

FIRE IN OUR OFFICE.

THE DISPATCH BUILDING SUFFERS SLIGHT DAMAGE BY FLAMES. FINE WORK BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Prompt and Well-Directed Efforts Confine the Blaze to Small Territory, and Save the Plant from Serious Injury.

The usually quiet and orderly home of the Dispatch was thrown into intense excitement and commotion early yesterday afternoon by the breaking out of a fire, which for a short while threatened the destruction of the building and the serious injury of the plant, but, by superb work on the part of the Fire Department, was so quickly gotten under control that the total damage is only a few thousand dollars.

The fire occurred just before 1 o'clock. The blaze, which started near the mailing-room, on the third floor, in an apartment used for the storage of fuel for that floor, had gotten considerable headway when discovered, and it looked as though the extensive plant would suffer greatly. But the department responded with great promptness, Chief Puller directed his force with exceptional wisdom, the men worked with great heartiness and vim, and in a very short while the flames were under control, the entire contents of the paper had been saved from serious harm, and every department was enabled to take up its work last night as though nothing had happened, and the Dispatch is issued this morning, as usual.

The damage to the building is not very serious, and fortunately is confined to that part where it causes the least inconvenience. So, too, with the loss sustained by the paper. This is such as can be readily repaired, as nothing was affected that cannot be readily replaced. The readiness with which the friends of the Dispatch rallied to its aid and rendered their kind offices was highly gratifying. Several of those connected with the building were caught in somewhat exciting situations, but all got out of danger without the least difficulty, and none suffered harm.

DISCOVERY OF THE FIRE.

The fire was discovered just before 1 o'clock by Mr. Cad G. Smith, the assistant machinist, and Guy D. Christian, a copy-holder, who were in the composing-room for the day force to begin work. They observed smoke issuing from the elevator shaft, and it was apparent that the fire was on the floor above. Mr. Smith hurried to the fourth story to summon the force employed in the job office, while young Christian came down and notified the management that the building was on fire. By this time people on the street had seen the smoke; there were loud cries of "fire" and "alarm" was sent in. There was some delay in getting the box open, so Major Simons telephoned to headquarters that the Dispatch building was burning, and bells rang out on numbers 12, which drew people rapidly to the corner of Twelfth and Main streets. The streets were soon thronged, and in a few moments the apparatus came thundering up. Chief Puller, realizing the serious nature of the location, and the important interests in jeopardy, immediately sent in a second alarm, which brought additional apparatus in a hurry. Besides the chemical-engine, which did most effective work, there were six other engines, and two truck companies on the scene. President Frisckhorn and several other members of the Board of Fire Commissioners were on the ground, and their suggestions and encouragement.

FIREMEN DID FINE WORK.

The firemen could not have done better work. Chief Puller's years of experience counted to advantage in enabling him to see just how to save the building and contents with the least possible loss or damage by water. The blaze was confined to the section of the building in which it started, and the various streams which entered there. The elevator shaft afforded a most convenient way for the blaze to reach the roof, and it soon shot far above the top of the house. A considerable portion of the roof was burned, but this opening increased the facilities of the department for bringing a number of streams into play.

While the firemen were doing heroic work in mastering the element that threatened to destroy or materially impair the newspaper plant, the friends of the paper were interesting themselves in the means of saving the valuable contents. The office floor was thronged with people anxious to help in the work of removing whatever it was deemed advisable to move to safer quarters. The files of the paper, the various records and valuable papers connected with the office were carried across to the Lexington Hotel and office buildings above there and back until it was safe to bring them back. A number of offers of assistance received from various quarters was most gratifying. The State and Times were prompt to tender the use of their press-room to the Dispatch, and Mr. J. M. Thompson the Brown & Co. and Mr. Pease offered the use of conveniently-located quarters that would have been most desirable had our own building not been rendered uninhabitable. The various offers of assistance were as ready to prefer their kind offices.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE.

When the flames had been extinguished and the smoke had passed away sufficiently for an examination to be made, it was seen that the damage was not near so serious as was at first feared. A considerable portion of the building was damaged by fire, water, and smoke; the editorial-rooms and library suffered considerably, though nothing was burned; and some minor portions of the building were damaged by water, which will naturally be some inconvenience for days to come, but not sufficient to interfere with the operation of any department, from the press-room to the composing-rooms. Perhaps the greatest inconvenience is occasioned by the burning out of the elevator shaft and fixtures. The elevator-carriage was at the bottom of the shaft, and is inoperative until the equipment of this important contrivance can be restored to the composing-room by the stereotyping department by hand.

As soon as the fire was put out a large force of hands was put to work cleaning up details and getting things in order. By night a temporary roof had been made and considerable headway had been made toward straightening up matters. The type-setting machines and press were well protected, and working as perfectly as ever. The repairs to the building will be made at once. The property is owned by the estate of the late Charles Campbell, and, like the newspaper plant, is fully covered by insurance.

HAD TO SEEK SHELTER.

The fire having occurred very near the stairway, three of the gentlemen connected with the ordinary means of egress from their rooms, and had to employ much less comfortable methods of reaching points of safety and safety. When the alarm was given, the gentlemen on the same floor with the mailing-room, became aware of his danger there was a blaze above the door leading to his apartment, and the

CORBETT AT FRISCO.

VERY FEW SO POOR NOW TO DO HIM REVENGE. FITZ'S PROPOSED RETIREMENT.

Mrs. Fitz Demands the Concession, But Tina Stuart is Nevertheless Trying to Arrange a Fitzsimmons-Goddard Match.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—Corbett arrived in this city on a special train last night. There were very few at the station when the ex-champion alighted, and he at once entered a cab and was driven to his home.

This morning he shows no ill-effects of his contest with Fitzsimmons. He is up and around, and appears to be in his normal condition. It is said that he has no plans for the future, and that he has cancelled all engagements.

CORBETT BY DEED.

"Mr. Corbett is in bed, and is feeling very badly over the result of the fight. He would rather not see any one just now, as he does not feel able to discuss it. He wishes to say, though, that he was defeated fairly and squarely, and has no complaints to make. But he is not hurt, and is willing and anxious to meet Fitzsimmons again."

This was the message which Mrs. J. J. Corbett, wife of the ex-champion, gave to callers at the St. Nicholas to-day. The ex-champion slept last night, and when he rose it was merely to eat his breakfast, which was sent in to him. He made a good meal, and then lay down again. Later he again roused himself, this time because of the visit of a dentist, who came to repair the damage to one of his teeth. Then he took another nap.

Although suffering in a very physical way yesterday's battle, Corbett did not leave his room all day, and only received the members of his family.

UGLY RUMOR.

During the day an ugly rumor was doing the effect that the Corbett family had gone broke on the fight, and that Harry Corbett had "wheeled" on the money between his pool-rooms. The absurdity of the rumor was shown when, at 1 o'clock this afternoon, nearly \$50,000 in gold was carted to the pool-rooms and the gold of cashing the winning tickets began.

FITZSIMMONS TO RETIRE.

CARSON NEV., March 18.—Fitzsimmons retired at midnight last night. He did not sleep well. His muscles twitched and his arms ached. He got up at 7 o'clock this morning and took a walk in the garden. He complains of aches in the joints, but otherwise never felt better. He dined at the penitentiary to-day as the guest of the warden. If accommodations can be secured, Fitzsimmons and party will leave to-night for the coast. After showing to-night for the evening, he will walk his way to New York, giving exhibitions, and settle down in Gotham and retire from the ring. His wife insists upon this concession, and Fitzsimmons is obliged to give in for the sake of his family.

CARSON FOLKING.

The town is for a snow-storm from the south-west. Nearly all of the visitors have departed. The kinetoscope apparatus has been taken down and crated for shipment, the chairs have been piled up, and all traces of the battle are disappearing. By to-morrow Dan Stuart's staff will be the only strangers left in the city.

FITZ O. K.

A number of sensational rumors, which were telegraphed to Carson, and which caused a great deal of excitement in the town, when they became current there was a scurry for hanks to transport inquiries to Cook's, who is the only reliable authority. The rumors were of an hour's rest by these ignorant vapors. When Fitzsimmons's quarters were reached and the visitors' mission was made known, the champion and his family expressed indignation freely at the cruel canards. The fact is that Fitzsimmons at no time after he stepped out of the ring suffered any physical pain, beyond that caused by a slight fracture of the right thumb-joint, which he received in the second or third round of the battle. A piece of flesh-colored cast-iron plaster over his split and swollen upper lip, a brightening of his ordinarily complexed, and his thumb were the only external evidences of the conflict.

Martin Julian was expected to endeavor to get a concession to the telegraph company for hours.

Stakeholder Al Smith turned over the purse and side-bets to Julian this morning. In Dan Stuart's office, the following day, Secretary Wheelock, and a few reporters were present when the transfer was made.

FITZ'S PROPOSED RETIREMENT.

After the checks were handed over to Julian, Brady renewed his offer, made last evening, to back Corbett against Fitzsimmons for \$200,000. Fitz's reply was evasive. He intimated that Fitz would soon retire from the fight arena, and judging by expressions uttered by the champion, it is not improbable that this was the last time that he would undergo the ordeal of training. Fitz's reply to Corbett after they had shaken hands in Bob's corner yesterday indicated that the Australian was thinking of retiring.

"You've licked me fair and square," said Jim. "Now I want you to give me another chance."

The champion replied, coldly: "I will not fight you again."

"Then I will punch you in the head the first time I meet you on the street," was Corbett's retort.

"If you do," answered Fitz, with a bitter smile, "and in an even tone, 'I will kill you.'"

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOODS.

Work of Rescue-Harrowing Stories of Suffering and Death.

MEMPHIS, TENN., March 18.—The work of rescuing the people in the flooded district is being carried on night and day, and some half a dozen steamers have brought to Memphis over 1,000 refugees. The steambots-men tell some harrowing stories of suffering and death. One woman who was rescued from an Indian mound, fifteen miles west of here, held in her arms a dead infant that had perished from cold and hunger. Another family of four, when rescued, related that two small children belonging to the group were drowned in sight of their hopeless parents.

Islands Nos. 49, 57, 58 and 24 in the Mississippi river are completely submerged, and the inhabitants, to the number of about 60, have abandoned their homes.

Rain began to fall here yesterday afternoon, and at noon to-day there had been no cessation of the downpour. The river now marks 36.3. The levees are standing high, and it is expected that there will be a break in liable to occur at any moment.

A LEVEE BREAKS.

MEMPHIS, TENN., March 18.—A levee near Charlestown, Mo., broke this afternoon, but whether damage was done is not yet known. Private reports are that it was simply a break, while the levee board declares it was the result of a cut.

There have been no additional drownings reported to-day, but the rumored drowning of five from a bridge in Arkansas was confirmed. The victims were a father and four children. It is believed the vast majority of imperilled people within reach of Memphis have been rescued. There are about 3,000 of them here. The Relief Committee to-day visited the river, and the levee board, for State aid, and urged that he seek Federal aid, through the Arkansas congressmen. He replied that there were no funds at his disposal for that purpose, and that he could do nothing to aid the refugees from his State.

TRAIN BLOCKED.

The Mississippi Valley train, south, was blocked to-night by a 200-foot washout, a few miles out.

The U. S. Department wired Captain Fitch, of the United States Engineer Corps, to-day that \$10,000 had been assigned to his order for use in maintaining the levees of this district. Reports from the levees south to-night are not encouraging. From Helena to Relief, Ark., the levee cannot possibly stand, it is asserted, and from there to Moline, a distance of thirty-six miles, there is grave danger. In fact, the report from Moline is that they cannot hold the levee till morning. There was a break of the levee on the Mississippi side across from Helena to-day.

THE TARIFF BILL.

IT WILL BE REPORTED TO THE HOUSE TO-DAY. FINAL VOTE THEREON MARCH 31ST.

The Measure Will Be Called Up for Consideration Monday Next—Tobacco Duty Changes—Swanson on Sugar Trust.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 18.—The tariff bill will be reported to the House to-morrow by the Ways and Means Committee. So far as Chairman Dingley and his Republican associates can influence action, the final vote on the measure will be taken in the House on the 31st instant. The bill will be called up for consideration on Monday next.

The Democrats manifested considerable opposition at to-day's meeting to reporting the bill before Monday next, their contention being that, in justice to the minority, it should be retained in committee until that time. Mr. Wheeler (Democrat), of Alabama, urged that if the bill was to pass the House on the 31st instant, it were better to call it up on Friday, as the Democrats were not of a unit respecting this proposition, it was not agreed to. It was understood, however, that night sessions should be held, in order that all the members of the House might have an opportunity of expressing their views.

A number of changes were made to-day in the bill. Among them were the following: An addition was made to paragraph 13, relating to iron or steel anchors, as follows: Anti-friction ball forgings of iron or steel, or of combined iron and steel, 15 per cent; cylindrical forgings made of plate metal, 25 per cent; forgings of steel, 15 per cent. The provision relating to molasses testing above 49 degrees and not above 56 degrees, 3 cents per gallon.

Paragraph 22, relating to leaf tobacco, was amended to read as follows: "Sugar, when imported in any bale, box, or package, or in bulk, shall be the growth of different countries, or shall contain exceeding 15 per cent thereof of leaves." Paragraph 24, the duty on manufactured tobacco, not otherwise provided for, is increased from 40 to 60 cents per pound.

Sausages of all kinds are stricken from the meat schedule and placed on the free list. Paragraph 34, relating to plain woven fabrics of single tube yarns was changed so as to make the weight seven, instead of eight ounces, per square yard, when the duty was placed at 10 cents per yard, and 15 per cent ad valorem.

The duty on bags or sacks made from woven fabrics of single tube yarns, was changed to 10 cents per pound, and 15 per cent ad valorem. Paragraph 37, the duty was increased from 20 to 25 cents per pound on lithographic prints, on other material not exceeding 8-100 of an inch in thickness. On paper or other material exceeding 8-100 of an inch in thickness, cutting size, the duty was increased from 8 to 12 cents per pound. On prints exceeding 8-100 of an inch in thickness, and not exceeding 35 square inches, cutting size, the duty was increased from 5 to 10 cents per pound. An increase from 6 to 9 cents per pound was made on lithographic prints, on other material not exceeding 8-100 of an inch in thickness. The duty on blank-books and others enumerated in paragraph 40 was increased from 20 to 25 cents per pound.

All the foregoing amendments were offered by the Republicans and adopted by a strict party vote. A number of amendments were offered by the minority, which were all rejected. Mr. Wheeler (Democrat), of Alabama, for example, moved that bagging and cotton ties be placed on the free list. Later, he offered another amendment, placing barbed-wire on the free list.

SUGAR DIFFERENTIAL.

Mr. Swanson (Democrat), of Virginia, moved to strike out the differential duty in the sugar schedule. He explained that he was in favor of a duty of 20 cents on the American market to any combination or trust. He maintained that it was distinctly understood that the American Sugar Trust had the absolute control of the American market for refined sugar. His amendment amended the duty of the other minority amendments. Mr. Robertson (Democrat), of Louisiana, moved an increase in the tariff on uncleaned rice, his argument being that the present tariff protects the manufacturer only, which is a discrimination against the farmer. The reply stated that the amendment was voted down, as that the protection given in this bill was greater than that given by the present law.

Mr. Wheeler (Democrat), of South Carolina, moved that a duty of 2-1/2 cents per pound be placed on all importations of raw cotton. Rejected.

Mr. Wheeler then offered another amendment, to reduce the duty on white pine and hemlock from \$2 to \$1 per 1,000, which was rejected; as was also his amendment to place "other woods" in the paragraph relating to posts, railroads, and telegraph-poles, on the free list.

There was also a strict party vote on the rejection of Mr. McMillin's amendment to substitute the wool schedule of the eye of the festival, on the Temple on the 1st of January. The amendment was not material, except that proposed by Mr. Robertson, authorizing the President to give notice of the abrogation of the Hawaiian treaty, which was promptly voted down.

THE JEFFERSONS PURIM BALL.

The annual Purim ball of the Jefferson Club took place at the Masonic Temple on the eve of the festival, and was attended with the great measure of success which invariably distinguishes all the efforts of the organization. It was a most delightful affair, and did not disappoint the anticipations of the children, for whose benefit elaborate arrangements were made during the early hours of the night, nor the expectations of their elders, to whom the floor was given up after the supper, which

A STARTLING CRIME.

ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP LITTLE DAUGHTER OF WEALTHY MAN. THE PERPETRATOR SHOT DEAD.

His Purpose Was to Keep the Child in Captivity, and Demand \$40,000 Ransom for Restoring Her to Her Parents.

HOUSTON, TEX., March 18.—The most daring attempt at crime ever known here was frustrated this morning at 3 o'clock, when detectives killed Walter Hughes as he was in the act of entering the house of Frank Dunn, a wealthy resident of this city. The police received information some time ago that a scheme was on foot to kidnap Dunn's little daughter. The purpose of the kidnapper was to keep the girl in captivity, and demand \$40,000 ransom for restoring her to her parents. Detectives have been on guard at Mr. Dunn's house for several nights, but no development occurred until this morning, when it was discovered that a man was attempting to force one of the windows of the Dunn residence. One of the officers inadvertently attracted the attention of the marauder, who, finding he was discovered, drew a revolver and fired twice at the detective. The detectives then opened fire, and the intruder fell dead.

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APPLICATIONS FOR OFFICE.

North Carolina Advance on McKinley—Settle for Judge.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Twenty applications for positions as collector of internal revenue were filed at the Treasury Department to-day. Among them were these: Texas—S. F. Noyes, of Dallas, as Dallas; North Carolina—E. G. McEllan, of Mouth of Wilson, Va., as Asheville, N. C.; Alabama—P. H. Throat, of Demopolis, as Birmingham.

Other applications were filed as follows: North Carolina—R. P. Cheatham, of Littleton, to be Register of the Treasury; Virginia—C. L. Nourse, of Chesapeake, to be Register of the Treasury; Louisiana—H. L. Coleman, of New Orleans, Collector of Customs at New Orleans; Texas—W. R. Brinson, of Cooper's, Collector of Customs at Galveston.

Tennessee—T. Hamilton and J. P. Alban, of Memphis, Surveyor of Customs at Memphis.