the southwest blew a gale. Rapidly the flames spread from house to house and from board yard to board yard, until the district burned the night before was reached. Meanwhile the flames crossed the river north of Twelfth street, on to the South Side, and made for a brick and stone business block, the railroad freight depots and manufacturing establishments. The full extent of the danger was then realized for the first time. The Fire Department, already tired, worked like heroes. The Mayor and his City Government, that had supinely rested, now began to exert themselves, but the opportunity had been lost—the time when a thorough organization could have blown up buildings in advance of the conflagration and arrested the progress of the fire was neglected. It was now a fight for life. A stiff gale had possession of the flames, and the beautiful buildings of Chicago's glory lay before them. Harrison, Van Buren, Adams, Monroe and Madison were soon reached. The intervening blocks from the River to Dearborn street on the east were being consumed. Three quarters of a mile of brick blocks were consumed as if by magic. It being Sunday, the proprietors and employees were at home, apparently unconscious of what was transpiring. Those who saw the flames supposed it was the remains of Saturday night's fire; and having confidence in the Fire Department were unconcerned. But about 12 o'clock a rumor got abroad that the fire was in the business portion of the city. Then the people commenced running. Horses were brought into requisition to take proprietors and others to the conflagration. What a scene met their gaze. The Board of Trade, Court House, Western Union telegraph and press offices and hundreds of other buildings were all aflame. The air was filled with live coals which hurled to the north and cast a shower of destruction. The fire engines were powerless to save anything, and all the men could do was to blow up the buildings; but even this availed but little, for it seemed that no sooner had the flames struck a wall than it went directly through it, a very few minutes being sufficient to destroy the most elaborately built structures; the walls melted and the very bricks were consumed. Block after block fell, and the red hot coals shot higher and higher, and spread farther and farther until the north side of Lake street and South Water was a vast sheet of flames from the river to the lake. At one time, so hemmed in were the people, that it was expected that thousands must perish. One block in all the great business section remained at daylight—the Tribune Block—and those who had fought the flame here thought this block could be saved. A patrol of men under Samuel Medill swept off the live coals and put out the flames on the sidewalks, and another lot of men under the direction of Hon. Joseph Medill watched the roofs. At half-past 7 o'clock this appeared safe, and most of the men went to get rest or food; but there was a change in the wind, the flames reaching Wabash avenue, State street and Michigan avenue, and soon McVicker's Theatre caught fire. In a few moments the Tribune was in flames, and by ten o'clock in the forenoon this remaining block was in ashes.

Now was to be seen the most remarkable sight ever beheld in this or any other country. There were from fifty to seventy-five thousand men, women and children fleeing by every available street and alley to the southward and westward, attempting to save their clothing and their lives. Every available vehicle was brought into requisition, for the use of which enormous sums were paid. the streets and sidewalks presented a fearful sight. Thousands of persons and horses were inextricably commingled. People of all colors and shades and nationalities, mad with excitement, struggled with each other to get away. Hundreds were trampled under foot Men and women were loaded down with bundles and household furniture, and to their skirts were clinging tender infants, half naked and bare-footed, all seeking a place of safety.

Hours afterwards these might have been seen on the vacant lots and on the streets far out in the suburbs, stretched in the dust.

These are the suffering — these are the shepardless lambs whom Christ now calls on the rich world to feed and clothe. God help them, if the heart of man shall prove obdurate. One of the most pitiful sights was that of middle aged women, on State street, loaded with bundles, struggling through the crowd, singing nursery songs, while hundreds of others likewise showed evidence of being distracted, and many rendered delirious by whisky and beer, which, from excess of thirst and absence of water, they drank in great quantities, spread themselves in every direction, a terror to all they met. It is fearful to think of the loss of life. It is conjectured, and with good cause, that nearly 500 people have been burned to death in the seething hell of fire. We saw four men enter a burning building, and in a moment they were overwhelmed by a falling wall. There was a crowd of men around the corner of a building trying to save property, when the wall yielded, and some of the men were buried beneath it. This was on the south side. On the north side ten or fifteen men, women and children rushed into a building, hysterically screaming for safety. In a few minutes the flames leaped up, and they were burned to death. Among them was the venerable Sam Stone. He was eighty yearsold. Also John B. Gerard and wife, and Mademoiselle DePelgrone, the famous music teacher. It is also very much feared that Dr. Frear and family were burned, as they were on the building and have not been seen since. Mrs. Edsall, whose husband was murdered last week and who was suffering from illness, was carried away for protection, to another building that was afterwards burned, and it is feared she also perished. All the books and papers of the Historical Society, including the original copy of the famous Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln, for which the Society paid $25,000, were destroyed.

It is feared that large numbers of children, inmates of the Catholic Orphan Asylum on State street, are also burned, as many of them are missing. On Chicago avenue a father rushed up stairs to carry three children away when he was overtaken with flames and perished with them. The mother was afterwards seen on the North-west Side a raving maniac. In the same neighborhood a family of five persons perished.

The list of such fatalities is very large and can only be fully verified after the smoke shall have cleared away. There are hundreds of families on that side who saved no clothing but barely their lives. Among these is the family of Perry Smith, formerly President of the North-western Railroad Company.

LATER.—A careful survey of insurances to-day show that there were written on property destroyed over $200,000,000. Add another hundred million to this sum and a fair estimate can be reached of the loss.

All the leading merchants that have been seen express a determination to resume business at once. This includes the heavy firms of John V. Farwell, & Field, Leiter & Co.

Farwell & Co., and Field, Leiter & Co., saved from three hundred thousand to half a million dollars in goods. Both firms have already established headquarters on the West Side.

The Journal and Tribune hope to publish small sheets to-morrow.

At a meeting of business men to-day a spirit was manifested to at once set about and rebuild the city and restore business. A special meeting of the Legislature is to be held to provide aid for the business men and provide employment for the poor. Great fears are entertained that the desperate condition of so many persons will soon create squads of pillagers, and that life will not be safe, and to relieve this fear General Sheridan is telegraphing for more troops, and special police forces are being organized by the citizens. The only effectual remedy is to find employment for the thousands who would work if they could. The temporary office of the Western Union Telegraph Company is thronged by thousands anxious to advise their friends. The operators are busy every moment, but as the number of wires available are few, and the fires in the country threaten these, Gen. Stager has directed that private messages and associated press reports shall go first. The general press report will cover everything, as no pains or expense is being spared to render this reliable and perfect. Arrangements have been made by the post office authorities under the direction of Col. Wood, for sending, receiving and distributing all mail matter. The fire in Thirty-first street has been extinguished with little loss. We now breathe free again as Vigilance Committees and patrolmen are busy. Weather clear and cold. It has been estimated that 30,000 people slept on the prairie last night and beneath rude structures last night. Clothing is well as provisions are needed. Mayor Mason has ordered that no more liquor be sold in any saloon until further orders. It is time. Heavy volumes of flames are still seen along the river. Thousands of tons of coal are on fire in the different yards. The towns in the vicinity are sending in car-loads of cooked provisions. An immense amount of stealing was done. The banks are all looking for their safes to-day. The Third National Bank and some others have found everything ruined. The Board of Public Works has put 500 men at work on the water department. Field & Leiter's loss in goods is put at $3,000,000. They saved about $250,000 worth of stock. The loss of the railroads in Depots, stock, etc., will be several millions.

LATER.—The Mayor has issued the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, In the providence of God, to whose will we humbly submit, a terrible calamity has befallen our city, which demands of us our best efforts for the preservation of order and the relief of the suffering, be it known that the faith and credit of our city of Chicago. is hereby pledged for the expenses for the relief of the suffering public. Order will be preserved, the police and special police now being appointed, will be responsible for the maintainance of the peace and the protection of property. All officers and men of the fire department and health departments will act as special policemen, without further notice. The Mayor and Comptroller will give vouchers for all supplies furnished by the different relief committees. The headquarters of the city government will be at the Congregational Church, corner of West Washington and Ames streets. All persons are warned against any acts tending to endanger property. All pessons caught in any depradations will be immediately arrested. With the help of God, order and peace and private property shall be preserved. The City Government and the Committees of citizens pledge themselves to the community to protect them and prepare the way for a restoration of public and private welfare. It is believed that the fire has spent its energy, and all will soon be well.

R. B. MASON, Mayor.

ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 9.—The abrupt termination of the latest dispatch from Chicago last night indicated that telegraphic communication was cut off. This proved true, but this morning dispatches have been sent by connecting wires outside the city, and their import is fearful. One to Mayor Brown of this city says that in addition to the fire above described the whole business portion of the city is in flames, and asks that food be sent to the suffering people. Mayor Brown is now energetically at work providing means to relieve the wants of sufferers and all classes of our citizens are doing their utmost to aid him. Universal sympathy is felt here, and a noble and generous response will be quickly made to the appeal from our terribly stricken sister city.

Another dispatch says: The Board of Trade building, the Sherman and Tremont Hotels, Illinois Central Railroad depot, the Court House, Water Works, and a large portion of the splendid structures in the business part of the city are in ruins.

The entire fire department of Cincinnati is out, and a portion of it is embarking on a special train for Chicago to assist in arresting further destruction.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9, 10 a. m.—Chicago is all gone except part of the West Side. The entire city, from Twelfth street and the river to the lake, is all gone. All of the finest buildings in the city are burned.

The fire commenced on the West Side, near Twelfth street, where it burned forty-one blocks, and then crossed the river and took everything. The Rock Island depot, Pacific Hotel, Court House, Sherman House and Illinois Central depot, and in fact every building is gone. Not one is standing any where in the business part of the city.

The fire has reached two miles north of the river and is still burning.

The Central Elevator, and Field, Leiter & Co's building are now burning. They are the last buildings between the river and Polk Street, hardly a brick or stone is left upon another. Our Freight Depot, the Chicago & Alton, and over 100 cars have gone. There is no telling where it will end. The wind is still blowing a gale. Over 100,000 people are rendered homeless. Very little was saved. The fire spread with wonderful rapidity, and the people had only time to escape with their lives. Many lives have been lost. I saw many jump into the river to save themselves. Sparks and embers set fire to the gas works, and the fire had reached the neighborhood of the Custom House, and in two hours from the time it crossed to the East Side, it had burned a mile north. The entire eastern and northern portion of the city is a mass of flames. I will not attempt to describe the horrid scene.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9.—Hon. James Bowen, Mayor: Our beautiful city is now in ashes, and all of our finest buildings are burned. The waterworks are destroyed and no water can be got, and we are at the mercy of the raging element. One hundred thousand people are homeless and suffering. Hundreds jumped into the river and were drowned to save being burned to death. Fire engines are of no avail and your engines can do us no good as we have not a drop of water.

STILL LATER.—10:30 a. m.—The fire has extended to the heart of the city, and is carrying everything before it. Crosby's Opera House and the Tremont House are now burning. We fear our city will be entirely laid in ashes. The only light we can get tonight will be the horrid glare of the savage flames, the gas works being destroyed.

The water supply is gone, and not a drop of water can be got to drink anywhere in the city. At every street corner the cry of lamentation can be heard, and the air is filled with the loud importunities of christian men and women, invoking heaven to remove the dreadful scourge.