Fire at the State Capitol
shakeable faith in their cause, they played a role that was
indispensable in educating and awakening the public. But
it is also true, in the opinion of Mr. Emory H. English, that:

No one man or small group was responsible for its
development. The inception of the movement, its gather-
ing of momentum, the determination of those engaged,
the selection of a candidate to lead at important junctures,
all contributed to its success.34

34 “Men Who Led the Progressive Movement in Iowa,” op.cit.

Fire at the State Capitol

Fire originating in the attic in the northwest corner of the
State Capitol at 11:00 o’clock today did $250,000 worth of
damage and caused the indefinite postponement of the
Twenty-ninth General Assembly. The fire it now seems started
this morning at 8:00 o’clock in Committee room No. 5 off the
house of representatives. The capitol building has recently
been repaired and improved and this room was used for a
store room for bits of lumber shavings, rubbish, paint and the
like. The fire probably started from crossed electric wires. It
evidently smouldered for a time and . . . then started again.
A painter who was still working in the building found the
blaze about 11:00 o’clock. It had crept up through the com-
mittee room into the attic and was eating its way over the
ceiling and the attic above. A general fire alarm was turned in
and the firemen were soon fighting the flames. At first it
seemed that the flames were beyond control and that the
entire structure was doomed.

The flames were not long in eating their way into the
house of representatives. Here everything was ruined by fire,
smoke and water. For some time the heat was so intense that
it was impossible to get anywhere near the part of the
building which was ablaze. Governor Cummins and every
person in the building started working to save the records,
books, old flags, etc. All of the records were saved and the
large library is safe. Janitor S. J. Albers was quite seriously
injured. He was overcome by the smoke and flames.—Boone