

# THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 14 PAGES—FIVE O'CLOCK.

## HORRORS OF HOLIDAY HOLOCAUST IN CHICAGO'S FINEST THEATER

### Out of 1300 Barely 300 Escaped Uninjured.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The Iroquois theater horror grows apace. It is the most terrible theater holocaust in history. Out of the 1300 persons, mostly women and children, who made up that fatally festal audience yesterday afternoon, barely 300 escaped unhurt. The latest figures are: Dead 564; missing 314; injured 157, of whom a third will die. The theater was the finest in Chicago, only recently finished and cost half a million dollars. It was supposed to be absolutely fire proof. At this moment it stands nearly intact, with an actual property loss liberally estimated at only \$20,000. Yet, for a brief but terrible ten minutes its interior was a fiery pit of destruction in which hundreds perished miserably. The greatest loss of life, however, was due to the panic and the wild rush for the exits, and the stairways leading to them. Many of the fire escapes had not yet been put on.

### A DAY OF NERVE RACKING HORROR FOR STRICKEN CHICAGO

Dread List of Casualties Summed Up Thus: Dead 564; Missing 314; Injured (of Whom a Third Will Die) 157.

### Scenes at the Horror-Haunted Morgue Are Such as to Appal the Hardest Heart—The Search for Missing Relatives Still Goes On.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—To-day brought only the legacy of yesterday's monumental calamity and the prediction that the list of fatalities in the Iroquois theater fire will run over 600 when information is complete.

The latest statement of dead at the various morgues is 564 and it is stated at the various hospitals and hotels to which the injured were removed that of the 157 persons who were injured, probably one-third cannot live. The missing to-day were estimated at 314, but it was expected that many of these would be accounted for, probably a large majority of them.

It is no extravagance of language to say that the city is stunned by the overwhelming tragedy which was enacted when the theater which housed "Mr. Bluebeard" became a chamber of horrors indeed. There is the deepest woe in hundreds of homes to-day, deep sorrow in a thousand others and a pity beyond the potency of words to convey in all.

#### THE SORROW-HAUNTED MORGUE.

The first streak of daylight which shone on the snow-covered streets found the morgues still the sorrow-haunted center of many a searcher. There were husbands, frenzied parents, wives searching for husbands, husbands searching for wives and parents seeking their children, so many of whom lost their lives. In some instances wide-eyed children, still dazed from the horror of their experience, groped distressedly about in search of father or mother.

The giant stone head of an Iroquois Indian over the grand entrance, fitting symbol of the cruelty of the deserted structure, stood forth from a front unstained by smoke or water. Tho serene without, the interior of the theater marked it as a true whitened sepulchre.

#### STRIKING LIVERY DRIVERS GO TO WORK.

Possibly nothing could better typify the depth of the sympathy felt for those who suffered directly by the calamity than the action of the striking livery drivers. By a vote, which was without a dissenting voice, it was decided to establish a truce of ten days. President Albert Young, following the meeting, issued the following decree, which was distributed broadcast:

Owing to the great disaster to the public caused by the fire at the Iroquois theater, I do hereby declare a truce in the present strike of undertakers and livery drivers for ten days, and do further request that every man now on strike report at once to their respective places of employment, and do everything in his power to assist his employer in caring for the wants of the public. Wages are to have no consideration.

—Albert Young.

In their turn the employers issued a call to their striking employes to return to work, "irrespective of any previous affiliations with any and all organizations," and promising to protect them in all contingencies which may arise in the future.

#### THE SEARCH FOR RELATIVES.

All night long the crowds came and went around the morgues where the bodies of the victims of the disaster lay. There were the heads of families, brothers, sisters and men and women looking for those from outside cities who had been their guests. For hours they passed up and down before the long rows of the dead, searching for the faces of their missing.

#### SORROW IN GUNSAULUS HOME.

Sorrow reigned in the residence of Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus, the noted divine, who lives at 2618 Prairie avenue. William McLaughlin, 19 years of age, a nephew of Mrs. Gunsaulus, was one of those severely burned. He was taken to the Presbyterian hospital, where the attending physicians entertained no hope for his recovery. Mr. McLaughlin's home is in Buenos Aires. He is a member of the sophomore class of the Ohio Wesleyan university at Delaware, Ohio, and was spending his holiday vacation at the Gunsaulus home. He was to have witnessed the marriage of Miss Martha Gunsaulus to Henry Hamilton Shueiler, which takes place at the Prairie residence this evening. Owing to his condition all invitations to the ceremony have been recalled and only the immediate relatives of the bride and groom will be present.

#### THE MISSING GARTZ CHILDREN.

All night search was kept up for Mary Dorothy Gartz, 11 years old, and Barbara Gartz, 4 years old, who attended the theater with their aunt, Mrs. Adelaide Hoptfeld. To-day their bodies had not been found and there seems to be no doubt that the children have perished. They are the daughters of A. F. Gartz and the niece of R. T. Crane, the millionaire manufacturer of this city. Mrs. Hoptfeld was taken from the theater severely burned about the head and shoulders. The children are believed to have been caught in the crush, coming down from the balcony, and to have been trampled to death on the staircase leading to the main floor. Walter Zelsler, 17 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steward Zelsler, is among the missing. He is a nephew of Fanny Bloomfield Zelsler, the famous pianist.

#### OTHER MILLIONAIRES BEREAVED.

A party consisting of Mrs. Lucy Garn, her two children, Frank, 10 years old, and Willie, 6 years old; Harriet Wolfe, 10 years old, daughter of Ludwick

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The struggle at these choked channels of egress must have been frightful, as the stronger tramping over the living floor of the weaker frenziedly made their way out. It was a battle for lifewith everyone for himself. To this dread but elemental law there must have been many heroic exceptions. The story of these heroes who helped others and sacrificed their own lives, will never be known.

The responsibility of the fire is ascribed to careless electric light operators who placed their apparatus too near the scenery. Then there was the fireproof curtain of asbestos that failed to work at the critical moment. It is even charged that it never had worked well. The work of rescue was quickly and well organized.

Hundreds of doctors, nurses and helpers were almost instantly on the scene, while firemen, policemen and volunteers did yeoman work. It will take some time to identify all the dead and account for all the missing. Some of the latter will never be accounted for except in the list of unidentified dead.

### PRINCIPAL OF A FARGO SCHOOL

Miss Toinette C. Peterson, One of the Dead, Had Taught There for Eleven Years.

C. E. Winslow, Who Was Also Killed, a Business Man of Thief River Falls.

Both Were in the East to Make Holiday Visits upon Their Relatives.

Special to The Journal. Fargo, N. D., Dec. 31.—Miss Toinette C. Peterson, who was one of the victims of the great fire in Chicago, was principal of the Central school building in this city. She had taught in the Fargo schools for eleven years, a great part of which she was in one of the grades of the Lincoln building.

Miss Peterson was popular and very competent. She was about 35 and her former home was Rushford, Minn. She was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota.

At the close of the schools for the holidays she went to Chicago to visit her sister, Mrs. James Maloney, at 605 Washington avenue. They attended the matinee yesterday and were both killed. A brother wired here that he had found the body of his married sister, but had been unable to locate that of Miss Peterson. He was notified at which morgue the remains were and later sent word that he had found both bodies.

It is presumed that Miss Peterson's body was not burned, as identification was evidently made from her card case, and Fargo was notified last night by the undertaker.

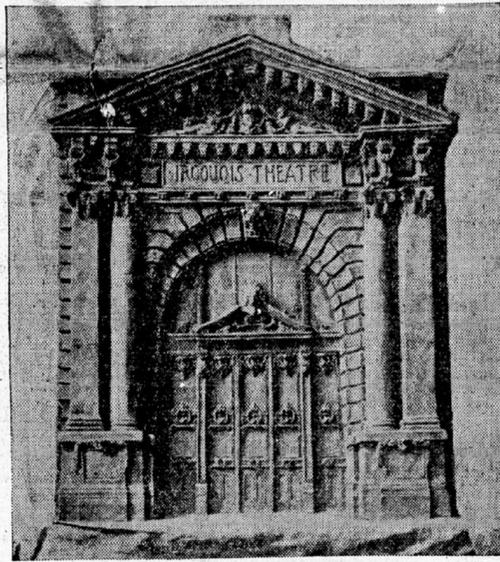
#### LEFT WIFE AND SON

C. E. Winslow was in Lumber Business at Thief River Falls.

Special to The Journal. Thief River Falls, Minn., Dec. 31.—C. E. Winslow of this place, who lost his life in the destruction of the Iroquois theater in Chicago, was wholesale salesman for the Thief River Falls Lumber company and was a well-known and very popular citizen.

The day before Christmas he left his home to visit his mother and a sister in Milwaukee and later continued his trip to Chicago where matters of business required his presence.

He was about 40 and is survived by his wife and one son. News of his



ENTRANCE TO THE IROQUOIS THEATER

death was telegraphed to his relatives and friends here to-day.

#### W. N. MILLS BEREAVED

Menominee Attorney Lost a Sister and Sister-in-Law.

Special to The Journal. Menominee, Mich., Dec. 31.—Attorney W. N. Mills, of this city, lost his sister Isabel Mills, age 20, and sister-in-law, Mrs. Ward Mills, in the Iroquois theater fire in Chicago yesterday.

His brother, Ward Mills was badly burned about the face and arms and is in a hospital. The bodies of the women were not recovered.

W. N. Mills received a telegram last night from his brother, telling him

that Mrs. Mills and Miss Mills were lost. He took the train at once for the city and telephoned home this morning that in the crush to get out of the theater his brother had been separated from his wife and sister and shoved out with the crowd. The women were not seen again and it is certain they perished.

#### Two Iowans Killed.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 31.—John Holland, of the firm of Holland and New, wall paper and paints, and daughter Lillian, aged 35, were both killed in the Chicago fire yesterday. Telegrams to that effect were received here this morning. Mr. Holland and his daughter went to Chicago two weeks ago to spend the holidays.

#### ROOSEVELT SENDS A MESSAGE.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The following message was received this morning: Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.

To Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor, Chicago: In common with all our people thruout this land I extend to you, to the people of Chicago, my deepest sympathy in the terrible catastrophe which has befallen them.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

## STATISTICS OF THE DISASTER.

Number in audience estimated at.....	1,300	Number of missing, some of whom may yet turn out to be living.....	314
Number of dead bodies taken from building or lying in hospitals.....	564	Number of those who escaped from theater without serious injury.....	266
Number of injured, of whom a third will probably die.....	157		
Cost of the Iroquois Theater.....	\$500,000		
Actual property loss on building.....	20,000		

# EXTRA

## JAMMING OF CURTAIN CAUSED BY WIRE FOR AERIAL BALLET QUEEN

She Swung Out Over the Audience on a Wire So Placed as to Prevent Curtain's Descent.

Theatrical Men Think There Was Carelessness in Placing Arc Light Too Near the Scenery.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The cause of the "jamming" of the asbestos curtain, considered the cause of the disaster, was explained to-day by an inspector for the underwriters who made a tour of the house and found that the wire on which the queen of the aerial ballet flew out over the audience in the second act held the asbestos curtain in place and prevented it from being lowered.

It was shown by the inspector that the wire on which the most spectacular feature of the show was made practically caused the holocaust.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Among many theatrical men employed in the other Chicago theaters the responsibility for the fire was ascribed to-day to the careless placing of electric arc light apparatus too close to one of the hanging borders of the scenery. The electrician of a leading Chicago theater expressed great surprise on hearing that this was considered a possible cause of the fire.

"There never would have been any fire," he said, "if proper care had been exercised in handling the lights. The electric plant of the theater was installed, as I happen to know from personal observation, in accordance with every modern requirement for safety. The plant was not to blame. If what I have learned is true, the whole blame rests on the person who placed, or was operating a light so close to the curtain."

#### ASBESTOS CURTAIN NEVER WORKED WELL.

The failure of the expected fire protection is attributed by insurance men to trouble with the asbestos curtain. The stage is always recognized as the danger point in a theater and the desire is to have it cut off from the auditorium as thoroughly as possible. The insurance men declare that the curtain at the Iroquois never had worked perfectly and that the mechanism had not been repaired.

#### LOSS IS ONLY \$20,000.

E. R. Wetmore, of the insurance firm which placed the insurance on the Iroquois theater, declared to-day that the loss would not exceed \$20,000. He also asserted that the spread of the flames to the auditorium was due to the failure of the asbestos curtain to work properly.

#### A TRADE JOURNAL'S WARNING.

On the other hand, a prominent trade journal of Chicago criticized the construction of the Iroquois theater early last summer, because it lacked a shaft or flue at the back of the stage for carrying the flames and smoke upward and away from the auditorium in the event of fire. Such shafts were built in Madison Square Garden and the Metropolitan opera-house in New York and a similar provision is made at the Chicago Auditorium.

#### FIREPROOFING WAS DEFECTIVE.

The method of fireproofing the balcony and gallery was also declared by this magazine to be defective because metal lath was used in what is known as exposed construction, where heat would easily affect it. In modern fireproof buildings this lath is buried in concrete. It was the buckling out of this metal lath and iron rods, giving the impression that the galleries themselves were falling, that is believed by some of the contractors to have been partly responsible for the panic. There was no criticism of the strength of the gallery and balcony arches, which were built in the usual manner.

#### WHAT CHIEF MUSHAM SAYS TO-DAY.

Chief Musham, of the fire department, when asked to-day what would best prevent a repetition of the horror, said: "I don't know as I can answer that question until an investigation has been made as to the cause of this fire. On the whole, I suppose it would be a good thing for the department to have active uniformed men prepared to act stationed in every theater thru every performance. I understand that New York has them and that they are paid by the management of the theaters. They had a man in the Iroquois who was an ex-member of the Chicago fire department. He was old, but he should have known what to do. It seems to me that there is nothing in the world, at least nothing that I can think of at the present moment, that can save lives when a thousand persons try to pass thru one doorway at one time. It was the rushing, the crowding