

NINETY PERSONS KILLED WHEN SNOW- BURIED ROOF OF PICTURE THEATRE, WASHINGTON, D. C., COLLAPSED

Disaster, Bringing Its Heavy Toll of Life and Limb, Occurred Without Any Warning, the Roof Buckling in the Middle and Falling Intact to Floor Below—Churches and Homes Turned Into Hospitals to Care for Wounded—One Church a Morgue.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Ninety persons are known to have lost their lives in the collapse last night of the snow-laden roof of the Knickerbocker motion picture theatre. Rescue workers, fighting a desperate battle through dark and daylight, had recovered that number tonight. More than a hundred others are known to have been injured.

The disaster, which brought so heavy a toll of human life and limb, occurred without the slightest warning, the roof buckling in the middle and falling practically intact to the floor below where an audience of several hundred were watching a reel of "Rich Quick Wallingford." The accident was generally attributed to the weight of snow, which had accumulated under one of the severest storms Washington had experienced in more than 20 years.

The roof crashed, as one woman described it with a sound "like thunder" and in falling, sheared the walls clean and carried with it to the floor the cement and steel balcony. Under the compression of air, many of those near the exits were thrown forcibly to the street, but scores were pinned under the wreckage, not to be extricated for many hours.

Rescue Work
Immediately five alarms were sounded for the fire department, police reserves were rushed to the scene and quickly marshaled, soldiers, sailors, and even boy scouts, arrived to assist in the work of rescue and hold back the frantic crowds which gathered all too close to the walls of the building, threatening momentarily to fall.

Meanwhile, those who had escaped, rushed out, screaming in many cases, some covered with blood from wounds while many women fainted. Inside, the groans of the injured could be heard from the tangled mass of concrete, steel and woodwork. The roof had fallen almost flat on the floor, being supported, to some extent, by the many pillars, and to this fact many undoubtedly owe their lives.

All available ambulances were rushed to the scene, while private automobiles were used to take the wounded to hospitals. Private homes were thrown open, and when body after body was brought out until there were long rows of them, the Christian Science Church, near at hand, was taken over as a morgue. From two o'clock on, the streets were filled with the bodies, and then the long rows quickly began to form a third.

Lived Beside Dead Wife
When the balcony was carried down by the roof, throwing many of its occupants headlong to the orchestra below, it formed a small place of refuge for some, as it was bent down to the floor rather than completely detached. From this small triangular space, several stepped forth unharmed. One man, however, was removed from there this morning. His foot had been caught and he lived there all night beside the body of his wife who had been almost instantly killed. One act of heroism and self-denial, which won universal praise, was that of Albert Benhler, who, pinned in the wreckage but soon reached by rescuers, assured them that he was not seriously injured, and urged them to go to the assistance of others. His word was accepted, and as a result, he was not extricated until 3.30 this morning. Then it was discovered that his condition was serious. He was placed on an operating table in a temporary hospital, which had also been established in the Christian Science church, but died in a few minutes. His home was in this city and he was about 40 years of age.

Police Raid Meeting of Non-Cooperatives
Five Hundred Arrested After Police Charge Through Barrage of Bricks.

Calcutta, Jan. 29.—Five hundred persons were arrested today after the police and Gurkhas armed with rifles had charged through a barrage of bricks, stones and other missiles in order to disperse a large public meeting held by members of the non-co-operatives society. Many persons on both sides were injured.

UNITED STATES TOOK MAJOR PART OF PULP AND NEWSPRINT EXPORTS

Montreal, Jan. 29.—Canadian pulp and paper exports in December 1921 were valued at \$16,326,533, as compared with \$14,612,983 in December 1920. Newsprint of all classes of pulp show, however, increase in volume over last year, despite decreased values. Exports of newsprint for the month amounted to 1,453,191 cwts, valued at \$5,708,175 compared with 1,804,371 cwts, valued at \$7,359,451 in December 1920. Exports of wood pulp, during December, amounted to 1,022,944 cwts, valued at \$4,299,233, as compared with 1,243,451 cwts, valued at \$5,074,939 in December 1920. Exports of pulpwood amounted to 25,379 cords, valued at \$489,119 against 172,924 cords valued at \$2,521,167 in December 1920.

The United States took the major part of all exports.

JAPS SEE ONLY "SHANT" IN THE SHANTUNG QUESTION

Washington, Jan. 29.—To emphasize the Chinese viewpoint, regarding Japanese participation in management of the Tsingtao railway, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, former American Minister to China, and legal adviser to the Chinese Government, issued a formal statement last night declaring that continuance of a Japanese traffic manager would vitiate any real settlement of the Shantung question. Dr. Reinsch alluded to statements made by spokesmen of the American delegation that only an "infinitesimal" difference remained between the Japanese and China and declared that on the contrary the point involved was a vital one.

Vacancies In Senate Are Troublesome

An Appointment Already Made Has Stirred Up Disappointment With Premier.

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—(Canadian Press)—With two Senate vacancies to be filled, there is conjecture as to the probable appointees. One of the vacancies, caused by the death of Hon. Arthur Boyer, is in Quebec and the name of P. R. Du Tremblay, former member for Laurier-Outremont, is suggested as a possibility. Mr. Du Tremblay, like the late Senator Boyer, resides in Montreal. He was elected as member for Laurier-Outremont in 1917. A delegation waited upon the Prime Minister recently to urge the claims of Dr. J. E. Fontaine, member for Hull, to the Quebec appointment. Dr. Fontaine was returned with a large majority at the last election. The delegation took the ground that the counties of Hull and Wright were entitled to representation in the Senate.

The Ontario vacancy, created by the death of Hon. Robert Beith, of Bow Mills, must go to a man from the Eastern end of the province. There is a feeling in certain quarters in the capital that Ottawa should be represented in the Senate and the fact that Hon. T. W. Crothers was appointed when the Ottawa vacancy occurred, caused some comment. When the Government took office, it appointed A. B. McColg to the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Crothers. In view of this fact, it is suggested that an Ottawa man should get the Ontario appointment.

Premier Smuts Makes Offer To Warring Mining Factions

London, Jan. 29.—Premier General Smuts of the South African Union, has written to coal and gold mine employers and workers detailing the suffering and financial hardships occasioned by the continuation of the strike, and offering government mediation, says a Reuters cable from Pretoria.

Premier Smuts says the color bar was established on a basis of statutory regulations, and has never been threatened or attacked. Thus the issue was not about the color bar, but how to save the low grade mines which cannot operate under present high costs. Continuation of the present high costs, he said, would mean the extinction of more than half the mining of South Africa.

Empress of Scotland Has Difficulties In Halifax Harbor

Ran Her Prow Into Concrete Deck of the Immigration Pier.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 29.—Marking her arrival here, after her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, the Canadian steamship Empress of Scotland this afternoon ran her prow into the concrete pier, which is erected on the immigration pier. A large crowd was on the pier, and there was a scurry for safety when the sharp prow of the big liner crashed into the pier. No body was hurt and, beyond denting her bow plates, the ship apparently sustained no damage.

Among her passengers were R. M. Wolvin, president of the British Empire Steam Corporation, and J. Kemp.

SHACKLETON, THE ANTARCTIC EXPLORER, DEAD

Died Aboard "Quest" on Which He Was Making Expedition to Antarctic Region.

DEATH WAS DUE TO ANGINA PECTORIS

Other Members of Explorer's Party Will Continue on With Expedition.

Monte Video, Uruguay, Jan. 29.—Sir Ernest Shackleton, the British explorer, died January 31st on board the steamer "Quest," on which he was making another expedition into the Antarctic region. Death was due to angina pectoris, and occurred when the Quest was off the Grinnick station.

The body was brought to Monte Video, on board a Norwegian steamer, and will be taken by another steamer to Europe.

Captain L. Husey, of the Quest, will accompany the body home. Professor Gravel, and the other members of the explorer's party, will continue the expedition.

His Career
Sir Ernest Shackleton was born in 1874. He was a third lieutenant in the British National Antarctic Expedition in 1901, and in 1907-1909 commanded an expedition which got to within 97 miles of the South Pole. He made his first quest of the Pole in 1914. The expedition, in which he was engaged when he died, was to have covered 30,000 miles of uncharted seas of the South Atlantic, the Pacific and the Antarctic seas.

On board the "Quest," a little 300-ton ship, Sir Ernest set sail from England last September on what was to have been a two-year voyage. Large contingents of the Quest were to have visited the docks in London to wish the party a successful voyage. The voyage had as its objective, not only geographic research, but the exploration of a perished forest, and the location of a "lost" island—Tuanki—on the adjacent waters of which had not been sailed for more than ninety years. In addition, soundings were to have been taken of the ocean plateau surrounding Gough's Island, in an effort to determine the truth regarding a supposed underwater continental connection between Africa and America.

Shot Into Robber Band And Found Son Was Member

Leo Belougie of Caribou, Me., in Critical Condition as Result of Shooting.

Houlton, Me., Jan. 27.—Leo Belougie, aged 19 years, adopted son of George Belougie of Caribou, in company of Paul Soule and Edward Oullette, attempted to enter the barn of "Little Joe" Oullette. Mr. Oullette saw the men taking bags of oats from his barn, and securing a shotgun, fired. Leo Belougie was hit the hip.

First Clean Break From Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen

C. P. R. and C. N. R. Switchmen at London, Ont., Vote to Secede.

London, Ont., Jan. 29.—The first clean break of members from the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen took place this afternoon when switchmen of the London division of the Canadian National Railway voted to secede. They have decided to affiliate with the Switchmen of America, J. D. Murray of Vancouver, the only Canadian representative to the Grand Lodge, was present.

Swedish Steamer "Thyra" Reported Disabled At Sea

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 29.—The Swedish steamer Thyra was reported disabled 350 miles southeast of Cape Race in a radio message received here today. The message said the steamer had lost her rudder.

261ST PONTIFF OF CATHOLICS WILL BE KNOWN SATURDAY

Believed Work of Electing New Pope Will be Carried on Expeditiously.

CHOICE TO FALL ON ITALIAN

Regarded as Mistake to Think of Electing a Foreign Cardinal.

Rome, Jan. 29.—The 261st Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church will be elected by Saturday next, according to the consensus of opinion as expressed by the prelates arriving here with the Cardinals attached to the Conclave. They expect that the decision will be reached on the third or fourth ballot. The Conclave opens on Thursday, and from present indications, the work of electing a new Pope will be carried on expeditiously.

"I do not anticipate a sharply drawn contest, which some predict," said a prominent English ecclesiastic today. "Although there are naturally divergent views among the Cardinals, these differences are not irreconcilable, and I am confident that the Sacred College will be able to agree upon the successor of Benedict in a relatively short time."

Will Choose Italian
American and English church dignitaries consider it a certainty that the choice will fall upon an Italian. They believe that the best chances lie in Cardinals Maffi, Ratti, Lega and LaFontaine.

A prominent English prelate, who asked that his name be withheld, declared it would be a great mistake to elect a foreign Cardinal, as that would lead to disappointment and dissatisfaction among countries like the United States, Great Britain and France, all of whom probably felt that they merited high office, whereas the selection of an Italian would be acceptable to all.

Continue Benedict's Policy
This church official expressed the opinion that the new Pope would continue the policy of Benedict XV in the relationship with the Quirinal, but would be careful to observe the complete independence and dignity of the Vatican. He added:

"The Vatican should be neither the subject nor the object of any government, but should be surreptitiously neutral and unhampered."
Neither France, Spain, nor Austria, he declared, would attempt to exercise the right of veto of the Conclave's choice, which these countries have heretofore enjoyed.

Seven Cases of "Flu" Reported From St. John Sub District

Cases Reported Are in Rural Sections—Type of Disease Not Indicated.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, Jan. 29.—Dr. G. C. Melvin, chief medical officer, on Saturday received a report of seven cases of influenza in the St. John county sub-district. That district includes both the city and county of St. John. The cases reported are in rural sections. The type of the disease was not indicated in the report.

A survey of the City of Moncton, similar to that made in Fredericton earlier last week, has been completed. The report to Dr. Melvin is that no positive cases of true epidemic of the flu are under treatment by physicians in Moncton.

Finn Found Frozen Stiff In His Shack

Countrymen Taking Groceries to Shack Discovered the Body—Investigation Being Made.

Port William, Ont., Jan. 29.—Frozen stiff in a little log shack at Oscar Station, the body of a Finn, named Matt Anttila, was found Friday afternoon by a countryman who was bringing groceries to the shack. Anttila had worked on the section but, having saved some money, was intending to "batch" alone in his shack till spring. Coroner Vaughan, of Sioux Lookout, is investigating.

FINAL AGREEMENT ON FIVE-POWER NAVAL TREATY BROUGHT NEARER

Washington, Jan. 29.—Further instructions from Tokio to the Japanese delegation brought a final agreement on the five Power naval treaty one step nearer today, while moves were developing that seemed to insure a final decision in the Shantung controversy within a few days.

The exact nature of the Tokio communication was not disclosed, but it was understood to accept, with one or two reservations, the language of the fortifications article, which is the only portion of the naval treaty remaining incomplete. The Japanese Government is said to approve definitely the plan for limiting by name the Pacific islands which are not to be further fortified, but the reply is in such form that some further discussion will be necessary.