

PROBING THE HOLOCAUST.

Effort Made to Fix Responsibility for Iroquois Disaster. Harry J. Powers and Will J. Davis, Chicago managers of the Iroquois Theater, which burned, killing 591 people, made their first statements under oath Wednesday. Fire Department Attorney Fulkerson had them brought before him for examination.

In answer to his inquiries both men professed to have no personal knowledge of the management of the theater; were uninformed as to whether employees had instructions for action at time of fire or panic; were uninformed as to what fire apparatus was in the house; had only given most general instructions to their subordinate manager, and did not know how many people were in the theater when the fire broke out.

"Evidence submitted under oath proves conclusively that had the skylights and ventilators over the stage of the Iroquois Theater been open, and the openings over the auditorium been closed, there would have been no fire in the audience room of the playhouse last Wednesday and no lives need have been lost by panic."

This statement was officially made public by Attorney Maurice Fulkerson of the Chicago fire department in summing up the result of the investigation as conducted under his direction. The other points covered by the inquiry and, in the opinion of the attorney, conclusively proved, tell the story of the holocaust as it has not appeared in detail. In his analysis of the vast amount of evidence heard up to date Mr. Fulkerson does not attempt to place responsibility.

Following are the points which Mr. Fulkerson announced have been proved conclusively by the verified testimony of witnesses:

That the fire started from an overheated floodlight twenty feet above the floor by which a linen curtain, which was nearer than usual to the light, was ignited.

That both skylights over the stage and the ventilator, or fire flue, were closed during the fire.

That both stage skylights were fastened down from the outside as well as from the inside, but that the ventilator was in working order and was not thrown open.

That the larger of the two ventilators over the auditorium was open, and that the stage doors were open, creating a perfect draught for the death-dealing flames which swept over the audience.

That the drop of the asbestos or fire curtain was obstructed by a light or light board fastened to the wall of the theater back of the proscenium arch.

That there had been a previous fire at the theater, and that the same obstruction at that time prevented the fire curtain's being thrown between the stage and the audience.

That the skylights and ventilator, or fire flue over the stage, were opened by employees of the Fuller Construction Company the day following the fire, when the property was in the hands of the corner.

That, with one or two notable exceptions, the employees of the theater deserted their posts, or did not understand what should have been their duties at such a time.

That there is no evidence that there had been any fire drill or systematic organization of the theater employees for the protection of the public in an emergency.

That there was no fire alarm box on the stage, or in the theater building.

"These are the main points brought out by this investigation to date," said Attorney Fulkerson. "Evidence showing responsibility, and in regard to crowded aisles, locked doors and inadequate and closed exits, is still to be produced. So far, the evidence I have on these points is largely hearsay information. They have not been proved."

"In the light of the information which is now a matter of record, I desire to make this statement, without the fear of successful contradiction: Had the condition of the stage and auditorium skylights been reversed the catastrophe would certainly have been averted. Again, had the asbestos curtain worked as it should have, there is little doubt that there would be a different story to tell."

"In my opinion, either one of these conditions in all probability would have averted the disaster. Certainly, both would have protected the audience. In other words, regardless of any violation of existing laws, ordinances or other regulations in regard to construction, the operation of the safeguards in that theater for just such an emergency would have saved the lives of about 600 people."

"Somebody is responsible for the conditions shown to have existed and enumerated above. It is my intention to be to the line in an effort to establish responsibility."



Joseph Jefferson has declined to visit Australia, where, forty years ago, he made a great hit with "Rip Van Winkle."

A tablet is to be erected in memory of John Adam Dazzy, the first shoemaker in Lynn, Mass., and the founder of that city's great industry.

Senator Tillman of South Carolina is credited with knowing more as to the contents of the Bible than the average member of the Senate.

Senator Daniel of Virginia says the nineteenth century produced five generals who could be called great—Napoleon, Wellington, Von Moltke, Grant and Robert E. Lee.

John D. Rockefeller proposes to plant three carloads of young maple trees on his estate at Tarrytown, N. Y.

A set of silver mounted dueling pistols once owned by George Washington was purchased by a New York dealer the other day at an auction.

Two Southern Congressmen served in the volunteer army during the Spanish war. A. A. Wiley of Alabama and Wyatt Aiken of South Carolina.

A bear hunt in Maryland lately the Rev. S. M. Engle, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Parsons, Va., killed two of the three bears bagged.

DREIBUND KEEPS OUT

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE SOON.

Chinese Fear that in Event of War Their Country Will Be the Scene of Conflict Between Contending Powers.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—It is learned by the Associated Press on the highest authority that it has been decided in the event of war between Russia and Japan that Germany will maintain a strict neutrality and that other members of the Dreibund will observe a similar attitude.

The importance of this decision, which the Associated Press understands will be made immediately by an official manner in Berlin, cannot be easily overestimated. It will in a measure insure that hostilities will be certain to give a great stimulus to the efforts which France and Great Britain are making in St. Petersburg and Tokio respectively in favor of peace.

At the Japanese legation tonight it was said that the far eastern situation remained unchanged. No news had been received by the legation and it was believed that some days might elapse before developments occurred, as Japan was still considering her reply. No news has been received at the legation concerning the reported dispatch of troops to Korea.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 10.—The most reliable news received here is that the mass of Russian troops in the far east are concentrated at Vladivostok or on the northern frontier of Korea. A traveler who has lately returned from the far east estimates that between 100,000 and 200,000 soldiers were in the vicinity of Vladivostok. He surmised that the Russians will occupy northern Korea, but thought that the possible collision was not imminent for a month or more, when taking into consideration distances and the difficulties of marching.

PEKING, Jan. 10.—Predictions in the native press that war is inevitable and that China will certainly be involved are causing great uneasiness. Many Chinese fear a repetition of the scenes of pillage and murder which made the year 1900 memorable. Numbers of the employees on the railway between Newchwang and Chan Hai Kwn have deserted their posts, thinking that the country traversed by the railroad will surely be the scene of the fighting. Reports from Manchuria are to the effect that there is great military activity there.

TOKIO, Jan. 10.—It is announced that the Russian warships which left Vladivostok have returned here. The port of Sasheho is filled with officers taking leave of their families. Despite the general impatience over the situation there is no great excitement here. The scheme for a division of Korea between Japan and Russia, as outlined in telegram from Berlin, is considered here to be wholly imaginary.

Cudshy Ships Meet.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 11.—Yesterday the Cudshy Packing company will start the shipment of 1,000,000 pounds of extra mess beef for the Russian government. Some of the specially made casks have arrived and a large consignment will be turned over to the railroad companies. Other shipments will follow day by day as the packages can be up. All of this order must be in San Francisco not later than January 26. Two Russian ships will receive this cargo. Other packers are also sending meat for three ships. Local packers are looking for others orders from the Russian government.

Biggest Dam in the Country.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The official figures of the geological survey show an interesting comparison of the dimensions of the big Tonto dam of the Salt River valley, Arizona with other great artificial reservoir structures in the country. The Tonto dam is to rise 250 feet above the channel of the stream. Its thickness at the base will be 88 feet, gradually tapering to a width of 50 feet at the crest; the width of the dam across the canyon will be 80 feet.

The great Croton dam, which is to supply New York with water, is 22 feet above the river channel and 190 feet across. It was necessary in this case to dig down eighty feet to insure a good foundation.

The Wachuett dam near Boston is 129 feet above the river channel 185 feet thick at the base and 89 feet wide.

Man Killed in Railroad Yards.

MISSOURI VALLEY, Iowa, Jan. 11.—Albert N. Bower was killed in the Northwestern yards here sometime Saturday night. The body was found by a switching crew at 1 o'clock yesterday morning lying between the rails of the east main track near the north switch. The body was cut off near the shoulder, the breast crushed. He is supposed to have been killed while attempting to board an eastbound freight at 11:30 a. m. Bower was a plumber by trade and was unmarried.

CLEARED BY JURY

SENATOR DIETRECH TOLD TO GO FORTH A FREE MAN.

COURT MAKES CHARGES

JUDGES ABSOLVE HIM WITHOUT TAKING TESTIMONY.

Stale in Effect That He Was Not a Senator Until Eight Months After He Was Elected—Fisher Also Goes Free.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 9.—Scores of men gathered about Senator Charles H. Dietrich in the federal court room yesterday forenoon to congratulate him upon the fact that all of the casts involving his senatorial integrity had been wiped from the dockets.

Judges VanDevanter and Munger, in a comprehensive opinion delivered by the former, held that the jury should find for the defendant because at the time of the commission of the acts complained of Dietrich was not a senator.

The opinion was a masterpiece of judicial enunciation, at least so far as its delivery was concerned. The many phases of the case were discussed seriatim with a readiness, clearness of logic and a facility of expression that was nothing less than wonderful. Judge Van Devanter spoke rapidly and presented his views of the law with perfect lucidity. When the case at bar was thus summarily disposed of, the other cases against Charles H. Dietrich and Jacob Fisher, growing out of the transactions in connection with the appointment of the latter, naturally followed in quick succession to their irrevocable quietus.

Compromises State Claim

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 9.—The state board of compromise, comprising Attorney Prout, State Treasurer Mortensen and Auditor Westor, has accepted \$2,500 in settlement of the state's claim of \$40,625.90 against the First National bank of Alma which failed with that much of the state's money on deposit. Several months ago the board refused an offer of \$15,000 from one of the interested parties in settlement of the claim. As only one of the bondsmen was deemed to be solvent the board accepted the \$2,500 and will call it square. The state brought suit in the circuit court of the United States for the amount of the deposit. The bondsmen on the depository bond were made defendants. The case was tried to a jury October 15, 1900, which made special findings. The amount of the judgment received by the state was many times more than the amount accepted in settlement of the claim. The action of the board was taken Thursday.

No Precautions for Fire.

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—No evidence of importance which had not been previously been made was obtained at the coroner's inquest over the victims of the Iroquois theater fire. The most important witness of the day was Engineer Murray of the theater whose testimony showed the theater was practically destitute of protection against fire, that no precautions had been taken and that no instructions had ever been given to any of the attendants. There were standpipes, he said, in the theatre, but only one coil of hose and this not over fifty feet long.

Other witnesses of the day told chiefly of their own experiences and nothing of material importance was elicited from any of them.

Two more names were added today to the list of victims of the fire, when Nellie Dawson, twenty-seven years old, and Estella Mair thirty-one years old died in the hospital. Miss Dawson resided in Barrington, Ill., where she taught school. Miss Mair whose home was in Evansville, Ind., was in the theatre with her two sisters, both of whom perished. The deaths yesterday make a total of 568 fatalities due to the fire.

Election Result in Doubt.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 9.—Although twenty-four hours had passed since the polls were closed in the city election held Thursday, the result is still in doubt, a legal contest of several of the offices is now assured and late developments show that the election was signalized by the most irregular and riotous scenes connected with any local political contest of recent years.

No Starvation in Alaska

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The war department received a telegram from Gen. Frederic Funston, commanding the department of the Columbia, in reference to the reports of starvation in Alaska. He states that information received from the commanding officers at Fort Gibson and Fort Egbert indicate there is no foundation for the reports of destitution in the Tanana valley. They further advise that the winter is usually mild, that sliding is good and the commercial companies are well supplied with food.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Mrs. Johanna Neitzke, a pioneer resident of the state, died recently at Norfolk, aged 69 years.

Mrs. John D. Mann of Lyons is dead at the age of 77 years. She came to Nebraska in 1851.

William Thomas, a barber at Odell, died suddenly of heart failure. A wife and two children survive him.

Mrs. J. K. Hesler died at her home at Cozad this week. The remains were taken to Lexington, Ky. for burial.

Henry Johnson of Norfolk and Miss Georgia Drake of Hannibal, Mo. have been married. They will live in Lincoln.

Nathan B. Morehouse is dead at Tekama. He was born in Springfield, N. J., in 1813, and came to Bart county in 1870.

W. H. Wiseman of Thurston county was arrested at Plattsmouth charged with giving a mortgage upon three houses which he did not own.

Word has been received at Lincoln that much of the material for the new cells has been shipped from the Van Dorn Iron works at Cleveland.

The Fremont school board has decided that teachers who wish to resign from the service must give thirty days' notice of their intention.

The names of Thomas A. Healy of Milford and John M. Mills of Laurel have been submitted as candidates for the postoffices at the above places.

E. C. Phillips of Table Rock was recently appointed carrier on a rural route, but as he has a better position another appointment will be made.

The funeral of Mr. Asa Baker, who died January 1, was held at Wahoo under the auspices of the Odd Fellows. A wife and seven children survive him.

A reception was given at Oakdale in honor of Miss Mamie Dvorak, champion speller of the schools of Antelope county who made a perfect grade at Lincoln.

The Farmers' elevator meeting at Rogers on January 2 was well attended. Frank Krejci was chosen temporary chairman. Another meeting will be held January 14.

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Simpson was held from the residence of her brother-in-law, Charles Harrington, at Elgar. She came to Nebraska in 1857. He leaves eleven children.

Charles Noyce of Arlington, aged 70 years, one of the oldest settlers in the state, was buried this week. He came to Nebraska in 1857. He leaves eleven children.

Hampton is now lighted by electricity. The plant is owned and operated by H. Madsen and started with 100 lamps. The streets are to be well lighted.

After twenty years of married life Mrs. Clara White of Dakota City has been granted a divorce from her husband on the ground of non-support and drunkenness.

Harvey W. Giddings, a pioneer resident of Nebraska for the past thirty-two years, died this week at Beatrice at the age of 74 years. A wife, three sons and two daughters survive him.

The teachers of Johnson county presented County Superintendent Aekins with a handsome gold watch and chain on the eve of his leaving the office he has held for three terms.

The Nebraska State Poultry association, which holds its annual meeting at Lincoln January 18 to 26, will have for one of its attractions the exhibit of the Water Fowl club of America.

William Gross and Alfred Cochran escaped from the city jail at Lincoln by simply walking out of the door. J. F. Kirk noticed them leaving and fired at them, but the shots went wide.

The funeral of the late Carl Hembeck, who died recently at Fremont at the age of 86 years, was held this week, the Rev. I. Laidley of the German Evangelical church officiating.

The New York Life Insurance company shows that the amount of business done in Nebraska during the year was \$12,768,428, an increase of \$1,093,940 over 1902. The premiums amounted to \$410,553.

In the damage suit of Hill against Schmuck at Beatrice, the court has awarded judgment of \$1,000 to the plaintiff. Schmuck was accused of sending obscene and indecent letters to Miss Hill.

C. B. Crumb, a lineman for the Nebraska Telephone company, fell down a twenty-five foot pole at Hubbard and sustained a fracture of one arm and numerous bruises. He lives in Omaha.

Loup City has organized a militia company with the following Spanish war veterans as officers: Captain, Arthur Inks; first lieutenant, N. S. Orise; second lieutenant, Ask W. Conger; sergeant, F. B. Robbins.

PARTLY EFFECTIVE WILL RESORT TO ARMS

PORTIONS OF CHINESE TREATY TO WAIT AWHILE

TAKE PLACE IN SIX WEEKS

OTHER FEATURES OF TREATY ABOLISHED

Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Belgium, Yet to Effect Arrangements Before It Will Go Into Effect.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Only that portion of the Chinese treaty which relates to the opening of new ports at Mukden and An Tung, and provides in general terms for privileges of American shipping, will become effective upon exchange of ratifications of the treaty, which will take place within six weeks. There is a possibility that the Chinese government will authorize its minister here, Sir Chentung Len Cheng, by cable to effect an earlier exchange, but Mr. Conger has not made this request.

The other features of the treaty, abolishing the Elkin taxes and increasing the average customs duties on goods coming from the United States into China will not become effective until similar treaties containing similar provisions have been concluded between China and the other powers signatory to the treaty of Peking. Besides the United States, England and Japan have so far negotiated such treaties, leaving Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Belgium to effect like arrangements before the new duties will go into effect.

Battleships Reach Guam.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—A cable message from Rear Admiral Evans commanding the Asiatic fleet, announced the arrival of the battleships Kentucky, Oregon and Wisconsin, at Guam, from Honolulu, on their way to Subig bay. It is expected that the cruiser squadron, consisting of the New Orleans, Albany, Cincinnati and Raleigh, will arrive at Guam today or tomorrow. The cruisers left Honolulu in company with the battleships but unlike the latter stopped enroute at the midway islands. Rear Admiral Evans will remain at Guam until the cruiser squadron arrives there, and it is expected that he will be fully advised by cable of the policy of the United States government in the event of war between Russia and Japan, in order that he may dispose of the vessels of his fleet in accordance with that policy.

Afraid of Anarchists.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Jan. 12.—The Rev. Father John Sutkaitis, pastor of St. Casimer's Lutheran Catholic church, which was the scene of a disturbance Sunday night, alleged to have been started by anarchists, made information yesterday against Joseph Petrakis, charging disorderly conduct. The information alleges that Petrakis with Anthony Bukanskais and one Urbinas, two well known anarchists visited the church and broke up the meeting and the affair is afraid the defendant with his accessories will destroy the church.

Father Sutkaitis gave further details of the alleged plot to assassinate President McKinley three years ago. He also asserted that the anarchists had arranged to kill the late Pope Leo XIII and dynamite the Vatican and St. Casimer's church, but a crusade against anarchists about that time frightened them off.

To Settle Boundary Case.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 12.—A conference between Sam B. Jeffries, assistant attorney general of Missouri, F. N. Prout, attorney general of Nebraska and Judge W. H. Keliger, also of Nebraska, was held here yesterday to discuss the report of the commissioners in the Missouri Nebraska United States Supreme court case involving the question of state possession of a large tract of land lying between Nemaha county, Nebraska, and Atchison county, Missouri. The tract consists of about 15,000 acres of land, formerly practically valueless, but which in recent years has become excellent farming land. The report will be submitted to the supreme court within the next thirty days.

The conference was held to decide upon the manner of submitting it.

Six Killed by an Explosion.

TUSTIN, Mich., Jan. 12.—The boiler in the sawmill owned by V. W. Marsh of Manistee, located at Hies's Lake, in Osceola county, exploded yesterday and killed six men, injuring four others, perhaps fatally. The explosion occurred just as the men were preparing to start up for the afternoon and the force of the exploding boiler tore the mill in pieces, hurling the men in all directions. It is believed the explosion was due to low water in the boiler.

THREAT BY JAPAN THAT SUCH IS TO BE NEXT STEP.

That Country Convinced That] War Must Come—St. Petersburg at Last Admits Seriousness of Situation.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—The Times' Peking correspondent, cabling under yesterday's date, says that the Chinese minister at Tokio, at the request of the Japanese foreign office, telegraphed the following communication to Prince Cheng.

"The second Russian reply to the Japanese proposals has been received at Tokio, but it is unfavorable and cannot be accepted by Japan, who will, unless Russia recedes, be compelled to promptly resort to arms."

"In view of such an eventuality Japan urges and expects China to maintain the strictest neutrality, to preserve order throughout the empire, to guard foreigners resident in the interior and to take special care to preserve order in the provinces of Shan Ting and Yunnan lest foreign powers might seize the pretext of disorder and make aggressive movements therein."

"The correspondent says that the dispatch has deeply impressed the Chinese, who now believe war to be inevitable."

He adds that notes looking to the ratification of the treaty between China and Japan were exchanged yesterday afternoon.

Premier Balfour, speaking at Manchester last night declined to discuss the differences between Russia and Japan on the ground that such discussion would do little service to the cause of peace. The premier said:

"No one can contemplate hostilities between two great civilized countries without feelings of misgiving and of depression."

Premier Balfour added that Great Britain would carry out to the fullest extent all her treaty obligations.

Secretary for India Broderick, speaking at Guilford, said he hoped war would be averted. The governments he declared would do its utmost to promote a peaceful solution of the difficulties, but if its effort failed Great Britain would seek to localize the effect of the conflict.

Premier Balfour's guarded statement is commented on by this morning's newspapers as an intimation of the intention of the government to accord full support to Japan in the event of circumstances arising which would call into action the anglo-japanese treaty.

BERLIN, Jan. 11.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Lokai Anzeiger gives a much more serious view of the far eastern situation than has hitherto emanated from that capital.

The correspondent claims that those in official circles entertain a greater concern over the difficulties between Russia and Japan than they have hitherto allowed to become known to the public, and he says he suspects that the utterances of the press have been optimistically colored in order to conceal this official disquiet.

War On the Barons.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 13.—The members of the national live stock and the national wool growers' association met in joint session here yesterday, with nearly a thousand members of the two organizations, including some of the most prominent sheep and cattle raisers of the United States in attendance. Gov. George E. Chamberlain, Mayor George H. Williams and other prominent men of Oregon and Portland, extended a welcome and responses were made by representative members of the two great organizations.

John B. Springer, of the national live stock association, addressed the convention, saying in part:

"While we have knocked off a good many rough edges to make smoother the pathway of the stockman, there remain still other vital to success and it is our business to see that these glaring wrongs are righted and that speedily."

"We cannot raise live stock without adequate railway transportation, and better service than the industry is now receiving. Rates have been raised on all live stock and the average running time is less satisfactory than formerly while transportation to actual shippers has been arbitrarily selected for crucifixion. The railway managers expect you to go to market with your live stock, care for them, which keeps the management from hiring professional shippers, and you are then advised by the corporation that you can pay your way back home or walk."

May be Opened to Settlement.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Commissioner of Indian Affairs Jones will recommend to the president the issuance of a proclamation opening to settlement the tract of land in Nebraska ten miles long and five miles wide, adjoining the Pine Ridge agency across the line in South Dakota. The tract has been reserved for some years to protect the Pine Ridge Indians from the sale of liquor within its borders.