

a steamer was sent for, but not much was done with it before 11:30 o'clock, the blaze meanwhile eating its way in and through the company's entire works.

It is stated that in sending in the alarm, the exact scene of the fire was not given, and as Chief Devine thought it a small affair, perhaps the burning of a haystack or high weeds, he did not respond prepared as he would have been had he known its exact location. A long stretch of hose was required in conveying water to the flames, and the firemen were somewhat confused in locating the plugs, consequently this also caused delay, the whole tending to enlarge the conflagration and make it considerably more difficult to handle. As it was the first time the department had dealt with such a fire, the boys were a trifle confused, and would have damaged a large quantity of cement in throwing water on it, had not parties interested interfered, thus causing the streams to be turned in other directions. The framework of the plant all ablaze, and underneath the same tons of newly-made cement, there was not much remaining to be done, but to check the fire's program to adjoining buildings, among them the company's warehouse, which, fortunately, was saved. About 12:30 a second steamer was sent for and this lent assistance to the firemen after one o'clock.

The big fire illuminated the heavens for miles around, and the excitement caused by it was intense. It happened at a time when the majority of citizens were preparing for slumber, but notwithstanding this fact, people from all parts of the city flocked to the vicinity, some partially clad and others rubbing their eyes to sweep off their sleepy condition. It was a great blaze and for the time being, gave to the southwestern part of the city, an air of metropolitanism not known in the time of the oldest settler.

Practically everything of value was destroyed, and all that now remains to tell the tale of a most successful home industry, are the brick walls, large smokestacks and badly damaged machinery. Even the company's office, removed some distance from the works proper, was also affected, while the Wasatch Asphaltum company's refinery which occupied a part of the burned structure, was totally destroyed.

The launching of the cement industry in this city has met with many reverses. In the latter part of 1890 a local company consisting of the late Elias Morris and Messrs. Sharp, Lyman, Wallace and others, commenced the manufacture of cement from the burning of rock and grinding it. This work was under the management of an expert from Kansas City, but the project was not successful. Later on the manufacture of Portland cement was tried, eastern men being taken into the company. A large kiln was built for the purpose at a cost of \$18,000, but it was found to be defective, and suit entered against the patentees resulted in a heavy judgment for the cement people.

This delayed affairs two years, and it was not until 1896 that a resumption was had. At this time Thomas C. Cairns, manager of the company went East, and on his return a new kiln was erected. In the meantime, however, difficulties were encountered and Mr. Cairns succeeded in interesting an English gentleman in the project, who bought out the entire works, and in the fall of 1896, cement was first turned out in large quantities.

Tests of the product giving thorough satisfaction, the company rapidly secured orders and in 1897 upwards of 10,000 barrels were shipped to Idaho and Montana for dam work, while over 2,000 barrels were used in the city. At the time of the fire the company was filling a government contract for use in the

erection of the Denver mint about 5,000 barrels being required for the job. The fact that the government was converted to its use, demonstrates clearly its superior quality, as it stood the most severe tests and was not found wanting. Manager Cairns is authority for the statement that the company had orders which it would take them all year, working day and night, to fill.

The industry was successfully launched after the expenditure by the original company of about \$75,000, while the present owners has spent about \$25,000, making the outlay a clear \$100,000. In view of these circumstances the fire is to be all the more deplored as it badly cripples an industry of which the State could justly feel proud. The material for the manufacture of the product came mostly from Parley's canyon, where there is said to be an unlimited quantity of it.

The loss on the building, machinery, etc., is roughly estimated at \$40,000, while the insurance carried amounts to \$25,700, of which the Home of Utah carries \$2,000. The adjusters of the Home are ready to proceed with the adjustment at once, but will have to bide the time of the other agents who will not be here for a few days yet. The insurance and the companies carrying it, are as follows:

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| Home of Utah | \$ 2,000 |
| Phoenix and Hartford | 2,000 |
| Royal Exchange | 4,500 |
| London Assurance | 2,000 |
| Pelatine | 2,000 |
| Sun of London | 2,700 |
| Springfield | 1,500 |
| Aachen & Munich | 5,000 |
| Queen | 2,000 |
| American Central | 1,000 |
| German American | 1,000 |
| Total | \$25,700 |

RETURNED ELDERS

Elders J. E. Teepley of Burrville, Sevier county, Joseph A. Jacobson of the Seventh ward of this city, John H. Ellis of Bountiful, and E. F. Richards of Farmington, returned on Monday, May 23rd, from missions to Australasia. All enjoyed their work to the fullest and return in good health. Elder Teepley has been absent since October 15, 1894, Elder Ellis since December, 1894, Elder Jacobson since February 11, 1895, and Elder Richards since April 7th, 1896.

Elder D. K. Brown of Nephi returned Saturday last from a mission to Denmark, Norway and Sweden, whither he went in April, 1896. He enjoyed himself thoroughly and reports that the Elders are doing a good work.

Elder J. F. Russon also returned from Europe on Saturday last. He labored in Great Britain and has been absent since April, 1896.

Elder George Done Jr. of Smithfield, Cache county, returned this week from a mission to Missouri, which he enthusiastically reports to be, in his opinion, "the most prosperous and promising mission in the world today." Elder Done left home May 2, 1896, and labored in Missouri during his entire mission.

Elder Samuel G. Garbett of the Twenty-second ward of this city, is home from a two years' mission to Great Britain. He labored all of the time in the Birmingham conference, enjoyed good health and returns home in good spirits.

Elder Peter Allen, of Bluff, San Juan county, returned from a two years' mission to Scotland on Monday, May 23rd. The Elders laboring in that country are meeting with some success in bringing souls into the Church, a few people be-

ing willing to receive the Gospel, but the great bulk of the people show little interest.

Elder John W. Robertson of the First ward of this city returned on Monday, May 23rd, from a mission to Scotland and Ireland. Elder Robertson left home April 5, 1896. He labored in Scotland for eighteen months, when he was called to act as president of the Irish conference, and labored in that capacity until released to return home. He says that comparatively little interest is taken in true religion by the people in Scotland or in Ireland, but by energetic efforts the Elders are able to carry the Gospel message to the hearts of many people.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE.

Fate, Rockwall Co., Tex.,

May 17th, 1898.

The two last days of April and the first day of May are days that will long be remembered by many of the people living in the eastern part of Rockwall Co., also by the Elders laboring in this the North Texas conference.

The assembling together of nineteen Elders and about thirty Saints in conference capacity was the occasion for our joy. A large arbor had been prepared by our friends here for the occasion. It had been only a month since the people in this locality first heard our Elders preach. Friends sprang up on every side, and it seemed the Lord prepared the place specially for this purpose.

We would not forget to mention about the devoted little band of Saints from Lone Hunt Co. They came twenty-five miles in their wagons. A more perfect model for love could hardly be found than was exhibited in these Saints.

Our public meetings, ten in number, were well attended. Many people came for miles, and sometimes our listeners numbered more than 300. The presence of Elder Jack from Kansas greatly added to the joy of all. At the Sacrament meeting nearly all the Saints bore strengthening testimonies to the great latterday work. They would stand up before the wondering multitude and boldly declare they knew Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God. The general Church authorities were presented and sustained.

At the Priesthood meetings many valuable hints were given. The Elders seemed to be filled with new determinations. Each one had the privilege of expressing his feelings at the Priesthood meeting.

The sermons in general during the conference were upon the fundamental principles of the Gospel. They were usually short and to the point. Every one who came out to listen with their minds open and free from prejudice went away deeply impressed. Four were baptized. Elder Joseph Coulam will still be our president, assisted by Elder Joseph W. Hess. Elder Workman was chosen as clerk. Elder Levi J. Taylor was sent to the South Texas conference.

On May 3rd a branch of the Church was organized at Lane Hunt Co., with Brother R. E. Roberts as presiding Elder. On May 15th a Sunday school was organized here near Fate. We have now in this county thirteen members and the future growing brighter every day.

J. L. WORKMAN, Clerk.

At Cheyenne, Wyo., impressive Memorial day services were held Monday. At Fort Russell, fitting exercises were also conducted, 800 of Torrey's rough riders taking part.