

# FLAMES IN DEVASTATING RACE THROUGH CITY

## BOUNDARIES OF FIRE-SCEPT AREA

Flames Eat Up Nearly Everything in Space of Seven Square Miles.

## ISLANDS IN RUINED PART

Tour of Scene of Conflagration Shows Its Circumference 26 Miles—Shock Wrecks Houses and Opens Earth.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—The fire has exhausted itself with the exception of the still-burning embers in a thousand places here and there through the burned district. The Associated Press, for the purpose of determining with accuracy the boundaries of the conflagration, sent out an automobile today, which skirted the fire on its four sides. The register of this machine at the end of the trip showed that it had traveled 26 miles, which, therefore, may be taken as the length of the line along which the flames traveled. This area included the financial, commercial and residential districts, with all the splendid institutions and great mansions that had grown up with the progress of the city. The extent of the burned area is seven square miles.

### Licks Up Railroad Building.

The start of the tour was made at the Pacific Mail dock, at the corner of First and Brannan streets. Traveling along the north line of Brannan street, the fire ate its way to Second, where it crossed the street and consumed the warehouse of the firm of Lachman & Jacobi at the southeast corner of Brannan and Second. Thence it moved along the west side of Second to Townsend and along the north line of Townsend to Seventh. On this particular street it licked up the great building of the Southern Pacific, which was the main office of the system under the Huntington regime, but of late years had been used by the division of the freight and passenger departments. Of its contents only the records were saved.

### Prepare to Rebuild Already.

But directly in front of the ruins there was already evidence of the undaunted spirit that animates the citizens of San Francisco in their crisis. For 300 men were at work clearing the debris from Fourth street, in order that the Southern Pacific might run spur tracks northward along the line of Fourth to Market for the purpose of carrying away the immense masses of brick and ruined material littering the streets and the sites of the business houses that had been crowded that area. In this connection it is noted that the freight and passenger depots along the southern side of Townsend street as far east as Third, though built in most cases of brick and masonry materials, were not so much scorched. Standing at the corner of Fourth and Townsend streets, one's eye caught the ruins of the great brick Catholic church of St. Rose, one of the few structures that ago suffered a visitation of fire, and had only lately risen on its ruins in what seemed to be imperishable brick and masonry.

### Jumps Across Wide Streets.

From Townsend, at the corner of Seventh, the fire burned along the east line of Seventh northward to Eleventh, where it crossed and burned half the block on the southern line of Brannan between Seventh and Eleventh. Thence, crossing Brannan still in a northerly direction, it burned along the east line of Eighth to Bryant, thence along the south line of Bryant half way to Ninth, thence along the north line of Bryant to Juniper, where it crossed and burned the block on the north line of Juniper to Harrison. Thence along the east line of Harrison to Fourth, where it crossed the north line of Fourth to Folsom, jumping the street at this point to lick up the building at the southeast corner of Folsom and Fourteenth, where it crossed and along the west line of Folsom to Fifteenth, leaving intact the structure at the northeast corner of Fifteenth and Folsom.

### Services Among the Ruins

Thousands Swam to Open-Air Gatherings, Regardless of Sect. SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—On the scene of shattered churches and on the green slopes of parks and cemeteries, the people of San Francisco assembled at the usual hours for religious services. Grateful for the opportunity to publicly thank for their preservation and comfort that will carry them through future trials, the people assembled in ever larger numbers than is customary. There was no distinction as to sect or denomination, the gatherings including, as a rule, a large percentage of the families camping or residing in the vicinity. Catholic clergymen celebrated masses in the Jewish cemetery, and people of every creed knelt with bowed heads while the services were in progress.

### Houses Ruined by Earthquake.

In this immediate district it was noted that the block bounded by Seventeenth and Eighteenth and Howard and Shotwell, though spared by the flames, had been terribly shaken by the quake. In some instances the houses were purchased as ruins, it being thought that all of the buildings in that block the only two that might be saved from the wreck were those of W. C. Graves at 218 Howard. Even the frame Catholic church of St. Charles, at Shotwell and Eighteenth, appeared to be unsafe.

### Independent Fire Starts.

Before leaving this district it may be mentioned that an independent fire was started Wednesday morning immediately after the tremor in the dry goods store at Lipman and the corner of Twenty-second and Mission. This fire burned over an area 150 by 300 feet, but, being water in the mains at that time, was checked.

flames were diverted by the great barren cut at this point, eating easterly thence along south line of Clinton Park to Guerrero and along east line of Guerrero, running in their course the half constructed Hospital of St. Katherine. At Market, whence they spread along the southerly side of that thoroughfare easterly to Gough; thence along the east line of Gough to Page, along the north line of Page half way to Octavia, sparing the row of buildings along the easterly line of Octavia as far as Fell, where they reached to the easterly line of Octavia and thence that line northerly to Fulton, where on the west side, they were fronted by a half-burned block which had been consumed by a fire started by an overturned lamp on the morning of the earthquake.

### Splendid Mansions Ruined.

In this district were included some of the most splendid mansions of the city, chief among which was the home of Claus Spreckels at the southwest corner of Clay and Van Ness. This splendid piece of architecture, done in brown stone in the chateau style and adorned with all that wealth and taste could gather, still stands, though blackened by the ordeal and divested of all its beauty. The only testimony of the futility of human endeavor.

### Only Three Spots Unscathed.

Within this vast waste of smouldering embers were found three cases where human beings still have their habitations as before the great conflagration. One of these was to be seen on the very summit of Telegraph Hill, where perhaps a score of homes still stand. At the northeast corner of Jones and Green the residence of O. D. Baldwin, the real estate dealer in the Mills building, is still habitable. Across the way at the northwest Mrs. Edward Huber has preserved her home. On the southerly line of Green at 3900 Hill and to be found residences of Kirk Hart, George B. White, William J. Wilson, William Hanke, Charles O'Brien and Martin Pussler. In this cluster are also the homes of H. P. Livermore, capitalist, on Vallejo; Mrs. J. M. Atkinson, 1032 Broadway; Home Parker, 1030 Broadway; Ed Sheppard, capitalist, at Vallejo and Taylor; Rev. Joseph J. West, 1000 Broadway; August Jenks, northwest corner of Vallejo and Taylor; Thomas Richardson, lumberman, 1022 Vallejo; Morgan Sheppard, 1014 Vallejo; Frank Stone, insurance agent, 1012 Vallejo; Mrs. J. M. Atkinson, widow of the artist, and of the elder Mr. Polk, father of Willis Polk, the architect. There are also six sets of flats in the vicinity which remain intact.

### Private Patrol System.

The courageous men and women, who set the houses by fire, and who, while a sea of flame raged and roared about them, in their great thankfulness for the mercy that has been shown them, have been quite abandoned by the constituted authorities, and for their protection, who, with such means as the number taking a two hour's task of duty.

### Private Patrol System.

Some 200 houses lying on the south and east slopes of Telegraph Hill remain. In this quarter the householders, many of whom are Italians, saved their abodes by a free use of water. The walls of the houses show the stains where the claret-soaked sacks had been used to cool the heated walls of the houses.

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ON SACRAMENTO STREET IN THE WHOLESALE PRODUCE DISTRICT.

### RESTORING WATER SERVICE.

Within Four Days City Will Have Half Normal Quantity. SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—Experts of the Spring Valley Water Company who have been engaged in making a thorough examination of the mains and reservoirs of the system have reported that the company has in its reservoirs enough water to supply the city at the regular rate of 3,000,000 gallons per day for a period of 600 days.

### CONTRACTOR MAKES A SURVEY

Says Many Fine Buildings Can Be Quickly Rebuilt. FRESNO, Cal., April 22.—G. S. Lindgren, of the firm of Lindgren-Heicks Company, of San Francisco and Fresno, returned last evening with definite news that the disaster is to have no deterrent effect on contemplated skyscrapers, and that many of the great buildings reported destroyed can be rehabilitated, some at no great expense.

### Break Up All Large Camps.

Pardee Guards Against Epidemic—Prisoners to Be Removed. OAKLAND, Cal., April 22.—That the chances of an epidemic breaking out among the refugees may be lessened, Governor Pardee today issued an order that all large camps in this city be broken up and separated into as small communities as possible.

### Condemn Ferry Building Tower.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—The tower of the Union Ferry building has been condemned as unsafe by a board of United States Army Engineers and is being taken down.

### FOOD FROM THE ORIENT.

Supplies in Cargo of Steamship China Are Commandeered. SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—The Pacific mail steamer China, with a cargo

### Including a Large Quantity of Foodstuffs.

The front of the Riato building will stand, but the rear was dynamited. Other buildings in the burnt district that have withstood the ravages of the flames to admit of rebuilding are: The James Flood, the Union Trust, the new Chronicle, the Call, the Mutual Savings Bank, the Crocker-Woolworth and the St. Francis Hotel.

### Public Offices to Reopen.

Find Temporary Places and Have Saved All Records. SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—The City Auditor, the Treasurer, Tax Collector and City Attorney have established temporary headquarters and are now making active preparation to resume the work of their offices. The vaults of the Treasurer, Auditor and Tax Collector are intact. There is something like \$5,000,000 in the vaults of the City Treasurer. The Tax Collector will be in a position to resume the collection of taxes in a few days and there is no doubt that all the officials and other employees of the city will be back in San Francisco will receive their salaries.

### Two Great Dangers Ahead.

There will be two great dangers to face—crime and disease. With the soldiers ever ready to shoot on the slightest provocation, one expects to see it on the increase. Disease is bound to come, but it will undoubtedly be controlled unless it takes some very virulent form. Sanitary arrangements are already good, even in the parks, and within a few days every one here will be in a house. This work is very rapid. Already they are beginning to canvass from house to house, putting two in a room, taking anybody who passes. The Red Cross is doing this work and is doing it with expedition.

### Fire Swept All Clean.

When I came over here I purposed first to write of the ruins, but after walking all morning and covering but one-tenth of the burned area, I have put that off. Two-thirds of the city is burned. As far as the fire went, it swept clean. Its furthest reach was from the ferry, in three miles only, but its width is six. What is left are only residences. This situation, past and present, is so tremendous that even the people who have been through it all cannot grasp it. Those who came late can have no idea. Even the story of the after-effects must be allowed to soak in. In my messages tomorrow and hereafter I shall write of only one phase at a time.

### REFUGEES FILL UNIVERSITY.

Studies at Berkeley Suspended—Refugees Eager for Work. BERKELEY, Cal., April 22.—The grounds of the University of California are still thronged with the homeless from San Francisco, and on that account college exercises still remain suspended. It is not certain when studies will resume, and hundreds of students have departed for their homes in various parts of the state.

### CLAIMS WHITE HOUSE.

Insane Woman Comes to Collect Rent From the President. WASHINGTON, April 22.—Mrs. Sarah Marks, 60 years old, who came here from Harrisburg, Pa., has been placed in the Government insane asylum. She called at the White House to eject the President and collect back rent.

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The President, Washington—Thanks for your kind letter. Conditions here are quite good. The weather is cool; people here are quite well taken care of. No epidemics, whole country trying to extend our people and shelter as rapidly as possible. We appreciate very much your help. GEORGE C. PARDEE, Governor.

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