

600 PERISH IN CHICAGO FIRE

Most Appalling Disaster of Its Kind in the History of United States

NEW IROQUOIS THEATRE BURSTS INTO FLAMES DURING AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE

Bodies of Women and Children Found in Huge Piles—Others Found Dead in Their Seats, Killed Before They Could Move

Chicago, December 30.—About 560 persons were killed in ten minutes this afternoon during a fire in the Iroquois theater, the newest, the largest, and as far as human power could make it, the safest theater in Chicago. Estimates of the dead and injured vary. The police account of the dead is 536. The estimate of the newspapers is 562. Besides this there are 55 persons missing at midnight, the majority of whom are probably among the dead in the morgue and various undertaking establishments. Eighty-six of the dead have been positively identified and 92 others are known to be injured.

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 dozens tonight in the undertakings 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 heels of the crowd that trampled them down as they fled for safety.

FIRE BROKE OUT DURING SECOND ACT.

The fire broke out during the second act of the play "Mr. Blue Bird," which was the first dramatic production produced in the theater since its erection.

The company, which was very large, escaped to the street in safety, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snowy streets 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 suddenly broke and was grounded.

The fire spread rapidly toward 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 alarm.

Chicago, December 30.—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 Fay, the chief comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire thus was given practically a free run through which a strong draft was setting, aided by the doors which had been thrown open in the front of the theater.

With a roar and a bound, the flames shot through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and reaching clear up to those in the third balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat.

Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explosion which lifted the entire roof of the theater 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 flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the theater, causing them to burst.

Indian Chief in Killed.

Seige, T. T. special, Lat. 74 Miles, the executive head of the Snake Indians, the most turbulent factor in the Creek nation, has been killed by a falling limb from a tree.

Life Sentence for Youth.

Judge Mathers at Ottawa pronounced life sentence upon Foster Nutter, 18, convicted of criminal assault upon Anna Price, aged 8. The crime is alleged to have been committed two years ago. Nutter will be sent to the Massachusetts reformatory.

Four in One Grave.

Mrs. Albert Lafferty and her three children, together with their infant children, who were advent the death of the mothers was partially due, were buried in one grave.

Cause for War.

George Washington of Adrian, walked into a meat market and suddenly became hot under the collar. Some one had carelessly flicked a razor blade down his neck and his liver boiler began to blaze, but was soon extinguished.

Adopts Curfew Law.

The Illinois council has adopted a curfew ordinance, and hereafter the few white will be blown at 8 in the evening to warn the youngsters of the approach of the cops.

Theater is Completed.

Impending new theater is completed and the efforts of the burg can now enjoy the drama at \$1.50 and \$2 a seat.

To Drive Out Quacks.

The physicians of Livingston county are organizing to drive out fake doctors.

Gives Pills With Purchase.

A coldwater drug firm gives six sugar-coated pills with each purchase.

RAILWAY MAIL CLERK

ONE OF THE BEST TYPES OF AMERICAN CITIZEN.

Upon the Faithful and Proper Performance of His Duties Depends the Welfare of Millions—Too Little Appreciated by the Public.

The railway mail service has been so excellent the public are prone to receive it as a matter of course. Little heed is given to it, and if thought of at all, it is with a limited recognition of its magnitude or its connection with the public weal. Too great prominence is given the hero "behind the gun" and too little is said of the man who gives the best years of his life for the mental, moral and material development of this kind.

The duties of the railway postal clerk require a high order of dexterity and skill, which not being gifts God given, are acquired by years of untiring effort. His work is for the benefit of everyone, and in his view all are leveled to the same plane.

Through his hands pass the messages of countless millions, and whether of city or village, counting house or farm, whether bearing glad or sorrow, or joy, they speed to their destination. Upon his skill, ability and untiring efforts depend, to a great extent, the success of all social, political and commercial enterprises. This may seem a broad assertion, but can you imagine the condition if the ten thousand postal clerks of this country were to resign in a body? Means of communication would then be limited to the telegraph and telephone, and that they would prove wholly inadequate is apparent to the most casual observer. Chaos would reign in the business world, and the shock would be felt to the remotest part of our civilized globe. It is pleasing, however, to be assured that no such event will take place, for while realizing his power he is imbued with the spirit of patriotism that is the life of every true American. The thought of any action that devotion to duty never enters his mind.

The railway mail service has kept pace with the needs of advancing times, and it is the proud boast of the postal clerk that he is the agency through which this pace is being kept; but the time has come when, in spite of the most heroic efforts that man can put forth, they are not enough. And the time is at hand when more attention must be given or we will reap the reward of our neglect. The attention of every business man should be called to this branch of the public service, for they are directly and intimately concerned.

Upon the railway postal clerk depends the success of this important branch of the government, and his removal would destroy in a day what it has taken years to build. It is in his fidelity that the work of this wonderful business has been carried on to almost perfection, and when we consider the vast and complex of duties imposed in this country and the rapidity with which it is transported to its destination with almost mathematical precision by this remarkable machine of distribution and delivery it is little short of marvelous. If each of the eighty millions of people of the United States mail one letter or parcel a day, the average is eight thousand packages to the postal clerk—and this is conservative—and the record shows that he makes one mistake—missends one piece for every ten thousand handled. The business and professional worlds are challenged to show a record that even approaches this.

In this service there is no place for "the sleepy, the sluggish or the indifferent." The essential element is manhood in the absolute, not the outward show of manhood, but the inner consciousness of physical strength, mental capability and moral worth. These, coupled with the "unwavering spirit of application," make a good citizen and a good postal clerk. These are concomitant, for he who is a postal clerk is and ought to be a good citizen. He must practice those virtues which make men better in order to withstand the strain of unrelenting mental and physical hardship, and that he does practice them is evidenced by the record he has made.

Upon such he rests the destiny of this nation. His is a life of duty, a life that brings sweet reward, a life that compels a life that requires energy, alertness and fidelity; a life that molds character, that strengthens individuality and marks him a man separate and distinct from all other men.—From an address by E. J. Kern at the annual convention of the Railway Postal Clerks' Association of the Sixth Division.

The Lost Path.

I found it on a summer day. It led me to a life of duty, a life that requires energy, alertness and fidelity; a life that molds character, that strengthens individuality and marks him a man separate and distinct from all other men.—From an address by E. J. Kern at the annual convention of the Railway Postal Clerks' Association of the Sixth Division.

It crossed a brook filled with tiny trout, it doled, it climbed, it twisted.

Past quiet beds and after blooms, through shallow brooks and greenland glooms.

Where silence lingered dreaming, now hastening under leafy skies or leaping to the butterflies.

When weary morn to twilight pale I followed on its errant trail. Till weary of its wanderings, it lost itself amidst the grass, too indolent to seek to pass the crawling barriers rampant.

Oh, little wandering path of mine, My fate seems strangely like to thine, Mine too the waywardness!

A thought of what I meant to do—A hope—a doubt—a dream or two—And now the walls of Never!

—David Young in New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Good Yield of Beets. Two Wisconsin farms are very highly pleased with their experience in the culture of sugar beets. The past year they realized over \$500 clear money from seven acres of the beets, which were shipped to the Kalamazoo factory.

Cider Mill Closes. The Bloomington cider mill has closed down, after having taken care of 65,000 bushels of apples during the season and having paid out \$2,000 for labor.

GREAT JANUARY WHITE GOODS AND MUSLIN UNDERWEAR SALE

ON THE Second day of January, 1904, we open our Eighth Annual WHITE GOODS and MUSLIN UNDERWEAR SALE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that our White Sale of 1903 reached enormous proportions, the plans for this event have been conceived and executed on a far greater scale than was ever before attempted by us.

IT IS no exaggeration to say that few stores in the state have exceeded in magnitude and choice the offerings in Muslin Underwear we present on the second day of January, 1904.

IN ADDITION to our own unusually fine stock, a purchase was made last August that involved upward of 8,000 garments. This great quantity, fully twice the amount offered at any previous White Sale, was secured at a price that allows us to sell Muslin Underwear lower than at any time since we have been in business.

EVERY style new in the Lingerie World—Exquisitely Embroidered and Lace-Trimmed Garments of every description.

Waite Bros. & Robertson, PONTIAC, MICH.

December Clearing Sale of Hats

The Ladies of Birmingham will find everything desirable in Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats at my Millinery Parlors during the month of December. Prices reduced to make room for the

New Holiday Attractions which are coming in now. An early call will insure bargains.

MISS E. FLYNN, Pontiac, Mich.

HOLIDAY GOODS

Christmas Tide is Coming right Along and will soon be Here

We offer for your inspection a large Assortment and solicit a share of your Christmas trade

We have a new and selected stock of Goods in the following lines Suitable for Christmas Presents.

Perfumery in Bulk A New Stock of Toys from 5c up

Perfumery in Bottles A Fine Line of Cops and Sancers

Hair Brushes, Holiday Books Choice Candles

Holiday Pictures Fresh Stock of Mixed Nuts

A new lot of Parlor Lamps at very low prices—all new

CHINAWARE, GLASSWARE, CROCKERY, ETC.

Buy the new game, "PANIC." Beats Flinch all Hollow. Price 40 cents.

A Merry Christmas to you all.

CALL AND SEE US.

Whitehead & Mitchell

DRS. KENNEDY & KERGAN

None out of every ten men have been guilty of transgression against nature in their youth. Nature never excuses, no matter how young, foolishness or depravity be the cause. The punishment and suffering corresponds with the crime. The only escape from its ruinous results is to stop the disease at once.

The weakness must be stopped—the NERVE must be built up and invigorated. The blood must be purified, the PHYSICAL SYSTEM must be vitalized, the BRAIN must be nourished. Our New Method Treats comes active; the blood purifies so that all poisons, blotches and skin diseases are invigorated and disappear; the eyes become bright, the heart full and clear, energy returns to the body, and the moral and physical systems are invigorated—more, more, more from the system. The cure is quick, and the result permanent. We invite all the afflicted to call and consult the confidential and reliable Dr. Kennedy & Kergan, 140 N. 2nd St., Detroit, Mich.

CONSULTATION FREE. BOOKS FREE. If unable to call, write for QUESTION BLANK for Home Treatment.

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Store opens For the Sale of White Saturday, Jan. 2, 1904. PONTIAC, MICH.

Shaw's Pure Malt Its value in sickness has been tried and proven. In the home it is not safe to be without it. Absolutely Pure. Sold by A. Anderson, and Whitehead & Mitchell.

HALF FARE PLUS \$2.00 FOR ROUND TRIP TICKETS VIA Louisville & Nashville R.R. To Nearly All Points in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee

FOLEY'S HONEY & TAR Send for Advertising Rates

WHEN IN DETROIT -EAT AT- 61 MICHIGAN AVENUE. Meals 15c.

Dr. King's New Discovery For Consumption, Coughs, Croup, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Asthma, Bronchitis, Hay Fever, Eczema, Scabies, Ringworm, etc.

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