Pittsburgh Gazette.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 2.

CITY AFFAIRS.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations for the County, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, 58 Fifth St.—corrected daily:

	IN SHADE.	
9 o'clock, A. M.	58	60
12 " M.	63	70
3 " P. M.	73	63
Barometer	29 10 20	

Destructive Fire—Incendiarism Attempted—Rebuilding Two Areas.

On Friday morning, about three o'clock, fire was accidentally communicated to the oil refinery of Messrs. Wm. Johnston & Co., located on Duquesne Way, about midway between the Hand street and Railroad bridges. The alarm was promptly sounded by the watchman at the works, but the refinery was instantly a mass of flame, and all efforts to save it would have been fruitless. There were twenty or twenty-five barrels of crude oil in the building, and when the fire reached these it spread with great rapidity, making a most brilliant light and intense heat.

Before the fire apparatus could be put into service, the flames communicated to the extensive board yard of Messrs. Kelly & Glass (Andrew Kelly and John Glass) situated between the refinery and Duquesne Way. There was a large amount of lumber piled here, and when the flames reached the ground the flames had made considerable progress. There is nothing so difficult to extinguish as fire in piles of lumber, as they are constructed so as to permit drafts of air between each layer, and also so as to turn the water which falls upon them. The firemen labored here unceasingly for four or five hours, but nearly everything in the board yard was destroyed. The planing mill and sash and door factory belonging to Messrs. Kelly & Glass is located on Seventh street, in another part of the city, and hence their loss is confined to the lumber just above. They have been compelled to close their mill for the present, owing to the fact that they have not sufficient stock left to operate it.

We have been requested by Messrs. K. & G. to state that they are prepared to fill all the orders they have on hand, and that they would be happy to see new ones coming in.

The fire was the result of carelessness or ignorance on the part of the watchman employed in the roofing and refining establishment of Messrs. Johnston & Co. He had been warned not to carry a candle about the refinery, as the gas arising from the oil would ignite and destroy the works. Despite this plain injunction, he approached the apparatus with a lighted candle, about three o'clock, for the purpose of examining the stream which flowed from the still, and while placing a block under one of the pipes, the gas ignited, and he found himself surrounded by flame. He fled from the place, and after sounding the alarm, reported the matter which was in the stable near by, which he secured with great difficulty. The entire loss of Messrs. Johnston & Co., will not exceed $1,000. They had just commenced the business of refining oil, and had but a small stock on hand. The loss sustained with their roofing business is included in the above amount. They have no insurance.

We cannot close without commending the fireman for the unflagging energy which they exhibited from the commencement of the fire until it ceased to be dangerous. There was much valuable property in the immediate vicinity of the fire, and had it not been for their exertions a general conflagration might have been the result.

The extensive rolling mill of Messrs. Bailey, Brown & Co., is located immediately east of the board yard, on Duquesne Way, and the intense heat arising from the burning lumber, together with the burning fragments cast into the air, greatly jeopardized the mills. It was fortunately saved without injury.

The large glue factory of J. C. Bidwell also stood in proximity to the fire, but the wind was blowing in an opposite direction, and the danger was not so imminent. Mr. Bidwell had a stable destroyed, together with two piles of lumber, a lot of oak sawdog, for glue beams, and another of shavings, used in the manufacture of glues. His loss will reach $600.

The barrel factory of Messrs. McKee & Phillips (John McKee and J. H. Phillips) was in danger for a time, but escaped without injury. A lot of staves, together with the barrel works, caught fire and were destroyed, but the loss was not very heavy.

The Niagara and the Eagle steam fire engines were both on the ground and put into service, but after working actively for some time they were both disabled by the breaking down of the machinery. This was a serious loss, and threw a heavier burden upon the hand engines.

INCENDIARISM IN ALLEGHENY.

While the firemen were hard at work in endeavoring to extinguish the fire above reported, another alarm was sounded in Allegheny, which proved to be the Columbia ferry from the side of the river in that city. The east end lime office of Mr. C. A. Cheney, located on the corner of Anderson street and the canal, had been entered during the night by thieves, as is supposed, and then fired upon the office, as was every book binding exposed to the flames. The office contained a quantity of soap, two chests of tea, several barrels of Paris plaster, and other articles of value. The goods above were built apart from the office, and the wagons, horses, gearing, etc., were uninjured. Mr. McCleary's loss will be about $1,000, upon which there is no insurance. Most of the goods were owned by a gentleman who jumped through an open window and pitched the books out, before the fire had reached that part of the building. This place had been more than once entered by thieves, and it is supposed to have been fired for the purpose of assisting attention from other places where the thieves wished to operate, or to aid them in plundering in the vicinity of the fire.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY AND ARSON.

Just before the last mentioned fire broke out, an attempt was made to burn the dry goods store of Mr. H. Whiting, on the corner of Federal street and the Sixth Ward, Allegheny. The scoundrels had made an unsuccessful attempt to force open the shutters of one of the windows facing on the Commons, but failing in this they had entered the cellar, and had set fire to a lot of old bags which were lying there. The fire was discovered by the watchman of the Federal street railroad depot, who gave the alarm, and on rushing to the store set the gathered fire with the assistance of several others. The building is a fine one, recently erected by Mr. Robert Fairman, and if the fire had not been discovered almost immediately after it was communicated, much valuable property would have been destroyed.

INCENDIARISM AT THE POINT.

During the progress of the fires above mentioned an alarm was raised near the Point, by the discovery of fire in an old building between Penn street and the Allegheny river. It had been fired maliciously, but was fortunately extinguished before it had attained any headway.

We heard of several other attempts being made to fire buildings—one at the head of Wylie street, in this city, and another in the upper end of Allegheny.

A Pittsburgher Tomahawked by an Indian.

Mr. James Wilson, Jr., of this city, lately received information to the effect that his son, who has for some time past resided near Fort Randall, in Nebraska, had been dangerously wounded by a blow on the head, inflicted with a tomahawk in the hands of an Indian. It appears that the Indian came to the house of young Mr. Wilson, and offered a bottle of syrup for sale; which Mr. Wilson believing to be stolen, would not buy, but took it from him and allowed the Indian to leave with him their night. When he went out to leave next day the Indian offered to exchange a horse, and said he would bring it for the syrup. At night, he came again without the horse, saying he knew he would bring it. He was then given a plate to sleep there, as being the night he had killed him. Mr. Wilson, however, soon after came upon the Indian as he was about to creep upon the head of his host, and fled, undoubtedly supposing