OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, Ohio, February 14, 1889.

The Board of Trustees met at the office of the Secretary, pursuant to call of the President, to consider the situation caused by the burning of the chemical building on the morning of February 12, 1889.


After full consideration of the occasion which called the Board together, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees, in view of the recent destruction by fire of the chemical laboratory building, whereby the class rooms, laboratories and equipment of the department of general chemistry, agricultural chemistry, mining and metallurgy and veterinary medicine have been destroyed, recommend to the legislature an appropriation of $75,000 for the purpose of providing a building and equipment for said departments, the building to be constructed so as also to provide for the pharmacy department.

RESOLVED, That in view of this large demand upon the public revenue, we hereby reluctantly withdraw present estimates and requests for appropriations for manual training department and other additions to the University buildings, and that the President, Executive Committee and Secretary are directed to lay this subject before the legislature and request prompt action.

The Secretary was authorized to pull down ruined walls of the burnt building and clear up the debris, and to proceed at once with the equipment of temporary laboratories for the departments of general chemistry and mining and metallurgy and with the purchase of necessary supplies for the departments which were burned out by the fire.

He was also authorized to purchase shades for windows of rooms assigned temporarily to the physical department.

Mr. Sam Kendrick reported the following sales of Virginia Military Lands, viz.: Lot No. 8, Adams County, Ohio, 7½ acres to A. J. Nixon for $15.00. Discovery No. 210, Scioto County, 500 acres to H. H. Cappel and D. S. Webb for $250.00.

Lot No. 1, Discovery No. 55, Adams County, 130 acres to Robert Nixon for $200.00.

Lot No. 1, Discovery No. 51, Scioto County, 121⅓ acres to Fred W. Stendigavant for $151.56, and the same were confirmed and the President was directed to execute deeds to the purchasers upon payment by them of the purchase price of said lands.

THOS. A. COWGILL, President of the Board.

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, Ohio, March 12, 1889.

The Board of Trustees met pursuant to call of the President to take steps to secure plans for rebuilding the Chemical Laboratory, and also for a building for instruction in electrical engineering, to decide upon the location of such buildings and to transact such other business as may need attention.

Members present: Thomas A. Cowgill, I. B. Wing, Thomas J. Godfrey, H. J. Booth and David M. Massie. Board proceeded to the President's room at the University, and was called to order by President Cowgill. Mr. Massie was appointed secretary pro tem.

Mr. Godfrey moved that in consideration of the recent fire and the failure of the General Assembly to make the necessary appropriation for laboratory supplies, the action of this Board in abolishing laboratory fees after the beginning of the Spring Term, is hereby reconsidered and said fees are continued as heretofore. On this motion, the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted as follows: Yeas, Messrs. Wing, Godfrey, Cowgill, Massie; Nays, Mr. Booth. So the motion was carried.

On motion of Mr. Godfrey, the question of fire protection was referred to the executive committee.

On motion of Mr. Booth, Board adjourned to meet at the residence of the Secretary, No. 1354 East Broad St., at 2:30 P.M.

Columbus, Ohio, March 12, 2:30 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to agreement. Present: Messrs. Cowgill, Godfrey, Wing, Booth and Brigham. President Scott was also present.

After a general discussion and interchange of views concerning the restoration of the Chemical Laboratory Building, Mr. Booth offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Board at once take the necessary steps to erect a new laboratory building.

On this resolution the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted as follows: Yeas, Messrs. Booth, Brigham, Cowgill, Godfrey and Wing. Nays, none. So the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Booth offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That ________ be and are hereby employed to prepare plans for the proposed New Laboratory Building to the acceptance of this Board at a cost of four hundred dollars; said plans to provide for a building to cost complete, including heating, lighting, plumbing, architect's fees, superintendence and all other necessary expenses, not to exceed forty thousand dollars, and to be prepared after consultation with Professors Norton, Lord, Weber and Kauffman.

On motion of Mr. Godfrey, President Scott was authorized to engage the services of Professor F. H. Hodder to teach history and political science during Professor Knight's absence in Europe.
THE HISTORY OF THE PHYSICAL PLANT
OF
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
1870 —— 1899

Volume I
by
Wm. C. McCracken
Illustrated

Columbus, Ohio
1942
A Board fence beginning at High Street skirted the South side of the woods thence west to the old river bed. This fence was the north side of the Campus.

The Board on November 20, 1888 made up their request for appropriations to the General Assembly for the coming year the total amounted to $40,000, $9,600 of which was for the Physical Plant.

November 21, 1888 the election of officers for the year 1889 resulted as given below:

- Thos. A. Cowgill, President
- Thos. J. Godfrey, Vice President
- Alexis Cope, Secretary
- F. W. Prentiss, Treasurer

Executive Committee:

- L. B. Wing, H. J. Booth, Thos. A. Cowgill
- Wm. C. McCracken, appointed Engineer
- E. C. Grove, appointed Fireman
- Washington Townsend, appointed Janitor

Professor Thomas appeared before the Board January 15, 1889 and made a plea for a building and equipment for a course in Electrical Engineering.

The Board decided to ask the General Assembly for $10,000 for building and equipment for instruction in Electrical Engineering.

The Board resolved to ask the General Assembly for an appropriation of $40,000 to erect and equip a building for Manual Training Instruction; and as far as practicable for an Armory and Gymn. (It is a good thing that they did not get the $40,000 as it would not have been enough for the Manual Training Building).

At 3 a.m., February 12, 1889, the Chemistry Building was discovered on fire.

The watchman when questioned stated that on his last round he did not see any evidence of fire or smell smoke, apparently everything was alright.
The fire evidently started in the east end of the large west Laboratory on the second floor and had gained good headway by the time the fire department hose truck from the Flowers Engine House corner of High and Spruce Streets arrived at the fire hydrant located about 130 feet south of the west end of the building. There were no fire extinguishers or hose in the building, and all depended on the fire department.

At that time the fire department was not using fire engines, depending solely on the water pressure in the City Water mains.

The firemen coupled their hose to the 4" hydrant which in turn was connected to the 6" water main.

Water from the hose nozzles barely reached the middle of the second story windows, the building was doomed.

The building was completely burned out except for a portion of the floor of the first and second stories at the east end of the building.

After going over the ruins carefully and taking into consideration that the fire started in the second floor Laboratory, the conclusion was reached that it was a case of spontaneous combustion, due to the fact that it was the practice to oil the top of the desks with linseed oil applied with a rag.

The fire in all probability was started by a linseed oil soaked rag.

The Board of Trustees met on February 14, 1889 and after full consideration of the Chemistry Laboratory Building fire the following resolutions were adopted:

"Resolved, that the Board of Trustees, in view of the recent destruction by fire of the Chemical Laboratory Building, whereby the class rooms, Laboratories and equipment of the department of General Chemistry, Agricultural Chemistry, Mining and Metallurgy, Veterinary, Medicine and (Pharmacy) have been destroyed, recommend for the purpose of providing a building and equipment for said departments, the building to be constructed so as, also, to provide for the Pharmacy Department."