DOINGS OF **LAWMAKERS**

Mr. Caffery's Speech the Feature of Senate Session.

OBJECTS TO H. W. CORBETT

Has the State Authority to Fill an Original Vacancy?

The House of Representatives Spend the Day in the Discussion of Political Topics -- Remarkable Discovery Made by Jerry Simpson -- House Civil Service Committee Gives Hearing to a Number of Representatives of War Veterans' Interest

Washington, Feb. 3.-One of the features of today's session of the senate was a speech by Mr. Caffery, of Louisiana, in support of the resolution reported by the committee on privileges and elections, declaring that Henry W. Corbett is not entitled to a seat in the senate from the state of Oregon, 'Mr. Corbett was appointed as senator by the governor of Oregon after the failure of the legislature to elect a sen-ator to succeed Senator Mitchell. Mr. Caffery maintained that the governor of a state had no authority to appoint to fill an original vacancy-a vacancy beginning with a new term-after the legislature had had an opportunity to elect, and had failed to do so.

The agricultural appropriation bill was under consideration the greater part of the afternoon and was finally passed. After a brief executive session

the senate adjourned. Germany's order prohibiting the importation of American fruits into that empire called out a resolution from Mr. Davis (Minn.), chairman of the committee on foreign relations, calling upon the president, if not incompatible with the public interest, to transmit to the senate correspondence and other information bearing upon the matter in his possession or in that of the state department. The resolution was agreed

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The house spent the day ostensibly considering the fortifications appropri- ture of the German fruit exclusion deation bill. In reality the major portion of the time was consumed in the discussion of political topics. The exist- but it is expected that the ambassador ence or non-existence of prosperity in untry was again the main tion of dispute. The feature of the day was the discovery by Mr. Simpson the Kansas Populist, and the exploitation of the alleged fact that Mr. Dingley wore a London-made pot hat. Dingley explained that the hat was made in New York. The London trade- America mark was simply placed there to please the Anglo-maniaes who always pre-

All attempts to increase the appropriations in fortification bill, or to amend it in any respect, were voted down today. The house civil service committee

representatives of the war veterans' interests involved in the proposed civil legislation. Howe, New York, urged the interezts of the survivors of the rebellion, A. S. Iffla and E. W. Kay, of Brooklyn, the latter the editor of a Grand Army journal and representing several patriotic organizations of Brooklyn, protested against the clause in the pending bill depriving veterans of their pensions during their continuance in government employ at over \$1,200 per year. There was a general desire expressed for the obliteration of the distinction between the veterans discharged in the var on account of wounds received in the service and those not wounded and those who served out their terms, as to preference in government employ as against civilians. Charles W. Sarout. of Brooklyn, protested against the alin the navy yard there, citing the efficiency of the veterans who before numbered the civilians

Commander in Chief Gobin, of the Grand Army, also objected to the clause suspending pensions during government employ.

YELLOWSTONE PARK EXTENSION.

A Bill Increasing the Reservation b

3,000 Square Miles. Washington, Feb. 3.-Secretary Bliss has sent to the public land committees of the senate and house a bill prepared by Colonel Young, the acting superintendent of the Yellowstone National park, for an extension of the limits of that reservation by about 3,000

square miles. In this extension is in-

cluded the existing timber reserve in

Wyoming which abuts partly on the

east and partly on the southern portions of the reservation. It also embraces a portion of the reservation set aside by President Cleveland in his order of Feb. 26, 1896, known the Teton Forest Reserve, also in Wyoming. Another strip included that at the southwest corner, where there is a large amount of marshy land to which the animals resort for feed tana, is included a strip of mountain ous country in which wild game

where most of the poachers get into NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT.

abounds and which is the locality

Washington, Feb. 3.—The president lay sent the following nominations to the

Robert Carson, of New Jersey, to be collector of customs for the district of Perth Amboy, N. J.

Commodore Charles S. Norton to be Colonel M. I. Ludington, assistant quartermaster general, to be brigadier gen-eral and quartermaster general.

REPUBLICANS ORGANIZE.

Congressional Committed Selected

for the Coming Campaign. Washington, Feb. 3.-The Republican members of both houses of congress held a caucus tonight at which the Republican congressional committee was permanently organized for the campaign. About seventy senators and representatives attended, and the delegations of all but eighteen of the states announced the selection of their representatives on the committee. The committee as far as chosen tonight fol-

Colorado, Senator E. O. Wolcott;

Connecticut, Senator O. H. Platt; Idaho, Senator George Shoup; Illinois, Representative Joseph G. Cannon; Indiana, Representative Jesse Overstreet; Iowa, Representative J. A. T. Hull; Kansas, Representative Charles Curtis; Massachusetts, Representative John Simpkins; Michigan, Representative George Spalding; Minnesota, Representative James T. McCleary; Missouri, Representative Charles E. Pearce; Montana, Senator Thomas H. Carter; Nebraska, Representative David H. Mercer: New Hampshire, Senator Jacob H. Gallinger; New Jersey, Representative H. C. Loudenslager, New York, Representative James S. Sherman; North Carolina, Representative Richmond Pearson; Ohio, Kepte-sentative H. C. Van Voorhis; Oregon, Senator George W. McBride; Pennsylvania, Representative William C. Arnold; Tennessee, Representative Henry R. Gibson: Texas, Representative R. B. Hawley; Virginia, Representative J. Walker; Washington, Senator John Wilson; West Virginia, Representative Warren Miller; Wisconsin, Representative Joseph W. Babcock; Wyoming, Senator Francis E. Warren.

As soon as the other delegations select their representatives on the com-mittee, which will be within a few days, another caucus will be called to perfect the organization by electing officers and mapping out the campaign It seems to be permanently settled Chairman Babcock will be reelected: that Secretary Mercer also will cceed himself; that Representative Simpkins, of Massachusetts, will lbe made vice chairman in place of Mr. Apsley, who was not re-elected to this congress; and that General Grosvenor, the present chairman of the caucus,

will continue in that office. The caucus tonight was very brief, General Grosvenor presided, and after the call of the states, and the enroll ment of members, the meeting was adjourned.

THE GERMAN FRUIT **EXCLUSION DECREE**

An Act of Discourtesy Entirely Without Precedent -- American Fruit Growers Will Lose Heavily.

Washington, Feb. 3.-During the afernoon further advices were received from Ambassador White as to the nacree. It would seem that the full details are not yet obtainable in Berlin, will cable the entire decree as soon as can obtain it. that were established by the last advices were, first, that the decree of exclusion uses the word "American" as descriptive of the place of origin of the fruit, as was at first supposed, includes in the prohibition all dried fruits from

State department officials have not yet recovered from their surprise at the method adopted by the German government of accomplishing its object in this matter and undoubtedly the correspondence to follow will set this out very clearly. The objection to the course pursued is three fold. gave a hearing today to a number of In the first place, it is said to be entirely without precedent and discourteous towards the American ambassa-Representative dor at Berlin to make the decree and put it into effect without the slightest warning to him. In the second place, by making the decree take effect at once and stopping all fruit in transit a great injustice is done to shippers who thus without warning, are made to lose heavily on their capital invest-

> Third, the decree is claimed in that it makes no provisions for the admission f fruit of absolute purity; permits no demonstration of origin or healthful condition, and in fact condemns all fruit, good and bad alike.

These considerations are to be strongly urged upon the German government as reasons why it should either revoke or modify the decree on the lines indicated before any more radical action is taken.

THE FEARFUL BLIZZARD.

Recent Chilly Season on the Atlantic Const is a Record Breaker.

Highland Light, Mass., Feb. 3,-The earful blizzard which has just swept the coast was a record-breaker, and exceeded in duration and violence the

About 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon arge four-masted schooner was sighted en miles northeast of this point. appeared to be helpless and drifting shoreward. After dark a strong breeze sprung up from the westward and she was probably blown far out to sea. The cutter Manning and tugs have been looking for her off the coast. is believed to be the vessel which was collision with a fishing schooner in the bay on Monday night, and that the crew of fishermen are now in the fourmaster, as they abandoned their own

Had the wind been northeast it is celleved the outer coast of Cape Cod would have been strewn with wrecks

Suicide in Jail. Atlantic City. N. J., Feb. 3.-Jame hnson, a priscner in the city jail, com itted suicide this afternoon by hanging dinself from a cross bar. He used two undkerchiefs to make a noose. Johnson's fear of being sent to state prison from committing a theft caused him to take his life. Johnson will be rememberd as an important witness in the Farrell when an estate of \$200,000 was involved.

New York, Feb. 3.—Sailed: Friesland, Antwerp; Edam, Amsterdam.

Queenstown-Salled: Britanie (fron dverpool), New York, Genoa-Sailed: Fulda, New York Bremerhaven - Arrived: Lahn, New York, via Southamptor Roterdam — Sailed:

NO BACK DOWN ON PART OF ENGLAND

The Opening of Talien-wan Never Strict Condition.

IT WAS MERELY A SUGGESTION

Statement from High Official Sources. Report of Preparations to Strengthen the British Fleet in the Far East With Three Squadrons.

London, Feb. 3.-On incontrovertible authority the Associated Press learns that Great Britain has not backed down on the question of making Talien-Wan a free port. The Marquis of Salisbury, George N. Curzon, the parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, the Russian ambassador and the Chinese minister each remarked yesterday in conversation that they had not heard of any backdown.

The opening of Talien-Wan, it is pointed out, was never made a condition, in any sine qua non sense, in connection with the loan to China. In the preliminary negotiations on the subject the opening of Tallen-Wan was 'sketched in neutral tints," Great Britain only suggesting it as one condition favoring a speedy completion of the loan. She never demanded it, and, therefore, in no sense can be said to have backed down, if the desire was not persisted in. The question of Talien-Wan is, however, with other suggested conditions of the loan, still in

SQUADRONS IN READINESS. Shanghai, Feb. 3.-The China Gazette, says the British Indian, Australian and Pacific squadrons have been ordered to be ready to reinforce the fleet in the far East, thus giving the British admiral a fleet capable of cop-

ing with "any combination opposing

"In the meanwhile," says the China azette, "the British claims in the Yangtse-Kiang will be supported by a strong squadron stationed at Chusan, two other war ships are en route. In the event of Russia hoisting her flag over the forts at Port Arthur. the British admiral has been ordered to hoist the English flag over Chusan, and the Japanese fleet will ascend the Yang-tse-Kiang as soon as the river

"About 7,500 Russian artiflery and cavalry and quantities of stores and munitions have arrived at Kirin, the capital of the Manchurian Province of

London, Feb. 3 .- Some of the afternoon newspapers today refer to the absence of the Russian and German ambassadors from the Marquis of Salisbury's regular Wednesday reception of the Diplomatic Corps as being a disquieting portent.

According to a special despatch from Shanghai, published today, two British warships entered Port Arthur yesterday and left without anchoring.

Willing That Hawaii Should Be Annexed to the United States.

Washington, Feb. 3.-Japan has been removed as an element in the opposition to the consummation of the annexation of the Hawaiian islands by the United States. This result has been attained by the conclusion of an agreement between our government and that of Japan as represented by Minister Toru-Hoshi which by practically settling the status of the Japanese in Hawaii removes the only substantial difference that has existed between the two governments. The Japanese government for its part announce ed some time ago that it no longer cared to interpese any objection to annexation of Hawaii based on principle. Since that time the correspondence beween Minister Hoshi and the state department has been directed to a satisfactory settlement of the status of resident Japanese in Hawaii and this last point has now been adjusted. so far as the executive branch of our government is capable of acting independently, the agreement being reduced to the shape of a written memor-

The exact basis of this agreement has not yet been made public, but the general scope of it is understood to be a ecognition of the rights of Japanese in Hawaii to claim equal rights with Japanese in the United States after the taking effect of the treaty with Japan proclaimed in 1895.

BANK UNDER AN INJUNCTION.

The Action Follows the Arrest of a Former Cashier.

Boston, Feb. 3 .- The Massachusetts Savings bank's commissioners today placed the Framingham Savings bank the Eriesson, the second torpedo boat under an injunction to prevent it from doing business until further action can be taken. The action followed the ar- broken; the Foote has broken or badly rest of William H. Bird, former cashier of the bank, who in the Framingham court today was held in \$20,000 for the grand jury on a charge of misappropriating \$9,000 of the bank's funds. There is a shortage of \$24,000

Mr. Bird is about 70 years old, and for many years was one of its most trusted employes. He resigned Jan. 1.

NEW POSTAL SCHEME.

Senator Penrose Introduces a Bill to Establish New Rates.

Washington, Feb. 3.-Senator Penrose oday introduced two bills for the regulation of rates of postage. One of them provides a uniform rate of one cent an ounce on all letters, with a minimum programme had made the Mediterra-rate of two cents on letters. The other nean a French guif. It was intended rate of two cents on letters. The other provides for one cent postage on letters not to be delivered by carriers in the city to which directed.

These one cent stamps are to be tricolored, red, white and blue. Both bills were introduced by request

Charged with Marder.

Belfast, Feb. 3.-Philip King has been arrested on the charge of murdering his mother-in-law and (*) children. King. who is a farmer residing near Shercock is alleged to have committed the muronly discovered today, and King, who run away, was soon afterwards taken into custody.

ELLIS ISLAND ABUSE.

Representative Robbins Says the Inspection is a Farer.

Washington, Feb. 3.-Representative Robbins, of Pennsylvania, is going to make an attack in the house on the methods of immigrant inspection pursued at Ellis Island. If what he charges is based on fact, his disclos-ures will be sensational. Some time ago Mr. Robbins spent three days at Ellis Island keeping an eye on the work of inspecting immigrants. He is a Republican member of the house committee on immigration and as he desired material for use in the committee he did not make himself known. He says he found the inspection a farce. Favoritism is practiced and the inspectors, according to his statement, are so lacking in experience, so poorly paid, and so completely under the in-fluence of politicians and selfish interests, that they are practically value-

He says that if the Lodge bill now pending in the house were to become a law, it would be rendered of no effect through the inefficiency of the Ellis Island service, and that a complete change is necessary.

Mr. Robbins proposes to create a new poard of immigrant inspectors, to be composed of twelve members, to be appointed by the president from civil life and to receive a salary of \$3,000 g year each. He will introduce a bill to the effect.

MR. WANAMAKER WILL CONSIDER IT

ls Not Anxions to Be Candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, but Will Think It Over.

Philadelphia, Feb. 3.-Ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker, who was decided upon yesterday at a meeting of business men and politicians from all parts of the state as their choice for governor, returned home today from the south. He freely discussed yesterday's meeting, but was silent on the question of his acceptance, or of the request that he permit the use of his name as a candidate. He said, however, he would give the call his serious consideration. In a statement

My first information of the proceedings of the meeting came this morning at Richmond, Va., from the Washington pa-pers, and, later in the day, from the Phildelphia and New York papers on my ay homeward. It seems to me as if the 500 or 400 men

who marched together yesterday nad broken a new path. Now that the path is broken, it remains to be seen who will are irresistible. Yesterday's 400 will be

400,000 in a few weeks. If the Republicans of Pennsylvania cannot get a governor, except he be chosen by those who manipulated the legislature last winter, it will go hard with the Republican party of Pennsylvania, and with our people Fewer people come into Pennsylvania

owndays to settle, and many of our best oung men are going out of its great cities to locate elsewhere, partly because they cannot have political opinions or place, except by the grace of one or two

Many of the newspapers and thousands of our citizens in and out of the cities but weaken in battle, for fear of losng favor with those who dictate Washngton appointments, and nominations at state and city conventions and who

rise at the Cameron dictation of Gov-ernor Beaver's first nomination eighteen years ago, there is eight-fold reason now for them to rise and overthrow an evil that penetrates to the extreme of

ference launches me personally, I must my frankly I vastly prefer to be al-lowed to conduct my business. I have the first quarter of a wish to be

were offered me. I confess to moderate ambitions to be useful to the state and city I was born n, and would gladly and faithfully helf in contributing what I have gathe experience in and out of public life, but I repeat I do not want the office

Mr. Wanamaker thanked the meeting for the compliment paid him and said: "After reflection, I will make whatever answer I find it my duty to give when their committee calls upon

Thomas Hooper, of Chester, the chairman of the notification committee, is ceive the committee.

OUR TORPEDO FLEET CRIPPLED. Cour of the Six Boats Injured by the Henry Weather.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3.-The total bedo boat flotilla, in the Gulf, is badly ed from the locomotive. disabled by its rough sea service. Tw remain uninjured, the Cushing and built for the government. The Porter and Dupont had their propeller struts cracked her shaft, and the Winslow The Foote goes to Norfolk, to

overhauled, and the Porter and Dupont will remain at Mobile until new struts are made. It is doubtful if any of the boats can take part in the exercises with the fleet at Dry Tortugas.

FRANCE AS A NAVAL POWER.

The Minister of Marine Defies Other Mediterranean Nations.

naval estimates today proposed that an ironciad, three cruisers and eleven torpedo boats be begun this year. Vice Admiral Besnard, the ministe

of marine, said, the government's naval now to build ironclads for extra European waters, with an extensive sphere of action. The government is actively pursuing experiments with submarine

Very Cold Morning. Wilmot Fiat, N. H., Feb. 2.-The therometer registered 42 degrees below zero

flerald's "enther Forceast. New York, Feb. 4.—In the middle states and New England, today, partly cloudy weather will prevail, followed by slowly rising temperature. On Saturday, in both of these sections, partly cloudy, warmer

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Weather Indications Today:

Fair; Warmer; Southerly Winds. 1 General-Y, M. C. A. Building Burned,

Statement of England's Position in the Far East. Doings of a Day in Congress. Mr. Wanamaker Undecided.

State-The Sheriff Martin Trial. Local-Y. M. C. A. Fire (Concluded).

Editorial. Comment of the Press. A City in Which Crime Is Thought

Local-The Halstead Reception. Local-Select Council Sets Mr. San

derson's Ruling Aside. Kohut Acquitted of Murder. Local-West Side and Suburban,

Lackawanna County News. Neighboring County Happenings. The Markets.

BISCUIT TRUST FORMED It Includes All the Cracker Bakeries Between Portland, Maine and

Salt Lake City. Chicago, Feb. 3.-All the biscuit and cracker companies between Salt Lake City on the west, Portland (Me.) on the east, St. Paul on the north and New Orleans on the south will tomorrow morning be under one management. The name of the new concern, which was incorporated today in the state of New Jersey with a capital of \$25,000,000 of preferred and \$25,000,000 of common

is the National Biscuit company. The actual transfer of the deeds of the various plants controlled by the companies merged into the National ompany took place today in the office of the Illinois Trust and Savings bank in this city. Benjamin F. Crawford, of Mansfield, O., was elected president; H, F. Voorhees, of Chicago, vice-president; Frank O. Lowden, Chicago, sec-ond vice-president; C. E. Rumsey,

Pittsburg, secretary and treasurer. The following board of directors was elected: Benjamin F. Crawford, Mansfield; H. F. Voorhees, Chicago; Thomas S. Oliver, Lewiston, Me.; David F. Bremmer, Chicago; S. S. Marvin, Pittsburg; Henry J. Evans, Chicago; Lewis D. Dosler, St. Louis; Norman B. Ream, Chicago: William T. Baker, Chicago: Joseph S. Loose, Kansas City; C. E Ramsey, Pittsburg; James W. Hazen, Boston; F. O. Lowden, Chicago; A. L. Garrettson, Morristown, N. J.; A. W. Green, Chicago,

FAILURE OF AUTONOMY.

Weighty Intermation from This Gov-

ernment from Mr. Atkins. Washington, Feb. 3,-Important information as to the success of the schemes for autonomy Cuba has been received here. Mr. At-kins, of Boston, who is the most prominent American grower of sugar on the islands, has written to Consul General Lee expressing the opinion that autonomy is a failure and that there is no immediate prospect of peace.

Mr. Atkins has hitherto beer Spanish policy. It was due largely to his representations to the last administration that Mr. Olney pursued so conservative a course, and the present ly impressed with the value of his judgment. He was in Washington soon after President McKinley assumed office, and urged that Spain be given an opportunity to show what could be done to restore peace to the island before the United States took any steps toward intervention. now, therefore, is likely to have considerable weight. His letters to Conin tone. Some of his plantations have been burned by the insurgents, and he convinced that the insurrection is far from being under control.

MANY PASSENGERS INJURED. Rear-End Collision on the Boston

and Maine Railroad. Scmerville, Mass., Feb. 3.-A local passenger train from Stoneham, on the Southern division Boston and Maine railroad, was struck in the rear and telescoped at the Winter Hill station this morning by a train from Concord, and several persons were injured, some seriously. The number of those who were hurt severely enough to require expected to call upon Mr. Wanamaker medical attendance is reported as fiftomorrow and arrange for a time to re- teen, but it is said that several who received minor cuts and brulses were able to care for theraselves until they reached their homes or places of busi-

The accident resulted from the inability of the engineer of the Concord train to see the other ahead of him on account of clouds of steam which escap-

BREAD RIOTS IN ITALY.

Violence to Prevent a Corner in the

Corn Exchange. London, Feb. 3.—A special despatch from Rome says that some of the grain dealers on the Corn Exchange of Cesena. Province of Forli, who accepted reduced prices, were violently attacked by the members for attempting to corner grain. The troops, it is added, had to clear the Exchange

The despatch adds that there were bread riots at Castellamare yesterday. and that the troops frequently charged

LOSSES BY FIRE.

A Church in Indiana and in Wisconsin Burned.

New Albany, Ind., Feb. 3.-The First Presbyterian church, the largest in the city, was destroyed by fire last night. The loss is estimated at \$50,000. fire was caused by a defective flue Menominee, Mich., Feb. 3.-The big Sawyer & Goodman sawm'll at Marinette, Wis., was burned to the ground early this morning. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

Cold Wave in New England.

Boston, Feb. 3.-A cold wave of a se verity almost equal to that of last week prevails in Maine and New Hampshire. At Nashua, N. H., the temperature was 28 below zero this morning and the range was from that figure to 40 below at Rum-ford Falls, Me. In Boston and vicinity the temperature was about 10 below.

Y. M. C. A. IN RUINS

Was the Center of the Largest Fire of Recent Years in Scranton.

DAMAGE OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION

Electric Wire Is Said to Have Been the Cause of the Blaze.

THE FLAMES SPREAD WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE RAPIDITY

From the Y. M. C. A. Building They Found Their Way Into the Powell Building on the North, the Handley Estate Buildings on the South and the Frame Stables Across Breck Court in the Rear. The Fire Broke Out at 11.10 and It Was About 1 O'clock Before the Firemen Had It Under Control-Details of the Progress of the Flames and the Losses Sustained by the Occupants of the Various Buildings.

value of a quarter of a million of dollars or more disappeared night destroyed the Young Men's Christian association building

started at 11.10 o'clock from an explosion of cinematograph films used in displaying exhibition pictures in a ya- afire, but such was not the case. All cant store room in the association the abests in the house, however, building. The buildings wholly, or partially destroyed were:

Wyoming avenue, totally consume TWO APARTMENTS OF HANDLEY BLOCK, 214 and 216 Wyoming avenu-

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIA-

crushed in by falling walls S. GORMAN & CO.'S LIVERY STA BLES, barns and wagon sheds, Spruc street, between Breck and Forest courts, about half consumed SCRANTON DAIRY COMPANY'S BARN

and we gon sheds, almost totally de-L. B. POWELL & CO.'S BUILDING. 226 and 228 Wyoming avenue, roof damaged.

The flames spread immediately to all parts of the association structure, which was a seething mass of flame and smoke almost before the firemen who responded to the first alarm, from Box 22, at the corner of Wyoming avenue and Spruce street, began to work. Chief Hickey sent in special calls for five additional companies as soon as he reached the scene and a half minute later summoned every company in the

Thousands of curious people were attracted by the repeated alarms, and explosion occurred and in an almost sea of flames and dense volumes of smoke, which in all parts of the city tense heat and tottering walls soon drove the spectators to distant points

of observation, At 12.45 o'clock the flames had been association building, the adjacent dwelling of the two-story row owned by the Handley estate, Gorman's livery stable and the barn of the Scranton the coatless man started back into the Dairy company, the two latter on the store. He had only reached the dooralley in the rear. All these buildings were totally destroyed with their contents, excepting the stock and a part of the vehicles in the stables and a few goods from one of the stores in the association building and one of the

dwellings. The association building was a fourstory modern brick structure. It contained an assembly hall, the wellequipped John Raymond Industrial institute, association educational department, library, gymnasium, living apartments for instructors and numerous tailoring establishment of Mosher &

The large four-story brick structure on the north, owned by L. B. Powell & Co., musical goods dealers, appeared to was saved by its thick party wall. It contained several music studios and a vacant store room in addition to the sales, repair and storage departments

of the firm. The direction of the wind was nearly

UILDINGS and contents to the always toward the east and so not much apprehension was felt for the Westminster hotel and adjacent buildin the fire and smoke which ings across the street, though at intervals in the early progress of the fire the heat cracked all the windows in and several nearby structures. It those buildings and drove away the crowd that lined the sidewalk. It was once reported that the hotel roof was packed their effects, left the upper floors and were ready to seek places of safety.

association building's roof collapsed and the front wall fell into the avenue sent a steady storm of sparks and burning embers with the heat high into the air. They fell with almost the thickness of snow flakes as far as Linden street and Washington avenue, The descending sparks and burning embers, many of them as large as shingles, fell on the roofs along the two latter thoroughfares and set fire to several structures. Men on these roofs with buckets of water prevented what probably would have been a total destruction of the whole block, and possibly buildings on the north side of

Origin of the Fire.

Linden street.

THE fire started in the southerly storeroom of the Young Men's Christian Association building, No. 218 Wyoming avenue, where a cinematograph entertainment had bee holding forth for several weeks. was caused by an electric wire, which carried power to the machine, coming in contact with the combustible films on which the pictures are made. An incredible space of time the building

was wrapped in flames. A Tribune reporter was standing digave the impression that a more seri- rectly opposite the building when the ous conflagration was in progress. At explosion occurred. The first evidence first the crowds impeded and confused in the storeroom. Some one in front of the firemen in their work, but the in- the Westminster shouted "Fire" or rather loudly remarked it in an interregatory way. When the people nearhis shirt sleeves and his arms over his head rushing out of the store, folconfined to the Young Men's Christian lowed by a blast of flame that sent the window glass flying to the middle of the street and reached itself to the

The flame receded for an instant and way when he was collided with by a second man who crept out from neath the cloud of flame that was now hanging within three feet of the floor. Smoke now commenced to pour cut in

derse black volumes and the two men ran away from the heat into the crowd that had already commenced to collecto realize that a dangerous conflagration was impending. Some one rushed to the alarm box at the Jermyn hotel corner and sent in an alarm. A young man named Huff who happened have a key to the Young Men's Christian association corridor entrance. rushed up and aroused J. M. Chance, who occupies one of the third floor parlors and other rooms: the sporting rooms as a sleeping apartment. Othgoods store of C. M. Florey and the ers roused the neighbors, and others hurried to notify the street car em-

left standing on the switch over night.

Spread of the Flames. THE Crystals were the first on the scene, but even before they arrived after their run of only a block the show-room was one solid mass of five from one end to the other and the flames were attacking the upper floors immediateyl above, in both

ployes to take away the cars that are

[Continued on Page 3.]