

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1906.

# SAN FRANCISCO'S DOOM IS SEALED FLAMES NOW SWEEP ENTIRE CITY

**Whole Population is Homeless and Record of Ruin Grows More Appalling Hour by Hour---One Mile of Finest Residences Blown Up Thursday in Vain Effort to Check the Devastating Fire--Food is Scarce and Even the Wealthy Have Hard Time to Get Any---Population Fleeing in All Directions--Chief of Police Says "City Will Be a Heap of Ashes by Saturday"--St. John's Growing Relief Fund.**

San Francisco, April 19--Practically the entire city has been burned or is now burning. The fire cannot be checked but must exhaust itself in the outskirts of the city. Nearly the whole population is homeless, and even the wealthy people can, with difficulty, buy food.

All efforts to check the spread of the flames at Van Ness avenue by blowing up a mile of buildings on the east side of the avenue proved fruitless.

The fire has spread across the broad thoroughfare, and from present indications the entire western addition, which contains the homes of San Francisco's wealthier class, is now doomed.

The destruction of the western addition of San Francisco completes the work of the devouring flames, and marks the devastation of the entire city.

Metropolis of the Pacific Coast in Ruins and Ashes.

San Francisco, April 19.--San Francisco tonight is the city desolate. It seems that the acme of its misery was reached at dusk when the flames burst from all sides of the beautiful hotel Fairmont, the structure that above every other was apparently most strongly entrenched against the attack of the all-consuming fire.

And surrounding that lofty pinnacle of flames as far as the eye could see to the south, to the east and far out to the west lay in cruel fantastic heaps, charred and smoking, all that remained of a prosperous city.

The metropolis of the Pacific coast was in ashes. This has been another day of an uneven struggle of man against an unquenchable element. Aero after aero has been ground into dust and ashes, despite the heroic perseverance of the firemen to limit the conflagration.

Tonight there is a hope that the worst has been nearly reached and that when tomorrow's dawn comes, the end will have come; but the hope is faint.

San Francisco is not discouraged. Its best and highest class has already begun to plan for restoration and to care for the stricken ones, and the relief will be immediate and effective. Total subscriptions of \$180,000 were announced tonight. Arrangements were made for the immediate relief of the needy.

The baking of 50,000 loaves of bread daily will begin tomorrow. Free transportation will be provided by the Southern Pacific R. R., to destitute persons desiring to go to the interior points.

Three Distinct Fires Raging.

San Francisco, April 19.--It was announced that to-morrow they would begin a delivery into the city of 12,500,000 gallons of water.

Tonight, for the first time, direct telephone communication was re-established between San Francisco and the outside world, and this message and the honor of being the first to be sent.

By the most energetic efforts in the face of such obstacles, the Postal Telegraph Company succeeded in restoring one of its stations here, and its managers are hopeful of bringing back its service to normal in a day or two. The Postal office tonight is in a little wooden structure erected on piles at the water front.

Tonight three distinct fires were burning. One was in the territory that extends from Nob Hill easterly towards the water front. It was traveling slowly north, and was making little headway toward the hillsides to the west, where thousands of people are camped. The third and most dangerous fire is that threatening the western part of the city. This is really a continuation of the Nob Hill fire. It is edge-lapped, with the apex pointing toward the city. This is the point against which the firemen are bending their greatest efforts. Dynamite was used for back firing purposes with only fair success. Tonight many blocks may be blown up. Chief of Police Duan tonight said 250 would cover the number of dead. About fifty bodies have thus far been found. There was considerable shooting of looters today, but the offenders escaped with wounds.

Thousands Flee Before Flames.

San Francisco, April 19.--Thousands upon thousands of people are fleeing from the city today, which is raging through the city. They are flocking to the ferries, to the piers, to the military reservations, and to the suburbs. Residents of the hillsides in the central portion of San Francisco, seemingly were safe from the roaring furnace that was consuming the city. They watched the towering mounds of flames and speculated as to the extent of the territory that was doomed. Suddenly there was a whispered alarm up and down the long line of watchers and they hurried away to drag clothing, cooking utensils and scant provisions through the streets. From Grant avenue the pro-

cession moved westward. Men and women dragged trunks, packed huge bundles of blankets, boxes of provisions--everything they could lay their hands on quickly. Wagons could not be hired except by paying the most exorbitant rates.

But there was no panic. The people are calm, stunned. They seem not to realize the extent of the calamity. They hear that the city is destroyed insofar as business plants are concerned; they tell each other in the most natural tone that their residences were destroyed by the flames, but there is no hysteria, no outcry or excitement.

Mayor Schmitt and Chief of Police Duan have been forced from place to place by the flames. Daybreak found them directing the municipal council which is a committee of safety, from the Fairmont Hotel. The beautiful structure that stood on the top of Nob Hill. The hotel caught fire and they retreated to the corner of Larkin and Sutton streets, then to the North End police station in Sacramento street. Here the council, composed of financial leaders of the city, met this morning and decided to resort to the most heroic measures yet undertaken since the city has been in the path of devastation. This was to bombard the entire section of the city lying along the east side of Van Ness avenue, from Golden Gate avenue to Pacific avenue, sixteen blocks in all, containing the homes of many millions and numerous apartment houses.

Decide to Blow Up Sixteen Blocks.

The military was notified and barrels of gunpowder, the only remaining explosive in the city, were taken from the presidio, Fort McDowell, Alcatraz and other nearby posts. Hundreds of police, regiments of soldiers and scores of volunteers were sent into the doomed district to warn the people to flee. The populace heroically responded to the demand of law and went bravely on their way, trudging painfully over the pavements with the little they could get together. Every available wagon was taken by the military to carry the powder.

General Funston is co-operating with Mayor Schmitt and orders have been issued to all officers to halt without warning all pedestrians. When men have been needed to carry out the plans of rescue, they have been pressed into service. In a few instances it was necessary to resort to the revolver and drawn swords, after which there was no hesitancy.

The Presidio reservation, the vast Richmond district of thousands of acres, Golden Gate park, and surrounding hills resemble one vast circus ground. Tents and improvised coverings have been erected everywhere, fireplaces built in the streets, beds and mattresses thrown down all over the section. The people thus situated are philosophical.

Food Supply Low.

But there is the one great danger for the homeless and that is that the food supply will run out. Every grocery in San Francisco has been taken by the authorities and each family is being sold only one article at a time. In many places the police and military prohibit overcharging. General Funston announced this morning that rations would soon reach the city and then the people will be supplied from the Presidio. Bakers have been built within the reservation and the bread supply therefore has not failed completely. The government also has begun to aid in the flight of the people to Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda. The tug boats and steamers are being pressed into service for this purpose and there is a vast army on the way to the ferries.

From the water front the burned city can be seen today in all its smoky majesty. From the Pacific Mail dock to Valjejo street on the west side, a distance of nearly a mile, a line of smoke and steam rises from the city. The smoke and steam are being carried from the streets in garbage wagons. In every direction hysterical women were seen. Men walked through the streets, many of them weeping and all with white, drawn faces. Transfer men were being offered fabulous sums to remove household goods, even for a block distant. Horses had been turned loose and were running at large to prevent their being incinerated in the burning buildings. Women had loaded their personal belongings on carts and were pulling them through the city, the property being huddled in the public square.

'Frisco a Heap of Ruins.

San Francisco, April 19.--The magnitude of the calamity that has befallen San Francisco became apparent this morning when a red sun arose above the horizon and disappeared the pall of darkness that hung over the stricken city. Looking eastward from the heights in the central portion of the city, everything attested to the awful havoc wrought by earthquake and flame. Where once rose noble buildings now stand nothing but frail walls, tottering chimneys, heaps of twisted iron and huge piles of brick and mortar. Adding to the horror of the situation the fact that the work of destruction has not reached its conclusion. In several sections the fire was still raging with unabated vigor, converting into smoke and ash everything in the shape of combustible material and turning into ruin structures that had cost millions of dollars.

It was with saddened hearts that the community viewed the ruins of their city. (Continued on Page 2)

from the ferry building the city is a smoldering mass of ruins. Great manufacturing, mercantile houses, banks and office buildings are now to be seen and only in spots is there so much as a tower, the monument of a burned structure.

Today was hot and warm. The sun beat down on the tired workers and rescuers. There is scarcely any water to relieve the thirst of the suffering. The dead, in many instances, are lying in the streets and the ruins. The authorities are doing all in their power to remove the bodies in order that a pestilence may be prevented. It has been necessary repeatedly to move the injured from places where they had sought refuge, for the fire kept increasing with alarming rapidity. Water is the incessant cry of the firemen and the people; one wants it to fight, the other to drink, but there is only a scant drinking supply.

Thrilling Story of Man Who Fled.

Salinas, Cal., April 19.--(By long distance telephone, to Los Angeles)--J. P. Anthony, a business man of Pacific Grove, arrived in this city today, having made the trip from San Francisco by automobile. He says that he was sleeping in his room at the Bannan Hotel on Ellis street, near Mason, and was suddenly awakened at 5:23 yesterday morning. The first shock that brought him out of bed, he said, was appalling in its force. The whole earth seemed to heave and fall. The building where he was housed, which is six stories high, was lifted from its foundation and the roof caved in. Mr. Anthony says he saw a score or more of people killed. Women became hysterical and prayed in the streets, while men sat on the curbing appearing to be dazed. It was twenty minutes before those who the people seemed able to realize the extent of the catastrophe. The crowds became larger and in the public squares of the city, and in empty lots thousands of people gathered.

It was 9 o'clock before the police were in control of the situation. When they finally assumed charge the officers directed their energy toward warning the people in the streets away from danger, many buildings being on the point of toppling over. Mr. Anthony says he was walking on Market street, near the Emporium, about 9 a. m., when a severe shock was felt. At once the street filled again with with excited persons and thousands were soon gathered in the vicinity, almost paralyzed with fear. Before the spectators could realize what had happened the walls of the building swayed a distance of three feet. The thousands of bystanders stood spellbound, expecting every moment that they would be crushed, but another tremor seemed to restore the big building to its natural position.

Flames Drove Thousands.

Mr. Anthony said that he momentarily expected that with thousands of others who were in the neighborhood, he would be crushed to death. He made his way down Market street as far as the Call building, from which flames were issuing at every window with the blaze shooting out of the roof. A similar condition prevailed in the Examiner building across the street. He then started for the depot at Third and Townsend streets, determined to leave the city. He found several thousand persons headed in the same direction. All south of Market street about that time was a crackling mass of flames. He made his way to Eighth and Market then down Eighth to Townsend and to Third street and the entire section which he traversed was afire, making it impossible for him to reach his destination. He attempted to make his way back but found that retreat had been cut off by the flames. He then went to Twelfth street and reached Market street again by the City Hall. San Francisco's magnificent municipal buildings had in the meantime caved in like eggshells. The steel dome was still standing, but the rest of the \$3,000,000 structure was a charred ruin.

It was not yet noon but the city's hospitalized and all available storerooms were being pressed into service. Dead bodies were being carried from the streets in garbage wagons. In every direction hysterical women were seen. Men walked through the streets, many of them weeping and all with white, drawn faces. Transfer men were being offered fabulous sums to remove household goods, even for a block distant. Horses had been turned loose and were running at large to prevent their being incinerated in the burning buildings. Women had loaded their personal belongings on carts and were pulling them through the city, the property being huddled in the public square.

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## A Little Talk

on the  
Spring Furniture Topic

OF COURSE you know we are now into our New Building--the brightest and sunniest furniture rooms in St. John. With doorways cut through to the original building we can now display no less than Eight Floors full of lovely '06 patterns.

Buffets in Early English, Weathered, Quartered and Plain Oaks, also Mahogany, with leaded and coppered glass-work, if you like. Dining Tables and Chairs in Oaks of all finishes, Elms, etc., both round and square. Fifty varieties of Bureaus and Commodes, luxurious and cheap. These are in Oaks, Mahogany Veneer, Natural Curly Birch, Toona Mahogany, Bird-eye Maple, etc.

When it comes to Cheffoniers the array is certainly handsome. Stately pieces in Oaks, Mahogany, Bird-eye Maple and so on, with dependable British Plate Mirrors and Solid Brass trappings. Metal Beds, too, in White Enamel and Real Brass. Uncommon designs. Famous Ostermoor and Star Felt Mattresses, as well as cheaper grades. Wire Springs that will not sag.

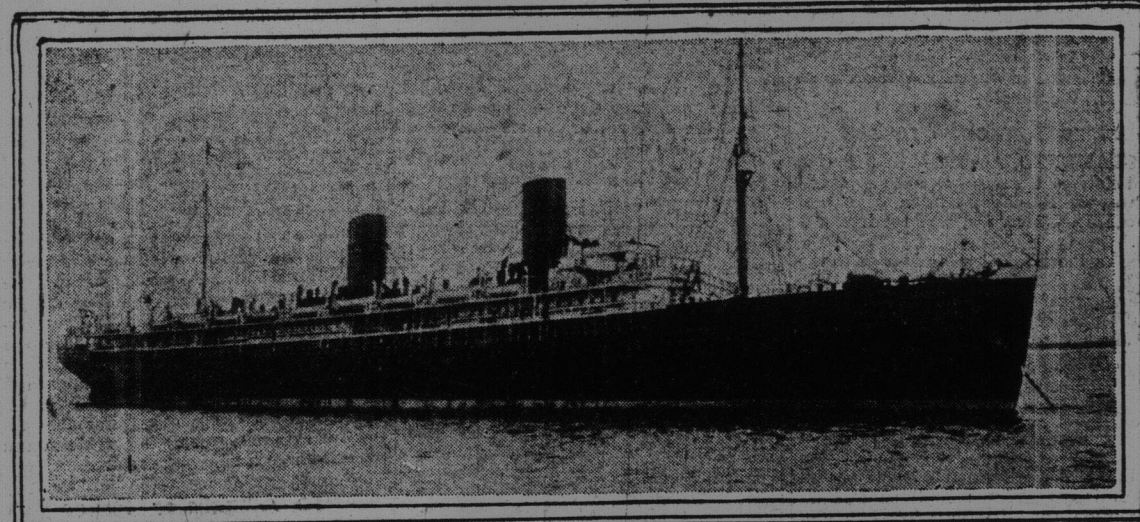
In a word, we sell the best. Experience has taught us that inferior goods are not business builders. Being enormous buyers we command special purchase prices, which profits are shared by those who buy from us.

You're invited to inspect our stock any day--no bother!



Manchester  
Robertson  
Allison, Ltd.

## French Liner Makes 23 Knots



The New French Line Steamship La Provence.

Despatches received by the agency of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique (French Line) in New York city told of a most successful trial trip made by the new vessel of the line, the Provence, on Thursday.

On the Cherbourg course, which is used for trial trips for French men of war, the Provence maintained an average speed of twenty-three knots an hour.

This, according to an official of the company, is about one and one-half knots better than the Savoy's record on her trial trip.

The Provence was built under the supervision of the French government, at St. Nazaire, and French naval officers supervised the trial trip. She is scheduled to leave Havre on her maiden voyage to New York on April 21, and should reach here on April 27.

With a length of 622 feet, a beam of 66 feet, and a depth of 45 feet, the Provence has a registered tonnage of 14,200 and her displacement is 18,100 tons. Her engines develop 30,000 horse power. She is about 4,000 tons larger than the Savoy and the Lorraine, and is eighty smaller than the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, of the North German Lloyd line. She has accommodations for about 400 first and 200 second cabin passengers, and her steerage will hold comfortably about 900. Captain Allys, formerly of the Lorraine, will command the new vessel. She will sail from New York city on May 3.

## MORE LINKS BINDING

### ST. JOHN TO 'FRISCO

Yesterday brought into notice the names of quite a few more New Brunswick people who had made their homes in San Francisco or vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Swincock, formerly of St. John, were settled in the stricken town.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McCreary, who left here some weeks ago, are in Los Angeles. The son's name is William. He is a mining expert and has lived in 'Frisco for the last five years. The daughters, who have been in the city of the Golden Gate for three years, are Gertrude and Cora. They all lived with a brother-in-

law of Mrs. Anderson, James Anderson, who belongs to Sussex.

Dr. Melville E. Smith and H. W. Smith, brothers of E. A. Smith, of the Smith Brokerage Company, Ltd., Water street, are located in Oakland. Mr. Smith has as yet had no word from his brother.

Mrs. H. A. Morton, widow of Dr. Morton, and two daughters, formerly of Fredericton, reside in San Francisco at 330 Golden Gate avenue. They are cousins of Mrs. J. E. Cox, of this city.

Mrs. K. Morrison, of Oakland (Cal.), is an aunt of W. H. Boyd, of St. George. Mrs. Fowkes, wife of the late Capt. W. H. Fowkes, who lived for four years in San Francisco, and knows the city well, said yesterday that her sister-in-law, Mrs. B. R. Keith, and her niece, Mrs. Ina Keith, lived at the Manhattan hotel, which was within a couple of blocks of the wrecked post office. She also said that the office of Messrs. Tom P. Robertson and R. B. Humphrey are in the destroyed district.

brother of Mrs. A. E. Ellis. John Shipp, Sussex, has two sons there. E. P. Carey, living at San Jose, is a

92 graduate of Sackville, and belongs to Upper Sackville. His wife was Miss De Jarred, of Amherst.

The family of Cornelius Kane, at one time clerk in the city market, went to San Francisco some years ago.

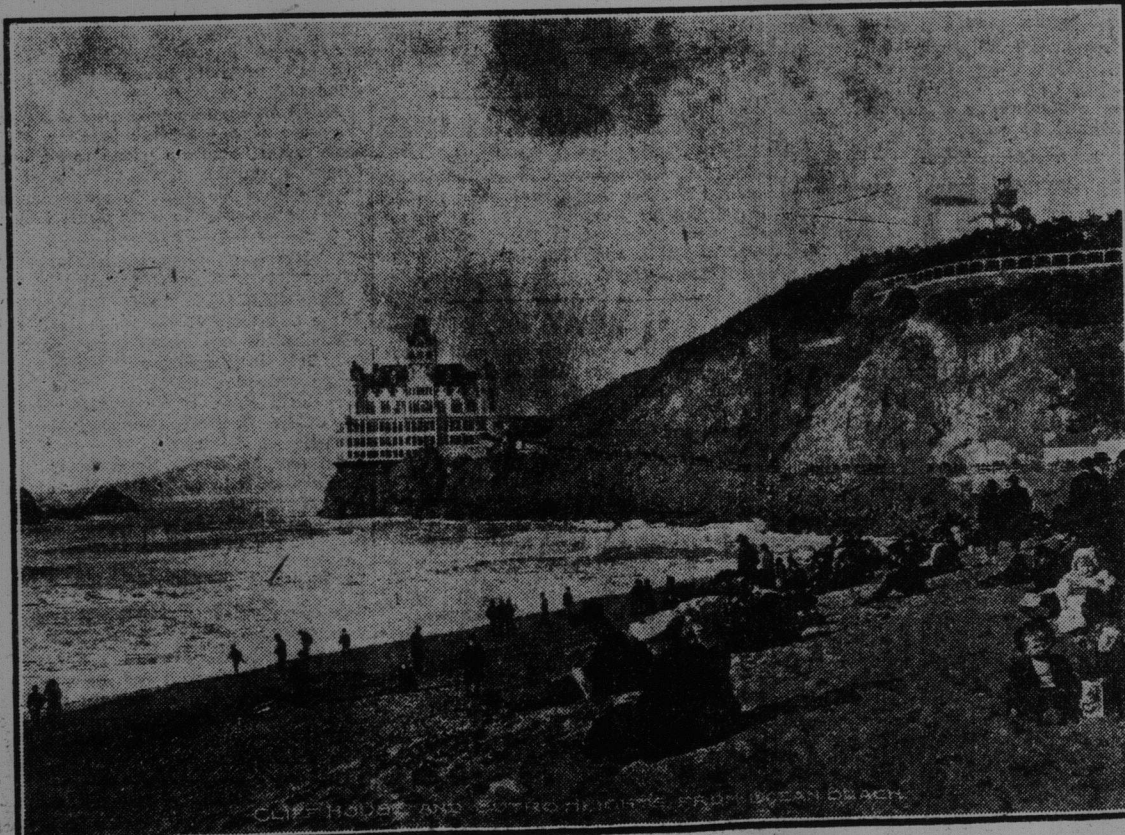
John O'Brien, a sail maker, of Lower Cove, with his family, is a resident of San Francisco.

Other people residing in San Francisco who have relatives in St. John are Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bart and their three children and Mrs. C. E. McIntyre. Mr. Bart is a brother of Mrs. H. S. Hammond. Mrs. McIntyre is a sister of Dr. M. Case and Mrs. L. T. Nase. Another former New Brunswicker in 'Frisco is Frank Watson, son of Captain Watters, of Watters' Landing, Blandford Currier, formerly of Upper Gasquetown, and F. Stafford, who at one time lived in or near Lepreau, are also said to be in San Francisco. In Oakland is Mrs. Nash, a daughter of A. P. Belyea, of the North End.

Jacob Wilson, a brother-in-law of Policeman S. D. Hamm, lives in San Francisco. He is a carpenter.

John Scribner, of Hampton, has a couple of sisters-in-law in San Francisco. The name of one is Mrs. McKay.

Colds Cause Sore Throat. Laxative Bromo Quinine, the world's best cold and grip remedy, removes the cause for the full name and look for all signs of E. W. Grove, 25c.



THE NOTED CLIFF HOUSE AND SUTRO HEIGHTS, SAN FRANCISCO, SEEN FROM OCEAN BEACH