

directing a stream on the fire when I arrived.

Fire Has Small Beginning. Thinking it would be only a small blaze compared with the previous night's fire, I did not think it worth while taking any notes.

It will be necessary for me to digress that I may relate what occurred before the "Little Giant" company reached the fire. In those days there were towers in the engine houses, and the firemen took turns at watching for a blaze.

Mathias Schaeffer was on duty in the courthouse tower. "Bill" Brown was night operator.

Quite a while before Brown got the word from Schaeffer that there was a fire Brown himself had seen a glow in the southwest part of the city, but thought it was from the ruins of the Saturday night fire.

Misjudges Location of Fire. The fire had been burning almost half an hour before Schaeffer sighted it. There was a haze in the sky from the fire of the previous night and Schaeffer's vision was obscured.

No box was pulled as the first alarm for the great fire. Although a druggist at Taylor and Canal streets tried to turn in two alarms from the box at that corner, neither of them registered at fire alarm headquarters.

The man in the tower of No. 6 house on Maxwell street, near Canal, sighted the fire about the same time Schaeffer did. He ran down the stairs and shouted to Foreman Musham to "hitch up."

This accounts for No. 6 being first in. Other companies were as near or nearer the fire, but they went out of their way to reach Canalport avenue and Halsted street. On arrival there they found no fire.

Error Makes Fire Possible. If the right location had been given by Schaeffer there would have been no huge conflagration and consequently no anniversary today. Two of the best steamers in the department, the R. A. Williams and the J. B. Rice, would have responded on the first alarm if the proper location had been sounded.

Engine company No. 5, whose house was at Jefferson and Van Buren streets, was the second company in. Instead of going south in Jefferson street directly to the fire, as it would if it had been given the right location, it went west in Van Buren street to Halsted.

Firemen Exhausted Previous Night. In addition to these handicaps not more than half of the fire fighting brigade was in physical condition, as a result of the terrible battle waged the previous night.

A terrific southwest wind carried brands for blocks, and these torches landed on the roofs of buildings on which they fell. Coal and lumber yards lined both sides of the river, and the wind carried burning boards across the stream.

South Side Stables Catch Fire. Shortly before midnight the fire crossed the river between Van Buren and Adams streets. The first building to be attacked on the south side of the city was Frank Farmer's stables. At this time every piece of apparatus was on the west side.

The flames swept east toward Michigan avenue, and there were a dozen fires burning at the same time. The fire extended south to Taylor and De Koven streets, and along the old bridge, where it was halted at Harrison street and Wabash avenue.

"The Tribune" Building Last to Burn. One of the last structures in the business section to go down in the onslaught of fire was the Tribune building. Structures all around it were destroyed early in the morning, but the Tribune building stood like a sentinel until the middle of the forenoon.

COW CHOSEN TO PLAY PART IN CHICAGO FIRE PAGEANT. Daphne Engaged to Illustrate Historic Tale of How Mrs. O'Leary's Animal Kicked Lamp Over.

The Automobile Trade association yesterday selected the cow which is to play the leading role in the fire pageant to be staged tomorrow on Park row. The pageant is to depict with fidelity to history the manner in which Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lamp which started the great Chicago conflagration of 1871.

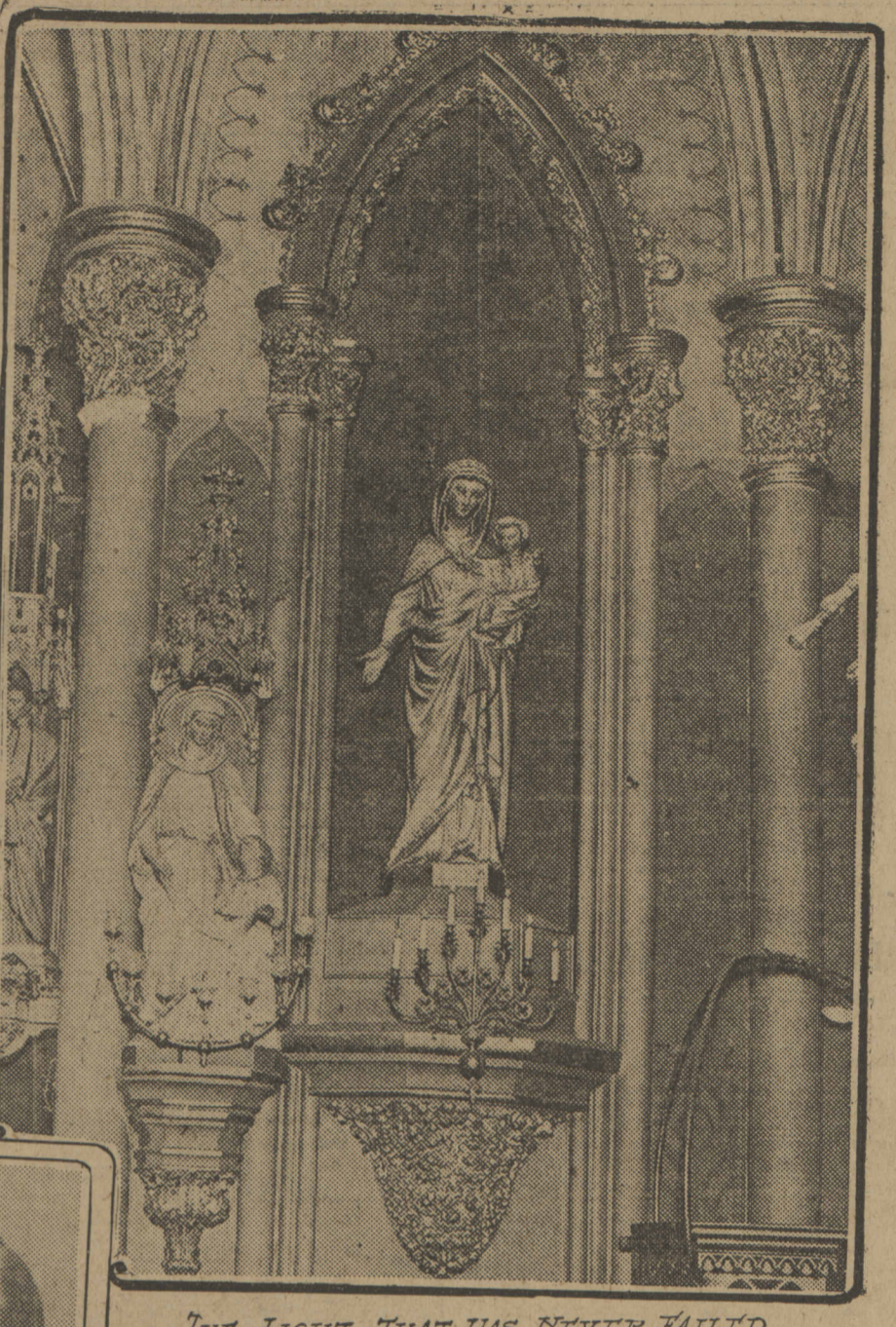
Clerk and \$140 Disappear. Police are searching for Fred Steinberg, a clerk in the grocery of W. E. Meyers, 1811 South State street, who failed to return yesterday after Mr. Meyers had given him \$140 to deposit in a downtown bank.

Reporter Who "Covered" Fire of '71; Veteran Bell Ringer; Priest Whose Prayer Saved Church; 40 Year Pledge—Burning Candles.

[From photographs taken for THE TRIBUNE.]



MICHAEL AHERN REPORTER AT TIME OF CHICAGO FIRE, 1871



THE LIGHT THAT HAS NEVER FAILED



THE REV. ARNOLD DAMEN

ORDER OF MARCH FOR FIRE ANNIVERSARY.

- (Parade to be held tomorrow.)
- POLICE DIVISION.
1. South park mounted police.
 2. Daily News band.
 3. Chicago mounted police.
 4. Mayor Harrison.
 5. City patrolmen on foot.
 6. Police officials.
 7. Single horse patrol wagon.
 8. Double horse patrol wagon.
 9. Double horse ambulance.
 10. Police riot gun.
 11. Motorcycle police.
 12. Automobile police patrols (two).
- FIRE DEPARTMENT.
13. Volunteers and veterans in automobiles.
 14. Old time hand power engine.
 15. Old time hand drawn hose cart.
 16. Old time Lawton hand power engine.
 17. Chief Seyferlich and Chief O'Connor.
 18. Fire department officials.
 19. Chief with horse and buggy.
 20. Horse drawn chemicals.
 21. Horse drawn hose carts.
 22. Automobile chief's wagons.
 23. Automobile insurance patrol.
 24. Automobile combination chemical and hose wagon.
 25. Evanston's automobile combination engine and chemical (Robinson).
 26. Waukegan's automobile combination chemical and hose wagon.

TEACH PUPILS FIRE CAUTION

Talks and Pictures to Show Peril in Use of Matches.

EXERCISES IN WEST PARK.

Building Chief Blames Frame Structures; Gives S. M. Tips.

The children of Chicago will devote one hour tomorrow afternoon to learn what obligations they are under to prevent fires. It is "Fire Preventer day."

Wants Firemen to Talk.

Mrs. Young suggests that a different pupil recite each stanza of these verses. She urges that the principal secure a member of the city fire department to talk to the children.

Building Chief Gives Views.

"With a fire loss in this country of nearly seven times that of Europe, the awakening of public interest to this calamity is opportune," he writes. "This vast loss is clearly attributed to two primary causes:

OLD O'LEARY BOX "HITS IN."

Scene of "Big Blaze" Recalled as Engine Company No. 6 Rushes to Fire.

WAR ON TOBACCO TRUST OPENED BY CHICAGO TRADE.

Eight Local Bodies Organize to Fight Monopoly, Demanding It Be Dissolved.

Representatives of eight of the largest bodies of tobacco, cigar, and box manufacturers met at the Hotel Sherman last night and organized for the purpose of "breaking up the tobacco trust," the American Tobacco company.

FORCES ITALIANS TO QUIT ALBANIA

Proposes to study the flora, fauna, and water course, and proceeding south through Central Africa, eventually enter country as yet unexplored or little known.

Not Time for Intervention.

Official circles, while realizing the anxiety of foreign countries to see the Turco-Italian conflict ended and the possibility of complications avoided, wish to warn public opinion abroad that while the Italian fleet has taken possession of Tripoli and Cyrenaica, the occupation cannot be considered an accomplished fact in the sense that it renders possible that intervention by the powers which Italy in due time will welcome but at the present moment would be inopportune.

Tells Plans of Italy.

Premier Giolitti, in a speech at Turin today, outlined the policy of the government with reference to Tripoli, which seems to have the support of most members of the chamber of deputies and a great majority of the people.

INJURED, HE HEARS DUTY CALL.

Lieut. Walter Stedman of Wrecked Fire Truck Breaks from Physicians, but Faints.

MAN IN TOWER AT FIRE OF '71 TELLS OF SIGHTING FLAMES.

Mathias Schaeffer, Courthouse Guard, Now 79 Years Old, Recalls Incidents of the Great Blaze.

Mathias Schaeffer, the old watchman who was on duty in the courthouse tower the night of the great fire, is living with his son at 623 South Peoria street.

Storm Nearly Puts Out Lights.

The chandeliers were left open and a driving rain swept in past the shrine. At midnight the lights were all burning, but early in the morning when Brother Mulkeners entered the sanctuary the feeble glimmer of one candle stub was all that remained.

Rebel Fights for Turkey.

[BY CABLE TO THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.] CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 7.—Inam Yahya, the insurgent leader, has informed the commander in chief of the Turkish troops that there will be a truce in the Yemen province until the war is ended.

PRIEST'S VOW KEPT 40 YEARS

Father Damen Pledged to Have Candles Burning Forever.

CHURCH SAVED BY PRAYER.

"Big Fire" Turned Aside; Faithful Guard the Lights.

About that revered edifice known to three generations of west sideers as Holy Family Catholic church centers a romance which had its inception at the time of the great fire. Built in 1857 by the Rev. Father Arnold Damen S. J., the church and some of the oldest members of the original congregation have seen the great west side spring up around it.

Father Damen was the first Jesuit missionary to enter the field of Chicago after Father Marquette established the Holy Family parish in 1852. He was the pastor of St. Ignatius college, now Loyola university, and his original parish comprised all that part of Chicago west of the Chicago river as far north as the present North avenue, and extending south into the prairies that fringed the young city.

In an obscure corner of the gray old church which has stood for fifty-four years is a niche which shelters a statue of the Blessed Virgin. "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" is the symbolic title the image bears and before it is a triangular candlestick, in which seven burning candles are placed.

Recall Father Damen's Pledge.

The story of "Father Damen's Pledge" has its fountain head in that triangular array of lights before which hundreds offer daily orisons to the madonna above. Flours old fisherman of May street has watched its flickering gleam for forty years, and in telling their children or grandchildren the story of Father Damen bear witness to the fact that the candles never have gone out.

On Oct. 9, 1871, the great Chicago fire started in a little old cowshed in Jefferson street. Early in the morning terrified women and children rushed to the shrine of the madonna. The fire was headed in the direction of their parish, and the church of the Holy Family was directly in its path.

Father Arnold Damen was in New York conducting a mission. He was sent a telegram telling of the peril that threatened Chicago and his own little world, the Holy Family parish. Before the altar of St. Michael's cathedral, in Brooklyn, he prayed that his parish might be spared, and vowed a sanctuary light would be kept forever burning before the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help if his prayer was answered.

Holy Family Parish Saved.

Back in the gloom of the women before the shrine saw the flames advance until but several hundred yards separated them from the outlying houses of the parish. Then the course of the fire was turned and the flames swept back over the downtown district. Not a house in Holy Family parish was burned and when Father Damen returned the next day the story of the miraculous escape was told.

"In hoc signo vinces," said the pastor, as he knelt before the statue of the virgin. That day the lights were placed before the shrine and Father Damen solemnized his vow at mass never to allow them to burn out. The pastor imposed the same obligation on all his successors.

For the last twenty-five years Brother Thomas Mulkeners, sacristan of the church, has tended the lights. He has guarded them jealously during his quarter century of vigilance, and attests to the fact that they never have gone out. Three years ago the sacredness of Father Damen's pledge was threatened during a heavy rain storm one night.

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WISCONSIN CITY NOW PAST DANGER

River Recedes from Black River Falls and Privation Is Less Marked.

TOTAL DAMAGE \$1,200,000.

Citizens Announce They Can Look After Themselves, but Receive Aid.

Black River Falls, Wis., Oct. 7.—Fifteen families are homeless and a property loss of \$1,200,000 has been wrought and this city is laboring under the distressing handicap of the loss of its business district as the result of the flood.

This, in brief, summarizes the situation disclosed at the end of an exhaustive canvass of the city tonight.

Lack of Provisions Felt.

A serious problem now is the lack of stores and the loss of stock and provisions. Only one grocery remains in the city, but another has been located in a tent, and others will be temporarily housed in a day or two. Meats and groceries will have to be shipped in from outside points for the present to supply the population.

Editor Cooper of the Black River Falls Banner, after a careful estimate, said tonight that the loss, including buildings and land swept away and structures damaged by flood water, would be \$1,200,000. City Clerk Collins put it at \$900,000. In many cases lots as well as buildings have been destroyed, the land being carried off by the river.

City Dike Partly to Blame.

The defective construction of the municipal power plant at Black River Falls, not the Hatfield dam, which is another property, is held by engineers to be partly responsible for the disaster.

The concrete dike of the city dam, just completed, was laid diagonally to the course of the river, instead of at right angles, throwing the flood waters toward the business section when the torrent was released.

COLLINS MUM ON SMUGGLING.

Memphis Man Implicated with Nathan Allen in Jewel Case Returns to Chicago.

John R. Collins, the wealthy Memphis man implicated with Nathan Allen of Racine, Wis., in smuggling jewels into New York for Mrs. Helen Dwell-Jenkins, returned to Chicago last night. He is at the Blackstone hotel.

He was fined \$4,000 for his part in the smuggling by a New York court last week. "I have nothing whatever to say regarding the matter," he said last night. "I consider the incident closed."

Mail Orders at City Prices

A Stunning Suede Walking Boot

One of the suddenest successes of the greatest O-G season in O-G history.

On Sale Monday—Both Stores.

\$5.50

In the shades of the fall, Cinnamon brown and SMOKE GREY.

This boot has the artistic O-G lines, short vamp, etc., that have brought fame to these booteries. Widely copied, but never equaled features. O-G exclusively.

Don't take copies—come here and get the originals.

Put "O-G" on your shopping list as a Reminder.

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WOMEN'S O-G SHOPS:

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205 S. STATE ST. Private Store

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