

ENTIRE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IN DANGER OF BEING ANNIHILATED

Big Business Buildings Already Consumed by Fire and Dynamite---30,000 Smaller Structures Swept Out and Remainder Are Doomed

PANIC-STRICKEN PEOPLE FLEE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—This city lies in smoldering ruins and total annihilation seems to be its fate. The magnificent business district lying between the water's edge and Tenth street and even still farther west is destroyed, and there is scarcely any hope of saving but a few of the magnificent skyscrapers that have been erected during the last ten years.

Thirty thousand houses were either partially or wholly destroyed by earthquake, and the subsequent fire which started in 100 different places simultaneously has swept the city from one end to the other. Hundreds of buildings are burning without any effort being made to check the fire. By tonight it is estimated that there will be 150,000 homeless people.

NUMBER OF DEAD.
The number of the dead cannot be roughly estimated. One hundred bodies about have been recovered, but hundreds perished miserably in the broken down wooden houses along the water front, in the Mission and along Market street.

Falling walls pinned many victims fast and they were compelled to suffer untold agonies while the fiery flames crept toward them. Some believe that the number of deaths will reach the appalling figure of 5000, but from the number of bodies thus far recovered the figure may be excessive.

PEOPLE IN PANIC.
The entire city presents a scene of indescribable confusion. The fire zone is so large that it takes two and one-half hours to go around it. Every automobile vehicle and wagon in the city was pressed into service as ambulances.

Mayor Schmidt appointed 3000 or more special policeman. It is estimated that aside from the regular fire department there were 25,000 fire-fighters. Marvelous deeds of heroism are reported on all sides.

There were many thrilling rescues. The deeds of valor performed by the firemen and police would fill a volume.

TURNED INTO HOSPITAL.
The Mechanics' Pavilion was early this morning turned into a hospital for the city injured, and a resting place for the unfortunate dead.

Every physician and nurse in the city volunteered their services. Shortly after noon the flames hedged the pavilion about and the injured and dead were removed in wagons, automobiles to the Presidio, the Children's Hospital and other hospitals which go to the front and assist the police in maintaining order.

of the fire and all the intervening streets are practically under martial law.

Mayor Schmitz to prevent disorder ordered all of the saloons closed. There were but few cases of theft reported.

The Call building is already destroyed utterly and it is probable that the Examiner building and the Chronicle building will also be destroyed.

The Emporium is reduced to ashes as is the Flood building. The magnificent new store of Hale Brothers was dynamited in an effort to stop the progress of the flames which burned with the same uncontrollable intensity that was manifested in the Baltimore fire.

CITY HALL GONE.
The City Hall is a grand mass of ruins. It is totally destroyed. The surrounding streets are choked with the debris. Several other buildings were destroyed as the huge building tottered to its destruction. In all 150 of San Francisco's best buildings have been destroyed and probably 20,000 others.

STOPS CLOCKS.
The earthquake which did such terrific damage occurred at 5:16 o'clock precisely. The clock on the dome of the Ferry building stopped precisely at that time. The Ferry building itself was cracked and split, but is still in a safe condition. Twenty or more wharves and the buildings on them collapsed utterly along the water front.

STEAMER SUNK.
The steamer San Pablo was struck and sunk by a huge girder which fell on it. How many lives were lost is not known.

Some of the crew are missing, but owing to the great confusion nothing definite could be ascertained. Another vessel is reported to have been sunk by the walls of a building falling on it.

The name of the vessel is not known. After the work of demolition had been accomplished by the earthquake fires in twenty places started up along the water front.

It is assumed that the twistings and turnings of the earth broke the electric wires and caused the fires to break out.

MANY ALARMS.
In twenty minutes' time alarms to the number of several hundred had been turned in.

The fire department responded, but the extent of the conflagration made the streams of water poured on them seem like toy streams.

On the water front the hose was connected with the bay and a fair showing made. Owing to the fact that the mains of the Spring Valley Water Company were

broken by the earthquake during the early progress of the fire nothing could be done to stay the hungry blaze.

BUILDINGS DYNAMITED.
More than 100 buildings were dynamited with hope that the fire could be kept within a certain district.

In the business district, at Sansome and Bush streets, the flames are supposed to be under control. Twenty buildings were dynamited in this district.

One of the particularly sad features of the catastrophe was the drowning of a score or more persons in the Mission. Apparently the earthquake was more violent at this point than anywhere else in the city. Depressions of ten feet were made.

MAINS BROKEN.
The mains of the Spring Valley were broken at this point and flooded the tenements. Many of the victims were pinned in the basements by falling walls and had no recourse but to await their fate by drowning.

750 ARE TREATED

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Up to half-past two this afternoon, more than 750 persons who were seriously injured by the earthquake and the fire, had been treated at the various hospitals throughout the city. The proportion of dead is not as large as it might be expected. Only twenty of those admitted to the hospitals have died since their admission.

DEAD IN STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The front of the Bailey and La Costa building on Clay near Montgomery fell in. Three men and seven horses were killed and were still lying there at 9 o'clock.

Captain Gleason of the Police Department was seriously injured at noon today by the falling of tiling.

BIG FIRE IN MISSION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—A great fire is raging in the Mission district and is utterly beyond control. Before night, it is estimated, that in this particular section of the city 50,000 persons will be homeless.

RESIDENCES BURNING

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—An intense fire broke out late this afternoon immediately west of the Mechanics' Pavilion, threatening to destroy one of the most thickly populated residence districts of the city. As there were no fire apparatus on hand the flames are raging unchecked.

RUINS 20 COMPANIES

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—From the present appearance of things, it is probable that twenty or more insurance companies will be ruined. The managers of the larger companies are of the opinion that they will be able to meet the losses. In any event all of the insurance companies doing business in this city have been hit a staggering blow, from the effects of which many will never recover.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The United States bonded warehouse where liquor is stored before the duties are collected is destroyed.

EMPORIUM IN RUINS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The Emporium is a mass of ruins, with nothing but the walls of this magnificent store standing. The buildings immediately adjoining it are doomed to destruction.

DYNAMITE BUILDINGS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon the firemen are dynamiting one of the most imposing structures on Market street. Buildings in the vicinity of the United States Mint and the United States Post-office were blown up in the hope that they would be saved. Both of them are in grave danger, and while standing the shock of the earthquake, will probably fall victims of the uncontrollable conflagration raging in that vicinity.

DOCTOR'S BRAVERY

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Dr. McGinty of the Central Emergency Hospital, while attempting to rescue some persons who had been buried by the falling wall, was himself pinned to the ground by additional debris that fell. He was rescued and insisted on resuming his duties of attending the wounded and injured.

FATEFUL BUILDING

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The scene at the Mechanics' pavilion during the early hours of the morning and up until noon, when all the injured and dead were removed, because of the threatened destruction of the building by fire, was one of indescribable sadness. Sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts searched eagerly for some missing dear ones. Thousands of persons hurriedly went through the building inspecting the cots on which the sufferers lay in the hope that they would locate some loved one that was missing.

The dead were placed in one portion of the building, and the remainder was devoted to hospital purposes. After the fire forced the nurses in positions to desert the building, the eager crowds followed them to the Presidio and Children's Hospital, where they renewed their search for missing relatives.

WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The buildings occupied by the San Francisco Post and the San Francisco Bulletin are threatened with fire and may be consumed. This will leave the city without a single daily newspaper.

DAMAGE A BILLION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Market street, which has been the pride of San Francisco since 1849, is simply one black mass of ruin. It is estimated that up to the present time, the fire and earthquake have done at least \$150,000,000 worth of damage to this thoroughfare alone. The damage to the entire city will probably aggregate \$1,000,000,000. There is, however, no accurate means whereby the loss can be ascertained.

THEATERS RUINED

All of San Francisco's best playhouses, including the Majestic, Columbia and Grand Opera House, are a mass of ruins. The earthquake demolished them for all practical purposes, and at the present time it appears the fire will complete the work of demolition. The Rialto and Casserly buildings were burned to the ground, as was everything in that district.

The Terminal Hotel at the foot of Market street fell this morning and buried twenty persons under the debris. These were incinerated, and there is no possibility of learning their identity.

NARROW ESCAPE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The stereotypers and pressmen of the Examiner and Call, as soon as the tremor was felt, rushed out of their buildings and found that the coffee house at Stevenson and Third street had collapsed.

They immediately set to work with axes and anything in the way of an implement they could arm themselves with and set to work to rescue those inside. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the proprietor and his wife, and a waiter whose name is unknown, were rescued from the building and taken from under the debris unharmed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Every government conveyance is pressed into service and is used in hauling explosives from the Presidio for the blowing up of buildings in the center of the city.