

VOLUME THIRTY-EIGHT

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21 1912

NUMBER 42

CITY OF HOUSTON RAVAGED BY FLAMES

Whole Blocks of Factories and Residences Destroyed in Fire Which Is Fanned by Northern Gale.

LOSS MAY REACH TEN MILLIONS

PEOPLE DRIVEN FROM HOMES IN SCANTY ATTIRE AND SUFFER FROM COLD—THOUSANDS MADE HOMELESS—EARLY EFFORTS OF FIREMEN DEVOTED TO WARNING PEOPLE AND AIDING THEM TO REACH PLACES OF REFUGE—LUMBER AND COTTON DISTRICTS HIT HARDEST—BURNED AREA MILE AND A HALF BY QUARTER OF MILE IN EXTENT—BAYOU PREVENTS TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF CITY.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 21.—Impelled by a gale that swept in with one of the coldest northerly winds of the winter, flames swept thru the eastern section of Houston early today, wiped out twenty-five blocks of the city, and caused a loss set at from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Scores of cottages were destroyed as well as a number of big manufacturing plants, and thousands of persons were made homeless.

Lumber and Cotton Section Hit. The greater part of the loss is confined to the lumber and cotton industry. Forty-five thousand bales of cotton stored in warehouses and compresses was burned. This item alone represents a loss of \$2,000,000.

The fire started in a cottage near the Southern Pacific railroad tracks soon after midnight. Its origin has not been definitely established. A heavy wind picked up the flames and hurried them to neighboring cottages and boarding houses. In a flash they ignited, shooting great columns of sparks. Sizzling these, the forty mile gale carried them blocks away, and within half an hour after the fire broke out a great area of small residences were in flames.

Flames Halted at Bayou. An hour after the flames began their advance the firemen organized for a final stand at Buffalo bayou, a small stream that divides the eastern part of the city from the main section, and every piece of fire fighting apparatus was stationed along the banks of this stream. If the fire leaped the bayou it meant the destruction of the entire city.

Thousands Homeless. Thousands of persons were driven from their homes. In the course of the northern wind, which was at once set upon its way, however, and food and clothing were provided for the refugees. Many persons were hurt during the fire but so far as can be determined there were no casualties.

Relief Measures Provided. One of the first of the more pretentious buildings attacked was the brick Star and Crescent hotel. Inmates had been warned of the oncoming flames and all escaped without injury. The flames roared with warning and in a matter of minutes the hotel was a mass of smoking ruins, giving no heed to the chilling wind that swept from homes clad in their night gowns. Women carrying babies, children at whose skirts small children clung, gathered in homes of near-by neighbors for refuge. Only to be driven out a few minutes later by the further progress of the fire.

Firemen appointed leaders among the men of the flame-swept district and they, marshaling the refugees, led them to the rear of the flames and out of danger. Homes were quickly provided for the stricken people in other residence sections of the city. Clothing and food were prepared by a relief committee and there was comparative little suffering.

Industries Destroyed. Among the mills, factories and plants either totally destroyed or seriously damaged by the fire are: McPherson Southern Compress and Warehouse Company. New Brothers, strap mill.

Houston and Liggett Lumber Company. Rogers Paint Company. Magnolia compress. Hudson's pencil factory. Houston Packing Company (slightly damaged). Ed H. Harrell lumber yards. Standard compress. Co-Operative Manufacturing Company. Acme mills. St. Patrick's Catholic church and a school operated in conjunction with the church. Cleveland Compress and Cotton Company. McIlhenney cotton pickery. Texas Tinners Supply Company. Industrial Rice Milling Company's plant. Southwestern Rice Company's mill. Hoosier Vinegar Company, and a number of lesser mills.

Besides the 50,000 bales of cotton destroyed with the Standard compress, thirty-six Southern Pacific cars loaded with cotton bales were burned. The number of homes and stores burned amounts to more than 350.

ENGLAND FEARS STRIKE

Manufacturers Notify Employees That Strikers Will Close if Miners Declare Strike—Price of Coal Advances Causing Hardship Among Poor—Premier Asquith Seeks Settlement.

London, Feb. 21.—Conditions throughout Great Britain, particularly in the manufacturing districts of the north of England, are becoming rapidly worse as the result of the threatened coal strike which, if it occurs at the end of the month, will throw 800,000 miners out of employment.

BAD FIRE AT FLOYD

Seven Store Buildings, With Stocks of Goods, Destroyed—Loss Will Total \$26,000, With Insurance of \$16,000.

Special to Times-Republican. Charles City, Feb. 21.—Fire which broke out in the business district of the town of Floyd, six miles north of here, shortly after 7 o'clock this morning, destroyed seven store buildings, with stocks of goods in five of them.

The fire broke in Wolf's meat market shortly after the proprietor started a fire in the heating stove. Help was summoned from Charles City, and the department made the drive across country and gave valuable assistance, and probably saved the balance of the business district of the town.

ROOSEVELT GIVES PLATFORM OUTLINE

COLONEL DEFINES ISSUES BEFORE OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

FAVORS RECALL OF JUDGES, BUT AS LAST RESORT

Declares American People Are Fit for Self-Government—Big Business Must Be Curbed But Must Have Square Deal—LaFollette's Work in Wisconsin Praised.

Columbus, O., Feb. 21.—Politicians from all parts of Ohio came to Columbus to hear Colonel Roosevelt express his views on matters pending in the constitutional convention which have been the subject of political debate throughout the state. Interest in the speech was heightened by the fact that Governor Harmon a few days ago outlined his opinions to the same convention which Mr. Roosevelt addressed today. As Mr. Roosevelt's train passed thru Ohio people gathered at every station at which a stop was made.

Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, of the First Congregational church, an old friend of the former president, met him at the station. Mr. Roosevelt went directly to Dr. Gladden's home for a short rest before proceeding to the state house, where he made his address.

After finishing his speech Mr. Roosevelt returned to Dr. Gladden's home for luncheon to remain there until his departure from New York at 3 o'clock.

On his way from Columbus to New York this evening, Colonel Roosevelt will make a ten minute stop in Cleveland and address a crowd that is expected to gather to greet him.

Columbus, O., Feb. 21.—"Big business," the fitness of the American people for self-government, the recall of judges, and praise for the progressive legislation in Wisconsin instituted by and further by Senator Robert M. LaFollette when he was governor, were topics discussed by Theodore Roosevelt in an address today before the Ohio constitutional convention here.

Colonel Roosevelt chose as his subject, "A Charter of Democracy." Of what he termed "big business," Colonel Roosevelt had this to say: "The anti-trust law does good insofar as it can be enforced. It breaks up combinations which really are monopolies or which restrict production or which artificially raise prices. But insofar as its workings are uncertain or as it threatens corporations which have not been guilty of anti-social conduct it does harm. There should be a fixed governmental policy which shall clearly define and punish wrong-doing and give in advance full information to any man as to just what he can and just what he can not legally and properly do."

Fit for Self-Government. As to the fitness of the American people for self-government, Colonel Roosevelt said: "Many eminent lawyers believe that the American people are not fitted for popular government and that it is necessary to keep the judiciary independent of the majority of the people. I take absolute issue with all those who hold such a position."

Recall of Judges. Of the recall of judges, he said: "The question is one of expediency merely. Each community has the right to try the experiment for itself in whatever shape it chooses. I do not believe in adopting the recall save as a last resort when it has become clearly evident that no other course will achieve the desired result."

Senator LaFollette was mentioned but once, as follows: "Following Senator LaFollette a number of practical and thoughtful thinkers in Wisconsin have turned to state into an experimental laboratory of wise governmental action in aid of social and industrial justice. They have initiated that kind of progressive government which means not only the preservation of true democracy but the extension of the principle of true democracy into industrialism as well as into politics."

Colonel Roosevelt said in part: "Power to Right Wrong. 'It is impossible to invent constitutional devices which will prevent the popular will from being effective for wrong without also preventing it from being effective for right. The only safe course to follow in this great American democracy is to provide for making the popular judgment really effective. But it is a false constitutionalism, a false statesmanship, to endeavor by the extension of the legislature or in executive office, to declare that it has not the power to right grave social wrongs, or that any of the officers created by the people, and rightfully the servants of the people, can set themselves up to be the masters of the people. Constitutional makers should make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that the people in their legislative capacity have the power to enact into law any measure they deem necessary for the betterment of social and industrial conditions."

The Real Progressive. "I hold that he is the real progressive, that he is the genuine champion of the people, who endeavors to shape

ANARCHY IN MEXICO

Americans Appeal to Federal Government for Protection From Robber Bands—Three States in Open Warfare Against Madero Government.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Advices from Mexico to the state department today indicating widespread anarchy south of the Rio Grande, which has caused much uneasiness in official circles. Several cities and towns are reported to be in the hands of rebels and protests by the Americans against robberies are multiplying, and robber bands are operating without apparent interruption thru the republic.

It is feared here that all that is needed to plunge Mexico again into civil strife is the appearance of a leader who can harmonize the factions and bring the rebellious elements together. Sinaloa, Oaxaca and Yucatan are said to be virtually in a state of open warfare against the Madero government, while further south the United States government thru Consul Alger.

The situation in which Americans in Mexico find themselves is considered so serious by the department that its representatives there have been instructed to make semi-weekly reports.

Stock Shipments Delayed. Chicago, Feb. 21.—A snow storm blown by a forty-two-mile gale from the north visited Chicago and the central states today, accompanied by a sudden drop of the mercury. The snow belt reaches south to St. Louis, west to Meridian, Miss., Feb. 21.—A destructive windstorm swept over this district last night, destroying thousands of dollars' worth of property, killing herds of cattle and demolishing homes in the surrounding country. Telegraph wires were prostrated, communication not being restored until this afternoon.

Trains Snowbound in Kansas. Wichita, Kan., Feb. 21.—Snow drifted in deep cuts holds three Missouri Pacific passenger trains captive, two near Reece, Kan., and one near Hooper, Kan. Men have been sent from this city to dig them out.

Children Interrupt Trial. Judge Threatens to Remove Kilduff Youngsters From Court. Davenport, Feb. 21.—A diversion probably will interrupt the trial of Mrs. Kilduff's little boy fell off a chair. The two Kilduff children have been present in the courtroom during the last few days and the younger one, a boy 2 years old, had become restless. He had been talking considerably and on several occasions had interrupted the proceedings.

DOUBLE LYNCHING FEARED. Two Negroes, Suspected of Murder, Cornered in Tennessee Woods. Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 21.—Reports from Brentwood, ten miles south of here, says a mob has surrounded in a narrow gorge two negroes who killed a white farmer this morning. County officers have hurried to Brentwood but a double lynching seems inevitable.

Negroes Escape Mob. Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 21.—A mob seeking a negro murderer and his companion near Brentwood failed to catch the blacks today. One of the fleeing negroes shot and fatally wounded Max Volt, superintendent of a railroad construction company when Volt ordered him to go to work this morning.

HOME MADE WHISKY KILLS. One Mondamin Man Dead and Two Ill From Drinking Own Stillage. Special to Times-Republican. Onawa, Feb. 21.—A man by the name of Amazon, 62, and Charles Fitzsimmons, 55, were killed by drinking their own whisky. The three men reside at Mondamin, a small station south of here. Amazon having the recipe for the making of the whisky induced his partner to help. They drank freely of the deadly poison, with the fatal result.

SHIPPERS DEMAND REFUND. Ask For \$2,000,000 as Reparation for Freight Overcharges. Washington, Feb. 21.—A sequel to the interstate commerce commission's decision in the famous "Spokane rate case" that freight charges to and from Spokane were unreasonable and exorbitant, the shippers of the eastern Washington metropolis today made a demand on various northwestern and transcontinental lines for \$2,000,000 reparation.

STORM IN SOUTHLAND DOES MUCH DAMAGE

BUILDINGS WRECKED AT SAN ANTONIO, AUSTIN AND OTHER TEXAS POINTS.

EXTENDS EASTWARD TO MISSISSIPPI AND FLORIDA

Pensacola Cut Off and Fears Extended That City Has Been Wrecked—Heavy Snows Accompany Storm and Trains in Kansas and Texas are Snowbound—Cold Wave in North.

Dallas, Texas, Feb. 21.—Heavy wind storms, accompanied in some sections of Texas by a heavy snow fall, did thousands of dollars damage by wrecking buildings and demoralizing telegraph and telephone service today. In the Panhandle country the storm, accompanied by four inches of snow, completely disarranged rail schedules.

San Antonio and Austin, where the wind averaged seventy to 100 miles an hour, which unroofed many residences, blowing down chimneys and uprooting trees.

At El Paso much damage is feared from frost as fruit trees were in blossom.

Pensacola Cut Off. New Orleans, Feb. 21.—Attempts to communicate with Pensacola, where it is known a severe storm raged last night, were unsuccessful today. All wires are down.

At points along the Florida coast in the vicinity of Pensacola a wind velocity of sixty miles an hour was registered. It was accompanied by a heavy rain.

Damage in Mississippi. Meridian, Miss., Feb. 21.—A destructive windstorm swept over this district last night, destroying thousands of dollars' worth of property, killing herds of cattle and demolishing homes in the surrounding country. Telegraph wires were prostrated, communication not being restored until this afternoon.

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T-R BULLETIN Noticeable News of Today

The Weather. Sun rises Feb. 22 at 6:43, sets at 5:45. Iowa—Generally fair tonight and Thursday; colder tonight. Illinois—Clearing; colder weather tonight; Thursday fair. South Dakota—Generally fair tonight and Thursday.

PAGE ONE. Telegraphic News: Thousands Made Homeless by Fire at Houston. Property Loss May Reach \$10,000,000. Factory District Destroyed. Train Robbers Shoot Northwestern Engineer. Attempt to Hold Up Fast Mail Frustrated. Roosevelt Formulates Platform. Discusses Recall and Big Business. Wind Storms—Damage in South. Bad Fire at Floyd.

PAGES TWO AND THREE. Iowa News: Merchants Must Fight With Ink. Sheep Feeders Benefited. Sensation Promised in Bowman Case. PAGE FOUR. Editorial: Major Ray's Case and Others. The Way to Be Popular. A Trickster's Complaint. Topics of the Times. Iowa Opinion and Notes. PAGE FIVE.

Iowa News: State Tax Conference. Sermon Starts Police Probe. PAGES SIX, EIGHT AND NINE. City News: Former Resident in "Loan Shark" Case. Made Defendant in Case Brought in Chicago. First Move for New School House. Cummings Statement. Austin Ends Bid by Labor as Member of Board of Public Works. "Doug" M. Field Former Resident Here. Trace Yet of Dead. General a Brief City News. PAGE SEVEN.

Story: Freckles. PAGE TEN. Markets and General: Congestion of Corn in Chicago. Wheat Feels Effect of Uplift. Blizzard Impedes Livestock Movement. All Prices Higher. Poss for Fall of Clark Kite.

SUIT TO OUST MAYOR

Five Citizens Begin Proceedings Against Barnum Official—Alleged He Knew Gambling Was Common—Casson Law Invoked.

Fort Dodge, Feb. 21.—Mayor J. D. Dwyer, of Barnum, was made defendant in an action against him for removal from office, charged with non-enforcement of laws against gambling. Thomas F. Cregan, John and P. C. Conners, A. E. Williams and M. J. Rial charge that he has been present when played pool, poker and pitch have been played for money. The case is an outgrowth of the January prosecutions of residents of Barnum and vicinity for gambling.

Action has been taken under the Casson law. It is alleged that Mayor Dwyer has known of the gambling in that vicinity since April 1, 1911.

The January prosecutions were first before the grand jury when about thirty witnesses were examined. The grand jury ordered eleven men before S. N. Magowan, justice of the peace, and the men were fined \$15 and costs.

START NEW PETITION. Fort Dodge Liquor Dealers Fear Decision of Supreme Court. Special to Times-Republican. Ft. Dodge, Feb. 21.—Expecting an adverse decision from the supreme court because the Oklahoma saloon case is similar to the one here, the local liquor dealers today started the circulation of a new petition of consent. Members of the civic league "drys" are preparing to vigorously oppose the petition. One thousand three hundred fifty names are necessary to make the petition good.

WAPELLO COUNTY FOR TAFT. Administration Has 150 of 179 Delegates to County Convention. Ottumwa, Feb. 21.—Taft delegations to the republican county convention were elected in six of the seven Ottumwa wards last night. Delegates have been chosen in every township but Columbia and the Taft men have 150 delegates to the county convention out of a total of 179, assuring a Taft delegation from Wapello county to the state convention.

SCHOOL FOR GUARDS DOCTORS. Medical Corps of National Guardmen to Receive Instructions. Special to Times-Republican. Des Moines, Feb. 21.—Adjutant General Logan today ordered a special school of instruction for all the medical officers of the national guard, to be held in Des Moines, March 5, under the direction of Dr. Fairchild, of Clinton.

FORWARD MOVEMENT MEETING. Southeastern Iowa District Convention Opens at Burlington. Burlington, Feb. 21.—The men and religion forward movement convention of the southeastern Iowa district opened this afternoon at 2 o'clock and will continue over Thursday. About 200 delegates, ministers and laymen are expected, many of whom are already on hand.

TRAIN BANDITS WOUND C. & N. W. ENGINEER

UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO ROB FAST MAIL TRAIN NO. 9 NEAR CEDAR RAPIDS.

ENGINEER REFUSES TO STOP, ROBBERS OPEN FIRE

Manfield Wounded in Arm and Faints in Cab—Five Bandits Planned Hold-Up at Bertram, Where Train Slow Down on Account of Construction Work—Posses Fail to Find Them.

Cedar Rapids, Feb. 19.—Five men made an unsuccessful attempt to hold up west bound train No. 9 on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad near Bertram, a village nine miles east of here at 2:30 this morning. Engineer Manfield was wounded by a bullet from one of the bandits' guns. The train is known as the fast mail and carried no passengers. It was forced to slow down to a speed of four miles an hour on account of construction work on the outskirts of the village and it was at this point the men signalled the engineer to stop. Manfield called the engineer to stop. The signal of the irregular method used in signalling the engineer did not bring his train to a stop. When the train failed to stop the bandits opened fire on the engineer, hitting him in the arm.

Engineer Suspects Robbery. Douglas Manfield, conductor of the train was in charge of Engineer Douglas Manfield, conductor of the train and Fireman P. G. Faur, all of Clinton. A new bridge is being built at Bertram, and all trains have "slow" orders for this point. Engineer Manfield, just after passing the bridge, observed a lantern signal ahead to stop, but as the lantern was not the regulation railroad light and the block ahead showed clear, he suspected the five men who were in sight planned to rob the train. He therefore "held" the train wide and opened the steam cocks to throw a cloud of steam about the suspects. The robbers immediately sent a fusillade of shots at the fleeing train. One of the bullets penetrated the flesh of Manfield's right arm, but of this he was not aware until the train reached Ottu, the next station, where the engineer fainted. The fireman brought the train into Cedar Rapids and Manfield was removed to a hospital. Manfield has been driving an engine on the Northwestern twenty-six years.

Posses in Pursuit. Posses were organized here and officers from Clinton were sent for, but it is believed the men boarded another train and have made their escape. Bertram is a small village about nine miles east of Cedar Rapids and while the immediate vicinity surrounding the scene of the attempted hold-up is bare of any secure shelter there is much timber not far distant from the place, which the bandits scurried upon being frustrated in their efforts to rob the train, which is an exclusive mail carrier, no passengers being permitted to travel on it.

CONNECT GIRL WITH CRIME. Grand Jury Summons Life-Termer in Old Murder Investigation. Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 21.—Harry Heath, serving a life sentence in the penitentiary for the murder of Charles Sellers, a ranchman, will be taken to Valentine, Neb., this afternoon, to tell the grand jury in session there what he knows about the crime. Heath with his cousin, Kenneth Murphy, and two men named Weed, pleaded guilty to hanging Sellers and drew life terms in prison.

The public sentiment in Cherry county has been inclined to connect Emler Murphy, Heath's cousin, and the girl whom Sellers loved, with the crime, and Heath's testimony is supposed to be wanted on this phase of the case.

FAST MAIL CARS DERAILED. Serious Wreck Narrowly Averted in Illinois Bottoms Near Burlington. Burlington, Feb. 21.—A truck on one of the cars of Burlington route fast mail train, No. 7, broke down on the Illinois bottoms, about five miles east of Burlington, this morning, derailing the cars for several hundred feet but did not turn over. The train was moving about forty miles an hour and it is regarded as a miracle that it did not go into the ditch. The mail clerks were shaken up but none were injured.

EMPLOYE WRECKS BANK. Defalcations of Pomona, Cal., Bookkeeper Amount to \$143,000. Los Angeles, Feb. 21.—Earl Standard, the missing bookkeeper of the American National Bank of Pomona, whose alleged defalcations were found yesterday to amount to \$149,000, is said to be in hiding here. His arrest is expected soon.

The entire surplus and half the capital stock of the bank are said to have been swept away by the shortage, which amounted to one-fourth of its total deposits.

SNOW STORM HALTS TRIAL. Jurors Fail to Reach Court and Kimmel Case Is Delayed. St. Louis, Feb. 21.—Delayed by a snow storm, which prevented a jury in the Kimmel case reaching the federal building this morning, no session was held. The formal announcement that a recess would be taken until 2 o'clock was made shortly before noon.