



HUNDRED DIE BY FIRE OR IN PANIC

Horrible Disaster in Theater at Boyertown, Pa.

OIL SPILLED ON AUDIENCE

Flames Leap Through Hall and All Rush Out.

MANY TRAMPLED TO PULP

Others Leap From Windows and Break Their Bones.

FIRE APPARATUS FAILS

Anguished Parents Forced to Stand Helpless While Their Children Are Roasted in Roaring Furnace—Cannot Find Ashes.

FORMER FIRE CATASTROPHES.

BOYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 14.—Nearly 100 persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic last night and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally.

CYCLONE DEVASTATES MACAO.

BOYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 14.—Nearly 100 persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic last night and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally.

Blazing Oil Falls on Audience.

Leap From Flery Furnace.

Crushed to Jelly in Crowd.

Crushed to Jelly in Crowd.

and the faces of some of the victims were so horribly mutilated that they were barely recognizable.

Fire Apparatus Disabled. To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience, the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows such a catastrophe.



Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt, daughter of W. J. Bryan, who is reported to have separated from her husband.

en and children rushed for the many exits, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the streets.

Every House a Hospital. Assistance was at once asked of both Reading and Pottstown, and special trains carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to the scene of the disaster.

Hundreds of persons surround the burning structure, apparently unconscious of the pending danger from falling walls.

Night of Anguish. The night was one of wailing and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire were pitiful.

It is estimated that in the great Chicago fire of 1871 not more than 200 lives were lost.

While the "Scottish Reformation" was being reproduced in Rhodes Opera-house by Mrs. Monroe, of Washington, a tank used in a moving-picture scene exploded.

Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children who composed the greater part of the audience.

It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred.

In their attempts to quiet the great crowd, those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal-oil lamps used at the footlights.

A few minutes after midnight the rear wall of the theater collapsed. The flames broke out anew, and those who had vainly hoped to be able to find the remains of some of their loved ones turned in despair from the scene of the awful catastrophe.

It is estimated that at least 75 per cent. (Concluded on Page 3.)

RUEF WILL TELL ALL ABOUT GRAFT

No Doubt of Promised Immunity.

CONFERENCE WITH LANGDON

Prosecutor and Burns Have Session With Boss.

BETRAY MEN HIGHER UP

All Parties to Conference Refuse to Admit Fact, but Langdon Gives Broad Intimation—Ruef Is Feeling Joyful.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—What is regarded as the most important conference affecting the prosecution of the San Francisco bribery-graft cases since the 41 indictments were returned was held this afternoon in the office of the District Attorney between District Attorney William H. Langdon, Special Agent William J. Burns and Abraham Ruef, the former political boss.

Not only the successful or unsuccessful prosecution of the persons indicted for bribery, it was generally believed, but the fate of Ruef as well hinges on the outcome of this conference.

When Ruef emerged from the District Attorney's office at 5:30 o'clock he declared that he had promised to say nothing of what took place. He appeared to have passed through a severe ordeal.

Langdon Leaves No Doubt. Late tonight Mr. Langdon refused to deny the statement which has gone about that Ruef has been granted immunity from prosecution and in return for the favor has promised to tell on the witness stand all he knows about the bribery charges against the "higher ups."

Ruef Non-Committal but Happy. "Whatever promises Ruef made are not to be learned from him, for he is, if possible, more non-committal than the District Attorney. He was in a very happy frame of mind, however."

No Ball for Schmitz. Superior Judge Frank H. Dunne this morning refused to admit to bail ex-Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, whose conviction upon the charge of extortion was reversed last Wednesday by the Court of Appeals, which declared that he was illegally convicted.

Commercial and Marine. Steady movement in Oregon hops. Two-cent slump in wheat at Chicago. Page 15. Strong outside demand for stocks. Steamship Arabia reaches Portland with a full cargo of Oriental goods. Page 14.

Portland and Vicinity. Trial of Oregon land frauds resumed with bringing of Steiwer, Hall et al. into court on charge of illegal fencing of public lands. Page 1.

Bankers Roar, Burkhardt and Atchison move to quash indictments. Page 11. District Attorney orders poolrooms with bars to close on Sunday. Page 11.

Transcontinental endurance race between blooded horses may start from Portland during Rose Festival. Page 10. Directors decide to add industrial and cooking courses in public school. Page 10. Annual convention of State Horticultural Society meets today. Page 10. Harrosmakers of Pacific Northwest meet in annual convention. Page 11.

MASSACRED BY YAQUIS

Young Californian and Eight Mexicans Killed From Ambush.

VISALIA, Cal., Jan. 13.—Word of the tragic death of Mark Perkins, a prominent mineowner of Mexico and former resident of this city, was received today by the young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Perkins, of Visalia. On January 2 last, Perkins and nine Mexicans were ambushed by Yaquis near the City of Sonora, Mexico, and massacred, but one Mexican escaping. Other particulars have not been received.

Changes His Plea to Guilty.

ATWELL, Nev., Jan. 12.—In the United States District Court today, Postmaster Atwell, under indictment for embezzlement of \$5000 from the Searchlight Post-office, withdrew his plea of not guilty, and entered a plea of guilty. He will be sentenced tomorrow morning. Atwell maintained his plea of innocence until a portion of the jury was drawn. Witnesses from Searchlight and Government inspectors were here. His action came as a general surprise to all concerned.



Martin W. Littleton, Chief Counsel for Defense of Harry K. Thaw.

office, withdrew his plea of not guilty, and entered a plea of guilty. He will be sentenced tomorrow morning. Atwell maintained his plea of innocence until a portion of the jury was drawn.

CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 42 degrees; minimum, 41 degrees. TODAY'S—Occasional rain; southerly winds. Page 5.

National. Congressional of propaganda debates charges against Dr. Hanna. Page 4. Large mining town in Mexico destroyed by fire. Page 3. Suffrage agitation in Prussia still solidifies opposition to Socialists. Page 4. Fareum wins prize for airship heavier than air. Page 3.

Local. Democratic Senators attack Cortis's financial measures. Page 7. Mrs. Meeker's bill to mark Oregon trail introduced. Page 10. Schueler's appointment referred to subcommittee of which Fulton is member. Page 2. Officers of fleet banqueting by American Ambassador at Rio; Admiral Evans ill. Page 2. Domestic. Littleton promises new evidence of Thaw's insanity. Page 1. Nearly 100 persons burned or crushed to death and 100 injured in theater fire and panic at Boyertown, Pa. Page 1. Nevada Legislature will have fight on Sparks' ranger bill. Page 5. Bryan's daughter, Mrs. Leavitt, leaves her husband. Page 2. Sport. Nelson knocks out Clifford. Page 5. Pacific Coast. What Mayor Taylor proposes to rehabilitate San Francisco. Page 3. Broken California Safe Deposit Bank to afford no harvest for lawyers. Page 4. Missing Vancouver man wakes up to find himself in Goldfield hospital. Page 6. Railroad figures controvert claims of lumbermen. Page 5. Medical holds prosperity meeting. Page 6. Ruef promises to testify against bribers under pledge of immunity. Page 1.

Commercial and Marine. Steady movement in Oregon hops. Two-cent slump in wheat at Chicago. Page 15. Strong outside demand for stocks. Steamship Arabia reaches Portland with a full cargo of Oriental goods. Page 14.

Portland and Vicinity. Trial of Oregon land frauds resumed with bringing of Steiwer, Hall et al. into court on charge of illegal fencing of public lands. Page 1.

Bankers Roar, Burkhardt and Atchison move to quash indictments. Page 11. District Attorney orders poolrooms with bars to close on Sunday. Page 11.

Transcontinental endurance race between blooded horses may start from Portland during Rose Festival. Page 10. Directors decide to add industrial and cooking courses in public school. Page 10. Annual convention of State Horticultural Society meets today. Page 10. Harrosmakers of Pacific Northwest meet in annual convention. Page 11.

THAW WAS MAD, SAYS LITTLETON

Offers New Proof of Man's Insanity.

HEREDITY SHOWED INFLUENCE

Secrets of His Family and Youth Brought Out.

HIS VERSION OF TRAGEDY

Prosecution Says Killing of White Was Premeditated Murder and Offers Evidence—Try to Exclude Evelyn Thaw.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—The Thaw trial moved with a rush today. After the state had presented its direct case and Assistant District Attorney Garvan has characterized the killing of Stanford White as "a premeditated, deliberate and cowardly murder," Martin W. Littleton, for the defense, made the opening plea for the prisoner. His promise of new evidence was sensational and held the supreme attention of all in the courtroom.

Mr. Littleton promised to forge a chain of circumstances and to produce a line of testimony which will prove Harry K. Thaw undeniably insane at the time of the homicide. Evidence of heredity insanity and of strange, unusual acts of Thaw not even hinted at during the first trial was told of by Mr. Littleton, who said that physicians and nurses who had attended Thaw were hurrying here from Europe; that teachers of the defendant in childhood would be on hand to give their impressions of "the wild-eyed, distant boy." In conclusion Mr. Littleton challenged the District Attorney to produce a single reputable physician who would say that Thaw was not insane at the time he killed the noted architect.

Many Surprises for Thaw. Mr. Littleton's speech fairly blasted with surprise. Mr. Jerome had his surprise to offer, too, and when Mr. Littleton started to launch into the relations of Stanford White with the girl whom Thaw married, the District Attorney was on his feet with an objection. Justice Dowling sustained him, and the name of the architect was not linked again with that of the defendant's wife. Mr. Littleton touched but lightly upon the girl's story as she told it to Thaw, but, careful as he was on this point, he again drew an objection from the prosecuting officer, who said:

"Mr. Littleton is now straying into a field of stuff which in my opinion will be excluded."

Again Justice Dowling sustained the objection. It was reported at the beginning of the trial that Mr. Jerome would fight this in order to exclude the testimony of young Mrs. Thaw.

During Mr. Littleton's speech Thaw sat wide-eyed and pallid, looking fixedly at his counsel. Toward the close he seemed rather displeased with something that was said, and leaning forward, scribbled off a note.

Pictures Thaw as Madman.

Describing the killing of White, Mr. Littleton said:

"His madness, born and bred in him, had been set on by the stories he had heard. He had gone to the District Attorney with them, and to Mr. Consock. They ran in his head until, staggering among the chairs of Madison Square Garden, yet not drunk—his eyes burning like two great coals of fire, unable intelligently to answer questions put to him, maniacal in the last degree, lost—lost, as he was in Rome, in Monte Carlo and in London—the blind confusion of insanity overcame him and he fired. The result was not a murder, but the act of a madman, who afterward, wide-eyed and traitorous, cried out in his cell that he heard the voices of little children calling and proclaimed that he had but acted as an agent of Providence."

After his speech Mr. Littleton was asked in what manner he would attempt to prove Thaw sane at the pres-

TRIAL OF LAND FRAUDS RESUMED

Steiwer, Hall et al Appear in Court.

EIGHT DEFENDANTS INVOLVED

Illegal Fencing of Public Land Charged in Indictment.

F. J. HENEY PROSECUTES

Jury Will Be Selected Today, and Introduction of Evidence Begin Tomorrow—Only 53 of 100 Veniremen Qualify to Serve.



Harry K. Thaw, as He Now Appears.

THE CHARGE—Indictment 2014 charges defendants with illegally fencing public lands in Wheeler County.

THE DEFENDANTS—W. W. Steiwer, ex-State Senator; John H. Hall, ex-United States Attorney for Oregon; Hamilton H. Hendricks, Clarence B. Zachary, Clyde E. Glass, Edwin Mays, Franklin P. Mays and Clark E. Loomis. All of the defendants were either in court yesterday in person or were represented by their attorneys.

THE JURY—Selection of a jury will begin this morning. Only 53 of 100 jurors summoned have qualified. It is expected a jury will be selected today and introduction of testimony will begin tomorrow.

From a panel of 53 men, who have qualified as jurors, the task of selecting a jury of 12 to try W. W. Steiwer, ex-State Senator; John H. Hall, ex-United States Attorney for Oregon, and six other defendants, charged with illegally fencing public lands, will be taken up in the United States Court at 10 o'clock this morning. It is expected that a jury will be secured today, enabling the introduction of testimony to begin tomorrow.

All the defendants were either present in person or were represented by counsel when United States Judge W. H. Hunt convened court at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. Following the usual formality of opening court and determining that the defendants were ready for trial, a recess was declared until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when the jury list was called, and such as presented legitimate excuses were discharged. The list of available jurors was still further cut down, owing to the fact that of the total number of 100 that had been subpoenaed, about 30 had not been found by United States Marshal Reed.

When Judge Hunt took a final inventory of the list, after excluding a number for various reasons, he found that the panel from which trial jurors will be drawn at this term was reduced to 53 men. After these jurors had satisfied the court of their qualifications, an adjournment was declared until 10 o'clock this morning.

Charge Against Steiwer, Hall, Et Al.

The case on trial is that of indictment No. 2011, which charges Winlock W. Steiwer, ex-State Senator, and 11 other defendants, including John H. Hall, ex-United States Attorney for Oregon, with conspiracy against the Government, the specific offense being the illegal fencing of about 13,000 acres of public land in Wheeler County. But in this trial only eight of the twelve defendants are involved. They are: Steiwer, Hall, Hamilton H. Hendricks, Clarence B. Zachary, Clyde E. Glass, Edwin Mays, Franklin P. Mays and Clark E. Loomis. Of the other four men named in the indictment, A. C. Watson is a fugitive, having left the state before he could be arrested; Charles A. Watson was tried and convicted under another indictment charging perjury, sentence being suspended; Binger Hermann, ex-Congressman, has been granted a separation, which is equivalent to a continuation as to himself individually, meaning a separate trial; and E. D. Stratford, who was a former special agent and is now a resident of the State of Kansas.

Hall Will Not Delay Trial. Defendant Hall said last night he would not cause his counsel to interpret any motions that would have the effect of delaying the progress of the trial he has been demanding for some time. But he admitted that he would probably insist on a ruling by the presiding judge of his motion for a separate trial. Such a motion was argued and submitted before the late Judge Bellinger but a decision had not been rendered, when he died. There is also pending an unfinished plea in abatement that was entered by Franklin P. Mays, another of the defendants in the suit now on trial, about the time Hall requested a separate trial. This question had not been decided by Judge Bellinger when he died and will probably be argued before Judge Hunt by W. Lair Hill, counsel for Mays, before the trial begins. The plea involves the question of the citizenship of George Gustin, a member of the grand jury by which the indictment on which Hall et al are to be tried, was returned. It was urged in the Mitchell and

Littleton Arouses His Anger. Mr. Smith's direct testimony was concluded in half an hour, and then Mr. Littleton undertook his cross-examination. The witness said Stanford White married his sister, but he did not see the architect very often. He had never gone to the roof garden with White. He had not written down his conversation with Thaw after the shooting and had repeated it from memory. The witness said Thaw did not wear an overcoat while talking to him, but had one thrown over

(Concluded on Page 3.)

HARRY MURPHY IS PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THE TRIAL OF HALL ET AL.



HENEY, HALL, RITTENHOUSE, HUNT. QUOTH THE JUDGE—DOES ANY GENTLEMAN PRESENT KNOW ANY REASON WHY HE SHOULDN'T SERVE AS A JUROR? WITH THE ABOVE RESULT.