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BLAZE ALONG VAN NESS AVENUE UNDER CONTROL.

WIND FANS FIRE INTO ACTIVITY

Flames Are Swceping Along Water Front and Ferry Depot is Threatened-Destitution and Suffering of Homeless People Indescribable.

San Francisco, April 21.-San Francisco has not yet seen the conclusion of the devastating work of the conflagration. The latest report, however, is that the fire in the neighborhood of the ferry building has been

The fire that started at Nob hill and worked its way to the North Beach section, sweeping that section clean of buildings, was later veered around by a flerce wind and made its way southerly to the immense sea wall sheds and grain warehouses. The flames were heading directly for the immense ferry building, the terminal point of all trains of the Southern Pacific road. The wind, which at times amounted to a gale, adds fresh terrors to the situation. The authorities considered conditions so grave that it was decided to swear in immediately 10,000 special policemen, armed with rifles furnished by the federal government. In addition to this dren. So far their provisions have force, companies of National Guards been comparatively insignificant. It arrived from many interior points. It is feared by the health authorities, was reported that 35 men had been however, that great suffering will reshot and killed while trying to work sult unless shelter can be found in the their way into the ruins of the sub- near future for these thousands. The treasury, on Commercial street. Two Chinese were shot and killed on Market street for refusing to obey orders of the soldiery.

Hundreds Buried in Ruins.

The three-story lodging house at Fifth and Minna streets collapsed and over seventy-five bodies have been taken out. There are at least fifty other dead bodies exposed. This building was one of the first to take fire on Fifth street. At least 100 people were lost in the Cosmopolitan, on Fourth street. Many are dropping dead from the heat and from suffocation. Over 150 people are reported lost in the Brunswick hotel, Seventh and Mission

Six hundred laborers from the ocean shore arrived to look after the city's sewers, to prevent an epidemic, and the united railways commenced its

efforts to clean up some of the streets. Reports of babes being borne in the refugee camps were frequently received. Five women became mothers in Golden Gate park.

The police broke open every saloon and corner grocery in the saved districts and poured all malt and spirituous liquors into the gutters.

The main remaining fire is confined to east of Van Ness avenue and north of Union street, but is burning its way

Fire Raging Along Water Front. At 7 o'clock the fire was raging over fifty acres of the water front, lying between Bay street and the end of Meiggs and Fisherman's wharf. To the eastward it extended down to the

The cannery and warehouses of the Central California Canneries company, together with 20,000 cases of canned fruit, was totally destroyed, as also was the Impson and other lumber companies' yards.

The flames reached the tanks of the San Francisco Gas company, which had previously been pumped out, and were burning the ends of the grain sheds, five in number, which extend farther out toward the point. Flame and smoke hid from view the vessels that lay off shore, vainly attempting to check the fire. No water was available except from the water

At 6 o'clock it was believed the fire had been checked at Van Ness avenue and Gilbert streets. The buildings on a high slope between Van Ness and Polk, Union and Filbert streets were blazing fiercely, fanned by a high wind, but the blocks were so sparsely settled that the fire appeared to have but a slender chance of crossing Van Ness at this point.

Mayor Schmitz, who directed operations at this point, conferred with the military authorities and decided that it was not necessary to dynamite the Ness. This would seem to assure the safety of what remains of the Western addition. It is the only point of exposure to which this section of the city was subjected. As much of the fire department as could be collected was assembled to make a stand at this

Feeding the Destitute.

Although every effort of the various relief committees was bent to appease the gnawing hunger of the destitute ing completely ruined. Stanford unithousands-efforts that were in a large measure entirely successful- buildings wrecked, damage \$3,000,000. there are in this city many persons | One student, named Hanna, and one either without sufficient food or en- other man killed there. At Salinas, tirely without it. The government of the Spreckles sugar refinery, valued ficials took charge of every grocery at \$1,500,000, was completely destore in that part of the city still stroyed. Reports from Del Monte, standing and gave out foodstuffs to all Hollister, Watsonville, Monterey, Pathose who were hungry. Bread lines cific Grove, Santa Cruz and other were established at Fillmore and Turk | southern coast points show slight streets, at Golden Gate park and at damage in comparison. the Presidio and every person who stood in line was given a whole loaf. The line at Fillmore and Turk was four blocks long and those at the underwriters in this city variously esparks were even longer. There was timated the insurance companies' no disorder when the hungry thou- losses in the San Francisco fire at sands were told to form a line and between \$15,000,000 and \$200,000,000. receive their bread and canned goods. The property loss in the great Chi-All were content to wait their turn. cago fire was between \$165,000,000 Silk-hatted men of affairs followed and \$170,000,000.

good naturedly behind Chinese and took their loaves from the same hand. Soup kitchens were established in the streets of the unburned section, no fires whatever being allowed indoors, and many hungry persons were fed by these individual efforts. Bread and such other foodstuffs as may be at hand will be distributed at the va-

rious stations twice a day. At several places along Market street scores of men were digging with their hands among the still smoking debris of some large grocery house for canned goods. Whin they secured it, which they did without molestation from anybody, they broke the tins and drank the contents.

Exodus of Population. Twenty-five thousand persons left devastated San Francisco during the day and as many as could be carried by the ferries and probably twice as many more are seeking to depart. All those who seek to cross the bay are given to understand that they may go to any point in the state on any transportation line free of charge, but that they may not return. This condition is imposed to relieve the food situation, and is cheerfully complied with by the fleeing people. It is anything to get away, anything but the sight of the blackened walls and smoking ruins of the city. Oakland received the greatest number of refugees, though Alameda and every other bay point is crowded to the limit.

A late estimate places the number of refugees camping in Golden Gate park at 15,000 men, women and chilmost unsanitary conditions prevail. Refuse will, it is declared, in fect the water supply, seeping into the broken mains, breeding pestilence.

Chinatown's Underground City. Los Angeles, April 21.—"Strange is the scene where San Francisco's Chinatowa stood," says W. W. Overton, who resched Los Angeles among the refugees. "No heap of smoking ruins marks the site of the wooden warrens where the Chinese dwelt in thousands. The place is pitted with deep holes and seared with dark passageways, from whose depths come smoke wreaths. White men never knew the depth of Chinatown's underground city," says Mr. Overton. "They often talked of these subterranean runways, and many of them had gone beneath the street levels, two and three stories. But now that Chinastroyed buildings were only a mask, men from the hillside have looked on its inner secrets. In places they can see passages 100 feet deep. I saw hundreds of fright-crazed yellow men flee. In their arms they bore their cpium pipes, their money bags, their silks and their children. Besides them ran the baggy-trousered women, and some of them hobbled painfully. But these were the men and women of the surface. Far beneath the street levels in those cellars and passageways, were other lives. Women who never saw the day from their darkened prisons, and blinking jailors were caught like rats in a huge trap. Their very bones were eaten by the flames. And now there remain only the holes. They pit the hillside like a multitude of ground swallow nests. They show depths which the police never knew. The secret of those burrows will never be known, for into them the hungry fire first sifted its red coals and then licked eagerly in tongues of creeping flames, finally obliterating everything,

Oakland a Vast City of Refuge. Oakland, April 21 .- Oakland is a vast city of refuge and an intelligence office for the innumerable thousands of refugees from San Francisco. A great section of the population of that stricken city has taken every available space that offers itself in Oakland and shelter and food are being provided for all, though the relief committee is taxed to the limit of its powers. The tremendous and almost hopeless task has been begun of trying to reunite scattered families, of getting trace of lost ones, of determining whether the missing are dead or still safe somewhere in the great and tangled mass of stricken refugees that spreads itself over all the country through a thousand highways on this side of the bay and in the San Mateo country to buildings on the west side of Van the south of San Francisco. Messages are stacked yards high in all the telegraph offices waiting to be sent throughout the world.

except the earth itself."

Havoc in Other Cities. San Jose, Cal., April 21.-Nineteen people were killed in San Jose and the entire business section wrecked, damage \$5,000,000. One hundred and ten killed and seventy injured, mostly patients, at Agnew's asylum, buildversity memorial church and other

Estimates of Property Loss. New York, April 21.—Fire insurance

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