

### A BIG FIRE.

Losses Amounting to \$275,000 by Captain Thomas Schmidt & Co., and Tatum & Bowen.

Shortly after 10 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in the large brick building occupied by Tatum & Bowen, dealers in lubricating oils and machinery on Main street near Market, San Francisco. Mr. Schmidt & Co., lithographers, also occupy a portion of the building. A strong wind was blowing, and the cinders and smoke were drifting rapidly over the lumber yards and planing mills east and south of the burning buildings. Chief Scannell with six fire engines, two hook and ladder trucks and a large force of men was soon on the ground and energetically at work. Large quantities of inflammable material, as varnishes and oils, made the blaze hot and furious. The fire soon burst from the windows and roof in the front of the building, and threatened to spread to the structure adjoining. Work was suspended in all the mills and lumber yards near by, and the employes, armed with buckets of water, were posted on the buildings and lumber to guard the property from flying sparks.

The owner of the building burned is R. R. Thompson, a retired capitalist, living in Alameda. He bought the property about a year ago, including also two two-story brick buildings on the north, and one lot in the rear, on Spear street, five water-front lots, paying for all \$340,000; this, including, of course, the real estate, he purchased from the Cutting Packing Company. The building, fully three-fourths of which is a total loss, covers land 91 feet 6 inches by 137 feet 6 inches—two water-front lots. The building was erected about two years ago, and was valued at \$50,000, insured for \$30,000.

Tatum & Bowen, on the first floor, lost little by fire. Damage by water amounts to \$15,000, fully covered by insurance.

Schmidt & Co. are the heaviest losers, their loss footing up fully \$200,000, although it is difficult so soon to estimate closely. Their total insurance is \$135,000 in small amounts in every company in the city, all placed by George H. Foster, a broker on California street. All of their original label-stones and engravings were saved, being stored away in the vault on the lower floor in Tatum & Bowen's, the door of which was closed and locked on the first alarm, by a thoughtful employe, Sam Manuel. A number of plans and designs which were in the transfer-room, are also safe, the transfer-room being located in the adjoining building. Richard Schmidt, brother of the proprietor, and bookkeeper of the firm, succeeded in closing and locking the safe, thereby securing the books and papers intact.

A large lot of new materials, job presses, etc., had lately been received, and the firm were preparing to start an extensive job printing establishment. They claim, however, that the interruption in their business will be brief, as they have other machinery, and will start again very soon.

1884 08 05 Schmidt fire insured by George Foster

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