

# LEAP TO DEATH OR BE BURNED

### Horrible Choice Left to Workers in Big Factory Building in New York—No Outside Fire Escapes

## DEATH LIST 148, NEARLY ALL GIRLS

### Many Leap from Windows, to be Crushed on Pavement—Fifty Charred Bodies Found on One Floor

NEW YORK, March 25.—One hundred and forty eight persons—nineteen of them girls from the East Side—were crushed to death on the pavements, smothered in smoke or burned to a crisp in a factory fire this afternoon in the worst disaster New York has known since the steamship Glen Sluocum was burned to the water's edge off North Brother Island in 1904.

One hundred and forty bodies have been removed from the ruins at midnight and seven of the forty injured died in hospitals, of the forty injured in hospitals.

This, it is believed, completes the list of the dead, most of whom are unidentified.

Great-crazed relatives besieged the morgues as the bodies were laid out. Nearly all, if not all the victims, were employed by the Triangle Waist company on the eighth, ninth and tenth floor of a ten-story loft building at No. 23 Washington place, on the western fringe of the downtown wholesale district. Partners of the firm, Isaac Harris and Max Blanck, escaped carrying with them over an adjoining roof Blauvelt's two young daughters and a governess. There was not an outside fire escape on the building.

How the fire started perhaps never will be known. A corner on the eighth floor was its point of origin, and only the three upper floors were swept on the ninth floor fifty bodies were found; sixty-three or more persons were crushed to death by jumping; more than thirty clogged the elevator shafts. Loss to property will not exceed \$100,000.

Industrial going home through Washington square at three o'clock to five o'clock were scattered by the whizz of something rushing through the air before them; there was a horrible thud on the pavement and a body escaped from the public, among the flatters on the ground. The pressure of the maddened hundreds behind them and the urging of their fears were too strong. They began to fall to the sidewalk.

Four alarms were rung within fifteen minutes. Before the engines could respond, before the nets could be stretched or the ladders raised, five girls had fallen from the eighth and ninth floors so heavily that they crashed through the very streets to the vaults below. In an hour the fire was out; in half an hour it had done its worst, probably the death list was complete in twenty minutes.

### Poor Means of Escape

The building stands on a corner with exposures on two sides, but the only fire escape was in the interior, opening on a light and air shaft. In the rear, two freight elevators at the rear, two passenger elevators in the front and two stairways. All of them proved almost useless and practically all who escaped either climbed to the roof and scrambled thence to the American Book company, adjoining, or fled in the first rush for safety behind the crush and smoke grew too thick.

The building stands tonight as a silent thing between floor and floor sound, and it is impossible for one to see it to imagine how the flames in a short a time could have wrought havoc. Seven hundred hands, of their women, were employed in the shirtwaist company. They sat at their whirring machines, the desks before them piled with flimsy sheets, the floor littered with lint, the air itself full of flying, inflammable dust. The first rush of flame was almost an explosion, catching operators in their chairs, their lungs seared by inhaling flames. Others rushed for the elevator shafts after the cars, and made their last trip. Still others were pushed off the inadequate interior fire escape.

### Stream of Bodies

In such a horrible stream did the bodies overflow from the windows nets stretched by the first company to arrive were soon forged beyond capacity. Twelve bodies weighed one net to the bursting point, but the bodies kept on tumbling to the pavement through meshes that could no longer sustain them. When the first breath of flame curled over the edge of a pile on the eighth floor, five minutes before quitting time, hundreds were in line before the cashier's window.

In the office buildings across Washington Place were scores of men retained beyond office hours, working at their desks. One of them saw a girl rush to a window and throw up the sash. Behind her danced a scorching curtain of yellow flame. She climbed to the sill, stood in black outlines against the fire hesitating, then with a last touch of futile thrift, slipped her chaste-line bag over her wrist and jumped. Her body went whirling downward through the women's wire glass of a canopy to the flagging below. Her sisters who followed dashed through the air like rockets.

It was eighty-five feet from the eighth floor to the ground, about ninety-five feet from the ninth floor, and the girls fell from the cornice, and the crackle of the flames drowned their cries. Six girls fought their way to a window on the fifth floor over the bodies of fallen fellow workers and crawled out to an eight-inch stone ledge. More than 100 feet above the sidewalk, they crawled on a swinging electric feed wire spanning Washington Place. The leaders paused for their companions to catch up at the edge of the ledge, and the air thickened with the simultaneous cry. It snapped like rotten whipcord and they crashed down to death.

A thirteen-year-old girl hung for three minutes by her finger tips to the sill of a tenth floor window. A tongue of flame lapped at her fingers and she dropped into a life net held by frames. Two women fell into the net at almost the same moment.

The strands parted and the two were hoisted to the level of the eighth floor. A girl threw her pocketbook, then her hat, then her furs from a tenth floor window.

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# CHINA GRANTED ONLY TWO DAYS

### Russia's Ultimatum Specifies March 28 as Date Before Which Satisfactory Reply is to be Given

## NO MORE EVASION TO BE TOLERATED

### Nothing Less than Admission That All Points in Former Note are Well Taken will be Acceptable

ST. PETERSBURG, March 25.—The Russian government is determined to force China to take decisive action regarding the Russian demand that the provisions of the treaty of 1881 be complied with. Russia's ultimatum, which has been presented to the administration at Peking through the Russian minister, declares that China must give a satisfactory answer to the Russian claims before March 28, otherwise it will hold the Chinese government responsible for such action as Russia deems advisable to take.

The ultimatum was contained in a telegram from M. Neratoff, the acting minister of foreign affairs, to M. Korotkovich, the Russian minister at Peking, as follows:

"Negotiations in recent months have convinced the imperial government that the Chinese are seeking by cryptic and evasive answers to reject the points of the note of February 16. As an instance, on March 19, the Chinese memorandum presented to the Russian minister, yielded on one hand to our repeated representations and agreed that the establishment of a consulate at Khabarovsk should be postponed until the introduction of a suitable treaty."

remained silent regarding the establishment of other consulates, for which provision was made in Article 15 of the St. Petersburg treaty, and ready negotiations among the powers had been introduced in the province of Szechuan.

"It is also intimated that in the trade in local products, the Chinese government must observe the same conditions as the Chinese, thus entirely ignoring the treaty provisions exempting Russians trading in Mongolia and Western China from the payment of customs duties and other taxes whatsoever.

"In view of the fulfillment of such negotiations, in the course of which the Chinese government has sought to restrict Russia's treaty rights by adoption of evasive arguments, which it afterwards abandoned, the Russian government sees itself obliged to interfere in this preposteration, for which there is no justification, and requests the Chinese government formally to admit that all the points in the note of February 16 are valid and conform to treaty stipulations.

"Only after such admission can the Russian government agree to enter into negotiations on the question of customs duties, the establishment of a special regime for the tea trade, or any other partial modification of the treaty of 1881.

"If an exhaustive and satisfactory reply to all six points of the note of February 16 is not received by March 28, Russia reserves to itself freedom of action and will make the Chinese government responsible for the obstinacy displayed by it."

### Y. W. C. A. Conference

SANTA CRUZ, Cal., March 25.—With over four hundred delegates already registered from all over the Pacific coast, the annual Y. W. C. A. student conference was opened at the Hotel Capitola tonight with an address by Miss Condon of New York. The convention will remain in session all next week.

### Girl Charged With Forgery

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 25.—Miss Lilian Paxton, an attractive young woman of 27, was arrested in Pasadena today on a charge of forgery and lodged in the county jail in default of \$15,000 bonds. It is alleged she made an attempt to negotiate a loan of \$10,000 on property which she did not own.

### Powerful Wireless Station

WASHINGTON, March 25.—A powerful wireless telegraph station, capable of communicating with vessels 2,000 and possibly 3,000 miles distant from Washington, will be erected at Fort Meyer, Va., just outside the national capital. This high powered plant will be designed to keep the headquarters of the American navy in close touch with the war vessels in the Atlantic Ocean.

### Valuable Package Lost

NOGALES, Ar., March 25.—E. W. Hawkins, a Wells-Fargo express messenger running between Nogales and Mazatlan is being sought in connection with the loss of an express package containing \$50,000 Mexican money. Hawkins left Nogales on his run south on March 22, the package being in a safe consigned to Guaymas. The loss was not discovered until the safe was opened, and by the meantime, officials of the express company say, Hawkins and a companion, chartered a gasoline launch at Mazatlan, about when nothing has been heard from him. Detectives are in pursuit.

# FOUNDERS WITH ALL ON BOARD

### Number of Victims in Sechart Disaster Various Estimated at Between Thirteen and Twenty-six

## EYEWITNESS TELLS STORY OF SEA TRAGEDY

### Sooke Missionary and His Wife Go Down with Ill-Starred Vessel—Bodies Seen in the Straits

## TWO LINERS COLLIDE IN ENGLISH CHANNEL

### No Lives Lost—Both Sink Within Few Minutes of Collision

LONDON, March 25.—Colliding today in the English Channel in a sense the French steamer Bordsaulle and the Scotch steamer Iris Brook, were so badly damaged that both sank within a few minutes.

The crews and passengers of both vessels were got into the boats with difficulty, and within a short time were picked up by other vessels called by wireless to the scene of the disaster.

# ALBERTA MINERS TO LEAVE WORK

### Conference Between Men's and Owner's Representatives Ends in Failure—Strike to Commence on April 1st

CALGARY, March 24.—The conference between representatives of the Mine Owners' association and District 18, of the United Mine Workers of America, was definitely declared off at the end of their talks in the Crow's Nest Pass collieries, and that a strike is imminent has been announced by the men.

The Dominion Government fearing that the miners may get beyond the control of their leaders in the Crow's Nest Pass collieries, and that a strike is imminent, has sent military officers along the pass to determine the most advantageous spots to place troops in case trouble arises.

# LIVES AS STAKES

### Condemned Murderers in Jail Play Seven-up to Decide Which Should be Hanged

DENVER, Colo., March 25.—A game of seven-up, with the stake a hangman's noose, was played by two condemned murderers in their cell at the county jail today. The players were Michael H. Murphy, whose sentence had been fixed at life imprisonment by the jury, that found him guilty of the murder of his former sweetheart, Annetta Wunderlich; the other, Louis Welch, adjudged guilty of murdering W. C. Burrows. In his case the jury had fixed hanging as the punishment.

But the game was not finished, for Murphy was taken into the court, there to be sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Bliss.

"You need not look to this court for any mitigation of your sentence," said Judge Bliss.

Welcher was dealing in the game. "Let's play for sentences," said he to Murphy, his cellmate. "If I win I'll take your place. If I lose, I'll take yours."

"Done," said Murphy, and the game started, never to be finished.

### Killed By Explosion

MONTREAL, March 25.—Edward Alton, caretaker of the Cobourg apartments, was killed tonight by an explosion of one of the heating furnaces while the basement and apartments on the first floor of the building were crowded with people in progress. They saw no small leave the wreck. If they had, they must have perished quickly.

When the shock of the thing they had seen passed, the Indian, Harry Charles, started to run over the fence from his house at the rocky point, which marks an entrance to Sechart Bay to the residence of the nearest

# CHINESE NOTES

### ARE TOO EVASIVE

## RUSSIA PREPARING TO ADDRESS ULTIMATUM TO CHINA FIXING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF SATISFACTORY REPLY

ST. PETERSBURG, March 24.—Russia is on the point of addressing to China an ultimatum fixing a date for acceptance or rejection of her demands.

The Chinese replies to Russia's successive notes dealing with the demands of Russia in Mongolia have been described by the Chinese government as evasive, but the text in each case has been unavailing.

The last Chinese note received by the Russian government demands to the establishment of a consulate at Khabarovsk, whereas Russia demanded its location at Shiharungo, in which place the Chinese transferred the administrative seat of the district. The Chinese reply also assented to limit Russia's rights in trade to articles of foreign origin, whereas the treaty specifies that Russia's rights extend to merchandise of any origin.

This reply also denies the right of the Russians to trade in tea, which is one of Russia's most important commodities. It also promises to place Russian trade on equal conditions with natives. This would subject Russians to taxes and impose not contemplated by the treaty.

The news from a leading article which betrays the irritation of the government, accuses the Chinese of evasiveness and demands that an ultimatum with a fixed term for its satisfaction be sent to China.

### Rumors of Mobilization

VLADIVOSTOK, March 24.—Persistent rumors are current here that a mobilization of troops has been ordered. The families of railroad employees on the Russian-Eastern lines are preparing to depart.

# TRAIN BREAKS THROUGH BRIDGE

### Eight People Killed and Dozen Injured in Accident to Fast Express—Cars Piled in the River

TIETON, Ga., March 25.—Eight persons were killed and more than a dozen injured when train No. 95, known as the Dixie Flyer, on the Atlantic Coast Line, and running between Chicago and Jacksonville, Fla., went through a trestle over the Alabama river, eighteen miles east of here, early today.

But one body, that of John T. Watson, of Lander, Wyo., remains in the cars in the river. Had it not been for the wreck, Watson would have been a bridegroom today. His fiancée, Miss Ellen Shipley, of Pasadena, Cal., who also was on the train, was not hurt.

The list of the dead and injured is given as follows:

Dead: O. F. Bonawant, Henderson, Ky.; W. W. Gillespie, Tieton, Ga.; Mrs. W. D. Fletcher, Rowland, Ill.; John T. Watson, Lander, Wyo.; J. P. Woodward, Waycross, Ga.; C. J. Parnell, conductor, Savannah; L. Ellis, freeman and Albert Simmons, porter, both of Waycross, Ga.

The injured: E. E. Powell, baggage-man, Jacksonville; J. F. Klein, wife and child; St. Louis; father and mother bruised and child scalded; Peter Geroff, Holland, Mich., bruised; Nick Vandermeel, Grand Rapids, Mich., bruised about head.

The bars plunged into the river when an axle on the train snapped when midway of the trestle. The engine did not leave the track.

The trestle is about a half mile long. The express and baggage cars, two coaches and the Pullman were piled in a mass in the water of the stream.

### Increase of Wages

CHICAGO, March 25.—It was announced today that all train dispatchers on the Illinois Central road had been granted an increase of pay amounting to \$18 a month. Telegraphers in the employ of the company, it is said, also are scheduled for an increase.

### Treacherously Shot

EDMONTON, Alta., March 25.—William Lennox, 45 years old, was shot last night by a rifle bullet fired through the window of a shack he was visiting. His life is despaired of, but he has been able to make an anti-mortem statement, and the police are looking for a man named Fortier.

### Tacoma Launch Burned

TACOMA, March 25.—The launch Elsie B. operating between Tacoma and Henderson Bay points was destroyed by fire last night at Purdy following a collision with a raft of logs. Bert Evans, the owner, and Ed Richmond, both of Tacoma, narrowly escaped with their lives. The launch was valued at \$3,000 and carried a cargo of 15 tons of hay, grain and merchandise. A lantern hanging by the engine was thrown down and set the raft of draped in flames, dropped to the floor it came in contact with a can of kerosene. In an instant the engine room was in flames.

# DEMANDS MUST BE ACCEDIED TO

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### Rumors Current in Vladivostok that Troops are to be Mobilized—Irritation of Russian Government

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# VESSEL DRIFTS; CAPTAIN DEAD

### Liver Sight American Barkentine Flying Distress Signals and Going to Rescue

HONOLULU, March 25.—With her captain dead and mangled by his widow in the cabin, a scant supply of food on board, and without a correct reckoning of her position, the American barkentine James Johnson was sighted flying signals of distress 100 miles off this port by the steamer Perla, which arrived here today from Honolulu.

A boat from the Perla was sent to board the almost helpless vessel, the officers of which learned that Capt. Carl Jensen had died of heart failure on January 13, that the ship's bearings had been lost, and that the stock of provisions was fast exhausted.

After the barkentine's leader had been replenished by the Perla and her first mate given his location, her acting commander decided to proceed to Honolulu.

The James Johnson has on board a cargo of coal from Newcastle, N. S. W., consigned to San Francisco. She is owned by the Charles Nelson Company, of that city, and carries a crew of about twenty-five men.

Oasa, a young giant with Seattle, is a Seattle kid who used to play baseball and football for the Washington Athletic club team. He is a husky youngster who puts a lot of stuff on the ball. As soon as he saw Oasa in action Ed Roy said "that kid will do," and then Ed beat it before the game was over. For fear Oasa would throw him down, he need not have been so fearful, however, for the big fellow got by all right. Manager Tighe will give Oasa every chance to make good, for he would like to have at least one Seattle man on the Seattle ball club.

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### MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., March 25.—Fanned by a strong wind, a small plane started in an alley by children at base caused a fire tonight in the heart of a fashionable business district, killed three apartment houses, and the fire communicated to the warehouse of the Tyle Lumber Co., and a fierce conflagration was soon in progress, threatening the residence district. Firemen were unable to subdue it for several hours. Sparks ignited houses several blocks away. Many minor accidents occurred during the fire, but no loss of life resulted.

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