

564 PERSONS LOSE THEIR LIVES IN BURNING OF CHICAGO THEATER

FIRE STARTS ON STAGE AND BURNS FROM PIT TO DOME

With a Whirlwind of Flame Enveloping Floor and Galleries. Holiday Crowd of Pleasure Seekers Fight Way to Exits—Awful Scenes of Horror as Scores Leap to Street or Fall from Escapes—Exits Closed and Doomed Victims Penned in Blazing Prison.

We must go back to the convulsions of nature for a more dreadful story of swift death than occurred at the Tropic Theater at Chicago in the matinee hour of Dec. 30. The statistics show 560 humans dead, and scores injured. There have been greater horrors by flood, by volcanoes, by the uprising of nature's forces, but if there was ever a more appalling chapter traced to man's hand history fails to tell it save in the records of battle alone. Of fire horrors, as they are commonly known, certainly nothing like it ever occurred in this country or any other.

There are ornate million-dollar theaters, assured, of course, as thoroughly fireproof. Within were 2,300 women and children, and a few men—a typical, merry, holiday matinee audience. One thousand were in the galleries. There were many entrances offering the usual number of exits, all, of course, sufficient to depopulate the building in case of fire. We have all seen that often enough on the programs. There were five men in uniforms in the aisles, provided by the city government. It was a pretty, happy scene. There was a darkened

black masses of smoke, many were literally too paralyzed for movement, so that at the end and after it was all over, there was the strange, gruesome picture of a score or more dead leaning silently over the rails as if still glancing at the play.

But down at the doorway it was a wave backward of human beings fighting for the blessing of life. What heroism was shown of man for woman or of woman for children will never be known, for the tragedy was but of minutes.

There was the sweep, the crush, the weak falling and the strong mounting, the inevitable desperate instinct which accompanies the grim law of self-preservation; then the horror of flaming death behind and crushing death before; then the still outreaching flames, and, finally, a mass of piled-up humanity, a few of the living above and the dead far below.

The details of the awful happenings inside have never been exceeded in the awfulness of sudden death in agony in all the history of modern times.

From the balcony and galleries, where there was no more safety from the flame heat ascending than on the

Clayton, Vinton; Cohn, Mrs. Jacob; Corcoran, —; Cooper, C. L.; Contell, Thomas; Cooper, Helen; Coultis, R. H.; Curran, May; Crook, E. S.; Caldwell, A. R.

D. Dawson, Mrs.; Diffendorf, Leandors, Lincoln, Ill.; Delee, Miss N.; Dodd, Mrs. J. F., of Delaware, O.; Donaldson, H.; Donaldson, Miss A.; Delee, Miss Viola; Dyrenfurth, Ruth; Dyrenfurth, Helen; Dawson, Grace.

E. Eberstein, Frank B.; Eisenstead, Herman; Eldridge, Mort; Espen, Emil; Espen, Miss Rosa; Elkahn, Rose.

F. Fitzgibbons, Anna; Fitzgibbons, John J.; Fox, George Sydney; Flanagan, Thomas J.; Frady, Leon; Falke, Miss Ada; Foley, H.; Foltz, Helen; Folkenstein, Miss Gertrude R.; Foltz, Miss Alice; Foltz, Mrs. C. O.; Fox, Hoyt; Fox, Mrs. Emilie Hoyt; Winnetka; Foltz, Helen; Frackelborn, Miss Edith; Frackelborn, Ella; Frady, Mrs. E. C.

G. Gartz, Mary Dorothea; Gartz, Barbara; Gerow, Mabel; Geary, Miss

L. Lake, Mrs. Lena; Lake, Mrs. A.; Lang, Irene; Lang, Hortense; Lange, Miss Agnes; Linden, Ellen; Leatin, Fred W.

M. Maloney, Mrs. James D.; Martin, Harold; Martin, J.; Martin, W.; Maloney, Alice, Ottawa, Ill.; Martin, Robert; McCaughan, Helen; McClelland, Joseph; McClelland, James; McClurg, Roy; McKenna, Bernard; McKenna, Bernard; Muir, Annie, Peoria, Ill.; McMillan, Mabel; Meade, Lillian; Merriol, Mrs.; Merrien, Mildred; Moses, Esopie; Muir, F. A.; Morehouse, H. P.; Moore, H. P.; Mendel, Mrs. A. M.; Middleton, Catherine; McKee, —; Morton, Edmund W.

N. Newby, —; Norton, Edith; Norton, Edward W.; Nuir, —.

O'Donnell, Mrs. Patrick P.; Olinger, Mrs. Bessie; Olson, Mrs. Oscar; Owen, William Murray; Oxman, Miss Florence.

P. Page, Harold; Page, Charles T.; Patton, Lillian; Peterson, Fornetta; Poults, R. H.; Phacker, Walter; Pott-

SITUATION SERIOUS

Russia and Japan Continuing Negotiations to Avert War

THE JAPS WILLING TO FIGHT

England, France and Other Interested Nations Doing Everything Possible to Prevent War and Its Horrors

"Don't look for a declaration of war," says the London Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent, and adds:

"The Japanese are quite determined and several days ago took steps to secure certain of their Korean interests. Russia will not be allowed to occupy Korean ports and certainly neither Mokpho nor Masampo, both of these ports being protected against seizure.

"Japan means business without waiting for the convenience of others.

"It is thought, despite her bluster, that Russia will take no immediate action to prevent Japan doing what she thinks proper to safeguard her interests in Korea.

The Associated press at Washington learns from an official source that Japan, in her last note to the Russian government, announced that the minimum proposition which she can accept from Russia is rights in Korea equal to those claimed by Russia in Manchuria. In return, it is said, Japan agrees to recognize the supremacy of Russia in Manchuria. To this proposition, the Associated press is informed, the Russian government would not give its approval, feeling that Japan should content herself with modifications in the form of concessions in Korea for her commerce. The Russian government has not abandoned hope of a diplomatic settlement of the question in view of the powerful pressure which Great Britain and France are bringing to bear upon Japan to consent to a continuance of the negotiations, but it is emphatically stated that Russia will never admit the parallel between her position in Manchuria and that of Japan in Korea.

Count Casini, the Russian ambassador, thinks the far eastern situation "gloomy, but not without some hope of salvation."

At the Japanese legation it was intimated that if the Russian reply does not give definite assurance that in general the concessions asked for by Japan in Korea will be granted, the Tokio government will be impelled to abandon diplomacy for force. Dispatches received by Mr. Takahira, the Japanese minister, from Tokio tell of the critical state of public feeling there. It is stated that if Russia fails to give a definite reply Japan will interpret a dilatory note as indicating Russia's wish to defer hostilities until the spring, when her forces on land and sea can be used to better advantage.

If Japan is convinced of Russia's intention not to accept her proposals the Tokio government, it is declared, will not hesitate to take the initiative and assume the responsibility for making war. The Japanese minister does not believe that after the manner in which he claims his people have acted throughout the negotiations they will forfeit any sympathy which they may have in this country by striking first.

Acting Secretary Loomis has received in an unofficial way communications from representatives of the United States in various foreign capitals bearing on the Russo-Japanese situation. It is not deemed proper to publish these messages, but the statement is made that they are generally indicative of a belief that some arrangement will be reached between Russia and Japan which will avert war. It is expressly stated that these advices are not positive statements of fact, but represent the trend of sentiment in the official circles of European capitals.

BIG BLIZZARD IN BOSTON

Zero Weather and Snow Piling Up Delaying All Traffic

With the mercury hovering around the zero mark in Boston and reaching an extreme of 35 degrees below in northern Maine; with a foot of snow piling up at exposed points in huge drifts that delayed trains, caused the abandonment of street railroad schedules, and in many cases interfered with the street lighting systems, New England slowly emerged from the clutches of the wildest blizzard that has swept this part of the country since the memorable storm of November, 1898.

The gale, accompanied by a blinding fall of snow, swept the coast from Newport, R. I., to Eastport, Me., when it moved eastward and raged with almost unprecedented violence over the maritime provinces. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia suffered the most. Double patrols of life-savers are watching the coast. Only one shipwreck is known to have occurred, that of the schooner Belle J. Neal, on Allerton bar, but a woman's body was washed ashore at Nantasket and it is feared that another vessel went down during the storm.

No Program in the Senate

After a recess of more than two weeks the senate will resume business without any definite program. Indeed, it may be stated that the senate has no program for the entire session beyond the passage of the appropriation bills, the consideration of the Panama canal treaty, the determination of Senator Smoot's case, and the disposition of some other comparatively unimportant matters.

Only one of the appropriation bills, namely the pension bill, has reached the senate and that has not yet been considered in committee. It is probable, however, that it will be reported at an early date. The Panama canal treaty also is in committee, and it also probably will be reported to the senate during the present week. The Smoot case will be proceeded with by the committee on privileges and elections, but the indications are that some weeks will elapse before the question can be brought before the senate in regular order.

A \$15,000 Fire at Greenwood

Fire originating from an oil stove used to keep 400 bushels of onions stored in the basement of a store building from freezing, destroyed \$15,000 worth of property at Greenwood, Neb. The store rooms occupied by Frank Mahanna, hardware dealer; H. Cooper, druggist, and Miss Myrtle Goodale, milliner, were burned, together with a large part of the stocks.

Kansas City School Boarders

Further evidence of boodling on the part of members of the board of education of Kansas City, Kan., was presented before the grand jury. George McMiller testified that another member of the board had agreed to secure for the agent of a Chicago book firm for \$700 the contract for supplying the public schools of the city with books.

George Morrison testified that when he tried to sell the board of education a site for a school building for \$3,000, agreeing to divide his commission, that the member told him that he came too late. Later another real estate man sold the same site to the board for \$4,000.

Not Enough Evidence to Hold Lynchers

James Rains, C. C. Bailey, James Kuster, Brant Davis and Lieutenant J. E. Parker, of Thebes, Ill., who are charged with the lynching of William John, colored, last spring, had a hearing before J. B. Jackson, a colored justice of the peace, and all were discharged as the evidence seemed insufficient to hold them.

Socialist National Convention

The national convention of the socialist party will be held in Chicago May 1, 1904, at which time candidates for national officers will be put in nomination.

Bernard Berlyn, national committee man for Illinois, has been instructed to make preparations for the accommodation of five hundred delegates.

Princess Mathilde Passes Away

Princess Mathilde, the only daughter of Prince Jerome Bonaparte, died in Paris.

Shortly before the princess expired ex-Empress Eugenie and Princess Clothilde visited the bedside.

The death of Princess Mathilde has caused sorrow throughout France, not only because she was one of the last of the Napoleons, but because she was always known as "the good princess."

Two Thugs Wake Up Philadelphia

Two white men in Philadelphia blew open a safe, held up several persons and otherwise caused considerable excitement in the suburban towns along the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad. Two men were held up at Havertford and later a man escorting two ladies was stopped by the same men, but the screams of his companions scared the footpads off. Several hours later they appeared at Stratford, covered an aged watchman with revolvers and blindfolded him. The men then blew open the safe in the railroad station which is also used as a postoffice and took about \$1,000 in money and stamps.

Blessed is the peacemaker, for he generally gets the worst of it.

Over 75,000 Immigrants in 1903

Immigration at the port of New York in 1903 has passed all previous records. During the calendar year now ending, 619,980 immigrants—steerage passengers—arrived there, as against 547,187 in 1902, an increase of 72,793. It is estimated that some 2,000 more foreigners will land before January 1, so that the total increase probably will be close to 75,000. The year of 1902 was a record-breaking year, the increase over 1901 being about 139,000.

Silence is probably considered golden because gold is so scarce.

New York Now Looking Out

Under instructions from Fire Commissioner Hayes, an assistant foreman of the department began to test the fireproof qualities of the asbestos drop curtains of New York theaters. The assistant foreman had instructions to apply gasoline to all suspected curtains and attempt to ignite them.

Commissioner Hayes said that he intended to urge the passage of legislation which would secure safety in some of the older theaters which, under existing regulations, cannot be compelled to adopt modern safety devices. He is also earnestly in favor of a law that will absolutely prohibit persons from standing in any portion of an auditorium.

Stampede in New York Theatre

An immense holiday audience which packed the Thalia theater on the Bowery, New York, at a matinee performance all but repeated the scenes of wild panic of the Chicago theater fire when a shrill cry of "fire" rang through the house. Only the chance circumstance that several police were standing in the lobby at the moment and met the emergency with strong measures, checked the wild, unreasoning frenzy of the audience in their desire to escape from the building by the main entrance.

Clubs and flats met the rush the moment it began, the police and the employees of the theater reaching the crowd and literally lifting the leaders from their feet and forcing them into seats. The alarm was a false one.

Habeas Corpus Case in Colorado

The Victor Poole habeas corpus case, at Denver, was dismissed in the supreme court because Poole had been turned over to the civil authorities of Teller county by the military authorities to answer to the charge of murderous assault. It is the intention of the attorneys of the western federation of miners to bring before the supreme court in some other manner the questions concerning the governor's declaration of martial law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Cripple Creek that were raised in the Poole case.

Unidentified Dead Are Many.

In addition to the foregoing, there are seventy bodies at the various morgues awaiting identification.



Death Trap at Main Balcony Exit.

stage, there were a dozen singing maidens and a popular comedian singing a popular air, entitled "In the Pale Moonlight."

Now what happened? A fuse or two blew from the calcium light that made the pale moon. The spark struck the ginger-bread scenery; the scenery blazed to the stage.

An Urn of Fire in Five Minutes.

And then! Well, then in five minutes this costly playhouse became a red urn of fire and a great, heart-breaking cry, such a cry as splits the stone of a Caesar's heart, arose in that building.

It was the cry of the man or woman, clinging to a storm-swept raft, who sees the others go down before him.

The scene was something that no human pen can tell. A circle of flame swept from the stage around the balcony and galleries, driven into a whirlwind by six great automatic ventilators and the open doors.

It moved faster than the calcium of the pale moonlight and as fierce as a blazing meteor.

There was a wild, mad, raging, trampling rush for life. It is not easy to fancy what one would do in such a scene, but all seemingly acted together. Men and women fought like unleashed hounds for the first exit; little children were crushed in the arms of their mothers; clothes and jewels were torn from the owners, lozenges and purses were tossed on the floor.

Battle for Life in Balconies.

This was the first scene. On the main floor the panic was quite as fierce as elsewhere, but escape was easier. It was in the balconies that the battle for life was hardest, and there, indeed, was scarcely a chance for escape. The galleries were, within no time at all, heaped with a helpless, struggling, insane mass of people. As the flaming circle crept higher and higher, choking the audience with

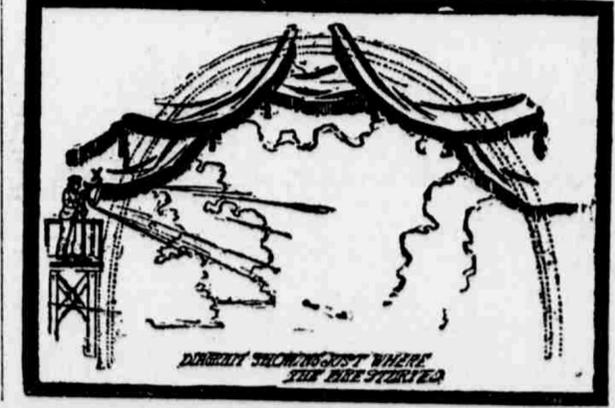
floor below, people hurled themselves downward in their terror. All, or nearly all, of those in the rear met a fearful death. Firemen, the fire practically extinguished, found they were but pouring water on heaps of human beings.

LIST OF THE DEAD.

- A. Adaneck, Mrs. John; Austrian, Walter D.
- B. Barker, Miss Ethel; Barnhiesel, Charles H.; Bartlett, Mrs. C. D.; Bartlett, Ill.; Beurlet, William C.; Beyersloth, Helen; Bissinger, Walter B.; Birndley, Mrs. H. G.; Bodice, N. W.; Brewster, Miss Julia; Brinckley, Mrs. Emma; Buehmann, Margaret; Bickford, C. M.; Bolse, Beane; Buschwah, Louise; Beyers, —; Butler, Mrs. Rosa; Butler, Rose; Bymfurth, Ruth.
- C. Cahn, Miss Lucy; Clark, E. D.;

- Pauline; Gerry, Miss Wilma; Gould, Mrs. B. E.; Gohan, J.; Guderhaugh, Sophie.
- H. Hall, Emperly; Harbrough, Mary E.; Haviland, Miss Lee; Haviland, Lee; Harbaugh, Mrs.; Hickman, Mrs. Charles; Holland, John; Howard, Mrs. Mary E.; Hart, E. D.; Henning, —; Henry, Mrs. G. A.; Higginson, Miss Jeanette; Holmes, Mrs.; Higginson, Roger; Holst, Allen; Holst, Gertrude; Hooper, W. W.; Kenosha, Wis.; Howard, Miss Helen; Holland, Leigh; Horton, Edith; Ontonagon, Mich.; Howard, Ray E.; Hudson, Harry; Hehn, Otto.
- J. Jones, Ethel; Johnson, J. C.
- K. Kaufman, Alice; Kelly, Otto; Kieley, Harvey; Kennedy, Agnes; Winnetka; Kennedy, Frances; Winnetka; Kochens, J. A.; Koll, Charles H.; Kiser, Louis and wife; Ketchem, Mrs.; Kranz, Mrs. Sarah, Racine, Wis.

- litzer, Jack, Lafayette, Ind.
- R. Rattey, William; Rattey, J.; Reiter, Mrs. G.; Regensberg, Hazel; Regensberg, Miss Helen; Remington, Thomas; Ross, Eilan; Robertson, Minnie; Reed, W. M.; Richardson, Rev. H. L.; Roberts, Theodore; Rogers, Rose K.; Rathey, William; Robinson, Minnie; Ross, —, 16 years old, daughter of Dr. Ross.
- S. Saville, Warren E.; Savore, Carrie J.; Spring, Mrs. W. A.; Stinger, Mrs. J. H.; Sayre, Miss Carrie A.; String, Mrs. Winthrop; Spindler, Burdette; Studley, Rev. George H.; Sutton, Harry D.; Sawyer, —; Sedill, Warner, 12 years old; Kankakee, Ill.; Smithbarry, Wilma; Smith, Mrs. —; Des Plaines, Ill.; Smith, Miss Murine; Des Plaines, Ill.; Sheppard, Lola, 12 years old; Scott, Burr; Shabbard, Myrtle; Shabbard, Lulu; Sherr, —; Sprang, W. N.; Stern, Mrs.; Sutton, Harry P.; Squier, Olive; Sullow, Arthur; Spring, Winthrop; Schmidt, Rosa.
- T. Tayson, Ruth; Torney, Edna; Turner, Mrs. Susan; Turbush, C. W.; Thatcher, W.
- V. Valley, Bernice; Valley, Mrs. J. T.; Vanzege, Edward T.; Valley, Miss Bernice; Van Ingen, John; Vien, Herman.
- W. Wells, Donald; Wolf, Mrs. Leo, Hammond, Ind.; Waldman, S.; Wollmann, Otto; Williams, H.; Winslow, C. A.; Three River Falls, Minn.; Wells, Donald; Windes, Paul; Wolf, Harriet; Weiskopf, Emma.
- Z. Zeisler, Walter B.



Directly Showing Where the Fire Started