

TANK CRASHES THROUGH ROOF

**Wholesale Men's Furnishing
House Flooded by Water From
Wrecked Reservoir.**

With a crash like the fall of Babylon, the big 19,000-gallon tank on the building occupied by H. Helstein & Co., wholesale men's furnishers, on lower Fifth avenue west, fell through the roof yesterday afternoon and flooded the entire building. A panic ensued among the girls on the third floor and a rush was made for the stairway. All the employes escaped uninjured, but many received a thorough drenching.

Officer Heckman, who was on the beat, turned in an alarm which brought five companies of the fire department to the scene and then rushed to the basement to turn off the water. By that time the water was rushing through the lower floor and down the stairway and the officer was well soaked in performing his timely act.

Falls Through Roof.

The tank was elevated on posts about 20 feet above the roof and it is thought that the leakage caused the foundation timbers to become rotten and this, combined with the heavy wind on Thursday may have started the collapse. The tank crashed through the roof and rear wall down to the floor of the top story and precipitated itself to the dock at the rear where it was smashed into fragments.

The big black three-horse team of the Stone-Ordean-Wells company was standing at the entrance to the alley not 10 feet from where the tank fell and narrowly escaped being hit by the mass of debris. A young boy employed by the same company had passed directly over the spot where the timbers fell a moment before and was so close as to be drenched by the water from the tank.

Stock Badly Damaged.

Inside the building the damage to the stock was heavy, as the water fairly flooded the fifth floor and then poured through the floor and down the elevator shaft and stairways to the floors below. Tarpaulins were quickly secured and stretched over the piles of goods and in this way the damage was lessened. The sprinkling system was wrecked and this added to the volume of water dripping through the building.

Helstein & Co. only recently moved to the building, which was formerly occupied by the L. W. Leithhead Drug company. The damage to the roof and rear wall will probably amount to about \$500, which will be greatly augmented if a new tank is to be erected.

Cannot Estimate Loss.

Mr. Helstein stated that he could give no estimate of his loss at the present time, but thought that whatever it was the owners of the building would make good the damage. W. M. Prindle & Co. are agents of the block which is owned by Minneapolis parties.

The calling of the fire department was something of a joke to the men themselves and the bystanders, as the building was so thoroughly soaked that the need of more water struck the spectators as comical and caused not a little laughter and good natured banter.