

FIFTY PEOPLE DROWNED

Terrible Disaster Off Coast of British Columbia.

NOT A WOMAN OR CHILD SAVED.

Monster Wave Smashes Deadlight and the Ship Is Flooded—All the Passengers Who Took to the Boats in Hope of Safety Perished—Soon After Tugs From Port Townsend Reach the Steamer It Goes Down.

Port Townsend, Wash. (Special).—Fifty-two lives were lost in the sinking of the fine new steamer Clallam in a storm that swept over the straits of Juan de Fuca with relentless fury. The vessel was a regular daily passenger packet. She made moderately good progress across the straits, bound for Victoria Island, until off the entrance to the harbor was abeam.

Then a terrific cross-sea was pelting the vessel, retarding her progress and making life uncomfortable for those aboard. Little fear was manifested, however, until word came up from below that the vessel was leaking. Investigation showed that the waves on the windward side had stove in a dead light, through which the water rushed in volume, resisting all efforts to stop it.

Seeing the efforts futile, the safety of the passengers, particularly the women and children, was looked after, and all who desired were put off from the steamer in the ship's boats.

The heavily laden boats were thrown about wildly in the choppy sea, and one after another, after succeeding in getting away from the vessel, were either capsized or swamped.

The terrible fury of the storm is attested by the fact that not a woman or child of all those aboard has lived to tell the tale. An apparent discrepancy in numbers from the list of fatalities following is accountable to the fact that only such children as paid half fare were enrolled in the passenger list.

In the meantime word had come from Victoria of the vessel's predicament and a fleet of powerful tugs were dispatched from here to render assistance. The Richard Holyoke, in command of Capt. Robert Hall was the first to reach the Clallam which had by this time careened partly over from the inrush of water which had put the engines out of commission. The Holyoke reached the Clallam about 11 o'clock and about 1 a. m. succeeded in getting a hawser aboard with which she started to tow the Clallam to safety.

The Clallam took a heavy lurch and those remaining aboard were compelled to climb up the side to safety, finally reaching the roof of the pilot house.

Without a moment's hesitation the tug's boats were lowered and the work of rescue commenced. At this point the tug Sea Lion, Captain Hunter, arrived and her men rendered valuable assistance. Before all the struggling people had been taken off the Clallam commenced to break up and soon afterward went down. All possible assistance to the rescued people was given by the two ship masters and their crews and the tugs hurried to Port Townsend. The passengers surviving and the remainder of the crew then took passage on the Dirigo, bound for Seattle.

W. H. Grimes, of Redmond, Wash., aboard the Clallam, bound for Victoria, gives this statement:

"The weather was pretty rough," said he, "but we had no suspicion of danger until someone forward said something about life preservers. I went forward to investigate and there learned that the Clallam was making water rapidly. The boats were promptly manned and launched and the women and children and such passengers as desired to leave were placed in them, competent crews being in charge. The boats made off from the steamer safely, but one after another they capsized and we were helpless to render them any assistance."

DEATH OF RUTH CLEVELAND.

Ex-President's Eldest Daughter Victim of Diphtheria.

Princeton, N. J.—(Special).—Ruth Cleveland, the eldest child of ex-President Grover Cleveland, died at the Cleveland home here very unexpectedly, the immediate cause of death being a weakening of the heart action during a mild attack of diphtheria. Dr. Wyckoff, the attending physician, said that Miss Cleveland had been ill with a mild form of diphtheria for four days, and that the heart affection was not anticipated. She was 15 years old.

The Cleveland household is grief-stricken over the death of the eldest daughter, and many messages of condolence are being received. The private school which Ruth attended has been closed for the rest of the week out of respect.

Six Killed at Cassville.

Huntington, W. Va. (Special).—A dynamite explosion occurred near Cassville, in Wayne county, while a number of employes on the Norfolk and Western extension were at luncheon. Six men were killed and fourteen injured. All the dead are natives of Wayne county except two, who lived near Baltimore.

Admits Commission of Many Murders.

Greensburg, Pa. (Special).—Charles E. Kruger, in jail here awaiting execution for the murder of Constable Harry F. Bierer on July 9 last, is reported to have confessed to the murder of John Blevins, former city treasurer of Newcastle, five years ago; to the murder of Alexander McNaught, near here on April 18, 1902, and to many other crimes. Kruger's confessions have been made to Sheriff John H. Trescher, Deputy Sheriff Benjamin Brown and R. D. North, are sensational in the extreme.

THE LATEST NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

Domestic.

T. S. Bidgood, cashier of the People's Bank, in Mobile, Ala., died, aged 46 years. He was widely known in business circles through the South.

Congressman William W. Skiles, representing the Fourteenth district of Ohio, died of pneumonia at his home, at Shelby, O., aged 54.

The steamer Provan brought to Boston the captain and crew of the schooner G. A. Smith, which vessel soon after foundered.

Henry W. Peacock fell from the seventh floor of the Reading Terminal Station, in Philadelphia, and was instantly killed.

A fire in the New York Stock Exchange Building deranged the telegraph system by which stock quotations were sent out.

The Alva National Bank, of Alva, Ok., was closed and a receiver appointed by the Comptroller of the Currency.

Former Governor of Ohio Charles Foster died at the residence of Gen. J. Warren Keifer, in Springfield, O.

The Window-glass Workers' Association refused to amalgamate with L. A. No. 300 of the Knights of Labor.

The Massachusetts Democratic State Committee endorsed Richard Olney for the presidential nomination.

Francis D. Wayland, formerly dean of the Yale Law School, died at his home, in New Haven.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan returned to New York and spoke in a general way of his tour abroad.

Horace G. Burt, it is stated, will become president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway.

Orders were posted for the resumption of work at the Joliet plant of Illinois Steel Company.

C. C. Willing was caught in the act of setting fire to his department store, in Waterloo, Ia.

The court in Omaha sustained the demurrer filed in behalf of Senator Dietrich deciding that he was not a senator at the time of the commission of the acts complained of because he had not then qualified.

During a thick fog the Fall River Line steamer Priscilla, from New York for Fall River, ran ashore on the north side of the Lime Rock Lighthouse, but was subsequently floated.

The attempt of Charles Brooks to escape from New Jersey State Prison resulted in the death of Brooks, the shooting of Keepers John Fitzgerald and William J. Harney.

President Henry Lear and Cashier George P. Brook, of the Doylestown (Pa.) National Bank, were arrested on the charge of misapplying bank funds. Evidence was begun in New York in the suit to foreclose the second mortgage for \$10,000,000 given by the United States Shipbuilding Company.

President Raymond, of the Wesleyan University, in Connecticut, suspended six of the sophomore class for trying to haze a fellow-student.

A hearing was begun before the Interstate Commerce Commission in Chicago as to the justification for the advance of freight rates.

The Mayor of Bloomington, Ill., has ordered all of the policemen to do police duty as special officers during the street railway strike.

Rev. B. A. Chorry was found guilty of subornation of perjury and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

Tragedy.

Fire broke out in a crowded theatre at Gross Warden, Hungary, but it was put out before the audience was aware of the danger. Then it was discovered that all the emergency exits were locked and the keys missing.

Because of the threatening condition of the famous Cathedral of Spoleto, the government has ordered the immediate removal of the tombs of Fra Filippo Lippi and Orsini.

A thousand armed Armenians are in the district of Sassoun, and detachments of Kurdish cavalry have been stationed at all villages along the Russian frontier.

It is announced from Hamburg that the creation of the International Union of Sailing-ship Owners for the establishment of minimum freight rates is now assured.

King Edward, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria have greatly enjoyed their visit to Chatsworth, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, in Derbyshire.

Emigration from Hamburg and Bremen in 1903 shows a large increase, the total being 310,880, against 266,884 for 1902. The decision in the Venezuelan claims by the arbitration tribunal will not be ready before the end of February.

By the explosion of dynamite at the Los Laureles Mines, west of Guadalajara, Mex., 20 men were killed and 40 others injured.

Rev. Nicolaus Delsor, a Catholic priest and member of the German Reichstag, was expelled from French territory.

It is reported that the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Rosebery have buried the "political hatchet" and that the Duke, who last October resigned as lord president of the Council, will return to the Liberal party.

Negotiations for a revision of the commercial treaty between France and Brazil have been suspended, but relations between the two countries are not seriously affected.

Lieutenant General Kleigels, prefect of St. Petersburg, has been appointed governor-general of the governments of Kieff, Podolia and Volhynia.

Violent eruptions of the Mount Colima volcano, in Mexico, have alarmed the people, earthquake shocks being frequent in the region of the volcano.

A conference of German bankers was held in Berlin to consider how to improve the market value of government securities.

A London steamer recently launched on the Clyde has been bought by the Cunard Company for the American service.

Financial.

British consols fell to the lowest figure touched since 1866.

United States Steel has only \$45,000,000 cash in its treasury, against \$60,000,000 about four months ago.

Clarence Mackay, the ocean cable magnate, is behind the Federal Sugar Company, which promises to invade the American Company's field.

The April quarterly dividend on United States Steel preferred is selling in the street for \$1.50 a share. That is equivalent to a 6 per cent. rate against the regular 7 per cent.

WAR SPIRIT IS STRONG

While Negotiation for Settlement Continues Populace Claims for Fight.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION.

Military and Naval Authorities Working Night and Day to Make Ready for War—Japan Liable to Win the First Naval Battle—Has the Advantage of Russia in This Respect.

Tokyo (By Cable).—The war spirit is still strong among the Japanese. The attitude of the British and Americans greatly encourage such feeling.

Japan addressed a note to Russia through Minister de Rosen. Its character has not been disclosed, but it is said that Japan requires an answer within a given number of days.

Whether the note mentions the time, making the document an ultimatum or whether the time is intimated otherwise, is unknown. The government, however, is determined to secure an early response and close the discussion if it should prove to be fruitless.

It is understood that Japan adheres closely to her original contentions, and it is believed that if Russia fails to fairly meet the demands, war will ensue.

Paris.—Official advices received here further convince those in the highest authority that the Russo-Japanese war crisis has been averted, at least for the present, and that the situation is again brought distinctly within the lines of diplomatic adjustment. Reports chiefly from Tokyo, but also from St. Petersburg, give a clear view of the circumstances leading up to the sudden improvement in the situation.

They show that the Russian answer actually reached Tokyo the night of January 6 and proved to be the turning point. Prior to its receipt Japan had been making strenuous preparations for sending two divisions to Southern Korea. The official reports establishing these preparations are beyond the slightest question, but the note received on the sixth disclosed to Japan for the first time that Russia fully conceded Japan's paramount rights in Southern Korea.

Russia's concession thus gave Japan practically what she had been preparing to assert by force and, accordingly, military activity was suspended, as Russia's concession made unnecessary Japan's forcible assertion of a paramount position in Southern Korea.

The three days succeeding January 6 gave an opportunity to the authorities at Tokyo to consider and recognize Russia's concession. Whether it will be satisfactory the reports have not yet disclosed, but the suspension of military activity is regarded as removing the most dangerous aspect and as giving hope that Japan is likely to receive Russia's answer in a conciliatory spirit. It is not known whether Russia's concession goes to the extent of relinquishing her contention for a neutral zone across Northern Korea, but it is understood that it relates chiefly to giving definite assurance of Japan's rights in Southern Korea.

Although reports of mediation continue to circulate, the authoritative statement was made that no steps have been taken by France toward mediating. It is pointed out that such a movement, if addressed to Japan, probably would originate with Great Britain, owing to their closer political relations.

MRS MAYBRICK'S RELEASE.

It Will Occur Sometime During the Present Year.

London (By Cable).—Referring to the statement published in the United States that final arrangements were made at a conference between Ambassador Choate and the Home Office officials for the release in April of Mrs. Florence Maybrick, the American woman under sentence of life imprisonment on the charge of poisoning her husband. The exact date of her release is not yet fixed.

Baroness de Roques says that her daughter, Mrs. Maybrick is decidedly in better health and gaining strength, now that she has the certainty of being released.

"All the sensational newspaper accounts relative to our business interests and future fortune," added the Baroness, "have not resulted in any profit to us. Quite the contrary."

Two Killed; Five Injured.

Montague, Maine (Special).—A gas explosion in the millinery store of Cleary Brothers killed at least two persons, severely injured five others, and started a fire that destroyed the building with a loss of \$25,000. Four persons who are thought to have been in the store when the explosion occurred are missing, and it is feared that their bodies will be found in the ruins. Those known to have lost their lives are James Cleary, one of the proprietors, and a woman bookkeeper in the store. The explosion is said to have been caused by the clogging of a gas-pipe. The concussion was felt throughout the town and huge timbers were thrown a hundred yards.

1500 More Coke Ovens.

Scottsdale, Pa. (Special).—Orders have been issued by the H. C. Frick Coke Company for the immediate resumption of fifteen hundred additional coke ovens, making 3000 idle ovens started this week. Five hundred ovens were also blown in by the Rainey Coke Company, an independent concern.

To Divide Macedonia.

Rome (By Cable).—Dr. Milanovitch, the Serbian minister to Italy, expressed the hope that General Degorgis, commander of the international gendarmery, will be capable of enforcing the reforms in Macedonia under the Austro-Russian plan. Otherwise the minister thinks that the best solution of the situation would be to divide Macedonia between Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia, forming a federation of the Balkan states.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

Columbia Appeals to Courts.

Notice of an important step taken by an agent of the Colombian government in Paris was received at the Colombian Legation here in a dispatch to Dr. Herran, the charge d'affaires. It was to the effect that a French tribunal had been appealed to with a view to preventing the transfer of the Panama Canal Company's rights on the isthmus to the American government without the consent of Colombia. Counsel for the Colombian government, according to the dispatch, assured the agent that he thought there was good ground for believing that the effort to prevent the transfer would be successful.

The step taken, it is understood, is with the full cognizance of the Colombian authorities, and was instituted by an agent of the government, who left this country after consultations with General Reyes and Dr. Herran. The end sought to be attained is to frustrate the sale of the concessions, franchises, and property of the canal company to the United States, preparations for which already have been under way.

Colombia asserts that the company cannot lawfully dispose of its rights without her explicit consent. Such consent was expressly given in the Hay-Herran treaty, which failed of ratification by the Colombian Congress. The action of the Colombian authorities caused considerable surprise here when it became generally known.

Reves Receives Hay's Answer.

Gen. Rafael Reyes, the Colombian special envoy, has received the answer of the Washington government to his note charging the United States with open violation of the treaty of 1846.

The answer, which was prepared by Secretary Hay, though couched in the most diplomatic terms and expressing the wish of this government to deal justly with Colombia, is an emphatic refusal to reopen the Panama question.

Prior to the receipt of the reply General Reyes wrote to the state department requesting that the correspondence be transmitted to the Senate for its consideration. Pending an answer to this request the correspondence will not be made public.

Gen. Chaffee Commands Army.

After having served at the head of the army as chief of staff, with the rank of lieutenant general, for a little less than five months, Lieut.-Gen. S. B. M. Young relinquished his duties at noon Saturday to his successor in office, Gen. A. R. Chaffee, who has been acting as his chief assistant for several weeks past.

The change is due to the fact that General Young became 64 years old Saturday, and, therefore, under the law was relegated to the retired list.

The retirement of General Young and the accession of General Chaffee was marked by the usual reception to the outgoing and incoming officials. This reception took place in the office of the chief of staff, and was largely attended by army officers on duty in the War Department and vicinity.

Army Manuevers Expenses.

A statement prepared at the War Department shows that the recent maneuvers of the regular army and State militia at Fort Riley, Kan., and West Point, Ky., cost the general government about \$500,000. This amount includes actual disbursements for transportation and other items of expense in connection with the militia organizations which participated in the maneuvers. The expenses attached to the participation of the regular troops at the maneuvers was only for such extra service as transportation, and does not include expenses of subsistence, which would have been the same at the regular station of the troop.

Fire in the Capitol.

A fire in the electric duct on the Senate side of the Capitol building at 6 o'clock P. M. burned the insulation off the wires and left that portion of the structure in total darkness. Because of the inconvenience attending working in contracted quarters, the firemen were busy about an hour before the flames were under control. The remainder of the building was not in any danger at any time. The fire probably was the result of crossed electric light wires. The amount of damage is not known.

In the Departments.

Prof. Willis Moore asked for an increase in the appropriation for the Weather Bureau Service to establish eight new stations.

Lieutenant General S. B. M. Young retired as chief of staff and General Chaffee was formally installed as the head of the Army.

A meeting of the Senate committee has been called to consider proposed amendments to the Immigration Laws.

The army maneuvers held at Fort Riley cost the government half a million dollars.

There is a strong feeling among the members of the Senate that the United States should annex Santo Domingo and Hayti.

The House made available the sum of \$250,000 to be used to meet the emergency caused by the ravages of the cotton-boll weevil.

Pension Commissioner Ware decided that when a pensioner is convicted and sentenced to prison for life he loses his pension.

The Senate, in executive session, discussed the nomination of W. I. Buchanan to be minister to Panama.

Representative Dalzell introduced a bill providing for the consolidation of third and fourth class mail matter.

Secretary Shaw transmitted to the House a request of Secretary Root for an appropriation of \$85,000 for new arms and equipments for organized militia.

The Senate Committee on Commerce favorably reported a bill providing that only American ships shall be used for the transportation of government supplies.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs authorized Senator Foraker to report favorably the nomination of Governor Taft, of the Philippines, to be secretary of war.

LOUIS WANTS DAMAGES

Brings Suit for \$50,000 Against Joseph Eristow and Others.

DECLARES THAT HE WAS RIDICULED.

Postmaster General Payne and the Washington Post, Star and Times Are Also Made Defendants—Statements in the Postoffice Report Are the Basis of the Charge—Plaintiff Removed as a Result of Investigation.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Michael W. Louis, formerly superintendent of the Division of Supplies in the Postoffice Department, but who was removed October 21 last as a result of the postal investigation, entered suit for \$50,000 damages against Joseph Eristow, the fourth assistant postmaster general; Henry C. Payne, postmaster general, and the Washington Post Newspaper Company. The basis of the charge for which damages are asked is an extract from the report of General Bristow dealing with the award of contracts on the division of which Louis was at the head for ink, ink pads, etc., at alleged excessive prices, etc.

The defendants are charged with having composed, written and published concerning the plaintiff the extract of the report referred to with the intent, it is alleged, to injure the plaintiff in his good name. By reason of the committing of the grievances complained of the plaintiff says he has been brought into public scandal, ridicule and disgrace.

Suits of a like character for similar amounts were also brought against the Postmaster General, Mr. Bristow and the Evening Star, and against the Postmaster General, Mr. Bristow and the Washington Times.

FOUND NEW EVIDENCE OF FRAUD.

Dawes Commission Changes Plan for Indian Land Segregation.

Muskogee, I. T. (Special).—The Dawes Commission adopted a plan for the Delaware land segregation. When the commission was first ordered to make the segregation it proceeded upon a plan known as the Logan-Adams schedule. In April, Secretary Hitchcock, upon advice of the commission, became convinced that there was something wrong with this schedule, and ordered the commission to investigate.

Surveying parties and locating parties went into the Delaware country and made a record of every Delaware, his lands and improvements and maps. As a result, the commission has repudiated the old schedule and so notified the Secretary. The commission is very reticent about the matter, but it is said upon the best authority that the report of the Secretary will indicate that there has been fraud attempted.

It was because of this fact that it was furnished the commission that the Cherokee land office was closed, and injunction served against the commission to stop the segregation, and a suit for \$1,000,000 damages brought against them.

Forty-Three Killed on Warship.

Sydney, N. S. W. (Special).—Forty-three persons have been killed by the explosion of the boilers on the British cruiser Wallaroo. The Wallaroo, which was proceeding to Hobart, signaled Montague Island, 230 miles south of Sydney, reporting the disaster, but giving no details. The Wallaroo is a third-class cruiser of 2,575 tons displacement used for Australasian trade protection. She was formerly named the Persian.

M. Massac of Christians.

Salonica (By Cable).—An order has been received from Constantinople to hold the Third Army Corps in readiness. There is great military activity in Seres. Troops are leaving Monastir for Uskub. A massacre of Christians at Monastir is expected in the event of the departure of Hilmi Pacha, the inspector general of the Sultan's reform movement.

City Treasurer Arrested.

Haverhill, Mass. (Special).—John A. Glines, city treasurer, was arrested here, charged with larceny of \$45,000 of the city's funds. The sinking fund commissioners discovered the shortage and reported it to Mayor Wood. The mayor at once summoned the treasurer, who, it is said, admitted that he had pledged the bonds in stock transactions. Glines has been treasurer and collector of taxes since 1890.

Los' Roll Call for Gen. Gordon.

Miami, Fla. (Special).—Gen. John B. Gordon, the famous Confederate officer, died here at 10:35 o'clock P. M. Ever since the close of the Civil War General Gordon, although active in politics and in the business affairs of life, had been a sufferer from wounds received in battles. For a long time he had been afflicted by kidney trouble, which ultimately caused his death.

Dowie Wants Another Zion.

San Antonio, Tex. (Special).—John Alexander Dowie returned here from a trip of inspection along the Texas Coast and announced that he would locate a new Zion city and farm in Texas. He declines, however, to give any details. Several sites for such an establishment have been inspected. Mr. Dowie has not abandoned his Australian trip, but will sail from San Francisco on January 25.

Decline in Earnings.

New York (Special).—The dividend on United States Steel common was passed at the quarterly meeting of the directors in this city, but the regular 1.34 per cent. was declared on the preferred stock. This was practically what Wall street expected. At the previous quarterly meeting the common dividend was cut from a 4 to a 2 per cent. basis. Chairman Gary made the formal statement after the meeting that the action of the directors was unanimous. The statement of earnings for 1903 shows a great shrinkage in the business.

NEW YORK MEDICAL MAN THE HERO.

Seventeen Killed in a Wreck on the Long Island R. R.

Topeka, Kan. (Special).—Seventeen persons were killed and 37 injured by the collision of the Rock Island Railroad's California and Mexico express with a freight train at 1:35 o'clock a. m., two miles west of Willard, Kan. Willard is 14 miles west of Topeka.

Most of the injured are in hospitals in Topeka. The doctors announce that all will recover except Mrs. M. A. Hill of Greensburg, Kan.

It is thought that carelessness by trainmen caused the wreck. Instructed to meet a special stock train at Willard, the engineer and conductor of the ill-fated passenger train, noting that a freight train stood on the side track at Willard, rushed through, thinking that the cars they had seen were the ones they had been instructed to pass.

Upon seeing the freight train on the siding, Engineer S. J. Benjamin threw open the throttle. Under the impetus of full steam the passenger train leaped into the darkness and dashed along at a rate which the passengers say, was fully 65 miles an hour. Not a note of warning of the impending danger made itself known.

General Superintendent Graber, of the Rock Island, made this statement: "The engineer of the passenger train had orders to wait at Willard for the special stock train. Nobody else is to blame so far as our information goes."

The hero of the wreck was Dr. F. M. Bell, of New York city, a young physician, himself a cripple walking or crutches. Dr. Bell, although slightly hurt as a result of the collision, was the first man to leave the Pullman sleeper, which was not damaged. Struggling heroically forward on his crutches he assumed charge of the rescue work.

First he ordered the chair car and sleeper cleared. Then, after directing the removal of the injured to these cars, he layed the pain of the injured as much as was possible without medicine or instruments, bandaged broken legs and arms with strips torn at his direction by others from sheets and pillow slips, administered what whiskey was at hand to deaden the injuries until the relief train should arrive, and saved the life of the fireman by tying an artery with the aid of a penknife and a piece of string.

After working until nearly exhausted Dr. Bell gave way only when physicians arrived from Topeka with medical instruments. He was on his way to El Paso, Texas, for his health soon after returning to Topeka from the scene of the wreck he boarded another train for the South.

"When the collision came," said Dr. Bell before his departure, "we in the sleeper were in our berths. I was thrown from mine and immediately got into my clothes to see what was wrong. I saw that medical assistance was the first thing needed. There were two young women in my car who offered their services, and they worked unhesitatingly with the injured. All the people in the sleepers were hurried out to make room for the injured."

"With one exception, those in the sleepers devoted themselves unselfishly to the care of the wounded. That exception was a man who wouldn't give up his berth. I told some men to jerk him out. They jerked him out, and I haven't seen him since."

CURTAIN FAILED BEFORE.

Warning of Previous Fire in Iroquois Theatre Not Heeded.

Chicago (Special).—Evidence tending to show grosser negligence than anything previously shown was given under oath in the Fire Department investigation of the Iroquois Theatre fire.

Joseph Daugherty, who had charge of the curtain, swore that two weeks ago during a matinee performance there was a fire on the stage and that when he attempted to lower the asbestos curtain it was stopped by the same obstruction that prevented its operation on the fatal afternoon.

The curtain manager declares that he protested at that time, but no attention was paid to his warning. In his opinion, if the curtain had been run down during the fatal matinee the lives of many if not all the victims of the disaster might have been saved.

The Iroquois Theatre fire claimed a fresh victim, making the total number of deaths 591. Miss Josephine Spence was one of those severely burned during the fire. She was found by relatives and taken to her home, where she died.

President W. G. Schardt, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, will name a commission of non-labor representatives to report on the Iroquois Theatre fire. The unions seek to prove that incompetent non-union stage employes caused the blaze—"pick up" men, paid \$1 a performance, while organization members get \$4.50.

Use of the Iroquois Theatre site as a memorial through the erection of a suitable church or memorial building to replace the present seared, scarred structure is suggested.

The same idea was carried out in Richmond, Va., where the Monumental Church stands on the site of the great theatre panic of 1811.

The people of Vienna, also in memory of the 800 lives lost in the Ringstrasse Theatre in 1881, have erected a magnificent church on its site.

Mandel Hall, at the University of Chicago, has come under the general ban placed on theaters and halls and was closed. The specific cause is the lack of an asbestos curtain.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.