

A NIGHT OF FLAME. Scenes and Perils.

Women Jumping from Third Story Windows.

THE MOST EXTENSIVE CONFLAGRATION THAT HAS VISITED DANBURY IN THREE YEARS.

A Blaze on Triangle Street Followed by a Much Larger One on Elm Street.

THE LOSS OVER \$30,000.

From Tuesday's Evening News.
On Triangle Street.

An alarm of fire was sounded from box 45, situated at the corner of South street and Town Hill avenue, about 8:30 last night. A few minutes later the entire south and eastern portions of the town was brilliantly illuminated by what appeared to be a large fire in the vicinity of the horse railway stables.

Many persons ran in the direction indicated and found at the corner of Sheridan and Triangle streets the house of Patrick Elliott in flames. The firemen were slow in arriving at the place, it being the extreme end of the borough.

The building was very nearly destroyed, together with most of its contents.

The fire was caused by the exploding of a lamp. The total loss on dwelling and contents was \$2,800, on which there was an insurance of \$2,250 with the agency of Bigelow & Stevens.

On Elm Street.

Since the great Beckerle disaster no such conflagration has visited Danbury as that which started near the center of the business portion of the town at an early hour this morning.

But few of even the earliest risers were stirring at half past four. Stragglers now and then hurried down along the street and dove into the door of the most convenient saloon, and these, with the policemen, constituted the principal portion of Danbury's active population.

Numbers 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31, Elm street, and but a few steps west of Main street. The first two are the numbers of the stores in the handsome brick block, recently built by Henry Perry, and the remainder are in the two adjoining blocks, owned by Dr. S. M. Griffin. These latter are of wood, and are three stories in height, with a frontage of eighty feet. At the rear of these buildings are sheds, and a large barn; also the tin shop of Henry Perry.

Robert McNamara and Alonzo Mead were standing in the doorway of Matchett's restaurant, which is situated in Griffin's block. McNamara is chief night cook in that institution. He left Mead and went into the rear of the store to attend to some beans that he was cooking. He had hardly entered

not a ladder was in sight. A number of men started for the truck house on Ives street, but before they could return, the two women, becoming weak from exhaustion, let go their hold on each other and dropped to the ground below. The ladies were Mrs. Mary Sherwood, and her daughter Ida. The daughter dropped first, and came down with a crash, striking the awning in front of the store known as the "Bon Ton," and going through the rotten canvas like a knife. She fell on her side on the pavement, and was carried into a house near by.

But a few seconds elapsed after the young lady's fall before the mother, becoming frantic from the effects of the smoke, followed suit. She fell close in to the side of the building, and striking on a sign which projected a few inches from above the door of the store, bounded off on the awning. Fortunately, however, it sustained her weight, and willing hands lifted her to the ground and assisted her to a neighbor's.

Robert McNamara tells the story, regarding the origin of the fire, as given above, but several other stories are told, and the one that the owners of the burned buildings, and many of the tenants, favor, is that a pan of grease setting on the floor of the restaurant, took fire, and McNamara seized it and threw it out into the back yard. The grease splattered up against the barn, as well as against the block, and set fire to both buildings at the same time.

An alarm was now sounded for box 23, at the corner of Main and White streets, and people began to flock to the scene. The fire companies were on hand promptly, and a stream was played on the rear of the burning. Dozens of men rushed into the stores, and into the living apartments above, and a shower of chairs, feather beds, pictures, crockery, and all sorts of utensils, rained down on the heads of the topless passer by.

The fire quickly spread from the barn to the block of Dr. Griffin, and into the tin shop of Henry Perry which was adjoining. The Matchett restaurant and the hallway were quickly gutted, and the twenty-five cent store next fell prey to the flames.

The rear portions of all the buildings were burned nearly to the ground before much flame appeared at the front. Then with a roar the smoke and flames burst from the front windows and up toward the eaves.

A single stream of water was playing on this portion of the building at the time, but it succeeded in nearly subduing it.

A stream of water was thrown into the variety store, which was a mass of fire. This was conquered but almost at the same moment the flames burst out from the centre of the roof.

But two ladders, those carried up by hand—were on the scene, and they were not long enough to reach the roof. The hook and ladder men soon came up however, and one of the longer ladders placed up to the eaves. A line of hose was run up and a fierce fight ensued. The flames were driven back after a while.

From the back the entire field of the fire could be seen. About a half of the rear portion of Griffin's new block and

fixtures \$300, insurance none; A. N. Garbsey, loss on household goods \$500, covered by insurance. Third floor, James Hinkley, loss on household goods \$400, no insurance; Mrs. S. A. Winton, loss on clothing and furniture \$300, no insurance; Lavinia Cronk, dressmaker, loss mostly on dresses and dress goods \$800, no insurance.

GRiffin's BUILDING.

Dr. S. M. Griffin, loss on building, \$8,000, insurance \$5,000; Frank E. Gallagher, barber, loss \$1,700, insurance \$1,200; H. Stern, upholsterer, loss \$200, no insurance; Mrs. S. Ruscoe, milliner, loss \$1,500, insurance \$300; William Matchett, restaurant, loss \$500, insurance \$350; R. E. Twing, cutter and manager for E. Tallersott, tailor, loss \$900, no insurance; A. N. Hawkins, loss \$2,000, insurance \$1,500. Second and third floors: No. 31, Azor Hull, loss \$600, no insurance; John C. Collins, loss \$600, no insurance; No. 29, James Smith, loss \$1,000, no insurance; No. 27, Mrs. Mary Sherwood, loss \$2,000, no insurance; No. 25, A. H. Mallett, loss \$2,000, insurance \$500; Charles Gustoson, loss \$250, no insurance.

Grinders.

S. Bloomer lost about fifty dollars worth of feed, harnesses and such things which were in the barn.

The fire police, as usual, rendered very efficient aid in protecting property, and keeping back the curious crowd.

At one time the livery stables of Hawley Bradley were threatened, but the applications of water from a small hose allayed the danger.

The people at large were not as quick as usual to respond to the ringing of the alarm, and it was some time before a large crowd gathered.

Dr. McDonald estimates his loss at \$200, but succeeded in saving over two thousand dollars worth of books which were in his library.

The loose piles of paving blocks that reached almost the width of Elm street in several places proved a great hindrance to the progress of the firemen with their hose carriages.

All the families living in the vicinity of the burned blocks, generously threw open their doors to the unfortunate victims of the fire, and provided as far as they could every comfort.

An explosion, presumably of gas, tore up a portion of the roof of the stoop in front of Gallagher's store. Two young men who were standing on it at the time were severely shaken up.

Mrs. Mary Sherwood and her daughter, Ida, who jumped from the upper floor of the burning block, escaped very fortunately, the former getting off with a sprained ankle, and the latter with numerous bruises.

Charles Brinshall, while the flames were raging passed in front of the building on the sidewalk, when a large piece of plate glass fell, and cut his foot and knee quite seriously. Dr. G. A. Gilbert dressed the wounds.

Warden L. L. Hopkins desires to express his thanks to the members of the fire department for the promptness with which they responded to the two calls, under the very unfavorable cir-

The railway commissioner holding the Danbury and 1 to-day.

Several of our merchant the price of flour twenty-barrell.

John Firth, the second Danbury's last year's bascently died in Houston, T

At a meeting of the Faassociation held in Bridgeport Rev. Dr. Maxwell, of Danpointed scribe.

Anthony Sutton, who last summer, to make his nah, N. Y., is in town withiting friends.

The firm of Gorden & been dissolved by the 1 Robert J. Baldwin, owing W. A. Gorden will continu

The Housatonic railway work of constructing freig docks at Wilson-Point, i the neighborhood of \$30, lumber.—Norwalk Gazette

Edward Leach, in the en Olmstead, received a be ankle, yesterday, by step end of a timber on skids under him.

The members of the companies decorated the deceased members of th this morning. No fireman ring the past year.

The sermon of Rev. preached at the dedicatio church in his former cha ville, Pa., was reported in that city, one of them full.

The annual diocesan-e the Protestant Episcopal held in Christ church, Haing June 12. The serm preached by Rev. Dr. Linc

The Housatonic railway Saturday, round trip to bury, including admission at reduced rates, from all tween Falls Village and Br tion inclusive.

It is reported about towi the storm of yesterday farmer in Redding was mil cow was struck and knock the man had his left leg pa were unable to learn the m

If you are fond of beaut flowers, stop and view t orchids displayed in the Wilson's jewelry store. and handsome specimens at Saugatuck.

The lecture of Rev. Dr. "Shams," which was adv time ago to be delivered House for the benefit of and the Children's Home, sponed to an indefinite date en early in the season of ne

The next regular meeting penters' union, No. 121, will Tuesday evening

Since the great Beckerle disaster no such conflagration has visited Danbury as that which started near the center of the business portion of the town at an early hour this morning.

But few of even the earliest risers were stirring at half past four. Stragglers now and then hurried down along the street and dove into the door of the most convenient saloon, and these, with the policemen, constituted the principal portion of Danbury's active population.

Numbers 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31, Elm street, and but a few steps west of Main street. The first two are the numbers of the stores in the handsome brick block, recently built by Henry Perry, and the remainder are in the two adjoining blocks, owned by Dr. S. M. Griffin. These latter are of wood, and are three stories in height, with a frontage of eighty feet. At the rear of these buildings are sheds, and a large barn; also the tin shop of Henry Perry.

Robert McNamara and Alonzo Mead were standing in the doorway of Matchett's restaurant, which is situated in Griffin's block. McNamara is chief night cook in that institution. He left Mead and went into the rear of the store to attend to some beans that he was cooking. He had hardly entered the kitchen when a loud noise attracted his attention, and glancing out the door a huge streak of flame met his gaze. A barn at the rear of the establishment was in flames.

The next instant McNamara leaped off the stoop and, running into the barn, made a vain attempt to unhitch one of the two horses, which were jumping about in their stalls snorting with terror.

The smoke was so dense that he could not act as quickly as necessary, and being unable to unloose the firmly-tied knots, he ran back into the restaurant, and, grabbing a huge carving knife, returned to the barn, where it was but a second's work to free the terrified animals.

Calling to a waiter to run down street and give the alarm, McNamara rushed up into Griffin's block and by his cries of "fire," and by pounding on the doors, succeeded in awakening all of the occupants.

By this time the flames had extended to the rear of the Griffin block and were rapidly eating their way up along the stoops. Windows were hastily thrown up, and white covered heads popped out, but for an instant only, for the fierce heat drove them back.

A general rush was made for the stairways, and from the front doors the occupants rushed in their night clothes, their arms filled with garments which they adjusted as they ran.

Perhaps a dozen men now appeared on the scene, and as they ran up to the front of the building, from which smoke was pouring in volumes, a thrilling sight met their gaze. From one of the windows on the top floor a young lady was hanging, clinging to the window sill, and around her waist were the arms of another woman, who was leaning out of the window frantically entreating the other not to let go.

Around them the smoke was pouring up in volumes, and through the open door of the hallway, the bright flames could be seen eating their way through the thin partition under the stairs.

All communication with the street, by means of the stairs was cut off, and

hopeless passer by.

The fire quickly spread from the barn to the block of Dr. Griffin, and into the tin shop of Henry Perry which was adjoining. The Matchett restaurant and the hallway were quickly gutted, and the twenty-five cent store next fell prey to the flames.

The rear portions of all the buildings were burned nearly to the ground before much flame appeared at the front. Then with a roar the smoke and flames burst from the front windows and up toward the eaves.

A single stream of water was playing on this portion of the building at the time, but it succeeded in nearly subduing it.

A stream of water was thrown into the variety store, which was a mass of fire. This was conquered but almost at the same moment the flames burst out from the centre of the roof.

But two ladders, those carried up by hand—were on the scene, and they were not long enough to reach the roof. The hook and ladder men soon came up however, and one of the longer ladders placed up to the eaves. A line of hose was run up and a fierce fight ensued. The flames were driven back after a while.

From the back the entire field of the fire could be seen. About a half of the rear portion of Griffin's new block and all of the rear of Perry's was in ruins, and still the fire was eating its way in every direction.

In Dr. Griffin's adjoining block the smoke was so dense that it was with difficulty goods could be removed, but no fire could be found, so no attention was paid to it until at a late hour the flames suddenly burst up from the corner of the roof where they had been smouldering. Although three streams were quickly directed on the spot they seemed to be of little avail, for the flames sprung up in every quarter. The roof and upper floors were badly burned before the fire could be extinguished.

The tide of excitement was next turned toward Perry's brick block. But few of the great crowd of spectators were aware that Perry's block had been damaged in the rear, and when the flames came from the front windows, the excitement was intense, and every available stream was brought to bear on the third story windows.

The firemen worked hard, and at every point the flames were met by a steady torrent of water, and finally, after two hours and a half diligent fighting, the chief engineer declared the fire under control, but most of the streams were not withdrawn until eight o'clock.

The front of the buildings present a comparatively good view to that of the back, but little of the work of the fire being visible from the street. As said before, the entire north walls and the corresponding portion of the roof, together with all the rooms in that side of the buildings, are in ruins, the worst being at the portion nearest Main street.

Losses and Insurance.

The total loss by fire and water is estimated at \$31,000, on which there is a total insurance of \$12,350, as follows:

PERRY'S BUILDING.

Henry Perry, loss on building \$5,000, insurance \$1,000; Julius R. Weber, tailor, loss on stock, mostly by water \$1,300, insurance \$1,200; W. B. Jones & Co., grocers, loss principally by water \$2,300; insurance \$500. Second floor, Dr. George Bronson, dentist, loss on office

were in his library.

The loose piles of paving blocks that reached almost the width of Elm street in several places proved a great hindrance to the progress of the firemen with their hose carriages.

All the families living in the vicinity of the burned blocks, generously threw open their doors to the unfortunate victims of the fire, and provided as far as they could every comfort.

An explosion, presumably of gas, tore up a portion of the roof of the stoop in front of Gallagher's store. Two young men who were standing on it at the time were severely shaken up.

Mrs. Mary Sherwood and her daughter, Ida, who jumped from the upper floor of the burning block, escaped very fortunately, the former getting off with a sprained ankle, and the latter with numerous bruises.

Charles Brinshall, while the flames were raging passed in front of the building on the sidewalk, when a large piece of plate glass fell, and cut his foot and knee quite seriously. Dr. G. A. Gilbert dressed the wounds.

Warden L. L. Hopkins desires to express his thanks to the members of the fire department for the promptness with which they responded to the two calls, under the very unfavorable circumstances which attended both.

The very first men on the scene attempted to get to the room on the top story of Griffin's block, in which the two women were imprisoned, but the fire had already gained such headway and the heat was so intense that it was found impossible to get above the second floor.

Had the hook and ladder truck been so that it could have been transported immediately the progress of the fire could have been stayed at a much earlier stage. It was a considerable time before horses could be procured.

The condition of the family of James Smith was really pitiful. They moved from Sandy Hook on Saturday last, and had their rooms nicely fitted up. Nearly everything they possessed was lost, and they were turned out on the street almost penniless.

The wet weather of late and the heavy rains of last night did considerable towards the protection of property, and it not only impeded the progress of the flames on the burning buildings but it also prevented adjacent buildings becoming ignited.

The horse railway track was obstructed for some time owing to it being necessary to run lines of hose across from the Wooster House corner. The company had cars above and below the obstruction, and by changing the horses no time or trips were lost.

With all the misfortune there were two things in favor of preventing a greater disaster. At the time of each fire there was no wind blowing, not even a slight breeze, and the showers had very thoroughly wet things down. Had not these two favorable circumstances existed, it is almost impossible to divine what the result might have been.

Through the generosity of General Charles T. Hillyer, of Hartford, the Y. M. C. A., of that place has come into possession of a \$30,000 site for a new building. The new site will contain a building 150 feet square. It is near the park.

The Protestant Episcopal church held in Christ church, Danbury June 12. The sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Lind-

The Housatonic railway Saturday, round trip Danbury, including admission at reduced rates, from all between Falls Village and Broton inclusive.

It is reported about town, the storm of yesterday a farmer in Redding was milked cow was struck and knocked the man had his left leg paralytic were unable to learn the man's name.

If you are fond of beautiful flowers, stop and view the orchids displayed in the Wilson's jewelry store. The and handsome specimens at Saugatuck.

The lecture of Rev. Dr. "Shams," which was advertised time ago to be delivered in the House for the benefit of the and the Children's Home, is postponed to an indefinite date, an early in the season of next year.

The next regular meeting of the painters' union, No. 121, will Tuesday evening, June 12th delegate to the national convention to be elected. A full attendance is necessary. Per order of the president.

The new officers of the local Army corps, Captain S. L. former Methodist minister, Jamieson and Cadet-Hennin to-day. Captain Lampton Hatch are to go to South 1 Conn.

C. M. Horch & Co., on Wednesday one of the most adorned windows in town's tion day. Besides the flags large and elegantly framed of the "March to the Sea," a ber of shot and shell from the fields of the war of the re-

An exhibition of the Lewis extingisher, manufactured Curtiss & Co., of Danbury, in the Wooster House square, day afternoon, at 5:40, by the R. Mahn. The qualities of the extingisher are well known and miss the exhibition.

The neatest and most complete map book ever published, known as "The Cyclists' Road Connecticut." It contains in county of Connecticut, and V county, N. Y., showing all private with reported cycling roads and classified. Luman Hut the J. M. Ives company, still of these books left.

Fred Frisbie, of Brookfield a lively time of it during the yesterday afternoon. He was in it with a team. He had in five calves and his little daughter on the seat with him. When it hail very hard the horses became and ran. He lost control and they sped like the wind. bobbed up and down and his little girl screamed, and for moments destruction stared Mr the face. The horses ran were winded, and then found shelter in a farmer's