



Personal and Prompt Attention To Repairing Heating Plants...

THE SUN TODAY.

This edition of The Sun is printed from the presses of the Washington Star...

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

Government Weather Report. Washington, Feb. 7.—The Government Weather Bureau issued the following forecast for Monday and Tuesday...

Forecast For Baltimore And Vicinity. The Government forecast for Baltimore and vicinity is for fair, with much colder weather, with cold waves at night...

\$20,000 IN MONEY SAVED. Officers of Federal Savings Bank Find Vault Empty. Early in the afternoon \$20,000 in coin and bills was taken out of the vaults of the Federal Savings Bank...

RINGS IN BANK SAFE. Treasurer Rabbe Has To Be Identified To Get Them. While the fire was blazing a red furnace half a square away and the building of the Federal Savings Bank...

PHONE SERVICE CRIPPLED. Trolley Cars Switched Over Different Routes. The underground conduits proved the salvation of the telephone and telegraph systems in the heart of the city...

APPEALED INTO SILENCE. All day and all night through crowded streets, clogging every avenue to the fire district and moving back out of danger only when forced to do so by the police on duty...

STARTS IN HURST BUILDING. At 10.50 o'clock in the morning the automatic fire-alarm box, No. 84, in the basement of the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co., German street and Hopkins place, sounded an alarm...

ENGINE AND TRUCK LOST. Walls Of Hurst Building Fall On And Wreck Them. The city Fire Department lost two fine pieces of apparatus. They were No. 15 engine and No. 2 truck...

CHIEF HORTON HURT. Stunned By Stepping On A Live Wire And Rendered Unconscious. Chief Horton was badly shocked by stepping on a live wire early in the afternoon, and was taken in a patrol wagon to his headquarters at No. 23 Engine House...

TWENTY-FOUR BLOCKS BURNED IN HEART OF BALTIMORE

CITY'S MOST VALUABLE BUILDINGS IN RUINS LOSS VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT FROM \$50,000,000 TO \$80,000,000

BLAZE STILL SPREADING EASTWARD AND SOUTHWARD AT 3.30 A. M.

Starting In John E. Hurst Building The Fire Sweeps South To Lombard, East To Holliday And North To Lexington, Destroying Wholesale Business Houses, Banks, Continental, Equitable, Calvert, B. And O. Central, The Sun And Other Large Buildings.

Fire, which started at 10.50 o'clock yesterday morning, devastated practically the entire central business district of Baltimore and at midnight the flames were still raging with as much fury as at the beginning. To all appearances Baltimore's business district is doomed. Many of the principal banking institutions, all the leading trust companies, all the largest wholesale houses, all the newspaper offices, many of the principal retail stores and thousands of smaller establishments went up in flame, and in most cases the contents were completely destroyed...

There is little doubt that many men, formerly prosperous, will be ruined by the events of the last 24 hours. Many of them carry little or no insurance, and it is doubtful if many of the insurance companies will be able to pay their losses dollar for dollar, and those that do will probably require time in which to arrange for the payment.

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The Lutheran Church at Broadway and Canton avenue caught fire at 3 o'clock. SIGNS OF ABATING. Mayor McLane and Doctor Lee have just returned from a circuit of the fire. Mayor said: 'I feel the conflagration shows some signs of abating. I have received a telegram from New York stating that the Fire Department of that city has sent over six engines, six hose-carriages, six trucks and horses. These will probably reach Baltimore between 9 and 10 o'clock A. M.'

of firemen when a live trolley wire fell on him at the corner of Liberty and Baltimore streets, knocking him senseless, and he had to be carried to his home and placed in bed. By this accident the city was deprived of the services of its most experienced and trusted firefighter, and although District Chief Emerich, who succeeded Chief Horton in command on the ground, did apparently all that was possible, those present could not but regret that Chief Horton was not there.

Four general alarms were speedily sent in and within half an hour after the first alarm every piece of fire apparatus in Baltimore was on the ground and at work. Realizing the gravity of the peril a telegram was sent to Washington for aid and two engines from that city were placed on a special train and hurried to the city over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in record-breaking time. It was said that the trip was made in 37 minutes.

It was an awe-inspiring sight to witness the progress of the flames. A building eight or ten stories in height would suddenly break into flames from top to bottom almost in an instant and would burn fiercely until with a crash that could be heard for blocks the walls would collapse and the spot be marked only by a heap of blazing ruins. The crash of falling walls was almost incessant and now and then could be heard the muffled roar of an explosion as some gasoline tank or chemical substance became ignited by the heat and let go with terrific force.

Every minute almost the lives of the firemen were in imminent danger from falling walls or leaping flames, and more than 50 of them were carried from the ground more or less severely burned. Undismayed by the danger or the hopelessness of the task, however, they continued the unequal struggle, and took the hose into narrow alleys, where the flames roared menacingly overhead on both sides of them, and directed streams of water where it was thought some effect could be produced.

Apparently every person in Baltimore was in the vicinity of the fire, and the various streets leading to the fire district were packed during the entire day. The entire police force, in charge of Marshal Farnan and Deputy Marshal Manning, was on the ground and with ropes succeeded in keeping the crowd back from the dangerous points. As the fire spread farther and farther the ropes were shifted and the crowd moved back one block at a time.

dynamiting the material was on the ground and Mr. Roy C. Lafferty, the Government expert, who had come from Washington especially to take charge of the work of dynamiting the buildings, was on the ground with his apparatus in readiness. By this time it was thoroughly realized that the flames were completely beyond control and only desperate measures could be resorted to in order to prevent the flames from spreading further in this part of the city. Engineer Fendall and Mr. Lafferty took a charge in the building adjoining Armstrong, Cator & Co.'s on the west and set it off. The building fell with a crash, but the blazing ruins ignited the Armstrong building and the situation was, if anything, made worse.

Armstrong, Cator & Co.'s building burned rapidly. A large charge of dynamite was let off in it, but the structure failed to collapse and the idea of destroying it with dynamite was abandoned. The flames by this time were raging fiercely all along German street to Charles and it was then that Mr. Lafferty set off six charges of dynamite, each charge containing 100 pounds, in the building at the southwest corner of Charles and German streets. The tremendous force of the explosions tore out the massive granite columns that supported the building and left it with apparently almost no support, but the walls failed to collapse and stood until the flames had crossed Charles street and were eating into the block between Charles and Light streets.

The fire had meantime been communicated to the row of buildings on South Charles street, between German and Lombard streets, and all those places, occupied principally by wholesale produce and grain dealers, were in flames. Shortly before midnight the Carrollton Hotel was in flames and the fire was sweeping toward Calvert street with irresistible fury.

The progress of the flames toward the north had in the meantime been so rapid as to be simply appalling. From structure to structure they flew, licking up the massive buildings as if they were composed of paper. In the block between German and Baltimore streets they ran along, and almost before it could be realized the buildings along Baltimore street were blazing from roof to basement.

For a time it was hoped the fire could be kept from crossing to the north side of Baltimore street and the firemen made a desperate effort to prevent it. The effort was useless, however, and soon the tall, narrow building of Mullin's Hotel began to dart out tongues of flame from several stories and in a few minutes the entire building was an immense flaming torch. At almost the same instant the remainder of the buildings between Sharp and Liberty streets were ablaze and the fire began its march to the north. The small two and three-story buildings on Little Sharp street burned comparatively slowly and in this narrow space the two Washington companies fought a plucky battle with the devouring element.

They were hemmed in on both sides by fire and directed the streams at the buildings, from which smoke and flame were pouring, at a distance of only two or three yards. ACROSS CHARLES STREET. It was utterly, heartbreakingly useless. The flames darted rapidly from place to place, and soon the entire south side of Fayette street was in the grasp of the flames. Down Fayette to Charles they swept, and in a space of time that seemed incredibly short the building occupied by Mr. W. Putts & Co. was evidently doomed. Seeing that nothing could save it Mr. Fendall, acting under instructions from Chief Emerich, decided to destroy the building with dynamite, in the hope of preventing the fire from crossing Charles street. The explosion was successful in accomplishing the object, and the entire corner collapsed instantly, but this had, apparently, no effect upon the progress of the fire, for almost before the sound of the falling walls had died away the building on the east side of Charles street began to blaze, and it was evident that the block between Charles and St. Paul streets was doomed.

In a desperate, but futile, effort to prevent the fire going further to the east, building after building was dynamited in this block, but it was all of no avail and the fire progressed steadily onward. The Daily Record Building was again in flames, and not many minutes later the fire had leaped over St. Paul street and the lofty, massive Calvert Building began to emit smoke and flame. The Equitable Building, just over a narrow alley, quickly followed, and these two immense buildings gave forth a glare that lighted the city for miles around. It was thought that the fire could be prevented from crossing to the north side of Fayette street and here again a desperate stand was made by the firemen. Again it was useless, and soon the large building of Hall, Headington & Co., on the northwest corner of Charles and Fayette streets, was blazing brightly. With scarcely a pause the fire darted across to the east side of Charles street and began to lap up the handsome building of the Union Trust Company, while at the same time the large buildings to the west of Hall, Headington & Co., occupied by Wise Brothers and Oppenheim, Oberdorf & Co., were aflame throughout.

A Detailed Estimate Of Loss In The Wholesale District. A careful and conservative estimate of the loss in the wholesale business district, in which the fire originated, places it at something over \$15,000,000. This district is bounded by Baltimore, Liberty, Charles and Lombard streets and contained many of the largest dry goods, clothing and shoe houses in the city, besides two prominent banks—the National Exchange and Hopkins Place Savings Bank. This estimate was made for the Sun last night by Mr. George B. Taylor, of the insurance firm of Jenness & Taylor, Holliday and Water streets. Mr. Taylor is in the office abating to a reporter of the Sun until it was stated that the fire has burned a few blocks away when he found it necessary to remove the valuables and papers from his office.

The estimate is for each building in this section, the loss given representing the building with its contents. According to this the heaviest losers were John E. Hurst & Co., R. M. Sutton & Co. and the Daniel Miller Company, all of which were heavily stocked with dry goods, and in each of which cases the loss in buildings and contents was placed at \$1,500,000. The Armstrong, Cator & Co.'s loss is estimated at half a million, and the great majority were \$500,000 or more in value. This district contained about 125 buildings, among them some of the finest business structures in town, which were occupied by more than 150 firms. The list follows:

- HOPKINS PLACE. 21—S. Lowman & Co., clothing, \$125,000. 23—John E. Hurst & Co., storage, \$150,000. 25—Finkley, Roberts & Co., hardware, \$75,000. 27—Lawrence & Gould Shoe Company and Bata Footwear Company, \$125,000. 29—S. Giesberg & Co., clothing, \$125,000. 31—Winkelmann & Brown Drug Co., \$125,000. 33 and 35—R. M. Sutton & Co. dry goods, \$150,000. 37—Chesapeake Shoe Company, \$100,000. 39—S. F. and A. F. Miller, clothing manufacturers \$100,000. 41—S. Halle Sons, boots and shoes, \$100,000. 43 and 45—Strauss Bros., dry goods, \$250,000. 47 and 49—A. C. Meyer & Co. patent medicines, \$150,000. WEST LOMBARD STREET. 108 and 110—Matthews Bros., paper-box manufacturers, \$75,000. 112 and 114—Strauss, Eilseman & Co., shirt manufacturers, \$150,000. 116 and 118—North Bros. & Strauss, have been moving to new building formerly occupied by Haywood Bros., Wakefield Company, northeast corner Pratt and Greene streets; building \$75,000; stock may be about \$75,000. WEST GERMAN STREET. 103—Standard Suspender Company and Daniel A. Boone & Co., liquors, \$63,000. 105—Bradley, Kirkman, Reese Company, paper, \$75,000. 107—George A. Eitel, neckwear manufacturer; Charles L. Linville and J. J. Murphy, sewing silks, \$75,000. 109—McDonald & Fisher, wholesale paper, \$100,000. 111—Wiley, Bruster & Co., dry goods, and P. W. & E. Damann, cloth, \$125,000. 113—Henry Oppenheimer & Co., clothing, and Vansant, Jacobs & Co., shirts, \$175,000. 16—Joseph R. Stonebraker & Co., liquors, \$75,000. 15—Lewis Lauer & Co., shirts, \$100,000. 20—Champion Shoe Manufacturing Company and Diggs, Currin & Co., shoes, \$100,000. 22—Mendels Bros., ladies' wrappers, \$125,000. 24—Blankenberg, Gehrmann & Co., notions, \$125,000. 26—Leo Keene & Co., ladies' cloaks, and Henry Pretzel & Co., boots and shoes, \$125,000. 28—Peter Rose & Son harness manufacturers, \$125,000. 30—James Robertson Manufacturing Company, plumbers' supplies, \$100,000. 32—H. 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WEST GERMAN STREET. 5 and 7, Amos Green & Co., cotton, and other goods, \$75,000. 9, Sadler, Rowe & Co., books and stationery, \$50,000. 11, George Mayo, manufacturer and proprietary medicines, \$50,000. 13, Van Zanet, Jacobs & Co., shirts, \$50,000. 15, Caplan & Greenbaum, clothing, and Crucible Steel Company, \$50,000. 17, Carey, Bain & Smith, dry goods, and F. T. Kent, \$500,000 cotton and thread, \$300,000. WEST BALTIMORE STREET. 1—Oehm's Aime Hall, \$150,000. 3 and 7—Consolidated Gas Company, \$100,000. 9 and 11 and back to 4 and 10 West German—Armstrong, Cator & Co., notions and millinery, \$400,000. 13 and 15—Weger & Co., shoes, Steger Bros., trunks, Bowen, Falm & Co., storage, and Moore between 9 and 7 o'clock A. M.

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