

A TOTAL LOSS.

Ninth Street Theater Burned
to the Ground.

OTHER BUILDINGS WRECKED.

As Usual the Water Pressure Was
Not Sufficient.

THE FLAMES RAGED FIERCELY.

Almost Impossible to Save Many
Other Surrounding Buildings.

A Loss of Fully \$165,000, of Which \$150,000
Was Upon the Theater—The Blaze
Originated in the Basement at the
Rear of the Theater.

Fire was discovered in the Ninth Street theater, on Ninth and May streets, at 3:30 o'clock this morning. Notwithstanding the fact the fire department responded promptly, the building was speedily consumed. The flames raged so fiercely and the heat was so intense that all the windows of the block across the street, including the Le Grand hotel, were broken out and the firemen had to turn their attention to saving that block and preventing the fire from spreading into a general conflagration.

All the surrounding buildings were smoking and charred and ready to burst into flames before the flames which rolled off in huge detached fragments and leaped against them had consumed the theater building. The firemen fought as best they could, crippled as they were by a poor water pressure. They were obliged to keep at a safe distance, as the high walls of the disintegrating building fell from time to time with thundering crashes and scattered broken timbers and bricks through the air in all directions. A net work of live wires from overhead also fell and added to the perils of the handicapped firemen. At 4:10 o'clock the east wall of the theater, the last to fall, came down with a terrific crash and carried with it the double one