

PROPERTY LOSS SMALL.

But the Distressing Feature is That a Human Life Was Lost at a Fire in the Russell Shops, at Massillon.

At 8 o'clock Monday night, fire broke out in the paint room of the Russell shops, in Massillon, and threatened the destruction of the immense plant, which is one of the bulwarks of the thrift and industry of the west end city.

The fire burned out within two hours. It was not so large a fire as the light in the heavens indicated. It destroyed the warehouse of the company and a great portion of finished product, but everything can soon be replaced, and the company will not be seriously embarrassed.

The distressing feature of the fire is that it cost a human life and made a cripple of another human being. Two firemen, as detailed hereafter, were buried under falling walls. One was killed and the other maimed.

The first intimation of the fire was received by the Central fire department from the telephone exchange, stating that a blaze was raging in the vicinity of Aultman hospital.

At 8:15 a telephone message from Chief Andrew Berke, of the Massillon fire department, was received, notifying them of the conflagration, and asking for aid from the Canton department.

Two strokes of the big fire fell in the city hall soon called Chief Lehniger, who ordered hose cart and fire engine to Massillon. The hose cart was manned by Charles Bry, driver, who was accompanied by Assistant Fire Chief Fred Talbot, William Nonker, Frank Sharif, Councilman Orlinger and Dick Weber, and made the run to Massillon in one hour and eleven minutes.

The three horses of the aerial ladder and one of the police patrol horses were attached to the fire engine, which was driven by Charles Pence and made a fine run with the heavy machine, covering the distance in one hour and twenty minutes.

On the engine were John Reno, engineer, and Fireman William Betts and Ed. Baxter. George Warchan of hose company No. 3, Peter Hill of No. 4 and Jeff Reed of No. 5 also visited the scene of the blaze.

On the arrival of the department to the scene of disaster and death, they were greeted with tremendous cheers from Massillonians. The Canton fire boys returned to Kramer's livery barn where the teams were taken care of, and given a thorough rubbing. It was late after midnight when they started home and they arrived at the central engine house at 2:30 a. m.

LOSS OF LIFE

The Most Serious Feature of the Fire, as the Property Loss is Comparatively Small.

Special to the News-Democrat.

Massillon, May 9.—The fire which visited this city Monday night was not the largest in point of property loss that has occurred in Massillon, that feature being comparatively small, but it was the first fire for many years that caused the death of anyone. It was a hot, quick blaze, and was soon over.

Massillon people were greatly concerned when they learned the location of the fire. The Russell shops employed between 700 and 800 men and the destruction of the plant would be a serious blow to the business interests of the city. So every man, woman and child turned out and the firemen were given every assistance that could with safety be given.

The fire started in the paint shop. Just how, is not learned. It quickly spread to the whole structure, but as it was supposed to be fire proof, the firemen thought they could save it. They were doing well in that direction when an accident occurred that cast a pall over the surroundings and has cast a gloom over the entire city. Two firemen, Albert Bamberger and Christ Baatz, were working at a tramway between the burning paint room and the machine shop. There was a covering over this structure, and the men stood there throwing water onto the blaze and doing all in their power to keep it from spreading. They could not see that the wall of the paint shop, which towered above their position, was tottering, and they worked away, oblivious of their danger, till the wall came down with a crash and ushered Bamberger into eternity and injured Baatz so seriously that his recovery will be tedious.

But for this accident it is believed the fire would have been confined to the paint shop. As soon as it was learned that two of their comrades were buried beneath the immense pile of brick, the firemen who had been doing yeoman service in stopping the spread of the flames, quit fighting the fire and began to dig for their comrades. Bamberger was dead when taken out, half an hour later, and Baatz was so badly hurt that his life was despaired of. While the firemen were engaged at this work the blaze gained great headway, and when they returned to their task it was found that there would be difficulty in saving the main portion of the shop. The flames had spread to the war room, a long building fronting on the Ft. Wayne tracks, and it was soon discovered. In fact, little attempt was made to save it, but as the efforts of the firemen were directed to prevent a spread. By good work this was accomplished, and only the warehouse and the paintshop were damaged. A falling wall took in the roof of a portion of

a small building, but did no further damage. The plant of Russell and company is one of the largest of the kind in the world, and is conceded to be the largest in the United States. It covers a number of acres of ground, and considering the immensity of the plant the loss by last night's fire is small. The officers are: J. W. McClymonds, president; J. K. Russell, vice president; C. M. Russell, secretary. President McClymonds is in Europe. The gentlemen could not give a statement of the loss last night, but placed it at about \$75,000. The members of the company feel that it was fortunate that only the warehouse was burned, as they can proceed with their work in other departments. They declare that a man shall lose any time, and that those who worked in the department that was burned will be employed in assisting to rebuild and in the work that will be evidenced in other departments. The officers of the company say that they will take care of the family of the dead volunteer fireman, who gave up his life fighting to save their property.

RUNNING AS USUAL.

The Russell Company Whistle Calls Its Numerous Employees to Work Tuesday Morning.

Special to the News-Democrat.

Massillon, May 9.—The whistle on the Russell shops blew as usual this morning, and the workmen went to their work in rooms that had an intense temperature because of the close proximity of the molten ruins and the heat of the walls. Every department, save the one that was destroyed, is in operation, and all the men on the payroll are at work. The rebuilding will begin as soon as the rains cool. The company has no sorry orders ahead that it cannot afford to step a minute, and the destruction of the finished product puts every department at work night and day to replace them.

There is a difference of opinion as to the loss and all the members of the company do not agree. It is argued that the 200 threshers that were burned are valued at more than the total that has been given out, yet C. M. Russell states that the whole loss is \$100,000, and it will not go beyond that figure. Some place the loss at a quarter of a million, but as the plant had ample blanket insurance, there seems to be no reason why the company should make a misstatement of the total loss as it can make no difference in its standing in the commercial world. For that reason, the statement of the officers is taken with more seriousness. There is \$10,000 insurance on the building and on the whole plant and contents there is an insurance of \$40,000.

Massillon is in mourning for her heroic dead today, and homage is also paid to the living fireman who was buried under a falling wall, though lucky enough to escape with life. Foreman Baatz was most seriously hurt but has a chance for recovery. His left leg was crushed, his jaw broken and bruised, and his eyes lacerated. He was taken home and is resting as easy as possible today.

Albert Bamberger was one of Russell and company's employees, and leaves a wife and two infant children. He was but 22 years of age and popular among the shop men. He was the fifth member of his family. Just one month ago this month a portion of Russell and company's machine works were burned.

UNDER A TENT

The Russell Company Employees Will Do the Painting of the Output of the Firm.

Special to the News-Democrat.

Massillon, May 9.—The Russell company is so pressed with orders that it cannot have a single department idle without great loss. The decision was reached this afternoon to rent the tent of the Albert M. Wetter circus and erect it on the lot near the works. Under the tent the painters will work a new building is constructed for their use.

LIMITED APPARATUS.

Massillon Has Not an Extensive Fire Department, but It Does Good Work.

Special to the News-Democrat.

Massillon, May 9.—The Massillon fire department is composed of one hose reel and engine, which is controlled by five regular firemen. At different sections of the city are located three hose reels, which are attended by minute men, of whom there are twenty. They also have three thousand feet of hose. The water is furnished from a big standpipe in the northeastern section of the city and from which a good pressure is received. Great credit is due to the Massillon fire department for the manner of handling the affair.

AN UNDERCURRENT

Of Feeling With Reference to the Election of W. W. Hole by Attorneys.

Special to the News-Democrat.

Lisbon, May 9.—Though Judge Wells made a speech yesterday after the bar of Columbiana county had voted in favor of his opponent, and pledged himself to stand by that decision, there is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction. It is claimed by friends of Judge Wells that he had the popular vote in the county and had the majority of the votes of the attorneys up to a short time before the ballot was taken. It is said that a well known Lisbon attorney took an unwarranted part in the proceedings and that he cast the influence of himself and friends with the Hole people at the last moment. The Lisbon attorneys censured the defeat of Judge Wells. It is claimed that devious ways were pursued by those who compassed the defeat of Judge Wells, and that he will not be able to control his friends and succeed in getting them to vote for Hole or in any manner support him.

PIONEER DEAD.

Roman Stricker, aged 60 years, a pioneer of this county died at his home in North Liberty this morning after a long illness from an attack of the stomach. The following children survive: John and Henry Stricker, Mrs. Barney Haller, Mrs. George Phillips, J. M. Keels, Mrs. Edmond Follet, M. J. N. Beal, and Mrs. J. E. Black. Canal Piton, funeral services at St. John's Catholic church Friday morning. Interment in St. Peter's cemetery.

ANTIQUE FIREARMS.

A Canton Boy Relates a Sad Story of Neglect.

WHY OUR SOLDIERS DIE.

Inferior Weapons Used Against a foe That is Armed With the Latest Improved Rifles—Son of James Sterling Writes From Manila.

Attorney James Sterling, of this city, has a son in the First Colorado regiment, doing duty in the Philippines. He has been in a number of battles, and while he is brave as a soldier should be, he realizes the mistake that is being made by the administration in attempting to make good citizens of the Filipinos. A letter has reached his parents, who have been very anxious about him and who have closely watched the newspaper reports of the dead and wounded, praying that they would not find his name there. What the young soldier says of the poor and inferior arms furnished the United States is pertinent, and may account for the great loss the troops have suffered. They have the same antiquated rifles that the Eighth Ohio used and which caused them to miss the Porto Rico campaign and be cramped back in camp in the midst of fever and death. The letter from Private Sterling reads as follows: Manila, P. I., March 22, '99.

Dear Mother:—Your letter of Feb. 7 was received the other day. I have not a word to write you at present, but I will write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting on. I have been in two battles since the first of February. On the 1st of March we were ordered to march on two outfits, forming a guard against the insurgents, who had block houses from coast to coast on the north of the city, and on the south, sixteen in all, surrounding the entire city of Manila. Our station was in front of block house 5, hostilities beginning at 5 o'clock. The light started about 8:40 p. m., by a Nebraska guard killing two insurgents, who insisted in posting one of their soldiers on the American line. We advanced on the company was in two outfits, forming a guard against the insurgents, who had block houses from coast to coast on the north of the city, and on the south, sixteen in all, surrounding the entire city of Manila. 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