

# The Columbus Journal.

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COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1904.

WHOLE NUMBER 1,711.

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**COLUMBUS JOURNAL.**

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## 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 Iroquois theater at Chicago in the mad hour of Dec. 30. The statistics show 564 humans dead, and scores injured. There have been greater horrors by flood, by volcano, 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.



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 Five 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.

**HIS IDEA WAS GOOD.** Prying Drills Baffled, but Nose Put Newcomers to Rout. A well-known railway company was engaged in boring a tunnel beneath the city, under the old bridge, to the existing tunnel of one of its rivals. One day the contractor received notice to stop the work until certain legal proceedings were completed with.

Jewels were torn from the owners, jorncetts and purses were tossed on the floor. **D.** Dawson, Mrs.; Dilsdorf, Leanders, Lincoln, Ill.; Delee, Miss N.; Dode, Mrs. J. F.; of Delaware, O.; Donaldson, H.; Donaldson, Miss A.; Deles, Miss Viola; Drenforth, Ruth; Drenforth, Helen; Dawson, Grace. **E.** Eberstein, Frank B.; Eisenstead, Herman; Eldridge, Mort; Epen, Emil; Epen, Miss Rosa; Elkah, 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 F.; Foltz, Miss Alice; Foltz, Mrs. C. O.; Fox, Hoyt; Fox, Mrs. Emilie Hoyt; Winchella; Foltz, Helen; Frackelhorn, Miss Edith; Frackelhorn, Ella; Frady, Mrs. E. C. **G.** Gariz, Mary Dorothea; Gariz, Barbara; Gerow, Mabel; Geary, Miss Pauline; Gerry, Miss Wilma; Gould, Mrs. B. E.; Gobas, J.; Guderbaugh, Sophie. **H.** Hall, Emperly; Harbrough, Mary

**LIST OF THE DEAD.**  
A. Adamek, Mrs. Joha; Austrian, Walter D.  
B. Barker, Miss Ethel; Barnhiesel, Charles H.; Bartlett, Mrs. C. D.; Bartlett, Ill.; Beurlet, William C.; Beyersloh, Helen; Bissinger, Walter B.; Bivvley, Mrs. H. G.; Bodice, N. W.; Brewster, Miss Julia; Brinkley, Mrs. Emma; Buchman, Margaret; Bickford, C. M.; Boise, Beano; Buschwah, Louise; Beyers, —; Butler, Mrs. Rosa; Butler, Rose; Bymfuth, Ruth.  
C. Cain, Miss Lucy; Clark, E. D.; Clayton, Vinton; Cohn, Mrs. Jacob; Corcoran, —; Cooper, C. L.; Conell, Thomas; Cooper, Helen; Coulis, R. H.; Curran, May; Crook, E. S.; Caldwell, A. R.  
D. Dawson, Mrs.; Dilsdorf, Leanders, Lincoln, Ill.; Delee, Miss N.; Dode, Mrs. J. F.; of Delaware, O.; Donaldson, H.; Donaldson, Miss A.; Deles, Miss Viola; Drenforth, Ruth; Drenforth, Helen; Dawson, Grace.  
E. Eberstein, Frank B.; Eisenstead, Herman; Eldridge, Mort; Epen, Emil; Epen, Miss Rosa; Elkah, 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 F.; Foltz, Miss Alice; Foltz, Mrs. C. O.; Fox, Hoyt; Fox, Mrs. Emilie Hoyt; Winchella; Foltz, Helen; Frackelhorn, Miss Edith; Frackelhorn, Ella; Frady, Mrs. E. C.  
G. Gariz, Mary Dorothea; Gariz, Barbara; Gerow, Mabel; Geary, Miss Pauline; Gerry, Miss Wilma; Gould, Mrs. B. E.; Gobas, J.; Guderbaugh, Sophie.  
H. Hall, Emperly; Harbrough, Mary

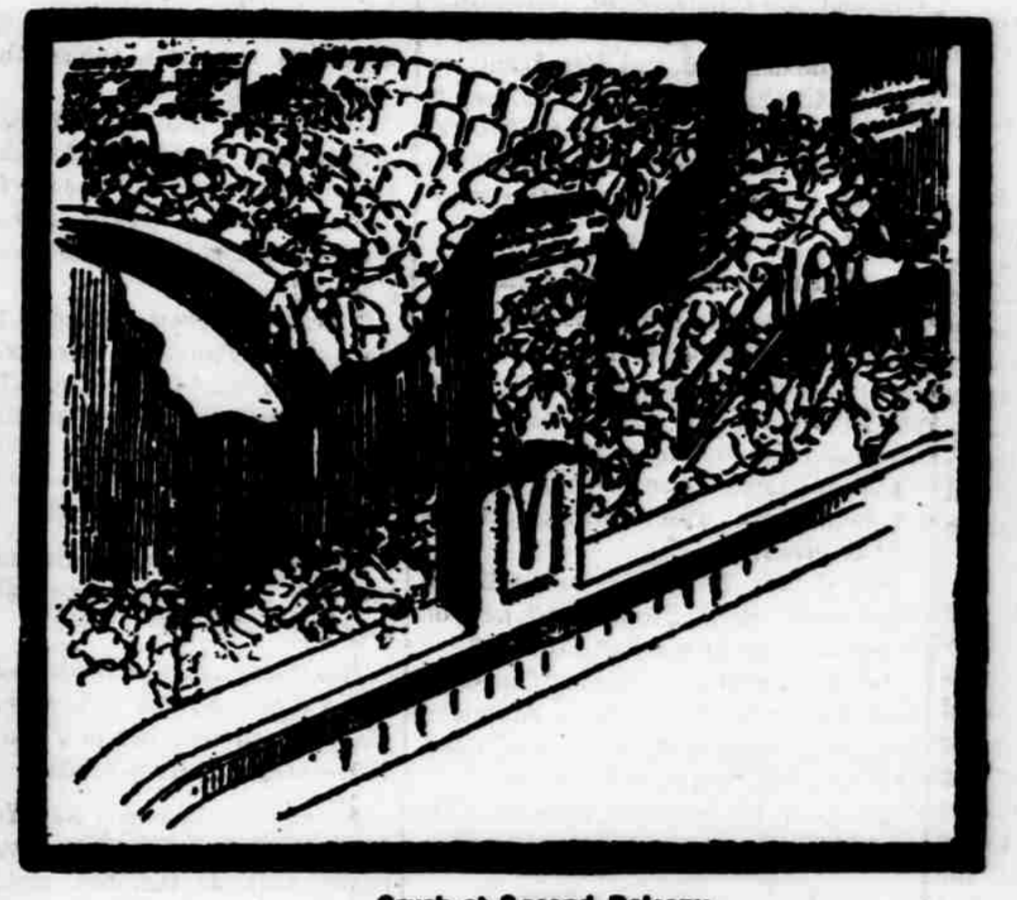
**GOT THE TICKET, AS USUAL.** Artist Unsuccessful in Effort to Reform Model. Oron Lowell, the magazine illustrator, used to have a model he valued highly because he could wear evening clothes. "He is a gentleman," something which the professional model cannot always do. The fellow had apparently seen better days, but the only remaining relic of them was his dress suit and his ability to wear it. He would usually turn up fifteen minutes before the appointed time for his sitting, wearing a shabby business jacket, and after some moments' rapid talk on any subject which came uppermost he would say: "Sir, I am very sorry—I regret to say—I feel it more than you can possibly imagine that I am overwhelmed with confusion—but—but, sir—but, I was obliged, absolutely obliged, to acquiesce—to hypothecate—in short, to hook my evening garments for \$2. Redeem them, sir, and I am at your service. Here is the ticket." This went on day after day, till finally Mr. Lowell hit on the plan of hiring his business suit while he was out of the room, telling him that the charwoman had carried it off by mistake, and sending him away at the end of the sitting in his evening rig, confident that he had no other day ready to wear. The hour arrived; also a messenger boy with this note: "Honored Sir—I cannot find words to convey to you—I stand speechless, sir, agast, sir—but, ah, fatal but—but, I was driven—forced—compelled—again to pledge my evening garments as collateral security for the sum of \$2. Redeem them, and I am at your service. I am at the pawnbroker's, in bed in a back room. Sir, I enclose the ticket."—Philadelphia Post.

## HOLIDAY MATINEE TURNED IN FEW MINUTES TO FEARFUL TRAGEDY

### 564 PERSONS DIE IN FIRE IN CHICAGO THEATER

**Men, Women and Children Burned, Suffocated or Trampled Beneath Rushing Feet—People in Galleries Cut Off from All Escape and Await an Awful Fate—Firemen and Police in Heroic Rescue Work—Bodies Found Piled in Heaps.**

The story of the destruction of the Iroquois theater by fire on the afternoon of Dec. 30, by which 564 lives were lost, is as follows: The theater was almost in darkness in the second act. The stage was lighted only by the soft artificial beams from the calcium, which lent beauty to the scene during the singing of "The Pale Moonlight" by the double sextet.



Crush at Second Balcony.

girls forced the words from their throats until two of their number swooned. The audience could no longer be controlled. Reassuring Words in Vain. Eddie Foy, the principal comedian, rushed from the wings to the footlights, but his words of reassurance were in vain. Clouds of smoke poured from the stage into the auditorium, enveloping the struggling mass of panic-stricken men, women and children. Behind the scenes all was confusion. It required but a moment to perceive that the fire had gone too far to be conquered by the amateur fire brigade formed by the stage hands. In the dressing-rooms as high as the sixth story were the scores of girls of the ballet. At the first alarm the elevator boy fled from his post and the flames soon shot upward in the narrow ways and made escape by the narrow stairways impossible.

Within a block are a dozen great buildings occupied almost exclusively by doctors, and in a remarkably short time a great host of physicians came to give voluntary service to those in distress. They saved the lives of scores of women and children, frenzied with pain, who would have died in the street or under the kindly shelter of the neighboring buildings. Rush from Orchestra Seats. The great majority of those who occupied orchestra seats had escaped with their lives, though scores were badly hurt in the rush. Some were knocked down, and, with broken limbs, were unable to rise. They had been left to die with a number of women who fainted from fright. With those bodies were found the corpses of those who had leaped from the balcony and galleys. The greatest loss of life occurred when the firemen went to remove the bodies they found 100 or more piled in indescribable mass in each place. The clothes were torn completely away from some of the bodies. Here and there a jeweled hand protruded from the pile. All the faces were distorted with the death agonies.