

CHIPPERS IN A TRAP, Narrow Staircases, Tinder Walls, Dark Passages, All a Mass of Flame DO THEIR DEADLY WORK.

A Score of Inmates of the Indianapolis Institute Are Dead.

SCENES OF PANIC AND HEROISM.

Deaths of Strength Which Would Be Impossible in Every-Day Life PERFORMED BY THE CITY FIREMEN

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 22.—A score of helpless human beings reduced to death. This is the record of Thursday night in Indianapolis.

At 11:45 that night an alarm was turned in, quickly followed by a second and a third. Every piece of fire-fighting apparatus in the city was quickly on the run, and upon the arrival of the firemen flames were leaping from the roof and fourth floor windows of the National Surgical Institute on the corner of Illinois and Georgia streets, with an extension on the latter street.

About 250 crippled people were in the institute at the time. The building was almost totally enveloped in fire, and when Chief Webster arrived his first order was, "Let the building burn, but run up the ladders and save the people." This was obeyed and the work of rescuing the imprisoned patients commenced.

Where the Work of Destruction Began. The fire, when first discovered, was located in the Georgia street building, near the corner of the office in the building room. Whether it started there or not cannot be said, as the kitchen and dining room of the institution were in the same section, and further back an alley separates the Georgia street building from the one facing Illinois street. A covered bridge connects them.

The fire leaped up through the floors of the building in which it started, reaching a stairway about two feet wide, thus securing a draught, and sped through the second floor from room to room and hallway to hallway. Then the third and fourth floors were quickly reached, and across the alley the fiery tongues dashed, igniting the adjoining building.

On the third and fourth floors the horrible work was done. The buildings were a mass of flames. The corridors, hallways and stairways. The fire could not have chosen a better place for its work.

The Awful Peril of Helpless Cripples. In the small rooms throughout the building were from one to four beds, all occupied by patients, many of whom were perfectly helpless. When they became aware of their peril their fright was awful. They became frantic in their efforts to reach places of safety.

Every effort was made by the fire, police and ambulance forces to rescue the aged, unfortunate, and sets of heroism and daring were performed. While the dining room and kitchen were the building was gutted the above these two departments, on the third and fourth floors, were the sleeping apartments of the patients. When the fire was directed by means of escape was cut off, and many perished there.

The Surgical Institute was a veritable fire. The corridors, hallways and stairways. The fire could not have chosen a better place for its work.

As he reached the window sill he was met by fireman Wheeler Robinson, who pushed him back into the smothering smoke with a child in his arms.

"Take this baby, for God's sake, Loucks, and let me breathe," said Robinson, as he pushed his head into the opening.

Loucks grasped the living load and started downward. He had descended but a few feet when the brave fellow missed his footing and fell head first into the flames.

When he reached it a ladder was near him, but a few feet to one side. The flames and smoke were rapidly enveloping the brave fireman and his burden.

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A Difficult Task Bravely Performed. When he reached it a ladder was near him, but a few feet to one side. The flames and smoke were rapidly enveloping the brave fireman and his burden.

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head and shoulder hurt and internally injured by falling from a window; William H. Dabon, Punkin, N. Y., slightly burned; Nora Kowalski, Indianapolis, back hurt by jumping out the third story window; Al Powers, Blackwell's, back hurt by jumping from the roof to the ground; Mrs. John Stokes, Danville, Ill., sprained shoulder; Mrs. J. J. Jones, Blackwell's, back hurt from a third story window and will die; Mrs. G. J. Stumpen and little daughter, home not given, badly burned; they were carried out by the firemen; E. Connor, home unknown, killed from the second to first floor through a hole with a chair in his arms; he is probably fatally hurt internally; Roy Harris, New Orleans, he was killed; Miss Fargus, not given, leg broken; Mrs. H. H. Ide and son, home not known, severely injured.

A Hospital Well Filled. The injured were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, where, with the exception of those fatally injured, they were resting fairly well. They were not allowed to talk. The newspapers and particulars of the fire were kept from them.

Five bodies were taken out this morning. They were roasted alive, the skin having peeled off from the bodies. In a few instances their faces were burned off.

All Powers, Blackwell's, was four unknown bodies. They were taken out of the building in their night clothes and there was absolutely nothing by which they could be identified. One was a woman with black hair and dark complexion. She can easily be identified by friends, as she was suffocated and not burned. Another woman, whose body was cooked beyond recognition, was also at the morgue. Her feet were deformed and are shriveled up from the fire. A man with a deformed limb, also there, can be identified.

Where the Unknown Were Found. Three of the bodies were found at the northeast corner of the rear building on the third floor. They had huddled about the windows and were trying to escape when the flames caught them.

Just as the department arrived on the scene a woman appeared at a third story window. She wrung her hands and screamed for help, while the smoke rolled up about her. She was shouting, "Hold on, hold on, don't jump; for God's sake, don't jump. We'll get you in a moment."

A savage roar of the flames and a creaking, crashing sound was the only reply that came back to her. She saw the fire and the words of appeal left her lips when the woman, with a shriek of agony, leaped into the air. The body struck the stone landing in front of her, and she fell head first, and was picked up in the pangs of death and removed across the way.

At a window on the upper floor a panic-stricken mother was seen struggling to throw open the window. In one arm she clasped her child, a mere infant. She clutched at the window casing and finally succeeded, after frantic efforts, in reaching the sill.

Choosing Between Two Deaths. Her screams fell upon the ears of thousands of spectators. No ladders were at hand, and her pitiful appeals went unheeded. Her face was deathly pale. The flames were closing in about her and she looked back into the furnace of death, then down to the pavement below, as if choosing between two modes of certain death. Re- alizing that death was at hand she clasped the child to her breast and, with a final load out of the window and gave her life to the flames within.

It would have been a pleasing thought to her to know before expiring the fortune that befell her offspring. Pigeon O'Brien had watched the scene from below, and as the child fell the arms of his mother he caught himself firmly with his arms under the arms of the mother. The baby, wrapped in its night clothes, whirled about in the air and tumbled into O'Brien's arms unharmed—a life saved.

The heroism of fireman John Loucks, of the Chemical Company, will long be remembered. While the flames were shooting from the windows facing on Illinois street he gutted the extension ladder to the upper floor.

Hanging to a Ladder by His Feet. As he reached the window sill he was met by fireman Wheeler Robinson, who pushed him back into the smothering smoke with a child in his arms.

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CONFESSION REVISED. The Presbyterian Committee Ready With Its Important Report. 'T'WILL NOT BE A UNANIMOUS ONE. The Presbyteries All Get a Chance to Vote on the Changes. A DIFFICULT TASK ACCOMPLISHED

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—The Committee on Revision appointed by the last General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to take in hand the difficult task of revising of the old Westminster Confession of Faith and preparing a new confession that shall be in accord with the sentiment and ideas of Presbyterians of to-day, and be satisfactory and acceptable to the Presbyterian Church at large, has finished its work. The new statement of doctrine and belief is ready for presentation to the church.

The committee met for a final session in the Mission House in Fifth avenue this morning and adjourned at 12:30 p. m. with- out delay. The session was mainly taken up in perfecting minor details in regard to the form which the report of the committee to the next General Assembly shall take.

There has been considerable discussion and much divergence of opinion in regard to many of the changes made, and some of these changes, as now embodied in the Con- fession, have been adopted only by a ma- jority vote.

Dissenting Minority Report. It was therefore decided that the report should submit the changes made in separate form, each amendment to be separately signed by the committee and the members who have the privilege of expressing their dissent from any one of the changes.

This will practically amount to the mak- ing of a dissenting minority report. One of the members said, however, that it was be- lieved that no member of the committee would avail himself of this privilege, and the report would be submitted as unani- mous.

It will be several weeks before the report is actually ready for signature. It will, of course, not be made public, but Dr. Moore, the chairman, said to-day that the report of the committee's work as printed from day to day in THE DISPATCH has con- tained really all the important changes that have been made, and there will be no news in it when it is made public.

In answering the committee's expressed itself as highly satisfied and pleased with the unanimity that has, as a whole, charac- terized its work. This does not, however, mean that the revision of the confession is a simple matter. The new question will have to be referred back to all the Presbyteries throughout the country for their concur- rence in it.

Not Satisfactory to Everybody. "It cannot reasonably be hoped that the revised confession as now adopted will be satisfactory to the whole church," said a Presbyterian to-day. "In fact, it will probably meet with considerable opposi- tion, and a dissenting minority report will be made."

The suggestions offered by the various presbyteries were very di- versed, and it was not possible for the Com- mittee on Revision to reconcile all of them. In some sections certain presbyteries wanted to have them struck out alto- gether. This was particularly the case in regard to the article on predestination, of- ficial calling, and of some of those refer- ring to the Church of Rome. It was im- possible to reconcile these entirely oppo- site views, and in some places the revision has necessarily been a compromise, and in others there has had to be a choice of two things.

It would seem that the work of revision must go on indefinitely, or that the report of the committee be adopted by the church by a majority vote. In the latter case—presbyteries that do not concur in the revision would be a dissenting minority report.

No further action on revision will be taken until the meeting of the General As- sembly at Portland, Ore., next May.

BRIGGS' CASE DECIDED. The Conference Committee Refuses to Give Out Its Ultimatum. Through a Har- monious Solution of the Difficultly Now Hoped For—General Assembly to Settle It.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—[Special.]—The conference between the Board of Directors of Union Theological Seminary and the committee appointed by the Presbyterian General Assembly on the relations between the seminary and the church, as repre- sented by the General Assembly, was con- tinued to-day, and what passes for an un- derstanding was finally arrived at.

The General Assembly vetoed as an ap- pointment the transfer of Prof. Briggs from the Chair of Hebrew in the Seminary to the Chair of Biblical Theology to ex- press its dissatisfaction with his views. The Assembly claimed this veto power under an agreement with the seminary, made in 1870, the seminary maintaining that the agree- ment did not confer with it the power to veto a transfer, and the directors said that they would not be bound by it.

Warm and Vigorous Discussion. The conference, with its sub-conferences of directors and committee, has lasted the greater part of three days. There has been every kind of discussion, and the matter was inclined to yield much. Dr. Patton, President of Princeton Seminary, was chair- man of the conference, and the committee were not at all disposed to recede from their position they had taken. The conference lasted until after 7 o'clock to-night. It was then adjourned until the morning, on the basis of a possible agreement had been arrived at. Anyway, the conference adjourned without delay. The directors of the seminary were to dis- close any part of the proceedings, and Dr. Patton and Dr. Roberts, the President and Secretary of the Assembly Committee, respectively, gave out this statement for publication:

The Assembly's committee and Board of Directors arrived at a basis of a report to the General Assembly, in reply to a ques- tion as to whether things at the seminary would remain as at present until the meeting of the next General Assembly, he said that, so far as he knew, there would be no change at the seminary in the mean- time.

Dr. Patton declined to say anything further than that everything was satisfactory to the General Assembly Committee, and that there would be "some relations between the seminary and the General Assembly" when the matter is finally settled. The General Assembly does not meet until May.

VANDERBILT'S YACHT. Interesting Questions as to Whether in a United States Court—The Matter at Stake a Question of Duty on a Pleasure Boat Under the McKinley Bill. NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—[Special.]—The ar- gument in the Conqueror case was laid be- fore United States Judge Brown in the District Court to-day. United States At- torney Mitchell argued for the Collector and Elihu Root for Mr. Vanderbilt. Mr. Mitchell said that the yacht, the Con- queror, had been ordered by the American Consul, so that the American flag might be spotted, and the bill of sale was also ordered by Collector Erhardt at this port, so that the American flag might be flown in American waters. This, he said, was in violation of the act of Mr. Vanderbilt to import the yacht and thereafter use it for purposes of pleasure as an American vessel. Mr. Mitchell said that he did not venture to say under what particular clause of the tariff act the Conqueror came dutable.

Mr. Root, for the libellant, contended that the yacht was not an American vessel, and that the McKinley bill did not include vessels.

"Why," asked Mr. Root, "do not the Cunard and White Star steamships come under this law? If the word 'articles' in- cludes vessels, it includes the Conqueror, and sail out again freely and without let or hindrance."

Judge Brown asked several questions. "Then your point is," said he, "to say to Mr. Mitchell, that if a man wants to fly the American flag he must first pay duties. Until then he may sail around in these waters with impunity."

"Yes," returned Mr. Mitchell, "until the owner of a foreign hull yacht brought over here pays duties on it he cannot be entitled to fly the American flag or seek the protection of the United States. The yacht remains a foreign one, though owned by an American citizen, and until the duties are paid is the yacht legally American property."

Judge Brown reserved his decision.

Story of the Rescued Diver. After he had been resuscitated the diver said: "I went down into the water with com- plete armor at about 9:30 o'clock. I wanted to hack the ice away from one of the outside port holes. I worked away from the edges till I removed all the ice, and then started to clear it away from the opening of the port. I moved over them on the broken ice, and had just started to pick the ice away from the hole when my signal line broke. The signal line is the one that I fastened to the life line around the waist, and then passed up through the headpiece of the armor to keep my head up. "Immediately when the signal line parted I was shot through the current into the port hole. The current there runs at a ter- rific rate. All the pumps of the down-tow- ners draw their water in through those port holes. A man could not stay in the en- trance of one of those ports, even if he was laid down with all the weights of a diver's suit. When my signal line that passes up against the ceiling of the current caught my head and swung it down. Then all the air that was in my suit rushed up to my feet, and I was upside down for about 40 minutes. I had the greatest difficulty to get any air, and felt myself growing weaker and weaker every minute. I tried to push myself away from the wall and out of the current, but I could not do anything. "The line around my waist was drawing the life out of me. The blood rushed to my head and made me terribly sick. I was unconscious through all that hour, ap- part from the fact that my head full of blood

A NEW PLAN FOR LYNNING. The Missouri Mob Will Probably Burn Their Man at the Stake. NEVADA, Mo., Jan. 22.—When the 7:30 Missouri Pacific train arrived here this evening a mob of 200 men from Barton county got off, proceeded to the county jail, and demanded that the Sheriff turn over to them Hepler, the man who murdered Mrs. Goody and her little son in that county last Sunday. The Sheriff made some resistance, but the mob proceeded to break into the jail, and the train was held up by breaking into a blacksmith shop near by.

The Sheriff, having been previously advised that the mob was coming, had se- cured the prisoner, and the train was held up by breaking into a blacksmith shop near by.

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A DIVER'S ADVENTURE. Pinned in the Porthole of a Big Chicago Water Crib, at Least EIGHTY FEET FROM THE SURFACE. Two Tugs and Sixteen Men Work Labori- ously for an Hour TO GET HIM ON DRY LAND ONCE MORE

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Efforts to keep the great ice floes away from the crib were con- tinued all day to-day. Yesterday the divers refused to go down to the portholes at the crib, claiming it was impossible to live 80 feet under water. Diver John E. Scully was left at the two-mile crib over night with nine extra men, and this morning he was sent down to clear away any accumu- lations of small anchor or sheet ice that might be found at the entrance to the portholes. By some means which only Scully himself can describe, the diver was caught in the porthole, and after futile efforts to dis- engage himself he signaled for relief.

To their horror those above water found that they could not pull him up. The City Engineer's office was at once summoned, and without an instant's delay the North- side pumping works were ordered shut down. It then took two tugs and 16 men over an hour to drag the unconscious diver from the mouth of the great tunnel through which the water is drawn to the city. If pumps had worked five minutes longer Scully would have been smothered three miles through the bore to the water works.

Story of the Rescued Diver. After he had been resuscitated the diver said: "I went down into the water with com- plete armor at about 9:30 o'clock. I wanted to hack the ice away from one of the outside port holes. I worked away from the edges till I removed all the ice, and then started to clear it away from the opening of the port. I moved over them on the broken ice, and had just started to pick the ice away from the hole when my signal line broke. The signal line is the one that I fastened to the life line around the waist, and then passed up through the headpiece of the armor to keep my head up. "Immediately when the signal line parted I was shot through the current into the port hole. The current there runs at a ter- rific rate. All the pumps of the down-tow- ners draw their water in through those port holes. A man could not stay in the en- trance of one of those ports, even if he was laid down with all the weights of a diver's suit. When my signal line that passes up against the ceiling of the current caught my head and swung it down. Then all the air that was in my suit rushed up to my feet, and I was upside down for about 40 minutes. I had the greatest difficulty to get any air, and felt myself growing weaker and weaker every minute. I tried to push myself away from the wall and out of the current, but I could not do anything. "The line around my waist was drawing the life out of me. The blood rushed to my head and made me terribly sick. I was unconscious through all that hour, ap- part from the fact that my head full of blood

A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE. The Life-Saving Crew at Nantucket Battle for Hours With Waves. NANTUCKET, MASS., Jan. 22.—[Special.]—The life-saving crew on this island had a long struggle for life, yesterday, being out in the open sea in the lifeboat 23 hours. They saved the crew of the schooner H. P. Kirkham, loaded with pickled fish, and bound from Halifax to New York, which struck on Great Rip on Wednesday night. The wreck was discovered at daybreak yester- day, and the life-savers started for it at 8 o'clock. At 11 o'clock they left the schooner, which was fast, and in place they had secured the safety of the crew of seven men.

Then followed a terrible battle with the waves. All day and all night they tried to reach the shore. They were beaten off until the men were too exhausted to row. At 10 o'clock this morning they managed to beach the boat at Sunset, ten miles from the station. The members of the life-saving station were completely exhausted, and four of the rescued crew nearly perished. All are now out of danger. The vessel and cargo are a total loss.

STURCK AN OLD BLAST. The Explosion Following Kills Two Work- men and Injures Three. NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—The premature ex- plosion of a blast this afternoon killed two persons and seriously injured three. The killed are James Dooley and James Cox. The injured are Charlotte F. Wilson, James Kennedy and Tom Rosa.

The blast was an old one and was ac- cidentally started by the crew of one of the men. Kennedy and Rosa were only slightly injured, and were able to go home after their wounds had been dressed at the hospital. Wilson was injured more severely and is still in the hospital.

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