

A SCENE OF DESOLATION

Work of the Explosion and Fire in the Capitol Building at Washington.

DAMAGE IS NOT AS GREAT AS FEARED.

Foundations Sustain No Damage That Will Require Rebuilding of Any Portion of Structure—Cause of Disaster Not Determined—Temporary Quarters for Supreme Court.

Washington, Nov. 7.—The big capitol building was the scene of wreck and desolation Monday, following the explosion and fire which wrought such serious havoc. The engines and firemen had gone, and in their places a small army of workmen were carrying off the debris of brick and mortar, charred woodwork, soaked and half-burned official papers and documents which had been heaped in confusion in the basement and subbasement under the quarters occupied by the United States supreme court. An examination of the courtroom showed that the damage was confined to discolored walls and ceilings and soaked carpets. No substantial damage had been done. The bench occupied by the justices was unharmed, and even the briefs and papers left by some of the justices under paper weights remained undisturbed. But while the fire had made no progress here, smoke and water had left this chamber, which has long been regarded as a model of classic beauty, in sorry condition. The windows and sash of the fine old colonial windows flanking the bench are in ruins. The frescoed ceiling, which recently had been done over, is blurred and spotted, the carpets and draperies are soaked, while the whole chamber has the damp, soaked aspect usually following a fire. The personal effects of the justices, robes, etc., were found to be uninjured. The main loss of the court was in the marshal's office, and in the storage

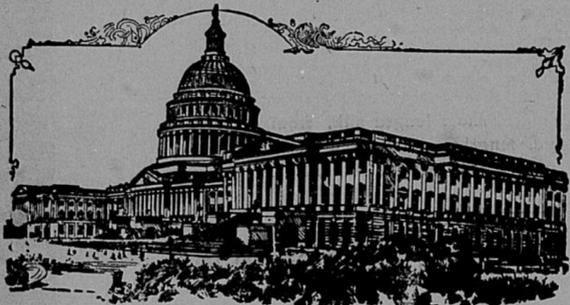
furniture escaped, and the walls of the room are as black as night, the effect of smoke and fire. While this damage was regretted, it was not considered irreparable.

Valuable Records Preserved.
The only damage that cannot be made good was done in the basement of the supreme court in the basement where were stored all the official records and the original copies of the laws from the foundation of the government. All these opinions have been printed, but the original manuscripts were highly valued.

This room was also over the scene of the explosion, and it was one of the first compartments of the capitol to be attacked. The documents here were stored away in an orderly manner in wooden cases, and none of them had any other protection except the records of the court from 1792 to 1832, which were encased in tin boxes. The flames appear to have completely enveloped this room, but they were only sufficiently intense to badly char all the woodwork and many of the documents. Comparatively few of the papers were absolutely destroyed, but those which suffered this fate were among the most valuable in the room. They included the original opinions of the court in the early days of the republic, and among them were many manuscripts prepared in the handwriting of the jurists of the days of Washington, Jefferson and Adams.

Many of the more modern documents, including letters and opinions of recent date, were also so badly burned that it will be impossible to restore them, but none of these appears to have suffered such complete demolition as befell the early opinions. No documents affecting the present docket of the court were injured.

Senate Documents Threatened.
The fire at one time threatened to invade the senate document-room, reaching to within four or five feet of it. Mr. Amzi Smith, the superintendent of the room, was on hand, prepared to contest its progress with the aid of the fire department, but the chances are that it had gained any headway in this department the damage would have been far more serious, as the department is



THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON, DAMAGED BY FIRE NOV. 6.

room, where valuable old records are kept. The extent of this loss is not yet exactly determined, but the court officials expect to make a critical examination during the day.

Fix Temporary Quarters.
Sergeant-at-Arms Bright, of the senate, was busy making temporary provision for the sessions of the court. Senator McMillan's committee room on the District of Columbia was hastily prepared with a bench and seats for the justices and a dozen rows of seats for attorneys and spectators. The quarters are rather cramped, however, and the chief justice and five justices will have to sit on one side of a long oak table.

Cause of Explosion.
Architect Clark of the capitol is advanced in age and very feeble, so that the active work of investigating the cause of the explosion and of clearing away the wreckage is in the hands of the assistant architect of the capitol, Mr. Wood.

"I have made a preliminary examination," Mr. Wood said, "and I am not yet ready to say what caused the explosion, although the main attention is being given to the gas supply. I find that the general damage sustained by the building is not as serious as at first supposed. The heavy foundations to the building do not appear to be disturbed, and the walls blown down are confined to the thin encircling walls built to cover steam pipes, etc. None of the heavy sustaining arches or pillars has given way so far as I can find. I will make a fuller examination, with better light, later, to make certain on these points. For the present, it does not seem that a rebuilding of any part of the capitol will be necessary. The work will be that of repairing, and I hope we can finish this by the time congress comes. We have a small balance for this, but in any event the work will be done."

Meter Blown to Pieces.
An examination of the meter room, where the gas supplied to the capitol is measured, showed that the big meter had been blown to pieces. This satisfies most of the capitol officers that a gas explosion was responsible for the damage, but they would not express this view openly until an official inquiry had been made.

Roofs Uninjured.
Several supreme court justices made a visit to the scene of the catastrophe during the forenoon. Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Harlan walked through the various apartments guided by a man with a lantern. While they looked at the scenes of destruction with manifest interest, they made no remarks. They spent somewhat more time in the courtroom than elsewhere. There they found the upholstery and the court's new \$4,000 carpet greatly injured, but the two court clocks were ticking away as regularly and as dignifiedly as ever. The busts of former chief justices, which line the walls of the old chamber, were also uninjured, and this appeared to be a source of much gratification to the chief justice and his companions.

They found nothing but ruin and desolation in Marshal Wright's office. This room was completely gutted. No

THE BOUND TO HAVE THEM
Spain's Argument Against Cession of Philippines Makes President More Determined.

OUR DEMANDS WILL BE RENEWED.
Amount to Be Paid Spanish Government Not Yet Determined, but Under No Consideration Will It Exceed the Aggregate of the Debts of the Islands.

Washington, Nov. 7.—Spain's exhaustive argument against the cession of the Philippines to the United States has had the result of making the officials all the more determined to take the islands.

Instructions sent to Mr. Day, chairman of the American commissioners, will require him and his colleagues to renew on Tuesday their demand for cession of the group to the United States, and they will make in their communication the first offer of money in payment for the islands.

It is understood that the president will consult with some of his advisers concerning the amount to be named in the American communication, but the sum to be paid will not under any consideration exceed the aggregate of the debts contracted by the Spanish government for improvements in the Philippines. All military debts and debts contracted in the name of other islands, such as Cuba, will be barred and the Spanish commissioners will be informed that they must recognize this fact as a possibility.

Secretary Hay has received a full statement of the contents of the Spanish note. Its character was just what the officials expected—without any new arguments of importance. Senator Rios and his colleagues call attention to the action of the government in delivering a note through M. Cambon, the French ambassador, to President McKinley which set forth the understanding of the Spanish government that in agreeing to the protocol its sovereignty over the Philippines would not be affected.

It is also claimed by the Spanish commissioners that this declaration was assented to by President McKinley. As a matter of fact, the note had been delivered, but the president had declined to answer it, either in writing or verbally, to M. Cambon.

Claim an Indemnity Is Due.
The Spanish commissioners have declared, it is said, that instead of the United States acquiring the Philippines this government should pay their government an indemnity for the attack on Manila after the peace protocol had been signed and for the damage consequently done.

Admiral Dewey's victory in Manila bay was unimportant and the possession of Cavite during the war was not such as to give the Americans, the Spaniards declare, control of the islands, and, it is claimed, and the claim is fortified by argument and many legal precedents, that the American government has no moral right to demand the cession of the entire group of 1,400 islands when it held only such a small bit of territory as that at Cavite and controlled only the bay of Manila.

No Rupture Expected.
All during the war Spanish troops were stationed on other islands and were not molested. The Spaniards indicated their willingness, however, to sell the islands, and the authorities have no apprehension now that any rupture will occur unless it be over the amount to be paid.

After the Philippine question has been disposed of the commissioners will consider the determination of claims which have been filed by Americans against Spain and by Spaniards against the United States. It was thought that this government would bind itself to satisfy all American claims in consideration of the territory ceded to the United States, but this is incorrect. The Spanish commissioners have a heavy claim for filibustering against the United States to offset the claims filed by Americans for personal and property injuries, and the question of their disposition will have to be decided.

Hope They Will Recede.
Paris, Nov. 7.—The Eclair, after reproducing all the six articles of the peace protocol, says: "It is to be hoped the United States will not maintain their first pretensions in regard to the Philippine islands. The question of the sovereignty over the Philippine islands is one, however, which interests Spain only, but Germany from time to time allows it to be thought that she is not indifferent to the fate of the islands, and the possibility of interference from this power will perhaps cause America to be less exacting."

Chicago Dispatch Assigns.
Chicago, Nov. 7.—The Chicago Dispatch company, publishers of the Democrat and Dispatch, made an assignment in the county court, naming John R. Knapman as assignee. The failure was caused by slow collections during the past months and the increased persistency of the creditors of the company with their claims.

Not Courting.
"Do you court an investigation?" inquired the interviewer. "Well," said Senator Sorghum, slowly, "I don't exactly like the phrase. I'm willing to meet an investigation if circumstances make it necessary. But I ain't makin' love to it."—Washington Star.

Athletic Exercise.
Bowles—Did you climb the Alps while you were abroad? Cupps—No, just ran up a bill, that was all.—Indianapolis Journal.

RAILROAD SHOPS BURNED

Heavy Loss Sustained by the Southern Pacific Company at Sacramento, Cal.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 7.—A fire which broke out in the extensive railroad shops of the Southern Pacific company at an early hour caused a loss of over \$200,000. It started in the car and machine shop in the center of a group of large buildings, and, fanned by a stiff northwest wind, destroyed the structure and its machinery in less than half an hour. It next attacked the big saw and planing-mill and cabinet shop, filled with seasoned lumber of all kinds, and in a few minutes the whole interior of the big brick structure was a raging furnace. Hundreds of railway employees aided the firemen in fighting the flames, which were got under control by daylight.

The cause of the fire is not positively known, but it is thought to have started from crossed electric light wires in the car shop.

It is only a little over a year since the pattern shop of the railway company was burned with a loss of nearly half a million dollars.

DENISON FRATERNITIES.
O. A. L. LODGE NO. 90, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS Meets every Monday evening at 8 o'clock, in Henry hall. Visiting members always or they welcome.
J. F. GLENN, K. R. & S.

SYLVAN LODGE, NO. 507, A. F. & A. M. Regular meeting Tuesday evening on or before 7:30 o'clock. Special meetings on Tuesday following in D. S. Hall. Visiting members in the city are urged to attend.
C. M. STALEY, Sec'y.

SYLVAN LODGE, NO. 207, O. E. S. Regular meeting first Tuesday evening after full moon in Laub's hall. Visiting members invited.
J. B. ROMANA, W. M. Max 2nd, Sec'y.

DENISON LODGE, N. E. G. O. O. F. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in Laub's hall. Odd Fellows visiting in the city especially invited.
G. A. SMITH, Sec'y.

SIDONIA LODGE, NO. 209, I. O. O. F. (German) Meets every Friday night in Laub's hall at 8 o'clock. Visitors especially welcome.
F. E. L. USSEN, N. G. P. P. R. Sec'y.

HAWKEYE C. A. P. NO. 50, WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. Meets every Sunday evening at 8 o'clock in Laub's hall. Visiting sovereigns invited.
J. T. CARBY, Clerk.

CHURCH DIRECTORY.
ST. ROSE OF LIMA—Catholic. Services every morning at 7:30. First and third Sundays in each month services at 10:30. Parochial school in connection taught by sisters of St. Francis. Every 10th invited.
Rev. M. J. FARRELL.

GERMAN M. E. CHURCH. Services every Sunday. Sunday school 9:30 to 10:30. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 3 p. m. Class meeting 11:30. Prayer meetings every Wednesday evening.
Rev. G. CLAUSSEN, Pastor.

METHODIST CHURCH. (Class meeting at 9:30 a. m. Preaching at 10:30 and 7:30. Sunday school at 11:45. Junior League at 3:30 p. m. Epworth League at 5:30. Prayer meeting Thursday evening. Teachers' meeting following prayer meeting.
Rev. E. E. ILSENHITZ, Pastor.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL—Lutheran. Regular services at 10:30 a. m. on Sunday. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.
Rev. F. LUTHERINGER, Pastor.

BAPTIST. Preaching services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Young People's Union Monday evening at 7:30. Prayer meetings Thursday evenings at 7:30. Ladies' prayer meetings Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Covenant meetings before first Sunday of each month. Sunday school at 11:50.
Rev. F. W. BATESON, Pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN. Sabbath services after first day of May at 10:30 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sabbath school at 11:45 a. m. and Young People's Christian Endeavor at 7:30 p. m. Weekly prayer meetings Thursday at 7:30 p. m. Bible class and Teachers' meeting immediately after prayer meeting. Choir practice Friday at 7:30 p. m. Ladies' Aid every third Wednesday at 8 o'clock, and Ladies' Missionary Society every second Friday of the month.
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