

SCENES SHOWING THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY THE BALTIMORE CONFLAGRATION.



Hotel de Ville of Baltimore, corner Liberty and Baltimore sts.



Ruins of the Carrollton Hotel.



The Bank of Baltimore.

BALTIMORE'S COURAGE.

SHE DECLINES OFFERS OF HELP AND PITCHES BRAVELY INTO THE WORK OF CLEANING UP.

The Vaults of Banks and Trust Companies Found Intact—Business Men Open Temporary Offices—Strict Guard of Burned District.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—Amid ruins still hot and smoking, Baltimore has begun its resurrection. With the dawn of a clear winter day, whose brightness was in itself an inspiration, the gloom of yesterday gave way to the energy of the second effort, and from the Governor of the State to the least private citizen the people of this distressed city pulled themselves together to meet the appalling conditions that confront them.

It was a day of conferences. The Governor, the Mayor and various municipal officials met and thrashed out the problems that are theirs by virtue of public office. From this conference came a decision that the city for the present needs no outside help, but will endeavor, with her own resources and those of the State, to meet the emergency. At this conference also was developed the machinery for an advisory legislative commission to act in conjunction with the legislature.

The military officials also had unusual problems to decide and solve, for to-night every pass that has been issued giving entrance to the fire lines was revoked. No civilian may pass the cordons of citizen soldiery which, after forty-eight hours of continuous duty, to-night stretches around the fire-swept desert, where lie safes and vaults containing untold treasure.

These were the chief happenings of a governmental character. With equal promptness, the Chamber of Commerce held a general meeting and issued a formal announcement that reflected the prevailing hopefulness, declaring "there are already such evidences of recuperation that encourage all in the hope of the early restoration of every branch of trade."

The Stock Exchange members, keyed to the same pitch of energy, met and decided to rebuild as soon as possible. The same story can be told of practically every commercial body, while on every hand is evidence of private effort toward rehabilitation.

TEMPORARY OFFICES ALREADY OPENED. Old buildings long disused, private homes near the business section—in fact, every available structure bears crudely lettered signs on board or cloth announcing that within is the temporary office of a firm. The names on some of these signs rank high in financial and commercial circles. Labor is in demand, and the newspapers already contain display advertisements for men to begin the work of clearing the ruins.

All things considered, the public stock taking that engrossed the business world of Baltimore to-day was satisfactory. But this does not mean that the great fire was a less calamity than has been pictured previously. The words that have been hurried over telegraph wires, restored by almost superhuman energy to meet a waiting world's demand for news, have given an inadequate conception of the catastrophe.

The bald fact is that one hundred and forty acres of business buildings, representing property to the approximate value of \$125,000,000, were destroyed. History is marked by few calamities more costly, but with the passing of the first great shock and prostration a realization of what was escaping is dawning. Had not that shift of wind occurred on Sunday night there would have been another story, a story of death, and of thousands who to-night sleep safely in their homes suffering for shelter.

Such a sequel would also have been written, except for the magnificent last stand of the gallant firemen and volunteers at the little sewerage stream of Jones's Falls. But Providence and brave men worked hand in hand to avert the horror of a residence section conflagration, and the story of the great fire is told in figures of wealth instead of human lives.

MONEY AND SECURITIES UNINJURED. A great cloud was lifted this afternoon, when it was discovered that practically all the vaults and strong rooms and safes of the financial concerns whose buildings were destroyed are unharmed. A tremendous loss in securities had been anticipated here, and when vault after vault yielded up its treasures unharmed the joy of the guardians was boundless.

From one trust company's safes alone papers to the amount of more than \$200,000,000 were recovered. The news cheered the whole city, and encouraged immediate and thorough investigation. Merchants and their assistants, smoke soiled and begrimed, and hollow eyed from anxiety and loss of sleep, worked like laborers in the smoking ruins to uncover their safes, and in nearly every instance they were rewarded by uninjured contents.

Another surprise was the discovery that three financial concerns whose homes were directly in the fiercest sweep of the flames were practically unharmed. These were the Continental Trust Company, Brown Brothers' Bank and the Mercantile Trust Company. No one ventures to offer an explanation of the remarkable escape of these buildings in the centre of a heat so intense that metal trimmings of skylights melted and dripped through out doors. In the Mechanic Bank the time locks on the vaults were still running.

As yet no figures on loss and insurances that can be regarded as official are obtainable. A careful canvass of insurance experts, builders and business men places the loss in round figures at \$125,000,000, and the insurance at from \$80,000,000 to \$90,000,000. It is probable that these estimates will stand with slight change when the final figures are written. Much valuable property that lay in yesterday's fire path was saved by the prompt efforts of merchants, and in that section the stock losses will be lighter than elsewhere.

BLOW AROUSES CIVIC PRIDE.

In declining aid proffered, the city officials have taken pains to define their position. The blow that has befallen Baltimore has aroused an intense civic pride in an effort to fight out its own salvation, but, as Mayor McLane expressed it, "the city will not hesitate three minutes to ask assistance if it becomes necessary."

To-day gave opportunity for a careful investigation as to the cause of the original fire in the Hurst building. It was first reported that the blaze started from the explosion of a gasoline engine in the cellar, but this is to-night denied emphatically.

Henry S. Hurst, of the firm of John E. Hurst & Co., said that there was no gasoline in the building, and that the fire did not have its origin in an explosion of this liquid in the Hurst building. This statement was subsequently corroborated by a signed statement issued by S. W. T. Hopper & Sons, insurance agents and brokers, who said that, after careful inspections by deputies of their firm and of the Fire Underwriters' Association, they were satisfied that there was no gasoline in the building.

Mr. Hurst said that he and Charles George, a trusted employe, were the last persons to leave the building at 5:30 o'clock p. m., Saturday, and that all the electric lights were turned off by a switch. It is not denied that the fire originated in the Hurst building, but how it started is yet to be learned.

CROWDS SURROUND FIRE DISTRICT.

Outside the fire area this afternoon and to-night the streets were filled with tramping thousands. Multitudes of people, residents as well as the out of town folk who are flocking to the city on every train, spent the early hours of the night in the section just back from the fire lines, gazing at the wrecked buildings. Solid lines of spectators stretched almost the whole length of the borders of the fire-swept district, and back from them for many blocks surged such crowds as Baltimore has seldom seen. Along Charles-st., back from the postoffice, traffic during the day frequently became badly congested, and that thoroughfare, which has to handle the travel that ordinarily is distributed among half a dozen streets now impassable, was as busy a street as Broadway, New-York, in the height of the business hours.

But it was an orderly crowd, and gave no trouble to police or soldiers. At the banks adjacent to the fire section guards were stationed. In the broad plaza between the courthouse and the city postoffice the crowd was roped off, and in the square thus formed the 1st Regiment of the Maryland National Guard was stationed, frequently being put through the manual of arms to warm up the half frozen militiamen. The President-st. station of the Pennsylvania Railroad was used by some of the troops as headquarters. This building, which stands near where the fire spent itself, is said to be the oldest passenger station in the country.

One of the most remarkable freaks of the fire was the escape of the big government buildings. The flames wrought destruction on all sides of this group of structures, except on the north. These buildings are the City Hall, the United States Courthouse, used as the temporary headquarters of the Sub-Treasury, pending the erection of the new building, and by the customs office, the postoffice, which also contained the United States Marshal's office, and the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue. All south of this group is complete destruction, but these buildings escaped without a scratch.

GUN COTTON IN THE SUB-TREASURY.

During the fire a great quantity of gun cotton was brought into the Sub-Treasury for safety, and placed directly across the door of the great vault. While the officials were taking steps to safeguard the dangerous pile some of the soldiers patrolling the building unstrapped their canteens and laid them in a heap on top and around the explosive. It made some of the government officials nervous for a while, and the explanation of what was necessary to ignite the gun cotton failed to dissipate their nervousness.

At the city postoffice the usual routine has been resumed, and a large force is returning the valuable mails from the sub-stations, where they were removed Sunday, and taking packages from vaults. Firms in the burned district are served by the various carriers in charge of that section at new addresses, which are being registered. In this way nearly all the mail which accumulated in the two days of the fire has been delivered. When the fire threatened the

postoffice every package was removed from the building and put in vaults.

Postmaster S. Davies Warfield directed the efforts of federal employes in saving the building. Every window was kept wet inside, and, while a number were cracked by the heat, none were broken sufficiently to cause a draft. Had a draft started the building undoubtedly would have met the fate of those on its south side.

For a time it was feared that a food scarcity, with an accompanying advance in prices, would occur, but it is felt that this apprehension has no grounds. Supplies are short, but railroad facilities have been unobstructed, and merchants now believe they will be able to meet every demand. Most of the provision houses in the wholesale district were burned, but arrangements have been made to sell food supplies from freight yards and stations. Those merchants uninjured are helping those in distress, with the result that no keen shortage of food has yet been felt.

RAILROAD TERMINALS SAVED.

It was fortunate that the fire did not touch the extensive terminals of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and the management of that company has arranged to give quick movement and prompt delivery of all freight for this city.

The military grip on the ruins was this afternoon tightened to the limit, and for the present it will be impossible for any one to pass the line of soldiers around the burned territory unless on a pass personally issued by Brigadier General Riggs. This was decided on at a conference this afternoon, at which were present the Governor, General Riggs and Mayor McLane. It was found that so many persons had secured passes or otherwise gained admission that it was thought advisable to prohibit visiting entirely.

In the safes and vaults buried under the ruins are hundreds of millions of dollars worth of securities, negotiable paper and cash, which the authorities feel they cannot leave exposed to even those who were granted passes. The burned area, it will be remembered, includes the whole financial district of the city, the entire wholesale territory and many office buildings.

All the military and police passes heretofore issued were revoked early in the afternoon, and soon after that troops were sent into the desolated territory to clear it of every one found. So rigidly was the "no pass" order enforced that a physician who has two patients just within the roped off section, on the eastern side of the fire area, was refused a pass, but was accompanied by an officer to the homes of the sick persons.

CLEARING AWAY THE DEBRIS.

The ruins of the fire territory having cooled sufficiently to permit the handling of debris, the work of clearing some parts of the burned district began to-day. Hundreds of laborers engaged by the Department of Street Cleaning were put to work at the western end of the ruins clearing the streets. The task before them is a difficult one, and the work of removing the great mass will necessarily be slow. Many weeks will elapse before all the streets within the fire territory will be open to traffic.

Bricks to the depth of four feet, large marble and granite blocks, great girders, bent or broken, and networks of telegraph, telephone and electric light wires cover the streets. On both sides of the thoroughfares in many places are towering walls that will have to come down before any attempt can be made to clear the streets at those points.

Besides the work of the street cleaners, there was much activity shown in other directions. Here and there were small groups of anxious citizens watching safe experts opening vaults. At other places bank officials stood near firemen while the latter poured water on hot safes to cool them off sufficiently to be opened. All the experts in the field reported this evening that with few exceptions vaults and safes stood the fire test. There were some scorched papers and books found, but they were not damaged enough to make them worthless. In all cases the contents of the safes were removed to the temporary offices of the burned out firms.

MANY SMALL FIRES STILL BURN.

There are still scores of small fires burning, and many great heaps of smouldering ruins, that are sending up clouds of smoke. No effort has been made to extinguish these, as they can do no further damage. The only places where the Fire Department is at work are on the boundary lines of the ruins, where it is drenching with water every pile of debris that emits flames.

In the heart of the desolated area, opposite the new Custom House, in course of erection, there stood a row of wholesale liquor houses. Every one has been leveled to the ground. From these ruins, at the bottom of which are hundreds of barrels of alcohol and liquor, great sheets of flames shoot, lighting the blackened walls with a lurid blue. Muffled reports occur as the heated barrels of spirits explode at intervals.

The Consolidated Gas Company has suffered severely from the enormous waste of gas caused by broken pipes, and this afternoon a force of men was sent out to turn off the gas on all pipes that have not been damaged, and to cap all broken pipes. The gas works have been pushed to the limit day and night, in order that the residence districts shall not be short of their regular supply.

There has also been a great waste of water from broken pipes, and gangs of men from the Water Bureau were engaged in turning off the stopcocks on the water mains.

All the out of town fire companies that rendered such valuable service have returned

to their homes. The last to go were the Philadelphia and the New-Yorkers.

PRaises FOR VISITING FIREMEN.

Chief Engineer Horton of the local department, in speaking of the work of the visitors, said:

The services of the visiting firemen were greatly appreciated, not only by myself, but by all the citizens of Baltimore. The work was extremely valuable, and it is partly due to their efficiency that the fire was stopped where it was. The visitors did anything I asked them to do, and went wherever they were ordered. I feel that I cannot say too much in praise of their good work.

Throughout to-night all three militia regiments and the battalion of the Naval Reserve will be kept on duty. General Riggs said that the rigid rules against the admission to the burned district of all persons not engaged in the fire fighting and police work will probably be enforced to-morrow, and that if any business men are admitted to-morrow it will be only under the escort of guards.

A special meeting of the members of the Baltimore Stock Exchange was held to-day at the Hotel Stafford, to consider the question of rebuilding the exchange. It was decided to put up another building on the old site as soon as the debris is cleared away. A temporary board room will be opened in the Builders' Exchange, and trading in securities listed on the Baltimore Exchange will be resumed next week. All the members expressed themselves as confident that the financial community would soon recover from the effects of the fire, and that out of the ruins would arise a "greater Baltimore."

A resolution was passed offering the Mayor and Finance Commissioners all the money the city might need.

In addition to the soldiers on duty inside the fire lines, Mayor McLane to-night ordered the Chief of Police to send policemen into the financial district to guard the ruins of the banks. The chief, accordingly, sent thirty-five policemen into the territory, and each banking institution is to-night guarded by one or more policemen.

The authorities were greatly aided to-night by electric lights, the crippled circuits having been put in working order.

INSURANCE MEN CONFER.

Estimate Their Losses at \$92,000,000, and Begin Planning for Settlement.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Feb. 9.—Several hundred representatives of insurance companies in the United States, Canada and England to-day began a conference here to determine action on the second greatest fire loss at one time in this country. Experts, after looking over the field, estimate the total loss at \$127,000,000, with insurance of \$35,000,000. A committee will be organized to expedite the presentation and settlement of claims. It is thought that very few, if any, companies will go under, though several may be unable to pay more than 50 cents on the dollar. The underwriters say:

"The home insurance companies carried the great bulk of the insurance on the buildings, and are hard hit. There are at least eleven of these Baltimore concerns that will have all they can do to weather the storm. These concerns will, of course, reap the benefit of whatever there may be in the way of salvage, and in the case of the buildings this may run as high as 33-1/3 per cent. "The bulk of the losses on the stocks will fall on the outside of the village of Chundia, entailments are held by companies all over the world. It will be a long time before any idea of the extent to which each individual corporation will be affected can be given."

BAD FIRE AT UNADILLA.

Business District of Town Nearly Wiped Out.

Binghamton, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Fire which started early this morning destroyed a large part of the business district of the village of Unadilla, entailing a loss estimated to be between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

The fire started in Signor Brothers' meat market. Owing to the fact that the hydrants were all frozen, the firemen lost much time before they could do anything. By the time the hydrants were thawed out an entire row of six business buildings was burning, and all of the buildings were consumed, except part of the Bishop Hotel. The burned buildings are the Signor Brothers' building, the Holtman Hotel, part of the Bishop Hotel, the Brandt and White buildings and Hildred's grocery. A steamer was sent from Oneonta, but the fire was under control when it reached Unadilla.

NO ACTION BY THE CLEARING HOUSE.

The Clearing House Committee of the New-York Clearing House Association held a meeting yesterday afternoon for the purpose of considering the New-York and Baltimore banking situation. It was decided, after some discussion, that there was no occasion for any action at present by the Clearing House, as there had been no requests of any kind from the Baltimore banks, and nothing had developed in the local situation as a result of the fire to call for Clearing House action. Earlier in the day William Sherer, manager of the New-York Clearing House, said:

If any movement is made to send aid to Baltimore I shall be the first man to hear of it, but I am sure none will be made, because Baltimore is not in need of help. The city has plenty of funds to cope with the present calamity and her financial institutions are the Signor Brothers' building, the Holtman Hotel, part of the Bishop Hotel, the Brandt and White buildings and Hildred's grocery. A steamer was sent from Oneonta, but the fire was under control when it reached Unadilla.

The stock market was strong yesterday, much of the buying being for account of the short interest, the situation in Baltimore not having developed any financial embarrassment and the outbreak of hostilities in the Far East being generally felt to have been pretty fully discounted.

THE JAPANESE-RUSSIAN DISPUTE. This could not be settled by any Book of Reference, but The Tribune Almanac will settle all other differences. Price, 25c. cloth, 50c.

PREPARING TO RESUME.

Merchants Seek New Quarters—Chamber of Commerce Meets.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—At a general meeting of the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce this afternoon at its temporary rooms, in the Masonic Temple, a committee was appointed with instructions to make the following announcement:

To Our Fellow Merchants and Correspondents, Wherever Located: The great calamity which has befallen our city is unparalleled in its history, but the energy and resourcefulness of our citizens are serving us even in this disaster, and there are already such evidences of recuperation that encourage all in the hope of the early restoration of every branch of trade and in the not very distant future the entire rebuilding of the destroyed district in a manner creditable to a people that has always shown progressiveness in the past.

It will require only written action on the part of our financial and commercial interests to accomplish this, and we are sure all retain that confidence and courage which are characteristic of our people and will in the end prevail.

The grain trade of Baltimore, considering its importance and the great interests involved, has suffered less than any other branch of the city's business. The fire did not touch our elevators, terminals and railroad facilities, and it is with pleasure that we announce that our merchants have already secured places of business and are prepared to attend to all matters with but little inconvenience to themselves and no disadvantage to their patrons.

ORDERS STEEL ALREADY.

Baltimore Losing No Time in the Work of Rebuilding.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Pittsburg, Feb. 9.—Orders for structural steel received here to-day indicate that Baltimore is going quickly to work to recuperate from the big fire. The Carnegie Steel Company was the recipient of the orders, and it is understood that they were large ones, and the steel is to rebuild one of the large buildings destroyed by the big fire.

The Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce has organized for relief work for the Baltimore sufferers. Secretary George H. Anderson said to-day that as soon as he was informed what assistance was needed by the stricken city he would be ready to forward it. A supply station has been opened at the Second Presbyterian Church, where supplies for the sufferers may be sent. Pittsburg banks have already offered to help the financial institutions of Baltimore, and will assist in providing funds to replace the buildings destroyed.

NO FEDERAL TROOPS.

Baltimore Does Not Need Military Aid from Government.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senators Gorman and McComas, of Maryland, called at the War Department to-day to thank Secretary Taft for the department's activity in coming to Baltimore's relief. They said, however, that it had been found that the militia could handle the situation without the assistance of federal troops.

They explained that the Maryland Legislature before its meeting last night received this information, and therefore did not pass resolutions appealing to the government for help. The orders to General Corbin already have been cancelled.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—Mayor McLane said to-day that there had been a misunderstanding with reference to General Corbin's presence in the city. A request, he said, had been made on Secretary Taft for forty-five engineers to be used to superintend the destruction of burned buildings the walls of which were considered dangerous. It was possible that this led the War Department to think troops were needed.

"The legislature and the Governor would never ask for federal troops," said Mayor McLane. "It was a case of 'We have the troops and you can have them if you want them.'"

FORT SLOCUM SOLDIERS RECALLED.

Were on Train to Start for Baltimore When Orders Reached Them.

The three hundred soldiers of the 15th United States Infantry who were ordered to Baltimore for fire duty returned to Fort Slocum on the Sound last night, recalled by orders from the War Department. The men were hungry and tired from their all night ride to Communipaw, and immediately after their arrival broke ranks and made a rush for the mess hall.

Captain Grier, who was in command, owing to the illness of Colonel L. C. Allen, as soon as he learned that the soldiers were not to go to Baltimore telephoned to the fort and had the commissary arrange to feed the men and serve them with hot coffee. The soldiers were not greatly disappointed at being recalled, as they had expected to sleep in tents in the streets of Baltimore. The expedition left the fort at midnight on Monday, taking the government tug General Meigs to Communipaw. The infantry men were fully armed and equipped with knapsacks, blankets and rations. They were on a Baltimore and Ohio train, expecting to start at 6 o'clock, when the order came from Washington calling the expedition off. The Meigs had not yet left the pier, and the officers marched the soldiers back to the boat.

REGULARS FOR CUSTOM HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 9.—At the request of the Treasury Department, Secretary Taft has authorized General Corbin to avail himself of the services of a company of two regulars from Fort McHenry, Maryland, in guarding the custom office and other federal buildings in Baltimore.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

BILL FOR A COMMISSION.

To Advise with the Governor on Laws to Help Baltimore.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—For the present Maryland will herself take care of her fire afflicted victims. This decision was definitely reached at a conference this afternoon between Mayor McLane and Governor Warfield, in the former's office. In explanation of this decision, Governor Warfield, just before leaving here for Annapolis, said to a reporter for The Associated Press:

I have sent to the Maryland Legislature a special recommendation that the Governor be and is hereby authorized to appoint four persons, who, with the Attorney General, shall act as an unpaid commission, to advise with the Governor as to emergency legislation which the present needs of the community make necessary. By this means carefully prepared legislation will be submitted to the General Assembly for its action. The bill, which I will submit to the legislature to-morrow, is as follows:

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland that the Governor be and is hereby authorized to appoint four persons, who, with the Attorney General, shall act as an unpaid commission, to advise with the Governor as to emergency legislation which the present needs of the community make necessary. By this means carefully prepared legislation will be submitted to the General Assembly for its action. The bill, which I will submit to the legislature to-morrow, is as follows:

"Sec. 2. And be it enacted that this act shall take effect from the date of its passage."

In speaking of the situation as it now presents itself, the Governor said:

I have been on the scene every day since the fire broke out, and at the same time I have been attending to legislative matters. I will continue to do all in my power to relieve the distress which this calamity has brought upon us. The entire burned district is now under the supervision of Brigadier General Riggs. General Corbin came to Baltimore last night to offer us federal military aid, but after a conference with General Riggs, he agreed that it was not necessary to have the United States forces here at present, as the State militia is sufficient.

After a conference with the permanent relief committee Mayor McLane to-day made the following statement:

We have arrived at the conclusion that we are able, for the present at least, to care for the fire sufferers. I don't want to call for aid until we see just what is wanted. If we see that we are in need of assistance, I will not hesitate to call for it. I am not proud about it, and if after matters have assumed their normal condition, I find that we are unable to cope with the situation, I will certainly ask for help from those who have so nobly offered to come to our aid.

I have received in the neighborhood of five hundred telegrams expressing sympathy and offering aid. But I have declined all the offers. A dispatch was received to-day from a London (Signal) daily newspaper expressing the sympathy of the English people.

This decision to refuse any aid was not reached on the spur of the moment. The matter was talked over carefully. Senators McComas and Gorman being in harmony with the plans already decided upon.

A BLAZE ACROSS JONES'S FALLS.

Flames Break Out in Engine Room of Lumber Yard.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—Firemen were called out again to-night by a blaze which broke out in the engine room of William D. Gill & Sons' extensive lumber yard, beyond Jones's Falls. Though on territory adjacent to the great fire, the blaze was not in any way a result of the big conflagration. Three engine companies and the fireboat Cataract responded, and in an hour had the flames under control, without extensive loss.

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