

VIRGINIA HAS SERIOUS BLAZE

Two Warehouses Owned by Henry Hauta and John Mesberg Destroyed.

RANGE BUREAU OF
THE NEWS TRIBUNE.

VIRGINIA, DEC. 23.—

Fire tonight destroyed the warehouses of Henry Hauta, a grocer, and John Mesberg, a furniture dealer, causing a loss estimated at \$11,000. The buildings were insured for \$6,000. Inadequate pressure at the water works plant is said to be responsible for the destruction of the structures.

The fire was discovered shortly before 9 o'clock in Hauta's warehouse. An alarm was at once sent in and the fire department responded in plenty of time to save the building had sufficient water been obtainable. When the water was turned on, however, it was found that the streams did not reach over fifteen feet. Working under this disadvantage the firemen made heroic efforts to save the building but were forced to stand practically helpless and watch the flames consume both Hauta's warehouse and Mesberg's building adjoining.

The buildings contained the stock of winter goods of Mr. Hauta and Mr. Mesberg. The former's loss is estimated at \$3,000, covered by \$2,000 insurance. Mr. Mesberg's loss is estimated between \$7,000 and \$8,000, and is covered by \$4,000 insurance.

The engineer at the water plant which is owned by the Virginia Light & Water company, is unable to explain the reason for the inadequate pressure. He says that the three pumps were kept working to their capacity and should have provided a stream with a carrying capacity of three stories at least. A rigid investigation of the failure of the plant to provide pressure is to be made.