

sixth floor and is thought to be buried in the debris, caused by the falling walls. The boy was 18 years old, but none of the employes is able to give his name.

A piano company occupied the first second and third stories of the buildings. Among other tenants were the Presbyterian board of publications and the Sweet-Wallach company, dealers in photographic supplies, the latter on the sixth floor. It was here that the fire broke out. The floor was stored with chemicals and materials used in the manufacture of photographic supplies and, according to some who escaped, the entire floor was swept with flames in five minutes after the fire broke out. Three hundred girls were employed by this firm and when the fire broke out a panic ensued, many of the unfortunate women being trampled under the feet of their comrades in their frantic efforts to escape. Cut off from escape by the elevators and the stairways, people penned in the burning building began jumping from the windows, and though the firemen and others held nets and canvas many were crushed on the stone sidewalks. According to eye-witnesses as many as ten jumped at once from the top floor and others were seen shortly after to fall back into the flames. The flames quickly spread to the floors beneath.

The floors occupied by the Presbyterian board of publication and Sunday school supplies company also contained material which readily burned. On the lower floors the piano supplies and instruments held in stock by the Emerson Piano company were soon transformed into tinder. The firemen were badly handicapped by the heat which was terrific. Within a radius of a block the heat broke panes of glass and dislodged signs, and streams of water were directed on the buildings on both sides of the street that were far away in order to prevent them from catching fire. Several minor blazes did occur. The fiercest fire was in the rear of the Emerson company, where were located big dry goods stores. Thirty-five minutes after the fire broke out the floors had all fallen and in a moment or two the wall fell. Shortly after the front wall bulged outward and fell, the tracks of the Union Elevated loop being completely covered with debris and blocking the whole elevated system.

Miss Kate Carney, forewoman of the National Music company on the fourth floor of the Emerson building, is thought to have been burned to death after heroically helping to save many lives of her fellow employes. When it was first learned the building was on fire the forty or more girls employed by the National Music company rushed to the elevators and stairway. Miss Carney tried to stop the rush, but was unable to cope with the panic-stricken girls and while some rushed down the stairways, a large number beat at the elevator cage and screamed for help. The elevator was ascending and the conductor stopped at the fourth floor. In an instant it was filled with the frightened girls. Miss Carney remained on the floor to see that all the girls escaped and as the last one entered the car Miss Carney started to follow. There was such a crowd in the elevator that Miss Carney could not get in and the elevator descended without her. It is thought she was too late to escape, and overcome by the smoke which was pouring into the place, fell to the floor and was burned to death.

Josie Baxa and Annie Baxa, sisters, living at 568 west 19th street, and employed by the National Music company, leaped from the second floor to the street. Josie's right ankle was broken and her sister was severely bruised.

Miss Carney was a true heroine. Although at the outset she had oppor-

tunity to escape with the other women, she seemed to feel it her duty to stay and help the escape of the girls over whom she had charge. Her voice could be heard above the shrieks of the panic-stricken girls, urging them to preserve order and reassuring them again and again. She stood near the stairway and attempted to seize the foremost women as they dashed down to the next floor, but she was thrown aside.

When she saw there was no hope of stopping the panic she darted to the elevator cage to calm the others. As the elevator ascended, Miss Carney ordered the conductor to stop. She then turned and helped her charges into the cage. During all the excitement she remained calm and issued orders as though directing the women at work. As the elevator started to descend without Miss Carney one of the girls cried to the conductor to stop, but the brave woman, though staring death in the face, shouted to them not to mind her, that she would take care of herself. The girls she sent down the elevator escaped unharmed. Two of those who bolted headlong down the narrow stairway, Josie and Annie Baxa, made their way to the second floor but were cut off by the flames and were forced to jump from a window. They were both badly injured, but at the hospital their greatest anxiety and sorrow was regarding Forewoman Kate Carney.

The fire seemed to spring from three floors at one time. The occupants of the fourth floor of the Emerson building swept to the rear of the building. On the fifth floor and the sixth floor those in the front of the building heard the alarm and saw the smoke and flames at the same time. There was no time for inquiry. The dense smoke rushed through the rooms and drove the employes of the various establishments down the stairway. There was but one winding stairway leading from the top floor to the bottom and but one elevator. In the employ of Sweet-Wallach & Company were twenty-eight men and women.

There were a dozen or more in the employ of the Presbyterian board of publication on the fifth floor. There was a frightened rush of people to the elevator at the first call of fire. The elevator boy was on the fourth floor when the alarm was given. From the National Music company and the office of Alfred Bierley, on the fourth floor, half a dozen employes were taken down to the first floor. The boy returned once to the upper floors and his elevator was loaded again. He did not dare to make a third trip for the smoke was pouring down the shaft.

Men and women without hats or coats ran down the stairway and into the street. The first intimation that people on the street had of the fire was the appearance of several of the fleeing employes. At the same time a dense mass of smoke poured out of the front windows of the fourth and fifth floors. In another moment the upper floors were wreathed in flames and smoke. Several people made an attempt to run up the narrow stairway but were turned back at the second floor by the downward rush of the smoke. There were apparently not over thirty people who made their escape by the elevator and stairway. The building blazed so fiercely that the escaping employes began looking for each other in the crowd that gathered quickly at the scene. A number of the people on the upper floors made their escape from the rear by the fire escape, but that egress was cut off in a few moments by the flames. Then the spectators were horrified to see the body of a man whirling downward from the cloud of smoke and flame at the upper floor. The body struck the pave-

ment and life was extinct when ready hands ran to pick up the unfortunate, who was recognized at once as Cashier Binns, of Sweet, Wallach & company. A moment later two other forms were seen at the window of the north end of the Wabash end front, and they sprang within a second of each other.

Several women standing in a group on the opposite side of the street, watching the leaping forms of the two men with blanched faces, said they saw the face of a woman at the window during an instant that the wind had swept away the smoke. In the next instant and with a rush and roar that could be heard for a block the entire top of the building from the third story up burst out in a sheet of flame, graph wires almost caused a panic among the dense crowds of spectators. The wires falling across the rails of the elevated loop were instantly charged with electricity and a wild rush to get out of the way took place. When water was turned on to the burning elevated loop structure a beautiful sight occurred. As soon as the streams struck the feed rail they were apparently converted into showers of electric sparks and an aurora was formed sometimes spreading fanwise, then shooting high into the air as the spray drifted in the wind. This was kept up until the current was shut off.

In less than half an hour after the fire broke out the Emerson building, which was seven stories high, 80 feet front by 150 feet deep, was level with the ground. It was of what is known as "mill construction," with a front of plate glass and iron columns. The occupants were the Emerson Piano company, Conover Piano company, Chicago Cottage Organ company, Decorators' Wall Paper company, National Music company, H. Holtzman & company, Piano stools; Presbyterian board of publication, Alfred Boyl, sheet music publisher; Sweet-Wallach & company, photographic supplies; W. A. Olmstead, school supplies.

The elevated railway tracks, which pass the building, were badly damaged, and there will be a loss of \$10,000 or \$15,000 from the breaking of plate glass in the stores on the opposite side of Wabash avenue.

The six story building adjoining on the north, Nos. 211-13 was badly damaged, and its contents soaked with water and partially burned. The occupants of this building are The Educational Publication company, Thomas Charles & Company, Kindergarten supplies; Ideal Music company, sheet music; New Haven Clock company; Waterbury Watch company; E. H. Putler & Company, publishers; R. C. Weichbrodt, turkish rugs; George B. Ward & Company, photograph finishers, and N. G. Uhlain, musical instrument repairer.

The loss on this building and contents is estimated at \$50,000, but may be more.

#### CANVASS OF NATIONS.

OIAA, March 1, 1898.

Senator F. J. Cannon, Aloha Oe:  
Ke kumu o Kuu make-make i ka  
hoohulaina, i maluhia kela apu-  
ni. I holo pono na hana o ka  
aina nei. I noho makou malalo  
o kekahi aupuni ikalka, nana e  
hoomalau i ko makou waiwai. No  
ka mea, plha loa ka ania i na Kea-  
pani, alla ala mal na kue mal  
laloko mai.

I remain yours truly,  
HERMAN ELDERTS.

The foregoing is one of several mes-  
sages to Senator Cannon of Utah from  
native Hawaiians favoring annexation.