

A GREAT FIRE IN THE WESTERN UNION BUILDING AT NEW YORK.

By the Great Fire in the Western Union Building at New York.

BUSINESS IS PARALYZED By the Stoppage of All Telegraphic Quotations of Market Reports.

LOSS TO BROKERS INCALCULABLE. Number of the Operators Narrowly Escape Death in the Flames.

CROSSED WIRES CAUSED THE FIRE

The Western Union main offices at New York were completely gutted by fire at an early hour yesterday morning. The fire is supposed to have been caused by crossing of electric light wires. The loss to business throughout the country is incalculable. The Associated Press is among the heaviest losers.

NEW YORK, July 18.—Fire this morning in the Western Union building, in this city, destroyed property to the amount of \$1,200,000, and nearly gutted the entire building. The fire started about 7 o'clock, and was first observed by Operator Lewis. He had just finished sending a message, and looked up at the big clock for the time to mark it. It was just 7, and as he wrote the figure on the back of the message, he came to his senses. The small clock was burning. There was no mistaking that peculiar odor, and as he looked up, never dreaming what was to follow, he saw a thin, almost transparent film of smoke come bursting and curling from the network of wires which is known as the distributing ring, and he was alarmed at first. Before the place was reached, more smoke came up. There was no mistaking it this time. It meant fire.

As soon as the alarm had been given, the operators unrolled the big steel wheels always ready for an emergency of this kind. The only effect the water seemed to have was to make the fire shoot up higher, and it is noticed that the smoke came rolling out of the big hole in great volumes than before. The operators worked the hose until the smoke became thick that they could not see where the fire was. The fire had crawled along the floor to the north window, and it bounded out into the air as if it was glad to be free from the water. As fast as the elevator cars could take them, the men crowded in. When the last few men crowded into the building, they were just a little frightened. As they passed the floor below a hot wave rolled over them, which made their throats dry and parched. The operators proceeded down firebricks fell upon them and burned their clothing. When the car reached the bottom they were all glad enough to get out, and with the heat and the water which the firemen had begun to pour into the building, and the thought that they were pretty near the door which leads to eternity, they were in a bad way.

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY. The fire quickly spread beyond control, and the entire sixth, fifth, fourth and third floors of the immense building were soon completely gutted, and telegraphic communication with points outside of the city was temporarily suspended. The Associated Press, Executive Committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company and offices of several brokers were destroyed. The offices of the Associated Press, the Associated Press, Executive Committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company and offices of several brokers were destroyed. The offices of the Associated Press, the Associated Press, Executive Committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company and offices of several brokers were destroyed.

ESCAPE WAS CUT OFF. Just about this time it flashed upon the minds of the operators that the escape had escaped that there were seven others on the restaurant floor who had not been warned of their danger. All exit had by this time been cut off whereby these persons were trapped. The Associated Press, Executive Committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company and offices of several brokers were destroyed.

APPEALING FOR HELP. When the great crowd on the streets saw the men and women rush out on the roof a cry of horror and sympathy was raised. The women on the roof screamed and wrung their hands, and the men yelled: "For God's sake, save our wives!" The first engine had arrived before the terrifying scene was presented on the roof, and a volume of water was pouring into the burning building. The second alarm came in immediately, and a third. In a few minutes there were 14 engines and hook and ladder companies and a water tester on the ground. Water poured in through the flaming windows and beat down upon the roof, but the flames were stubborn, in spite of the tons of water poured upon them.

NO ROMANCE. "It is very sad," she mused, "but Charley hasn't got a bit of romance. Last night I said to him, 'my king,' and he turned suddenly, and growled out, 'Mike who?'"

WATCHING THE FRENCH. A BRITISH FLEET GATHERING IN NEWFOUNDLAND WATERS.

England Decides Upon a Formal Demonstration—Formidable Combos on the Way to Newfoundland and More on the Way to Newfoundland.

HALIFAX, N. S., July 18.—Private dispatches received confirm the report that a Newfoundland cruiser had fired on a French vessel the early part of the week. The news had the effect of hurrying the departure of the man-of-war Cornus, and it is clear that England intends to display her power to the French fleet that has been terrorizing the coast.

For the past few days it has been noticed that the naval and military authorities had grown a little more communicative, and it comes from a reliable source, and the rumor is decided by the authorities, that England has decided upon a formal demonstration against the Newfoundland French shore, and most likely will go a step further by making one in the French waters of the Miguelon Island, under the very nose of the French naval authorities of the North Atlantic.

For this purpose a formidable British fleet is now gathering in the vicinity of Newfoundland, which vessels are of the Atlantic. The fleet already gathered composed as follows: The Belsham, 18 a French gunboat; the Admiral, 10 gun; H. M. S. Forward, 8 gun; H. M. S. Pelican, 10 gun; H. M. S. Pringle, 6 gun; and the M. S. S. Morrow by H. M. S. Thrush, commanded by H. R. E. Prince George of Wales, and two torpedo boats direct from London, England.

How the fire originated no one seems to know positively, but it is surmised that two of the company's electric light wires became crossed and set the flooring on fire. Had the fire been confined to the floor, the loss of life might have been enormous. Fully 700 girls and men are employed on these two floors. No exact figure can yet be given in regard to the damage, but it is believed to be in excess of \$1,000,000.

THE MAYOR'S SIDE OF IT. The Texas Town Official's Story of a Celebrated Divorce.

NEW ORLEANS, July 18.—Mrs. W. S. Pendleton, the bride of the Mayor of Fort Worth, left for that city to-day. The Mayor accompanied her to the depot, and then returned to her hotel. Pendleton was asked how she had expressed her feelings on his intention. She expressed yesterday, she replied: "I received a telegram yesterday advising me not to come until matters had quieted down a little. My wife went with me to Fort Worth this morning. Mr. Pendleton made a statement concerning the episode in which his name figures so prominently, and after considerable persuasion and argument he consented to make the divorce final."

A WOMAN AS A STOWAWAY. She Has a Son in Philadelphia and Does Not Want to Go Back.

NEW YORK, July 18.—Mrs. Jane Jones, about 50 years old, is detained at the Barge Office as the first female "stowaway" that ever arrived in this country from Europe. Mrs. Jones lives at No. 16 Thomas street, Queenstown, and came over on the White Star steamship Titanic, which arrived at New York yesterday.

ARISTOCRATIC DOGS. How Greyhounds Were Honored by Charlemagne—Causes of Russia.

So as to be Able to Reach Over a Few More Keys of the Piano.

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DISCUSSING DRESS. Prof. Starr's Second Subject is Upon Religious Dress, and CHARMING THE CHAUTAUQUES.

The Day's Musical Programs Attracts the Attention of Music Lovers.

The principal lecture of the day at Chautauque Lake was that of Prof. Frederick Starr, on "Religious Dress." Mr. Starr, of Harper, also spoke on "The History of Exorcism in Assyria and Babylon." Prof. Sherwood's musical programme was one of unusual excellence. The attendance is very large at the meetings.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. CHAUTAUQUE LAKE, July 18.—Overcoats and heavy wraps have been in demand to-day, especially on board the steamers. This evening it was very chilly, and the great fireplaces in the hotels, threw out a welcome light and warmth.

Some, in times of war, we find decorating their bodies with trophies of their bravery. Will races still use beads, shells, feathers and metals for ornaments. The Samois greatly prize a necklace of white whale's teeth. Any people accustomed to using certain materials, when an innovation comes, refuse it in a new kind, as silver for gold, or iron for steel.

THE DECORATIONS OF THE PRIESTS. The list of religious ornaments is a very large one. Priests ornaments began in Africa, and of course the priest is supreme in those savage tribes and wears all the ornaments obtainable to the people.

A DUEL IS EXPECTED. As a Result of the Political Fight in South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, S. C., July 18.—The bitterness between the two factions in this State is growing daily more intense. At the campaign meeting, in Darlington yesterday, an incident occurred which, it is generally believed, will result in a personal encounter between Captain Tillman and W. A. Ancon.

MAIMING THE HANDS. So as to be Able to Reach Over a Few More Keys of the Piano.

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MISHAPS OF A DAY. Another Cable Car Victim Added to the Long List—A Child Almost Dead From a Fall—Brakemen Receive Serious Injuries.

Penn avenue and Sixteenth street by car No. 224 on the Citizens' Traction line. The little boy, who was playing on Penn avenue and attempted to run across the street directly in front of the car. Grippam James Gardner did not see him until it was too late. The boy fell and was crushed.

THE AUSTRALIAN WADY. It Was the Most Universal Weapon of the Aborigines—Cracked Skulls.

THE TYPewriter IN IT. The deed recorded yesterday in the name of Alice B. Sanger for lot 7, in block 14, of Glen Echo Heights, and the consideration was \$1,000.

A WIDOWER'S SILENT WATCHES. Camille Quinet Sleeps in a Gravelled Bedside His Wife's Grave.

NEW ZEALAND WATERFALL. Which Is Said to be the Most Remarkable in the World.

BABYLONIAN EXCAVATIONS. The next one was conducted by Mr. Ward, of the New York Independent.

FUN ON THE EXCHANGE. How Speculators in London Manage to Amuse Themselves in Dull Times.

VICTORIA'S SUNDAY MUSIC. Her Band's Performance Shocks the Sabbath Observance Party.

Overcome by the Heat. Yesterday Fireman Barker of the ferry boat William Thaw, was overcome by the heat and had to taken home.

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A REAL ESTATE DEAL. The Presidential Household Gives a Boom to Glen Echo Heights.

MRS. HARRISON'S NEW PURCHASE. She Receives Property Valued at Over \$200,000 for One Dollar.

HALFORD AND THE LADY TYPEWRITER. Have Also Made Some Investments in the Same Mysterious Locality.

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A BALLOT REFORMER. President Gompers a Firm Believer in the Secret Erasure System.

SHORT HOURS AND SHARP VOTERS. He Thinks the Conspiracy Laws Are a Relief of Barbaric Ages.

REMOVED LONG SINCE BY ENGLAND. If Great Britain Could Do It, He Thinks Pennsylvania Surely Can.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor has pronounced views on the subject of ballot reform and conspiracy laws. He is a practical ballot reformer, his ideas of the matter having been carried out in his union for 14 years.

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