



A FIRETRAP DESTROYED. BLESSING TO BROOKLYN. Water Supply Inadequate at the Academy of Music Blaze.

The destruction of the Brooklyn Academy of Music by fire yesterday morning was at once a sorrow and a relief to thousands of Brooklynites. The borough lost a famous landmark, the largest and oldest of its places of amusement, connected with many historic incidents, but the swiftness of the destruction showed that a great disaster would have been inevitable if the flames had started at a time when the immense building was crowded with people, instead of at a time when it was empty.

It was the plans for the McCarren dinner, in fact, which were responsible for the destruction of the Academy. Electricians were busy early in the day stringing wires for the myriad electric lights which were to make the place like fairyland, and at the same time the employees of a caterer were preparing the table decorations and draperies which were to make the feast more enjoyable. There was a dispute later between the electricians and the other workmen as to which of them started the blaze, but there seemed to be no reason to doubt that the electric wires in some way ignited the bunting on the stage.

A few minutes before 9 a. m. when an electric sign over the stage, which was to have blazed forth "Welcome to McCarren," was being tested, the workmen heard a crackling sound over their heads and saw that some of the canvas scenery at the top of the stage was afire. Some of them tried to get a hose in action, but when a shower of coals fell on them they realized that they were too late and they ran for their lives. In a minute or two all of the workmen were out of the building, and one ran to carry the news of fire to the engine house in Pierpont-st. An alarm was rung, and that was followed a little later by four alarms, calling all the engines of the district, but before any firemen got to the building it was doomed.

Hugh McLaughlin was eating his breakfast in his home at No. 165 Remsen-st., directly in the rear of the Academy, when the fire started. He heard a sound like that of a tempest suddenly arising, and he first thought a cyclone had come. The roar increased until his own house shook, and looking out of a rear window he saw a great mass of flame shoot up from the Academy roof. The outburst of flames was accompanied by a report almost like that of an explosion, so tremendous was the force of the fire spreading in the large area of the Academy.

It was apparent from the start that the firemen could not save the Academy, and that all they could do was to prevent the spread of the flames to adjoining buildings. The water supply for all the engines the same working at the fire was insufficient, and some of the engines were able to throw only feeble streams. Chief Purroy went from Manhattan to take command of the forces, but did not modify the orders already given by Deputy Chief Murray. Some of the water officials wanted the pressure reduced after the fire had been burning half an hour, but Chief Murray said:

"Don't shut off a drop. The water has been too poor since we started."



BURNING OF THE BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC. This photograph was made shortly after the roof had fallen in.

ONE SICK IN EVERY TEN. TYPHOID HOLDS BUTLER.

Heavy Death List Feared—The Water Supply to Blame.

Butler, Penn., Nov. 30.—With every confidence in a water supply that had been pronounced the best in the State, this city to-night has one ill in every ten of its sixteen thousand people, and the State Board of Health, after meeting, reports that it is entirely due to pollution of the city water supply. Of filtration plants, the Butler Water Company, which furnishes the supply, has sufficient to clear all its water, but typhoid germs received from the drainage of the slopes of a typhoid ridden country district have brought disease and death to the community. So severe is the epidemic that schools are closed, industrial plants crippled and business paralyzed.

The work of relief is taking all of the energies of the city. Ten thousand dollars has been contributed to aid in the work, and wealthy men have offered \$3,000 to drill artesian wells. The Standard Oil Company, which contributed \$1,000 to-day, is the latest addition to the list of more than eight hundred subscribers to the relief fund. Pittsburg, Philadelphia and other cities in the State are aiding with nurses, servants and money, and Governor Pennypacker has sent a message to Dr. R. B. Greer that the State Board of Health will ascertain if the \$50,000 appropriation set aside by the recent General Assembly for use in cases where the number stricken by any epidemic in city or borough exceeds one thousand is available.

The physicians of the city are fearful that the mortality, which has so far been light—twenty-one deaths—will become heavier as the crises in the new cases approach. Complications of pneumonia and diphtheria are developing in a number of cases. At the St. Paul's Orphan's Home, a Reformed Church institution, there are twelve sick out of eighty-four of the orphans, and diphtheria has developed in several of the cases. Four emergency hospitals have been established, and Earl D. Clinton, proprietor of the Standard Hotel, has offered his building with furnishings as a fifth emergency institution.

The outlook for the next few weeks is dark. Physicians say that the epidemic will rage until Easter, if every precaution is taken from now on. More than twenty-five new cases were reported to-day. In the heart of the city, where the city water was used exclusively, is a confirmation that hundreds of cases will develop. All water is now being boiled before it is used and rigid regulations are being adopted. A record of all fever cases during the epidemic is to be started to-morrow.

In Sprinfield, a part of the first ward of the city, where water from artesian wells, instead of from the city mains, is used, there are no new cases of fever, except those that can be traced to use of water at places of business up town. The milk supply, once questioned, is now passed over, as the sickness is so scattered that the infection could not have come from such a source. The contaminated water supply is the sole cause of the epidemic in the opinion of every expert and physician who has examined the conditions here.

ATTACKED IN TOWER. Operator Telegraphs for Special Train—Barricades Room.

Trenton, N. J., Nov. 30.—The coolness of William Dehaven, a telegraph operator in the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad tower at Glenmore, a few miles east of here, saved him last Tuesday night from being robbed and possibly murdered, as was William Glendin, at Brown's Tower, near Williamsport, Penn.

Dehaven was at work in his tower when he heard efforts being made to enter the lower compartment of the tower. A coal train had just passed. Looking out of the window Dehaven saw the forms of several men at the base of the tower. He threw the signals to danger at once, called up Superintendent Beach of the New-York Division, and told him what was occurring. Dehaven, like other operators along the road, had been keeping his doors locked since the murder of Glendin. As soon as he had finished his communication with Beach, Dehaven set about barricading the operating and lever room. Meanwhile, Mr. Beach telegraphed to Yardmaster Meanly in this city to send a special train with a clear track to Glenmore.

Constables Potts, Powell, Cappel, Ceaser and Smith were found, with a number of railroad hands, starting on an engine run by Martin Burkhardt. The run from Trenton to Glenmore was made in record time, but they arrived too late. While the train was being made up and on its way to Glenmore, the gang forced their way into the lower part of the tower and then started to batter down the door into the operating room. They could have entered the room and disposed of Dehaven long before the special arrived, but before they could enter a coal train from the east whistled for a clear track. This Dehaven refused, and the coal train necessarily stopped at the tower. The gang heard the train coming and fled. The special arrived a couple of minutes later. The gang was traced by the constables and railroad men to a thick woods at the base of the mountains to the northward. There the trail was lost. The affair was kept a secret until to-day, as Prosecutor Crosley thought there was some hope of capturing the gang.

A THREAT TO CASTRO. British Squadron Going to La Guayra—Protest Unheeded.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov. 30.—The British West India Squadron will leave here on Thursday for La Guayra, Venezuela. The government officials at Caracas assert that the squadron's visit to La Guayra is in connection with the closing of the River Orinoco by President Castro to foreign trade, which has especially affected the interests of Trinidad. Mr. Bax Ironside, the British Minister at Caracas, has twice protested against the measure without obtaining a favorable or even polite answer. A new note on the subject, it is believed, will probably be presented to Venezuela, while the British squadron is at La Guayra.

EIGHT SENT TO PRISON. Ten Months for Attacking the Trolley's Non-Union Crew.

Waterbury, Conn., Nov. 30.—Eight young men, ranging in age from seventeen to twenty-two years, were sentenced to-day in the Superior Court to ten months' imprisonment as a result of an assault committed last spring on the non-union crew of a trolley car in Waterville during the street railroad strike.

MRS. VANDERBILT HURT. At the Opera House in Newport—Falls to See a Step, and Falls.

Newport, R. I., Nov. 30.—Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt was badly injured in a fall to-night at the Grand Opera House. With Mrs. Vanderbilt were Mr. Vanderbilt and other friends. They went to see "The Princess of Kensington."

WOOD MAY BE SUMMONED. BROOKE ACCUSES HIM. Insubordination Charged—Talk of Court Martial for Runcie.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Much interest is taken in the War Department in regard to the case of Major James E. Runcie, who has been before the Senate Military Affairs Committee giving testimony against the confirmation of Brigadier General Leonard Wood as a major general. Runcie will appear before the committee again in a few days. The allegations which he makes against General Wood are of a serious nature, and while the testimony given by Runcie before the committee is as yet not fully disclosed, it has become known to the War Department people that he charges General Wood with collusion with himself in having published articles which practically reflected on the administration by a brother officer, his predecessor, General Brooke, of affairs in Cuba. Official correspondence on file at the War Department, copies of which have been furnished to the Senate Committee, shows that General Wood denied any such relations with Runcie, and it has, therefore, become a question of veracity between General Wood and Major Runcie, who was Wood's confidential legal adviser, and who lived with him in Santiago and Havana.

While Runcie is a wealthy lawyer, who is said to have no particular use for his salary, he is, of course, amenable to military discipline, being a retired officer of the army, and it is in this capacity that the War Department regards him and may institute an investigation of his conduct. This is especially true, as General Brooke, who was here to-day, was anxious to have Runcie brought before a military court when it was disclosed that Runcie had written the articles reflecting on General Brooke's career as Military Governor of Cuba.

Some army officers here believe that it is a question of rejecting Wood's nomination, which would put him back, law officers say, to the grade of brigadier general, or the trial by court-martial of Runcie.

GENERAL BROOKE'S EVIDENCE.

General Brooke, formerly Governor General of Cuba, gave testimony to-day before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs which charged insubordination against General Leonard Wood. General Brooke was before the committee more than two hours, and occupied the entire time in telling of General Wood's conduct at Santiago. The witness offered in support of his statements many documents taken from the records in the War Department and several papers from his personal collection. At the close of his testimony a member of the committee said that it was probable that General Wood would have to return from the Philippines and testify.

One of the charges made by General Brooke is that General Wood violated the order which required him in making improvements in Santiago to submit estimates to the Governor General. As evidence of this violation, General Brooke called attention to the building of barracks at Santiago near the Morro without General Wood first having given notice to the department at Havana. General Brooke said also that General Wood continually sent communications to the War Department over the head of his commanding officer. The witness assured the committee that he cared nothing for the ignoring of his authority, but said that the proceeding had been detrimental to military discipline.

General Brooke called to the attention of the committee, in support of an allegation that General Wood had neglected to work in harmony with the military government, the matter of General Wood's attitude toward the newspapers at Santiago which repeatedly made attacks on General Brooke's administration. General Brooke read a number of these attacks, and also his recommendation to the War Department that the papers be suppressed unless they desisted.

DEWNEY'S WINES ARE PURE. Special assorted cases for holidays. A very acceptable present. Send for descriptive price list. Dewey's, 138 Fulton Street, New York City—Adv't.

BIBLE ESSAYS PRIZES. CROWNING OF M'CARREN. OFFERED BY MISS GOULD. M'LAUGHLIN NOT THERE. Subject, "Roman Catholic and Protestant Versions of Scriptures."

There may be no misunderstanding regarding the attitude toward the Rev. T. J. Early, of the Roman Catholic Church at Irvington, Miss Helen Miller Gould, through her secretary, Miss Elizabeth Altman, authorized the publication yesterday of a letter which she sent to Dr. W. W. White, president of the Bible Teachers' Training School, at No. 88 East Fifty-fifth-st., and his reply.

In her letter to Dr. White she offers a prize of \$400 to the writer, first, of the best essay on the origin and history of the version of the Bible approved by the Roman Catholic Church, and second, on the origin and history of the American revised version of the English Bible. She offers a prize of \$250 for the second best essay, and one of \$100 for the third best essay.

It will be remembered that on the last Friday in September, at the annual party and entertainment of the sewing school which was founded some years ago by Miss Gould at Irvington, meat sandwiches were provided for the children, most of whom were of the Protestant faith. Some who were Catholics also ate the sandwiches. When their pastor heard of it he put a ban on the school at once. He also objected to a hymn that had been sung at the opening of the entertainment.

In a letter to Miss Altman, representing Miss Gould, he said that one of the fundamental principles of his Church had been violated, and that the children had been made ashamed of the rules of their Church before others. He also said that a promise had been broken, which Miss Altman denies. It was discovered that without Miss Gould's knowledge the steward who provided the food for the children had served meat sandwiches, but Miss Gould, in a letter replying to one sent by Father Early, said that the Catholic children were not obliged to eat the sandwiches.

It was when Father Early, in another letter, said that the Catholic Church objected to the reading of the Protestant version of the Bible, "which only goes back," he said, "to the days of Henry VIII of England," that she determined to challenge that statement and others by offering the three cash prizes for essays on the origin and history of the two versions of the Bible.

Following is Miss Altman's letter to Dr. W. W. White: "The recent correspondence which appeared in the New-York papers of November 19, 1903, between Father Early of Irvington, and myself, as secretary to Miss Helen Miller Gould, has doubtless come to your notice in your letters. Father Early made the following statements about the versions of the Bible used in the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches: 'I take this opportunity of correcting an erroneous assertion contained in the above mentioned correspondence, and which so many non-Catholics, knowingly or otherwise I do not say, persist in falsely asserting and spreading, viz.: 'The Catholic Church has never prohibited any one from reading the Scriptures or history in every family whose means will permit the buying of a copy, there you will find the authentic version of God's word, as authorized by the Church, and which has come down to us unchanged from the time of Christ Himself. But the Catholic Church does not prohibit the reading of the Scriptures or history which goes back only to the days of Henry VIII of England, and was then set up.' The Catholic Church allows private interpretation of the Scriptures, for then there would be as many interpretations as there would be men, and each man's interests or passions would suggest a different one.'

It is strange that any one acquainted with the ordinary facts of history could make such a statement as the above concerning the versions of the Bible. In conversation with various persons lately Miss Gould has found that there is very general ignorance and confusion of the origin and history of the different versions of the Bible used in the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Desiring to stimulate investigation, and to secure a brief and yet thorough and popular statement of the facts for general use, she hereby makes to you, as the president of the school devoted to the study of the English Bible, the following proposition, and she will offer prizes for the best essays on the following subjects: 'First—The origin and history of the version of the Bible approved by the Roman Catholic Church. Second—The origin and history of the American Revised Version of the English Bible. The competition will be confined to the students of your school. The essays should be sent to you before March 1, 1904. She desires you and all those who are interested to be on the committee of judges, which is to be enlarged by the addition of five other members, to be appointed by the four already named, and to whom you will refer. Four hundred dollars will be given to the writer of the best essay, \$250 for the second best and \$100 for the third best. Any further necessary details can be arranged by a committee of your appointment.'

This was Dr. White's reply to Miss Altman: 'I have this morning received your communication in which Miss Gould offers prizes for the best essays on the above topics. First—The origin and history of the version of the Bible approved by the Roman Catholic Church. Second—The origin and history of the American Revised Version of the English Bible. Standing as we do for the study of the English Bible, and for the encouragement of the most thorough investigation in all subjects relating to the Bible, we are glad to assume, we therefore accept the proposition which your letter makes and welcome the stimulation of the study of the English Bible. Kindly convey to Miss Gould my personal appreciation of her confidence in us, which your letter indicates, and assure her of our purpose to conduct this matter in full accord with her wishes. All the necessary details of the submission of essays will appear in the current number of 'The Bulletin of the Bible Teachers' Training School.'

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—The little gunboat Bogota, which left here on October 7, 1902, for Panama to sweep the seas of all the enemies of the Colombian government, is soon to become the prey of United States men-of-war. A letter received to-day from an officer of the cruiser Boston, dated Panama, November 16, says that the cruiser had just returned from a three days' search for the Bogota, which had been declared a pirate and was much wanted by the new republic of Panama and the American warships.

THE BOGOTA A PIRATE. American Warships After the Colombian Gunboat.

On November 5, when Panama hoisted its flag, the Bogota, controlled by Colombia, hastily weighed her anchor and, after firing on the city, put for the open sea, with the Padilla, her old enemy in a former rebellion, in hot pursuit. The Padilla is not the equal of the Bogota and soon was distanced.

The Bogota, according to the Boston officer's letter, was, at last accounts, believed to be near Panama Bay, for reports were received at the Isthmus that the vessel had captured two English merchant vessels. A reward of \$50,000 for the capture of the Bogota was immediately offered by the British government when news of its act of piracy was communicated to London by the British consul. The gunboat is disowned by the Colombian government, which sees in her acts of piracy no end of trouble. It will not be long, in any event, before the Bogota will be obliged to put into some port for coal or supplies, and her capture will be easily effected.

The Bogota was used in the last Colombian revolution by the government to help suppress the revolution. She was outfitted here and officered and manned by Americans. She contributed largely to ending the revolution.

Baltimore, Nov. 30.—Edmund Stabler, Superintendent of the Baltimore Manual Labor School, was found guilty to-day of cruelly beating a boy inmate, and was fined \$5 and costs by the court. There were two long trials, with scores of witnesses, and the costs will amount to \$5,000.

MURPHY AND M'CLELLAN SMILE ON. New Brooklyn Leader.

"McCarren night in Brooklyn" was what the politicians called it, the coronation of the lean and hungry Cassius of Brooklyn Democratic politics. True, Hugh McLaughlin was not there. The old boss sat by his cheerful fireside in his Remsen-st. home, and if he had his ear to the ground, as wise politicians are supposed to have always, he must have heard the scuffle of feet and the din of voices in and around the St. George Hotel, where the coronation of the new king took place. Neither was James Shevlin there.

The dinner was marked by disorder and uproar to such an extent that the speakers were heard only by those close to them. Mr. Shevlin has started in on a quiet campaign of coniving. If the hurrah and blare and ghost dances of the Murphy and McCarren scalp hunters, the quiet Shevlin, out in the wood-house, bearing down on the grindstone, will be forgotten, but he will be there just the same. And Borough President Martin W. Littleton was not there. He was away in Tennessee, shooting things. He stopped long enough the other day to write a letter to Mr. McCarren—a letter full of "state-manesque" sentiments, which Mr. Littleton will do his best to live up to, perhaps, while Borough President-elect writes another letter about getting the "grafs" anything, and things like that. It was not applauded by Murphy.

But it was a great success for all that. McCarren had enough, and more than enough. Looking over the crowd, it seemed as if every one was there. Murphy—the smiling and complacent Murphy, a short way from Hot Springs and a long way from the gas-houses—the Manhattan boss, was there, to do honor to the Brooklyn boss and to gloat over the downfall of the "old man." Mayor-elect McClellan was there, and so were all the big and little potentates and princes in Tammany Hall, who were thrifty enough and zealous enough to figure out that by being on hand they improved their chances for a share of the good things to come. It was a jolly and a thankful crowd. It was a thankful assemblage, because it came back to all of them that the dinner was scheduled for the Academy of Music, that the flames licked up in half an hour.

"If we had been there, and the fire had been to-night, it would have licked us up, too," said Patrick Keenan to Thomas J. Dunn. "And McLaughlin would have been leader of greater New-York, for all the talent would have been in the broil," said "Tom."

It certainly was a late dinner. Owing to the fact that the regular guests of the hotel had the right of way the dinner for the politicians was not ready as it should have been. The hotel people said the McCarrenites ought to be thankful that they got anything to eat at all. Eight o'clock! No dinner! Nine o'clock! No dinner, but plenty of "cuss words." Ten o'clock! Still no dinner.

THE MARCH OF THE HUNGRY. The dining room was beautiful with bunting and flowers. There were great banks of chrysanthemums, which the waiters, after the dinner began, pulled to pieces and distributed among the diners. When the music struck up at 10:10 o'clock and the doors were thrown open, the room soon filled up with hungry men. Then came a procession with Controller Grout near the head. Behind him was Mr. Fornes and then followed Messrs. Murphy, McClellan, Ahearn, Justice Almet F. Jenks, the presiding regulator of the "flow of soul" of the evening, and others. At the guest table Senator McCarren sat to the right of Justice Jenks, with Mayor-elect McClellan to the left. The Justice, with brief remarks, started the speeachmaking at midnight, prefacing it by reading letters and telegrams.

Ex-President Cleveland sent the following: "I have received your kind invitation to attend the dinner to be given by the Democracy of Brooklyn in honor of the coronation of the state. I am honored and pleased to be asked to be one of great inspiration to all those who are being held in their places by the Democracy. Principles and I regret exceedingly that my engagements are such as to prevent my participation."

Borough President-elect Littleton wrote from Winchester, Tenn., a letter in which he thanked the committee and expressed regret at unavoidable absence. He said he understood the dinner was to allow the district leaders to show how much they valued Senator McCarren's services in the late campaign. While he differed with many of his friends about candidates, the election settled the question, so far as he was concerned.

"As to the right of the Democratic organization of Brooklyn to be free and independent of any and all organizations, however powerful, I hold now the same views I held throughout the campaign," said Mr. Littleton. Continuing, Mr. Littleton said:

"We must cut our roof and branch all corrupting growths and those who are intrusted with them must resolutely deny places to men who encourage or tolerate corrupt practices. The incoming administration, if being particular, will be closely contrasted with the outgoing administration, which was non-partisan. Our claim that a partisan government has been the best is a great mistake. Partisanship to public service must be made from among men who represent the highest standard of patriotism. A partisan government does not mean one whose chief offices are filled with political leaders."

As the dinner went the disorder became more and more marked, and when at ten minutes past midnight Justice Jenks got up to open the speaking it was impossible to quiet the diners, and the noise all over the room prevented his being heard more than thirty feet from the speakers' table. He introduced Mayor-elect McClellan, who said in part:

"We have met here to-night to express our appreciation of a man who has been responsible for any other for the political redemption of Brooklyn. The Democracy not only of the city, but of the State, owe a great debt to our great Chief, Patrick Henry McCarren. Our success gave confidence and encouragement to every Democrat in the country, not because we elected our ticket, but because our success was so overwhelming. Had we carried only the county of New-York our victory would have been incomplete. Because we carried a score of the five boroughs it was the greatest political victory in recent years. We obtained victory because we were better organized than in recent years. If the State and country are to be redeemed more will depend on the city than New-York than any other place. We must prove to Democrats that we deserve their confidence. Past preferences must be forgotten. Past differences must be ignored. Democrats must never forget they are Democrats. They must remember to be loyal to the city of New-York. They must not lose sight of the fundamental principle of the Democratic party—that is, to give the people honest, efficient government for the people."

After McClellan had finished several hundred people went out. Controller Grout then spoke against a roar of the Democracy in New-York. "The duty to give such a government in the next ten months that the Democrats in the city, with the aid of the Democrats in the State, may carry the State for a Democratic Governor and President. Our duty is to have, as we have in Kings County in McCarren and in Murphy in New-York, organized leadership of Democratic folks, in which organization does only this, expresses the will of the rank and file of the common Democrats."

The heartiest applause of all was reserved for N. Y. to Buffalo and Chicago. Lehigh Valley R.R. excellent ferry service. 23d St., Cortlandt St., Dearbross St.—Adv't.

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