

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

## By Telegraph.

## GENERAL.

CHICAGO, 9, evening.—A great many persons jumped into the river to escape the flames, but only to drown. Hundreds of animals perished in the stables and streets. It is estimated a hundred thousand people are homeless, a large proportion of whom are destitute of everything. Cooked food is in great demand. All surrounding towns will be requested to forward provisions and clothing, for the hungry and nearly naked women and children, as early as possible. Nearly every city and town east of here has responded to this demand; and it is hoped the west will not be backward.

Later.—It is now believed the spread of the fire southward is stayed at Harrison street, but on the north side it still rages, and that entire division of the city seems to have been utterly destroyed. It is feared that the west side of the north branch of the river will also be burned. The inhabitants in the section nearest the river are already moving further away.

Later.—It is now ascertained that the water works are not destroyed, and there is great joy.

CHICAGO.—The simple fact that the great city of Chicago is destroyed, that hundreds of millions of active capital have been ruined, and that a hundred thousand inhabitants are homeless, are enough. Any attempt to embellish would be but mockery. As the awful day draws to a close, thousands of anxious eyes watch the dense clouds of smoke which still roll over the burnt districts, with evident fear that a sudden change of wind may fan the flames. There is, however, little cause for apprehension, and reinforcements of firemen from other cities are constantly arriving. Col. J. J. S. Wilson, supt., is in receipt of dispatches from leading cities, announcing that aid is being forwarded for the sufferers. The Mayor of St. Louis telegraphs that seventy thousand dollars have been subscribed by merchants. Cincinnati promises one hundred thousand, and Cleveland is proportionately generous. All this and a great deal more will be needed to relieve the immediate pressing wants. About three-quarters of the U. S. mails were safe and were taken possession of by Col. Wood, of the Post Office service.

CHICAGO, 10.—About 10 o'clock on Sunday night, a small barn on Canal Porte Avenue, not far from Twelfth St., West side, was discovered to be on fire, just such a little fire as has happened a thousand times before. The wind at the time was blowing strongly from south-south-east. Owing to the extreme dryness everything was combustible. The slow beginning rapidly spread and soon reached the adjoining property. Taking the course of the wind, the fire began to move rapidly towards the heart of the city. Reaching the buildings below Twelfth Street, the flames rapidly devoured everything combustible in the way. Reaching Vanburen Street bridge, this was caught and quickly became a prey to the flames, and but served to carry the fire across the river. At this point the carnival of devastation and utter ruin began on the South side of the city. In a short time the magnificent depot buildings of the Michigan Southern and Rock Island Railroad Co.'s were in flames. From this time forward all the efforts of the fire department seemed unavailing.

CHICAGO, 6 p. m.—The progress of the flames in the south division was finally arrested about 1 p. m. This was accomplished by the blowing up and demolishing of several buildings on Wabash Avenue and Congress streets, by Lieut. Gen. Sheridan. The district burned over in the south division embraces everything from the main branch of the Chicago river to the Lake, embracing about a hundred blocks. This district contained all the leading houses, banks, insurance offices, hotels, &c. A large number of churches, including St. Mary's cathedral, St. Trinity, First Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian, St. Paul, Swedenborgian, &c. The Methodist church on the corner of Wabash Avenue and Congress streets, is saved. The Michigan Avenue hotel, on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Congress street, and the Congress Hotel, directly adjoining, on Congress street, are saved. Michigan Terrace, on Michigan Avenue, embracing the residence of Lt. Gov. Brass, Hon. J. Young, S. C. Gregg and other leading citizens, are completely burned, with the furniture and nearly all the other

contents. All the newspaper establishments are totally wiped out. The *Tribune* building resisted for several hours but finally yielded, when McVickers' Theatre, immediately adjoining, which had also withstood the raging element, finally succumbed. In fact all the buildings in the district, which claimed to be fire proof, shared the fate of those which could make no such claim. The great central depot at Lake Street became a heap of ruins about 9 o'clock. Most of the passenger cars of the Michigan Central, Burlington and Quincy, and Illinois Central Railroads were moved on the break water and saved. West of Clark Street in the South Division, the fire extended south as far as Polk Street, sweeping everything before it. The distance burned over here is some three blocks wide and over half a mile in length, numbering about twenty blocks. The buildings were generally of a cheaper class, embracing saloons, small shops, poor residences, &c. The district burned over on the west side commences at Taylor Street, running from Dikorer to Jefferson. It ran thence four or five blocks north, and then nearly diagonally towards the river, and finally the west line was established on Clinton Street. Reaching thence to the river it moved in this line northward until it reached the Northwestern and West side depots, where it stopped, a distance of nearly two miles from where it started. The P. F. W. & C and St. Louis depots were in this territory. Both passenger and freight depots are wiped out. Almost the entire northern division, from the main branch of Chicago river to Lincoln Park, nearly two miles in length and one mile wide, is completely destroyed, including the water works, a large number of elegant churches, &c. This statement embraces the district devastated and embraces almost the entire business portion of the city. South of Harrison street, in the south division and reaching out many miles and covered almost entirely with dwellings composed largely of the more elegant class, is untouched and may now be regarded as safe from injury. For miles and miles in every direction the side walks, lawns, vacant lots and front yards of dwellings are filled with people who have escaped from these burning dwellings, taking with them only a scanty amount of their furniture and clothes. The sight is truly pitiful and harrowing. They must receive immediate relief or many will perish from exposure and starvation.

Of course, as stated in the morning dispatch, it is utterly impossible to make an approximate estimate of the entire loss, but it can scarcely fall below one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Of course but a fraction of this amount can be realized from the insurance.

Gen. Sheridan has to-day telegraphed to St. Louis, to the military department there, to send at once to Chicago 100,000 rations. He has also telegraphed to Omaha for two companies of regulars and one hundred tents. They will be all here as soon as they can reach here by rail. He will also order another hundred thousand rations.

Mayor Mason has issued a proclamation, calling a meeting to-night in the west division to see what the citizens can do for the relief of the sufferers. There are at least 100,000 people who know not where they can get enough provisions to satisfy the appeals of hunger.

A later rumor from the north division says the devastation is less wide spread than hitherto reported. I hear no deaths reported by the disaster yet, but undoubtedly many have perished.

CINCINNATI, 9.—The great fire in Chicago monopolizes all attention. Business is totally suspended. The newspapers bulletins keep the people advised. The extras by the morning press were early caught up. The great calamity moves every heart. A citizens' meeting was called at the Chamber of Commerce and largely attended. Mayor Davis presided. Committees on transportation and finance were appointed and subscriptions and cash payments were at once received. The Chamber of Commerce gave \$5,000. Many leading firms gave \$1,000 each. At 12 o'clock \$25,000 had been subscribed. At half past ten Mayor Davis sent by special train three steam fire-engines and hose at the command of the city, together with men necessary to man them.

This morning a large number of teams were sent by Messrs Tucker & Sherman, to assist in the removal of such furniture as had been saved from the Sherman House

Aid was telegraphed for to Milwaukee at three o'clock on Sunday morning and a number of fire engines were at once sent forward by express. The banks have all been destroyed, excepting the First National, and the upper part of that is gutted. The vaults, however, are intact. The hotels destroyed are from Van Buren street to the river and from the river to the lake. All were destroyed and the guests sought refuge in hotels in other parts of the city and the Union Stock yards, Ills.

The railroads east and south are sending no trains out this forenoon, as all the cars in the city over Sunday are consumed. The incoming trains are all behind time, owing to fires raging in the woods and prairies. The evening trains will probably start out on time. The mails at the post office being consumed, of course all the accumulation of mail matters for two days have been consumed. The mail for the stock yards are taken from the incoming trains for delivery there. The water and gas works are both destroyed. Probably for some time the only supply of water will be from the Lake, and a substitute for the latter will have to be employed. All the bridges across the Chicago river, from Van Buren to the Lake, have been burned, and the only means of getting from one division of the city to the other is by the entrances, which are badly blocked. The newspaper offices have all or nearly all been swept out of existence and their material destroyed. No papers have been or will be issued down town to-day, the stock yards *Sun* being the only one which has escaped the conflagration.

CHICAGO, 10, 3.30 p. m. Later.—Word is just brought that a fierce fire is raging on Thirty First St. This street is two miles South of the Southern fire limit on the south side and a little less than that from the limit on the west side. This has been set on fire for the purpose evidently of destroying the remaining part of the city which is largely occupied by wealthy residents. It is also known that two men, caught in the act of firing buildings, have been shot, and two others led off with ropes around their necks. As the wind is blowing a perfect gale, the end cannot be foretold.

The village of Casselo, Indiana, on the line of the Fort Wayne Railroad, about thirty miles from Chicago, took fire last night from the fire raging in the prairies, and was entirely destroyed.

Fires are raging in the peat beds near South Bend, Ind.

Cockerel and companion, escaped Nevada convicts, reported killed, have been captured alive.

CHICAGO, 10.—The following eloquent and truthful description of the fire has been furnished by a gentleman who participated in the work throughout: "None but an eye witness can form an idea of the fury and power of the fire-fiend as he revelled among the palatial buildings and warehouses on the south side. With the wind blowing a hurricane at times, it seemed but the work of a moment for the fire to enter the south ends of buildings fronting on Randolph, Lake and Water streets, and reappear at the north doors and windows, belching forth in fierce flames which often licked the opposite buildings; and then the flames belching from buildings on both sides of the streets would unite and present a solid mass of fire, completely filling the streets from side to side, and shooting upward a hundred feet into the air above the house tops in their mad career; and thus was street after street filled with flames and fire, and the exultation of the fire-fiend was given vent to in a roar which can only be equalled by combining the noise of the ocean when its waters are driven during a tempest upon a rocky beach, with the howl of the blast. Huge walls would topple and fall into the sea of fire without apparently giving a sound, as the roar of the fiery element was so great that all the minor sounds were swallowed up; and the fall of walls was only perceptible to the eye and not to the ear. If our readers will recall to their minds the fiercest snow storm in their experience, and imagine the snow to be fire as it surged hither and thither before the fury of the fiend, they will be able to form a faint conception of the flames as they raged through the streets of our doomed city. Many of the buildings situated along South Water street buried their red hot rear walls in the waters of the river, into which they plunged with a hiss like unto nothing earthly, throwing up a billow of water which would gradually subside until another wall would follow. The heat was so intense, at times, from some of the burning buildings that they could not be approached within one hundred and

fifty feet, which accounts for the manner in which the fire worked back and often against the wind. The fire, after reaching the business part of Randolph and South Water streets, leaped the river onto the north side in an incredibly short space of time, and thence among the wooden buildings on that side it reached the lake shore, after touching block after block of happy dwellings with its fierce blast. A scene of more powerless effort to fight an enemy was never presented than this. The people tried to combat the fire fiend; but the combat was not of long duration, for the people bowed their heads in anguish of spirit and suffered the fiend to have untrammelled sway. And well and thoroughly has he done his work; and as nothing of past history of civilized nations chronicles anything to which this can be compared, so in all future time the great Chicago fire, when mentioned, will bring to the heart of the sufferers a pang of anguish, to future generations a simile of everything that is fearful and terrible. While there are a great many instances of generous devotion on the part of rich and poor, in dividing with the destitute, there are painful instances of selfishness. One was trying to remove valuable papers from an office, and asked two firemen to help him, which they refused unless he paid them fifty dollars. The papers were destroyed. Drivers of express wagons have taken one hundred and even five hundred dollars for an hour's use of their vehicles in getting distressed people away. Among the sad accompaniments of the calamity was to see hundreds of men and boys beastly intoxicated around the streets of the north division, where the saloon keepers' stock, turned into the street, furnished a convenient opportunity for the gratification of slakish propensities; and there can hardly be a doubt that many of these poor wretches found their death in the flames, from which they were too helpless to escape. One poor man had crowded for refuge into a water main, lying in the streets near the water works, but the fire fiend found him even there before he could get his body wholly in safety and robbed him of his life.

In the city there is no water except what is taken from the lake. Very grave fears of outrages by the thieves on the west side are felt on every hand. General Sheridan, who has been a hard worker all through the fire, is still asking for troops from different points to keep order. All business and work are suspended, and everyone is intent in securing first something to eat, next shelter.

The suffering on the north side is heart-rending; men women and children—50,000 of them—are huddled together like so many wild animals, in one place; in another place 17,000 Germans and Irish praying for relief. Helpless children are asking for bread from heart-broken parents, who know not which way to turn or what to say—nothing to do but await the distribution of supplies, which at best must be a slow proceeding, as there are parts of the burnt districts over which it is almost impossible to travel. Women in the pangs of child birth, and patients who have been aroused from beds of sickness to save lives that at best were nearly spent—all were exposed to the rain of last night and the cold, raw winds of to-day. Several deaths have occurred in Lincoln Park, and three women have brought children into the world only to die.

There are people who in the bitterness of their souls ascribe the calamity to God's judgment. A German said to me, "This is a second Sodom and Gomorrah and the curse is on it." Another night must be spent in Lincoln Park and the brick fields at Division Street, and yet another and another. Each train and extras are loaded to their fullest capacity, taking people away, who in many instances have no place to go to, yet can't stay here; and every train is obliged to leave five times as many as it takes.

Every precaution is being taken by the authorities to guard the people to-night, and if morning comes without robberies, murders, or a renewal of the fire, then all will thank God and go forward with courage.

The expression of sympathy on all hands is most gratifying, but more help must come.

The *Journal* will publish a paper to-night. Other papers will follow to-morrow.

BUFFALO, 10.—The council of this city has appropriated \$100,000 for the relief of the Chicago sufferers. The board of trade has made other generous contributions.