

MILLIONS BURN UP

Big Cincinnati Blast for a Time Threatens Entire Business District.

FLAMES RAGE FOR NEARLY TWELVE HOURS

Half a Square in Heart of City is Totally Destroyed by Fire.

DAMAGE IS ESTIMATED AT \$2,000,000

Pike Theater and Scores of Offices Go Up in Clouds of Smoke.

FALLING CLIFF SAVES ACTOR'S LIFE

Seeks Refuge on Roof and Secures Timely Success by Dropping Message Penciled Hurdly on Wearing Apparel.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 26.—This city was visited with a fire today that destroyed one-half of a square in the center of the business district and caused a loss of over \$2,000,000.

The fire departments of Covington, Newport and other Kentucky towns came promptly to the assistance of the local firemen, but it took nearly twelve hours before their combined efforts got the fire under control. Crews were at work all the time on the roofs of surrounding buildings, and a general conflagration was narrowly averted.

It was perhaps the greatest scare the city ever had, as it was thought at one time that the entire business section was doomed, and such would have been the case if there had been a high wind.

Joseph Schaefer and John Kennan were seriously injured by falling walls, but both will recover. Captain O'Keefe, with seven firemen, was caught on the roof of one of the buildings, and all came near perishing when the flames broke out under them, but they were rescued in the nick of time, and it is not believed any lives were lost.

About 1:30 this morning flames were discovered in the cellar of George J. Coffey's grocery building on Fourth street, between Vine and Walnut. An hour later there was an explosion, supposed to come from liquor in storage, and the flames soon afterward shot up through the roof of the six-story stone front building, and from that time on for several hours the fire was beyond control.

The Pike building was totally destroyed, including the offices of the United States Express company, the Adams Express company, White's restaurant, owned by Maynard & Kerr; George J. Coffey's grocery, John B. Martin's restaurant, Empson's confectionery, Henry Strauss' cigar store and the offices of the Pike theater company on the first floor, the Pike theater auditorium and green rooms and other offices on the second floor and all of the offices on the third, fourth and fifth floors.

The Seaso, Good building, adjoining the Pike building on the west, at the corner of Vine and Fourth streets, was badly damaged.

Adjoining Buildings Damaged.

The building adjoining the Pike building on the east, owned by the L. B. Harrison estate and occupied by the Robert Clark company, publishers, and Duham Bros., jewelers, on the first floor, and others in the upper stories, was totally destroyed. The Foodie building, east of the Robert Clark company and Duham Bros., occupied by the Norfolk & Western railway, and others, was badly damaged, while the Carleis building, occupied by the Southern Pacific railway company and Smith & Sons and the Cincinnati Trust company, on the first floor, and very many offices on the other floors, were damaged.

The front stone wall of the Pike building and those of adjoining structures, owned by Robert Clark & Co., and the Duham Bros. jewelry store and the Seaso Good building, withstood the heat and did not fall. The rear walls of these buildings, however, which are of brick, gave way with the falling floors.

The fire swept across the alley known as Baker street and burned the large publishing house of the American Book company at the corner of Baker street and other property along Baker street and did great damage to the houses of the Gibson, the Emery and the Stagg hotels, which were in close proximity to the fire.

The Kankakee building, which is diagonally across the street from the Seaso Good building and Pike opera house and is occupied by the United States Express, was threatened and all the wires of the Western Union for hours were in danger, but this location was spared, although it had a narrow escape. It was not until noon that the fire was got under control and a general conflagration was averted.

As the danger that about twenty people sleep in the Pike building, there were at first reports that several lives had been lost, but none of these reports have been confirmed.

Rescued with Difficulty.

There were, however, many narrow escapes. Night Watchmen John Agin and Matt Garretton and Harry Richardson, doorkeeper, saved six lives by entering the building and forcing their way through the smoke and rescuing lodgers. Five men were asleep in rear room of the Pike building when they were rescued by having their door broken. They were John Mulvera, B. W. Weigler, H. C. Storey, J. F. McDonald and W. C. Asker. As yet, matters of conjecture. A rumor that the Rock Island will take over the Morgan holdings in the Georgia Central as part payment to Morgan & Co. for their management of the financial details could not be confirmed.

SHORT COAL CAUSES SUIT

Dealer Brings Action to Recover One Million Dollars from Fuel Company.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—A suit for \$2,000,000, growing out of the recent stringency in the coal market, was filed in the superior court today by H. P. Rejzari, a coal dealer and broker at St. Joseph, Mo., against the Manufacturers' Coal and Coke company.

The plaintiff claims he had a contract with the coal company for five years in which it agreed to furnish 2,500 tons of coal daily. When the scarcity of coal occurred it is said the company refused to keep within the contract.

TAKES THE ALLEGIANCE OATH

Former President Philippine Supreme Court Agrees to Support the United States.

MANILA, Feb. 26.—Mabini, former president of the Philippine supreme court and at one time minister of foreign affairs in the Philippine government, who had previously persistently refused to take the oath of allegiance, took the necessary oath today on board the transport Thomas on his arrival from the island of Guam, to which place he was deported after his surrender in December, 1899, and was permitted to land.

At the request of Mabini, the hour of his landing was not announced so as to prevent demonstrations. Ricarte, the former Philippine general, who had also been a prisoner in the island of Guam, arrived here with Mabini, but as Ricarte refused to take the oath of allegiance, he was placed on board the steamer Gaelic and sent to Hong Kong.

Ricarte said he wanted to confer with his friends, and added that he might take the oath before the United States consul at Hong Kong. General San Miguel has evidently made good his retreat to the Morong mountains, as the scouting parties have failed to locate him. The ladrones abandoned Boobosop when reinforcements reached the government troops.

STALLED TRAVELERS TRAMP

Leave Train Stuck in Snowdrifts to March Across Newfoundland.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Feb. 26.—One of the two blockaded express trains is moving toward this city, and will probably reach here tomorrow or Saturday. The other has not yet been moved.

The latter's passengers left the train yesterday, and traveled across thirty miles of unbroken snow fields, carrying wood in knapsacks and their shoulders and guiding themselves by the telegraph poles. They reached an open section of the line on this side of the country this morning and are expected to reach here in a few days, the track not admitting of faster progress.

As he alighted from his carriage he was hailed by a young man who was struggling in the crowd and whom the police were trying to force back.

"I'm Mike Cronin," he said, "and I want to hear you speak," he shouted. President Roosevelt instantly recognized him as the driver who drove him on the last stage of his journey to North Creek to take the train for Buffalo, after being notified of the death of President McKinley.

"Delighted to see you," replied the president, who, addressing the police, said: "Let that man pass." Grasping Cronin's hand, he led him into the hall and saw that he had a seat near him on the platform.

The president then introduced the president introduced Cronin to the members of the party and told them the story of his furious night drive along the Adirondacks roads to catch the train.

Cheers and hand clapping announced the arrival of the president, who advanced from the rear of the platform, accompanied by the chairman. When he reached the front of the stage he bowed slightly and then walked over to the seat reserved for him behind the reading desk.

The chairman then announced the hymn, "Flow, Ye Trumpets, Blow," by Charles Wesley.

Mr. Bowen, in introducing the president, said Methodism is constantly growing, except possibly in a few effete cities on the Atlantic seaboard.

President Praises Wesley.

President Roosevelt spoke as follows: "I am glad to have the chance of addressing this representative body of the great church which Wesley founded, on the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of his birth. I have a peculiar proprietary claim on Wesley's memory, for it is on our continent that the Methodist church is its greatest development.

In the days of our colonial life Methodism was not on the whole a great factor in the religious and social life of the people. The Congregationalists, the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians were the dominant churches, while the Methodists were more numerous along what was then the frontier. The Quaker, Catholic and Dutch Reformed churches had had developments in special places. The great growth of the Baptist church began at about the time of the revolutionary war.

Since the days of the revolution not only the Methodist church, but the other churches in the old communities of the thirteen original states, but it has played a peculiar and prominent part in the development of our country and has assumed a position of immense importance west of the Alleghenies.

Preachers Aid Progress.

For a century after the Declaration of Independence the greatest work of our country was done by the preachers. They took possession of this continent. During that century we pushed westward from the Alleghenies to the Pacific, and the Gulf and the Rio Grande, and also took possession of the Alaska territory. The pioneer preachers were the great spiritual force of our nation, and the men who did it for us. It was their work, and theirs alone, that has made this country what it is today. It was their work, and theirs alone, that has made this country what it is today.

Share in Common Toil.

These preachers were of the stamp of old Peter Cartwright—who suffered and overcame every hardship, with their feet and who in addition tamed the wild and fierce spirits of their fellow pioneers. It was their work, and theirs alone, that has made this country what it is today. It was their work, and theirs alone, that has made this country what it is today.

The latest reports indicate that the outcome of the present negotiations will disclose a scheme of far-reaching importance. It is the general belief that a merger or consolidation of the interests in the Frisco, Rock Island, Aichison and Southern roads is contemplated. The Rock Island, according to current gossip, will be the central figure in the deal. Mr. Yoakum is reported to be slated for the presidency of the Rock Island, which, it is predicted, will dominate the situation.

All reports of terms and similar details are as yet matters of conjecture. A rumor that the Rock Island will take over the Morgan holdings in the Georgia Central as part payment to Morgan & Co. for their management of the financial details could not be confirmed.

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CROWDS HEAR ROOSEVELT

Methodists Celebrate Wesley's Life for the Religious World.

PRESIDENT PRAISES OLD MISSIONARIES

Claims Preachers Kept Pioneer Straight and Aided Backwoods-men to Open and Develop Great Western Country.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—President Roosevelt was the chief speaker tonight at a great mass meeting at Carnegie hall, held to do honor to the character and labors of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, scholar, missionary, philanthropist, preacher, gentleman.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the New York thank offering commission, which has had charge of the local work of the Twentieth Century Thank offering fund of \$2,000,000, that has been raised by the Methodists to celebrate the advent of the twentieth century of the Christian era.

Samuel W. Bowen, president, with President Roosevelt as the guest of honor, his hosts were Bishop C. F. Fowler, Bishop Walden, Bishop Goodsell, E. M. Willis, Bishop F. G. Andrews, Dr. James R. Day, Bishop C. H. Fowler, J. Edgar Leacycraft, Rev. Dr. E. S. Tiptoe, executive secretary of the New York Thank offering commission, Dr. J. W. Buchanan, secretary of the Old John Street Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Dr. A. D. Leonard, secretary of the Methodist Missionary society, and Rev. J. B. Remensnyder of the Lutheran church.

The hall was crowded to the doors and hundreds were unable to gain admittance. President Roosevelt reached the hall, escorted by a detachment of mounted police, at 8:30.

Struggles to See Roosevelt.

As he alighted from his carriage he was hailed by a young man who was struggling in the crowd and whom the police were trying to force back.

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GET-RICH FIRM INDICTED

Combination Investment Company Must Stand Trial for Swindling and Embezzlement.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—The grand jury today voted three true bills against George J. Hammond of the Combination Investment company on a charge of swindling and embezzlement.

Attorney William E. Rafferty, representing over 1,800 persons who allege they were swindled by the company, laid before the jury the history of the company, which at one time did a large business in this city. When a receiver was appointed for the company he found assets of \$20,000 and liabilities amounting to \$200,000.

No penalty is to be visited upon H. H. Blackstone, the alleged Chicago manager for E. J. Arnold & Co., the turf investment company. When Blackstone was arraigned before Justice Fridliff today he pleaded guilty to obtaining money by false pretenses from a disinterested party.

G. W. Tores, manager of the Midcontinent Investment company, also raised by the police, forfeited his bonds for \$10,000.

CELIAR RAPIDS, Ia., Feb. 26.—An official statement from the committee of investors in Brodski & Co. shows that Brodski has sold his various pool rooms and withdrawn all his money on deposit at Chicago, Detroit and other places.

The statement says there were 6,300 investors in the concern and the estimated total investment will reach over \$1,000,000, \$100,000 of which was from Cedar Rapids.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—James W. D. Cole, referee in the bankruptcy proceedings against John J. Ryan and C. W. Deppeler, today denied the application of petitioning creditors for the appointment of a receiver.

The referee held that the petitioners had no standing in court and sustained the claim of the defendants that shareholders in the Ryan Investment company were equal partners.

SNOW HALTS CHICAGO EXPRESS

Kansas Delays Prove Too Deep for Rock Island Northbound Train.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 26.—Northbound Chicago and El Paso passenger train on the Rock Island is tied up by snow drifts between Bucklin and Liberal, Kan., with small hopes of getting through to the Missouri before Friday.

Other trains are reported hours behind schedule time.

The heaviest snowstorm in twenty-three years has prevailed in the western portion of the state, but is abating tonight. It extends from Dodge City on south and west to a point on a switch near Omaha.

At Liberal the snow is lying twenty-four inches on the level, while at Santa Rosa it is twelve inches. No trains from the west have arrived here today, the Rock Island train due here last night being stuck up on a switch near Omaha. All west-bound trains are being held at Bucklin.

Railway officials hope that they may be able to get the line clear and trains running some time tonight.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 26.—As a result of the heavy snowfall in northern Texas and northwestern New Mexico railroad traffic in that region is badly delayed.

Several Colorado & Southern and Fort Worth & Denver passenger and freight trains are stuck in snowdrifts between this city and Fort Worth. It has been snowing along this line since Monday evening. The wind has been blowing fiercely, and the railroad cuts are filled in many places with snow packed to a depth of fifteen feet.

NOBLES DO HONOR TO AKIN

Omaha Men Given a Great Reception by the New Orleans Shriners.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Henry C. Akin, imperial potentate of the Mystic Shriners, of Omaha, was given a reception today and tonight at this city and Fort Worth. It has been snowing along this line since Monday evening. The wind has been blowing fiercely, and the railroad cuts are filled in many places with snow packed to a depth of fifteen feet.

At 10 o'clock tonight a banquet followed at the Athenaeum, at which speeches were made and the honors conferred upon the Omaha potentate. A large number of new nobles were admitted to the rank.

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POLICE AID SLAVE TRAFFIC

Protect Agents Who Lure Young Women to Ruin by Specious Promises.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—The Post-Dispatch today says: Startling disclosures of a system of traffic in young women, under police protection, are to be made by the grand jury the result of a raid on resorts which began today.

There are said to be many agents in country towns who daily send recruits to St. Louis, luring them from home with promises of lucrative employment.

LATE CANAL MANAGER DEAD

Colonel Rives Passes Away, Leaving Princess Daughter Mourning End.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 27.—Colonel Alfred Landon Rives, a distinguished civil engineer, died this morning at his home, Castle Hill, in Albemarle county.

He was about 71 years old and leaves three daughters, the eldest the Princess Troubetzkoy. Colonel Rives was for some years general manager of the Panama Canal company.

ALLEGED BOODLER ACQUITTED

St. Louis Registrar is Tried by City Council and Freed from Office.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—Patrick R. Fitzgibbon, city registrar, recently suspended from office on charges of corruption, was tried before the city council today and acquitted.

LACEY OBJECTS TO STATUE

Thinks Virginia Would Do Better to Honor President Monroe.

NORRIS IS LOOKING AROUND CAPITAL

Congressman Stark Defends New Militia Bill from Critics Made by New York Militia Officers.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Representative Lacey of Iowa is decidedly opposed to permitting the erection of the statue of Robert E. Lee in the Statuary hall, Grand Army posts throughout the west are petitioning their members against permitting the statue of Lee to be erected by the state of Virginia in the American parthenon. Representative Lacey, replying to resolution of Cloutman post of Oituma says in his letter:

"With James Monroe still unpraised for his name being in the mouth of every loyal American, north and south, and a household word in every part of the globe created by the living doctrine on which we all unite, it seems to me that Virginia cannot afford to sidetrack him and put Lee instead, whose presence alongside of President Lincoln and Grant in the National Hall of Fame might be considered as a statement to posterity that there was no distinction in merit between those who fought on the side of the union and those who fought against it."

Being of Virginia birth, Major Lacey believes he has a right to take up this question with Virginians in the house of representatives. He is more personal in manner than would a man born outside of the Old Dominion. Continuing his argument against placing the statue of Lee in the Statuary hall, he says in a letter to Captain H. H. Ashby of Ottumwa:

"I do not believe the congress will ever accept this statue, for it ought not to go into the capitol. People are asking why Monroe's statue is not there. They will always be asking why Lee's is there, should it be erected. There are already statues of George Washington in the capitol, though not placed there by Virginians. There is none of Madison or Monroe. I said to one of my friends in the house, 'If this statue is erected, then there ought to be inscribed on the pedestal as showing the net result of general Lee's life the following debit items:

"First, one lost cause."

"Second, one great parental Lee estate at Arlington turned into a cemetery filled with 15,000 union dead."

"Third, one peculiar institution (human slavery) gone into oblivion. The grand old state of Virginia divided, with its coal and timber land transferred to a new state and the debts of the Old Dominion still remaining. As a recognition of these results the monument is erected to a pure minded soldier and general, Robert E. Lee."

Teaches Wrong Idea.

"To teach coming generations there is no difference between fighting under a flag and fighting against it would be a very great mistake. The Statuary hall is one for the teaching of the nation. It should not be used to commemorate the actions of those who only fought to overthrow the national government. There should be forgiveness and fraternity, but that does not involve national abandonment of all distinction between taking up arms for the nation and fighting on the other side, however gallant the fight may have been."

Working for Rosebud Treaty.

Senator Gamble and Representative Burke have had several conferences with Speaker Henderson and Representative Cannon today regarding the Rosebud delegation today stated that they were greatly encouraged by the new law strong hope that they can secure favorable action upon the amended treaty.

Norris Looking Around.

Judge G. W. Norris, congressman-elect from the Fifth Nebraska district, has arrived in Washington, to remain until after the adjournment of congress. Judge Norris will take a run around the departments with a view of familiarizing himself with the several branches of the government service. He will get his supply of stationery and generally fix himself so that he may properly begin his work as congressman after March 4. Mr. Norris had little to say in regard to the political situation at Nebraska. As for Washington, he said it was interesting to him and he looked forward with much pleasure to spending the next two years at the national capitol.

Senator Gamble today made a favorable report on his bill to permit second entries in cases where the first entry has been commuted.

Agree on Western Items.

The conferees on the Indian appropriation have agreed and all items in which Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota were interested are retained in the bill.

Represents Martin Accompanied.

Representative Martin accompanied Captain Griggs, of the Interior department this morning and a conference was had with Secretary Hitchcock regarding the management of the new Wind Cave National park in South Dakota. It is desired to secure an appropriation of \$2,500 for the purpose of erecting certain fences around the park to be made by the grand jury the result of a raid on resorts which began today.

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Snow Friday, Except Fair in Extreme West Portion; Saturday Fair.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday: Hour, Deg., Hour, Deg. 5 a. m. 27 1 p. m. 34 6 a. m. 28 2 p. m. 35 7 a. m. 28 3 p. m. 35 8 a. m. 27 4 p. m. 35 9 a. m. 28 5 p. m. 34 10 a. m. 29 6 p. m. 33 11 a. m. 32 7 p. m. 34 12 m. 34 8 p. m. 34 9 p. m. 34

TALKS FOR PHARMACY BOARD

President Schmidt Says Reports Have Been Made and Fees Assessed For.

President J. H. Schmidt of the State Board of Pharmacy, when questioned yesterday in regard to the report that the house committee on medical affairs and sundry laws had submitted a resolution declaring war against the board because of alleged failure to make yearly reports and render accounts as required by the pharmacy law of the state, said:

"I had no heard of my intended action until I saw the evening paper. I was much surprised, as I and my predecessors have made yearly reports in accordance with the provisions of the law. My report, which I have here, I sent officially to the governor, the state auditor, the secretary of the state association and to every registered pharmacist in the state. I have here my letter of transmittal, which you see is endorsed by Governor Savage with a note of thanks. I did not receive any letter of acknowledgment from the auditor, however, as he has been recommissioned. The action was taken this morning when the bill came up for third reading. Anderson of Saline led the fight on the bill under a call of the house and after lengthy caucusing the vote to recommit was unanimous.

Union Pacific Strike.

The Union Pacific strike was taken up in the Nebraska legislature this morning by way of a resolution by Koetter of Douglas, asking for an investigation of the assets in which the United States mails are being handled by the Union Pacific railroad. The resolution was introduced by request, presumably the desire of the strikers. It states that the United Pacific railroad, owing to the care of the mails, is not delivering the United States mails on time and is consequently injuring not only the state of Nebraska, but other portions of the United States which have use for transcontinental mail service. The resolution, if adopted, asks the second assistant postmaster general to investigate the matter with a view to remedying all delays. The resolution was referred to the committee on railroads