PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE HEROIC FIREMEN IN MIDST OF RESCUE WORK

TOP STORY SWEPT BY THE FLAMES

Disastrous Fire Breaks Out in Chamber of Commerce.

THRILLING RESCUES

CommercialClubScene of Conflagration.

ONE MAN'S FALL TO DEATH

Homer Hallock Seeking Fire-Escape Fails.

CHEF JUMPS TO NET BELOW

Tongues of Flame Leap From Every Window on the Eighth Floor and Make Rescue by Firemen Almost Marvelous.

DEAD, INJURED AND ESCAPED.

The Dead.

The Injured tal Club, two ribs broken and se-

R M. Gray, clothler, burned about neck and head Matt Foeller, burned about face

Dr. David Walker, burned about the

Among those who escaped from the Commercial Club hesides the officers R. M. Gray, O. M. Smith, Sam Lock-wood, W. B. Scott, E. G. Jones, Matt Foetler, J. H. Fogerty, E. K. Wheeler, A. McCargar, Whitney L. Boise, Carl Liebe, C. F. Cook, Tony Binayba, Charles Smith, T. LaBranch, J. Ree, B. D. Sigler and County Assessor

Flames that sprang up as from a magidan's wand swept the upper part of the Chamber of Commerce block at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, wrecking the Commercial Club and imperiling scores of

With the swirling, fearful speed of a whirlwind, great red sheets of fire and dense volumes of stifling smoke passed from room to room as if in a flendish hunt for human life. Dezen of people, caught unaware, scurried before the deadly blast one escape is nothing less than marvelous, One Life Is Lost.

The one to forfeit his life was Home H. Hallock, an employe of the Willamette Valley Traction Company, With smoke and flame close behind him, Mr. Hallock attempted to climb from a Commercial Club window to a fire-escape leading down the interior court of the building. The fire-escape was six feet away. It was a desperate undertaking, and the unfortu nate man failed. His body plunged down seven stories to a skylight on the second floor. He was killed instantly.

Jumps to Safety Net.

D. L. Cappa, the chef of the Commercial Club, jumped from the eighth story to a lifenet on top of an adjoining one-story building, the terrific force of his fall

ESTIMATE OF THE LOSSES.

Lesses to the Commercial Club and to the Chamber of Commerce building as estimated by fire insurance agents who carry policies for both

merce building. \$100,000 \$200,000 Commercial Club., 40,000 The loss to the building includes the damage done by fire, smoke and The personal losses to occupants of the building, such as lawoffices, are not given, but it is estimated they will reach several thou-sand dollars. The loss of pictures and statuary in the Commercial Club was

were fractured, and he was badly brutes It is believed he will recover. No others

The fire department was quickly on the scene, nearly every piece of fire apparatus Portland being brought into service. The firemen performed courageous and effective service. While part of the force led itself laying and directing streams

of water, others were at the equally dan

ger except on the top floor, yet the entire building was clouded with smoke. People in streams down the fire-escapes after the elevators stopped running. There was no other means of exit for the 50 or more persons in the Commercial Club, as elevators were unable to go up after the fire go: under headway.

Burns Like Oil.

Had the interior of the club been sat trated with off it could hardly have burned more rapidly and flercely. In less than five minutes flames were dancing from the club windows along the enth south side.

The escape from death of Tom Rich ardson, manager of the Commercial Club, together with four members of the kitchen force and a messenger boy, was re-markable. At a moment when nearly the entire eighth floor was a seething furnace they appeared on cornices at the northwest corner of the building cut off from retreat. To the great surging crowd below it appeared that the men did not have any chance of escape.

In Great Danger.

Mr. Richardson was in the most perlius position. He was 20 feet above the others standing on a narrow cornice near the top of the building. Clouds of black smoke were continually blown in his face, forcing him to cover his mouth and nose

with his arms to prevent suffocation. Behind them was a furnace which kept spreading towards their position. Panned by a lively breeze, the flames appeared to struggle towards the imperiled men as if determined to reach them before they got away

Flames Cheated of Prey.

Two things combined to cheat the fire of its prey. The endangered men kept their heads and the firemen took their own lives in their hands and effected a rescue. Seldom is an incident of such great heroism and gelf-control met with utside the pages of fiction.

While the great crowd below swayed and mouned and shouted and wept, the extension ladders of the Fire Department were holsted into place. They fell 39 feet short. Men in the crowd turned away at this, women screamed and fainted. Nearly every one thought the fate of the little knot of men was sealed

The firemen were prompt to meet this emergency. Lieutenant Jay W. Stevens, assisted by Fireman Charles Hewston, and Cy Perkins, carried a scaling ladder to he top of the extension and tapped the ledge. A few twists of the rope and an avenue of escape was at hand for all save Mr. Richardson, who was 30 feet higher

Heroism of Binagha.

The fastening of the scaling ladder dereloped that the greatest courage may be coupled with the garb of a shef. Tony Binagha, second ceak, had the right of way for descent, having belied fasten the ladder to the ledge. The breathless crowd below expected to see him lead the way down to safety. His own safety was not uppermost in his mind, however. He stepped back and relinquished his place to C. F. Cook, a walter, who was almost exhausted. Binagha helped Cook to the ladder with great care. Then he turned and gave his assistance to Joe Ray

CLUB PAPERS AND RECORDS BURNED.

Gordon A. Peel, assistant secretary of the Commercial Club, who has charge of the main office upon the eighth floor, was not present when fire broke out, but returned to his office as soon as the flames had been subdued and found that most of the stroyed. The ledger, membership ledger, minute book and other valu able documents had been burned to cinders. A few of the club papers

Mr. Peel had \$150 of his personal drawer was only partly burned, albroken open by Mr. Peel and the firepapers in the drawer, however, were

La Branch. When all were safely on their way down, Binagha climbed over the edge the brave man in the white kitchen clothes. All got down safely.

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Rescue of Tom Richardson.

The cheering lasted but a moment, the crowd quickly giving way to its concern for Mr. Richardson. To comparatively few was the identity of the man near the roof known at first, but the word quickly spread. Friends crowded against the fire rope and implored the firemen to act. Some, fearing Mr. Richardson might be come panic-stricken and jump, shouted to him not to move. Neither precaution was ecessary: the retreating firemen were only coming down for another scaling mind to die in the flames rather than

Descent Is Hazardous.

With no loss of time the three cours geous firemen again ascended with a secand scaling ladder. Lieutenant Stevens unted above the others and set the ladder in place for Mr. Richardson. When the fireman reached his station it did not seem that either man had any great chance of getting down silve. But Fate willed otherwise. Mr. Richardson in moving along the cornice to the ladder "I beg your pardon," he said, with "Oh, that doesn't matter," responded

the officer politely. Crowd Cheers Them.

A ticklish piece of work was the descent. Lieutenant Stevens insisted that Mr. Richardson come first. As the two men reached safety the cheering was vociferous and continued for many minutes. A group of Mr. Richardson's friends, led by Rinaldo Hall, A. H. Devers and Paul Custer, was walting at the bottom of

That the time will come when a gen-vision will be entered upon I have no but for the general interest of the pountry, the revision should be control

Explains Letter on Revision

and How to Do It.

Speaker Says Only General Revision

Is Possible, Which Would Halt

Production - Let People

Decide at Election.

WASHINGTON, April 6.-Speaker Can-

non today made a further explanation of

a letter recently written by him to a

friend in East Liverpool, O., regarding

nt of the Speaker follows

Can Only Revise by Compromise.

In my judgment nothing can be done as

command a majority vote of the 385 men of the House and the 50 Senators. The actment of such a revision and the time to

would probably come in the future.

of the people, and the House of Representa-tives is chosen every two years. There util be a general Congressional election next No-vember. Our friends, the enemy, insist on an immediate revision of the tariff. If a ma-jority of the people demand immediate genee of this House in favor of

THE VIEW SHOWS THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING, AND THE FIREMEN

been sent down by the arrange to be saved. On the narrow being below is about T. Hinnighs, cook at the club, assisting Harry Tracy, the messenger boy. Irom the window to the ladder. The three firemen are receiving one of the imperiled men and are assisting him onto the extension ladder of Truck No. 1. Lieutenant Stevens is shown leaning his weight against the scaling

ladder, holding it to position for the men above to descend. Assisting him are Firemen Hewston and Perkins, both of whom later went to the ledge above while Stevens raised a second ladder to rescue Richardson from the roof.

In the picture above is shown the work of rescue at its most theilling stage, just after the first scaling ladder had

RESCLING THE IMPERILED OCCUPANTS OF THE EIGHTH FLOOR

SUES GANG FOR \$5,000,000 Weaver Tells All About Fraud in

Filtration Plant. PHILADELPHIA, April 6.-Civil pre

PHILADELPHIA, April 6.—Civil pro-ceedings were instituted today by the city against the contractors and former city officials interested in the construction of the minicipal filtration plant to recover £,000,000, which sum is alleged to have been wrongfully retained by the defend-ants. A bill in equity was filed with the prothonolary of the Common Pleas Court by City Solicitor Kinsey and ex-Judge James C. Gordon, Mayor Weaver's pri-vate counsel. WOULD DISTURB BUSINESS

Those named in the bill are Israel W. Durham, ex-Republican leader of this city: State Senator James P. McNichol and Anastasia McNichol, his wife; Danie McNichol; John M. Mack, all of whom were at one time members of the con-tracting firm of Duniel J. McNichol & Co.: William C. Haddock and Peter P. Castello, ex-Directors of Public Works and John W. Hill, ex-Chief of the Filtra-

The bill is in the form of a paper book of more than 400 pages, containing the entire history of the filtration plant contracts and setting forth in detail the mass of exidence that has been gathered, showing the alleged wrengful acts of the defendants by which the city was defrauded. This bill is expected to give the public the facts upon which the Mayor and his counsel rely to prove the charges that have been made from time to time against D. J. McNichol & Co. It is the first of the civil suits to be begun by the city since the beginning of the investigation into the construction of the filters and many of the statements contained in it are along the line of the report made by the filtration committee and signed by Major Cassius E. Gillette and Chairman of the Commission James, prior to the election last November.

Deuel Must Answer Charges.

NEW YORK, April 6-Justice Jo-NEW YORK. April 6—Justice Joseph F. Deuel must answer within 10 days the application for his removal from office as Justice of the Court of Special Sessions of New York City, according to a decision of the Supreme Court, made public today. The application for removal was the outgrowth of the recent trial on a charge of criminal libel of Norman Happood, editor of Collier's Weekly. Instice Deuel, the complainant, was shown to be a stockholder in Town Topics.

Fields Will Tell Truth, No Matter Who Is Hurt.

WILL NOT BE SCAPEGOAT

Returned Insurance Official Says House of Mirth Stories Are Lies. Says Trustees Knew All About Lobbying.

NEW YORK, April 6.-Charges sim llar to those recently made against the directors of the New York Life In surance Company by Andrew Hamil tees of the Mutual Life Insurance Company by Andrew C. Fields, the former Legislative agent of the Mu tual, who is now in seclusion at his home at Dobos' Ferry. He is said to be seriously ill and has denied himself to all callers. The charges agains the Mutual trustees were made in the following formal statement, which Fields issued through his physician:
"In the first place, I never gave a

bribe to any one in the whole course of my career. I have come home pre-In doing so, I shall let the truth which All of the trustees of the Mutual who at me were aware of all I was doing in connection with Legislative work for the Mutual, and when they say that they are ignorant of the charac ter of my work, they are saying that

which is untrue. Challenges Trustees to Proof.

"I am here to challenge them in every such statement they may make.
I am not an old man, like Richard A.
McCurdy, whose age is so great that
be could not defend himself. While
my bodily strength is not what it

public. "I have to laugh when I read the

"I have to laugh when I read the statements of the trustees to the effect that a portion of the records of the supply department of the Mutual is missing or was destroyed. I will say now that it is absurd to say that a single book or record in the supply department, of which I was bead, has been taken from the company's office. The story simply amuses me—nothing more. These trustees will have all the records of the supply department when they want them. They are not missing.

Every Payment Authorized.

"As to the payments by Robert Oilphant, chairman of the expenditure mmittee, of amounts ranging from 25.600 upward and aggregating in all about \$600.600 paid to me, I will say that I can furnish a full and com-plete explanation of exactly what was done with this money, and can show that every payment was fully author-

"I saved for the Mutual by my work at Albany hundreds of thousands of dollars, and in doing so never committed a disbonest act. I do not propose that the men associated with me in the Mutual shall destroy my reputation to serve their own private ends. "The story about the so-called 'House of Mirth' in Albany was a gross libel. Nothing ever took place in that house, which was simply my Albany residence, of which I or any other God-fearing man need be ashamed. "I am prepared to tell the truth, no matter whom it may hurt, be his position high or low."

Has Incurable Disease.

Dr. Judson said that Mr. Fields Dr. Judson said that Mr. Fields would not be able to see any one for two weeks at least. His patient is suffering from an incurable disease, he said, but by careful treatment his life may be prolonged for years.

W. H. Truesdale, chairman of the Mutual's internal investigating committee, said today that Mr. Fields would probably be asked to make a statement to the committee. Such a statement between would be nursely statement, however, would be purely

Fields Lay Low in Los Angeles. LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 6.-The dispatch from New York stating that Andrew C. Fields, ex-manager of the supplies department of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, was living in this city with his family during the time he was being sought for in connection with the life insurance investigation in New York, caused much surprise. So far as has been learned, nothing was known publicly of Mr. Fields' presence in the city.

RUSH BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Railroads Sent 6500 Homeseeker West This Week.

ST. PAUL Minn., April 6.-(Special.)aight cleaned up the week's homeseekyears is broken. The exact figures are not yet obtainable, but the union depot offitale place the number that were sent forward at 600 persons, exclusive of first-

class travel. The continuance of low rates, in effect every Tuesday, will keep up the move ment to the West and North for some

The Weather.

JESTERDATS - Maximum temperature, so deg: minimum, 50. Precipitation, none. TODAYS - Showers and cooler. Southerly winds.

Foreign. settlement of Hungarian crists. Page

Page 1. ese boycott at an end. Page 4. ninese hoyeut at an end rage to the sussian government annula election Demosratic leaders. Page 5,

National. Elkins speaks on rate bill and claims be true friend of people. Page 3.

Rainey makes violent attack on tariff in House. Page 5.

Polities. Speaker Cannon declares policy on tariff revision. Page 1.

Charge of wholesale forgery of signatures to Hearst's nominating petition. Page 2 Senator Alger declines re-election. Page 2 Republican leaders in Misseuri boycott re-ception to Shaw. Page 1. Domestic.

Fields ready for fight with Mutual Life trus-Soft coal operators propose arbitration.

Page 4.

Independent Pittshurg coal operator scale. Page 4. More rioting at Winnipeg. Page 4. lent Pittsburg coal operators sign Startling confession of wife of Portland man. Page 5.

Dowle your he will face his enemies: the

Baseball season opens today at San Fran-cisco, Franco and Los Angeles. Page 7. Portland and Presno open baseball season on Raisin City's diamond today. Page 7.

Pilet Rock schoolmaster makes love to girl pupil and joses job. Page 6. Pullman Wash, Council refuses to oust City Attorney for not closing gambling. Page 6.

Citizens of Hood River Valley tender recep-tion to E. L. Smith. Page 4. Shingle weavers in Washington mills on strike. Page 6.

Commercial and Marine.

Oregon's surplus stock of potatoes may find market. Page 15. Susiness conditions in country never better. Page 13. flurry in call money market.

Sitght loss in wheat at Chicago. Page 15. caretty of sailors on the Coast attributed largely to failure of whalers to return from the Arctic. Page 14. eamer F. A. Kliburn makes record-break-ing voyage. Page 14.

Portland and Vicinity. Fire in the Chamber of Commerce building emerge the whole top floor occupied by the Commercial Club; one man falls to his death, a second is saved by jumping seven stories to a net and others have narrow escapes. Page I.

With characteristic energy Commercial Club will take up its duties today and serve luncheon as usual. Page 10.

siverce suits tried or pending.

City funds must lie idle because of Milie, amendment address in parks

might be, I am mentally as strong as I ever was, and I am determined to vindicate myself in the eyes of the BURNING RIVER CAUSES TERROR

Vesuvius Threatens to Bury Villages.

THOUSANDS IN WILD FLIGHT

Showers of Ashes Descend on Streets of Naples.

GRAND NIGHT SPECTACLE

Huge Stream of Lava Devours Vegetation-People Fice to Hills or Crowd Churches Praying for Miracle.

NAPLES, April 6 .- The inhabitante of the villages in the vicinity of Mount Vesuvius are in a condition bordering on panic. Many homes have been abandoned for the open air, although there has been a thick fog all day and the atmosphere has been dense with voicanic ashes and the fumes of subterranean fires. The churches are crowded day and night with people praying for deliverance from an impending perily manifestations of which are heard and felt in explosions which resemble w heavy cannonading and in the tremblings of the carth which are con-

Burning River Spreads Terror.

The main stream of lava proceeding rom Vesuvius is 200 feet wide and it lows at times at the rate of 21 feet w ninute, destroying vegetation before the stream reaches it. The peasants of Portici, at the west foot of Vesuvius, cleared their ground of vineyards and trees in the effort to lessen. the danger from fire and resist the

progress of the lava. The population of Boscotrecase, numbering about 9000, on the southern, declivity of the mountain, have sought safety in flight and Boscoreale, to the eastward, is also threatened. Women of this village, weeping with fright, carried a statue of St. Anne as near as they could go to the flowing lava, imploring a miracle to stay the advance

of the consuming stream. Grand Scene at Night.

The scene at night is one of mingled CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER grandeur and horror, as from the summit there leaps a column of fire fully 1630 feet in height, the glare lighting the sky and sea for many miles. Occasionally great masses of rock or stone, some weighing as much as a ton, are

> The village of Terre del Greco, with 30,000 people, which has been eight times destroyed and as often rebuilt; is again threatened and the inhabitants are in extreme terror,

May Bury Pompeii Again,

Streams of lava are progressing with considerable rapidity in the direction of Pompeli. From the crater, which is 20 feet in circumference, the lava has already gone two miles and a half. Hot mud, ashes and black sand are also ejected, which, mixed with rain, produce the so-called caustic rain, which is most damaging to vegetation. Although the showers of cinders here have diminished, people can be seen holding up umbrellas as protection

against the falling ashes. Observer Thinks Villages Safe.

Signor Matteucci, director of the obervatory, is working indefatigably. He has had military engineers establish telephonic connection between the observatory and points within the volcanic activity. The director said to the Associated Press this evening that, although the eruption presented graves menace, he did not believe it would reach the villages. Indeed, he said, the present volcanic activity was not alto-gether unmixed with good, for, if it had not come to pass, a violent and sudden eruption having a far wider

VENGEANCE ON GAMBLERS

Russians Hold Up Steamer and Shoot Five Dead.

WARSAW. April 6.-(Special.)-As steamship Warweet was approaching the landing at Jablunkau, eight armed men climbed aboard and apread counternation among the passengers. With gurs aimed at the passengers, five of latter known as notorious gambiers were or-dered to step forward.

dered to step forward.

As the gamblers came from the remainder of the passengers, the intruders opened a fusiliade at the card men and killed all of the five. The murderers then held up the captain until they got ashore and made good their escape.

INDICT PACKERS AGAIN

Morrison Summons Grand Jury to Renew the Attack.

CHICAGO, April 6 -(Special)-Rumors that new indictments of the packers as individuals are to be asked from the Federal grand jury have followed the announcement that District Attorney Morrison and his aids have summoned the jury to appear May 15. A petition is to presented by Assistant District Attorney Childs to Judge Landts or Judge Bethea,