Fire and Explosion Followed by Terrible Scenes Among the Audience.

OVER FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS

The New Iroquois Theatre the Scene of the Awful Catastrophe.

Men, Women and Children Trampled to Death in the Stampede.

Chicago Disaster Summarized

Total number of dead Total number of bodies recovered plosion of a calcium light apparatus; accounts differ. S.ene of con Lagr.t on.-This Iroquois Theatre, on Randolph street, between State and Dearborn; the rewest, most expensive, and, presumably, the safest place of nmusement in Chicago. Estimated number in theatre at time of tragedy-1,300. When the fire broke out a spectator in the gallery called "Fire" and an indexcibable panic resulted, hundreds of women being trampled under foot in the mad rule for the exits. The asbestos fire curtain failed to work properly and looped half way down creating a fierce draught, into the body of the house, which drove the flames among the audience and towards the exits.

house, wi the exits.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—About five hun-dred and fifty people were killed and ninety-two injured within ten minutes this afternoon during a the lobby of the theatre.

newest, the largest and as far as human power could make it, the safest theatre in Chicago. The thea-

tre is in Rando, nu street. A few of these people were burned to death by fire, many were suffo-cated by gas, and scores were trampled to death in the panic that trampled to death in the panic that followed the maid plunge of the frightened audience for the exits. It will be many hours before the num-ber of deau is actually known, and many days before all of them will be identified. There are bodies lying by the dozens in the undertaking rooms, in the police stations, and in the hospitals, from which nearly everything that could reveal their identity to those who knew them best is gone. Their clothing is torn to rags or burned to cinders, and their faces have been trampled into an unrecognizable pulp by the crowds

an unrecognizable pulp by the crowds that fought and trampled them down fled for safety.

Fire Started on the Stage. Fire Started on the Stage. The fire broke out during the sec-ond act of the play, "Mr. B.ue Beard," the first production in the theatre since its erection. The theatrical company, which was very large, es-caped to the street in safety, nearly al. o. them, however, being compelled to flee into the snow with no cloth-ing but their stage costumes. A few ing but their stage costumes. A few Ing but their stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained minor injuries, but none were seri-ously hurt. The accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting, and none of them certain, but the most record given in the tage cluster own lives, best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery broke and grounded, setting the scenery ablase. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the stage, the stage of the stage of

Masses of Dead Bodies.

Masses of Dead Hodies. Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these two doorways, on the first and se-cond balconies, that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the fire-men entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reach-ing from the head of the stairway, at least eight feet from the door, back to a point about five feet in the rear of the door. This mass of dead bodies in the centre of the doorway reached to within two feet of the corpses at this point were women and children. The Fight or Life. forms, with instructions to place end firmly on the iron framework. Women were pushed every instant into the alley, and by the time the bridge was constructed but few re-mained to take advantage of it. However, about two dozen, it is be-lieved, made their way across this narrow causeway. The members of the theatrical company, being on the first floor, had comparatively little difficulty in reaching the street, although their situation was for a moment highly gritical, be-cause of the speed with which the flames swept through the mass of scenery in the flies and on the stage. The Fight or Life.

The Fight or Life. The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is something that it is simply beyond human power to adequately des-cribe. Only a faint idea of 'sts hor-ror could be derived from the as-pect of the bodies as they lay. Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before. Others lay with arms stretched out in the direction toward which lay life and stage Comedian Foy's Story. Eddie Foy, principal comedian in

Eddie Foy, principal comedian in the play, was one of the last to escape by getting out through a rear door, after assisting the wo-men members of the company to safeiy. In describing the com-nuclement of the fire Foy attribut-ed the extent of the fire-proof cur-tain to work properly. Because of this, he said, the flames readily ob-tained access to the main part of the theatre, where the draught, carrydirection toward which lay life and safety, holding in their hands frag-ments of garments, evidently torn from others, whom they had endea-vored to pull down and trample un-derfoot as they fought for their own lives,

having been instantly killed.

How Some Were Rescued.

tained access to the main part of the theatre, where the draught, carry-ing gas as well as fire, swept up to the two balconies, where the loss of life was greatest. "The fire began in the middle of the second act," said Mr. Foy. "An electric wire broke and was grounded, and from this flames were started in the rear of the stage. The stage is unusually wide and there was so great a draught the flames spread rapkily. They soon had attacked all the scenery in the rear of the house. I never he

KILLED IN A CHICAGO FIRE.

floding his head, but at a late hour last night it had not been discover-ed, and all that will ever tell his friends who he was in the color and appearance of his clothing on the lower limbs, and this is in such a condition as to be hardly recogniz-ables A Terrible Discovery.

Leaped to their Death. The theatre had been constructed aut a short time, and all its equip-ment was not yet in place. This

LOUT DA . / . G. METHODICE -

ATHENS REPORTER JAN. 6 1904

THE

A Terrible Discovery. The building was so full of smoke when the firemen first arrived that the full extent of the catastrophe was not immediately grasped unth a framan and a newspaper man framed up the stairs leading to the balcony, holding haudkerchiefs over they reached the doorway the fire-man seized his companion by the category the door, which was jammed with dead women pled higher than or of their heads. The first in the theatre were make that hung between the infer-for of the theatre and the street, the door which was jammed which were the door, which was jammed between the first in the theatre were head women pled higher than the lights in the theatre were head women and the only iluming the door which was jammed between the infer-tion came through the cloud of smoke that hung between the infer-tion of the theatre and the street. The dead bodies were pled high in the dead The theatre had been constructed but a short time, and all its equip-ment was not yet in place. This was, unfortunately, the case with a fire escape in the rear of the build-ing. The small iron balcony to which to which the iron ladders were to be attached were up, but the lad-ders had not yet been constructed. When the paulc was at its height a great number of women ran for these fire escapes, only to find as they emerged from the doorway upon the little iron platform that they were thirty to fifty feet from the ground Those who reached the plat-form first endeavored to hold their footing and to keep back the crowd that pressed upon them from the rear. The effort was utterly useless, and in a few moments the iron ledges were jammed with crowds of women, who screamed, fought and tore at each other like manlacs. This lasted but a brief time, and the rush from the interior of the building be-camo so violent that many of them

WERE GOING TO BE MARRIED. Lines of Bodies.

Lines of Bodies. The chief at once called upon all his men in the vicinity to abandon work on the fire and come at once to the reacue. The building was so dark and the smoke so thick that it was found impossible to accomplish anything until lights had been secur-ed. Over 200 hgdts were quickly came so violent that many of them were crowded off and fell to the granite pavement below. Others leap-ed from the platform, fracturing legs and arms, and two were picked up at this point with fractured skulls having been instantly killed ed. Over 200 hgths were quickly, carried into the building, and the work of rescue commenced. So rap-idly were the bodies bronght down that for over an hour there were two streams of men passing in and

two streams of men passing in and out of the doorway, the one carrying bodies, the other composed of men to get more. The bodies were car-ried into Thompson's restaurant, which adjoins the theatre on the east, How Some Were Rescued. George H. Elliott, Socretary of the Ogden Gas Company, was in a build-ing directly opposite the theatre, across the alley. When he reach-ed the street the women already were dropping into the alley, and Elliott immediately rushed for a ladder in an effort to save as many as possible. No ladder was evail The dead and wounded were placed upon chairs, tables and counters, Alupon chairs, tables and counters. Al-though all the patrol wagons and every ambulance owned by the city were pressed into service, they were utterly indicquate to carry away t. e dead, and in a short time there was a line fifty feet long of corpses piled two and three feet high on the side-walk in front of the theatre. .

Many Helping Hands.

It was found necessary, in order to convey the bodies rapidly to the morgue and to the various under-taking establishments, to press trucks into service, and in these the dead were hauled away. The mer-chants in the vicinity of the thea-the rose to the emergency in splen-did fashion.

ward, many of them having friends or relatives in the theatre, and anxious to learn something of them. The conduct of the police deserves all praises in spite of the efforts of the police succeeded in breaking through the lines and entering the theatre, and in many cases did heroic work in resuling the injured and earrying but the dead.

Troy. N. Y., Jan 4. - Moses T. Clough, the nestor of the Renssal-aer county bar, and the only sur-vivor of the class of 1848, of Dart-mouth College; Wm. Shaw, head of the law firm of Shaw, Balley & Murphy, of which former U. S. Sen-ator Edward Murphy's son is a 'mem-ber, and Benjamin W. Kinaey, man-ager for the Fuller-Warren Co., in Boston, Mass., are dead, the victime of a fire, which partly destroyed the Troy Club, at an early hour this mording, soon after a dinaer party broke up. The dead men were sleeping, Messrs McClough and Shaw,

Two Brothers Perhaps Fatally Injured by Colliding With a Train.

Arngrior, Ont., despatch; This on their way to be married this afmorning while two prominent Bris-tol farmers, Alex. and George Drum-An Incendiary Caught.

mond, were driving into town in a cutter their team, frightened at an approaching Canada Atlantic train, became unmanageable, and dashed into the engine throwing one brother on to the cow-catcher, and the other over the baggage car. Both were picked up in an unconscious state and so badly mangled and bruised, that they may not recover They were taken on the train to the general Lospital, Ottawa. The ac-cident Lappened under particularly sad auspices, as both brothers were

> ASIATICS TO SOLVE PROBLEM. Pretoria Labor Conference Still Has Subject Under Discussion.

Care Town, Jan. 4. -Since Lord Milner's return a few days ago repeated conferences have been held with Rand leaders concerning the

with Rand leaders concerning the Pretoria labor crisis. It has been suggested that a solution might be found by the importation of negroes from the Southern States of Amer-ica. Experts claim that this would be too expensive, almost as expen-sive as the low grade of whites, Italians and such like. The climate is the insuperable difficulty. Ultimately Lord Milner admitted that Asiatics are the sole practical solution. England is prepared to

The rose to the emergency in splen-did fashion. Marshall Field & Co., Mandel Bros, Schlesinger & Meyer, Carson, Pirke Scott & Co., and other large dry goods stores sent wagon load af-ter wagon load of blankets, rolli of linen and packages of cotton to be used in blanding up the wounds of the injured and to cover the dead. Doctors and trained nurses were on the ground by the score within halt an hour after the extent of the calamity was known. A number of doctors walted at the entrance to the brow stateshed to it settoscopes in hand to examine the bodies which were brought out for signs of life. One large truck, ordinarily used for conveying freight to depots, was so heavily loaded with dend in front of the theatre that the twe unable to start, and the police were compelled to assist by tugging at the wheels. Bishop Fellows at Work. cli to-morrow. It is believed certain to pass. Meantime, the situation is absolutely deplorable. Thousands of whites are on the verge of starva-tion, the Government h arranging relief work, and hundreds of new-comers daily swell the distress plui-fully. Crimes of violence are in-creasing daily, and the streets of the towns are unsafe after dark. The voldt is infested over large areas by roving bands of despera-does. Nearly three years of drought, makes the condition in the rural districts almost as bad as that in the towns.

the towns.

A LEAP YEAR CLUB.

An Incendiary Caught. New York, Jan. 4.—Fire in a tene-ment house early to-day, said to be of incendiary origin, beopardized three, hundred lives, but caused but slight damage to property. One of the tenants on arriving home, found smoke in the hull and heard the orackling of flames in the cellar. He saw a man crouching in the hall-way, and heid him, later turning him over to the police, to whom he said he way. Thomas Farrell, a former ten-

way, and area nim, later turning nim over to the police, to whom he said he was Thomas Farrell, a former ten-aart. After, the fire, a quantity of tar oil was found near where the blaze had been started, and in the pockets of the prisoner were found a piece of steel, matches and a candle.

NEWS IN BRIEF Chicago,-Royal Cooper Vilas, Presi-

dent of the Pyle National Headlight Co., is dead at his residence here.

Vienna,-Emperor Francis Joseph has quite recovered from his accident, and is pursuing his ordinary avocations to day.

Paris.-Gilblais announces that M. Rouvier will shortly resign the portfolio of Minister of Finance in the Combes

Cape Town .--- The Cape Times reports grave alarm throughout German territory in South Africa, and says that there are fears of a general Hottentot rising there.

Manila .- News has been received from Cavite that on Dec. 22 Matalon's band of Ladrones captured and hanged two members of the constabulary secret ser-vice.

St. Petersburg .- It is officially anounced, in view of the reports current abroad of renewed attacks on the Jews, that Kishineff was never quieter than t present.

Stayner, Ont .- Fire, which broke out at 4 o'clock this morning, completely de-Massachusetts Women Form a Prc- stroyed Dr Honsberger's residence, with North British and Mercantile.

adder in an effort to save as many as possible. No ladder was avail-able, and the only method of as-sistance they were able to devise was to hurriedly lash some planks together and throw, them across to the affrighted women on the plat-forms, with instructions to place the and finally on the instructions to place the

orus, who were then engage in the performance to flee to the wings with screams of terror.

Explosion Biew Hoof Off.

The fire in itself, up to this tim was not serious, and possibly could have been checked had not the asbescurtain failed to work. As as the fire was discovered, Eddle Foy, the comedian of the company, should to lower the curtain. It de-scended about half way and then stuck. The fire was thus given a flue, througn which a strong draught set to the doors, which had been thrown open in front of the theatre. With a roar and a bound the flames shot on

roar and a bound the flames shot out through the opening, over the heads of the people on the first floor, and up to those in the first balcony, catching them and burning them to death. Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explo-sion which lifted the entire roof of the theatre from its walks, shatter-ing t e great skyl ght into fragments.

Man, immediately Sufficiented. As soon as the flames first appear-As soon as the Hames Hist appear-od beyond the curtal a man in the rear of the hall shouted "Fire! Fire!" and the eatire audience rose as one person and made for the doors. It is believed that the explosion was causod by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the the atre, causing them to burst. Will J. atre, causing them to burst. Will J. Davis, manager of the theatre, said after the catastrophe that if the people had remained in their seats and had not been excited by the cry of "Fire!" not a life would have been lost. This, however, is contradicted by t. estatements of the ifremen, who found the bodges of numbers of per-sons sitting in their seals, their faces directed toward the stage, as if the bent nearly double, his spinal column sons sitting in t.eir sca.s. their faces directed toward the stage, as if the performance were still going on. The opinion of the firemen is that these neurons were sufficient of the seat, she having been forced hese people were sufficiented at once over it, face downwards. In the the flow of gas and fire which aneles nearest to the doors the scener were harrowing in the extreme

The M ans of Exit.

titude, half naked, the look on their faces revealing some of the agony which must have preceded thein dred of these were on the first floor, the balance being in the two upper balcooles and in the hallways back of them. The theatre is modelled af-ter the Opera Comique in Parks and of them. The theatre is modelled af-ter the Opera Comique in Parks, and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to pas-sage ways towards the front of the theatre. Two of these doorways are at the end of the balcony; and one carried away by the feet of those being in the centre. The audience, who tramp'ed him. A search was in its rush for the outer air, seems

Men Cried as They Worked. As the police removed layer after layer of dead in these doorways, the sight became too much even for the police and firemen, hard-ened as they are to scenes of death. The bodies were in such an inextri-cable mass, and so t'ghtly were they jammed between the sides of the door and walls, that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them out. The only pos-sible thing to do was to seize a limb, or some other portion of the body, and pull with main streatting limb, or some other portion of the body, and pull with main strength. body, and pull with main strength. Men worked at the task with tears running down their checks, and the sobs of the rescuers could be heard even in the hall below where this awful scene was being enacted. A number of men were compelled to abandon their task and give it over to others whose nerves had not yet

Mon Cried as They Worked.

and whose fac.s were marred beyond all power of identification. Bodies lay in the first and second bulconies in great numbers. In rome places they were plied up in the alleles three and four deep, where one had fallen and others tripped over the prostrate forms, and all had died where they lay, evidently suf-focated by gas. Others were bent over backs of seats where they had been thrown by the rush of people for the doors, and killed with hard-ly a chance to rise from their chairs. Faces Tranued off

Faces Tramped off One man was found with his back

were harrowing in the extreme. Bodies lay in every conceivable at-titude, half naked, the look on their

in the rear of the house. I never be-lieved it possible for fire to spread so quickly.

Asbestos Curtain Failed. Asbestos Curtain Failed. "When it was started I went to the footlights, and to prevent al-arming the audience, said that there was a slight blaze and it would

tween the rear wall of the theatre and the fireproof curtain in front. Under these circumstances it would not have been possible for a single member of the company to escape alive. As it was, the draught car-ried all the gas and fire out before the curtain, and the company was saved, although their salvation was the death of so many poor people in front."

in front." Frenzied Crowd of Inquirers. Rarely in the history of Chicago has its people been so stirred as by the calaminy of to-day. Next to the Chicago fire, this is the greatest catastrophe that has ever occurred here. The news spread with wear Catastropic that has ever occurred here. The news spread with great rapidity, and in a short time hun-dreds of med, women and children were rushing toward the theatre. The building in which the calami.y

State and Dearborn streets on the north side of Randolph street. Al-though every available policeman within the call of the department within the call of the department was hurried to the spot and the men placed in lines at the end of the block, allowing nobody to enter Randokh street from either Dear-born or Etate, it was found for a time almost impossible to hold back to their fert, the frenzied crowd that pressed for-lable terror.

heartrending sight," said the bishop to-night. "I have been in wars and upon the bloody field of battle, but I have never seen anything half so gruesome as the awful sight in that

gruesome as the awful sight in that balcony. There was a pile of 'twist-ed and bleeding bodies ten feet high, with blackened faces and remnants of charred clothing sticking to them. Some were alive, and moan-ing in their agony. Others, and by far the greater number, were dead."

Men worked at the task with tears running down their cheeks, and the sobs of the resources could be heard even in the hall below, where this awful scene was being enacted. number of men were compelled to abandon their task and give it over to others whose nerves had not yet been shaken. **Heartrending Spectacles.** More by one the bodies were drag-get out of the water-soaked, black tree i mass of corgaes, and the spec-tacle became more and more heart: tracking. There were women whose clotring was torn completely from the bodies above the waist, whose hosem had been tramgled into a pup, and whose facts were marted beyond the prostrate and more heart: refused to go further, and thus an additional draught was created. This swept the flames out igto the auditorium, and I know that the auditorium, and I know that the substance of the stage and to the clotring was torn completely from the bodies above the waist, whose hosem had been tramgled into a pup, and whose facts were marted beyond all power of identification. Boures hay in the first and second all power of identification. Boures hay soft the great numbers. To me places they were piled up in the alses thre and four deep, where ore thad falien and others tripped over the prostrate forms, and all ind died where they lay, evidently surf-focated by gas. Others were been to the for so of the gas tanks, and with the curtain down all the fire and of the gas tanks, and with the curtain down all the fire and of the second bucconies in great numbers. Towee the prostrate forms, and all ind died where they lay, evidently surf-forated by gas. Others were been to ther to gas tanks, and with been there or the oras wall of the theat the fireproof ourtain in front. Under these circumstances it would been thrown by the rush of people is the dors, and killed with bard. Téar.

A Vivid Story.

A Vivid Story. One of the marvellous escapes was that of the members of the theatre party given by Miss Charlotte A. Plamondon, of Chicago. The party was made up of a number of promi-nent society people. Miss Plamon-dom said: "I could see little girls and boys in the orchestra chairs pointing upward to the slowly mov-ing line of flame among the cur-tain. One of the stage hands and Eddie Foy requested the audience to keep their seats. Pieces of the smol-dering curtain fell into the orches-tra pits. I looked over the faces of h at is eand rm k dhow my children were preset. mar is s h aw i n eand r m k dhow m ny children were prese that the stage watched the burning curtain. Just them the people in the balcony rose to their feet and crowded forward o obtain a better view of the tire. Eddle Foy rusted to the centre of the stage and waved his arms to the people to be seated. At that instant woman in the rear of the place screamed "fire," and the entire

to their feet, filled with uncontrol-

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 4 .- The first

move to force bashful young men here into a state of matrimony durhere into a state of matrimony dur-ing the coming leap year started here yesterday, when forty-eight young and middle-aged women met in a local private house and organized a progressive ,matrimonial club, Of-

drawn up and a committee apoint-ed to secure permanent quarters. The membership of the club is limited to

The principal subject of debate a the meeting was; "Is it Proper for a Woman to Propose to the Man She Thicks She Loves?"

Thicks She Loves?" All the speakers took the affirm-ative side. It was voted to levy an assessment of \$1 on each member. the total to be presented to every winner of a husband during the Chicago .--- Chief Musham, of the Chicago fire department, announces that he will compel employees in his depart-ment to withdraw from unions or retime from the city's service. The chief will start his agitation next week. Miss Julia Lampson, aged thirty

four, was elected president; Miss Sadic Herbert, of Holyoke, vice-pres-ident, and Miss Abbie Sheuer, treas-London .-- It is reported that the White

Star Line has ordered a steamer 755 urer. committee of five was appoint-

A committee of five was appoint ed to arrange for the first proposal

feet in length, or 30 feet longer than the Baltic, the largest ship in the world. The construction of the vessel, it is added, will begin immediately at Bel-TO DISCARD EUCLID. fast, Ireland.

Nature Study Will Also Supersed Rockville, Conn .-- Wm. H. Dowling, **Physics and Chemistry**, local agent of the Adams Company, was Toronto, Jan. 4. - Two commit-tees of representative mathematical teachers of Ontario met at the

robbed and assaulted by two unknown men to-day while on his way from his residence to his office. Between \$400 and \$500 was taken from him. Normal School yesterday, and dis-cussed a number of changes that are likely to be made in the mathe-matical and science courses of High Schools and Collegiate Insti-St. Louis .- Immediately after the holidays a bill will be introduced in Congress giving permission to foreign Gov-ernments and other exhibitors at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition to enter without paying duty the exhibits brought by them in bond.

High Schools and Collegiate Insti-tutes. The most important of these is the substitution of plane geom-etry for Euclid's Elements. The latter has been superseded in France, Germany, the United States, and Great Eritain by plane geometry for some time. The objections to the èlements are that they are not adapted to the needs of the present day, most of the theorems being difficult to apply to practical work, and that they are more a philoso-phy than a science, and therefore rect so suitable for beginners to study. Chicago, Ill .- Frederick Lindstrom. cashier for the firm of Friend, Moss & Noreys, had called his employers on the telephone and announced that he stole \$12,000 from them, and was about to \$12,000 from them, and was about to teleave the city. He was induced to visit the office and was arrested. The money is said to have been close to here only the store of th

is said to have be sost on horse races. Lucknow, Ont.- Suop on Campbell A radical change will be made in the elementary science courses where nature study will largely be mide to take the place of physics street owned by Mrs. Geo. Graham, of Goderich, and occupied by A. Ross, har-nessmaker, was totally destroyed by fire

and chemistry. These recommendations will be considered by the ontario Education appointed by the Ontario Education to the ontario Education Normal School next Friday.

early this morning. Cause, unknown. Loss of Mr. Ross on stock, \$1,500; insur-ance, \$500. Loss on building covered by insurance.

New York .- The Geo.' A. Fuller Co. has been taken into the Building Trades Employers' Association, its application for membership having been accepted at a meeting of the Board of Governors.

icers were elected, a set of hy-laws Corsicana, Tex.-The Pipe line yesterday cut crude oil 5 cents a barrel, drop-

ping the price to 127. The advance be-gan last May, when the price was 85 cents, and continued steadily until \$1.32 was reached. Heavy oil was cut to 55