

THE HOLMES CASTLE BURNED

Chicago Firemen Say the Fire Was of Incendiary Origin and Was Accompanied by Three Explosions.

CHICAGO, Aug. 19.—The row of buildings at Sixty-third and Wallace Streets, Englewood, burned this morning. This row constituted the "Castle," in which H. H. Holmes, the confessed insurance swindler now awaiting sentence in Philadelphia, is popularly supposed to have concocted many of his crimes and committed numerous murders.

Firemen who were early on the scene unhesitatingly declare the fire was of incendiary origin, and it is generally supposed the intention was to destroy it and any evidence it might yet contain relative to the Holmes case.

The fire started in the rear of the structure of the first floor, in the southwest corner of the building, and the first known of it was when Thomas Rogers, the watchman at the railroad crossing, heard a muffled explosion. A moment later smoke issued from the north windows of the building. A small crowd gathered, but were frightened away by a series of three explosions similar to the first. Then, in an instant, the whole building was in flames, and the work of destruction was well under way before the fire engines could get to work.

Marshal Kenyon declares there is ample evidence of incendiarism, as do members of the first fire company that reached the scene. It is said the explosions were caused by kerosene oil. The fire started in rooms behind a confectionery store that changed hands a few days ago.

Davis's drug store, on the corner, is a complete wreck, as is also the confectionery store. The total loss will not exceed \$15,000.

Marshal Kenyon found a can half filled with gasoline underneath the secret stairway on the second floor. Two men were seen to enter the building between 8 and 9 P. M. Half an hour later they came out and walked rapidly away. It is believed the men placed the oil there and attached a slow fuse.

Police Inspector Fitzpatrick said to-day that he knew of no order for the release of the Quinlans or the Owenses, and denies that they have left the city.

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