

# A HOT SUNDAY NIGHT FIRE

## The Meat Market of Harvey & Hulbert Entirely Destroyed.

One of the hottest small fires ever witnessed in Kearney called out the fire department shortly after ten o'clock Sunday night. Fire was discovered in Harvey & Hulbert's meat market, and although the department responded promptly it was well under way before water could be turned on. In a short time the entire interior was aflame, the fire broke through the ceiling into the garret, and also through the sides threatening the confectionery store of Albin Johnson, adjoining on the south, and the Bodinson hardware store on the north, both wooden buildings.

Two streams of hose were turned on and kept up a deluge for about three quarters of an hour before the fire was under control. A hole was cut in the front of the building and water turned into the garret, and the hook and ladder boys tore down part of the

front so as to get a full sweep for the water. It seemed for a time as though the adjoining building could not possibly be saved, but the perseverance and intelligence of the fire laddies finally won the victory.

The building is so badly burned that it can not be rebuilt. It belonged to Prof. Eugene Wambaugh, nephew of Capt. Wambaugh of this city, who is a law professor at Harvard, and was insured for \$500. The tools and fixtures were the property of F. I. Parker, former proprietor of the market, and were insured for \$600. Harvey & Hulbert carried a large stock of meats and shelf groceries, which was insured for \$1,100.

The side of the Bodinson building was scorched nearly through, and water flooded the cellar about a foot deep, but beyond this there was little damage, although it was a hair-breadth escape.

The building was built by F. G. Keens in August, 1872, and was therefore over twenty-eight years old. It was the first building erected in Kearney if we except a small shack used by F. W. Dart for merchandising, which was an old landmark here when the town started.

The first train that ran into Kearney over the B. & M. brought the lumber and carpenters from Lincoln for its construction. It originally stood on Twenty-fourth street, between First and Second avenues, opposite the present Whittier school, that being the locality where business started. H. H. Achey, well known by old settlers, came out from Lincoln to erect

it, and liking the town settled here.

Trappers, ranchmen and Pawnee Indians have traded there in 1872, and it was headquarters for business and social gatherings.

A year later the lot and building were sold by Mr. Keens to his partner, T. S. Nightingale, who removed the building to its present locality where it has been used as a drug store for more than twenty years and of late years as a restaurant and a meat market. The building stood alongside much more modern buildings and looked equally as well and few people would, from its appearance, realize its age and the figure it cut in the early history of Kearney.