

Fantastic Heaps of Smoking Ruins

San Francisco, April 20.—(Special.)—San Francisco is the city desolate. It seemed that the acme of its misery was reached at dusk last night when flames burst from all sides of the beautiful Hotel Fairmont...

It was another day of an uneven struggle of man against unconquerable nature. Acre after acre had been ground into dust and ashes despite the heroic perseverance of the firemen to limit the conflagration.

There is a hope that the worst has been nearly reached, but the hope is faint indeed. If the flames can be barred in their devastation of the western addition then Finis will be written to the great disaster.

But 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.

The baking of 50,000 loaves of bread daily will begin to-day. Major McKeever has been appointed commander of the camps of the homeless.

Free transportation will be provided by the Southern Pacific to destitute persons desiring to go to interior points.

It was announced that to-day there would begin a daily delivery into the city of ten million gallons of water.

Direct communication has begun with the outside by telegraph. By overcoming great obstacles the Postal Telegraph Company managed to regain one of its shattered lines.

Three distinct fires were burning last night. One was on that portion that extends from Nob Hill down easterly toward the waterfront.

The centre fire was in the mission. The fire had reached Eighteenth street, but was making little headway to the hillside, where thousands of people were camped.

The third and most dangerous fire is that threatening the western section. This is really a continuation of the Nob Hill fire. It is wedged shaped with the apex pushing forward.

To-night many blocks may be blown up.

MAY MAKE CLEAN SWEEP TO PARK.

Washington, D. C., April 20.—The following dispatch was received at the war department to-day: "San Francisco, April 20.—(5.19 a. m.)—The fire which heretofore has crept around the base of Telegraph Hill and left the few houses standing there has crept back from the west, and is now in full possession of the houses on the hill, and will no doubt take everything down to the waterfront on Van Ness avenue and west of there."

"The main fire has reached Octavia street, and is going at a fast rate. There is no one in from the fire since midnight. At that time it had started afresh on the south end of the line of fire, and was burning fast."

"The ferry landing presents a fearful scene of men, women and children, and the articles they have tried to save. They will leave the city by the first boat they can get away on."

"The roads leading from the ferry north and around the shore of the bay as far as Fort Mason are strewn with all sorts of vehicles that have broken down. Baby carriages, wheel barrows, etc., that would not stand the loads put on them."

"The fire came very close to Fort Mason last night, and the big Fortuna warehouse and nearby canneries will no doubt go to-day."

"I think the fire will take a clean sweep of everything as far as Golden Gate park. I would not be surprised to see it take the encampment in the clear park, and burn the shrubbery clear to the ocean beach."

ONLY SLIGHT TREMOR FELT AT SANTA MONICA.

Santa Monica, April 20.—Apprehension of a tidal wave drove many residents from the strand to the hills. The sea exhibited no unusual agitation. Only a slight tremor was felt there.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE.

Washington, D. C., April 20.—(Special.)—President Roosevelt, after a conference with Miss Mabel Boardman, of the American National Red Cross, yesterday issued in the form of a proclamation an appeal to the American people for aid for the people of San Francisco.

TRIP THROUGH THE DEVASTATED DISTRICT.

Sacramento, Cal., April 20.—C. M. Leash, who has made a complete circuit around the bay including San Jose, Niles and Alameda, arrived in Sacramento early to-day, and gave out the following review of the catastrophe as he viewed it from the automobile in which the tour was made. He said:

"A telegraphic communication with the nearby cities is cut off. Prof. Durand and Prof. Green, accompanied by myself, started for Sacramento in an automobile, carrying over 400 telegrams to be sent to friends and relatives in the East and abroad."

"The roads leading the bay were slightly injured in places by fissures, but no serious falling of the underlying rock was observed."

"At San Jose the loss of life is not as great as at first reported. Only sixteen dead reported up to date. The Vendome annex is completely ruined as well as the court house, and all brick and stone structures."

"From San Jose to Alviso the road is lowered in places by the shock, and the front of the Provincial hotel at Alviso has sunk at least ten feet. Beyond Alviso toward Niles the road is in very good shape, and the only evidences of the shock are tumbled down fences and water tanks."

"President Jordan, in an address to the students after the shock, asked them to remain at Stanford and help clear the debris. He thinks the university will be rebuilt as soon as possible. Though he was recently offered the presidency of an eastern university he will remain with Stanford. He said that the university did not depend entirely upon its buildings."

HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES HAVE REACHED BERKELEY.

Berkeley, Cal., April 20.—This town is caring for over a thousand refugees who have been brought across the bay to escape the terrors of San Francisco conflagration.

The homeless and hungry were fed last night at the station from long benches provided by the city relief committee.

The women students and professors of the University of California are doing great work for the suffering people, and the work of finding shelter is proceeding satisfactorily.

The university gymnasium has been turned into a lodging house, where hundreds have been installed, while others have been provided with blankets in the open air, under the university oaks.

For the women and children rooms in private houses have been secured.

SANTA CRUZ NOT SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Oakland, April 20.—The Associated Press correspondent arrived from Santa Cruz last night, having come over the Santa Cruz mountains. He reports that Santa Cruz was not seriously damaged, and no lives lost in the city. The damage to buildings in Santa Cruz is \$200,000.

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"The government also has begun to aid in transporting the people out of the city to Oakland, Berkeley, and Alameda. Tugboats and steamers are being pressed into service for the purpose, and there is a vast army on the way to the ferries."

There is scarcely any water to supply the thirst of the sufferers. The heat is a threatening danger, for the dead in many instances are lying in the streets and ruins. The authorities are doing all in their power.

In order that a pestilence may be prevented.

FIRE IS SPREADING TOWARD THE WEST.

Washington, April 19.—The war department has received the following from General Funston: "Fire crossed Van Ness avenue to the west at 3:10 p.m. Almost certain now that the entire city will be destroyed. Have ordered troops from Monterey and everything going as well as could be expected. On account of confusion it has been impossible to locate individuals inquired for, but attention will be given that matter as soon as practicable."

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Residents of the hillside and the central portion of the city, seemingly were safe from the roaring furnace that was consuming the business section. They watched the towering columns of flame and speculated as to the extent of the territory which was doomed. Suddenly there was

Whispered Alarm up and down the long line of watching people and they hurried away to drag supplies, clothing, cooking utensils and scant provisions through the streets.

From Grant avenue, the procession moved westward. Men and women dragged trunks, packed huge bundles of blankets, boxes of provisions—everything.

Wagons could not be hired, except by paying the most extraordinary rate. But there is no panic. The people are calm, stunned. They seem not to realize the extent of the calamity. They hear that the city is destroyed in so far as the 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, no criticism.

Mayor Schmitz and Chief of Police Dinan have been forced from place to place by the onrushing flames, breaking dispersing the municipal council, which is a committee of safety, from the Fairmont hotel, on the top of Nob hill. But that caught fire and they retreated to the curbings. Leavin and Sutter streets, then to the north end police station in Sacramento street. Here the council, composed of the financial leaders of the city, met this morning and decided to resort to the most heroic of measures yet undertaken since the city has been in

The Path of Devastation. This decision 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, 16 blocks in all, containing the homes of many millionaires and apartment houses.

The military was notified of this action and barrels of gun powder, Day's fire, crossed Van Ness avenue to the west at 3:10 p.m. Almost certain now that the entire city will be destroyed. Have ordered troops from Monterey and everything going as well as could be expected. On account of confusion it has been impossible to locate individuals inquired for, but attention will be given that matter as soon as practicable."

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