

EQUITABLE BUILDING IS DESTROYED BY HOLOCAUST

TEN KNOWN TO BE DEAD AND OTHERS DYING

TEN KNOWN TO BE DEAD AND OTHERS MISSING

LOSS OF ABOUT TWENTY MILLION RESULT OF FIRE

Situation Cannot Be Definitely Learned for Hours—Fire Chief Among the Dead—Supposedly Fire Proof Building in Ruins—Other Structures Gutted by Holocaust.

New York, Jan. 9.—Ten are known to be dead, and a loss possibly of \$20,000,000 is the result of the destruction of the Equitable 14 story building and other structures in the same block bounded by Cedar, Nassau, Pine and Broadway today. The building was supposedly fire proof. A high wind spread the fire, notwithstanding that more than 3,000 firemen with it. The fire was controlled at noon. Fire Chief Walsh fell through three stories into a vault.

The fire started at 5:30 this morning. The entire fire department of the city was out, but the precise number of dead, probably 20, cannot be estimated for hours. The loss ranges from \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000 according to the securities in the vault.

During the fiercest part of the fire President William Biblin of the Mercantile Safe Deposit company, and two companies entered to rescue valuable securities. They were hemmed in by flames in the empty safe deposit vault. Firemen worked several hours to rescue them and later succeeded in dragging Giblin to the street in a dying condition. His two companions were lost.

Division Fire Chief Walsh is believed to be among those dead. When last seen he was on the third floor which crashed. Shortly after the fire started a number of porters leaped from the fifth story and were covered with debris. The building was located at Broadway and Nassau streets. More than a million people watched the conflagration.

At 8:30 the fire gained such headway that firemen working on the side of the building were called away and within a few minutes the walls on that side crashed. The flames at that hour were sweeping the entire block, bounded by Cedar, Pine, Nassau and Broadway. Just how many lives were lost is in doubt and will be for hours.

Among the offices in the ruined building were those of August Belmont, Koutz Brothers, the Western Maryland Railway company, the Equitable, the Mercantile Trust company, the Mercantile Safe Deposit company, and the general offices of the Equitable Life Assurance society.

Timothy Manning, one of the firemen who participated in the rescue of Giblin, was made temporarily insane by his experience.

The body of Conrad Selbert, a special officer of the Equitable building, has been recovered.

The Mercantile Safe Deposit company later announced their vaults were intact and that no losses would result to the company as a result of the fire.

Johnson Answers Corbett.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—In a sworn statement Champion Johnson today answered James Corbett who gave an interview to the effect "that Johnson is the greatest 'staller' the fight game ever knew. He declared Corbett and H. H. Frazee offered him a substantial sum if he would allow Corbett to stay ten rounds with him. Later, he said, he was offered \$100,000 to lay down to Al Kaufman after the Jeffries scrap. He declined.

ELECTRIC CHAIR AWAITS PASTOR

RICHESON WILL DIE EARLY IN MAY SAYS THE JUDGE

ALMOST COLLAPSES WHEN HE IS LED TO HIS FATE

Postponement Yesterday Overruled and Confessed Murderer Is Given Death Sentence—Will Die in Week or May 19 in Electric Chair—Richeson Is Abject Coward.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 9.—Pleading guilty this afternoon to the murder of Miss Avis Linnell, Reverend Clarence Richeson was sentenced to electrocution in the week of May 19th.

The sentence day came unexpectedly. Yesterday morning the time was set for Tuesday but during the afternoon it was postponed indefinitely. Richeson who had nerved himself for the ordeal, almost collapsed when told of the postponement. Guards claim he is an abject coward and fears the chair with a harrowing fear.

Richeson was sentenced by Judge Sanderson and was on the verge of collapse when he stood up for the penalty. He confidently expected a life sentence, and his only hope now is that his sentence may be commuted for the governor is opposed to capital punishment, though not so decidedly that he would necessarily commute.

Meet to Discuss Taxation.

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 9.—The state conference on taxation, which was organized in Utica last year, began its second annual meeting in this city today. The session, which will last several days, is attended by numerous representatives of public organizations interested in taxation and officials of municipalities throughout the state. The conference will give its attention to the existing methods of assessment and taxation in the state of New York, the details of the tax laws and suggestions for improvements. It will not, however, concern itself with the details of local or state expenditure or any theoretical matters.

CONSTITUTION MAKERS MEET

OHIO DELEGATES HAVE STRENUOUS TASK BEFORE THEM

THREE VITAL ISSUES FORM NUCLEUS OF STUDY

Temperance, Initiative and Referendum and the Tax Laws Make Three Huge and Difficult Problems to Be Solved by Framers of New Constitution for State of Ohio.

Columbus, O., Jan. 9.—The one hundred and nineteen delegates selected at the November election to frame a new constitution for the state of Ohio assembled today to organize in preparation for the important task before them. The preliminary work of the clerks and committees will occupy considerable time and it will probably be the end of this month before the real business of the convention is taken up. It is expected that four or five months perhaps more, will be required to complete the constitution.

Three Vital Issues.

Three big issues will occupy much of the attention of the convention. These are liquor legislation, taxation and the initiative and referendum. The last mentioned probably will be subjected to an even more severe fire than either of the other two owing to the feeling that has already been manifested by both sides.

A determined effort will be made to get the liquor question out of the way in advance of the other important matters that will come before the convention. The course that will be pursued in regard to the liquor question cannot be forecasted accurately. When the constitutional delegates were elected in November there were few candidates who pledged themselves on either side, and in some counties the voters found it difficult to indicate their choice of delegates with the liquor issue in mind.

Wayne B. Wheeler, superintendent of the State Anti-Saloon league, asserts that the majority of the delegates favors the temperance cause. The majority, he asserts, will oppose any submission of the liquor question which will destroy existing temperance laws or take away from the general assembly its present power to prohibit the liquor traffic.

61 Pledged for Initiative.

Sixty-one of the 119 delegates are pledged in writing for the initiative and referendum with the following percentages: Not more than 12 per cent of the electors for the submission of constitutional amendments; not more than 10 per cent for the submission of other initiative measures, and not more than 8 per cent for referendum petitions. Several of the delegates are pledged to the principles of the initiative and referendum without specific percentages.

The taxation problem promises to be a bothersome one for the convention to solve. Many students of the subject of taxation have been trying for years to provide for the classification of property for purposes of taxation. The matter came up during the last constitutional convention, and after extended discussion and many compromises it was left in substantially its old form. The business interests are in favor of classification, in fact, the prime movers of the convention are the men interested in the tax amendment which was submitted to the last constitutional convention and was defeated.

New Jersey Lawmakers Meet.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 9.—The New Jersey legislature met today and organized for its regular annual session. The session promises to be of more than ordinary importance. The republican majority was elected on a platform pledging a number of important reforms. The party leaders are determined that the reform measures demanded by the people shall go through and that the legislation shall be of such a character that Governor Wilson will not dare to exercise his right of veto without endangering his chances to secure the democratic presidential nomination.

TEAMS AND SLEDS USED TO TRANSFER PASSENGERS

SNOW BOUND TRAIN QUIT BY PASSENGERS

STUB TRAINS LEAVE FOR PORTLAND DURING DAY

FIVE TRAINS ARE HELD HERE PENDING OPEN TRACKS AGAIN

Coaches Freeze up During Shortage of Water—Company Ready to Rush Food to Imprisoned Trains if Necessary—Assistant General Manager at the Front With Crews.

- TRAFFIC INTELLIGENCE LOCALLY.
- Transferred passengers leave
- Bacon siding and train heads for
- Portland this afternoon.
- Stub No. 17 sent out to Portland
- this morning.
- Rotary plow broken down this
- morning and no definite information available as to when trains
- will get through from the east.
- Five passenger trains held at
- La Grande pending clear tracks
- which may be tonight and possibly not until tomorrow.
- Train service from the west is
- fairly good.

Human ingenuity cheated storm gods and fortune this afternoon when teams and sleds were drafted into service to make a connecting link between storm-bound passengers imprisoned at Bacon siding since yesterday noon, and the bi-steele route westward. A train bearing the imprisoned folks was scheduled to leave La Grande for Portland at 4 o'clock this afternoon. The transfer of passengers and mail was made by teams from Bacon siding to Union station, a distance of about three miles or a little less, and glad to be free again, the thankful passengers reached La Grande late this afternoon in high spirits after their long confinement. The train itself is still buried in the snow as are two other passenger trains farther west. The transfer plan was worked out during the day.

Stub No. 17 Out.

For the dual purpose of getting the equipment back to Portland and to accommodate stranded westbound passengers, a stub No. 17 was made up and sent out of her on time this morning and the dispatcher's office now contemplates sending another stub later in the day. Portland is hard pressed for passenger train equipment. Many took advantage of the opportunity to get out west.

Snow Plow Broken.

Last evening the rotary under Assistant Superintendent Schilke ceased its labors at the Bacon siding where a passenger train has been stalled since yesterday forenoon. The rotary was able to reach the train yesterday evening but in trying to pull the train out, broke the drawbar on the engine and the rotary came to division headquarters for rest and repairs. The coming of Assistant General Manager Stack about midnight lent interest to the struggle and at 3 o'clock this morning Mr. Schilke had the rotary headed for the Bacon siding again. On reaching a point one mile east of Union the rotary struck a snowdrift and in attempting to extricate itself broke a portion of the wings that drive the snow and had to come back for repairs. About noon again she was ready for business and took the field.

Hand Shovelers at Work.

Assistant General Manager Stack of the O.W. took the field shortly after midnight. A crew of laborers was

(Continued on Page Eight.)

District Attorney Pelletier, Prosecutor In Richeson Case



Photo by American Press Association.

The man who wove so perfect a mesh of evidence about Rev. Clarence Richeson that the accused divine deemed it best to plead guilty of killing Miss Avis Linnell and is the man who hurried the sentence of Mr. Richeson, bringing that climax about this afternoon when Richeson was doomed to the electric chair.

BERT H. FRANKLIN.
Charged With Attempting to Bribe a McNamara Juror.

