

a view of determining whether the law was complied with safeguarding the lives of the little pupils.

Penalty for Inside Doors.

Section 532 of the Ohio statutes provides a penalty of \$500 for officers in charge of public buildings who permit its use where the doors swing inward, or where they are locked during occupancy; where ample means of exit are not provided, and where there is no provision for extinguishing fire.

Age of Victims.

Tragedy's stab was with a ragged blade, and pains all the more because of the age of the victims—their helplessness in danger, their dependability on a protection that was no protection, and the horrible nature of the fate that overtook them.

As one aged man, looking at a row of small bodies, said, this morning: "We know what was going to happen. The race amount to in the world, and a few years more or less is of little moment to the world. The death of a child makes a mystery. It closes a book too quickly."

It is this feeling that is racking the hearts in bereavement today. The sorrow, however, deep as it is, does not block out the natural, infuriated speculation of "Who is to blame?"

There is talk of incendiarism—a natural indulgence of sensational speculation always to be heard after such a tragedy, but with no town or nation of fact. The rumor can be regarded as an idle one.

Some tell of an overheated furnace, the only logical accounting for the origin of the fire.

Why the fire was not discovered until it had made great headway is the important question. This cannot be looked into until the cemeteries about North Collingwood have opened and closed and the little, charred, mangled bodies have been laid away.

Whether the fire in the cellar was discovered long before it attained such headway, and an attempt was made to extinguish it without the aid of the fire department is the question being discussed today.

The failure to call the fire department could be based on two reasons—one of them being that to avoid alarm in the school rooms and the other an impulsive effort to quickly smother the blaze, which could not originate without striking a match away with an investigation which would result if the fire department had been called.

It was, the fire could not be extinguished. It rose until caught in a draught of the halls, then through the building like the fire in a blazing furnace. Then death with the fire.

Construction Condemned. By Coroner Burke made a terse statement today.

Who is to blame? will be the question in the little suburb as long as visitors to the cemetery see little mounds over the graves of the fire victims.

When the little ones in the North Collingwood school got to the halls they sniffed smoke, they felt heat, and they felt danger. Their step quickened.

FATHER OF CHILD VICTIM SOBS STORY OF DISASTER

CLEVELAND, March 5.—A father stood on the street in Collingwood today, and told a neighbor how his little girl, aged nine, burned to death.

He told how she helped her mother with the breakfast dishes. He told how she laughed, and waved her hand to him as she skipped off down the street for school yesterday.

He told how she looked when they got her out, her poor little body charred by flame, twisted in awful agony. He laid his face in the arm of his shabby overcoat and sobbed.

The word yesterday that scores of children had died in the flames of their school merely startled those it did not leave stricken and hysterical or dazed.

Realization Today. Realization came today in the plain, heartrending little stories that passed from man to man in the streets, and from one home to another.

It was learned then how some certain little girl or the smudged youngster who passed the house every morning rattling a stick against the fence poked out death. How he was taken out with his little legs twisted, stiffened, charred; his arm thrown up across his burned and blackened face.

A hush of pity fell. Today the silence of death, an awful, wholesale death of little children lies upon the town.

One story is that of an unknown little girl among the many heaped up against the closed rear door. The flames were at her back when she pressed her face to the crack of the door and pleaded: "Mister, help me out."

William Davis could hear her. He threw his weight against the door and tried to force it open back through the piled up bodies. She could almost touch him. Her face was to the crack. Her hair was scorching. Her baby hands reached out pleading: "Mister, help me."

Something fell from above on Davis' head and stunned him. Before others could reach the child she had fallen back among the dead.

Whose little girl? None could answer this question. To every stricken parent, to every one whose child was saved, to all who heard this story, the thought occurred: "Please my child was at that door reaching out and pleading: 'Mister, help me.'"

discovering how all those children could perish so quickly.

They cannot tell more than those who were in the building.

"I was on the third floor and ran to the second," say any one of those who actually were on those floors, and by some circumstances escaped. "I saw the children piled at the door and ran the other way. I was taken out through a window."

At almost every house along the street today white ribbons floated from the doorknobs. At one three boys of the neighborhood the number of dead. At the table there at noon a father sat silent with eyes that stared ahead and saw nothing. The food before him lay untouched. At the side of the table were their three guests; in the corner the skates of the younger boy; on the rack behind the door hung the cap and cloak of his little girl—all dead.

Daughter's School Paid. In the man's toll-roughened hands lay a sheet of paper with figures penciled over it. At the top was her name in a slow, rounded hand, "Alice."

Tuesday night she sat by him at the table when the supper dishes were cleared away. He held her with her lesson. It was a hard lesson for the little girl. He thought how pleased she had been when they got it right at last.

He thought how she looked when she kissed him good night sleepily and went upstairs to bed. He thought how she looked that last morning when she started off to school.

Slowly, his eyes still staring straight ahead, he folded the bit of paper that had been his little girl's and laid it away in his pocket.

The baby in his chair pounded the tray with his spoon. "Papa," baby cried in childish prattle, "Papa, wien's Alice coming home?"

The man could not speak. Tears rolled down his furrowed cheeks. He hid his face in his arms on the table and sobbed aloud, his shoulders shaking.

Mother Sobs Over Bodies. In the front room the bodies lay side by side. And there beside them, crying, the mother knelt. They together at the morgue had claimed their dead. They passed along the long lines of charred, twisted little bodies. The mother pitched forward fainting when they at last found their child.

Just across the street from the burned school is a little candy and school supply store. It is closed today. In the windows lie displayed the slate pencils, rulers, tops, marbles, balls, and chocolate rats, licorice sticks, and all-day suckers—things for which the children who are now dead spent their pennies.

Such things as these fell from the pockets of the charred clothes at the morgue when the bodies were lifted for removal.

It was school time at 8:30 a. m. today. The children were waiting in the school at the regular hour the children came out upon the streets. Fascination drew them to the ruins where their playmates had perished.

which has fallen so many of your homes has become to me on the eve of my departure for Cleveland. Would that human heart and hand could assuage that sorrow and grief that tears the hearts of the bereaved.

"We would stand powerless and despairing in the face of such an awful catastrophe, carrying on its fiery billows so many precious and beloved children, save for the strength that comes from consciousness that depths of human sympathy never before reached have been opened throughout the whole world, and that the compassion of him who loved their most will sustain every heart pierced by this agony."

"Should there be any service our people might be able to render, command them."

VITAL RECORDS

Births. James and Margaret Warden, boy. Charles A. and Louise H. Trueworthy, boy.

Deaths. Robert A. Blas and Millie E. Ruffin. August Blas and Jessie Scott. Ernest G. Kelley and Daisy Greenleaf.

Marriage License. Robert A. Blas and Millie E. Ruffin. August Blas and Jessie Scott.

Deaths. Mary A. Bell, 65 years, the Astoria. Emma B. Bowler, 41 years, 115 K street northwest.

Deaths. Mary J. Shaffer, 12 years, 516 1/2 Eleventh street southwest.

Deaths. Ann M. Heath, 74 years, 619 H street southeast.

Deaths. Mary Krabbing, 73 years, 318 Ninth street southeast.

Deaths. Mary M. Wolter, 72 years, 3338 Fourteenth street northwest.

Deaths. William McClure, Jr., 1 year, 515 Third street northwest.

Deaths. Charles J. Hollins and Carrie Hawkins. John L. Downs and Laura J. Crooks. John C. B. Morris and Daisy Harris.

Deaths. Mary A. Bell, 65 years, the Astoria. Emma B. Bowler, 41 years, 115 K street northwest.

Deaths. Mary J. Shaffer, 12 years, 516 1/2 Eleventh street southwest.

Deaths. Ann M. Heath, 74 years, 619 H street southeast.

LAWYER'S ARRESTED ON BANKER'S CHARGE

NEW YORK, March 5.—Charged with having attempted to extort \$500 from William R. Montgomery, former president of the Hamilton Bank, Nathan A. Vidaver is under arrest here.

Vidaver was appointed a special deputy attorney to prosecute the Klusena Park investigation before the Quez, county grand jury, and is now under special retainer from the attorney general in connection with the action to dissolve the charter of the New York City Montgomery is also under indictment charged with having made overdrafts on the Hamilton Bank.

Vidaver was arrested in the Astor House, after having luncheon with Montgomery, who, it is alleged, passed \$500 in marked bills to him. The "plant" was made with the knowledge of the district attorney's office and the arrest was made by one of Jerome's detectives.

Vidaver was arraigned in the Center Street Police Court and held in \$5,000 bail for a hearing. He made a heated speech denouncing his arrest and the district attorney, Moses H. Grossman, a lawyer, went upon his bond.

Vidaver, it is alleged, said that for \$1,500 he would stop all criticism of the Hamilton bank.

TODAY'S CALLERS AT WHITE HOUSE

Gen. Stuart Woodford, manager of the Hughes Presidential boom. Senators Heyburn of Idaho. Curtis of Kansas. Burkett of Nebraska. Browne of Nebraska. Gamble of South Dakota. Fulton of Georgia.

Representatives Bates of Pa. Smith of California. Ellis of Oregon. Alexander of N. Y. Calder of New York. Law of New York. Porter of New York. Bennett of New York. Steele of Pa. Lilley of Connecticut.

A PERSIAN MANUSCRIPT. There is now to be seen in the city library at Lyons a Persian manuscript of the year 1028 of the Hejira, or 1619 of our era.

The manuscript is "Le Khasani," or "The Five Treasures," by Nizami, and is said to be the poet's magnum opus. The writing is in Chinese paper. The penmanship is very good and is in four colors, viz, gold, black, green, and red.

There are also some fine specimens of drawings of the period.—Exchange.

Special Notices.

MRS. G. F. PATTERSON, of Tennyson, D. C., wishes to inform her friends and patrons that she has entered partnership with Mr. Leon Balarsky, located at 220 14th st. n.w., where she will continue to do ladies' tailoring and dressmaking establishment. mh5-3t

Washington, D. C., March 3, 1908. THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE that the partnership heretofore existing between Charles Early and James J. Lampton, under the firm name of Early & Lampton, has ceased to exist. CHARLES EARLY. mh5-3t

For a Few Days, Our \$4.00 Cabinets, \$1.00 per Doz. BROOKS STUDIO, 507 Penn. Ave. N. W. ja29-20

CHASE BROS. PIANO Mahogany Case; Sweet Tone; \$195 Fine Action; Guaranteed. George Lawrence, 924 9th Tuning, \$1.50. Tel. M. 1795-Y.

Always the Same Sharp's Berkeley Rye 612 F Street N. W. Phone Main 1141. Special Private Delivery.

Washington's Fastest Growing Store ALL HATS THINNED FIRST KING'S PALACE 510 TO 516 SEVENTH ST. Green Ticket Sale

Beautiful Spring Millinery! The progress of our Opening is attended with fresh crowds of fashion-loving women each day; many of our customers have visited the millinery section every day—for there's a constantly changing panorama of creations to be seen. Tomorrow we offer several special values which are well worthy of attention.

Save on Spring Suits, Values \$12.95 from \$18 to \$25. In this lot are all the styles that have been accepted as correct for spring, '08. Made of serges, worsteds, panamas, and mannish fabrics, comprising the popular plain colors and fancy effects innumerable.

WINTER GARMENTS 25 Children's coats, made of kerseys, broadcloths, and novelties, in a number of styles. \$2.25 Sizes to 14 years; \$3.00 values. G. T. P. 29 medium weight chevrons and broadcloth suits that sold for \$15 and \$20. Choice of black, blue, brown, and green, in all sizes. G. T. P. \$6.95

Purchase of Umbrellas 49c We are modest in placing the value of these high-grade umbrellas at \$1.00, but many of them have the identical handles to be found in \$1.50 and \$2.00 umbrellas. Tops are mercerized glass-ware, and rain-proof. Handles include long gold, silver, pearl, and gun-metal effects. Women's styles only. 49c

Waists and Petticoats New Persian Lawn Waists in two charming styles. One has front of embroidery evenly with tucks between; the other alternate 49c \$1.00 values. G. T. P. 75 Black Saten Waists with tucked fronts, backs, collars, and cuffs. Open backs, long sleeves, well tailored and perfect fitting. G. T. P. 49c \$1.00 All-wool White Sunbuvelling Waists, with fronts trimmed with three large Baby Irish Medallions, and interspersed with rows of Val. inserter. \$2.25 \$1.00 Taffeta Silk Petticoats in black, brown, and white. Finished with accordion pleats. G. T. P. \$2.25

Laces and Embroideries Accumulation of new cambrie embroideries from our best lines. Both edges and insertions in many widths and patterns. G. T. P. 5c Table of new Toibon and Point de Paris Laces, including a good assortment of white Chimp effects. Values from 5c to 8c. Edges \$3c and insertions. G. T. P. 3c Lot of excellent quality Cambrie Edges and insertions that sold for 10c. Good range of designs. G. T. P. 6c

Men's 25c Half Hose 12 1/2c Manufacturers' surplus stock of lisle thread and combed mace socks, with double heels and toes. Beautifully embroidered with silk, in neat stripes, dots, and clocking. All strictly perfect. 12 1/2c Pair Closing out men's heavy fleecelined and jersey-ribbed underwear shirts. G. T. P. 29c Odds and ends of men's heavy wool and medium weight balbriggan underwear; garments that sold for \$1 and \$1.50. 39c G. T. P. Lot of men's excellent quality elastic garters with flat comfortable clasp. The values. G. T. P. 5c

Crazed Parents Hunt for Bodies In Hall of Death

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 5.—A long, wide room is divided into aisles by boxes, hastily piled up—a murky room, stifling with its odor of burned stuff—a silent room, save for the shuffling of feet, and now and then a sob. Along each corridor lie blankets which cover little heaps. Here and there a shoe or charred foot protrudes, telling what is concealed beneath.

Here and there, too, a white sheet, which tells that some child has been identified. Walking through the aisles is a group of men and women; the men with bare heads, the women with shawls hastily thrown over their trembling shoulders.

Who can describe the looks there? Some with tears, some with dry eyes, walk past each body and look as the attendant draws away the blanket. Grief is written there—and hope—and greater and greater grows the hope, as the terrible review fails to reveal the body of the loved one he sought.

Then comes the terrible moment when a one boy, as nearly as can be learned, tried to pull the door toward him. Another thought in his terror he could do so more quickly. There was a scramble.

One of them went down, then another, and another, until there was a heap at the door.

The line, excited by cries, by the struggle by the danger, involuntarily impressed upon them, broke and fell together no longer. It would have been a miracle if they could have done so. Then what a scene! A man who had imagined. Girls and boys fought with each other. Some went down, then rose as others went down. It was like water in a whirlpool, or like the tossing of quicksand.

Output of Eighteen Leading Furniture Manufacturers Represented

We arranged to exhibit and sell this conignment of high-grade furniture at Factory Prices and less. Manufacturers in need of cash owing to recent financial panic. Every piece of furniture marked in plain figures. Your inspection invited.

- Buffets at net factory prices ranging from \$7.75 to \$55.00
China Closets at net factory prices ranging from \$11.25 to \$65.75
Extension Tables at net factory prices ranging from \$7.95 to \$53.60
Chiffoniers at net factory prices ranging from \$10.25 to \$45.50
Princess Dressers at net factory prices ranging from \$10.95 to \$67.25
Hall Racks at net factory prices ranging from \$10.25 to \$55.50
Ladies' Desks at net factory prices ranging from \$6.95 to \$24.50
Parlor Suites at net factory prices ranging from \$13.75 to \$185
Bookcases at net factory prices ranging from \$5.75 to \$36.25
Rockers at net factory prices ranging from \$2.75 to \$15.50
Music Cabinets at net factory prices ranging from \$6.90 to \$24.75
Brass Beds at net factory prices ranging from \$15.00 to \$52.50
Iron Beds at net factory prices ranging from \$2.95 to \$26.00

THE WORKINGMANS FRIEND ANSBURGH FURNITURE CO. INTER-OCEAN BLDG. 512 NINTH ST. N.W.

Hunger or Faintness

between meals is a frequent condition of school children. They do not get the right kind of food to nourish their bodies and brains. Try a dish of crisp Grape-Nuts

and cream for the children's breakfast and note how they grow clear-headed, study well, learn easily and become sturdy boys and girls. They make the best men and women, too.

Cannot Tell Details.

"There's a Reason" This began all the interviews of the townspiece, with the idea of