



VOL. XLIII.

PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1904.

NO. 13,435.

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New Year

"CLICKS" OFF THE NEW YEAR

Naval Observatory Sends Message
Two-Thirds Around the World.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Two-thirds way around the world the exact second which marked the end of the old year and the beginning of the new year was clicked off from the United States Naval Observatory over hundreds of thousands of miles of telegraph wires and cables. In far-off Alaska and in distant Guam, the birth of 1904 was recorded. The Eastern Telegraph Company, operating wires east from Great Britain to India, owing to a series of business, could not transmit the midnight message. Otherwise, it would have gone around the world. Lieutenant-Commander Hayden had charge of the work. At 11:55 o'clock the instruments of the Observatory were connected with the Western Union and other companies. Each second was clicked off to the fifth second of the last minute, when they stopped. Then came a pause of ten seconds, and then the last tiny click, exactly on the hour, announced the arrival of 1904. Simultaneously with the "click," an answering "click" was flashed out by the chronograph at the Lick Observatory in California, and the spark was heard in every telegraph office in the land. Again at 1 o'clock this morning the second was flashed for central time. At 2 o'clock, mountain time was sent out, and at 3 o'clock, Pacific time.

DIPLOMAT'S BOY IS SHOT.

Eldest Son of Minister Squiers Accidentally Killed by Chauffeur.

HAVANA, Dec. 31.—Fargo Squiers, 20 years old, eldest son of United States Minister Squiers, was accidentally shot and killed today by Gaston Mitchau, a chauffeur employed by Minister Squiers. Young Squiers and several servants were shooting at a target in the coach-house of the Minister's home in the suburb of Marianao. They were using 22-caliber rifles, and one of them apparently got out of order. Mitchau, after examining the weapon, reloaded it, when suddenly it was discharged in the direction of Squiers, who was standing between Mitchau and the target. The ball penetrated the young man's left lung, a hemorrhage ensued, and within half an hour Squiers was dead. There is no member of the Squiers family in Cuba at present.

Actor Willard Sends a Message.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 31.—From E. S. Willard, actor, London, was received the following: "Dearest, sympathy with citizens mourning. A message of condolence was also received from Mayor Collins, of Boston, and from dozens of the chief executives of cities between St. Louis and New York.

CITY IS STUNNED

Chicago Is Completely Overcome by Grief.

NO REVELRY TODAY

New Year Ushered in Amid Deep Gloom.

BUSINESS NEARLY STOPPED

Such as Is Performed Is With a View to Necessity.

NUMBER OF DEAD UNCHANGED

Some of the Persons in the Hospitals Are Almost Sure to Die, but the Grand Total Is Not Expected to Exceed 600.

OVER 500 DEAD IDENTIFIED. CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—At 2:30 A. M. 508 dead had been identified, the injuries of 171 persons had received attention and 337 were still reported missing. As only about 50 bodies are still unidentified, many of the men, women and children who were reported to the police as missing last night and this morning have doubtless recovered from their fright and returned to their homes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—For the first time since Chicago has possessed bells to peal, whistles to shriek and horns to blow, the old year was allowed silently to take its place in history, and the new year permitted to come in with no evidence of joy at its birth. All Chicago mourned for the 600 persons who died yesterday in the fire, panic and suffocation at the Iroquois Theater.

In an official proclamation issued this afternoon Mayor Carter H. Harrison suggested that the usual New Year's eve celebration be omitted. The idea found a ready response in the hearts of the people and the Mayor's words seemed only to give utterance to the universal desire.

No Revelers to Be Seen. The calamity has cast Chicago into gloom. Business today was performed with a view to necessity. Ordinarily on New Year's eve the streets are filled with merry-makers, but tonight the only throngs were those around the morgues. Usually fashionable restaurants are filled with light-hearted revelers, who toast the year that passes and hail the year that comes. Tonight these places were deserted, while in some doors were locked and curtains drawn.

Not only have many of Chicago's sons and daughters met death in a variety of horrible and torturing forms, but the blow has fallen almost as heavily on strangers within our gates. There is hardly a village or town within a radius of 100 miles of Chicago whose people are not directly or indirectly interested in the piles of dead, or in the injured which fill the hospitals, or in the fate of those who are missing—probably dead—likely burned or trampled beyond recognition. Cities far distant in America are mourning and sympathy has come from across the seas.

Number of Dead Stands at 600. The list of dead continues as it was given last night, in the neighborhood of 600. A widely-accepted estimate is that 564 is the number of the dead. This number will likely be increased, as there are persons in hospitals who will probably die. It is believed, however, that the total will not exceed 600. Including the dead, missing and injured the total number of casualties is approximately 1000. There were about 2500 spectators and actors in the theater at the time of the fire.

Offers of Aid Pour In. All during the day telegrams of sympathy to the people of Chicago and offers of aid poured in by telegraph on the Mayor. He announced tonight: "I have received many offers of aid. It may be that before we get through this trouble a few persons will be found to be in need, but Chicago will be able to give that aid herself. Most of those killed and injured, now identified, can be abundantly cared for."

seeking their children, so many of whom lost their lives, and in many instances wild-eyed children, still dazed from the horror of their experience, groped distressedly about in search of father or mother.

Cause Strikers to Declare a Truce.

Possibly nothing better could typify the depth of the sympathy which is felt for those who suffered directly by the calamity than the action of the striking livery-drivers. By a vote which was without a dissenting voice it was decided to establish a truce of 10 days. President Albert Young, of the union, following the meeting issued the following decree, which was distributed broadcast:

"Owing to the great disaster caused by the fire at the Iroquois Theater, I do hereby declare a truce in the present strike of undertakers and livery-drivers for 10 days, and do further request that every man now on strike report at once to his respective place of employment and do everything in his power to assist his employer in caring for the wants of the public. Wages are to have no consideration. ALBERT YOUNG."

In return, the employers issued a call to their striking employees to return to work, "irrespective of any previous affiliations with any and all organizations," and promising to protect them in all contingencies which may arise in the future.

THRASHES EDITOR FOR ACTRESS

Father of Miss Farrar Takes Up the Story Crown Prince Loves Her.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—The German papers have taken up the report that Crown Prince Frederick William is infatuated with Geraldine Farrar, an American actress at the Royal Opera House, and have printed the most insinuating libels of Miss Farrar's relations with the Crown Prince. The Wait Ammonag has been especially malicious, and as a result Miss Farrar's nerves have been so shattered that she is hardly able to sing at the opera. The actress' father, who is an ex-baseball player and is residing with his daughter here, forced an entrance to the house of the editor of the Wait Ammonag and dragged him out of bed. The editor was threatened until he promised that the libel would be retracted in the paper. The editor, Herr Kohn, failed to do so, and Miss Farrar has determined to appeal to Emperor William until Kohn fully and publicly apologizes.

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TO PLACE BLAME

Coroner Begins an Official Inquiry.

ACTORS ARE BLAMED

Charged With Opening the Back Doors.

CURTAIN THUS BLOWN OUT

Draft Created Carried the Flames Into the Theater.

MANAGERS' VIEW DIFFERENT

They Contend That Had the Exits Remained Closed, the Blaze Could Not Have Been Fanned—City Will Fix Responsibility.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Coroner Trager tonight concluded the informal inquiry into the cause of the fire at the Iroquois Theater. His first witness was William C. Sellers, a fireman employed at the theater. Sellers did not know just how the fire began, but said he saw it shortly after it started. He threw extinguishers on the blaze, but without effect. He tried to pull down the drop curtain, or to tear loose that portion of it which was blazing, but without success. The fire then spread with such rapidity that he was unable to do more. Other witnesses were examined, and after those had been heard, Assistant State's Attorney A. A. Hee, who was present said:

"It seems agreed that the asbestos curtain was dropped, but that it went only down to within 10 or 15 feet of the stage floor. The people on the stage opened the door leading from the stage into the street on the west side of the theater and this created a strong draft. The draft blew the curtain out toward the audience. This held the curtain so tightly that all attempts to lower it further were fruitless. Attempts were made by numerous persons to pull the curtain down by hand, but without success.

Places Blame on Actors. "From all the information we have been able to gather thus far, it seems to me as though the fault in the creating of the draft, which threw the audience into a panic by forcing the flames out over their heads, was due far more to the action of the theatrical people in opening the door at the rear

of the theater than to the audience in opening the doors in front.

"The management of the theater asserts that it was the action of the audience that made the draft which was the primary cause of the disaster. I may be wrong, but from the evidence now at hand I think it will be shown that it was the action of the stage hands or members of the company instead of anything done by the audience in its attempts to escape."

National Republican Committeeman Graeme Stewart, member of the firm of William H. Hoyt & Co., wholesale grocers, was told by the Coroner that the death of Mrs. Hoyt's daughter, Mrs. F. Morton Fox, and her three children would be taken as a basis for the investigation.

"If any persons are responsible for this fire," said Coroner Trager, "they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The investigation of the fire will be thorough. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to fix the responsibility."

The Coroner's jury is as follows: L. H. Meyer, secretary of the Kennedy Furniture Company; Dr. Peter Byrnes, salesman for Lyon & Healy; Walter Clingman, salesman for the Tobey Furniture Company; Joseph A. Cummings, manager of Browning, King & Co.; George W. Atkins, credit man for Marshall Field & Co.; John W. Fine, salesman for A. H. Revell & Co.

Messrs. Davis and Powers, managers of the Iroquois, have called a meeting at the Illinois Theater of all members of the Blue Beard Company, and a full statement will be made after a careful investigation.

Davis & Powers emphatically deny a report that there was a fire in the Iroquois three weeks ago, and that the asbestos curtain then refused to work on account of being controlled by ropes instead of wires. They also state that the curtain was controlled by the strongest wires that it was possible to use. The facts are, according to them, that the curtain swayed the moment the ten or twelve exits were thrown open, owing to the rush of air.

There have been numerous reports, unauthenticated, however, that the aisles and passageways in the rear of the theater were blocked by people who occupied standing-room.

"I do not credit the statement," said Will Davis, a proprietor of the Iroquois, "ascribed to one of the ushers, that as many as 500 persons were standing in the rear of the seats."

After the fire, however, several of the ushers declared that at least 2000 persons were in the theater, which seats only 1815.

FOUND DOOR WAS PADLOCKED

Man Who Escaped Tells of the Awful Experience.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Following are the experiences of several persons who escaped from the Iroquois Theater fire:

James H. Strong went to the theater with his wife, his mother and his niece, Miss Nina Strong. When the panic began, Mr. Strong led the two women and the girl toward an exit in the center of the balcony, toward which he saw a few people hastening. On arriving at the door he found it locked.

"I jumped up," he said, "caught the edge of the transom in my fingers, drew myself up, and smashed the window in the transom. I had found it impossible to open the door, and thought possibly I might open it from the outside. I dropped to the floor on the outside, and to my horror found that the door was locked with a padlock and hasp. Just then a carpenter with some tools in his hand came running up, and I told him to hold me open the door. We worked and pulled and tugged at the padlock like crazed men, but we could make no impression on it."

"I then told the other man to give me a boost so that I could reach the transom and pass people out to him. He helped me up and I got the upper portion of my body

(Continued on Page 51.)

OPEN RIVER IS ASSURED.

Joint action of the National and State Governments will open the way for commerce past the obstructions in the Columbia River between The Dalles and Celilo. That fact was settled at the recent extra session of the Oregon Legislature.

Congress authorized the letting of a contract for a canal, either according to the plans of Captain W. W. Harts or some modified plan which might be adopted by the Board of Engineers of the Army, provided the cost did not exceed that estimated for the Harts project, which was \$4,125,000. An initial appropriation of about \$300,000 was made, but is not to be expended except on the condition that the total of \$4,125,000 is not exceeded.

To provide relief for the people of the interior until the canal is completed, the Legislature of Oregon at the regular session appropriated \$165,000 for the construction of a portage railway eight miles long from The Dalles to Celilo. Surveys have been made, a large part of the right of way secured, and suit begun for the condemnation of the rest, which is owned by the O. R. & N. Co. and another person. At this stage in the proceedings the Board of Engineers of the Army decided that a canal could be cut for the entire distance past the obstructions, ten miles, within the limit of cost fixed by Congress, provided that no part of it should be expended in right of way. The Secretary of War approved this report, but ordered that no work should be done till the right of way had been provided free of cost to the Government. This left it to the Oregon Legislature to provide funds for the purchase of the right of way.

It did so at the extra session, which adjourned December 23, by appropriating \$100,000 for the purpose and making it effective immediately. The law places the work in the hands of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer, who will begin action in a few days.

The Secretary of War promptly followed up this action by authorizing the expenditure of \$10,000 of the appropriation made by Congress in the preparation of plans and specifications for the canal, that no delay might follow the securing of right of way. He also authorized the immediate expenditure of \$32,339 in the deepening and widening of the channel at Three-Mile Rapids, which will open to navigation three miles of the river from The Dalles to Big Eddy and clear the way for work on the canal. This work will probably be finished by June 30, 1905.

As Congress has made a rule of making sufficient appropriations from year to year to complete river and harbor improvements which it has ordered begun under the continuing contract system, it is certain that the construction of the canal will begin as soon as the state has done its part and will be carried to completion. This work will make the Columbia open to navigation all the way from the ocean to Lewiston, Idaho, and will give the whole Inland Empire the benefit of water transportation and of the reduction of railroad rates which water competition always brings about. It insures to Portland the commerce of the whole Inland Empire of Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho. It will make the Columbia the great waterway of the Pacific Northwest, as the Mississippi River is of the Middle West and the Gulf States, and will secure this section of the West against any extortion which might result from railroad combinations.

HELD FOR FIRE

Twelve Theater Employees Arrested.

PREPARED TO FLEE

Trunks Packed When the Police Arrive.

SUPERIOR ADVISES THE STEP

Charge Is That of Being Accessory to Manslaughter.

CORONER'S VERDICT AWAITED

Chief Orders That the Actors and Others on the Stage Be Found, Which Means They Will Be Taken into Custody.

DAY OF GENERAL MOURNING. CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—In addition to the proclamation suggesting that the usual New Year's festivities be abandoned, Mayor Harrison tonight announced that all departments of the city would be closed on Saturday, January 2. He made the request that all business houses throughout Chicago also close on that day, making it a day of general mourning.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Twelve employees of the Iroquois Theater were arrested tonight on orders issued by Chief of Police O'Neill. The charge against them is that of being accessory to manslaughter. They will be held pending the verdict of the Coroner's jury. The employees are: William Carleton, stage manager; Edward Cummings, stage carpenter; Frank J. Andrew, R. M. Cummings, E. Engle, Thomas McQueen and S. J. Mason. The last five are stage hands and scene shifters.

After being taken into custody by the police, four of the men told Chief O'Neill they had been requested by people connected with the theater to leave Chicago. When asked who advised them to do so they at first refused to say, but later admitted that the advice was given by Assistant Stage Manager Plunkett. They said they were about to follow Plunkett's advice, and all of them had packed their trunks and would have been out of Chicago had not the police arrested them.

Late tonight detectives arrested William Plunkett, assistant stage manager, and four members of the "Moonlight Chorus." The chorus is made up of eight men and five women, and was about to appear on the stage when the fire started. Those arrested in addition to Plunkett were:

William Stack, Samuel Bell, Victor Bozart and Edward Wines. The prisoners were taken to the Harrison-Street Police Station and locked up. Plunkett was charged with manslaughter and the members of the chorus with violation of a part of the municipal code of Chicago providing for the holding of witnesses for a Coroner's jury.

Two members of the chorus, Misses Anna Brant and Daisy Beauties, were arrested and taken to Central Police Station. After questioning by the police, they were released.

Orders were issued tonight by Chief O'Neill to find members of the company and other theater employees who were witnesses of the fire. The order will mean, the police say, that more than 20 arrests will be made tomorrow, chiefly among the dancers and members of the chorus, who were crowded in the wings when the fire was discovered.

According to Coroner Trager a large placard had been placed in the hotel where a large number of the actors were staying ordering that all members of the company be ready to leave Chicago on short notice. Believing that this was a move to keep witnesses from testifying before the Coroner's jury, the arrests were decided upon.

BROTHER PERISHED IN FIRE.

Chicago Holocaust Brings Grief to Otto R. Dreisel.

Grief was brought to Otto R. Dreisel in Portland last night when he received a telegram from Chicago saying that his brother Hermann with his wife and four of his most intimate friends were burned in the Iroquois Theater fire. Mr. Dreisel is the instructor of the Portland Turn Verein, and only two months ago came from Chicago, where he had always lived. He leaves today for Chicago to be present at the burial of his brother's remains.

Hermann Dreisel was, like his brother, a gymnasium instructor, and taught physical culture in the Chicago schools. Of the other four victims of the fire, one was Otto Dreisel's successor in the Aurora Turn Verein, of Chicago, Schreiner by name. His wife perished with him and her two sisters.

King Edward Sends Message.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Kind Edward and Queen Alexandra have sent telegrams of sympathy for the sufferers of the Chicago fire to the United States Government, through Foreign Minister Lansdowne.