The Democrat.

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SUMMARY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS.

Sunday.

Ruth Wheeler, the missing girl who was found partly incinerated on the fire escape of a New York tenement house, was burned alive.

A report reached Manila that eight men had been killed or wounded by the explosion of a gun on the United States cruiser Charleston.

A Wisconsin legislative committee decided on the adoption of the German scale in proposing legislation for compensation for industrial accidents.

Monday.

Several hundred persons were burned to deat at a dance in Hungary.

Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court died suddenly following stroke of apoplexy.

Bessie Mitchell, of Chicago, was murdered at Lorain, O., with her sister, by a man who committed suicide.

Theodore Roosevelt defied popular sentiment among Egyptians by telling a University of Cairo audience that their country is not prepared for nationalism.

Tuesday.

The entire west was swept by storms which in some places amounted to blizzards.

Howling mobs of fanatical students hooted Col. Roosevelt, and the Cairo police dispersed them.

Alexander Agassiz, noted scientist and head of the Calumet-Hecla Mining Company, died at sea.

James J. Hill is said to have outwitted the Harriman interests in Oregon and will spend $30,000,000 to complete another transcontinental line.

New York State Senator Allds was branded a bribe-taker by his colleagues and resigned his seat. Governor Hughes urged thorough "cleaning out."

Wednesday.

Menelik II., king of Abyssinia, was reported dead.

Tariff experts say the United States gave too much to Canada.

A New York grand jury indicted young Albert Wolter as a murderer.

Admiral Fournier of the French navy sees peril of war between United States and Japan.

Mayor Gaynor expected the new liquor law enforcement order to give New York "dry" Sundays.

A Salt Lake City man offered to establish a New York-London airship mail line for the government.

The governors of the New York Stock Exchange, in answer to critics, announced a drastic set of new rules.

Canada and the United States reached a complete tariff agreement and plans are now on foot looking even to closer relations in the form of reciprocity.

Thursday.

Ex-Vice President Fairbanks was given a welcome home after his trip around the world.

Twenty persons were hurt in the wrecking of a funeral train in the Illinois Central yards in Chicago.

The Arkansas Land Congress began a movement to bring 100,000 new settlers into that state during the year.

Theodore Roosevelt was given an audience with the khedive in Cairo and spent the day in the Egyptian capital.

After a hard fight in the Senate the appropriation for $1,800 yearly for a masseur in the new office building was defeated.

Grave fears are entertained as to the results of the violent eruption of Etna, which belches a stream of lava 1,500 feet wide.

Friday.

Mount Etna was thundering from fifteen craters.

The widow of the late President Faure of France is crazed by the Steinhill scandal.

Twelve persons perished in the burning of the furniture factory of L. Fish & Co. is Chicago.

Lieut. Shackleton said a shortage in food was all that prevented him from reaching the south pole.

A commission urged the United States to protect Liberia from the perils of a European nation.

The question of a wet or dry Chicago cannot be voted upon April 5, the election board declaring the petition invalidated by irregular and fictitious signatures.

Saturday.

George W. Coleman, the Cambridge (Mass.) bank embezzler, said he lost $180,000 at faro.

The American-Canadian water ways treaty wil make Lake Michigan free to vessels of both countries.

The worst at Etna seemed over; indications were that the disturbance would not last much longer.

Peace terms have been agreed upon between the United States and Canada and there will be no tariff war.

The confession of Stewart, one of Pitsburg's "Big Five," it is said, will lead to indictments "higher up."

Attorney-General Wickersham was accused of aiding the sugar trust to violate the law and seize lands in the Philippines.

Supervisor Kelleter, of the Black Hills national forest, has been notified that 6,000 pounds of pine seed has reached New York on its way to the Black Hills, where it will be used in this forest for reseeding purposes. The Austrian black pine seed has been tried here and found adapted to this section.

One man was shot near Youngstown, Ohio, when a mob of infuriated strikers from a local powder plant surrounded the home of George Hayre, who had refused to join them, and attempted to storm the house. Hayre opened fire.

Six towns were represented at a recent meeting of the Central Racing circuit of North Dakota. The meeting was held at Valley City and dates were set for the coming season.

At the Lackey horse sales at Cambridge City, Ind., Lady Keith, owned by the Commons Stock Farm, Centerville, Ind., was sold to J. Blackman, of Montana, for $760.

V. L. Shuler has been offered $8,500 for Telemachus. This trotter is considered one of the most promising in the country. Telemachus now has a record of 2:11¾.

MINERS' FIGHT IN COAL FIELD.

Illinois and Pennsylvania to Be Tied Up Completely, Says Lewis.

Although as a result of the plan adopted by the coal miners' international convention the other day there will be no country-wide strike of the bituminous miners, President T. L. Lewis of the miners' union declared in Cincinnati that "Pennsylvania and Illinois will be completely tied up." The miners in the two districts number 190,000. This means a fight in the largest two bituminous fields in the United States. Pennsylvania's annual production is 150,000,000 tons and Illinois' 50,000,000. Ohio's production is 35,000,000 tons, giving employment to 60,000 miners.

"I believe the majority of the Ohio men will be at work after April 1," President Lewis said. "Ohio is one of the States in which the operators can sign by districts, or even subdistricts, and I believe one of the earliest to sign will be the Big Hocking district." In Pennsylvania the entire bituminous production is in the Pittsburg district and the miners affected number 120,000.

Mr. Lewis said a strike in the Canadian mines would be delayed, even in the event of an immediate disagreement, because of the Canadian law, which compels the miners to give thirty days' notice of an intention to strike.

MENELIK DEAD; BOY MADE KING

Abyssinian Ruler Reported as Having Passed Away.

Menelik II., King of Abyssinia, is dead at the age of 66 years and in the twenty-first year of his reign. Prince Lidj Jeassu, grandson of the late monarch, is heir to the throne. The King was stricken with apoplexy last fall and never recovered. For many weeks his death had been expected. When he was able no longer to carry the affairs of state Ras Tesame, the regent, with the approval of the principal chiefs, took the reins of government. At the same time Empress Taitou was deprived of all power of interference and her appointments of favorites were annulled. Prince Lidj Jeassu was proclaimed heir to the throne May 18. He is 14 years old and little less than a year ago married the granddaughter, 7 years old, of the late Emperor John and a niece of Empress Taitou.

BOY CZAREVITCH RUNS AWAY.

Heir to Russian Throne Found Three Miles from Palace.

The Czarevitch, a bright, sturdy boy not quite 6 years old, ran away from home. The small heir to the throne of all the Russias was lured by the sea. He had determined to become a sailor. Young Alexis disappeared from Tsarkoe-Selo, where the imperial court is. The palace and park were searched thoroughly, but no trace of him was found. Then there was great consternation. The Czar was in despair; the Czarina, from whom the news could not be kept, was distracted. Everybody feared that Nihilists had kidnaped the imperial youngster. After several hours of frightful suspense the soldiers who had been dispatched to scour the country brought back the Czarevitch, accompanied by a woman who had met the child walking along a road two or three miles from the palace. The Empress gave a beautiful bracelet to the woman who brought him back.

FORMER OHIO OFFICER GUILTY.

Mark Slater Convicted of Certifying False Voucher While Surveyor.

Mark Slater, supervisor of public printing of Ohio from 1901 to 1906, was found guilty in Columbus, Ohio, of certifying as correct a false voucher for $5,501. He is liable to a penitentiary sentence of from one to ten years. There are twelve other indictments against him. Slater's total thefts are alleged to have amounted to $40,000. Two others facing indictments are D. W. Dinsmore, under arrest in Chicago, and Charles Whealen, a Dayton manufacturer.

Says Water Power Sites.

In aid of proposed legislation affecting the disposal of waterpower sites on the public domain, the Secretary of the Interior has withdrawn 22,406 acres of land in Washington, California, Colorado and Idaho. The withdrawals are along the Columbia, Susan and Boise rivers, Grape creek and Williams fork.

Family Loses Two in Fire.

Two children were burned to death in the residence of George Rowe in Washington, Pa., and the mother and three other children are suffering from shock and smoke inhalation. Katherine and Sarah Rowe are dead, and the injured include Mrs. Rowe and three other children, Jennie, Louise and Marion.

2,000 Rubber Workers Laid Off.

The United States Rubber Company's Alice shoe mill in Woonsocket, R. I., and its rubber boot mill at Millville, Mass., were shut down until April 11. The two plants have 2,000 employes.

Band of Gypsies Drowned.

A caravan of fifty gypsies broke through the ice on Cheremenetzki lake, near Luga, Russia. Of the men, women and children all but a few were drowned.

Boy Shot by Pseudo Cowboy.

Emulating Buffalo Bill and his confreres, in playing cowboys, Roy Koegele, 13 years old, was shot and seriously wounded by John Gerlicky, 14 years old, in Cleveland.

Frees 500,000 Acres Land.

More land has been designated under the enlarged homestead act by the Secretary of the Interior. In Wyoming 363,880 acres, not susceptible of irrigation at a reasonable cost, were placed under the terms of that act. In Montana 155,040 additional acres will be disposed of as enlarged homesteads.

Two Killed in Train Wreck.

John T. Ebzery, brakeman, and W. E. Hare, fireman, were killed when two Burlington freight trains collided east of Sheridan, Wyo.

Tube Mill Workers Burn to Death.

Two tube mill workers, named Tracy and Blaine, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed three boarding-houses in Broad street, East Youngstown, Ohio. The men were asleep and were not missed until their charred bodies were found in the ruins.

Prairie Fire Burns a Girl.

While playing in the yard of her home at Banner City, Kan., the 6-year-old daughter of Jacob Fredley was caught by a prairie fire and burned to death.

RAIN OF AETNA LAVA BURIES SICILY HOMES

Four New Craters Disgorge Fiery Streams, but Crisis Is Believed Past.

PEASANTS FLEE FROM HOMES

Vineyards and Fields for Miles Around Devastated by Eruption and Accompanying Quake.

An official report upon volcanic disturbances in the Mount Etna district confirms reports that the situation is grave, but holds out the hope that the worst is over. The craters that properly may be described as new appear to be only four in number. These have opened at the foot of Mount Castellazzo, four miles in the air line from the summit of Mount Etna. The four streams emitted from these craters have united at the foot of Mount Castellazzo and formed a great river of lava that is bringing death and desolation into the invaded districts. Plants, trees, whole vineyards and orchards have been destroyed by the consuming flood. The lava river has extended nearly fifteen miles from its source.

In the path of the advancing flood the people are in great terror and thousands abandoned their homes. The roaring of Mount Etna continues without interruption and a rain of cinders fell for miles around. Several houses of peasants already have been destroyed and it is feared that if the flow does not cease soon the flood will enter Borrelo. Caravans of peasants carrying all their household goods and all of their transportable possessions are moving to places of safety. In their distress they present a pathetic sight. At many homes the molten mass has entered the cisterns and caused destructive explosions.

SENATOR ALLDS FOUND GUILTY

Verdict on Bribery Is 40 to 9—Move to Probe Grafting.

After seven weary weeks of investigation the New York Senate has convicted Senator Jotham P. Allds, of Norwich, of accepting a bribe of $1,000 to influence bridge legislation. The vote against him was overwhelming—40 to 9. By the unexpected move of sending in his resignation Allds relieved the Senate of the painful duty of expelling him. The resignation was sent on the advice of his attorneys, who were convinced that he had lost and who desired to put the blame on political interference with the Senatorial jury from Washington and elsewhere.

There is every indication that Senator Benn Conger, who accused Allds in an effort to defeat him as majority leader, will be expelled within a month unless he resigns in the meantime. A resolution for a committee to prepare charges of bribe-giving against him was offered. Nor will this end the matter. The proposition for a general investigation of all sorts of bribery charges will undoubtedly be presented and can hardly fail of passage.

Ex-Senator Allds declared that he would seek vindication from the Senate verdict and $100,000 damages from Senator Conger in the civil courts.

DRAG HOUSES TO HILLS.

Residents Take Flight When the Missouri River Leaves Bed.

The Missouri river has taken a notion to overwhelm the little town of Barney, Neb., and practically the entire town is on the move, the property owners getting their houses back to the hills as fast as possible.

A month ago Barney was two miles from the river. To-day the stream is right in the town. When the high waters came with the breaking up of the ice in February the current of the Missouri was thrown against the farms between Barney and the river. Those farms have been cut away entirely, and the other day the citizens began moving their houses.

An eighty-foot steel bridge over a tributary of the river was taken down piecemeal and hauled to the hills. Now the river is flowing where yesterday was the bridge. The schoolhouse was moved, as was the big grain elevator and a number of houses. Two miles of Burlington railroad track was washed away. A new town will be built on the hill beyond the reach of the Missouri.

"DRY" PETITIONS THROWN OUT.

Chicago Will Not Vote Upon Local Option Question This Spring.

Chicago will not vote upon the question of discontinuing the licensed saloon and substituting prohibition at the aldermanic election this spring. The Board of Election Commissioners threw out the monster petition of the Anti-Saloon League calling for the submission of the question to the electorate. The commission held the "drys" to be short 19,233 of the 63,511 names necessary to give the petition a legal status, declaring that out of the 74,026 names appearing on the petition 26,128 were not those of registered legal voters and 3,620 were "doubtful." The commissioners did not go into the question of some 2,200 obviously fictitious names, 1,200 duplications and 6,700 forgeries charged by the "wets" who filed objection to the petition.

SOCIAL WORKER DISAPPEARS.

Captain of Volunteers of America and $1,250 Missing Same Day.

Fearing that Captain Timothy Murphy, head of the Volunteers of America in St. Paul, has met with death or accident, the police are searching for him. Captain Murphy had been working hard to raise funds for a working girls' home and by means of a "tag day" collection on March 17 had collected about $1,250, which had been deposited to his credit in a local bank.

Standard Oil Agent Killed.

Joseph L. Roe, agent for the Standard Oil Company in Chanute, Kan., was killed by an unknown person, who crushed his skull with a heavy club. The body was found near his office. There is no clew.

Rushing Cattle to Pastures.

Railroads operating out of San Antonio have orders for 4,200 cars between now and April 10 to handle the greatest rush of cattle ever known from that section to Oklahoma pastures.

SCENE OF THE GREAT ITALIAN DISASTER OF 1906.

MOUNT VESUVIUS IN ERUPTION.

JUSTICE BREWER DROPS DEAD.

Heart Disease Brings Sudden End to Long and Useful Career.

David Josiah Brewer, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, dropped dead in the bathroom of his home, 1923 16th street, Washington, a few minutes after 11 o'clock the other night. Heart disease is believed to have been the cause of death.

Justice Brewer apparently had been in the best of health. He was seventy-three years old and had been a member of the Supreme Court since December, 1889. He was born in Smyrna, Asia Minor, where his parents were residing as missionaries. He was a graduate of Yale College. He was appointed to the Supreme bench from Kansas.

It is within the range of possibilities that the death of Justice Brewer will have far-reaching effects on important cases now pending before the Supreme Court. Justice Brewer was one of the progressive members of the court and inclined to a liberal construction of the laws. He sat in both the tobacco and Standard Oil cases, both of which are on the eve of being decided. It has been the general expectation that the vote of the court in both the tobacco and Standard Oil cases would be close. With Justice Brewer now dead there is a lively possibility that conditions may be reversed one way or the other over the decisions as they would have been rendered had Justice Brewer lived.

KENTUCKY-INDIANA LINE OPEN.

Ride from Louisville to South Bend, 296 Miles, Is at High Speed.

The first through electric car from Louisville, Ky., to South Bend, arrived there the other evening, marking an important epoch in the history of electric railroads in this part of the country. The distance between the two cities is 296 miles. Chicago and South Bend already are connected by trolley. The route was from Louisville to Indianapolis, Peru, Winona, Warsaw and Goshen. An average speed of thirty miles an hour was made and in some places the schedule was as high as sixty miles an hour.

POLITICS and POLITICIANS

Another radical move on the part of the suffrage advocates which is receiving much attention in the eastern part of the country is an organization of college women at Wellesley, Smith, Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Radcliffe and other colleges for women, the members of which promise not to get married until she shall have won over to the cause at least 500 men.

"I have nothing to conceal in connection with my activities in behalf of legislation providing for the payment of subsidies for the upbuilding of the American merchant marine," said James T. McCleary of Minnesota, in commenting upon the report that the committee on the judiciary might subpoena him as a witness in an effort to uphold the charge that unusual methods were followed in an effort to press this legislation through Congress.

Some of the aggressive women of Chicago have now formed an organization the slogan of which is "No vote, no tax," and when certain women property owners appeared in line at the city collector's office the other day members of this new league picketed the line and prevailed upon the women to go home and leave their taxes unpaid. The pickets distributed cards containing the following sentiment: "If you can't be persons and citizens at voting time, don't be persons and citizens at taxpaying time."

Gilbert M. Hitchcock, editor of the Omaha World-Herald, announced that William J. Bryan had given his word that he would keep out of the next race for a Nebraska seat in the United States Senate. Hitchcock, who has been three terms a member of Congress, will now run for the Senate.

That definite plans are now being made for a battle to prevent the renomination of Senator Robert M. La Follette, was shown when William D. Connor, former State chairman, who managed Senator La Follette's first successful campaign, made a statement declaring he might manage the campaign against Senator La Follette.

The action of the Canadian government in giving to France a reduction in duties of 2½ per cent, which action is automatically extended to twelve other nations under the "most favored nation" rule, has brought the United States squarely up against the prospect of a trade war with our neighbor to the north. Special Commissioners Pepper and Emery recently went over the whole subject with the officials at Ottawa, but the latter believing that the American tariff was unduly severe on Canadian trade, would make no concessions. President Taft has been giving much attention to this question.

GUN BURSTS ON U. S. CRUISER.

Eight Men Reported Victims of Accident on Charleston.

An unofficial report has been received at Manila that a great gun aboard the United States protected cruiser Charleston exploded while the crew was engaged at target practice near Olongapo. It is said that eight men were killed or wounded in the accident. The cruiser now is on its way to Manila, supposedly for the purpose of bringing the victims of the disaster to the marine hospital in Manila. No details of the accident have been reported to the officials, so far as can be learned, and it is expected that none will be given out until the vessel comes to port. The Charleston is the flagship of Rear Admiral John Hubbard, commander in chief of the Asiatic fleet. The commanding officer of the vessel is Commander John H. Gibbons.

$1,000,000 FOR RIVER TRAFFIC.

Kansas City Raises Fund for Boats to St. Louis on Missouri.

Kansas City's million-dollar fund, raised by public subscription to maintain a line of freight boats on the Missouri River between there and St. Louis, became a reality the other afternoon. The use of this stream as a highway for transporting its freight lower than that charged by the railways has been agitated by Kansas City merchants for two years. When the full amount was secured, with nearly a week to go, a big demonstration was held at the boat line headquarters. A message was telegraphed to United States Senator Burton of the National Rivers and Harbors Committee reminding him of his promise to Kansas City made in December, 1906, of a government appropriation for the Missouri River if Kansas City would use the river.

SLAIN AFTER KILLING TWO.

Drink-Crazed Passenger Is Trapped by Wilmington, Del., Police.

Barricaded in the toilet room of a Pullman parlor car, in which he had taken refuge after killing a porter and a conductor, J. H. Bethea, a drink-crazed murderer from South Carolina, held the entire police force of Wilmington, Del., at bay for an hour and twenty minutes. He also tied up traffic on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for more than an hour. He fired more than 100 shots from an automatic revolver at the besieging force, and wounded two men. Finally the fire department was called and drove him from his retreat with a three-inch stream of water through the window. Half drowned, he staggered on to the railroad station platform and was shot to death as he fired repeatedly toward the police.

TOTAL COTTON SUPPLY SHOWN.

Census Bureau Places Six Months' Figure at 11,552,361.

The census report shows the total supply of cotton for the six months ending Feb. 28 to have been 11,552,361 running bales. The distribution is 2,526,983 bales consumed, 4,599,682 exported, 1,674,331 held in mills, 1,932,521 held in independent warehouses, and other stocks 818,844. The number of bales held on Sept. 1, 1909, was 1,483,585; ginned during the six months' period, 9,974,998; net imports, 93,778.

Lover Dynamites Girl's Home.

After dynamiting the home at Northport, Wash., of a girl named Jellison, with whom he was infatuated, and killing the town marshal, who sought to arrest him, Martin Kloose ended his own life with a bullet when brought to bay by a crowd of townspeople, he abandoning hope of escaping.

Fire Makes 2,000 Homeless.

With practically every home in the prosperous mountain village of Mount Hope, W. Va., wiped from the earth by a fire which swept that place the other day, at least two thousand persons rendered homeless were compelled to sleep in the commons.

Finder of Big Trees Dead.

Galen Clarke, the discoverer of the Mariposa grove of big trees, and for twenty years guardian of Yosemite Valley, died at the home of his daughter, Dr. Elvira Lee, in Oakland, Cal.

Alexander Agassiz Is Dead at Sea.

Alexander Agassiz, eminent naturalist and president of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, died the other day on the steamer Adriatic, bound from Southampton to New York.

At 57 Father of 34.

The birth of a healthy baby boy in Dedham, Mass., has made Joseph Sears, 57 years old, the father of thirty-four children. He has been twice married, his first wife giving birth to eighteen children and the present Mrs. Sears to sixteen.

GIRL IS BURNED ALIVE.

Ruth Wheeler Not Dead When Put in Fireplace, Says Physician.

That Ruth Amos Wheeler, the 16-year-old stenographer who went seeking employment the other day, and whose charred body was found on a fire escape at 224 East 75th street, New York, was burned to death by the slayer, was the statement made by Dr. O'Hanlon, coroner's physician. This assertion came after an autopsy had been made. Dr. O'Hanlon found the lungs congested and a deep mark on the right side of the neck, evidently made by a rope when the murderer sought to strangle his victim. Dr. O'Hanlon said: "Over the right nostril and on part of the face I found the remnant of a square of linen. I believe the girl was smothered, and while still alive but unconscious was put into the fireplace and the body incinerated."

Katchen Muller, or Kate Miller, as she was better known, who was regarded as the wife of Walter Wolters, who is now in the Tombs charged with the murder of the Wheeler girl, was taken into custody. She denied all knowledge of the murder, and the police declared they were inclined to believe her story. Captain Carey spent most of the night with Wolters in his cell, but could not get him to admit any knowledge of the crime.

FIX UP TARIFF TROUBLES.

Taft and Canada's Representatives to Announce Terms at Once.

There is to be no tariff war with Canada. Peace terms have been agreed upon, and the promulgation thereof will be made simultaneously from Ottawa and Washington, the day before the maximum tariff of the United States would go into effect automatically against Canada in the event of no proclamation to the contrary by President Taft.

Details regarding the successful termination of the negotiations between the United States and Canadian officials are being carefully guarded, but it is known that Canada grants its intermediate rates on a small list of articles that do not seriously come into competition with Canadian manufacture. Full details are known as yet only to President Taft and Secretary Knox on this side of the line and to Minister of Finance W. S. Fielding and Minister of Railways George P. Graham and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Dominion premier, on the other.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Dr. Edward Meyer, professor of ancient history at the University of Berlin and one of the greatest living historians, is giving a series of lectures before the students of the University of Wisconsin.

A lively discussion is in progress in Japan in regard to the advisability of adopting the jury system. Even among the members of the legal profession opinion is divided, but if anything the balance appears to be against the innovation.

A German south polar expedition virtually has been arranged by Lieutenant Filchner, of the general staff of the army, under the auspices of the geographical society. Lieutenant Filchner announced that the expedition would start in October of this year, if the necessary funds were forthcoming.

The announcement that there will be no Home Rule bill presented to the present session of Parliament, while not unexpected, caused regret in Ireland, and it is recognized now that it may mean another election before Ireland will be given the right to govern herself.

The great German firm that is known to everyone as "Krupps," and which supplies half the civilized world with what it wants in the way of cannon, is buying a large tract of land in Holland, with the object of erecting new works there, and also have made investigations in America with a view to establishing a plant.

The naval program of Russia has been finally completed, sanctioned by the Czar and presented to the commission of defense. The plan calls for the expenditure of $500,000,000 extending over a period of ten years, and besides battleships and cruisers there will be built fifty destroyers and fifty transports. Most of the ships, it is announced, will be constructed in Russia, but it is probable that a few of them will be built in France, England and America.

Vesuvius has suddenly become active again. Several fissures have opened from which gas and lava are flowing in great quantities.

TWELVE PERSONS DIE IN BAD CHICAGO FIRE

Flames in Fish & Co.'s Building Surround Victims and Hinder the Firemen.

YOUNG WOMAN LEAPS TO DEATH

Heroism of Men in Attempting to Save Girls Trapped on Top Floor in Vain.

The lives of twelve men and women were lost in a fire in the L. Fish & Co. furniture store, Chicago. Eleven of them were burned to death on the sixth floor of the building. They had been trapped on the top floor, nearly 100 feet from the ground, with no possible chance of escape, and the flames roaring so furiously about them that the firemen could not raise ladders to go to their rescue. The twelfth victim, a girl 19 years of age, jumped to escape the flames, but was so badly injured when she struck a glass awning that she died. Miner W. Bell, one of the department managers of the company, and H. M. Mitchell, auditor of the firm, and a brother-in-law of Isaac Fish, were burned to death. They gave their lives to save the girls who were trapped by the names.

The fire is said to have started from an explosion of an alcohol cigar lighter which was being filled on the 4th floor of the building. With the exception of that on the intake water tunnel it was the most disastrous since the Iroquois theater horror. It swept upward through the structure with such rapidity that the men and women in the general offices on the sixth floor had little chance of escape. There is no fire escape on the front of the building. It was a fire of horror and thrills, marked by tragic death and wonderful escapes. There were forty or fifty employes in the building when the report of the explosion was heard. The furniture fed the hungry flames and in an incredibly short time the scorching tongues had burned their way through the fifth floor. Soon this section was an inferno like the fourth, and then the fire crept to the sixth, cutting off all escape for the girls and men who were at work in that section. The financial loss is estimated at $250,000. The contents of the building practically were destroyed by fire and water. The bodies were recovered.

GIRL ACCUSED OF POISONING.

Catherine Manz Clings to Story of Strange Man.

Pleading not guilty and waiving preliminary examination, Catherine Manz, the 16-year-old girl who is accused of murdering her sister, by strychnine poisoning, was lodged in jail at Canton, Ohio, to await the action of the grand jury. That body will not convene until May.

The girl has clung to her original story of a mysterious man who gave her two supposed quinine tablets, one of which she claims her sister took accidentally. She gave the man's name as "Murray" and stated he lived in Canton, but the police have been unable to trace him and express the belief that he is a myth.

The girl's father and other relatives, who disowned her in the first shock of the tragedy, have now come to her assistance and engaged attorneys for her defense. A special grand jury may be summoned to consider the case, but this action probably will be forestalled by a lunacy inquiry. The girl's relatives claim that her brain has been affected ever since a fall received in early childhood.

FIRE COSTS 250 LIVES.

Gay Scene Is Turned Suddenly Into One of Horror.

Two hundred and fifty people were killed and many others were injured in the village of Oekorerite, Hungary, when fire broke out in a hotel at which a ball was being held. A coach house connected with the hotel had been fitted up as a ballroom, and at night was crowded with several hundred guests when the fire started. It was noticed first when a woman's dress was seen to be ablaze and a moment later the gowns of several other women were in flames. A panic followed, and in a mad rush to the exits many persons fell and were trodden to death by others. The roof fell before the hall could be cleared and many injured persons and those who because of the crush at the doors had been prevented from escaping were buried with the dead in the ruins.

PLOTTED DEATH OF BALLINGER.

Anarchist Held in Cleveland Says He Planned to Stab Secretary.

Halting en route to Washington, where he declares he intended to stab Interior Secretary Ballinger, William Scheldtknecht was sent to the Cleveland State Hospital for the Insane in Newburg, a suburb. The man, an apparently highly cultured German of 45 years, insisted before Judge Hadden that he was an anarchist, that he saw President McKinley shot in Buffalo and that he had associated with the Paterson, N. J., colony of anarchists and had come to a decision to end the Pinchot-Ballinger struggle by a knife thrust.

Killed in Rubber Plant.

George H. Alling, aged 39, president of a rubber company, was instantly killed at the plant in Barberton, O. While inspecting some electric wiring his clothes caught in a machine and he was crushed to death.

Lilesville, N. C., Swept by Fire.

Lilesville, forty-five miles east of Charlotte, N. C., was nearly wiped from the map by fire. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin. The loss will reach $250,000, with insignificant insurance.

Cowboy Slayer Found Not Guilty.

Bud Stephens, the former cowboy, who shot and killed Dode Mackenzie, son of Murdo Mackenzie, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was found not guilty in Aberdeen, S. D. The plea of self-defense was accepted by the jury.

End St. Louis Painters' Strike.

The strike of 1,200 painters in St. Louis was settled by the master painters granting an increase in wages of 2 1-2 cents an hour until January, 1911. A raise of 5 cents an hour was given for the following two years.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Chicago Trade says:

"Easter trade in the principal branches of distribution equals sanguine expectations. A high volume of payments through the banks is sustained and the trading defaults furnish a favorable comparison with previous years. Buying in the leading retail lines rose to new high proportions during the week, and business generally reflects the quickening derived from the advent of spring and the remarkably fine weather which prevails here and throughout the West.

"New building and heavy construction are vigorously advanced, and there are notable additions to workers employed at the mills and factories. Activity among the industries and in transportation now compares satisfactorily with the best previous times, while the improving position draws strength for the future from the wider range of new demands for finished products.

"Earnings of the Chicago steam roads surpass all former gross records for this season of the year, and threatened difficulties with workers are removed by higher wage concessions.

"Offerings of commercial paper have increased, and the discount rate rose to 4½ per cent for choice names.

"Bank clearings, $280,465,077, exceed those of the corresponding week in 1909 by 12.7 per cent and compare with $222,409,514 in 1908. Failures reported in the Chicago district numbered 24, as against 20 last week, 34 in 1909 and 39 in 1908. Those with liabilities over $5,000 number 10, as against 2 last week, 9 in 1909 and 12 in 1908."

NEW YORK.

The week's developments have been generally favorable. Chief among these have been the advent of warm spring weather, which, coupled with the near approach of Easter, has stimulated retail trade at all markets, allowed of expansion in the building trades, the preparation of the ground in the North for planting, the beginning of seeding of grain and cotton at the South and of oats and vegetables in the middle regions of the country. The industrial situation, too, has materially improved in the collapse of the sympathetic strike at Philadelphia, the return to work of many thousands of idle hands there, and the submitting of the Western railroad men's demands to arbitration.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending March 24 were 231, as against 208 last week, 226 in the like week of 1909, 286 in 1908, 166 in 1907 and 169 in 1906.—Bradstreet's.

MARKETS OF THE WEEK

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, $4.00 to $8.75; hogs, prime heavy, $7.00 to $11.07; sheep, fair to choice, $4.50 to $9.10; wheat, No. 2, $1.17 to $1.20; corn, No. 2, 59c to 60c; oats, standard, 42c to 43; rye, No. 2, 79c to 80c; hay, timothy, $10.00 to $18.50; prairie, $8.00 to $14.50; butter, choice creamery, 28c to 32c; eggs, fresh, 18c to 21c; potatoes, per bushel, 20c to 30c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, $3.00 to $8.00; hogs, good to choice heavy, $7.00 to $11.15; sheep, good to choice, $3.00 to $7.00; wheat, No. 2, $1.17 to $1.19; corn, No. 2 white, 61c to 62c; oats, No. 2 white, 45c to 46c.

St. Louis—Cattle, $4.00 to $8.50; hogs, $7.00 to $11.10; sheep, $3.50 to $8.30; wheat, No. 2, $1.18 to $1.20; corn, No. 2, 61c to 63c; oats, No. 2, 41c to 43c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 81c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, $4.00 to $8.25; hogs, $7.00 to $11.10; sheep, $3.00 to $6.75; wheat, No. 2, $1.18 to $1.20; corn, No. 2 mixed, 60c to 62c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 46c to 47c; rye, No. 2, 84c to 86c.

Detroit—Cattle, $4.00 to $7.00; hogs, $7.00 to $10.85; sheep, $3.50 to $8.00; wheat, No. 2, $1.16 to $1.18; corn, No. 3 yellow, 61c to 63c; oats, standard, 46c to 47c; rye, No. 1, 79c to 80c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, $1.13 to $1.16; corn, No. 3, 61c to 63c; oats, standard, 43c to 44c; rye, No. 1, 78c to 80c; barley, standard, 69c to 70c; pork, mess, $26.50.

Buffalo — Cattle, choice shipping steers, $4.00 to $8.50; hogs, fair to choice, $8.00 to $11.40; sheep, common, to good mixed, $4.00 to $7.40; lambs, fair to choice, $5.00 to $10.25.

New York—Cattle, $4.00 to $8.00; hogs, $8.00 to $11.25; sheep, $4.00 to $8.00; wheat, No. 2 red, $1.24 to $1.25; corn, No. 2, 63c to 64c; oats, natural, white, 49c to 51c; butter, creamery, 30c to 33c; eggs, western, 19c to 22c.

Toledo—Wheat, No 2 mixed, $1.17 to $1.18; corn, No. 2 mixed, 61c to 63c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 44c to 45c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 80c; clover seed, $7.10.

Three thousand men, representing forty labor organizations of Spokane, marched through the downtown streets to the Council chamber to demand that the city raise the wage scale for city labor to $3 a day. The movement was led by D. C. Coates, former lieutenant governor of Colorado, elected on a Socialist ticket.

After spending several hours at Cincinnati in disposing of details incident to the reorganizing of the conference recently broken off at Toledo, the miners and operators of the central competitive field, comprising Ohio, Indiana and Western Pennsylvania, appointed committees which are considering the points in issue between the two factions.

Over seventy exhibits were received by the Winona board of trade from farmers, to be sent to St. Paul and placed on the Winona County table at the Minnesota Conservation and Agricultural Development Congress.

The transfer of $10,800,000 in gold bars from the assay office in New York City to the subtreasury vaults recently attracted a crowd which blocked Wall street. Clerks carried 1,350 bars, worth $8,000 each, from the assay office to a truck on the sidewalk, while policemen guarded them, and then pushed the truck the short distance to the subtreasury and carried the gold bars in.

J. E. Reed, of Eagle Lake, Minn., has a black Minorca hen that laid two eggs, each weighing a quarter of a pound and another weighing one pound, five ounces in three days.