

LIGHTNING STRIKES CITY HALL.

Tower Is Set Afire by Bolt and Damage Is Estimated at \$500.

Lightning struck the tower of the city hall in the electrical storm at about 2 o'clock this morning and caused damage estimated by Alex Henderson, fire chief, at \$500.

The bolt set the tower on fire, burning a hole five feet by twelve feet long in the northeast section, just below the flag pole. Fire station No. 25, close to the hall, responded promptly and extinguished the flames.

There is no record of a previous fire at the city hall, but discussion of that point today recalled another near catastrophe, in 1918, when a mysterious fire occurred in the city chemist's office. As it was war time the possibility of German origin was discussed. A watchman was placed at the entrance to the hall every night after closing hours to take down in a register the names of all who entered. The practice still is continued, and this watchman, "Capt." P. J. Kennedy, discovered the lightning's strike last night.