

# CAPITOL DESTROYED

## Pennsylvania Legislative Halls In Ruins.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$1,500,000.

Inefficiency of the Harrisburg Volunteer Fire Department Blamed—Members of the Legislature Saved All They Could—Insurance Only \$200,000.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 3.—The Pennsylvania state capitol, has been destroyed by fire, the legislative halls are in ruins, and a new structure must rise from the ashes that has served as a meeting place of the Pennsylvania legislature since 1822. The flames within the short space of one hour ate for \$1,500,000 worth of property. The inefficiency of the Harrisburg volunteer fire department is generally blamed.

The house was in session and the senate was about to convene when a few minutes recess when the flames were discovered. Smoke could be seen in small volumes pouring out into the capitol grounds from the house windows. The members were not mindful of it until the great clouds rolled by the windows. Instantly there was a motion to adjourn and all was confusion.

In the senate the members were lolling about in their seats. The place began to smell of smoke and soon dense clouds rolled down the rear elevator shaft. Senator John C. Grady of Philadelphia quickly warned the senators and there was a general haste to remove effects. Fire alarms were sent in and the dignified senate became a mass of howling men. Desks were being jerked loose and carried out. The same work was going on in the house chamber.

Out in the grounds great crowds quickly gathered. The flames were then shooting upward from the remains of the governor's chamber, where the fire originated. The fire department was slow to arrive and the hosemen about the capitol were making strenuous efforts to check the blaze. It was useless. The fire licked up the little streams of water.

At last the fire companies started streams on the senate wing roof, then a sheet of flames. The water had hardly force enough to reach the blaze. Rapidly the flames descended the roof and ate their way down into the senate chamber. The men who were trying to recover property were driven out. The flames shot along the senate floor, wound themselves about the dome and out to the roof of the house chamber. Although there was a main and several other falling the woodwork burned like tinder. Soon there was a fire in every portion of the building and there was no hope for the historic structure.

During the fire several persons were slightly injured by falling timbers. For a time it looked as though the adjoining apartment building would be destroyed, but a shifting wind saved them. The records of this session were saved. The contractor for the improvements in progress had an insurance of \$70,000, his contract not being finished. The department which burned the building was the following:

Senate and house committee rooms, senate librarian's room, senate chief clerk's office, senate chief clerk's office, lieutenant governor's room, room of president pro tem, school department, house chief clerk's room, speaker of house's office, school clerk's room, two telegraph offices, room of the Harrisburg Legislative Correspondents association, pastor and folder departments, clock rooms in both branches and the engine rooms.

There is talk of finishing the session either in Pittsburgh or Philadelphia, but Senator Lattin of Miller says a building can be secured here.

Superintendent of Public Buildings Delaney, who estimates the total loss to be \$1,500,000, said:

"I will fight for the rebuilding on the colonial style. We will have a meeting of the building committee on Monday and the house and senate committees can be appointed. I don't think that it is possible to take the session away from Harrisburg, which city is named in the constitution as the place of meeting."

There is not much over \$100,000 insurance on the building and contents, according to the statement of the treasury officials.

The burned capitol was built early in the center of the city and was the most important of the handsome specimens of Ionic architecture in the country. The building was of red brick with white trimmings. It was surrounded by a park of ten acres and stood on an eminence almost in the center of the city. The main structure was two and a half stories high, surrounded by a large dome, from which a fine view of the surrounding country could be had. The capitol's dimensions were: Length, 180 feet; width, 80 feet.

The cornerstone was laid on May 31, 1819, by Governor Findlay. The building was finished in 1821 and was occupied by the general assembly on the 3d of January, 1822. On each side was a wing, that in the north being occupied by the senate and the southern wing by the house. At each end of the building, separated from it by a narrow space, are located two buildings containing the state treasury department and adjacent general office and other state offices. About 100 feet south is the main building, recently erected at a cost of nearly \$1,000,000, for the accommodation of the governor, attorney general and other state offices.

This building also shelters the state library and a portion of it is used as a state museum. It is the finest in the world, and, until ten years ago, was quartered in the structure destroyed by fire. It was the danger from fire that led to the building of the library in the old building that induced the authorities to erect the fire-proof structure in which it is now located.

President Pro Tem, McCarroll of the senate and Speaker Foy of the house and the members of the board of public property met in the supreme court room and arrangements were made for the meeting of the house in a room on the second floor of the postoffice building.

Governor Hastings is expected to send a message to the legislature today in reference to the destruction of the capitol building and to recommend immediate action on the part of the legislature with a view to the restoration of the capitol building.

It is likely that joint sessions of both branches of the legislature will be held today or tomorrow to decide upon the future meeting places.

The loss is not to estimate. Many documents went up in fire and smoke that no price can be fixed on. They can never be replaced.

There are personal policies of insurance, aggregating \$125,000 on all the state buildings, but how much of this is credited to the capitol is not known. In addition to this, \$40,000 was taken out on the capitol building after the fire was removed.

There were five year policies on the main building prior to the central of the library, aggregating \$400,000, divided among a large number of companies of this country and Great Britain.

# AN AMENDED TREATY.

## Changes in the Arbitration Treaty Made by Senate Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The text of the changes made in the general arbitration treaty by the senate committee on foreign relations are as follows: As sent to the senate article 1 read as follows:

The high contracting parties agree to submit to arbitration, in accordance with the provisions of this treaty, all questions in dispute between them which they may fail to adjust by diplomatic negotiations. The senate committee to this added the following:

But no question which affects the foreign or domestic policy of either of the high contracting parties or the relations of either to any other state or power, by treaty or otherwise, shall be a subject for arbitration under this treaty, except by agreement of the high contracting parties.

Article 2 is amended by giving each government two instead of one jurist of repute and the following is stricken from the article:

In case they shall fail to agree upon an umpire within three months of the date of an application made to them in that behalf by the high contracting parties, or either of them, the umpire shall be selected in the manner provided for in article 7.

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Whenever the word "person" is used, meaning the fifth member of the tribunal, the word "person" shall be understood to mean a jurist of repute and an umpire inserted.

Article 7 in the original treaty read as follows:

Objections to the jurisdiction of an arbitral tribunal constituted under this treaty shall not be taken, except as provided in this article, at any time before the close of the hearing upon any matter, except territorial claims, submitted to an arbitral tribunal constituted under this treaty, either of the high contracting parties shall declare that such claim shall cease and the same shall be dealt with by arbitration under article 7.

Article 7 as amended by the committee reads as follows:

Objections to the jurisdiction of an arbitral tribunal constituted under this treaty shall not be taken, except as provided in this article, at any time before the close of the hearing upon any matter, except territorial claims, submitted to an arbitral tribunal constituted under this treaty, either of the high contracting parties shall declare that such claim shall cease and the same shall be dealt with by arbitration under article 7.

The committee struck out entirely and without inserting anything in its place the article which provided that King Oscar of Sweden should have the naming of the umpire in case of dispute.

DIED DEFENDING HER HONOR.

More Details of Ella Clark's Death Near Apollo—Shehammer Dead.

APOLLO, Pa., Feb. 3.—Jasper Shehammer, the murderer of Miss Ella Clark, died of his wounds without recovering consciousness from the wound he inflicted on himself.

A poker was found in the girl's right hand.

The young woman had had trouble with young Shehammer on the preceding Thursday, when he visited her, because she would not permit him to kiss her, and she threatened to kill herself, flourishing a revolver at the same time. She cocked the weapon away from him, and kept it hidden in her pocket until Saturday when she returned the revolver to his mother, saying: "Jasper threatened to kill himself. If I do not promise him something."

The young man again obtained the revolver from his mother and used it in the murder. Some time before the murder Shehammer got into trouble for assaulting a little girl on her way home from school. Miss Clark's character was also a subject of conversation.

The fact that bruises were found on his body that had doubtless been made by the poker wielded by Miss Clark, and that he threatened to accomplish her downfall, indicated that Miss Clark yielded her young life in defense of her honor.

Miss Clark was a member of the Boiling Springs Lutheran church and an active Sunday school worker.

A SUCCESSOR TO ROBERTS.

Frank Thomson Likely to Be Promoted to the Place Today.

# A SHIP FOR PEACE.

## The Venezuelan Treaty Signed at Washington.

ONE MORE ACT YET TO FOLLOW.

The Document Must Now Be Ratified by the Venezuelan Congress—Famosecote and Andrade Affixed Their Signatures.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—As the representatives of their respective governments, Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, and Senor Jose Andrade, the Venezuelan minister to Washington, at the state department, have signed a treaty providing for the settlement by arbitration of the long standing dispute over the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana, which has long been a subject of contention between the principals and kept them apart diplomatically for years, but has threatened to involve the two great English speaking nations in hostilities.

The treaty was really complete several days ago so far as all of the details of one name, and the other was left to fill in with the name of a British jurist. Some difficulty had been experienced in finding the second member of the British supreme tribunal who was willing to assume the arduous task of arbitrator and also could be spared from his duties. It was finally found in Justice Collins and his appointment has been ratified by the British privy council, a necessary formality. So all was ready for the signature of the treaty.

Sir Julian came to the state department in company with his attaché, Henry Crider, and the secretary was awaiting them. A few minutes' delay occurred before Senor Pauncefote, the attaché of the Venezuelan legation, arrived, and then the party proceeded at once to the business of the day. Mr. Crider and Mr. Andrade made a careful comparison of the treaty and then Sir Julian signed both of them. Senor Andrade placed his name after Sir Julian and Mr. Crider affixed his.

Blankford, private secretary to Secretary Olney, and the treaty was an accomplished fact, save the single act of ratification by the British privy council. The signatures were written with a special pen, a beautiful gold holder and nib, tipped with an eagle feather and contained within the cap a small vial of diamonds. This was sent from Venezuela for the purpose and will be the property of the British minister.

Four Men Entombed.

Houghton, Mich., Feb. 3.—Four men are entombed in the burning North Tamarack mine, which caught fire, and small hopes are entertained for their escape.

Mrs. Beecher Resting Easily.

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 3.—Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher is resting easily, there being practically no change in her condition.

Broad Riots in Madrid.

MADRID, Feb. 3.—Serious strikes and broad riots have occurred in Madrid, Spain, since the arrival of the king. The king and his family have fled to the mountains to escape the disturbances and martial law has been proclaimed.

Four Sentenced to Hang.

SANTA FE, Feb. 3.—Frank and Antonio Berrogo, Sauriano Almir and another, who were charged with the murder of ex-Sheriff Frank Chavez, have been sentenced to be hanged Feb. 23.

Timeworkers on a Strike.

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—As a result of a 10 per cent reduction in wages 700 timeworkers of Norton Brothers timeworks at Maywood have struck. Trouble is apprehended.

Schools Burned in Wisconsin.

MEMONIE, Wis., Feb. 3.—The Menominee high school and the Stout manual training school have been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$150,000; insurance, \$52,000.

Boston Brokers Fall.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—The failure of E. O. Hodges & Co., bankers and brokers of this city, has been announced.

George B. Roberts' Funeral.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 3.—The body of George B. Roberts, late president of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, was held here for the funeral services which were held over Mr. Roberts' remains.

# MURDERED 4 PERSONS.

## The Bloody Record of Butler, Caught at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 3.—The Australian murderer, Butler, who has been caught on the bark Swanilda, has a bloody record.

The police and detectives had watched Butler for three weeks. He affects to be a prosaic man with having murdered 14 men. His plan was to entice men whom he knew to have money into the interior under the pretense of examining mining claims and then murdering them. His last victim was Captain Leo Weller, a retired sea captain. Butler took his money and clothes and shipped on the Swanilda under the name of Weller.

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A photograph of Mrs. Weller, a pair of blue jeans on which were stamped Weller's name, two watches, a spectacle case, a pocket chain with locket bearing Leo Weller's name and a number of books on the fly leaves of which were the name of Leo Weller, were discovered as positively connecting him with the murdered sea captain and prospector were found in Butler's baggage.

Three W. C. T. U. Dates.

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—The announcement of the dates for the conventions of the Women's Christian Temperance union have been received. The Dominion convention will be held Toronto, 20 and 21 the world's convention will immediately follow at the same place the 23d to the 26th and the national convention will be held Buffalo the 29th, continuing to Nov. 3.

New Cabinet Place Rumored.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 3.—A special from New York says: Information has been received by members of the chamber of commerce of New York that President Taft is expected to announce a cabinet question as it relates to New York state by having a department of trade and commerce created early in the administration, and placing a New Yorker at the head of it.

Redmond and Cokeran Spoke.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—A large and enthusiastic demonstration in case of Ireland was held at the Grand Central Palace last night, at which John E. Redmond, M. P., and W. Bourke Cochrane were the principal speakers. The gathering was for the purpose of advocating the release of the Irish political prisoners.

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# Reduced Rates to Washington

For the benefit of those who desire to attend the ceremonies incident to the inauguration of President-elect McKinley, the Pennsylvania railroad company will sell excursion tickets to Washington March 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th, valid to return from March 4th to 8th, at the following rates: From Pittsburg, \$10.00; Uniontown, \$10.00; Conneville, \$9.50; Greensburg, \$9.50; Butler, \$10.00; Allegheny Valley Junction, \$10.00; Johnstown, \$9.50; Harrisburg, \$5.00 and from all stations on the Pennsylvania Railroad system at reduced rates.

This inauguration will be a most interesting event, and will undoubtedly attract a large number of people from every section of the country.

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