

ried \$40,000 insurance. Dougan & Co. of this city stated today that E. M. Campfield carried between \$50,000 and \$60,000 insurance on the building. When asked if this insurance would be paid over to Campfield or the receiver, the representative of Dougan & Co., stated that this was a question which would have to be decided. The building was valued at \$100,000.

Men who were in position to know of what they were speaking differed as to the loss. Some said the loss would be more than \$200,000 while others said it would be less.

STORY OF THE FIRE.

Five Thousand People Watched the Persistent Flames.

A crowd of five thousand people from seven o'clock last evening until an early hour this morning watched the fire gut the big building. The blaze originated in the basement under the store room of the Cunningham Commission company, which faces South Seventh street.

Loss About \$200,000.

It is estimated that the loss to the building and to the tenants will amount to \$200,000 or more. Eight firemen are victims of the blaze, which was by far the worst occurring in this city in recent years. Five of them were victims of the smoke. One was overcome by the heat, one badly cut, and another the victim of an explosion.

Origin of Blaze.

There are two theories advanced as to the cause of the blaze. One is that it originated in the furnace room, while the other is that it resulted from spontaneous combustion caused by the overflow of oil onto mattresses stored in the basement under its store room. As this concern had a large stock of paints and oils the blaze was freely fed and spread rapidly. Today the beautiful big building which was erected about ten years ago and was Richmond's most modern office block, presents a most wretched appearance. The interior is practically gutted and the walls are blackened with smoke and dripping from the tons of water played upon them. Hundreds of people are standing around looking at the ruins.

Flames Raged Fiercely.

The blaze raged most fiercely in the southwest section of the building, the flames despite the strenuous efforts of the firemen eating their way from the basement to the roof. After the roof had been reached the flames spread downward into the section of the building which was untouched by the blaze raging in the interior because of the fire-wall, which separated the store rooms occupied by the Knox Five and Ten Cent store and the Colonial Barber Shop, and which runs from Main street to the south wall of the building.

Fire Over Fire-Wall.

It was not until after midnight that the blaze succeeded in surmounting the fire-wall and gutting with its fiery tongue the interior of the building east of the fire-wall. Up to this time the firemen had been confining their efforts mainly to fighting the fire at the southwest section of the building. After the flames reached the east section of the building the firemen were forced to direct the attack against the entire building. A hurried call for assistance was sent to Dayton and to Cambridge City. When Dayton-hose company and engine company and the Cambridge City hose company arrived it was possible to play fifteen streams on the building, the interior of which at this time looked like a scene from the infernal regions. The excellent work done by the out of town firemen had the desired effect and by three o'clock the blaze was well under control and only spurting up fitfully in various spots.

Additional Aid.

The arrival of the Dayton and Cambridge City companies was also a boon to the local firemen who were reduced in numbers by injuries and the deadly smoke and almost exhausted by their hard work. Never for a minute, however, did the local fire fighters quit their gigantic task, but clinging to the fight with the tenacity of a bulldog. It was due to their heroic efforts that the buildings adjoining the Colonial were saved from destruction. After Chief Miller had been hauled struggling from the basement of the building and placed under the care of a physician, Assistant Chief Charles Simmex assumed command of the fire fighters.

Smoke Hindered Work.

For hours the firemen were unable to locate where the blaze was raging the most owing to the heavy smoke which rolled out of the building at every place possible for it to escape. Firemen were sent to the roof of the building from that vantage spot they fought the fire until it drove them from their position. To everyone, it appeared that the building of the International Harvester company, to the rear of the Colonial building, would also be destroyed. This building was kept drenched with water and the flames were fought back from it by firemen stationed in the alley which separates the two buildings. After the flames spread to the east section of the Colonial the Griffin block was threatened and families who resided there quickly vacated their flats and removed their household goods to the street.

Store Rooms Vacated.

All of the store rooms on the ground floor of the Colonial were quickly vacated. Planes were rolled out of the Watson piano store while the clerks and volunteers carried various assortments of goods from the Model Clothing company, the Knox Five and Ten Cent Store and the other store rooms. Tenants of office rooms on the second floor were successful in saving most of their property but the tenants of office rooms on the third floor were not so successful. Smoke forced them to desist from their efforts.

Not a thing was saved from the beautiful Elks club rooms on the third floor. All the lodge records and paraphernalia were destroyed by the fire demon. The loss to the Elks will probably amount to \$4,000. This is covered by about \$3,000 insurance.

Scene Spectacular.

The scene presented by the burning

SOME FACTS CONCERNING THE COLONIAL FIRE

Blaze originated either in furnace room in basement or by spontaneous combustion caused by overflowing oil in the basement under the store room of the Cunningham Commission company, which faces South Seventh street.

Loss on the building estimated at \$100,000. Said to be \$90,000 insurance on the building. Total loss by fire, smoke and water to the tenants of the building estimated at \$100,000. This loss partly covered by insurance.

Blaze started about seven o'clock and at 8 o'clock this morning was entirely out. The blaze raged most fiercely in the southwest corner of the building.

Combination hose and chemical wagon and an engine from Dayton, also a hose company from Cambridge City assisted in fighting the fire.

Chief Miller is in a serious condition as a result of being overcome by smoke. He was dragged from the basement three times. When compelled to quit his gallant efforts to lead his men in successful fight against the blaze, he fought fiercely with those who held him. At 4:30 Chief Miller was again on the scene of the fire, but was once more forced to quit.

Entire block from Main street to South A street and from South Seventh street to South Eighth street, threatened by the blaze. A terrible conflagration prevented by the successful efforts of firemen in holding the blaze within the Colonial building.

The major part of the goods and furnishings of the various store rooms and offices saved and stored in Main street stores or placed on Main and neighboring streets.

Entire police department called upon to hold the immense crowd in check. This was accomplished by stretching fire ropes on Main street and South Seventh street.

All the furnishings and records in the Elks club and lodge rooms on the third floor are destroyed. Elks estimate the loss at about \$4,000; insured for about \$3,000.

building was a most spectacular one. After the roof ignited, clouds of embers and sparks lighted the heavens like a fireworks display. When the first and second floors and the roof gave under, the crash sounded like salvos of artillery.

A Thrilling Moment.

One of the thrilling moments of the fire was when a combination ladder, reaching from South Seventh street to the roof, collapsed under the burden of a heavy hose, and fell toward the big crowd standing outside the fire lines on South Seventh street. Cries of "the ladder is falling" and "run for your lives," went up and a panic ensued.

Fortunately, the ladder was prevented from falling to the street by telephone wires. This ended the stampede. While the ladder reclined against the wires the firemen on the roof were left to the mercy of the flames, but it was soon placed back in position.

Cornice Fell.

While two firemen were playing a stream of water into a second story window at the southwest corner of the building a large section of the heavy tin cornice fell. The firemen dropped the hose and fled for their lives. The falling cornice only missed the two men about two feet.

Building's Tenants.

The store rooms on the ground floor of the Colonial block were occupied by the following concerns: The Model Clothing company, the Watson Piano store, the Colonial Barber shop, the Knox Five and Ten Cent Store, the Rose Sharkey Millinery company, the Model Grocery company and the Cunningham Commission company.

The various rooms on the second and third floors of the building were occupied by the following persons and concerns: Dr. Martin, Dr. Herbert Loper, the Richmond Loan company, the Indiana Loan company, the F. M. Price Loan company, the Mary Ennis dressmaking establishment, Mr. Rife, the Elks Lodge, the Regis Club, Architect John Hasecoester, Architect Mansfield, Henry U. Johnson, W. C. Converse, the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, the Telegraphers School, Dr. A. B. Price, B. G. Price & Company, the Western & Southern Life Insurance agency, John Dingley, George R. Dilks, the Ada Gause dressmaking establishment and the Celia Stanton dressmaking establishment.

Schillinger on Scene.

Major Richard Schillinger was on the scene of the fire from the time it started until day dawned this morning. He was here and there and everywhere and he did much to aid in fighting the blaze.

Tenants Were Slow.

When Fire Chief Ed Miller for the third time was dragged out of the burning building in a semi-conscious state and was taken to the Frank Mackie store and thence to his home, Major Schillinger immediately saw that there would have to be a head to take charge of the rapidly increasing blaze. While hurrying here and there, ordering the fire department as to the best of his ability, the mayor sent a call to the fire chief at Dayton, Ohio, for assistance. This was after eleven o'clock.

The fire chief at Dayton immediately telephoned that engine company 13 and hose company 2 were sent to the Pennsylvania railroad where it awaited the arrival of a special train consisting of an engine, passenger coach, car and caboose. This delayed the department from the Ohio town for almost two hours but when the special did arrive the fire fighting apparatus was loaded and the train started, making the trip to Richmond

Number of Substitutes Are on Duty Today.

If one desires to see a number of thoroughly exhausted firemen and

smoke infected men, it is only necessary to visit the four fire department houses today. The men are hollow-eyed and their cheeks are sunken. Nearly all of them breathe like an asthmatic, while several of them bear bandages on their hands and arms the result of falling glass. At No. 1 hose house there are three substitutes on duty today. One or more substitutes are on duty at each of the other three houses. It will be some time before the fire fighters entirely recover from their twelve hours of hard work last night.

THOUGHT BUILDING DOOMED.

International Harvester Company Removed Stock.

Officials and employees of the local branch of the International Harvester company are congratulating themselves over the narrow escape of the Harvester building last night. Time after time the hungry tongues of flame licked the north wall of this building and hundreds of fire brands showered upon it, but the gallant efforts of the firemen to save the building were successful. Nearly all the valuable contents of the building were removed to places of safety so certain were the employees of the company that the building would be destroyed.

FEATS OF DARING.

Several Not Noticed by Eager Reporter.

"That crowd about the Colonial building last night was the most orderly, good natured one that I ever saw," remarked Chief Bailey this morning at police headquarters. Only two men of the thousands of people who witnessed the fire caused the police trouble. When they were threatened with arrest they faded from view."

Like most American crowds every man was willing to lend a helping hand and to take dangerous chances to save property or lives. If a base was to be moved men and boys would grab hold of it and move it to the desired position.

A reporter on the second floor of the building witnessed an example of the daring of the average American young man. There was a cry of "A man is suffocating on the third floor." Immediately ten or fifteen young men who were helping to remove property made a dash for the stairway which leads to the third floor. The dense waves of stifling smoke which issued down the stairway did not cause them to hesitate one minute even though they knew no person could live for five minutes in such smoke. Half way up the stairs a police officer called the would-be rescuers and assured them that there was no one on the third floor. Then they calmly returned to the second floor and renewed their work of removing property.

The police officers deserve a tribute for the splendid manner in which they conducted themselves at the fire. The crowd was kept away from all places of danger and the officers did everything in their power to assist the badly fatigued firemen.

PETITION FOR PAULUS.

Signers Want Him Back in the Department.

A petition is being circulated about the city to have Walter Paulus reinstated as a member of the fire department. Paulus is a veteran fireman and he distinguished himself by his splendid work as a volunteer last night.

"That's the way to talk," said the Dayton man. He immediately took charge of the situation and from that time he rapidly secured control of the blaze. He soon had it confined in the basement of the Knox five and ten cent store. Paulus and his men soon had the fire under control.

It took several minutes to get the Dayton fire engine in working order as Richmond has no fire engines and the engine had to pump water from the basement of the burning building, there being several thousand gallons of water there. This however soon became muddy and murky and it hampered the working of the Dayton engine. The Dayton hose, there being about 1,800 feet, was also used.

ZIMMERMAN WILLING.

Said He Would Pay the Visitors' Expenses.

When Mayor Schillinger called the chief of the Dayton fire department by long distance telephone and asked for assistance in fighting the blaze at the Colonial building he thought it was understood that the City of Richmond would foot the bill for bringing the Dayton companies here. A few minutes after his conversation the Dayton chief called up and asked to speak to Mayor Schillinger, but his honor was not to be found. He was busy elsewhere. Ex-Mayor Zimmerman stepped forward and the following conversation ensued:

Dayton Fire Chief.—"Will the city of Richmond meet the expense of sending two of our companies there?"

Dr. Zimmerman.—"Sure, the city will. If it don't, charge the expense to my account. I am Dr. W. W. Zimmerman."

IS IT NOT A SHAME?

Women Will Have to Do Without Easter Garments.

Quite a number of local women will have to do without their Easter dresses on account of the fire. A number of beautiful "creations" in the dressmaking establishments of Mary Ennis, Ada Gause and Celia Stanton. These women lost nearly everything they had in their rooms.

TENANTS WERE SLOW.

Could Not Realize the Building Was Doomed.

It took some time for the tenants of the Colonial building to grasp the fact that the Colonial building was doomed. Had they acted promptly on the discovery of the blaze, all the contents of the building could have been removed. The Home Telephone company realized that the building would be destroyed and everyone of the automatic phones was removed in ample time.

FIREMEN EXHAUSTED.

Number of Substitutes Are on Duty Today.

If one desires to see a number of thoroughly exhausted firemen and

great aid and Richmond and the entire police and fire departments extends to them their heart felt thanks for the prompt response and heroic work.

CRITICISMS UNJUST.

Miller Did Not Expose Himself Without Cause.

Some people are of the opinion that Chief Miller recklessly exposed himself at the fire last night and that he could have done more good by keeping out of the building and directing the movements of his men. These people do not realize that Miller was endeavoring to locate the source of the blaze so as to make an intelligent fight against it when he was overcome by smoke.

GAS MAIN BURSTS.

Lives of Firemen Were Endangered.

A big gas main underneath the Sharkey Millinery company's store, burst about one o'clock this morning and the firemen's lives were endangered until the water covered the pipe. This prevented any danger of an explosion. The flames were also as much as possible, kept away from the main.

Capt. John Clements of No. 3 hose company was knocked unconscious by the bursting of the main. Chief Miller carried him out of the building.

DEPUTY-MARSHAL HERE.

A. J. Freery, Ohio Official, Helped Fight Blaze.

One of the men who was busy and rendered great aid to the fire fighters was A. J. Freery of Dayton, Ohio, deputy state fire marshal of Ohio. Not only did he give orders which led to the control of the blaze, but he himself took a hand in the fight. By his efforts and orders it is plainly seen that he knew what he was doing. Freery is a young attorney of Dayton and one of his men paid him a tribute by saying that he was one of the greatest fire fighters Dayton has had in his history.

STAUBACH GIVES ORDERS.

Tells Dayton Chief to "Fire" Men Who Talk Back.

President of the Board of Public Works, George Staubach, was on the scene of the fire during the entire night. President Staubach gave orders to Fire Chief Madigan to take full charge. Later Madigan reported that one of the Richmond firemen had given him back talk, not understanding, of course, that Madigan was in control. Staubach promptly said, "If there is any more of that 'fire' the man who says anything."

Staubach was loud in his praises of the work of the Richmond, as well as the Dayton and Cambridge City companies. He says that the city of Richmond owes them a debt of gratitude which can not be easily repaid. The work of these men, said Staubach, was great. This morning Staubach entertained the lads from Cambridge City and Dayton. They were the city's guests and nothing was too good for the gallant lads.

Other city officials worked like beavers during the night.

PRESSURE WEAK.

Dayton Man Says It Was Not Strong Enough.

Notwithstanding the statement made from George Staubach, president of the board of public works, that the fire pressure was good during the entire night, Engineer Lumby of Dayton, holds that it was nothing what it should be. Where the pressure was only 60 pounds it should have been 110, he said. The many streams of water which were played on the blaze represented thousands of gallons of water from the city reservoir. The basement of the building was completely filled and the streets adjoining the building were covered with running water.

PEOPLE WERE ON ROOFS.

Fight Burning Embers Falling on Houses.

The rain yesterday probably saved many residences in the vicinity of the fire from burning down. Embers and burning brands fell upon house tops all over the neighborhood, but the wet shingles would not ignite. Many anxious householders spent the night on the roofs of their homes putting out the firebrands as they fell.

THE CROWD WAS OBEDIENT.

Stays Behind Fire Lines That Were Stretched.

Main street from Sixth street to Eighth street and South Seventh

The south wall and the west wall of the Colonial building looks today as though they had been bent in a vice. They are regarded as dangerous because they are apt to fall at any time. Chief Bailey had officers guarding the sight seers from these walls today. If the block is ever rebuilt it will be necessary to rebuild the two walls in question.

CAMBRIDGE TO RESCUE.

Fifteen Men From That Point Did Heroic Service.

The Cambridge City fire department numbering about fifteen men and under the leadership of Earl Bearfoot was summoned to Richmond after eleven o'clock. All the department's men were sleeping at their homes in Cambridge when they received the call. They promptly responded and caught the last interurban car to Richmond, bringing with them about eleven hundred feet of hose. The boys fought bravely from the time of their arrival and promptly obey