traffic were constant through the afternoon and evening, owing to horses falling on the slippery asphalt and requiring anywhere from five minutes to half an hour before they could be set on their feet or dragged out of the way. The Broadway squad of police were a weary lot of men, and all of them were glad when their tours ended, for they worked at the limit of their strength in preventing hopeless traffic tangles and aiding the victims of the weather. Before the night was well advanced there had been lodged at the West Thirtieth-st. station half a dozen vehicles, from a pushcart to a department store delivery wagon, which had been deserted by their drivers, supposedly in their search for the nearest shrine of John Barleycorn.

When the downtown offices closed for the day those who had looked from windows and had not had opportunity to feel the fierceness of the storm, ventured forth to find themselves in a whirling vortex of wind and a mixture that was half snow and half sleet. There was then six inches of snow on the ground, without counting the sleet, and people who remembered the blizzard of 1888, with its nineteen inches of snow, and that of 1899, with its twelve inches, thought there was more than a remote possibility of their repetition.

In the harbor the storm caused less trouble than many previous ones that were less heavy. It delayed the ferry service only a little, and the multitude of tugs and steam barges that are always dodging one another by a few inches met with no accident. The only thing to cause a delay to any extent was the snow that gathered on the windows of the pilot houses of the Staten Island ferryboats. This obscured the vision of the pilots so that the windows on all the boats had to be dropped.

The transatlantic shipping seemed to be hindered to a much greater extent than were the harbor boats. Because of the severe storm the Philadelphia, outward bound for Plymouth, had to drop anchor in Gravesend Bay, and the Etruria had to find an anchorage off Clifton, Staten Island.

The St. Louis was due yesterday, having sailed from Southampton on December 26, but had not been reported last night. She has probably been delayed by the storm at sea. She will reach her pier probably some time this afternoon. Several of the coastwise boats, the Nacooche and the Iroquois, were delayed, and it is doubtful if La Champagne, due to-day, will get in before to-morrow.

CONGESTION AT BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

At Brooklyn Bridge, at the Manhattan end, all the trolley roads were far behind the regular time, owing to the grades at each end of the bridge. An elevated train fuse blew out at 5 p. m. The station platforms were crowded at the time, and thousands of homegoers were delayed. The train was pushed across the bridge and traffic was resumed after a delay which lasted about fifteen minutes. People continued to crowd on the platform until the stairs leading up were crowded. Those who desired to take surface cars were unable to get out owing to the crowd. When an empty train arrived the crowd rushed into it, and many umbrellas and hats were broken. Women who were caught in the rush were shoved right and left, and it was all the police could do to prevent them from being crushed. Many persons were knocked down.

PROMPT WORK IN REMOVING SNOW.

When the snow had reached a depth of three inches William Bradley, the snow removal contractor, got busy, and in less than an hour he had a round thousand men at work along Broadway. This force was gradually increased, so that by a little after dark he had another thousand working on the principal crosstown streets, Fifth-ave., and the thoroughfares leading to the ferries. As there was every indication that the downfall would be a heavy one, and Weather Prophet Emery could not say just when the flakes would cease falling, the contractor had his men gather the snow into heaps.

To-day the carting away of these piles to the dumps on the river fronts will begin. The city is mapped off into districts, and each of these is in charge of a foreman. Andrew J. Bradley, the superintendent, has his headquarters at Lexington-ave. and Twenty-fourth-st., and William Lewis has charge of the contractor's main office, at No. 536 West Forty-eighth-st. From here, at 4:30 o'clock this morning, snow cleaning squads will be sent out to various points, with 431 double trucks. These will be operated in Broadway, between Thirty-fourth and Fifty-ninth sts. A similar force of carts and team wagons will at the same hour start from the Lexington-ave. headquarters, to work in the section from Thirty-fourth-st. down to Fourteenth-st. The smaller forces from the other districts will do the carting from the avenues and side streets. In the Harlem district snow has been piled, and the removal will begin at daylight.

By noon Sunday Superintendent Bradley says he expects to have at least eleven thousand shovellers and three thousand carts at work removing the snow. Then there will be no let up, and by Monday morning, no matter how heavy the fall may be, the main business streets and avenues, it is promised, will be in fair shape for vehicles. The trouble will be that in the downtown section, this being Sunday, no effort will be made to clear the sidewalks until to-morrow. Then the snow will be shovelled into streets which have already been cleared. Mr. Bradley says he intends to show the new administration of the city government that there will be no step backward so far as he is concerned.

AT THE CITY LODGING HOUSE.

Up to 9 p. m. more than five hundred unfortunates, driven by the storm to the charity of the city, had applied for admission at the Municipal Lodging House, in First-ave., near Twenty-third-st. Seventeen of them were women. They were all of the usual character of the applicants for aid which such a storm always drives there, and scarcely one in a hundred of them wore an overcoat, while the clothing of the majority was thin and soaked. They presented a woebegone appearance when they arrived at the house, but were cheered into a semblance of life by the steaming hot coffee and rolls served under the direction of Superintendent Yorke and Deputy Superintendent Peters.

The lodging house has accommodations for only two hundred and fifty. The overflow was fed and warmed for a while and then sent down t othe Charities Department Building, at East Twenty-sixth-st., where the big room on the second floor, warmed by a big stove and plenty of steam pipes, was provided for them. No beds could be provided, but all who applied were allowed to stay there until morning. After they have been fortified with a breakfast of oatmeal, bread and rolls and coffee they will be sent out again.

THROUGH SNOWBANKS TO CARS.

Although the service was much curtailed and badly delayed on some of the lines, the officials of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company said that none of their lines had been entirely tied up. It is expected that all the lines will be open this morning. The new city ordinance requiring trolley cars to stop only on the near side of the crossings, which was put into effect by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company on Friday, caused the greatest inconvenience. To board cars passengers had to wade through the snowdrifts piled up by the sweepers to the rear platforms. This was a wellnigh impossible task for women and children. In some cases the motormen used their good judgment and opened the gates to the front platforms.

In The Bronx the Union Railway Company employes made brave efforts to keep its line open, and by the continual use of electrical sweepers managed to keep most of the lines running, although the cars went at a snail's pace. No attempt was made to keep to schedule time, and on many of the lines, especially where the runs were long, the cars were anywhere from one to two hours behind.

In the sections of the borough to the east of The Bronx River, including Westchester, Throg's Neck, Unionport, Hunt's Point and City Island, which depend for transportation facilities on surface cars entirely, the service was almost abandoned or kept up with great infrequency and difficulty. City Island was almost isolated, and its telephone communication was also largely cut off, many of the lines falling from the weight of snow.

STORM CENTRAL OVER NEW-HAVEN.

Trolley Cars and Steam Traffic Delayed in Connecticut.

New-Haven, Conn., Jan. 2.—The snowstorm which began about 6 o'clock this morning and has continued throughout the day, accompanied by a high northeast wind, was said by the officials of the local station of the Weather Bureau, to be about central over this region late to-night. Only about five inches of snow has fallen, according to official measurements, but it has drifted badly, so that traffic on both trolley and steam lines has been considerably impeded. On the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad trains on nearly all divisions were from three to four hours late in the evening, the east and north bound trains suffering the greatest delay, because of the direction of the wind. All over the State trolley cars were forced to make their way through drifts, and in some cases traffic was suspended temporarily. Little damage was reported, however.

The snowfall was accompanied by a cold wave, the temperature falling steadily during the morning, until at noon the reading was 4 degrees above zero. At 8 o'clock to-night the mercury stood at 16 above, the highest of the day. The Weather Bureau observers thought the sky would clear in this region before morning.

SEVERE COLD AND SNOW UP THE STATE

Lowest Temperature of Season in the Adirondacks—Weather at Other Points.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Last night was the coldest night of the season in this city. The thermometer registered from 10 to 15 degrees below zero here at daylight, and at other points in the Adirondacks the mercury dropped to its lowest point this season. At Bloomingdale it was 17 below, at Saranac Lake 23 below, at Lake Placid 21 below and at Dannemora 17 below.

Waterloo, N. Y., Jan. 2.—The temperature here was 4 degrees below zero to-day. On the roads the snow has drifted considerably, and at Cayuga Lake ice more than a foot thick is being cut.

Kingston, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Last night was the coldest Kingston has experienced this winter, the thermometer registering 12 degrees below zero. During the morning the mercury did not get beyond 2 degrees above zero.

Syracuse, Jan. 2.—Syracuse and its vicinity are experiencing a heavy fall of snow. Trains on all railroads are late.

Saratoga, N. Y., Jan. 2 (Special).—The mercury registered 12 degrees below zero here early this morning. A snowstorm, accompanied by a driving north wind, made its appearance late this afternoon, and is still in progress to-night. The penetrating effects of the storm are severely felt.

AUGUST ZINSSER'S NEPHEW RESCUED.

Young Man Nearly Frozen to Death Near Peekskill in Blizzard.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Peekskill, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Snow has been falling here all day. This afternoon the wind began blowing. It gained velocity until at 11 o'clock to-night there is a blizzard. The temperature is about 10 above zero. Trains on the Hudson River division of the Central are two hours late, and the local trolley roads are having great difficulty in keeping their lines open. The country roads are filled with drifts. In the village, despite the fact that it was Saturday night, business was practically at a standstill.

Henry Hyland, a young German graduate of Munich University, and a nephew of August Zinsser, of New-York, nearly lost his life in attempting to drive to Mr. Zinsser's country residence at Lake Mohegan to-night. Hyland left Kipp's stable with his own horse and sleigh in the early evening. Later Postmaster W. V. Horne, of Mohegan, called up the Eagle Hotel here and said that Hyland's horse, with a part of the harness on, had arrived there. Fred D. Yungling, a guest at the Eagle Hotel, and Edward Sloat, of Peekskill, volunteered to search for the missing man. With a cutter and horse they started out in the storm. They found Hyland unconscious in a big bank of snow near Boscobel, Henry Ward Beecher's former home, one mile out of Peekskill. The man was brought to the Eagle Hotel. Dr. Curry, resident physician at the hotel, and Dr. A. S. Hart, who was called, finally restored the man to consciousness. The physicians say Hyland could not have lived a half hour longer in the snow. He is said to be in this country in the interest of the German government to study agricultural interests and development.

$100,000 FOR A HUSBAND.

Countess Esterhazy Got Mr. de Lang, Says Mrs. de Lang.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The Countess Esterhazy, widow of the late Count Maximilian Esterhazy, who was at one time secretary of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, is the defendant in a damage suit for $100,000 brought by Mrs. Laura de Lang, who charges that the countess alienated Mr. de Lang's affections. The papers were served on the countess here to-night.

DIVORCE FOR CIRCUS STRONG WOMAN.

Says Husband Beat Her, Though He Weighed 100 and She 250.

Professional strong woman though she is, and billed as a lifter of fifteen men and of pianos, Mrs. Mary Kumpf, of No. 166 Third-ave., Jersey City, is to get a divorce from her one hundred-pound, five-foot husband, on the ground that he abused her. She is six feet tall, and her weight, 250 pounds, is at least "comfy," Kumpf thinks.

Charles Roe, a master in chancery, of No. 15 Exchange Place, Jersey City, has been taking the testimony. Mr. Kumpf's name, when he is a black face minstrel, is "Memphis Kennedy," and his wife's name on Barnum & Bailey's show bills is "Madame Yucca," but no connection was alleged between these names and the testimony that when in Mexico his abuse was particularly objectionable. Nor was capital made of the fact that the complainant's corroborating witnesses were M. Murrello, who is a clown, and his wife, who is a dog trainer.

Kumpf did not come to defend the suit. But the evidence that he left her in this city in 1895, that he often beat her when he was drunk, and that she had not seen him or received anything from him for her support since he left her, satisfied Mr. Roe. He recommends a decree, and Mary can soon marry whom she pleases.

UNIVERSITY SAVED IN NICK OF TIME.

The $12,500 Necessary to Secure Endowment of $100,000 Received at Late Hour.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—A dispatch to "The Inter Ocean" from Muncie, Ind., says:

At the eleventh hour the $12,500 necessary to secure the endowment of $100,000, without which Palmer University could not remain in existence, has been secured. It had been announced that the money had not been secured and that, in consequence, the school would not be reopened on Monday. The announcement had scarcely been made when a communication was received from the Delaware County National Bank, informing the Rev. J. F. Burnett, secretary of the board of trustees, that the sum of $12,500 had been placed to the school's credit. The name of the donor is unknown.

The late Francis Asbury Palmer, a wealthy banker and philanthropist of New-York City, left $100,000 to the university, on condition that an additional sum of $100,000 was raised by the school before January 1. The school was started last year and has 150 students enrolled.

NEW-YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. REPORT.

The New-York Life Insurance Company's assets are $352,652,000, an increase of $30,000,000 during the year, although a new rule has been adopted of not taking credit in securities for the market values at the close of the year over the cost values, an excess of $2,000,000. The new paid for business is $326,000,000, an increase of more than $23,000,000 over the new business of 1902. The total paid for insurance in force exceeds $1,745,000,000, a gain of $191,000,000 over the previous year. The gain in income over 1902 was $9,000,000. The policy reserves were increased $32,000,000 and the dividends to policyholders were $5,500,000, an increase in dividends of $1,300,000 in the year. The total government, State, municipal and other bond holdings exceed $250,000,000, and no single bond in the list is in default of interest. No stocks of any kind are invested in or loaned on, under the company's bylaws. The New-York State paid for new insurance of 1903 was more than $41,000,000, and the total New-York State insurance in force was $260,000,000.

The company's dividend to policyholders to be declared at the January meeting will be more than $6,000,000.

IROQUOIS MANAGERS HELD

Continued from first page.

of the heat that it could not be drawn all the way down.

John McCluskey said: "I worked in the theatre from the time it was opened, and it was the custom to lower the fire curtain before every performance. It always worked finely, and I never saw any trouble with it before. It was rigged with wire cables, with which the curtain was suspended. There were four of them, each three-eighths of an inch thick. At the north of the stage the four were joined to a two-inch manila rope. Cables similar to those supporting the curtain ran along its edge, four feet either side of the arch. I don't know why the curtain stuck. It is very heavy, and seemed asbestos all through."

James J. Hamilton, a scene shifter, said that he was in the stage hands' room below the stage when some one came downstairs, saying, "Come upstairs, quickly; there's a fire up there."

SANG WITH SPARKS FALLING ON THEM.

"When I reached the stage," said Hamilton, "the fire curtain was coming down very slowly. I stepped under it and joined others in urging the audience to keep quiet. The curtain should have dropped quickly, and I was surprised to see it stick. I stayed on the stage until my clothing was scorched. When I first came up the orchestra was playing and the double octet was singing, with sparks falling all around them. Not a musician or player moved until it was a matter of life or death."

Twenty men arrested in connection with the tragedy were arraigned before Justice Caverly in the Harrison Street police court to-day on a charge of manslaughter. Five of them were members of the chorus of the "Mr. Blue Beard" company, and were defended by an attorney. No testimony was given in court, and it was immediately agreed that a continuance be granted to January 11.

The total number of dead in the fire has been definitely established at 587, of whom only twelve remain unidentified. Among the identified to-day were Clarence J. Thompson, Miss Gertrude Fitzpatrick, Harry Ludwig, Nancy Hanson, of Grandville, Mich.; R. S. Thompson and Mrs. Marian W. Gibbs.

There were many funerals to-day of victims of the fire.

Business was checked, and many celebrations were postponed while the funeral processions made their way to the outlying districts, where the cemeteries are situated. Priests and ministers went from funeral to funeral, as they will to-morrow and Monday. By common consent, "Lead, Kindly Light," is being sung at all the funerals.

The City Hall, except necessary departments, was closed to-day. The Board of Trade closed an hour earlier than usual, and a number of mercantile and manufacturing establishments also closed early. The banks were open as usual.

Thirty-four teachers in the public schools are known to have lost their lives in the fire, and the schools will be closed Monday in their memory.

The church bells tolled for an hour at noon to-day in response to a request by the Mayor.

BUILDING ORDINANCE AMENDED.

At a special meeting of the City Council to-day the building ordinance was amended so as to provide that in theatres there must be a brick wall of the same thickness as the outside walls between the auditorium and the stage, and that the main curtain opening must have an iron or asbestos curtain. The amendment takes effect at once.

On Monday night Alderman Alfred L. Willis ton will introduce an ordinance providing that a device to throw open instantly and simultaneously all the doors of a theatre must be installed in every theatre in the city seating more than five hundred persons.

Building Inspector Julius A. Lenz said today that in his opinion the law should require that all theatre curtains be of roller steel, like that at the Auditorium Theatre. This is the only steel curtain in a theatre in this city. It weighs ten tons and is operated by a machine under the stage. Mr. Lenz said that he considered that steel curtains give the only proper protection.

He said that the great tragedy at the Iroquois occurred because "the men behind the guns quit."

The doors leading to the main entrance, he said, were not all burned. Those to the east were charred, but those to the west were not even scorched.

A thorough analysis of the composition of the "asbestos" curtain of the Iroquois is being made by the city chemists. The curtain was consumed by the flames, though the ordinance requires a fireproof curtain, such as genuine asbestos material.

Of the hundred members of the company who fled from the theatre before the flames, few had other than their stage clothing. Since the police have had charge of the theatre none have been admitted to remove anything from the dressing rooms. To-day a dozen actors and actresses, some without hats, and all in borrowed clothing, appealed to Police Chief O'Neill for orders restoring to them their clothing. Some of the women wore men's overcoats and shoes. The Chief issued the desired order.

$100,000 WORTH OF JEWELRY LOST.

From the large number of complaints received of the loss of personal effects from the bodies of the fire victims, coroners' office clerks estimate that $100,000 worth of diamonds, watches, jewelry, furs and other personal property was lost in the fire. Many of the victims had money in their possession which could not be found when the bodies were examined at the morgues. Much of the property of value was undoubtedly lost, but a large amount may have been stolen by ghouls.

The excitement at the scene of the fire made it impossible systematically to superintend the removal of the bodies, and one hundred or more volunteers assisted the police and firemen. Hundreds of the bodies were carried away in trucks and express wagons, and there was no way of preventing persons from searching the victims and taking their valuables. The largest amount of currency recovered was $405, found pinned to the garments of a woman.

Street Cleaning Superintendent Solon and a force of men went to the theatre to-day with instructions to clean it thoroughly. The men examined every scrap for jewels and trinkets. The order to do so was issued after City Custodian Dewitt C. Cregier had found a diamond pin valued at $500. Mr. Cregier added the gem to the collection displayed for purposes of identification.

FOREIGN SYMPATHY APPRECIATED.

The President's Replies to Messages of Condolence on the Chicago Fire.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The following replies have been sent to messages of condolence received by the President:

Porter, Ambassador, Paris.

I have received and communicated to the President the feeling message which M. Delcassé has sent in the name of the President and government of the republic by reason of the terrible disaster of Chicago. The President directs you to make adequate expressions of his high appreciation of the sympathetic sorrow of France. He has conveyed the message to the authorities of Chicago.

LOOMIS, Acting Secretary.

Meyer, Ambassador, Rome.

Convey through Foreign Office sincere appreciation of message of condolence with Chicago sufferers which has been communicated by Italian Chargé.

LOOMIS, Acting Secretary.

The Right Honorable the Earl of Minto, Governor General, Ottawa, Canada.

I greatly appreciate your message of regret and sympathy by reason of the disaster at Chicago. It has been communicated to the Mayor of the city.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

McCormick, Ambassador, St. Petersburg.

Please convey through appropriate channels in name of the President and the sorrowing people of Chicago sincere thanks for the touching sympathy of their imperial majesties, the Czar and Czarina, with the sufferers by the terrible disaster of Chicago, as communicated to me by the Russian Ambassador.

LOOMIS, Acting Secretary.

Choate, Ambasasdor, London.

Please assure Lord Monkswell of the President's deep appreciation of his message of the sympathy felt in the great British metropolis for the sufferers by the catastrophe of Chicago.

LOOMIS, Acting Secretary.

Choate, Ambassador, London.

The President desires you to express, in his name and in the name of the people of Chicago, sincere thanks for the touching message of sympathy with the sufferers by the awful catastrophe of last Wednesday, which their majesties, the King and Queen, and their royal highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, have communicated through Ambassador Durand.

LOOMIS, Acting Secretary.

Townsend, Minister, Brussels.

Convey sincere thanks to Baron Favereau for message of condolence with the Chicago sufferers which has been communicated by Belgian Minister.

LOOMIS, Acting Secretary.

THE KAISER EXPRESSES SYMPATHY.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The following cable dispatch has been received by the President from the Emperor of Germany:

To the President of the United States, Washington.

Aghast at the news of the terrible catastrophe which befell the citizens of Chicago, the Empress and myself wish to convey to you how deeply we feel for the American people who have been so cruelly visited in this week of joy. Please convey expression of our sincerest sympathy to the city of Chicago. Many thanks for your kind letter. May, in coming years, Providence shield you and America from harm and such accidents.

WILLIAM I. R.

QUAKER CITY THEATRES.

Mayor Weaver Appoints a Commission to Report on Them.

Philadelphia, Jan. 2.—Mayor Weaver to-night appointed a commission to examine and report on the conditions in the theatres and other places of amusement in this city. This commission consists of George F. Payne and A. Raymond Raff, builders; Howard S. Richards, engineer; Chief Robert C. Hill, of the Bureau of Building Inspectors; Chief James C. Baxter, of the Fire Department; Fire Marshal John Lattimer and Chief John T. Sager, of the Electrical Bureau. The appointments were announced after a conference between Mayor Weaver and David J. Smyth, Director of Public Safety. The commission will begin its work on Monday.

Director Smyth said to-day:

The Mayor is determined that adequate protection shall be given the theatre going public in Philadelphia. The commission will be allowed the fullest latitude in its recommendations.

ONLY FOUR FIREPROOF.

So Insurance Men Hold of Brooklyn Theatres.

According to figures furnished by the Fire Insurance Exchange of New-York City, the insurance rates on almost all the Brooklyn theatres are exceedingly high. The following list shows that there are only four theatres in Brooklyn that, according to the standards of insurance men, are fireproof. The list is:

Combination houses—Montauk (fireproof), $2 41; Amphion, $5 16; Grand Opera House, $4 62; Columbia, $4 74; Park, $5 04; Folly (fireproof), $1 29; Gotham, $4 68; Novelty, $4 86, and Italian Theatre (Union-st.), $4 80.

Stock company houses—Bijou, $5; Criterion, $4 32; Payton's Lee Avenue, $6 05, and Lyceum, $5 88.

Vaudeville houses—Orpheum (fireproof), $1 40; Hyde & Behman's, $4 20; Star, $4 42; Watson's (fireproof), $2 15; Gayety, $4 32, and Unique, $4 62.

The insurance rate, of course, is affected in not the slightest degree by the facilities provided in a theatre for the rapid emptying of the house. The rate is based solely on its estimated liability to catch fire and ability to withstand flames.

David Robinson, manager of the Novelty Theatre, has adopted the practice of having the asbestos curtain run up and down not only before and after every performance, but between every act.

NEW-YORK RULES BEST BY FAR.

So Municipal Explosives Commission Declares in Submitting Report.

In a report submitted by the Municipal Explosives Commission to Mayor Low, and given out yesterday by Mayor McClellan, it is declared that in no city in the world are there regulations which even approximately approach the completeness of those recommended by the commission. Mayor Low intended, had he received the report in time, publicly to thank the commission for its work. The members of the commission are ex-Fire Commissioner Sturgis, W. J. Charlton, George O. Eaton, J. Amory Haskell and Charles F. McKenna.

The report says in part:

Although in some instances we met with opposition in the beginning from interests whose representatives supposed that we were unwisely hampering their business, yet in every case we have closed our work with the general acquiescence and hearty support of every trade interest represented, even where in some instances severe restrictions have been imposed in novel ways.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that in the future every trade interest will find a flexible system of ordinances and regulations embodied in this set now forwarded to you, and included in them in such a way that any hazardous articles, either newly discovered or suddenly coming into use and thus for the first time making a hazard, shall come automatically under the control of the Fire Department. In this way, also, unfair pressure upon the user of such articles can be avoided by the appeal which will always lie from the Fire Department to the Municipal Explosives Commission, which latter is carefully selected and designed to avoid unfairness, and to be, in fact, a board of arbitration in questions arising under the explosives regulations.

NOT SURPRISED AT RUIN OF CURTAIN.

Secretary of Manufacturing Firm Says It Was Made of Best Asbestos, However.

Boston, Jan. 2.—The asbestos curtain at the Iroquois Theatre, Chicago, which was manufactured in this city, was declared to-day by the secretary of the manufacturing firm to have been made of the best grade of asbestos cloth. The secretary said:

The curtain was made by our firm out of commercially pure asbestos, and it was accepted and passed by the Fire Commissioners of Chicago. It is not a surprise to us that the curtain was completely destroyed, in view of the explosion which occurred. The curtain at the Iroquois was made without the wire insertion, which is added to give additional strength. The wire curtains, however, are no more fireproof than those without the wire, for the quality of asbestos used is the same in both types of curtain.

FIRE IN BERLIN THEATRE.

Damage Slight and Audience Not Alarmed —Precautions To Be Taken.

Berlin, Jan. 2.—A fire caused by a short circuited electric wire started last night in the cloakroom of the new Royal Theatre while a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was going on. A fireman stationed at the theatre discovered the flames and put them out without the audience being alarmed.

The Royal Opera House is the only theatre in the city not regarded as safe. The Chicago disaster will probably hasten its reconstruction, which has long been considered. The President of Police, the Fire Chief and several experts went over the opera house to-day examining the electric lighting, the stage arrangements and the working condition of the asbestos curtain, with the object of reporting to Emperor William the present condition of the opera house and what changes are needed for its safety.

LOTS OF THEATRES WANT CURTAINS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Milwaukee, Jan. 2.—The asbestos factory here is overrun with orders for theatre curtains, and has had to begin running twenty-four hours right through.

FLAMES IN WORCESTER.

A Night Blaze Endangers the Business Section of the City.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 3.—1 a. m.—Three alarms have been sent in for a fire in the Casino Theatre and Mohicon Market on Front-st. Three buildings 156 158 and 164 Front-st. are no fire and at 1:25 o'clock the flames are spreading.

A high wind prevails, endangering a large business section.

DO YOU DINE OUT?

Several restaurants that offer tempting dinners are to-day advertised among the "Little Ads. of the People."

C. C. Shayne, MANUFACTURING FUR MERCHANT.

1904 January Sale of Up-To-Date Styles.

Muffs, Neck Pieces, Victorines, Mantles, Jackets, Coats, Fur Lined Garments, Sleigh Robes.

AT THE FOLLOWING REDUCTIONS:—

Fox, Moleskin, Squirrel, Bear	20%	discount
Chinchilla, Marten, Alaska Sable (Skunk)	15%	"
Ermine, Lynx, Mink, Sealskin, Persian Lamb	10%	"
Sables from Southern Russia, British Columbia and Hudson Bay	15%	"
Imperial Crown Sables from Northern Russia and Siberia	10%	"
Fur lined Overcoats and Sleigh Robes	10%	"
Auto Coats and Fur lined Circulars	15%	"

Note:—I do not sell blended or darkened Russian or Hudson Bay Sable or Mink. Ladies who have purchased them elsewhere complain that they have a mottled, shabby appearance after being worn a short time.

I sell London Dyed Alaska Seal Skin only, and Leipzig Dyed Persian Lamb, Silken Persian, Broadtail, &c.

In stock all sizes in Coats and Jackets, and a complete assortment of Neck Pieces, Muffs, &c., in all fashionable furs.

All sales strictly for cash. No goods sent on approval.

41st and 42d Streets, Between Broadway and Sixth Avenue.

Do You Realize the Entertainment and Pleasure the Pianola Affords During Stormy Weather?

Do you not think the present a good time to look into the matter? We shall be pleased to show you the Pianola, what it can do for you and what you can do with it, even if you have no intention of purchasing.

With the aid of a Pianola any one can play the piano whether or not he knows one note from another.

Pianola, $250. Pianola with Metrostyle (a new expression device), $300. May be purchased by moderate payments.

The Aeolian Company,

Aeolian Hall, 362 Fifth Ave., near 34th St.

ALL IS NOT WELL HERE.

THEATRES' WEAK POINTS.

Possible Dangers—Managers Comply with the Laws.

Although all the theatres in this city comply with the laws regarding fire precautions, there are many which, because of their age and peculiar construction, have been freely criticised since the Chicago fire. The Buildings Code which was adopted in 1901 contains a clause, which was characterized by Fire Commissioner Sturgis as "significant," which says: "Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or require any other alterations to theatres existing prior to June 9, 1885, than are specified in this section." That section relates to the aisles and stairways, halls and doors.

The chief danger in any theatre accident, all the managers admit, is from panic, so the question of exits is the most important part of the fire precautions. It is in this respect that many of the older theatres have been criticised. Their stairways are full of turns, it is said. To theatres in the middle of a block there is objection.

The Casino's main entrance, from Thirty-ninth-st., requires three right angled turns after one is inside the lobby. The stairway, to be sure, is broad, ten or twelve feet wide. At each landing, too, there is an exit with a fire escape, so that, instead of keeping on down the winding stairs, one could go straight ahead down the fire escape. Mr. Kingsbury, of the Casino staff, said he thought the theatre was unusually safe, having exits to two streets, with many fire escapes, and plenty of stair room. The winding stairs had never caused any difficulty, and he thought they never would.

The Princess Theatre is another one where it is necessary to mount a flight of steps to get into the orchestra of the house. It is an old house. The balcony entrance turns off to the left from the steps which continue up to the orchestra, which in case of hurried emptying of the theatre would throw two streams of people into one right at the entrance to the orchestra, at the head of a flight of six or eight steps. J. W. Jacobs, of the Schubert management, said, however, that everything possible was done to insure the safety of the patrons. Fire escapes were provided leading from the balcony over to the roofs of neighboring buildings, while, as the balcony was a small one, little confusion could be caused by the emptying of the balcony people into the throng from the orchestra.

DOORS AT RIGHT ANGLES.

The Belasco Theatre is one of the newest, yet in the very entrance to the lobby are doors which open at right angles to each other. They are flimsy affairs of wood and glass, but might throw confusion into a stampeded crowd, even if the doors were open. The stairs to the second balcony are about four feet wide, long flights and have three right angled turns.

The Savoy has only one entrance, from Thirty-fourth-st. The stairs to the balcony and gallery are inside the lobby, but are separate. In emptying the theatre the people from the balcony can come down the balcony stairs, in which case they must meet at right angles the people from the orchestra, or come down the stairs from the gallery, in which event they meet at right angles the gallery crowd, on a small landing, and the two streams force their way down a flight of stairs about six feet wide. There are three attendants who care for the doors inside the lobby and the street doors, so not much is to be feared there. There are two fire escapes from the second balcony, leading into the court of the Herald Square Hotel, while the people in the first balcony can go out over the roof of the lobby and down fire-escapes into Broadway.

Daly's is an old theatre, in the centre of a block. Its stairways to the balcony are just outside the orchestra, but they are comparatively new, iron stairways, made to avoid as far as possible an abrupt turn. The stairs to the gallery are in a separate entrance. They are of wood, narrow, and two long, steep flights of them have to be surmounted. The entrance to Daly's is not on a level with the street, but is as wide as the theatre. There is a door connecting the orchestra floor with the stairway leading to the gallery, so that some of the gallery crowd could—and does—come out of the orchestra entrance, relieving the crush in the narrow stairway. There are fire escapes from the gallery and balcony over the roofs of the houses to Twenty-ninth-st. and to Thirtieth-st.

The Herald Square Theatre is an old building. The stairs to the balcony are inside the foyer, just at the entrance to the orchestra seats. There are, however, fire escapes to the neighboring buildings, and exits into Thirty-fifth-st., as well as the main exit to Broadway.

IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLOCK.

The Bijou is an old theatre, in the middle of a block. The managers know that it is old, and because of that "Al" Campbell says, have redoubled their precautions. The balcony and gallery have separate entrances. Long steep stairs lead to the gallery. The balcony discharges its throng into the lobby, but in a panic the people would run down the stairway straight into a brass railing, which stands at the bottom now. The stairways are straight. There are fire escapes to the roofs of the buildings on each side of the theatre, leading over to Thirtieth-st. and Thirty-first-st.

What the insurance underwriters think of the older theatres is shown by a table printed yesterday in "The World":

FIREPROOF THEATRES.

Knickerbocker	$1 10	Proctor's Fifth Avenue	$2 77
Keith's	1 90	American	2 50
Empire	1 50	Belasco	2 45
Criterion	3 07	Lyric	1 35
Grand	2 05	New Amsterdam	2 55
Murray Hill	2 02	Hudson	1 70
Garden	2 50	Proctor's Fifty-eighth	2 10
Metropolis, The Bronx	2 20	Majestic	1 25
Miner's Eighth Avenue	2 42	West End	1 80

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NON-FIREPROOF THEATRES.

Windsor	$3 10	Third Avenue	$4 50
Miner's Bowery	4 25	Grand Opera House	4 80
People's	4 15	Academy of Music	4 00
London	3 96	Tony Pastor's	3 95
Thalia	5 10	Huber's Museum	3 75
Daly's	4 75	The Dewey	2 80
Princess	4 05	Fourteenth Street	4 00
Bijou	3 95	Proctor's 23d Street	2 10
Manhattan	2 25	Madison Square Garden	4 30
Herald Square	5 50	Weber & Fields's	4 80
Broadway	3 96	Savoy	3 00
Wallack's	3 10	Garrick	2 45
Casino	4 75	Victoria	5 20
Irving Place	3 20	Proctor's 125th Street	2 35
New Star	2 35	Harlem Opera House	1 95

MANAGERS DISPUTE STORY.

This table, however, does not agree entirely with the statements of some of the managers. J. W. Jacobs, for the Lyric, says that its rate is 78, the lowest in the city. John S. Flaherty, of the Majestic, says:

Several newspapers to-day published misstatements as to theatre rates of insurance in this city. A rate lower than one dollar is impossible since the base rate of theatres is $1. No theatre can be built which can ever have a lower rate than $1. As a matter of fact, no theatre can ever hope to have a dollar rate. If it has steam heat in connection, and every theatre must have this for the comfort of its patrons, an extra charge is added on to the dollar. The Majestic rate is $1 08, the lowest by all odds of any theatre in town. This can be verified by application for information to any insurance company.

That the greatest safeguard possible would be to make the scenery and furnishings fireproof is the opinion of "Al" Campbell, of the Bijou. It could be done easily and cheaply, he declares. To fireproof the entire setting of "Mother Goose," the largest scenic affair now in town, he said, would not have added $1,000 to the original cost of the scenery. The cost of making fireproof the seat fittings and the walls and hangings would not be a great item. "If you once have your scenery fireproof, the danger of fire on the stage is eliminated," he said. "If the fittings in the house are fireproof as well as the building, the danger is gone completely, while even if the house itself is not fireproof, the fittings are what do the damage, so if they did not catch, the rest of the house would be very unlikely to get ablaze. I think, however, that nothing like the Chicago fire could ever happen here. The firemen are too careful, even to harshness. I tried to lock a door once because things were being stolen from the dressing rooms, but the lock had to go.

"We managers of old houses realize what we have to contend with, but we are more careful because of it. There is nothing left undone which could be done, because it is entirely to the manager's interest to safeguard his patrons, and he would be injured far more than they if anything happened in his theatre."

There are, as The Tribune has shown, many things in some of the best known theatres which are not at all ideal. The Superintendent of Buildings has great discretionary power about theatre buildings. The new Fire Commissioner has started out to do away with any menaces he may find. Could't they combine and remedy some of the conditions in the old theatres which the buildings code doesn't touch at present?

Fire Commissioner Hayes started to test thoroughly all the asbestos curtains yesterday. He appointed Assistant Foreman Patrick T. Lenihan a special inspector to set fire to the various curtains. The one at the Majestic was tested before the matinee. A bonfire