

FOUR BLOCKS ARE SWEEP BY FLAMES

Blaze Causes Loss of \$225,000 in North End.

IS DRIVEN BY FIERCE WIND

Terrific Fire Starts in Barn of Oregon Transfer Company.

PERHAPS SET BY INCENDIARY

Great Business District in Jeopardy for Hours.

SAVED BY BRICK WALLS

Barr Hotel and Kierman Block Are Among Properties in Fire That Is Conquered Only After Great Fight.

FACTS ABOUT NORTH END FIRE

LOCATION—Flames originated in upper part of Oregon Transfer Company's place in the block bounded by Fifth and Sixth, Gilsan and Hoyt streets. An alarm was turned in at 5:18 o'clock, followed by a second and third alarm and by a general alarm at 5:40 P. M.

EXTENT—The fire spread rapidly, traversing four blocks, and was gotten under control at 8:20 o'clock on striking the blank walls of big brick buildings.

LOSSES—An estimate of the losses places the amount at \$225,000. This estimate is regarded as conservative.

ORIGIN—The cause is somewhat obscure, theories being advanced that it may have been incendiary, the result of spontaneous combustion in a lot of new hay, or the result of a carelessly dropped cigarette or match.

Fire blotted one full block off the map of the North Portland business district, burned most of the property off three other blocks, and threatened the entire district, late yesterday afternoon. Property worth approximately \$225,000 was destroyed, property representing nearly \$1,000,000 was actually scorched, and property worth well into the millions was within the danger zone.

The fact that a line of brick buildings blocked the course of the flames until the Fire Department had an opportunity to concentrate its forces at the weak points, accounts for the limiting of the flames to five blocks.

Mystery as to Origin.

Cause of the fire is not yet clear. There are several theories—incendiarism, spontaneous combustion in a lot of new hay, dropping of a match or cigarette, flying sparks from a chimney. The origin was traced to the middle section of the Oregon Transfer Company's place at Fifth and Gilsan streets.

The fire popped up with the suddenness that attends the lighting of a gas jet. Some smoke was seen on the roof of the Oregon Transfer Company's place about 1:15 o'clock. Fifteen minutes later the roof had given place to a great column of flames.

Fanned by a strong wind from the northwest, the column of flames passed quickly from building to building, gaining impetus from the big frame building and tons of hay and other combustible matter, the fire quickly leaped across the street to the Northern Pacific Wagon Works, where there was another great array of fuel, and sweeping this, passed on through the block from Fifth to the blind west wall of the Union Meat Company's place.

Leaps Across Two Streets.

Checked here, it concentrated its fury, as if with an intelligence of its own, and leaped into the block north of Gilsan street and then jumped Fifth and worked both east and west.

When, at 6:30 o'clock, it had run its course and given away before a small river that had been poured on from a score of nozzles, a sad picture of disaster lay all about. The whole block bounded by Fifth, Sixth, Gilsan and Hoyt streets was a heap of smoking debris. Nearly all the west half of the block bounded by Fourth, Fifth, Gilsan and Hoyt streets was gone; all frame buildings were in ruins between Fourth, Fifth, Gilsan and Flanders. The block between Fifth and Sixth and

ROOSEVELT WILL KEEP HANDS OFF

PROMISES NO INTERFERENCE WITH NOMINATIONS.

Leave States and Districts to Choose Congressmen and Governors. Confer With Woodruff Today.

OYSTER BAY, July 28.—President Roosevelt's attitude with regard to selection of candidates for Congressional and gubernatorial offices was made known today.

"The President will receive a number of political leaders at Sagamore Hill during the summer," said Secretary



Czar Nicholas II, of Russia, Entertaining President Fallieres at Reval.

Loeb. "They will be both National and state men, but that does not mean that the President will interfere in any nomination. He will maintain an attitude of noninterference in the selection of all candidates, Congressional as well as gubernatorial."

Mr. Loeb stated that the visit tomorrow of Timothy L. Woodruff, chairman of the New York State Republican committee, to Mr. Roosevelt is an "engagement made a long while ago."

BUMPED, SHE ASKS DIVORCE

Bride of 20 Days Alleges Husband Threw Her From Hammock.

HILLSBORO, Or., July 28.—(Special.)—Florence D. Walker, of Portland, has sued W. H. Walker for divorce. The couple were married in Portland, June 1, 1908, and the bride swears that on July 20 the husband brutally threw her out of a hammock, bruising and injuring her in such a manner as to cause her to fear for her safety. She asks that her maiden name, Calef, be restored.

FORBID HOP SUBSTITUTES

British Protective Measure Will Help American Growers.

LONDON, July 28.—With the view of assisting the local hop industry, the British government intends to prohibit the use of hop substitutes in all beer brewed in the United Kingdom. American hop-growers will benefit largely by this measure, as many brewers prefer the American hops to the local product.

TAFT NOTIFIED OF HIS NOMINATION

Great Crowd Witnesses the Ceremony.

CINCINNATI IN GALA ATTIRE

Speech of Acceptance Punctuated by Hearty Cheers.

CANDIDATE GIVEN OVATION

Fellow-Townsmen of All Parties Unite in Paying Honor to Republican Standard-Bearer—Public Holiday Is Declared.

CINCINNATI, July 28.—In the presence of a cheering throng that packed the streets of his home city for blocks around, William Howard Taft today, at noon, received formal notification of his nomination for the Presidency by the Republican party. A flag-draped platform erected in front of the old-fashioned residence of Charles P. Taft, in the heart of the business district of the city, was the rostrum from which the formal speeches incident to the ceremony were delivered. The city "was in gala attire in honor of the occasion, and the day was generally observed as a holiday.

Seats of Honor on Porch.

The thoroughfares in front of the old homestead where Judge Taft will make his campaign headquarters during September and October were fairly choked with the early arrivals and the platoon of police stationed in the neighborhood had all it could do to keep a way open for the guests and members of the notification committee, who were provided with seats on the big front porch, and with standing room on the spacious lawn.

Senator William Warner, of Missouri, past commander of the G. A. R., headed the notification committee, which consisted of a member from every state, territory and island possession of the United States. The representatives of the committee were chosen from the delegations attending the nominating convention at Chicago. There were also present today many members of the National committee, including Chairman Frank H. Hitchcock, who made a flying trip to Cincinnati, en route from Chicago to Washington and New York.

Crowd Cheerful Despite Heat.

The day was clear and very warm, with the slightest of breezes blowing from the hillsides. The standing guests and the crowds in the streets, however, seemed not to mind the scorching rays of the sun. But Judge Taft had blue-penciled his speech for purposes of delivery, and while not omitting any of the important declarations, he eliminated

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GOLD IS FOUND AT LOS ANGELES

BIG NUGGETS, WEIGHING \$125 EACH, IN EXCAVATION.

Discovery Sets City Wild and Hundreds Begin Digging for Precious Metal.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., July 28.—(Special.)—While digging a cesspool this afternoon on his lot in a fashionable new residence district in the southwestern part of the city, Morris Hurwitz found four gold nuggets, weighing about half a pound each, within a radius of five feet, and at a depth of 25 feet. The yellow



Clarence J. Shearn, Chairman of Independence Party's Committee on Resolutions.

chunks, each about three inches long and two inches in diameter, were taken to an assayer, who valued the four at \$500, or \$125 each. They were found in a stratum of gravel, and Hurwitz became so wildly excited over his discovery that he immediately stopped work and spread the news broadcast. The result was a wild stampede for the scene. It is expected that by daylight tomorrow hundreds of persons will be digging in the vicinity, and trouble over the ownership of property is feared. Every lot will be turned into a gold mine.

The same stratum of gravel was struck in other cesspools, but nobody else ever took the trouble to examine the material brought up, in which Hurwitz found the precious metal, and experts who made a hurried investigation this evening pronounced prospects exceedingly good throughout the section.

BEER FOR STANFORD MEN

Inn at Mayfield Licensed, Despite University's Objection.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28.—A liquor license has been issued to an innkeeper at Mayfield, the town near Stanford University, despite the fact that the town has been "dry" for four years. The university officials are determined that the institution itself shall continue to place liquor under the ban, but the officials of the neighboring towns refuse to enter the campaign and have granted the right to retail alcoholic beverages with meals.

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HISGEN IS NAMED FOR PRESIDENT

Independents Choose on Second Ballot.

GRAVES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Some Vote for Hearst, Despite His Disclaimer.

SHOUTS GREET PLATFORM

Denunciation of Old Parties Followed by Declaration of Radical Principles—Walsh Tells Why He Changed Base.

CHICAGO, July 28.—The first ballot for President in the Independent convention resulted: Hisgen, 286; Howard, 200; Graves, 213; Lyon, 71; Hearst, 49.

The second ballot was Hisgen, 280; Graves, 180; Howard, 109; Hearst, 49. Hisgen was nominated.

John Temple Graves was nominated for Vice-President.

CHICAGO, July 28.—The credentials committee was late in bringing its report to the convention hall, and as the result the first session of the convention of the Independence party was somewhat late in commencing work. The chairman could not be found, but the New York member of the committee wrote out a substitute report from memory, and it was promptly submitted and adopted. It declared that only one contest had been brought to it, from the Fourteenth District of Massachusetts, "and," added the report, "the contestant was seated." The successful competitor for the seat was not named, however, as the New York member of the committee had not charged his memory with the identity of the member.

Mr. Hearst, the actual temporary chairman, was not on the platform, and Judge Reuben B. Lyon, of New York, who presided, called next for the report of the committee on rules, order and permanent organization. This named Charles A. Walsh, of Iowa, as the permanent chairman.

Walsh Tells Why Party Is Born.

The mention of Mr. Walsh's name was received with cheers. He was escorted to the platform and, upon taking up the gavel, delivered his address as permanent chairman as follows:

"We have reached the parting of the ways. In the long years that have brought many of us arid and whitened down to the irrevocable step which we are about to take we have followed with all the zeal, all the loyalty, all the honesty and energy which possessed us, either the one or the other of the old party standards, glorying in their victories or unflinchingly facing their defeats, watching with sadness the rise of unworthy leaders, the uprating of new ideals, the slow but steady wasting away of the

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POUR MONEY INTO BRYAN TREASURY

ADMIRERS OF NEBRASKAN CONTRIBUTE CAMPAIGN FUNDS.

Letters From Every Part of United States Contain Donations From Democrats.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 28.—(Special.)—When William J. Bryan returned to Lincoln this morning he found approximately a bushel of letters containing contributions to his campaign fund. These letters came from every part of the United States and contained amounts varying from \$1 to



President Fallieres, of France, Who Conferred With the Czar on European Politics Yesterday.

to several hundred dollars. Among checks was one from a Memphis newspaper for \$426.75, which that paper had collected from its subscribers. List of givers to this Memphis fund included a "widow's mite" of \$1, and an equal amount from the Mary Gal-lowsay home of Memphis.

Word has been received at Fairview that in all parts of the country Democratic newspapers are receiving subscriptions to Mr. Bryan's fund. Especially in the South is this kind of work being done.

On the train between Omaha and Lincoln this morning several contributions were handed to Mr. Bryan. He was highly gratified at the reception accorded him in Iowa and in Nebraska.

SACK AMERICAN STORE

Shah's Horsemen at Tabriz Get Away With Sewing-Machines.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 28.—A special dispatch received here from Tabriz, Persia, says that the horsemen under Rahn Khan, who is operating on the side of the Shah, have pillaged the Russo-Persian high school at Tabriz and sacked the warehouse of an American Sewing Machine Company.

Carnegie in Auto Wreck.

INVERNESS, Scotland, July 28.—The car in which Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie were motoring here today collided with another car. Mr. Carnegie's car was damaged, but no one was injured.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND LARGE HOTEL

District Buys Block in North Portland.

REPLACE WEST SIDE SCHOOL

T. B. Wilcox Will Build Annex to Imperial.

COST WILL BE \$250,000

Hotel to Be Eight Stories High and Cover Quarter-Block—Important Deals Closed by Charles K. Henry.

TWO BIG DEALS CLOSED.

Two big deals were closed yesterday by Charles K. Henry, involving large sums of money and insuring to Portland two new and handsome buildings.

School District No. 1, through the Board of Directors, has purchased the block bounded by Couch, Davis, Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets for \$100,000, upon which will be erected a modern high school for West Portland.

T. B. Wilcox will erect an eight-story annex to the Imperial Hotel, upon the quarter block at the southeast corner of Seventh and Stark streets. It will cost \$250,000. The site was purchased for \$100,000.

In keeping with the march of progress in Portland, the West Side is to have a modern, fire-proof high school building. It was announced yesterday that the Board of Education has already purchased the site, paying therefor \$100,000. The deal was closed by Charles K. Henry and the property acquired is the entire block, bounded by Couch, Davis, Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets. It is considered a choice location for this purpose.

As further proof of the stability of Portland property and the rapid growth of the city, it was simultaneously announced that T. B. Wilcox will erect immediately upon the quarter block at the southeast corner of Seventh and Stark streets, purchased by him last week, a modern, fire-proof, eight-story structure. This deal was also closed by Mr. Henry and the new building has already been leased to Phil Mettschan, of the Imperial Hotel, and will be used as a part of that hostelry. It will cost about \$250,000.

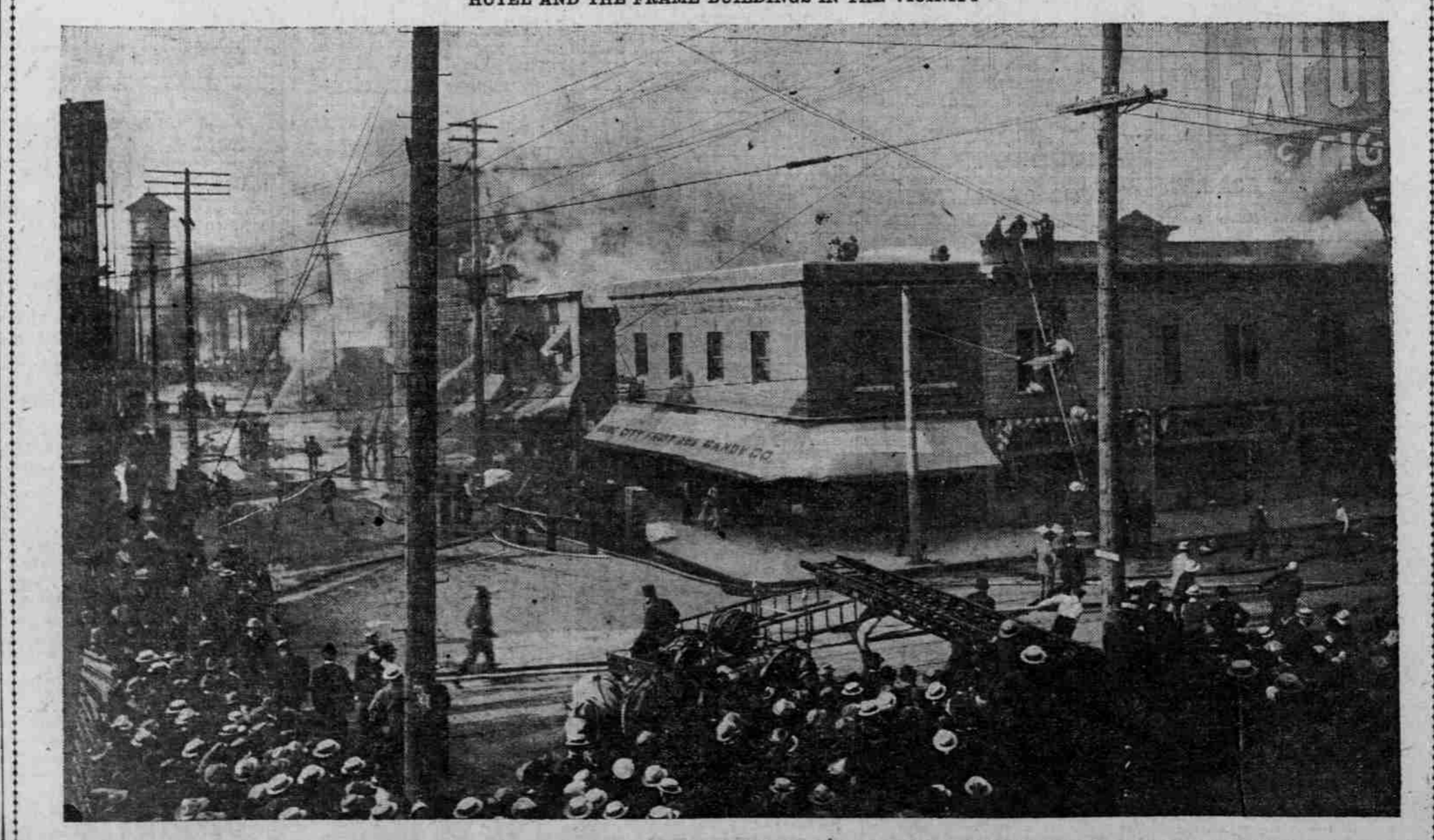
Plans Now Being Drawn.

This new hotel will be one of the most modern in the city and will be a beautiful structure architecturally, as well as being modeled for convenience and pleasure. Plans for the building are being prepared by Architects Whidden & Lewis. It will probably be finished outside in beautiful white tile brick.

That work on the construction of the new hotel building will begin soon, is apparent.

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VIEW OF THE FIRE LOOKING NORTH ON SIXTH STREET TOWARD THE UNION DEPOT. THE FIREMEN ARE PLAYING STREAMS ON THE BARR HOTEL AND THE FRAME BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY



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