The Victoria Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1889. VOLUME XXXI NO. 26

A SEA OF FIRE.

The Catastrophe Which Overwhelmed Seattle.

The Entire Business Portion of the City Destroyed.

Several Former Victorians Among the Losers.

The Estimated Loss Now Placed at About Ten Million Dollars.

Graphic Description of the Fire Which Ravaged the Queen City of Puget Sound.

A List of the Buildings Burned, their Value and the Amount of Insurance.

SEATTLE, June 7.—4:30 a. m.—At four o'clock the fire was under control. The entire business portion of the city is in ruins. Not a building is left standing west of Second and south of University street. The loss is now conceded by the most conservative to be not less than eighteen million dollars. The Port Townsend and Olympia firemen arrived before midnight, but they were too late to do any work. Hundreds of people are without lodgings, and are sleeping on the bare ground. The city is now under martial law, and is guarded by three militia companies and a special committee of about 200 citizens. About one hundred thieves have already been arrested. Very few casualties are reported. There are only authentic reports of two deaths. The victims names are as yet unknown.

Several merchants have already ordered stocks of goods to replace the merchandise burned. Contracts have been let for building material and several brick blocks will be started at once. The people are confident the town will be rebuilt.

The Post-Intelligencer, which was burned, is getting out a ten-column edition in a private house.

SEATTLE, June 7.—11 A. M.—Owing to the excitement and confusion up to this hour it is difficult to obtain particulars. The fire after consuming the Occidental Hotel, jumped over to South Second street and licked up every one of the buildings between South, Fifth street and the Bay, including hotels, wharves and sheds. One fire engine, the engineer, and a span of horses are known to have been caught in the fire and destroyed.

SEATTLE, June 6.—5 p. m.—At 2:30 this afternoon fire broke out on Front street, Seattle, corner of Madison. A fresh wind was blowing and the fire spread very rapidly. By 4 o'clock the fire had burned through on both sides of Front street to Columbia, and was fast going south. The fine Opera House of Frye's caught and was consumed about 4 o'clock. Shortly after, as there was every apparent probability of the fire spreading still further, the three telegraph offices cut out their instruments and vacated their buildings. Before this was done, assistance was telegraphed for to Port Townsend, and at 5 o'clock the Port Townsend fire department left for Seattle. Damages will be tremendous, as the fire is raging in the heart of the business portion of the city amongst the fine brick blocks.

SECOND DISPATCH.

NEW WESTMINSTER, June 6.—8 p. m.—The whole business portion of Seattle has already been destroyed by a fire which started in Frye's opera house, on Front street. The last report states the Arlington Hotel, on the lower end of Commercial street, has been consumed, thus indicating that at least eight blocks, comprising the entire business section of the city, are in utter ruin. Expect particulars later. Telegraphic communication is partially restored over the postal wires.

THIRD DISPATCH.

Midnight.—At 2:30 this afternoon fire broke out at the corner of Madison and Front streets, Seattle. A strong northerly wind was blowing, which, as the fire progressed, was quickly increased to a heavy gale. The fire raced down Front street at a terrible rate, licking up the fine business blocks one after another with incredible rapidity. At about 4:30 p.m. the heat was so intense in the telegraph offices that the operators were compelled to cut out their instruments and remove the effects of the offices. All three companies, the Pacific Postal, the Western Union and the Puget Sound, evacuated their premises about the same time. After this, no direct news of the conflagration could be had. At 4 o'clock the fine opera house of Frye's was destroyed. From thence the fire continued its work of destruction down Front and Commercial streets, destroying every business block in the city. The operator at Port Blakely reported that the fire had reached the coal bunkers at the end of Commercial street at about 7:30 p. m. At 7 o'clock the Arlington hotel and Yester's large mills were in flames. Every large hotel, every bank, and in fact every large edifice in the city, are in ruins. The loss is inestimable. Tacoma, Port Townsend and Victoria were telegraphed to for assistance, and in each case the request was promptly answered, and men and fire engines left for Seattle with as little delay as possible.

FOURTH DESPATCH.

1 a. m.—Just before the Puget Sound Telegraph Co. cut out their office, a telegram was sent to Port Townsend asking for aid. At six o'clock a tugboat left Port Townsend with a hose reel and force of firemen. The cause of the fire is at present unobtainable. The Occidental hotel was reported to be on fire about 7:30. The San Francisco house is also burned.

A message was sent by Mr. Cooper, of the O. R. & N. Co., asking orders to send the Potter over, and a reply with the necessary instructions was received in 30 minutes. This is remarkably good time for the lateness of the hour and the general demoralization of telegraphic facilities are considered.

The Canadian Pacific Railway office was destroyed.

FIFTH DESPATCH.

PORT TOWNSEND, June 6.—2 a. m.—The fire started at about 2:30 at the corner of Front and Madison streets, in the same block the Daily Times is in. It swept both sides as far as Columbia street up to 4 p.m., and the last heard from Seattle the flames had just caught on the opposite side of Columbia street. The opera house burned, with several other bricks between Columbia and Madison streets, before 4 p. m. The Blakeley operator reports that he thinks the Yester-Leary and Occidental blocks are both gone, all the bricks on the west side of the street and the wooden buildings on the east side are burned. The fire swept everything as far back as Second street. He thinks Commercial and South Second. This includes the Arlington, New England and Brunswick hotels, all wooden structures. The last heard was that the coal bunkers and Stetson & Post's mill were on fire. That would probably include the ocean and city docks, and several other small hotels and lodging houses in that neighborhood. At 10 p.m. we could see the flames from here quite plain, but now it looks a little dim up that way. They had called on Tacoma for assistance at 4 p.m. On Commercial street all were wooden buildings on either side, except four bricks. Five banks are probably burned. A special boat with the Port Townsend fire company left at 5:50 p.m., with twenty firemen and 500 feet of hose.

At 1:20 a.m. the Port Townsend operator says he thinks the fire is under control, as the light is not so bright as it was, but the weather is so thick that he cannot tell much about it.

2:30 a. m.—Advices from the scene of the conflagration are to the effect that the fire is still burning fiercely, and the wind is rising. The damage already done by the flames is estimated at

TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS.

All the business part of the city has been destroyed, including the docks and the C. P. R. buildings. Efforts to check the progress of the devouring element have been abandoned for a time, and many people have been compelled to fly to the hills in order to save their lives. The loss of life, if any, is not yet known.

(From our own Correspondent).

A TEMPEST OF FLAME.

SEATTLE, June 6.—A tempest of flames has swept away the entire business portion of the city, incurring a loss of millions of dollars, and rendering penniless and homeless hundreds of people. The flames burst from a building on Madison and Front streets, and spread with such appalling rapidity and such resistless fury, that there stands not a large business house in the whole business part of the city. The magnificent Hotel, the San Francisco store, the Union block, the Poncin block, the Yester-Leary building, the Post-Intelligencer building, and indeed the whole line of business buildings bounded by Second street on the north and the water front on the south and east has been laid waste by the furious element. At this writing, 8 p. m., the flames are raging with unabated fury, and there is no guessing where it will all end. The flames have passed down Front street to

THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL,

devastating the blocks on both sides of the street, and are now destroying all that lower portion of the city tributary to Commercial street. A detailed sketch of the disaster cannot at this time be given. A record of the losses would include every business man of prominence in town. It is one frightful calamity from which few have escaped, and from which those few remaining may not dare hope to escape. Of course, tremendous efforts are made by the fire department, illy supplied with apparatus, to stay the progress of the flames. Of course all the citizens made common cause with the firemen in a hopeless fight and struggle with night and main for the salvation of the city. There were many others, too, whose first thought was to save their individual possessions, and the streets were soon crowded and many places blocked with teams loaded with valuables of every description, seeking places of

SAFETY ON THE HILLS.

Hundreds of men were at work disgorging the many business buildings of their contents and loading them into wagons, in many instances procured at enormous price's and sending them through the choked thoroughfares. No adequate description can be made of a scene in which everybody was excited, and many frenzied. The burnt region now covers blocks, how many cannot be told. The fire has divided itself into four districts, that along the wharves, along Front street and up Mill street on to Yester avenue. The blocks are now burning, but the flames are raging at their fiercest in many wooden buildings on the lower side of Yester avenue. Front street is now

A SCENE OF RUIN.

At the present time, 8:30 p.m., the fire is near Stetson & Post's Oregon Improvement Mills, and there is little doubt but they will go. The railroad offices, all the docks on the water front, the wharves, and everything is gone as far up as Almond & Phillips' foundry. There is a grand chance now that this foundry will be saved, and that the fire will not go up further. The burnt district, as near as can be stated, is bounded by Union street on the north; by Second street, as far as James on the east, and then below James. The fire is now at South Third street and down to the water's edge. There are no serious casualties that are definitely known, but it is reported that several men were burned to death. There were a number of minor accidents. The loss, at a guess, is $10,000,000.

STILL BLAZING AT MIDNIGHT.

At midnight the whole lower part of the town is still blazing. The streets are full of people and the militia and special police are guarding the piles of household goods that are everywhere piled up beyond the limits of the fire. Thieves are busy plying their vocation. The Post-Intelligencer to-morrow will be issued in tiny form, its whole office having been destroyed. The work of clearing away the debris, preparatory to rebuilding, will begin to-morrow. The Postal Telegraph Company's offices were burned, and the instruments were moved to the Moore-land Company's real estate building, and opened for business within thirty minutes after being "fired out" of their old quarters.

TO THE RESCUE.

The steamer Potter, conveying the Victoria fire apparatus and Chief Deasy and firemen, made a quick trip to Seattle. She left the harbor at 11:30 on Thursday night, and arrived at her destination shortly after five o'clock in the morning. The day dawned bright and beautiful, and as the steamer entered the harbor a scene of ruin and desolation met the gaze of the passengers. For nearly a mile along the water front and a quarter of a mile inland was one mass of smoking debris, here and there a crumbling wall or gaunt chimney marking the spot where had previously stood handsome business structures. All the wharves with their warehouses were consumed, with the exception of a couple of small docks in the southern portion, and at one of these, and alongside the Premier, the Potter tied up. The engines and hose cart were quickly taken ashore, but there was no need of them. The fire had done its work, and one of the busiest and brightest cities of the Northwest had been deprived of its commercial and manufacturing buildings.

The ascent to Front street was by a steep embankment, and a couple of minutes' walk brought one to the point where the fire began, in the wooden Denny building. The fire was caused by the explosion of a gasoline lamp, over which was being melted some glue, in Jim McGough's paint shop, corner of Madison and Front streets. The progress of the fire will be best understood from the following description, published in yesterday's edition of the Post-Intelligencer:

In an instant the whole paint shop was in flames, and the fire burst through the floor above before a single thing could be carried out of the room.

The Denny block was a frame structure, extending along Front street, from Madison to Columbia, running back to the alley. The basement and hallways in the building seemed to serve as flues to draw the flames, for black clouds of smoke poured from every window, door and crevice in the structure from one end to the other, within five minutes from the time that the alarm was first given.

LOOKED EASY TO CONQUER.

The flames, however, had only burst from the north end of the building, and the fire department set to work to check the fire, which at this juncture seemed easy to control. Engine Co. No. 1 attached to a hydrant at the corner of Front and Columbia streets, and laid two lines of hose. Another stream was run from the hydrant at the corner of Front and Columbia streets, and Engine Co. No. 2 took its place in the rear of the burning building and commenced pumping salt water.

NO WATER TO BE HAD.

A cheer rose from the crowd as the beat of engine No. 1 was heard, and two streams of water were turned on to the fire, but the cheer of hope died away in a wail of despair when after a few minutes' pumping the streams became so weak that they did not reach the top of the building, showing that there was no water with which to fight the fiend of fire, which by this time had reached the centre of the building.

Then it was that the possibility of a general conflagration first struck the crowd, and every one set to work with a will. They broke into the stores in the block and carried goods into the streets, where they were cast down in heaps. This work did not last long, however, for the fire, within twenty minutes from the time it broke out, had reached from one end of the block to the other.

A herculean effort was made to save the row of frame buildings on the east side of Front street, immediately opposite the Denny block; but no thought was given to the opera house block, which stood with its solid looking walls looking as if they could defy the flames.

THE OPERA HOUSE REACHED.

Suddenly came the cry "the opera house is on fire," and an arrow of flame shot up from the mansard roof of the building in answer to the cry. By this time the Denny block was in a seething sea of flame, and it was out of the question for men to stand in front of the wall of fire to work on the opera house. The whole block of wooden buildings north of the opera house had by this time shared the general fate, and were fast disappearing in fire and smoke. Virtually nothing could be done to save the opera house. Men tried to brave the intense heat from the burning row across the street, but were driven back with scorched faces and burning garments. The very hose melted, and the firemen were forced to drag it back and reach the fire from Second street.

CONTROLLING THE MOB.

Up to this time Marshal Murphy had been the only head of the fire department; but Mayor Moran and Councilman Durie now appeared on the scene and attempted to bring order out of confusion. Parties were organized to carry goods out of the buildings in the path of the flames, and the side streets in a few minutes were blocked with merchandise. Chief Butterfield swore in over 100 deputies and instructed them to arrest every man found stealing, and in a few minutes the rabble had become a working crowd, led by intelligent men.

The flames hung unto the Denny block, and the firemen who covered the north end of the Colman block, next to it on the south, could have checked them there had it not been for the lack of water. At 3:30 the big Preston hook and ladder truck came tearing up Front street, and turned up Columbia to go around to the rear end of the Opera House block; but before it had reached there the big building was a skeleton, with every window showing flame and smoke.

SPREAD OF THE FLAMES.

At 4 o'clock the flames leaped across Marion street and the Colman block on the west and the Renig block on the east side of Front were soon in the center of the fiery sea.

An effort was made at 4 o'clock to blow up the Colman block by placing large charges of dynamite and other explosives under its center, but it proved abortive, and the building burned from one end to the other. The explosions shattered the windows in the big brick blocks south of Columbia, and several persons were badly cut by the falling glass. At five minutes past 4 o'clock the Kenny brick block on the corner of Front and Columbia caught fire at the top. Engine No. 1 was then forced to pull up and attach at the corner of Cherry street. Before a stream could be started again every building north of Columbia street was on fire.

AT THE SAN FRANCISCO BLOCK.

The San Francisco building was the next apparent barrier to the progress of the flames. Every window of the building was curtained with heavy wet blankets. A charge of powder was placed under the White block across the street, but it did not move the building, which in a few minutes caught on fire from the Kenney block, the walls of which fell inward at 20 minutes to 5 o'clock, sending up a cloud of sparks and burning brands that scattered over the roofs of the adjoining blocks. Gen. J. B. Metcalfe led a party to the roof of the building and a line of hose was soon raised by means of a rope. Again the terrible insufficiency of water balked the herculean efforts of the workers. The water barely came from the nozzle of the hose and the fire-fighters found themselves weaponless in the face of the terrible enemy.

Several charges of dynamite were then placed under the corner of the San Francisco store, which by this time was on fire, but they failed to have any effect. All the powder in the city was by this time expended and messengers were dispatched to the powder houses for more.

LITTLE COULD BE SAVED.

No efforts were made to save goods from the San Francisco store; but from nearly every other building on the street, merchandise was carried and piled in the centre of side streets, and loaded upon drays which blocked the streets.

A FRIGHTFUL SEA OF FLAMES.

At 5 o'clock the scene became indescribable. The fire had left the San Francisco store a mass of ruins, and had passed into the Union block adjoining. On the opposite side of the street every building was on fire, and the heat was so terrible that no more effort could be made to check the fire there. The side streets were black with people carrying their possessions to places of safety. Goods piled in the centre of the street caught on fire from burning brands. The air was full of flying boards, signs and goods thrown from the buildings.

THE WINDS WAFT HOPE.

At 5 o'clock the wind, which had hitherto been blowing gently from the north, veered square around, and came in fitful bursts from the south, beating back the wall of fire which had reached Cherry street on the east side of Front street, and which had been checked for a moment by the heavy walls of the Safe Deposit building. Again a hope was entertained that the progress of the fire in its southward course might be checked, but it was short-lived. A moment later a strong breeze from the northwest sprung up again, and at seven minutes past 5 o'clock the fire reached the Boston Stearware Company's block. In this building there was over thirty tons of cartridges, which went off in a perfect fusilade, continuing for over twenty minutes. In the Seattle Hardware Company's store adjoining there were over twenty tons of cartridges, and they commenced to explode about the time that the din had ceased from the other lot.

It was exactly 7 o'clock when the fire jumped Cherry street, and it was only twenty minutes later that it reached the southern end of the block.

EASTWARD TO SECOND STREET.

After leaving the opera house the fire not only moved southward but swept eastward to Second street. This was about 4:20, nearly two hours after the flames first burst forth.

The first building to ignite was the two-story frame on the corner of Second and Marion, occupied by Harris & Greenus, sign painters, on the lower floor, and Mrs. Story, music teacher, in the second story. The building was consumed in half an hour from the time of igniting and the flames had nearly enveloped Pieser's studio adjoining.

The Haller block, frame, one story, corner Second and Columbia, was reached in an incredibly short time and soon razed to the ground. This structure was occupied by J. A. Ames, job printer; Mrs. Lynch, dressmaker; A. Fisken, stationery; McLaughlin & Bridges, hardware. These firms lost all except the small moveables which could be removed before the flames reached. Boyd's photograph gallery, on the opposite corner, was next enveloped. The buildings in this block—the Northern Pacific Land Company's office, St. Charles hotel and the building occupied by the Congress saloon, were swept away.

SAVING THE BOSTON BLOCK.

The Boston block, opposite Boyd's gallery, one of the finest structures in the city, was in imminent danger for some time, the frames being ignited, but the timely assistance of a number of spectators prevented destruction. Two bucket brigades were formed—one extending up the front stairs to the fourth story, and another running across Columbia street, up the side entrance to the second flat. The building caught from the adjoining wooden structure, occupied by J. S. Edwards, which was destroyed. The windows in the front were smashed, and the plastering somewhat injured by water, The structure would undoubtedly have been consumed if the bucket brigades had not been organized, as the efforts of the fire department were now directed altogether to saving the Front street bricks.

The Colonial block, northeast corner of Second and Columbia streets, was ablaze several times, but the efficient service of the brigade was again called into action, and the building was saved. No damage save the flooding of the building and broken glass resulted.

The buildings on Second, between James and Cherry, caught at 5 p. m. and were destroyed in about half an hour. This left the way clear for the Occidental, which the flames reached at about 5:45.

THE FIRE TRAVELS NORTH.

The flames had swept down Front street nearly to Marion before they crossed to the north side of Madison. The Commercial mills were in a mass of flames at 3 o'clock, and the fiery flood swept up under the wharfing, first attacking the blacksmith shop. One stream of water was being played upon the Times building, but it was futile, as the fire soon broke out in every part of the block. Meanwhile the warehouses and whole wharving on the northern side of Madison were igniting. From this point up Front and back to the water edge the flames surged in living waves without any attempt being made to check them other than futile efforts with buckets and garden hose. Warehouse after warehouse fell in with a crash, and the wooden business blocks on both sides of the street rapidly going down before the firey tempest. The excavation for the Holyoke block, Front and Spring streets, checked the progress on the east side of the street, and undoubtedly saved the next block and the residence portion of Second and Third streets, beaond Spring street. On the west side to the water's edge was one great fiery cauldron.

Starr brick block was in flames at 5:30 and all south of it destroyed. The fire was confined by this building for a time, but swept in back through the mills and warehouses, and again reached Front street by the burning of the Oregon house and electric light works.

THE FLAMES CHECKED.

The fire at the north end was finally checked at University street. A few doors south of University, on Front, stands a story and a half frame house owned by Jacob Levy. A bucket brigade was formed, and with the aid of water, supplied from A. A. Denny's house, an attempt was made to save the building. Levy's friends were enthusiastic and rallied to his support and in a short time there were from sixty to seventy men engaged in carrying and pouring water on the house. One man who stood in the crowd and watched the bucket brigade work offered to bet $100 against $10 that the house would not be saved. The bucket brigade worked with a will, and although the little house was on fire fifty times between 6 and 8 o'clock, it was finally saved. While the bucket brigade was engaged in saving Mr. Levy's house the firemen threw the burning sidewalk on the west side of the street over the cliff. The planking in the roadway was ripped up, and there was no more food for the flames. On the west side of Front street, at University, down on a level with the docks, is the foundation of the Gilmore building. This was not inflammable, and the fire could do nothing with the bare brick and mortar. On the north side of University street, for a block from the outer wharf line, is a water block. This stopped the fire here. Two tracks of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern railroad cross the foot of University street to the Canadian Pacific dock. Here a large force of men were at work with buckets, obtaining their supplies of water from the river, and, with the greatest exertion, succeeded in preventing the fire from crossing these trestles and burning the docks to the north. A bucket brigade, made up of about 200 men, extended from the water front to the corner of University and Front street. It took several hours of hard work to stem the tide of the flames at the north end, but by 8:30 p.m. all danger of a spread in that direction was practically at an end, and the residents of North Seattle began to breathe easier and to thank God that they would not be burned out of house and home. The firemen performed wonders in checking the flames at this point when it was considered that there was not a drop of water in the hydrants at their command.

ALONG THE WHARVES.

The fire spread with great rapidity to the water front, sweeping everything in its steady advance toward the south. A five o'clock Yesler's wharf took fire and it was a few minutes only until the entire wharf was consumed.

The flames swept on, increased in violence by the swelling wind. A squad of several hundred men, commanded by Mayor Moran and H. W. McNeill, of the Oregon Improvement Company, commenced tearing down the wooden buildings on the north side of Yesler avenue from the Post-Intelligencer building to the foot of the street. They succeeded in tearing down nearly all of the buildings, but it was of no avail, for the flames crept up to the scattered ruins and then leaped across the street, consuming everything in their way. And then commenced a fearful and destructive blaze.

The steamer Ancon, Capt. Wallace, was lying at the ocean dock, and when it was found that the wharf was doomed the captain had everything on the dock taken on board his vessel. Also a considerable amount of private property which had been taken on the wharf from the stores on the south side of Yesler avenue. When the vessel was loaded to its utmost capacity it steamed out into the harbor.

In the meantime the steamer Mexico, which was lying at the city dock, was loading with merchandise brought from the stores by the drays, and after taking all the vessel would hold from the wharf, it steamed into the harbor.

The entire shipping in the harbor, having plenty of time to do so, pulled out into the stream, and it is well it did so, for every wharf from the foot of Union street to Jackson was consumed. Among the ships in port were the steamship Ancon, Capt. Wallace; steamship Spartan, Capt. Palitco; steamship Mexico, Capt. Huntington; the Palmyra and many other ships and smaller vessels, the names of which it was impossible to learn.

The craft in the harbor did much good work, and by their timely assistance saved a great deal of property. Amongst these were the steamer Goliah, Blakeely; Mastick, Henry Bailey; Washington, and the schooner Teaser.

BARRIERS SWEPT AWAY.

Meanwhile the tempest of flame was steadily sweeping down Front street.

The Yesler-Leary building resisted the flames for a long time, but the insidious enemy finally entered from the rear, and having once gained an entrance spread through the entire building like a flash. The walls of the San Francisco, Poncin, Union and Merchants' bank blocks had barely fallen in when the topmost pinnacle of the big Yesler-Leary building became the fiery centre of the column of destruction.

The Post-Intelligencer building on Yesler avenue to the west of the Yesler-Leary building was licked up in a trice by the flames, which then walked with steady march along the wooden row towards Yesler dock.

On James and Second streets the fire had destroyed every building up to the Butler block by twenty minutes past 6 o'clock.

BURNING OF THE OCCIDENTAL.

The Occidental hotel then stood as the only barrier between the flames and the sawdust flats, the most populous portion of the city. For a time it appeared as if the huge triangle of brick and stone would stand the storm and aid in conquering the fire. A line of hose was passed to the roof; but again the water supply failed and the firemen stood holding the impotent hose, while the flames jumped across the narrow street and touched cornice and window sill. Within ten minutes the entire north side of the big hotel was a sheet of fire.

HELP FROM TACOMA.

A yell and a cheer at this time announced the arrival of the hose team from Tacoma. Dispatches had been sent at 3 o'clock to Tacoma, Port Townsend and Portland for assistance. The Tacomans had answered promptly to the call and about forty men with a hose cart and 800 feet of hose started from Tacoma on a special train, which made the trip in fifty-eight minutes. They pulled up to Second street, where they laid several lines and did splendid work in checking the progress of the flames toward the east.

The frame Butler block caught at exactly the same time that the Occidental did. The fire passed through the hotel, reached the other side in less than ten minutes, and then with a bound seized the other side of Yesler avenue.

The column of fire now extended along Yesler avenue from South Third street to the water front, moving along toward the south with terrible regularity, licking up the flimsy buildings as if they had been paper.

SPREADING EASTWARD.

The fire had been spreading to the east meanwhile. John Collin's residence, after a bitter fight, succumbed to the flames, but the Mallory house adjoining was saved. Trinity church and the residence of the dean caught from flying brands and soon fell in ruins. The little house on the triangle in front of the court house was torn down by the hook and ladder crew and this was the means of saving the county buildings and checking the progress of the flames beyond Third street. H. L. Yesler's fine residence was saved by wet blankets and carpets being spread over the roof.

The prisoners had been removed from the city jail before the fire crossed Yesler avenue, and were guarded by a posse of armed men at the court house. United States Marshal Hamilton had all the United States prisoners ready to march them to safety if occasion demanded, and Sheriff McGraw marched most of the county prisoners, heavily ironed and closely guarded, to the Armory.

ACROSS YESLER AVENUE.

To the south of Yesler avenue the flames moved across South Third street, licked up the city hall, which fell in with a crash before the fire had burned the tower which surmounted it. The row of Japanese and Chinese houses below it vanished in less than the time it takes to tell the story, and at 7 o'clock not a building was standing to the north of Washington and west of South Fourth street, south to the Yesler avenue. The Catholic church was saved with greatest difficulty.

Streight to the south with even front moved the terrible wall of flame. Main street was reached at 7 o'clock. The Squire brick checked the fire a moment and then added to its intensity. The roadways, all built on piles, caught on fire and burned ahead of the buildings in many instances making escape difficult.

ESCAPED WITH THEIR LIVES.

In the district south of Yesler avenue there were over 150 hotels and lodging houses. The inmates of these places escaped with their lives and what they wore and considered themselves fortunate. The Seattle Transfer company saved its teams and many of its vehicles. South of Yesler avenue the walls of Schwabacher Bros., Harrington & Smith's, Dexter, Horton & Co's, Lewin & Co's brick and stone buildings, all with part of their contents destroyed, are the only standing monuments of this busy mart of yesterday. The Arlington hotel made a very rapid fire, and several guests who attempted to save valuables narrowly escaped being burned to death.

A TERRIBLE SIGHT.

At 7:30 o'clock the sight from in front of the court house was magnificently terrible. The entire flat below Yesler avenue was a sea of flame, and the roaring, raging element, shooting its tongues of fire ever higher, licking up building after building, was grand in its awfulness. Through a cloud of smoke, and the air was so surcharged with heat that respiration became difficult. The firemen, realizing the futility of fighting the fire on the flat, turned their attention toward checking the fire on the east.

At 8 o'clock the wall of fire reached the water front, leaving utter ruin and desolation behind it. Every wharf, every dock, the coal bunkers, the mills, and everything that could burn, was destroyed to its foundation.

THE BURNED DISTRICT.

The burned district includes forty blocks or eighty acres exclusive of the water front, which comprises about twenty blocks or forty acres more, making the total acreage of the devastated territory 120. Beginning at the foot of University street the boundary of the district runs east to Front street, thence south half way to Spring street, and then east again to Second street; along Second street to James; up James to Third, and thence along South Third street to the water's edge. In this immense territory not a single building escaped the fury of the flames.

NOTES.

About thirty arrests were made by the police and militia of those engaged in pilfering.

A row of trees on the east side of Second street, opposite the Colonial block undoubtedly saved that structure from destruction.

Proprietor Brooks had everything ready to move out of the Boston block if occasion required.

A plucky woman stood on the top of the Colonial block and helped to save it.

Fred. Spencer, of Port Townsend, carried a woman out of the McKenzie lodging house and saved her at the peril of his life.

The county prisoners were returned to jail from the armory before midnight. A Chinaman, who was a trusty, escaped. The city prisoners were divided between the county jail and the temporary wooden jail. The former had fifty inmates and the latter about seventy.

At 6 o'clock a man was seen carrying fire brands across the alley between South Third and South Fourth streets near Yesler avenue. He was setting fire to a house that had escaped the flames when a special policeman commenced shooting at him. To avoid the shots he dodged into the house he had fired and never came out. He was doubtless burned to death. While the Occidental was burning Officer James Campbell saw a man attempting to get into the Puget Sound National Bank by the back entrance. He ordered him to stop and the man drew a revolver. The officer took it away from him and led him toward the county jail. At South Fourth street the man struck the policeman in the face, knocked him down and ran. The officer fired three shots at him, and brought him to a standstill. This gave rise to a report that a man had been killed by an officer.

The coal bunkers were burning at one o'clock. In the old bunkers there were 150 tons, and in the new bunkers 150 tons.

The damage to the electric and cable roads will amount to about $30,000.

Sixty-three safes were counted in the ruins south of Yesler avenue at 12 o'clock. Most of them seemed unimpaired. Fully three times that number will be found north of the avenue.

Colonel Haines called out the militia at 5 o'clock. Company B was stationed on Third street, and Company D on Second street. The militia worked in harmony with the special police and did excellent picket duty. At 1 o'clock Captain Carr relieved Company B and the special police Company D.

Judge Hanford adjourned district court and gave the jury in the Evans murder trial into the custody of a bailiff, who allowed them to separate.

A negro who was caught in the act of stealing was knocked down by a blow on the head with an axe. He was then carried to jail.

The fine law library of Burke & Haller was saved. Struve, Haines & McIcken, Gen. J. B. Metcalf and a number of other attorneys lost their extensive libraries.

A volunteer fireman who was on top of the Boyd block when it was enveloped is supposed to be burned to death. All avenues of escape were clogged, and as a last resort, the man jumped, alighting, as it is feared, in the midst of the flames.

Two young ladies were seen to enter the Denny block when the fire was raging fiercely, and a gentleman who watched for their return for a quarter of an hour, stated in the evening that they did not return. There was no other exit but the front entrance.

Chief Butterfield, mounted on a horse, superintended the movements of over 100 special police.

A thief snatched a purse from a woman on Second street. He was chased by an excited mob to Occidental square, where he was captured. The mob wanted to hang him, but the officers succeeded in landing him in jail.

The offices in the Kora building were nearly all emptied of their contents.

Nearly all the tenants in the Yesler-Leary building saved most of their books and papers.

The abstractors in the bricks along Front street saved nearly all their books.

F. M. Gordon, a young man who came to Seattle from Maine a few days ago, at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon invested $2,500, all the money he had in the world, in Avery Kirke & Lane's business. An hour later his investment had gone up in smoke.

Enough of the plant of the Post-Intelligencer was saved to insure the uninterrupted continuance of its publication. Its press was destroyed and yesterday's edition was printed on a small jobber. The office for the present is at the northwest corner of Fourth and Columbia streets.

Josiah Collins, Jr., the chief of the fire department, was in San Francisco.

The funds, bonds and papers, and all valuables of the First National bank were removed to a place of safety.

The scenes and incidents during the progress of the fire beggar description. The wildest excitement was manifested by all. The merchants along Front street where the fire first began, hired teams and many moved the goods from their stores to Commercial street and to points along the water front. In a majority of instances the teamsters were inclined to be reasonable and saved a great many goods. The bulk of the goods saved were those that were hurled out of windows in the north end of the town.

The headquarters of the mayor and civil authorities and the First regiment National Guard, will be at the armory hereafter.

Dan Sullivan succeeded in rescuing a child from the lodging house on Washington street, between Second and South Second. The building was on fire at the time, and Mr. Sullivan had a narrow escape.

At the Merchants National bank all the papers, books, moneys and everything of value was placed in the vaults of the Seattle Safe Deposit Company, which are located in the basement of the building.

All of the records of Justice Miller's court were destroyed. The city records were nearly all saved by Clerk Ferris and his deputy. The county records were made ready for removal but this was rendered unnecessary. Justice Rivers saved all the records of his court.

On call of Mayor Moran a meeting of citizens was called at the court house at 8 o'clock. The following citizens' committee was appointed to swear in special policemen and look after the welfare of the city in conjunction with the police and militia: D. A. McKenzie, chairman; D. E. Durie, Douglas Young, Frank Sydel, N. B. Colt, D. Gilliland, Rochester, secretary; T. H. Brown, Alfred Garton, C. B. Nichols, C. H. Kittinger, P. Corcoran. The committee swore in about 200 special officers, who did very effective work.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

The residential portion of the city is virtually untouched, the fire having been almost entirely confined to the business quarters. The board and lodging houses, the hotels and restaurants, are all consumed, and those who were without a place to lay their heads consist almost entirely of the boarding and floating population. A number of families are houseless, and yesterday morning they were seated here and there along the streets watching their effects and endeavoring to make the best of the situation. There is no actual want, though undoubtedly many have lost everything they possessed in this world. Prompt measures were taken by the authorities to have food prepared for all who needed it.

In the desire to save some of the effects from destruction, goods were roughly handled, and here and there were pianos with broken legs and cases, while everything was piled promiscuously. No one was allowed to remove anything without the order of the authorities. Steep figures were asked by draymen for their services. One instance is related where a citizen gave $75 for removing some valuables. Only a portion were taken in the first load, when the drayman returned for the remainder he was offered $100 by another and took it, leaving his former customer's goods to the flames. A lawyer succeeded in saving his library and papers, hiring several men to remove them to a dray. It is said that there was more fire and eloquence in his appeal to them to hustle than he ever before had exhibited.

Between five and six in the morning the milk waggons from the country and the bakers' wagons stood at the corners of the streets, along Second, where the crowds were gathered watching their goods or surveying the desolation, and all who were hungry could secure cakes and bread and pure milk at a nominal cost.

The best of order prevailed owing to the excellent arrangements of the authorities. The militia patrolled in companies of five and six, while sentries marched between blocks, or stood guard at the corners of streets and prevented the people from passing into the burnt district. Special constables and the regular police were numerous, and the summary justice dealt out to offenders during the previous night kept the vicious from indulging in thieving or rioting.

Perhaps not fully realizing the extent of the catastrophe, or more likely from the undaunted spirit of enterprise ever shown by the Seattleites, there were few who were downcast. They deplored the fate which had overtaken their city, but asserted their determination to begin anew and build a better town than they had before. Already some had commenced the construction of new buildings, while gangs of workmen were employed in clearing the debris from the streets. The electric light, electric and cable street railway companies the telephone and telegraph companies were at work at an early hour yesterday repairing wires and tracks for business. Restaurants were started in tents, and lunch counters formed from sign boards. The leading men all expressed their intention of rebuilding at once, and though the task will be one of many months duration, they intend to make the new Seattle a better city than the old.

To understand the extent of the ruin wrought by the fire, Victorians can imagine with what dismay they would look upon the total destruction of every building from James Bay to Rock Bay bridge and from all west of Douglas street to the water front. This perhaps would equal the burnt district of Seattle. Several old Victorians are losers in the fire. E. C. Neufelder, of Schwabacker & Co., stated to THE COLONIST representative that their loss would foot up to half a million dollars. Only a small wharf and warehouse remained to them, but in this yesterday morning the firm were transacting a rushing business. The C.P.N. Co. are heavy losers from burned baggage and freight, and the destruction of their warehouse. Capt. O'Brien, of the Premier, who had stored all his household and personal effects in the warehouse, loses a couple of thousand dollars. The Borde Bros. were burned out. Hamm (formerly of the Poodle Dog) places his loss at $15,000. W. Biggar, of this city, who was in Seattle taking orders for pictures, lost all his outfit. J. W. McLeod, of Earle & Co., lost most of his personal effects but saved his books and papers. E. L. Shannon is a considerable loser.

Not realizing the danger, many people remained in the buildings until the fire had almost overwhelmed them. A number had to jump from the windows, and the arms and legs of several people were broken. A number are supposed to have perished, but it was impossible to learn details. Only a search through the ruins will confirm the reports.

The weather fortunately remained bright and clear, and those who were compelled to sleep out of doors did not suffer from cold during the previous night.

The coal bunkers are destroyed, and the water supply cut off from the water front. Steamers had to go to Freeport, across the bay for water, and bring fuel from other points.

The steamers from Tacoma and other places brought crowds of visitors to the scene, and yesterday morning the streets were thronged with people.

Mayor Moran issued an order that all persons found on the streets after 8 o'clock, without the cold system, would be placed under arrest. All persons found stealing will be arrested, and if they resist, will be summarily dealt with. All saloons were ordered closed under penalty of a forfeiture of license. All pawnbrokers are prohibited from selling liquor until further orders.

ESTIMATES OF LOSSES.

THE GREAT AMOUNT OF PROPERTY SWEPT BY FLAME.

The following estimate of losses, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, is believed to be reasonably accurate. But it is not by any means comprehensive. The total loss detailed in the following is $3,500,000, with but small insurance. The grand aggregate will be swelled, it is believed, to $8,000,000 or $10,000,000:

	Loss.	Ins.
Whittlesey & Co.	$ 500	fair
A. P. Hotaling	70,000	fair
Stone building	50,000	partial
Puget Sound bank	.....	$ 1,500
Occidental	20,000	10,000
Seattle Hotel Co.	10,000	10,000
W. A. Hashcroick	10,000	4,000
Geo. F. Frye	75,000	27,000
J. Magrath	4,000	none
Otto Rankel	4,000	none
Watson C. Squire	93,000	47,000
J. A. Ballargeon	40,000	1,100
Schwabacher Bros. & Co.	250,000	partial
R. J. Graham	8,000	1,000
C. Forbach	1,000	400
H. Hershberg	75,000	30,000
Hahn & Rosenberg	50,000	22,000
Clancy Bros.	10,000	3,000
Dexter, Horton & Co.	slight	7,500
Tokas, Singermann & Co.	558,000	150,000
Battin & Co.	3,500	3,