

FIRE HORROR AT CHICAGO.

Nearly Six Hundred People Perished in the Iroquois Theatre.

It was an Awful Catastrophe---Women and Children Fatally Burned in Their Seats.

Hundreds of People Trampled to Death in the Wild Rush to Escape from the Burning Building---Explosions of Gas Added Terror to the Lethal Scene.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—About 550 people were killed in ten minutes Wednesday 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.

The fire broke out during the second act of the play "Mr. Blue Beard," which was the first dramatic production given in the theatre 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.

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 terror.

The fire thus was given practically a free through which a strong draft 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 through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and reaching clear up to those in the first 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 theatre 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 the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the theatre, causing them to burst.

As near as can be estimated 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 hallways back of them.

The theatre is modelled after the Opera Comique in Paris and from the rear of each balcony there are three doorways leading to passageways toward the front of the theatre. Two of these doorways are at the end of the balcony and one in the center.

Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these 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 reaching from the head of the stairway at least eight feet from the door, back to a point about five feet in the rear of the door.

This mass of dead bodies in the center of the doorway, reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children. The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is something that is simply beyond human power adequately to describe.

Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay. Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before.

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.

In a short time and all its equipment was not yet in place. This was unfortunately the case with a fire escape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconies to which the iron ladder was to be attached were up, but the ladder 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 up on the little iron platform, that they were 30 to 50 feet from the ground, a fire behind and no escape in front.

Those who reached the platform first endeavored to hold their footing and to keep back the crowd that pressed upon them from the rear.

The effort was utterly useless and in a few moments the iron ledges were jammed with crowds of women who screamed, fought and tore at each other like maniacs. This lasted but a brief interval, and the rush from the interior of the building became so violent that many of them were crowded off and fell to the granite-paved alley 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.

The building in which the calamity occurred stands midway between State and Dearborn streets on the north side of Randolph street.

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 of corpses 50 feet long piled two and three high on the sidewalk in front of the theatre.

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 receiving prompt medical aid.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—For the first time since Chicago has possessed bells to peal, whistles to shriek, and horns to blow, the old year was allowed silently to take its place in history and the New Year permitted to come with no evidence of joy at its birth.

The list of dead continues as it was given Wednesday, in the neighborhood of 550. It is generally accepted at this time that the most accurate estimate is 564. This number will be increased somewhat, as there are people in the hospitals who cannot survive for any length of time. It is believed, however, that the total number of dead will not in any event exceed 575. Including the missing, it is estimated that the total number of casualties at the present time is approximately 1,000.

The best evidence obtainable is to the effect that the fire was caused by the sparks from an arc light striking the edge of the drop curtain, but the actual fact, however, will not be known until after the conclusion of the coroner's inquest.

Although the Iroquois theatre was undoubtedly the safest theatre in Chicago, it became evident yesterday that the city building department had not strictly enforced one or two sections of the building ordinances.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Mayor Carter Harrison yesterday took steps to provide as far as possible against a repetition of Wednesday's horror at the Iroquois Theatre. As a result of an investigation made at his orders and lasting but a few hours, 19 theatres and museums were ordered closed, some of them being among the leading and most popular playhouses of the city.

The act of the mayor was based on one single violation of the ordinances which are intended to protect the patrons of theatres from just such an occurrence as that which cost so many lives on Wednesday. This was that every one of these places had omitted to supply an asbestos curtain. The theatres ordered closed are:

Howard's, Sam T. Jack's, Marlowe, New American, Olympic, Academy of Music, Alhambra, Avenue, Bijou, Chicago Opera House, Columbus Stock, Thirty-first Street, Criterion, Fiegenbaum's, Milwaukee Avenue, Garrick and Glickman's.

Superintendent of Schools Cooley announced last night that the theatre fire had killed 24 teachers in the Chicago public schools and six teachers are still reported missing.

DeWitt

DeWitt is the name to look for when you go to buy Witch Hazel Salve. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is the original and only Witch Hazel Salve that is made from the unadulterated

Witch-Hazel

All others are counterfeits—base imitations, cheap and worthless—even dangerous. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is a specific for Piles, Hemorrhoids, Itching and Protruding Piles, Also Cuts, Burns, Bruises, Sprains, Lacerations, Contusions, Blisters, Carbuncles, Cystitis, Tetter, Salt Rheum, and all other Skin Diseases.

SALVE

PREPARED BY E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago



REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY

Made a Well Man of Me. THE GREAT FRENCH REMEDY produces the above results in 50 days. It acts powerfully and quickly. Cures when all other fail. Young men will regain their lost manhood, and old men will recover their youthful vigor by using REVIVO. It quickly and surely restores Nervousness, Lost Vitality, Impotency, Nightly Emissions, Lost Power, Falling Memory, Winding Diseases, and all effects of self-abuse or excess and indiscretion, which unfit one for study, business or marriage. It not only cures by starting at the seat of disease, but its great nerve tonic and blood builder, brings back the pink glow to pale cheeks and restores the fire of youth. It wards off insanity and Consumption, based on having REVIVO. It can be carried in vest pocket. By mail \$1.00 per package, or six for \$5.00, with a post paid written guarantee to cure or refund the money. Book and advice free. Address: ROYAL MEDICINE CO., 16-20 Plymouth Pl., CHICAGO, ILL.

Sold by R. C. Dodson, Emporium, Pa.

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

PATENTS

Anyone sending a sketch and description will quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. HARRISON PATENT OFFICE, 615 Broadway, New York.

Scientific American

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year in advance. \$1.50 for 6 months. Single copies, 10 cents. Branch Office, 625 F St., Wash., D. C.

Advertisement for Patents and Trade-Marks, featuring 'GASNOW' and 'WASHING MACHINE'.

Advertisement for 'Madam French Bean's' medicine, claiming relief for suppressed menstruation.

Advertisement for 'EVERY WOMAN' medicine, 'DR. PEAL'S PENNYROYAL PILLS'.

Advertisement for 'THE EMPORIUM Bottling Works' by Henry Kraft, Prop.

Advertisement for 'Finest Domestic Wines and Beers'.

Advertisement for 'Celebrated Erie Beer'.

Advertisement for 'PILES' medicine, 'Dr. J. C. Thompson's Pile Suppository'.

WAGES CUT.

Thousands of Steel Workers Begin the New Year by Accepting Lower Pay. Pittsburgh, Jan. 2.—The 3,000 employees of the Edgar Thomson steel works and 11 blast furnaces of the Carnegie Steel Co. at Braddock's yesterday accepted the reduction in wages offered them. There was but little objection to the scale except in some of the smaller departments, where day wages and salaries are paid. The tonnage men in the converting mills and bloom mills of the rail plant receive the heaviest cut, which is from 12 to 22 per cent.

At Monessen the new wage scale of the American Tin Plate Co. went into effect at the National works. It is said the salary of Superintendent W. H. Harris was cut from \$6,000 to \$3,000 a year. The brick masons were reduced from 50 cents 1/2 hour to 25 cents, and rather than accept the 50 per cent. reduction they refused to work. Superintendent Harris also tendered his resignation, to take effect today. The tonnage men are not affected by the cut, owing to the operation of the Amalgamated scale effective until July 1.

At the Carnegie Steel Co.'s steel hot mill at Monessen the reduction will average about 10 per cent. It was accepted with good grace by the men and the mill is working full. The big plant of the Monessen Foundry and Machine Co. is working double turn.

A BRILLIANT EVENT.

President Roosevelt Held the Customary New Year's Reception and Greeted 6,700 People. Washington, Jan. 2.—President and Mrs. Roosevelt yesterday inaugurated the official social season with a brilliant reception at the White House. For more than a hundred years it has been the custom of presidents of the United States to receive on New Year's day all officials of the government located in Washington and such citizens as might care to pay their respects to the nation's chief magistrate. In addition to citizens of the United States, members of the diplomatic corps always embrace the opportunity personally to extend to the president their own good wishes and the greetings of their governments.

The reception of the president on New Year's day is thoroughly democratic. That of yesterday was notably so. No distinctions of rank or class were made, except such as were rendered necessary by a due respect for order. All persons—rich or poor, with or without rank—were given a gracious greeting by President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

At the conclusion of the reception the president expressed his gratification that it had passed off so delightfully. During the three hours and eleven minutes he received 6,711 people, only a few hundred less than were received a year ago.

A Democratic Love Feast.

Omaha, Jan. 2.—Nearly 500 democrats of Nebraska last night celebrated the anniversary of Andrew Jackson's victory over the British at New Orleans, and incidentally the thirteenth annual banquet of the Jacksonian club of Nebraska. The speakers included Senator Newlands, of Nevada; Congressman De Armond, of Missouri, and Congressman Hitchcock, of Nebraska. The occasion was of special significance to Nebraska democracy because of a reunion of the factions that have formerly been known as "gold" and "silver" democrats. The affair was in the nature of a love feast.

Another Invasion of Panama.

Colon, Jan. 1.—Information has reached Gov. Melendez from Cartia, a village in the Isle of Pines, Panama territory, that Colombian troops had landed there December 21 and conferred with the Indian chief Inanaquina, who afterwards was taken aboard a vessel and, it is thought, conveyed to Cartagena. Immediately it became known here that Colombians had landed within the borders of the republic of Panama the United States gunboat Castine steamed out towards Cartia. She was followed shortly afterwards by the cruiser Olympia.

McAdoo's Manifesto.

New York, Jan. 2.—Police Commissioner McAdoo after taking office yesterday issued a statement in which he said he would do everything in his power to prevent blackmailing, extortion, "grafting" or bribe taking by the police, but it would be useless, he said, to expect a policeman to be honest if he has to pay for his appointment, promotion or assignment. Therefore, he declared, preference would rest on merit only.

A Banker Suicides.

New York, Jan. 1.—Otto Ahlman, president of the Bank of Staten Island, Stapleton, S. I., committed suicide by shooting in a bathroom of the Hotel Alhambra, this city. His body was discovered yesterday with a revolver by its side. The bank has been closed by the state bank examiner pending an examination into its affairs.

His Fame Rests on a Hoax.

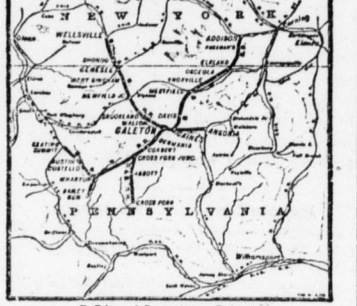
Upton, Mass., Jan. 2.—Daniel Edward Fiske, widely known as an author and newspaper writer, died Friday, aged 81 years. Mr. Fiske was best known as "Pratt Pond, Jr." and his most famous story was a gold hoax in Upton 60 years ago and caused the whole town to search for the metal, which never existed.

Hotel Fire Caused Panic.

Brainerd, Minn., Jan. 2.—Fire which broke out in the Arlington hotel Friday did about \$50,000 damage to the building. There were about 30 guests in the hotel and great confusion prevailed and there was a mad rush for exits. Theodore Hollister, of Duluth, an attorney, lost a number of law books and valuable papers. He was forced to crawl down stairs on his hands and knees. A. E. Bass and wife, a deaf and dumb couple recently married, were asleep when the fire broke out and had to be carried from the burning building.

BUFFALO & SUSQUEHANNA R. R.

Time Table taking Effect June 23, 1902.



"The Grand Scenic Route."

Table with columns for 'READ DOWN' and 'READ UP' showing train schedules between Buffalo and Susquehanna.

READ UP.

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STATIONS.

Table with columns for 'READ DOWN' and 'READ UP' showing train schedules between Buffalo and Susquehanna.

CONNECTIONS.

At Keating Summit with P. R. R. Div. Buf. Div. for all points north and south. At Ansonia with N.Y.C. & H.R. for all points north and south.

LOW GRADE DIVISION.

Table with columns for 'STATIONS' and 'EASTBOUND' showing train schedules for the Low Grade Division.

WESTBOUND.

Table with columns for 'STATIONS' and 'WESTBOUND' showing train schedules for the Low Grade Division.

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Cameron County Press

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Pennsylvania

RAILROAD.

PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD DIVISION.

In effect Nov. 29, 1903. TRAINS LEAVE EMPORIUM EASTWARD 8 15 A. M.—Week days for Sunbury, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, Hazleton, Pottsville, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 6.23 P. M., New York 9.33 A. M., Baltimore 6.00 P. M., Washington 7.15 P. M., Pullman Parlor car from Williamsport to Philadelphia and passenger coaches from Kane to Philadelphia and Washington.

12 25 P. M.—Emporium Junction daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and principal intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia, 7.32 p. m.; New York, 10.23 a. m.; Baltimore, 7.39 p. m.; Washington, 8.35 p. m. Vestibule Parlor cars and passenger coaches, Buffalo to Philadelphia and Washington.

3 30 P. M.—Daily for Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia, 4.23 A. M., New York 7.23 A. M., Baltimore, 2.30 A. M., Washington, 3.30 A. M. Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg/Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers remain sleeper undisturbed until 3:30 A. M.

10 25 P. M.—Daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 7.15 A. M., New York 9.33 A. M., weekdays, 10.38 A. M. Sunday; Baltimore 7.15 A. M., Washington 8.30 A. M. Pullman sleeping cars from Erie, Buffalo and Williamsport to Philadelphia and Buffalo, Williamsport to Washington. Passenger cars from Erie to Philadelphia and Williamsport to Baltimore. Harrisburg and principal intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia, 7.32 a. m.; New York, 9.33 a. m.; Baltimore, 7.39 a. m.; Washington, 8.35 a. m. Vestibule Parlor Sleeping Cars and Passenger coaches, Buffalo to Philadelphia and Washington.

5 10 A. M.—Emporium Junction—daily for Erie, Gettysburg, and week days for DuBois, Clearfield and intermediate stations. 10 30 A. M.—Daily for Erie and week days for DuBois and intermediate stations. 6 23 P. M.—Week days for Kane and intermediate stations.

RIDGWAY AND CLEARFIELD R. R. CONNECTIONS.

(Week days.)

Table with columns for 'SOUTHWARD' and 'NORTHWARD' showing train schedules for Ridgway and Clearfield R.R.

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