

ACME BUILDING

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escaped from the remainder of the building.

The flames had secured great headway before the department arrived and for a long time it looked as if the building could not be saved. It was two and one-half hours after the fire was discovered before the department had it under control and it was nearly four hours before the flames were finally extinguished.

Power Building Unharmed.

The fireproof building of the Montana Power company, which adjoins the theater structure on the north, escaped with practically no damage, save where the firemen broke through the glass to turn water onto the burning structure. By running up ladders on the one-story Sweet block on the south and utilizing the upper floors of the power company's structure the firemen were enabled to fight the flames from both sides. It is to the fact that the fireproof building was on the north that the firemen give credit to a great extent for their ability to control the flames.

Chief Kennedy says that it was fortunate indeed that the wind switched from west to east just before the flames broke out or they would have been driven from the front of the building through the halls and it would have been impossible to have saved the structure. The fire did most of its damage to the front and center of the structure, especially near where it ate its way through the ceilings of both floors and also through the skylight, leaping some 20 feet above the building.

The woodwork in front of the upper stories was blackened and in some places charred by the flames, while water soaked through the walls and ceilings and knocked the plaster off the latter in many places.

It was impossible to determine the cause of the fire last night but it is believed to have been spontaneous combustion. A thorough investigation will be made by the fire department.

Owners Praise Firemen.

The structure is owned by William Woods and T. A. Selsow and was built some six years ago at a cost of \$75,000. It was insured for \$15,000. Only a few months ago policies amounting to \$10,000 were cancelled. Mr. Wood stated last night that the fire damage would be repaired immediately. He was very enthusiastic in his praise of the fire department for the manner in which it handled the fire.

The gas company's loss is said to be fully covered by insurance. The paint company's loss is about 10 per cent \$12,000 insurance having been carried. The insurance on the furniture of the rooming house is \$2,000, while the estimated loss is \$5,000, besides about \$2,000 to roomers in clothing and furnishings. Crimstad and Brown have their library partially insured.

Acme Bldg. Damaged by Fire (cont)

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