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GREAT BALTIMORE FIRE

Loss is Over 100,000,000.00. Conflagration Brought Under Control at 9 O'Clock Last Night—More Than 140 Acres Laid Waste.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—When darkness fell last night the people of this stricken city knew the worst was over. The flames, which for more than twenty-four hours, had swept relentlessly through the heart of one of the world's greatest markets of trade, were checked. An army of firemen from many cities, working unwearyingly and aided by a muddy little stream, finally conquered a fire which will rank among the world's great conflagrations.

Worn out by a night and day of terror, the great crowds that watched the ruin of their city, turned homeward, and after midnight the streets were deserted, save for the police and militia, who guarded the burned area. To the south a red glow marks 140 acres of devastation—seventy-five squares of property that represented values to the extent of from \$75,000,000 to \$125,000,000. Not even a close approximation can be made of the loss. No guess can be made of the insurance.

Not a single life has been lost and not a human being has even been dangerously injured. The hospital lists consist of minor burns, with the exception of Jacob Hoenfritz, a fireman from York, Pa. He has a fractured leg and is badly burned.

So far there has been no call for aid. Profers of aid have come from many quarters, from sister cities, from from corporations and from private citizens, but Baltimore can not say whether or not it will be needed or accepted.

Men talk in figures that are appalling and almost incomprehensible in their vastness. An expert, the city building inspector, estimates the loss in buildings alone at \$150,000,000. On the other hand, it is said that insurance estimates do not place the total loss at a greater figure. So far there has been no systematic attempts to fix the values that were represented in the district which is a devastated waste.

The city is overcast with gloom. The stores are closed in nearly all streets. The avenues are full of jostling people talking of one subject. Apparently there is but one cause for gladness and that is that there are no homeless. The real-estate section of the city escaped. This phase of the situation relieved the officials from any thought other than the saving of property.

A score of times flames of fire were found leaping the sides of lumber piles on the east bank of the falls. In some instances the lumber was tossed into the falls and this, with similar heroic measures, stayed the on-sweep of the fire. Throughout that terrible contest, in which firemen and fire waded for supremacy, humanity was handicapped by a sale which carried burning brands over the heads of the workers and beyond the reach of the hundreds of streams of water poured into the raging furnaces. But for the work of volunteers in seeking

out and extinguishing these embers. It is certain the burned area would have been twice larger than it is. About seventy-five squares are in ashes, extending from Lexington street on the north to Pratt street on the south; from Liberty street on the west to Jones' Falls in the east.

The city was early placed under martial law and thus all danger of looting in the doomed district was eliminated. Word was received that General Corbin would be here today to take command of the federal troops. The presence of two regiments of militia, as an adjunct to the police, resulted in the maintenance of order. No Further Danger.

The cheering news that the conflagration had been checked spread rapidly over the city and the great crowds that all day had surged against the fire-drawn line began to turn homeward. Unless the wind, which blows hotly from the north-west, should change it is believed that there is no further danger. But the firemen are taking no chances. All over the burned district they are fighting the fierce flames that still rise in large piles of ruins. These fires are no menace, however, for they have nothing to feed on outside their present limits. During the afternoon the wall of flame ate its way in a southerly and westerly direction toward the water. Sporadic fires sprang into existence and caused the withdrawal of apparatus and men from the line of battle. Buildings, old and new, large and small, stores, shops, every imaginable class of business, vanished as the fire swept onward. As the day wore on the forefront of the fire neared Jones' Falls, a small stream that divides Baltimore from that portion of the city known as East Baltimore. This little stream was the last stand. If the fire could cross and gain a foothold, its extent could not be foretold.

Dynamite Is Used.
Tremendous efforts were made to block it. Dynamite was used freely. The fire apparatus was centered and all the skill of the fire fighters called into play to check the element that had eaten millions of dollars' worth of property. Human skill and grit and untiring courage won. The fire was checked. But behind it lay a great gutted waste of more than 140 acres in extent. Every street that led to the fire area was crowded with awe-stricken spectators. Down the narrow gulch sheets of smoke hung, quit now and then by a red glare of flame. The crash of falling buildings was lost in the roar of exploding dynamite as it was used to demolish structures as yet untouched by fire.

City Under Military Control.
The city was under the strictest of military control. All around the burned area was stretched a cordon of soldiers, who held up all comers at the point of the bayonet. Police brought from neighboring cities patrolled the district and on every street

near the limits of the fire area paced armed sentinels. In the early hours the army of fire fighters operated against overwhelming odds and when dawn broke the flames were raging fiercely along the wharves and focused about the great power house of the United Railways company. Then the flames ate their way with undiminished force southwestward, following the lines of Jones' Falls, and were finally choked near the water's edge at West Falls avenue. There the flames continued through the night, but only in spots and with diminishing fierceness.

Scene of Devastation.
The burned area is a scene of complete devastation. Numberless buildings that were the pride of Baltimore were gutted and only smoldering debris and remnants of walls remain. The American building, one of the finest, is in ruins. Across South street, where stood the Baltimore Sun building, only the pillars that marked the front remain. Entire blocks just below there are wiped out, without, in some cases, a wall left standing. From Fayette street down Holliday street as far as German street, there is no building left, save the Corn and Flour exchange. That building, whose walls tower above the crumbling debris of what were adjoining structures, was gutted and the standing walls formed a cauldron, the flames of which burst at times through the windows, but could cause no further damage. Like a grim tower in the ruins stands the walls of the fifteen-story Continental Trust company's building. The walls of the Baltimore and Ohio building are still standing, but the Pennsylvania railway building is razed. Only the walls remain of the once stately Equitable building. Only remnants of one wall are left of what was the National hotel, at Holliday and Fayette streets. No buildings are left standing as far as the eye can see down Baltimore street from this point. All along South Gay street there is the same picture of complete destruction. A broken sign and a front wall, tottering, show where the W. C. T. U. building once stood. Adjoining this was the British consulate, whose building is a complete loss. The building used by the German consulate on this square is also in ruins. The costly United States customs house, in course of construction, is ruined.

Westward along Pratt street is only debris, from which flames leap and play. All the buildings at Dusan's wharf were destroyed.

Business Block in Texas Burns.
Houston, Tex., Feb. 9.—Fire destroyed an entire block of buildings, including two heavy stables and several residences. A number of horses were burned to death. Some of the residences accommodated roomers and there are some people unaccounted for. The loss is \$150,000.

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JAPANESE TROOPS LANDING IN KOREA

Sixty Transports Debarking Men at Several Ports—Seoul, the Capitol Will Soon be Occupied.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—The following is the text of the statement issued by the Japanese government setting forth its position: "It being indispensable to the welfare and safety of Japan to maintain the independence and territorial integrity of Korea and to safeguard here paramount interests therein, the Japanese government finds it impossible to view with indifference the endangering of its position of Korea, whereas Russia notwithstanding her solemn treaty with China and her repeated assurances to the powers, not only continues her occupation of Manchuria, but has taken aggressive measures in Korean territory. Should Manchuria be annexed to Russia the independence of Korea would naturally be impossible. The Japanese government, therefore, being desirous of securing permanent peace for eastern Asia by means of direct negotiations with Russia with the view of arriving at a friendly adjustment of their mutual interests, in both Manchuria and Korea, where their interests meet, communicated toward the end of July last such desire to the Russian gov-

ernment and invited its adherence. To this the Russian government expressed a willing assent.

"It was the intention of the Japanese government originally that a conference should take place between the representatives at St. Petersburg and the Russian authorities so as to facilitate progress as much as possible in reaching a solution of the trouble, but the Russian government absolutely refused to do so on the ground that the czar planned a trip abroad and for other reasons it was unavoidably decided to conduct the negotiations at Tokio. It was not until the 3d of October that the Russian government presented counter propositions and in them she declined to engage in respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and stipulated the maintenance of the principle of equal opportunity for commerce for all nations in China, and required that China declare Manchuria and its littoral as being entirely outside of her sphere and interest. She further put several restrictions upon Japan's freedom of action in Korea

The Japanese government, who failed to see why Russia would possess no intention of absorbing Manchuria, should be disinclined to insert in the convention a clause in complete harmony with her own repeatedly declared principle respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China. The last reply of Russia was received at Tokio on the 6th of January. In this reply it is true Russia proposed to agree to insert the clause in the proposed agreement:

"The recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as outside her sphere and interest whilst Russia within the limits of that territory would not invade Japan or other powers in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under existing treaties with China, exclusive of the establishment of settlement, but this was proposed to be agreed upon only upon conditions maintaining the clause that 'in a neutral zone in Korean territory and the non-employment of Korean territory for strategic purposes, the conditions whereof were impossible of Japan's acceptance.'

"The Japanese government, having exhausted in vain every means of conciliation, with the view of removing from the relations of the two countries every cause for future complications, and finding that its proposals made in the interests of permanent peace in the far east will not receive from Russia the consideration which is its due, has resolved to sever its diplomatic relations with the Russian government, which for the reason named, has ceased to possess value."

ARMIES TAKE THE FIELD.
Japan and Russia Said to Be Hurrying Troops to Korea.
London, Feb. 9.—The Che Foo cor-

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respondent of the Daily Mail cables that sixty Japanese transports are landing troops at various ports in Korea, from Masampo and Fusan on the south of Kusan, Mokpo and Chemulpo on the west. Seoul is being occupied and the landing is being covered by a torpedo division. The main body of the Japanese fleet, the correspondent concludes, will sail in the direction of Port Arthur. It is assumed that the Russian fleet will fight. The Russians long ago decided on war and their delay was due to lack of preparation and uncertainty whether certain powers would intervene or not.

In a dispatch from Nagasaki which was delayed by the censor, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph asserts that Russia deliberately precipitated the crisis by secretly dispatching a few days ago from Port Arthur transports loaded with a full division of troops and escorted by a fleet and landing them near the Yalu river, thus occupying northern Korea.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily Mail says that France has agreed, with other powers, to land troops in China directly hostilities begin, in order to insure a neutrality of the middle kingdom.

In a dispatch from Tokio, a correspondent of the Daily Mail says the Jiji Shimbun has received a telegram from Fusan, Korea, declaring that the firing of guns was heard to the east of Koge island, about twenty-five miles south of Fusan, at 8 o'clock Sunday morning.

A dispatch from Tien Tsin says a Russian force is said to be collecting at Palkan, 110 miles northwest of Peking and near the great wall, and that

preparations are making for the escape of the Chinese court and the removal of the Imperial capital, as it is feared Russia will descend on Peking.

Uncle Sam to Watch Battles.
Washington, Feb. 9.—Tentative orders had been prepared sending the cruiser squadron of the Asiatic fleet northward from Subig bay to the vicinity of Port Arthur to observe the Japanese-Russian naval operations and to be at hand to protect American interests wherever they may be menaced in the war stricken district. The orders will be submitted to the president for final revision, but will not be sent unless they are agreeable to Russia and Japan, who will be sounded in advance on this side.

The state department is pushing preparation for the early dispatch to their posts in Manchuria of United States Consuls, Cleishire, Davidson and Morgan, who are to be posted respectively at Mukden, Anung and Dainy. This is regardless of the impending outbreak of war, and it is said there is no reason to apprehend that actual hostilities would be allowed to prevent a consul of a friendly nation from going to his post.

District Attorney Nollies Cases.
Georgetown, Colo., Feb. 9.—District Attorney Thurman nollies the case of eighty business men of Idaho Springs, charged with running union miners out of that town last summer, and the court, having no option in the matter, was forced to discharge the prisoners, which it did against the earnest protests of Special Prosecutors Carney and Richardson.

TORNADO IN ARKANSAS

Three Persons Killed and Much Property Damaged.

TOWN OF UNION IS WIPED OUT.

Only One Building Is Left Standing.

Two Churches, Residences and Masonic Temple Among the Buildings Destroyed by Windstorm.

Mammoth Springs, Ark., Feb. 9.—News has been received here of a tornado in the southern part of this county (Fulton). At Union, thirty miles southwest of here, three persons were killed.

The dead: Rev. Soden, Baptist minister; Miss Clinton, and a child, name not known.

At Union the dwellings of Samuel W. Cochran, William Gilstrap and a number of smaller residences, also the store of S. W. Cochran, together with the contents, two churches, the Masonic hall and Carnes' blacksmith shop, were blown down. The only building left in the little town was Dr. Barnes' store, and it was blown from its foundation. The path of the tornado was about 300 yards wide.

Blydenburgh Sentenced.
Eldora, Ia., Feb. 9.—Eben S. Blydenburgh was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his third wife. The trial was sensational, lasting seventeen days.

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