

tory of the Bubb & Kipp company facing on Broadway almost a full block away, began to blaze. The fire had been started with the wind in the northeast, but it had now veered almost due east, and the merchants in the business section of the east side grew fearful. The flames had jumped across the stores on the east side of East Water street and had taken a newer grip in the big Bubb & Kipp factory. Five minutes more and Jacob Wellaur & Co.'s wholesale grocery store, on the east side of Broadway, directly opposite Bubb & Kipp's, was in flames. It seemed as if

#### A MOUNTAIN OF FIRE

rolled across Broadway. One instant not a building on East Broadway was in flames, and the next a rolling wave of fire swept across the street and descended on the buildings opposite. In a moment they were wrapped in flames. Thousands of streams of water could not stay the conflagration in its march of destruction towards the lake. The walls of a three-story brick building on Broadway formerly occupied by the Cracker Trust, but then vacant, began to totter, and warning voices urged the crowd to keep back just in time. The whole front of the building pitched into the street. A few moments later the sides fell outward with a crash. The people in that part of the Third ward realized that their homes were doomed. There was a stampede of residents into the street, all armed with furniture, cats, dogs and all manner of household utensils and bedding, and vehicles of every description were hurrying away with the belongings of people whose homes were soon to be in ruins.

Meanwhile the flames had gone over the ground they formerly missed in the store of J. P. Kissinger & Co., and the Milwaukee Art Glass Works, opposite the block in which it had originated. The Wellaur block seven stories high, was soon on fire with the Milwaukee Chair company, a vacant building owned by the Pfister & Vogel Leather company and the wholesale grocery store of Boundy, Peckham & Co., and all on Broad avenue. The next building to succumb was the National Distilling company, the whisky supply of the state, on Buffalo street. The wind was still carrying a whirlwind of flame on toward Lake Michigan in a direct line with its starting point, and a scramble began.

Chief of Police Janssen ordered the entire force to the fire and they assisted in getting out the furniture and household goods of the luckless families, who were forced to flee from the path cut out by the flames.

#### A DOZEN FRAME BUILDINGS

along Milwaukee and Jefferson streets, between Detroit and Chicago streets, as well as those on Buffalo and Chicago streets were locked up as if they had been outlined on paper. All these buildings were consumed in half an hour of the time when the flames leaped over Broadway and started in the Wellaur block. Suddenly the wind swept around as unexpectedly as before where it was, in the northeast, when the fire alarm rang. It was now almost due south, cutting out a broad avenue of destruction toward the Mil-

waukee river and Lake Michigan. In its path lay the big freight sheds and yards of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, together with a round house and its valuable contents of rolling stock. The end of the freight sheds at the corner of Jefferson and Chicago streets was the first to ignite, and the flames soon spread all over the yards, burning freight cars and everything before it. The company soon had a force at work saving its property. Locomotives and freight cars were taken out of harm's way.

Having cut its path over to Jackson street, to Broadway, the fire was now following the south wind down Broadway, down Jefferson. Down Milwaukee street along Broadway it swept to the Weisel manufacturing company's plant at Chicago street and No. 10 engine house on Broadway. When it reached Weisel's place, the department had prepared to attempt to cut it off with dynamite. There kegs were placed in a building, having been stored there to await the coming of the flames. As each went off in close succession, a cry went up from the thousands who blocked the streets for a radius of a mile that the gas works had exploded.

It was about 9:30 p.m. when the first building on the northeast corner of the Milwaukee gas company's plant began to burn.

#### THE GAS WORKS

occupy the territory bounded by Mil-Menominee and Erie streets and the alley between Jefferson and Jackson streets. The gas went out in many parts of the city, and it was feared that the works were doomed, but at 11 o'clock the great oil tanks were still intact. Bethel Home, near the gas works, caught fire, and soon after Wirsicus & Hammond's delivery stable on Broadway, containing hundreds of horses, was in the path of the flaming cyclone. Some of the horses were taken away, while a number stampeded. The Laura Catlin Kindergarten also succumbed despite the dynamite. George Topper's iron foundry and Reiberg's vinegar works were destroyed, together with innumerable small buildings, saloons and residences. The valuable property of the Milwaukee Gas company was almost entirely saved. When the fire began to head that way, the tanks were sunk below the level, leaving nothing combustible above the surface. The flames almost encircled the works without communicating to them.

The fire spent itself on the extreme eastern side, when it destroyed Hansen's elevator. At midnight it was thought to have done its work, but the flames are still raging among the acres of burning and smoking ruins. Hansen's malt house within a few rods of the border of Lake Michigan with an adjoining elevator made a brilliant display when they caught. At 12:30 Liedersdorf's block and most of the shops in the block between Buffalo and Erie streets were on fire. It is rumored that some lives were lost in Bubb & Kipp's factory, as many employees were working when the flames descended so suddenly on the big building. Up to 1 a.m. two dead firemen have been brought to the morgue. A woman about 40 years of age, who sought refuge in the Third ward school house, died of heart disease. Her name and address were not learned.

At 2:30 this (Saturday) morning Chief Foley announces that the fire is fully under control.

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 29.—The scene in the burned district this morning is one of blackness and desolation. A black pall of smoke hovers over a great area, relieved here and there by lambent tongues of flame, lapping red, like the tongue of some monster carnivorous animal, hungry for yet more prey. But the destroyer has received the deathblow and is powerless to inflict further injury. Where last night stood the stately business houses with their wealth of merchandise, little homes of the working poor, and all that goes to make up the life of a great city, is today a heap of hot and smoking ruins. In twelve hours from 6 o'clock last night, was crowded a destruction that will take more than as many months to repair, and much of the work wrought by the flames can never be restored.

Starting in the store of the Union Oil company, in East Water street, the fire swept before a fierce gale consumed over thirteen blocks of business houses and residences, and more than three hundred houses in all, caused the loss of five lives, and \$8,000,000 worth of property. It is now entirely under control, but the ruins in places are burning fiercely and it will be several days before the last spark is extinguished. The gas works were in imminent danger, but by good management they were fortunately saved almost intact, and within a day or two the city will have the usual gas supply.

The total loss is now estimated at \$5,825,000. The total insurance is estimated at three millions. It is feared that some of the small insurance companies will be badly crippled. It is now known that four lives were lost and four people seriously hurt.

#### KILLED.

Henry Peddenbrock and Charles Starr, firemen, crushed under falling walls; Mrs. Kalahan and an unknown woman died from the effects of the shock. It is feared that the watchman of Bub & Kipp company was burned in the factory.

That the loss of life is so small calls for congratulation.

It was shortly after seven that Mayor Somers saw the need of help. At once he telegraphed the adjutant general for militia, and to Waukesha, Oshkosh, Kenosha, Racine and Chicago for fire apparatus. Prompt replies were received in every instance, and the firemen from the outside did effective work, as did the militia in the way of guarding property, keeping the crowds back and rescuing endangered persons.

A conservative estimate of the people rendered homeless, based on the recent registration in the burned districts, places the number at 2000, nearly all of whom are poor and have lost what little they possessed and are dependent on outside help. Last night hospitable citizens threw open their homes to them and means are being taken to provide for their immediate wants.

The chamber of commerce will meet to take action today. The Germania society has decided to turn over the receipts of a fair to be held next week. Five thousand dollars have been subscribed by the Democratic