

WORLD'S GREATEST THEATRE HORROR.

Over Seven Hundred People Burned to Death in Chicago Yesterday,

In the Iroquois Theatre, a Replica of the Paris Theatre Comique,
and Supposed To be Absolutely Fireproof in All Parts—
Asbestos Curtain Failed to Work Hence
the Terrible Death Roll.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Three hundred people were killed in 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.

A few of these people were burned to death by fire, many were suffocated by gas and scores were trampled to death in the panic that followed the mad plunge of the frightened audience for the exits. It will be many hours before the number of dead is accurately known, and many days before all of them will be identified. There are bodies lying by the dozen tonight in the undertaking rooms, in the police stations and in the hospitals, from which nearly every thing 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 crowd that trampled them down as they fled for safety.

The fire broke out during the second act of the play—Mr. Bluebeard—which was the first dramatic production in the theatre since its erection.

The company, which was very large, escaped in safety, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snowy streets with no clothing but their stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained minor injuries, but none were seriously hurt. The accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting and none of

them certain, but the best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery suddenly broke and was grounded. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus who were then engaged in the performance, to flee to the wings with screams of terror. The fire in itself up to this time was not serious and possibly could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work.

As soon as the fire was discovered Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and stuck. The fire was thus given practically a free through which a strong draught was setting aided by the doors which had been thrown open in the front of the theatre. With

A ROAR AND A BOUND the flame shot out through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and reaching clear up to those in the first balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat. Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explosion which lifted the entire roof of the theatre from its walls, shattering the great skylight into fragments. As soon as the first flames appeared beyond the curtain a man in the rear of the hall shouted, "Fire!" and the entire audience rose as one person and made for the doors. It is believed the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the theatre, causing them to burn.

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 single life would have been lost. This, however, is contradicted by the statements of the firemen, who found numbers of persons sitting in their seats, their faces directed toward the stage as if the performance was still going on. It was the opinion of the firemen that these people had been suffocated by the smoke and gas which came from behind the asbestos curtain.

As names can be estimated at the present time about 1,300 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 balcony back of them.

Others lay with arms stretched out in the direct or toward which

lay life and safety, holding in their hands fragments of garments not their own. They were evidently torn from the clothing of others whom they had endeavored to pull down and trample under foot as they fought for their own lives. As the police removed layer after layer of dead in the doorways the sight became too much even for police and firemen, hardened by they are to such scenes, to endure. The bodies were in such an inextricable mass and so tightly were they jammed between the sides of the door and the walls that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them out. Men worked at the task with tears running down their cheeks. A number of men were compelled to abandon their task and give it over to others whose nerves had not as yet been shaken by the awful experience. As one by one the bodies were dragged out of the water-soaked, blackened mass of corpses, the spectacle became more and more heartrending. There were women whose clothing was torn completely from their bodies above the waist, whose bosoms had been trampled into a pulp and whose faces were marred beyond all power of identification. Bodies

lay in the first and second balconies in great numbers.

IN SOME PLACES the bodies were piled up like the bodies of fish, and in some places they lay in a heap, the bodies of the men and women and children, and all had died where they lay, evidently suffocated by the gas. Others were found in a heap of bodies, where they had been thrown by the mad rush of people for the doors and killed with hardly a chance to rise from their seats. One man was found with his back bent nearly double, his spine column having been fractured as he was thrown backwards. A woman was found cut nearly in half by the back of the seat, she having been forced over it face down.

In the aisles nearest to the doors the scenes were harrowing in the extreme. Bodies lay in every conceivable attitude, half naked, the bones of their faces revealing some portion of the agony which must have preceded their death. There were scores and scores of people whose entire faces had been trampled off completely by the heels of those who rushed over them and in one aisle the body of a man was found with not a vestige of clothing, flesh or bone remaining above his waist line. The entire upper portion of his body had been cut into mince meat and carried away by the feet of those who trampled on him; a search was carefully made with a hope of finding his head, but at a late hour tonight it had not been discovered and all that will ever tell his friends who he was is the color and appearance of the clothing on the lower limbs and this is in such condition as to be hardly recognizable.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh of the bladder cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1896.

(SEAL) A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

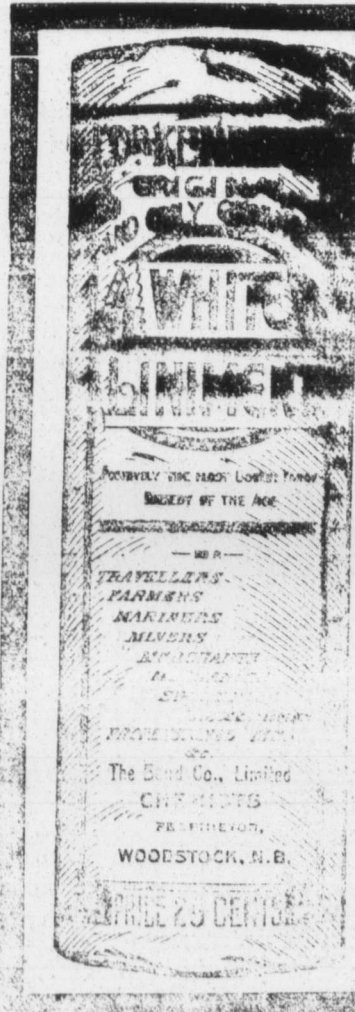
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and cures a surface of the system. Send for testin' gratis.

J. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, 75¢.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

There are 16 ounces to the pound still, but two of them are wrapping paper in a good many stores.

Milward Liniment, Use a Dimepaper.



USE
UPPER MANAGER, N. B. THE BAIN CO. LTD.
Dear Sir:—For seven years I was troubled with a sore foot. I was to the head doctors of the Boston Hospital, also to several other doctors, but they could do nothing to cure it. I tried everything I could think of, and was just about giving up when I thought I would try KENDRICK'S LINIMENT. I had not used quite one bottle when my foot was entirely well. Father keeps a store, and he would not be without Kendrick's Liniment. He recommends it highly to everybody. Wishing you every success with the medicine, I remain,
Yours truly,
Cora May Wilson.

Kendrick's
I have been troubled for a number of years with Rheumatic Pains in my Limbs. Kendrick's Liniment made a complete cure and I can highly recommend it.
Mrs. F. Edwell,
Georgetown, P. E. I.

Liniment



Vapo-Cresolene
Whooping Cough, Croup, Bronchitis, Cough, Grip, Asthma, Diphtheria

CRESOLENE IS A DEER TO ACTIVITIES.
Cresolene is a powerful antiseptic and disinfectant. It is used in the treatment of whooping cough, croup, bronchitis, cough, grip, asthma, diphtheria, etc. It is also used in the treatment of other diseases of the respiratory system.

Cresolene Antiseptic Tablets
dissolved in the mouth are effective and safe for coughs and irritation of the throat.

See a box. ALL DRUGGISTS

MOTHERS RELY ON
Gray's Syrup of Red Spider
It is a powerful antiseptic and disinfectant. It is used in the treatment of whooping cough, croup, bronchitis, cough, grip, asthma, diphtheria, etc. It is also used in the treatment of other diseases of the respiratory system.

BARGAINS.
Bargains. 3 3 3

We wish to draw your attention once more to the fact that we are offering from now until Christmas:

Outing Hats, formerly \$2.00 now \$1.95.
1.00 " 05c.

The balance of our Pattern Hats some of which sold for \$7 and \$8 now \$5. Trimmings all reduced, ribbons especially.

Besides that we have some children's Coats, Hoods to match. Wool Hoods, Tams, etc. You would do well to see them before buying elsewhere.

Mrs. H. J. Morris

Envelopes, Note Heads, Statements.

At this season the three articles mentioned above are in demand and to meet that demand we have placed the prices of these to the very last notch.

Envelopes, \$1.50 per m. Note Heads, \$1.70 per m. Statements, 1.80 per m.

Cash delivery of goods, or cash with order. These prices will only rule for two weeks.

ANSLOW BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS.

Shannon Letter Files.

The safest way to file your papers is on a genuine SHANNON LETTER FILE. Papers are held securely on the arch and cannot be lost or misplaced. When the file is filled transfer the letters to SHANNON BINDING CASE. Keep them in the same order as the file.

Sent by express on receipt of price.

COMPLETE FILE, \$1.00. BINDING CASE, \$1.00.

ANSLOW BROTHERS Newcastle.

F. H. JOHNSON & Co. INCORPORATED. 143 FULTON MARKET, NEW YORK.

Wholesale Commission Dealers in all kinds of FISH.

Regular daily returns. Cold Storage in connection. Stencils and instructions for packing given on application. Ship to S. B. Wiley & Sons, BOSTON, MASS., TRANSFER AGENTS New York.

Wholesale Agents, Dec. 1, 1903-4m

IMPRESSIONS, Catharines, Ontario

ABSOLUTE SECURITY.
Genuine
Carter's
Little Liver Pills.

Most Dear Signature of
Carter's
CURE SICK HEADACHE.

FOR HEADACHE, FOR DIZZINESS, FOR BILIOUSNESS, FOR TORPID LIVER, FOR CONSTIPATION, FOR SALLOW SKIN, FOR THE COMPLEXION.