

FIRE DESTROYS \$10,000 STOCK

Levine Clothing Company Store Gutted—Flames Start From Gas Explosion.

Fire, which is supposed to have been caused by an explosion of gas, destroyed the entire stock of goods at the Levine clothing store, 115-East Superior street, yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

Roomers in the flat over the store, who were sitting in the apartments at the front of the building when the fire started, heard a muffled explosion from the store below, and immediately saw a sheet of flame shoot up in front of the windows on the second floor. Instantly the interior of the clothing store was a mass of flames. The front of the store, which had been blown open by the force of the gas explosion, soon crumbled before the blaze, and the fire department got into action just in time to prevent the flames from spreading to the two upper stories.

On the second floor, which is occupied by two families, there were several people at the time of the fire. These rushed from the building as soon as the alarm was given.

In the flat on the third story, occupied by Mrs. Mrs. A. McCoy, there were a score or more of roomers, some of whom were asleep. Many of them hurried down to the street in scant attire, one young woman hurrying out the back way into the alley in her bare feet.

The apartments over the store were not damaged by the fire, but smoke filled the entire building. Thinking the fire was beyond the control of the department, the people in the rear of the flat on the second floor hastily tumbled furniture, carpets and household articles down the back stairs.

H. Levine, manager of the clothing store, values his stock at \$8,000, and says it was insured for \$5,000. The loss to the building, which is a part of the C. H. Oppel block, is estimated at \$2,000. It is fully covered by insurance.