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The Daily Morning Astorian.

EXCLUSIVE TELEGRAPHIC PRESS REPORT.

VOL. XL. NO. 136. ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 1893. PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

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AWFUL SCENE IN WASHINGTON

Employes in a Government Building Hurled to Eternity.

COLLAPSE OF FORD'S OPERA HOUSE

Thousands of Men and Women More or Less Injured, and Many Killed.

Associated Press.

Washington, June 9.—Ford's opera house, on Tenth street, in which President Lincoln was assassinated, collapsed today. There were over 400 government clerks in the building at the time. The floors of the building were loaded with pension records of the war department. The clerks employed were all men. The first floor collapsed through weakness caused by excavating the cellar, and in its fall carried down three other floors, and with them hundreds of clerks. The dead and wounded are being taken out rapidly by firemen and police. It is feared a hundred people have been killed. The scenes were terrible. Some jumped from the third floor. Scarcely one escaped more or less injury. Twenty eight were taken from the ruins up to 10:15 a. m. The Emergency Hospital is crowded with dead and injured. The injuries, from the very nature of the affair, are very severe. Some were crushed, some sustained broken limbs and others received internal injuries. Thousands surround the scene and the excitement has spread all over the city. Eight dead bodies have just been taken out of the ruins unidentified, at 10:50 a. m. It is feared there are still eighty bodies in the ruins. Another man has been taken out dead. Howard S. Miller of Ohio, clerk in the bureau, and an unknown man, have been brought to the Emergency Hospital, dead.

At 11 a. m., the remains of a young man not yet identified had just been placed in the morgue at the Emergency Hospital. This makes the number of known dead to the present time eleven. It is believed there are fully sixty still in the ruins.

The bodies of H. S. Woods and a clerk named Jarvis have been taken from the ruins. There were 475 clerks in the building.

At 1:30 p. m., it was estimated that it would be two or three hours before the mass of debris could all be cleared away and the exact number of those who went down in the crash known. No doubt several bodies are still in the ruins. When the crash came there were supposed to be in the building 496 clerks, 18 messengers, and 20 laborers, 534 in all. Up to this hour 16 bodies have reached the morgue. The walls are still standing, but every floor is down and every window blown out. The building had been condemned as unsafe for some time, but sentiment kept it unchanged.

The cause of the collapse is supposed to be due to digging under the foundations for the purpose of putting in an electric plant, but as near as can be ascertained, the top floor gave way first, carrying the others down with it. Fortunately the entire building did not collapse, as in that case the loss of life would have been much greater. As it was, only the front part went down, leaving more than half of the floor space intact. Because of this many lives were saved. Some clerks sitting at their desks, were left sitting at the brink, while the desks at which they sat went down. The police, and soldiers ordered to the scene by General Schofield, kept the crowds back so that there was no interruption of the work of rescue. One of the first victims found was George M. Arnold, a colored clerk from West Virginia, who jumped from the third story window and was dashed to death in the alley where Wilkes Booth had his horse tied on the night he assassinated Lincoln.

The building has been used for a number of years as a part of the office of the surgeon-general. It was a strange coincidence that the building should collapse on the day that Edwin Booth, brother of the man who assassinated Lincoln, was buried.

The number of dead reported from all sources at 2 p. m., was twenty-four. Four others were reported dead, but their bodies were not at the morgue or hospitals. The names of forty-nine injured have been secured, but this is probably not nearly correct, as many were sent directly to their homes.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Graphic Account of the Terrible Scenes witnessed.

Washington, June 9.—Hundreds of men were carried down by the falling walls of the building, which was notoriously insecure; human lives crushed out by tons of bricks and iron, and sent unheralded to the throne of their maker; men by the score, maimed and disfigured for life; happy families hurled into the depths of despair; women calling for their husbands, children calling for their fathers, mothers calling for their sons, and not an answer to their cries. This is but a shadow of the calamity that befell this city this morning. Imagination stands back and fails to give any idea of the scene. Its horrors will never be fully told. Its suddenness was almost its chief horror. In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, all was changed, and men who came to the scene of thir daily toil will never return alive. In the national capital of the proudest nation of the earth, there has been a catastrophe unparalleled in the annals af its history, and in every mind there is a horrible conviction that its genesis is to be found in thecriminal negligence of a government that is too parsimonious to provide for the safety of its loyal servants by erecting buildings proper for their accommodation.

It was between 9:30 and 10 o'clock this morning that the floor of the old Foard's theater building, Tenth street, occupied by the recorders and pension division of the surgeon general's office, fell in as though they had been parts of a card house. The floor was made up of iron girders, hardly strong enough to support the walls, but heavy enough to stamp out human lives. The walls of bricks were held together by plaster long since dried out, and of wooden beams that had been in place too long. The government of a great nation could not afford to provide a safe building for their faithful employes, but herded them together in one whose unsound condition was notorious. Again andagain have the columns of the press been filled with stories of its rotten walls. There is shame and remorse for the souls of the men who were responsible for the state of things that confined men working for their daily bread in a building that every one in this city knew was unsafe. Twenty-eight years ago there was another tragedy within the walls of this building. News of it was flashed to the four quarters of the earth, and it wrought consternation wherever it went. The man who was killed was president of the United States. As though the building had borne a curse upon it from that time, it ended its career in a fitting manner. Those, in the multitude, who would think of something besides the catastrophe, remarked upon the strange coincidence that the house in which John Wilkes Booth slew Lincoln, should kill a score of people on the very day that the assassin's brother was being laid to final rest.

The building of the printing office, the and the Winder building, which is an annex of the war department, each contained many more employes than were caged in the Ford's theater deathtrap, are in an equally dangerous condition.

While the work of rescuing was going on, men who were strangers to emotion, wept like children, and turned away their faces, as the limp and lifeless bodies were brought forth to the sunshine they could see no more. Women were helped away in a fainting condition. The last man taken out of the building alive was Captain Dowd, of Indiana. He was found near the southwest corner of the building, covered to a depth of two or three feet with bricks and mortar. He had lain there three hours, but a falling beam had lodged near him in such a position as to break the fall of brick and timbers. When lifted up he raised his hand, showing he was conscious, and when he was put into the Garfield house ambulance the crowd saw he was alive and cheered him again and again.

The ambulances were kept busy carrying away the dead and injured. The faces of many of the victims were covered with pieces of cloth, an old coat, a newspaper, or whatever else could be had. Some of the mangled bodies were carried out with their faces exposed to the gaze of the great throng surrounding the building. A look into the interior, told a sickening tale of how some were taken. Desks were seen half toppling ovr the brink of the broken floor; others stood upright, but the chairs which stood beside them with their occupants, went down with the crash. Records and papers were scattered everywhere, but as fast as possible they were gathered up and saved. The hospitals were soon overcrowded. The drug stores were turned into temporary hospitals. The people in the neighborhood of the accident, opened their doors gladly, and the dead and wounded were hurried in. As the bleeding and mangled bodies were brought out, groans and outcries arose on all sides. One man was found sticking head first; soon his legs were uncovered, and were seen to move feebly, showing he was still alive. As fast as human hands could work, those rescuers did, and soon they had the unfortunate man out.

The opinion is that the accident was caused directly by weakening the already weak structure by excavations made beneath it for an electric light system. It was stated this afternoon that several days ago clerks in the building circulated a petition protesting against this work being continued, as they considered it imperilling the lives of every man working in th building.

At the morgue a sight horrible to behold was presented. Blood from the bodies formed a large pool on the floor, and crushed skulls, broken arms and legs, made the scene indescribable.

President Cleveland was informed of the sad event just as he reached the entrance to the White House by one of the clerks, and at once interested himself in relief measures, learning with satisfaction what had been done by Assistant Secretary of War Grant.

The result of the examination by officials to show the insecurity of the building was brought to the attention of congress in a pointed manner as far back 1885.

THE APPEAL ALLOWED.

Chicago, June 9.—Judge Woods, in the United States circuit court this morning, decided to allow the World's columbian exposition to appeal from yesterday's Sunday closing decision. The application for a writ of supersedeas, which would suspend the effect of the decision and allow of the gates opening next Sunday, was refused and an order for the injunction entered today.

Attorney General Maloney, of Illinois, took a hand in the fight today by filing a bill for a mandamus in the state court to compel the park commissioners to open the gates of the fair on Sunday.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT.

Washington, June 9.—The president has appointed W. G. Crawford of Indiana deputy auditor of the treasury for the post office department.

A LESSON FOR ASTORIA.

Telling How Uriah Lott Built the Aransas Pass Railroad System.

If the merchants of San Francisco who are trying to raise enough money to build a railroad 200 miles long in the San Joaquin valley ever get discouraged they may take heart from the experience of Uriah Lott, who built the 600 miles of the Aransas Pass system in Texas.

Mr. Lott was a resident of Corpus Christi, and when he resolved to become a railroad magnate he had a two-wheeled cart and a borrowed five dollar bill. He transported all his portable property to San Antonio in his cart, and managed to get a charter for the construction of a railway from the city to Aransas Pass. On the strength of this he succeeded in securing enough labor to grade a mile of road. He contributed a good part of the work himself with his own shovel.

There are a good many bankrupt railroads in Texas, and the friendly receiver of one of them was accommodating enough to lend Mr. Lott some old rails to to lay down on his mile of roadbed. In another place the enterprising promotor found a condemned engine that had been sent to the scrap heap, and bought it on easy terms. A further search through the railroad junkshops of Texas uncovered two old cars which the owners were glad to get out of the way.

Mr. Lott now had a fully equipped railroad one mile long, and proudly began operations. With a pot of lampblack he painted the letters "S. A. and A. P." on his rolling stock, and his train went to work. He now had a basis for financiering. There was a street-car company which had bought enough second-hand rails from a narrow guage railroad to lay three miles of track and was willing to sell cheap. Mr. Lott bought and put them down. On the strength of this expansion he got credit from a rolling mill in Pennsylvania for ten miles of new rails. They came, with a bill for freight which the new road had not money enough to pay. But with so much solid collateral in sight it was a mere pastime for a financier of Mr. Lott's resources to skirmish up the required wealth, and the rails reached their destination. This brought the road to proportions that made it possible to issue bonds, and with the proceeds of the bonds forty mils more of track was built. Mr. Lott was now right in the swim, and he went on airily issuing bonds and building track until his system comprised six hundred miles of road, and he was a genuine magnate of the first water.

At one time this Texan Napoleon of finance went from San Antonio to Chicago in the interest of his enterprise without eating. As a railroad president he could command a pass, but he did not have a cent of money, and so he simply went hungry. And he got there.

Here is a little problem for the primary class in arithmetic. If the merchants of San Francisco, in addition to the financial resources in their possion, had the spirit of Uriah Lott, how many miles of railroad could they build, and how long would they wait for Eastern capitalists to relieve them from the grip of monopoly?—Examiner.

BLOODY BATTLE WITH STRIKERS

Deputy Sheriffs Administer a Lesson to Canal Laborers.

SEVERAL KILLED AND WOUNDED

The Strikers Put to Flight in Great Disorder—Workers Will Brook No Interference.

Associated Press.

Rome, Ill., June 9.—The striking drainage canal workmen at Lamon came here this morning and began an attack on the contractors and men at work, firing right and left among them. The latter returned the fire, and a hand to hand encounter followed. The melee resulted in the killing of an unknown man. Thomas Merike and Anton Wehosky were fatally shot, and a number of others, all strikers, more or less seriously injured.

Chicago, June 9.—The latest advices from the riots this afternoon is that two strikers among the drainage canal workmen were killed, twenty wounded, and thirty-two taken prisoners.

Early this morning the men began to gather in the streets to discuss the situation. As morning wore on the crowds increased. At ten o'clock they formed a procession and began to march. The men took the tow path along the canal and marched by twos. It was the intention of the strikers on arriving at the different camps to drive out the workmen as they had done before. The men in the camps, however, had fortified themselves, and had arms and amunition. When the conflicting factions were about 250 yards apart the firing the firing suddenly began. Reports vary as to which side fired first, but there is no question that the strikers were badly worsted. When those not killed or wounded took to flight they were in the wildest confusion. At the camp where the battle took place armed guards are tonight patrolling the boundary lines.

THE BANK FAILURES.

Hudson, Wis., June 9.—The Hudson Savings Bank closed its doors today. The bank had nearly $700,000 on deposit. Farmers and laboring men will suffer severely. The city funds were deposited in the bank. The general belief is that the bank will find it difficult to resume.

Ellensburg, Wash., June 9.—The banking house of Ben. E. Snipe & Co., temporarily suspended this morning. The trouble was caused by a run on the Roslyn branch yesterday. The suspension is due to a heavy withdrawal of deposits and inability to realize on securities.

Chicago, June 9.—Joseph Higgins, private banker, with branch banks in Illinois, failed this morning. Assets, $50,000; liabilities not given.

THE FARGO CONFLAGRATION.

Fargo, June 9.—Total loss by yesterday's fire is now placed at $3,500,000; insurance, $1,200,000. A high wind last night fanned the embers into flames and for a time threatened to cause the destruction of the rest of the city. At a meeting of business men last night a proposition to build no more business blocks until prohibition was abolished was favorably considered. Another meeting on the subject will be held today.

WILL ENFORCE THE DECISION.

Washington, June 9.—The post says the general feeling in official circles is that the government will use the United States troops to enforce the Sunday World's Fair closing decision of the federal court if necessary, though the latter contingency is not anticipated.

RECOMMENDS A DIVORCE.

Newburg, N. Y., June 9.—Referee Taylor, appointed to taketestimony in the suit of Mrs. Frank Leslie against her second husband, "Willie" Wilde, has reported recommending that she be granted an absolute divorce.

WILL MEET IN PORTLAND.

Portland, June 9.—A dispatch to the Evening Telegram from Peoria, Ill., says Portland has been chosen as the place for holding the next annual session of the Travellers' Protective Association.

CHOLERA SPREADING.

Alexandria, June 9.—Sixty deaths form cholera announced at Mecca yesterday.

Paris, June 9.—Five choleraic deaths occurred yesterday at Cottes.

BENNETT SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Paris, June 9.—James Gordon Bennett, proprietor of the New York Herald, was dangerously injured by falling from a coach Wednesday. His condition is critical.

The best is none too good for the people of Astoria. Use St. Charles' unsweetened evaporated cream. Absolutely pure, perfectly sterilized, never spoils; a blessing to babies, a boon to good cooking.