

THEATRE DISASTER IN NATION'S CAPITAL

COLLAPSE CAUSED BY HEAVY WEIGHT OF SNOW.

100 MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED

Roofs Drop Entombs the Audience. Theater Located in a Fashionable Section of the Capital.

Washington, D. C.—The organ was playing Saturday night, more than 500 people were watching "Get Rich Quick Wallingford" at the \$1,000,000 Knickerbocker theater. Someone looked up and saw the center of the roof sagging under tons of snow, shouted a warning and then as the audience tried to learn what was happening, the roof fell through the darkened theater. A cement balcony followed and with it part of the west wall.

The subdued talk and laughter that had greeted the comedy of the picture were changed to cries of pain. About 200 people were buried under snow and steel and concrete. Probably 100 are dead.

People outside the theater, which occupied a whole block at Eighteenth street and Columbia road, rushed to telephones. Five alarms were sent to the fire department. The streets were under nearly three feet of snow, following the worst storm of the city's history. Some of the fire apparatus was caught in the snowdrifts and never reached the theater.

The injured were rushed to private residences—the theater is near some of the most fashionable in the city—ice cream parlors, to drug stores.

All the time the firemen were at work there had been calls for help and moans, but by midnight there was scarcely a sound coming from the debris.

Soon after midnight a total of 15 bodies had been recovered. The fears of many that probably members of the diplomatic corps and of congress might be among those killed or injured were not borne out by the earlier lists, those available around midnight. The names were mostly men and women who are clerks in government departments. It was clear, however, that it would be some time before the wreckage could be removed and an accurate list of dead and injured obtained.

At once an informal inquiry was begun as to the "blame for the disaster." The organist at the theater—it was believed at first that all the orchestra had been killed—declared that there had been talk before the evening performance started that the snow was so thick on the roof that there might be danger, but nothing had been done to remove it.

Neck Fractured in Pillow Fight.
Hannah, Wyo.—Elmer Hill, 12 years old, is dead from a fracture of the neck, sustained during a pillow fight with two playmates. The boy, after a flying pillow had struck him in the face, collapsed and cried out to his mother that he was hurt. The other children, supposing him to be shamming, threw water in his face. Again he called to his mother, and at this time she heard and responded. When she reached his side, however, he was dead. Examination revealed a dislocated spine.

Miners' Leader Attempts Suicide.
Pittsburg, Kan.—Willard Titus, member of the deposed Howat district miners' union board, attempted to commit suicide. He shot himself in the head but will recover. Action of the international miners' union in suspending the Howat organization in Kansas was blamed by officials at the Howat headquarters for the action of Titus. Mrs. Titus, however, said that ill health had caused her husband's act.

East Hit by Big Storm.
Washington, D. C.—The entire middle Atlantic seaboard from the Carolinas to New York, according to reports to the federal weather bureau, is buried in a snowfall that has broken all official records. So far the heaviest fall has been in the state of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

New Comet Discovered.
Cambridge.—Discovery of a new comet in the southern skies was announced in a cable from Brussels, received at the Harvard university. The message said that the comet was seen from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, and appeared to be moving south and west, but gave no further details.

Spanish Queen Has Grip.
Madrid.—Queen Victoria is recovering from the grip, which has compelled her to remain in her apartment for six days.

Bergdoll to Remain in Prison.
Washington, D. C.—Request of Mrs. Emma C. Bergdoll for war department recommendation for commutation of sentence of her son, Irwin C. Bergdoll, sentenced to four years in the disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for draft evasion, was denied.

Nellie Bly Dies in New York.
New York.—Nellie Bly, newspaper woman, who achieved fame by a spectacular trip around the world in record time, died at St. Mark's hospital.



TOWNLEY IS CHARGED WITH THEFT OF THREE THOUSAND

Alleged to Have Plotted with the Cashier of Large Institution to Appropriate Money.

Fargo, N. D.—A warrant has been issued here for the arrest of A. C. Townley, president of the national nonpartisan league, charging him with implication in the alleged embezzlement of \$3,000 from the Scandinavian-American bank of Fargo.

The warrant, which was issued in the Cass county district court, it was learned, will be served on Townley when he is released from the Jackson (Minn.) jail, where he is serving a 90-day sentence for conviction on a charge of violating the state espionage law.

It is charged in the warrant that Townley, on January 20, 1919, at Fargo, "did feloniously advise and encourage" J. J. Hastings, former vice president of the bank, to "commit the crime of embezzlement; that Hastings appropriated the \$3,000 to his own use, the use of the defendant, A. C. Townley, and to the use of unknown persons."

Seattle, Wash.—Police here stated they had been unable to find any trace of J. J. Hastings, former vice president of the Scandinavian-American bank of Fargo, N. D., who disappeared from Seattle shortly before issuance of a warrant charging him with being a fugitive from justice. The warrant was issued January 23 at the request of the North Dakota authorities, who informed local officers that Hastings was wanted in connection with the alleged embezzlement of \$3,000 from the bank.

Police detectives who interviewed Hastings January 21 with regard to the charges against him, said he promised them he would appear in court if a warrant were actually issued. He is believed to have left Seattle January 22 or 23.

Walter Harvey, Seattle attorney, formerly retained by Hastings, says he knew nothing of his former client's whereabouts. Police were variously informed that Hastings had fled to Canada and that he was en route to Fargo to face the charge against him.

To Hurry Bonus Bill.
Washington, D. C.—The house republicans in a caucus instructed the ways and means committee to hurry a soldiers' bonus bill to the floor. A resolution to this effect, introduced by Representative Reece of Tennessee, and adopted by the caucus, also carried a recommendation that when the bonus bill comes before the house in regular order it continue the unfinished business without being displaced by any other legislation.

Much Interest in Pope's Successor.
Rome.—With the body of the late Pope Benedict laid away beneath the flagstones of St. Peter's, the interest of the sacred college and the vatican household turned to the election of his successor. A conclave has been called for February 2 to choose the new pontiff. The question of a rapprochement between the church and the Italian government enters into the election.

For Norwegian Monopoly.
Christiania.—At the opening of the storting, the king announced that the government would submit bills for the establishment of a state monopoly on the importation of cereals, flour, brandy and wine, and the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

Police Clash With Idie.
London.—More than 2,000 unemployed demonstrated near West Bromwich police court, where five of their leaders faced charges of intimidation. Traffic was blocked for several hours. The police charged the manifestants with their batons, injuring a number of them.

Theft of \$78,000 Uncovered.
New York.—The theft of \$78,000 in stocks entrusted to a messenger boy by the brokerage firm of Thompson & McKinnon, was revealed with the arrest of Alexander Green. He is alleged to have attempted to sell two of the missing shares of stock. The loss occurred on December 6.

Injured Boxer Dies.
Boston.—Ambrose J. Melanson, former national amateur boxing champion at 135 pounds, whose skull was fractured in a professional bout with Joseph St. Hilaire, of Somersworth, N. H., died in a hospital here without regaining consciousness.

Get Chilly Reception.
Albany, N. Y.—Reformers met a chilly reception when they reached the capital with their blue law and prohibition program demanding further restriction of the liquor enforcement laws and the enactment of bills to end all Sunday activities. Upstate legislators appear to have undergone since last year a decided change of sentiment toward prohibition enforcement and blue laws. Many of the lawmakers say sentiment in their districts toward prohibition and blue laws has cooled.

His New Mount

LYNCHERS OF PACKING HOUSE WORKER GIVEN LIFE TERMS

Confess to Having Taken Part in the Killing of a Negro Packing House Employee.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Upon pleas of guilty of participation in the lynching here January 14 of Jake Brooks, negro packing house worker, Lee Whitley, 29; Elmer Yearata, 19, and Charles Polk, 19, were sentenced to life imprisonment by District Judge Phelps here. Whitley and Yearata are striking members of the Butcher Workers union and Polk is a union sympathizer.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Investigation of conditions in packing town here, where a strike has been in progress, has been ordered by Gov. Robertson. The order followed a report that 25 men were planning to storm the county jail to liberate eight prisoners held in connection with the lynching several days ago of Jake Brooks, negro strike breaker.

Five of the men charged with murder were bound over to district court. Two were given 24 hours in which to make pleas, and one is being brought from Marfa, Tex.

Announcement has been made that five companies of national guardsmen are under orders to proceed here in the event the governor should decide that military rule should be invoked in this city. The situation first came to the attention of the state officials with lynching of Brooks. Sunday night the body of a negro strike breaker and that of his wife were found in the ruins of their burned home.

Big Boost in Liquor Trade.
New York.—Liquor importations and withdrawals in 1921 were thousands of gallons greater than in 1920, according to figures made public by prohibition authorities. Three hundred and forty thousand gallons of whisky, 34,193 dozen quarts of champagne and 127,322 gallons of brandy, gin and cordials were imported in 1921, as compared to 134,886 gallons of whisky, 23,419 dozen quarts of champagne and 92,252 gallons of other liquors in 1920.

\$100,000 for Cancer Cure.
Montreal.—An offer of \$100,000 "to the graduates student of any recognized university who within five years after date is the first to discover a medicinal treatment for the effective cure of cancer," has been made by Lord Atholstan, proprietor of the Montreal Star. It was contained in a letter to Sir Arthur Currie, president of the McGill university. The decision is to be made by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, London, England.

Negro and Wife Killed.
Oklahoma City, Okla.—A negro packing plant worker and his wife were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the one-room shack in which they were living. Evidence of violence was shown in the partly crushed skull of the negro, according to authorities.

Confesses to Dual Murder.
Chicago.—Patrick Tierney, 24, walked into a police station here and confessed, according to the police, that he had decapitated his wife and baby as they lay sleeping. He was destitute and jealous, he told the police, and could not find employment and for these reasons committed the crimes.

California Publisher Dies.
Long Beach, Cal.—Frank Roberts, founder, owner and editor of the Long Beach Telegram, died at a sanitarium near San Bernardino. He was 66 years old and a native of Ohio.

Name New Pope Next Month.
Rome.—The meeting of the sacred college in conclave to elect a successor to the late Pope Benedict, will open February 1 or February 2, it was stated.

Princess Mary's Wedding Date.
London.—It was officially announced that the wedding of Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles will take place February 28.

Riders Announce Themselves.
Muskogee, Okla.—The Riders of the Night officially announced themselves here. In a letter left outside a newspaper office and made known by a telephone call, the mysterious organization declared its intention of riding the city of law breakers. One paragraph of the letter written on a specially printed letter head said: "We are whites all the way through and we are 100 per cent Americans. We also mean to clean up things coming and going and we don't think there will be much trouble doing it."

TRY TO MAKE WOOD ALCOHOL DRINKABLE

Said Experiments Now Being Made On Wholesale Scale—Scientists on Hunt for Chemists.

Washington, D. C.—Prohibition authorities are on the trail of two German chemists alleged to be working with a bootlegger organization in New York in an effort to nullify the poisonous character of denatured alcohol.

Ben Atkins of the industrial alcohol division of the prohibition bureau, said the bootleggers had been engaged in the wholesale treatment of denatured alcohol and the German chemists had been brought to this country to aid.

Japs to Vacate Russia.

Washington.—A statement declaring that Japan had no territorial designs in Russia and giving assurance that Japanese troops would be withdrawn as soon as a stable government should be established there was made by the Japanese delegation at the meeting of the far eastern committee. As one means of giving effect to its declaration in favor of reduction of the Chinese army, the arms conference is considering another resolution looking to prohibition of the importation of arms into China.

Quebec Suffers Disappointed.

Quebec.—Women of this province who demand right to vote on terms of equality with men again have been disappointed. The government has just announced that no suffrage bill will be introduced at the present session of the legislature. In Quebec the women voter occupies an unusual position. By the federal franchise law of Canada she may cast a ballot in dominion elections, but there is no provision for her voting in provincial elections.

Woman Plunges to Death.

Stockholm.—Elise Anderson, the only Swedish woman to hold an aviator's certificate, was killed at Askerund. Four thousand spectators were watching her make a flight, and were horrified when Miss Anderson in attempting a parachute descent from the machine, fell like a plummet to the earth. The parachute failed to open and she plunged 2,000 feet to death.

Bandits Escape With Mail.

Parsons, Kan.—Three bandits overpowered D. F. Robinson, Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad agent at Chetopa, and John Wallace, who was waiting for a train, and escaped with three pouches of mail and a small sum of money. The agent was bound by wire to his desk and Wallace was found wired to the floor. The value of the loot has not been estimated.

Murder Charges Against Lynchers.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Charges of murder were filed in justice court against five white men and two negroes in connection with the lynching here the night of January 14 of Jake Brooks, negro packing house worker. The men were named in an alleged confession made late to authorities by Robert Allen one of the seven, and a cousin of Brooks.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

Timely News Culled From All Parts of the State, Reduced for the Busy.

A settlement of the Bloomfield telephone strike is now probable, J. H. Gester, a heavy stockholder in the Union Telephone company, and A. C. Grace, manager of the local exchange for the past two years, are on a deal for the plant, and if it is secured, they will ask the state railway commission for permission to put the old rates into effect. Should the deal go through it will be a victory for the strikers and bring to an end an event unequalled in the history of the country.

Gilbert Rose, Joe Lindley and Bernard Parker, all of Central City, narrowly escaped death while enjoying a lark on the frozen surface of the Platte river in a Ford. They had been driving up and down the river, making quick turns and allowing their car to skid on the ice, when suddenly the car dropped into a hole. The young men jumped just as the back end of the car went down, and landed on a floating cake of ice. Skaters rushed to the rescue.

Hubbell has just lost one of its historic landmarks in the form of a giant oak tree said to be 520 years old. It was over five feet through. The tree is said to have been 90 years old when Columbus discovered America in 1492. An Indian, 75 or 80 years ago, cut a notch in the oak and it is believed by many there is hidden treasure under or close to the tree. Many Indian relics and others have been found near it.

An estimated saving of \$77,761 will be made during the current year at the state university, according to a statement given out by Chancellor Avery. The saving on the item of coal alone is expected to be \$12,183. The university has installed a feed water heater with control instruments and is using exhaust steam for heating.

Work of clearing away the ruins of the First Baptist church at Fremont, which was destroyed by fire causing a loss of \$13,000, has begun and within a few weeks ground will be broken for a new brick building to cost \$30,000. A building committee was appointed and the reconstruction is to be accomplished as rapidly as possible.

Concerning the closing of the Lincoln office of the Nye-Schneider-Jenks company and the addition of the sixty-five line elevators to the Fremont division, it is announced that the change is made for reasons of economy.

Funds sufficient to purchase over 120 barrels of flour for starving Russians have been raised at Beatrice during the past ten days by A. L. Green. An effort will now be made to make the contribution equivalent to 200 barrels of flour.

The Sidney Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously in favor of the Fordney-McCumber bill before congress, providing for adjusted compensation for the soldiers in the United States service during the world war.

Acceptance of federal positions, removal from their districts and death have resulted in several vacancies in the Nebraska legislature, which will have to be filled when the solons meet in their special session at Lincoln.

The paving fever has hit Pawnee City. Three new districts have petitioned for paving. At least forty blocks are assured this season, instead of seventeen and it is probable that that figure will be raised soon.

The fortieth annual convention of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's association just closed a very successful meeting at Norfolk. North Platte has been selected as the next meeting place.

State Fire Marshal C. E. Hartford was requested by Dr. O. Sandin, fire chief at Plattsmouth, to investigate a dwelling house fire there caused by replacing electric fuses with pennies.

The power plant of Wood Lake Electric Light and Power Co. of Wood Lake was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$5,000, and is partially covered by insurance.

More than 400 blooded chickens were on exhibition at the Adams county poultry show. There was also a good showing of turkeys, ducks and geese.

The Evangelist Lutherans, who recently formed a church organization at Lodgepole, are to begin the erection of a church edifice.

Six coyotes were driven into the open by the 300 hunters organized for the purpose in the third drive near Geneva. But two of the animals were killed. The other four broke through the lines.

The defunct Nebraska State bank of Sidney received drafts from the state banking department under the guarantee law and is paying off depositors. Receiver Jorgenson reports that checks are ready for all depositors whose deposits were approved and certified to the department. This bank closed its doors last August.

The Farmers elevator, which was destroyed by fire at Abdul, will be rebuilt. Money has been subscribed and the erection of a new 15,000-bushel elevator will begin at once.

Mrs. Margaret E. Lindley, 86, died at her home in Friend. Mrs. Lindley chose to live alone notwithstanding the fact she was one of Friend's wealthiest citizens. She had her grave dug and arranged with a huge marble slab to place over it ten years ago at the time of the death of her husband. She had also selected her casket several years ago.

D. O. Lawrence, secretary of the Platte County Farm bureau, filed with the county board of supervisors an estimate of \$3,750, requesting the board to appropriate this out of the general fund to carry on farm bureau work in Platte county during 1922. More than 300 residents of the county who are engaged in farming and who are members of the farm bureau of the county signed the petition. At the same time a remonstrance was filed, signed by more than 1,000 farmers, protesting against the appropriation or donating any county money to the use or for the purpose of maintaining a county agent of the farm bureau in Platte county. The opposition states that farmers of the county are not benefiting from the county agent's work, as it is too expensive and the expenditures of money unwarranted. The board took the matter under advisement.

The north and south ends of the new capitol at Lincoln will be built this year, leaving the old capitol across the center, to be razed after offices are moved into the new wings. Secretary George E. Johnson of the capitol commission made this announcement, following a conference of the commission with Architect B. G. Goodhue of New York. The conference was to prepare for letting foundation contracts on March 15, and contracts for the superstructure of the wings on June 10.

Abandonment of his proposal to recommend a reduction of 5 per cent in salaries of all state employes to the special session of the legislature was announced by Governor McKelvie, adding that he would not recommend any general lash in wages. He plans to make reductions elsewhere in the appropriation of a year ago, which will total a sum larger than his estimate of a saving of \$164,000 under the wage reduction plan, the governor said.

George Cookman, of Fremont, was painfully hurt by an explosion of powder while blasting logs. The sight of one of Cookman's eyes is gone and the other optic is injured. Cookman had filled a log with powder and returned when he thought the fuse had gone out. As he stooped over the explosion occurred.

Fifty applications have been filed with the board of education of Ord for the position of superintendent, left vacant by the resignation of E. M. Hosman, who will leave the first of February to take charge of his new duties as secretary of the State Teachers' association.

Uncle Pete Starr, 103, was in Broken Bow to have glasses fitted to his eyes and also to prepare to break in a full set of teeth. He was afraid the glasses would make him look old, but he thought it was time to get a pair anyway.

A mongrel tramp dog, which two months ago decided to accept the hospitality of a garage, saved the life of the proprietor of the place, R. J. Christopher, when the garage at Valentine was destroyed by fire. Thirty-six automobiles were burned.

Potato growers at Morrill loaded and billed twenty-one carloads, or about 12,000 bushels of potatoes, the heaviest movement in the valley in one day this season. Growers have about 500 more carloads to move this season.

Louis Berge, former president of the Farmers and Merchants bank of Walton, who is wanted on a charge of embezzling \$6,811.73 from funds of the bank, has disappeared, according to State Sheriff Gus Hyers.

The department of trade and commerce at Lincoln has received an application for the opening of a new bank at Winside, known as the American State bank of Winside. Capital stock indicated was \$25,000.

Close to 100 veterans of the World war are enrolled at the Vocational training school at Bellevue, an Omaha suburb. Dexter Buell is in charge of the school.

On account of the ranks having been so thinned by death the three Grand Army posts of Omaha are to be consolidated into one.

Thomas Gannon, for many years a resident of Greeley, died at his home at the age of 102 years. He was a native of Ireland.

A tabernacle with a seating capacity of 2,000 will be erected at Superior for the union revival meetings to start in a few weeks.

Nebraska Lumber dealers to the number of 700 to 1,000 are coming to Omaha February 8-10 for their annual convention.

The Omaha Concert Club has inaugurated a drive to raise \$16,000.

George Hall, H. C. Lanz, Leo Reardon and Paul McIntosh of McCook were arrested for spearing fish in Blue river and arraigned before County Judge Hopkins and given a fine of \$5 each. Deputy Game Warden W. K. Geer made the arrests.

Anton Halava, who has lived at Ravenna for the past thirty years, is starting to construct his own coffin to "conform to his own ideas," as he puts it.

More than \$40,000 loss was caused by fire which destroyed the J. L. Chasdek Musical Instrument store at Fairbury.

County records show that in 1910 there were eighty automobiles in Cheyenne county. In 1921 there were 2,642. At a special election Elba voted \$18,000 bonds for the construction of a transmission line from Dannebrog to this place. The Central Power company will supply the current.

Headquarters of the newly formed progressive party of Nebraska was opened in Lincoln with State Chairman J. H. Edmisten in charge. A state wide campaign of organization, it was announced, will start January 21 with a number of speakers in the field.