

THE MILL EXPLOSION.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE GREAT CALAMITY.

The Scene Visited by Great Crowds of People—Continued Search for the Dead Results in Recovering Portions of Two More Victims—The Remains of Another in View in the Ruins of the Big Mill—Preliminary Steps of Societies for the Funeral—Interview with Gen. C. C. Washburn—The Big Mill to Be Immediately Rebuilt—Other Owners Also Declare Their Purpose to Rebuild at Once—The Philosophy of the Explosion.

All day yesterday the scene of the terrible disaster of the 2d instant, was an object of interest to all citizens and very many tramps who have arrived from all parts of the country, drawn hither by the news spread broadcast by the GLOBE and telegraph. All that now remains of the once proud milling interest, which had a name famous to the world over, is a huge conglomeration of stone, wheat, flour, bran, broken and twisted machinery, lumber and mill stones, thrown together in the wildest confusion. Numerous streams of water have been kept constantly playing upon the fire since Thursday night. The center of the mass still contains considerable fire, and is far too hot to permit a search for the bodies of the missing men. There are no doubts that at least ten men are under a pile of stone rubbish piled to the height of a dozen feet. A large number of men have been engaged in searching about the outer edges of the pile of rock but with little success. It is a slow and laborious undertaking to remove the immense pile of massive rock, thrown in such confusion by the explosion of the big Washburn mill. One force of men is engaged in removing the debris in the vicinity of the office of the big mill, for the purpose of securing the safe containing the papers of the company. Other crews are removing the shorts, bran, and wheat in sacks.

Crowds upon crowds of people are constantly coming and going, and yet the interest remains unabated. Every train brings new delegations, who hurry from the depots to the scene of the disaster as though their very lives depended upon getting there in the quickest possible time.

During the forenoon those in search for safes found the one owned by Pettit, Robinson & Co. The books were found all right with the exception of being somewhat injured by heat. The contents were all right.

About noon the safe of Day, Rollins & Co., was recovered with contents all right.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul round house is being rapidly put in shape.

The shattered walls of the Zenith, Galaxy and Pettit & Robinson mills will be taken down and rebuilt as soon as possible. In fact, the entire six mills will be rapidly reconstructed.

Theories of various characters are still circulated, and no one seems to know positively, just exactly the cause, and probably never will. The dust theory seems to predominate.

Mr. J. A. Christian thinks the gas was generated by fire.

It is his opinion that the fire originated from the stones in the east grinding room. The mill was about changing off, and the stones are at such times permitted to run dry, the millers raising the stones as soon as the wheat in the hoppers is exhausted. It is presumed that some one of the millers, through carelessness, neglected to raise the stones in his charge, that friction was generated, which communicated to the dust box, the draft from which is downward. A similar fire occurred in the dust box on the other side of the mill some two months ago. The draft from that box is up, and not down, as in the case of the box on the east side, and an explosion of the box itself would not have been sufficient to create the disaster which followed. But it is the theory of Mr. Christian that the gas was drawn downward; that from the lower floors it passed through the numerous elevator shafts and openings in all parts of the mill, filled the great structure, was perhaps rarified by the heat of the fire, and which was finally ignited, the explosion following. It is his belief that the mill was shut down as had been provided for in the rules which prevailed when the explosion occurred. The night being cold the windows were closed and the gas was unable to escape through the natural openings.

Interview with C. C. Washburn. As had been expected Hon. C. C. Washburn appeared in the city yesterday morning, and the reporter immediately hunted him up for the purpose of interviewing him upon the question of rebuilding. He was down at the ruins when found and gives the following statement: He says the Washburn "A" mill cost, with the land upon which it stood \$350,000. The lot alone he said was worth \$30,000. The total loss on mill and machinery he set down at \$320,000. If the wheels and pits are all right the loss will probably be reduced to \$300,000. The insurance upon the property was \$175,000. About \$100,000 of this amount was written by Chicago agencies.

REBUILDING THE BIG MILL. Mr. Washburn says the big mill will be rebuilt without delay. The running capacity will be equal to if not greater than before. The new structure will not, however, be built so high, but will be a great improvement upon the old. Probably a different system of manufacturing flour will be adopted, i. e. using more hand labor and less machinery.

During the meantime the B mill will be completed and enlarged to forty run of stone, equal in capacity to the A mill.

In reference to the elevator he said the structure cost \$60,000, and had a capacity of 300,000 bushels, of which 100,000 was allotted to the various millers, and 200,000 reserved for storage purposes.

As an investment it had never paid, but if the millers really desired it he would rebuild, with a capacity equal to the one destroyed.

Searching for the Dead.

The work of searching for the bodies of victims of the awful disaster of Thursday evening last was continued till dark last evening, but with no very great satisfaction. About half-past two o'clock, some men at work about the

Zenith mill found a piece of a man's leg, the clothing all torn off and burned black. That is without doubt all that remains of John E. Rossignaux, who was the only man killed in that structure. At about four o'clock men at work about the ruins of the Humboldt mill found a handful of bones. The bones were probably the remains of Peter Holberg, who was the only man in that mill when the explosion occurred. A portion of the remains of another man was to be seen in the ruins of the big mill in a late hour yesterday afternoon, but the heat was so intense the body could not be reached. The remains of bodies recovered still remain at the undertaker's rooms and no provisions for their disposal has yet been made. Probably the coroner's inquest will commence on Monday, or it may be delayed till Tuesday, for the purpose of allowing further search to be made, and also to enable the relatives to identify the remains.

THE SECRET SOCIETIES. In session last night, for the purpose of taking some action in regard to the funeral services and assistance of families affected by the disaster.

During the search for bodies a silver watch was found in the Humboldt mill ruins, and was taken to police headquarters where it may be seen.

REBUILDING. All of the mills are to be rebuilt and on a scale never before attempted in the city. At present the owners have not come to definite conclusion as to dimensions, but assert when all are completed, the combined milling interest will be second to none in the world. Mr. McMillan commences work on "B" mill Monday.

THE FUNERAL. At a special meeting of the Workingmen's union, held at Harmonia hall last evening, it was resolved to take part in the funeral of the victims of the late sad catastrophe, of which eight of the number were members of the organization. Also appointed a committee of five as follows: Messrs. Curtiss, Merriwell, McNally, Clark and Kreech to confer with like committees from other societies in regard to a programme, and it is requested that if the inquest does not take place till late in week to have the funeral appointed for Sunday next. The Ancient Order of United Workmen and Knights of Pythias have made similar arrangements at their meetings.

MISSING MEN TURN UP. That stranger who left No. 215 Second avenue south, on Thursday last, who started towards the mills and was presumed to have perished, turned up all right yesterday. He fortunately escaped uninjured, but was within a block of the scene at the time of the explosion. Meeting a friend at the fire he went home with him.

THE LOSSES AND INSURANCE. Below we give in convenient tabular form the list of losses and insurance in detail:

Table with columns: Loss, Insurance. Lists various companies and their respective loss and insurance amounts.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE EXPLOSION. Mr. J. A. Kendall furnishes the following for perusal of GLOBE readers: To the Editor of the Globe.

As usual, on these occasions, every one is excited and anxious to know the beginning and ending of these appalling changes which, at times, seem beyond the control of human agency; and hence every thing is apt to be hastily done for the moment.

Imperfect measures are at first taken, confusion is sure to exist, every one has a word to add or write, and this is the only way to elicit the truth and bring light and harmony out of these unforeseen convulsions and chaotic opinions. As the trained eye passes along the columns of print after these calamities, it is struck not only in the faithful efforts of compositors and type-setters, while laboring for the enlightenment of the people, signs of haste and impatience, but a true spirit of investigation, and marked advance in skill and genius, compared with no distant past.

This brings me more particularly to the point. I have no new theory of my own to advance as to the direct cause of this gigantic explosion, but after looking over the ground, i. e. being an eye witness to the external phenomena and comments of the papers, I am compelled to coincide with an article in the Tribune headed, "Cause of the explosion, accounted for on scientific principles by Prof. J. Stolz, M. D., which is so well to the point that I will not detract from its meaning, but quote it in substance as a part of the article: "The terrible

catastrophe of last night will call forth many theories as to the direct cause of the explosion. Yet there can be but one true cause and explanation, whether in natural phenomena or those which seem accidental.

Now, when we come to consider the vast amount of machinery constantly in rapid motion, mainly insulated by the lubricating oil, which is a non-conductor of electricity, and the floor dust covering floor, posts, wheels, in a word, pervading everything about the mill, forming, also, a non-conductor, we find a gigantic but quite perfect electric machine, insulated from the earth, hence preventing the free escape of this peculiar force.

The Washburn mill at this time evidently had become thoroughly charged with this relative force (or fluid, if you choose, for convenience) known as positive electricity, which in some way, according to the order of nature's laws, must be equalized, or in other words, be discharged or receive its counterpart—negative electricity.

At this moment the condition of the atmosphere being in a negative state favored the instantaneous discharge of positive electricity passing from the mill to the higher strata of the air above, carrying the mill with it. All the machinery and in infinite number of the particles of flour dust being intensely charged with latent electricity, and this electricity being suddenly set free by the opposite pole being just right, created the wonderful force by which the mill was reduced to fly-dust. No one or any other known force would have done its work so completely, except nitro-glycerine. The intensity of the electric charge caused by it also to ignite, thus producing a double explosive force, setting fire to everything in the immediate volumes of smoke, fire and flames, enveloping the entire structure simultaneously with the explosion. The atmospheric electricity acts on the same principle. Sometimes the electricity passes from one cloud to another, then from the clouds to the earth, and not infrequently from the earth to the clouds, and when intensely charged, ignites, burning everything before it.

This mill would never have exploded if several copper conductors had been leading from each bar to the moist earth below, thus conducting away the electricity moving through the mill. The hour dust explosion theory does not explain the cause, or the idea of accumulation of gas ignited by a lamp. This accident would have happened without a light in the mill under the existing circumstances, all being no conductors of electricity to the earth. I ask, are not constantly sparks of ignited electricity flying off from the large belts and machines? Copper wire conductors are the only preventive measures against accidents of kind in flouring mills.

As intimated in the outset, this is necessarily hastily written—but we give it to you as our honest convictions of the cause of the terrible calamity, trusting it will keep before the large lights we have, and stimulate to more thorough investigation and scientific knowledge of these unforeseen changes, and make possible a prevention which will save untold millions of money, lives and limbs.

I am, very respectfully, J. A. KENDALL.

BOURBON BRANCH.

A Venomous Speech Attacking Hayes' Title and Timidity of Congress in Not Commencing Proceedings of Ouster.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 4.—Col. H. D. Branch made a violent and revolutionary speech to-day at Rochester, Andrew county, denouncing the Democrats who aided in the installation of Hayes, and demanding the passage of a bill to have his title judiciously considered. He invoked the displeasure of the people upon all aspirants for the United States Senate and candidates for Congress and the Legislature, who endorsed the installation of Hayes or were willing to be elected by it. He declared he would be defeated by a squad of rebels that had gotten into Congress because he was a Union Democrat, and that unless the great wrong they had committed was undone the rupture in the Democratic party will be hopeless. If the present Congress failed in its duty it would become the people to elect a Congress bold enough to take such action as would relieve the country of the usurper who had become a stench in the nostrils of the nation.

Gilmore's Band off for Europe.

New York, May 4.—The steamship city of Berlin, sailed this afternoon with Gilmore's band, the Australian actor, Tom. Mayor Sweeney of Winchester, West Virginia, Paris commission, and Miss Emma C. Thornby and other well known persons. Gilmore's band was escorted to the dock by a delegation of the 22d regiment, and on the deck of the vessel were a large number of musketeers bidding bon voyage to Gilmore and his band, and Miss Thornby.

Funeral of John Morrissey.

Troy, N. Y., May 4.—The funeral of John Morrissey took place to-day from St. Peter's Catholic church and was attended by an immense concourse of people. The State Senate with Lt. Gov. DeWolfe and a delegation of the Assemblymen were present. Bishop McNierny, of Albany, assisted at the religious services, which were participated in by a number of clergymen.

Woolen Mills Burned at Chicago.

CHICAGO, May 4.—At 5 o'clock this morning the South Chicago woolen mills, situated in Hyde Park, and employing 150 hands, caught fire from a hot spindle in the packing room, and in a short time were totally destroyed. The mills cost the owner, H. W. Sinclair \$180,000, but were valued at \$100,000. Insurance had been obtainable to-night, but is placed at about \$80,000.

The National Game.

UTICA, N. Y., May 4.—International base ball championship played at Utica 3. Enfield 3. Ten innings played and game called on account of rain.

BOSTON, May 4.—Providence 8. Boston 6.

LYNN, Mass., May 4.—Base ball, Live Oaks 10 Albany 1.

New Bedford, Mass., May 4.—Hornells 4. New Bedford nothing.

Getting Ready for Broken Heads.

MONTREAL, May 4.—The county and district masters of the Orange order of this city, replied in the negative, to the Protestant clergy's address asking Orangemen not to parade the 12th of July. The votes of delegates were 367 for the procession to 6 against it.

Murdered for a Dollar.

TORONTO, May 4.—Last night four thieves entered the residence of John Johnson and demanded his money. Refusing, he was tied to the bed and beaten fatally with a club. All the money the thieves received was one dollar. Several arrests have been made.

The Ill-Fated Tow Boat Warner.

MEMPHIS, May 4.—Captain Willey, of St. Louis, is here trying to recover the body of pilot Dickson Kennet of the ill-fated Warner. Thus far no bodies have been found. The wounded are rapidly recovering.

REPUBLICAN VIRTUE.

NOMINATING AN EXPELLED ALDERMAN FOR RE-ELECTION.

A Fair Sample of Republican Pretensions—The Man Who Steals Oats and Sells Himself for Ten Dollars, Meets with Favor in Their Eyes—Details of J. W. Fisher's Conviction and Expulsion from the Council.

The nomination of J. W. Fisher for Alderman, by the Republicans, calls to mind that he was once a member of the City Council and retired from that body under somewhat peculiar circumstances. That the public may better understand the kind of timber of which Republican Aldermen are made, we quote below the charges which were brought against Mr. Fisher in 1875:

STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF RAMSEY, City of St. Paul.

First—James W. Fisher is accused by this indictment of dishonest and disreputable conduct as an alderman in and for the Fifth ward of the corporation of the city of St. Paul, county of Ramsey, and State of Minnesota, committed as follows, to-wit: That heretofore, to-wit, at the city of St. Paul, county of Ramsey and State aforesaid, in the year 1871, he said James W. Fisher, was elected and qualified and entered on the discharge of his duties as an alderman for three years, to-wit, for the Fifth ward in said city, and then and there served as such in the common council of said city. That in the year 1874 he said James W. Fisher was again elected alderman for said Fifth ward in said city aforesaid, and was duly qualified and entered upon the duties of said office, and thereupon from the day of ———, 1871, continuously up to the date of the presentation of this indictment and specifications, he said James W. Fisher, did, in violation of his duty and oath of office as an alderman, propose to and demand of one Warren H. Dean, the sum of about two hundred dollars, as a consideration for his (Fisher's) said influence as an alderman, in the matter of the ordinance relating to the street railroad, to be acted on by the city council, in which said ordinance, said W. H. Dean, was then and there greatly interested in having passed the city council, of which said James Fisher was then and there a member, all of which was in violation of his duty and oath of office, and calculated to bring disgrace upon the common council of said city.

Second—For further charge herein against the said James W. Fisher, to-wit: That the said James W. Fisher, as such alderman aforesaid, and by virtue of his said office, on or about the ——— day of ———, 1875, at the city, county and State aforesaid, did propose to and buy a quantity of hay of one Isaac W. Webb, of St. Paul, which hay was then and there for the use of the horses of the fire department of said city, and at which time and place said Fisher, as such alderman, did then and there, as a condition of said purchase of said hay of said Webb, wrongfully ask, demand and receive of said Isaac W. Webb, to deliver to him, said Fisher, for private use, two tons or a large quantity of hay of about the value of thirty dollars; that said Webb then and there rejected said proposal, and Alderman Fisher, in order to bring said hay to the city, county and State aforesaid, did then and there wrongfully and wilfully, and in disregard of his duty and in violation of his oath of office as such alderman, propose to and buy of said Isaac W. Webb, the said hay, and in disregard of his duty and in violation of his oath of office as such alderman, did then and there wrongfully and wilfully, and in disregard of his duty and in violation of his oath of office as such alderman, propose to and buy of said Isaac W. Webb, the said hay, and in disregard of his duty and in violation of his oath of office as such alderman, did then and there wrongfully and wilfully, and in disregard of his duty and in violation of his oath of office as such alderman, propose to and buy of said Isaac W. 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