

2/4/1890

AFTER THE FIRE.

What is Being Done by the Occupants of the Burned Buildings.

Thousands of people visited the scene of Sunday morning's conflagration yesterday and to-day, many driving from a considerable distance. Yesterday afternoon the square about the soldier's monument was filled with farmer's teams. There has been hardly an hour since Sunday morning that the guard ropes were not lined with people.

Since the smoke cleared away men have been at work about the ruins, although as yet little of the debris has been removed, owing to insurance complications. As soon as the representatives of the various companies arrive and the losses are properly adjusted the work of clearing away the wreckage will be commenced in earnest. The most noticeable thing about the ruins is how little escaped the flames. Not a wall, nor even a timber remains in position, except at the rear, where the wooden wall between the burned property and the dwelling houses upon the east, is supported by a mass of tin roofing.

There are tons of old iron in the cellars—stoves and the miscellaneous articles of a hardware stock. All are so badly damaged however, that they will be worth little except to the junkman.

Of the work of the firemen it can be said that they never worked harder to save property, than when called out Sunday morning. Opinions as to what might and might not have been accomplished had different measures been taken, are of course, nearly as many as there were people at the fire. While it seemed that it would have been possible to have confined the fire to the brick portion of Hull & Rogers' and Harris' stores, there are many advantages and disadvantages to be considered. As it was, every man of the department, paid and volunteer, exerted himself to save property, and confine the fire within the smallest possible limits. Every fireman, from Chief Meyers down, has the thanks of the property owners in the vicinity, and their work in saving what was saved is appreciated.

The exact loss, as a total, cannot be definitely given, but it will probably fall little short of \$200,000. The valuation of the burned buildings will, of course, be one of the principal items of this estimate. The loss to the tenants of Hull & Rogers' buildings falls heavily upon them, as in most cases nearly everything they possessed was ruined or destroyed.

NOTES.

The large safe in which Hull & Rogers kept their books and valuable papers was opened yesterday shortly after noon, and the contents found to be in excellent condition. The safe had fallen with its face upward, and some water found its way into it, but not enough to seriously injure the papers or books. James Moore, 2d, commenced this morning with a number of teams to clean the debris from the Bernd building.

Misses Supple & Hayt, the dress-makers who were burned out Sunday morning in the Hull block, have resumed business again at the corner of Main and Keeler streets, over Reed's drug store, and will be there for the next week.

Miss Senior, who had a dressmaking establishment in the Hull block, has several rooms in view and will be located somewhere before the week has gone, probably on Elm street, at the residence of G. H. Miller.

Fred. Harth, the jeweler, has secured a store on Liberty street, and will be ready for business in a day or two.

T. R. Hoyt & Co., are still looking for a store in which to resume their grocery business. They will share the store in Jones' block, Liberty street, with Mr. Harth.

Hull & Rogers' insurance is found to be \$52,000.

G. F. Spalding has bought the Rundle & White store, adjoining Phil. Simon's pharmacy, and has taken his stock from the city court room in the City Hall.

Dr. Oley's loss on office furniture was \$200, instead of \$2,000, as reported yesterday.

The fire is still burning briskly under the mass of ruins.

George R. Stevens is negotiating for a store on White street.

Louis Smith, the barber, has been located near the corner of Liberty street for many years and would like rooms as near there as he can get them.

Hull & Rogers will have a stock in the stores lately occupied by George F. Spalding, in a few days.

Mrs. Corcoran will retain her rooms in the Judd block and will be ready for business as soon as the necessary repairs can be made.

Miss M. B. Allen had dressmaking rooms in the Judd block and her loss is total. She had several suits finished and a number of others under way, all of which were destroyed. She was but partly insured, but will try to make good all losses to customers. As soon as possible she will secure rooms and resume business.

It was not Forsyth powder that exploded during the fire, as that compound burns almost exactly like common sugar except when confined, and even then it must be exploded by a dynamite cap.

Sam Harris has opened a temporary office at the City Hall pharmacy, where he can be found during business hours. The sidewalks have been cleared on Main street and by night there will be an unobstructed sidewalk along the entire front of the ruins except in front of the Judd block.

The buildings owned by Charles Hull are insured for between \$35,000 and \$35,000.

Mr. Hull Explains.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS:—Will you kindly allow me to correct an erroneous impression. It has been reported that I have been too harsh in my criticisms of the fire department in general and the fire police in particular. What I did say has been so magnified and distorted that it seems to have lost all semblance to its original form. When I saw two streams being wasted upon a pile of brick in the cellar of my building, I asked the firemen who were handling the hose to elevate the nozzles a few inches so that the streams would fall on or near the large safes in which Hull & Rogers kept their books thus cooling them so their valuable contents might be preserved. I did not even ask the firemen to step from their tracks. Now, had they been directing their efforts to a burning building I would have said nothing; but I naturally thought it more important to save papers worth many thousands of dollars than to cool off a lot of bricks already in the cellar. The men refused to turn their streams without orders from their chief, saying that he had ordered them where to play. I have no fault to find with the men, not at all. All honor to them I say, for obeying the orders of their superiors. What I dislike is a system that will not allow men to use their discretion and judgment in similar cases of emergency. If there are men in the department who are incapable of using good judgment at such a critical time they should be dispensed with as soon as possible, and better men secured to take their places; men in whom the chief may have sufficient confidence to allow them to use little discretion at critical moments. I have nothing but the kindest feelings and heartfelt gratitude for the men, one and all, but I believe the system is grievously wrong. I cannot close without expressing my thanks to the men who so kindly assisted the department in many ways, and to the department itself, but I think a little less red-tape would be an improvement.

Sincerely, CHARLES HULL.

A Card.

We return our sincere thanks to the members of the fire department, fire police, the policemen, and the many citizens who so kindly volunteered to assist them in their efforts to save

"Uncle Hiram" and His Show.

A. H. Woodhull, as *Uncle Hiram Home-spun*, portrayed the adventures of a Vermont farmer upon a visit to New York at Taylor's Opera House last evening, to the full satisfaction of an audience which packed the house, with the support of Louise Arnot and an excellent company. Mr. Woodhull presented a play equal to the average New England drama.

A feature of the evening was the music of the excellent orchestra—one of the best heard in the Opera House this season. The musical "Trip to Coney Island," was rendered with excellent effect, as were other popular novelties.

G. A. R. Encampment Delegates.

The Danbury delegates to the department encampment, G. A. R., at New Haven, Thursday and Friday of this week, are: A. E. Fuller, C. T. McHan, C. H. Hoyt, David H. Miller, of Georgetown; S. S. Ambler, of Bethel. The alternates are S. H. Smith and Peter Osborn. The post commanders who have a voice and vote are A. Morehouse, Jr., J. G. Foster, Capt. C. Quien, Henry Quien; William N. Ballard, Gen. James Ryder, G. R. Bickford, Martin Comstock, H. N. Fanton and Dr. W. C. Wile. The delegation will leave Thursday morning on the 9:05 train.

Mayor Hopkins Southern Trip.

Mayor Hopkins will leave Danbury Saturday morning next for Florida, and expects to be absent for a month. He will sail from New York for the south on the steamship *Kansas City*, of the Ocean Steamship line. When the mayor recovered from his severe attack of the grippe recently he stated to the common council, in meeting, that it was a matter of necessity for him to go south to recover his health. He was granted a month's leave of absence by the common council. Mayor Hopkins will be accompanied by Zerah Hoyt on his journey.

The Board Favors the New Road.

At a meeting of the board of trade Monday evening the matter of the new railroad—or the Ives' branch—was discussed, and a favorable resolution to the road was passed, as follows:

Resolved, That the board of trade of the city of Danbury regard the proposed railroad connecting this city with the Harlem railroad at Katonah—and thereby saving a distance of about seven miles and securing an all rail freight line to the city of New York—as a most desirable route for the interest of our city; and we trust that the new railroad company now organized for the building of the road will speed in their undertaking and have the road in running order at an early date; and we regard the thanks of the whole community as eminently due to the energetic and public spirited men who have devoted their time and money to bring the enterprise to a successful result.

The Bridgeport Excursion.

Over a hundred Danburians went to Bridgeport last night, some to witness the production by the Booth-Modjeska company of "The Merchant of Venice," and some to see the polo contest between the New Britain and Bridgeport teams. Those who went to Proctor's theatre saw the place crowded with an elegant audience and also saw a fine presentation of Shakespeare's play. Mr. Booth acted the Jew with all the impressiveness and power characteristic of him and Madame Modjeska portrayed her role with admirable grace, and made *Portia* an exceedingly agreeable character. The whole company was a worthy one. A special train left Bridgeport at the close of the performance and the Danbury party arrived home about half-past twelve.

The Fairfield County Home.

Report of the Fairfield County Temporary Home for dependent and neglected children for the past year:

It has had under its charge ninety-eight dependent and neglected children. There were twenty-seven in the home at the beginning of the year, and twenty-eight at the end. Eleven have been inmates of the institution during the entire year. Thirty have been placed in permanent family homes. Twenty-five have been placed out on trial. Eighteen have been restored to their parents or other relatives.

In September, five children died of diphtheria. The disease, suddenly and mysteriously appearing, was fought with the best appliances of modern medical science. Aside from this single epidemic, the history of the home has been of increased prosperity and interest.

That the county home's winning its way into the confidence of these classes in the community which it was primarily designed to benefit is shown by the fact that children of unfortunate families are frequently committed to its care, to be claimed again in more prosperous times.

The home is situated in Stratford, about ten minutes walk from the station, and friends interested in the work are welcome at any time. We are soon to have a new home which will be built the present year, that will enable the work to be more extensively carried on, and so have always the hearty co-operation of the commissioners the work is a success.

M. L. WARD, Visitor of Stratford Home for Danbury.

Old Papers.

E. A. Housman who has a sort of mania for anything old, unless it is butter, captured last week a whole wagon load of old newspapers. He brought them to this office under his arm. And we looked them over while he picked up the various manuscripts of past age, which were almost constantly falling from his overloaded pockets. Among these manuscripts were letters from Washington, Alex. Hamilton, Ben. Franklin, Mr. Smith and other Danburians. But what chiefly interested us was the package of old Danbury papers. And bigger than all others is a copy of the first edition of the Danbury Evening News, printed on Monday, October 2, 1871. That was a great day for the editor of this paper. He moved his office, moved his home, and started a daily paper—all in one day. This is more than any other man ever accomplished in one day.

Mr. Housman had in his package a copy of the *Farmer's Journal*, 1791, *Republican Gazette*, 1798, *Danbury Day*, 1812, *Danbury Gazette*, 1833, *Herald of Freedom*, 1834, *Danbury Locomot*, 1836, *Danbury Times*, 1841 and 1848, *Evening News*, 1871, *Danburian*, 1875, DANBURY NEWS (centennial number) 1876, *Bethel Ledger*, 1880, and *Hatters' Journal*, 1882.

In the *Danbury Times* of 1881, is printed a "catalogue of the officers, instructors, patrons and pupils of the Danbury Academy and Female Seminary," which we will print in a day or so. This was the Irwin school (now a tenement) on Wooster street.

Railway Notes.

A second move has been made by the Housatonic road in the effort to oust the Consolidated road from land below the elevator owned by the former and occupied by the latter's tracks. The first step was a formal notice that the lease or arrangement by which the Consolidated was permitted to use the property had expired. Following this, the Housatonic on Saturday caused to be made service of legal papers ordering the Consolidated to vacate the land by Feb. 19. Of course the Consolidated

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