

State Historical Society

WORLD'S DAILY NEWS

CAREFULLY COLLECTED AND CONCISELY STATED.

FIRE INQUIRY BEGUN

WITNESSES INSIST COLLINWOOD SCHOOL DOOR WAS LOCKED.

Total Number of Dead is 164—Of These 137 Have Been Identified, While 27 Are So Mutilated that There is Small Chance of Recognition.

Twenty-four hours after the disaster that swept into eternity approximately one-third of the school children of North Collinwood, O., the death toll numbered 164. Of these 137 had been identified at the Lake View morgue, while 27 bodies remain there in a condition of mutilation probably forever beyond the chances of being recognized.

In an effort to fix the cause and responsibility for the holocaust various investigations were set under way. Coroner Burke issued subpoenas for the seven surviving teachers of the Lake View school. The inquest was begun Thursday morning, when a number of witnesses were examined, without, however, developing any testimony that was beyond mere opinion.

An investigation conducted by the Collinwood school board, which lasted far into the night, at which a number of survivors of the horror told their stories, brought forth these facts:

That one of the inner doors at the west entrance of the school was closed and fastened while children were piling up against it in the passage, and that wing partitions in the vestibule narrowed the exit by at least three feet. The flames came first from a closet below the stairway at the east entrance; the closet contained lime and sawdust. There was but one fire escape, and that its use was never taught as a part of the fire drill.

Survivors among the teachers estimate that only two or three minutes passed between the time of the alarm until all escape was cut off. The building was a fair sample of the kind of school construction in use in small towns. The halls and stairways were inclosed between interior brick walls forming a huge flue through which the flames shot up with great rapidity.

On the question, much discussed, whether the doors opened inward or outward, Fire Marshals Brockett and Feigenbaum examined the doorways and stated that they were convinced that they were locked. Whether they were locked they have not been able to determine. They have testimony on both sides. Janitor Herter still insists that the doors were open.

FATALLY SHOT.

Mystery in Case of Society Man of Dillon, Mont.

A sensation was caused at Dillon, Mont., Thursday when it was disclosed that Emery Pulver, a well known society man of that city, had been shot and fatally wounded early that morning. Dr. Bond was awakened and found Pulver prostrate at his door, where he had been carried by friends. The police are investigating what connection, if any, Pulver's condition has with the holdup of Henry Cahill, a saloon man, early Thursday. Cahill was going home when he was accosted by two men and dragged into an alley. Cahill shot one of the men through the stomach. The other robber felled Cahill and robbed him after beating him into insensibility.

PANIC IS AVERTED.

Fire Drill Proves Effective When Alarm is Sounded.

Thursday fire broke out in the laboratory of the Central high school at Grand Rapids, Mich., while 1,200 pupils were in the midst of their morning work. The signal for the fire drill was given, and the children marched out in perfect order, the building being emptied in two and a half minutes.

The school is over-crowded, stairways are inadequate and fears of a possible panic long had been felt, but the fire drill proved effective. The fire did comparatively little damage.

Released by Chicago Police.

Rosie Stern and Olga Averbuch, a sister of the man killed by Chief Shippy, of Chicago, who were arrested in connection with the police investigation of the attempted assassination of Shippy, were released from custody at noon Thursday.

Sioux City Live Stock Market.

Thursday's quotations on the Sioux City live stock market follow: Top heaves, \$5.15. Top hogs, \$4.35.

Many Bodies Unclaimed.

Firesmen and voluntary assistants are still probing among the smoldering ruins of the Collinwood school at Cleveland O. Arrangements for a great public funeral are being perfected. Many bodies are still unidentified.

King Edward Takes Holiday.

A London special says: King Edward left London Thursday for Biarritz for a month's holiday.

NO QUARTER TO REDS.

Uncle Sam Joins in Hunt for Alien Anarchists.

The secretary of commerce and labor Tuesday issued a sweeping order to all commissioners of immigration and immigration inspectors in charge, directing them to confer with the police in their respective jurisdictions with a view to securing the co-operation of police and detective forces in an effort to rid the country of alien anarchists and criminals falling within the law relative to deportation.

The order of Secretary Straus follows: "To All Commissioners of Immigration and Immigrant Inspectors in Charge: It is hereby directed that, with a view to promptly obtaining definite information in regard to all alien anarchists and criminals located in the United States, you shall confer fully with the chief of police or the chief of the secret service of the city in which you are located, furnishing such officials with detailed information with regard to the meaning of the term 'anarchist' as used in the immigration act of Feb. 20, 1907, and with regard to the inhibition of that statute against aliens of the criminal classes, explaining the powers and limitations imposed by said statute upon the immigration officials, with respect to such persons.

"You shall call to the attention of the chief of police or chief of the secret service the definition of 'anarchist,' contained in sections 2 and 38 of the act of Feb. 20, 1907, and the provisions of section 2, placing within the excluded classes persons who have been convicted of or admit having committed a felony or other crime or misdemeanor, involving moral turpitude, pointing out that if any such person is found within the United States within three years after landing or entry therein he is amenable to deportation under the provisions of section 21 of the act."

LEGAL OPINION WHILE ASLEEP.

Judge Condemned a Man to Death and Didn't Know It.

A remarkable story has just come to light at Chattanooga, Tenn., of an opinion of the supreme court of Tennessee affirming the death sentence of Andrew Smith, colored, in 1876. The opinion was written by the chief justice of the supreme court when he was in a somnolent state, and the remarkable thing was that his opinion was thoroughly sound, both as to the law and the facts, and is one of the reported opinions, being printed as an authority to this day on the technical law points involved.

Justice Nicholson was the man who wrote the opinion and Peter Turney, afterward governor of Tennessee, saw him arise from his bed, write the lengthy document and again retire. Next day Justice Nicholson had no recollection of the incident. The elaborate opinion covered all the facts cited and ended with an affirmation of the court below. Letters from the late Gov. Turney, in the possession of one of Chattanooga's attorneys, corroborate the foregoing story.

A SCARLET FEVER SERUM.

New York Physicians Using Remedy with Much Success.

Hypodermic injections of a serum similar to that used in the treatment of diphtheria are being successfully employed in scarlet fever cases in New York, according to doctors in hospitals on the east side, where the disease is unusually prevalent now, the latest report of the board of health showing 797 cases, more than six times as many as on Dec. 1, and the great majority of them in the populous section which includes most of the foreign settlements.

Dr. Henry G. Robinson, of the Post-Graduate hospital, said, in commenting on the tests of this treatment, that although little used in this country, it is not new by any means, having been employed with gratifying results in both Germany and France. Experiments with it here are said to have been almost uniformly successful.

Road Pays \$15,000 Death Claim.

Claim agents for the Southern Pacific railway company in Binghamton, N. Y., made a settlement with the executor of the estates of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cutler whereby it was agreed to pay \$15,000 for the death of Mr. and Mrs. Cutler, who were killed in the wreck of the Shiners' train in southern California last spring.

Wrecked by Blast.

A cargo of powder carried by a Big Four freight train exploded Tuesday while the train was running at full speed ten miles from Littlefield. It took two men are reported fatally injured. The train was badly wrecked, and several cars were burned.

Many Offices Are Closed.

The nine-hour law affecting railroad telegraphers caused about 25 per cent of the Southern Pacific telegraph offices in Louisiana to be closed Wednesday.

Rositter Public Printer.

It is understood the president has decided to appoint W. S. Rositter, of New York, to be public printer to succeed Charles S. Stille, of Massachusetts. Rositter has been for several years chief clerk in the census office.

More Troops to Morocco.

The French cabinet Tuesday voted formally to send 4,000 additional soldiers to Morocco with the object of continuing the aggressive policy of the government in that country.

IN WOE UNSPEAKABLE.

Nearly 200 Little Children Perish in School.

Death in one of its most terrible forms claimed between 160 and 170 school children in the Collinwood school, in the village of Collinwood, an eastern suburb of Cleveland, O., Wednesday, when the school building, catching fire from a defective furnace in the basement, was gutted in the space of half an hour. The building being inadequately protected by fire escapes the children were unable to make their way to the lower floors in time to escape the flames as they shot up from the basement and cut off egress. Starting about 9:30 o'clock in the basement from the overheated furnace the fire gained tremendous headway before its presence was learned.

The fire drill was inaugurated once and those in the rooms of the lower floor quickly moved out of the building, but when the panic-stricken little ones in the upper rooms attempted to make their way to the stairway the jam of uncontrolled and fear-stricken children grew until but few were able to extricate themselves and they perished almost within reach of safety.

The school was a two-story and attic brick building, constructed about six years ago. It was overcrowded with pupils and it was found necessary to utilize the attic for those of the ages between 6 and 8.

Nearly all the children were killed in the mass at the first floor door, which finally was opened by men from the Lake Shore railway shops, who hurried to the scene. A wall of flame had formed across it and most of the children already were dead by the time the doors swung open.

Approximately 200 children attended this school, which had nine rooms.

CATHOLIC EDITOR WARNED.

Head of Monthly Publication in Denver Gets Threatening Letter.

Arthur L. Callopy, of Denver, Colo., editor of the Western Home Journal, a Catholic monthly, received through the mail Wednesday a postal card on which was written the following threat: "If you don't stop trying to hurt the working man by writing against him in your magazine you will find yourself where the priest is. This is a warning."

Mr. Callopy believes that the threat was called out by an article in the Western Home Journal which denounced anarchy in all its forms.

RIDGELY TO BE PRESIDENT.

Comptroller Will Be Head of Kansas City Bank.

It is announced that the National Bank of Commerce, of Kansas City, Mo., will reopen its doors on Monday, March 30, in its own quarters in the new Commerce building, with \$6,000,000 capital in its vaults. W. H. Ridgely, comptroller of the currency, according to the announcement, will be president of the bank; Edward Ridgely, his brother, will be the cashier, and George T. Cutts, the government receiver now in charge, will be first vice president. The board of directors will include many local men.

A NEW YORK SENSATION.

Deputy State Attorney Vidaver Is Accused of Taking Bribe.

Nathan Vidaver, of New York, special deputy state attorney general, was arrested Wednesday by detectives from District Attorney Jerome's office, charged with accepting \$500 in marked bills from Wm. R. Montgomery, former president of the Hamilton bank.

Vidaver had a prominent part in the recent banking investigation in that city and recently was a candidate for election to the court of general sessions.

A. Hartje is Acquitted.

The Hartje conspiracy case at Pittsburgh, Pa., was brought to an abrupt end Wednesday when Judge McFarlane instructed the jury to acquit Hartje, Welshons and Hooe, the three defendants, and place the charges upon the county. The conspiracy case was the sequel of the famous Hartje divorce case.

Convicted of Killing Wife.

Henry Wolf, of Waucaua, Wis., was found guilty Wednesday of manslaughter in the third degree. He killed his wife while in an insane frenzy on June 13, 1907. He dashed out her brain with a knife from his cattle wagon Wolf pleaded insanity.

Revokes Salary Reduction.

The Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad company announced Wednesday that it has rescinded its recent order reducing salaries of employees receiving more than \$50 a month. The salary scale will stand unchanged.

Niagara Falls Submits.

A dispatch from Niagara Falls, N. Y., says a man believed to have been Grover C. Hohen, of Buffalo, leaped from the Luna island bridge into the river and his body was carried over the falls.

Cracksmen Secure \$3,000.

Safe crackers early Wednesday robbed the Mt. Grab bank in Mt. Grab, O., forty miles east of Cincinnati, of \$3,000 and escaped.

Nebraska State News

MOVE TO MAKE LINCOLN DRY.

License Issue Will Be Submitted to Vote of the People. The first definite move looking to prohibition in Lincoln was taken Tuesday evening when the United Civic League presented to the excise board a petition bearing 2,000 signatures to amend its rules so that no liquor licenses shall be granted. The petition required but 1,200 signatures to make it effective. The question will be put to a vote, and with it a rule proposed by the excise board, making the limit of saloons twenty-five and permitting them to remain open only between the hours of 7 a. m. and 7 p. m., with the minimum license, \$1500.

BOCHE IS CONVICTED.

The Jury at Norfolk Finds Him Guilty of Manslaughter. Herman Boche, accused of the murder of Frank Jarmer, was found guilty of manslaughter at Norfolk Tuesday afternoon. The jury was out sixteen hours. The penalty for the crime is one to ten years in the penitentiary. A motion for a new trial was made. Boche shot and killed Jarmer on the night of May 1, 1907. The killing followed a quarrel after a night spent in drinking in a Norfolk resort. The men had been fast friends and lodge brothers.

Edmiston Will Return.

Attorneys for J. H. Edmiston, who failed to appear in the federal court Omaha to answer to the charge of perjury and complicity in land frauds, declare that their client will return next week. They assert that Edmiston went south on business and is now suffering a severe attack of nervous prostration.

Pass Holders Are Bound Over.

At Columbus Dr. C. D. Evans and Dr. D. T. Martyn are held under bonds for their appearance in district court to answer to the charge of violating the anti-pass law by accepting passes from the Union Pacific. County Attorney Hensley is pushing the cases against the physicians, and the cases will be a test of the anti-pass law.

Anti-Saloon Fight in Hastings.

A campaign to drive saloons from Hastings was started Sunday at a mass meeting under the auspices of the evangelistic union of seven churches. The political parties will be asked to make no nominations for the council next spring so that the saloon question may be settled in a square contest on license and no license tickets.

Find for "Licking" the Mayor.

Bert Leddy, of Elm Creek, against whom a warrant was sworn out several weeks ago for assault on Mayor Gase, of that town, and who left that vicinity for parts unknown, returned to Kearney and gave up to Sheriff Sammons, who took him to Judge Hoge, where he was fined \$5 and costs, amounting to \$12.75.

Consolation for Small Boy.

Consolation for the small boy who was found in juvenile court at Omaha Monday morning, when it was announced the administration of the truancy law would have to be suspended temporarily because of the order requiring the vaccination of school children. Several cases arose up, but as none of the truants had been vaccinated the judge could not order them to go back to school.

Thirty Carloads of Fence Posts.

Richard C. Jordan, superintendent of the United States Indian warehouses at Omaha, placed an order Monday with the Chicago Lumber company for thirty carloads of fence posts to be shipped to the Rosebud Indian agency. These posts, secured by competitive bids, will be used in fencing Indian lands on the reservation.

Little Held for Trial.

James Little was given his preliminary hearing at Beatrice Wednesday on the charge of robbing Thomas Martin on the highway of \$75 more than a year ago. Judge Spafford bound him over to the district court and in default of \$2,000 bonds he was remanded to the county jail.

License Up to Kearney Council.

The Anti-Saloon league will present a petition Monday night to the city council requesting the submission of the question of license of no license. Opposition is expected in the council. If a referendum will be presented by 15 per cent of the voters, which will compel submission.

Strangers Steal Overcoats.

At Beatrice two strangers entered Yarnall's clothing store Friday and were caught in the act of stealing two overcoats. They ran out of the store and escaped. Officer Spain later arrested one of the men. The officers believe there is an organized gang of thieves operating in the vicinity.

Stone Quarry Resumes Work.

G. H. Davis started his stone crusher and quarry at Wynome last Monday after a three-day strike. Last year Mr. Davis employed an average of fifty men, at one time for a considerable period giving work to eighty men.

Beck Island Crossing Accident.

Richard train No. 6, near Mandan, Feb. 28, other afternoon, struck a team and wagon crossing the track, killing one occupant of the wagon and wounding two others, one so badly that he was brought to Fairbury in an unconscious condition. The parties injured were Bohemians.

New High School for Wayne.

The Wynne Commercial club has taken steps toward securing in the near future a handsome \$50,000 high school building.

ESCAPING PRISONERS CAUGHT.

Already Serving Time as Result of Previous Attempt.

Charles Ford and John Kuhl, serving ninety days each in the county jail at Beatrice for resisting an officer, escaped Saturday evening from Deputy Sheriff Burke while they were at work in the yard. The officers fired three shots at the fleeing prisoners, but they did not take effect. Kuhl was captured about three blocks from the jail and Ford was rounded up by the officers in Glenover soon after his escape.

Last fall Ford was sentenced by Judge Keelgar to sixty days in jail for assaulting a young man with a revolver, and Kuhl was later sent up for thirty days for assisting in the theft of lap robes and whips from several farmers in Snelly township. Shortly before their terms had expired both men escaped from jail and were captured by Officer Spain after a brutal fight. They were given ninety days each for resisting an officer and have thirty days yet to serve.

THREE TWICE TO END LIFE.

Omaha Woman Takes Laudanum and Aids Without Success.

Mrs. Lorna Casaday, daughter of Dr. J. G. Werner, of Boston, Mass., and a niece of George Warner, head of the Werner Publishing company, tried twice within the present week to end her life at Omaha. Monday evening she took a draught of laudanum, which failed to accomplish its purpose, and Tuesday she tried to swallow carbolic acid. The burning fluid strangled her and she died before she was taken to the hospital. Her death was reported by her father, who is recovering.

She says her wealthy father disinherited her because she married Edward Cassidy, the famous outsider of the New England league, from whom she separated last October. She came to Omaha to secure a divorce, and when her money was exhausted secured employment as a domestic. She became despondent and attempted to take her life. Her father has telegraphed money for her relief.

BOCHE IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.

Three Times Acts Out Death Struggle on Witness Stand.

Herman Boche testified in his own behalf in his murder trial at Madison Saturday, and during his testimony three times dramatically acted out the death struggle in which he said he was engaged just before he shot and killed Jarmer. He said he took \$540 to the Jarmer saloon to loan it to Jarmer for license money, needed the next day. He remembers being thrown into a hack by Jarmer and recalls waking up next morning with two men on top of him, digging their hands into his pockets. He fought them off. They came back and he shot. He woke up that night in a hog pen, he says, and his money was gone. Once before that, he says, Jarmer kept him in the saloon all night and nearly all the next day. When he woke up on that occasion his money was gone. The defense rested its case.

BANKER BARTON GOES FREE.

Perjury Case is Nolle Prossed by County Attorney Moore.

County Attorney J. C. Moore has nolle prossed the case against W. R. Barton, of Tecumseh, in the district court. Mr. Barton, who was president of the failed Chamberlain banking house, at Tecumseh, was accused of giving contradictory evidence in cases hinging on the bank failure and was prosecuted for perjury. At a trial the jury was hung. This week a similar case, that of the state against F. A. Taylor, who was vice president of the bank, resulted in a verdict of acquittal. The similarity of the cases entered into Mr. Moore's action.

Moving Starch Plant Machinery.

The machinery from the ARG starch plant at Nebraska City is to be taken to a new town to be named Argos, in Illinois, which is being laid out by the Curt Procter company. The town is to be erected in Marshall county, Illinois, and \$5,000,000 expended in a plant and the laying out of the town, similar to the one erected by the Bessemer Steel company.

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCORES OF CHILDREN MEET DEATH IN FIRE.

School Building at Collinwood, O., Burns and One Hundred and Fifty Pupils Cremated.

CROWDED FLOOR COLLAPSES.

Victims Are Trapped and Their Dead Bodies Are Trodden Over in the Mad Rush.

At least 150 school children were killed and scores injured, many probably fatally, in the fire which attacked and burned down the Lakeview Public School at North Collinwood, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb, Wednesday. Nothing but the four charred walls of the building remain standing.

The fire broke out so suddenly that the children were trapped in their rooms. In the terrible panic which followed the little ones were knocked down and many were trampled to death and others injured so that all chances of their escape were taken from them. The fire was started by an overheated furnace. The flames quickly spread. A panic ensued when the building filled with smoke and the 400 children attempted to escape. There were only two exits in the building that were available. One of these exits was used freely by the children, but the other soon became choked with the children, who dashed madly for the open air. Those who fell in the doorway were trampled upon by those behind, and soon the doorway was impassable. The frightened and panic-stricken children turned to escape by windows and any other means that could be found. Escape was cut off by the flames which, by this time, had spread throughout the rooms. The building was of brick, yet this did not retard the flames.

The Collinwood fire department had no extension ladders and could not reach the entrapped children on the third floor of the building. Some of the children jumped. Their fate was as terrible as the little students who went down enveloped in flames. Pupils in Panic Forget Fire Drill. At the first alarm of fire the high school pupils on the lower floor were panic-stricken and fought for a means of egress, many being trampled at the doors. Boys fought with their weaker classmates in an effort to clamber over their shoulders to the light showing through the doors above the struggling mass of arms and legs as the children fought for freedom. The crush at the exits was appalling. The fire drill instruction which the children had received was forgotten as the flames licked the stairs and the draft from above carried the smoke and flame after the fleeing pupils, driving them in panic to the street. Many escaped the flames only to be injured in a mad rush for safety. When they ran to the head of the stairs they were beaten back by the flames. They were caught like rats in a trap. Many dashed in wild frenzy into the bank of fire, only to stagger back exhausted.

Above as the fire spread through the town frenzied parents, hatless, their hair waving free as they ran, rushed for the fire scene. Frantically the agonized parents fought with the police and firemen in their effort to make their way into the structure immediately the fire had ceased to be a barrier to their entrance. Tear-stained, wild-eyed mothers fought with the police, fathers moaning quietly but sobbing always, their hearts torn by the picture of death before them, struggling to throw themselves into the flames in a mad rush to save their offspring or die with them in the fiery tomb. Houses in the neighborhood were converted into morgues and the bodies of the children were arranged in rows as fast as they were removed from the wrecked building. In their frantic state, mothers sorted over bodies, one after another, trying to find their missing children. In most instances identification was impossible, as the bodies were burned and trampled beyond recognition. The building was of brick, yet this did not retard the progress of the flames. In a few minutes the lower floor fell, precipitating scores of children to the basement, among the burning embers.

The scene about the building was heartrending. Quickly the news of the terrible catastrophe spread throughout the village and hundreds of parents were crowding about the building in search of their girls and boys. Plainly the writhing of stifled forms of dozens of others could be seen in the basement. Near-by factories dismissed their men and instructed them to assist in the rescue. They braved the fire and made heroic efforts to save those who were not dead.

Francis Parents Fight for Bodies.

As the news of the fire spread through the town frenzied parents, hatless, their hair waving free as they ran, rushed for the fire scene. Frantically the agonized parents fought with the police and firemen in their effort to make their way into the structure immediately the fire had ceased to be a barrier to their entrance. Tear-stained, wild-eyed mothers fought with the police, fathers moaning quietly but sobbing always, their hearts torn by the picture of death before them, struggling to throw themselves into the flames in a mad rush to save their offspring or die with them in the fiery tomb. Houses in the neighborhood were converted into morgues and the bodies of the children were arranged in rows as fast as they were removed from the wrecked building. In their frantic state, mothers sorted over bodies, one after another, trying to find their missing children. In most instances identification was impossible, as the bodies were burned and trampled beyond recognition. The building was of brick, yet this did not retard the progress of the flames. In a few minutes the lower floor fell, precipitating scores of children to the basement, among the burning embers.

Receipts of the Office of the Secretary of State for the Month of February.

The receipts of the office of the secretary of state for the month of February were as follows: Filing articles of incorporation, \$2,222.90; notary commissions, \$70; motor vehicles, \$67.10; brands, \$54.50; certificates and transcripts, \$36.50; labels and trade marks, \$4; all other sources, \$21.80; total, \$2,373.80.

The State Board of Purchase and Supplies met formally Tuesday afternoon and passed upon the estimates for the various state institutions for the next quarter, beginning April 1. The estimates were all tabulated by the state accountant and will be ready for the bidders as soon as they can be mailed out.

Among the bills filed by the board of regents of the University of Nebraska for January with the state auditor was one for \$150.28 for butter fat used by the Beatrice Creamery company at 31 cents a pound. The butter fat was sold to the dairy department at the state farm. Owing to the large number of students at the farm the dairy herd does not supply sufficient milk for demonstrations, and it is necessary to buy milk. The butter made from the milk is sold and the money goes into the cash fund of the university.