

FIERCE FIRE DESTROYS LUMBER MILLS

EARTHLY EFFORT WAS POWERLESS TO CHECK BLAZE

DESPITE BRAVE WORK GREEDY FIRE DEMON WRECKED TWO MILLS AND STOCK YARDS

Brave Work of Firemen Who, Fighting Against Terrific Odds, Are Overcome--Some Scenes of the Day.



THE DESTROYED PROPERTY

The Eastern Lumber Company is under the same management as the Western concern and was saved from total destruction only by the united efforts of the firemen.

The Western Lumber Company is located several hundred feet south of the Eastern concern and was rapidly being devoured by the quickly spreading flames when the fire department arrived.

The J. M. Martin Planing Mill is supposed to be the place where the fire originated. The entire building was a mass of flames when the department arrived and it was only after hard work that several adjoining structures could be saved.

When the fire broke out, the lives of the men working on the docks were seen to be in imminent danger. As the hissing jets shot out toward the crowds of spectators, pandemonium reigned for several minutes in the scramble for places of safety.

The fire department arrived with a hurried retreat, one of the fire-fighters was seen to plunge into the river and escape unharmed to a raft of logs beneath M. E. Lafaez, superintendent of the Eastern Lumber Mill.

While the conflagration was at its height the Northern Pacific train pulled up, inbound, and was compelled to come to a stop on account of the fire hose that crossed the track in several places.

A gang of trainmen was soon at work tearing up the planking alongside of the track and digging trenches under the rails for the hose.

What there is about a vast fire that excites men and sends them rushing to almost certain destruction is not certain, but all firemen know that at such times it is as difficult to restrain unwise sight-seers from rushing into danger as it is to rescue those who are wrapped about with flame and smoke.

This morning the trait of humanity was manifest and from the time the great liners and the fire streams sent up their hoarse calls for aid until the wharfs, docks and warehouses were but charred masses of warped plies and smouldering heaps of rubbish, the officers, firemen and workers battled with their fellow men as constantly as they did with the flames.

Under an orange sun that peered through the yellow clouds brave men did what they might to save some remnant of the two mills with their warehouses, docks and wharfs.

An employe of the Western Milling Company, "and not even a flame was in sight. Suddenly from under my feet burst a streak of fire; the air grew black with smoke and in 10 seconds the entire dock was ablaze. I escaped narrowly, but as I ran, I heard the screams of two men that were cut off by the flames and crawled under the docks to escape the heat.

Several firemen and employes of the Oregon Sash & Door Company told of two men that were cut off by the flames and crawled under the docks to escape the heat.

From the outset there was a lamentable lack of water, and to this fact the firemen attribute much of the loss. Engine No. 4 was driven around the mills and down a very steep incline on the river bank.

That more engines would be needed. Consequently a second alarm was sounded. Engines Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were on the scene, and were placed at hydrants close to the fire on the wharf.

It was quickly seen, however, that they would have to be removed, owing to the fact that the flames were sweeping the wharves away rapidly. One engine was left at the end of the wharf directly on the waterfront at the foot of Fourteenth street, east of the Martin plant, and the others were placed in a semi-circle around the mills, each pumping two heavy streams.

Shortly after the flames had begun to leap about in glee in the interior of the Martin mill, a terrible flash of smoke and flame burst forth from underneath. There were between 50 and 75 men on the river side of the building, nothing but, and all possible escape by way of the regular roadway was cut off.

Manager Ransom stated that he was unable to tell what portion of the mill he was in, so dense was the smoke. "I yelled to the men who were there with me," said he, "to jump onto the raft of logs in the river. It was this only means of escape from the fiery furnace for them, because it was impossible for a man to determine the exits or roadway. I know that a large number obeyed my order, but the question is, did they all find their way to the shore? It was so intensely hot that a man could not live in it more than a very brief period, and the pall of smoke was absolutely stifling. I am fearful that some were unable to escape, and that they are either drowned or burned to a crisp.

Then the Winds Began. A south wind began to blow when the Martin mill was wrapped in flames, the pall of smoke shot up from beneath, driving the curling tongues of fire toward the Western Mill plant, and sending blazing fagots through the air to spread destruction.

Suddenly the flooring gave way, and Hoseman Frank Slavin and Louis Wagner, from No. 6, were precipitated to a scaffolding below. Slavin suffered the fracture of his left leg, while Wagner escaped with but a few slight bruises. Wagner was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital.

Hoseman James McGraw, of Truck No. 3, who was fighting the flames with the men of Hose No. 6, states that he heard men groaning and shrieking for help. "My God! My God!" they were crying, "send help to rescue us from this awful place!"

Their voices sounded near," said McGraw, "but the blinding smoke made it impossible for me to seek them out that night, and I am helping hands. It is my opinion that at least a portion of them never got out alive."

Ole Moe, day yard foreman of the Western Mill, gave it as his opinion that some were burned or drowned in the panic that followed the sudden burst of flame and smoke under the Martin Mill. He stated that he yelled to those cut off from escape by the roadway, to jump to the raft below.

The fire-fighters and the myriads of spectators lined along the adjoining streets were praying for the wind to cease blowing, but at the most critical juncture it grew stronger, fanning the leaping flames madder and madder, feeding along the wharf and large lumber piles leading to the Western Mill, to the northward. "Rain were the efforts of the firemen to stay the disastrous spread, for the frame buildings, wooden wharves and piling burned with lightning-like rapidity, and the hungry fire fiend feasted, at least upon the Western Mill plant. It was a terrific struggle that took place there between the flames and the firemen, but the fire gained the victory, for in another hour the valuable plant lay in ruins before the watching throngs.

Five blocks north was the Eastern Mill plant, connected with the Western and Martin plants by a wooden roadway. Stronger and stronger blew the south wind, and for a time it seemed that despite the efforts of the firemen the blazing brands of fire flying in the air would kindle another conflagration in the Eastern Mill. Chief Campbell was preparing to send engines and hose east to the scene, when like a direct answer from Providence to a multitude of prayers, the wind quieted down, and all danger to the Eastern Mill was past. But the entire waterfront was ablaze from Fourteenth street to Twelfth street, and the fire had swept to destruction everything before it, wiping out in little more than an hour property to the value of \$260,000.

A mighty shout went up from the throats of the spectators as they saw the fire fiend defeated in its attempt to lay the Eastern Mill in ruins. Then, as if to mock their cries of victory, a north wind rose up, again sending the burning brands circling through the air and threatening destruction to a square mile of business houses, dwellings and freight sheds.

Stockyards Go Up. In its northward sweep the fire had passed by the Portland Union Stockyards. It had been a most narrow escape, and all cattle and hogs were driven.

Chief Dave Campbell arrived with his firemen promptly, and he saw at a glance



leap about in glee in the interior of the Martin mill, a terrible flash of smoke and flame burst forth from underneath. There were between 50 and 75 men on the river side of the building, nothing but, and all possible escape by way of the regular roadway was cut off.

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WAGE WHOLESALE WAR ON UNIONS

AWFUL DEATH OF A LITTLE BOY

Life Crushed Out by Wagon Wheels.

Child Fell From Seat When the Wagon Plunged Into Rut in the Road.

(Journal Special Service.) INDEPENDENCE, Ore., May 1.—At Airle, Wednesday noon, an accident happened by which John Blake, the 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Blake, of Dallas, met instant death.

Roy Byerly, an uncle of the child, was driving a team and on the seat with him was the little boy. The wagon wheels dropped into a hole in the road, causing the seat to be thrown forward upon the horses, and the boy, falling in such a manner that the wheels passed over his breast and shoulders, crushing him in a frightful manner, and causing instant death.

Mr. Byerly received a few bruises, but none serious.

AMERICAN IS HELD BY YAQUIS

Indians Demand Ransom of \$500,000.

(Journal Special Service.) TUCSON, Ariz., May 1.—Col. Martin Erickson, a well known American mining man and capitalist has been captured and is being held for ransom by the Yaquis of Sonora, Mexico.

The amount demanded is \$500,000 and the time limit for the payment is 10 days. The Mexican minister of war is a personal friend of Erickson and has ordered all available military to the rescue. Erickson is a millionaire. The Mexican authorities say he will be executed unless he pays the ransom.

WHISKEY RATHER THAN FORTUNE

The Nephew of a Duke Perishes Miserably.

(Journal Special Service.) SEATTLE, May 1.—Jack Wood, the bartender who was drowned in a bath tub yesterday afternoon, is said by his friends and others who are in a position to know, to have been an heir to an estate of \$2,000,000 and a nephew of the wealthy Duke of Hamilton of England. Wood had lived in Seattle for a number of years. A few months ago an agent of the Duke of Hamilton came to Seattle and made every effort to induce Wood to quit his dissolute life and return to his family in England.

"I would rather lose my fortune than my whiskey," was his invariable answer to the importunities of the agent. Friends of the dead man presented themselves at the morgue today and notified the authorities that the body should be placed in readiness to be shipped to his relatives in England.

CONVENTION ADJOURNS.

COLUMBUS, May 1.—The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers today re-elected all old officers, including President Shaffer. They selected Cleveland as the next national convention place and adjourned this afternoon.

RIPLEY-STOREY WEDDING.

PASADENA, Cal., May 1.—Robert Harris Ripley, son of the President of the Santa Fe Railroad, was married here today to Miss Ada Storey, a prominent young society woman.

MOODY IS COMING.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1.—Secretary of the Navy Moody is to visit the Pacific Coast when the President comes West. The Secretary will personally inspect the various naval stations on the Coast.

The Trusts Have Plan to Kill Opposition to Their Ends.

(Journal Special Service.) CHICAGO, May 1.—Startling charges against capitalists and trusts, officially made before the local Federation of Labor, have been given weight by the appointment of a committee on propaganda to organize labor so that it can make war on an alleged gigantic conspiracy to wreck all labor unions. Responsibility for this conspiracy is laid at the doors of Morgan, Rockefeller and other multimillionaires.

In substance, the charge is, that Wall street, alarmed at the inroads being made on stock dividends by corporations throughout America by the demands of labor and also by the shrinkage of values of franchises and properties because of labor's insistence upon municipal ownership of public utilities, and by anti-trust legislation brought about through organized labor's insistence and claim, has formed a conspiracy. This was learned from a high financial authority, who declined to enter the fight.

The plan, according to Labor Leader Dietrich, is to shut out union labor, cause a depreciation of stock values, buy in at depreciated figures and at the same time deal a death blow to unionism. Dietrich says the initiatory step is to freeze out the union men in harvester plants which have machinery enough in the warehouses to supply the demands for the next six months. He claims the Deering trouble is due to this.

COSTELLO MAY HAVE DROWNED

Last Seen on a Scow at Foot of Savier Street.

Peter Costello, a hodcarrier, residing with his family on Savier street, is missing, and fears are entertained that he has been drowned in the Willamette River. He has not been home since Tuesday, when he was seen about two blocks from his house. He did not go home that night. The next day he was about town and in the evening he is known to have purchased a can of beer and visited a friend living on a scow at the foot of Savier street. Industry there has revealed nothing except that Costello called there, remained a while and departed. It is feared that the man may have walked off the gangway into the river, as he is said to have been somewhat under the influence of liquor. Costello is well known in this city, where he has lived for many years. The police are searching for him.

MADRID POLICE SHOOT LIBERALS

Thirteen Rioters Killed By the Officers.

(Journal Special Service.) MADRID, May 1.—Thirteen members of the Liberal party were killed and many seriously wounded by the police of this city today in a riot growing out of a government political proclamation. The proclamation was to the effect that the ministerial candidates must be elected to Parliament regardless of the balloting. It was planned to seat the government candidates even though the Liberals should have the greatest number of votes.

A mob of Liberals charged the officers and the latter, in self defense, were obliged to fire into the crowd. Government Had Ordered Election of Ministerial Candidates Regardless of Voters.

FOUNDER OF GLASS WORKS

(Journal Special Service.) CRIGHTON, Pa., May 1.—Captain John Ford, the pioneer manufacturer of plate glass and head of the industry in America, died this morning after a long illness, aged 91. At 70 he was paralyzed. He leaves an estate valued at \$20,000,000.

FIRE AT WEST POINT.

(Journal Special Service.) RICHMOND, May 1.—Fire this morning nearly wiped out the summer resort at West Point. Many persons were rendered homeless. The loss will reach \$125,000.