

merchandise ever carried by a house in the west. The entire loss will reach close upon \$25 000; insurance \$10,000.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The proprietors and the clerks left the store about 7:30 when everything was apparently as safe as they possibly could be.

The house of Durrane, Winters & Co. was one of the pioneer firms of the Snake River valley, having been established here some ten years ago, and for honesty, uprightness and fair dealing the firm was surpassed by none. To say that this loss is a heavy blow to Messrs. Durrane, Winters & Co. but faintly describes the misfortune that has befallen them. The savings of ten years' patient toil and labor, acquired only through unremitting attention to business, and the most frugal and economical management—all swept away by the fire fiend in the short space of half an hour, is indeed a calamity that would be trying to the stoutest of hearts. The members of the firm have the profound sympathy of the entire community, in fact, we all feel that by their loss we all suffer. However, their well known energy and business ability encourages us in the hope that they will soon be in business again, receiving the hearty support and patronage of their many friends and patrons.

IN LOCO.

### ST. GEORGE STAKE CONFERENCE.

Saturday, December 14th, was occupied by the preliminary quarterly gatherings of the High Priests and of the members of the Relief society, the former under the presidency of Father William Fawcett and the latter under the presidency of Sister Anna L. I. Ivins.

The Stake Priesthood meeting also attended to its business on Saturday, under the President of Stake McArthur.

Sunday and Monday, the 15th and 16th inst., were occupied each morning and afternoon in Stake conference. The attendance was very good from most parts of the Stake. We did not have any of the general authorities of the Church to bless us with their counsels, nor any other visitors not residing in our Stake.

President McArthur delivered the opening address, greeting the congregation with a warm welcome, and setting forth the object of our coming to conference as being to learn the progress of the work of God, and to more perfectly understand our duty. As Saints, we have grave responsibilities resting upon us; we each have a soul to save and we must also help to save others. The Gospel will sanctify all who abide by its precepts, and such will partake of the full salvation which has been purchased by the blood of Christ. Latter-day Saints are called to build up Zion and to be prepared to receive the Zion of God from above. He concluded by giving a good report of the condition of the Stake.

During the conference Elders David H. Cannon and Erasmus B. Snow also spoke freely to the edification of the people; as did also High Councillor James Andrus and twelve of the twenty-one Bishops of the Stake.

Interesting experiences were related by recently returned missionaries Edward R. Frel, of the Swiss and

German mission, John Batty, of the British mission, and Edward M. McArthur, of Oklahoma conference of the Indian Territory mission.

The general authorities of the Church, as also the Stake authorities were presented to the conference and voted for with the usual unanimity.

On Sunday evening conjoint conference of the Mutual Improvement Associations and Sabbath schools held a highly profitable session in the St. George tabernacle.

A pleasing feature of this quarterly gathering from the different parts of St. George Stake was the giving of a vocal and instrumental concert on the evenings of Saturday and Monday, 14th and 16th instants, under the able leadership of Elder Joseph W. McAllister.

In addition to St. George tabernacle choir there were fifteen members of Logansville choir, ten from that of Bunkerville, ten from that of Santa Clara, twelve from that of Washington, eleven from that of the Third ward of St. George and fifteen vocalists selected from other choirs in the Stake, there last having been personally solicited to attend by the "committee of combination."

JAMES G. BLEAK,  
Clerk of Stake.

### A THEATER PANIC.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 27.—In a senseless panic caused by a defective gas burner and a foolish cry of fire at the old Front street theater to night, twenty-four people were killed, two fatally injured and ten more seriously hurt.

Up to 2 o'clock this (Saturday) morning thirteen of the dead have been identified. The others are at the morgue awaiting identification.

Almost all the victims are of Polish nativity and Hebrew extraction. Many of the injured were taken to their homes by friends, rendering it almost impossible to get a complete list at this time.

The theater, which is probably the oldest in the city, was filled from pit to dome with people who had assembled to listen to a Hebrew opera, which had been given in the old opera house twice a week for the past month. The ticket office receipts show that over 2,700 tickets had been sold when, at 8 o'clock, the sale of seats was stopped because there was no more left. General admission tickets were sold, however, after this, and it is supposed that there were at least 3,000 people within the walls when the curtain went upon the first act. As the capacity of the house is less than 2,500, the density of the crowd may be imagined.

Ten minutes after the curtain rose, one of the attendants went up to the second tier to light a gas jet which appeared to have been extinguished. As he turned the cock and applied a match the light flared up, and it was seen there was no tip to the burner. The jet was well down toward the stage on the left hand side of the house, in plain view of the greater part of the audience, but as the glare from it showed against the wall, some one in the gallery shouted fire.

In an instant there was a wild scramble for the door, in which the whole audience took part. The vanguard of the terror-stricken multitude reached the entrance on Front street, and pushed on by the howling, shriek-

ing mob behind them. There those in the foremost rank were compelled to turn to the right and to the left to reach the double entrance-way, built in the form of a storm door. Passing through these doors they reached a flight of steps, leading from each door downward to a landing, from whence a broad stairway of moderate height would have carried them into the street and to safety. These steps leading from the doorway are but five feet high, but the landing at their base is narrow. Down these the frightened people hustled themselves in the frightful struggle to reach open air, and to escape the certain death behind them. As the crowd reached the landing, one to the right and one to the left, they met. There was a brief struggle, and then some one lost his or her footing and fell. In a moment the crowd, pushed with irresistible force from the rear, crowded upon the prostrate form and began, in turn, to stumble and reel, and presently fall prone upon the floor, under the myriads of feet coming down like a herd of buffaloes from behind. In less time than it takes to tell it, the landing was packed twenty or thirty deep with the panic-stricken multitude and the hundreds behind them were struggling over them to reach the street.

The tumult attracted an immense crowd from the outside, many of whom tried to gain entrance to the theater, thus adding to the confusion.

A dozen policemen also attracted by the shrieks of the frightened crowd, hurried to the scene, pushed through the door and to the writhing mass on the landing.

Among the first to reach them was Officer E. J. Kelly. Forcing his way in through the main door he grasped a pair of arms, and pulling with all his might, dragged a woman from under the surging crowd. A glance at her face showed that she was past all human aid, dead from suffocation.

Again he reached into the mass of humanity and pulled out a boy about 7 years old. He, too, was dead, also from suffocation, with scarce a bruise on his body. The other officers, by this time reinforced by a dozen of their fellow officers, dragged out the prostrate ones, passing them to those on the sidewalk.

Ambulances carried the dead to the morgue and the wounded to the city hospital, wherever practicable. In many cases the slightly injured, and in a few cases those who were badly hurt, were taken to their homes by friends.

When the mass on the landing had been cleared, the frightened mob outside were quieted down sufficiently to enable the police to clear the theater. Then it was found that there had been no danger and not a soul would have been injured had the audience remained in their seats.

The theater was first opened to the public in 1829, but nine years later was burned, and the present structure took its place. Jenny Lind, Macready, Charlotte Cushman and many other notables performed there, and in 1864 it was the scene of the Republican national convention which renominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency and Andrew Johnson for the second place on the ticket. The convention at which the Democrats