

HOSE WAS ROTTEN, STANDPIPE EMPTY IN FIRE HORROR

Employees in Shirtwaist Factory Tell of Poor Apparatus.

NOT A DOOR LOCKED.

But Girls Blocked Escape, 25 Survivors Tell Whitman's Assistants.

When the fire broke out in the Triangle Shirt Waist shop last Saturday afternoon Irving Smith, a shipping clerk, and another employee, Louis Sundelman, ran to the standpipe on the tenth floor and began to unroll the line of hose attached to it.

They found the hose so rotten that even if there had been any water in the standpipe the hose could not have been used.

But they turned the wheel of the standpipe, hoping the hose could do something toward extinguishing the fire by deluging the place. But there was no water in the standpipe.

"I am sure that we could have put the fire out before there had been any serious loss of life if we could have used the standpipe and the hose," Smith told reporters today before going in to give his testimony to Assistant District Attorneys Rubin and Hostwick, who are making the preliminary investigations into the conditions surrounding the employees in the Washington Place loft building at the time the fire occurred, prior to giving the case to the Grand Jury. Sundelman, who stood by while Smith was making this statement to the reporters, corroborated him.

Not a Door Locked.
That not a single door on the eighth floor was locked at the time the fire broke out was the testimony of twenty-five survivors of Saturday's fire, who appeared before Assistant District Attorneys Rubin and Hostwick today. Their testimony agreed that the loss of life on that floor was due to the panic of the girls.

One of the girls had run for the door as soon as the fire broke out and was swinging it inward when the other girls swarmed down upon her. They crowded against her so that her hold on the door was broken and it was swung shut.

Superintendent Brown, who was helping some of the other girls to escape, rushed over and pulled the girls aside as fast as he could, fighting against their momentary madness, and he finally managed to get the door open.

Shipping Clerk Smith also told of starting one of the women on the tenth floor, where only two lives were lost, toward the stairway. The woman, frenzied with fear, turned back as soon as he let her go and ran toward the nearest window, clamoring out, who sat for a moment on the sill and then slid off to her death.

Marshal Continues Inquiry.
Fire Marshal Beers continued his inquiry today by hearing two girls who told of the struggle among women employees to leave the burning factory. Joseph Fleischer of No. 130 Second avenue, who was casidier at the plant, added a new chapter which came to him from a cutter who seemed to have been the centre of the fire, and whose blazing trousers legs set fire to the piles of lawn on the cutting tables, which in turn blazed and precipitated the panic.

He added the damaging testimony that the cuttings from the cutters' tables were allowed to remain on the floor for ten days before the ragman came for them.

Before the investigation closed the marshal heard from Captain Rich, of Engine Company No. 14, that the employees had entirely failed to use the standpipe hose in the building, which if used, would have put out the fire. It was also ascertained that the stories of the locked doors were incorrect, and were born of the fact that the doors opened inward and when the girls packed against them trying to get out they were just as effectively blocked as though they had been locked.

Iroquois Memorial Sends \$100.

While this was being developed in the official investigation two more bodies were identified and the Iroquois Memorial Association of Chicago, composed of the relatives of the 500 who lost their lives in the Iroquois Theatre fire of 1903, sent a check to the Mayor for \$100 to be used in the relief work made necessary by the Triangle Waist Company's disaster.

Fleischer opened the testimony of the day before Marshal Beers. He said he had been casidier for the firm for seven years and that he was in the office on the tenth floor when the fire started. He told the story of the fire as told him by Billy Bernstein, a cutter. "Bernstein told me that he had been ordered by the head cutter to come down Sunday and make some patterns that were badly needed, and on that account he was anxious to get away as soon as possible Saturday. He heard the bell ring for quitting time and went over where his coat was hanging and started to put it on. As he reached up for his coat he said some one called to him.

"Look out, Bernstein, your feet are on fire."

"Then he said that he tried to put out his pants, which were burning, and jumped on top of the cutting table where the lawn goods were piled, and in a minute the whole pile was blazing.

"He had caught fire from the cuttings on the floor, he said, and had then jumped to the table to save himself."

"How did it happen that the cuttings were so thick on the floor as to make

it necessary for him to jump on the table?" he was asked.

Ragman Came Weekly.
"Well, we had a contract with the ragman to come around when there was enough of the cuttings to bale and he generally came every week or ten days and took the cuttings from the cutters' floor. The same condition did not prevail on the ninth floor, where the girls were, because that floor was cleaned up every night."

Irene Selvon, a pretty Hungarian girl, followed the casidier as a witness. She went right along with her narrative this way:

"I was employed as a waist hand in the factory, and my machine was the second from the window on the Washington Place side of the house. I heard the girls running and saw the panic around me. I confess that I was a badly excited girl and that I acted like wild. I stumbled over my machine trying to get out of the place and ran toward the Washington street side with my clothing all on fire.

"The other girls were rushing in the same direction, and I heard them say that the door was locked with a patent lock and that they could not get out. Then a man came and opened the door for them. The girls were packed against the door before it opened."

Jumped on Elevator.
Sarah Cammerstein of No. 67 Suffolk street said she had only been employed at the factory for three days before the fire and that she was sorting goods for the opening.

"I heard the girls screaming," she said, "and I saw them packed against the door and heard them say that the door was locked. I ran to the elevator. The door to the shaft was open."

"But the car had gone down from the floor and was under me, speeding to the ground. I grabbed the ropes and jumped to the top of the car. When I got to the bottom on the car the elevator man, Zitto, came out of the car and helped me off and I escaped from the building. I do not know of their own knowledge about the doors, but I heard the girls screaming that they were locked."

Of the bodies claimed today, one was that of Esther Gochfeld, who was identified by a signet ring. Benjamin Gochfeld, the young woman's father, took the body from the Morgue today.

The other body identified was that of Yeta Meyers, also an operator. The identification was made by her brother Abraham, who recognized an earring found on the body.

The identification of these two bodies brings the number of unidentified now at the Morgue to eighteen.

From James Neelan, a mounted policeman attached to Traffic B, the marshal learned the facts regarding the locked door question, showing that the trouble was not the locking of the doors, but that the doors opened inward and when the girls packed against them they were unable to open the doors and thus they were locked in the building.

"I found all of the doors open leading to the burning factory," Meenan said.

Capt. Howard Bush of Engine Company No. 18 asserted that he had made a personal investigation to ascertain if the standpipe had been used, and declared that the hose had not been put into service, a fact easily proved by the valves, which had no evidence of having been turned.

"The fire positively could have been put out had the employees used this hose," said the captain.

He told how the firemen held the fire nets while bodies rained about them, and testified that every 130 pound body had a weight equal to 1,000 pounds at the time of impact and that the net broke when these bodies, giving a total of 1,200 pounds, struck it at one time. The burning clothing of the girls also set fire to the net.

Then the marshal heard William Bernstein, the cutter from whom clothing the fire was reported to have started. The man denied everything. He denied the information, conveyed by Architect Pellegrini of the Sage Foundation, that he had been cleaning his coat with benzine and that the fire started from it. He said he had been ordered to come down Sunday and do some work, but insisted that his only connection with the fire was to throw water on it.

Each of the details as to his having jumped on the table and set fire to the place were denied.

He Smokes Cigarettes.

"Do these cutters smoke cigarettes?" "Are you a cigarette smoker?" "I don't know."

"Yes, but I only smoke at home at night."

Sammy Cohen, who worked in the office, said some one started to get the hose and ordered the wheel to be

turned, starting the water. Then they discovered that it was too hot for work and ran.

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Excelsior A. C. to Give Dance for Sufferers.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

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Eight Hundred Attend Luncheon at Hotel Plaza and Start the Work.

Eight hundred women attended a luncheon today at the Hotel Plaza for the purpose of starting a movement to raise during the year the sum of \$100,000 to be devoted to the cause of foreign missions. The luncheon was under the auspices of the Women's National Foreign Missionary Society, and Mrs. William M. V. Hoffman of No. 22 West Fifty-first street was active in arranging the details of the affair.

The grand ballroom and the Italian gardens were utilized for the luncheon, at which many prominent persons appeared. A musical programme of unusual attractiveness had been prepared.

Donation Blanks Sent Out.

The women decided to send out blanks to the citizens asking for the donations. In the address that is to accompany the blanks, the women make this statement:

"It is proposed that we, the Christian women of the United States, bring to Our Lord this year a Jubilee offering of \$100,000 which shall be used for the salvation of women and children in non-Christian lands.

"Measured by our ability, compared with the billions we shall spend this year on our own comforts and luxuries, it is not a great gift. It seems very little to divide among the millions of Christian women."

Committee Named.

The girls are intended to celebrate the semi-centennial jubilee of the society. A committee was named to represent the various churches of the members to which the donations during the year may be sent. The committee named was:

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After luncheon the women heard speeches from Mrs. W. A. Montgomery, Miss Lucy Chapin, Mrs. W. P. Enoch, Miss Blanche Taylor, Miss Mary Carleton, who was a missionary to China, and other speakers.

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GYPSY PRINCESS BORN IN STREET; CROWD LOOKS ON

Queen Lucia, the Mother, Wraps Up Her New Born and Starts to Walk to Camp.

There is a new princess among the gypsies of the tribe of Queen Lucia, which has its camp along the banks of the Bronx River, not far from Myers Park avenue and Lefferson street. True to the traditions of her race, the child was born in a public street, without a roof or a home, while 300 persons crowded around, acclaiming the advent of the tiny heirress to the leadership of the tribe.

Of the crowd that gathered in the street many were children from a neighboring school. And young Dr. Donahue, making his first call from Fordham Hospital, started his professional life with an experience that few doctors have ever had. It was just after noon when Beatie Lucia, known as "Queen Lucia," was seen walking leisurely in Tremont avenue. On one arm she carried a basket filled with fine silks and embroidery. Suddenly passers saw "the Queen" stagger and fall. A heavy call was sent for the ambulance at Fordham. Drs. Donahue and Moodie came with it.

Crowd Acclaims Princess' Birth.
A great crowd surrounded the woman as she was stretched upon the sidewalk. The doctors struggled to keep them back and to provide sufficient air for the birthday of a princess. But titles have ever attracted the herd, and what doctors was pleased to call the "Belovestair" curiosity of the Americans, triumphed.

It was only a few minutes after the arrival of the doctor when the trio in the intimate circle became a quartet. A tiny voice was added to the noise of the Bronx. Then the doctors attempted to take the woman to the hospital in the ambulance. She combated the idea with gypsy force and proceeded to rise to her feet. Then she took her little one, wrapped it in the fine silks she had with her and placed it in the basket.

She insisted upon walking away with her basket, but the doctors persuaded her to let them take her in the ambulance to her own camp. When the gypsies saw the ambulance coming they were much excited. They feared an accident and, chattering, ran to see what was wrong. When they learned that a new ruler had come to the tribe, there was great rejoicing.

Preparations were made for a great feast, and to-night the fire will burn brightly as the daughter of the queen comes fully into her own in the rustic and picturesque surroundings of her estate.

FOR Sprains AND Bruises USE Omega Oil

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"Yes, but I only smoke at home at night."

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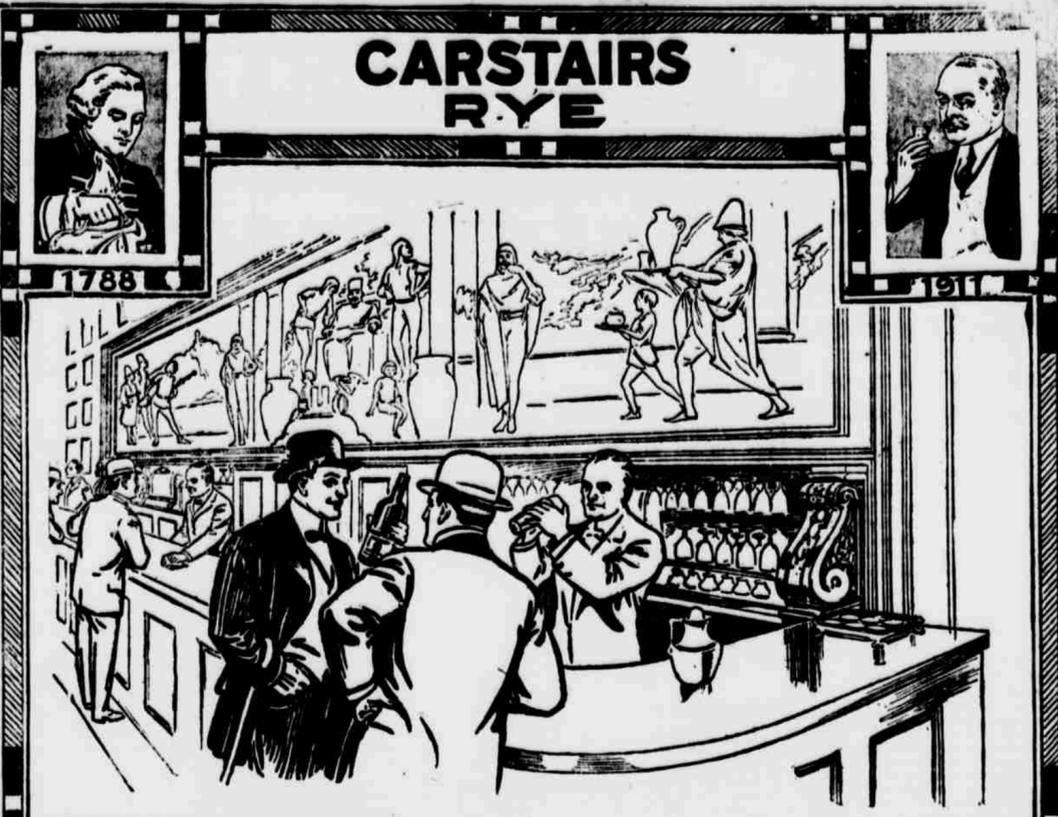
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