

FREDERICTON.

A Good Snow Fall Rejoices the Lumbermen's Hearts.

One Hanson, a Fast Driver, Fined by the Police Magistrate.

Educational News.

FREDERICTON, Dec. 30.—The Board of School Trustees for the city met this afternoon and transacted a large amount of business.

A delightful Christmas carol service was held in the Methodist church last evening under the direction of F. W. Harrison, the organist.

The Consolidated Coal Co., owning coal areas in Queens Co., and promoted a year ago by Fred F. Dow and W. E. Caldwell, is reported to have been sold to a Boston syndicate.

OTTAWA.

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

OTTAWA, Dec. 30.—The department of trade and commerce received 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 arriving from the States, and it will necessitate their relinquishing or transferring much of their business to England and to Canada.

Temporary employees of the public work department, some 50 in number, have formulated a demand on the minister for higher pay.

Thos. Cote, assistant census commissioner, east to Europe as secretary of the commission which will investigate the electric processes of smelting iron ore.

The Erie Free Press says tonight the Ross government stands discredited in the eyes of the people.

The street railway service is paralyzed owing to the break down of both water and steam plants. Ten cars are only running instead of 50, the usual number.

Over the simple matter of the distribution of rooms in the west block, vacant by the transfer of militia department, the ministers cannot agree.

The cabinet will, therefore, solemnly consider the matter. E. A. Hoare, chief engineer of the Quebec Bridge, was here today conferring with Schreiber, Maschke, Messers, Roberts and Flanagan in Quebec conferring with the bridge syndicate regarding election matters.

SCH. C. R. FLINT.

Total Loss of Vessel Well Known in St. John.

EASTPORT, Me., Dec. 31.—An unknown 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.

Schooner 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 Stinson, Cutler & Co. and registered 250 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.

HALIFAX, Dec. 30.—Leading financiers in Boston and New York, with E. M. Whitney at their head, are contemplating the formation of a big company for the development of coal and iron areas in Cape Breton and the establishment in connection therewith of a big steel plant. Mr. Whitney owns extensive deposits of iron ore and dolomite in different parts of the county, and has been for some time endeavoring to develop them.

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 \$465,574,490 was paid into the exchequer, as compared with last year, a total net decrease of \$18,497,040.

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

HALIFAX, Dec. 30.—A fatal accident took place in the west slope of the Pleasant Hill mines shortly after the midnight shift went to work this evening. A young man by the name of Ephraim Bradley, belonging to Charlottetown, a driver in the level pillars, sat down near the face of the working and was crushed to death by a fall of coal. His body will be sent to his friends in Prince Edward Island tomorrow.

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.

Scenes of Panic That Baffle Description.

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

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 recognizable.

The theatre had been constructed but a short time and all its equipment was new. This was unfortunately the case with a fire escape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconies to which the iron ladders were 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 their lives and fell to the ground. Some of them were killed instantly.

George H. Elliott, secretary of the Ogden Gas Co., was in a building opposite from the theatre across this alley, and noticing smoke coming down the alley, he ran to the theatre. When he reached the street the women were already dropping into the alley and Elliott immediately rushed for a ladder in an effort to save as many as possible.

Eddie Foy, the principal comedian in the play, was one of the last to escape by getting through a rear door after assisting the women members of the company to safety. He went into the Sherman House in his 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.

The fire began in the middle of the second act, said Mr. Foy. "An electric wire broke, was grounded, and from 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 spread rapidly. They soon had attacked all the scenery in the rear of the house. I never believed it possible for fire to spread so quickly. When I saw the flames I went to the footlight and to prevent alarming the audience, said that there was a slight blaze and that would be better for all to leave quietly. 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 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 to the stage and to the doors. The

Every Morgue in Chicago Over-crowded.

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

A simple fact that the curtains did not descend entirely was what saved the lives of the company, although it caused such a horrible catastrophe in the front of the house. After the curtain had refused to descend there came the explosion of the gas tanks, and with the curtain down at the fire and gas would have been confined between 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 front of the door leading into the alley.

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 one with which it came and went seemed for a brief period to appal 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 with-in call of the theatre was immediately hurried to the spot and the men 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 them having friends or relatives in the theatre and anxious to learn something of them. The conduct of the police held their ground firmly and gently pushed back all those who sought to 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 undauntedly carried to the street the bodies of eight women. The first newspaper men upon the ground also carried out many of the dead and injured. The building was so full of smoke when the firemen first arrived that the extent of the catastrophe was not immediately grasped until a fireman and a newspaper man crawled up the stairs leading to the balcony, holding handkerchiefs over their mouths to avoid suffocation. As they reached the door the fireman, whose wisdom was better trained in such emergencies, seized his companion by the arm and exclaimed: "God God, man, don't walk on their faces."

The two men tried vainly to get through the door which was jammed with dead women piled higher than either of their heads. All the lights in the theatre were necessarily out, and the only illumination came through the cloud of smoke that hung between the interior of the theatre and the street. The two men immediately hurried to the floor below and informed Chief Musham of the fire department

that the dead bodies were piled high in the balcony and people's heads were seen to be rendered in any of them were saved.

The chief at once called upon men in the vicinity to abandon their own fire and come at once to the rescue. The building was so dark and the smoke so thick that it was almost impossible to accomplish anything until lights had been secured. Word was at once sent to the Orr & Looker Hardware Co., two doors east of the theatre, and that firm at once placed in the fire stock of lanterns at the service of the department. Over 200 lights were quickly carried into the building and the work of rescue commenced. As 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 the theatre on the east, where all the available space was given by the proprietor. The dead and wounded were placed upon chairs, tables and counters. Because of the narrowness of the theatre building, it was not possible for the police to carry the dead and wounded any distance and they were compelled to wait for ambulances at the theatre. Although all the patrol wagons and every ambulance owned by the city was pressed into service, they were utterly inadequate to carry away the dead and in a short time there was a line fifty feet long of corpses piled two and three feet high on the sidewalk in front of the theatre.

It was found necessary in order to carry the bodies rapidly to the morgues and to the various hospitals, to implore trucks into the service, and in these upon costly blankets furnished by the city good stokers were placed in the vicinity and covered with the same material to keep the bodies warm. Hauled away practically like so much cordwood. The merchants in the vicinity of the theatre were to the extent in splendid fashion. Marshall Field & Co., Mandel Bros., Slesinger & Meyer, Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. and other large dry goods stores were wagon loads after wagon loads of blankets, rolls of linen and packages of soap to be used in bandaging up the wounds of the injured and to cover the dead. The drug stores furnished extra stock to anybody that asked for it in the name of people hurt in the fire. Doctors and trained nurses were on the ground by the score within half an hour after the extent of the calamity was known, and every wounded person who was carried from the building received prompt aid. A number of doctors waited at the entrance to the theatre with stethoscopes in hand, and as soon as a body which looked as if it might possess life was carried out it was at once examined and if dead placed on the pile lying on the sidewalk. The others were at once placed in ambulances and whirled away to hospitals or to the offices of physicians in the immediate neighborhood.

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 assist by tugging at the wheels. When the need for trucks to remove the dead was more pressing a huge electric delivery wagon owned by Montgomery Ward & Co. was hauled by the police, but at State street encountered so great a press of people that it could not get through. The chauffeur clung to his seat repeatedly, but the crowd refused to part, and the automobile was finally turned away.

While the police and firemen were carrying out the dead and injured Willie J. Davis, one of the proprietors of the theatre, was indefatigable in his efforts to alleviate the suffering and assist in carrying out the dead. He said: "I was not so far as I know of a single life being lost. There were over forty exits to the theatre. The building is fireproof and if somebody had not screamed fire I think that all, as far as those killed in the panic are concerned, could have reached the street in safety. And of those who were suffocated by the gas, nearly all would 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, although some sustained bruises and other

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It won't chop wood but Sargent's Gem Food Chopper will chop raw meat, cooked meat, vegetables of all kinds, fruit, crackers, bread, eggs, cheese, nuts, figs and other foods, and It will chop them all rapidly, easily, coarse or fine, in uniform pieces, without mashing, squeezing, tearing or grinding. W. H. Thorne & Co., Limited, St. John.