

THE NEWS.

Greenwood C. Pray, of Guilford, a young man of twenty-eight years, shot and killed his wife, then shot himself at Shirley, in Denver. The couple separated four weeks ago on account of family troubles. Pray's people live in Blanchard. His mother has been insane for years. Two small children survive, one an infant. Pray is still living.

A DEATH TRAP.

Shocking Tragedy in the Old Ford Theatre, Washington.

22 KILLED AND 50 WOUNDED.

The Condemned Structure Used as a Pension Office Adjunct Collapses Without Warning—Financial Relief for the Widows and Orphans—Cleveland's Check.

At 9 o'clock Friday morning the five hundred clerks of the record and pension division of the office of the surgeon-general of the United States Army, quartered in the old Ford's Theatre building, on Tenth street, went to work at their desks as usual, while down in the basement a number of workmen engaged in making an excavation for an electric-lighting plant, were undermining the foundations of the structure. Suddenly and without a moment's warning, just as the work of the day was getting under way in the rooms above, one of the supports of the strengthening columns in the building was disturbed just enough to weaken it so as to let the enormous weight of the iron girders and brick-arched floors above it fall in a mass to the cellar.

In the pile of debris that filled all the lower part of the building lay one-third of the men who had been at work at their desks a few moments before. Twenty-two of them are dead and fifty lie writhing on beds of pain. The walls of the building stood apparently as firm as ever, but inside everything was a complete wreck. Great iron girders were twisted and broken as though they had been twisted, and over all lay great heaps of brick and mortar, while here and there a mangled bleeding human form could be seen, covered with dust, and in many cases with the face so bruised and filled with the fragments of brick and mortar as to be almost unrecognizable. Here and there over the ruins could be heard the groans of the men who were lying in the agony of death, imprisoned by the weights on top of them.

There was no delay in the work of rescuing the wounded and recovering the bodies of the dead. Willing hands of volunteers did the first work, and they were soon supplemented by the trained work of firemen, policemen and soldiers. Ambulances carrying the wounded alternated with the wagons of undertakers carrying the dead to the morgue, while there was a constant procession of cars carrying away the brick and mortar that were carried out of the building.

The President was informed of the sad event just as he reached the entrance to the White House by one of the clerks, and he at once interested himself in relief measures. The news of the accident spread rapidly to every part of the city, and such scenes of excitement followed as has not been witnessed here since President Garfield was shot down by Guitau. The scene of the accident was quickly surrounded by a crowd that pressed hard upon the ropes stretched by the police to keep the street clear.

Mingled with the curious spectators were relatives and friends of the clerks who had been employed in the building. There were women frantic with grief, and when a body would be brought from the building they would press forward, intent on seeing whether they could recognize the features of a husband, brother or father. In many instances they were so overcome by the heart-rending scenes about them that they were sent home by the police in carriages that were kept waiting to carry off the more slightly wounded.

There were several joyous meetings on the sidewalk opposite the building, where the wives of their husbands were among the ruins found they had escaped safely or with only slight injuries. The responsibility for the accident will be difficult to place. It is primarily, of course, the fault of Congress that suitable quarters are not provided for government employes and that buildings unsuitable for such uses and suspected of being unsafe, like the one in question, are allowed to remain standing in the city.

The work in the basement of the building does not seem to have been under the direction of any officer of the government with a knowledge of architecture. Colonel Ainsworth, chief of the records and pension division, had the building under his immediate control. He is one of the most competent officials in the government service, and he has made the record and pension division the model of efficiency and excellent work among all the offices of the government. He is not an architect, however, but a surgeon in the army, and though he had the work of excavating under his personal supervision, and visits it to see that nothing had been done to weaken the foundations of the building he could not be expected to have sufficient knowledge of such matters to enable him to pass upon the question of whether the work being done was of such a character as to make the building unsafe.

The Work of Rescue. A general fire alarm was turned in a few minutes after the crash, and then all the ambulances in the city were summoned. As quickly as possible the police and firemen formed a rescue brigade, and ready hands assisted them to take out the killed and wounded. In less than an hour about twenty-five people had been taken out, and every few minutes thereafter some still form would be borne on a stretcher from the building. Police and army ambulances, cabs, carriages and vehicles of every description were pressed into service for taking away the dead and injured. All the hospitals in the city were utilized in caring for the injured and scores of physicians volunteered their services for this work.

The commissioners of the District of Columbia took possession of the building and vicinity in person and helped direct the police and the rescuers. Colonel Cortis, assistant adjutant-general of the army, was sent by Major-General Schofield to represent the War Department and to decide if it were necessary to call out troops. Owing to excellent police regulations the rescuers were not hindered in their work by the anxious crowds, and it was not long before the debris had been cleared away to such an extent that the work of rescue could be carried on without hindrance. Both the military and naval authorities took prompt action. General Schofield ordered two troops of cavalry from Fort Meyer, just across the river, and two companies of infantry from the arsenal to the scene of the disaster. The secretary of the Navy ordered out all the naval medical officers stationed here and also opened the Naval Hospital to receive

the injured. The commandant at the navy-yard was ordered to render all assistance in his power. All the carts and workmen that could be secured were pressed into service to clear away the debris. The workmen shoveled plaster, brick, documents and broken furniture into the carts and each load was taken away to a dumping ground near by. There was much danger to the rescuing gangs, for the edges of the fallen floors hung threateningly downward over the heads of the workers. A number of clerks utterly regardless of their own safety entered the building and administered to the dying and injured. All crowds were represented.

Cause of the Disaster. So far the cause of the accident has not been fully determined by the officials, but there seems to be no doubt that an excavation made under the front walls of the building brought about the catastrophe. The building is a large one and is entirely void of partitions. In order to a low as to afford light and ventilation to all parts of the floors, for there are windows only at the front and rear of the building, the floors from top to bottom had only supports from under ordinary circumstances. The supports of the floors for all time to come had no other supports to weaken them.

Across the tops of the columns at each floor iron girders were laid, securely bolted together at the ends. Upon these girders rested the joists of both wood and iron upon which the floors were laid. With a view to making the building fire-proof, the floors were laid on arches of brick and cement, which extended from joist to joist. From the description of the building given it can be seen that in making the excavation the workmen were bound to come in contact with the girders supporting the columns upon which the floors of the building rested.

They approached them so carefully, however, and when they were reached about an underpinning to strengthen them in such a manner that the danger of their giving way would be removed. It is now apparent, however, that the piers were weakened and the wreck of the building resulted directly from this cause. But until the disaster occurred there was nothing to indicate its likelihood except the peculiar construction of the building.

Colonel Ainsworth's Views.

Colonel Ainsworth, the chief of the record and pension division, visited the building Thursday night after all work for the day was done, and accompanied by several employes of his office, descended into the cellar for the purpose of finding out if the contractors were using sufficient precautions to insure the safety of the work. He found everything in satisfactory condition and thought the building absolutely safe.

THE RUSSIAN TREATY.

Officially Promulgated by Proclamation of the President. The Russian extradition treaty, which has been the subject of negotiation for more than six years, which has been amended again and again and which was threatened with defeat in its final stages, has at last been formally proclaimed. The ratifications were exchanged in St. Petersburg nearly two months ago, but because it was necessary to observe extraordinary precautions to secure the safe transmission of the document to the United States, the treaty was not received at the department until a late day last week.

A CAPTAIN IN A PICKLE.

Ordered to Produce 350 Chinese Under Writs of Habeas Corpus. The State Department will probably not interfere in the case of the steamship Danube at Portland, Ore., where the captain appealed to the British Legation for relief from an order of the court which requires him to bring 350 Chinese passengers before the court to answer writs of habeas corpus. The captain was willing that the Chinese should answer but he feared to assume the heavy responsibility of preventing the escape of the Chinese when they were once ashore. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, was at the State Department, probably to state the case to Secretary Gresham. It is believed at the department that there will be a difficulty in complying technically with the order of the court while avoiding any possibility of the escape of the Chinese. This could be done if the marshal served his writs on board the ship, and left a deputy on board in charge of the Chinese until the court passed upon the cases.

CHOLERA IN TURKEY.

People Dying by Thousands in the East—People Flee from the Pest. Reports from several cities of Asiatic Turkey say that the cholera has appeared in many districts, and is spreading rapidly. Along the lower Tigris and the Shat-el-Arab river people are dying by thousands. Whole villages have been deserted by those fleeing from the pest. The panic has become so great that few families wait to bury their dead or even to nurse their sick, but flee to the next town to escape the infection. The fugitives from stricken towns are spreading the epidemic with appalling rapidity. Letters from Bassora City say that 70,000 persons have fled from Bassora province alone.

HELD UP A TRAIN.

Knights of the Road Busy at Work Near East St. Louis. A Mississippi and Ohio train was held up by six masked men at Forest Lawn, a suburb of East St. Louis. The robbers are said to have made a clean haul of the express after beating the messenger into insensibility. Forest Lawn is the same place where an attempt was made to rob a train a week ago.

DEATH OF EDWIN BOOTH.

The Great Actor Expires at the Player's Club, in New York. Attacked by Paralysis just Seven Weeks Ago.

Mr. Edwin Booth, the actor, died at 1:15 o'clock Wednesday morning in his apartments in the Player's Club, in New York. Mr. Booth had been unconscious for many hours. His strong natural vitality alone kept him alive for several days. He had been unable to take any solid food, subsisting on beef tea, kumys and distilled water. The humid weather bore heavily on him and added to the difficulty of breathing, which was a feature of his illness. It was apparent early Tuesday that Mr. Booth could not survive the night. At 10 o'clock the trained nurse in charge of the patient called Mr. and Mrs. Grossman and the other relatives into the sick room and they remained until the final seep. The end came so peacefully that dissolution was scarcely perceptible. Mr. Booth's present illness began on Wednesday, April 19, just seven weeks ago, when Mr. McGonigle, his brother-in-law, who is superintendent of the Player's Club, not having heard from Mr. Booth at 11 o'clock in the morning, opened the door of his sleeping apartment and found the tragedian lying in bed, unconscious. Physicians gave it as their opinion that he had been stricken with paralysis during the night. Mr. Booth regained consciousness the next day, and his condition improved so that it was said the attack was simply vertigo, to which Mr. Booth had been subject. The patient's improvement continued gradually till about two weeks ago it was proposed to take him to Narragansett Pier, N. J., where his son-in-law has a cottage. Last Saturday a change for the worst set in and Mr. Booth gradually sank until the end. Mr. Booth gradually sank until the end. Mr. Booth gradually sank until the end. Mr. Booth gradually sank until the end.

CONGRESS IN SEPTEMBER.

President Cleveland Says He Will Call an Extra Session.

The President said in reply to a direct question that he intended to call an extra session of Congress not earlier than the first nor later than the 15th of September, unless unexpected contingencies should necessitate an earlier meeting. The President further said: "While there has been no mystery nor secrecy in regard to my intention in this matter I think it not amiss that our people should be informed authoritatively that the time is at hand when their representatives in Congress will be called upon to deal with a financial condition which is the only menace to the country's welfare and prosperity. It is well for the people to take up the subject for themselves and arrive at their own conclusions as to the merits of a financial policy which obliges us to purchase silver bullion with gold taken from our reserves. One does not need the eye of a financier that this gold thus subtracted from the Government's stock is eagerly seized by other nations for the purpose of strengthening their credit at our expense. It does not need the art of statesmanship to detect the danger that await the country in the event of such a policy. Already the timidity of capital is painfully apparent, and none of us can fail to see that fear and apprehension in monetary circles will ultimately bring suffering to every humble home in our land. I think that between now and the meeting of Congress much depends upon the action of those engaged in financial operations and business enterprises. Our national resources and credit are abundantly sufficient to justify them in the utmost faith and confidence. If, in stead of being frightened and conservative, and if, instead of gloomily anticipating immediate disaster they contribute their share of hope and steadiness, they will perform a patriotic duty and at the same time protect their own interest. The things just now needed are coolness and calmness in financial circles and study and reflection among our people."

FARGO'S FIERCE FIRE.

Three Thousand People Homeless and Their Million Lost. A despatch from Fargo, N. D., says: The sun rose Thursday morning upon a city half of which is in ashes. Three thousand people were made homeless by the great conflagration. The schoolhouses, churches and public buildings left standing were all utilized as places of shelter for women and children, and it cannot be said one of the hundreds driven out by the flames suffered for want of shelter. The good women of the city turned out in force and organized to feed the unfortunate ones. Relief trains with meat, flour and other provisions began to arrive. Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, Duluth and Milwaukee and other big cities will send liberal contributions of food. Clothing is much needed. All night the people were in a panic, as the flames seemed not to diminish and the sky was lit up by the great fire. The relief corps organized received many reports of people who are missing, and without doubt it will develop a number of lives have been lost. The women might as well have fought against Niagara as to battle with the flames, which, driven by a fierce south wind, swept through the city like a prairie fire. The statement is given out that at a meeting of insurance men they estimated the loss of insured property at \$2,500,000, and \$500,000 more on residences in the outskirts uninsured. Rates have been so high that but little property is insured for over one-third of its value. The feeling of confidence appeared much stronger as the day advanced. A number of business men have already made arrangements to have gangs of men commence clearing away the debris from the lots, and have given architects orders to get out plans for new buildings.

RED PEPPER AND DIAMONDS.

A Clever Thief Gets Away with a One Hundred Dollar Gem. Shortly after noon a well-dressed, heavy-set stranger, apparently 30 or 35 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches in height, walked into Joseph Daller's jewelry store on Vine street, Cincinnati. After selecting a \$100 diamond stud he threw red pepper in the proprietor's eyes and made off. He is believed to be a professional and has not been apprehended.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

Epitome of News Gleaned from Various Parts of the State.

GOVERNOR PATTON gave his approval to a number of bills passed by the last Legislature. There were only a few vetoes. COUNSEL for Charles Salyards, convicted at Carlisle of murder, asked for a new trial. WILLIAM C. CUSTER, of Bridgeport, was killed on the Reading Railroad at Oakdale. EDWARD BRINDLE was elected second lieutenant of the Eighth Regiment, N. G. P., to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Lieutenant Augustus Gehring. WM. F. RUSSELL, a painter and base ball player, fell from the third story of a building upon which he was working at Swarthmore and was seriously injured internally. E. E. GREENAWALT, of Lancaster, was elected president, and A. C. HOUCK, of Scranton, secretary of the State Blue Label League, organized in Reading by the cigarmakers of Pennsylvania. THOMAS BAILEY, aged 19, of South Thirteenth street, Philadelphia, was convicted of larceny and sentenced to three months in jail. He, in company with "New York Curly," robbed a Lower Marion store while they were enroute to Chicago. MARTIN DUNDY, of Chester, a man who has recently become demented, visited the office of Alderman Thomas H. Berry, and, brandishing a big cut whip, demanded a warrant for the arrest of O. B. Dickinson, the lawyer. The Judge vacated his office and left Duddy in possession while he searched for a policeman. Duddy next visited the residence of Mr. Dickinson, and terrified his wife by his ferocious manner, but was then taken in custody. The coal trade outlook in the Pottsville section of the anthracite region has been anything but promising the past few weeks. Not only has Reading traffic fallen off, but the Schuylkill Valley Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad has been very dull. The iron wage committee of the Amalgamated Association, in session at Pittsburg, drew up a scale and submitted it to the convention. The Prohibition State Convention at Harrisburg nominated H. T. Ames, of Lycoming, for the Supreme Court, and J. S. Kent, Delaware, for State Treasurer. The forty-third annual session of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of the American Protestant Association opened at Reading. The State Board of Examiners passed the largest class ever graduated from the West Chester Normal School. TWENTY Baptist ministers were graduated at the twenty-fifth annual commencement of Crozer Theological Seminary. The Allegheny Board of Water Commissioners elected Samuel S. Thompson superintendent of the Water Department. MRS. MARY GAMBERTA, of Slatkoff, has entered suit for damages against E. D. Peters & Co., slate operators, in whose quarry the woman's husband was killed by a blast. RICHARD WILLIAMS, of Princeton, N. J., a freight brakeman on the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was killed at Staekhouse Lane, a few miles above Bristol. MORIS D. McLENNAN, a foreman for McManes and Riley, contractors, was struck by an engine on the Pennsylvania Railroad near Columbia and buried twenty-five feet. He died a few hours afterward. JESSE A. SEAL, a much respected farmer, living near Fairville, disappeared from home some days ago on account of financial troubles. Judgments to the amount of \$1,900 have been entered against him. The Wage Committee of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers began at Pittsburg, the preparation of a scale for the ensuing year. The expert examining the books of the City Treasurer of Reading, has so far found a shortage of \$14,000. The Norristown Insane Asylum has a larger number of inmates than ever before. GOVERNOR PATTON signed the bill providing for a Western Pennsylvania Home for Feeble Minded Children and also the Philadelphia quarantine bill. He appointed Eastburn Bender Dairy and Food Commissioner and Robert Watchorn Factory Inspector. A committee of Ohio ironmasters discussed the wage scale with the Wage Committee of the Amalgamated Association. YAKOB, Notwood and Glenside, Delaware County, asked to be incorporated. JUDGE ELLIOTT, at Reading, sustained the master in deciding in favor of the Dubistes in the Sixth Street Evangelical Church case. A party of German coal mining experts are on a tour through the hard coal regions, commissioned by the German Emperor to study the system of mining in vogue.

FIGHT WITH ROBBERS.

A Lively Battle at Little Rock—Several Men Shot.

Little Rock, Ark., was thrown into the wildest excitement by a band of six robbers rushing in, and with drawn Winchester, robbing the People's Bank of \$10,000 in money. They came into town by a back alley, and left one of their number to hold their horses while three of them went into the bank, and at the point of their guns compelled the cashier to give them all the cash in the vault, and two of their number stood guard at the door and fired into the streets at every man that showed his head. The citizens, however, as soon as possible, got what arms they could and began firing at the robbers, wounding two of them. Three citizens were wounded in the fight. When the robbers left the bank they compelled some of the bank officials to go before and behind them in order to protect them from the citizens. The sheriff, with posse, started in pursuit.

THE MOLD BROKE.

An Accident Postpones the Casting of the New Liberty Bell. The casting of the Columbian Liberty Bell, which was to take place in Troy, N. Y., has been indefinitely postponed, owing to an unfortunate accident. The heavy oak beam by which the mold was suspended gave way. The heavy mass dropped upon the core, rendering it unfit for use in casting a perfect bell. The breaking of the beam was caused by a flaw in the wood. It is probable that the casting will occur in about two weeks. Mrs. Cleveland was notified of the accident by telegraph. The committee in charge adopted resolutions urging the celebration of the Fourth of July next as Liberty Bell Day at the World's Fair.

DEATH BY LIGHTNING.

Three People Instantly Killed and One Fatally Shocked. The lightning played awful havoc at the little town of Sadtter, five miles from Frankfort, Ky. Farmer James Reddin, his wife and visitors, Mrs. John Lyman and Alex. Barbour, were sitting on the front porch when a bolt of lightning descended upon the doomed house instantly killing Mrs. Lyman, Reddin and Barbour. Mrs. Reddin, who was in a delicate condition, was so shocked that her recovery is hardly possible. The house was not burned.

WORLD'S FAIR.

The Second Sunday Not a Success as Compared With the First.

Many of the Finest Exhibits Covered With Canvas. There was no great outpouring of the wage-working class or any other class at the exposition Sunday. The oppressive heat and a heavy storm of lightning, thunder and rain, which came in the middle of the afternoon, account in part for the decreased attendance. But, compared with the mighty multitudes of visitors last Sunday, the second open Sunday at the World's Fair can hardly be called a success. The spacious cafes, with their broad verandas, the beer gardens in the foreign village on the Plaisance and the restaurants within the park proper were liberally patronized all day, not so much on account of the storm, for the sky was clear of even clouds until 2 o'clock and there was no necessity for the people to seek shelter. In fact, the storm was of short duration, although black clouds hung over the White City for the rest of the day, threatening at any time to give the pedestrians a drenching. There was a bright spot on the horizon, which had the effect of bringing a fair-sized crowd out toward evening.

State and Foreign Buildings Closed.

The New England State buildings, which were closed to the public last Sunday, remained closed. Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri, North Dakota, Utah, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia joined in the Sunday-closing movement, and it is now to be a permanent matter with them if the gates of the fair remain open the next five months. There is another feature of this Sunday fair which calls for a complaint from the visitors. Many of the finest exhibits in the manufactures and other departmental buildings were hidden from the view of visitors because the exhibitors or their agents in charge did not propose to work seven days in the week. The coverings which protect the exhibits at night were not removed, and all the visitors could see were big ornamental berths and showcases disguised with canvas, wood or iron sheeting. The exposition authorities have no right to remove the coverings without the permission of the exhibitor, and no arrangements has yet been made for unveiling on Sunday. Not even a flag was to be seen on the buildings of Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales and India, and the doors were locked. Visitors were denied access to the great display of the United States government in the big domed building and the small adjuncts. Machinery Hall was as silent as it was last Sunday. Over 54,000 Visitors.

Music appropriate for Sunday was provided in the early part of the day by the Chicago band stationed in the pavilion between Machinery Hall and Administration building. The Sousa band played afterwards in the same part of the ground, but the audience was not large at any time on account of the scarcity of seats and the rapidly growing crowd. The official report of the department of admissions showed that 338,000 tickets had been sold at 3 o'clock, 3,000 being children at half price. The total admission for Sunday numbered 54,304. The Award System Modified. The board of control has formally sanctioned the modification of the award system offered by the committee on award to the dissatisfied foreign exhibitors. The modification is practically an abandonment of the single judge plan and a return to the jury system. In all cases where the exhibitors demand it. Many of the foreign commissions were present at the meeting of the board of control and expressed satisfaction with the change and most of them will re-enter their exhibit to competition. The action of France, however, in withdrawing her exhibits from competition is believed to be irrevocable, and it is also doubtful whether Germany will re-enter her display.

WORK AND WORKERS.

Two thousand brickmakers in Spring Wells, Mich., who have been on strike for 14 days past, returned to work at the old wages. OFFICIALS of the Central Railroad of New Jersey stated that the difficulties between the employes and the company will be adjusted and the men will not strike. FIFTEEN hundred men were deprived of employment by the closing down of all the branches except the pudding department of the Bethlehem Iron Company. A ST. LOUIS despatch says that an amicable agreement has been reached in the difficulty existing for nearly four years between Liggett & Myers, tobacco manufacturers, and the Knights of Labor. The brewery employes of Pittsburg and Allegheny, Pa., struck because the brewers' Association would not accede to the new scale. Later four of the leading brewers signed the scale and their employes returned to work. THE furnaces of the Rockhill Coal and Iron Company, at Rockhill, Hamilton county, were closed down indefinitely, owing to a strike of the employes, who demanded the re-instatement of several discharged leaders of the local union. About 300 men are affected.

The Barnum Colliery, owned by the Pennsylvania Coal Company, at Pittston, Pa., has resumed work. The colliery has been idle since July 1st, 1902, when the breaker was burned down. It has now been rebuilt and will give employment to 500 miners, laborers and slate pickers. THE Diamond Plate Glass Company of Kokoma, Ind., has indefinitely suspended operations. Its branch plant at Ellwood has also been closed. About 500 men are thrown out of work. An official of the company says it has more than \$600,000 worth of glass on hand, "and the market is utterly demoralized." A DESPATCH from Pottsville, Pa., says that the five collieries drawn to fix the basis of miners' wages for the last half of May and the first half of June show an average of \$2.38, making the basis of wages 3 per cent. below the \$2.50 basis, which is 1 per cent. below the wages paid last month. In view of the fact that the sale's agents advanced the price of coal, much dissatisfaction is expressed among the miners of the Schuylkill region.