

FEAR COST MANY LIVES

No Cause for Panic in Moving Picture Theater.—Twenty-six are Dead.

HUMAN MASS IS UNTANGLED

Film Breaks With Snap, Bright Light Is Thrown on Screen, and Rush for the Exit Follows.

Canonsburg, Pa., Aug. 28.—Twenty-six persons were suffocated or trampled to death, twenty-five seriously were injured, and thirty were hurt less severely Saturday night in the senseless panic at a moving picture show in the Canonsburg opera house, according to the revised figures compiled last night. How foolish the fatal panic was developed more fully yesterday when those involved returned to their senses enough to relate just what occurred. It transpired that there was no fire. The fatal rush for the exit was due alone to baseless fear. It developed that not even a spark flashed. The film broke with a snapping noise and a bright light was thrown on the screen. A frightened boy imagined it was fire and unconsciously shouted out the death knell of more than a score of persons as he started the mad rush for the exit. Bolus Dubrowski, a huge miner, jumped from his seat and ran wildly for the same exit. In a moment there was a fighting, struggling mass after him. At the head of a narrow stairway, which leads to the street, the miner tripped. As he rolled down the stairs he swept from their feet many persons who were waiting their turn to enter the theater, and soon there was a horrible pile of women and children and a few men at the foot of the steps. Dubrowski was probably the first person killed.

It was all over within a short time. The stairway was jammed full from top to bottom and those behind could not get out. Firemen, several policemen and a few level headed citizens untangled the human mass. The unhurt and those slightly injured were pulled from the top of the pile. As they gained the street they ran screaming like maniacs to all parts of the town. The more seriously hurt were sent home or taken to nearby homes. As the silent forms of those who had been suffocated or crushed were disentangled, the victims, many of them women and small children, were piled on the sidewalk.

Coroner James T. Heffran has begun a rigid investigation. He arrived at the scene early yesterday and within a short time had selected a jury. They were shown through the opera house by Manager C. K. Ferguson and John C. Morgan, owner of the building. Measurements taken by the jurors showed the stairway leading to the second floor of the building, the main floor of the opera house, to be only six and a half feet wide while the doorway at the bottom was not more than eight feet high.

It is customary for the management of the theater to give two or three performances each evening and Saturday the moving picture machine operator was about to complete the first session when a film parted. Some of the audience had already begun to leave the building, and other persons were on the stairway.

Dubrowski's wild flight through the theater and his subsequent stumble down the stairs onto those entering the building, was the beginning of the death struggling jam at the foot of the stairs. When the doorway had been filled up, still other persons walked over the bodies of those who had gone down and breaking the glass transom over the door, crawled through and dropped into the street.

Manager Ferguson tried to stop the panic. Accompanied by his wife he started for the stairs when the first alarm was given, but seeing there was no escape there made his way to the stage. Calling loudly to the frightened people to follow him, he led the way to the rear of the stage, and hundreds went out that way. In ten minutes the opera house was empty, and in half an hour twenty bodies had been recovered. Physicians came from the town and from nearby places until thirty were at work.

biles were pressed into service to hurry others to their homes where they later received medical attention. Among these there were broken arms and legs, but the greater number of injured were hurt while making their way through the transom and dropping from the fire escapes at the rear of the building. Their injuries were slight in many instances.

Of the twenty-six dead, thirteen were children, seven of them pupils in the public schools. Today it was decided by the school authorities to postpone for a week the opening of school.

Arthur McPeak, whose name is among the dead, was passing the building when the bodies began to pile at the door. The young man rushed to the rescue, and was dragging a body from the pile when a man came hurling out the transom. He struck McPeak on the back, and the young man's neck was broken.

Social Affairs

SIX O'CLOCK DINNER.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lehnhard entertained a small company of ladies and gentlemen at six o'clock dinner last evening, at their home on Division street. The evening was spent in a pleasant social way.

SIX O'CLOCK DINNER.

Mrs. Frank E. Edwards and daughter, Miss Nelle, were hostesses to a company of ladies at a six-thirty dinner Saturday afternoon. The evening hours were passed pleasantly in the playing of 600. Mrs. C. A. Guyer of St. Paul and Mrs. E. F. Stevenson of Waterloo were out of town guests.

DINNER FOR BRIDE-TO-BE.

Mrs. Earl Mason and Mrs. Leonard Mason were hostesses at a twelve o'clock dinner Saturday, at the home of Mrs. Earl Mason, on Division street, in honor of Miss June Oppenheimer. The event was one of the most unique affairs of the season and was much enjoyed by about fifteen guests. It was in the nature of an old fashioned quilting bee, the guests tying a beautiful quilt, a gift of the hostesses to the guest of honor, who is to wed soon a prominent merchant of East St. Louis, Ill. At noon the guests were invited to the dining room, where a sumptuous dinner was served in real rustic fashion and which was greatly enjoyed by all. Those present were:

Mesdames

Roy Tyler Julius Bermann
Julia Frank-Higbee of Dubuque.

Misses

Gladys Smith Mary Chamberlin
Grace Whitley Hanna McDonald
Louise Houck June Oppenheimer
Margie Murphy Grace McDonald
Matie Welch Elizabeth Chamberlin

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Miss Tressa McCartney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. McCartney, entertained a number of her friends on the evening of the 23rd inst. at her home north of town, in celebration of her fifteenth birthday. The evening was spent with games and music and at midnight dainty refreshments were served. At a late hour the guests departed for their homes, declaring they had spent a most enjoyable evening. Those present were:

Misses

Mabel Ludlow Orpha Berggren
Ollie Todd Etta McCollough
Ethel Beale Lulu McGuire
Bertha McGuire Bessie Knight
Mabel Knight Elsie McComb

Messrs.

Johnny Porter Ralph McCollough
Carl Bickford Walter Zinner
Lenner Zinner Loyd McGuire
Emmett Treese Claud Buzick
Floyd Clabaugh Art Seamands
Walter Wilson Walter McCartney
Ray Segar Roy Beckner
Ben Segar Orve Doolittle
Arthur Soop Linden Wilkinson
Clarence Ludlow Frank Wilkinson
Sidney Miller Calaven Wilkinson

Unclaimed Letters.

Following is a list of unclaimed letters remaining in the Webster City postoffice for the week ending, Aug. 29, 1911:

Carl L. Anderson.
Carl E. McFarland.
Miss Ada McGee.
Morris McConnell.
Mrs. Laura Shnell.
W. J. Young.

If not called for in two weeks will be sent to dead letter office, Washington, D. C.

R. G. Clark, P. M.

Abernathy Kids in Iowa.

Clinton, Aug. 29.—Louis and Temple Abernathy reached Clinton last night on their long jaunt from New York to San Francisco. They departed for the west after feeding their horse.

Fine job work at this office.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY



NIGHT LETTERGRAM

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this night lettergram subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

CLARENCE M. MACKAY, President.

RECEIVED AT
193 DE Bu

DELIVERY NO.
148 Paid Night Letter

INDEPENDENT COMPETITIVE PROGRESSIVE

H 275 CG F 51
Detroit, Mich. Aug. 9, 1911

FLANDERS TWENTY again made clean sweep awarded first and second all the prizes there were in her class in ten days reliability run Minneapolis to Helena Montana. Hardest contest any light car ever entered one thousand three hundred ninety miles over mountains and plains worst roads in America and rained most every day mud hub deep. The two **FLANDERS** were only cars in her class to finish with perfect scores and only one other car of any price a marmon \$2700 finished perfect. Cars penalized included packard stoddard-dayton abbot-detroit amplex maxwell cole krit hupmobile and other small fry. This is second great victory for **FLANDERS TWENTY** in a month other was three perfect road scores in Iowa little glidden no other \$800 car on earth can stand up with **FLANDERS TWENTY** in hard road work and in this latest contest she went out of her class and trimmed the four thousand dollar fellows

THE STUDEBAKER CORPORATION
E-M-F Factories.
10.57 P.M.

Black & Kirkpatrick,

712 Des Moines St., Phone 875.
Webster City, Iowa.

HOT FIGHT IN CANADA

Despite Harvesting Season, Political Meetings in Canada are Numerous.

WILL POLL A BIG VOTE

Fight Against Reciprocity is Made on Both Economic and Sentimental Grounds by Opposition Speakers.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 28.—Reports coming in from all parts of Canada show the intensity of the election struggle which is now under full headway, and they reflect also the position and various elements on the main issue, reciprocity between Canada and the United States. Although the campaign comes while harvesting is at its height, conventions and political meetings are drawing audiences unparalleled for several years. It is conceded that a greater percentage of votes will be polled than ever before in Canada. The grounds taken for and against reciprocity are shown in the reports coming from all sections. The fight against reciprocity is made on both economic and sentimental grounds by the opposition speakers. They declare that agriculture in the United States is so much better developed than it is in Canada that the Canadian farmer will be swamped by the arrival of food products from the United States.

The sentimental ground raised against the return of the government is based on the report of President Taft in which he said that Canada had come to "the parting of the ways," as justification for having passed the reciprocity agreement through congress.

The opposition still insists that President Taft has the annexation of Canada in view. Leader Borden gave instance of this in his speech at Toronto, saying, "I don't doubt the loyalty of the Canadian people, but if Canada deliberately interlocks her interests with those of the United States she will be led step by step into conditions which all her loyalty could not change. The time to withdraw is now before the

threshold is reached."

The fight for reciprocity is based by Premier Laurier and his followers on the economic advantages which will accrue to Canada as a whole and to the various branches of the people and they denounce the annexation cry as a hollow device of campaign.

Weather Bureau Says Rain.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 28.—Rains within the next forty-eight hours over the greater part of the country from the Mississippi valley to the Atlantic coast and in the southwest are predicted today in a bulletin of the weather bureau. Strong winds are forecasted off the Atlantic coast in connection with the disturbances now off the South American coast.

Following the passage of these disturbances, the pressure will rise rapidly and a change to considerably cooler weather will overspread the great central valleys and the lake region tomorrow and the eastern and southern states Wednesday. This change to cooler weather probably will cause frosts in exposed places the first part of the week in the northern Rockies, northern plains states, extreme upper Mississippi valley and the upper lake regions. Another disturbance is due to appear in the northwest about Wednesday, whence it will move eastward.

Public Notice.

I have been operating what is known as the McCollough Feed Shed in Webster City for the last six years up to August 1, 1911. My association with my customers has been of the very best, and has been appreciated by myself and helper, Mr. Charles Tewart. But now I have concluded to make a slight change in my business with the public and take this method to set it before my trade so that there will be no misunderstanding between us and our patrons. After this date on all public days such as shows, fairs, carnivals, and all holidays, etc., etc., the shed privileges will be twenty five cents; barn privileges will be fifty cents; on all other days the charges will remain the same except the barn charges, which will be twenty-five cents in the future instead of twenty cents.

Please take notice and govern yourselves accordingly.
Yours to please,
M. L. McCollough, Prop.
Charles Tewart, Manager.
d-t-109-12x

Choice, fresh, home grown tomatoes for canning, \$1 a bushel. E. T. Johnston, phone 176, or J. W. Hrwk, phone 141. 256x

COURT HAS BIG PUZZLE

Legal Problem Comes From the Swamps of North Carolina.

TO AFFECT THE BANKRUPTS

Supreme Court Must Decide in October Question of Vast Importance to all Parts of the Country.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 28.—From the swamps of Onslow county, North Carolina, has come forth a legal problem for the United States supreme court to pass upon when it convenes in October that may affect bankrupts in all parts of the country for years to come. Shorn of legal phraseology the question is, "When is a thing concealed?"

John L. James was a storekeeper in Onslow county previous to Feb. 28, 1908, when a petition of involuntary bankruptcy was filed against him. Nothing unusual developed until James asked for his discharge from bankruptcy. Just four months and three days before the bankruptcy petition was filed against him, he had been charged with hiding in a swamp in Onslow county five caddies of tobacco, one case of gun shells, two trunks of shoes and some dry goods, with intent to defraud his creditors.

The law would not grant his discharge if at any time subsequent to the first day of the four months, immediately preceding the filing of the petition, he had "concealed" any of his property with fraudulent intent toward his creditors.

The circuit court of appeals for the fourth circuit decided that although the goods were placed in the swamp three days more than four months before the prescribed time, there was "continuous concealing" because without further action by James, the offense repeated itself every day until he disclosed the hiding place, which was alleged to have been Jan. 5, 1908.

It is said the supreme court never has passed on the question of whether there is such an offense within the meaning of the bankruptcy laws, as a "continuous con-

cealing." For this reason the court was asked to pass upon the principle. Decision as to whether it will review the case is expected Oct. 10.

Again Tells of Murders.

Jeffersonville, Ind., Aug. 28.—William Leg, the confessed murderer of his father, mother and brother at Boonville, Ind., is in solitary confinement in the Indiana reformatory today. He reached the prison last night from Princeton, where officers took him following the publishing of his confession Saturday night at Evansville.

He made a supplementary confession late last night. This is largely a reiteration of the details of that given out at Evansville. In addition, however, he said he killed his parents because he believed they had planned to kill him.

"I thought I would beat the old man to it," was the way he concluded his third acknowledgement of the butchery of his father, Richard Lee, early Thursday morning. The prisoner maintains a cheerful demeanor. On the journey from Princeton to Jeffersonville he was even light hearted and annoyed the officers by his efforts to engage them in small talk.

Four Hurt During Fire.

Mason City, Aug. 28.—Four persons were injured slightly Saturday in the fire that wiped out half the business section of Meservey, near here. The total loss was \$25,000.

Try the daily a month.

OFFICIAL CHICAGO MARKET.

	Open	High	Low	Close
WHEAT.				
Sept...	90%	90%	89%	89%
Dec....	95	95%	94	94
May...	1.00%	1.01	1.00	1.00
CORN.				
Sept...	65%	65%	65	65
Dec....	63	63	62%	62%
May...	64%	65%	64%	64%
OATS.				
Sept...	42%	42%	42%	42%
Dec....	45	45%	45	45
May....	48%	48%	48	48

Hogs estimated 12,000. Open steady; close steady.
Top \$7.80.
Hogs estimated for tomorrow 25,000.
Hogs left over yesterday 4246.
Cattle 5000. Open steady; close steady.
Sheep 22,000. Open steady.

THE LOCAL MARKETS.

Corn	55
Oats, new and old	36
Hogs	\$6.00 to \$7.00
Butter	16 to 19
Eggs	12