

SAN FRANCISCO IN RUINS 2000 DEAD IN EARTHQUAKE

Flames Following the Shocks Threaten to Destroy the Entire City as Supply of Dynamite Used in Fighting the Fire Has Been Exhausted

Troops From Presidio Guard Property—Business Entirely Suspended—Fire Chief Sullivan Killed—Property Loss Close to a Third of a Billion Dollars.

A series of earthquake shocks beginning at 5:15 this morning, followed by fires, destroyed perhaps half of San Francisco.

The dead number at least two thousand, most of them crushed by falling buildings. The property loss is perhaps three hundred and fifty million dollars.

Not the Charleston earthquake, Galveston's tidal wave, the great Chicago fire, the Boston fire or the Johnstown flood equals in loss of life and property this tremendous catastrophe at San Francisco.

Sacramento, Cal., April 18.—The downtown business portion of San Francisco is a raging hell of fire, ruin and death. Every brick building of over three stories in the city is damaged or destroyed by the earthquake. The district on Market street to Third, comprising over a square mile of the greatest business center, is in flames. The water pipes have been twisted and broken by the earthquake and the water system is rendered utterly useless. Buildings rimming about the burning district are being blown up to prevent the spread of the flames. The financial loss is incredible; the loss of human life is appalling, the deaths mounting into thousands and thousands. All kinds of communication to San Francisco were suspended until after 9 o'clock. The crowds seeking to escape from San Francisco by the ferry are too great to be handled, and panic reigns. Every policeman is on duty, working to control the frenzied crowd. The Mechanics pavilion has been turned into a morgue to handle the mutilated corpses from the ruins of the tenements and hotels. The city hall, built at a cost of \$16,000,000, is almost completely ruined. It is rumored that the Call building is destroyed and that the Palace hotel is in flames.

San Francisco, April 18.—Two thousand dead, hundreds of millions of property damaged, a sea of flames consuming the ruins and wrapping stately structures in a mantle of fire, the boom of dynamite used to stay the progress of the flames, the crash of collapsing structures, the screams of the panic-stricken mingling with the hoarse shouts of the firemen, is the summary at noon of the havoc wrought by the most disastrous earthquake in the history of America, which shook the inhabitants from their beds at 5:20 o'clock this morning and wrecked the business portion of the city by the Golden Gate.

Fires are raging in a score of the different sections of the city. Along Market street from the ferry to Seventh street, 50 different fires are raging. It is impossible to secure water enough to fight the flames to advantage, as all mains were cracked by the earthquake shock. Streetcar tracks were badly twisted, many costly buildings have sunk four and five feet, crevices have been torn in streets and sidewalks and all thoroughfares are thronged with people fleeing from the scene.

SEVERAL SHOCKS IN SUCCESSION.

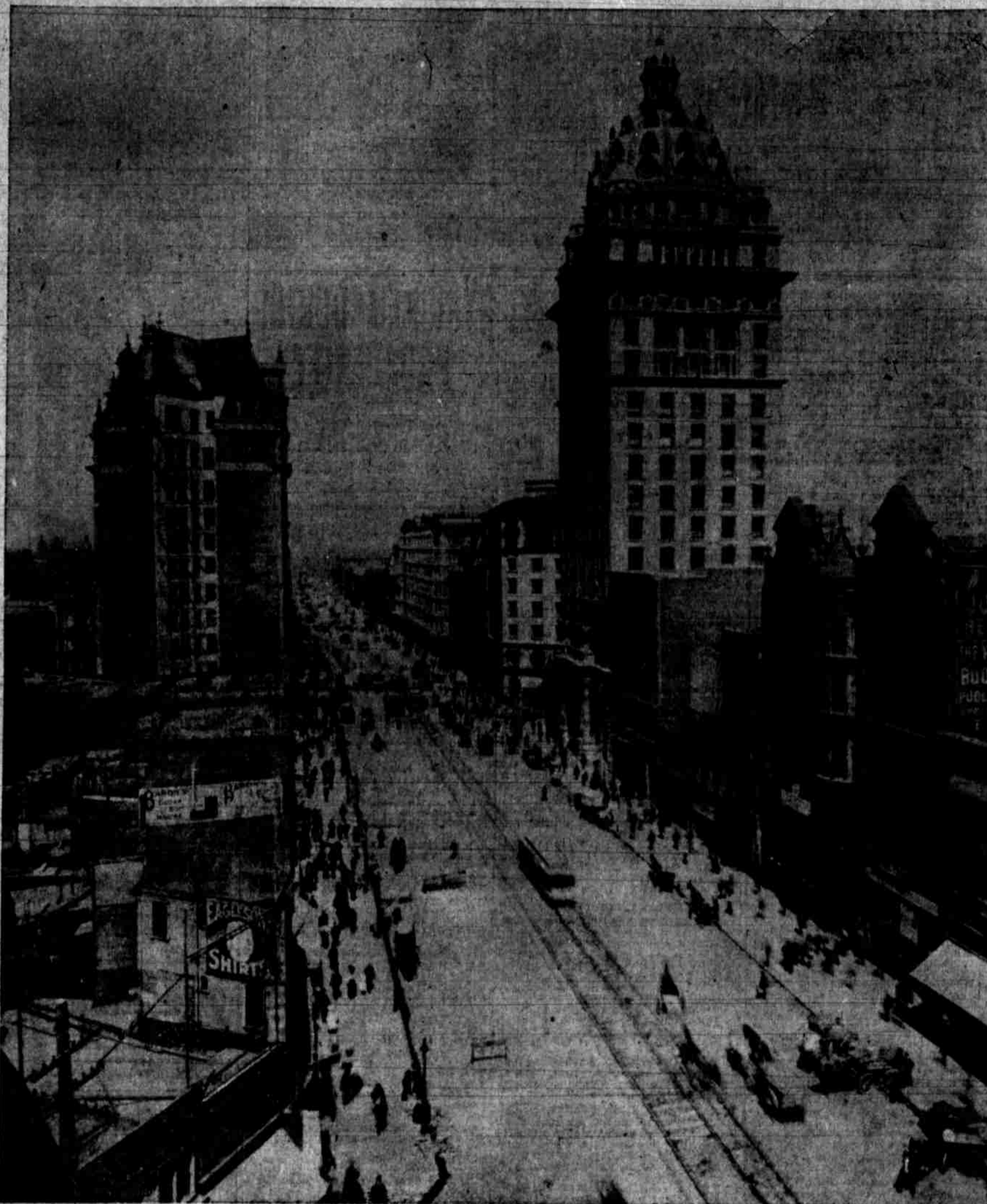
Several shocks of earthquake were felt, the first occurring at about 5:15 o'clock and lasting three minutes. Intermittent shocks occurred until after 8 o'clock, when they ceased. Gas and electric lamps were snapped and huge water mains cracked, flooding the streets.

At least 50 blocks south and east of Market street in the region including Sansome, Mission, Battery, Front, Davis and Drummond streets were destroyed. Houses tumbled in all directions. The police are caring for the dead, but many are thought to have been lost in the fire which consumed the debris.

The region affected is occupied principally by wholesale stores and warehouses. Many costly buildings in progress of erection were destroyed and the streets are lined with debris. Mechanics' pavilion has been utilized as a morgue and the dead are being conveyed there. More bodies are arriving every minute. The ruin of almost the entire business section seems probable.

DEATH IN TUMBLING BUILDINGS.

That portion of the city lying south of Market street is the



MARKET STREET LOOKING TOWARD THE FERRY BUILDING. THE CALL BUILDING AT THE RIGHT AND THE WHOLE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREET ON WHICH IT IS LOCATED IS PRACTICALLY WIPED OUT.

most densely populated region in the city and many lives are thought to have been lost in the collapse of the scores of flimsy structures which line its narrow alleys and streets.

The most disastrous fire in the city is that raging between Mission and Market street from Fifth street toward the bay. Building after building has been destroyed, either by the flames or by dynamite in the frantic efforts of the firemen to check the progress of the fire. All buildings in the town suffered heavily. Many of the modern steel structures escaped with cracked plaster, but settled foundations, and many will be unsafe for habitation.

KINGSLEY HOTEL IN RUINS.

Among the buildings destroyed was the Kingsley hotel at Seventh and Howard, which entirely collapsed and is now wrapped in flames. From 75 to 80 people are believed to be buried in the ruins. The Valencia hotel at Eighteenth and Valencia streets, a five-story frame building, also collapsed, burying 75 people in the debris. A house on Fourteenth street tumbled, killing two people. The Lipman dry goods store and the entire block in which it is situated, at Twenty-second and Mission streets, is destroyed by the flames.

The city hall is badly cracked and is expected to crumble at any minute. The hall of justice is momentarily expected to fall.

A fire is raging at Sansome and Vine streets, with the prospects that the entire commission house district, occupied by produce firms, will go up in flames. Most of the fatalities occurred in the cheap lodging-house section near the ferry slip.

MAY BURY DEAD AT SEA.

Estimates of the dead vary and reports are confusing and conflicting, but it is believed that there are at least 2,000 dead. Reports centering at police headquarters are appalling, but most all of them are verified. Application has been made to the federal government for transports to take the bodies to be buried at sea. Many of them

are so mutilated and there are so many of them that it is impossible to care for them ashore.

Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Point Richmond and Sausalito suffered and were shaken severely. The suburban fire departments are also fighting many fires.

FRONTS OF BUILDINGS COLLAPSE.

All along Pine, Bush and Market streets the fronts of the buildings are falling into the streets, exposing the interior to view. At 9:30 o'clock the dome of the costly city hall fell with a jar that could be heard throughout the city, toppling over onto the hall of records.

At 10 o'clock the Majestic theatre collapsed. This was a new structure, built three years ago at Ninth and Market streets, and has been one of the most popular resorts in the city.

The old Occidental hotel, on Montgomery and Sutter streets, a four-story structure, is in ruins. The roof fell in and the huge stones crashed and smashed the floors. Not a window was left in the building. The hostelry was one of the oldest on the coast and was patronized extensively by the army and navy officers, many of whom are reported to have been caught in the collapse, though no fatalities are reported.

For four entire blocks along Market street from First to Second and Third streets fires are burning fiercely. The new Riato building, owned by Mrs. Herman Oelrichs, at New Montgomery and Mission streets, a 10-story structure, has been wrecked by dynamite to prevent the spread of the flames.

TELEPHONE GIRLS IN PANIC.

The Sunset Telephone building, on Bush street near Montgomery, adjoining the Mills building, was destroyed by fire after an explosion which blew off the roof and threw the upper half of

\$15,000 IS IN HAND NOW

Mayor Lane, on Behalf of City, Offers Sympathy and Assistance to Stricken of San Francisco.

BIG ENGINE READY IF THERE IS NEED FOR IT

Commercial Club Members Voted Unanimously to Help in Any Way Possible—Chamber of Commerce Sends Telegram of Condolence With Proffer of Help to Town.

Through Mayor Lane Portland has extended an offer of any assistance within its power to the stricken city of San Francisco. Shortly after noon the mayor sent a telegram to Mayor Eugene Schmitz of San Francisco offering services, money, provisions, clothing or anything that the people of Portland can give, and expressing condolences for the awful catastrophe. Chief Campbell early this morning filed a telegram to Chief Sullivan of the San Francisco fire department offering any service desired to assist in fighting the flames which are following in the wake of the earthquake. Chief Campbell said there was one large first-class metropolitan engine in reserve which could be shipped to San Francisco on a moment's notice. If the fire is not brought under control and San Francisco desires the engine it will be shipped on a special train this evening and arrive there about 20 hours later.

Commercial Club to Help. At noon today the Commercial club voted unanimously to render all possible assistance to the stricken city. No definite action toward relieving the suffering will be taken until more information concerning the needs of the unfortunates is obtained. The club, however, assured the city of San Francisco of its willingness to be of any service.

As a result of a special meeting of the club this morning the following telegram was sent by President F. W. Leadbetter to Mayor Schmitz:

Through you as the city's chief executive, the Portland Commercial club, which is in temporary quarters on account of the complete destruction of its home by fire, tenders to the citizens of San Francisco, the great metropolis of the Pacific coast, its tenderest sympathies. We know that your people will rise triumphant over this catastrophe. Upon unanimous vote of its members the Portland Commercial club is at your service for anything that you may command.

By direction of President R. R. Hoge of the Portland chamber of commerce expressions of sympathy were sent this morning to Mayor Schmitz and the chamber of commerce of San Francisco. The message, besides expressing sympathy for the calamity, asked what aid may be tendered by the local organization.

To Use Heppner Funds. Before Portland had time to appreciate fully the extent of the great disaster of the sister city, she had begun to prepare for relief. Merchants and business men throughout the city have expressed their desire to contribute whatever may be needed by the unfortunates of the southern metropolis.

As soon as news of the calamity reached the city this morning I. N. Fleischer, chairman of the committee that had charge of the Heppner relief fund, notified Mayor Lane that \$15,000 could be at once placed to the credit of the unfortunate city.

When the Heppner fund took place Portland subscribed more money than was needed and \$15,000 has remained in the hands of the committee. This sum was immediately offered by Chairman Fleischer. Clothing, food and any other necessities will be sent from Portland to relieve suffering in the southern city as soon as the extent of the disaster is more fully known. Funds for this purpose will be donated by the various commercial organizations and by private subscriptions.

Methods of transporting whatever may be needed in the way of provisions and clothing have already been discussed and the work now is practically being decided upon. It is said that whatever provisions may be sent will reach San Francisco in