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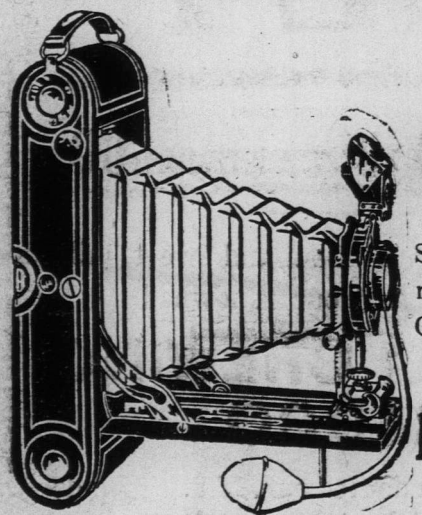
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No Reasonable Offer Refused.
NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.CHARLES HUUTON,
Fancy Department.

SEVENTY-TWO MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN WERE KILLED.

THE CRY OF FIRE WAS RAISED DURING THE PROGRESS OF A XMAS TREE ENTERTAINMENT AND A FRIGHTFUL PANIC FOLLOWED—THE VICTIMS, MOSTLY LITTLE CHILDREN, WERE TRAMPLED TO DEATH IN THE WILD RUSH FOR THE EXITS—THE STAIRWAY BECAME BLOCKED, AND THE DEAD WERE PILED TIER UPON TIER—DAY OF REJOICING WAS TURNED INTO SADNESS BY THE AWFUL CATASTROPHE.

CALUMET, Mich., December 25.—On the day, which throughout all Christendom set aside as a day of rejoicing over the birth of the Saviour, Calumet, stricken to the heart by an almost unbelievable catastrophe, stands mourning by the side of its dead, the 72 victims, most of whom

were children, of the frightful panic on Christmas Eve in the Italian Hall. This panic followed a false alarm cry of fire during progress of a Christmas Tree entertainment arranged for families of the copper strikers.

All bitterness and ill-feeling that has existed in this strike-ridden community during the past months is wiped away by one great, common affliction. To-day the people of Calumet can see only their neighbours, their brothers, their sisters, and their little children, staggering under an almost unbearable burden of distress and grief.

A Terrible Scene.

While several hundred miners and their wives looked on, the children pressed eagerly towards the stage to receive Christmas presents. In an instant a man put his head in at the door of the hall and yelled "Fire."

The cry was taken up by those in the hall. Everyone started for the doors. The weaker were thrown to the floor and those behind tried to climb over those ahead of them.

The stairway and other avenues of escape were blocked so effectively that those inside could not get out, and those without could not get inside the panic-stricken crowd in the hall. It was some time before the panic subsided.

The principal exit was a narrow stairway at the back of the hall. When this had been cleared of the bodies that filled it to the top, and a quick count had been made, it was seven girls, fifteen boys, thirteen women and five men. The excited women stood about the building, some dazed by the sudden change from holiday festivities to tragedy, others crying hysterically for a missing child, and a few threatening violence to the rescuers for keeping them back from long rows of bodies.

An Awful Scene.

There was not much work for the many doctors who hurried to the scene as soon as the alarm was spread, for those who were not killed in the first rush were help upright and safe by the heavy force of the crush toward the exit. Only three injured persons were taken to hospitals, and a few went home, with the assistance of friends.

Police and firemen hurried to the building, to find the hall congested. Several officers climbed the fire escapes and entered by the windows. In a short time the uninjured and the faint had been pulled from the tangle of human beings and placed in front of the hall. Other men began to pull the bodies of the dead and helpless from the stairway and lay them in a row beside the building. This disposition of crumpled bodies was a found inadvisable, because of the hysteria it caused among the spectators, and corpses were carried back into the hall as soon as it was emptied of the frightened persons.

During the confusion several bodies of children were wrongly identified by mothers and taken away, only to be returned later by the parents who had found their own offspring safe. In other cases parents ran about for some time uncertain whether their

children were dead or alive. Mothers found that seventy-two corpses had been piled up beside the hall building. The dead included thirty infants, while fathers cursed all those who interfered with their mad search for their lost girls and boys.

Of the seven hundred persons in the hall, more than three-fourths were children, many of them having gone without parents. Parents soon rushed to the scene and added to the confusion. They did not understand what had taken place, and hindered the rescuers by insisting to know what was the matter.

Stairway Filled With Dead.

The greatest number of dead in any one place was at the bottom of the stairs. Those who reached the stairs first were evidently hurled to the bottom by those behind, and in this fashion the stairway was filled to the ceiling.

That death in most instances was due to suffocation under the weight of those who fell last was indicated by the fact that few of the corpses bore marks of injury. The shoulders were crumpled and broken, but the faces were not cut or bruised.

Great Mass Meeting.

A great mass meeting of Calumet citizens was held this afternoon to express their sympathy and devise ways and means to ameliorate the sufferings of those on whom death had fallen so heavily. A committee of twelve was appointed to visit each individual home of the bereaved families and ascertain what financial assistance is necessary. Unlimited funds are assured and no outside aid will be necessary. "With the kindest feeling for those who offered it, we ask no outside help," says the resolution of sympathy adopted. "These are our own people, and this is our sacred privilege to care for our dead and comfort to the living."

The statement of President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners that no benefits from the citizens would be accepted, was disregarded. The strikers also met this afternoon and named a committee, comprising representatives of the nationalities of the victims to call upon the stricken relatives and ascertain their wishes regarding the funeral. This committee will meet to-morrow morning to make arrangements.

Raised Cry of Fire.

The authorities have so far been unable to trace a man who is said to have gone up the stairs of the hall and raised the cry of fire, which is supposed to have started the panic which led to the fearful crush in the stairway and caused the death of nearly four score men, women and children. There seems to be little hope he will be apprehended. The other theory that the cry of fire originated within the hall was substantiated to-day by Matt Sari, a striker, who lost his son in the disaster. He declared the cry came from a group of men and women toward the front of the hall.

Dead Totals 72.

A fourteen-year-old girl, who died this morning, brought the official revised list of dead up to seventy-two. All have now been identified. Five injured are now in the hospitals, all of whom, it is said, will recover. Four little girls in Calumet and Hecla Hospital were able to-day to be up and about, and they romped about the

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"The Winking Parson," excruciatingly funny; and "America's Latest Addition to Her Navy," an educational education.

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Coming—Dion Bouicault's Masterpiece, "THE SHAUGRAUN."

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TO-DAY'S SPECIAL MATINEE!

Under the Distinguished Patronage of His Excellency Governor Davidson, Mrs. Davidson and Children.

Rossley's 2nd Annual Grand Christmas Pantomime,
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THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

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MATINEE DAILY.

Doors open at 2 p.m. Admission, 20c.; Reserved Seats, 30c.; Children, 10c.; Private Box, 50c.

ONE BIG SHOW AT NIGHT.

Doors open at 7. Admission, 20c.; Reserved, 30 and 50c.; Private Box, \$1.00. For a seat come early.

In active preparation, JACK AND THE BEAN STALK.

Xmas Tree set up for the patients of the hospital, unaware of the fate which had overtaken some of their brothers and sisters, and the father of one of them. A boy of seven or eight years of age who was taken to one of the morgues showed sign of life soon after, but no restoratives and no physicians were immediately available, and death ensued. One couple entered the Town Hall, where all the bodies had been gathered, to look for their missing child. Their hopes ran high when they had looked at seventy of the bodies and failed to find their loved one, but the last body they viewed, the seventy-first, was that of the missing one.

Members of the Calumet Fire Department relate many instances of heroic attempts to rescue the panic-stricken people in the hall. Patrick Ryan arrived on the scene a few minutes after the crush occurred at the foot of the stairway. He estimated that there were about one hundred bodies piled on top of one another when he reached the entrance.

The pile of crushed and smothering humanity reached to about half the height of the stairway. They were wedged in so tight that it was impossible to extricate any from the foot of the stairs. A boy of about six caught hold of Mr. Ryan's hands and begged to be rescued. The firemen succeeded in pulling the boy partially out, but he was unable to extricate the little fellow's legs. The human mass kept pressing down, and it was impossible to save the boy, whose life was soon snuffed out. A girl of eight or nine grasped the hands of Angelo Curto, a fireman, kissed them, and implored him to save her. He made a heroic effort to pull her out, but the crush was so great he was compelled to give up the attempt, and she perished.

Some Rescued, Others Killed.

Mrs. A. Niemela, one of the victims, was suffocated while standing up. John Burrill, a fireman, who witnessed her death, took a six-months old infant from her arms and carried it to safety. Leonard Wilman, a fireman, pushed his way into the stairway, and took out a crying boy of six uninjured. Near by his mother and sister lay dead. An eleven-year-old boy rescued his brother of nine by carrying him down a ladder. There were other similar rescues.

A child hurled from the front of the building was caught by a spectator. Chief Trudell, of the fire department, caught another child thrown out of a window by a frantic father. John Sari, killed by the fire, was falling on him and he, too, perished. Scores escaped by passing from a small rear balcony on an adjoining house.

President Moyer, of the Western Federation of Miners, received a message from Governor Ferris this afternoon stating he was at his command for rendering all possible assistance to those stricken by the disaster.

Many tales of the fierceness of the crush during the height of the panic were told to-day. One man went to stoop to pick up his little daughter, only to be pushed on and forced to trample her beneath him. A woman who ran to the aid of three small boys was crushed to death with them. When the rush began a woman went to the piano and began playing. Another woman stood in the center of the stage, on which the Christmas tree had been erected and started to sing. Their efforts to quell the panic were futile, as they were not heard above the tumult.

All Killed Together.

Matti Kotjarwi, his wife, and two daughters were all killed. John Perickka and Henry Manly and their children were all killed together. Mrs. Henry Isola, who is believed to be dead, held her little son and daughter by the hand when the panic started. The boy was torn from his mother and escaped but the little girl was killed.

A large number of families lost children. Most of the dead were about ten years of age.

Local headquarters of the Western Federation of Miners anxiously awaited a reply to telegrams sent last night by President Moyer to President Wilson.

President Moyer decried attempts which he said had been made locally to interpret his statements on the catastrophe as efforts to make capital for his organization out of the calamity. He stated emphatically that he merely offered testimony of "eye witnesses for what that testimony was worth and that the persons who started the panic by calling "fire" wore the insignia of the Citizens' Alliance would be produced as witnesses at the coroner's inquest.

Offers of Assistance.

Offers of assistance from Union labor sources came in rapidly this morning. William Green, Secretary of the United Mine Workers at Indianapolis, telegraphed \$2,000 would be sent to the Union Relief Fund. A message from Butte, Mont., said that Federation members in that city could be called upon for any amount up to \$20,000.

President Moyer said he had, with difficulty, kept in bounds the parents and other relatives of victims of the panic. The report that an enemy of the Union had started the panic spread rapidly among the strikers, and there were many threats of reprisals.

He pointed out that the absence of any untoward act was an example of the restraint which he said had characterized the action of strikers from the beginning of the trouble five months ago.

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"The People that
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