

CRY OF FIRE CAUSE OF THEATRE PANIC

SIX TOTS LOSE LIVES IN NEW YORK MOVIE SHOW.

DOZEN OTHERS BADLY HURT

Paper Clogged Furnace Flue Fills an East Side Theater with Smoke—Scores of Children Caught.

New York.—A paper-clogged furnace flue, which caused smoke to fill the Catherine theater, a motion picture house in the east side Italian quarter, raised a cry of "Fire" and in the ensuing panic six tots, between the ages of 2 to 10 years, were trampled to death. Twelve others were seriously injured.

The little theater was crowded to capacity. Children filled most of the 300 seats, for the hero of the picture was an Italian lad who rose from humble surroundings like theirs to riches and fame. The youngsters were absorbed in the progress of the screen hero, Pietro, who was protecting his father from thieves, when smoke began to seep through the cracks of the theater floor.

"My God, it's afire!" This shout came from an elderly woman who gathered a little one under her arm and ran for the nearest exit. Immediately loud wails arose, children beginning to cry. They jumped from their seats, jammed the aisles and fought for passage. The lights flickered out.

Youthful cries attracted many residents of the Italian neighborhood. Camillo Brullo, who sells bananas from a push cart on the Bowery, dashed into the theater and attempted to shout down the cries. Failing, he carried more than fifteen tots to safety, then collapsed, overcome by smoke. Someone sounded a fire alarm. Many were overcome by smoke, but soon revived.

Frenzied women and men, learning of the disaster, crowded before the little theater, at this time guarded by police, and sought news of their children.

A police station nearby also was crowded with those seeking information of loved ones. The bodies of the victims soon were identified, but the excitement attending the panic kept children from returning to their homes and many women fought for admittance to the theater, believing their missing children still there.

Wienberg and Schwartz, proprietors of the theater, were questioned by the district attorney. They said they purchased the theater last week. They were held pending investigation of charges that one of the front exits was locked.

Wienberg and Schwartz, with A. Toland, the janitor, who made the fire in the furnace, later were arrested on a charge of "misdemeanor resulting in manslaughter by admitting children to a theater unaccompanied by parents or guardians."

Murders Wife; Maima Babe.

Chicago, Ill.—While two of his children, dumb with terror, watched through a window, Kazinberaki Ruthowski, a stock yards laborer, murdered his wife, stabbed their youngest child, a girl 4 months old, and then shot and stabbed himself to death. The wife and children had just returned from church where they had gone to pray for their father that he might not be so cruel to them. The tragedy followed three days of bitter quarreling, and neighbors were not surprised at the outcome.

Mexican Labor Conditions.

Mexico City.—Labor conditions throughout Mexico took a better turn according to various official statements. Advice was received from Vera Cruz asserting the strike of stevedores and dock workers there had ended, and that the men had returned to work.

Whisky Thieves Raid Cars.

Newark, N. J.—A band of about twenty-five whisky thieves broke open two freight cars in railroad yards here and stole 588 cases of whisky and 44 barrels of alcohol valued at \$67,540. The loot was carried off in motor trucks after a railroad policeman had been kidnapped.

Pastors Move Families into Churches.

Los Angeles.—High rents have caused two southern California pastors, the Rev. M. C. Dewesse of a local Methodist church and the Rev. Warren Eising of a Presbyterian church at Van Nuys, a suburb, to move their families into their churches.

Bank at St. George, Utah, Rified.

St. George, Utah.—Approximately \$10,000 in money and bonds was obtained by robbers who broke into safe deposit boxes at the Bank of Saint George here. The door of the bank had been pried open and explosives used to open the safe deposit vault. No trace of the robbers has been found.

Airplane Factory Closes.

Paris.—The Heriot airplane works have been closed down indefinitely, throwing 2,000 persons out of work.



MISSING NEW YORK HEIRESS DISCOVERED IN DES MOINES

Wealthy Wife of Naval Officer Left Her Winter Place in Brooklyn September 10 Last.

Des Moines, Ia.—Mrs. Viola Van Ripper Svesson, wealthy New York society matron and heiress, who disappeared in Brooklyn, September 10, has been located working as a domestic in a Des Moines home. Mrs. Svesson left her winter home in Brooklyn, September 10, ostensibly to go to her summer home at Rockaway beach. She did not reach her summer home, and a day later Chief Inspector W. J. Lahay, of New York city, ordered a general search of the country for the missing woman.

Two days ago Chief of Detectives John Brophy received word that Mrs. Svesson was employed at the home of B. Seigel, 1302 Tenth street, as a domestic. Investigation followed, with the result that the woman employed at the Seigel home has been positively identified by Detectives Hollibaugh and Trimble as the missing heiress of Brooklyn.

Mrs. Svesson, who is the wife of a torpedo officer in charge of the torpedo division of the North Atlantic coast, and daughter of a wealthy roofing manufacturer of New York, left her husband and parents after quarreling with them the night before. She took with her much valuable jewelry, which she said she sold to obtain enough money to leave New York.

Among the gems which she sold were two large diamond rings, a diamond lavallier and a large diamond brooch. She sold these articles, said to be valued at several thousand dollars, for \$200 to pawnbrokers in New York.

Mrs. Svesson was prominent in naval society circles of Rockaway beach. Her sudden disappearance created a furor. Her husband, who had gone on his ship for a week's cruise, returned to aid in carrying on the search.

Mrs. Chaplin Granted Divorce.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Mrs. Mildred Harris Chaplin, wife of Charlie Chaplin, famous film comedian, was granted a divorce by Superior Judge York. Mr. Chaplin was not present, but Attorney Arthur Wright was in court to protect his interests in an attempt was made to attack the property agreement entered into between Mr. and Mrs. Chaplin. The court approved the settlement which provides that \$50,000 should be paid Mrs. Chaplin immediately, and \$57,700 with in one year. It is understood that all told Mrs. Chaplin will receive approximately \$200,000 from the settlement.

Find Stolen Bond Agency.

St. Paul, Minn.—Posing as purchasers of stolen bonds, United States secret service agents unearthed what they term is a clearing house for stolen bonds and through which they charge more than \$400,000 worth of stolen bonds have passed. Clyde A. Smith and Mrs. Cln Bears, both of Minneapolis, are in the custody of the agents.

France Opposed to Germany.

Paris.—The French government is unalterably opposed to the admission of Germany to the league of nations at this time it was stated at the foreign office. Some "drastic action" would be a consequence if the league voted to admit Germany, it was intimated.

Freezing in Texas.

Dallas, Tex.—Lowest temperatures of the season were reported from west and north Texas. Abilene and Fort Worth felt the first freeze of the season, the thermometer in those sections registered about 28 degrees.

Poles Predict European War.

Warsaw.—The declaration that war between Germany and Poland would be inevitable if the plebiscites to be held in upper Silesia gives that region to Germany is made in the Gazette Poranna, in discussing the plebiscite. The newspaper is the organ of the national democrats, whose leader is John Dombaki, under secretary for foreign affairs. The Gazette Poranna predicts that another world war would result with France and Belgium joining Poland and Great Britain siding with Germany.

CHARGE GROSS WASTE AND GRAFT IN WAR SUPPLIES

Corruption of Employees and Officials and Graft in Purchases Alleged by Inquisitors.

Washington, D. C.—Corruption of employees and officials of the shipping board emergency fleet corporation, graft in purchasing supplies for and in repairing government-owned merchant ships, and the use of political or other influence in obtaining contracts for ship construction and the allocation of captured vessels to operating companies are among a maze of charges made in a report submitted to the house committee on shipping board operations by A. M. Fisher and J. F. Richardson, former employees of the board.

Chairman Benson, of the shipping board, refused to discuss the report, declaring that any statement he might have to make would be made to the house committee, which is now conducting its investigation of the board's operations. The report was made public by the committee of which Representative Walsh, republican, of Massachusetts, is chairman. It covers more than 100 printed pages and deals exhaustively with many phases of shipping board operations as observed by the committee's investigation over a period of more than a year.

Mr. Fisher, who formerly was connected with the federal trade commission, made a survey for the shipping board as to record keeping systems in the office of the lumber administration. Mr. Richardson, for twenty years a newspaper man, was employed for several years in the board's department of investigation.

In presenting the report, Mr. Fisher explained that it was designed to deal only with problems which could be solved wholly by the shipping board itself, and "left untouched" fourteen general subjects in connection with the board's operations. Among these were enumerated organization of the board, technical errors in the construction program, German-American ideals, assumption of the diplomatic functions by board officials, enforcement of the new merchant marine act and evasions of the selective draft act. Taking up in detail seven general phases of the board's activities, the report charged gross waste of government funds, improperly drawn contracts which cost the government large sums and failure of the various divisions of the board to co-operate efficiently, and the almost complete failure of some of the divisions to function properly.

Padding of payrolls by firms repairing shipping board vessels, ownership by companies operating government vessels of stock in companies furnishing supplies to those craft at prices ranging anywhere from 40 to 50 per cent above wholesale costs, wholesale theft of supplies and equipment from ships and the loss of millions of dollars through improperly secured loans made to contractors building government vessels, also were charged.

Duchess of Marlborough Divorced.

London.—The duchess of Marlborough, formerly Consuelo Vanderbilt, daughter of W. K. Vanderbilt, was awarded a decree of divorce from the duke of Marlborough. Allegations of desertion and misconduct were made by the duchess. Formal denial of the charges was made by the duke's counsel, but no evidence was taken. The duchess also was awarded the costs of the action.

Quake in Oregon.

Portland, Ore.—Portland was shaken by what is believed to have been a slight earthquake. The tremor continued for about 10 seconds. It was sufficiently violent to make pictures swing on the walls of houses, but did no damage.

Material Reduction in Clothing.

Chicago.—Men's clothing for immediate delivery was offered at prices 10 to 50 per cent below present wholesale prices. Goods for spring and summer delivery were shown at prices 10 to 33 1/3 per cent under those of a year ago. Men's shirts and similar articles were shown at greatly reduced prices. The occasion was the opening of the 13th semi-annual buying convention of the United National Clothiers in Chicago. The convention is being attended by dealers from 17 middle west and western states.

CORN IS THE KING OF ALL AMERICAN CROPS

Iowa's Production of 441,660,000 Bushels Largest of Any State—Illinois Ranks Second.

Washington, D. C.—American farmers broke production records of five crops this year. Preliminary estimates announced by the department of agriculture showed the corn, tobacco, rice, sweet potatoes and pear crops surpassed in size those of any previous year in the country's history.

In addition very large crops were grown, in some instances closely approaching records of oats, barley, rye, potatoes, apples and hay. The buckwheat production record, however, has stood since 1865, with this year's crop more than 5,000,000 under it.

Final crop production figures will be announced next month. Corn, king of all crops and of which the United States grows more than 70 per cent of the world's output, reported the enormous total of 3,199,126,000 bushels. That is 75,000,000 bushels more than ever before grown in any year. This is the third corn crop to exceed 3,000,000,000 bushels, the previous record having been made in 1912, while the crop of 1917 was the second largest.

In point of value, this year's corn crop will not equal that of last year which, based on the December 1st price of \$1.33 a bushel, was worth \$3,934,234,000. The crop of 1912 was valued at \$1,520,454,000 on the December 1 price of 48.7 cents a bushel and the 1917 crop at \$3,920,228,000 with the December price almost \$1.30 a bushel.

The value of this year's crop based on the November 1 farm price, which was \$7.3 cents a bushel, is estimated at \$2,792,837,000.

Iowa's corn crop is the largest of any state at 441,660,000 bushels, Illinois ranks second with 302,634,000 bushels and Nebraska third at 250,998,000 bushels.

The tobacco crop this year, placed at 1,476,444,000 pounds by the preliminary estimate, is \$7,000,000 more than grown last year when all previous records were broken. Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina exceeded their last year's production while Kentucky's crop this year is \$6,000,000 pounds less than a year ago.

Production of rice this year exceeded 12,000,000 bushels the previous largest crop, in 1917. The output this year is placed at 52,298,000 bushels, almost half of which was grown in Louisiana.

The sweet potato harvest will show 105,676,000 bushels, which is 2,000,000 bushels more than grown last year when the crop exceeded all previous year's production. Alabama's output is larger than any other state.

The crop of pears this year is placed at 15,558,000 bushels. The previous largest crop was that of 1917 when 13,281,000 bushels were produced. California produced more than 3,000,000 bushels, while New York's production is almost 2,250,000 bushels.

Allies Fear Reds.

Paris.—The allies, as well as the French, are said to be concerned over development in the Caucasus. Reports to the foreign office confirm the signing of an armistice by the Armenians and Turks and the fear is expressed that the possible imminent penetration of the bolsheviks in that region with the Turkish nationalist followers of Mustafa Kemal Pasha might have grave consequences resulting in an eventual clash of the bolshevik forces with the allied troops in Turkey.

Irish Demonstration at Capitol.

Washington.—Hundreds of Irish sympathizers marched for an hour last night in single file around the White House as a protest against the recent death of Terence MacSwiney. The demonstration was organized at a meeting of the local branch of the Friends of Irish Freedom and it was announced it would be repeated each night for 73 days, one each for which MacSwiney fasted before his death.

Cut Food Prices in New York.

New York.—An average reduction of 10 per cent in food prices was announced by several large hotels after conferences with federal food investigators. The number of items on the menus in which decreases have been made varies from sixteen in one large hotel to 172 in another.

Socialists Lose in Italy.

Palermo, Italy.—The socialists were completely defeated in the municipal elections.

Big Fire at Denver.

Denver, Colo.—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the machine shop, tool house, stationery supply building and three locomotives of the Denver and Salt Lake railroad, at Utah Junction, near here. W. R. Freeman, receiver for the road, estimated the loss at \$1,000,000.

Brazil Merchants Protest.

Rio Janeiro.—Eight important firms of this city have protested to the foreign minister against the recent seizure of the steamer Conze, which carried a cargo consigned to Brazil.

Wilson Preparing Final Message.

Washington.—President Wilson has begun work on his annual message to congress which will be transmitted either on the opening day of the next session on December 6, or on the day following.

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

An unknown bandit knocked F. S. Tucker, Rock Island cashier at Fairbury, unconscious as he stepped from his office, and robbed him of \$525 which was to have been deposited in a local bank.

The Nebraska college of agriculture is setting a new record with a 7-year-old Holstein cow. In 283 days she produced 24,881.8 pounds of milk and 1,104 pounds of butter.

Henry Warnke, from near Fairbury, reports the record corn yield for Jefferson county, 100 bushels an acre. Another field on his farm yielded seventy-five bushels.

Frank Kennedy, secretary of the state labor department, says there is a shortage of 5,000 corn huskers in Nebraska. Farmers are paying 6 and 8 cents a bushel.

Stanford Grill, 17-year-old captain and star end of the Decatur high school football team, is dead from injuries received in a football game at Pender September 29.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Chambers and Mrs. Clara Speice, of Columbus, have gone to Vancouver, B. C., whence they will sail for the Orient for a three months' tour.

Representatives of a number of commercial clubs of the state held a conference in Lincoln and drew up a constitution for the state Chamber of Commerce.

Over 100 applications for trained nurses' certificates have been filed preliminary to the state examinations soon to be held in Lincoln and in Omaha.

A fund of over \$1,200 has been raised by Omaha firemen to assist the family of Fred Blazek, who was killed while fighting a fire at that place recently.

Those in attendance declare the meetings of the state teachers at Omaha last week were the best yet held. The registration was nearly 5,000.

Henry Hansen, near Benson, the father of twelve children, and who came to this country from Germany in 1878, has been admitted to citizenship.

Iola Vincent, Omaha, and Irene Huffington, Lincoln, were the only two girls in a class of twelve applicants for admission to the state bar.

The Fidelity National bank of Aurora has changed to a state bank and has opened under the name of the Fidelity State Bank.

W. H. Osborne, jr., secretary of the state board of equalization, has been appointed state tax commissioner by Governor McKelvie.

Lincoln was chosen as the meeting place of the next conference of mid-west farm bureaus, which will be held early next January.

C. D. Williamson, formerly of Washington, Kans., has been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church at Hebron.

The tenth annual convention of the Nebraska State Irrigation association will be held in Gering on January 18, 19 and 20.

University of Nebraska students interested in journalism are planning the formation of a university press club.

It is understood that work on the new state house at Lincoln will not be begun until some time next summer.

Fremont Rotarians have stocked Lyman lake, near that place, with 30,000 minnows from the state fishery.

John Carpenter, farmer and proprietor of a store at Willis, lost his life in a fire that destroyed the store.

Heavy rains have delayed corn husking in Saline county, two inches having fallen in some sections.

Business women of Kearney have organized and are preparing to establish a Y. W. C. A. in Kearney.

Everett J. Lake, republican governor-elect of Connecticut was a former resident of Stromsburg.

A special election may be called to decide whether Sunday movies will be permitted at Hastings.

Allen V. Grammer, sentenced to be executed last week, has been granted his 15th reprieve.

District Court at Geneva had fifty-three cases on the docket. Mildred Kennedy, Loup City high school student, fell downstairs at the school and ran a pencil into her arm several inches. An operation was necessary to remove it.

In a general order issued to all local posts the state department of the G. A. R. announces that all elections of officers must be held at the December meeting and that at that time also the delegates to the state encampment at Hastings in May must also be elected and certified to headquarters. Each post is entitled to one delegate and alternate, and to an additional delegate for each twenty-five members.

The constitution of Nebraska as amended by vote of the people from time to time since 1873, including amendments proposed by the recent constitutional convention, has been printed in pamphlet form. It is a reproduction of the compilation as made by the convention and filed with the secretary of state.

Charles Shaw, senior vice commander of the Lincoln Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars, has been notified that he has been awarded a medal and \$1,000 for his part in sinking the German submarine which had destroyed the American ship Covington. Mr. Shaw was a gunner in the navy.

Bishop Homer C. Stuntz, head of the Methodist church in Nebraska, was the guest of honor at a banquet of Methodist of the North Platte valley at Scottsbluff, when 250 churchmen and women of that place, Gering, Mitchell, Minatare, Bayard and other towns of that section gathered to pay their respects.

University of Nebraska, up to 1920, had a registration of 5,958 pupils, including summer and extension school enrollment, and was ninth in enrollment of the publicly supported schools of the country, according to statistics published in a recent issue of the Literary Digest.

Due to a change in the date of the Clay county poultry show the show of the co-operative association of Fillmore county has been set for December 1 to 3. Entries will need to be closed at 10:30 p. m., November 30.

Henry Restau of Havelock, a student of Midland college, at Fremont, met death in the Y. M. C. A. pool at that place. He was a guest at the Y and had been watching some friends play basketball.

J. P. Lawrence, for the past three years connected with the university college of agriculture, at Lincoln, has gone to Alliance as acting manager of the Nebraska Potato Growers' Co-operative Exchange.

Princeton has challenged the University of Nebraska to a debate, to be held in Lincoln during the Christmas holidays. Prof. Fogg has wired that he believed the contest could be arranged.

The Fremont Commercial club has decided to build a skating rink for the benefit of the school children who have had to travel a number of miles in past winters to find a suitable place to skate.

The Hebron Woman's club will raise funds to finance the Salvation Army at that place, and will also erect a soldiers' monument in the cemetery. Home talent will stage a minstrel show.

"Standish of Standish," a play with New England setting of three hundred years ago, was given by the book review department of the Woman's club of Geneva to a large crowd.

Two sisters were brides in a double wedding at Columbus, when Herman L. Mueller and Miss Anna Nelson, Manville G. Reeves and Miss Gladys Nelson were united in marriage.

Night classes are being held at the Havelock high school, at which studies being taken are: Cooking, sewing, gas engines, sheet metal working, drawing and electrical work.

John McConnell of Beatrice, postmaster at that place for a number of years, is dead, at the age of 85. He was the father of thirteen children, eight of whom survive him.

Omaha is the victim of too many tag days, according to Mayor Smith, who has suggested that craftable and welfare organizations ought to be financed by annual budgets.

Proposed incorporation of the Nebraska State Bar association will be considered at the twenty-first annual convention of that organization, at Lincoln, December 27-28.

Professor James H. Frandsen, one of the best known dairy experts in the state and a member of the staff of the university dairy department, has resigned his position.

The city council of Central City has brought suit against the Central Power company of Grand Island to enjoin them from shutting off electric power in the city.

Fred Gain's store, Winter's millor shop, Hotenbeck barber shop and the library of Ansley, were totally destroyed by fire, the origin of which is unknown.

McCook Knights of Columbus will build a three-story council hall next spring. They have purchased a valuable lot and are now arranging plans.

The department of conservation and soil survey has sent five motion picture reels, showing the Nebraska state fair to Tulsa, Okla., where they will be shown before an agricultural conference.

There is an urgent demand for telegraph operators for the Washington-Alaska telegraph and cable system, Capt. A. E. Whitworth of the signal corps, U. S. A., Omaha recruiting office, announces.

Following is a list of the schools which have made application for admission to the state high school debating league: Partle Creek, Bloomfield, Burwell, College View, Cowles, Dana College Academy, Diller, Emerson, Hastings, Lawrence, Ord, Randolph, Red Cloud, Republican City, St. Paul, Wakefield, Wesleyan Academy, and Wisner, and a number of others are making arrangements to become eligible.

Fern State defeated the University of Nebraska football team, 29 to 0. It was a combination of forward passes and long runs.