

A \$27,000 BLAZE!

The Most Disastrous Fire That Weeping Water Ever Had.

FIVE BUSINESS LOTS MADE VACANT BY ITS FURY.

The Fire Originates in Wessel & Kohn's Large General Merchandise Store.

At about 2:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, fire was discovered in the store room of Wessel & Kohn, who occupied the lower part of the I. O. O. F. building, a large, two story, stone structure, the best business house in town and fire proof from without. In a very short time after the alarm was given, hundreds were on the ground. The high wind, blowing from the northwest, caused the flames to spread very rapidly, and in fifteen minutes the entire interior of the building was enveloped in flames, which had by this time ignited G. S. Barry's harness shop and Dudley's restaurant and dwelling house. The latter's family barely had time to escape with a portion of their clothing. They saved three feather beds and bedding, one trunk and a very few other things. Nothing in the restaurant was saved, except the books. Ed. Pratt was sleeping in Barry's harness shop and is thankful he got out alive. The building was on fire over his head when he awakened.

E. T. Comer, pump and wind mill dealer, occupied a small building on the next lot east. He saved one wind mill only. The next and only other building between the stone store and Gibson's new brick was Baldwin Bros. blacksmith and wagon shop. This building was partly torn down and a few of their tools were saved before it got too warm for work. When the brick building was reached, the fire had no further fuel in that direction. The flames climbed high, the sparks flew and cinders were carried several blocks, some landing across the creek. It looked for a time as if the elevators and depot must go, but fortune favored them. While all this was going on, which took but a very few moments, the attention of the major portion of the crowd was directed to Chase & Churchill's large, double, two story, wooden building, filled with furniture and hardware, which reaches to the alley and joins the stone building on west. Everyone expected this building and Barnes' drug store, next to it, would surely burn and almost every man set to work to remove the goods. Everything that could be moved was taken from Chase & Churchill's buildings, and much of the furniture and chinaware was broken. The building caught fire on the east side at the rear of the stone store, and although the show seemed very slim to save the building, every man turned his attention to carrying water and applying it to the flames. Every bucket and tub in the building was brought into use and for an hour harder work by a more determined and resolute set of fellows was never done at a fire. Water was carried from every well and cistern in the vicinity. Those who gaze at the large hole in the side of the buildin

since, say it seems utterly impossible that with no other means than those used, that the building was saved. It was well it did not last longer, as the water supply was about exhausted. A portion of Barnes' fine goods were carried into the street and considerable damage was done to them by rough usage.

The men from the stone works and the railroad men took hold with a will equal to those financially interested, and to them particularly, and to all others who helped, is the commendations of our business men most heartily bestowed. Telegrams were sent to Omaha and Lincoln, asking assistance from their fire departments. Omaha replied that they had no available engine, but Lincoln was making ready to send aid when the order was countermanded from here. The losses are about as follows:

Odd Fellows' building and furniture, \$8,000; insurance \$5,250, divided between the Phoenix, Hartford and Underwriters. The former has \$2,750, D. M. Johnson agt, and the latter \$2,500 B. A. Gibson Agt. Wessel & Kohn's stock was valued at \$8,000 insured for \$4,400 in the following companies. Phoenix & Hartford \$1,300 Springfield \$700 Johnson agt, Orient \$1200, German of Freeport \$1200, I. F. Travis agt. Dudley's loss on stock, building and household goods \$3,500 insured for \$1200.

G. S. Barry's loss on building and stock \$2,500 Ins. \$1,300. E. T. Comer loss on stock and building \$600, no insurance. Baldwin Bros. on tools and stock \$250. Dr. Butler's loss on instruments and furniture besides his books \$700 no insurance.

Chase & Churchill, damage to stock \$1,500 fully insured. P. S. Barnes damage to stock \$300, insured. K. of P. order loss on paraphernalia with no insurance \$600. C. A. Webster plate glass broken \$75, no insurance, charters and regalias of five different orders were burned. Following persons had goods stored in Wessel & Kohn's cellar, Mrs. Amerman 65 bu. potatoes, Rev. Hindley and J. K. Keithley all their apples and potatoes, Reed Bros. several barrels of vinegar.

Notice.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Weeping Water Lime & Stone Company will be held at their office in Weeping Water, Monday, Jan. 2, 1888. It E. L. REED, Pres.

To All Whom it May Concern.

Owing to the recent fire we are compelled to ask all knowing themselves owing us book accounts to call and settle. Please call and do us this favor and we will soon be on deck again to favor you. We will be at the store of P. S. Barnes. Respectfully,
WESSEL & KOHN.
STERLING GIRARDET, Manager.

Steam Engine List.

Brought forward from last week.. \$47 85
Joe McVickers ... 3 75
L Foltz 2 15
E Hutchins..... 2 00
J W Cox..... 2 00
N J Madsen 4 00
L C Todd 4 45
Peter Jorgenson 2 00
O W Cromwell..... 2 00
S. Murray 2 copies..... 3 50
S. A. Reed..... 2 00