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San Francisco In Ruins

Earthquake and Fire the Cause. Business Section in Ruins and Fire still spreading. Other Cities and Towns damaged. Many Lives Lost.

San Francisco, Cal., April 19.—It looks now as if the entire city would be burned. The Associated Press men are trying to get matter from Oakland by boat, but they are very uncertain. The government is furnishing tugs, but the confusion is so great that they can not be relied upon. It will be impossible to send full details for several days.

Oakland, Cal., April 19.—The fire in San Francisco is increasing in violence. It is spreading in all directions in both the business and residence quarters. It is reported that while a building was blown up with dynamite a premature explosion killed fifteen men. The Terminal hotel, at the water front and Market street, collapsed today, and buried twenty persons under the debris. These were incinerated and there is no possibility of learning their identity.

San Francisco, Cal., April 19.—Earthquake and fire today have put nearly half of San Francisco in ruins. At least two hundred people have been killed, a thousand others injured and property loss will exceed one hundred million dollars. Thousands of people are homeless and destitute, and all day long streams of people have been fleeing from the stricken districts to places of safety. It was 5:13 yesterday morning when a terrific earthquake shook the whole city and surrounding country. One shock apparently lasted two minutes and there was almost immediate collapse of flimsy structures all over the city. The water supply was cut off, and when fires broke out in various sections there was nothing to do but to let the buildings burn.

Isolated for a Time

Telegraph and telephone communication was shut off for a time. The Western Union was put completely out of business and the Postal company was the only one that managed to get a wire out of the city. About 10 o'clock even the Postal was forced to suspend in San Francisco. Electric power was stopped and street cars did not run. Railroads and ferry boats also ceased operations.

The various fires have been raging all day and the fire department has been powerless to do anything except to dynamite the buildings threatened. All day long explosions have shaken the city and added to the terror of the inhabitants. Following the first shock there was another within five

minutes, but not nearly so severe. Three hours later there was another slight quake.

San Jose Hard Hit

Reports from districts outside of San Francisco indicate widespread damage. San Jose, fifty miles south, lost many buildings and from fifteen to twenty people were killed. The annex of the Vendome hotel collapsed and fires broke out.

Stanford university and Palo Alto suffered. At Stanford many of the handsome buildings were demolished and two people were killed.

The court house at Redwood City and other buildings collapsed. Menlo Park, Burlingame and other fashionable suburban towns suffered, Santa Rosa, to the north, Napa, Vallejo and all towns around the bay were damaged. These reports, alarming as they were, created little interest in San Francisco, where the people were in a frantic state. They did not stop to dress, but rushed out into the streets in their night garments.

Prompt Action of Mayor

Mayor Schmitz was about early and took measures for the relief and protection of the city. General Funston was quickly communicated with, and by 9 o'clock 1,000 federal soldiers were guarding the city and assisting the firemen in dynamiting the buildings.

General Funston, realizing that stern measures were necessary, gave orders that looters were to be shot at sight. Four men were summarily executed before the day was over.

The Burned District

The burned district extends from the water front south of Market street to Market street, and west to Eleventh street, north to Market. The fire extends out Hayes and McAllister streets nearly to Fillmore, and nearly to the water front along Market to Montgomery, and north from the water front to Montgomery street.

Manufactories, hotels, wholesale houses and residences comprising the principal part of the business section have been destroyed. The city hall, a structure costing \$7,000,000, was first wrecked by the earthquake and then destroyed by fire. The Palace hotel, value estimated at \$3,000,000, also burned. The beautiful Claus Spreckels building at Third and Market, was gutted. The Rialto building and dozens of other costly structures were also destroyed.

The hall of justice is threatened and will undoubtedly go. The Examiner and the Call buildings are gone and the Crocker buildings across the street from the Palace is on fire.

Palace Hotel Destroyed

All efforts to prevent the fire from reaching the Palace and Grand hotels were unsuccessful, and both were

completely destroyed, together with all their contents.

All of San Francisco's best play houses, including the Majestic, Columbia, Orpheum and Grand opera house, are a mass of ruins. The earthquake demolished them for all practical purposes, and the fire completed the work of destruction.

There is neither gas nor electric light in San Francisco. The plant of one of the gas companies blew up and as a measure of precaution all the other gas in the city was turned off.

Panic-Stricken People Flee

Ferry boats resumed running from Oakland and thousands of homeless and panic-stricken people are leaving the city and are seeking shelter in Oakland and other suburban towns.

SHORN OF FURTHER POWER

Russian Assembly Given Little to Say on Finances.

St. Petersburg—With absolute unanimity the papers here today, even the Novoe Vremya, express extreme discontent with the imperial ukase, issued April 11, creating a "committee of finance" to decide matters relating to the national credit. This is regarded as another severe blow to the power of the parliament and as virtually taking away from the nation's representatives all control of the nation's finances.

Warsaw, Poland—The religious troubles between the Catholics and Mariavits, the new Catholic sect, in many places in Poland are assuming a very serious phase. Indeed the situation has almost reached the dignity of civil war. At Luptsi 3,000 Mariavits attacked 2,000 Catholics, and a regular pitched battle followed, during which three men were killed and forty wounded. The fighting is proceeding today. At Lehno constant skirmishes are in progress, and several persons have been killed or wounded. Last week at Chwartek the Mariavits, who are in the majority there, took possession of a church and insisted on the reappointment of a priest who was dismissed by the Catholics.

Plans for Palace of Peace

The Hague—Several hundred plans for Andrew Carnegie's palace of peace have been offered by architects all over the world to the jury consisting of experts from France, Germany, Italy, the United States Russia and presided over by a Hollander. This jury will meet early in May and will award six prizes ranging from \$54,000 to \$1,200. The palace will be built on a tract of ground provided by the Netherlands government and situated on the famous old Schevengien road.

Labor Men to Start Bank

Chicago, Ill.—It was announced today that the Commonwealth and Trust and Savings bank, an institution promoted by organized labor will open its doors for business May 29. The capital of the bank is \$500,000, and all of the directors, except one, are members of labor organizations. None of the bank's officials will be taken from the ranks of organized labor, but all will be practical banking men.

LINING UP FOR THE VOTE

Bailey's Speech Convinces Senators of Constitutionality of Amendment—Democrats to Hold Caucus

Washington, D. C., April 18.—(Special.)—Interest still centers in the outcome of the rate bill in the senate. Senator Bailey's masterful speech practically closed the debate as there was nothing left to be said on the main point in dispute after the Texas senator had submitted his brief showing the decision of the supreme court in an unbroken chain from the beginning in support of the power of congress over the inferior federal courts.

The enemies of the rate regulation are nonplussed. Of course, they are holding out and making a fierce fight. The railroads are represented by railway presidents and attorneys and are determined to win if possible. With fourteen billions of wealth at their back representing over two hundred thousand miles of railway traversing every neighborhood in the country, holding practically despotic power over the welfare of communities and individuals, and with unlimited treasuries and an elastic legal fund, their power is great and is being felt.

But the staggering blow delivered to them by Senator Bailey has disarranged much of their work through the inspiration that it has given the friends of the bill here, and elsewhere throughout the country.

The game of politics that the enemies of rate regulation were enmeshing the president in has been given a black eye since the lucid and unanswerable argument of Senator Bailey has been accepted by such a large number of the prominent republican newspapers as being sound and conclusive, establishing beyond doubt or cavil the right of congress to authorize the inter-state commerce commission to fix a reasonable rate, and have the rate stand until it reaches the supreme court of the United States for review in the regular way, prohibiting the inferior federal courts from suspending the rate by injunction. President Roosevelt was persuaded by the railroad attorneys in his cabinet and among the republican members of the senate, that it was necessary to yield the point of allowing a court review amendment in order that the bill might be constitutional and effective. But since Mr. Bailey's speech his views upon the subject have been materially modified in that regard and it is now said that he has accepted the Bailey amendment prohibiting a suspension of rates by the inferior courts and that he will use his influence to have the bill amended accordingly.

The democrats under the lead of Senator Bailey are to hold a conference soon and it is expected that all, with possibly two or three exceptions, will unite in favor of the Bailey amendments in which case republican