

shakeable faith in their cause, they played a role that was indispensable in educating and awakening the public. But it is also true, in the opinion of Mr. Emory H. English, that:

No one man or small group was responsible for its development. The inception of the movement, its gathering of momentum, the determination of those engaged, the selection of a candidate to lead at important junctures, all contributed to its success.³⁴

³⁴ "Men Who Led the Progressive Movement in Iowa," *op.cit.*

Fire at the State Capitol

Fire originating in the attic in the northwest corner of the State Capitol at 11:00 o'clock today did \$250,000 worth of damage and caused the indefinite postponement of the Twenty-ninth General Assembly. The fire it now seems started this morning at 8:00 o'clock in Committee room No. 5 off the house of representatives. The capitol building has recently been repaired and improved and this room was used for a store room for bits of lumber shavings, rubbish, paint and the like. The fire probably started from crossed electric wires. It evidently smouldered for a time and . . . then started again. A painter who was still working in the building found the blaze about 11.00 o'clock. It had crept up through the committee room into the attic and was eating its way over the ceiling and the attic above. A general fire alarm was turned in and the firemen were soon fighting the flames. At first it seemed that the flames were beyond control and that the entire structure was doomed.

The flames were not long in eating their way into the house of representatives. Here everything was ruined by fire, smoke and water. For some time the heat was so intense that it was impossible to get anywhere near the part of the building which was ablaze. Governor Cummins and every person in the building started working to save the records, books, old flags, etc. All of the records were saved and the large library is safe. Janitor S. J. Albers was quite seriously injured. He was overcome by the smoke and flames.—*Boone Daily News*, January 4, 1904.

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