

FIREMEN RESCUED AS DEADLY SMOKE PALL CHOKES THEM

Victims Fell as Captain, Seeing Peril, Had Ordered Them Back.

Shortly before 1 o'clock this morning gutted the seven-story building at Nos. 25-27 Bleecker street, at the head of West street. The damage is estimated at \$200,000. Four alarms were turned in. It was the heaviest smoke fire and one of the most punishing to the firemen in many months. "Smoky" Joe Martin was in charge.

The firemen after they had made the second and third stories of the structure with their apparatus were driven back. Several were overcome. Three thrilling rescues were effected. The thick pall of smoke, coming from paint, resin, shellac, sugar, felt and straw hats, was carried by a north wind down to the battery. It serpentine into Mott and Mulberry streets, and Italian families by the hundreds poured out into the streets, raising a din and clatter, the effect of which was to bring the reserves from three stations.

At least fifteen firemen, overcome by the smoke, lay stretched on the sidewalk at one time, with two doctors working over them.

The fire had been smouldering for some time before the source of the smoke was discovered. Several policemen smelled the smoke, and the fire was finally located by Patrolman O'Connor at Mulberry street. On the first floor of the building Berger & Worth conducted a manufactory of dry colors. On the second was the umbrella handle factory of Silber Pinkowitz, with a collection of varnish, resin and shellac.

The third floor was occupied by S. Shapiro, manufacturer of candles. The Weintraube Glass Manufacturing Company covered the fourth floor, and the Orange Valley Hat Manufactory the fifth. The sixth and seventh floors were unoccupied.

BLAZE HAD GOOD START IN THE CELLAR.

Policeman O'Connor, with the assistance of the night watchman of the building, opened the front door and found that the smoke was coming from the cellar. They walked down the stairs, but were soon driven back by smoke and flames. They made a rush for the street. The opening of the door had admitted enough air to create a back draught and they did not get away a moment too soon. When they reached the street flames and smoke were belching from the windows of every floor.

O'Connor turned in an alarm and Deputy Chief King sent in a second, and the famous "Smoky" Joe Martin, the famous smoke fighter, who sent in a third alarm and finally a fourth. Martin had just returned to his bed from a two-alarm fire at No. 101 Bway.

The men from Engine Companies Nos. 25 and 71 scaled the building with ladders. It was at this time the smoke began to drive the Italians from their quarters, and the reserves from Mulberry street, under Capt. Kinsler; those of Fifth and Mercer streets were soon on the ground. Fifty reserves at least must have been on duty.

Nos. 25 and 71 are the high pressure companies. The former, under Capt. Biggers, made the second floor and the latter with Capt. Hughes covered the third. "Smoky Joe" saw the men could not stand up under the conditions and gave the order to back out. The firemen had already begun to do this. They dropped their hose and crawled along the floor, guided by the hose to the fire-escapes. When they reached the ground it was found that several men were missing.

BACK INTO THE BUILDING TO SAVE THEIR MATES.

Martin ordered the men back into the building to rescue their mates. William A. Stone, driver of Engine No. 72, was the first back and stumbled over the unconscious form of Capt. Biggers on the third floor, as, with a wet handkerchief over his mouth, he dropped through the smoke.

Stone picked him up and with the help of others carried him down the ladder to the ground. Dr. Archer of the Fire Department and Dr. Hand of St. Vincent's Hospital were in attendance.

Fireman Henry Hines of No. 25 was missing, and back up the ladder went Stone and the men behind him. Hines was dragged out and carried down.

Then Arthur Finnegan was unaccounted for and another run up the ladder was made. Finnegan had dragged himself to the fire-escape and was there overcome.

No time was lost in getting him down. Meantime fifteen men were stretched on the ground overcome by smoke. All were revived, but Biggers and Hines were ordered home.

Meantime the flames were pouring out of every window with clouds of the thick, stifling smoke, and the firemen were fighting from the roofs to the east and west of the structure, with the water towers and hoses in the escape of the rear of the big building at Nos. 25-27 Bond street.

Between this and the burning building was a passageway of only fifteen feet, and the only reason that the flames did not extend to it was that the rear of the burning structure was guarded by iron shutters, only such being opened to admit of the playing of the hose into the interior.

Around at Nos. 21 and 23 Bleecker is the Florence Crittenton Mission. Miss Roberts, president of the mission, had visited it last night and remained for the night. She, with twenty-five women inmates and nine babies, was in the building, and the smoke coming in through open windows filled the rooms.

War in China "Opera Bouffe" To the Former Miss Whitney



Willard D. Straight, representative in China of the banking interests of J. P. Morgan, with his wife, formerly Dorothy Payne Whitney, returned to-day on the Mauretania. Although he would make no positive statement, Mr. Straight intimated that his visit was in connection with the proposed loan of \$50,000,000 to be made to the Chinese Republic, leading interviewers to believe that the Morgan interests would take at least \$5,000,000 of this loan.

Mr. Straight, a Cornell man, is a boyish-looking financier who has lived for many years in the Orient, where his parents are missionaries. He entered the Morgan bank in the Orient when a boy as a clerk and rose to be its head. At times he has been connected with the foreign board that is in charge of the Chinese customs. In this connection he incurred the enmity of Chinese financiers and for a time a price for his head was offered.

Mr. Straight married Miss Whitney last year in Geneva and reached Peking on Oct. 11, the day of the outbreak which resulted in the overthrow of the Manchou dynasty and the foundation of the republic. Knowing the treacherous character of the Chinese, Mr. Straight took his bride to live in the American Legation, where troops were on guard, rather than to their newly erected home.

Mr. Straight said to-day the whole "war" in China seemed to her to be an opera bouffe affair, but to her husband it was serious.

"It was so different from the kind of war I have always read about that I simply could not get worried about it," said Mrs. Straight.

Mr. Straight admitted that after lengthy negotiations plans were about completed for foreign bankers to float a \$50,000,000 loan to the new republic, and he seemed to think that America's share in this loan would be at least half, despite the vigorous opposition of foreign bankers, who desire to participate so that their Governments may, to that degree, secure a voice in the Chinese Governmental affairs. It is understood Mr. Straight's visit to America at this time is to confer with J. Pierpont Morgan over the final acceptance of the terms.

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MORGAN TO LOAN CHINA \$45,000,000 HIS AGENT HINTS

Rigid Jersey Man Relaxes and Says He Was Hypnotized and Robbed.

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CLUNG TO LAMPPOST, HOLDING HAND ALOFT, LIKE LIBERTY STATUE

Rigid Jersey Man Relaxes and Says He Was Hypnotized and Robbed.

A man whose left arm encircled a lamppost and whose right arm was raised as if in appeal to oncoming street cars attracted the notice of passersby on their way to work about dawn to-day at the corner of North Eleventh street and Bedford avenue, Brooklyn. Many halted and observed the motionless pose of the forenoon-looking citizen. His eyes were wide open and staring straight ahead. The muscles of his jaw stood rigid and he seemed scarcely to breathe. Coming closer, several of the group cried the man erect and released him. He fell like a log back into the same position. Then it was seen his eyes had not changed their stare. Some one moved a hand back and forth before his eyes.

"Why, he's blind!" said one.

"Blind stuff," said another. "Here, fellow, shake a leg. Whatcha tryin' to do? Take 'er."

"Take your arm down. Cars run every hour," said a third. Then in amazement, "See what he's solid as a rock! His arm's stuck." The man who made the discovery looked again in the staring eyes and backed away a trifle. When Dr. Felner arrived on the tail-board of the Williamsburg Hospital ambulance, he was surprised into exclaiming: "Catalepsy and a true case! This is dangerous." The surgeon tried to rouse the stupefied unknown while the crowd, become respectful, aided.

The burden was carried to the ambulance and a dash made for the hospital. There chloroform was administered and the only effect seemed to be a quivering of the eyelids which had not yet dropped over the eyes. The quivering was succeeded by muscular twitching which took place all over the body and a few moments later the tense jaws loosened and semi-consciousness returned.

With eyes blinking hard and painfully the cataleptic asked the usual "Where am I?" and gave his name as Jacob Hagen, twenty-four years old, of Brentwood, N. Y. In broken sentences and lapses of memory he told of meeting a stranger one afternoon, he did not know how long ago. The stranger, after looking at his eyes, remarked how fit a hypnotic subject he might become, and made a few passes over his face. That was all Hagen remembered until he came to in the hospital.

He had it and some change when he met the hypnotist, but a search of his clothing showed he had been robbed. How he came from Brentwood, N. Y., to Brooklyn, and why any one should rob him of so small a sum, especially if the robber were so good a hypnotist, is a puzzle to the police. Hagen is still in the Williamsburg Hospital, not fully recovered. There is stiffness in his limbs and uncertainty in thought. He may be removed to the Kings County Hospital for observation.

MAILED HUSBAND'S LIFE.

Aroused, Finds Him in Gas-Filled Bathroom; Held by Court.

Mrs. Charles Franklin, was aroused early to-day by the crying of one of her children who was thirsty. She attempted to enter the bathroom of their home, No. 113 Seigel street, Brooklyn, and found the door fastened and gas pouring from the keyhole. Her husband was not in his bed and the woman screamed for neighbors to aid her in battering down the door. When it was broken open the unconscious form of her husband lay across the bathtub with a gas tube in his mouth.

Dr. Fomer of the Williamsburg Hospital revived the man, and when he was arraigned in the Manhattan Court today he refused to give any reason for the act. Franklin is thirty years old and worked as a tailor. He was held in \$500 bail for examination.

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EX-SULTAN MOBBED IN PARIS BY CROWD HUNGRY FOR TIPS

Mulay Hafid, Late of Morocco, 'Angel' for Everybody, Leaves Trail of Coins.

MARSEILLES, Aug. 15.—Mulay Hafid, ex-Sultan of Morocco, was awakened at his hotel before sunrise to-day by screams of "Vive la Maroc!" When he glanced from his window the screams increased in volume and enthusiasm. There was a howling mob outside which a strong force of gendarmes was trying to keep in some kind of order and not succeeding very well.

The throng consisted mainly of beggars, professional and amateur peddlers, street musicians, children and miscellaneous vagabonds, all attracted by stories of the magnificent generosity with which the ex-Sultan scattered bakasheesh following his arrival here from Gibraltar yesterday.

Mulay was aggrieved at having his beauty sleep disturbed to-day, however, so instead of scattering a double handful of gold pieces from the window, as had been expected, he only looked sourly out for a moment, muttering an ejaculation of annoyance and turned back to bed again. Upon which the crowd burst into a hurricane of "A bas la Maroc!" and showed symptoms of storming the hotel. The gendarmes had to be reinforced before they succeeded in clearing the street in front of it.

Later, when the ex-Sultan got up of his own accord, he was in better humor and left a trail of twenty-franc pieces

behind him wherever he went. No other guest at the hotel could get the slightest attention. Mulay had a swarm of waiters, porters and chambermaids around him constantly, each individual clamoring in a different key for a "pour boire."

His ex-Majesty's treasurer said mournfully that Mulay has given away nearly \$1,000 in tips in thirty-six hours, and he only gets \$75,000 annually from the French Government.

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LONG ISLAND COMMUTERS TO HAVE PUBLIC HEARING.

Public Service Commission to Give Them Chance to Kick Against Railway and Ferry Service.

Thousands of commuters travelling on Long Island trains have now arisen in protest against the ferry service of the company, operating from East Thirty-fourth street, the boats of which are supposed to meet all incoming and outgoing trains, but do not so, it is charged.

It was announced at the office of the Public Service Commission, to-day, that Commissioner George V. S. Williams will start a series of public hearings on September 11, at which riders on the Long Island Railroad system may voice their grievances, not only regarding the ferry service, but the railroad management as well.

The announcement of the Commissioner will inquire whether the company runs boats enough or with sufficient frequency to accommodate the traffic, and, if not, to determine whether the company should be directed:

1. To operate ferry boats so that they shall connect with trains leaving Long Island City.

2. To have trains held, when necessary, to await the arrival of connecting boats.

3. To operate additional ferry boats or trips, or to make any other improvements in the service.

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WOMAN HURT ON BRIDGE.

Steering Gear Breaks and Auto Crashes Into Trolley.

The steering gear of Samuel Wyman's automobile got out of order while he was driving the machine over the Queensboro Bridge to-day, and in an ensuing collision with a New York and Queens County street car Mrs. Hattie Freedman, fifty, of No. 44 West Eighty-third street, Wyman's cousin, was flung from the trolley. She was hurried to St. John's Hospital, Long Island City, in the automobile of John J. McGarry of Edgewater, N. J., suffering from the fracture of two ribs, cuts and bruises. Traffic over the bridge was tied up for half an hour while workmen were disentangling Wyman's machine and the street car.

WEE GIRL, SLAP, \$70,000.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 15.—Because Mrs. Clara Manger's little girl slapped children of the rich in the exclusive Cabanne district, St. Louis, and their parents caused her arrest to keep peace, she to-day sued the heads of six well-to-do families for \$70,000 damages for false arrest.

Following a quarrel among the children there was a trial of the surety of the peace charges, with a disagreement, many continuances, a counter arrest of Mrs. Cabanne, a fight between Cabanne and Mrs. Manger's husband, Frederick Manger, and much neighborhood bad feeling.

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Due to extensive improvements and enlarging our stock to make room, and are offering our goods at

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Furnished Terms

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