

The most valuable opinion in the world is that of a man who has no opinion of his own.

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Weak men wait for opportunities, strong men make them.—Marden.

ONE HUNDRED PERSONS PERISH IN THEATRE FIRE

Three Score Injured, Many of Them Fatally, in Wild Panic at Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Coal Oil Lamps Used as Footlights, Upset, and Building Was Soon in Flames.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 13.—Nearly one hundred persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic to-night, and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally. A majority of the killed were members of the leading families of the town.

While the "Scottish Reformation" was being reproduced in Rhoades' Opera house by Mrs. Monro of Washington, a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but the voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children, who composed the greater part of the audience.

Mad Rush for Exits.
It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred.

In their attempt to quiet the great crowd those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal-oil lamps used as footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions, and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terror-stricken people, who were fighting frantically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement.

Soon a Roaring Furnace.
It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tanks until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace. There was a mad scramble to the stairway, and scores of women and children were knocked down and trampled upon, many of them doubtless being crushed to death. At least fifty persons, realizing that exit by the stairway meant almost certain death, risked their lives by jumping from the windows. Limbs were broken and skulls were crushed by this daring method of escape.

In the meantime a relief corps was at work at the entrance to the theatre, endeavoring to release those who were wedged in the doorway and unable to extricate themselves. Many persons who otherwise might have made good their escape from the furnace were held in check by the awful jam at the doors.

Fell Back into the Flames.
As the flames cut their way toward the front of the building women could be seen to clasp their hands and fall back into the flames. Once the doorways were cleared, the rescuers dragged many women and children from the stairways leading to the balcony. Some of them were so badly injured that they died before reaching a temporary hospital. Skulls were crushed and broken and skulls were crushed by this horrible mutilation. In one instance the skull of a child apparently about 10 years of age was crushed almost to a jelly.

List of Known Dead.
The list of dead so far as known, follows:

- Mrs. Frank Cullen.
- Lulu Fogey.
- Mrs. Daniel Gabel.
- Daniel Kramer.
- Mrs. Daniel Kramer.
- Lottie Kramer.
- Fred Godschall.
- Mrs. Fred Godschall.
- Elisha Reinhart.
- Harry Foms.
- Mrs. Harry Reinhardt.
- Mrs. George Romig.
- Herbert Godschall.
- Mrs. Herbert Godschall.
- Blanche Boehl.
- Ellen Godschall.
- Mabel Graff.
- Mrs. J. J. Becker.
- Three children of Mrs. Becker.
- Mabel Hoehl.
- Lottie Trader.
- John Rader.
- Charles Lehner.
- Daniel Krause.
- Morris Anderson.
- James Anderson.
- Mrs. James Anderson.
- Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson.
- Mrs. Carrie Weand.
- Franklin G. Leidy.
- A. Foreman.
- Mrs. Foreman.
- Charles Lowery.
- Jennie Konnie Kunz.
- Miss Mary Tabor.

Harry Foreman.
Mrs. Harry Foreman.
Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Foreman.
A daughter of Amos Engle.
Clara Haltzman.
May Bauman. All of Boyertown.
Mrs. Ephraim Johnson.
Miss Johnson, a daughter.
Mrs. Amos Hay.
Wife of Dr. Francis.
Frank Boyer.
William Boyer.
E. H. Boyer.
Anny Dorr.
Mrs. Anna Bauman.
Herbert Johnson.
Mrs. Herbert Johnson.
Daughter of William Boyer. All of New Berlinville.
Mrs. Rexeb. Hoffman.
Oscar H. Mench.
Miss Lizzie Zeigler and Mary Ro-nich. All of Gilbertsville.

DETAILS OF DISASTER.

Victims Were Attending Benefit for St. John's Lutheran Sunday School.
Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 13.—Between fifty and one hundred persons were burned to death tonight in a fire which completely destroyed Rhoades' Opera house, in this place.

The opera house was crowded with the members of St. John's Lutheran Sunday school, who were attending a benefit given for that church. While the show was in progress a tank exploded. The actors endeavored to quiet the audience, but in their anxiety to make themselves heard and to avoid the awful stampede of the women and children, the coal-oil lamps which were used at the footlights were overturned, setting the place on fire.

Horrible Scenes Enacted.
The flames, fed by the oil, shot almost to the ceiling, and there was a wild rush of the 700 persons to escape from the burning building. Scores of women and children were trampled upon, and several who escaped being burned to death died after being trampled from their opera house. In many cases, it is said, entire families have been wiped out. The scene which followed the explosion is indescribable.

Scores of persons who were in the balcony at the time the explosion occurred jumped from the windows and suffered fractured limbs and skulls.

Fire Apparatus Disabled.
To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain that a vestige of the bodies of the un-garbed women and children who were trampled and perished will ever be found. Assistance was asked from Pottstown, but before the fire apparatus from that city reached this place the entire center of the structure was a roaring furnace. Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience, the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows at such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the building. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the streets.

Help Asked of Nearby Towns.
Assistance was at once asked of both Reading and Pottstown, and special train carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to the scene of the disaster. Every home within a radius of half a dozen blocks of the opera house was made a temporary hospital, where the wounded were rushed by carriages and other means of conveyances.

Boyertown is a borough with a population of about 2,500, and is located about midway between Pottstown and Reading.

Hundreds of persons surrounded the burning structure, apparently unconscious of the pending danger from falling walls. Many parents who had children in the house are pacing to and fro, almost maddened by the awful sight.

Anguish Untold.
The night was one of waiting and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire was pitiful. As the night wore on the crowds surrounding the building increased.

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"Creeping Like Snail Unwillingly to School."

PULLMAN RATES MUST COME DOWN

Complaint Filed With Interstate Commerce Commission by Attorney.

Washington, Jan. 13.—George S. Loftus of St. Paul, accompanied by Senator La Follette, filed with the interstate commerce commission today a petition asking for a reduction of 25 per cent in the lower berth rates of the Pullman company and the fixing of the rates for upper berths at one-half that of the lower berth rate. The reduction is asked on all interstate lines throughout the United States. Mr. Loftus represents the Minnesota Shippers' association, which started the private car investigation two years ago, and he has had the advice and support of Senator La Follette.

Some months ago a complaint was made against the Pullman company in regard to rates from northwestern points. A hearing was had at St. Paul, at which representatives of the company refused to produce its books or to answer questions. This resulted in a postponement of the hearing. In the meantime the shippers' association broadened its inquiry, with the result that this petition was filed today. The petition avers that the Pullman company has invested \$23,000,000, while it is capitalized for \$25,000,000, and its net earnings are approximately 20 per cent annuum on capitalization, in addition to a surplus, and that each car, accepting the company's estimate of its cost, pays for itself every two years.

WOOL GROWERS GATHERING

Convention at Helena, Mont., Expected to Be the Greatest in the History of the Organization.

Helena, Mont., Jan. 13.—From present indications the attendance of the forty-fourth annual convention of the National Wool Growers' association will be the greatest in the history of the organization. Large delegations arrived tonight from New Mexico, California, Oregon and Colorado. During the day the Wyoming delegation reached here on a special train with nearly two hundred delegates and accompanied by Governor Bryant B. Brooks and Dr. J. L. Wilson of Douglas, Wyo., western vice president, who will preside over the convention.

AIMED TO PREVENT HASTY MARRIAGES

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 13.—Cardinal Gibbons said today that the new laws relating to marriage in the Catholic church, which have recently been issued by the holy see, will not change in any important particular the existing laws in the church in this country. The new laws are aimed to prevent hasty and ill-advised marriages.

HANS P. FREECE ON MORMONISM

Former Utah Man Talking Under Auspices of Presbyterian Home Mission Board.

(Special to The Herald.)
Paterson, N. J., Jan. 13.—When the Presbyterian board of home missions in New York learned that two elders of the Mormons were in this city seeking converts, they had Hans P. Freece, a bitter opponent of the Mormons, arrange to lecture against the church's doctrines. Freece arrived Saturday and arranged with Rev. Dr. George C. Whiting, pastor of the Market Street Methodist church, to speak Sunday evening in that church on the topic, "The Mormon Church in Politics." He also engaged to appear at the Second Presbyterian church on the morning of Jan. 26, where he will speak on "The Inside of Mormonism." Mr. Freece is qualified to handle the subject, as he was born in the Mormon church. His mother was a plural, and his father was one of the early settlers who walked from Council Bluffs to Salt Lake. After graduating, Mr. Freece became a lecturer after a graduate training at the Columbia university. He is in close touch with the Mormon problem, and his information is personal.

GOLD MINING CAMP ABLAZE

El Oro, Mexico, Threatened With Total Destruction—Details Cannot Be Obtained.

Mexico City, Jan. 13.—According to a telegram just received in this city, the great gold mining camp of El Oro, one of the largest in the republic, is being destroyed by fire. When the dispatch was filed it was reported that the more important buildings of the camp had been reduced to ashes. The information declared the entire town was threatened. Since this dispatch no word has been received from the camp, as communication is interrupted. No details are obtainable tonight.

PHONE SERVICE TO 'FRISCO

New Line Affording Direct Communication With Coast Is Nearing Completion.

Reno, Nev., Jan. 13.—The telephone line being constructed by the Utah, Nevada and Idaho Telephone company, which will afford direct connection between Salt Lake and San Francisco, is now at Wells, and hopes to reach Winnemucca by the last of this month. The company is building from Salt Lake to Reno, where it will connect with the coast over the Pacific States Telephone company's lines. The new line will afford long distance service to many of the small towns in Nevada now isolated from telephone advantages, and all local companies are expected to absorb the construction work in Reno, thus completing direct connection between Salt Lake City and San Francisco.

LIBERAL HELP COUNTED UPON

German Government Expects All Classes to Make Common Cause Against Socialists.

Berlin, Jan. 13.—The Associated Press is enabled, by the courtesy of a personage who is in close relation with Prime Minister Von Buelow, to set forth the views of the government concerning the street demonstrations of last Friday last yesterday which resulted in the demonstration in the Prussian landtag for the abolition of the present elective system of suffrage and the substitution thereof of manhood suffrage. "The socialist disturbances will result in the liberals drawing closer to the support of the government," this official said. "The liberals in Germany are composed largely of manufacturers, bankers, merchants and other property owning interests. These interests perceive that if they are to avoid being devoured by the socialists they must stand together for a strong government. Prince Von Buelow's declaration says that the demonstration of the socialists to agitate against the existing organization of the society and all political parties, excepting the socialists will make common cause with it."

AGREE ON ONE THING.

Both sides are disposed to minimize the character of the demonstrations of yesterday and each affirms that the manifestations were composed in part of rowdies who make use of this opportunity to endeavor to create a mischief.

AFTER IMMENSE CONTRACT

Salt Lake Capitalists in Los Angeles to Make a Bid on Owens River Aqueduct.

(Special to The Herald.)
Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 13.—If the plans of a group of Salt Lake capitalists mature one of the largest undertakings ever carried out by a private concern may be begun next summer. G. S. Holmes, Frank Knox, P. J. Moran, Ezra Thompson, David Keith and J. C. Lynch will make an effort to secure an immense contract on the proposed Owens river aqueduct, for which \$2,000,000 worth of bonds will soon be issued by the city of Los Angeles. Messrs. Keith and Holmes have been here several days and are looking over the situation while they await the arrival of Mr. Moran and others whom they expect to join them in preparing a bid for all or a part of the big constructive undertaking. Members of the aqueduct commission are expected to make their decision regarding bids in a short time. It is believed the Salt Lake capitalists are preparing to make a bid for the entire work, should the authorities prefer that method to cutting the job up into smaller contracts. All grading and tunneling will undoubtedly be under the direct supervision of the aqueduct commissioners. The clerical force in the Owens river aqueduct construction office is expected to complete plans within the next two months.

JOSEPH SULLIVAN AGAIN IDENTIFIED

Salt Lake Detectives Visit Murder Suspect in Cell at Portland.

SULLEN AND THREATENING BELIEVED TO BE PLANNING BREAK FOR LIBERTY.

(Special to The Herald.)
Portland, Ore., Jan. 13.—George and R. L. Shannon, detectives of the Salt Lake police department, arrived in Portland today with requisition papers in their possession for the return to Utah of Thomas Howard, alias Joe Sullivan, who is wanted there for the murder of Policeman Charles Ford, killed on December 4. The two detectives were conducted to Howard's cell in the city jail and positively identified Howard as Sullivan. Howard evidently recognized the Salt Lake detectives, for he grew extremely nervous and deathly pale when they entered, but denied that he had ever seen them. The detectives questioned Howard, but other than saying he would not go back without some opportunity to make a break for liberty he would not give any information about himself.

Besides his features and general appearance, Howard's identification as Sullivan was based on a photograph established by marks on his body which had been recorded during his confinement in the Utah penitentiary, and a list of which the detectives carefully compared.

That Howard is a desperate and dangerous man has been evidenced by his sullen and threatening manner ever since his arrest, and that he has been disturbed for some opportunity to make a break for liberty is believed by the police.

When he was searched in his cell tonight two pieces of glass and a bit of wire were found beneath his bunk. It is supposed he intended to use the glass to cut arteries in his wrists if he failed to escape. The wire might have been used to pick the locks.

Detective Shannon is visiting at the home of Mrs. Sarah Evans, who is his sister. The detectives will leave with their prisoner for Salt Lake Wednesday.

CHIEF PITT IS NOTIFIED

Salt Lake Detectives Wire From That Suspect Is the Man Wanted.

Immediately upon reaching Portland yesterday afternoon, Detectives Shannon and Chase wired to Chief Pitt that they had visited the suspect held in the jail at that place and had identified him as Joe Sullivan, the ex-convict who is wanted here for highway robbery and for the murder of Policeman Ford. As the train on which the detectives went to see Sullivan was ten hours late, they did not arrive there until 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. But knowing that a message from them was eagerly awaited here, they had no time in going to Portland to bring back to Salt Lake by next Thursday.

While he claims that his name is Thomas Howard, and that he never in Salt Lake, it is not believed that he can delay Detectives Shannon and Chase in the work of securing the necessary papers for his return here for trial.

CHANGED HIS MIND.

Searchlight, Nev., Postmaster Pleaded Guilty to Embezzlement.

Carson, Nev., Jan. 13.—In the United States district court today the matter of the injunction asked for by the Mine Owners' association against the Miners' union of Goldfield went over until tomorrow, as criminal cases filled the day's proceedings.

DENIED BY MOHLER.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 13.—Vice President and General Manager Mohler of the Pacific railroad, who is in Denver today, denied the report that the Union Pacific Railroad company has considered the advisability of removing its flagmen "until other systems so that it should only pay the cost of actual maintenance. Little attention has been paid to the fact that bonds in large sums have been issued, the interest of which cannot be paid from the water revenue."

SILVER AT 56.747.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The treasury department today purchased 200,000 ounces of silver at 56.747 cents per fine ounce, 100,000 ounces for delivery at New Orleans and 100,000 at San Francisco.

NEW MAYOR IN MESSAGE URGES A GREATER CITY

Plea for Progress Tempered by Regard for Ability to Pay.

WOULD IMPROVE POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION

WINE ROOMS, SUNDAY SALOONS, GAMBLING AND DIRTY ALLEYS UNDER THE BAN.

Mayor Bransford's Suggestions.

- Increase in police force commensurate with the needs of the city.
- Construction of a new fire station on the west side.
- Rigid supervision of fire facilities of theatres and other places where people congregate.
- Proper sanitation of all public buildings and the impartial enforcement of the rules regarding the gathering of large bodies of people to prevent spread of disease.
- Strict enforcement of law regarding sewer connections.
- Increase in number of employees of health department.
- Equitable increase in the water rates and the use of meters in all large places.
- Extension of the sewer system to protect the health of the people.
- More attention to beautifying the city, especially the boulevards and parks.
- Impartial administration of the food inspectors' department, and a close inspection of slaughter houses.
- Streets and alleys should always be kept clean.
- Saloons should be closed on Sunday; the recent order of the police removing wine rooms should be enforced, and everything possible should be done to improve the liquor traffic.
- Public gambling should be wiped out.
- Scheme to allow federal government to care for water sheds should be adopted.
- The vagrancy ordinance should be amended and revised so that the police can rid the city of this element.
- The passage of an effective smoke nuisance ordinance.
- Municipal improvements should be continued, but attention should be paid to the ability of property owners to meet their proportion of the assessment and the capacity of the city to pay its share.
- Juvenile court should be supported.

"A Greater Salt Lake" has to be made a still "Greater Salt Lake." There is no turning back. Our hand has been set to the plow; there must be no faltering. The battle of ballots so far as the city is concerned is over for two years, and if any feeling exists by reason of the recent civil conflict we should now forget them and with renewed energy go forward setting forth to the world our claim that this is "A City of Opportunities."

That the prosperity and future of the city should be the chief concern of the council, that laws and ordinances should be enforced impartially, and that all officers of the city should work together for its welfare, is the dominant note in the first annual message of Mayor John S. Bransford, submitted to the council last evening.

Increase in Water Rates.

Perhaps the most important recommendation made is that there should be an equitable increase in water rates. The mayor says that he is of the opinion that the city is not receiving sufficient revenue from this source in view of the investment. In some cities systems of this kind pay 6 per cent on the value of the city, while the revenue obtained by Salt Lake is "disproportionately small." Up to the present time the mayor says that it has been the evident purpose of the city authorities to pay the water rates, which has greatly depreciated in value, and that it should only pay the cost of actual maintenance. Little attention has been paid to the fact that bonds in large sums have been issued, the interest of which cannot be paid from the water revenue.

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MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE WILL MEET IN SPECIAL SESSION TODAY

Carson, Nev., Jan. 13.—Practically all the members of the legislature of Nevada are in this city today to attend the special session called by Governor Sparks, which convenes tomorrow morning.

WOULD IMPROVE POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION

WINE ROOMS, SUNDAY SALOONS, GAMBLING AND DIRTY ALLEYS UNDER THE BAN.

ROBERT MACLAY & CO., STOCK BROKERS, UNABLE TO WEATHER THE STORM

New York, Jan. 13.—The suspension of the firm of Robert MacLay & Co. was announced today on the stock exchange. The firm consists of Robert MacLay and Alfred B. MacLay, who are sons of the late Robert MacLay, president of the Knickerbocker Trust company before Charles T. Barne was elected to head that institution, and Harold H. Weeks, the former Columbia college athlete, who is the board member. Robert MacLay said he hoped the suspension would be only temporary. The obligations, according to counsel for the firm, amount to \$1,500,000, which is covered by collateral not readily salable in the present market.