

OVER FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS KILLED IN A CHICAGO FIRE.

Fire and Explosion Followed by Terrible Scenes Among the Audience.

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 538
Total number of bodies recovered 435
Cause of fire—Either grounding of an electric light wire or explosion of a calcium light apparatus; accounts differ.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—About five hundred and fifty people were killed and ninety-two injured within ten minutes this afternoon during a fire in the Iroquois Theatre, the newest, the largest and as far as human power could make it, the safest theatre in Chicago.

Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these two doorways, on the first and second balconies, that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the stairway, at least eight feet from the door, back to a point about five feet to the rear of the door.

The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is human power to do something beyond the ordinary. Only a faint idea of the horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay.

Men Cried as They Worked. As the police removed layer after layer of dead in those doorways the sight became too much even for the police and firemen, hardened as they are to scenes of death.

Heartrending Spectacles. One by one the bodies were dragged out of the water-soaked, blackened mass of corpses, and the spectators became more and more heartrending. There were women whose clothing was torn completely from their bodies above the waist, whose bodies had been trampled into a pulp.

As nearly as can be estimated at the present time about 1,000 people were in the theatre. Three hundred of these were on the first floor, the balcony being in the two upper balconies and in the hallway back balconies.

ward, many of them having friends or relatives in the theatre, and some to learn something of them. The conduct of the firemen deserves all praise. In spite of the efforts of the police, however, a large number of people succeeded in breaking through the lines and entering the theatre, and these did heroic work in rescuing the injured and carrying out the dead.

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 until a fireman and a newspaper man crawled up the stairs leading to the balcony, holding handkerchiefs over their mouths to avoid suffocation.

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 rescue. The building was so dark and the smoke so thick that it was found impossible to accomplish anything until lights had been secured.

Many Helping Hands. It was found necessary, in order to convey the bodies rapidly to the morgue and to the various undertaking establishments, to press recruits into service, and in these the dead were faces of many nationalities in the vicinity of the theatre rose to the emergency in splendid fashion.

Bishop Fellows at Work. Among the hundreds of persons who rushed to the rescue when the call of fire was heard on the streets was Bishop Samuel Fellows, who happened to be passing the theatre. He made his way through the smoke and through the fire, and assisted in carrying out the victims.

Many Children Killed. It was the presence of the children, hundreds of them in the audience, and the efforts of their frantic mothers to save them that caused the tragedy of the Iroquois Theatre.

A Vivid Story. One of the marvelous escapes was that of the members of the theatre party given by Miss Charlotte A. Eddy in the Iroquois Theatre.

Frezzied Crowd of Inquirers. Rarely in the history of Chicago has its people been so pressed as by the calamity of to-day. Next to the Chicago fire, this is the greatest catastrophe that has ever occurred here.

THREE MEN LOSE THEIR LIVES

In a Fire Which Partially Destroyed the Troy, N. Y., Club.

Troy, N. Y., Jan. 4.—Moses T. Gough, the pastor of the Rensselaer county bar, and the only survivor of the class of 1848, of Dartmouth College; Wm. Shaw, head of the law firm of Shaw, Bailey & Murphy, of which former U. S. Senator Edward Murphy's son is a member, and Benjamin W. Kinney, manager for the Fuller-Warren Co., in Boston, Mass., are dead, the victims of a fire, which partly destroyed the Troy Club, about an early hour this morning, soon after a dinner party broke up. The dead men were sleeping, Messrs McCough and Shaw,

WERE GOING TO BE MARRIED.

Two Brothers Perhaps Fatally Injured by Colliding With a Train.

Arnprior, Ont., despatch: This morning while two prominent Bristol farmers, Alex. and George Drummond, 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 hospital, Ottawa. The accident happened under particularly auspicious, as both brothers were on their way to be married this afternoon.

ASIATICS TO SOLVE PROBLEM.

Freteris Labor Conference Still Has Subject Under Discussion. Cape Town, Jan. 4.—Since Lord Milner's return a few days ago repeated conferences have been held with Rand leaders concerning the Freteris labor crisis. It has been suggested that a solution might be found by the importation of negroes from the Southern States of America. Experts claim that this would be too expensive, almost as expensive as the low grade of whites, Italians and such like. The climate is the insuperable difficulty. Ultimately Lord Milner admitted the expediency of the practical solution. England is prepared to sanction this if the Legislature is fairly unanimous. Sir George Farrar's motion in favor of Asiatics comes before the Legislative Council to-morrow. It is believed certain to pass. Meantime, the situation is absolutely deplorable. Thousands of whites are on the verge of starvation. The Government is arranging relief work, and hundreds of new-comers daily swell the distress pillfully. Crimes of violence are increasing daily, and the streets of the towns unsafe after dark. The void is infested over large areas by roving bands of desperadoes. Nearly three years of drought has left the condition in the rural districts almost as bad as that in the towns.

A LEAP YEAR CLUB.

Massachusetts Women Form a Progressive Matrimonial Club. Worcester, Mass., Jan. 4.—The first year of the beautiful young men here into a state of matrimony during 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. Officers were elected, a set of by-laws drawn up and a committee appointed to secure permanent quarters. The membership of the club is limited to 100. The principal subject of debate at the meeting was: "Is it Proper for a Woman to Propose to the Man She Thinks She Loves?" All the speakers took the affirmative 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 year. Miss Julia Lamson, aged thirty-four, was elected president; Miss Sadie Herbert, of Hingham, vice-president, and Miss Abbie Sheer, treasurer.

TO DISCARD EUCLID.

Nature Study Will Also Supercede Physics and Chemistry. Toronto, Jan. 4.—Two committees of representative mathematical teachers of Ontario met at the Normal School yesterday, and discussed a number of changes that are likely to be made in the mathematical and science courses of High Schools and Collegiate Institutions. The most important of these is the substitution of plane geometry for Euclid's Elements. The latter has been superseded in France, Germany, the United States, and Great Britain by plane geometry for some time. The objections to the Elements 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 philosophy than a science, and therefore not so suitable for beginners to study. A radical change will be made in the elementary science courses where nature study will largely be made to take the place of physics and chemistry. These recommendations will be considered by a committee of 19 appointed by the Ontario Education Council, which will meet at the Normal School next Friday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chicago.—Royal Cooper Vilas, President of the Pyle National Headlight Co., is dead at his residence here.
Virginia.—Emperor Francis Joseph has quite recovered from his accident, and is pursuing his ordinary avocations to-day.
Paris.—Gibbais announces that M. Rouvier will shortly resign the portfolio of Minister of Finance in the Combes Cabinet.
Cape Town.—The Cape Times reports grave alarm throughout German territory in South Africa, and says that there are fears of a general Hotentot 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 service.
St. Petersburg.—It is officially announced, in view of the reports current abroad of renewed attacks on the Jews, that faithfulness was never quieter than at present.
Stayner, Ont.—Fire, which broke out at 4 o'clock this morning, completely destroyed Dr Honsberger's residence, with contents. Insured in the North British and Mercantile.
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.
Corseana, Tex.—The Pipe line yesterday cut crude oil 5 cents a barrel, dropping the price to 127. The advance began last May, when the price was 85 cents, and continued steadily until \$1.32 was reached. Heavy oil was cut to 55 cents.
Chicago.—Chief Musham, of the Chicago fire department, announces that he will compel employees in his department to withdraw from unions or retire from the city's service. The chief will start his agitation next week.
London.—It is reported that the White Star Line has ordered a steamer 755 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 Belfast, Ireland.
Rockville, Conn.—Wm. H. Dowling, local agent of the Adams Company, was 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.
St. Louis.—Immediately after the holidays a bill will be introduced in Congress giving permission to foreign Governments and other exhibitors at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition to enter without paying duty the exhibits brought by them in bond.
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 leave the city. He was induced to visit the office and was arrested. The money is said to have been lost on horse races.
Lucknow, Ont.—Shop on Campbell street owned by Mrs. Geo. Graham, of Goderich, and occupied by A. Ross, harnessmaker, was totally destroyed by fire early this morning. Cause, unknown. Loss of Mr. Ross on stock, \$1,500; insurance, \$500. Loss on building covered by insurance.

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