

LEVIN STORE BURNED; TOTAL LOSS \$101,950

Bad Early Morning Fire Totally Destroys Dry Goods Store and Building—Damages Adjoining Properties.

ORIGIN OF BLAZE IS NOT KNOWN

FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS FLAMES UNDER CONTROL IN TWO-HOUR FIGHT.

Firemen Battle in Below Zero Weather and Prevent Flames From Spreading Beyond Levin Building, 106-108 East Main Street—Building and Stock Probably Total Loss—Levin Estimates Loss at \$80,000, Insurance of \$60,000—Many Thrown Out of Work—Other Losses and Insurance.

Fire of an unknown origin, that broke out probably in the basement of the J. Levin dry goods store, 106-108 East Main street, early this morning, destroyed the stock of merchandise, practically ruined the building, damaged adjoining property, and threatened the whole half block for a time and threw out of employment thirty-five employees of the Levin store. The total loss, as nearly as could be ascertained this afternoon, was \$101,950.

The estimated damage to buildings is \$20,000, fully insured. The loss of merchandise burned or damaged by smoke, heat and water is estimated at \$81,950.

Merchandise Losses.

The following is a list of the losses of merchandise and the insurance on each loss:

- Levin stock of dry goods and merchandise, loss \$80,000; insurance, \$60,000.
- Fred W. Gates, tobacconist, 104 East Main, damaged by smoke and heat, loss, \$1,200; insurance, \$3,000.
- Strub Cafe, 112 East Main, damage to merchandise in basement by smoke and water, loss, \$200; fully insured.
- LaShelle Cigar Company, second floor, 104 East Main; stock of cigars and tobacco seriously damaged by smoke and heat. LaShelle is out of the city and his loss could not be ascertained. It is known that he is fully protected by insurance.
- Mrs. M. Davis and Mrs. M. Swain, roomers in second floor of 108 East Main; loss of money and household goods, \$100; no insurance.
- National Woolen Mills, damage by smoke, \$450 to \$500; fully insured.

Loss on Buildings.

Below is the estimated loss to buildings and insurance:

- Thaddeus Binford and W. E. Snelling estate—Frank Cronkleton, 106-108 East Main, loss \$18,000; insurance, \$10,000.
- E. B. Burnside, Seattle, 104 East Main; loss, \$1,500; insurance, \$5,000.
- Brown and Conover estates, 110 East Main; loss, \$500; fully insured.

A legal question is probably involved in the ownership of the double store building occupied by the Levin store. The title is still in the name of Binford & Snelling, but contract for the sale of it had been given to Frank Cronkleton. The contract was subject to the lease and possession was to be given March 15. Cronkleton had paid \$1,000 on the contract and had agreed to pay the balance of the purchase price, \$30,000, when he got title deed.

The question of the ownership of the building at 110 East Main, occupied by Binford & Snelling, is in litigation. Title is in the name of the Brown and Conover estates. Westcott heirs have a suit pending in the district court in which they seek to prove their claim to this property.

Levin's Loss Is Heavy.

Levin and his attorney estimated the loss of the Levin stock as total and placed it at \$80,000 with insurance of 5 per cent of that amount. Practically every available foot of room in the store and basement was packed with merchandise. The owner said when he made the estimate of his loss, that he had been hoping to be able to get into the safe to get at the books before going to bed, but that he had not been able to get in.

Included in the loss, Levin said, was 10,000 worth of spring merchandise, which had only recently arrived. Part of these goods had been unpacked but most of them were in cases stored in the basement.

Other Buildings Not Damaged.

No damage was done to the Fidelity Savings Bank building or to the building at 112 East Main, owned by F. L. Leeker, and occupied by the Strub cafe. The damage done in the basement to merchandise owned by Strub did not result in damage to the building. Although the fire was an exceedingly hot one, no damage was done by heat to the fronts of buildings across the street.

Building Practically Ruined.

Practically nothing is left of the Levin store building except the basement and outside walls and perhaps some of the partition walls. But the interior is so filled with debris that an estimate of the salvage, if there is any in the walls or the material in them could not be made today. The extent of the value of this salvage will depend on the condition of the material.

The roof of the building is gone, and the first and second floors have fallen in practically all over the building, carrying into the basement masses of burned timbers, store fixtures and merchandise that filled it closely. How much salvage, if any, will be in the Levin stock, could not be learned today.

Fire Started in Basement.

Flames were bursting thru the window in such volume and the interior filled with smoke when Chief Leeker and the department arrived that the chief was able only to guess where the fire started. He thought

from the appearance of the flames that the fire had probably broken out first in the basement, and perhaps in the east half of the building first. The fire was burning fiercest in the east half. Kirby said, when he got there.

Cafe Employee Discovers Fire.

The fire was discovered at 2:08 a. m., by Ray Farr, night man at Strub's cafe. He saw smoke rolling past the cafe door, and told Harold Parker, another restaurant employe, that there was a lot of "steam" coming from somewhere.

"Steam, nothing," said Parker, "that's smoke," and he turned in the alarm. The fire departments arrived at 2:10, and found flames shooting out of windows at both ends of the store. Entrance was impossible. Ten lines of hose were manned from the front arch back and kept playing constantly until after 4 o'clock. Water was turned off gradually, but one stream was kept on the smoldering debris until well into the day.

Floor Collapses.

All the firemen's efforts were devoted to keeping the blaze confined to the building. Shortly after 3 o'clock the first floor of the Levin building fell in with a tremendous crash, which smashed the plate glass window in the east side of Gates' cigar store, and broke the windows at the top of the entrance. The steel ceiling at the back of the store also fell out on account of the intense heat. By 3:30 the building was practically in ruins.

Women Loose Everything.

Mrs. M. Davis, Mrs. M. Swain and her little daughter, Esther, who roomed in the second floor of the building at 108 East Main, were awakened by the shouting of the firemen, and rushed down stairs scantily clothed. They could not go back and as a result lost everything they had, furniture, clothing, and what little money they possessed, which was under the mattress of the bed. Esther, the little girl, was only partially dressed, and sat in Strub's cafe with only one shoe and a big shawl wrapped around her for three hours. The two ladies and the little girl are practically homeless and penniless.

Cold Hinders Firemen.

The firemen, faced under tremendous difficulties on account of the extreme cold which caused their coats and other clothing to freeze as soon as soaked. They were hardly able to move, while the water froze as soon as it hit the pavement and formed huge blocks from window ledges and cornices.

Even after the blaze was conquered incipient blazes kept springing up among the masses of inflammable dry-goods that were lying in heaps everywhere. At 5 o'clock the fire was sprung up again and the firemen were forced to raise an extension ladder to the roof of Horne & Gelvin's hardware store four doors east, and drag a line of hose along the roof, until water could be poured on the blaze from above. This effectively checked the flames, and the firemen on no great trouble was experienced in keeping them in check. The ruins were still smoking up to noon.

Explosion Damages Cigar Store.

The LaShelle Cigar Company had a peculiar experience in its air-tight room or humidor where hundreds of boxes of cigars were stored. The end of every box was sealed with flames, as the someone had taken a torch and burned the ends in a careful and painstaking manner. The steel ceiling in the Gates store down stairs caved in from the heat and from the effects of an explosion in the front of the store. Air inside the show window of the Gates store became superheated, exploded and blew out the front of the window.

Either the jolt of this explosion or the shock caused by the floors of the Levin building falling, knocked down the east fire wall of the Brown-Conover building, 110 East Main street.

Frozen Clothes Paralyze Firemen.

"When we got there, shortly after 2, I wouldn't have given much for the whole block," said Chief Kirby, "but the boys worked well and we had several streams playing in short time. This and the absence of a strong wind was all that saved the other buildings. When we saw what we were up against we just devoted all our energies to keeping the blaze in that one building."

When the firemen stopped in shifts and went into Strub's cafe about 6 o'clock to get something to eat, their clothes were so frozen that they could not lift their cups of coffee to their lips.

Anson Mothers' Club Meets.

Over 200 patrons and members of the Anson Mothers' Club were entertained Friday evening at the school building. The large reception hall and kindergarten were effectively decorated to represent the winter season and the program was held in the spacious kindergarten. Mrs. Bert Boggie, president of the club, gave the address of welcome to which Superintendent Palmer responded. The address of the evening was given by Miss Fannie Quaffo who gave an efficient talk on "Education."

May Barnard opened the program with a piano solo after which Jessie Rogers gave two readings. Mrs. Bert Boggie, accompanied by Mrs. Charles Rogers, at the piano, gave a whistling solo and Lois Rogers sang. Avonelle Lloyd, accompanied at the piano by her mother Mrs. J. W. Lloyd played a violin selection and Miss Ruth Haines sang a pleasing vocal number. After a cornet solo, by Ralph Franklin, several of the members of the club gave a clever little pantomime which was greatly enjoyed. The guests spent an hour socially and refreshments were served.

Mrs. Carl Greenberg was in the city Thursday enroute from LeGrand to Zearing.

AT THE CHURCHES

Services and sermon subjects of the various pastors for Sunday have been announced as follows:

Baptist, Rev. R. B. Davidson—Morning, "The Publicity of Christianity;" evening, "The Man Who Wins," a track athletic sermon. To be third in a series on "The Athletics of the Bible."

Elim Lutheran, Rev. O. Ingvalstad—Morning, Norwegian, "The Result of a New Vision;" evening, English, "Why Is Christianity True?" the second evidence defending the claims of Christianity.

First Presbyterian, Rev. James P. Linn—Morning, "A Woman's Faith;" evening, "Faith, What, How?"

Methodist, Rev. R. F. Hurlburt—Evangelist Charles F. Barrett will preach in the morning on "Taking a Sneak;" evening, "Backbone." Miss Mary P. Barrett will sing.

First Church of Christ, Scientist—Morning, "The Kingdom of the Nazarene, Rev. J. M. Wines—Morning, "The Reward of Faith;" evening, "The Great Demand."

State Street United Evangelical, Rev. E. R. McClelland—Morning, "Union With Christ;" evening, "Voices of Jesus."

Iowa Soldiers' Home, Rev. H. O. Pratt—R. E. L. Vawter will speak at the afternoon services at 3 o'clock.

Friends, Rev. I. N. Rich—Morning, "Our Banner;" evening, sacred song service by a male quartet.

First United Evangelical, Rev. C. G. Zeiler—Morning, "The Church as God's Building;" Christ, the Cornerstone;" evening, "Acquaintance With God."

SPIRITUALIST BUSINESS SESSION.

Revision of Constitution and By-Laws Occupies Time of Convention.

The work of thoroughly revising and altering the constitution and by-laws of the Iowa State Spiritualists Association occupied all the time allowed for business sessions both Friday and this morning. The work of revision took considerable time, as several decided changes are being made. The most important business of the meeting, election of officers and the time and place of the next convention were scheduled for late this afternoon.

Dr. George B. Warner, president of the national association will deliver the principal address this evening. The program will include the installation of the newly elected officers, an address by Mrs. E. M. Whitney and others, messages and music. In the evening Dr. Warner will deliver the closing address, which will be followed by a symposium of mediumship, loved by a spiritualist service for the new officers will also take place at the Sunday evening meeting.

Seven Below Zero.

A cold wave sent the temperature to 7 below zero during Friday night, making the coldest night of the month. The extremes of 7 below and 11 above Friday compared with 2 below and 9 above Thursday and 30 and 14 above a year ago Friday. At 7 o'clock this morning the temperature was 3 below.

Mrs. C. M. O'Neill, of Colo., was a visitor in the city Friday.

WHY HAIR FALLS OUT

Dandruff causes a feverish irritation of the scalp, the hair roots shrink, loosen and then the hair comes out fast. To stop falling hair at once and rid the scalp of every particle of dandruff, get a 25-cent bottle of Danderine at any drug store, pour a little in your hand and rub well into the scalp. After a few applications all dandruff disappears and the hair stops coming out.

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HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN MARSHALLTOWN

Friday, Jan. 24, 1890.

The mercury indicated 5 degrees below zero at 1 o'clock this morning. Mrs. Anna Scheeler, mother of C. J. Scheeler, aged 57, died after a brief illness, of influenza, complicated with pneumonia and kidney troubles. She had been sick only since Sunday. The body was sent to Grinnell, her former home, for interment.

Saturday, Jan. 25, 1890.

The ice men are now setting in their work at a lively rate, the ice being about ten inches thick. The work of hauling is lessened by the use of sleds.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schobert entertained a company of friends in their usual hearty and royal style at their elegant Center street home last evening.

"The air was delightfully mild this morning, with the mercury at 30 degrees above, but as the sun's power increased the sleighing was somewhat demoralized by melting snow."

Mr. T. I. Wasson, one of the worthy employes of the Iowa Central headquarters, has been promoted. Auditor Benson states that he has been appointed chief clerk of general accounts, vice H. W. Millman, resigned.

"While it is natural to display a cheerful spirit under favorable circumstances, there is a propensity to look on the bright side of even dark subjects, and joke about very serious matters. The grip epidemic has come in for its share of light things, but it is doubted whether this part of the country has suffered from the infliction of so severe and fatal a malady. It passes beyond the joking point, when death enters the home and claims a loved one as it has done time and again in our city. It is true that the influenza alone does not necessarily produce fatal results, but when it is complicated with other troubles and the victim is not vigorous, it becomes very serious. Only a small number of the severe cases have been reported, but the death list shows that the epidemic has been kept busy. Since the first of December twenty-seven interments have been made in the cemetery, of which fourteen have been during the present month, and the epidemic continues, the possibly with less severity."

Word received here told of the death of P. H. Kelley in a railroad wreck near Troy, Kan. Mr. Kelley was a traveling salesman in the employ of Rhodes & Carman. The funeral was held the following Tuesday from the Kelley home at 302 South First street. Mr. Kelley left a wife and other relatives here.

Sunday, Jan. 26, 1890.

Nature was in a melting mood all day, but the sleighs are still able to run.

Monday, Jan. 27, 1890.

"The weather today has been agreeable, the sunshine delightful, and the air exhilarating."

Mr. Bert Kennedy leaves this evening for Omaha where he has accepted a position with an electric light company.

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1890.

A. C. Abbott and Son are rebuilding the interior of their hardware store. "The mercury indicated eight degrees above zero at an early hour this morning. The trees and shrubs are covered with a beautiful foliage of frost."

"The city begins to assume its wonted appearance once more, with Policeman Emmet Water again on duty. Marshall Whitesack on deck, and score or two of other well known citizens again on the streets, who have been wrestling with grip for the past week or two."

Mrs. Merritt Greene and son have returned from their trip to Pennsylvania and visit in Illinois.

Charles McCombs and Fred Williams returned yesterday from Moberly.

Mrs. Mary Hulse, aged 21, wife of H. J. Hulse, died at her home on North Second street, of consumption.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Gifford who was born ten days ago was buried in LeGrand.

The Queen City minstrels of this city gave a fine performance at Gillman last night. This company, which is much better than any other every gotten up here is composed of: In Spears, Fred Wray, Ed Staat, and Fred Williams, the clever comedians and end men; the Queen City quartet, Messrs Ed Beeson, Harry Henderson, Roy Woods, and Will Smalley; Mons. Ivello, the king of clubs; the Sutorious mandolin club, Hanna Smith, Boldes, Miller, Wallace, Smitz, and Lee Foreman, pianist. They gave an excellent program, every act receiving heavy encores and captivating every one. Quite a number from here went down."

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1890.

"The trains were all on time this gentle spring morning."

"A spring morning atmosphere with bright sunshine and the mercury thirty degrees above at 7:30 were features of today's weather."

Comparative statements issued by Brittan and company showed an increase of 5,164 hogs butchered over

the year before; 17,849 hogs were killed between Nov. 1 and Jan. 22, 1889-90, while in 1889-90 the number was 22,513, between the same dates.

"Three or four seasons in regular succession have been exemplified so far during January. The first half of the month was delightful fall weather, then came about ten days of regular bang up winter, and now ethereal spring holds sway, with a fair show for at least a touch of early summer weather yet before the last hours of the month are gone."

Reports reaching the city told of two bold cases of hog stealing. One came from Minerva where Thomas Nichols had several head stolen, and the other from Pickering, where Mr. Ericson lost some in the same way.

Thursday, Jan. 30, 1890.

"The snow has largely disappeared from the streets. Let 'er go, McGinty. Plenty more where that came from."

"The attention of the police is called to certain individuals going around with subscription lists for the purpose of getting off the McGinty 'gas' on unsuspecting citizens."

"The steamer 'Burgoyne,' having on board Mr. and Mrs. Henry Howe, and Miss Mamie Binford, of this city, arrived safely at Havre on Monday last, only twenty-four hours late."

"There is a pretty decided impression that the recent free delivery schedule instituted by the post office department in this city does not do decently, not to say fairly, by the residents of this city. But one general residence delivery per day is now made, while before there were two, and in addition to that patrons served by carriers could get their mail at the carrier's window in the evening from 7 to 8 o'clock, so that in fact, the service was reduced two thirds. The worst feature about the change is that outside of the business district patrons can not get their evening mails from the Chicago and Northwestern, Diagonal, and Central, until the general delivery next day. The trouble, however, is probably not due to any disposition of the department to curtail the service, but to a lack of funds caused by the 'economy' of the democratic postoffice appropriations."

Misses Elizabeth Tallett, Mary Wells, and Elizabeth Trine, spent Friday and today in Waterloo as guests of Miss Tallett's aunt, Mrs. Mary Jaqua. The young ladies went to attend the Marshalltown basketball game.

DON'T TAKE CALOMEL

Instead of dangerous, salivating Calomel to liven your liver when bilious, headachy, or constipated get a 10-cent box of Cascarets. They start the liver and bowels and straighten you up better than nasty Calomel, without griping or making you sick.

How the United States Views England's Reply To President Wilson

The leading article in this week's issue (January 23d) of THE LITERARY DIGEST is a digest of newspaper opinion of the United States upon England's reply to President Wilson's letter of protest for holding up American exports to neutral countries.

This article gives the opinions pro and con and is of great interest and real value to every man and woman who would know the exact state of public opinion in the United States.

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Follow the war through THE LITERARY DIGEST, and get the most satisfying and reliable news-service offered to-day.

1,000,000 Americans look for it eagerly each week. If you are not among them, commence to-day.

January 23d Issue—Your News-Dealer Has It—10 Cents

The Literary Digest

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY, (Publishers of the Famous NEW Standard Dictionary) NEW YORK

OUCH! LUMBAGO! RUB PAINS FROM SORE, LAME BACK

RUB BACKACHE AWAY WITH SMALL TRIAL BOTTLE OF OLD "ST. JACOB'S OIL"

Back hurt you? Can't straighten up without feeling sudden pains, sharp aches and twinges? Now listen! That's lumbago, sciatica or maybe from a strain, and you'll get relief the moment you rub your back with soothing, penetrating "St. Jacob's Oil." Nothing else takes out the soreness, lameness and stiffness so quickly. You simply rub it on your back and out comes the pain. It is harmless and doesn't burn the skin.

Lumber up! Don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacob's Oil" from any drug store, and after using it just once, you'll forget that you ever had backache, lumbago or sciatica, because your back will never hurt or cause any more misery. It never disappoints and has been recommended for sixty years.

Monuments and Markers

Largest display of monuments and markers shown in this city is on our floors.

Cemetery decorations of all kinds displayed. Make your selection here, where you can see the monuments—don't select from portrait or catalog.

Have new shipment on the way here—must make room for it and therefore we give special prices from now until March 1.

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