

Electric Fluid

Makes Mischief

Three Small Fires Due to Riotous Conduct of the "Juice" Last Night.

Flames rose suddenly to the ceiling of the Bon Ton theater near the close of last evening's second performance, and a panic-stricken audience were kept from stampede only by the efforts of employees. Fortunately only seventy-five or a hundred persons were left in the house. No one was hurt. The kinetoscope, whose celluloid films blazed up, was wrecked.

Some trouble with the electric wires is said to have caused the incipient conflagration. The audience was startled by a sudden flare of light. The cry of "fire" caused many to leap to their feet. A pair of big broad-shouldered young men made a ludicrous attempt to force exit via the door to the stage. Several women screamed.

But the fact that the flames, which licked their way to the ceiling after the first puff of blaze and smoke had risen, were between them and the front door, caused the small crowd to stay comparatively still. There was no rush for the outer air.

Meantime the employees used fire extinguishers to good effect. While they worked others turned in an alarm. Apparatus quickly responded from headquarters. But by the time it had arrived the danger to the building was past. The damage to the structure itself is slight.

The kinetoscope machine is enclosed in a gallery above the street door. The partitions are responsible largely for the small amount of damage.

A pole of the Utah Light and Railway company's power line burned last evening near midnight and caused all sorts of trouble throughout the city. The severing of the wires consequent upon the blaze resulted in power and light being shut off for a period of about ten minutes. In downtown restaurants guests paused, with their plates shut off from them by darkness. Street cars stopped for a short time. At the same time the rain was pouring down and passengers hung to their seats rather than risk a ducking. Within a few minutes the trouble was over and things resumed their normal aspect.

Crossed wires near the Rio Grande Western passenger station caused an alarm of fire to be turned in at 11:30 o'clock last evening. The department responded. No damage was done.