

\$100,000 FIRE AT KENSAL

Heroic Work of Courtenay Fire Department

The Best Business Section of the Town is Wiped out by Flames, The Total Loss Being About \$100,000.00

BUILDINGS TO BE REBUILT

At about midnight on Thursday night of last week fire was discovered in the rear of the Farmers Mercantile store at Kensal and before anything could be done to check its progress it had spread to the adjoining buildings and for a time it was feared that nothing would be left in the town before the fierce appetite of the flames could be satisfied. The store building in which the fire originated was situated at the north end of the principal business block in the town and a brisk breeze was blowing from the northeast, and owing to the fact that the town was practically without any means of fighting fire the flames spread rapidly. There were large quantities of oils and gasoline in the building where the fire started and this also caused the flames to work much more rapidly than they otherwise would have done. It was only a short time until the building occupied and owned by the Peterson Hardware Company, adjoining the Farmers store, was enveloped in flames and as there was nothing but wooden structures for the entire length of the block, and they were all closely connected, it was easy to foretell what the result would be unless some means could be devised to check the progress of the flames. The fire is believed to be of incendiary origin.

At about 12:30 a telephone message came to Courtenay asking for assistance. As it happened, a freight train was coming from the east and the fire engine and equipment was loaded onto one of the cars, the balance of the train sidetracked, and the caboose and the one car with about twenty members of the fire department was speeding toward the scene of the disaster at the rate of a mile a minute. From the time they reached Kensal it was just seventeen minutes until two streams of water were playing on the flames, but they had gained such headway that it was impossible to save more than one building in the entire block. The Courtenay boys did some heroic work and several times were roundly cheered for their bravery and skill displayed in fighting this terrible demon. It was their first experience in fighting a fire of this size but they showed that they were true blue, every man falling into his place and keeping it in the face of the fiery monster which at times seemed bent on destroying everything that happened to cross its path. The fire engine worked to perfection and for three hours kept two streams on the fire and on this occasion saved enough property to pay for the engine and

the equipment several times over.

It is estimated that the total loss will amount to about \$100,000 which is partly covered by insurance. The Farmers Mercantile building was valued at \$10,000, the stock \$28,000 and the fixtures \$4,500. Scarcely anything was saved, as this was the building in which the fire originated and there was no time to get anything out. They carried about \$25,000 insurance.

The Peterson Hardware Company estimate their loss at about \$6,000 with about \$3,000 insurance. They got out about one third of the stock.

O. E. Holmes figures his loss on his drug store at \$6,800 with \$2,000 insurance. Most of the stock was carried out.

The Central Hotel, owned by Gus Anderson, was a total loss. The building was worth in the neighborhood of \$2,000 and was lightly insured. It had been closed for some time with a man in charge to care for the property. T. R. Clemo's barber shop was in this building but everything was gotten out and moved to another shop owned by Mr. Clemo.

Anton Neva's harness store was a total loss and was valued at \$4,000 and was insured for \$2,000. He carried a \$4,000 stock but all of this was gotten out although it was considerably damaged on account of being dragged in the mud. Only a few days before the fire Mr. Neva allowed a \$1,500 insurance policy to expire.

The next building was the general store of H. A. Stinson. When the Courtenay fire department arrived this structure had not caught on fire and for a time it was thought that they would be able to save it but the fire started in the basement and burned up through the side wall and it was soon discovered to be impossible to avoid the total destruction of the building. The building was valued at about \$5,000 and they carried about a \$12,000 stock but this was all gotten out.

The only building in the block to be saved was the store of Anton Feckler at the south end. This is only a frame building and the fire boys worked hard to keep the flames from devouring this, and were successful.

It is thought that most of the block will be rebuilt as soon as possible. John Nihill and Jud Williams have purchased the drug store from O. E. Holmes and will begin at once the erection of a cement block building on the site of the ruins of the old store. The Peterson Hardware Company will also erect a new building at once and H. A. Stinson is endeavoring to make ar-

rangements to enable him to construct temporary quarters this fall. While the Farmers Mercantile Company have had no official meeting, we understand that it is the sentiment among the stockholders to erect a new building at the earliest possible date. They will soon open up for business in temporary quarters.

FIRE NOTES

The fire laddies are minus two ladders, an axe and a pair of trousers.

Much credit is due Chief Ellis of the fire department for the excellent manner in which he executed the work of the department. Mr. Ellis is an old and experienced fireman and this was not his first experience in

dealing with the fiery monster. A good many of the fire company were attending a card party when the call came and they were all so eager to rush to their duty that one of them even forgot to escort his best girl home.

The Soo Railroad Company tendered a vote of thanks to the Village council for the assistance of the fire department, and they made no charge for transporting the company and the apparatus to Kensal.

The citizens of Kensal feel pretty good toward the Courtenay fire department for the excellent work accomplished.

The work done by the fire engine has had a tendency to silence those who were opposed to this means of fighting fire. It proved that it was the real thing and surprised even the most sanguine.

STATE BANK OF MEDINA LOOTED

The Five Ton Safe is Blown Open and the Building is Considerably Wrecked. Caught by Posse at Noon.

Medina, N. D., Sept. 18—At an early hour this morning robbers entered the building of the State Bank of Medina and after several attempts blew the safe door from its hinges with nitroglycerine. The safe is a complete wreck as well as the front of the building. They secured about \$50 in silver and gold from the cash compartment and were evidently scared away before they got to the safety compartment containing \$3,000 in currency.

They took a team from the barn of W. P. Keplinger and went north and after an hour or more they left the team and took to the country. They were followed by a posse and were captured and returned to town shortly before noon. Two men were captured at Starling and four were captured in a slough north of Medina. They are tough looking customers and it is said can be identified as the men who did the job.

Important CROP FACTS

Farmers generally in almost every section are very "blue" over the unfavorable grain crop outlook at this time, but there is one crop that they need not feel doubtful about and which becomes of more than usual importance to them by reason of the uncertain outlook as to other crops, and this is the MILK CROP, which continues month in and month out and of which it has well been said "the harvest never ends."

There is nothing doubtful about the outlook for the MILK CROP. Dairy product prices have been high and promise to continue so. The uncertainty about other crops makes it all the more important to make the most of the one that is sure. There is only one way to make the most of it, to be certain of recovering all the butter-fat with the least effort and under the most favorable conditions, and that is with the help of

A DE LAVAL Cream Separator

Every farmer with milk to separate needs a separator, and there never was a better time to make the purchase of one. There can hardly be good reason to defer putting in a machine or replacing a poor one with a DE LAVAL. Machines are made in all sizes to meet all conditions, and may either be bought for cash or on such liberal terms that they will actually save their own cost while you are paying for them. Catalogue with full particulars to be had for the asking.

A short time ago we purchased at a great discount a few Baby No. 2, actual capacity 600 lbs. per hour. The regular price of this size, \$125.00. Our price while they last

\$75.00 Each

We also have the smaller sizes.

Larson, Ersin & Posey