

February, 1904.

Thursday, 4th.

Clear day. Rather chilly. Snow on ground at 8 p.m., 2.0 inches. Ice conditions on Bay are unchanged. The western channel is clear of floes, and new ice is not heavy enough to cause serious trouble. Tugs brought several tows into port yesterday; but steamers are still unable to break through the heavy ice on the eastern side of the Bay. Temperature fell 19° in twenty four hours, on Wednesday, to 21° at 11:30 p.m.

Friday, 5th.

Cloudy day. Alto-stratus cover in morning; stratus thereafter until clearing in evening. Light snow at 8 a.m. Snow on ground at 8 p.m., 2.0 inches. Ice in bay is breaking up, and presents little obstacle to through navigation; but is packed along the Eastern Shore, and makes much trouble for steamers going in that direction.

Saturday, 6th.

Partly cloudy day. Partly cloudy until noon; then cloudy until clearing in late afternoon; evening partly cloudy. Warm; maximum 55°. Light rain began 1:25 p.m., ended 2:15 p.m.; amount, a trace. Light fog at 8 p.m. Light snow at 8 a.m. Snow on ground at 8 p.m., a trace.

Sunday, 7th.

Cloudy day. Cloudy until mid-afternoon; then partly cloudy; evening clear. Very warm for the season; minimum 39° at 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., whence temperature rose sharply to a maximum of 64° at noon. Light rain, 10:45 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.; and 1:15 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.; amount, a trace. Dense fog until 9:15 a.m., then light fog until 10:30 a.m. Wind fresh from southwest from 10:15 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.; then from west until about 11 p.m.; then from northwest; it became brisk about 9:20 p.m., and reached a maximum velocity of 30 miles from northwest at 11:40 p.m. A trace of snow remaining on the ground, in sheltered places, at 8 p.m. Received 4:50 p.m.: "Southwest storm warning, eleven a.m., Jacksonville ... Baltimore ... New York. Storm over southern Michigan moving east northeast. High southwest winds shifting to west and northwest tonight. Frankenfield." The greatest fire in the history of the city has been burning since about 10:30 a.m. Starting on Hopkins Place, near German Street, it was widely spread almost immediately by an explosion, and passed beyond control of the firemen. The fresh southwest wind drove the fire northeastward until evening, when, with a change of wind through west

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Sunday, 7th, continued.

to northwest; the fire was driven eastward along Baltimore and neighboring streets, and then southeastward to the water front. Mr. Wren, at main office of the Western Union Telegraph Co., Equitable Building, received enough reports to make the 8 p.m. map, and succeeded in getting from Washington a special forecast of wind, before the operators were driven from the building by the rapidly advancing fire.

Monday, 8th.

Partly cloudy day. Partly cloudy in morning and for short periods in forenoon and afternoon; evening clear. Wind steadily from northwest; brisk just after 1 a.m. and again in forenoon and early afternoon; maximum velocity, 27 miles from northwest at 10:00 a.m. No snow on ground and no ice in the harbor at 8 p.m. Received 11:00 a.m.: "Cold wave. Temperature will fall to about 15° by Tuesday morning. Frankenfield." Tipping bucket rain gauge was removed to shelter at 8 p.m. Telegraph offices have burned out, and the service so deranged that no signals or forecast could be gotten today. Our 8 a.m. observation was telegraphed by special message this morning, and will probably be so sent for the next few days. The fire, held to the water front, by northerly winds, was under control by sunset, and is slowly burning out. About 60 blocks have been burned over, and about 2400 houses destroyed; loss is roughly estimated at about \$100,000,000, with about \$70,000,000 insurance; no fatalities reported.

Tuesday, 9th.

Cloudy day. Sky nearly covered with cirro-stratus in morning; clear in early forenoon; alto-stratus cover in late forenoon and thereafter until clearing in late afternoon. Mr. Barry absent in morning on account of sickness. Temperature fell 14°, in 24 hours, to 19° at 8 a.m. Temperature data for 1903 was furnished to the local Consul of the Netherlands.

Wednesday, 10th.

Cloudy day. Partly cloudy in morning; cloudy thereafter. Raw and chilly. Dr. Fassig absent today on account of sickness.

Thursday, 11th.

Clear day. Bracing. Dr. Fassig still sick and absent; and Mr. Ross absent in the afternoon with permission of the Observer Temporarily in Charge.