

THE ATLAS BLOCK IS DESTROYED AND OTHER BUILDINGS BADLY DAMAGED.

Lighted Match Thrown Into Bunch of Waste in "Sunday Entrance" Probably Caused Fire.

The origin of the fire will probably never be known to an absolute certainty. It must therefore be added to the long list of destructive fires that have taken place in this city, the beginning of which, no one knows. Many theories have been advanced during the day ranging from incendiarism to the most unaccountable ideas conceivable. But the most plausible theory that appears plausible and is supported by strong statements. It is this: There were men going in and out of the Oxford saloon in the D. F. Walker building late in the night. They used the entrance at the rear near the elevator, as well as the front door. It was known as the "Sunday Entrance." This entrance led from the elevator shaft and that it came in from the foot of the elevator shaft was the engine room, near which there was a pile of old lint commonly known as engine room waste. The belief is that some man who went out of the saloon about midnight carelessly threw a lighted match into the elevator shaft and that it came in contact with the waste, with the result that a fire was started in short order, making its way along an underground coal chute or passage into the Atlas block, from which it worked its way into the upper stories, where it spread with such fearful rapidity and with such dire consequences.

LOSSES ESTIMATED AT \$750,000

Figures May Increase or Decrease a Little But Not Very Much—Buildings Are Pretty Well Insured—Occupants Lose Everything With Little Insurance—Papers Destroyed.

The Atlas block on the west, occupying the Salt Lake Hardware corner, was the first floor and basement, was destroyed. It is owned by the J. R. Walker estate and M. H. Walker. The block was valued at \$1,000,000 and that there was \$500,000 of insurance. The Atlas block is so badly gutted that it is condemned. The hardware store is the greatest loser. They lost the value of their stock at \$500,000 and said that as far as they could figure out now that their stock would reach \$300,000. The Atlas block is beyond accurate calculation at the time.

ATLAS BLOCK LOSSES.

What the Occupants of That Loss in the Big Blaze.

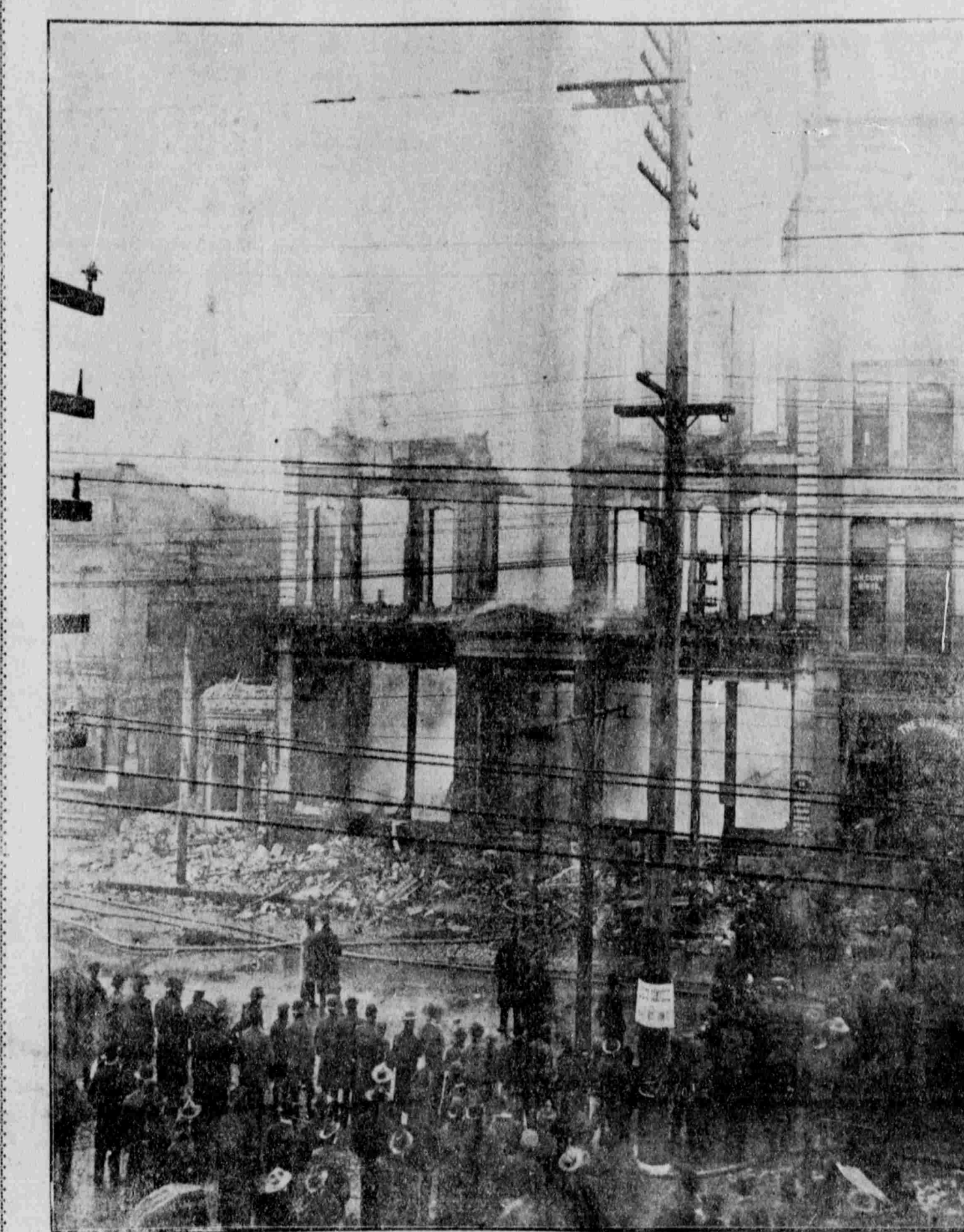
The Atlas block is entirely destroyed, and the loss was estimated this morning in Walker's bank at \$1,000,000. The Atlas block was originally built in 1884, at a cost of \$1,000,000, as the Walker Opera House, but was destroyed by fire in July, 1890. An opera company had occupied the block, the previous night, and lost all their costumes and equipment. A feature of the fire was the explosion of cylinders of hydrogen used in furnishing calcium lights, and which caused excitement and consternation. The structure was rebuilt for office purposes, and an additional story put on. It belonged to the S. S. Walker estate, S. S. Walker, Jr., acting as the agent. In addition to the regular fire insurance, there was a \$10,000 rental insurance which insures the continuation of the usual office rentals until the building is rebuilt, or the party insuring makes other disposition of his business.

The losses to the tenants of the Atlas block are estimated by local property owners as about \$500,000 in money value, with insurances amounting to perhaps one-third of this; the losses being libraries, scientific apparatus, office fixtures and furniture, etc. Dr. Beatty loses one of the finest medical libraries in the state, the accumulation of 20 years; and while he places the money loss at \$2,000, he says the loss cannot properly be estimated in terms of money. He loses everything, and was not insured. The other doctors in the building lose everything, and as a general thing, were but slightly insured. Dr. Scott figures his loss at \$5,000, which covers the X-ray machine, a library of 500 volumes, jewelry and quite a collection of curios. He was insured for \$1,000. Dr. Lyon places his loss at \$3,000. F. E. McGurkin lost \$2,000 in office fixtures, insured for \$1,000. Judge Hovatt is heartbroken over the loss of the briefs of 30 years, and the loss of a fine law library, and he does not estimate his loss in terms of current coin. The law firm of Snyder, Westervelt White & Snyder are out \$5,000 in the burning of their valuable law library, legal documents and other valuable property. Insured for \$3,000. Judge William McKee loses a \$3,000 law library on which there was \$1,000 insurance. George L. Nye loses a law library worth over \$5,000, with important legal documents, which cannot be replaced or estimated in money values. He lost also a fine desk which formerly belonged to Judge Sutherland, and which Mr. Nye said he would not have disposed of for \$100. He was insured for \$1,000.

ALARM TURNED IN.

Alarm from Three Stations Promptly Put to Use.

Alarm was turned in to department headquarters at exactly 3:25 this morning, and immediately the entire



SCENE OF THE FIRE PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE BALCONY OF THE CULLEN HOTEL.

ATLAS BLOCK PEOPLE WHO WERE BURNED OUT.

The following list of the tenants of the Atlas block was furnished the Deseret News today by the head janitor of the structure, who says it comprises all of the names, with the exception of two men who moved in during the last few days:

- Bank of Commerce.
- McGurkin & Co., investments.
- Stringer & Co., real estate.
- Peters Barber shop.
- Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., wholesale dry goods.
- Sheets & Raleigh Detective Agency.
- Ferris Insurance Office.
- Almy & Williams, brokers.
- William McKay, lawyer.
- Bradley & Chisholm, lawyers.
- Chapman & Tripp, dentists.
- W. B. Andrew, broker.
- T. Egan, broker.
- Dr. Stewart.
- Dr. Humelbaugh.
- Dr. Dart.
- Architect West.
- Snyder & Westervelt, lawyers.
- Bradstreet's Commercial Agency.
- A. T. Kerr, broker.
- South Swanson Mining Company.
- Judge A. Hovatt, lawyer.
- Pioneer Nursery.
- W. R. Hutchinson, lawyer.
- Sowles & Goodhue, nursery.
- M. Shaughnessy, mining.
- J. R. Bowdler, lawyer.
- Davis County Nursery.
- E. J. Wilkinson, Credit Men's Association.
- Heywood, Robinson & Craig, brokers and agents.
- Phoenix Life Insurance Company.
- R. B. Cameron (Pacific Accident Insurance Company).
- Judge Laney, lawyer.
- Maj. Edmund Wilkes, investments.
- H. H. Voss, janitor.
- Strickland & Spaulding, mining engineers.
- H. W. Hartley, collections.
- D. S. Truman, lawyer.
- McGurkin & McGurkin, lawyers.
- Dr. T. B. Beatty.
- Dr. Whitney.
- Dr. Philo Jones.
- Dr. J. C. E. King.
- Dr. Ira Lyons.
- E. W. Tatlock, lawyer.
- Dr. H. S. Scott.
- Pacific Express Company.
- Nye & Larson, lawyers.
- F. J. Gustin, lawyer.
- John Mahan, real estate.
- Collier & Olmstead, mining engineers.
- Oglesby & Knight, mining engineers.
- George Hirschvogel, hardware agent.
- F. H. Hyde, commercial agent.

Charge of Incendiarism Being Officially Investigated; Big Sensation is Promised.

Despite the frequent statement on apparently good authority this morning that there was no possibility of the question of incendiarism being associated with the fire it is nevertheless stated on high authority this afternoon that the big blaze is the direct result of the work of a fire fiend. The matter has been reported to the proper authorities and is being thoroughly investigated by them. Of this much the "News" is certain and positively assured. A big sensation is promised as a result of the new turn of affairs and arrests may follow soon.

THESE WERE SAVED.

Truth Publishing company. Happy Day Dental Parlors. L. B. Brown, dentist. Waterman Bros., brokers. May Day Mining and Milling company.

BANK OF COMMERCE.

Continued Business at Walker Bros Bank Today—Loss Not Heavy.

The Bank of Commerce opened for business at the usual hour this morning, by which time placards were on the printer, proclaimed that business would be temporarily carried on in Walker Bros' bank on the corner of Second South and East Temple street.

STEAMERS WORKED WELL.

Got On to the Scene in Good Time and Kept Busy All the Time.

The statement that there was an unnecessary delay in getting one of the steamers in good working order, is indignantly denied by Engineer Ruben Simpson, the veteran of the fire department. Mr. Simpson declares that the steamers were all right and that there was nothing wrong with them at any time during the fire.

HARD FIRE TO FIGHT.

One of the Worst With Which Department Has Had to Deal.

Secy. L. M. Earl of the department was called from his home at 2:30 this morning and immediately came down to the department to assist in giving directions. As soon as the gravity of the situation was known, the waterworks department was notified and the water was turned from the East Temple street mains to those of Second South. "Since 2:30 this morning, 2,000 extra feet of hose have been sent down," said Mr. Earl. "In addition to that, 25 sacks of coal have been sent down to the steamers. The steamers have used up nearly 25 tons of coal already. The only kick we have coming is the water system. We had all the available water turned into those mains, but think of fighting such a fire from a 6-inch main."

KEPT FROM EAST TEMPLE.

How the Progress of the Flames Were Cut Off in That Direction.

But for the prompt action of Charles King and the nightwatchman of the

Manager Parkhurst Has Another Version; Says Fire Started on Fourth Floor of Atlas Block.

Manager Parkhurst, of the Pacific Board of Underwriters, in a talk with a "News" representative this morning, said that the people of Salt Lake might well congratulate themselves over a lucky escape from an extensive conflagration. For, said he, if the fire had started in the basement it would have gone through the door in the wall of the D. F. Walker building and spread through to East Temple street, and swept all that section. Moreover, in the event of the fire originating in the basement, the chances would have been very good for it to have spread also to the west and engulfed the entire front of the block. But the conditions were favorable for a confined fire, as it began evidently on the fourth floor, and worked its way through onto the floors below, and then worked its way up again. The Central block caught through the roof from the Atlas block. The fire may have been caused by imperfect insulation or by carelessness in throwing matches or lighted cigarettes into paper litter or other inflammable material. The large fires that have occurred in Salt Lake have been what might be called lucky fires in that the conditions were favorable for confining the flames to the property destroyed. But some day, there may come a change in the good fortune, and then look out. Mr. Parkhurst remarked that there were great flakes of fire floating through the air when he came down town, and one of them burned a hole through his overcoat.

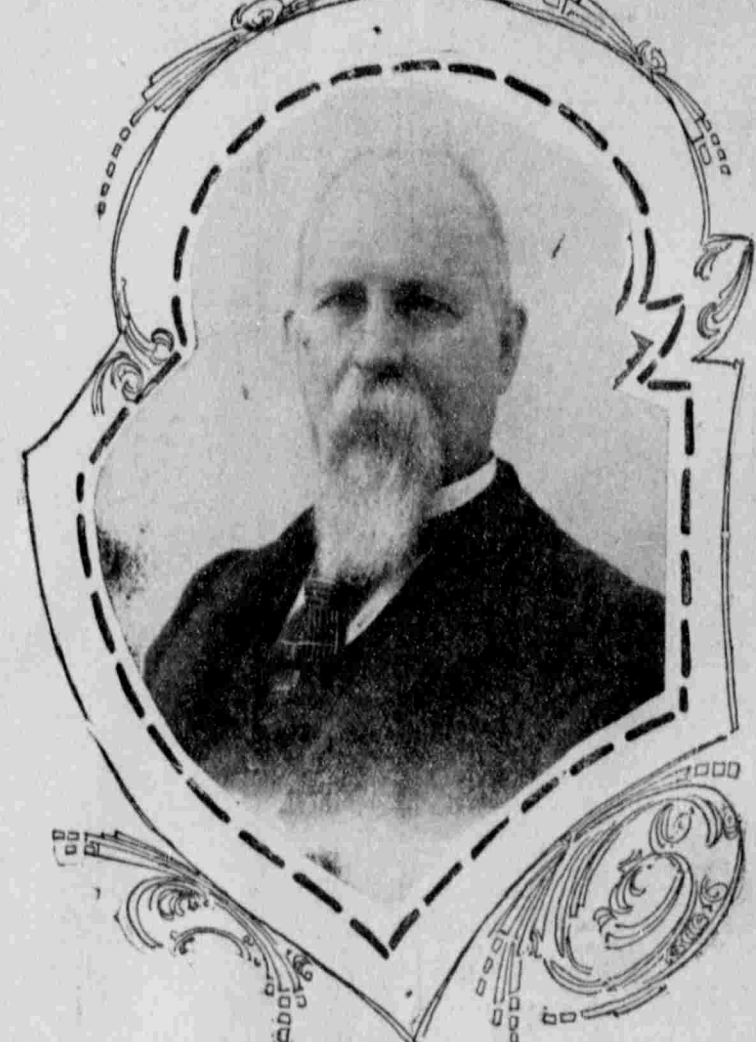
HUMBERTS AT BAR OF JUSTICE.

Celebrated Family Makes Its First Appearance in Criminal Court—Courtroom Packed, Great Public Interest Being Shown—Mrs. Therese Displayed Her Usual Bravado.

Paris, Feb. 11.—The Humbert family made their first appearance in the criminal courts today when the case of M. Cateau, the banker, was taken up in the ninth correctional chamber. There was great public interest manifested in the proceedings and the courtroom was packed with people. All the previous examinations of the Humberts had been held in secret, and this was the first opportunity the Parisians had to see and hear the prisoners. The Humberts were brought in like any ordinary prisoners, and took seats in the prisoner's box. Mrs. Therese Humbert displayed her usual bravado and coolness, her sister, Marie D'Aurignac, was apparently much unnerved, and the latter's brothers, Roman and Emile D'Aurignac, taking a portion of defense. The case does not involve the main question concerning the Crawford millions, but M. Cateau charges that they ill-used him in referring to him as a usurper, which indirectly affects the whole affair.

SAMUEL H. HILL CALLED HOME.

Another of Salt Lake's Citizens and Business Men Goes to the Other Side After an Active, Well Spent Life of Sixty-Two Years—Funeral on Friday.



SAMUEL HOOD HILL, Who Died of Pneumonia Last Night.

Another of Salt Lake's sterling citizens and business men has been called home. This time it is none other than Samuel H. Hill, the well known manager of the Cunningham company, whose demise occurred at the family residence, 157 South Second West street, shortly after 1 o'clock last night. The cause of death was pneumonia, from which Mr. Hill had been a sufferer for six days. Deceased was aged 62 years, one month and 18 days. Samuel Hood Hill was the son of Archibald N. and Isabel Hood Hill, and was born in Toronto, Upper Canada, Dec. 23, 1840. At the age of eight years he was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in which Church he was an active and faithful member all his life. He came to Utah in 1861 and in the year 1863 went on a mission to Europe, traveling for three and a half years in England, Scotland, Holland, Germany, France and Switzerland. In May, 1867, he married Miss Audrey Payne, who died one year after their marriage, while her husband was filling a mission in southeastern Nevada. In the year 1870 he married Miss Martha Thomas, who has borne him six sons and two daughters, five sons and one daughter of whom survive him. In 1878 he married Miss Jane Seaman who bore him two sons and two daughters, of whom two sons and one daughter are still living. Elder Hill was not only active in Church affairs, but he was a thorough business man and filled many positions of trust and responsibility, in all of which he manifested an ability which made him unusually successful. For years he acted as purchasing agent and paymaster for the Utah Central railroad, remaining with this company until after its absorption by the Oregon Short Line in 1898. He was not only so engaged with the Utah Central, but assisted in completing the contracts of the late President Brigham Young, on the Union Pacific until they reached the Promontory. In 1898 Mr. Hill became manager of the Cunningham company of the Cunningham family of the late President Brigham Young, on the Union Pacific until they reached the Promontory. In 1898 Mr. Hill became manager of the Cunningham family of the late President Brigham Young, on the Union Pacific until they reached the Promontory. In 1898 Mr. Hill became manager of the Cunningham family of the late President Brigham Young, on the Union Pacific until they reached the Promontory.



CAPTAIN JOHN STABB, Who Had a Close Call for His Life.