

FIRE GUTS SHOP IN MICHIGAN ST.

Devaney & Jordan Establish- ment and Upholster Usan Suffer Losses.

Approximately \$10,000 damage was done late last night by fire which practically destroyed a frame structure occupied chiefly by Devaney & Jordan, blacksmiths and wagon repairers, at Second avenue East and Michigan street. The major portion of the building's contents also were destroyed, although policemen and civilians rescued seven horses from a stable in the rear, pushed an automobile and three wagons up a hill and saved harness, sleigh robes and other livery accessories.

It was the second disastrous fire experienced by the blacksmiths. About a year ago, while located in First avenue West, the establishment was completely burned out. The firm suffered a loss of between \$60,000 and \$70,000. Frank Jordan said last night that his loss from the latest blaze will be about \$5,000. The building is owned by the Dickerman Investment company, and Assistant Fire Chief Wilson said, is damaged to the extent of about \$4,000. The contents of the establishment of M. Usan, an upholsterer, in the second floor of the building, on the east side, where the blaze is believed to have originated, also are a total loss.

Gives Alarm to Police.

The fire was discovered by J. Omerberg, storekeeper for the National Hardware company, who was on his way to the Northern Pacific railroad yards to look after the boiler fire of the company's derrick there. Omerberg ran into police headquarters, where he gave the alarm, and with Chief of Police R. D. McKercher, set out to save as many things and rescue as many horses as possible, before the firemen arrived. They reached the scene four minutes after receiving the alarm.

In just about as many minutes hundreds of persons, indifferent to the cold, began to collect, some as spectators and others as volunteer rescuers. Scores of men started for the rear of the building, threatened already by the flames, where seven horses were tied in their stalls. They were brought out and then the rescue squad turned its attention to the wagons, automobiles, harness and sleigh robes. A dozen men were required to push the machine and the wagons up the snowy hill from the stable. The horses, wagon and automobile were the property of the Bell-net company.

The first fire spectacle in months was what the watchers called it. At first only dense volumes of smoke poured from out the building, but 10 minutes after it was discovered the blaze shot out through the windows

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FIRE IN BUILDING ON MICHIGAN STREET

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and from portion of the roof, while the brisk wind carried sparks galore to the east.

Six streams of water were played upon the blaze, from rear, front and sides. Firemen stood on their ladders directly outside of the windows from which the flames leaped forth, and after half an hour's work had minimized all danger to nearby buildings from flying sparks. From inside, however, the smoke kept pouring and the fire got a lead in the rear. Several of the fire-fighters were then ordered to go into the building. They had hardly entered before the second floor on the west side gave way, and the spectators cried out for the safety of the men inside. There was a loud report and it was instantly rumored that a barrel of paint or kerosene had exploded, killing two of the firemen. But this rumor was dissipated when the firemen showed themselves at the windows, forced back there by both the smoke and the falling floor. Bert Smith stood on the edge of the abyss that had formed in the flooring and narrowly escaped being hurled down.

After the blaze was under control policemen served coffee to the firemen at headquarters, which is in front of the building.

Firemen had four other runs during the day, one of them being a false alarm. The most serious blaze was at the home of Mrs. Pearl Stein, 27½ West Fourth street, caused by the wall catching fire from a torch used in thawing out water pipes. About \$150 damage was done.

A pedestrian passing the Ninth avenue West and Fifth street corner in the morning saw a nearby blacksmith's forge flaming up, and summoned the department. An ash box at Piedmont avenue and Second street was also responsible for a departmental run. An automobile caught fire in front of 316 West First street.