

# REPAIRS GO ON BRISKLY

## THE WESTERN UNION RESTORING ORDER OUT OF CONFUSION.

TRANSMISSIONS STILL SUBJECTED TO GREAT DELAY, BUT THE SYSTEM ALMOST IN WORKING ORDER.

From top to bottom the Western Union Building was a busy place yesterday. Gangs of men worked away at the heaps of rubbish upon the upper floors, where the fire had ruined everything that was at all combustible. The debris was sent down to the ground through a long chute on the Dey Street side of the building, and there carts were loaded with the stuff as fast as they came up.

Carpenters swarmed in several of the rooms which had suffered little damage, except by water, but which were being fitted up for the operators as rapidly as possible. Long tables made of white pine boards and partitioned into little squares with the same material had been put in the old quarters of the auditing department, and a large force of operators was at work at them; while in other offices doors were being taken down, rough tables set up, and wires strung. Electricians were testing wires and fitting instruments, traveling close upon the heels of the carpenters, who cleared the way for them.

There was a queer sight in the corridor of the fourth floor. It had been found necessary to cut the cables, and the next thing to do was to pick out the wires which had made them up. Hundreds of wires were being inspected and tabbed yesterday in the corridor, and the place bore the aspect of a den of snakes, the wires sticking out in every direction and wiggling in a delightfully animated way under the handling of the electricians and linemen. Sorting these wires is no easy task, but it is one that has to be done.

Jay Gould visited the building yesterday for the first time since the fire. He had understood, he said, that the structure was as nearly fire-proof as it was possible to make it. Floors, walls and stairways were indestructible, but of necessity there was much inflammable material in the place in the shape of furniture. Still, similar food for fire would be found in any large office building.

Had the fire broken out at any other hour than it did, Mr. Gould thought, it would have been extinguished. Men would have been on hand to check its progress at once, and doubtless it would have been discovered sooner. As it was, the force was unable to extinguish the fire. At any other hour the loss to the company would thus have been much smaller. As to the possibility of loss of life through lack of means of egress Mr. Gould said that the exits were supposed to be sufficient. Nothing would be omitted, however, to remove all doubt on this point when the upper stories were reconstructed. The cause of the fire, he believed, was the crossing of wires and the ignition of the insulating material and neighboring woodwork.

This view of the origin of the fire is generally entertained by the officers of the company. It was said yesterday that there was an error of judgment on the part of "Prof." Larissey, who for a great many years has had charge of the battery room. He first saw a little blue flame on the ceiling and tried to extinguish it by throwing water upon the spot. The water failed to have much effect except to aid the progress of the fire. Use of an axe and free cutting of the wires, it was said, would have probably checked the fire immediately.

Russell Sage also took a look at the premises yesterday. What he saw did not appear to please him especially.

Just how the work of rebuilding and repairs is to go on has not yet been settled. Architect Post, who designed the structure, is to make a thorough investigation, and the plans adopted will depend largely upon his suggestions. The determination of the exact amount of damage and of the best way to avoid such destruction in future is not likely to be reached for some time.

Such progress was made in resuming business yesterday that at 11 o'clock W. J. Dealy, chief of the operating force, issued this bulletin:

"Working from 195 and 415 Broadway to all points. The delay now is principally to business with way stations in New-York, New-Jersey, and Eastern States. Forces at the depot offices in Jersey City will be called in to 195 Broadway, and the general business will be on good time from now on."

Later in the day Mr. Dealy said that probably 300 operators were at work in the temporary quarters in the main building. There were nearly 100 more at 415 Broadway. All the extra men had been withdrawn from the office at 16 Broad Street, and "extras" at such principal branches as the one in Twenty-third Street would be recalled before to-day. "We now reach all points we ever reached," Mr. Dealy added, "only we may not have our full quota of wires to a particular point. No. 415 Broadway has rather better Eastern connection than we have here."

No signs announcing the fact were displayed, but business was generally accepted subject to delay. Repairs had been made where necessary on the pneumatic tubes leading up town, and they were put into use at 11 o'clock. Those leading to newspaper offices were reported to be in condition for business. Tubes leading down town, however, were still out of the service.

Private leased wires were not in operation. It was hoped to have them in use yesterday, but the cutting of the cables necessitated delay. Mr. Somerville of the press bureau said that these wires would probably be all right again to-morrow.

Three rooms on the fourth floor of the Western Union Building have been turned over to the Associated Press for temporary occupancy. They were formerly occupied as offices by lawyers and the company's electrician, and while they do not give the new tenant quite as much space as desired, they will probably serve as a very acceptable makeshift. One room will be used by the executive officers of the Associated Press, the next for its leased wires, and the third for the editing, manifolding, and delivery of the news received. Desks and wires were placed in these rooms yesterday, but it was decided not to move the headquarters of the association from Jersey City until to-day. In the meantime the delivery of news goes on by means of messengers from Jersey City.

Visitors to the burned building still have to climb the stairs. The elevators are not yet in use. Many wires ran up the shafts, and the fire spread to these and ran over the drums of the cables attached to the cars. Enough damage was done to postpone the resumption of elevator travel for some time.

An evidence of the way the intense heat played havoc with the granite trimmings of the building was given yesterday. These trimmings scaled off badly during the fire, but yesterday the danger from this source was supposed to be ended. However, while George Fuller, the house carpenter, was engaged in fastening a strap at a window a piece of the stone work above fell upon him, smashing his stiff hat and giving him an ugly cut upon the head. He had the wound bandaged and pluckily continued at work.

The United Press headquarters remained in Weehawken yesterday, but the association has been promised wires for to-day and expects to be back in its old office at 187 Broadway this morning.

Notwithstanding the progress made by the repair gangs, the financial and commercial district down town still felt the effects of the fire keenly yesterday, although the commercial news department of the Western Union resumed operations. In the Stock Exchange region matters were not so bad comparatively. The stock ticker was working, and so was the general news ticker. But at the other Exchanges there was a good deal of grumbling over delays to dispatches.

At the Produce Exchange there was not much trouble over cables, but the way domestic messages came in was not all that might be desired. The Western Union office in the Exchange had one wire to Chicago, but was not reaching other points, it was said. The Postal Company's office was rushed with business. One or two brokers received dispatches from Western correspondents so many hours behind time that they declined to receive them.

Down stairs in the Maritime Exchange some trouble was reported through irregularity in the receipt of cables. Ship news was still collected at Quarantine and then sent to the Exchange by telephone. The system worked satisfactorily.

Cotton brokers were not at all happy over the state of things they had to face. Their Exchange, however, had succeeded in obtaining some of the Government reports which they had been very anxious to secure, and this was looked upon as a great boon. Dispatches from the South were few and far between and came in very slowly. A New-Orleans market report, dated Saturday, got through yesterday. It traveled as far as Birmingham, Ala., by way of the Western Union and there was put upon a Postal line. It reported trade quiet at New-Orleans.

In the Cotton Exchange only three out of a long line of tickers were working. These brought the "general news" service, the stock quotations, and the fluctuations of petroleum. The coffee, grain, and cotton tickers were idle. In all the Exchanges there was one great desire—and that was that the telegraph service get on its legs again as speedily as possible.

### THE CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Subscriptions already received in this country, so Wall Street news agencies report, indicate that the stock of the new company owning the Chicago Stock Yards will be considerably oversubscribed. John B. Sherman, for years President and manager of the old company, is credited with stating that eight years ago the company was offered \$10,000,000 for its railway system alone, and Mr. Sherman quotes figures which show that the receipts of stock, cattle, hogs, sheep, and horses have increased from 1,564,293 head in 1866 to 11,057,170 in 1889.

Mr. Sherman adds that between 60,000 and 70,000 men are employed in the packing and beef houses, whose property adjoins the stock yards, and the plant of those concerns has cost over \$30,000,000.