

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN DEAD IN BOYERTOWN THEATRE HOLOCAUST

More Victims May Be in the Ruins and Half Will Not Be Identified

Whole Families Wiped Out and About Every Inhabitant Lost Relatives—Scene Indescribable as Terror-Stricken People Fought Their Way to Narrow Exit Only to Be Drenched by Tank of Burning Oil Which Exploded—Actor's Curiosity Caused the Horror.

Boyerstown, Pa., Jan. 14.—When night fell a stop to the work of recovering the dead from the ruins of the Rhodes Opera House, where last night's holocaust occurred, the official roll of victims numbered 167. Whether any more bodies are buried beneath the ruins cannot be positively stated, but it is the belief of those who had charge of the gruesome work that all of the dead have been recovered and that the total list of victims will not go above 170.

The ratio of women and girls to men and boys is about one to one. The work of identification will not be begun until tomorrow, as most of the bodies are still lying in a confused state at the four improvised morgues.

The inhabitants of the little borough in the Berks County hills, are tonight steeped in grief. The calamity, terrible when it is realized that the place has a population of but 2,500, has paralyzed the town and the people are going about dazed. They scarcely realize what has happened and cannot believe that loved ones, friends or acquaintances, were lost in the awful panic and fire. It is safe to say that everybody in the place has been so intimately acquainted with those who died in the fire. In several cases whole families were wiped out.

Identifications Hard.

It was almost daylight this morning before the flames were extinguished and rescuers were able to enter the ruins to remove the dead. The morning was bitter cold and by the time the bodies of the exhausted firemen began the task of disentangling the mass of burned beams and the twisted iron, the entire ruins were coated with ice and the bodies were frozen to the walls. The work went slowly at first and it was 7 o'clock before the first body was removed. Coroner Strasser, Reading, Pa., arrived at the scene shortly after midnight last night, had a detail of men ready to tag the bodies and keep a record of the description of every corpse removed. The bodies were so badly burned, however, that there was little to describe by and it is safe to say that not half the victims will ever be identified.

There were many different stories as to the exact cause of the panic and fire, but there were several rumors of a fire which broke out in the rear of the stage. Fire escaped from the building. The first floor was occupied by a national bank and several stores and the third floor was used for lodgings. The entertainment hall was a large room about fifty feet wide and seventy-five feet long. It had no gallery. There was a staircase at the front of the building and a narrow exit in the rear of the stage. Fire escapes were built on both sides and on the front of the building.

Room Was Packed.

So far as can be learned there were about 425 persons packed in the room, most of whom were adults. The number of children present was comparatively small. There were about sixty-seven persons, all local talent, on the stage, who were giving a performance of the Scotch Reformation. The entertainment was nearly over, the audience waiting for the curtain to go up on the last part, when something went wrong with the lighting apparatus that was perched on a small platform near the front entrance of the building and at the back of the audience. The light was in charge of H. W. Fischer, of Carlisle (Pa.), and he says a rubber tube slipped from one of the tanks. At any rate, there was a loud explosion which caused many in the audience to turn their heads in curiosity to see. There was absolutely no panic up to this time and nothing probably would have happened if one or more of the performers behind the curtain had not been curious to learn what was causing the noise. Whoever started the fire, it will never be known. Hearing the hissing sound and the slight commotion in the audience one of the performers raised the curtain from the floor. In front of the curtain and serving as foot-lights was a tin tank, perhaps eight feet long, three inches wide and three inches high. It contained coal oil and about ten lights. In raising the curtain the performer accidentally turned this tank over and it fell to the floor, where it exploded, setting off a chain of fire. The Rev. Ada A. Weber, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, for the benefit of whose Sunday school the entertainment was being given, tried to pick up the tank with the assistance of others, but before they could do so, the oil flowed out and caught fire.

Mad Rush for the Door.

Then came the inevitable cry of "fire" and what followed would be impossible, accurately, to tell. Every eye witness says that the audience rose en masse and the impulse to reach the door was irresistible. All attempted it, but few got out. The seats in the centre of the hall were of the usual folding variety, screwed to the floor, while the seats on the sides of the hall were loose chairs. In the scramble to get out, many persons fell over the chairs and were never able to regain their feet.

Those who did reach the front entrance, found it jammed with people who were fighting and shrieking to get out. One of the double doors had been bolted shut, the better to enable the ticket-taker to take up tickets. Not more than two persons could pass this door at one time and after the first half dozen got through the narrow passage it became clogged with the struggling mass of humanity. Men, women, boys, girls and children were jammed up in a solid mass that no one from the outside was able to disentangle.

In the meantime someone discovered that there were escapes on each side of the building, and dozens made their exit by those avenues of escape and gave the alarm. The fire bell was rung and the whole town was roused and went to the rescue.

G. T. P. GENERAL MANAGER HERE

F. W. Morse Inspects Central But Declines to Tell Result

PREMIER WITH HIM

Commissioners Also in the Party—G. T. P. Desirous to Serve St. John and Reach Here by as Short a Line as Possible.

F. W. Morse, general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific, arrived in the city Tuesday night after inspecting the Central Railway in company with Premier Robinson and other officials. He is expected to remain in the city for some time.

NEW YORK TO HAVE CAFE SEATING 8,000

Will Be the Largest in the World—Rental About \$4,000,000 Yearly—Roof Garden to Seat 4,000.

New York, Jan. 13.—Plans have been drawn and practically all the leases signed for what is to be the largest restaurant in the world, seating eight thousand persons. It will occupy the entire block on the west side of Broadway, from Forty-third to Forty-fourth streets, and it will have a roof garden that is to be an exact reproduction in miniature of the gardens of the Triumvirate at Versailles. The decorations of the main restaurant are to be on a grand scale and the entire structure is to be executed on a plan of vastness and beauty never before attempted in this country.

Approximately \$4,000,000 will be the rental for the grounds and the building, which are to be leased from the Astor estates for twenty-one years, with the usual renewal privileges. Besides this amount, which is to be guaranteed by a bond of about \$1,000,000, the reconstruction of the present building and the completion of the new one, with the incidental expenses, will amount to half a million dollars more.

There have been many rumors regarding the use to which the block mentioned, which commands an unusually advantageous site in the heart of the city's social, theatrical and restaurant centre, would be put, but until now all the various schemes have fallen through. In the present instance all the details have been worked out and the building is to be ready for business by next Christmas.

On being questioned, Mr. Morse said the idea in the negotiations was that some of the Central line would be used as a link in the G. T. P. if it could be utilized.

Mr. Morse was asked about the report from Ottawa that the commission building the eastern section of the G. T. P. might build a railroad down the St. John valley and lead it to the G. T. P. He said many schemes were talked of but he did not know of that one.

Premier Robinson, when seen later, said he could not tell the result of Mr. Morse's inspection of the Central line. "We are negotiating with the G. T. P. about a sale," said Mr. Robinson, "and the government are willing to sell or lease the line."

Senator King and Mr. McAvity said they could say nothing as to the result of Mr. Morse's inspection of the Central line. "We are negotiating with the G. T. P. about a sale," said Mr. Robinson, "and the government are willing to sell or lease the line."

CHARLOTTETOWN'S CIVIC BUSINESS WELL MANAGED

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Jan. 14.—(Special)—Our city is strong financially and the operations for the past year have been very successful notwithstanding the stringency in the money market. All of the five per cent debentures, that matured last year, were re-sold at four per cent, which means a saving of interest amounting in twenty years to more than six thousand dollars. This is a record no other city in Canada can boast.

This was a prominent statement at the address by retiring Mayor Paton, at the annual meeting of the city council last night. The expenditure last year was \$105,183, and revenue \$105,644, leaving a surplus.

The balance to the credit of the city at the bank on December 31st was \$8,038. Two miles of concrete sidewalk were laid during the year. All the reports submitted at the meeting were satisfactory.

The water and sewerage commissioners reported the year the best financially in the history of the works being \$800 better than the previous year. The health officer reported 200 deaths in a population of 12,000.

SUDDEN DEATH OF SUSSEX HOTEL MAN

Sussex, N. B., Jan. 16.—Ir. A. McLean, proprietor of the Sussex Hotel here, died suddenly this morning at 2.15 o'clock. Heart trouble is supposed to be the cause of death. He was 36 years of age and was in excellent health up to the time of his death.

Deceased was widely known and his sudden death will be a great shock to his many friends. He was the only son of the late Arthur McLean. His mother is almost heartbroken.

The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock. Interment at Upper Corner. Rev. Frank Baird will officiate.

MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT SETTLERS

Quality More Important Than Quantity, Says R. L. Borden

A DRASTIC BILL

Measure Introduced to Search Immigrants on Landing for Concealed Weapons, and Deport Them if Necessary—Canada May Take Over Esquimaux, Says Brodeur.

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—Mr. Cocksbut, of Brantford, moved a resolution in the house today to the effect that as great congestion prevailed in the labor market in industrial centres that only government assistance should be given to agricultural laborers and domestic servants, and that bounties to individual agents should cease.

Mr. Cocksbut started out by stating that the statement of Mr. Oliver that he (Cocksbut) wanted to empty the crowded tenements of Europe into the city of Brantford. This was said against him (Cocksbut) because he had forwarded to the minister a letter with an enclosure from an information bureau in Brantford suggesting the locating of a few working men from the congested parts of the land. That letter should have been returned to him, but it was not and had been used for an improper purpose.

Mr. Cocksbut denied that he was a member of the Manufacturers' Association, which was held responsible for the information bureau to which he referred. He dwelt at length on the class of immigrants that Canada was getting and that it ought to get.

Mr. Oliver in reply said that Mr. Cocksbut appeared not only to be opposed to original documents being produced but also to the letter of Mr. Cocksbut enclosing the information bureau was not a private one, it was dealing with a public question. Indeed it was a public document and should be placed before the house. The letter was not a private one and it was not marked private or confidential.

Quality the Main Thing.

Mr. L. Borden in discussing the resolution said that the time had come for the serious consideration of this matter. He was not prepared to adopt the United States system of putting a head tax on immigrants, but the time had come when Canada when we should cease paying out of the treasury sums of money because the people who entered the country were not of the quality that we needed. He dwelt at length on the class of immigrants that Canada was getting and that it ought to get.

It was better to go slow and look to the quality of the immigrants. The history of the United States was before us. The problem which arose in a democratic country could not be properly solved unless the people who entered the country were of the quality that we needed. He dwelt at length on the class of immigrants that Canada was getting and that it ought to get.

Mr. Johnston moved an amendment that the house approve of the encouragement given by the government to farmers, farm laborers, railway laborers and female domestics coming to Canada.

The hour for the adjournment arrived and the debate went over.

WOULD SEARCH IMMIGRANTS.

E. M. Lewis, who represents West Huron, introduced his bill in the house today to amend the immigration act to permit the government to search immigrants for concealed weapons. It gives power to the minister to deport such immigrants. Mr. Lewis has another bill in preparation dealing with the same subject. He has a knife. The bill was read a first time.

In answer to Mr. Smith, Nanaimo, Mr. Lewis said that the bill was not intended to deal with the question of the treatment of immigrants by shipping companies bringing people to Canada.

Mr. L. Borden said that the bill was not intended to deal with the question of the treatment of immigrants by shipping companies bringing people to Canada.

VOTE AGAINST NEW COURT HOUSE FOR CARLETON COUNTY

Council, Fifteen to Nine, for Post-Inspector Reappointed.

Woodstock, N. B., Jan. 15.—The county council concluded its business today. The most important subject was a resolution as to building a new court house on the lot of Conn. Brown, of Northampton. All plans and specifications were asked for the erection of a court house in the town and that tenders be asked for the sale of the property at Upper Woodstock.

Mr. L. Borden, seconded by Coun. Bradley, of Brighton, that the matter be postponed for another year. The amendment carried by a vote of 15 to 9.

A delegation from the hospital waited upon the board and gave a satisfactory account of the operation of that institution and a grant of \$500 was given.

Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the conduct of the Scott act officer, but after a debate Inspector Colpitts was re-appointed. Growing out of the discussion a worthy debate was conducted by S. S. Miller, of Hartland, who was heard before the board. Coun. Bradley, the former charging the latter with officiousness in Scott act matters.

Manitoba Telephone Commission

Winnipeg, Jan. 15.—(Special)—Members of the commission of the government telephone system in Manitoba were named this morning by the government. P. C. Patterson is chairman. The other members are W. H. Hayes and H. J. Horn. The commission took charge of the system this morning. There was no particular ceremony in turning it over.

TO KEEP PLAINS OF ABRAHAM SACRED

Notable Meeting at Ottawa

Earl Grey, Laurier, Borden and Other Prominent Persons Address Gathering of Canadian Club Representatives, Who Are a Unit for Preserving the Historic Ground.

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—Representatives of the various Canadian clubs in the dominion, from Halifax and St. John on the Atlantic to Victoria on the Pacific, were in Ottawa today for the purpose of considering Lord Grey's scheme for the nationalization of the battlefields of Quebec.

The Halifax club representatives were J. A. Chisholm, president, and Senators MacKeen and Ross. St. John was represented by Hon. Wm. Pugsley, W. E. Earle, president of the local club; Dr. Daniel, M. P., and S. D. Scott.

The delegates had luncheon at Government House, and afterwards a meeting was held at the governor-general's office to devise ways and means for the furtherance of the object which the gathering had in view.

In the evening there was a meeting in the Russell Theatre. The speakers were Lord Grey, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Earl Grey, Lord Aylmer, Speaker Sutherland, Speaker Dandurand and Deputy Speaker Maclellan. Mr. Hill, president of the Ottawa club, presided. The secretary was Mr. Maclellan. The meeting was a success.

The delegates then drew a graphic picture of the long duel between General Wolfe and General Montcalm, the ground of the British flag was placed on the citadel. It was one of the most important battles of the war. In no part of the earth was ground more sacred to be found. The story of the world was a record of sanguinary wars between nations, and three-fourths of the pages were narratives of battles between man and man. Some of them were forgotten and some were still living in the memory of man.

The battlefields of Greece against Persian invasion 3,000 years ago are still preserved. But nowhere in the world was there a greater conflict than the world was saved by the men who were defeated on the Plains of Abraham.

British subject and a British citizen, as he was, he did not forget that the same blood ran in his veins as of the men who stood by England when she was discarded by her own kith and kin. The scene of that conflict was altogether too long neglected, and the idea of his excellency should have been that support which it deserved, to erect a monument to the god of war but to the angel of peace.

Could anything more fitting be accomplished by the Canadian people to glorify the reconciliation of the two races which now make a proud and happy Canadian people? Can we wish a more noble idea than to have on the ground of the last conflict the angel of peace raising her wings toward heaven? With all his heart he hoped to see soon a statue of the angel of peace rising its wings toward heaven, so that the man who comes from abroad or the Canadian shall have that statue in his mind first and foremost, and the name of the angel of peace shall be the name of the angel of peace and good will on earth to men.

R. L. Borden.

R. L. Borden made an excellent speech supporting the movement so happily inaugurated by his excellency, which Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been too long delayed. An eloquent reference was made to the angel of peace rising upon the Plains of Abraham, but he did not remember it had been included among those which were numbered by an English author, who wrote of the various decisive battles of the world, though he thought it should be so classed. As a new day grew out of night for the Saxon people from the battle of Hastings, so a new day grew out of night for the French-Canadian people after the battle of the Plains of Abraham. From this battle came to them greater civil and religious liberty than would have been theirs if the issue had been different. This was a battle in which the pain was not only to the victors but to the vanquished, while these two great races today have as their heritage the duty of carrying high among the nations of the world the name of the angel of peace, and the name of the angel of peace.

"I hope the project for the monument which has been suggested will be carried to a successful issue. It must be a great popular movement throughout Canada and the empire. When the monument is erected it shall be erected not only as a lasting and enduring monument to the great memories of the past, but to the great hopes of the future."

The meeting was also addressed by Speaker Dandurand, Speaker Sutherland, Major General Lord Aylmer and Deputy Speaker Maclellan.

The robe which John Wesley wore when he was christened over 200 years ago is now the property of Miss Emily Pasley, of Workson, England, it having come to her from her grandfather, at whose house Wesley lived for a time when but an infant.

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