

BALTIMORE IS BURNED

The Business Portion of the City is in Ashes, and the Fire is Still Sweeping Over the Doomed Place.

The Fire Departments of New York, Washington and Other Cities have all Their Spare Engines Aiding in Fighting the Flames, Which are Driven by a Gale. Loss is Now \$250,000,000 and Still Grows.

Baltimore, Feb. 8.—At 9 o'clock this morning the flames were still beyond control, and the wind was blowing a gale. Practically all the wholesale and a large part of the retail district has been swept, about 40 blocks stretching a mile in one direction, are burned. The loss is easily \$100,000,000 and may go to \$200,000,000, with no relief in sight. The Fourth and Fifth regiments of Maryland militia, regulars from Fort Henry and police from Washington and Philadelphia are guarding property. All the local newspaper plants have been consumed. Some papers are being issued from the Star and Post plants in Washington. Fresh relays of engines, men and horses are being rushed on special trains from Jersey City, New York and Brooklyn.

Hundreds of firemen succumbed during the forenoon to the terrific heat and the emergency hospitals are filled. Their places in many cases were taken by citizens. The body of Fireman Egenfritz, who came with the relief crew from York, Pa., was found at noon in the Equitable building, where he had tried to carry a line of hose. President Hood, of the Baltimore street railway, is missing. The Western Union established temporary offices and 20 wires at noon and North and Saratoga streets, which were immediately deluged with press matter. Only one paper is being published in the city, the Evening World, a Scripps paper; its building escaped. Thousands surround the offices where extras are issued as fast as possible. The mayor has called a meeting of leading citizens to discuss ways and means.

At noon, under an immense outpour of water from one of the greatest fire forces ever assembled in the world's history, it was believed the fire was

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under control, and practically held within the bounds given by the geodetic survey.

The New York fire detachment of seven engines, six hose reels and six trucks, arrived at 8 o'clock, and immediately entered the fight. The militia is now in full charge of the district, assisted by the regulars. One New York insurance company, at 10 o'clock, places the loss at \$60,000,000. There have been no serious casualties up to 11 o'clock.

At 11 o'clock this morning the storm of fire extends and covers everything south of Fayette street to Light, north to Lexington and on Liberty and then south to Hopkins' lane, thence east to Rowley's wharf and Pratt street, thence in a direct line to a point on West Falls avenue north of Block street. The geodetic survey, in giving out the above statement says it includes 140 acres. The latest estimate on losses on buildings alone is \$125,000,000, which, added to their contents, brings the amounts according to the fire underwriters, to near the quarter of a billion mar, and the fire continues.

Baltimore, Feb. 8.—1:30—The water front is now a seething furnace great mills, steamships, wharves, long rows of cotton, great warehouses filled with merchandise are entirely aflame. With the water front goes the shipping interests of this seaport making a complete destruction of Baltimore's business district. The fire at this time is under control, only in the sense that, unless the wind changes the flames cannot cross Falls river bounding on the northeast the business section and its confines. More than 50 engines, trucks and crews have been brought from other cities to augment the local fire department, yet, should the wind change, it is probable this great force of firemen and modern appliances will prove inadequate to save the residence section. At 2 o'clock 50 extra policemen arrived from Philadelphia.

The First Estimate.
Baltimore, Feb. 8.—The fire which broke out a few minutes before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John T. Hurst & Co., has raged with unrestrained fury continuously ever since, and at midnight is still unchecked, but is steadily eating its way westward on Baltimore street, after having destroyed

all the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district around Hopkins place, and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore street from Howard to Holliday streets, and Charles and Baltimore to Lexington and on Fayette street to Charles to Holliday, including a total of about 20 blocks of the most modern and substantial buildings in Baltimore, involving a loss which cannot now be estimated, but which has certainly already reached \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000.

Four Hundred Futile Streams.
Ever since about 6 o'clock, when darkness came, the fire department, although aided by engines from Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the surrounding suburbs, has been utterly powerless to make an effective resistance to the consuming element, though for hours as many as 400 streams of water were thrown in the flames.

Indeed, so terrific has been the heat ever since the fire started, and so dense and suffocating the volume of flying sparks and burning cinders that it was difficult for the firemen to stand long within fighting distance of the flames, while early in the afternoon several trucks and engines were hopelessly disabled.

Resort to Dynamite.
At 7 o'clock the situation was so desperate that Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings at threatened points, and thus prevent, as far as possible, a further spread of the flames.

In pursuance of this plan, a number of buildings on South Charles street, between German and Lombard were blown up. Subsequently the splendid structure of J. W. Putback notion dealer, at Charles and Fayette streets, was dynamited, and then the Daily Record building, Ross' drug store and others.

However, this heroic remedy merely delayed, but did not seriously impede the onward march of the conflagration and for two hours or more the fire department was practically helpless and resourceless in the face of the roaring furnaces which sent their fiery tongues 200 feet into the air, and which filled the heavens first with a pall of black funeral smoke, and then livid sheets of sparks and lurid flames.

Gasoline Tank Explodes.
The start of the fire was in the basement of Hurst & Co.'s wholesale dry goods house. After burning for ten minutes or so there was a loud explosion in the interior of the building from the gasoline tank used for the engine in the building. Instantly the immense structure collapsed, sending destruction to many adjacent buildings in all directions, and causing the fire to get beyond the control of the firemen.

The first attempt at dynamiting was in the large building of Armstrong, Cater & Co., but it failed to collapse. The force of the explosion tore out the massive granite columns that supported the building, and left it with apparently almost no support, but the walls failed to collapse, and stood until the flames had crossed Charles street, and were eating into the block between Charles and Light streets.

The fire, in the meantime, had crossed to the row of buildings on South Charles street, between German and Lombard streets, and all these places occupied principally by wholesale produce and grain dealers, were in flames.

Shortly before midnight the Carrollton Hotel was in flames, and the fire

(Continued on eighth page.)

WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED

Japanese Minister Leaves St. Petersburg --- It Is Predicted a Great Naval Battle Will Occur at Port Arthur Within a Few Days.

London, Feb. 8.—The cabinet met at noon to consider the Eastern question. The Agency National publishes a dispatch from Tokio that a declaration of war is momentarily expected as a meeting of the council of the elders, under the chairmanship of the Mikado, is in progress.

State of War Exists.
London, Feb. 8.—Hayashi this morning says a state of war exists, and it is possible there will be no further declaration. The British foreign office is receiving a stream of cablegrams, and the British navy is preparing for mobilization on a moment's notice.

May Be Fought at Port Arthur.
Tokio, Feb. 8.—It is expected here the first battle between Russia and Japan will occur off Port Arthur where the harbor is inadequate to protect the entire Russian fleet. The Japanese fleet is now believed to be proceeding there from Nagasaki. The Japanese plan a great use of torpedoes in the coming war.

France Will Try.
London, Feb. 8.—The Paris correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph is informed from official headquarters that France is determined to make an immediate and supreme effort to mediate between Russia and Japan. It

is stated the other powers have assured France of their moral support.

Hole Kept Open.
Vladivostok, Feb. 8.—Ice breakers have kept this port open, despite the frost, until it is now possible for the Russian squadron to take refuge here at any time.

England and France Agree.
London, Feb. 8.—Pall Mall Gazette asserts that France and England have agreed as to their Far Eastern policy. Neither will intervene until after a decisive engagement, when they will offer to mediate.

Japan's Minister Leaves.
Washington, Feb. 8.—The state department is advised that Minister Kurino has left St. Petersburg. Derosen may leave Tokio tomorrow.

Jap Fleet Busy.
London, Feb. 8.—The Central News reports that a strong Japanese fleet has gone to Chemulpo, Corea. Several Russian trading steamers have been seized.

The Powers Agree.
Paris, Feb. 8.—France has agreed with the other powers to land troops in China immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities, in order to assure the neutrality of the middle empire. The council of ministers is in secret


session this morning. Delcasse announced he would decline to answer inquiries regarding the Orient, beyond that France would remain neutral.

Won't Have Mediation.
The Japanese minister, in an interview, says Japan will reject all attempts at mediation by France. On the Bourse there is the most serious slump in 15 years. There is a general panic in all stocks, but the Russian securities suffered most.

Won't Play Any More.
London, Feb. 8.—Secretary Douglas, in the commons today, announced that official information has been received that all diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan are broken off.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 8.—The Japanese consul here has received applications from 150 British Columbians to fight for the Mikado in the impending war. They are from officers and men at Esquimaux, the British North Pacific station of retired navy and army officers, local militia volunteers and private citizens. Applications are coming in at the rate of 10 per day.

Uncle Samuel is There.
Paris, Feb. 8.—It is announced that the United States embassy will protect Japanese interests in St. Petersburg.



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