

HISTORIC HOME OF EQUITABLE BURNS

6 Dead, 12 Hurt; Money Loss \$6,000,000.

HARRIMAN BIOGRAPHY IS LOST

Records of Railway System May Be Saved.

VAULTS HOLD MILLIONS

Priceless Libraries Destroyed In Fire Replete With Sensational Incidents—Battalion Chief Is Among Dead.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The immense marble and granite home of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, covering a block in lower Broadway, an historic landmark of New York's early period of skyscraper buildings and one of the city's important financial centers, was destroyed by fire today with a loss of six lives and probably \$6,000,000 in property. Twelve persons were injured.

The fire started in the kitchen of a restaurant in the basement of the building.

Valuable records, including the biography of E. H. Harriman, and two priceless libraries which cannot be replaced, went up in flames, and the fate of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of securities, stored in safe deposit vaults, was in question tonight, although it was believed that fireproof construction would save them from damage.

Many Corporations in Building.

The great structure, which besides containing the main offices of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was the home of the Mercantile Trust Company, the Equitable Trust Company, the banking house of Knutson Brothers, August Belmont & Company, the Harriman Railroad lines, the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company, the Lawyers' Club and many of the city's most prominent law firms, stands tonight a shell of ice-coated stone.

The intense cold caused a thick coating to form on the facades of skyscrapers adjacent and on the pavements for blocks around. The bulwark of modern fireproof structures nearby, according to Fire Commissioner Johnson, protected the entire financial district. The damage, except by water, was confined to the Equitable structure.

Three Jump, Three Others Burned.

Of those who lost their lives, three employees of the building were killed by jumping from the roof to which they were driven by flames.

Battalion Chief Walsh dropped in a whirl of smoke and flame when a cave-in occurred on the third floor. Two other men, William Campion, captain of the watchmen in the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company vaults, and Frank J. Kelder, a special officer, whose bodies have not been recovered, complete the list of dead, so far as known.

Several persons, watchmen and others, who were in the structure when the fire broke out have not been accounted for, but are believed to have escaped. The death total, however, may not be fixed until the fire, which was burning tonight, has been extinguished and the ruins cool.

One Rescued From Vault.

Among the injured is W. J. Giblin, president of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company, whose rescue from the basement vaults, where he was imprisoned, after two hours' work by firemen, was one of the most sensational episodes of the fire. He had gone into a vault to save securities and accidentally locked himself in with an employee who had accompanied him. Their cries were heard by the firemen, who had to saw through the steel bars of a door leading to the street before they could rescue the imprisoned men. Mr. Giblin was taken to a hospital, suffering from the effects of smoke.

Others Reported Missing.

Spectators at the windows of nearby skyscrapers told of seeing others disappear in the flames when the roof caved in, but the authorities believe the casualty list is not likely to be increased.

Some estimates of the loss run as high as \$15,000,000, but more conservative authorities tonight thought the damage would not run over \$6,000,000. The property was assessed by the city at \$12,000,000, a larger valuation, with one exception, than that on any other building in the financial district. The greater part of the valuation, however, is based on the value of the ground.

An Equitable official said the society's own loss probably would not amount to more than \$200,000, covered by its own contingent insurance fund.

WOMAN JUROR NOT GIVEN OWN ROOM

DEFENSE INSISTS THAT JURY BE NOT SEPARATED.

Seattle Judge Rules Mrs. Doddridge May Sleep Behind Screen in Apartment With Men.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 9.—(Special.)—Whether the sex of a woman juror renders her ineligible to sit in a murder case may be passed upon by the Supreme Court through Judge J. T. Ronald's ruling today in the case of the state against Detective Joseph Bianchi, charged with manslaughter.

Attorney John F. Miller, defending Bianchi, called the court's attention to the law requiring that members of juries in murder cases be not separated and insisted that the law be complied with literally. The Bianchi jury includes one woman.

"The defense insists upon this," said Mr. Miller. "We ask that this jury be held together as a body not only through the day, but through the night."

Judge Ronald ruled that the jury should be held together so far as conventionality would allow, but that the law would be tempered and interpreted to meet 20th century exigencies.

Mrs. Retta Doddridge, the woman juror, will be separated from the remainder of the jury in the sleeping quarters by a screen across the end of a large room and will have the attendance of a woman bailiff, who will occupy an adjoining couch.

HOME BECOMES FIRETRAP

Three Children Locked in House by Mother Burned to Death.

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 9.—(Special.)—Locked in their little home at Buhl, Idaho, last night by their mother, who left to go down town and attend a revival meeting, three children aged 3, 5 and 6, respectively, of Mr. and Mrs. H. McGeer, were burned to death. Neighbors made frantic but unsuccessful efforts to save them.

It is thought that the children obtained matches to play with and started the fire. When neighbors arrived attracted by the house burning and the screams of the children, the scene was a pathetic one, for the children tried the windows and doors to escape.

The two older children died within the burning home. The 3-year-old child was taken from the building after a heroic effort on the part of several men, but died from its burns a short time afterwards.

DEMOCRATS ARE GRILLED

Hill Says They Fall at Constructive Legislation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—In an attack upon the Democratic party for its record in the extra session of Congress last summer, Representative Hill, of Connecticut, a Republican member of the ways and means committee, declared in the House today that the extra session had demonstrated the inability of the Democrats to do constructive legislative work.

Mr. Hill especially attacked the Democratic tariff record. He insisted that the free wool advocates, though greatly in the majority when the tariff session began, had surrendered to those who favored a duty on wool because the wool duty force was strong enough to combine with the Republicans and secure a majority of the House.

HAMILTON ASKS PAROLE

Convicted Adjutant-General of Washington Model Prisoner.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 9.—(Special.)—After serving two years in the State Penitentiary for embezzling thousands of dollars of the state's funds while Adjutant-General of the Washington National Guard, Oris Hamilton has asked the State Board of Control for a parole. Even if the Board recommends a parole, it must also receive the official sanction of Governor Hay.

Hamilton is at present in the steward's department at the prison and the officials of that institution say he is a model prisoner. He is serving an indeterminate sentence of from one to 14 years and is now eligible to parole.

WOMAN LEAPS FOR LIFE

Matron Jumps From Second-Story Window to Escape Man She Helped.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 8.—Mrs. Breaux, aged 35, was attacked at her home in Wauwatosa, a suburb today, by a man who asked admittance, saying he was freezing.

He dragged her by the hair, but she leaped through a second-story window and evaded him, falling unconscious outside her house, while the man fled. A posse is in pursuit.

TAFT NAMES CRONMILLER

Appointment of Receiver of Lakeview Land Office Is Made.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 9.—The President today, on the recommendation of Representative Hawley and National Committeeman Williams, sent to the Senate the nomination of Fred P. Cronmiller as receiver of the Lakeview Land Office. He also renominated William Balderston as register of the Boise Land Office.

HOLD OF FEDERAL LAW IS TIGHTENED

States Must Retire if Conflict Arises.

DUTY OF CARRIERS DEFINED

Commerce Commission Paramount, Says High Court.

LUMBER CASE IS DECIDED

In Minnesota and North Carolina Litigation, Ruling Is That When Nation Speaks, Then State Must Be Silent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The grip of the Interstate Commerce Commission over the commerce of the country was tightened today in decisions of the Supreme Court.

The principle was laid down that shippers suffering from civil injuries from railroads must go to the Commission before rushing to the courts for relief.

The paramount authority of the Commission in reasonable rate making was upheld by the court's decision that the Federal District Court of Minnesota was wrong in preventing the enforcement of the Commission's reduced rates on lumber from the Pacific Coast, Oregon and Montana points to St. Paul, Omaha and Chicago.

Federal Authority Asserted. The legislative field touching the acceptance of goods by railroads for interstate shipment was marked forever as Federal territory and states were warned to keep off.

The supremacy over state laws of similar import of the Federal "hours of service law," the enforcement of which is conceded to the Commission, was upheld.

The fight over the lumber rates had been the most exhaustive. The Commission's rates eradicated substantially all the increase in rates from the Northwest proposed by the railroads in 1908. After a long consideration of the attack upon the Commission's order, Justice Lamar concluded that the court could not say that the order was made because of the effect of the advance on the lumber industry, as suggested by the railroads, or that there was no evidence to support the Commission's rates.

Dividends Not Safe Basis. The court laid down the principle that railroad dividends were not to be a sole basis for judging the reasonableness of rates.

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JONES DECLINES TO BECOME JUDGE

SENATOR UNWILLING TO SUCCEED DONWORTH.

Wishes Made Known to Taft in Conference—Boyd J. Tallman Applies to Poindexter.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 9.—Senator Jones, of Washington, declared today that he is not a candidate to succeed Federal Judge Donworth, of Western Washington, and further said that he would not be appointed to this office.

As Senator Jones conferred with the President today, it is presumed that he explained to the President his preference for the Senatorship, and this will take his name out of the list of eligibles. He could have had the appointment, however, had he desired it, for the President would willingly have named him. There are several applicants in the field, but no indications as yet as to who will be appointed.

Senator Jones would not discuss candidates or say what transpired at his White House conference.

Senator Poindexter today received an application from Boyd J. Tallman, of Seattle, for the appointment to succeed Judge Donworth. Poindexter has made no recommendation.

DUNCANS SHOCK PARIS

"Reign of Prudery" Wages War on Scant Draperies in France.

PARIS, Jan. 9.—(Special.)—The anti-scant-drapery movement now sweeping over France has struck Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Duncan, who are being prosecuted and will be evicted from their apartments. The "reign of prudery" began at Nice, where Regina Asadu, the beautiful Paris danseuse, appearing in a production by Pierre Louys, is being prosecuted for "excessive nudity."

After this, detectives were put to watch Isadore Duncan, and last night her brother, Raymond, and his companions were warned of the same fate. Duncan and his guests are living in apartments in the Avenue Charles Flouquet, lent him by Madame Sturges. Notwithstanding the bad weather, and with the cold so intense that a man died from it today on the Rue de Rivoli, Duncan and his companions continued to wear attire that would be considered highly appropriate for a seashore bathing resort in July.

PEOPLE ACCLAIM REBELS

Ecuadorian Province of Canar Won by Revolutionists' Victory.

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Jan. 9.—After a battle which ended in favor of the troops from this city who are supporting the provisional government proclaimed at Guayaquil, December 23, by General Pedro Montero, the inhabitants of the Province of Canar announced their adherence to General Montero's cause.

The troops from Quito under General Plaza continue to occupy the heights near Alausi and Garanda.

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LORIMER DENIES HE PAID FOR HIS SEAT

Senator Is on Witness Stand First Time.

AID IN CAMPAIGN IS REFUSED

Story of Breach Between Hopkins and Deneen Told.

DEADLOCK WAS PLANNED

Illinois Governor Said to Have Feared People of State Would Misunderstand if He Himself Were to Run.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—United States Senator Lorimer today began testifying in his own defense. It was the Illinois Senator's first appearance in the witness chair since the Senate ordered an investigation of his election.

The first question put to Senator Lorimer by Judge Heneacy, his counsel, was blunt and leading.

"Did you ever pay anything of value to anybody for your election?" he demanded.

"I never did," Senator Lorimer replied.

Then Judge Heneacy repeated the question in different forms, and each time Senator Lorimer replied: "I never did."

Contribution of \$500 Returned. Lorimer told how when he was running for Congress in 1908, F. M. Blount, campaign manager for Senator Hopkins, had sent him a campaign contribution of \$500, which he returned, saying:

"I have paid all my election expenses myself, at both the primary and the polls, without accepting a cent from anybody and therefore I cannot accept yours."

Most of Senator Lorimer's testimony was of conversations with Governor Deneen about the Senatorial election in the Illinois Legislature, and he brought out the breach between Deneen and Hopkins.

Deneen Against Hopkins. "When I met Deneen by appointment in January, 1909," he said, "he felt that he had been treated harshly in the state committee meeting by Senator Hopkins, Mayor Buse and Postmaster Campbell, of Chicago. He felt the primary had originated with them, and he did not want to return to the 'soap box' system. He was afraid Buse

GIRL SUES SKIPPER, ALAS, FOR \$51,000

GERTRUDE MACFARLANE ASKS DAMAGES FOR ALLEGED JILT.

San Francisco Woman Says Captain Greene, of Oriental Liner, Promised to Marry Her.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 9.—(Special.)—Miss Gertrude MacFarlane filed suit in the Superior Court today against Captain William W. Greene for \$51,000 heart balm, for failure to marry her October 14 last, after their engagement had been announced and the marriage license had been procured.

Miss MacFarlane says in her complaint that she became engaged to Captain Greene, commander of the Chi Yo Maru, August 12, 1911, and the wedding date was set for October 14. All of this was duly announced in the newspapers. The marriage license was procured October 12.

She avers that she had prepared an elaborate trousseau at an expenditure of \$1000. She says that she has suffered \$50,000 worth of distress and humiliation.

Captain Greene's vessel is now in this port, due to sail for the Orient tomorrow.

Miss MacFarlane is a member of a prominent Sausalito family, but has lived in San Francisco for the past 20 years.

When the Chi Yo Maru docked she was on the dock to greet him and, as he walked down the gangplank, she ran forward and threw her arms about him, regardless of the merriment of the bystanders, and the evident embarrassment of the captain.

Then came rumors of a rift in the love. Friends of the plaintiff say the captain thought Miss MacFarlane had money, and friends of the captain ascribe the same mercenary motives to Miss MacFarlane.

BOON SOUGHT FOR COAST

Humphrey Would Make Chinese Come in at Pacific Ports Only.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Representative Humphrey, of Washington, introduced a bill today asking that Chinese shall enter the United States only through a Pacific Coast port. He said the Government discriminated against American railroads in favor of the Canadian Pacific Railroad by maintaining an immigration station at Vancouver, B. C.

Mr. Humphrey said, would abolish immigrant stations on the Canadian and Mexican borders, maintained almost exclusively for the examination of Chinese.

LIVE WIRE KILLS YOUTH

Storm Contributes to Death of Gene Graham at Pendleton.

PENDLETON, Or., Jan. 8.—(Special.)—Gene Graham, aged 22 years, a native of Weston, was instantly electrocuted in the basement of the Jarman store in that town about 2:30 this afternoon, by coming in contact with a live wire.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

Table listing news items and page numbers: The Weather, National, Politics, Domestic, Pacific Northwest, Sport, Commercial and Marine.

MAN ASSERTS BANK ROBBERIES ARE HIS

Suspect Says He Stole, Fought and Killed.

CANADA TO BOGOTA IS TRAIL

Prisoner Declares He Was in New Westminster Job.

LIST HAS FOUR MURDERS

Chicago Police Doubt Story of Pickpocket Who Boasts of Crimes. Panama Case Is Cited—His Accomplices Not Named.

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Bank robberies in Canada and Panama, murders in Colombia, South America, in Panama, Tulsa, Okla., and St. Louis, Mo., and other crimes were "confessed to" and admissions of a further crime record were promised here today by Frank Holloway, 32 years old, who has been arrested as a pickpocket. He has many aliases.

His story is doubted by the police, who are investigating. Nearly \$500,000 is involved in the thefts he told the police he had taken part in, and he said if he "felt like it" he would give details of still other robberies later.

Many Crimes Claimed. Following is the crime record which he claims:

Aided "many other persons" in robbing the branch of the Bank of Montreal at New Westminster, B. C. last September, getting \$375,000 in gold and paper money. His share was nearly \$55,000.

Was one of a gang of six who "busted" the safe of the Panama City Banking Company at Panama in February in 1910; got \$44,000 all told.

Killings Confessed To. In a gun fight with fellow robbers near Panama, shot and killed one Schaefer in a quarrel over the division of the spoils of the bank.

Shot and killed Edward G. West when the latter "double-crossed" him in a later division of the proceeds of the same robbery. This was in Bogota, Colombia.

Killed a "notorious bank robber," Frank Starr, in Tulsa, Okla., five years ago when the branch of the "crowded him" for a "split" of the proceeds of a small robbery.

St. Louis Shooting Mentioned. Shot "Bob" Reynolds and two men named McGivney and Smith, who were working for him in St. Louis during the World's Fair, when he kept a saloon there. Of this he said: "The three men were trying to put me 'out in the cold' and we had a row. I shot all three of them and later Reynolds died. I was 'pinched' but worked out of the case."

Forfeited a bond at Fort Worth, Tex., where he had been arrested, charged with a bank robbery at Harold, Tex.

Was questioned by Burn's detectives in Portland, in connection with another matter but eluded them.

He said he had \$54,000 in Canadian money in a Chicago hotel "and lots more hidden elsewhere," he said he would not disclose where it was. He refused to name others implicated in the crimes he enumerated.

Family Prominent in Texas. Holloway, after adding many details to the description of crimes he was relating, including a tale of how a burrow under the Panama Bank took two months to dig and how, of the \$210,000 in gold they found, only \$54,000 of it could be carried by them because of its weight, told the police of his family. He said his home was in Vernon, Tex., where his mother, brother and sisters still lived. His father, he said, was the late Captain Frank Holloway, well-known Texas criminal lawyer. He called himself the black sheep of the family. He said he served in the Spanish-American War in the Second Mississippi Infantry and formerly had a hotel in Memphis.

Telegrams confirming the story of the Harold Bank robbery were received today from a Texas Sheriff.

HOLLOWAY'S STORY DOUBTED

Detectives Are Looking for Albert Anderson as Member of Gang.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 9.—With John McNamara under arrest in New York and Charles Dean held at Los Angeles, charged with the robbery of the New Westminster, B. C. branch of the Bank of Montreal, last September, the detectives are directing their efforts to the capture of Albert Anderson, alleged to be the third member of the gang and to the recovery of the \$200,000 of the loot unaccounted for. The fact that the robbers did \$25,000 of the stolen notes under a sidewalk near the bank leads the detectives to believe that more of the money may have been cached in New Westminster.

Seattle detectives who have done most of the work of trailing the bank robbers place no credence in the statements attributed to Frank Holloway, under arrest in Chicago, that he participated in the New Westminster robbery. They investigated Holloway's

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