



FIRE AT HERALD SQUARE THEATRE DURING PERFORMANCE

But Audience are Ignorant Until Let Out

DAMAGE IS \$50,000

Flames Start From an Electric Sign in Front of the Building

POLICE PREVENT A PANIC

Some Time After the Crowd Leaves Building Gallery Falls and a Moment Later 35 Feet of Broadway Roof Collapses.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A fire broke out in the Herald Square Theatre tonight ten minutes before the close of the performance. Before it was brought under control it had done damage to the extent of \$50,000, driving the actors to the streets in their scant costumes and caused a great commotion on Broadway. There was no panic and the audience remained in ignorance of the fire until it had passed into the street. Fire caught from an electric sign on the front of the building and spread to executive offices which are on the second gallery of the auditorium. When the curtain was lowered upon the final ensemble, the orchestra continued to play while the police at the exits quieted and reassured those who discovered the smoke in the gallery. Some time after the fire was practically out the theatre gallery fell and a moment later 35 feet of the roof on the Broadway end of the building came down.

RACE WITH DEATH.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Death was victor in a race of Miss Ada Grantham to the bedside of her sweetheart, Emil J. Hilty, who was ill with typhoid fever at his home in Birmingham, Ala. An hour before she reached that city he died. Miss Grantham is said to be prostrated and her parents have hastened south to be with her.

NO DRUNK NEED APPLY.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The Chicago & Milwaukee Electric Railroad will hereafter refuse to carry intoxicated persons on its road. As the walking

SHREWD PORTLAND GRAFTER CAUGHT

German Poses as an Employment Agent Secures Money From Women But Gets No Jobs

PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—Benjamin Franklin, a German who has been operating an employment agency and who claims he was at one time chef for the late Grover Cleveland, was arrested here today, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses. The German's accusers, who are mostly women, declare that they deposited fees with the agent ranging from \$3 to \$9 for which they were to be furnished positions. They state that the German furnished none of them with working places. Today an irate crowd of women who believe

CITY EMPLOYEES.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Mayor Busse has sent a message to the city council recommending reform in the attendance of city employees at their respective offices. "When I want to find a man anywhere about ordinary lunch hours," he said, "the chances are he is out. If I can't get him what chance has the citizen who comes here to do business got? The hall should close promptly at noon as any business house does, and the men all be back at 1 o'clock. Then we would know what to expect."

COLLINS IS PARDONED BY GOV. HOCK

MAN WHO WAS SERVING LIFE FOR THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER.

FREE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Governor Believes Collins is Innocent—Was Convicted on the Testimony of Three Negroes, All Evidence Being Circumstantial.

TOPEKA, Dec. 22.—Governor Hoch today pardoned John Collins, serving a life sentence in the Kansas penitentiary for the murder of his father, a well-to-do real estate man of this city ten years ago. Collins will be free on Christmas day. Governor believes Collins is innocent. Collins was convicted on the testimony of three negroes, all of it being circumstantial. At the time the state set up the plea that Collins was in love with Miss Florence Babcock, a wealthy young society woman of Kansas City and was assigned as the motive a desire to get his father's insurance money in order to secure funds to marry her. One of the negroes has since written a book in which he confessed that his testimony was a part of the plan of enemies of Collins to ruin him. The elder Collins was found dead one morning after a visit to his son at Lawrence.

between towns is not particularly good a decided diminution in that class is expected. The reason assigned is that some of the cars have no smoking rooms and it is not desired to carry "drunks" in the same compartment with women and children.

FRA ELBERTUS HURT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A special to the Times from Buffalo says that a falling tree seriously injured Elbert Hubbard, the author and lecturer, in the woods near his colony at East Aurora, N. Y., yesterday. While assisting workmen he miscalculated the distance the tree would fall and was crushed.

HIS TRIP TO IRELAND.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The Tribune today in a news article says Pat O'Malley who made a bet of \$1000 with Jim O'Leary, stockyard gambler, that he could reach his home in Ireland from Chicago in a week has won his wager.

POISON ANYWAY!

MANILA, Dec. 22.—Seventeen soldiers of the Eighteenth Infantry, stationed at Camp Keithley, Mindanao, are still ill as the result of drinking some of the poisonous alcohol that killed ten of their comrades on December 15. The alcohol was procured from the post exchange by some of the soldiers who pretended that they wanted it for the lamps with which they hunted deer at night. Owing to the restoration of peaceful conditions in the neighborhood after long disturbances hunting leaves have been granted frequently of late and the request was readily granted. A secret attempt was made to dilute the alcohol, and later a large number of the soldiers drank the poisonous liquor with terrible results.

AN EXACTING RUMOR.

Insurance of 100 Subpoenas to Employees Arouses Suspicion.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The issuance of 100 subpoenas, 25 of which were served on employees in the traffic department of Nelson Morris & Company summoning them to appear before the grand jury, started a report today that the inquisitorial body would investigate charges of rebating among the big packing firms at the stockyards.

District Attorney Sims refused to deny or confirm the report. Sims returned yesterday from a flying visit to Washington, where he was in conference with B. F. Kellogg and Attorney General Bonaparte.

The conference is supposed to be in connection with the move.

COMMITTEE COMPLETES TARIFF HEARING

COMMENCE WORK OF REVISING PRESENT LAW INTO A BILL.

SPECIAL SESSION IN MARCH

Carnegie's Testimony Does Not Prove Satisfactory to the Committee and is Utterly Useless as Far as Desired Information is Concerned.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The House on ways and means committee completed today its hearings on the proposed revision of the tariff and sub-committee consisting of Republican members of full committees began work of revising present law into a tariff bill. This bill is to be submitted to congress at a special session, which it is understood Judge Taft will call next March. In order to complete its work in time, the sub-committee will hold daily meetings behind closed doors until the bill has been formed. Carnegie's testimony yesterday did not prove satisfactory to the committee. One prominent Republican member said today that his testimony was practically nil as far as information of use to the committee is concerned.

GET FLASHLIGHT OF GRAFT

Have Pictures of Councilmen Getting Money

BY DECOY PROMOTERS

This Piece of Evidence Said to be the Feature of Today's Hearing

PITTSBURG GREATLY SHOCKED

Sensation Sprung When Detectives Touch Flash Just as the Councilmen Were in the Act of Accepting Money From Bogus Promoter.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 22.—A flashlight photograph of councilmen in the act of receiving money from a coy "Promoter" it is said to be one of the strongest features of evidence to be presented tomorrow when seven members of the council and two former bank officials are to be given preliminary hearing on charges of bribery or corrupt solicitation and other illegal acts. No additional arrests were made today and it is said none are likely to be until the hearing tomorrow. All whom the detectives think are possibly implicated are being kept under surveillance. A flashlight is said also to show the detective which worked up the case. This man is reported to have posed as a member of a firm anxious to sell a pavement to the city. With other detectives in the room he is said to have induced the councilman to tell of the negotiations to secure the passage of this legislation and names of other members who were to share the bribe and that they were tired of promises and wanted some real money. Just as the detective was peeling of \$100 and \$500 in bills from a big roll, the flash was touched off. It is stated the councilman broke down and wept. It is practically admitted that a number of "Decoy promoters" were introduced to trap the councilmen and that many temptations have been offered the members during the last six months.

ANOTHER POUCH STOLEN.

Missouri Town Growing Famous For Postal Outrages.

UNION CITY, Tenn., Dec. 22.—When Mrs. Anna Jackson, one of the state's witnesses this afternoon in the night riders' trials was excused from the stand she turned to Judge Jones and said: "I will not leave the courtroom without armed protection. I know these men."

Mrs. Jackson told a vivid story of several visits of the night riders corroborating Fred Fehring's testimony on many details as did other witnesses, and identified by name at least 27 members of the band. She was followed on the stand by her daughter, Miss Dora Jackson, 18 years old who corroborated her mother. The last witness of the day was Will Russell, another alleged night rider, who has turned state's evidence. Russell came to Union City after the Rankin killing and made a confession. He was trembling with fear and could hardly raise his voice above a whisper. Russell is under constant guard, but he believes that he will be killed in spite of these precautions. Russell's story was practically the same as that told by Fehring.

SELF-CONFESSED ROBBER

Has Hard Time in Proving Himself One of the Gang.

PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—A strange sight in the detecting of a criminal tonight was the effort of William Burke, self-confessed member of the trio which held up the O. R. & N. train Thursday last, to convince the engineer and fireman of the locomotive, that he was one of the robbers. After hours of questioning and recalling of incidents by Burke, the trainmen finally were convinced and declared that Burke and Jack Hayes are two of the gang, at the same time admitting that they were mistaken in their belief that the men held by the police are the robbers.

Another strange thing is that Vanderhof, the tramp who was on the train with the robbers and who declared his ability to identify all of them was unable to until Burke had recalled certain events to his memory and it was only after several circumstances had been recalled to the express messenger, Huff, by Burke, that he acknowledged Burke to be one of the robbers. The police are still confident that their prisoners are the "right men and are making as great an effort to have their captures indicated by the grand jury as is the sheriff's office to have Burke and Hayes indicted. Hayes, the man whom Burke accuses of being one of the gang refrains from commenting on the case. His only reference to the subject was to say after reading a news article which said he was an ex-convict from Folsom, was to say that the newspaper men had got the wrong penitentiary.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS BURN.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—A mail car loaded with Christmas packages burned, five mail clerks barely escaped with their lives and one injured in jumping to safety as a result of a collision between the B. & O. and the Chicago & Alton trains here tonight. Many of the passengers were badly shaken up.

HOLT GUILTY.

SEATTLE, Dec. 22.—After deliberating 24 hours the jury tonight brought in a verdict in the federal court finding James H. Holt guilty of murder of Bandman Henry E. Johnson at Fort Worden last May.

ANOTHER NIGHT RIDER MAKES CONFESSION

WILL RUSSELL TURNS STATE'S EVIDENCE, CORROBORATES FEHRINGER'S TESTIMONY

MRS. JACKSON IS EXCUSED

Russell is Under Constant Guard But Believes That he Will be Killed by Band in Spite of Precautions.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 22.—A mail pouch containing 60 pounds of registered Christmas packages consigned to Eastern points was stolen from the baggage room of 22nd and Grand avenue belt line today. Although the postoffice officials refuse to make a statement it is believed the contents are very valuable. There is no money in it. After the pouch had been placed in the baggage room, the baggage master stepped out to check a trunk. When he returned the pouch was gone. A negro loitering in the vicinity is thought to have secured the pouch.

Read the Morning Astorian's Christmas advertisements for bargains.

CASTRO ALLEGED TO HAVE PLOTTED GOMEZ'S LIFE

KANGAROO MEAT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Kangaroo meat is to be served in New York hotels, a local dealer having arranged for the importation of 200 of the animals for use as food. The tail is considered the great delicacy, but almost every cut is said to be good eating by those who have sampled it. The dealer who hopes to meet with success in his new venture says he thinks New Yorkers will soon take to kangaroo meat in the same way that Europeans like American specialties such as wild turkey and quail.

EYE WITNESS TO ANNIS TRAGEDY TESTIFIES

WILLIAM KNAPP IS GIVEN A MOST VIGOROUS CROSS EXAMINATION

THE DEFENSE IS WORRIED

Mrs. Annis Testifies That Thornton Hains Turned Her Back With Revolver When She Ran Across Float to Her Injured Husband.

FLUSHING, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Testimony of a character designed to corroborate the stories of the killing of W. E. Annis which have been told during Thornton Hains trial, was developed today from several of the prosecutions' witnesses.

William Knapp, member of the Bay Side Yacht Club, was given a vigorous cross-examination after testifying that while sailing toward the dock after an impromptu boat race he heard the shooting and saw Mrs. Annis running down the runway. "I saw her move across the float," continued Knapp. "Then she was stopped and she went back up the runway again. Some one took her by the arm at the runway. I could not see who stopped her because she was hidden by the jib of Annis' boat."

Mrs. Annis testified yesterday that Thornton turned her back with a revolver when she ran across the float toward her injured husband. John C. Stephens, a fellow club member of Annis, testified that he heard the defendant say after the shooting: "I came to protect my brother and would have shot anybody that interfered."

Both Knapp and Stephens asserted that there was noticeable interval between the first and subsequent shots fired by Captain Hains at Annis.

FISHER SHOOTING BY EYE WITNESS

Miss Vera Burkhart Formerly Fisher's Stenographer Gives Testimony of Much Importance

PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—That Ralph B. Fisher, prosecutor of the State Bar Association, who was killed by J. A. Finch, the disbarred lawyer, was shot from behind and without warning; that he fell with his feet under his desk and his overturned chair beside him; that the bullet which caused death ranged downward and that there were no sounds of a quarrel before the shooting nor signs of a physical contest evident, was the burden of the testimony presented by the State against Finch, whose trial is now in progress. The purpose of this evidence was introduced by the prosecution with the apparent purpose of combating the contention made by Finch's counsel in their opening statement that Finch was shot in self-defense during an altercation and after he had been hit over the head with a notaries seal. Miss Vera Burkhart, Fisher's stenographer, the only eye witness of the tragedy, told a simple, straightforward story which withstood all the attacks of Finch's lawyers. It was she who testified as to the suddenness of the shooting. Finch is practically directing his own defense. During the direct examination, he takes copious notes, and he frames many if not most of the questions with the apparent purpose of asked during the cross examination.

Said to Have Plotted to Assassinate

HIS POWER IS BROKEN

Already the New Administration Shows Intention to Settle Disputes

GOMEZ HEARS OF THE PLOT

Attempt to Assassinate Gomez and Several Ministers Was Decided For December 18—Castro Apparently Unaware of His Downfall.

CARACAS, Via Willemstad, Dec. 22.—The end of the rule in Venezuela of Cipriano Castro has come, the dictator who has governed the republic with a rod of iron ever since he took forcible possession in 1899 is now openly charged with conspiracy to encompass the assassination of the man whom he left at the head of the republic when he sailed way on November 23 for La Guaira, nominally to secure skilled medical aid in Berlin for a malady of long standing and is today thoroughly discredited.

The Bank of Venezuela has called its correspondents at Berlin and Paris cancelling the unlimited letters of credit given to Castro and no one in Caracas believes that he will ever dare to return to the capital.

At a conference yesterday between Gomez and the German minister who has been in charge of the interests of Holland since the Dutch minister left last summer, it was agreed to suspend operations of the decree issued by Castro prohibiting the transshipment of goods destined for Venezuela. Pending the signing of a treaty the Dutch warships will be withdrawn.

The attempt to assassinate Gomez and several ministers was decided on Friday night December 18th. Gomez heard of the plot and personally arrested the conspirators in the presence of their armed friends. The men concerned in the conspiracy were Castro's closest friends and known adherents. A prominent lawyer has filed accusation in the high court charging Castro with complicity in a plot to assassinate Gomez and proposing the impeachment of Castro.

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