

MICHIGAN ST. IS SCENE OF \$30,000 FIRE

Sattler Liquor Company Sustains Estimated Loss of \$15,000 and Tom Reed Cigar Company \$12,000 — Thirty Hands Out of Employment.

Damage To Building Will Probably Amount To \$3,000. Origin of Blaze Unknown. Department By Quick Work Saves Much Property.

Fire of unknown origin in the three story brick building at 214-216 West Michigan street occupied by the Sattler Liquor company, and the Tom Reed Cigar company, early last night caused an estimated loss of about \$30,000. Damage to the Sattler stock is placed at \$15,000, on which there is insurance of \$25,000. The Tom Reed stock and fixtures valued at \$12,000 are a total loss. The insurance is about \$6,000. By reason of the fire in the cigar factory thirty people will be thrown out of employment.

A still alarm was sent in by J. H. Nolen, treasurer of the Knudsen-Ferguson company, who was at work on his books in the adjoining building. Smoke from the blazing structure seeped through the upper stories and basement, and when Mr. Nolen sought the location of the blaze, flames were shooting out of the third story on the Railroad street side of the building, a distance of 75 feet. Within five minutes after the alarm was turned in the apparatus in the central portion of the city was assembled and at work, a chemical stream being directed into the elevator shaft on the ground floor, while four streams were poured into the front and rear on the second and third floors, and the blaze confined to its place of origin in or near the elevator shaft.

Within fifteen minutes after the equipment was distributed about the building Chief Black announced that the fire was under control.

Mystery surrounds the origin of the fire, and none of the sufferers could offer a theory. The building is heated by steam throughout, and it was denied that combustible substances were responsible. The possibility of origin from electric wires was proposed, on the grounds that the current had been leaking from a switch.

The charred condition of the woodwork and stock warranted the belief of Chief Black and First Assistant Randall, that the origin was on the second floor, occupied by the Sattler company. The blaze worked its way down the stairway to the first floor, where it was driven upward by a chemical line.

Greatest fire damage was done about the elevator shaft and stairway at the rear on the second story from the Michigan street side, and the third floor. The blaze burned fiercely within a radius of about 50 feet of the shaft on both floors, where the department succeeded in cutting off its further progress.

Owing to the dense smoke on the third floor, which practically rendered lanterns useless, the salvage corps

Continued on Page 10—Seventh column

\$30,000 FIRE IN MICHIGAN STREET

Continued from Page 1.

could do nothing to reduce the loss to the cigar company. Tarpaulins were spread on the ground floor and Mr. Sattler declared last night that the company had been saved \$5,000 in water damage by reason of the prompt work of the department.

No estimate of the loss on the building could be given last night, but it is believed it will reach \$3,000. G. G. Dickerman, of the Dickerman Investment company, owners of the building, said that there is \$8,000 of insurance in effect on the structure.

Manager McGuirk, of the Tom Reel Cigar company, said that the company carried \$8,000 worth of stock. He stated that he has been in the habit of working on his books in the evening, and last night was the first time he had missed appearing at the office in three years. He declined to give a definite estimate of the insurance in force, in the absence of the proprietor, who is in St. Paul, stating that it was probably one-half the loss. He did not enter the building until after the fire was out, and could offer no theory as to the origin.