

# The Rice Belt Journal.

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## BUSINESS SECTION OF WELSH DESTROYED BY FIRE SUNDAY

### The Finest Creations in Millinery Are Here

Vast Assortments of Charming Models are displayed in an array that should adequately meet every requirement and suit every taste.

\$5 to \$10 We call attention to the wonderful shades and colorings brought out in the flower effects, artistic arrangement of roses, marguerites, hyacinths, etc. There are Leghorns, Milans, Tuscons, Chips, Neapolitans and others in attractive shapes—wonderful creations, all of them at this special price range \$5.00 to 10.00.

### Misses' and Children's Hats

We feature an extensive variety in our Misses' and Children's line—Javas, Leghorns, Tuscons, Milans, etc., priced at \$1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00 and upwards to \$10

### WOMEN'S LOW SHOES AT

\$2.50, \$3, \$3.50 and \$4

Smart Styles are Displayed for Spring.

Pumps are very much the vogue this spring and for this reason we feature styles in Pumps that are so constructed as to obviate slipping at the heel. Many ankle strap Pumps are also shown. Stylish leathers are Dull Calf, Black Suede, Patent Leather and Vici. Our assortment includes every width and size, and are priced at \$2.50, \$3, \$3.50 and \$4

### UNDERMUSLINS

We feature special values in Undermuslins that reveal the highest standard in dainty lingerie. Particular attention is directed to our Combination Garments, Princess Slips and Night Dresses, which we show in almost unlimited assortments.

AT \$1.50—Princess Slips that fit perfectly, tastefully trimmed in dainty lace.

AT \$1.50—Clever values in Underskirts, made of good quality cambric, 18-inch flounce of embroidery or flounce of lace insertion and edging extra dust ruffle.

AT \$1.19—A showing of Combination Suits, the values of which are remarkable.—Plain or cross-bar nainsook, lace or embroidered trimmed—perfect fitting garments.

AT \$1.98—Night Gowns made of soft nainsook, trimmed with choice exquisite embroidery or lace, slip-over styles. We feature them as extraordinary values.

Our Mail Order Department offers out of town shoppers the facilities of a modern store at your door. We send samples to any address.

## Muller's

Lake Charles' Biggest, Best and Busiest Store.

We open monthly charge accounts upon the furnishing of satisfactory reference. Express charges prepaid on all purchases of \$5.00 and over

### Greater Part of Six Blocks in Business Section Burned.

Property Loss Approximates \$250,000, Partly Insured.—Work of Rebuilding Already Under Way.

A greater Chicago arose from the ruins of a great conflagration, a new San Francisco was built upon the ruins of the greatest calamity of its history, and a new and better and bigger Welsh has already been started upon the ruins left by the terrible conflagration of Sunday morning. This is the belief of a body of determined American citizens and business men, and such a hope in the hearts of such people, has never yet been known to yield the fruits of failure.

The great fire that swept our progressive little city Sunday morning, was unexpected only in point of time, as it has long been foreseen that such a calamity must come sooner or later, under existing circumstances.

The fire had its origin about 1:30 a. m., in the Signal Hotel, supposedly in one of the sleeping rooms, or in a hall over the pool hall. The cause is also problematic, but is supposed to have been caused by an exploding lamp, as there had been no fire in that section of the building for days. When discovered, the flames had gained considerable headway, and owing to the inflammability of the material, spread with great rapidity, so that it was barely possible to arouse the fifty or more sleepers in the hotel in time for them to escape, even in their night clothes, as some of them had to do.

An alarm was sounded and within an incredible short time, hundreds of men and women were present, lending their assistance toward checking the spread of the flames. The night was calm, with but the slightest possible breeze blowing from the southwest. In an incredibly short time the fire had enveloped the entire structure of the Signal Hotel, and jumped across the intervening space to the Southern Mercantile company's buildings to the east, which were soon a mass of flames. At about the same time the large dry goods store of Martin Bros. & Co., across the street to the west of the hotel, caught fire and was rapidly converted into a seething mass of flames. Strenuous efforts had been exerted to save each of these buildings, but to no avail, as the intensity of the heat counterbalanced anything that could be done to arrest the progress of the fire. Meanwhile the utmost efforts were being put forth to keep the fire from spreading to the south half of the block in which it had originated, and by almost superhuman endurance on the part of the fighters, who fought with wet blankets and with a bucket line, the fire was kept from Jones Brothers' feed store, which was just south of the point of origin, and was also a key to the business buildings, both on the north and south side of South street. This point had no more than been made secure, when the flames, gradually eating their way south through Martin's store and the Welsh Jewelry store, which adjoined it on the south, and Barbee's grocery which was on the west, two more places became points of vital interest in the saving of a remnant of the town: the Welsh Furniture Store on the south, which was the key to all the buildings in the south half of that block, and also those in the block in which the Journal office is situated, and the Crescent Drug Store on the west, which was the key to everything in the west part of the business section, including the Imperial hotel and the Morse hardware store. By the greatest heroism these two places were saved, and with them the territory of which they were the keys.

The water supply in these cases was better than in the previous ones, as a hose attached to a hydrant in front of the VanNess machine Shop, gave a good pressure of water, without which the remainder of the town could not have been saved. Similar assistance was furnished by a hose running from a hydrant at the Imperial Hotel, which, although furnishing but a small stream, was of inestimable value in saving the situation.

While the work of saving the south side was occupying the minds of the people, but little thought was given to the north side, which was supposed to be safe, as there was a distance of about three hundred feet intervening between the burning buildings and the nearest exposure on the north. Despite this, and the fact that there was scarcely a perceptible breeze blowing, the flames leaped this distance from the Martin building to the old Newman building, occupied by the Layne & Bowler Co. offices, and before the necessary assistance arrived, the fire on the north side of the track, was beyond any chance of control.

The buildings in this block were all frame structures, most of them being two stories, and were like tinder in inflammability.

Little effort was made to save this section of the city, as there was no water available and this entire block, with the single exception of the A. E. Bourgeois' residence on the northwest corner of the block, was reduced to ashes. This one house was saved, as was the depot, by the heroic efforts of the railroad employees, who attached hose and pipe to the S. P. pump and secured a good supply of water. From this block the fire spread to the Eureka Hotel, on the next block north, which was soon consumed, together

with the west of it. Shortly after the Layne & Bowler offices were in flames, the fire was communicated to Dautel's livery barn across the street to the east. The barn and feed were the losses here, as the horses and buggies, together with other movable property, had been removed before the barn was ignited.

The fire now swept rapidly to the north and east, consuming everything on this entire block, including the three buildings belonging to Mr. Dautel, the Welsh Carriage & Implement Co.'s buildings, and a large part of their stock, and two cottages on the north side of the block, one belonging to Mr. John Rountree and the other to Mr. Dupre Hebert. So fierce were the flames and showers of sparks here, that the Catholic church roof in the next block north, was fired in a number of places, and but for the daring of a number of young men of the city, who went onto the roof through the belfry and cut out the burning places with axes, it being impossible to get water to them, this beautiful structure would have been consumed also. From the Southern Mercantile building the fire extended east, burning two buildings on the corner of the next block, one of which was occupied by Mrs. J. L. McIntyre as a millinery store.

In response to a request for aid, Captain Sudduth of the Lake Charles fire department hurried two of his firemen with all available hose to the depot, where the Southern Pacific generously had a special train in waiting, which made a record run in bringing the assistance. Although the fire was under control before assistance arrived the hose was immediately laid and attached to the S. P. Pumping station and a heavy stream of water was kept playing upon the burning debris until late in the afternoon in order that the danger of any further conflagration might be avoided. Mr. Rankin, one of the fire fighters of Jennings also came over and rendered willing service. The people of Welsh are grateful to both these towns for their willing assistance.

Fortunately there were no lives lost as a result of the fire, although little Hebert Ranguet died while being carried from his burning home, but he had sustained so serious injuries a few days previous as to leave no hope of recovery.

In all there were something over thirty buildings destroyed, and about the same number of business firms effected. The total loss can only be approximated but will not fall far from \$250,000.

The amount of insurance carried was small as compared to the value of the property destroyed. This is accounted for, in a large measure, by the fact that the rate of insurance was so high as to be practically prohibitive in many instances. The following list of losses and insurance is only an approximation, but will give a general idea of the extent of the damages.

Signal Hotel building and furniture and three other buildings owned by F. A. Arceaux, \$25,000, insurance \$500.

Southern Mercantile Co., building and contents, \$42,000, insured for \$18,000.

Martin Brothers, dry goods and clothing stock \$30,000, insurance \$16,000.

R. Smith, clothing stock, \$5,000, no insurance.

A. B. Hall, pool hall and shooting gallery, two establishments, loss about \$2,000, no insurance.

Roy Davis, ice cream parlor, loss \$1,000, no insurance.

Roy Barbee, grocery, loss \$4,500, insurance \$3,000.

R. S. Greer, jewelry stock, partly saved, loss \$4,000, no insurance.

U. S. Post Office, stamps, etc. saved fixtures belonging to Postmaster Terry, loss \$300.

Anthony Hebert, barber shop, partly saved, loss \$300.

L. R. Barbee, fruit stand, small loss.

L. E. Robinson, real estate office building and fixtures, loss \$3,000.

Cumberland Telephone Co., loss \$2,000.

Chas. Dautel, livery barn and feed, loss \$5,000, stock and buggies saved.

Mrs. E. L. Welsh, three buildings, loss \$9,000.

Mrs. J. L. McIntyre, millinery, loss \$500; building belonging to Martin Bros., loss \$1,000.

Alex. Verrett, building occupied by Welsh Carriage and Implement Co., loss \$4,000.

Welsh Carriage and Implement Co., \$15,000, well insured.

John Rountree, dwelling, \$750.

Dupre Hebert, dwelling, \$750.

W. T. McAffrey, two buildings, \$4,500, no insurance.

Layne & Bowler Co., \$2,000.

W. T. McAffrey, soft drinks and pool room fixtures \$2,500.

Isaac Fontenot, two buildings, \$4,500.

Star Restaurant, Arthur Kimball, \$300.

Chinese Laundry, \$150.

A. E. Bourgeois, store building, \$3,000.

A. New... residence \$1,000.

Eureka Hotel, E. M. Powers, \$2,000.

Mrs. Romero, residence, \$750.

Welsh is hard hit, we all know it, but we are not downed yet by a long sight. The ruins of our burned city had not ceased blazing before men were on the ground clearing the way for the new buildings that were to be erected, and before the close of the week a number of the leading firms that were burned out, will be serving their customers from a new, up to date stock, in improvised stores. Welsh was a good town and will emerge from her present disaster a bigger, brighter and better one.

Welsh has neither an organized fire company, or an adequate water supply, but she has a body of men whose courage and determination is equal to that to be found in any fire company ever organized, and to them and the good citizens of the surrounding country who came to our assistance is due to the fact that the disaster is not three or four times what it is. Nor to the men alone is all the credit due as the women worked nobly, making coffee for the men who were

hearing the brunt of the battle, assisting in removing property to places of safety, carrying buckets, and filling them at the hydrants or cisterns, as well as pleading with hooded creatures clothed in men's apparel, in an effort to get them to help in the work that was before them rather than stand with their hands in their pockets enjoying the scene of the conflagration. No little credit is also due to the negroes for their good conduct during this trying time. They not only conducted themselves in a proper manner but evinced a commendable willingness to take hold and do what ever they were called on to do.

The citizens of Welsh owe a debt of gratitude both to Mr. VanNess for the excellent service rendered by his water system and also the S. P. Railroad Company who gave us the benefit of their pumping plant as soon as we had any way to utilize the same. While these are both in a sense private plants yet without them, there could have been no hope of saving the rest of the business section of the city.

### Eddy Bros. Dry Goods Co., Ltd.

(WRITE FOR OUR FARE REFUNDING PLAN)

### SPRING FABRICS

The displays at this store are unusual in their scope—quite in keeping with the progressive ideas of the management and the efforts of its buyers to keep its customers just a little more than "abreast of the times."

The Pre-Easter showings place for your selection many innovations in weave and design; many distinctive creations in spring fashions; all delineating perfectly those modes and fabrics that have received the stamp of approval from the leading designers of the land.

This complete showing is brought to your door through the medium of OUR MAIL ORDER DEPARTMENT. Samples from any section of this establishment will be sent upon request.

### Flaxons, Linweaves, Sheerettes

Dainty white and colored materials, in imitation of the sheer linen-lawns, and one-half the price. Plain colors, as well as barred and checked designs and jacquard effects. Let us submit samples before the stocks are depleted. Prices 19c, 24c, 29c, 33c.

### Rough Weaves in Wash Fabrics

Fashion's latest decree in materials for skirts and two-piece suits. The New Rammie, Rajah and Crash in Mercerized Linens, shown in every wanted shade and in a variety of weights. Prices 17c, 20c, 25c, 29c, 39c, 50c.

### Pretty Novelties in Wash Lawns

In plain and fancy weaves and fancy colored and checked weaves. Priced at 8c, 11c, 15c, 20c, 25c.

### Sheer Silks and Silk Finished Materials

Foulard, Bengaline, Tussah and Pongees in a variety of qualities, show the new dainty colorings for afternoon and evening wear. Plain, brocade and printed novelties, in dainty shades of rose, tan, blue, lavender, green, grey, etc., at 29c, 35c, 49c, 59c, 85c and \$1.00

### SPECIAL PRE-EASTER OFFERINGS!

Fifty dozen Novelty Waists, worth \$1.50 (newest designs) offered at 69c  
All Kid Gloves, values \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75, offered at.....69c.  
Ten dozen white and colors in Ladies' Wash Skirts, offered at.....88c  
Fifty dozen regular 15c values in Towels, offered at, each.....9c  
(All, with the exception of Kid Gloves, will be sent subject to your approval)

### EDDY BROS.' DRY GOODS CO., LTD.,

Lake Charles, La.

(Members Retail Trade Extension Ass'n.)

### A. B. HALL,

### PAINTER AND PAPER-HANGER

All work guaranteed to be Strictly First Class. I charge NO Commission on paper where I do the Work.

Let me sell you your Wall Paper, Coal Oil and Gasoline.

### "Ringlet" Barred Plymouth Rocks

IN THEIR PURITY—BRED TO UTILITY AS WELL AS BEAUTY  
EGGS, PER SETTING OF 15  
From Pen No. 1, \$2.00 : : : : : From Pen No. 2, \$1.00  
Wm. M. Terry, Welsh, Louisiana.

### Eyrich's Strain of S. C. White Leghorns

HAS WON FROM TEXAS TO MARYLAND.  
I HAVE THEM : : : : : EGGS \$1.00 PER 15.  
E. E. KIMBALL, Welsh, La.

## Announcement

Our large Dry Goods and Clothing establishment having been entirely destroyed by the big fire of last Sunday morning, we desire to announce that we have purchased the Old Bank Building, and are having it remodeled, to be used temporarily until we can build a large and permanent building, and we will be prepared to serve our customers and friends with anything in the Dry Goods and Clothing line, by the latter part of next week.

We respectfully solicit the continuance of your patronage and assure you that you will still continue to get

Best values always at

## MARTIN'S