



THE WEATHER.

Forecast made at San Francisco for thirty hours ending midnight, February 8: San Francisco and vicinity—Cloudy with showers Monday; light southwest wind. G. H. WILLSON, Local Forecaster.

THE CALL



THE THEATERS.

Alcazar—"The Gay Parisians." California—"A Night on Broadway." Central—"In Sight of St. Paul's." Chutes—Vandeville. Columbia—"Alexander the Great." Fischer—"Holy-Poly." Grand—"Whoop-Dee-Do." Orpheum—Vandeville. Tivoli—"When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

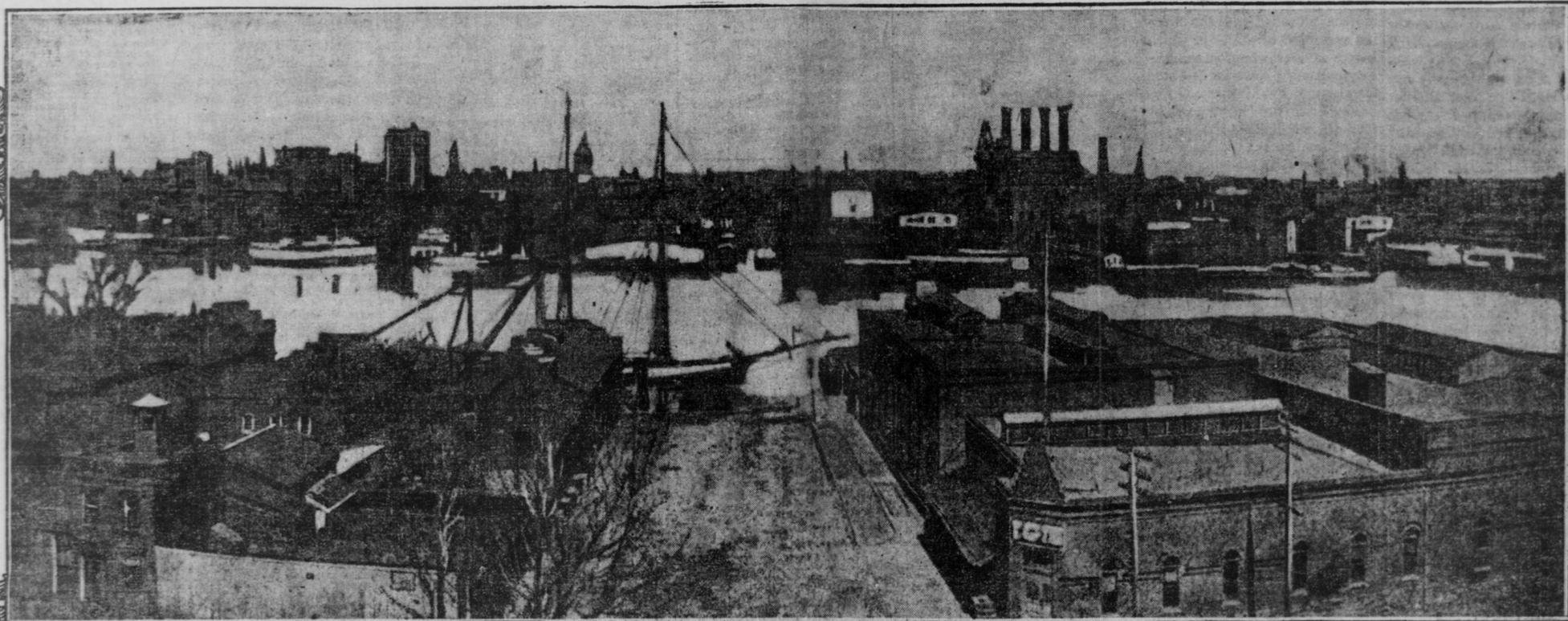


VOLUME XCV—NO. 70.

SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

FORTY BALTIMORE BLOCKS BURN JAPAN CASTS THE DIE FOR WAR



SCENE ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, Feb. 8.—(5 a. m.)—The conflagration is spreading and the fire department, assisted by engines sent from nearby cities, is powerless. At this hour the fire area is nearly a mile long and from two to eight blocks wide. The loss at midnight was estimated at \$40,000,000, and since that hour nearly a score of blocks have been laid in ruins. A heavy wind has aided in the spread of the flames. So far as known no lives have been lost, although many firemen and others have been injured by falling walls.

Conflagration Causes a Loss That Exceeds Fifty Million Dollars.

BALTIMORE Md., Feb. 8, 4 a. m.—The fire continues to spread in an easterly direction and continues beyond the control of the multitude of firemen. Great numbers of wagons are busy at this hour removing the household goods of the residents just east of Jones Falls, the hundreds of residences being threatened by the rapidly extending flames.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 4 a. m.—The Baltimore Sun, in its issue published this morning from Washington, says it is thought the loss will exceed \$50,000,000. The Light-street wharves, whither the flames were last reported heading, include a number of wooden structures filled with merchandise.

ALL WIRES ARE DOWN. BALTIMORE, Feb. 8.—At 3 o'clock this morning the fire was raging fiercely. So far as known at this hour no serious casualties have been reported to the police. Telegraph, telephone and electric wires of all kinds are prostrated. Express wagons have been kept busy all night removing furniture and fixtures from the counting rooms and warehouses in the threatened district.

The fire has now covered an area three-quarters of a mile in length by nearly a quarter of a mile in width, taking in many of

the most important buildings in the city. No one will venture to estimate the monetary loss.

STILL BEYOND CONTROL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—A telephone dispatch received from Baltimore at 3 o'clock says the Mount Vernon Telephone Exchange is burning and that the St. Paul Telephone Exchange has burned out. The Mount Vernon Exchange is about eight blocks from the Union station.

The postoffice building has been burned, also the Courthouse. The Holliday-street Theater has been blown up with dynamite and the United States Express offices and central offices of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were burned. The fire has reached Jones Falls, the stream that separates Baltimore from East Baltimore, and a high wind is blowing. The East Baltimore section consists of small residential houses.

When the fire reached Jones Falls the wind changed, driving the fire south, and it reached the wharves, where much inflammable material is stored. There have been many changes in the course of the fire since it started. It first took a northerly direction, swerved northeast until about 4 o'clock and then struck due east.

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VIEW OF THE WHOLESALE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, AS SEEN FROM THE HARBOR. IN THIS SECTION A CONFLAGRATION HAS MADE RUINS OF MANY BLOCKS OF THE MOST IMPOSING BUILDINGS IN THE MARYLAND METROPOLIS.

Flames Rage Unchecked at Midnight, With a Total of Twenty Blocks Already Destroyed.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 7.—(Midnight.)—The fire which broke out at a few minutes before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John T. Hurst & Co. has raged with unrestrained fury continually ever since, and at midnight it is still unchecked, but is steadily eating its way westward on Baltimore street, after having destroyed almost all the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district around Hopkins place and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore street from Howard to Holliday, and from Charles and Baltimore to Charles and Lexington streets, and on Lafayette street from Charles to Holliday, including a total of about twenty

blocks of the most modern and substantial buildings in Baltimore, involving a loss which cannot now be estimated, but which has certainly already reached thirty to forty millions of dollars.

FIREMEN DRIVEN BACK.

Ever since about 6 o'clock, when darkness came, the Fire Department, although aided by engines from Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the surrounding suburbs, has been utterly powerless to make any effective resistance to the consuming element, though for hours as many as four hundred streams of water were thrown into the flames. Indeed so terrific has been the heat ever since the fire started and so dense and suffocating the volume of flying sparks and burning cin-

ders that it was difficult for the firemen to stand long within fighting distance of the flames, while early in the afternoon several trucks and engines were hopelessly disabled by timbers.

At 7 o'clock the situation was so desperate that Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings at threatened points and thus prevent, as far as possible, a further spread of the flames. In pursuance of this plan a number of buildings on South Charles street, between Gorman and Lombard, were blown up. Subsequently the splendid structure of J. W. Putback, notion dealer, at Charles and Fayette streets, was dynamited and then the Daily Record

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Special Cable-Dispatch to The Call and New York Herald. Copyright, 1904, by the New York Herald Publishing Company.

NAGASAKI, Japan, Feb. 7.—Much real enthusiasm has been created by the mobilization of the Japanese second reserves, who are now marching through the streets to their quarters. The men turned out splendidly. The Russian flag is still flying over the consulate here, but the German Consul will take over the Russian interests here during the war. It is stated that the Russian men-of-war and transports returned to Port Arthur after visiting a position to the north of Dalny.

Tokio and St. Petersburg Governments Recall Their Respective Ministers.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 7.—Although the fear was general here yesterday that the presentation of the Russian note to Japan might be followed by an act on the part of the Japanese Government which would plunge the two countries into war, the startling action of Japan in severing diplomatic relations with Russia before the actual delivery of the Russian note came like a bolt from a clear sky. It was believed that the receipt of the note might have unmasked an ultimatum, but that Japan should sever diplomatic relations—a step little short of a declaration of war—was almost like a blow in the face under the present circumstances, and it is resented here accordingly. The authorities believe this action places Japan distinctly in the wrong before the world, and moreover such a "piece of impudence," as it is denominated here, makes easy an appeal to the patriotism of the Russian people.

The news at any moment that Japan had drawn the sword and that the first clash had occurred would not be surprising.

EVENTS BEFORE RUPTURE.

The events leading to Japan's abrupt action have marched with great rapidity. The Russian note

was already in the hands of Baron de Rosen, Russian Minister in Tokio, for delivery to Baron Komura, the Japanese Foreign Minister, when, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Kurino, the Japanese Minister here, presented himself at the Foreign Office and informed Foreign Minister Lamsdorff that his Government, in view of the delays in connection with the Russian answer and the futility hitherto of the negotiations, considered it useless to continue diplomatic relations and would take such steps as it deemed proper for the protection of Japan's interests. In obedience to instructions therefore he asked for his passports. Exactly what else passed at this interview is not known, except that Count Lamsdorff expressed surprise and regret at this hasty resolve of the Mikado's Government.

Kurino received his passports and, after consulting with Sir C. S. Scott, the British Ambassador here, he returned to his legation, where the preparations for his departure had already commenced.

RUSSIA ACTS PROMPTLY.

Another version of the situation at the time Kurino notified Count Lamsdorff of the course his

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