

BALTIMORE FIRE SWEEP. Spectacle of Ruin and Destruction in Maryland City Appalling--Wholesale Section Destroyed.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 7.—The fire which broke out a few minutes before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co., has raged with unrestrained fury continuously ever since and at midnight it is still unchecked, but is steadily eating its consuming way eastward on Baltimore street, after having destroyed almost all of the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district around Hopkins Place and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore street from Howard to Holliday street, from Charter and Baltimore to Charles and Lexington and on Fayette street, from Charles to Holliday including a total of about twenty blocks of the most modern and substantial business buildings in Baltimore, involving a loss which cannot now be estimated, but which has certainly already reached thirty or forty million dollars.

Ever since about 6 o'clock when darkness set in the fire department, although aided by engines from Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the surrounding counties and suburbs, has been utterly powerless to make any impression on the all-devouring element, though for hours as many as 400 streams of water were thrown into the flames. Indeed, so terrible has been the heat ever since the fire started, and so dense and suffocating the volume of flying sparks and burning cinders that it was difficult for the firemen to stand long within fighting distance of the flames, and several trucks and engines were helplessly disabled at an early hour in the operation.

Dynamiting Buildings. At 7 o'clock the situation was so hopeless, so far as effective work by the firemen was concerned that Chief Morton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings at threatened points and thus prevent as far as possible a further spread of the flames. In pursuance of this plan, a number of buildings on South Charles street between Corman and Lombard were blown up. Subsequently the splendid structure of J. W. Puse & Co., corner of Charles and Lexington streets, was dynamited and then the Daily Record building; Ross' drug store and others. But this heroic remedy delayed but did not seriously impede the onward march of the conflagration and for two hours or more the fire department has stood practically helpless and resourceless in the face of the roaring furnace which sent the flames soaring 300 feet into the air and which filled the heavens first with a pall of black funeral smoke and then with livid sheets of sparks and lurid cinders.

Magnificent Structures Destroyed in Quick Succession. Following the rapid destruction of the palatial commercial buildings in the central district the cyclone of roaring flames burst into Baltimore street, licking within a few minutes the seven-story Mullins Hotel like some insatiable monster. Rapidly rolling with irresistible force both outward and westward, cutting down in its wrathful way wholesale and retail houses, manufacturers, shops, jewelry stores, furniture and employe restaurants. At Charles street, the remorseless tide kept on down Baltimore street, but also turned into Charles street, when it quickly engulfed the eleven-story Union Trust building, starting eastward on Fayette street. By 8 o'clock the occupants of the Daily Herald building at Fayette and St. Paul street and the Record building opposite were compelled to vacate as were the occupants of the Calvert and Equitable structures, two of the most massive office buildings in Baltimore. Down Baltimore street paralleled way of roaring, crackling flames shot their way, consuming everything in its wake, speedily reaching the Evening News building from which a number of copies had been issued during the preceding hours, but from which the employees had to hastily flee, though not until valuable records had been removed. Shortly after the Continental Trust Company's fourteen-story building took fire. A block below the American newspaper building was so enveloped in clouds of sparks and burning splinters that the employees were ordered to move out. So at this hour it is certain that the Herald and American will not get out issues tomorrow. Meanwhile the Sun has been arranging to print its tomorrow issue in its job office which is situated at a distant point from the path of fire.

The financial district, including the chief banking and brokerage firms on South and German streets seems to be now doomed and scores of the city's leading financiers and business men are scurrying in and out of their offices bearing packages or placing valuables in hastily improvised conveniences. During all these hours the pyrotechnic display has been magnificent and imposing beyond the power of painter to depict. At this hour vast columns of seething flame are shooting skyward at varying points of the compass and the firmament is one vast prism of golden and silver-hued sparks. Great multitudes of people line the streets awe-struck with the deafening but gruesome panorama which is being enacted before their eyes.

At 10 o'clock the roof of the building occupied by the Associated Press took fire and the employees were compelled to evacuate, though they had time to take away with them their telegraph instruments, typewriters and other valuable equipment. They found refuge in a branch office of the Western Union Company on Gay street, from which they despatched being sent. The prospect is that this office will

have to operate in a few minutes as the flames are breaking west and east and volumes of sparks and blazing cinders are flying in every direction. At this hour the fire absolutely is beyond control and all communications in the centre of the city are rapidly removing their valuables.

Flames Spreading in All Directions. The city hospital, corner of Calvert and Pleasant streets is removing its twenty-four patients to other hospitals as rapidly as possible. Seventeen injured were taken to this hospital, most of them firemen. They were suffering from burns, scalds and lacerations. Nearly every physician in the city is in the fire district. So far as known at this hour no one has been killed.

Detachments of the fourth and fifth regiments have been called out and are patrolling the streets in the vicinity of the fire, guarding property and keeping order. Fortunately thus far the conflagration has not reached the residence portion of the city but fires are breaking out in East Baltimore and the indications are that the all-devouring element are bound to be invaded. The indications are that not a single morning newspaper will be able to get out an issue tomorrow morning with the possible exception of the Sun which has an auxiliary plant. There are five morning papers here, three English and two German.

The R. & O. office building has been destroyed and the Maryland Institute of Art building. At 11:45 o'clock the temporary custom house adjoining the post office caught fire. One hundred and fifty policemen from Philadelphia arrived here to assist the Baltimore police and military.

Loss \$25,000,000, and Fire Still Raging. The most destructive conflagration in the history of Baltimore, occurred today, raging practically unchecked during many hours, completely destroying scores of the largest business houses in the wholesale district, involving a loss which cannot yet be estimated as the fire is still burning fiercely when night fell.

Owing to the wide extent of the calamity, it will be tomorrow before even an approximate estimate can be made though it is certain that it has already exceeded \$25,000,000. The fire broke out shortly before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co., on Hopkins Place, in the heart of the business district, with a series of loud explosions which were heard in remote parts of the city, and spread with fearful rapidity.

In half an hour there were a dozen big warehouses in the wholesale dry goods and notion district burning fiercely. The entire city fire department was called out, but was utterly powerless to check the spread of the flames, which were aided by high winds, and by noon there were savage fires in at least thirty big warehouses and the conflagration was steadily eating its way into blocks east, west and north.

Building after building fell a prey to the flames, and apparently there was no check to the onward sweep of destruction. On Baltimore street the block between Liberty and Sharp was soon ablaze, then came the next block east to Hanover and after that, the block on the south side to Charles street broke out into flames, the Consolidated Gas Company's building north of Baltimore street being similarly consumed. Mullin's hotel caught and other buildings near it. West of Liberty street, on the south side of Baltimore, the block was doomed and the big Baltimore barbers' house also caught.

Down in Hopkins Place the conflagration started, Hurst's building and the other wholesale houses on both sides of the street crumbled and fell. The big dry goods houses of Daniel Miller & Sons and R. M. Sutton & Co. were soon aflame, and along German street and west from the Hurst building, there were a dozen buildings burning and scores more threatened. The spectacle of ruin and destruction from any point in these doomed blocks was something appalling.

Miss & Kemper's big wholesale store on Baltimore street quickly succumbed to the flames and the walls fell with a crash that was heard for squares. The Hurst building was utterly destroyed, not even a wall ten feet high being left standing, and apparently the centre of the conflagration, from whence the flames radiated over the doomed neighborhood. On Hopkins Place the Hopkins Savings Bank and the National Exchange Bank were gutted by flames, the few streams of water that the firemen were able to turn on them proving utterly ineffectual even to halt the destruction. Here, across the street, were the ruins of John E. Hurst & Co., and next to it S. Hecht, Jr. & Sons were in flames. Adjoining was the large building owned by the William Koch Importing Company, which was also quickly destroyed. Across the street the Stanley & Brown Drug Co. building was quickly in ruins, while fronting on the Baltimore street side of this block were the Roxbury By-Product Distilling Company, the building occupied by Silberman & Todes, the house of Allen Sons, which had hardly been completed, while next to it was the establishment of Moses & Co. On the corner was the building occupied by Messrs. Sugar & Shear and several other smaller concerns. All of these were swallowed in flames, and in fact, the whole block was nothing but a cauldron of fire.

narrowness acted as a fine converting the doomed building into a huge torch. All the goods of the hotel had been ordered out of the building shortly after the fire broke out in Hurst's place. There was no panic or confusion and no one was injured.

350 Streams on the Fire. Though every bit of fire fighting apparatus in the city was called into requisition as the flames continued to spread the firemen resorted to what had a task before them which was too great for them to combat. Telegrams for fire engines were sent to Washington and Philadelphia and about 1 o'clock six engines arrived from Washington and four from Philadelphia had joined in the battle with the flames.

Engines from stations in Baltimore, Howard, Anne Arundel and Hartford counties also arrived as soon as possible, some of the apparatus traveling a distance of thirty miles and more. Water plugs in every section within a radius of half a mile from the fire were set and the streets are bound to be invaded. The indications are that not a single morning newspaper will be able to get out an issue tomorrow morning with the possible exception of the Sun which has an auxiliary plant. There are five morning papers here, three English and two German.

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At 1:30 o'clock, Mullin's hotel, a seven story structure, corner of Liberty and Baltimore streets, was in flames from garret to cellar and the great height and

MARITIME PURE-BRED CATTLE SALE A GREAT SUCCESS.

Many Prominent Breeders from the Provinces Present.

Robert Coates, Sr., Died Very Suddenly Yesterday Morning—Barry Davidson Charged With Robbery, Sent Up for Trial.

Amherst, N. S., Feb. 5.—(Special)—The first maritime auction sale of pure bred cattle took place at the Winter Fair building today and was largely attended by representative stock men from the three provinces, among them being Col. H. M. Campbell, Apohaqui; M. H. Parlee, Sussex; Bliss Fawcett, Sackville; F. L. Fuller and C. A. Archibald, Truro; R. S. Starr, Port Williams; J. W. Kaulbach, Augustus Cove (P. E. I.); F. R. Tetter, M. P. P., Antigonish; Thos. A. Peters, Fredericton; Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, G. Tilley, dairy superintendent New Brunswick; R. A. Snowball, Chatham; J. R. Wymann, Yarmouth; W. H. Hubbard, agricultural agent C. P. R.; Paul Black, Farnmouth; J. E. Wood, Halifax, and Councillor J. H. Livingston, Westworth.

Many of the animals were not in condition to command the highest prices and in this was an object lesson to the public as they could readily see how buyers appreciate quality over fitting. A large number of the animals offered were from eight to eleven months old. George Jackson, of Port Perry (Ont.), was the auctioneer and discharged his duties most acceptably to both the management and public.

Five bulls and sixty sheep were contributed by Senator Edwards of Rockland (Ont.). The sheep were all sold at fair prices. Seventeen Shorthorn males and eight females were sold, the highest price paid for a male was \$130, and for a female \$150. Other prices averaged fairly well. Throughout there appeared to be but little demand for dairy stock, only one animal in this class being sold.

Much regret was expressed that the Bank of Nova Scotia who opened an office in the building for the purpose of cashing buyers' checks, etc. Capt. E. B. Elderkin, who takes such a deep interest in these matters, expressed himself to your correspondent as highly pleased with the results of the sale, but the fire in the kind held.

Another very sudden death occurred here today when Robert Coates, Sr., aged 84, died. Deceased was in his usual health when he retired last night, but at 2 o'clock became ill. Assistance was summoned but he passed suddenly away. A family of six besides his aged wife survive him. Davidson, charged with robbery by Daniel Rogers, was sent up for trial today by Justice Purdy and Walsh.

INDICTED FOR MURDER.

Grand Jury Brings in a True Bill Against P. E. Islander.

Plymouth, Mass., Feb. 4.—An indictment for murder against Cyrus L. Ryan of Hanover, charged with killing Quan Yobe, a hundertman of the militia, was returned by the grand jury for Plymouth today.

After the list of other indictments had been read, Ryan was brought into court and pleaded not guilty. He said he had no counsel, and one will be assigned him by Judge Hardy.

The trial of the criminal cases will be over until the next term. It is alleged by the authorities that Ryan after drawing his victim in a tub of water got his money in order that he might marry a girl named Catherine Murray who formerly resided at Charlotte town, on next Thursday morning. Ryan was formerly a cook on the steamer Olivette which plies each summer between Charlottetown and Boston.

The Charlottetown Guardian of recent date had the following relative to this case: "The young man accused of this heinous crime is a native of Charlottetown and resided there nearly all his life till last summer."

For a number of years he was employed as a tobacco maker in the tobacco factory of Donald Nicholson but severed his connection with that establishment in the early part of last summer. "He was well known to many of the younger people of the city and is spoken of by many as a capable young man."

After leaving Nicholson's tobacco factory he was engaged during the summer months as a hand in the news room of the Charlottetown and Boston.

WAR CERTAIN FAR EAST.

Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg Demanded and is Given His Passports Last Saturday.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 7.—Although the fear was general here yesterday that the presentation of the Russian note to Japan might be followed by an act on the part of the Japanese government which would plunge the two countries into war, the startling action of Japan in severing diplomatic relations with Russia before the actual delivery of the Russian note, came like a bolt from a clear sky. It was believed that the receipt of the note might have amounted to an ultimatum, but that Japan should sever diplomatic relations, a step little short of a declaration of war, was almost like a blow in the face under the present circumstances, and it is regretted accordingly. The authorities believe this action places Japan definitely in the wrong before the world, and, moreover, after such a "piece of impudence" as it is denominated here, to make any appeal to the patriotism of the Russian people.

Japan's Minister Asks for Passports. The news that any moment Japan had drawn the sword and that the first clash had occurred would not be surprising. The events leading to Japan's abrupt action have marched with great rapidity. The Russian note was already in the hands of Baron De Rosen, Russian minister at Tokio, for delivery to Baron Komura, the Japanese foreign minister, when at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon M. Kurino, the Japanese minister here, presented himself at the foreign office and informed Foreign Minister Lansdowne that his government, in view of the delay in connection with the Russian answer and the facility hitherto of the negotiations, considered it useless to continue diplomatic relations and would take such steps as it deemed proper for the protection of Japan's interests. In obedience to instructions therefore, he asked for his passport. Exactly what else passed at this interview is not known, except that Count Lansdowne expressed surprise and regret at the resolve of the Japanese government. M. Kurino received his passport and after consulting with Sir G. C. Scott, of the British embassy here, he returned to his legation where the preparations for his departure had already commenced.

Russia Recalls Her Minister. Another version of the situation at the time M. Kurino notified Count Lansdowne of the course his government had elected to pursue, is that the Russian reply was not in the possession of Baron De Rosen, but that the Japanese were awaiting transmission, and that it was withdrawn before being despatched. Upon the disclosure of Japan's position the Russian authorities meet the situation with great promptness. Instructions reaching Baron De Rosen were forthwith telegraphed, and he is to leave Tokio immediately. Count Lansdowne's official circular to the Russian representatives abroad, instructing them to inform the governments of the countries to which they were accredited of Japan's action, was then prepared. This circular was printed in the Official Messenger at 5 o'clock this morning.

Rigid Censorship of News. With war imminent orders have been given for a rigid censorship over all information relating to naval and military movements. Preparations were also made for the czar's journey to the ancient capital, Moscow, where his government was to meet the traditional custom of his forefathers to invoke Divine guidance. While the imperial train is passing to Moscow, troops will line every foot of the way. When the representative of the Associated Press called at the Japanese legation this morning he found a scene of great excitement. There was an air of magic, all the Japanese art treasures, bronzes and ivory had disappeared and the apartments were bare. Several attendants, who had been working all night, were still busily packing papers and archives. M. Kurino entered the saloon with his habitual quick and nervous step. His hooded eyes gave evidence that he had been a stranger to sleep but he displayed the impassivity of his race and was without excitement. There was an air of firm resolution about him, however, which was the only noticeable change in his demeanor.

Throughout the strain which has just passed, the attitude of the Japanese minister has been a strictly correct. He has been on good terms personally with Count Lansdowne and with the other Russian officials. Today, as is customary with him, he is extremely reticent and declined to offer an explanation of the course of Japan, saying the authorities at Tokio would doubtless give the world their side of the story.

He did, however, venture to point out the irritation created by the delay in the Russian response postponed from day to day, together with the forecast of what it contained might have convinced his government that it was futile to proceed further with diplomacy.

As M. Kurino looked out of the window at the legation, which faces the Neva not far from the winter palace, he saw a battalion of the Russian Imperial Guard clad to the teeth in big overcoats and their guns slung over their backs. He showed no emotion at the sight. He said rather sadly, that the rupture of diplomatic relations did not necessarily mean

noon, M. Kurino and his wife made a number of hurried calls, including one at the American embassy. Four cars are ready at the Warsaw station for the minister and the legation staff. M. Kurino will leave at the earliest possible moment but he probably will not be able to get away before Wednesday. He will remain in Berlin for some time. The current business of the Japanese legation will probably be turned over to the British embassy, although no exchange with Great Britain, however, has yet occurred. Something in this direction may be done tomorrow.

Alarmist Stories Affair. Mr. McCormick, however, has received no instructions on this point. It is possible that the czar may personally undertake the protection of the Japanese in Russia as Nicholas I did in the case of the English during the Crimean war. Amid the crop of stories about here today there are some of the wildest character, as, for example, that a naval battle has already been fought and a Japanese fleet sunk. Another story, which is repeated circumstantially, is that while the Japanese government did not wait for the official presentation of the Russian response, the contents of it were communicated privately to M. Kurino, who telegraphed to his government. This the Associated Press has been authoritatively informed to be incorrect. When Count Lansdowne informed M. Kurino on Thursday night that the response had gone to Viceroy Alexieff, he did not give him a copy of it, but it is understood that he made known, in a general way, the Russian position. Russia, while making expressions, declined to yield on the following points: Moved as an amendment by Count Gallagher, seconded by Count Dibble, that the members of fourteen Liberal clubs, two brass bands and students from McGill and Laval universities elected the premier from the Grand Trunk station to the place of meeting, which was wildly enthusiastic. During his speech, which was in French, and occupied an hour, Sir Wilfrid turned his attention to Mr. Tarte. He referred to the latter as "My old colleague," in kindly tones, but with the lash of sarcasm, whapped the examiner of public works. He searched the ill reports of his health to the office of La Patrie. This was the first time in public that Sir Wilfrid had taken his former minister to task, and the crowd hung on every word.

You have heard in certain public journals, many stories as to the state of my health," he said, "my health, I can assure you, is excellent. You are told that I am going to quit the political arena after the elections (whenever they may be) I may say that I will continue to fill the position that I now do, until a change in the policy of Canada desire a change, and while I hold that position my whole energy and thought will be the best interests of the country, of which I am proud to be a citizen."

Sir Wilfrid Nervous. At the beginning of his speech the premier seemed nervous and his hand shook as he clutched his notes and faced the enthusiastic crowd. For some minutes he stood there shivering against the curtain and into his face there crept a smile of pride at the magnitude of his reception. The opening remarks revealed the apparent nervousness. His words did not come with the ease and grace that one is accustomed to associate with him. In halting sentences he thanked the audience for their reception. At some length he dwelt upon the protection ideas of the Conservative party and Mr. Tarte. He referred to the programme of the national policy. The speaker sketched the career of the United States under a high protective

tariff, and he declared that there was a great count against the United States on the face of the globe, the country richer in natural resources, and with a more promising future before it, and that country was Canada. "Sir Wilfrid declared that the fiscal policy of Canada was superior to that of the United States. The commerce of Canada was greater per capita than that of the country to the south of the line. The policy of Canada was the policy that made her prosperous and a power among the nations. The premier then delved into facts and figures in support of his claim that protection as in the United States was not the best policy for Canada. Cakes was used as an instance, an article that was so largely used by the Canadian manufacturer and without which they could not continue their operations. Tariff Changes Would Cause Injury. The premier then said that it was impossible to change the tariff without doing injury to both the manufacturer and the workman. Tariff changes had been taken place in 1896. Then the tariff was changed and the government of that speaker was the head would continue to protect in every way possible the manufacturer and the workman. G. T. P. Pr. jet Defended. Of the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, Sir Wilfrid said it would help to build up a new province of Quebec and Ontario, and bring the wheat fields of the west in touch with the manufacturer of the east. He had pronounced the project in parliament and in his opinion it was good for the country and good for the people. A new line was needed, Canada was hungry for better and improved transportation facilities and the Grand Trunk Pacific, in which he might be allowed to take a fatherly pride, would, Sir Wilfrid thought, be instrumental in bringing the country to the best advantage. Sir Wilfrid was of the opinion that the verdict of the electors of St. James and Hochelaga divisions would be favorable.

WOODSTOCK COUNCIL DOES MUCH BUSINESS. Woodstock, Feb. 5.—The second meeting of the new town council was held tonight, all the councillors being present, but Council Clerk, who is confined to his house by illness. A vacancy on the school board, caused by the removal of John Connor to the States, was filled by the appointment of P. Bradley. The mayor remarked that he had received a check from G. W. Vanwart, treasurer of the school board, for \$770, which he, the mayor, had refused to sign, owing to the present large debit balance, until the amount was collected from back taxes which, last year, amounted to \$5,600. Less than fifty taxpayers owed \$110.

C. L. Keesham and John S. Leighton, Jr., were appointed auditors for all town books, including those of the superintendent of water works, which have never been audited by the board. Robert and Rankin Brown were heard before the agricultural society, which purpose holding an exhibition on their grounds. Woodstock, Feb. 5.—The board of health, which was incorporated, had never before asked a favor, and asked for a birthday present for the board members. The request of the committee will be given consideration when the board makes out the estimates. The clerk was requested to give the necessary notice asking for legislation to issue bonds for \$5,000, redeemable in five years, at \$100 a year. Moved by Coun. Stevens, seconded by Coun. Jones, that Rev. H. Colman be appointed Scott act inspector for the town at a salary of \$100 a year. Moved by Coun. Gallagher, seconded by Coun. Dibble, that the members of fourteen Liberal clubs, two brass bands and students from McGill and Laval universities elected the premier from the Grand Trunk station to the place of meeting, which was wildly enthusiastic. During his speech, which was in French, and occupied an hour, Sir Wilfrid turned his attention to Mr. Tarte. He referred to the latter as "My old colleague," in kindly tones, but with the lash of sarcasm, whapped the examiner of public works. He searched the ill reports of his health to the office of La Patrie. This was the first time in public that Sir Wilfrid had taken his former minister to task, and the crowd hung on every word.

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CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson

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SPECIAL GRAND JURY ON IROQUOIS DISASTER. Chicago, Feb. 6.—Formal application was made this afternoon by States Attorney Dineen for a special grand jury to investigate the fire at the Iroquois Theatre on December 30. It is planned by Mr. Dineen to make the inquiry exhaustive and every effort will be made to fix the criminal responsibility for the fire if any exists.