

HUNDREDS KILLED IN THEATER.

Victims Were Mostly Women and Children Who Were Attending the Matinee.

SAFETY APPLIANCES FAILED TO WORK.

Place of Amusement Turned into a Charnel House During Holiday Performance.

Five hundred and eighty-two are dead as the result of the fire which gutted the Iroquois theater last Wednesday afternoon, throwing 2,200 men, women and children in a maddened, crazed, fighting panic, while the matinee performance was in progress. The fire broke out during the second act of the play "Mr. Bluebird," which is the only production given in the theater since its erection. The company, which was very large, escaped to the street in safety, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snowy streets with no clothing but their stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained minor injuries, but none were seriously hurt.

The accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting, but the best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery suddenly became overheated and grounded. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus who were then engaged in the performance to flee to the wings with screams of terror.

The fire in itself up to this time was not serious and possibly could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work. As soon as the fire was discovered Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the company, hunted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done.

Curtain Would Not Work.
It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire thus was given practically a free run through which a strong draft was setting, aided by the doors, which had been thrown open in the front of the theater. With a roar and a bound the flames shot through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and reaching clear up to those in the first balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat.

Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explosion which lifted the entire roof of the theater from its walls, shattering the great skylight into fragments.

As soon as the flames first appeared beyond the curtain a man in the rear of the hall shouted "Fire! Fire!" and the entire audience rose as one person and made for the doors. It is believed that the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoir of the theater, causing them to burst.

Firemen found numbers of people sitting in their seats, their faces directed toward the stage as if the performance was still going on. It was the opinion of the firemen that these people had been suffocated at once by the flow of gas which came from behind the asbestos curtain.

In the wreck of the collapsed balcony, the bodies were found in blackened heaps, piled five feet deep. Blackened corpses were packed and wedged in the aisles, in the wreck of iron chairs. In the sections of the balcony that did not collapse bodies were found wedged upright in the wreck, the flesh burned from the blackened bones. Scores and scores of bodies were burned to cinders.

Police and citizens volunteers, crying over the sight that their rattling axes have revealed, stopped wagons in the streets and impressed them as hearses for the dead. In these wagons—vehicles of every description—bodies were heaped like cordwood, covered with tarpaulins and hauled to the stores and rooms that were turned into death houses.

Howls by the score flooded to the scene of the theater and began robbing the dead. They crashed through the doorways of the temporary morgues by the hundreds in the guise of frantic mourners seeking for their lost relatives, and they carried off rings, watches and jewels and jewelry despite the utmost efforts of the police.

The Iroquois theater was completed less than two months ago at a cost of \$500,000 and was the finest playhouse in Chicago. It was opened to the public on the night of November 23 with "Mr. Bluebird." The style of the structure architecturally is that of the French renaissance. It had a total seating capacity of 1,724 chairs, with plenty of good standing room on each floor. The balcony had seating for 475. It was projected and owned by Messrs. Will J. Davis and Harry Powers, of Chicago. Klaw & Elzinger, of New York, and Nixon & Zimmerman, of Philadelphia. It was built in the north side of Randolph street, between State and Dearborn streets. It was a syndicate house.

In a personal inspection of the ruins Mayor Harrison discovered the fire escape doors and emergency exits had not been marked "Exit," as required by law, and in addition found the doors were concealed with heavy canvas. Alderman William Mayor, one of the practical builders accompanying the mayor, found the law had been violated in that the top gallery had no stairway of its own leading direct to the street. He asserted that the theater never should have been allowed to open in the face of this violation of the laws.

Twenty-seven employees of the theater and the "Mr. Bluebird" Extravaganza Company are under arrest. Eight were formally arraigned before Magistrate Cavery, charged with involuntary manslaughter due to criminal negligence.

Will J. Davis and Harry J. Powers, managers of the ill-fated playhouse, were called before Chief of Police O'Neill. They are said to have given the name of an employe as the man responsible for the fire. This man has left the city. It is charged that the theater authorities are seeking to make him the scapegoat.

The directors of the Rock Island Company of New Jersey, elected L. F. Lores, President of the corporation, to succeed W. B. Leeds, resigned.

SAW SAVAGES AT WAR.

American Missionary Witnessed Bodies of Slain Cut Up.

Mrs. Allen, of the American Gospel mission, who sailed from Liverpool for New York after four years' work among the Nankroos in Liberia, witnessed severe fighting between the inhabitants of the coast towns and the bushmen. Mrs. Allen's mission house was the center of the first conflict, and the Nankroo queen sought refuge there. During the fighting Mrs. Allen was not molested, but she saw the bodies of the slain bushmen chopped into small pieces, and the ears, heads, arms and legs distributed among the towns as trophies of victory.

ARMED CRANK ARRESTED.

Having addressed a letter to President Roosevelt, the nature of which led the secret service officers on duty at the White House to believe that he was insane, the police arrested German Kehl, 29 years of age, a native of Construction, Chilli. When taken into custody he had on his person a loaded revolver and a pair of steel knuckles. He claims to be an inventor and he has several patents pending and he desired to be protected. He was pronounced insane by the police surgeons and was sent to St. Elizabeth asylum.

ALL RECORDS BROKEN.

When the anthracite colliers shut down for a holiday until January 4, the most successful year in the history of the region will have come to a close. Total shipments will aggregate 59,000,000 tons, exceeding by five million tons the best previous record. The proceeds of this output at tidewater are estimated at \$273,000,000 and the workers who produced it received in wages about \$75,000,000.

JAPAN BUYS FLOUR.

Within the past eight days Minneapolis mills have booked almost 100,000 barrels of flour for export to Japan. Other orders are expected before the close of the week. For some time Japan has been a heavy buyer of American flour, one large company alone having received a contract for 50,000 barrels within a day or two, for almost immediate delivery by way of San Francisco.

MAIL CLERK BURNED IN WRECK.

A head-on collision occurred on the Duluth division of the Northern Pacific railway at Deroun, a small town between Pine City and Hinckley. The mail car on one train was burned and Mail Clerk Rouse was burned to death. None of the passengers were hurt.

EMERY SHELTON AND ELL HOMP, OF HIGHWOOD, MICH., WERE RUN OVER BY A TRAIN AND INSTANTLY KILLED WHILE DRIVING ACROSS THE TRACK FOUR MILES EAST OF THIS PLACE LAST NIGHT. IT IS THOUGHT THEY WERE ASLEEP.

LIONS FOR ROOSEVELT.

Commercial Treaty Signed With Emperor of Abyssinia.

The United States expedition to Abyssinia, under Consul General Skinner, of Marselles, which arrived at Adis Abeba, December 21, has successfully executed the principal features of the mission. A treaty between the United States and the empire of Ethiopia, opening for the first time friendly commercial relations, has been signed. Emperor Menelik has given his formal acceptance of the invitation to participate in the St. Louis exposition.

As a personal tribute from Emperor Menelik to President Roosevelt Mr. Skinner has been charged to deliver to the President two lions and a pair of elephant tusks. Each member of the American party has been tendered a decoration, the acceptance of which is held in abeyance, owing to the official character of the expedition. The closing audience granted by Emperor Menelik to Mr. Skinner and the leaders of the American escort was particularly cordial.

JAPAN APPROVES LOAN.

Funds to Build Railway and for Military Purposes.

An extraordinary meeting of the Privy Council at Tokio approved the issue by the Cabinet of an emergency ordinance authorizing the guarantee of the principal and interest of an issue of 10,000,000 yen debentures for the purpose of expediting the work on the Seoul-Fusan railway, which is expected to be finished by the end of next year. The ordinance also provides for all possible military expenses for the protection of the railway and other interests.

It is believed that unless Russia modifies her reply Japan will immediately safeguard Korea, though such a step will not necessarily mean war with Russia.

MONITORS ORDERED OUT.

To Guard Our Coaling Stations in Cuban Waters.

Orders have been received at the League Island navy yard to put the monitor Miantonomah in commission after two years' idleness, and also to put the monitor Puritan in condition to go to sea within six weeks. The Puritan, which has not been long out of commission, will be made ready as soon as the Miantonomah repairs are completed.

Both monitors will be especially fitted for tropical service. They will be used as guardships for the United States coaling station in Cuba. According to the present indications the Puritan will be assigned to Guantanamo and the Miantonomah will go to Bahia Honda.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

The Jewish societies have appealed to the President to do something for their race in Russia.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has advised workmen not to accept a reduction.

Hon. Richard Olney has consented to allow his friends to use his name for the Democratic nomination.

The pudding department of the Spang-Chaffant mills at Etba, Pa., has resumed. Four hundred employes returned to work after a shutdown of eight weeks.

According to the Spanish newspapers, a project is on foot for the marriage of King Alfonso to his cousin, the Princess Maria del Pilar of Bavaria. She is 13 years of age.

Captain Dreyfus, accused of treason to his country, degraded, dismissed from the French army and most bitterly punished, will have another trial, this time by a civilian tribunal.

William Daily, of Seneca county, serving 20 years in the Ohio penitentiary for manslaughter, was shot and killed in the state shop by Guard J. W. Chakler, of Drake county. The shooting was in self-defense.

The White Star line has ordered a steamer 755 feet in length, 39 feet longer than the Celtic, the largest ship in the world. Construction on the vessel will begin immediately at Belfast, Ireland.

Mrs. Hetty Green, the richest woman in America, has gone back to Hoboken and taken a little flat in a building which she rents for \$19 per month. Mrs. Green has with her her dog "Dewey" and her maid.

Soon after the beginning of the year some of the largest manufacturers of patent medicines will, it is stated, put into effect a new plan to stop the cutting of prices on such articles by druggists and department stores.

At the request of the state department, Secretary Moody sent a cablegram to Rear Admiral Sterling, commanding the Asiatic squadron, to disband a warship to Chempoo, Korea, to protect American interests there.

Senator David E. Buns, of Grand Rapids, Mich., was held to the present term of the Superior Court by Police Judge Haggerty, on the charge of accepting a bribe in the water deal. He gave bond of \$2,000.

At Joplin, Mo., Bert Barron, aged 17, shot and killed his father, Matthew Barron, while protecting his mother from an assault. The elder Barron was intoxicated. Young Barron, who is under arrest, says the shooting was accidental.

Mrs. Helen Minerva Wardner Everts, widow of ex-Senator William M. Everts, died on the old Everts farm, Bunyanville, at Windsor, Vt., after having survived her husband nearly three years. Mrs. Everts was in her 84th year.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, of Scranton, has brought suit against the West-morland Electric Company of Greensburg, which was recently merged with the West Penn Heat, Light & Power Company, for \$20,000 for the death of her son, William G. Morgan, who was electrocuted.

TRAIN WRECKS CAUSE FOUR DEATHS

RAN INTO OPEN SWITCH.

Passengers Aroused from Sleep by the Crash—Suffer in Cold—Both Engines Wrecked.

In a wreck of fast passenger train No. 22 on the Lake Shore Railroad near Ashabula, O., three men were killed and six injured.

The dead: George McIntosh, of Buffalo, N. Y., an engineer. Deville Epping, of Collinwood, O., an engineer. G. W. Kelpin, of Buffalo, a fireman. The injured: G. H. Wood, porter, of Boston, Mass. F. J. Moore, porter, of New York city. E. L. Gage, baggage man, of Ashabula, O. A. G. Higgley, fireman, of Collinwood. G. W. Fowler, of Chicago. H. Freytag, of Chicago.

None of the injured are believed to be seriously hurt. Train No. 22 was thrown from the rails by striking an open switch in Saybrook, not far from the Ashabula boundary line. It was running at about 60 miles an hour. There were seven coaches in the train and these were drawn by two large Lake Shore engines. The locomotives were both thrown crosswise of the track and are a total wreck. Some of the cars were thrown upon their sides, others plowed deep into the roadbed.

The passengers were asleep when the crash came. Many of them crawled through the broken windows. Being attired in their night clothes some of them suffered from the cold until help arrived. Physicians and ambulances from Ashabula rendered prompt assistance.

The Bowtell accommodation on the Somerset & Cambria branch was wrecked near Somerset, Pa. The dead: Engineer T. R. Carrigan, of Rockwood; thrown under his engine and crushed to death.

Fireman Charles Thomas and brakeman H. S. Hostolter were injured.

ARMED MEN RAID TOWNS.

Blindfold Watchman, Blow Open Safe and Secure \$1,000.

Two white men, with revolvers, blew open a safe, held up several persons and otherwise caused considerable excitement in the suburban town along the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad.

Two men were held up at Haverford and later a man escorting several women was stopped by the same men but the screams of his companions scared the footpads off. Several hours later they appeared at Stratford, covered an aged watchman with revolvers and blindfolded him. The men then blew open the safe in the railroad station, which is also used as a postoffice, and took about \$1,000 in money and stamps.

AIR LINE CHARTERED.
Railway Projected from Hudson Bay to Argentina.

The Pan-American Railway Company, with headquarters at Guthrie, Okla., is building a line from Port Nelson, on Hudson bay, to the Argentine Republic, has been chartered.

From Port Nelson the road is to run via Winnipeg through North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas, thence through Mexico, Central America, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, into the Argentine Republic. A branch line is provided running from Peru through Chile to Valparaiso. The total length is 10,000 miles. The incorporators, as named by the charter, are W. B. and G. R. Davis, C. D. Farmer, H. C. Hess and Edward Hillman, of Arlington, Okla.

CARGO EXPLODED AT SEA.

Crew and Passenger Rescued in Small Boats.

The British steamer Lady Jolley, Capt. Smith, bound from Chilean ports to Savannah, Ga., Wilmington, N. C., and New York, with a cargo of nitrate of soda, took fire and sunk 75 miles south of Porto Rico last Wednesday. The cargo exploded and the vessel went down within two and a half hours. Capt. Smith, with his crew and one passenger, arrived at Ponce in two small boats, completely exhausted and almost naked, having made their way through terrible seas. There were no fatalities, and the only serious injury was suffered by one sailor, who had his leg broken and who is now in the hospital.

COLOMBIA'S GRIEVANCES.

General Reyes Makes Three Propositions to Secretary Hay.

The statement of Colombia's grievances, presented to Secretary Hay by General Reyes, contains these three distinct propositions concerning the canal:

First—That the status on the isthmus prior to the revolution be restored.

Second—That the United States content itself with keeping the railway open and allow Colombia to try to put down the revolution.

Third—That if these proposals are accepted, the United States agrees to pay Colombia for the loss of territory resulting from the attitude of the country, the amount of damages to be fixed by The Hague tribunal.

WRECKING TRAIN MEETS DISASTER.

Two were killed and six injured in a rear-end collision at Williamstown, Ky., on the Cincinnati Southern Railway. A wrecking train that was backing up from Mason, Ky., was met by a freight train. The relief car and two cabooses on the wrecking train were wrecked and afterward took fire.

Two Men Perished in a Burning Club.

Moses T. Clough, one of Troy's oldest lawyers and William Shaw, also one of Troy's best known lawyers lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the Troy (N. Y.) club, Wednesday morning. Mr. Clough was president of the club which included among its members the wealthiest men of the city.

Seven thousand sheep were burned to death at the East Buffalo stock yards. The loss is estimated at \$75,000.

REYES AWAITS A REPLY.

Officials Considering How Colombia Should Be Answered.

State department officials have under consideration the nature of the reply which is to be made to the note of General Reyes, the Colombian minister, regarding the action of the United States in connection with affairs growing out of the secession of the department of Panama. Just when the answer is to be ready is not definitely known.

General Reyes is anxious for an early reply, and the state department officials are equally as anxious that the matter shall be disposed of as quickly as is consistent with a careful preparation of the administration's answer.

The Colombian note contains a statement of the grievances which that country claims to have suffered under the interpretations put on the treaty of 1846. It discusses these grievances in a calm and dignified tone, and sets out reasons which General Reyes claims supports the contention he has made. The probability is there will be several diplomatic exchanges between Colombia and the United States before anything like a conclusion of the discussion of the matters at issue is reached.

JAIL DOORS BROKEN IN.

Congressman Succeeds in Dispensing Angry Men Bent on Lynching.

A mob of 1,000 men and boys surrounded the county jail at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and battered in the doors in an attempt to lynch two negroes, George Williams and Neely Zimmerman, charged with assaulting two white women Friday night, and were dispersed only when Congressman Smith appealed to the mob through George Sanders, husband of one of the assaulted women.

The Mayor and all the policemen of Council Bluffs were unable to disperse the rioters from their attack on the jail, although the policemen repeatedly charged the mob.

Congressman Smith arrived just as the mob crushed in the front doors of the jail with railroad iron. He rushed through the crowd and secured the attention of Sanders, urging him to go home and let the law take its course.

Sanders listened and then started for home. Congressman Smith mounted the jail steps and urged the members of the mob to disperse, telling them that Sanders had already gone. This had the desired effect and inside of half an hour the jail grounds were deserted.

MOVING ICE CAUSES BIG LOSS.

Damage at Cincinnati Amounts to \$200,000 and Pittsburg Losses \$25,000.

The ice which has been forming in the Ohio river for several weeks and had accumulated in several big gorges near Cincinnati broke loose and moved down stream under the influence of the milder weather and the rising river doing a great deal of damage.

Twenty-five barges loaded with 20,000 bushels of coal were swept down stream and against the Southern railroad bridge and other obstructions and nearly all sank. The barges, worth \$25,000, belonged to the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke Company of Pittsburg, and the coal, valued at several thousand dollars, belonged to the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Light Company.

Two big timber rafts, valued at \$70,000, were swept away. Other barges lost will run the total loss up to \$200,000.

The packet steamboat Grapevine was sunk at the landing by an ice gorge, being the second boat sunk here by ice within a week. The loss of the Grapevine, including cargo, is over \$10,000.

ASK FOR ARBITRATION.

Police Accompany Funerals to Prevent Strikers From Interfering.

More hearsees, driven by non-union men, were used by the Chicago undertakers Sunday in conducting funerals than at any time since the livery drivers went on strike, but in every case police went on the box with the driver. In one or two instances regular funeral processions of hearsees and carriages drove to the cemeteries.

In answer to the notification sent out by the Liverymen's Association yesterday, that the places of all the strikers would be filled at once unless the strikers applied for their old jobs, more than 100 men are said to have returned to work.

Norman Larson, said to be a union teamster, was arrested for interfering with a hearse which was returning from Rose Hill cemetery. Larson, with two companions, stopped the hearse and tried to unhitch the horses, but seeing two policemen approaching the three men ran away. The police gave chase and caught Larson. The other two escaped.

At a meeting of the Livery Drivers' Union it was decided to ask the Chicago board of arbitration to intercede in behalf of the union and endeavor to settle the trouble by arbitration.

SHOT HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW.

At Bridgeport, Conn., Joseph Eardley shot and killed his mother-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence, because he believed she had induced his wife to separate from him. Mrs. Lawrence, when Eardley entered her home, called to her son, Norman, aged 25, who was in bed dying from consumption. The young man attempted to come to the assistance of his mother, but his strength failed and Eardley, forcing the door, threw him on the floor. He then fired a bullet into the woman's temple.

TAMPED WITH SWITCH.

A deliberate attempt to wreck a train was made about midnight at a point two miles south of New Castle Junction, on the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad, where train No. 21 plunged from the rails and eight of the cars composing the train were hurled in every direction. Positive information was received at the offices of the railroad that the wreck was the result of malicious mischief. A broken switch lock or knuckle was found lying near the switch.

DOUBTS FOR COMING YEAR.

Bradstreet's Review of Trade Not Optimistic for 1904—Lessons From Closing Months.

In its annual review of the business year of 1903, Bradstreet, says: "Nineteen hundred and three was a year of irregularity in speculation, distributive trade and industry—in some cases of severe strains variously applied and as differently withstood. As the residuary legatee of at least five years of great prosperity, it had to bear cumulative effects of previous years' mistakes, and at the same time to carry burdens having their inception in the year itself. Yet the tests were well withstood, and, while by no means occurred, the course of events so far has proved that the general trade foundation was essentially sound, and that the structure reared upon it was in the main, well built."

Among the causes leading to unsettlement in stock speculation and later in important industries the report gives: "The injury to sentiment growing out of disclosures of overdoing to put it mildly, in industrial stock fluctuations, scarcity in money supplies, due to absorption by these flotations and to heavy borrowings by railroads; the feeling that a subsidence of the rampant activity of preceding years was inevitable; but chiefly the effects of enhanced cost at which business was done. High priced raw materials, and last, but not least, the manifest determination of labor to get all that the traffic would bear." The review states, were all elements tending to check consumption.

The crop situation was less favorable than earlier anticipated, but better prospects later helped out fall trade. Clearings reflected dullness in stock speculation, but November and December showed a more optimistic tone in general business, though trade in dry goods was unsettled by the enormous advance in cotton. Trade as a whole was probably in excess of 1902.

Manufacturing industry was feverishly active early in the year, iron and steel leading. Curtailment, following a 40 per cent reduction in prices, cut down the output, and a liberal export movement started. Lumber and building material felt the decline in activity. The cut will probably run 19 per cent below 1902.

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SH-H-H!

My maw, she's upstairs in bed,
An' it's there wil her.
It's all bundled up an' red—
Can't nobody stir;
Can't nobody say a word
Since it come to us.
Only thing 'at I has heard,
'Cepting all its fuss,
Is "Sh-h-h!"

That the nurse, she shakes her head
When I come upstairs,
'Sh-h-h!' she say—'it's all she's said
To me, anywhere—
Doctor—he's 'th' man 'at bring
It to us to stay—
He makes me put out my tongue,
'Nen says, "Sh-h-h!"—'at way!
Just "Sh-h-h!"

I goed in to see my maw,
An' she says "Sh-h-h!"
Was she glad to see me? Pahay!
'Sh-h-h!'—'at a what she said!
'Nen I blinked and tried to see—
'Nen I runned away
Out to my old apple tree
Where no one could say
'Sh-h-h!"

'Nen I lay down on 'th' ground
An' say 'at I jest wuz
I was los'! An' there's a sound—
'At old tree say "Sh-h-h!"
'Nen I cry an' cry an' cry
'Till my maw, he hears.
An' come there an' wiped my eye
An' mop up 'th' tears—
'Nen says "Sh-h-h!"

I'm go' tell my maw 'at she
Don't sut me one bit—
Why d' all say "Sh-h-h!" to me
An' not say "Sh-h-h!" it
—Chicago Tribune.



Inquisitive Person—"What are those peculiar looking things?" Dealer—"Pressed family skeletons for the closets of flat dwellers."—Judge.

The poets burn the midnight oil
And lonely vigils keep,
And prodigal of their ink and oil
Put other folks to sleep.
—Spare Moments.

Nell—"That Western hearse married a penniless Duke who weighs over 300 pounds." Belle—"Well, you can't blame her for wanting the most for her money."

"I Cannot Sing the Old Songs," warbled the young woman at the piano. But this was small relief, for the new ones she sang were even worse.—Chicago Tribune.

"It's the finest play of the realistic school I've seen yet." "A real flying machine on the stage, I suppose?" "No, but it has a real plot and a few real actors."—Philadelphia Press.

Ella—"Fred shook terribly when he proposed to me." Stella—"I didn't know that he was diffident." Ella—"I don't think he is; we were in an automobile when he proposed."—Smart Set.

There was once a foppish old beau
Who would find walking too sleek,
So I prance down the street,
And throw out my feet,
And trip my fantastical train.
—Lovers Monthly.

"He said he could not live without me." "Then you will marry him, dear?" "No. I am going to give paw a chance to make some money." "How?" "Why, paw's an undertaker."—Philadelphia Record.

"Smithers, that West Baltimore druggist, tells me that he always wears \$10 shoes." "H'm, that's strange. I can readily understand that he wears dollar shoes, but I can't see how he wears ten of 'em."—Baltimore News.

"In Hawaii," volunteered the Wise Guy, "many people live in houses made of grass." "How convenient." "When they want fresh breakfast food all they have to do is to take a bite out of the wall."—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.