

WEEKLY MONITOR SUPPLEMENT.

Fall of a Block of Houses.

A terrible accident occurred in New York about ten days ago, resulting from an attempt to erect a large block of houses in a manner so 'economical' as to neglect even the most ordinary precautions for safety. Late in the afternoon a terrible crash was heard up town and investigation showed that a block of eight five-story buildings on a cross street near Tenth Avenue had fallen in, burying the workmen who were engaged on them in the ruins. The buildings were erected last winter and, were reported by the building department as unsafe. Workmen were engaged in repairing the defects of the houses at the time the event occurred. No mortar was used in the construction of the buildings, the bricks being held in place by sand.

The excitement about the place was so great that it was difficult to obtain reliable information as to who might have been lost, but the gangs of workmen employed in the search for the remains found no clue to any object of their search up to night-fall. A most superficial examination of the debris showed the cause of the disaster to be the wretched workmanship and the poor material. The mortar contained little or no sand but loam or mud instead and was wholly unfit for use.

This, and the fact that the building had been erected during cold weather, of wet and frozen brick, were directly the causes of the collapse. The director, Charles A. Buddensilk, who was responsible, left the neighborhood in a carriage immediately after the disaster and drove to his residence, East 77th street. Where he went to from there nobody could learn. The police, who arrested the master bricklayer, Charles Frank, could not find the builder. Buddensilk has been for years in trouble with the authorities on account of the 'skin' buildings he has put up. The erection of the buildings has been going on since last December, during all the cold weather. The fourth story walls showed weakness in the sudden thaw before the fifth story was reached and had to be taken down. When a good thaw set in the walls began to weaken and steps were taken to brace them up from both ends so the roof could be put on.

Four stone masons and eighteen carpenters and roofers, painters, lathers, and plumbers numbering perhaps thirty, were at work about the premises at the time. Fifty men had laid off as some material had not arrived. At 3.15 p. m., a shout of warning went up. The end of the building toward Eleventh Avenue was seen to totter and then fall with a thunderous noise. Both foundation side walls had fallen out and the body of the house deprived of its support, fell in between to the cellar. The building adjoining it, having nothing to lean upon, fell next, then the whole row followed like a line of card houses, with a continuous roar, that

seem to last many minutes, as one after the other of the tall buildings went down after its neighbor.

Workmen in the buildings for blocks around and people living on the street for half a mile about were started by the noise and shock, and in a very short time the locality of the paper buildings saw packed with the excited populace whose threats of vengeance on the reckless builder filled the air. When the heavy clouds of dust had cleared away the people looked upon the heap of broken bricks and timbers, which was piled only a few feet above the level of the street. Men with broken limbs and bruised faces and members were struggling out from under the brick and dragging themselves painfully away.

Shrieks and groans were heard from one or two places and to these spots people rushed. Firemen and all the available ambulances in the city were summoned to the scene. The Roosevelt Hospital ambulance was first on hand and carried away nine wounded. Hook and ladder companies and crews of three engine companies set at work to remove the debris, and a large gang of workmen were pressed into the service. In fifteen minutes the labor was well under way. Night had set in before the efforts were relaxed at all. Once or twice the workers fancied they heard a cry for help but no person was found. About 9 o'clock Louis Walter was found between many crossing timbers and held fast in the ruins. He was extricated with great difficulty. He had been engaged in bolstering up the building. He still breathed and was removed to Roosevelt Hospital. Digging was resumed under strong calcium lights. It was said that Buddensilk had been hurt by a falling brick when the buildings fell.

The manufacture of wash tubs has been commenced in the Dorchester Penitentiary. For several weeks the manufacture of broom handles and has been going on. An arrangement is being made with the inventor of a patent churn to manufacture the article in the prison. A large contract for lard is now being filled for a firm in Amherst. The mill in the prison has been fitted up with machinery sufficient to carry on an extensive business. There are now twelve convicts who are obliged to sleep in the corridors, all the cells being occupied. Work on the new wing, which will accommodate 200 more persons, will soon again be commenced.

Quite a number of persons in Canning speak of hearing a very strange noise some time between the hours of 5 and 6 on the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd. All say it seemed in the South East and quite a number are sure they felt a very perceptible shaking of the ground. One man says the shock knocked him off the sofa on which he was lying and that a stove in the same room was tumbled — *Western Chron.*

The Afghanistan Dispute.

St. Petersburg, April 24. — The Czar has sent numerous Crosses of St. George to Gen. Komaroff for distribution among his bravest soldiers and has asked for the names of the officers who distinguished themselves at Penjdeh. The whole Russian press is clamoring for the seizure of Herat by Russia.

A despatch from St. Petersburg to Reuters' Telegram company says —

"War between Russia and England is now regarded as inevitable. The Czar leaves to-day for Moscow and from that city he will issue his manifesto, or declaration of war, if such an extreme measure should become necessary." The rumors from St. Petersburg of a fresh conflict between Russians and Afghans are causing great uneasiness in London and on the continent, the news of the Penjdeh battle having been preceded by a similar rumor. It is generally believed also that Russia keeps back the news. The news that the Czar is going to Moscow is considered ominous, as a similar visit immediately preceded the Russo-Turkish war. Press comment on the public feeling in all the European capitals is more despondent. France has warned Turkey to maintain neutrality in the event of war. A council will be held at Cronstadt to consider the defenses at that point.

London, April 23. — The Standard's correspondent at Paris learns the United States government has intimated that if war breaks out between England and Russia the United States will not allow Russia to buy ships or armed privates in American harbors to prey upon British commerce.

The Russian army in Turkestan now numbers 60,000 men.

London, April 23, 1 a. m. — The Russian reply to the communication sent to M. DeGiers through Sir Edward Thornton, yesterday, after the receipt of Gen. Lumsden's supplementary report, has just been received. M. DeGiers replies curtly that Russia declines to enter upon any further discussion of the Penjdeh incident. The Times this morning says the only thing clear is the necessity of hurrying preparations for war and of active diplomacy to secure allies. The Daily News takes a gloomy view of the situation, and says it believes Russia declines to make further enquiry concerning the Penjdeh incident, and that negotiations with Turkey tend toward a satisfactory arrangement in the event of war. The Standard says that the rumor that Russia declines to make further enquiry into the Penjdeh affair lacks official confirmation.

London, April 24. — There is no change in the position of affairs with Russia. Both England and Russia are preparing for war. The Russian papers urge the occupation of Herat. War is regarded as inevitable. Turkey does not seem disposed to yield to England's demands with regard to the Dardanelles.

Brussels, April 28. — The *Independence Belge* publishes, under reserve, but from an excellent source, a report of a fresh battle between Russians and Afghans, in which the former were defeated and re-

treated, having met with heavy loss.

London, April 28. — The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily News* says: "I am informed on good authority of another engagement on the Afghan frontier. Of 1,700 Russians who engaged the Afghans, nearly all were killed."

The meetings of the Fruit Growers' Association which took place at Kingston last Tuesday were largely attended. A great deal of information upon subjects relating to fruit culture was elicited. Resolutions were passed approving of the action of the Dominion government in introducing a bill governing the size of apple barrels, but protesting against the restriction as to the kinds of wood to be used in their manufacture. A committee was appointed to enquire into exporting facilities, with a view to making more satisfactory arrangements with the railway and steamboat companies. All members of the association were requested to observe the first day of May as Arbor Day by planting more or less fruit and forest trees by the road sides and elsewhere at our homes for the purpose of beautifying the country.

Troops are swarming to all barracks throughout the united Kingdom in response to the government call for reserves. The war office in London is besieged by military officers asking for employment. It has been decided to divide the channel flying and reserve squadrons. Fresh orders have been received to increase the number of workmen at Portsmouth. The press association asserts that it is enabled to state that further communications have been received from St. Petersburg to the effect that the Russian Government has refused to hold further inquiry in regard to General Komaroff's report of the engagement. It is the opinion therefore in English and Russian diplomatic circles that peace cannot remain.

Captain Howard tells me that he distinctly saw three flashes of light, and explains that the Indians are greater adepts in the art of signalling than the whites. By day, they use smoke, generating it in a close cavity and letting it shoot up in a column by a momentary opening. At night, they use fire in much the same way, hiding it behind a little fence, which they open and close in just as much time as is necessary for its observation by the next signaller, who is perhaps twenty or thirty miles away. The rapidity with which news can thus be flashed from point to point over immense distance is extraordinary. — *North West Correspondence Montreal Witness.*

A magnificent cathedral has just been dedicated in New York. It is a memorial gift of Mrs. A. T. Stewart, widow of the millionaire merchant deceased. It contains 150 windows, with superb colored illustrations of Old Testament scenes and characters. The immense organ is worked by steam power.

New York, April 17. — The district attorney, announced that the grand jury today had indicted Contractor Charles A. Buddensilk and assistant Charles Frank for man slaughter in the second degree. Other parties have yet to be indicted for connexion with the fallen buildings in the 62nd street.

J. W. Beckwith's store windows are very attractive this week.