



TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR. NO. 66.

LOS ANGELES, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5, 1898

PRICE FIVE CENTS

STEEL AND IRON SKY SCRAPERS

Do Not Prove Fire-Proof When Put to the Test

NEW YORK'S TWO TALLEST BUILDINGS

Burned Just as Handily as One-Story Cottages, But Did Not Collapse or Fall on the Firemen—Loss One Million Dollars

Associated Press Special Wire

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—In a blinding rain-storm tonight the massive block of buildings on Broadway, numbers 233 to 259, and included between Murray and Warren streets, was almost destroyed by fire. Within three hours more than a million dollars' worth of property was destroyed. The fire began in the five-story brick building occupied by the men's furnishing firm of Rogers, Peet & Co., on the southwest corner of Broadway and Warren streets. Adjoining the Rogers-Peet building and south of it was the magnificent white building of the Home Life Insurance company, and next to this was the brown stone building of the Postal Telegraph company, erected at a cost of millions only a few years ago.

IT WAS PICTURESQUE

Within a few minutes after the discovery of the fire the Rogers-Peet building was a roaring furnace, and an alarm had been turned in which brought out more than a score of engines. It was but a short time when the flames had eaten through the wall of the Home Life and were roaring high above that lofty structure. Thousands of people had gathered on the scene and the blinding glare of the flames lit up the lower part of the city. Even in the downpour the great crowds of people grew and the police were called out from many stations and kept the people back for blocks. Great showers of sparks were carried in all directions by the gale that blew five miles an hour. It was a picturesque fire.

PRIVATE PAPERS LOST

The Home Life Insurance building was occupied by that company and a large number of prominent men in various lines of business. Every effort was made to save the valuable papers stored in some of the offices, but many of them were lost. The offices of the rapid transit commission were on the ninth floor of this building, and it is believed all the plans and schemes of work with which the commission has been working these many years have been destroyed.

In the Postal building, as well, there were many serious losses of a private nature, and when the flames reached the operating room of this structure, which they did within three hours of the outbreak, the one or two solitary operators who remained at their posts were compelled to flee for their lives, leaving unsent messages at the keys.

The fire burned even more fiercely in the Home Life building, owing to the great height of this structure, and in an incredibly short time the upper halves of this magnificent building were in flames. The water towers in the streets were able to throw their heavy streams only into the lower part of the structure and the firemen, although they worked with great bravery and untiring energy in the blinding smoke and heat, could do little in the face of such a fierce sweep of flame and gale. It was only a question of time when the Postal building, so far as the upper stories were concerned, went the way of the others.

ESTIMATES OF LOSS

The estimate of the losses by Chief Bonner, after midnight, was a million dollars, with a probability of a still further loss should the fire continue to make anything like rapid progress. It was, however, believed he had the fire under control within reasonable limits. At 2 o'clock, however, it was still burning fiercely in front, and although not observable by the thousands of people, was burning still more fiercely and extending lower down in the rear.

An insurance man roughly estimates the losses at about as follows:

Rogers, Peet & Co., building, stock and losses to other tenants, \$350,000.

Home Life Insurance company, building and losses to other tenants, \$500,000.

The Postal Telegraph company, building and losses to tenants, \$100,000.

Losses to surrounding buildings, \$50,000.

Chief Bonner thought that this estimate on the basis of a million dollars' loss was about as near correct as was possible to make.

The Rogers-Peet building was the property of the Hoffman estate, and was one of the historic buildings of Broadway. It was erected 35 years ago.

The fire started from three explosions. What caused the explosions the firemen could not find out. They thought gas had escaped in some manner in the basement, and so resulted in explosion and fire.

The Postal Telegraph company officials say that all their wires have been burned out, and that they have no connections from their building.

The Hardware club's quarters, which were on the top floor of the Postal building, were ruined. Their loss is heavy. The Home Insurance building was one of the handsomest on Broadway, and was supposed to be absolutely fireproof. Its summit was 290 feet above the sidewalk. Leading architects of the country submitted plans for its construction.

WHERE IT STARTED

The fire started in the rear of the basement of the building occupied by Rogers, Peet & Co., clothing, about 9:30 o'clock. Two policemen standing within half a block of Warren street heard a loud explosion and a moment later saw a thin line of smoke curling up from the side of the Rogers, Peet & Co. building. At that time rain was falling in torrents and the wind blew a gale. An alarm was sent in, but before the first engine turned into Broadway the Rogers, Peet & Co. basement was a roaring furnace, with

great flames bursting through the floors above and rushing fiercely to the roof. Within ten minutes five alarms had been sent in, bringing engine after engine to the scene.

By 10 o'clock, so rapidly and fiercely did the flames make progress, that there was nothing but the shell of the Rogers, Peet & Co. building left, with mountains of flame roaring a hundred feet in the air and encircling the adjoining structure, the Home Life Insurance building. In the blinding rain the firemen worked, stretching the black and slippery lines of hose through the building, fighting the flames from every side.

CROSSES THE STREET

Soon a great wave of fire swept across Broadway and caught the United States Life Insurance building at the west corner of Broadway, Nos. 259 and 261. The work on a dozen windows was a fire in a moment and from that time on several streams were played on this building to save it from destruction.

When the Warren street wall of the Rogers, Peet building fell at 10:30 o'clock, a dozen firemen were directly beneath. Several of the men were struck by bricks, but none was more than slightly injured. Acting Chief Perle fell but was dragged to safety by some of his men.

THE THIRD VICTIM

Just before 11 o'clock the Home Life Insurance company's building, sixteen stories high, at 255 and 257 Broadway, caught fire. The firemen already had their lines in this building up to the seventh floor. They were greatly handicapped by the many stories. Flames had eaten their way through the side wall in many places and the huge white structure burned fiercely. The elevators made trips up and down. The men running the cages were compelled to flee for their lives and in this way many of the effects of the offices were saved.

The three top floors were on fire almost simultaneously from the beginning. The smoke was dense. Flames shot high above the roof and over the massive brownstone Postal building, and everybody at work in the structure had been ordered out of this building long before.

Desperate efforts were being made to save it. The interior of the Home Life Insurance building was by this time a furnace. By this time from the windows of the six or eight upper stories the flames were pouring in masses. In the rear nine stories were a fire and the fire department, so far as this portion of the building was concerned, was absolutely powerless.

THE BIG POSTAL BUILDING

At 11:15 the Postal building of fourteen stories, caught fire. Chief Bonner, who had charge of the firemen, took the elevator and went to the roof to give personal directions. At this time there were few operators who had ignored the orders of the fire chief, two or three clerks and a few boys at work in the building, working in smoke, and messages were sent until the flames came and made them run for their lives. The unsent messages were left at the telegraph keys.

Chief Bonner had under his direction all the engines stationed in the fire houses below Twenty-third street. In addition five hook and ladder companies, including water towers, were at the scene. Most of the men worked in the lower parts of the building to save adjoining buildings. Only a few gangs of firemen were left on the top of the Postal building. They fought with all their strength to keep the flames back. But, notwithstanding all their efforts, at 1 o'clock this (Monday) morning three floors of the building had been partially destroyed. The fire was then working its way downward.

UNDER CONTROL

Chief Bonner thought, however, that he had it under control. He did not expect to get much below the stories now burning.

At 2:30 Chief Bonner went home, saying that the fire would burn itself out in a short time and that it could not spread, and was practically out.

ANOTHER BLAZE

Fire early this morning wrecked the end of St. Agnes' Catholic church on Fifty-third street near Third avenue, destroying valuable altars, paintings and a new organ. Loss \$100,000.

White's House Party

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Ex-Prime Minister Frederick of Germany drove from Windsor castle today to Wilton park, near Beaconsfield, where he lunched with Mr. Henry White, United States charge d'affaires, and Mrs. White. Mr. and Mrs. White's house party included in addition to Lord and Lady Curzon and General Lord Kitchener, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord president of the council of ministers; the Duchess of Devonshire, the Earl of Rosebery, Viscount Cranborne, eldest son of the Marquis of Salisbury, and Viscountess Cranborne.

Zelaya's New Cabinet

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec. 4.—President Zelaya's new cabinet, which will take the oath tomorrow, is made up as follows: Minister of foreign affairs, Joaquin Sison; minister of interior, Fernando Abunza; minister of public works, Ruiz Ramirez Mariani; minister of finance, Felix Zelaya.

Means Will Be Found

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Right Hon. James Bryce, Liberal member of parliament for South Aberdeen, in reply to a question of whether in his opinion a new constitution permitted the holding of colonies, said:

"I should think that, notwithstanding the

language used by the United States supreme court in a famous case more than forty years ago, the means can be found whereby the United States can hold the acquired territories without violation of the constitution and without conferring upon them the privileges of states or territories, for which they are obviously unfit."

WING FAIRLY FLEW

And Caught the World's Record for the Quarter

SAN JOSE, Dec. 4.—Today at Ceyler's park Jack E. Wing of the Olympic club wheelmen lowered the one-third mile, one-fourth mile, one-half mile and two-thirds mile coast records and the world's quarter mile record. Floyd McFarland had charge of the pacing, which was done by a tandem and two triplets from the Garden City wheelmen. The coast records were formerly held by George Fuller and the world's quarter mile record by J. S. Johnson. Result and comparison:

| Distance. | Johnson. | Wing. |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| One-third mile | 34 4-5 | 34 |
| Quarter mile | 35 1-2 | 34 |
| One-half mile | 53 4-5 | 52 3-5 |
| Two-thirds mile | 1:12 1-4 | 1:11 3-5 |
| One-fourth mile | 34 2-5 | 34 |

A SHIP ON FIRE

A German Steamer Standing by to Give Aid

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—The German steamer Dalmat, from Rio, which arrived today, when in latitude 37.45, longitude 75.57, came alongside of a ship ablaze from the stern to foremast, while a large yellow funnel German steamship was standing near the flaming wreck. Nobody could be seen on the deck of the burning vessel, nor were there any boats struggling amid the waves, so it is probable that the crew were rescued by the steamer, which was waiting to note the end.

After steaming around the wreck twice the Dalmat proceeded on her way. The steamer by the burning ship was either the Werra or the Fulda, of the North German Lloyd line. Both vessels sailed in company from this port last week bound for Havre.

PICQUART APPEALS

Hoping to Escape Trial by Court Martial

PARIS, Dec. 4.—Colonel Picquart, now in custody and awaiting trial on a charge of having communicated to his counsel documents that had come into his possession in the military department of the secret service, has applied to the court of cassation, now engaged with the Dreyfus affair, to declare whether he is amenable to military or civil jurisdiction. His application is based on previous articles in the code of criminal procedure.

A Six-Day Race

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Thirty-one men started in a six-day bicycle race in Madison Square garden at five minutes after 12 o'clock this (Monday) morning. The starters are all in excellent condition, and the plank track, ten laps to the mile, is in perfect order. The attendance at the start was not large, owing to the stormy weather.

The score at the end of the first hour stood as follows:

Frederick 21.5, Hale 20.9, Stephane 19.4, Monachon 20.3, Joveaux 20.8, Cistac 17.3, Miller 21.3, Navin 21.1, Schmitz 21.7, Pierce 21.1, Wilkins 19.9, Waller 19.2, Forester 20.5, Kinase 18.6, Smith 20.8, Deacon 20.2, Julius 21.2, Stevens 21.3, Gross 18.2, Neal 20.6, Rafferty 14.9, Burke 17.5, Lawson 21.3, Aaronson 20.1, Fallon 20, Bliven 19.9, Albert 20.8, Grim 21.1, Judville 21.5, Leslie 19, Rice 21.1.

Deaths at Manila

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The war department has received the following report from General Otis of deaths among the troops at Manila:

November 24.—Otis W. Drew, private, Second Oregon, smallpox.

November 30.—Irwin J. Willet, musician, First South Dakota, diphtheria; James E. Link, private, Co. L, First South Dakota, diphtheria; John J. Mahoney, private, Co. K, First South Dakota, typhoid; Clyde D. Pitts, private, Co. L, Third artillery, acute melancholia; Charles O'Donnell, musician, Co. F, First Idaho, diphtheria; Frank Temple, private, Co. L, First California, smallpox.

A Deliberate Burglary

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 4.—The residence of State Librarian Frank L. Coombs was burglarized early this morning. The thieves effected an entrance through a pantry window and literally turned the house upside down. The room occupied by the deputy secretary of state, W. L. Sesson, were ransacked, but as he is absent from the city his loss is not known. Two overcoats belonging to Mr. Coombs were taken. None of the family awoke.

A Despondent Miner

SAN JOSE, Cal., Dec. 4.—It has been ascertained that the old man who committed suicide a fortnight ago in the Guadalupe creek by shooting himself and then drowning, was Gilbert Hilton, a resident of Livermore, and in early days the driver of a stage between this city and San Francisco. He had lost money in mining ventures, and suicide was the result of despondency.

Iglesia's Mission

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—President Iglesias of Costa Rica left today for New York, where he will remain until next Saturday before sailing for Paris. He was accompanied by his suite, and by Colonel Carter of the army, the personal representative of the president.

No Deal Made

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 4.—The Republic tomorrow will say: John J. Mitchell, one of the largest stockholders in the Chicago and Alton railroad, denies that there is an option on that railroad or that it has been sold.

On the Diamond

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4.—The Watsonville baseball players today defeated the Sacramento Gilt Edges by a score of 13 to 0. About 4000 people witnessed the game.

Champion Chess

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—Showalter won the seventh game of the match against Janowski. Janowski 3 games, Showalter 2, Drawn 2.



"ANYONE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?"

—Chicago Chronicle.

FROM LAKES TO THE EASTERN COAST

THE BITTER BLIZZARD IS RAGING AGAIN

NOT MUCH DAMAGE REPORTED

But Only Because Telegraph and Telephone Wires Are Down and Traffic Almost Paralyzed

Associated Press Special Wire

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 4.—A heavy rainstorm which began here yesterday continued all today, increasing in violence, accompanied by winds of almost gale velocity. Shortly before midnight there was a clear sky. At the maximum the wind blew 42 miles an hour. Telegraph wires from this city south were rendered almost useless on account of the heavy wind. Trees, swinging signs and chimneys were blown down, but no great damage is known to have resulted.

A few dispatches received at the maritime exchange told of a very heavy northeast prevailing at the Delaware breakwater and other points along the New Jersey coast. At many points the tide rose to the highest point it has reached in years.

At Atlantic City great damage was caused to wires, and the city is in comparative darkness tonight. Several private residences on the meadows were completely surrounded by water, compelling occupants to use boats in going to and from buildings.

Reports from Eastern Pennsylvania indicate the prevalence of heavy winds and rain, accompanied in some instances by a slight fall of snow. At Shenandoah, where snow fell, many small buildings on the outskirts were blown down. Telegraphic communication was also crippled.

All Hands Lost

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—The Nova Scotian schooner Wallda arrived today from Gonaves, and reports that during the height of the hurricane on November 28, in latitude 30.22, longitude 7.3, she sighted a dismantled schooner of about 700 tons flying signals of distress. It was nearly dark at the time, and her crew could be seen on the decks gesticulating frantically for assistance. The Wallda bore down on the stranger, and got close under her lee and hailed her.

They shouted that the vessel was sinking and asked to be taken off. Captain Kemp told them that his boats were stove in and useless. They said they would come to the Wallda with their own boats. During this time the Wallda laid to, but found she was rapidly drifting to leeward, and was then about on quarter tack, and after several tacks managed to cross the bow of the wreck, and again drifted down to the leeward port. The Wallda hailed again, but got no answer. In the meantime, another three-masted schooner came to her assistance, and assumed a position to the windward of the wreck. Both of them stood by until daylight. When morning broke the wreck was seen to be deserted and the boats gone. It is supposed that the unfortunate men had attempted to launch their boat during the night, which capsized, and all hands were lost.

All Over Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 4.—All day terrible storms have raged all over this state, particularly in the northern part. Rain and sleet have fallen all day. A special to the State Journal from Lima tells of conditions existing there, saying:

The severest storm in years has prevailed here today, doing thousands of dollars' worth of damage to telegraph, telephone and electric light companies. Poles have given way under the weight of the wet snow and hundreds of wires are down and crossed

THE AUDIENCE IS WAITING

For the Play to Begin on the National Stage

THE CURTAIN TO RISE AT NOON TODAY

The Only Business Likely to Receive Attention Is Embraced in the Money Budgets and an Increase of the Regular Army

Associated Press Special Wire

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The curtain will ring up tomorrow at noon on the closing session of the Fifty-fifth congress. The war and the fruits of the American victory carry in their wake many problems which the national legislators must solve. But though many questions may press for solution, the brief space covered by this session, which expires by limitation March 4, precludes the probability of much being accomplished beyond the passage of the regular money budgets, the legislation for the increase of the regular army, which the administration deems necessary to meet the result of the war, and probably the enactment of a law to give a permanent territorial government to the Hawaiian islands. This covers all the important legislation which the congressional leaders expect to see enacted at this session. It is almost the unanimous sentiment of the members that no attempt should be made to legislate concerning the possessions acquired by the war with Spain at this session.

There are earnest advocates of the Nicaragua canal who will strive to secure the passage of a canal bill now, and in this they may possibly be successful, but neither it, nor any of the measures like the pooling bill, anti-scalpers' bill, etc., which have strong friends, will be allowed to interfere with the bills, the passage of which is deemed absolutely necessary to prevent an extra session.

NO EXTRA SESSION.

The leaders at both ends of the capital have put their heads together at the beginning of the session and are bent upon the idea of avoiding an extra session. With this purpose in view, the appropriation bills are to be given the run at both ends of the capital and pressed through with all possible haste. The sub-committee on appropriations of the house has been at work for a week. The deficiency bill to meet the ordinary expenses of the army and navy during the six months from January 1, 1898, to July 1, is ready to submit to the full committee tomorrow, and the regular District of Columbia appropriation bill will be ready by the end of the week. It is necessary that the former should become a law before the holiday recess, which this year is to be shorter than usual, and the latter does not hope to see it through the house and in the senate before the end of this week.

The Democrats of the house have not disclosed their position, but it is not believed they will seek to obstruct any appropriation bill necessary for the maintenance of an army now in the field. Should there be a disposition to open up and prolong a debate upon the conduct of the war, upon this bill, it is safe to assume that the committee on rules will be invoked to bring in an order to close the debate.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Great interest is manifested in the president's message, which will be read to congress tomorrow, on account of the many questions which it will have to deal with, and no presidential message in years has been listened to with the eagerness and the interest with which President McKinley's message will be heard to-morrow. The reading of the message will occupy probably two hours. The first thing in order after Speaker Reed calls the house to order tomorrow will be a call of the roll to determine the presence of a quorum. Concerning this there is little doubt, as members are arriving by every train and the hotel lobbies are already thronged with them. A quorum having been developed, committees will be appointed to wait upon the president and the senate to inform them that the house is ready to proceed to business. Pending the arrival of the president's message, several members are expected to file vacancies caused by deaths or resignations will be sworn in, and immediately after the reading of the message is completed, the house will adjourn out of respect to the memory of Messrs. Love of Mississippi and Northway of Ohio, who died during the recess. On Tuesday or Wednesday at the latest, the house will plunge into the work. Chairman Cannon will have the deficiency bill ready and it will occupy the attention of the house to the exclusion of everything else for the remainder of the week.

REED HAS ARRIVED

The hotels are rapidly filling up with members of congress preparatory to the opening session tomorrow. Included in the arrivals today was Speaker Reed, who paid a number of congressional calls during the afternoon and evening.

SENATE FORECAST

Members Anxious to Dispose of the Business Promptly

Senators express a determination to take up the work of the session vigorously at the beginning, with the hope of getting well advanced before the holidays, and they are counting upon taking up the appropriation bills at a very early date for the purpose of preventing an extra session due to any failure on the part of the national budget. It is expected that the army deficiency bill will reach the senate during the present week, the understanding at the north end of the capital being that the house will dispose of it within a very few days after assembling. The committee on appropriations will bring it in early, for the double purpose of having it passed quickly and of testing the feeling of senators on questions connected with the war.

The first day's session will be given up almost entirely to the message and there is great interest manifested in hearing the minutes and details of the president's recommendations. After the reading of the message, the senate will adjourn till the next day. All plans for legislation of general scope awaits the promulgation of this document, and, as a consequence, one hears

far less than usual of measures to be introduced.

It is impossible to say what matters will occupy the week after the disposal of the message, but it is probable that some speeches may be delivered upon the policy indicated by the message, and also that the calendar may be taken up. There are many measures which have been reported, and there will be no difficulty to find employment if the senate is disposed to settle to routine so early in the session.

During the closing days of the last session Senator Morgan gave notice of his intention to call up the Nicaragua canal bill at the beginning of the present session. He unquestionably will redeem his promise, and would doubtless seek the first opportunity but for the possibility of change of sentiment in favor of having the government undertake the entire responsibility of building the canal. All the indications are that this question will be one of the most important subjects under consideration during the session.

Opposition is developing to the bill which the Hawaiian commission will bring in and for which early consideration will be asked. There is a considerable contingent in the senate opposed to constituting the islands into a territory because of the apprehension that they may be converted into a state, and deliberate consideration of the subject will be asked.

While it is quite too early to reach a definite conclusion, there are decided indications of a disposition on the part of the senate to confine the session's work to routine measures and the appropriation bills, and it need surprise no one if the close of the session would demonstrate that this general policy had been pursued.

GILLETT IS IN MEXICO

OSTENSIBLY IN SEARCH OF RANCH PROPERTY

If He Doesn't Get Lost Again He Will Be Arrested by United States Officers

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 4.—A dispatch to the Journal from Chihuahua, Mex., says: Grant G. Gillett, the missing Kansas cattle plunger, whose sudden disappearance so startled the financial world, arrived in Chihuahua on November 23, and left on the morning of the 24th for Durango, where it is stated that he deposited a large sum of money in the bank. He remained only a short time in Durango, when he bought a return ticket to Chihuahua.

Two prominent business men of this city came up from Durango on the same train with him and stated that he bought a first class ticket and rode in a second class coach as far as Torreon, where he took the Pullman.

The gentlemen got into conversation with him and he said he had made considerable money in Colorado in the general merchandise business, and that he was in Mexico with a view of investing in a ranch or mining property. He conversed quite freely upon various topics, referring occasionally to the cattle business. He was well-dressed and wore several beautiful diamonds.

At Jimenez he was met by his attorney, C. R. Troxel, and the two entered into low conversation and remained together until they reached Chihuahua. They arrived here last Monday and went to the leading hotel, where they registered.

The man was undoubtedly Gillett, as his signature corresponded with his signature to a document held in this city.

Troxel left Tuesday on the stage for the west, presumably to the mining camps in the Sierra Madre mountains.

Gillett is still in the city, but his whereabouts are unknown, except to the detectives who are closely shadowing his every movement.

The report that Gillett has been arrested and held in custody here is untrue. The Jefe Politico says the Mexican authorities have not seen him and know nothing of his whereabouts.

He will be arrested immediately upon a warrant from the authorities of the United States, who are expected to arrive soon from El Paso. Their baggage is all in this city and on one of the trunks is the tag with the name C. R. Troxel.

Three letters which have arrived at the hotel for G. G. Gillett have mysteriously disappeared.

TELEGRAPH NEWS INDEX

Gillett, the Kansas cattle plunger, located at Chihuahua, Mexico by officers armed with warrants for his arrest.

Both parties in conference at Paris confidently predict that the Hispano-American treaty will be signed within a week.

At noon today the short session of the Fifty-fifth congress begins, to expire by limitation of law on March 4th; the only business likely to receive attention is the regular appropriation bills and the increase of the army made necessary by the war with Spain.