

EIGHT INQUIRIES AFTER 28 PERISH

Homeless Men Are Trapped by Flames in a Boston Lodg- ing House.

NOT ONE BODY IS IDENTIFIED

Only \$1.47 Gathered from the Effects of All the Victims —Fire Believed to Have Been Set.

Boston, Dec. 3.—The fire which cost the lives of 28 homeless men in the Armada Hotel, a lodging house in the south end district early today, had become the subject of eight separate investigations by nightfall. Some of these were aimed at determining where the fire started, and others were directed toward devising measures to protect hundreds of other men forced by circumstances to seek shelter in similar places.

Most important of the day's inquiries was that begun by the Suffolk county grand jury, directed by District Attorney Joseph P. Bellamy. The cause of the fire was not determined.

A large quantity of palmetto matches, District Attorney Bellamy said, was found in a closet on the second floor, but apparently it had not been touched by the flames.

Later the jury went to the city hospital morgue where Medical Examiner Timothy J. Leary pointed out that in nearly every instance death had been caused by suffocation, although in two or three cases it was evident that fire ended the lives.

Other investigations were the official inquiry by Medical Examiner Leary, inquiries by the fire commissioner, the building commissioner and the board of health, the city police department, the state police and personal research by Mayor Fitzgerald.

BELIEVES THE FIRE WAS SET.

Joseph G. Lyons of Brookline, president of the firm which operated the Armada as a place for the homeless, said that the fire started under the stairs in the main hallway. Within a few minutes three other mysterious fires have been discovered, he said. "This fire was undoubtedly set," he added.

Some of the men who were turned to death had been identified tonight. Two of the injured taken to the city hospital, William Sullivan and George Z. Adams, died during the day.

Search of the dead developed little to assist in identification. It revealed the financial circumstances of the men who died.

Nearly all the victims were terribly burned and mutilated, making identification almost impossible. The victims were men in poor circumstances who had resorted to the place for a night's lodging. Many of them were negroes, caught in the crowded bunks on the top floor of the five-story brick building and in the small rooms on the fourth floor, they were hopelessly smothered by flames and there was a mad rush for the fire escapes at the rear. Practically all the men were naked.

MANY RESCUED BY FIRMAN.

Many were rescued by the firemen and police. Others escaped by walking a shaky plank stretched to an adjoining building or jumping across a five-foot alley to neighboring roofs.

The property loss is estimated at \$25,000. The Armada was located at the corner of Washington and Laconia streets. The lower floors were used by stores and there was a mad rush for the fire escapes at the rear. Practically all the men were naked.

The top floor was one large room, filled with cots and bunks. On the fourth floor, where the loss of life was heaviest, there were 20 tiny rooms, like cells, with two cots in each. A hallway ran through the center. Nearly all those occupying rooms on the front of the building perished. The men in the rear rooms, opening on the fire escape had locked the doors when they went to bed and those in front were unable to reach the fire escape.

THREE JUMP FROM ROOF.

When the firemen arrived flames were shooting 30 feet in the air from the windows on the fourth and fifth floors and the fire escaped and the roof was a mass of smoking, struggling humanity. Despite shouts of assurance from below, three men jumped from the roof. Two were instantly killed. The third, who had wrapped a mattress about himself, escaped with a few bruises.

Lives were quickly restored to the firemen and many were rescued in this manner. Others were taken down ladders with the flames swooping about them. The intense heat soon drove the firemen from their ladders and made it necessary to fight the fire from the street and from the elevated railway structure running in front of the building.

The fire was in the heart of a crowded tenement and lower class hotel district. Hundreds of occupants of adjoining buildings rushed to the street when the great quantity of apparatus called out by three alarms changed up to their doors. Scores of excited foreigners crowded about the burning building and impeded the firemen in their work. A large squad of police had great difficulty in forcing back the throng.

PLACE LITTERED WITH DEAD.

It was nearly an hour after the

BROOKS BECOME RIVERS.

Mother and Four Children Perish in a Texas Flood.

Belton, Texas, Dec. 3.—Five persons were drowned and property valued at many thousands of dollars was destroyed today in a flood which spread over a territory approximately 29 miles in diameter in Bell county.

The dead are Mrs. W. H. Polk and her four children, who were carried away, when their home was loosened from its foundation and floated down a flooded creek. Others reported to have lost their lives were rescued unharmed from tree tops and wreckage late today.

The flood resulted from an excessive rainfall during last night, which transformed small streams, normally hardly more than brooks, into rivers which for six to eight hours swept away houses and washed out railroad and interurban tracks. The flood tonight is receding rapidly.

NO CHANGES IN LICENSE.

Four Political Upsets in Elections of Massachusetts Mayors.

Boston, Dec. 2.—No changes in the license situation resulted from today's election in 14 Massachusetts cities. Elected in the cities, Fall River, Fitchburg, Gloucester, Haverhill, Holyoke, Marlboro, New Bedford, Northampton, Pittsfield, Springfield and Taunton, favoring license, as last year. The cities declaring against license are Brockton, Quincy and Waltham.

In four cities there were political upsets. Former Mayor Harry C. Howard, republican, defeated Mayor Chas. M. Hickey, democrat, in Brockton. In Waltham, City Solicitor Thomas F. Kearney, democrat, overcame the usual republican plurality, and he is the third democrat to be elected mayor in the history of the city. The independent cent democrat, conducted by Quincy by John L. Miller was successful despite strong republican opposition. Thomas H. O'Halloran, democrat, defeated Mayor J. Henry Gleason, independent, in Marlboro.

Mayor Charles S. Ashley of New Bedford had the honor of being elected to the election for his 17th term. Other mayors re-elected were Harry C. Foster in Gloucester, W. H. Felker in Northampton and Patrick J. Moore in Pittsfield. In Fitchburg Benjamin A. Cook won the mayoralty. Fall River, Haverhill and Springfield did not elect mayors this year.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS FALL.

Shrinkage of \$4,500,000 Under New Tariff In November.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Customs receipts of the government for November fell off about \$4,500,000 compared with November, 1912, according to the monthly treasury statement. November was the first full month of operation for the new tariff, and if the month was a fair test of the bill's revenue producing power the annual return from this source will decline more than \$9,000,000.

The ordinary disbursements for November exceeded the ordinary receipts by \$2,750,752, compared with an excess of receipts for the same month last year of \$82,623.

For the fiscal year to date the disbursements have exceeded the receipts by \$7,596,190, compared with an excess of receipts last year of \$1,817,257. The receipts for November were \$25,210,122. The net balance in the general fund at the close of business Saturday was \$175,960,411, and the grand total assets in the treasury, \$2,096,857,301.

SUE CHINA IMPORTERS.

Government Asks \$4,592,150 for Al- leged Under-Valuation.

New York, Dec. 2.—Preliminary papers in penalty suits against importers of 11-moos chins in which the government asked judgments aggregating \$4,592,150 for alleged under-valuation, were filed in the federal court yesterday by United States District Attorney H. Snowden Marshall.

The defendants in the suits and the penalties are: Hayward & Co., \$1,200,122; Theodore Haviland & Co., \$1,228,849; William Henry & Co., \$457,534; Voght & Dose, \$198,174; Henry Creamer, \$142,806; Alfred G. Momentsani, agent of Porevian Lianos, \$143,958; L. D. Block & Co., Inc., \$11,888; L. D. Block & Co., \$23,418.

The importations covered in the complaint date back to December 7, 1910.

PUBLIC LANDS AVAILABLE

Nine Hundred Thousand Acres for Settlers in Western States.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Secretary Lane announced yesterday that the classification of public lands as irrigable or non-irrigable, in conformity with the administration of the 23rd reclamation law, was being accomplished satisfactorily.

Within the last few days the secretary has designated more than 900,000 acres in various western states for entry under the terms of the act. The designations include 250,000 acres in Arizona, 5,000 in California, 5,000 in Colorado, 27,000 in Idaho, nearly 200,000 in Montana, more than 500,000 in North Dakota, 274,000 in Oregon, 5,700 in Utah, 21,000 in Washington and 42,500 in Wyoming.

To make of "buying for the home" a problem of first importance in the home-making is to find more of "the joy of living"—as advertisers do.

PRESSES SOUTH TO ENTER CHIHUAHUA

Villa Leads Rebels through Ter- ritory Abandoned by Huert- ta's Federal Troops.

LEAVES GARRISON AT JUAREZ

"I Will Have 20,000 Men Sur- rounding Mexico City about Christmas Time," Says General.

Juarez, Dec. 3.—A new era began in northern Mexico today. It marked the peaceful occupation by the rebels of the territory abandoned by Huerta's federal troops.

With 200 rebels, Gen. Francisco Villa left Juarez for the evacuated city of Chihuahua, passing through Alamo, 45 miles south of the border, and camped at Montecama, 50 miles further south. Five thousand more rebels will join him on the way and with a combined force of 7,000 men he will enter the State capital, there to establish what will be the temporary military headquarters of the constitutional army.

The departure of the rebel force from Juarez with this equipment was made on four trains, a garbison of 1,200 soldiers having been left behind to guard the border town. As far as Alamo, Villa has restored the telegraph. The railroads to Montecama, where it is interrupted by burned bridges. It is to be reconstructed within a few days.

Whether General Carranza, the recognized head of the revolution, will join Villa to Chihuahua, seemed to be in doubt, although Villa said he expected Carranza's forces to cross from Sonora to concentrate the men for operations further south.

When the rebels enter Chihuahua, with the captured Mexican flags which they are carrying as symbols of their demands for a restoration of constitutional government, they will be welcomed by the rebel forces stationed on the south. It is toward that city that Villa insists he will march.

The flight of Gen. Salvador Mercado, the federal governor and commander-in-chief, with all his officers and troops, after sending a peace commission to Villa, whose answer he did not wait to receive, makes possible the rebel occupation of the city without a fight.

Monterrey and the few remaining federal strongholds in Sonora Leon and other northern States, Villa said, would be left to local bands of rebels. He intends to direct his main army toward Mexico City.

"I will have 20,000 men surrounding Mexico City about Christmas time," Villa said. "Our numbers will increase as we march southward, and by the time we reach the capital the people in the city will be ready to join us."

A message received from Chihuahua by a courier said the city was quiet and the residents, including the Americans, were much relieved by the exodus of the federal forces. It was stated that there had been no looting and that the soldiers had been without pay for so long they threatened looting and mutiny.

READY TO FIGHT YEARS.

Mexico City, Dec. 3.—The conclusion of Washington's policy appears not to alarm President Huerta, especially since he has long been preparing for a war with Mexico. He said today: "I have no intention of yielding. Should this fighting in Mexico continue for years, I shall continue to do my part in it if I am still alive."

General Huerta declared that the country was self-supporting and that foreign loans, if made necessary, would enable him to resist indefinitely. So long as he was able to obtain American oil he did not regard the shutting off of native oil from the railways as vital.

CLOSING CHAPTERS OF REHEIM.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Government officials here were more than ever confident today that the infinite pathos which the United States has shown in its treatment of the Mexican problem is soon to be rewarded by a solution brought about by operation of the great internal forces now engaged in a final struggle in Mexico. Such a conclusion has been the one principal object of the American administration.

Among the facts which form the basis of the belief that the closing chapters of the Huerta regime are now being written, is a report to the state department from agents in Mexico that the federal troops are no longer in receipt of their pay without which experience has shown their loyalty cannot be depended upon. Other reports regarded as indicating the speedy triumph of the constitutional forces related to the precipitate flight of the heads of the families which have controlled vast estates in northern Mexico, employing thousands of peons in agriculture, stock raising and mining.

THREATENS APPLE CROP.

New Enemy of Fruit Discovered in Orchard at East Wallingford.

Rutland, Dec. 3.—What may become a new enemy for Vermont apple growers to fight has appeared in the form of an insect that is known to entomologists as the Apple-Grasshopper. It was first discovered in this State by E. C. Kent of East Wallingford who sent an infested apple from his orchard to Prof. A. L. Quaintance of the bureau of entomology at Washington to have the pest identified. The insect has been through the heart of the apple and caused the fruit to grow misshapen, the skin of the infested area being overcast with a copper colored growth.

Concerning the fly, which is known to entomologists as the Apple-Grasshopper, Professor Quaintance writes: "The occurrence of this insect in your section is very interesting. This is a rather new introduction into this country and bids fair to cause a good deal of injury to apples. I am sorry that we do not have available for distribution a publication upon the pest. The agricultural experiment station at Cornell University at Ithaca, N. Y., may have material available for distribution. The insect winters in the larval stage in the roots of the apple and may not be done to reduce its abundance by carefully collecting and destroying all infested apples. We shall be glad to receive a liberal sending of infested fruit for observation."

GROWTH OF GEM IMPORTS.

Value of Diamonds in U. S. Reaches Nearly Billion Dollars.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Millions of dollars worth of diamonds imported into the United States in the first nine months of this year, according to statistics of jewelry importations just published by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. This is declared to be more than 50 per cent in excess of the highest record yet announced. The former record was \$420,000,000 in 1908.

The bureau declares that the value of all the diamonds in this country has reached the enormous sum of nearly \$1,000,000,000. To this must be added the importations of other precious stones, the value of which is not estimated in the statistics.

Cut diamonds showed the greatest gains in recent years. For the first nine months of 1913 there were imported \$22,000,000 in these gems as against \$19,000,000 in 1912. The total of all precious stones for the same period was \$123,322,322 as against \$120,000,000 in 1912.

These figures are declared by the bureau to warrant the belief that this year's importations will greatly exceed those of former years.

ARMY VOLUNTEER BILL IS PASSED

Mr. Mann's Remarks on Mexi- can Situation Feature De- bate in House.

Washington, Dec. 3.—After a discussion into which Republican Leader Mann injected the Mexican situation, the House today passed the Hay army volunteer bill in varying forms has been talked of at the capital for many years.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, would not war volunteer forces on an equal footing with the regular army. It would provide that whenever in the President's judgment war is imminent, or actually exists, the President may organize volunteer regiments for war purposes. The men, instead of enlisting for a short period as in past wars, would enlist "for the war." The President would appoint all the officers, not more than four regular officers to be appointed to any one volunteer regiment. The volunteer force thus formed would supplement the existing National Guard or militia, with which the bill would not interfere.

Representative Mann's remarks on the Mexican situation featured the debate. Declaring that of course Chairman Hay of the military committee, the administration and all others connected with the bill would vigorously deny that the measure was presented now because of the war with Mexico, he recalled that just before the Spanish-American War the appropriate committee presented a bill to put \$50,000,000 in President McKinley's hands.

"I took a minute then to say," added Mr. Mann, "that at least there was one man in the House who was not attempting to deceive himself while all the others had said that this was not in expectation of war, but to prevent war. I fear that the same delusion arises now."

"I should greatly regret war with Mexico," he continued. "I have no complaint to make of the President's attitude in his dealings with Mexico, although I confess I can see no end to the road which he is now pursuing."

Mr. Mann commented on the fact that Chairman Hay had pressed the bill, introduced three days ago, to passage immediately following the President's message.

ENLISTMENTS DECREASE.

Marked Falling Off Under the New Seven-Year Law.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Marked decrease in army enlistments during the new seven-year enlistment law was brought to the attention of the war department by Inspector-General Garlington in his annual report made public today.

The law provides for three years' service with the colors and four years' subject to call in the reserve. The inspector-general recommended developing the Philippines into the Philippine constabulary, thereby placing the cost of their maintenance upon the Philippine government, and adding the 5,722 men now required for the scouts to the regular army.

LOCAL ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE.

THE NEWS BY COUNTIES

From the Island in the Lake to the Passumpsic, Along Ot- ter Creek and Shores of White River.

ADDISON COUNTY

MIDDLEBURY.

Levi Miller of Cornwall, while attempting to drive some cattle from the farm Saturday morning, struck an on-street animal over the head with a whip in such a way that the metal point of the whip broke off and flying back hit him in the left eye. The eye was badly injured, probably destroyed by the blow. The young man was brought to Middlebury and taken on the 11:30 train to Burlington for treatment. Dr. J. L. Dorsey accompanying him—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reed have returned to Rutland. The following people from this county left Friday for different parts of Florida, where they will spend the winter: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dow and daughters, Rita and Hazel; Mrs. W. K. Foster, Milton; Sumner, Dr. Roy C. S. Carter of Rutland; Mr. and Mrs. Helen Shepley and daughter, Mrs. Giff, J. R. Day, Mr. St. John of Addison and Mrs. Olive Smith of Rutland; Mrs. William Gravel has gone to Troy, N. Y., called there by the death of a brother—Col. James M. Tracy, who has been ill, is able to be about again; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Whitcomb, who have been visiting in town for a few days, have returned to their home as the result of stepping on a rusty nail. Mrs. Harry Kerr, who has been in town, has gone to Rochester, N. Y., where she will join her husband, returning to Stamford, Conn. Miss Hazel Lower has gone to Rutland to visit her father, John Lower. Mrs. William McGary and daughter, who have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ladd May, of Bridport, for a week, have returned to their home. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Banta and two children of Newry, N. J., who have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Calhoun on North Pleasant street, have come to Montpelier, where they will spend a few days before returning to their home. George Delphia has commenced to remodel the building which he recently purchased of Mrs. E. A. Rich on North street—Theodore B. Hargrove of Boston is the guest of his aunt, Mrs. M. A. Moore—Miss Edith Brown of Walling is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Robbins—Mrs. Ellen Hope has returned from Lincoln, where she has been visiting for two weeks—George N. Burchard purchased Friday from the estate of the late Harrison Johnson of Shoreham the farm of 18 acres and the farm buildings lately occupied by Mr. Johnson and adjoining Mr. Burchard's home place—Edna Jones has returned from Ira, where she spent several days at the home of her parents—Dr. Ezra Brainard, former president of the college, and his family have returned from Castleton, where they spent Thanksgiving with Principal and Mrs. Charles A. Adams—Judge Charles J. Button and Mrs. Burton have returned from Brandon, where they have been on a brief visit to Mr. Burton's mother, Mrs. Laura A. Button—John Shankill, who has been at Grand Isle for two years, is here to visit relatives in Middlebury, Cornwall and Bridport—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Hinman have returned from Brandon—Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Ford have returned to Wallingford—Miss Irene Dupont is in town—Harvey Burns has gone to Rutland for a few days—Miss Grace Cusey, who has been visiting her grandfather, Thomas Bassett, for a week, has returned to Rutland—Miss R. Mildred Wells, who has been the guest of the Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Estes for a week, returned to Boston Monday—Dr. A. D. Starbuck has returned from Boston, where he was called by the sudden illness and death of his mother—The leading event of the season will be the Federated fair held by the women of the Congregational Methodist and Episcopal Churches of Middlebury Friday afternoon and evening. Elaborate preparations are being made in the way of decorations and entertainment. Luncheon can be bought in the various booths. During the evening there will be a program of music, drills and marches. The milkmaid's drill is an especially attractive one and will be given in costume. The timber song from the Cantata of Jephtha will also be given by a chorus of young ladies in Oriental costume. A group of tiny girls will present a doll drill. The Camp-Fire girls in Indian costume will give the Road song in picturesque marching or-

FLOODS IN TEXAS BECOME SERIOUS

Territory 200 Miles Long and 100 Miles Wide Almost All under Water.

THOUSANDS MADE HOMELESS

Scores Rescued from Tree Tops and Floating Wreckage— Railroads Out of Commission.

Louis, Texas, Dec. 3.—With three rivers, the Trinity, Brazos and Colorado, and innumerable small streams out of their banks as a result of torrential rains which began Monday night and still con- tinue, the flood situation in central Texas has assumed serious proportions.

Within a territory 200 miles in length and 100 miles in width almost all of the lowlands are under water, approximately 15,000 persons have been driven from their homes, scores have been rescued from tree tops and floating wreckage, several railroads have been forced to suspend operations and much damage has been done to property. Seven persons were known to have lost their lives. Yesterday five members of the family of W. C. Polk, a farmer, were drowned at Belton and B. F. Lacy and a man named Manley met the same fate near Dallas late today. Manley lost his life while attempting to rescue marooned victims at the village of Grand Prairie.

Waco, on the Brazos river and in the center of the flooded area, reported the most serious situation in today. The military companies stationed there have been ordered on duty by Governor Cozzitt and ball cartridges have been issued to the guardsmen for use in event of looting. Train service out of Waco was demoralized by washouts.

In the Leon river bottoms, near Temple, a number of men, women and children, still were marooned late today after spending 24 hours in the trees. Near Dallas this afternoon boatmen rescued a dozen persons from trees in the Trinity river bottoms, and earlier in the day boats took refugees from trees near Waxahatchie and at other points.

Marlin, the training site of several major league baseball teams, is practically surrounded by water, and the town of Hilly is inundated.

In Waco and other large towns in the flooded district charitable organizations are caring for those made homeless while in the smaller villages more fortunate neighbors are providing shelter for those driven from their homes.

Waco, Texas, Dec. 3.—Refugees from about a thousand homes in South and East Waco, submerged to the eaves by the flood waters of the Brazos river, tonight were huddled in churches, neighboring houses and a woolen mill, many of them ignorant of the fate of other members of their families.

Danger of a shortage of water for domestic purposes added gravity to the situation. In East Waco, where the greatest damage has been done, the water today reached a depth of from 15 to 20 feet.

League parties in boats were kept busy until late tonight taking to safety persons who had found refuge on roofs and in trees. Watchers along the river banks told of having seen bodies floating down streams and others declare they have witnessed men dropping from trees into the flood, too weak from hunger and exposure longer to sustain their hold.

TEST INCOME TAX LAW.

Suit Filed Alleging That the Act Is Class Legislation.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Charges that the income tax section of the new tariff law constitutes class legislation and is unconstitutional were made today in a test suit filed here against the Continental and Commercial Trust and Savings bank on behalf of Mrs. Elsie Dewolfe of New York.

The suit is a test case, the government probably will be asked to aid in defense of the bill, according to Levy Mayer, counsel for the bank, who said he would seek a conference with Attorney-General McReynolds to discuss carrying the action to the United States Supreme Court for a ruling.

The declaration, filed by counsel for Mrs. Dewolfe, alleged that the bill violated the fifth amendment to the constitution in that it deprives her of property without due process of law, and that it violated the 14th amendment in denying her equal protection under the law.

The graduated scale of taxation, the declaration alleges, discriminated unjustly against persons of incomes under \$30,000 a year "usually gained from industrial and artistic pursuits" in favor of those with incomes more than \$30,000 a year. Mrs. Dewolfe was an actress. She retired from the stage in 1905 and is at present in Paris.

The suit was brought to compel the bank to pay the interest on 20 bonds of a power company which the bill stated the bank had declined to pay unless Mrs. Dewolfe file a certificate of ownership as provided by the income tax law. Damages of \$1,000 are asked in each of five counts.

PROGRESSIVES TO HAVE PAPER.

Montpelier, Dec. 3.—Application is to be made at the office of the secretary of state for the incorporation of a stock company to publish a weekly progressive paper to be called The Advance. The incorporators will be Guy R. Horton of Burlington, M. L. Smith of St. Albans, Dr. W. J. Aldrich of St. Johnsbury, Dr. J. H. Blockett of Belows Falls and A. H. Townsend of Burlington. The capital stock is to be \$10,000. It has not been decided whether the paper will be pub- lished in Burlington or Montpelier. The first issue is to appear about January 1.

VERGENNES.

Mrs. Levi H. Brown gave a card party Saturday afternoon to a few friends in honor of Miss Grace E. Kingsland. The Rev. W. E. Hayes, sister Mrs. Weiden and daughter visited the Rev. and Mrs. George W. Hargrove on Monday. Mrs. George W. Hargrove has received word that his wife and children sailed November 19.

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