

SEEK THEIR OWN

Many People Are Rushing to Chicago.

GO BY EVERY TRAIN

Numerous Cities Feel the Calamity.

GREATH THROGS AT MORGUE

Not a Few Search All Day to Give Up Broken-Hearted.

IDENTIFICATION IS DIFFICULT

Trinkets on the Charred and Disfigured Bodies Have to Be Relied On in the Main-Wires Are Swamped With Business.

WHAT JURY WANTS TO KNOW.
CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—A few of the questions to which the jury will endeavor to obtain satisfactory answers at the inquest are:
Were the steel doors leading to the fire escapes on the first and second balconies locked when the fire broke out? If they were locked, were they opened promptly by the attendants? Why were the doors not opened? Why did the management permit the use of gas lights in the fire escape? Why did the management permit the use of gas lights in the fire escape? Why did the management permit the use of gas lights in the fire escape?

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—On every train which arrived in Chicago today came relatives of persons who are thought to have been killed or injured in the fire. The lobbies of the downtown hotels were scenes of many happy meetings, as well as of anxious inquiries on the part of the fathers, mothers, and more distant relatives of persons of whom no trace could be found. Many of these people returned to the hotels late in the evening, after a fruitless search for their loved ones or after finding in a charred and disfigured body lying in a morgue all that remained of the relative or friend for whom they searched.

Unable to Find Loved Ones.
F. A. Freer, postmaster of Galesburg, Ill., arrived today in response to a telegram saying his wife and daughter were among the missing. Mrs. Freer and Miss Freer came to Chicago Wednesday morning expressly to attend the play at the Iroquois Theater. Since their arrival in Chicago Mr. Freer has had no news of them. Today Mr. Freer made inquiries of the police and spent hours examining bodies in morgues. Many of the corpses bore a resemblance to his wife and daughter, and many more were clothed in dresses similar to those for which he was looking; but, after investigating every clue and examining everybody in every morgue he returned to a hotel tonight heartbroken and in despair of finding his family.

Crowds Besiege Morgues.
From early in the morning until late tonight crowds besieged the undertaking rooms and hospitals looking for dead and injured. Policemen were detailed at all places where the dead and injured had been carried to restrain the anxious men and women who pressed in at the doorways and inquired for lost friends and relatives.

In all the undertaking-rooms bodies were placed as far as possible on cots, and when these were exhausted, stretched in long lines on the floor, and a constant succession of pale-faced men and tearful women passed slowly between the bodies, lifting the coverings from the charred and bruised faces, and searching in the clothing of the dead for something by which their lost ones could be recognized. In many instances women fainted when lifting the sheet from some face in which they recognized the features of a dead child.

While the crowds of anxious seekers for news besieged the different morgues, the telegraph and long-distance telephone offices were almost swamped with the flood of inquiring messages. Messenger boys for the telegraph companies were swamped with messages all day, and tonight the terrific rush of business was still on. Private wires of the Stock Exchange and Board of Trade houses were likewise loaded down with inquiries and answers.

TELEPHONES SORELY TAXED.

Every Available Operator Is Working, but Rush Is Too Great.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Chicago's telephone service has never before been put to such a test as from 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon until 4 o'clock this afternoon. Every available operator was pressed into service, and for hours it was impossible to ob-

tain connections with some of the outlying exchanges.
Coroner Trager and his assistants did all in their power to supply information concerning the dead and wounded, but five times the number of available men in the coroner's office could not have accomplished the task. Crowds besieged the coroner's office all day, and begged that arrangements be made so they could view the bodies without delay. The applicants were promptly furnished with permits, which they showed to the police, and which admitted them to any hospital or morgue.

CITY WILL SPARE NO EXPENSE

Everything Possible Will Be Done to Aid in Identification of Dead.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Clinton C. Meeker, a clerk in the registry department of the Postoffice, living in the suburb of Irving Park, has probably lost in the fire his entire family, consisting of his wife, two daughters and two sons.
A friend called Mr. Meeker on the telephone at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and asked him if any of his family had gone to the theater. He answered that so far as he knew none of them had left the house. When he reached the house, however, he found only his mother-in-law there.

"Where are Mabel and the children?" he asked.
"They have gone to the Iroquois Theater," was the reply.
"I dropped right down on my knees," said Mr. Meeker, "and prayed that God might spare them."

Today Mr. Meeker had partially identified the bodies of his wife and two daughters. He failed to find any trace of his two sons.

It was a cause of wonder to many people around the theater building how so many physicians and so many trained nurses could arrive on the spot within so short a time. Dr. Herman Spalding, senior official in the City Health Department at the time the fire broke out, made all the arrangements for medical attendance.

"I telephoned to all the physicians in the downtown district," he said, "and then to hospitals, nurse associations and schools for persons to assist in the care of the injured. Employees telephoned to all the principal office buildings and told the operators at the switchboards to notify every physician in the building, while others telephoned to the nurses. There were over 100 physicians whom I personally knew at the fire, and probably 150 nurses."

Mayor Harrison was on his way to the South for a hunting trip, and Controller McGinn was acting Mayor. The finance committee of the City Council was in session when the extent of the disaster became known at the City Hall. Mr. McGinn was authorized by Chairman Mayor, of the committee, to direct the Fire Marshal, the Chief of Police and the Commission of Public Works to proceed in an emergency without any restriction of any kind as to expenses.

All the members of a party consisting of Mrs. Lucy Gurn, her two children—Frank, 16 years old, and Willie, 8 years old—Harriet Wolfe, 18 years old, daughter of Ludwig Wolfe, a millionaire business man, and Miss Burke, a dressmaker, are dead. Mr. Wolfe's entire family searched for him through the hospitals and morgues, and today found the bodies of the missing ones.

Graeme Stewart, Republican National committee man, spent the night of the fire night hunting for Mrs. F. M. Fox, of Winnetka, Ill., and her three children. Mrs. Fox is the daughter of William Hoyt, who was president of the Western Grocers' Association, one of the wealthiest concerns of the kind in the West. Mrs. Fox was taken home, but none of the children was found. Mr. Stewart said the hands of Mrs. Fox, 13 years old, had been found in the pocket of a suit upon the body of a boy at Rolston's morgue. There is no doubt that it is the boy, although the features cannot be identified.

There was a pathetic scene at Rolston's morgue when the body of John Vaningen, 18 years old, of Kenosha, Wis., was identified. Friends of the Vaningen family had spent many hours searching at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Vaningen, who were injured. Today four of the Vaningen children who are believed to have been killed in the fire had not been accounted for. They are: Grace, 2 years old; Doty, 5 years old; Mary, 13, and Edward, 20 years old.

One of the saddest of the many scenes enacted in the Thompson restaurant, near the theater, where many of the dead and injured were taken immediately after the fire, was the search of a body of primas and maids by the Vaningen family. The body of Edith Horton was found in the restaurant, many of the nuns breaking down and weeping bitterly at the sight. The other Horton girl and the sister who accompanied them were not found.

TOO FRIGHTENED TO MOVE.

Two Children Show Great Presence of Mind and Easily Escape.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Some of the most remarkable incidents of the fire were not known until today. F. L. Donaldson, a loop chief for the Western Union Telegraph Company, handled a long telephone story of the fire and its harvest of death, unaware that his own wife was among the missing. When he went home and found that she had been killed, he immediately returned and searched for her through the morgues and in the hospitals, but today had not found the least trace of the missing woman.

Among the first persons to escape were Joseph Graham and Dorothy Bour, two children. They were in the parquette, 15 rows from the stage.

"I saw the scenery catch fire on the lower left-hand side of the stage," said the boy. "Eddie Foy came to the front and told us to sit still, but we decided we could get out and right away. Four women passed slowly between the bodies, lifting the coverings from the charred and bruised faces, and searching in the clothing of the dead for something by which their lost ones could be recognized. In many instances women fainted when lifting the sheet from some face in which they recognized the features of a dead child."

A list of descriptions of unidentified girls was compiled today in the office of Chief of Police O'Neill. The ages of the victims ranged from 2 years to 22. The number of unidentified dead girls on the list was 57. For several of the girls the sole means of identification given was the color of bits of shoe laces, and that generally mentioned was "black." Others are scheduled as "burned beyond description. No age."

Finds Child Dead and Wife Missing.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Harry Wunderlich, representing a well-known piano house of this city, today recovered the body of his daughter, Helen, aged 7, at the county morgue. The mother of the little girl, Mrs. Pearl Wunderlich, 25 years of age, and the latter's father are still missing. They were separated from the child in the terrible crash.

The offices of the board of education were closed today until Monday. The blow fell with particular force on the official staff of the board.

RED EYES AND EYELIDS.

Granulated Eyelids and Chief Eye troubles cured by Murine Eye Remedy; it doesn't smart. Sold by all druggists.

MAKE LIFE SAFE

Mayor Will Station Firemen in Theaters.

THEY MUST FOOT THE BILLS

Refusal Will Cause Closing of the Playhouse.

ORDINANCE HAS BEEN INVADOED

Chicago Executive Is Petitioned to Shut Up All the Centers of Amusement, but Deems This Unreasonable.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The action of a committee of prominent architects of Chicago today may result in a recommendation to Mayor Harrison to close every theater in Chicago until the exits and the construction have been examined. This idea was suggested to President Beaumont, of the Chicago Architects' Association, today by W. A. Primm, an architect who lost some relatives in the fire. President Beaumont personally refused to make the recommendation to Mayor Harrison, but called an informal meeting of the association at which it was decided that a larger gathering of the members would be held to take action. Mayor Harrison said tonight:

"I see no more reason for closing all the theaters than for stopping all railroad trains after a disaster. There is no necessity of becoming hysterical about this matter, although this horrible disaster has taken place in probably the safest theater in Chicago."

The Mayor tonight sent the following letter to all theatrical proprietors in Chicago:

"November 2, this year, I transmitted to the City Council a report on the theaters of Chicago, calling attention of the Council to the failure of all the theaters to comply fully with the terms of the building ordinances relative to places of amusement. The Council sent the communication to the committee on judiciary for consideration, and, pending a report from that committee, directed the Commissioner of Buildings to suspend enforcement of the ordinance."

Firemen Assigned to Theaters.
"The city ordinance, among other things, requires each theater to employ a fireman, to be approved by the Chief of the Fire Department, to look after the fire protection of the house. I am advised by the Chief that several theaters have refused to comply with this provision of the ordinance."

"In view of the terrible disaster at the Iroquois Theater, and pending action of the City Council, I have directed the Chief of the Fire Department to assign one regular member of the department to each theater not complying with the ordinance relating to the employment of a fireman. The firemen now employed by the theaters should be assigned to the front of the house, while the fireman assigned by the Chief should be assigned to the stage."

"I have further directed the Chief, in cases where the ordinance has not been obeyed, to assign two regular firemen to the duty of protecting the public against fire. The wages of these firemen will be billed direct to the theaters to which they are assigned, and the service will be continued until the Council has finally acted on the ordinance."

After dispatching this letter, the Mayor said:

"If any one of the theatrical managers refuses to pay the wages of these men, as several of them have refused in the past, I will close the doors of the theaters and keep them closed until they agree to act as they should."

JURY INSPECTS THE THEATER

Opinion Is Freely Expressed That Protection Was Inadequate.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Coroner Trager tonight took a jury of six business men, empaneled to investigate the fire at the Iroquois Theater, in which about 600 persons were killed, to examine the theater. The jury had spent the day in visiting morgues to see the corpses. On arriving at the theater, the jury first went to the stage, and Deputy Coroner Buckley pointed out the spot where the fire started. The seats in the first 10 rows on the first floor were burned, but back of that the orchestra chairs were in good condition. In one corner of the stage was a pile of brass and armor used in the production of "Mr. Blue Beard." All that was visible of the 180 pieces of scenery used in the extravaganza was small piles of ashes where the scenery had dropped and burned on the stage. The steel frames of the are lights, one of which is said to have caused the catastrophe, were piled in confusion near the front of the stage.

The jury asked Coroner Trager regarding the asbestos curtain that caught when an attempt was made to lower it. The members of the jury, while engaged in inspecting the stage, frequently remarked that the protection against the fire seemed to them to have been inadequate. The jury then climbed the stairway leading to the first balcony. Here the plush covering of the seats was found to be burned on every seat. An inspection was made of the exits leading to the fire escape at the north end of the building.

"These doors are much too small; they should have been three times as large," said Juror Finn.

The iron doors were closed and locked, and it was then seen that the inner door were so close to the steel shutters that they could not be opened when the shutters were fastened. This exit is not sufficiently high for a man to walk through without stooping, and when the jurors learned this fact by personal experience there was much comment among them. The jury then ascended to the top gallery, where the greatest loss of life occurred.

Coroner Trager pointed to the balcony rail, which was bent in several places, and showed that a number of spectators had jumped through these openings to the lower floor. An inspection was then made of the exits leading to the fire escapes, and the jurors were told that the bodies of the dead were piled 10 feet high in front of these doors when the police reached the theater.

"If these doors were locked somebody was criminally negligent," said Juror Finn.

"These exits are too small, anyway," said Juror Meyer, as he measured the doors leading to the fire escapes.

At the conclusion of the inspection of the theater it was decided to continue the inquest until next Thursday.

UNSCREWED DOOR TO SAVE.

Railroad Man Assists Greatly in Rescue of the Performers.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Flags were placed at half-mast all over the city today, Mayor Harrison setting the example at the City Hall.

New York Dental Parlor

Fourth and Morrison Sts. Portland, Oregon.

Teeth extracted and filled absolutely without pain by our late scientific method. No sleep-producing agents or cocaine. These are the only dental parlors in Portland that have the patent appliances and ingredients to extract, fill and apply crowns and porcelain crowns, and restorations from natural teeth and warranted for ten years without the least particle of pain. Gold crowns and teeth without plates, gold fillings and all other dental work done reliably and at special prices.

Gold crowns, \$5; full set teeth, \$5; bridge work, \$5; gold filling, \$1 up; silver fillings, 50c.

NO PLATES REQUIRED

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One of the heroes of the fire was Peter Quinn, chief special agent of the Santa Fe system, who assisted in saving the lives of 100 or more of the performers from a fate as horrible as the victims of the theater proper. Wedged so tightly in a crowd at the door of the stage entrance that they could not move, the women, men and children, composing the company of performers, were standing helplessly and with agonized looks on their faces. The stage door was closed.

"The massive stage door of the Iroquois," said Mr. Quinn today, "is like many others of its kind. The two main swinging doors are used when scenery is taken to or from the theater, and built in the swinging structure itself is a small trap door used by the players in leaving or entering the stage. This trap door opened inwardly. As I passed it I heard a commotion and saw the door was slightly open, and peering into the opening, I curiously asked what was the trouble. Then, for the first time, I and others who had arrived outside about the same time, learned that the theater was on fire."

The players who had rushed for the trapdoor got caught in a solid mass and were so firmly wedged together that they could not move. They were banded solidly against the little doorway, that could not be opened. Nearly all the players were in their stage costumes, and the women had no time to wash the paint from their faces. We tried to force the door open, but the crowd was banded up too tightly against it. Then came a flood of smoke from the stage, and the crowd we could see the illumination from the flames. I had a number of small tools in my pocket, and immediately proceeded to remove the fastenings which held the door in place. This was accomplished with some difficulty, and then we managed to force the crowd back, probably an inch, the door swung open and the players were released. I walked in upon the stage and found it a seething furnace. The players of the theater place the terrible loss of life to the "jamming" of the asbestos curtain. At every performance the asbestos curtain has been raised and lowered. It has always run smoothly, according to the employees. It was so arranged that should one of the cables holding it break, the curtain would drop and leave the stage open. The curtain was held by four steel cables. It slid up and down and was guided by two others, one on each side. These four cables were attached to the framework which supported the tackle by which the scenery is raised and lowered to the side walls. There they were attached to a large steel pulley. On the side going up the counter-weights were attached, on which there were enough to make less than an absolute balance for the curtain. The asbestos curtain was so arranged that should it would come down of its own accord. All the employees deny there has been any previous fire in the house. The employees deny that any of the doors to exits were locked.

Charles Dexter, of the Boston Baseball Club, and Frank Houseman, the old circus seconds, both of whom had families, occupied a box. Both declare that but for the presence of mind of Eddie Foy the death roll would have been doubled. When the panic began Dexter and Houseman each man had a man and a woman leading into the alley, on the north side of the theater. The people from the balconies had already commenced jumping to the ground floor when Houseman and Dexter forced open their doors and they were compelled to lift away the maimed and the dead in order to permit of exits from the ground floor. Houseman, having escorted his party out, took a position at his door and kept it from choking up by assisting people through. Finally, forced away by the flames, Houseman got into the alley just in time to hear the agonized voice of a woman from a window in an upper gallery shrieking, "Catch me." As the woman screamed she jumped, caught a large catch pole, broke her fall to the ground and she walked away uninjured.

Well-Known Athlete Perishes.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—Harry Kleis, reported among the killed at Chicago, was a well-known athlete, who had been playing football with the World's Fair hockey team for Houghton, Mich., where they played several games.

Hawaiian Judge Among Mourners.

HONOLULU, Dec. 31.—Judge Owens, of this city, has received word that his mother, Frances Owens, and his sister, Amy, are among those who lost their lives in the theater fire in Chicago yesterday.

Prominent Clubwoman Injured.

DECATUR, Ill., Dec. 31.—Mrs. Frank Leavenworth, prominent in women's club work, and an accomplished musician, was fatally injured in the Chicago fire.

Olds, Wortman & King

5th and Washington

This great "Old Homestead" Store takes this opportunity of

WISHING ITS GRAND PUBLIC A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

May it be indeed a happy, healthy and more than ever prosperous twelve-month for you and yours. May the happiness and joy of 1903 be trebled by that of 1904, and its sorrows lessened in even greater degree. The year now past has brought to this store greater growth and prosperity than any in all of its more than quarter of a century's existence. For this we extend our most heartfelt, cordial thanks to our great public. We have endeavored to deserve our increased patronage and support and shall more than ever strive to merit a continuance of the public's favor. With thanks again and best wishes for A HAPPY NEW YEAR,

WE remain your obedient servants.

OLDS, WORTMAN & KING.

This Store Remains Closed All Day Today—New Year's Day

Olds, Wortman & King

5th and Washington

Home of Quality and Worth

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The Different Store

Olds, Wortman & King

5th and Washington

Watch this evening's and Saturday morning's papers for list of extra Saturday Specials.

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Happy New Year

Olds, Wortman & King

5th and Washington

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