

**Diamond Flour**  
is the cook's best friend, because it is dependable and gives best results.

**HUNT BROS.**  
MILLERS.

**The Press**

TO-DAY'S WEATHER.  
Fair and cold.

**TEN PAGES.**

LONDON, ONT., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

**NEW YORK STORE.**  
FINEST  
WINES,  
LIQUORS,  
ALE, Etc.

**E. B. Smith,**  
131 Dundas Street.  
TELEPHONE 311.

# 560 LIVES LOST IN A CHICAGO THEATRE FIRE.

**MARRIAGES.**  
COPUS-STEWART.—At Stratford, on Wednesday, December 30th, by the Rev. Alex. Stewart, of Verschoyle, Ont., brother of the bride, assisted by Rev. M. L. Leitch, pastor of Knox Church, Stratford, Miss Tena, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Stewart, Stratford, to Mr. Frank A. Copus, of London.

**DEATHS.**  
BURNES.—At Axel People's Home, on Dec. 30th, 1903, Mrs. M. Burnes, aged 68 years.  
Funeral notice later.

**Scale of Rates for Condensed Advertisements.**  
Amusements, two cents a word each insertion.  
Agents Wanted, Male or Female Help Wanted, Situations Wanted, Teachers Wanted, Board and Lodging, Lost and Found, Rooms to Let, 15 words or less, 10 cents; each additional word one cent; three insertions, 30 cents; six insertions, 60 cents.  
For Sale, To Let, Real Estate, Miscellaneous, etc., 15 words or less, 15c; each additional word one cent; six insertions, 90 cents per word.  
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THE LONDON FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY, Limited, London, Ontario.

**AMUSEMENTS.**  
**GRAND-TONIGHT-8.15.**  
IRELAND ENTERTAINMENT CO.  
In Illustrated songs and moving pictures of  
**UNCLE TOM'S CABIN** LAND.  
10c, 20c, 30c.  
**NEW YEAR'S, MAT. AND NIGHT.**  
**GEO. H. SUMMERS**  
in a grand scenic production of  
**RIP VAN WINKLE.**  
Mat. 15, 25, 35, 50. Eve. 15, 25, 35, 50, 75.  
Seats now on sale.  
**ONE WEEK, COM. MON. JAN. 3.**  
**MYRLE-HARDER STOCK CO.**  
1 Big Scenic Production.  
6 Big Vandellie Acts.  
SPECIAL PRICES, 10c, 20c, 30c.  
Seats on sale Friday.

**LONDON-Gibney Stock Co.**  
To Night, THE LAND OF THE GZAR  
**NEW YEAR'S** Prince of MAT. 10c, 20c, 30c, 50c, 75c, 1.00.  
Prizes, 10, 20, 30, 50, 75, 100.  
**AUDITORIUM, THURSDAY, DEC. 31.**  
**Royal Hungarian**  
**Court Orchestra**  
35, 50, 75, 1.00. Magnificent program, and then attend the watch night service. Plans open Tuesday morning.  
**WESTMINSTER RINK-SKATING THIS** afternoon and night. Caled Band New Year's celebration and night.  
**PRINCESS LOB PALACE-AMUSEMENT** its patrons a very happy New Year. To Band tonight and New Year's afternoon and evening. Season books at office. Skates and boxes to rent.  
**JURRIE RINK-NO SKATING TO** NIGHT. Tony Vita's orchestra New Year's afternoon and evening.  
**CIGAR-MARKETS** LONDON, 275, WELLS, hold their 3rd and 4th annual sale, and support New Year's eve, Club Hall.  
**MATINEE, NEW YEAR'S DAY, AT** Queen's Park (weather permitting). Tare good races. Admission free. Public invited.  
**REPORTS BY PRINCIPAL BARON** of progress of every Conservatory pupil that plays, sings at rehearsal, sent to parents.  
**CHOICEST MUSIC FURNISHED FOR** private parties, balls, banquets, etc. Telephone 1235. Tony Vita's Italian Harpers, 123 Queen's avenue.

**MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4TH** gentlemen, Tuesday, 5th, ladies; opening new dancing terms, beginners, 8c. Dayton & McCormick.  
**ITALIAN ORCHESTRA-MUSIC FURNISHED** for all occasions.—Ernest Cortese, 131 Fullerton street.  
**LOW OCEAN FARES VIA THE CANADIAN** Pacific Railway Atlantic route to and from the old country.—F. B. Clarke, 416 Richmond street.  
**PRIVATE LESSONS IN DANCING BY** Mr. R. B. Milard. Special attention given to waltz and two-step. Rapid teaching; low rates; lessons in your home. Satisfaction guaranteed. Residence and academy, 245 Princess avenue. x1911.  
**EXCURSIONS—CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC** North-west.—Johnson-Alton personally conducted excursions, leaving Chicago every Tuesday and Thursday. Via "Seaside Route" through Colorado and the Rocky Mountains in daylight, provide a thorough tourist service to California and Pacific Northwest, making a journey comfortable, economical and enjoyable. Barges in one day, round-trip rates to California, Portland, Tacoma and Seattle. Household goods shipped at reduced rates. Write or call on Johnson-Alton excursions, 245 Marquette Building, Chicago, for free literature. x2817.

**TONY COITSE, THE ORIGINAL LONDON** Harpers. Music furnished for all occasions.—161 Maple street. Phone 1200.  
**VETERINARY.**  
**TENNENT & BARNES, VETERINARY** Surgeons. Office, 137 King street; residence, 141 Wellington street. King and Wellington streets. Treatment of dogs a specialty. Phone, house, 278; office, 688.

**EDUCATIONAL.**  
**THE LONDON STUDIO OF ELOCUTION,** Vocal and Physical Culture. Students received at any time. Concert engagements accepted.—Miss Mydra I. Leut, 288 Princess avenue.

**POCOCK BROS.**  
**HOLIDAY VISITORS**  
Who want the "smartest" in shoes should come direct for Pocock's shoes.  
**POCOCK'S WALKING SHOES**  
**POCOCK'S DRESS SHOES**  
**POCOCK'S OUTFIT SHOES.**  
A "Pocock" shoe for every occasion.  
**\$3.00 A PAIR**  
and upwards; also the latest patterns at \$2.50.  
Pocock's will supply the boots for the skates you were given Christmas.  
**PRICES FROM \$1.50 PAIR.**  
**Pocock's,**  
Opp. Market Lane.

**FOREST CITY LAUNDRY,**  
"The Careful Laundry,"  
72-74 King Street.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES.**  
**COMMUNION SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S** Cathedral on Friday, New Year's Day, at 10.30 a. m. for all the city parishes. The Bishop will give a short address.

**MEETINGS.**  
Headquarters 714 Richmond Street, London, Dec. 31st, 1903.  
**12.30. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE** London Horticultural Society will be held in the rooms of the Entomological Society, Y. M. C. A. building, Wednesday, January 13th, at 7.30 p. m. Election of officers and other business of importance. All members should attend.—Rev. Dr. C. J. S. Bethune, President; R. W. Reine, Secretary.  
**FEMALE HELP WANTED.**  
**WANTED—GIRLS FOR GENERAL** work, household, cooks for private houses, good wages, nurse girl. Apply Mrs. A. G. 2012 Richmond street.  
**WANTED—A GENERAL SERVANT;** No smoke, good wages. Apply Mrs. C. 516 King street.  
**WANTED—A GENERAL SERVANT;** No washing or ironing; also a girl about twenty as a nurse.—43 Maple avenue, Rosedale, Toronto.  
**GENERAL SERVANT WANTED—TWO** in family.—Apply 356 Waterloo street.  
**NURSE GIRL WANTED—APPLY MRS.** Reine, 430 Princess avenue. x1201.  
**UP-STAR GIRL WANTED.—APPLY** Metropolitan Hotel.  
**WANTED—GENERAL SERVANT—64** Waterloo street.  
**WANTED—MACHINE OPERATORS—NO** business for cap factory. Apply Jno. Marshall & Co.  
**GIRL WANTED FOR LIGHT HOUSE** WORK. Apply 31 Stanley street. x1201.  
**WANTED—LADY TO WAIT ON TABLE** at noon hours; also wait on four; steady employment. Apply Lashbrook's restaurant.  
**GIRLS WANTED.—APPLY FOREST** City Laundry.  
**ON HAND—MAN AND WIFE, COOK** and wine clerk; wanted; cooks, house-maids, general, nurses, all kinds of hotel help at Dwyer's Agency, 594 Richmond street. Phone 1435.

**OPERATORS, DIENSMANERS AND AP** PRENTICES wanted; paid by the week.—Helen Costume Co. x3117.  
**HELP WANTED.**  
**WANTED—MEN AND WOMEN WITH** common school education who are tired of working for small wages, to train themselves for high salaried positions as ad. writers, show-card writers and window dressers, through our instruction by mail. Prices low. Terms easy. No books to buy. Send for our new circular, "Prospect," describing these courses. It is free for the asking. Address: T. D. Sullivan, London manager, International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa., 180 Dundas street, London, Ont.  
**A SNAP—JADDES AND YOUNG MEN** to take pleasant work at home; \$1 to \$2 per day can be made. No canvassing. Work sent by mail. Enclose stamps. Standard Manufacturing Co., 29 Ball street, Roxbury, Mass. x407.

**WANTED—SEVERAL GOOD CANVASSERS** for new book; big remuneration; ready seller.—C. R. Parsh, Toronto.  
**DENTISTRY.**  
**DR. A. G. PRASER, DENTIST, 180 DUNDAS** street. Phone 1381.

**Repeat**  
You can never tire of art in its highest form. It bears repeating. It is the crude tone of cheap pianos that becomes wearisome. The pure, rich, artistic Nordheimer tone is a thing of beauty—a joy forever. Age reveals its perfect refinement, and cannot destroy its charm.  
**Sole Canadian Agents for Steinway Pianos.**  
**NORDHEIMER'S,**  
(Limited),  
188 Dundas Street.  
**Nordheimer.**

**GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE BEST**  
Bread. Try Johnston Bros.' XXX Bread. You'll be satisfied that it is the best at the first trial. Delicious, appetizing, nourishing. With the new year is a good time to get acquainted with Johnston Bros.' XXX Bread.  
**JOHNSTON BROS.**  
Phone 518.

**MALE HELP WANTED.**  
**WANTED—GOOD MAN FOR GORDON** presses on the work; steady employment; state experience and salary wanted.—Lovel Co., Toronto. x1211.  
**WANTED—AN EXPERIENCED PAIR** hand, at once. Apply 301 Richmond street.—Dwyer's Agency. x1311.  
**YOUNG MAN, IF YOU ARE WISE, YOU** will commence right now and learn telegraphy in our day or evening classes. The pay is good, the work pleasant and the field not over-crowded. We want our telegraph book, explaining everything free. Dominion School of Telegraphy, 36 King street east, Toronto.

**BOY WANTED TO LEARN PAPER BOX** trade.—H. T. Reason & Co., 80 Dundas street.  
**STAIR-CLIMBER—CITY PARCEL EXPRESS,** near Waverley's barber shop, or 40 Alton street.  
**SALESMAN ON WAGON WANTED FOR** city route; salary to start, \$3.00; state experience and references.—Box 43, Free Press.  
**YOUTH FOR OFFICE: MUST WRITE** a good hand. Apply Box 44, Free Press office.  
**TEAMSTER WANTED—GREEN & CO.** coal and wood dealers, 450 York street.  
**WANTED, BY FIRST JANUARY, BOY,** about fifteen, as office boy. Apply a. once, in own writing, to J. Harley Brown, London, Box 299.  
**CARRIAGE WOODWORKERS, BLACK-** SMITHS and painters wanted.—W. J. Thompson & Sons, 150 King street. x3011.

**AGENTS WANTED.**  
**AGENTS WANTED TO SELL TEAS AND** Coffees.—Marshall Bros. & Co., London.  
**WANTED—RESPECTABLE AND INTELLI-** gent persons to solicit orders for nursery stock; to the right parties I can offer the best inducements; best time in the year to make a start.—Apply for terms, at once, to E. D. Smith, Winona, Ont.  
**SITUATIONS WANTED.**  
**SPRING YOUNG MAN WISHES EM-** PLOYMENT at any kind of work; handy around steam engine.—Apply Box 42, this office.  
**YOUNG SCOTCHMAN, 28, DESIRES** situation in any wholesale house in town; willing and obliging; best references. Apply Box 42, this office. x2017.

**LOST AND FOUND.**  
**CHATELAIN PURSE FOUND, OWNER** can have same by proving and paying for ad. Apply at Free Press office. x1201.  
**LOST, TUESDAY, QUEEN'S AVENUE,** Richmond or Dundas streets, blue enamel and silver belt pin. Reward \$10. x1201.  
**LOST—PARCEL, BETWEEN CHAPMAN'S** and Clarence street, 4000 please return to No. 7 Dundas street. x1311.  
**PURSE LOST IN G. T. R. WAITING** room Monday, containing money and keys. Reward at this office. x1201.  
**LOST, WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY,** other garments. Liberal reward. This office.

**BOARD AND LODGING.**  
**WANTED—ONE OR TWO EXPERIENCED** DD room; must be central; preference over store.—Box 45, Free Press. x1201.  
**AT 474 QUEEN'S AVENUE, WARM** front room and board for gentlemen, modern conveniences. x1217.  
**NICE FURNISHED ROOMS, WITH** board, 257 Dundas street. x1301.  
**CENTLEMAN CAN SECURE WEL-** furnished bedroom; central; modern. At 265 Queen's avenue. Apply 5 to 8 p. m. x1217.

**BUSINESS CHANCES.**  
**TO BRICKMAKERS—FINE CLAY LAND,** good quality, near town, road, rail and river; easily worked; bricks in great demand.—Jas. W. Lord, Calgary. x1201.  
**EXCHANGE.**  
Fifteen words or less, 15 cents; each additional word, one cent; six insertions, five cents a word.  
**WILL EXCHANGE LOT IN RESIDEN-** TIAL section of the city for small fruit farm.—Address Box 4, Free Press.

**Men of Fashion**  
Demand the newest materials, cut in the latest and most up-to-date styles. We design garments for particular dressers.  
**Slater Bros.**  
360 Richmond St.  
PHONE 844.

**RUSSIA HAS DECIDING WORD**  
Whether There Shall Be War or Peace.  
**HER MINIMUM PROPOSITION**

Stated in Japan's Last Note — Russia's Answer Must be Definite, Says Minister Takahira.

(By Special C. P. R. Wire.)  
Washington, Dec. 30.—With war staring this country in the face Kogoro Takahira, the Japanese minister, was as calm as any official in Washington tonight, and he sat at his desk at a later hour preparing despatches for transmission to Tokio. Having called at the state department and informed the officials of the gravity with which the Tokio government views the situation, Mr. Takahira said tonight he, with the other officials of the Japanese foreign service, were awaiting the answer of Russia to Japan's last note before making a second communication to the powers. Mr. Takahira said he was sure that Japan was waiting the arrival of Russia's reply to her last note before making a second communication to the powers. Mr. Takahira said he was sure that Japan was waiting the arrival of Russia's reply to her last note before making a second communication to the powers.

**AN AFTERNOON FIRE.**  
Conflicting Accounts as to its Origin.  
The fire broke out during the second act of the play "Mr. Blue Beard," the first production in the theatre since its erection. The theatrical company, which was very large, escaped to the street in safety, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snow with no clothing but their stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained minor injuries, but none were seriously hurt.  
The accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting, and none of them certain, but the best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery broke and grounded, setting the scenery ablaze. The fire spread rapidly to the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus who were then engaged in the performance to flee to the wings with screams of terror.

**THE CURTAIN STUCK.**  
Enabling the Flames to Spread With a Terrific Roar.  
The fire in itself up to this time was not serious and possibly could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work.  
As soon as the fire was discovered, Eddie Poy, the comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain. It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire was thus given possession of a flue through which a strong draught set to the doors which had been thrown open in the front of the theatre. With a roar and a bound the flames shot out through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and up to those in the balcony, caught them and burned them to death. Immediately following this rush of flames.

**There Came an Explosion** which lifted the entire roof of the theatre from its walls, shattering the great skylight into fragments.  
As soon as the flames first appeared beyond the curtain a man in the rear of the hall shouted "Fire! Fire!" and the entire audience rose as one person and made for the doors. It is believed that the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of theatre, causing them to burst.  
Will J. Davis, manager of the theatre, said, after the catastrophe, that if the people had remained in their seats and had not been excited by the cry of fire not a life would have been lost. This, however, is contradicted

**Some were Burned to Death, many were Suffocated by Gas, while Life was Trampled Out of Scores.**  
**ALL WITHIN TEN MINUTES OF TIME.**  
**1,300 People, Nearly all Women and Children, Were in the Iroquois Theatre When the Fire Started—An Awful Panic Ensued While the Roaring Flames Rapidly Spread—Appalling Details of the Catastrophe.**

(By Special C. P. R. Wire.)  
Chicago, Ill., Dec. 30.—About 500 people were killed in ten minutes this afternoon during a fire in the Iroquois Theatre, the newest, the largest, and as far as human power could make it, the safest theatre in Chicago. Estimates of dead and injured vary. The police account of the dead is 536. The estimate of the newspapers is 562. Besides this there are 35 people missing at midnight, the majority of whom are probably among the dead in the morgue and various undertakers' establishments. Eighty-six of the dead have been positively identified. Ninety-two persons are known to be injured.

A few of the dead were burned to death by fire, many were suffocated by gas, and scores were trampled to death in the panic that followed the mad plunge of the frightened audience for the exits. It will be many hours before the number of dead is accurately known, and many days before all of them will be identified. There are bodies lying by the dozens to-night in the undertaking rooms, in the police stations, and in the hospitals, from which nearly everything that could reveal their identity to those who knew them best, is gone. Their clothing is torn to rags or burned to cinders, and their faces have been trampled into an unrecognizable pulp by the crowd that fought and trampled them down as they fled for safety.

**DEATH TRAPS.**  
Greatest Loss of Life at the Balcony Doorways.  
Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas it was in these two doorways on the first and second balconies that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the stairway at least eight feet from the door back to a point about five feet in the rear of the door. This mass of dead bodies in the centre of the doorway reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children.

The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points, is something that is simply beyond human power to adequately describe. Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay. Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before. Others lay with arms stretched out in the direction toward which lay life and safety, holding in their hands fragments of garments evidently torn from others whom they had endeavored to pull down and trampled under foot as they fought for their own lives.

**AN APPALLING SIGHT.**  
Police and Firemen Working Amongst the Layers of Dead.  
As the police removed layer after layer of dead in these doorways the sight became too much even for the police and firemen, hardened as they are to such scenes. The bodies were in such an inextricable mass and so tightly were they jammed between the sides of door and walls that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them out. The only possible thing to do was to seize a limb or some other portion of body and pull with main strength. Men worked at the task with tears running down their cheeks, and the sobs of the rescuers could be heard even in the hall below where this awful scene was being enacted. A number of men were compelled to abandon their task and give it over to others whose nerves had not as yet been shaken.

As one by one the bodies were dragged out of water-soaked, blackened masses of corpses, the spectacle became more and more heartrending. There were women whose clothing was torn completely from their bodies above the waist, whose bosoms had been trampled into a pulp, and whose faces were marred beyond all power of identification.  
Bodies lay in the first and second balconies in great numbers. In some places they were three and four deep, where one had fallen and others tripped over the prostrate forms, and all had died where they lay, evidently suffocated by the gas. Others were bent over backs of seats, where they had been thrown by the rush of people for the doors, and killed with hardly a chance to raise from their chairs.

One man was found with his back bent nearly double, his spinal column having been fractured as he was thrown backwards. A woman was found cut nearly in half by the back of a seat, she having been forced over it face downward.  
In the aisles nearest to the doors the scenes were harrowing in the extreme. Bodies lay in every conceivable attitude, half-naked, the look on their faces revealing some of the agony which must have preceded their death.

by the statements of firemen, who found the bodies of numbers of persons sitting in their seats.  
their faces directed toward the stage as if the performance was still going on. It was the opinion of the firemen that these people were suffocated at once by the flow of gas and fire which came from behind the asbestos curtain.

As near as can be estimated at the present time about 1,300 people were in the theatre. Three hundred of these were on the first floor, the balance being in the two upper balconies, and in the hallways back of them. The bodies of those who had died before the fire, and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to passage ways towards the front of the theatre. Two of these doorways are at the end of the balcony, and one being in the centre. The audience, in its rush for the outer air, seems to have, for the greater part, chosen to flee to the left entrance and to attempt to make its way down the eastern stairway, leading into the lobby of the theatre.

**AMONG THE DEAD.**  
Partial List of Those Who Lost Their Lives.  
In the following partial list of the dead, where no addresses is given, the residence is Chicago:  
Hortense Lang, aged 16.  
Irene Lang, aged 11, sister of above.  
E. A. Wilson.  
Mrs. W. T. Marsh.  
Miss Gladys Streton, Alpena, Mich.  
Louis Bushnell.  
Mrs. A. Lake, 35 years old.  
Miss A. Donaldson, 18 years old.  
J. Batty, great at hospital.  
Two boys with him thought to have perished.  
Mrs. Patrick O'Donnell, wife of President of the O'Donnell & Duer Brewing Company.  
Otto Wattman.  
R. H. Coult.  
Miss D. Howard.  
Miss Ross, daughter of Dr. Ross.  
Edith Horton.  
Helen McLaughan.  
Mrs. F. A. Merrill.  
Mrs. A. Sullivan.  
Mrs. Minwegen, wife of Ald. John Minwegen.  
Mrs. Harbaugh.  
Ann Fitzgibbon.  
C. W. Forbush and family.  
Anna Sterling.  
Three stage hands.  
Florins A. German, aerial performer.  
Ethel Blackman, 13 years old.  
Unknown boy, 8 years.  
Mrs. Cavanaugh.  
Two unknown women met death jumping from rear fire escape.  
Louise Buchray.  
Mary Walsh.  
Mrs. James D. Maloney.  
Miss Spencer.  
Ethel Jones, daughter of S. P. Jones, attended the theatre with brothers and sisters, two of whom are missing and three accounted for. It is reported at Vaughan's seed store, where the body was taken, that the mother, an invalid, dropped dead when she received the tidings of her daughter's death.

Mrs. John C. Kling.  
Lillian Philipson, 6 years.  
A boy who lived at Lafayette, Ind.  
Mrs. Foreman.  
Wm. Rattley.  
J. C. Johnson.  
Wm. M. Reed, Waukegan, Ill.  
Hoyt Fox.  
Mrs. L. R. Butler.  
S. Wardman.  
Edmund W. Morton.  
Newby.  
J. A. Cockens.  
Mrs. Stern.  
H. Donaldson.  
Continued on Page Seven.

**New Year Snaps.**  
CALENDARS at half price.  
XMAS TORONTO GLOBE—A few left at half price.

**JOHN MILLS**  
BOOK STORE,  
phone 1063, x 398 Richmond St.