

Brief Telegrams

The salary of the president of the American Base Ball league is \$10,000. Robert Catterson of New York recently purchased the far-famed granite mountain of Texas.

In Paris a youth attempted kill his father in order that as a widow's son he might escape conscription.

Colns are classed, according to their state of preservation, as "proof," "uncirculated," "fine," "good," "fair," and "poor."

John Sharp Williams, the new democratic leader in the national house of representatives, rarely, if ever, loses his temper.

According to the census taken by the prefecture of the Seine there are at present in Paris 41,350 Italians, 42,000 Belgians, and 32,500 Germans.

Arthur Chamberlain of Birmingham, England, a nephew of Joseph Chamberlain, has been touring Canada, partly on business and partly on pleasure.

Plans are being made to erect a monument to the philosopher Kant in Berlin, to be unveiled on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death in 1904.

The queen of Holland has just appointed an Englishman, Rev. Kirsopp Lake of Lincoln college, Oxford, a theological professor at the famous Dutch university of Leyden.

F. N. R. Martinez, the musical and art critic of the New York World, died after a month's illness, resulting from paralysis. Mr. Martinez was born in San Francisco in 1849.

Consul Louis Kaiser writes from Mazatlan, Mexico, June 16, 1903, that that port has been declared open by President Diaz. All restrictions on traffic have now been removed.

President Roosevelt sent Miss Sarah C. Provost, the principal of the Cove Neck school at Oyster Bay, a check sufficiently large to give every pupil a handsome Christmas present.

Resolutions have been adopted by the chamber of commerce of Pensacola, Fla., urging representatives of Florida in congress to vote for the ratification of the Panama treaty.

Orders have been received at San Francisco from Washington by local transport officials to get the troop ships Sherman and Newport in readiness for service immediately.

The pope has issued of his own accord a note on the subject of sacred music in churches, recommending the Gregorian chant. The note will be published in the Osservatore Romano.

William F. Frye of Maine boasts of being the only great-grandfather of the United States senate, a girl baby having arrived at the home of his grandson, William Frye White, in Washington.

Premier Sedden of New Zealand is being criticized for unloading his relatives on the government. It is said that he and eight of his relatives are drawing an average of \$25,000 each in salary.

The congregation of the propaganda has received information that Archbishop Chappelle will visit Rome in the near future for the purpose of obtaining a definite settlement of church questions in Cuba and Porto Rico.

The striking union miners arrested at Telluride, Colo., some time ago, charged with vagrancy, are said to have been all released and ordered to go to work or leave town. They have not as yet complied with the order.

Announcement was made of the appointment of C. M. Waters as superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances of the postoffice department, to succeed George W. Beavers, to take effect January 1 next. Mr. Waters is now acting superintendent of the division.

Bishop Thomas Bowman of East Orange, N. J., the oldest living Methodist bishop, who has just passed his 86th birthday, has just made public a story in which he tells how he warned President Lincoln that he was in danger of being assassinated by John Wilkes Booth five days before the tragedy occurred.

The Harmony club of Seattle, composed of 314 of the most prominent Jews in that city, has sent messages of appeal to President Roosevelt, the members of the Washington delegation in congress and William H. Hearst of New York, asking aid and intercession in behalf of the Jews who are in danger of massacre in Kishineff.

Prof. Giovanni Livi, director of the state archives of Bologna, which town is the principal center of Dante's fame, has found a parchment dated 1323, on which are two pen sketches representing Dante crowned in Bologna. This discovery will prove of great interest to those who are searching for an authentic portrait of the poet.

Sir John See, the premier of New South Wales, has added a new phrase to the political vocabulary. Urged to bring pressure to bear upon the commonwealth government in a certain cause, he replied with a worried and irritated air that he might just as well "sneeze against thunder."

In leaving his residuary estate to his sons only, Mr. A. Holmes, a Bingley (England) brewer, said he did so not because his sons were dearer to him than his daughters, but because he considered that men have a harder struggle in life.

NEARLY SIX HUNDRED DEAD

DECIDEDLY THE WORSE PLAY HOUSE CALAMITY THAT EVER OCCURRED IN THIS COUNTRY.

BURNING OF AN OPERA HOUSE IN CHICAGO

An Appalling Loss of Life Through Burning, Smothering and Being Trampled to Death—Chicago in Mourning Over the Awful Catastrophe.

CHICAGO.—Women and little children fought in vain for life at a fire in the Iroquois theater, the newest, largest and safest theater in Chicago, Wednesday afternoon, December 30.

The theater was crowded by a matinee audience, mostly of women and children. In the midst of the performance, while the stage was alight with beauty and color, the first alarm of fire was given, and the next instant a great wave of flame shot out over the theater. The resulting scenes were indescribable. Hundreds were trampled to death in the mad rush to escape from that blazing furnace.

Many bodies were scorched and blackened by the flames after the life had already been trampled out. Several people were burned to death, others were suffocated by gas thrown into the auditorium by the explosion of a gas tank, but by far the larger majority perished in the wild stampede for safety.

The fire broke out during the second act of "Mr. Blue Beard," which was the first dramatic production produced in the theater after its opening. The theatrical company, which was large, escaped, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snowy streets with no clothing but stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained injuries, but none were severely hurt.

Origin of the Fire.

The accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting and none of them certain, but the best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery suddenly broke and was grounded. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus, who were then engaged in the performance, to flee to the wings with screams of terror.

The fire in itself up to this time was not serious and possibly could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work. As soon as the fire was discovered, Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire thus was given practically a free through which a strong draft was setting, aided by the doors which had been thrown open in the front of the theater. With a roar the flames shot through the opening over the heads of the people and clear up to those in the first balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat.

Modes of Exit.

The theater is modeled after the Opera Comique in Paris and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to the front of the theater. Two of these doorways are at the end of the balcony and one being in the center. The audience in its rush seems to have for the greater part chose to flee to the left entrance and to attempt to make its way down the eastern stairway leading into the lobby of the theater. Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these two doorways on the first and second balconies that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the stairway at least eight feet from the door back to a point about five feet in the rear of the door.

This mass of dead bodies in the center of the doorway reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children. The fight for life, which must have taken place at these two points, is something that is simply beyond human power to adequately describe. Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay.

Horrible Scenes.

Scenes of unparalleled horror met the eyes of firemen, policemen and rescuers when they were able to enter the ill-fated theater.

The dead lay in tangled heaps, five and six feet high. Here and there were found masses of crushed, flesh and bone which were once men and women, but were trampled out of all semblance of human shape.

At the doorways of the first and second balconies the greatest loss of life occurred. Here bodies were found in a pile which reached from the head of the stairway, five feet from the door, to a point as far in the rear of the exit. In the center of the doorway corpses were piled until the portal was choked to within two feet of the top.

On top of this grewsome pyramid were found women who had been stricken by death while crawling over the bodies of those who had been caught and crushed to death. In their hands they held bits of garments not their own. Some were almost nude.

Bodies were Piled in Layers.

As the police removed layer after layer of dead in these doorways, the

sight became so sickening that policemen and firemen, hardened as they are to horrible scenes, turned away in horror. The bodies were in such an inextricable mass, and so tightly were they jammed between the sides of the door and the walls that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them out. The only possible thing to do was to seize a leg or arm or a piece of clothing and pull with main strength, dragging several entwined bodies away together.

As the bodies were dragged out of the water soaked, blackened mass of corpses, more horrifying sights were disclosed.

There were women whose clothing was torn completely from the bodies above the waist, whose breasts had been trampled into a pulp and whose faces had been marked beyond identification.

In the auditorium there was no such number of dead in any one spot, but bodies lay in the first and second balconies in great numbers.

In some places corpses were piled up in the aisles three or four deep, where one had fallen and others tripped over the prostrate forms. These had died as they fell, evidently suffocated by gas.

Killed in Their Seats.

Others were bent over backs of seats where they had been thrown by the rush of people for the doors, and killed without a chance to escape from their seats. One man was found bent backwards nearly double, his spinal column having been fractured by the rush. A woman was found cut nearly in two by the back of a seat over which she had been forced, face downward, before she could enter the aisle. The faces of dozens of people had been trampled in by the heels of scores of others who rushed over them. In one aisle, the body of a man was found with not a vestige of clothing, flesh, hair or bone remaining above the hips; nothing but bones. Even the skull was gone.

Rarely in the history of Chicago has its people been so stirred as by the calamity. The speed with which it came seemed for a brief period to appal the business quarter. Every available policeman within call of the department was hurried to the spot and the men were placed in lines at the end of the block. They tried to prevent anyone entering Randolph street from either Dearborn or State streets. It was found for a time almost impossible to hold back the frenzied crowd that pressed forward, many of them having friends or relatives in the theater.

The First Ghastly Discovery.

The building was so full of smoke when the firemen first arrived that the full extent of the catastrophe was not immediately realized. It was not grasped until a fireman and a reporter crawled up the stairway to the balcony, holding handkerchiefs over their mouths to avoid suffocation. The two men tried vainly to get through the door, which was jammed with dead women piled higher than either of their heads. All the lights of the theater were out and the only illumination came through the clouds of smoke that hung between the interior of the theater and the street. The two men immediately hurried below and informed Chief Musham of the fire department that the dead bodies were piled high in the balcony and prompt assistance must be rendered if any of them were to be saved. The chief at once called on all his men to abandon work on the fire and to go at once to the rescue. The building was so dark and the smoke so thick that it was found impossible to accomplish anything until lights had been obtained. More than 200 lights were quickly carried into the building and the work of removing the bodies was begun.

One large truck ordinarily used for conveying freight to depots was so heavily loaded with dead in front of the theater that the two draft horses attached to it were unable to start and the police were compelled to assist by tugging at the wheels.

Dead will Reach Six Hundred.

Later reports give estimates that will probably bring the dead up to six hundred. The City Press association discontinued all attempts to keep track of the number of dead bodies at the morgues, the fact being palpable that the effort was more productive of error than genuine information owing to the confusion incident to the removal of bodies and the dazed condition of those in charge from overwork and lack of sleep. The records at the morgue showing the issue of burial permits at the coroner's office was substituted, as a less satisfactory method of keeping the death count.

A Sad New Year.

On New Year's day funeral proces-

sions were moving through the snow-covered streets to various cemeteries while the throng about the various morgues and undertaking establishments seemed almost as large as ever. The scenes here were the same as those of Wednesday night and Thursday night. Many men appeared at the door of Rolston's and Jordan's morgues Friday afternoon who had been on their feet for forty-eight hours, constantly searching for those they had lost. The greater number of dead are in those two places and men who had viewed the ghastly rows of corpses before and had gone on unavailing search to every morgue and undertaking room in the city to which the dead from the theater had been taken came back once more to Rolston's and Jordan's almost in despair, but hoping against hope that they might have overlooked their dead in the great number that had crowded the tables and floors on Thursday morning. In some cases they were unsuccessful, in many others they were not. Practically all of the bodies which admit of careful identification have been carried away and of those which remain the majority are in such a condition that only the most minute and careful inspection will be able to reveal their identity to those who knew them best.

The Fatal Building.

W. A. Merriman, western manager for the George H. Fuller company, the concern which erected the Iroquois theatre, to a press reporter made the following statement concerning the construction of the building:

"The Iroquois theatre was built with safety as the first consideration. All the building ordinances were adhered to in every detail and, more than that, there were additional safeguards thrown about until I do not hesitate to state there was no theatre building in the country freer from danger. The exits were numerous and all the work which our company performed was absolutely fireproof. After making a very careful examination of the building since the fire I find that the structure as erected, still stands intact."

Saturday brought out the legacy of the awful calamity and the prediction that the list of fatalities in the Iroquois fire will run to over 600 when information is complete.

The latest statement of dead at the various morgues is 564 and it is stated at the various hospitals and hotels to which the injured were removed, that of the 157 who were injured, probably one-third cannot live. The missing at this writing is estimated at 314, but it is expected that many of these will be accounted for, probably a large majority of them.

Chicago in Deep Gloom.

It is no extravagance of language to say that the city is stunned by the overwhelming tragedy which was enacted when the theater which housed "Mr. Bluebeard" became a chamber of horrors indeed. There is the deepest woe in hundreds of homes, deep sorrow in a thousand others, and a pity beyond the potency of words to convey in all.

The first streak of daylight which shone on the snow-covered streets found the morgues still the sorrow-haunted center of many searches. There are husbands searching for their wives, wives searching for their husbands, frenzied parents seeking their children, so many or whom lost their lives, and in some instances, wide-eyed children, still dazed from the horror of their experience, groped distressedly about in search of father or mother.

A Sad Sunday.

CHICAGO.—It was a day of funerals in Chicago and for the first time in the history of the city all of the people who desired to bury their dead were unable to do so. The unprecedented demand for hearses and carriages would have been enough in itself to task to the very utmost the resources of the undertakers, but the heavy snow that has fallen during the last two days, has increased their difficulties enormously. All of the cemeteries in Chicago are miles from the business center and residence districts and with good weather and the streets in passable condition it is a matter of several hours to reach one of them. Sunday, when every hearse was in urgent demand, it required about twice as long to reach a cemetery as under normal conditions. Arrangements were made by the undertakers to have as many funerals as possible held in the early part of the day, in order to allow if possible, the use of the hearse for a second funeral in the afternoon. In a number of cases this was done, but there were instances where the families who were to wait for the return of the hearse were disappointed and were compelled to defer the burial of their loved ones until Monday. It is not expected that there will be any further trouble in this direction as the streets to the cemeteries are now in such condition as to permit of the passage of funerals in almost the ordinary time.

Dead List Increases.

The list of dead was increased to 588 Sunday by the death of Leroy Rainbold, a boy of 4 years, who was severely burned, and died in St. Luke's hospital. Of the ten bodies at the county morgue four more were identified Sunday.

The injured of whom there is any record now number 103, although the number of those who were slightly hurt would swell this number greatly. Numbers of people went to their

homes after the fire without reporting themselves to the police as injured.

Outside of the numerous funerals that were held in the city Sunday it was the first day of rest the city has known since last Wednesday afternoon. Less than twenty persons called at the office of the chief of police for permits to visit morgues, and few people were at the hospitals.

John Schmidt, the stage hand who is said to have left open the reflector which prevented the asbestos curtain from descending, is still sought by the police. He is believed to be in hiding in the city, but the chief of police received an intimation from his friends that Schmidt will be ready when he is wanted as a witness at the coroner's inquest next Thursday.

Coroner's Investigation.

Beginning at 9 o'clock Monday morning Coroner Traeger and the jury impaneled to sit at the inquest will resume its task of collecting evidence in the theater building. An exhaustive examination to the building will be made and particular attention will be paid to any violation of the building ordinances that may be found. In accordance with the request of the members of the jury, all sight-seers and even watchmen will be excluded from the building while examination is in progress. The jury has said to the coroner that they do not wish any person to hear the questions that they may put to anybody, as they fear publicity will interfere with the thoroughness of the inquiry.

Because of the unlimited scope that the coroner intends to give to the investigation it is expected that the work of taking testimony will consume several weeks. Contractors and all others who can give expert testimony will be summoned and the coroner has issued a notice to all persons who were in the theater and who made their escape that he would be glad to have them appear and give their testimony.

IN AID OF RUSSIAN JEWS.

President Has Received Reports from Consuls in Russia.

WASHINGTON.—Simon Wolf of this city, who has been active for several days in his endeavors to induce the United States government to make representations to Russia looking to the protection of the Jews of Kishineff, had an interview with President Roosevelt. At its conclusion Mr. Wolf said that at the request of the president himself he could not discuss the interview for publication.

It is known, however, that Mr. Wolf was informed that prior to his presentation of the matter to the state department the president had directed the United States consuls in Russia to inform this government if there were any likelihood of a repetition of the Kishineff massacres of last spring. The replies to that inquiry thus far received have been reassuring in their tone. Moreover, they indicate that the Russian government is fully alive to the reports of possible trouble at Kishineff on January 7. In view of that fact it is assumed that the Russian authorities will take if, indeed, they have not already taken steps to prevent a recurrence of the massacre.

NO WAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Optimistic View of Situation Entered at Rome.

ROME.—Following the reports from the far east rather an optimistic view concerning the difficulties between Japan and Russia is entertained in official circles here. It is not believed that a conflict will take place in the near future, not only for climatic reasons, but because Russia is unprepared for war. It is believed that Russia will first consolidate her warships in the east with her volunteer fleet in the Mediterranean, which latter now number nine vessels. The vessels of the Mediterranean fleet have purposely kept apart so that no idea might be given of the character or strength of the squadron.

In political circles the opinion prevails that the attitude of the United States will have an effect on whether France and Great Britain remain neutral.

RUSSIA PLACES RUSH ORDER.

Cudahy Packing Company to Supply Meat for Army.

DES MOINES, Ia.—The Cudahy Packing company of South Omaha is just in receipt of a rush order for 1,000,000 pounds of extra mess meat for the Russian army. The shipment must be made from South Omaha so as to reach San Francisco before January 26. On that date two Russian ships will be prepared to sail from that port with the beef on board. It is learned in Omaha that the same ships will also carry a large amount of other supplies which are now on their way or in preparation for shipment in various parts of the United States. All of these supplies, it is said, are for the war department of Russia.

China to be Reckoned With.

NEW YORK.—The British government is noting with the closest attention and keenest interest, the quite uncommon energy now being shown by the Chinese in making warlike preparations, under the guidance of a large number of Japanese instructors, cables the Herald's St. Petersburg correspondent. This has grown so serious as to come into the first line of Russia's calculations, broadening out the situation on quite new lines.

COMPLETELY RESTORED.

Mrs. P. Brunzel, wife of P. Brunzel, stock dealer, residence 3111 Grand ave., Everett, Wash., says: "For fifteen years I suffered with terrible pain in my back. I did not know what it was to enjoy a night's rest, and arose in the morning feeling tired and unrefreshed. My suffering sometimes was simply indescribable. When I finished the first box of Doan's Kidney Pills I felt like a different woman. I continued until I had taken five boxes. Doan's Kidney Pills act very effectively, very promptly, relieve the aching pains and all other annoying difficulties."

Poster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists, price 50 cents per box.

White Pallbearers for Black Woman.

All the pallbearers at the funeral of Jessica Ormand, an old colored "mammy" of Atlanta, Ga., who died the other day, were white men who had known her when she was a slave. Several of them had been nursed by her in their infancy.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have secured in doing its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

A genius is a man who refuses to believe in the impossibilities of other people.

Millions in Oats.

Salzer's New National Oats yielded in 1903 in Mich., 240 bu., in Mo., 255 bu., in N. D., 310 bu., and in 29 other states from 150 to 300 bu. per acre. Now this Oat is generally grown in 1904, will add millions of bushels to the yield, and millions of dollars to the farmer's purse. Try it for 1904. Largest Seed Potato and Alfalfa Clover growers in America.

Salzer's Speltz, Barless Barley, Home Builder Corn, Macaroni Wheat, Pea Oat, Billion Dollar Grass and Earliest Cane are money makers for you, Mr. Farmer.

JUST SEND THIS NOTICE AND 10c in stamps to John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., and receive in return their big catalog and lots of farm seed samples. (W. N. U.)

Sweet Potato Bread.
Place one pint of lukewarm water in the mixing bowl, add one tablespoonful of butter, one level tablespoonful of salt, half a cup of yeast or a half compressed yeast cake which has been dissolved in four tablespoonfuls of lukewarm water, sift in one quart of flour, beat well and stand in a warm place over night. In the morning bake four sweet potatoes, scoop out the pulp and mash through a sieve into the sponge, beat well and add sufficient flour to make a soft dough. Knead lightly, roll out and cut into biscuits. Place these in greased baking pans and very lightly bake in a quick oven twenty-five minutes. When the biscuit is half done take from the oven and brush over with the white of one egg beaten with one tablespoonful of water. Place again in the oven until thoroughly done.

Southern Sweet Potato Pudding.
Wash and boil two pounds of sweet potatoes very soft, but not soggy. Mash the potatoes while warm and add one cupful of butter and beat the mixture until very light in color. Beat four eggs very light with one cup of white sugar and stir into the other mixture, stirring rapidly. Add grated nutmeg to taste, half a pint of sherry wine, one pint of rich milk and the grated yellow peel of one rich lemon. Mix, turn into one pudding dish and bake in a quick oven. Delicious.

KNOWS NOW

Doctor Was Fooled by His Own Care for a Time.

It's easy to understand how ordinary people get fooled by coffee when doctors themselves sometimes forget the facts. A physician speaks of his own experience:

"I had used coffee for years and really did not exactly believe it was injuring me although I had palpitation of the heart every day. Finally one day a severe and almost fatal attack of heart trouble frightened me and I gave up both tea and coffee, using Postum instead, and since that time I have had absolutely no heart palpitation except on one or two occasions when I tried a small quantity of coffee which caused severe irritation and proved to me I must let it alone."

"When we began using Postum it seemed weak—that was because we did not make it according to directions—but now we put a little bit of butter in the pot when boiling and allow the Postum to boil full 15 minutes, which gives it the proper rich flavor and the deep brown color. I have advised a great many of my friends and patients to leave off coffee and drink Postum; in fact, I daily give this advice." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Many thousands of physicians use Postum in place of tea and coffee in their own homes and prescribe it to patients. "There's a reason."

A remarkable little book "The Road to Wellville" can be found in each package.

