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DEAD IN CHICAGO HORROR NOW NUMBERS SIX HUNDRED

Appalling Disaster Through the Burning of the Iroquois Theater During a Performance—Greatest Catastrophe Since Fire of 1872—City Plunged in Gloom.

Men, Women and Children Suffocated and Trampled to Death—An Audience of 1,300 in Frantic Rush.

Priests Give General Absolution as Scores Pass Away.

ENTIRE FAMILIES WIPED OUT

Well-Known Clergyman Amongst the Victims—England Cables Its Sympathy—The Details.

[By Associated Press.] Chicago, Dec. 31.—Today brought only the legacy of yesterday's monumental calamity, and the prediction that the list of fatalities in the Iroquois fire will run over 600 when information is complete. The latest statement of dead at the

searchers. There were husbands searching for their wives, wives searching for husbands, frenzied parents seeking their children, so many of whom lost their lives, and in some instances children, still dazed from the horror of their experiences, groped dazedly about in search of father or mother.

THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING
Crowds visit the Morgues Looking for Friends and Relatives.

All night long the crowds came and went around the morgues where the bodies of the victims of the disaster lay. There were the heads of families, brothers, sisters and men and women looking for those from outside cities who had been their guests. For hours they passed up and down before the

nieces of R. T. Crane, the millionaire manufacturer of this city. Mrs. Hoffelt was taken from the theater severely burned about the head and shoulders. The children are believed to have been caught in the crush coming down from the balcony, and to have been trampled to death on the staircase leading to the main floor. A party consisting of Mrs. Lucy Garn, her two children, Frank, 10 years, and Willie, 6 years old; Harriet Wolfe, 10 years old, daughter of Ludwig Wolfe, a millionaire business man, and Miss Burke, a dressmaker, is missing. Mr. Wolfe's family searched all night through the hospitals and morgues, but failed to find a trace of any members of the party. George Stewart, Republican national committeeman from Illinois, spent the entire night hunting for Mrs. F. M. Fox, of Winnetka, Ill., and her three children. Mrs. Fox is a daughter of W. H. Hoyt, who was president of the W. H. Hoyt Grocery Company. Mrs. Fox was taken home, but none of her children was found.

FIVE OF A FAMILY PERISH.
Party of Priests and Nuns in Search of a Dead Sister.

There was a pathetic scene at Johnson's morgue, when the body of John Van Ingen, 18 years old, of Kenosha, Wis., was identified. Friends of the Van Ingen family had spent many hours searching at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Van Ingen, who were injured. Today four of the Van Ingen children, who are believed to have perished in the fire, had not been accounted for. They are: Grace, 2 years old; Dottie, 5 years old; Mary, 13 years old; Edward, 20 years old. One of the saddest of the many scenes enacted in Thompson's restaurant, near the altar, where many of the dead and wounded were taken immediately after the fire, was the search by a party of priests and nuns, who had attended the funeral of a young girl, who in company with one of the convent sisters had attended the performance. The body of a young girl was found in the restaurant, many of the nuns breaking down and weeping bitterly at the sight. The other Horton girl and the sister who accompanied them were not found.

BALLPLAYER' HEROIC ACT
Two National League Stars Succeeded in Saving Many Lives.

Charles Dexter, of the Boston Baseball Club, and Frank Houseman, the old Chicago second baseman, occupied a box. Both claimed that but for the presence of Dexter and Houseman, the death toll would have been doubled. When the panic began Dexter and Houseman each made for a main entrance door, leading into the alley on the north side of the theater. The people in the balconies had already commenced to jump to ground. Dexter, when Houseman and Dexter forced open their doors and they were compelled to lift many of the maimed and dead in order to permit of exits from the ground floor. Houseman, having escorted his party out, took a position in the rear of the crowd, choking up by assisting the people through. Finally forced away by the flames, Houseman got into the alley in time to hear the agonizing voice of a woman from the window in an upper gallery shrieking "Catch me!" As the woman screamed she jumped, and Houseman caught her to the best of his ability, broke her fall to the ground and she walked away unharmed.

HOW THE FIRE STARTED
Fire Extinguisher and Asbestos Curtain Refused to Work.

Will J. Davis and Harry F. Powers, proprietors of the Iroquois Theater, make the following statement: "So far as we have been able to ascertain as to the cause or causes of the most unfortunate accident of the fire in the Iroquois, it appears that one of the scenic draperies was noticed to have ignited from some cause. It was detected before it had reached an appreciable flame, and the city fireman who is detailed and constantly on duty when the theater is opened, noticed it simultaneously with the electrician. The fireman, who was only a few feet away, immediately pulled a tube of kerosene, of which there were many hung about the stage, and threw the contents upon the blaze, which would have been more than enough if the kilfire had been effective to have extinguished the flame at once, but for some cause, inherent in the tube of kerosene, it had no effect. The fireman then ordered down the asbestos curtain and the fireman threw the contents of another tube of kilfire upon the flames with no better result. The commotion thus caused excited the alarm of the audience, who immediately started for the exits, of which there are 25 of unusual width, all opening out and ready to the hand of anyone reaching them. The draft thus caused, it is believed, had before the curtain could be entirely lowered, produced a bellows effect of the asbestos curtain causing a pressure on the guides against the solid brick wall of the proscenium, thus stopping its descent. Every effort was made by those on the stage to pull it down, but the pressure against the proscenium wall and the friction caused thereby was so strong that they could not be overcome. The audience became panic-stricken in their efforts to reach the exits and tripped and fell over each other, and fell and blocked the way. The audience was promptly admonished and importuned by per-



Will J. Davis, Manager and One of the Proprietors of the Iroquois Theater.

sions employed on the stage and in the auditorium to be calm and avoid any rush that the exits and facilities for emptying the theater was ample to enable them all to get out without confusion. No expense or precaution was omitted to make the theater as fireproof as it could be made, there being nothing combustible in the building except the trimmings and furnishings of the stage and auditorium. In the building of the theater we spared no expense to make it as safe as any theater in America."

PRIESTS SHRIVE DYING
So Great Was the Number They Gave General Absolution.

In the Northwestern University Law School, which many victims had been taken, Bishop Muldon, finding that he and Rev. Father O'Brien were unable to attend the great number being brought in, announced that he would give a general absolution to all the Catholics among the victims. During the brief moment that the two priests, with uplifted hands, besought God to pardon all the fruitless of his dying servants, the poor mangled men and women, who lay in dozens on the floor, seemed to realize that they were about to face with the last justice in their lives. Many, though craggy with pain, ceased to moan, and fastened their dimming eyes upon the two priests. After absolution was given many of them barely able to move, feebly stretched out their hands imploringly to the priests for one hand-clasp and one word of sympathy before they passed away. The churchmen administered absolution, remaining till the dead were removed to the morgues, and the injured to the hospitals. Over one girl in Thompson's restaurant the doctors labored one hour trying to induce artificial respiration. There was a sign of a burn on her. She was not more than 16 years old, and when they forced her eyelids apart her brown eyes rolled out. About five minutes she lived. "She is too perfect a creature to give up," said the doctors. Stimulant after stimulant was tried, and last of all nitro-glycerine was injected, but in the end the doctor gave up. "There is nothing to be done," he said. "The child is dead. It's horrible!"

ENGLAND SENDS SYMPATHY
Chicago Horror the One Topic Discussed in London.

London, Dec. 31.—The lord mayor of London, Sir James T. Ritchie, transmits through the Associated Press, the following: "The citizens of London offer their deep sympathy and sincere condolence with the Amer-

WEATHER BULLETIN
Tomorrow—Light Snowfalls; Colder

London, Thursday, Dec. 31. Sun rises, 7:51 a.m. Moon sets, 2:56 p.m. Sun sets, 4:50 p.m. Moon rises, 11:41 a.m. Toronto, Dec. 30-31 p.m. Mild weather continues in the Northwest Territories, with a maximum temperature of 50° at Medicine Hat. However, conditions are now more favorable for a change to colder. It has been some what milder from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces, and light snowfalls have occurred in the latter district. Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 42-44; Kamloops, 34-38; Calgary, 22-44; Qu'Appelle, 14-16; Winnipeg, 6 below-30; Pelly Sound, 4 below-16; Toronto, 10-22; Ottawa, zero-10; Montreal, zero-5; Quebec, 4-10; Halifax, 6-28. Thursday, Dec. 31-3 a.m. Today—Westerly winds; fair and cold. Friday—Light snowfalls, followed by strong northerly winds, and colder by night.

Stations	Temperatures	Weather
Calgary	22-44	Cloudy
Winnipeg	6-30	Clear
Pelly Sound	4-16	Snow
Toronto	10-22	Cloudy
Ottawa	0-10	Cloudy
Montreal	0-5	Cloudy
Quebec	4-10	Cloudy
Halifax	6-28	Cloudy

The sign indicates "snow zero."

The temperature again yesterday was between 30° and 50° in the western portion of the Territories; fair and cold. Freezing point in parts of Manitoba; but indications now point to colder weather throughout the Northwest. Local temperatures: Wednesday—Highest, 18°; lowest, 2°.

lean people in the awful loss of life in the fire at Chicago.

"JAS. T. RITCHIE,"
Mayor of London.

All other topics were forgotten here in the horror over the Iroquois theater tragedy. The days over the American steamship offices were half-masted. All the morning papers print editorials on the catastrophe in the Iroquois Theater at Chicago, saying that it fills the whole world with a feeling of pity and sympathy for the victims and that the event has not only shown the need of regulation and appliances adopted as a precaution against such accidents as these, but has also shown the need of the universal adoption of the plan which is already largely employed on the continent of rendering all scenery, gauzes and properties non-inflammable.

HIS WIT AVERTED PANIC
Audience in Neighboring Theater Unaware of the Calamity.

When the fire engines commenced to rush past the Garrick, Manager Schuber became fearful lest the impression that his theater was on fire should spread in the audience. When the intermission between acts came he ordered the doors closed and refused to allow anyone to pass in or out, so that no knowledge of the fire should reach the audience. Wilton Lackaye, the star, entertained the audience for over five minutes with a witty speech. The curtain rose for the next act without anybody in the audience knowing that hundreds of lives were being sacrificed almost next door to the Garrick.

When the people fled out of the Garrick they were greeted at the door by hundreds of frantic men and women, who anxiously scanned their faces to see if any of their friends were among them. There were many scenes of joyful recognition, and astonished members of the Garrick audience were suggested and kissed in frantic delight by their relatives, who up to that time had believed it possible that they were in the ghastly pile of dead lying within the doors of the Iroquois Theater.

LOST WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN
Entire Family of a Postoffice Employee Wiped Out.

Clinton G. Meeker, a clerk in the registry division of the postoffice, has just lost his wife, two daughters and two sons. Today Mr. Meeker had partially identified the bodies of his wife and two daughters. He failed to find any trace of his two sons. Among many of the theatrical men employed in the other Chicago theaters, the responsibility for the fire was ascribed today to the careless placing of electric light apparatus too close to one of the hanging borders of the scenery. The electrician of a leading Chicago theater, expressing great surprise on hearing that this was considered a possible cause of the fire, "There never would have been an fire if proper care had been taken."

CANADIANS AMONG CHICAGO VICTIMS
Mr. R. H. Coutts, Formerly of Toronto, Dead—Miss Alice Welton Missing.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Many inquiries have already been received by the police department by telegram from outside places, asking for names among the dead and injured. Among the long list of missing has been reported the name of Miss Alice Welton, of Toronto, a teacher in one of the Chicago schools. R. H. Coutts, another victim, was a brother of George W. Coutts, of 287 Gage street, Toronto. Deceased had lived in Chicago about fourteen years, though he was born in Toronto, where his parents four reside. The above five years ago he married Miss Wright, of Churchill avenue, Toronto, and besides her he had two more children, a son and a daughter. His brother George had left Toronto for this city to take the body home. He was informed by telegram from a Chicago undertaker last night of his brother's death. Miss Welton, whose name is announced as missing, is the daughter of Rev. H. P. Welton, pastor of Immanuel Church, Toronto, who last night also received a telegram from friends in Chicago, saying that Miss Welton had attended the performance and had not been home. Miss Welton is 30 years of age and has been teaching in the Chicago schools for about ten years.

FATAL WRECK ON LAKE SHORE ROAD
Two Engineers and a Fireman Killed in Smashup of a Fast Train.

Ashtabula, Ohio, Dec. 31.—Limited train, No. 22, east bound, on the Lake Shore road, was derailed here today by an open switch, resulting in the death of three of the train crew and the injury to the fourth. The train was two hours late owing to the heavy snowstorm and was being hauled by two engines. The train was a passenger train, carrying 100 passengers. The engineer, Spring, engineer, Springborn, fireman.

THIRTY MEN IN PERIL
Fatal Explosion in a Chicago Feather Factory.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—An explosion occurred today on the fourth floor of the United States Feather Company's factory. Twenty or thirty men were at work on the floor at the time, and these at least one, Daniel Phelan, who jumped into an alley through a window on the floor at the time, and was killed. Others of the workmen were reported to have been burned, the number being uncertain. The building was soon a mass of flames.

WHILE DESPONDENT, SERGT. WM. WANLESS TAKES HIS OWN LIFE

Staff Clerk at Wolsley Barracks Commits Suicide at the Gulph Sanitarium.

A telegram received at Wolsley Barracks this morning stated that Sergt. William Wanless, a staff clerk in the military district office, had committed suicide at the Homewood Sanitarium, Guelph, by stabbing himself in the region of the heart with a steel rod.

Sergt. Wanless had been at the sanitarium for the past six weeks. About three months ago one of his children, a boy about 7 years of age, died, and this loss preyed on the mind of the father to such an extent that six weeks ago, Col. Peters, the district officer commanding, a member of the military staff called at his room, and was horrified to find him dead. He had stabbed himself in the heart with a short piece of steel. The news of the tragic affair was a great shock to the many friends of the deceased in the city. Wanless was widely known. He was a very capable staff clerk and took a keen interest in military matters. The unfortunate man was about 37 years of age and lived on Quebec street. He is survived by a wife and one child. His mother is a resident of Walkerton, and he has a brother in Berlin, another in New York, and a third in Brandon, Man.

Wanless was a member of A Battery, Kingston, but some years since was appointed for staff clerk's duties. He had served at Vancouver, B. C., before coming to London three years ago. Guelph, Dec. 31.—A sudden death took place at the Hospital Sanitarium this morning under somewhat tragic circumstances. A patient, the name of William Wanless, sergeant of Wolsley Barracks, London, who was under treatment for neurasthenia, of nervous prostration, took a small iron rod used for supporting curtains, sharpened it somewhat by rubbing it against the iron window bars, placed it against the wall of his bedroom, and deliberately forced it between the ribs into his heart. In spite of every effort made by the institution doctors to revive him he rapidly sunk and died from inward hemorrhage.

Dr. McKinnon, the coroner, was immediately notified, investigated the circumstances in connection with the case thoroughly, and found an inquest unnecessary. Sergt. Wanless had gained in weight lately and every indication pointed to his early return to health. He came as a voluntary patient and had recovered sufficiently to help Dr. Hobbs a little in his office.

PARIS HEARS WAR IS INEVITABLE
Russia Intends That Japan Shall Take First Step—The Latter Ready for the Worst.

Paris, Dec. 31.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald says that dominating sentiment today is that war is inevitable. A high military authority, accepting as a fact that war is a foregone conclusion, said to the correspondent: "I presume that when the time comes the Japanese will effect a landing in Korea. Well, what of it, and what after?"

Thus indicating that Russia does not propose to take precipitate action in the event of Japan trying to force the situation. Tokyo, Japan, Dec. 31.—The completion of all the necessary preparations for the Russian minister is being followed by a temporary lull, pending the receipt of Russia's reply. It is reported at Seoul that the Russian minister is trying by every means to induce the Korean court to grant Russia a lease of Masampo as a naval station. The unrest in Southern Korea continues.

DEATH OF REV. DR. WATSON
Well-Known Beaverton Minister Passes Away.

Beaverton, Dec. 31.—Rev. David Watson, M. A., D. D., died last evening at his residence, Beaverton, after a short illness. The reverend gentleman had been pastor of St. Andrew's Church of this place for nearly fifty years, faithfully performing his many duties. His loss will be keenly felt by a host of friends of every denomination, by whom he has always been held in the highest esteem. The funeral will leave the family residence on Saturday, Jan. 2, at 10 o'clock, for St. Andrew's Church Cemetery.

BROKE THROUGH THE ICE
Narrow Escape From Death of a Winnipeg Clergyman.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.—Rev. C. B. Pitblado, pastor of Westminster Church, returning home from a visit to St. Boniface Hospital yesterday, started across the ice late in the afternoon, when suddenly he fell into a hole. The reverend gentleman managed to clutch the sides of the ice with both hands, and thus was able to keep his head above water, but could not climb out. For twenty minutes he was in this perilous predicament, waiting for help, which at last came, and he was dragged out. Mr. Pitblado is in a serious condition from the effects of his involuntary cold bath.

STORIES GOING THE ROUND IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAYORALTY

One Is to the Effect That Mr. Beck, if Elected, Will Drop Out to Make Way for Ald. Judd.

There is no secret now as to why it is that Ald. Judd is remaining so quiet in the face of the fact that he all along expected Mayor Beck would drop out and give him an opportunity of running for the mayoralty.

It is a fact generally known that there was an agreement this year, whereby Mr. Beck was to drop out and Ald. Judd was to be called to the chair. The arrangements appeared to be perfect, when the whole thing was given away in a newspaper story. Then Mr. Beck changed his mind, and Ald. Judd was kept in his aldermanic seat. Since that time Mr. Judd, rightly or wrongly, has been given the credit of having it "in" for the mayor, and the Conservative managers have almost exhausted their supply of crude in pouring oil on the troubled waters. For a while this year it looked as though Mr. Judd would be in the field for mayor, no matter what attitude Mr. Beck assumed. In fact, Mr. Judd announced in public that he would not be a candidate for alderman—the inference being that he was after the mayoralty or nothing.

FUNERAL ORATOR DROPPED DEAD
A Mormon Elder Summoned Just as He Concluded His Sermon at Side of Bier.

Salt Lake, Utah, Dec. 31.—With the final words of a funeral sermon on his lips, Elder P. P. Prophet, a Mormon elder, dropped dead in the pulpit of the meeting house Tuesday morning. Elder Prophet had just concluded an address extolling the life of Mrs. B. A. Watts, the woman whose body lay in a coffin before him. He pictured the future life and exhorted his hearers to be ready for the summons at any moment. With the final words, "Surely the dead shall rise again," the elder turned toward his seat and sank to the floor, dead. He was 60 years old.

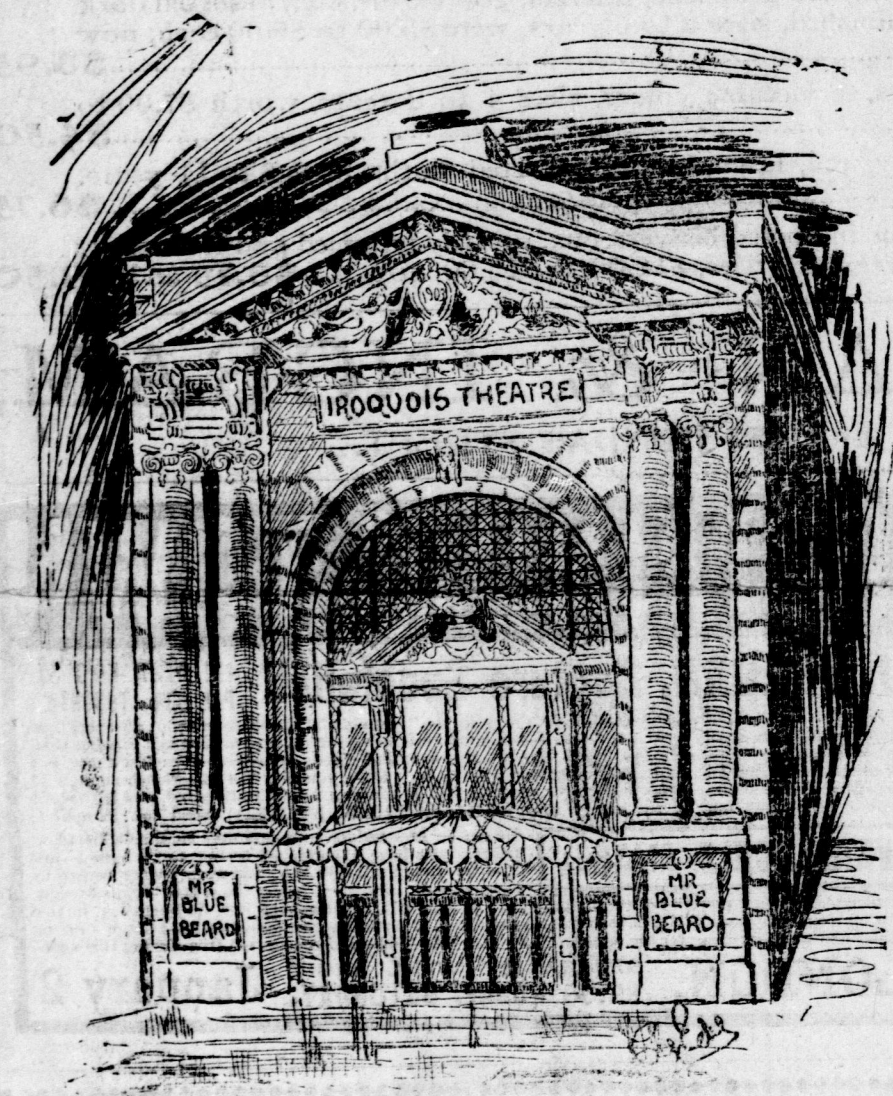
MET AFTER 15 YEARS
Brothers, Long Separated, Find Each Other by Chance at a Station.

New Haven, Dec. 31.—Thomas L. Larson and James B. Larson, brothers, who had not seen each other for fifteen years met Tuesday at the Union station in this city. They parted fifteen years ago not on the best of terms. Thomas went to Alaska and in a few years a message came from there saying that he was dead. It was believed by James until he met him here. They were both on their way to visit an aunt.

CAT BROZEN TO TRUCKS
Rode From Albany to Utica—Lively as Ever When Thawed Out.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 31.—An Albany cat, loaded on one of the trucks of the New York newspaper train, made the journey between that city and Utica Tuesday, traveling at the rate of a mile a minute.

The cat was a well-groomed white and gray, sleek in body, and had every appearance of having had a good home in the capital city. All attempt at persuasion did not stir the cat when the train reached this city, for the reason that she was frozen to the trucks. The cat was finally dislodged and within ten minutes had thawed out and was jumping nimbly about.



The Iroquois Theater, Scene of the Chicago Fire Horror.

various morgues is 564, and it is stated at the various hospitals and hotels to which the injured were removed that of the 157 people who were injured probably one-third cannot live. The missing today were estimated at 314, but it is expected that many of these would be accounted for, probably a large majority of them. It is no extravagance of language to say that the city is stunned by the overwhelming tragedy which was enacted when the theater which housed "Mr. Blue Beard," became a chamber of horrors. There is the deepest woe in hundreds of homes today, deep sorrow in a thousand others, and a pity beyond the power of words to convey, in all.

The first streak of daylight found the morgues still the sorrow-haunted center



W. A. BRADY,

Wall-Kingpin Manager, who narrowly escaped death in theater fire.