

## CAUSE OF BIG FIRE IN PIANO STORE PROBED

Pearson Company and City Firemen Are Seeking Information.

Efforts to determine the origin of the fire which started in the basement of the Pearson Piano Company, 128 North Pennsylvania street, and caused damage which may exceed \$150,000, were being made today by officers of the police and fire departments. The damage, which was caused largely by water, proprietors of the stores announced there will be only a short interruption of business.

George C. Pearson, president of the piano company made it plain that the company was in position to continue business as usual, and that arrangements for which shipments can be made. These stores are located at Shelyville, Columbus, Munroe, Kokomo and Anderson.

The losses, all covered by insurance are Pearson Piano Company, \$100,000; George C. Pearson Realty Company, owners of the building, \$100,000; and receiver, Vera H. Ertle, \$20 Lexington avenue, salvage corps, was cut and bruised on the head and shoulders. Guy Hickman, pumper company No. 5, was overcome by gas. Harvey J. Keppler, 162 East New York street, headquarters company No. 7, was overcome by smoke. M. J. Mulvihill, 1645 North New Jersey street, pumper company No. 5, overcome by gas.

Five persons were injured while fighting the flames but are all reported to be recovering.

All the injured were either firemen or members of the salvage corps. William Savage, 702 Elm street, a member of the salvage corps, suffered injuries about the neck and legs. He is in the city hospital with a fractured leg. Carl receiver, Vera H. Ertle, 162 Lexington avenue, salvage corps, was cut and bruised on the head and shoulders. Guy Hickman, pumper company No. 5, was overcome by gas. Harvey J. Keppler, 162 East New York street, headquarters company No. 7, was overcome by smoke. M. J. Mulvihill, 1645 North New Jersey street, pumper company No. 5, overcome by gas.

Both Mr. Pearson and the representatives of the insurance companies pointed out that it is almost impossible at this time to estimate the loss, as the nature of the stock is such that the merchandise is easily damaged by water. However, many of the pianos and taking machines on the third and fourth floor at 132 and 134 North Pennsylvania street, used as storage rooms by the Pearson company, were not damaged.

When the fire was discovered a great crowd of people was attracted to the scene. The police had difficulty in keeping the people far enough away so the firemen would have room to fight the flames. Clouds of smoke poured from the front and back of the building, the building. Three alarms were sent in. Fire Chief O'Brien, who was attending a show with his family, was called when Assistant Chief Hoyle turned in a second alarm.

The water tower and two large nozzles poured thousands of gallons into the building, every minute, for the first hour. The water was exhausted in less than one hour.

E. W. Scott, manager of the Pearson Company's advertising department, was on the third floor of the building when the fire started. He had a narrow escape from being overcome by smoke. He had considerable trouble in reaching the first floor in an automatic elevator. The smoke was so dense that he did not stop to open a door but escaped through a transom and ran across the street to turn in the alarm.

The first floor of the Pearson store was the sales room. The second floor was occupied by the Duo Art department. The third floor was the sales department for the used goods. There were more than 600 piano stores in this part of the building and the water damage to these was heavy. The fourth floor was the repair shop.

**Snip, Snip Go Wires and Woman Is Held**

Mrs. H. F. Barker, 124 West Tenth street, after an argument with Porter Davis, manager of the Indianapolis Business Exchange, in which she and her former and former employer, found he had severed the telephone wires in her home, the police were told today. In returning the compliment, Mrs. Barker armed herself with a butcher knife and cut the telephone wires in Mr. Davis' office. Mrs. Barker was arrested on a charge of malicious destruction of property.

**Will Give Lecture on St. Joan of Arc**

The Rt. Rev. Francis C. Kelly, P. A. DD., LL.D., president of the Catholic Church Extension Society, will deliver a lecture on "St. Joan of Arc" in the school hall of the St. Joan of Arc on East Forty Second street, Tuesday night. The St. Joan of Arc Church of this city is the only one in the United States to take the name of this newly-crowned saint, the heroine of the French republic. For that reason this lecture will be of interest to the public.

**Two Bankruptcy Petitions Filed**

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**Friend of Watson Gets Porto Rico Job**

Ernest B. Thomas, secretary of the People's Loan and Trust Company here, has been appointed to the post of Finance Minister of Porto Rico, and will report for duty on May 1. He was formerly a member of the commission which made a study of the farm land bank question. He is a close personal friend of Senator James E. Watson.

**To Speak Before Charity Society**

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The society has recently moved into its new building, "The Friendly Inn," which will be the scene of the meeting.

"The Effect of Social Work on Social Progress," will be the subject of Mr. Borst's address.

**Fire Loss \$100,000 in Business Section**

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## SCENE OF COSTLY DOWNTOWN FIRE



This picture, showing the office of the Pearson Piano Company, gives an idea of the damage caused by the fire, which destroyed a large part of the interior.

The blaze, which started in the basement of the structure, caused so much smoke that firemen were unable to enter the building for several minutes.

Much of the damage was caused by water poured from many lines of hose through the windows, damaging pianos and fixtures.

Three alarms were turned in and great crowds gathered.

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## INDIANA DAILY TIMES.

### AUDITOR GETS LARGE SUM IN PRE-PAYMENTS

All But Eight Counties Respond to Appeal for 90 Per Cent of All Funds.

The office of the auditor of State has received \$451,000 in advance of the June settlement from county treasurers of the state, it was announced today. The money received is the result of a call sent out by the auditor for the various counties to send in 90 per cent of money on hand April 15. William G. Oliver, auditor, characterized the response as good.

The amount received represents all but eight counties in the state. The receipts from the call go into the general and benevolent institution funds, as required by law. The levy for the general fund of 1 cent on each \$100 amounts to approximately \$65,228 and the balance goes into the benevolent institution fund. The general fund at present has a deficit of \$1,200,000.

### BODY FOUND; ARREST GIRL

Saleswoman Taken After Child Is Found in Creek.

CAMDEN, N. J., April 24.—Miss Esther Tannenbaum, 28, traveling saleswoman, was arrested today following the discovery of the body of 7-year-old Ida Kramer, in Newton Creek, near here. Miss Tannenbaum is a cousin of Isadore Kramer, the father of the dead girl, who was kidnapped from her home in Woodbury on the evening of March 25.

**Feminine Hands to Rule Industry Woman Predicts**

CHICAGO, April 24.—"If feminine hands are not guiding the destinies of industry within the next decade, it will be their own fault."

This was the declaration of Mrs. Edith Jarvis Alden, first woman to attain a corporate position with a class one company, as president of the Chicago Bazaar, assistant secretary of the Chicago Bazaar and Quincey. Her appointment was made by the board of directors through uniformity of State laws.

A persons divorced in one State could not, under the divorce laws proposed, evade the law in his own State by marrying again elsewhere.

Eighteen years would be the minimum age for marriage for women in each State, and 21 for men, according to the proposed law.

Elopers would have their impatience checked by a provision demanding a

five or ten days' notice of intention to marry before a marriage license was granted.

Four grounds for divorce are recommended in the report—adultery, drunkenness, desertion and extreme cruelty. The aim is to make these and whatever else may be added the universal grounds for divorce in the United States through uniformity of State laws.

The bill, introduced by Senator George W. McNamee, 1519 Cornelia street, was presented to the third annual convention of the League of Women Voters to-morrow.

Equal alimony rights for men were advocated today in an interview with Catherine Waugh McCullough, well-known woman lawyer of Chicago, chairman of the committee which will submit the bill.

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