

# FIRE DESTROYS CHISHOLM STORE

## Shapiro & Sons' Mercantile Establishment Prey of Flames.

(News Tribune Special.)

CHISHOLM, May 14.—(2 a. m.)—Fire which started in the department store of Shapiro & Sons at 11:45 o'clock last night totally destroyed the building and contents with a loss of approximately \$55,000. When the flames got beyond the control of the Chisholm fire department the Hibbing department was sent for.

Less than an hour after the fire was discovered the floors and the roof of the building crashed into the cellar and a few minutes later the front wall toppled into Lake street with a crash. This was followed by the collapse of the rear wall.

Shapiro & Sons carried insurance amounting to 80 per cent of the value of the stock of goods on hand.

Simon Shapiro stated at an early hour this morning he could not tell exactly how much insurance was carried, but the complete loss of the stock would leave the firm thousands of dollars behind. He was standing in front of the burning structure as he talked, wringing his hands and his face was bathed in tears.

It is not known how the fire started. When it was first discovered by passersby on the street there was a small blaze in the basement. It is supposed that embers were left in the furnace in which yesterday morning employees of the store burned a lot of paper and rubbish.

A citizen ran to the headquarters of the fire department less than a block distant and gave the alarm. For a time the blaze was confined to the basement, but firemen were unable to enter owing to the dense smoke. Suddenly the flames shot upward through the first and second floors and before even the firemen realized it the building was doomed.

The arrival of Chief McIlhargy of the Hibbing department and a large motor fire truck from the village prevented the spread of the flames and the possible destruction of all other buildings on the block. Adjoining structures were badly scorched and the flames leaped across the alley and consumed a number of sheds and small frame structures.

Fire Chief George Nitch stated after the fire was under control that it was the worst blaze experienced in Chisholm since the holocaust which completely wiped out the village.

Simon Shapiro was in a nervous condition bordering on hysteria by the time the fire was out. He was unable to remember the name of the owner of the building.

Shapiro & Sons occupied a two-story double brick structure and had recently received a large stock of new spring goods. The firm conducted a department store and carried dry goods, clothing, women's suits, notions, gents' furnishings and general merchandise.

Chief Nitch pronounced the fire out at 2 o'clock this morning, but left a company at the scene to prevent it from starting from smouldering embers.