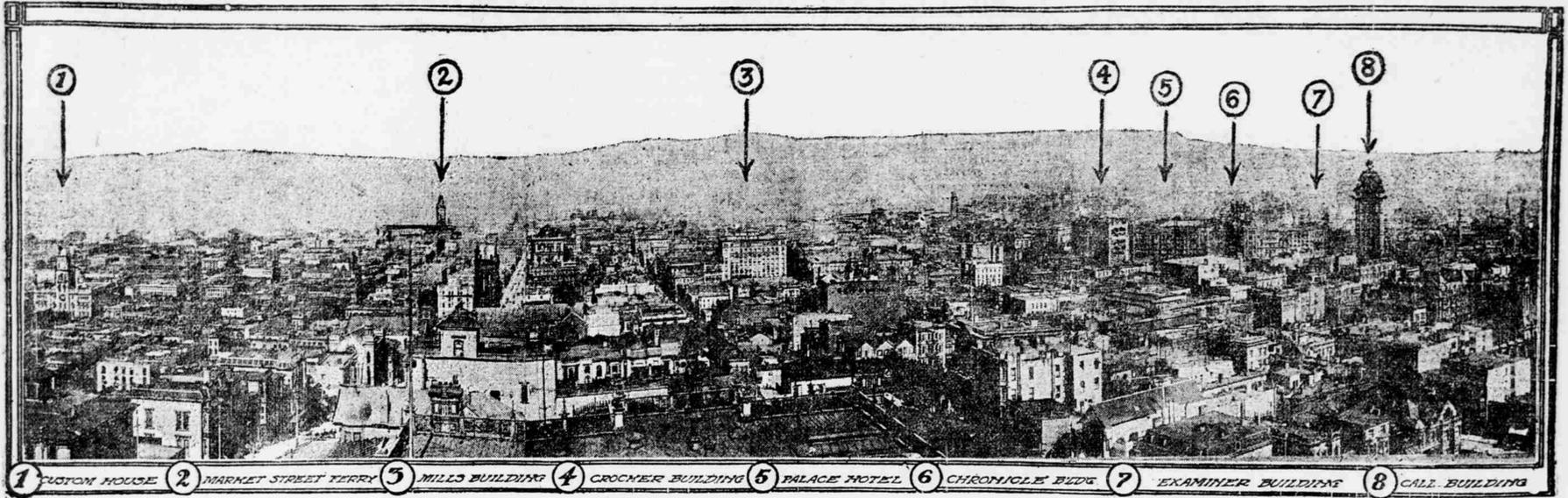


SAN FRANCISCO RAVAGED BY EARTHQUAKE AND FLAMES



PANORAMIC VIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO, SHOWING MANY BUILDINGS DESTROYED BY SHOCK AND FIRE.

Frightful Seismic Shock Shatters Half of the Town.

Water Mains Broken and Fire Completes the Ruin.

Other Cities on the Pacific Also Stricken by the Great Disaster.

Appalling Loss of Life and Millions of Dollars Worth of Property Destroyed.

Many New and Costly Skyscrapers and Big Stores Fall in Heaps of Debris.

Torn and shattered by the earthquake, which was followed by devastating fire, San Francisco is a city of ruins. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of lives have been snuffed out and millions upon millions of dollars in property are lost. Where stood its stately buildings are piles of twisted steel and ruined stone. The homes of many families were wrenched into fragments and the lives they sheltered taken.

The first shock was felt just at dawn Wednesday, and the disturbances continued for several minutes. The earlier

Swiftly the seismic visitant came, and as swiftly did it go. Behind was a trail of dead and dying. And after that the flames! Nature, that rolled the earth into waves and struck down great piles of stone and marble, furnished a dismal and dreadful aftermath in a tempest of wind. The wind fanned the flames and the flames speedily completed the horrifying work of the earthquake.

Thousands undoubtedly owe their lives to the early hour at which the seismic shocks brought their widespread ruin. The district most damaged is the business portion of the town. At the time of the shock—5:13 o'clock a. m.—these structures practically were deserted, and their collapse caused comparatively little loss of life. A few hours later and they would have been veritable human beehives. Then the disaster would have been something almost beyond the power of the human mind to grasp.

By the time the earthquake reached its destructive period the streets of the city were crowded with thousands of terror-stricken persons, who rushed to and fro and endeavored to keep out of the way of falling buildings. Human beings were supposed to have been caught in the falling debris and crushed to death or killed later by the fires which sprung up all through the business portion of the city.

In general it may be said that the district lying between Market and Howard streets, from the bay as far west as the city hall, has been badly wrecked. The Call and Examiner Buildings, as well as the Western Union Building, have been wrecked. The large department stores in this neighborhood also were ruined. Farther east on Market street toward the Ferry Slips, is a section occupied by cheap lodging-houses and hotels and here the loss of life is reported to be great.

Fire Follows the Shock.
Fire followed the crumbling of buildings along Market street, and the firemen were powerless to prevent the spread of the flames. The earthquake had broken the mains on the big street and twisted off the side mains, and it was almost impossible to take steamers through the debris in the streets. Vol-



Chicago Tribune.

Near 4th and Stevenson streets the old red wood buildings made good tinder for the flames. Fire swept through the debris of the poorer buildings and soon got beyond control of the fire fighters. Across the street the fire swept, licking up the debris in front of the Winchester rooming house. Fire spread to the buildings along the west side of 3d street. Desperate efforts were made with powder, dynamite and other explosives to stop the flames.

One block away the Palace Hotel was threatened by the sweep of the flames. With no water to extinguish the fire, the big hostelry seemed doomed. Calls were sent to the Presidio for soldiers to help save the business district from being entirely swept by the conflagration. Powder, dynamite and other explosives were tried on the blazing piles of debris.

On Market street merchants stood in their doors calling loudly for wagons and offering big sums to the drivers who would load up with their goods.

Water Front in Flames.
Carried by a strong breeze, the brands from the Market street fires landed on the water front and threatened the lumber, oil and steamship docks. On Fremont street one of the worst fires of the early morning threatened to destroy a block in the wholesale district. Small fires appeared in the debris on California and Pine streets. Soon the flames, unchecked by water or explosives, gained such headway that all the wooden buildings as far as Sansome street were attacked.

A strong westerly wind became stronger as the morning wore away. It fanned the several blazes in the heart of the business district and threatened to spread the fire throughout a section filled with valuable merchandise. As the noon hour drew near the flames were spreading in every direction, and the destruction by fire bid fair to eclipse the damage wrought by the earthquake. The loss of life seems to have been confined to the poorer districts and manufacturing territory. On lower Market street, the main thoroughfare of the city, block after block of substantial buildings was destroyed. The Valencia Hotel, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, on Valencia street, a five-story frame building, toppled over into the street, burying seventy-five people in the debris.

At Eighteenth and Valencia there is a crevice in the street six feet wide and entire sidewalks are torn up. The street cartracks are badly twisted all

through the southern section of the city. Davis street, Font street, Battery street, Sanson, Montgomery, Kearney, Spear, Main, Beale and Fremont streets—all were in the area of the earthquake's greatest fury. Early reports indicated that the quaking earth shook all buildings along these thoroughfares from their foundations and piled the debris high.

The cheap tenement house districts suffered terribly. Old buildings, constructed in the days of redwood, and dilapidated and tottering, collapsed with a succession of roars. Fires appeared in the ruins, but the fire fighters were almost powerless to extinguish the flames.

Big Buildings Fall.
The offices of the Postal Telegraph Company, in the Hobart Building, were wrecked. The Associated Press Build-



THE CITY HALL.

ing at 302 Montgomery street also was destroyed. The \$7,000,000 City Hall rocked and creaked in the earthquake, portions of it collapsing, bringing added terror to the people who had rushed into the streets near by. Scarcely had the people realized the extent of the great calamity when reports began to come in from surrounding places indicating that the shock had been disastrous throughout a wide area. Some experts on seismic disturbances estimated that a portion of California 100 miles in diameter had come within the zone of greatest activity.

Night added to the horror, and as darkness fell the sky was illuminated

by the brilliant conflagration. There was no light in the city except the light that meant the destruction of homes and the loss of life. The final dying out of the fires leave only a barren sand dune dotted with the blackened ruins of what was a great city.

Ten Square Miles Burned.
Ten square miles of the heart of the city were burned over, the water supply was cut off because of the twisted and broken mains, and the frantic residents, aided by Federal troops, fought the flames with dynamite in an effort to save the remainder of the city from destruction. The property loss is estimated at \$200,000,000.

General Funston, in command of the United States troops at the Presidio, declared the city under martial law as soon as the extent of the horror became apparent, and the troops and police worked together to save life, protect property and recover the dead. The earthquake shock destroyed so many of the fire engine houses that the department would have been virtually powerless even had the water supply not been destroyed.

The saturnalia of crime and looting which began when the soldiers sacked the saloons broke out afresh with the darkness, and unnumbered, untold crimes were committed on every side. No historian will ever describe the tortures which the homeless suffered; none dare attempt to recount the agonies of those who sought the ruins of their homes and missing members of their household; none may think of the woe and doom of those buried beneath the wreckage or consumed by the remorseless flames.

Number of Dead Never Known.
It will be many days before the complete story of the ruin wrought by the double calamity of earthquake and fire that visited San Francisco will be written and then there will still remain untold countless tales of pitiful tragedy.

The exact loss of life will never be known, as hundreds of unfortunates have been incinerated in the flames which made the rescue of those buried under toppling steeples and falling walls impossible.

Famine in its most terrible form expanded through the devastated city and stricken inhabitants Thursday. Hunger, growing into the first stages of starvation, faced the spent thousands who slept Wednesday night in the public squares, or on the bare pavements of the city's streets. Thirst, the most terrifying of the torments to follow the earthquake, drove men and women mad.

Vandals caught in the act of robbing dead bodies were shot without explanation and their bodies consigned to the flames of some burning buildings, without any further formality. The soldiers patrolling the streets were ordered to kill, forthwith, any person seen robbing the dead or burglarizing unprotected places of business. Fully a score of men were killed under this order.

The hysteria and terror of the people were indescribable. The sanest and most conservative individuals were affected, and ran about in a state of excitement suggesting madness. Some of them had lost a wife, a mother, or, indeed, as was true in scores of instances, their entire family. Others had seen their property waste away before their eyes. First the mysterious attack by nature from underground, and then the fearful onslaught of the flames encouraged by a gale. These persons became irresponsible. They resisted officers and would not obey firemen. They insisted on rushing into the ruins to search for the bodies of their dead or to retrieve valuables. Scores of lives were thrown away through foolhardiness. Then came the stream of complaints, and under the stress of circumstances, rapidly growing desperate, the chief of the military commanded his men to shoot such offenders on sight.

Berkeley Is Damaged.
Later reports extended the region of earthquake to the Rocky Mountains and included much of the Pacific slope in the area of shocks. At Berkeley where the State university is located, there was a big fire, the result of the earth-

EPITOME OF THE CATASTROPHE.

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| The dead in San Francisco (estimated) | 1,000 |
| The dead, inmates of insane asylum at Agnew's | 275 |
| The dead in San Jose | 65 |
| The dead in Santa Rosa | 300 |
| The dead at other points | 150 |
| The injured (estimated) | 3,000 |
| Estimated property loss | \$200,000,000 |
| Number of square miles devastated | 10 |
| Number of city blocks destroyed | 1,000 |
| Number of buildings in ruins | 30,000 |
| Number of persons made homeless | 150,000 |
| Number of hotels destroyed | 8 |
| Newspapers offices in ruins | 3 |
| Telegraph and telephone offices wiped out | 3 |
| City placed under martial law | |

Other Places Stricken.
Santa Rosa—Town practically destroyed; 300 persons killed and 10,000 made homeless.

San Jose—Majority of buildings shattered and 65 persons killed.

Palo Alto—All buildings but one of Leland Stanford University thrown down and two persons killed.

Santa Cruz—Number of buildings demolished and many persons reported killed.

Monterey—Great damage done to property and some fatalities.

Gilroy—Large property loss.

Agnew—State insane asylum demolished; 275 persons killed and patients running at large.

Hollister—Large property loss.

quake, Nevada felt the force of the quake. All wires west of Reno were thrown down. From Sacramento came the report that miles of railroad track between Suisun and Benicia had sunk out of sight. Wires were carried with the rails.

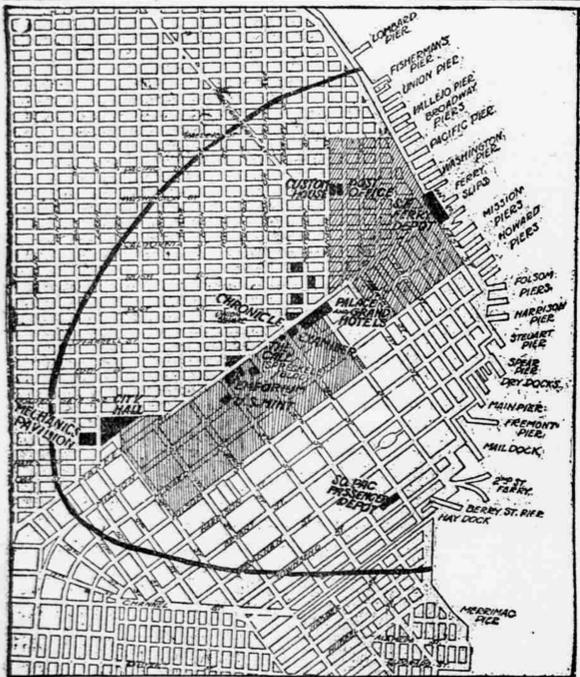
The appalling calamity in San Francisco places that city in a list of Lisbon, Caracas, Naples, and other cities devastated by earthquakes. The horrors of the situation in California are the greater because San Francisco is a populous and commercial city. The earthquake destroyed at once hundreds of business blocks and the means of saving others from fire. It paralyzed commerce, destroyed railways and bridges,



cut off communication with other cities, and desolated the country to the south and east.

But, as in the case of Galveston, there will be quick recovery from what seems overwhelming disaster. Naples is a great city in spite of the eruptions of Vesuvius and in spite of earthquakes. Tokio, desolated by earthquakes several times, is the greatest city of Japan. Chicago is greater because of the fire of 1871. Charleston is none the worse for the earthquake of 1886. And San Francisco will rise superior to the great disaster of 1906.

Tents and Rations for Sufferers.
Prompt action was taken by the War Department in extending to the earthquake sufferers of San Francisco all the available resources at its command to relieve the wants of the distressed and to provide shelter for the homeless.



AREAS OF DESTRUCTION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The black line incloses the district in which the earthquake did the greatest damage—the shaded portions of the map show the areas of the big fires in the skyscraper and wholesale districts.

demonstrations were mild, but as they continued the trembling of the earth became so violent that the whole population of the city was disturbed and a large proportion turned into the streets. The communication with the outside world quickly was cut off.

unteers brought supplies of dynamite and began to blow up the blazing debris in a vain effort to confine the conflagration to the ruined area.

All power in the street car and private electric lighting plants was cut off. Wires in tangled masses had been hurled into the streets.