

THEATER FIRE.

Detailed Insurance of the Early Morning Fire of Yesterday.

The fiercest and hottest and quickest fire that the Kansas City Fire department has ever had to contend with, Chief Hale says, was that which consumed the Ninth street theater at May and Ninth streets early yesterday morning, which was fully detailed in *The Times* yesterday. As stated, the fire started in the basement and in a minute, almost, spread over the entire building. When the first alarm was turned in the night operator in charge of



THE BURNED THEATER.

the telephone office looked in the direction of the theater and could scarcely discern a fire. Thirty seconds later the flames were leaping high above the building, and the entire West side of the city was illuminated by them. The operator notified Chief Hale who had tumbled out of bed into his "bumpers" and was dressing in lightning-like fashion. A second alarm was then turned in and within two minutes half a dozen streams were playing on the fire. Within five minutes the number of streams was increased to eleven. It was at once evident that nothing in the theater could be saved and the firemen directed their efforts to save the surroundings. They succeeded admirably considering the circumstances.

To keep the fire from spreading it was necessary to keep throwing water for over an hour on the buildings in the immediate vicinity. The heat was intense and the firemen suffered considerably from it, but worked heroically. The walls crumbled quickly and a mass of debris now stands where the theater stood for six years.

The theater, which was owned by H. D. Clark, was valued at about \$50,000, including furniture and fixtures. Mr. Clark formerly carried \$35,000 insurance, but the policies had been expiring for the past two or three months and were not renewed because of the intention to remodel the building. Mr. Clark's insurance at the time of the fire was \$21,000, divided as follows:

New York Bowery	1,000
Phoenix of London	2,000
German	1,000
Fire Association of Philadelphia	1,500
German	1,000
Grand Rapids	1,000
German of Peoria	1,000
Reading	1,000
Oakland	1,500
Firemen's	1,000
British America	1,000
N. B. Mercantile	2,000
National	1,000
American	1,000
Etna	1,000
Farmers'	1,000

Other losses, all of which are given in *The Times* yesterday were approximately correct, were: A. Judah, lessee—furniture, piano, silverware, \$5,000, no insurance; Leonzo Bros., baggage, costumes and scenery, \$10,000, no insurance; W. H. School, cigars and news stand, \$800, no insurance; building at 316 West Ninth street, owner not known, \$1,200; G. Schroeder, restaurant, loss \$100, insurance \$500; B. Kersburg, school fixtures, \$800, no insurance; M. B. Beatty, Le Grande Hotel building, \$25, and Mrs. Memminger, proprietress of hotel, \$100, both fully insured; A. B. Cross, building at northwest corner Ninth and May, \$500, fully insured; H. W. Ido, building at 307 West Ninth street, \$150.

As soon as the insurance can be adjusted and the site of the theater cleared work on a new theater will be at once begun by Mr. Clark. The new building is to be a handsome structure and the plans for it are already prepared. It is expected to be completed during the summer and will be opened early in the fall.