

DEATH IN THEATRE FIRE

167 Die during a blaze at Boyertown, Pa., Opera House.

PICTURE EXPLOSION

A Church Entertainment Was in Progress When the Accident Occurred—Oil Lamps Are Then Overturned in the Rush of the Crowd for the Exit.

Boyertown, Penn., Jan. 15.—Between 167 and 175 men, women and children, lost their lives on Monday night in a fire which destroyed Rhoades' Opera House.

So far no complete list of the dead can be made up. It is known, however, that Alice and Mary Koehel, daughters of Milton Koehel of Pottstown, the adjoining town eight miles away, are among the dead.

It is known, too, that members of the cast were in the building, and it is doubtful if they escaped.

A moving-picture film caught fire and started the panic. The picture machine was almost in front of the only stairway leading from the auditorium to the street below, and about this fire spread rapidly, quickly cutting off the only means of escape.

Early on Monday morning the Opera House building was almost destroyed and the Mansion House was partially destroyed. The fire is under control.

Members of the St. John's Lutheran Church of this place had just presented a five-act play with tableaux, "The Scottish Reformation," and an exhibition of moving pictures was to have closed the exhibit.

The performance, which was for the benefit of the church, had been prepared for weeks in advance. Mrs. D. E. Miles of Washington, D. C., had coached the young actors and actresses, and Mrs. H. D. Monroe managed the entertainment. The crowd which came to witness the performance was made up of admiring relatives and friends. There were more than 50 young people in the cast. It is believed that about 500 were present.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 16.—Of the 175 persons believed to have perished in the fire and panic at Rhoades' Opera House on Monday night, 107 bodies have been recovered. Of these 45 have been identified.

Conger's Brother in Jail.

City of Mexico, Jan. 14.—J. S. Conger, a train auditor of the Mexican Central Railroad, has been placed in prison at Jimenez, Mexico, on complaint of a Mexican passenger, who boarded the train with his wife and four children. He had only two tickets and was put off when he declared he had no money to pay for the others.

Mr. Conger is a brother of ex-Ambassador Conger. The railroad company sustains the auditor and its officials are trying to have him released from prison.

Roosevelt Sure of Taft.

Washington, Jan. 13.—President Roosevelt is convinced that Secretary Taft will be the nominee of the Republican National Convention in June, and he believes the nomination will be made on the first ballot. He went over the situation with some of his callers Friday and showed the reasons for his belief. The President has received expert information on the Republican political situation all over the country for some time.

Cheaper Fuel for Autos.

London, Jan. 16.—A despatch from Stockholm says that a Swedish engineer whose name is not given, has discovered a new explosive liquid which is many times superior to petrol as motive power for automobiles.

Underbid by Americans.

Swansea, Wales, Jan. 16.—The South Wales steel bar trade is being seriously cut into by American and German competition. In fact, the business has practically ceased because the Midland dealers are being underbid from America.

Spain Settles Old Claim.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The Spanish Government finally paid the United States a claim of \$570,000 growing out of spoliation by privateers on American merchantmen during the wars between the mother country and her colonies in South America.

Congressman Sulzer Weds.

Atlantic City, Jan. 11.—Congressman William Sulzer of New York and Miss Clara Rodolph of Philadelphia were married here Tuesday night, by the Rev. Herbert Gesner of the First Presbyterian Church.

Storm Devastates Macao.

Lisbon, Jan. 15.—The Seculo states that a terrible cyclone has devastated Macao. Many persons were killed and a large number of houses and ships were destroyed. Chinese robbers took advantage of confusion.

Mexican Mining Camp Afire.

Mexico City, Jan. 15.—According to a telegram just received in this city, the great gold mining camp of El Oro, one of the largest in the republic, is being destroyed by fire.

"The Blood is The Life."
Science has never gone beyond the above simple statement of scripture. But it has illuminated that statement and given it a meaning ever broadening with the increasing breadth of knowledge. When the blood is "bad" or impure it is not alone the body which suffers through disease. The brain is also clouded, the mind and judgement are affected, and many an evil deed or impure thought may be directly traced to the impurity of the blood. Foul, impure blood can be made pure by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It enriches and purifies the blood thereby curing, pimples, blotches, eruptions and other cutaneous affections, as eczema, tetter, or salt-rheum, hives and other manifestations of impure blood.

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You can't afford to accept any medicine of unknown composition as a substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery," which is a medicine of known composition, having a complete list of ingredients in plain English on its bottle-wrapper, the same being attested as correct under oath. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels.

HERO WORSHIP.

Schurz in His Autobiography Tells How Sherman Was Applauded.

When he (Gen. Sherman) called himself a "happy man" there was a tone of just exultation in his words. He was, indeed, a happy man. He had won great renown as a soldier and an immense popularity all over the Northern country. This he knew, and he thoroughly relished it. All sorts of societies and public organizations had made him their honorary member, and he appeared among them as often as he could. Whenever he entered a theatre, which he did very often, the orchestra would strike up "Marching through Georgia"; the whole audience would rise and clap their hands, sometimes even singing the tune, and his rugged face would fairly glow and beam with pleasure. Every social circle greeted him as a most welcome guest, and at receptions and evening parties and other gatherings the pretty girls would come up and kiss him—and how he did enjoy all this!—McClure's Magazine.

Descendent of Confucius.

Here is a little sketch of Confucius' seventy-sixth lineal descendant, who lives in a Yaman of China: Duke K'ung received us in his official robes, and was most kind and affable. He is a tall, strongly made man of 25 years of age. The Duke speaks no English. His Highness does not often leave his home, and has only twice visited Peking. The large number of members of his establishment who crowded into the hall to listen to the audience caused me to ask the Duke if he kept a large establishment, and he informed that it consisted of fully 400 souls. His revenue is derived from the villages of the neighborhood for many miles around, one village as far away from Chufou as 400 li (140 miles) paying an annual sum. His Highness expressed friendly sentiments toward foreigners, whom he alleges he is always glad to receive when they visit Chufou. He expressed the opinion that English was practically the official language of China.

Provision for Self-Advertisement.

Authorities who have in charge some of England's ancient treasures try to discourage the habit of carving initials on these relics. A fine of \$15 was recently imposed on a man who had chipped his name in letters six inches high on one of the stones in the "Brides' Circle" near Keswick. Close to the giant stone globe at Swanage a special slab is provided for the harmless reception of the names of all who are addicted to this self-advertisement. On popular Alpine summits names are left on cards in emptied wine bottles.

Cures Sleeping Sickness.

Professor Koch, the great German medical authority, who has been in Africa about 18 months, inquiring into the causes and cure of that strange and widely prevalent malarial, the sleeping sickness, has become famous throughout a large portion of the Dark Continent. He has treated and cured hundreds of black men afflicted with the dread disease mentioned, and has, therefore, been given the title of "Great White Wizard."

Emigration Benefits Sicily.

Emigration has benefited the working classes in Sicily. Labor is scarce now, and in some places where only 20 cents a day was formerly the wage rate 75 cents is now paid. The emigrants leaving Palermo for the United States last year numbered 48,553.

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