

SEVEN FIREMEN ARE KILLED

Number of Others, Including the Chief, Injured by the Falling of Walls.

SOME GIVE UP THEIR LIVES FOR OTHERS

Caught by Final Crash While Attempting to Rescue Comrades—St. Louis Department Meets One of Worst Disasters in Years.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5.—The fire that last night destroyed the five-story building at 111 and 114 Chestnut street, occupied by the American Tent and Awning company, resulted in the death of seven firemen who were crushed by the falling walls and floors. Three of the bodies have been recovered and the firemen are digging at the immense heaps of ruins in order to reach the others. A number of firemen, among them Chief Swingley, were injured by flying debris, but none seriously. The total financial loss of building and contents is today estimated by Chief Swingley at \$75,000. It is believed this is fully covered by insurance.

The fire broke out last night, the coldest of the season, about 8 o'clock. Several fire companies responded to the alarm and soon had the fire partially under control. An hour after the fire started timbers and inflammable material on the upper floors continued to burn and a line was run up to extinguish the flames. Three firemen were operating this stream when the floor on which they stood gave way without warning and they fell with it.

Give Lives for Others. Assistant Chief Thiery, who was on a lower floor, heard the crash. Gathering together a few men he went to the rescue of his comrades. Hardly had the rescuers disappeared into the structure when the front wall fell forward, crushing the building, crushing, burning beneath its ruins everyone inside. Spectators, police officers and firemen on Chestnut street saw the wall totter and managed to escape on either side before it fell.

Chief Swingley says that the successive collapses of floor and walls came without warning and at a time when the fire seemed to have been placed under control.

"To all appearances," said the chief, "there was no danger to the firemen who went into the upper floors."

The fire was all on the fourth and fifth floors and more on the fifth than on the fourth. Under such circumstances no one would expect a building to collapse.

"With Dan Steele, foreman of No. 12, were Charles Krenning of No. 13 and Mike Kehoe of No. 12.

"Those of us who were in front of the building heard a crash at the rear, but did not know exactly what had happened until Krenning came out.

"Krenning ran to Assistant Chief Thiery. He said: 'Chief, the floor fell and two men on the pipe are covered up.'

"Give me some men," said Thiery to me, and I'll go back and get them. Thiery and I called for men and as four men came up Thiery started to lead the way. Krenning followed right behind Thiery. Then came Frank McBride and Dundon. Wand and Juelich went last.

Came Without Warning. Two minutes later came the crash. I never saw a catastrophe come so without warning. I was knocked down by the debris and fell under the water tower. When I got up, half stunned, the building was in ruins and the only thing that could be done was to put the men at work digging to get out those who were inside."

According to Chief Swingley, one of the most skillful battles against flames in the department's history had been fought. A conflagration that half an hour before had threatened a whole block at least and might easily have extended farther had been restrained.

The building, which was nearly fifty years old, was weak and the water which it had been flooded loosened its joints and soaked its walls. When the firemen entered the walls were already tottering, but there was nothing to warn them of their peril. When the building collapsed the debris filled the alley and fell clear across Chestnut street. William O'Donnell, John Purcell and William O'Connell of salvage corps No. 1 were covering material with tarpaulins on an upper floor when the wall started to fall. They were carried outward with it and landed safely in the street.

William Wann, foreman of engine company No. 13, was on the second floor when the collapse came. Falling plaster warned him of it and he stepped down the banister to the first floor and ran into the street. Patrick F. McCarty and William Juelich, who were about to enter the building to assist in the rescue of their comrades, were struck by falling debris.

When the building fell all the light circuits in the neighborhood were cut and darkness was added to the horror of the scene. The debris had smothered what little fire remained in the building just before the collapse.

All Hands to the Rescue. Chief Swingley ordered his men from their pipes and engines and put them to work digging in the debris for the men who had been caught. How many were in the ruins was not known. Fifteen persons were thought to be in the building when it collapsed. Only a roll call could tell how many had escaped. Darkness handicapped the rescuers in their work, for all the electric wires were cut. The groans of their comrades in the debris were their only guide.

HUMBOLDT FAN FOR ST. JOSEPH. "Briek" Linn Signs Contract with Manager of Missouri Team.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—"Briek" Linn, crack pitcher of this city, has signed the contract submitted to him by the manager of the St. Joseph team and will begin work at the opening of the season. Negotiations have also been under way to secure Guy Field, another star of this city, who possesses more than the average of speed and endurance.

Omaha Defeats Fremont. FREMONT, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—The Omaha bowling team played the Fremont team at Motley's alleys this evening and won by a close score.

School of Nines Possible. DENVER, Feb. 5.—A truce has been declared in the trouble at the State Normal school at Golden and it has been agreed to submit all differences to a tribunal. Under this agreement the deserted school will receive a new set of students. The board of arbitration will consist of the three presidents of the higher classes of students and three professors chosen by the students.

QUALITIES AN ACTRESS NEEDS. Clara Morris Says They Include Virtue, Genius, Diligence.

OMAHA PARDONS DAY OF D-LAY. Lecturer Says Embarrassment Was No Fault of Her, and Audience Enjoys Her Discussion of Stage Life.

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After the address she received informally on the stage and talked frankly of her literary efforts, which she styled "Only gentle rapping at the door of a new profession." She looked well, wore a smart gown of black and adorned her fingers with three rings of a purity not to be questioned.

Her husband, F. C. Herrick, in response to inquiries made by a reporter after the entertainment concerning the breach reported to have opened between him and the Broadhursts, said: "I confidently expect that matter to be smoothed over without trouble, for I am not in the attitude of a belligerent. Not only will Miss Morris lecture in Lincoln Thursday, but I think she will continue on until her contract is fulfilled. I am extremely sorry for the incident of last night, but only because of the inconvenience it caused the Omaha audience and the worry it has cost the little woman herself. I have been a manager in the theatrical business too long to turn any more gray hairs myself. As for E. J. Hansen, I simply don't know him."

Mr. Hansen awaits instructions. The Mr. Hansen referred to is the avowed representative of Thomas W. Broadhurst on the tour. He went to the theater last night at 8 o'clock and was eyed with some apprehension by Superintendent C. G. Pearce and others of the committee on pardons, and lecture bureau, under the auspices of which the lecture was being given, but he said: "I have no desire to interfere with Miss Morris here nor in Lincoln. What I shall do later cannot announce until I hear from Mr. Broadhurst, who happens to be still in Chicago and who has telegraphed me that he has a letter of instructions now on the way to me here."

When Superintendent Pearce conducted her on the stage last night and presented her, Miss Morris began by saying that she felt as the prodigal son who had at last reached home, but she disclaimed the personal responsibility that rested upon that biblical miscreant forbearing to attempt long explanations or apologies, she addressed herself at once to the task of stripping the stage of its false tapestries and exposing the misery of its dark corners and the delights of its hall of fame with equal fairness.

Advices Marriage for Some. Between the stage-struck girl and the girl wishing to go on the stage, she proclaimed a marked difference. For the one she advised a dip into good, but smart society and the opportunity to wait her way into the protecting embrace of some sensible husband, who she may rest assured will be a good man.

The morals of the stage she defended ardently. Miss Morris emphasized this matter by saying: "After all, acting is an art, a graceful and great one. It is like temple standing upon a high hill. Within that temple, at its very center, is an altar touched only by the lips of a little band of those who have been born of true genius, but dimly do I see many young faces turn toward that temple and many young feet seek eagerly the path to it. It is to the young actresses, then, that I would address myself to say, when you reach that temple, whether you enter the inner circle or advance only to the outer one, prepare for the altar the pure white flower of a staid and simple life."

By her talk and her illustrations Miss Morris convinced her hearers of the truth of her statements that virtue, genius and diligence are all required in a successful actress; that domesticity is not dead in all of them, and that the stage is neither half so grand nor half so mean as it has been depicted.

Gate Citys Take Three. The Gate City bowling team took three games from the St. Joseph team on Lents & Williams' alleys last night. Score:

St. CHARLES. Fritscher..... 1st. 2d. 3d. Total. 108 108 108 324. Willie..... 108 108 108 324. Kansas..... 108 108 108 324. Southy..... 108 108 108 324. Schneider..... 108 108 108 324. Total..... 511 511 511 1534.

GATE CITYS. Huntington..... 1st. 2d. 3d. Total. 108 108 108 324. Hartley..... 108 108 108 324. C. Conroy..... 108 108 108 324. Sheldon..... 108 108 108 324. Seaman..... 108 108 108 324. Total..... 511 511 511 1534.

Marriage Licenses. Marriage licenses have been issued to the following: Name and Residence. Age. Charles Winkey, South Omaha..... 22. Gertrude Bates, South Omaha..... 19. Joseph Dorst, Prague, Neb..... 25. Emma Kiroch, Brainerd, Neb..... 18. Edna Anderson, Laurel, Neb..... 20. Emma Olson, Holbrook, Neb..... 18. Willard J. Estes, Omaha..... 29. Annie C. Kennedy, St. Louis..... 22. Fred M. Vandervoort, Omaha..... 27. Venella Clarendon, Omaha..... 27. Newton Ray Bryson, South Omaha..... 23. Nellie Grace Gartin, Omaha..... 18. Andrew F. Ahlstrom, Stanton, Ia..... 45. Christine Henderson, Omaha..... 45.

Legal Legion Meets. The Military Order of the Legal Legion, commandery of Nebraska, held its regular monthly meeting in its rooms in the Range block last night. The meeting was a business one. Captain J. J. Mercer was elected member-at-large. Applications for members of the second class were received from George M. Pritchard and F. H. Urdike. The application of Edgar S. Leavenworth for membership of the first class by inheritance was received. At the conclusion of the meeting, a social was served. Those present represented the Omaha contingent of the city and members from out of the city being present.

Tark Turns His Man. The Terrific Tark did not have to part with any of his men at the Trocadero last night for Charles Mustain, who appeared with the mat with him, was a regular. He required fifteen minutes, Maudslough did to work for eleven minutes to nail the mat with him. Tonight will be the wrestling match between the Terrific Tark and Farmer Burns.

Small Wins Walking Match. LEAD, S. D., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—The twenty-four hour walking match, started in the Miner's union opera house Sunday evening, was won by Joseph Nessel, who had walked 113 miles in the first round, second, with 114 miles in his second, and 115 miles in his third, and 148 miles in the twenty-four hours.

Additional to Emergency Hospital. One thousand dollars has been appropriated for the erection of additional booths at the emergency hospital. At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the city council was called together and Health Commissioner

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Victor H. Coffman presented to them the need of additional rooms at the emergency hospital. He explained that the present booths capable of accommodating fifty patients and the councilmen appropriated that amount for the purpose.

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