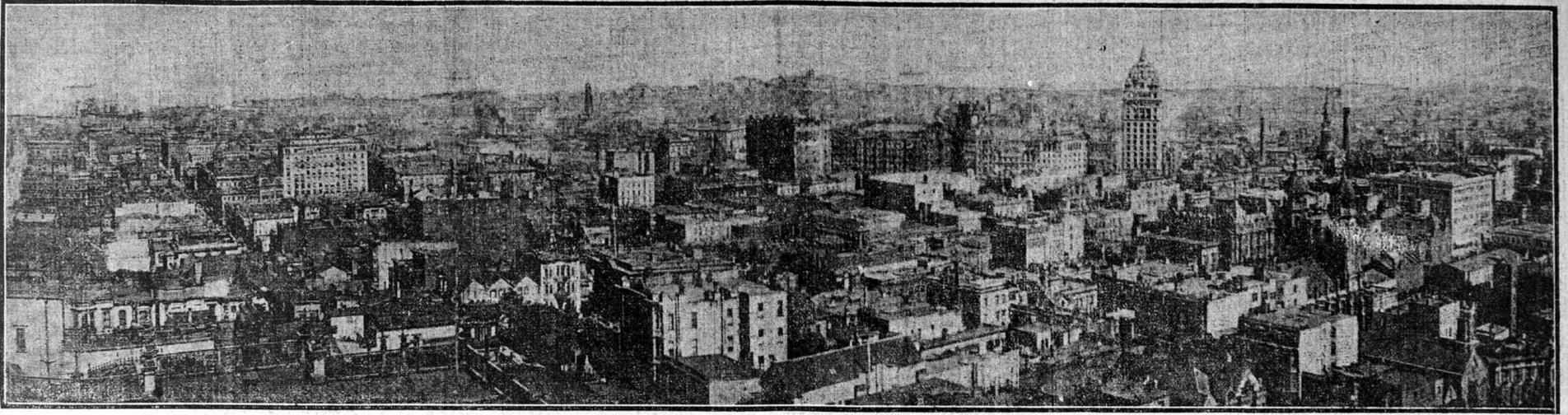


FOREGROUND SHOWS THE BUSINESS DISTRICT NOW IN RUINS



STORY OF SUFFERING TOLD BY NIGHT WIRE

With Power Gone, San Francisco Had Only Light of Conflagration.

San Francisco, April 18.—(2 a.m.)—A thickly built up area of eight square miles has been burned over and there is no telling when the fire will be under control. Loses are estimated at \$200,000,000.

By Associated Press (Night Report).

San Francisco, April 18.—Earthquake and fire today have put nearly half of San Francisco in ruins. At least two hundred people have been killed, a thousand others injured and the property loss will exceed \$100,000,000. Thousands of people are homeless and

Crocker building, across the street from the Palace hotel, is on fire. At 9 o'clock last night an Associated Press man, who went to a high hill overlooking the city, noted that the sky on the east and south sides was illuminated for a distance of four or five miles. The illumination on the south was of a duller glow, showing that the flames were not consuming property of such great proportions as was the case of the east side. Many fine buildings were leveled to dust by terrific charges of dynamite in the hopeless effort to stay the fire horror. In this work scores of heroic soldiers, policemen and firemen were maimed or killed outright.

minutes changing from one direction to another.

Four Ghoully Looters Shot by Funston's Orders

General Funston realized that stern measures were necessary, and gave orders that looters were to be shot at sight. Four men were summarily executed before 3 o'clock this afternoon. At a meeting of fifty citizens called by the mayor, it was announced that 1,400 tents will be pitched in Golden Gate park and arrangements have been made to feed the destitute in the public squares. A meeting of the citizens' committee has been called for 10 o'clock tomorrow (Thursday) morning. It is probable that even with the spirit and willingness shown by the people of San Francisco that outside aid will be necessary. A message from President Roosevelt was received this morning, and it had a cheering effect. George Gould also telegraphed, offering aid. The city in the face of its appalling disaster is fairly quiet and orderly. Liqueur cannot be had anywhere, and the formidable presence of federal troops, militia and naval reserves has had its effects on any element that might be disposed to be disorderly. The mayor's proclamation, authorizing the shooting of looters on sight, has been scattered broadcast on circulars, and little reports of thieving are being received.

ceremony was performed while a mass of coping overhead threatened to crush the priests to death. Three of the men died. Joseph Lindsay, a shoemaker, was four hours in a demolished building and when dug out it was found that he had not been hurt. The entire Larkin street frontage of the city hall for a distance of several hundred feet was thrown out into the street and that thoroughfare for two blocks is piled high with boulders of mortared brick and twisted iron. The freaks of the earthquake were many. Wide fissures were opened in the streets, street railways were twisted out of line, sewers and water pipes were burst and it is feared that there will be an epidemic of disease. Provisions are being sold at fancy prices and even water is being vended by the glass. It is impossible to give a list of the dead and wounded, or even a list of the principal buildings destroyed.

Mayor Calls Upon Citizens To Help in Keeping Order

At a meeting of the committee of safety today Mayor Somits issued the following proclamation: "Proclamation—To the Citizens of San Francisco: The federal troops, which are now policing a portion of the city, as well as the regular and special members of the police force, have been authorized by me to kill any persons whomsoever found engaged in looting the effects of any citizens, or otherwise engaged in the commission of crime. Under these circumstances, the request is made that all citizens whose business does not imperatively require their absence from home after dark, remain at home during the night or until order shall have been restored. I beg to warn all citizens of the danger of fire on account of defective or destroyed chimneys, gas and electric fixtures, and the like. E. E. Schmitz, Mayor."

Thousands of Refugees Seek Safety at Oakland

This afternoon the ferryboats resumed running from Oakland, and tonight thousands of homeless and panic-stricken people are leaving the city. The suffering and hardshin beggars describe the streets, practically to Washington street, including the Chinese, Japanese and Italian quarters, have been rendered homeless and unless supplies could reach the city within twenty-four hours, starvation will add to the awful calamity. Nearly every landmark that has made San Francisco famous has been in ruins or buried to the ground. Never has the fate of a city been more disastrous. For three miles along the water front buildings have been swept away, and tonight the blackened beams and great skeletons of factories and offices stand silhouetted against a background of flame that is slowly spreading over the entire city. The whole commercial and office section of the city on the north side of Market street from the ferry building to Tenth street has been consumed in the raging hell while hardly a building is standing in the district south of Market street.

At 2 o'clock a.m. despite the heroic work of the firemen and the troops of dynamiters, who razed building after building, and blew up property valued at millions, the flames spread across Market street and swept up Montgomery street, practically to Washington street. Along Montgomery street are some of the richest banks and commercial houses in San Francisco. The famous Mills building and the new Merchants exchange, in which is situated the Marine and Stock Exchanges are still standing, but the Mutual Life Insurance building and scores of bank and office buildings are one fire, while blocks of others houses are in the path of the flames and nothing seems to be at hand to stay their progress. Block after block of banking houses are now smoldering in red hot ruin, and it will be months before the money that was housed in their valuable vaults can be reached.

Fire Department Works Without Guidance of Injured Chief

The earthquake caused the partial wreck of the California hotel, on Bush and Kearney streets, and the falling Vendome hotel collapsed and fires broke out. Stanford university and Palo Alto suffered. At Stanford many of the handsome buildings were demolished and two people were killed. One of them was Junius Robert Hanna of Bradford, Pa., and the other was Otto Gurtis, a fireman. Six other students are lying in the Palo Alto hospital with bruises, cuts and internal injuries. These are Ross D. Howard of Santa Francisco, Henry L. Dearing of Santa Ana, Cal., Frolli, Halbert R. Thomas of Los Angeles, Robert Westwick of Santa Barbara, and W. H. Masters of Portland, Ore. The courthouse at Redwood City and other buildings collapsed. Menlo Park, Burlingame and other fashionable suburban towns suffered. Santa Rosa, to the north, Napa, Vallejo and all towns around the bay were damaged. These reports, alarming as they were, created little interest in San Francisco, where the people were so frantic that they rushed into the streets in night garments.

Today's experience has been a testimonial to the modern steel building. A score of these structures were in course of construction and not one suffered. The completed modern buildings were also immune.

Worst Damage Was Done In Tract of Made Land

The greatest destruction in San Francisco occurred in that part of the city which was reclaimed from the bay. Much of the district was at one time low marshy ground entirely covered by water at high tide. The Merchants Exchange building, a 14-story steel structure, was situated on this reclaimed ground. It had just been completed and the executive offices of the Southern Pacific company occupied the greater part of the building. The damage by the earthquake to the residence portion of the city, the finest part of which is Knob Hill and Pacific Heights, seems to have been slight. On Knob Hill are the residences of many of the millionaires who, in the early seventies, became wealthy thru mining investments or the construction of the Central Pacific railroad. They include the Stanfords, Huntingtons, Hopkins, Crockers, Floods and others. The Fairmount hotel, not yet completed, stands on the brink of Knob Hill overlooking the bay. It was not severely damaged. The hotel was started by Mrs. Herman Oelrichs of

The Shocks Were Felt Over a Very Large Area

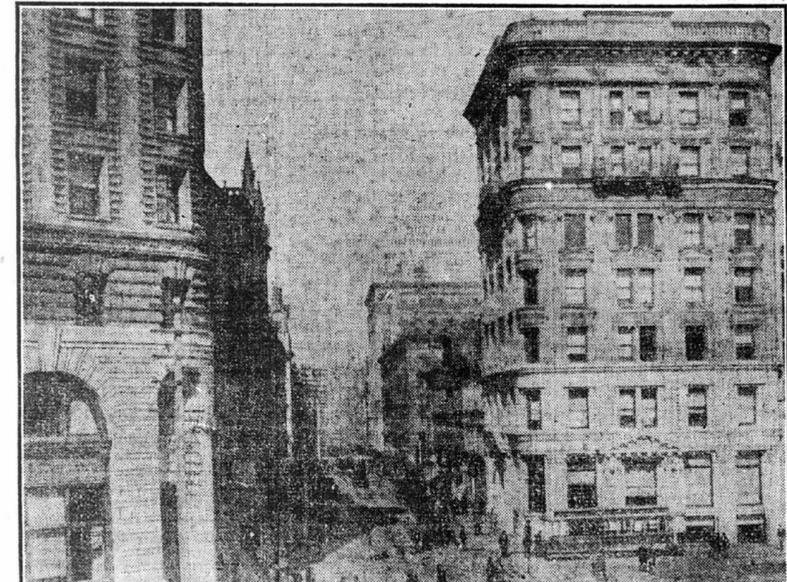
Reports from outside districts indicate widespread damage. San Jose, fifty miles south, lost many buildings and between fifteen and twenty persons were killed. The annex of the

The heart of the business section of San Francisco has been burned. Mayor Schmitz took prompt measures for the relief and protection of the city. General Funston was communicated with at once, and by 9 o'clock 1,000 federal soldiers were guarding the streets and assisting the firemen in dynamiting buildings.

BIG STRUCTURES BURN LIKE TINDER

Buildings, Supposed Fireproof, Fall Prey to the Conflagration.

San Francisco, April 19.—Fire raged in so many sections and its progress was so rapid that it was extremely difficult to trace its destructive march. Following the destruction of the Grand opera house it moved on the Parrott building and later, the Palace hotel. The Parrott building, in which were



MONTGOMERY STREET, FROM MARKET, LOOKING NORTH; TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN FOREGROUND.

destitute, and all day long panic-stricken refugees have been fleeing from the devastated districts to places of safety. It was 5:15 o'clock this morning when a terrific earthquake shook the whole city and surrounding country. One shock lasted two minutes and there was an almost immediate collapse of flimsy structures in all parts of San Francisco. The water supply was cut off and when the fire broke out there was nothing to do but to let the buildings burn. Telegraph and telephone communication was shut off for a time. The Western Union was put out of business completely and the Postal was the only company that managed to get a wire out of the city. About 10 o'clock the Postal too, was forced to suspend in San Francisco. Electric power was stopped and street cars could not run. Railroads and ferry boats also ceased operations. The various fires have been raging all day and the fire department has been powerless to do anything except dynamite the threatened buildings. The explosions shook the city and added to the terror of the inhabitants. Following the first shock there was another within five minutes, but not nearly so severe. Three hours after there was another slight quake.

A Night of Terror Falls On Sadly Stricken City

Night added to the horror and as darkness fell the sky was illuminated in all directions. As the flames spread into the residence districts people left their homes and fled to the parks and squares. The series of rather severe shocks at 7 o'clock further increased the terror and many left homes that were not in danger. No afternoon papers were issued, and it is doubtful if the morning papers will appear. The Southern Pacific tracks are in such condition that only crippled train service is possible. The Chronicle building and its New street annex are still standing. The city hall, a structure costing \$7,000,000, was first wrecked by the earthquake and then destroyed by fire. The Palace hotel, value estimated at \$3,000,000, also burned. The beautiful Claus Spreckles building, at Third and Market streets, was gutted. The Rialto building and dozens of other costly structures were also destroyed. The Hall of Justice is threatened and will undoubtedly go. The Examiner and the Call buildings are gone and the

At 10 o'clock tonight the fire was unabated and thousands of people are fleeing to the hills and clamoring for places on the ferry boats. The burned district extends from the water front south of Market street to Market street and west to Eleventh street, and from the water front east to Haves and McAllister streets nearly to Fillmore and from the water front along Market to Montgomery and north from the water front to Montgomery street. Factories, hotels, wholesale houses and residences, comprising the principal part of the business section have been destroyed.

Fire in Business District Has Been Checked or Blocked

In the business district, toward the waterfront, the flames were either checked or blocked at about Washington street, and at the corner of Kearney street, the Hall of Justice could be noted standing, but it was impossible to determine what damage had been done to the interior. From the Hall of Justice to the south the fire cut its way thru some of the choicest buildings in the city, the Pacific Mutual and the Italian-American bank building being reduced to ashes. Down Kearney street, on both sides, at 10 o'clock the conflagration was still raging with fury, but the direction of the wind prevented its advance up the hills to the west. Yet the greater portion of the structures to the west of Kearney up to DuPont were burned as far south as California.

All around the new fourteen-story Merchants' Exchange building the fire burned fiercely, licking the sides of the steel giant until late in the evening. Then came the destruction of the Western Union building, at the corner of Pine and Montgomery streets. In this building was located the office of the western division of the Associated Press. Earlier in the day the occupants had been ordered out by the authorities on account of danger, and the Associated Press established a temporary station in the Bulletin editorial rooms. Then the latter place was closed and this dispatch is being written on a floorstep near Chintown, the illumination of the burning buildings furnishing light for the writer. It appeared that the great Mills building would block some of the southward sweep of the blaze, as it had already checked an advance northward earlier in the night. If this prediction proves true, the limits of the fire will be determined, but predictions on this point are as unreliable as the strong wind, which is every five

It is impossible to give anything like an accurate statement concerning the killed. Unquestionably many people were either killed outright, imprisoned or rendered unconscious in collapsed buildings which were afterwards burned.

Extreme Unction Administered Mid Crash of Falling Walls

While five dying men were being taken from the collapsed building at Second and Jessie streets, Fathers Hogan, Rogers and Huber of St. Patrick's church granted them the last rites of the Catholic church. This



PHELAN BUILDING, MARKET AND O'FARRELL STREETS, BURNED.



STUDEBAKER BUILDING, TENTH AND MARKET STREETS; DESTROYED.

Many Notable Structures Are Now Down or Ruined

To the westward on Pacific Heights are many fine, new residences. But little injury was done there. The Palace hotel, burned, was a seven-story building about 300 feet square, was built thirty years ago by the late Senator Sharon. The Palace was then considered the best-equipped hotel in the west. The offices of the three morning papers, the Chronicle, the Call and the Examiner, were within 100 feet of each other. The last two were destroyed. The Chronicle, situated at Market and Kearney streets, has a ten-story steel frame building, one of the first structures of its character put up here. The Spreckles building, in which were the business offices of the Call, is sixteen stories high and very narrow. The editorial, composing and press rooms were in a small three-story building immediately in rear. Just across Third street was the home of the Examiner, seven stories high, with a frontage of 100 feet on Market street. The postoffice is a fine, gray stone structure, and has been completed less than two years. It covers half a block on Mission street between Sixth and Seventh streets. The ground on which the building stands was of a swampy character, and some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a solid foundation. The city hall, which was badly wrecked, is a mile and a half from the waterfront. It was an imposing structure, with a dome 150 feet high. The building covers about three acres and cost more than \$7,000,000. The Grand opera house, where the Metropolitan Opera company opened a two-weeks engagement Monday night, was one of the oldest theaters in San Francisco. It is located on Mission street, between Third and Fourth streets, and for a number of years was the leading playhouse of the city. In 1885 this playhouse was closed for a time and later devoted to vaudeville. Within the past four years, however, it has been used by many of the leading independent theatrical companies. The buildings that collapsed were all flimsy wooden and old-fashioned brick structures. The damage by earthquake does not begin to compare with the loss by fire.

Banks Burned

Banks and commercial houses, supposed to be fireproof, the not of modern build, burned quickly and the roar of the flames could be heard even on the hills, which were out of the danger zone. Here many thousands of people congregated and witnessed the awful scene. Great sheets of flame rose high in the heavens or rushed down some narrow street, as the passage way were a horizontal chimney. Smoke Is Dense. The dense smoke that arose from the entire business district spread out like an immense funnel and could have been seen for miles out at sea. Occasionally, as some druggouse or place stored with chemicals was reached, most fantastic effects were produced by the colored flames and smoke, which rolled out against the darker background. Playhouses in Ruins. All efforts to prevent the fire from reaching the Palace and Grand hotels were unsuccessful, and both were completely destroyed, together with all their contents. All of San Francisco's best playhouses, including the Majestic, Columbia, Orpheum and Grand opera house are a mass of ruins. The earthquake demolished them for all practical purposes and the fire completed the work of destruction. The handsome Rialto and Sarsbery buildings were burned to the ground, as was everything in that district.

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