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SAYRE, PA., THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 1906

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FRISCO IN RUINS

Earthquake Devastates the Golden Gate City.

IS PRACTICALLY DESTROYED

Flames Following Shocks Spread Far and Wide.

ONE THOUSAND LOST THEIR LIVES

San Francisco, a Frey to Destroying Fires, Under Military Law and Guardianship—Nearly All Its Fine Edifices, Private and Public, Are Gone—Cities of Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento, Berkeley and Alameda Share Calamity, Which Came at Early Morning—Loss of Life is Appalling—Many Crushed by Falling Buildings—Panic Still Rues—Pacific Squadron Reported Lost.

OAKLAND, CAL., April 19.—San Francisco, devastated by an earthquake and swept by flames, is now under military rule and completely cut off by telegraph from the east.

Earthquake and fire have caused the greatest calamity California has ever known. In San Francisco it is estimated that a thousand persons have perished, while as many more are suffering from injuries. The entire business portion of the city is in ruins, and the flames, which, owing to the lack of water through the breaking of the water system mains, cannot be checked except by the blowing up with dynamite of buildings in their path, are still sweeping through the city.

A Denver special dispatch says that the Pacific squadron, which was at anchor in San Francisco bay, was sunk by the earthquake.

The Pacific squadron, under command of Admiral Goodrich, sailed on Monday from San Diego for San Pedro bay, California. The squadron consists of the Chicago, Boston, Marblehead and Princeton.

It is utterly impossible at present to estimate the property loss, for the extent of the conflagration cannot be told until the fire has burned itself out. Thousands of people are homeless, and many are huddled in the parks and public squares beside the household goods they were able to save.

The city is under martial law, and all the downtown streets are patrolled by cavalry and infantry. Details of troops are also guarding the banks. Most of the principal buildings have already been destroyed, and others are in imminent danger. Over all the scene of desolation hangs a dense pall of smoke.

Communication with outside towns is almost entirely cut off, but the report comes from Palo Alto that all but one of the buildings of the Leland Stanford, Jr., university have been wrecked and that the splendid Memorial church, one of the finest structures of its kind in the world, is a mass of ruins. One student is known to have lost his life. In Oakland five persons were killed, San Jose and Sacramento, Berkeley, Alameda and other places heard from suffered severely, but report no loss of life.

The dreadful earthquake shock came without warning at precisely 5:18 o'clock in the morning. Its motion apparently being from east to west. At first the upheaval of the earth was gradual, but in a few seconds it increased in intensity. Chimneys began to fall and buildings to crack, lettering on their foundations. The people became panic stricken and rushed into the streets, most of them in their night attire. They were met by showers of falling buildings, bricks, cornices and walls.

Many were instantly crushed to death, while others were dreadfully mangled. Those who remained indoors generally escaped with their lives, though scores were hit by detached plaster, pictures and articles thrown to the floor by the shock. It is believed that more or less loss was sustained by nearly every family in the city.

The tall steel frame structures stood the strain better than brick buildings, few of them being badly damaged. The big eleven story Monadnock office building in course of construction, adjoining the Palace hotel, was an exception, however, its rear wall collapsing and many cracks being made across its front. Some of the docks and freight sheds along the water front slid into the bay. Deep fissures opened in the filled in ground near the shore, and the Union Ferry depot was injured. Its high tower still stands, but will have to be torn down.

A portion of the new city hall, which cost over \$7,000,000, collapsed, the roof sliding into the courtyard and smaller towers tumbling down. The great dome was saved, but did not fall.

The new postoffice, one of the finest in the United States, was badly shattered. The Valencia hotel, a four story wooden building, sank into the basement, a pile of splintered timbers, under which were pinned many dead and dying occupants of the house. The basement was full of water, and some of the helpless victims were drowned.

Scarcely had the earth ceased to shake when fires broke out simultaneously in many places. The fire department promptly responded to the first calls for aid, but it was found that the water mains had been rendered useless by the underground movement.

SAN FRANCISCO DOOMED

All Efforts to Save the Ill-Fated City Have Been Abandoned and the People Are Fleeing to the Hills for Safety

INDESCRIBABLE DISORDER PREVAILS

Entire City a Seething Ball of Fire, Which With Nothing to Obstruct its Progress Will Completely Wipe the Western Metropolis From the Face of the Earth

A telegram received at the Stock Exchange in Waverly this afternoon at 1 o'clock states that all efforts to save San Francisco have been abandoned. The city is doomed to complete destruction and is one seething mass of fire. The death list which the morning despatches placed at a lower number than that sent out yesterday is growing again and the loss of life will probably reach over one thousand. This is the estimate of conservatives. The people are fleeing to the hills and all efforts are now being concentrated to get women and children and the sick and helpless out of the doomed city, and to a place of safety without further loss of life. The property loss cannot be estimated at this time, and it will take several days to give anything like accurate figures.

A wild scene of disorder prevails which is indescribable. Efforts to remove the dead and injured are being made, but the once beautiful metropolis of the west has been given up as lost.

Fanned by a light breeze, the flames quickly spread, and soon many blocks were seen to be doomed.

Then dynamite was resorted to, and the sound of frequent explosions added to the terror of the people. All efforts to stay the progress of the fire, however, proved futile. The south side of Market street, from Nish street to the bay, was soon ablaze, the fire covering a belt two blocks wide. On this, the main thoroughfare of the city, are located many of the finest edifices in the city, including the Grant, Parrott, Flood, Call, Examiner and Monadnock buildings, the Palace and Grand hotels and numerous wholesale houses.

At the same time the commercial establishments and banks north of Market street were burning. The burning district in this section of the city extended from Sanson street to the water front and from Market street to Mission. Fires also broke out in the Mission, and the entire city seemed to be in flames.

There was an interval of three hours between the first and second shocks, the latter finishing the destruction of buildings unsettled by the first. Fire Chief Sullivan has been killed.

Although water has been secured to the firemen in many sections, the fire is by no means under control. It is raging around Pine and Montgomery streets, and the Western Union building has been abandoned to its fate.

Practically all the wholesale district has been destroyed by the fire, and the flames are spreading into the Hayes valley district, a residence section of San Francisco. St. Ignace's cathedral was among the buildings which was destroyed. The whole district in the vicinity of the postoffice and mint have been destroyed.

The Palace hotel is destroyed. The Postal Telegraph and the Western Union buildings and the magnificent new Union Trust company building, eleven stories high, have been dynamited.

The papers in Oakland estimate the dead at from 500 to 700 and 20,000 homeless. The flames, fanned by the rising breeze, swept down the main streets until within a few hundred feet of the ferry depot, the high tower of which stood at a dangerous angle. The big wholesale grocery establishment of Woolman, Peck & Co. was on fire from cellar to roof, and the heat was so oppressive that passengers from the ferries were obliged to keep close to the water's edge in order to get past the burning structure.

It was impossible to reach the center of the city from the bay without skirting the shore for a long distance so as to get entirely around the burning district. At about 8 o'clock the Southern Pacific officials refused to allow any more passengers from transitory points to land and sent back those already on the boats. The ferry and train service of the Key route was entirely abandoned, owing to damage done to the power house by the earthquake at Emeryville.

A thousand men from the Presidio arrived downtown to patrol the city streets. The Thirtieth infantry, a thousand strong, arrived from Angel Island a little later and went on patrol duty at once. The soldiers have been ordered to shoot down thieves caught in the act of robbing the dead and to

guard with their lives the millions of dollars' worth of property which has been piled in the streets that it may escape the ravages of the flames.

The First California artillery, 900 strong, two companies, has been detailed to patrol duty on Ellis street. Two more companies are patrolling Broadway in the Italian section.

Mayor Schmitt sent out word to the bakeries and milk stations throughout the city that their food supplies must be hoarded for the homeless. Provisions have already been made to place tents in every park in the city, and those who have lost all will be given food and shelter.

The prisoners confined in the city prison on the fifth floor of the Hall of Justice were transferred in groups to the basement of the structure. Later they were removed to the Broadway jail, and if the necessity arises they will be taken to a branch county jail on the Mission road.

Commissioner E. Myron Wolf announced that the eighty odd fire insurance companies interested had decided to pay dollar for dollar to every one insured with them. The companies will not discriminate between fire and earthquake, and every one insured will be paid to the extent of the loss. But two of the companies affected are Pacific coast concerns, the others having principal offices in the east or in Europe, and all will stand the loss without danger or failure.

One of the first orders issued by Chief of Police Dinan was the closing of every saloon in the city. This step is taken to prevent drunk crazed men from rioting in the city streets.

There was little dynamite available in the city. Mayor Schmitt sent a tug to Pinola for several cases of explosives. He sent also a telegram to Mayor Moton of Oakland. At 10:30 he received this reply to his Oakland message:

"Three engines and hose companies leave here immediately. Will forward dynamite as soon as obtained."

That the country and the world have received news of the San Francisco disaster is due in part to the courage of the telegraph operators there, who stuck to their posts and continued to send news and other messages in spite of great personal danger.

The operators and officials of the Postal Telegraph company remained in the main office of the company, at the corner of Market and Montgomery streets, opposite the Palace hotel, until they were ordered out of the building because of the danger from the dynamite explosions in the immediate vicinity.

The men at once proceeded to this place, across the bay, and took possession of the office there. The company is operating seven wires from Oakland. All messages from the city must be taken across the bay in boats. W. C. Swain, an electrical engineer in the service of the Postal company, returned several times to the main building in San Francisco and got in communication east. He said he was surrounded by severe explosions of illuminating and service gas.

The Postal building was not wholly destroyed. It was surrounded by fire on three sides. The cable apparatus of the Postal company was moved to the cable car on the beach, near the City

House. The cable service is working all right.

The destruction of the Telephone building in San Francisco has broken telephonic communication with this city.

The Southern Pacific is doing its utmost to get people out of the city and is not charging refugees for transportation.

The sheds over the Southern Pacific's long wharf on San Francisco bay have completely collapsed. Many of the bunkers fell into the bay, carrying with them thousands of tons of coal. The long wharf was one of the most important shipping points about the bay, and freight traffic will be interrupted considerably.

As a result of the breaking of the mains of the Spring Valley Water company the town of San Mateo was flooded. It was owing to the broken mains that the fire gained such headway in San Francisco. The town of San Rafael, despite its own troubles, dispatched fire fighting apparatus to San Francisco.

From early morning the offices of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies in Oakland have been filled with people in all walks of life filing messages of inquiry as to the condition of friends and interests in other cities of California which suffered from the earthquake shock.

The fire swept down the streets so rapidly that it was practically impossible to save anything in its way. It reached the Grand Opera House, on Mission street, and in a moment had burned through the roof. The Metropolitan opera company from New York had just opened its season there, and all the expensive scenery and costumes were soon reduced to ashes.

From the opera house the fire leaped from building to building, leveling them almost to the ground in quick succession.

The Call's editorial and mechanical departments were totally destroyed in a few minutes, and the flames leaped across Stevenson street toward the fine fifteen story stone and iron Spruce building, which, with its lofty dome, is the most notable edifice in San Francisco. Two small wooden buildings furnished fuel to ignite the splendid pile. Thousands of people watched the hungry tongues of flames licking the stone walls. At first no impression was made, but suddenly there was a crackling of glass, and an entrance was effected. The inner furnishings of the fourth floor were the first to go.

Then, as if by magic, smoke issued from the top of the dome. This was followed by a most spectacular illumination. The round windows of the dome shone like so many full moons, then burst and gave vent to long, waving streamers of flames. The crowd watched the spectacle with bated breaths. One woman wrung her hands and burst into a torrent of tears. "It is so terrible!" she said. The tall and slender structure which had withstood the forces of the earth appeared to be doomed to fall a prey to fire. After awhile, however, the light grew less intense and the flames, finding nothing to consume, gradually went out, leaving the building standing, but completely gutted.

From Court, the lower floors being devoted to an immense department store, was ruined, though its massive walls were not all destroyed. A little further down Market street the Academy of Sciences and the Jennie Flood building and the History building kindled and burned like so much tinder. Sparks carried across the wide street ignited the Phelan building, and the army headquarters of the department of California, General Funston commanding, were burned.

Still nearer the bay, the waters of which did the firemen good service along the docks, the fire took the Rialto building, a handsome skyscraper, and converted scores of solid business blocks into smoldering piles of bricks.

A. W. Hussey came to the police station at the Hall of Justice and told how, at the direction of a policeman whom he did not know, but whose star number he gave as 815, he had cut the arteries in the wrists of a man pinned under timbers at the St. Katherine hospital. According to the statement made by Hussey, the man was begging to be killed, and the policeman shot at him, but his aim was defective, and the bullet went wide of the mark. The officer then handed Hussey a knife, with instructions to cut the veins in the suffering man's wrists, and Hussey obeyed orders to the letter.

Chief of Police Dinan directed that Hussey be locked up. There has been no opportunity to investigate his story, but the police believe that the awful calamity rendered him insane and that the incident reported to them has no existence excepting in the imagination of the man who made the report.

The entire loss is now estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

A heavy southwest wind sprang up and carried the destruction of the entire financial district, but away from the residential district.

The Anglo-California bank has also been destroyed. Every building in the city has been more or less damaged by the earthquake.

The Southern Pacific Railway company has brought a ton of dynamite into the vicinity of the burning section on Market street to be used if possible in blowing up property to prevent the spread of the fire.

Up to 11 o'clock about 400 dead had been brought to Mechanics' pavilion and others were being brought in.

The south side of Market street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, was swept by fire, and the flames spread in all directions. It seems that the entire business section of San Francisco must be destroyed.

General Funston, commander of the Presidio, has turned out the entire force of soldiers at that point.

The whole north end of the city is wrecked, and the flames are spreading in all directions.

The Postal Telegraph company and Commercial Cable company have opened a temporary office here.

The postoffice was badly shaken and has entirely collapsed.

The fish market, at the corner of Clay and Merchant streets, has collapsed, killing six people.

A ten story building at Teuth and Mission streets, adjoining the Grand Opera House, has been burned, and other buildings between the theater and St. Patrick's church are doomed.

The gas works, south of Market street, have been blown up and started another big fire in that section of the city.

A portion of the Mission, several miles from the business section of the city, was destroyed.

The fire began at Twenty-second street and rapidly moved eastward.

The newspapers, having had their power cut off, have combined and will issue one paper for all from the office of the Chronicle, which has its own power plant.

There was a great rush at the banks by depositors, who wanted to draw out their deposits, but the banks decided to keep their doors closed. By order of the chief of police all the saloons have been closed.

In Oakland five persons were killed by the collapse of the Empire building.

The Gore block, at the junction of Market and Pine streets, is probably a total loss.

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