## FREDERICTON.

A Good Snow Fall Rejoices the Lumbermen's Hearts.

ne Hanson, a Fast Driver, Fined b the Police Magistrate-

**Educational News.** 

Board of School Trustees for the city met this afternoon and transacted a large amount of business. Miss Harvey, who has been enjoying leave of absence during the past term, will resume her duties at the Normal School after the Christmas holidays.

A delightful Christmas carol service was held in the Methodist church last evening under the direction of F. W. Harrison, the organist. Besides a number of beautiful choruses, solos were rendered by Miss Palmer, Miss Nan Thompson and Mr. Ley, the sec-

retary of the Y. M. C. A.

The Consolidated Coal Co., owning coal areas in Queens Co., and promoted a year ago by Fred F. Dow and W. E. Cadwallader, is reported to have been sold to a Boston syndicate. The company were handicapped for lack of funds and never carried on very extensive operations. It is said the new owners will test the property, and if the prospects are encouraging, will carry on extensive operations.

At the meeting of the executive of the Educational Institute last evening it was decided to hold the next Provincial Institute at St. John in June A committee consisting of Dr. Inch, B. C. Foster, Inspector Bridges and John Brittain, was appointed to arrange the programme. A discussion in reference to the next Dominion Teachers' Institute, to be held at Winnipeg in July, took place. It is expected that this province will be well represented.

The police magistrate this morning delivered judgment in the fast driving case, fining A. E. Hanson, the ac-

orning and hearly all day. About ot of snow fell, which will be mu preclated by lumbermen.

OTTAWA.

Trade News from New Zealand and South Africa—General Items.

OTTAWA, Dec. 30 - The department of trade and commerce received a communication from a large importing firm in Wellington, New Zealand, in which they state that the new tariff bill which has just been passed by the New Zealand government, giving a preference to British or colonial goods, will affect to a very large extent their importations, heretofore, ar riving from the States, and it will necessitate their relinquishing or transferring much of their business to England and to Canada. They are now anxious to hear from Canadian manufacturers, especially of office specialties and printing papers.

Temporary employes of the public work department, some 50 in number, have formulated a demand on the minister for higher pay. Thos. Cote, assistant census com

missioner, goes to Europe as secretary of the commission which will investigate the electric processes of smelting iron ore. The grit Free Press says tonight the

Ross government stands discredited in the eyes of the people. railway service is para lyzed owing to the break down of both | Springhill mines shortly after the midwater and steam plants. Ten cars are only running instead of 50, the usual number. Sleigh omnibuses are plying

Over the simple matter of the distribution of rooms in the west block. partment, the ministers cannot agree. Prince Edward Island tomorrow.

SCH. C. R. FLINT.

Total Loss of Vessel Well Known i

EASTPORT, Me., Dec. 31.-An un known three-masted schooner, supposed to be lumber laden from St. John, is wrecked on Raccoon Beach, Campobello. The crew is missing, but may be safe. Large quantities of laths and shingles are affoat.

oner is the C. R. Flint of New York, from St. John for New Bedford. The crew are safe.

ST. STEPHEN, N. B., Dec. 31.-Str Aurora reports a large three-masted schooner ashore on the eastern side of Campobello and deal and scantling floating in the bay. Her name and the fate of the crew could not be learned. It is thought that she went ashore on Wednesday.

The following information was obtained here last night with respect to

the loss of the vessel: The sch. C. R. Flint, Capt. Maxwell, was wrecked yesterday on the Raccoon Beach, Campobello. She was loaded with lumber shipped by Stetson, Cutler & Co. and registered 260 tons. She sailed from St. John for New Bedford the other day. There was no insurance on the vessel. Last night word was received here to the effect that Capt. Maxwell and his crew were safe.

#### WHITNEY'S LATEST MOVE.

ciers in Boston and New York, with H. M. Whitney at their head, are contemplating the formation of a big company for the development of coal and which began the development of these properties at Cochrane's Lake a few months ago. This company, besides nesits in one block owns from ore and coal in different parts of the province. Mr. Whitney was in Sydney a few weeks ago studying the situation at the works of the Deminion Iron and The information now is that he was there looking into this new proposal of his.

## BRITISH REVERENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 31.-The treasury department tonight issued an account of revenue in the United Kingdom for the first nine months of the fiscal year of 1903-4. Of an estimated total of \$721,-550,000, the returns show \$455,287,490 was paid into the exchequer. As compared with last year, a total net decrease of

\$18,497,040. As the estimates for the current year are nearly \$40,000,000 below the estimated receipts of the fiscal year of 1902-3, the various heads must be ex-

#### CRUSHED TO DEATH.

HALIFAX, Dec. 30 .- A fatal accident took place in the west slope of the A young man by the name of Ephraim driver in the level pillars, sat down near the face of the working and was crushed to death by a fall of coal. His

# WORLD'S GREATEST THEATRE HORROR!

Over Seven Hundred People Burned to Death in Chicago Wednesday,

In the Iroquois Theatre, a Replica of the Paris Theatre Comique, and Supposed to Be Absolutely Fireproof in All Parts--Asbestos Curtain Failed to Work, Hence the Terrible Death Roll.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- Seven hundred 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. A few of these people 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 dozen tonight 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 trampled them down as they fled for

safety The fire broke out during the second act of the play-Mr. Bluebeard-which

was the first dramatic production in the theatre since its erection.

The company, which was very large, five fact in the root the door. This escaped in safety, nearly all of them, mass in the centre of the doorway. the snowy streets with no clothing but their stage costumes. A few members at this point were women and chilof the company sustained minor indicate. The fight for life which must juries, but none were seriously hurt. denly broke and was grounded. the performance, to flee to the wings them. with screams of terror. The fire in and possibly could have been checked

work. As soon as the fire was discovered company, shouted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire was thus given practically a flue through which a strong draught was setting aided by 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 and burned them to death where they sat. Immediately following this rush which lifted the entire roof of the theatre from its walls, shattering the great Bradley, belonging to Charlottetown, a 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 the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the

causing them to burn. 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 single life would have been lost. This, however, is contradicted by the statements of the firemen, who their seats, their faces directed to ward the stage as if the performance was still going on. It was the opinion of the firemen that these people had been suffocated at once by the flow of gas which came from behind the as-

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 theatre is modelled after the Opera Comique in Paris, and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to passageways to-ward 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

Scenes of Panic That Baffle Description.

Young Ladies and Children Were the Victims--Piled Tiers Deep in the Theatre Aisles and Exits.

however, being compelled to fiee into reached to within two feet of the tor have taken place at these two points The accounts of the origin of the is something that is simply beyond fire are conflicting and none of them human power to adequately describe certain, but the best reason given is Only a faint idea of its horror could that an electric wire near the lower be derived from the aspect of the bodpart of a piece of drop scenery sud- ies as they lay. Women on top of The these masses of dead had been overfire spread rapidly toward the front taken by death as they were crawling of the stage, causing the members of on their hands and knees over the the chorus, who were then engaged in 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 had not the asbestos curtain failed to fragments of garments not their own. They were evidently torn from the clothing of others whom they had en-Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the deavored to pull down and trample under foot as they fought for their own lives. As the police removed layer after layer of dead in these doorways the sight became too much even for police and firemen, hardened as they are to such scenes, to endure. The bodies were in such an inextric jammed between the sides of the door and the walls that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them out. The only possible thing to do first floor and reaching clear up to was to seize a limb or some portion of those in the first balcony, caught them the body and pull with main strength. Men worked at the task with tears running down their cheeks, and the of flames there came an explosion sobs of the rescuers could be heard even in the hall below where this awful scene was being enacted. number of the men were compelled to abandon their task and give it over to others whose nerves had not as yet been shaken by the awful experience. As one by one the bodies were dragged out of the water-soaked, blackened mass 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 merred beyond all power of identifi-Bodies lay in the first and second balconies in great numbers.

IN SOME PLACES

they were piled up in the aisles 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 rise from their seats. One man was found with his back bent nearly double, his spinal column having been fractured as he was thrown backwards. A woman was and cut nearly in half by the back found cut nearly in half by the back of the seat, she having been forced

over it face downwards. In the aisles nearest to the door treme. Bodies lay in every conceivable faces revealing some portion of the agony which must have preceded their of people whose entire face had been trampled off completely by the heels of those who rushed over them and in one aisle the body of a man was found with not a vestige of clothing, flesh or

fully made with a hope of finding his head, but at a late hour tonight it had not been discovered and all that will ever tell his friends who he was is the color and appearance of the clothing on the lower limbs and this is in such condition as to be hardly re-

The theatre had been constructed but a short time and all its equipment was not yet in place. This was unfortunately the case with a fire es-cape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconies to which the iron ladders were to be attached were up but the ladders had not yet been constructed. When the panic was at its height a great number of women ran for these fire escapes, only to find as they emerged from the doorway upon the little iron platform that they were 30 to 50 feet from the ground, a fire behind and no method of escape in front. Those who reached the platfooting and to keep back the crowd

jammed with erowds of women who screamed, fought and tore at each other like maniacs. of them were crowded off and fell to the granite pavement below. Others leaped from the platform, fracturing legs and arms and two were picked up at this point with fractured skulls, having been killed instantly.

George H. Elliott, secretary of the Ogden Gas Co., was in a building op-posite from the threatre across this Elliott immediately rushed for a ladder in an effort to save as many as possible. No ladder was available and the only method of assistance they were able to devise was to hurriedly lash some planks together and throw them across to the affrighted women on the platform with instructions to place the end firmly on the iron framework loss of time ensued, the women being pushed every instant into the alley and ed but few seemed to take advantage of it. However, about two dozen, i is believed, made their way across this narrow causeway. The members of the theatrical company being on the first floor, had comparatively little difficulty in reaching the street, although their situation was for a mo ment highly critical because of the speed with which the flames swept flies and on the stage.

Eddie Foy, the principal comedian in the play, was one of the last to escape by getting out through a rear door after assisting the women members of the company to safety. He stage costume with his face covered with grease paint, in order to secure surgical attendance for some burns which he had sustained. In describing the commencement of the fire, Foy attributed the extent of the catastrophe to the failure of the fireproof curtain to work properly. Because of this, he said, the flames readily obtained access to the main part of the theatre and gas as well as fire, swept up to the two balconies where the loss of life

"The fire began in the middle of the prevent alarming the audience, said that there was a slight blaze and it would be better for all to leave quietly. Then I stepped back and called ly. Then I stepped back and called for the asbestos curtain to be lowered. This, when about halfway down, refused to go farther, and thus an additional draught was created. This swept the flames out into the auditorium and I knew that the theatre was doomed. I hurried back to the stage and aided in getting the women the theatre were necessarily out, in the theatre were necessarily out. people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in those 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 leading from the head of the stairway

of those who rushed over them and in one aisle the body of a man was found with not a vestige of clothing, flesh or bone remaining above his waist line. The entire upper portion of his body had been cut into mincemeat and carried away by the feet of those who rushed over them and in doomed. I hurried back to the stage and aided in getting the women members of the company into the alley. Some of them were in their dressing rooms and were almost overcome by smoke before they could get down. The

Every Morgue in Chicago Over-crowded

With Bodies of the Dead---The Hospitals Could Not Handle the Injured as Fast as They Came.

ple fact that the curtain did not lives of the company, although it caused such a horrible catastrophe in This lasted but a brief interval and the front of the house. After the cur- and wounded any distance and they the rush from the interior of the tain had refused to descend there came building became so violent that many the explosion of the gas tanks, and with the curtain down all the fire and the rear wall of the theatre and the fireproof curtain in front. Under these circumstances it would not have been possible for a single member of the company to escape alive unless he or she had been standing immediately in theatre, front of the door leading into the alley. It wa to ascertain its cause. When he gas and fire out before the curtain, reached the street the women were already dropping into the alley and their salvation was the death of so alley, and noticing smoke went down As it was, the draught carried all the many poor people in front."

Rarely in the history of Chicago has

its people been so stirred as by the calamity of today. It is, next to the Chicago fire, the greatest catastrophe that has ever occurred here, and the speed with which it came and went seemed for a brief period to appar the business section of the city. The news spread with great rapidity, and in a short time hundreds of men, women and children were rushing toward the theatre. The building in which the calamity occurred stands midway between State and Dearborn streets, on the north side of Randolph street. 'Although every available policeman within call of the department was immedi placed in lines at the end of the block allowing nobody to enter Randolph street from either Dearborn or State it was found for a time almost impossible to hold back the frenzied crowd that pressed forward, many of was beyond all praise. The officers held their ground firmly and gently gain an entrance to the theatre, although in some instances frantic men anxious to look for their loved ones actually beat the officers with their fists in their rage at being prevented.

In spite of the efforts of the police however, a large number of people succeeded in breaking through their lines and entering the theatre, and in many cases did heroic work in rescuing the injured and carrying out the dead. Among those was former Alderman Wm. H. Thompson, who unaided carfrom this the flames were started in the rear of the stage. The stage is unusually wide and there was so great a draught and the flames aread and injured. The building the flames were started in the ground also carried out many of the dead and injured. The building the flames aread was so full of smoke when the stage to part and unusually wide and there was so great a draught and the flames spread rapidly. They soon had attacked all the scenery in the rear of the house. I grasped until a fireman and a grasped until a fireman and a scenery in the rear of the house. I scenery in the rear of the house. I never believed it possible for fire to spread so quickly. When it first started, I went to the footlight and, to started, I went to the footlight and the foo way the fireman, whose wisdom was better trained in such emergencies, seized his companion by the arm ex-

The chief at once called a

men in the vicinity to abandon y on the fire and come at once to the oue. The building was so dark the smoke so thick that it was a impossible to accomplish anything til lights had been secured. Word til lights had been secured. Word was at once sent to the Orr & Locket Hardware Co., two doors east of the themtre, and that firm at once placed its matter stock of lanterns at the service of the department. Over 200 lights water quickly carried into the building and the work of resoue commenced. So rapidly were the bodies brought down that for over an hour there were two streams of men passing in and out of the doorway, the one carrying bodies, the other composed of men returning to get more. They were carried into Thompson's restaurant, which adjoins. available space was given by the proprietor. The dead and won led were placed upon chairs, tables and count ers. Because of the tremendous throng which surounded the block in which the sible for the police to carry the at the theatre. Although all the patrol wagons and every ambulance ownvice, they were utterly inadequate to carry away the dead and in a short

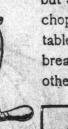
of corpses piled two and three feet

It was found necessary, in order to and to the various undertaking establishments, to impress trucks into the ets furnished by the dry goods stores in the vicinity, and covered with the in the vicinity, and covered ward same material the dead bodies ward hauled away practically like so mach hauled away practically like so mach cordwood. The merchants in vicinity of the theatre rose to the ergency in splendid fashion. Marshit Field & Co., Mandel Bros., Sclesing & & Meyer, Carson. & Meyer, Carson, Pirie, Sc and other large dry goods stores wagen load after wagen load of bla ets, rolls of linen and packages of ton to be used in binding up wounds of the injured and to cover stock to anybody that asked for it in the name of people hurt in the are Doctors and trained nurses were the ground by the score within half at hour after the extent of the calamate was known, and every wounded per-son who was carried from the build ing received prompt aid. A number of doctors waited at the entrance to the doctors waited at the entrance to the theatre with stethoscopes in hand, and as soon as a body which looked as it them having friends or relatives in the theatre and anxious to learn something of them. The conduct of the police placed on the pile lying on the side was beyond all praise. The officers walk. The others were at once placed walk. The others were at once pl in ambulances and whirled away to hospitals or to the offices of physician

> One large truck ordinarily used for conveying freight to the depots was so heavily loaded with the dead in front of the theatre that the two horses attached to it were unable to start and the police were compelled to the need for trucks to remove the dead was more pressing a huge electric de-livery wagon owned by Montgomery. The automobile headed for the scene. but at State street encountered great a press of people that it could not get through. The chauffeur clang-

> J. Davis, one of the proprietors of the theatre, was indefatigable in his efforts to alleviate the suffering and assist in caring for the dead. He said: "There was no need so far as I know of a single life being lost. There were over forty exits to the theatre. The build have been out by the time the explosion occurred if order had been preserved in making the exits. As far as we have learned, everybody on the first floor except three escaped, al-

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