

FOUR HOUSES BURN

MIDNIGHT BLAZE ON TENTH STREET
AND FOURTH AVENUE EAST.

Damage Will Amount to About \$7,000
and the Insurance on Buildings
and Contents About \$4,000—De-
partment Is Handicapped in
Fighting Fire on Account of Dis-
tance to Pump Water Up Hill.

A destructive fire visited Tenth street and Fourth avenue East shortly after midnight, doing damage to the probable extent of \$7,000 on buildings and contents. The insurance will amount to about \$4,000. There were four dwellings entirely destroyed and one was burned somewhat in the second story. Two barns were also destroyed.

Two of the buildings were owned by James Stewart, the scavenger, and one was owned by M. Cohen and another that was destroyed was owned by J. Polinsky. The houses that were totally destroyed faced on Tenth street. The fire is said to have originated in the Polinsky house, which occupied the corner. Mr. Polinsky with his family resided there. Mrs. Fanny Brownstein, a widow, lived in the Cohen house. August Busch lived in one of the Stewart houses and Mr. Stewart lived in the other. Mrs. Brownstein carried no insurance on her household effects. She saved nothing except a few clothes. She was sound asleep when the alarm was given and had barely time to escape with a few articles of clothing. There were several narrow escapes, but nobody was burned or in any way injured.

One of the Stewart houses was insured for \$500 in companies represented by Little & Nolte. The loss is about \$2,000. The Cohen house was valued at \$1,000 and was insured for \$500. Mr. Polinsky says his loss on buildings was \$1,200; insurance, \$500 in companies represented by W. M. Prindle & Co. He also lost a barn, as did Mr. Stewart. There was no insurance on either of the barns. Mr. Polinsky's furniture was covered with nominal insurance.

The fire department was handicapped in fighting the fire on account of the necessity of pumping water from Fifth street, five blocks up the hill. The commanding position of the burning houses enabled people to see it from all sections of the city.

Another fire in a small barn located on Fifth street between Third and Fourth avenues West gave the department a run about 9:30 last evening. The barn was unoccupied and burned fiercely for a few minutes. The blaze could be easily seen from the harbor. It is supposed to have been caught from matches in the hands of small boys who had been in the habit of going to the place to smoke. The structure was a total loss.