

### KUESPERT BACKED UP BY CHIEF KERR IN GAFFILL AFFAIR

Says Officers Acted Within Law and Showed Good Sense in Treatment of Supposed Pick-pocket Circus Day.

### SAFETY BOARD WILLING TO HAVE CHARGES FILED

Proposal is Sidetracked By Report That Gaffill is Satisfied That it Was Mutual Mistake.

Declaring that the temporary arrest of R. A. Gaffill on suspicion of being a pickpocket, as made by Chief of Detectives Kuespert and Detective Diver last Friday was excusable, and that Gaffill so recognizes it and is without animus against the officials on account of it, Chief of Police Kerr sidetracked the mailing of a letter by the board of safety Friday suggesting to Mr. Gaffill that if he has any complaint to make, to make it in writing at the next meeting of the board and that it would be investigated.

"Mr. Kuespert and Mr. Gaffill went over that matter thoroughly after the latter's identity was established, and there was a thorough understanding," says the chief. "They shook hands and separated, Mr. Gaffill realizing that a mistake had been made, for which Mr. Kuespert apologized, and his apology was accepted. Mr. Gaffill was pointed out to the detectives as answering the description of one of the men wanted. They had a perfect right to take him and hold him for 24 hours, on suspicion, if necessary, and I approve of what they did."

The matter of an investigation was suggested by Pres. Augustine, that is, to the extent of proposing a letter to Gaffill that he make charges against the officers should he wish to do so. "I have seen considerable in the newspapers about this, and if he wishes to have it done, I am in favor of having him appear before the board and that he be giving a hearing," he said.

Mayor Keller, who had stepped in at the meeting, was inclined to favor Pres. Augustine's plan at first, but when Chief Kerr announced his position in the matter, the proposition was dropped.

"These men do not know everybody in town, and neither do I, and neither do you," said the chief. "I understand that when the officers approached him and told him he was wanted, he reached for his pocket. They had a right to assume from the circumstances that he was reaching for a gun, which of the officers of the police variety very frequently do. As officers, they really had no right to assume that he was reaching for a card at all. Too many policemen have been shot down just at that point. Mr. Gaffill seems to be his mistake as well as that of the officers and as I understand it, the incident, as between the parties to it, is closed."

There was very little to the police department meeting Friday aside from the brief consideration of the Gaffill-Kuespert affair. Chief Kerr reported his expenses to the meeting of the National Association of Chiefs of Police, at Grand Rapids last week, to have been \$21.03. The board was inclined to a more detailed report of the convention as the meeting next week.

Care for Emergency Cases. The matter of making some provision for caring for emergency cases at the city hospitals, where patients are destitute, and are discharged by the police, came up, but was not disposed of. Pres. Augustine proposed an appropriation to the hospitals in the next annual budget. Trouble between the hospitals and the police department in the past, and failure of the city to care for emergency patients, has brought the hospitals to the point of refusing to receive such patients unless the bills are guaranteed, and at present the city has no fund for that purpose.

Bids for coal for the various fire stations will be advertised for by the board of safety at the next meeting of the board. Chief Shirel recommends the purchase of 175 tons peachantons coal, and 34 tons egg nut coal, bids to be in by July 9th, each accompanied by a certified check for \$100, and a bond for \$500 to be furnished by the one to whom the bid is awarded.

The board of safety also arranged a meeting with the building code committee at Architect Adelsperger's office next Monday afternoon, to see what can be done with regard to completing the framing of the code. Upon looking up its minutes, they show that the committee accepted the job which the definite understanding that \$500 was to cover the expense, while now Mr. Adelsperger, a member of the committee, wants \$1,500 for his work alone. The board hopes to have a report ready for the common council in time for its next meeting in the "hole."

### FATHER AND SON DROWN

Are Knocked From Bridge By Train at Fort Wayne.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., June 26.—William L. Newport, 38, and his son, Lawrence, six, were drowned here late last night when run down by a Pennsylvania passenger train on a bridge at the outskirts of this city and thrown into the St. Mary's river. Mrs. Newport and her daughter, Hazel, eight years old, who were walking ahead of the man and boy, leaped from the bridge and were badly injured.

### HUERTISTAS TO MEET REBEL AGENTS SUNDAY

American Delegates Confident Buffalo Conference Will Result in Peace for Mexico.

BY LAURENCE TOD.  
(Staff Correspondent.)

MEDIATION HEADQUARTERS, Niagara Falls, Ont., June 26.—The arrival at Buffalo of the constitutionalist delegates, Louis Cabrera and Rafael Zubaran, to discuss terms of peace with the Huertistas is now scheduled for Saturday night or Sunday. The American delegates and the Argentine envoy, Dr. Naon, are confident that Cabrera will keep his agreement made in Washington to bring about a peaceful settlement of Mexico's civil war.

All sides waited today for word from the constitutionalists that Cabrera would be upheld in his position.

Interest in the mediation conferences has died out. Ambassador D'Amato of Brazil has gone to Long Beach, N. Y., where he has a summer home. Minister Suarez of Chile will leave late today or tomorrow for Washington. Both men will remain subject to call from Dr. Naon, who will remain here to watch the peace parleys between the two Mexican factions. The two mediators will come back whenever their services are wanted.

It is an open secret, however, that they do not believe that a provisional government will be established in Mexico until the rebels enter Mexico City. They hope to find Villa willing at that time to relent from the announced policy of the rebels to sweep all of the old government followers from power.

Among the Huertista delegates here the name of Cabrera, head of the constitutionalist junta, is mentioned with more approval than heretofore. Since the military triumph of Villa at Zacatecas and the threat from Villa at Camp that Felipe Angeles would be chosen provisional president, the federals are more inclined to favor Cabrera for the place in spite of their refusal a week ago to accept any rebel at the head of the government.

### NEW YORK GETS 1915 SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET

CHICAGO, June 26.—The 1915 gathering of the Sunday school convention will be held in New York. This action, together with the suggestion that the convention meet every four years instead of triennially as at present, was taken at the session of the convention this afternoon.

### EX-MAYOR OF ROME DEDICATES ITALY'S WORLD'S FAIR SITE



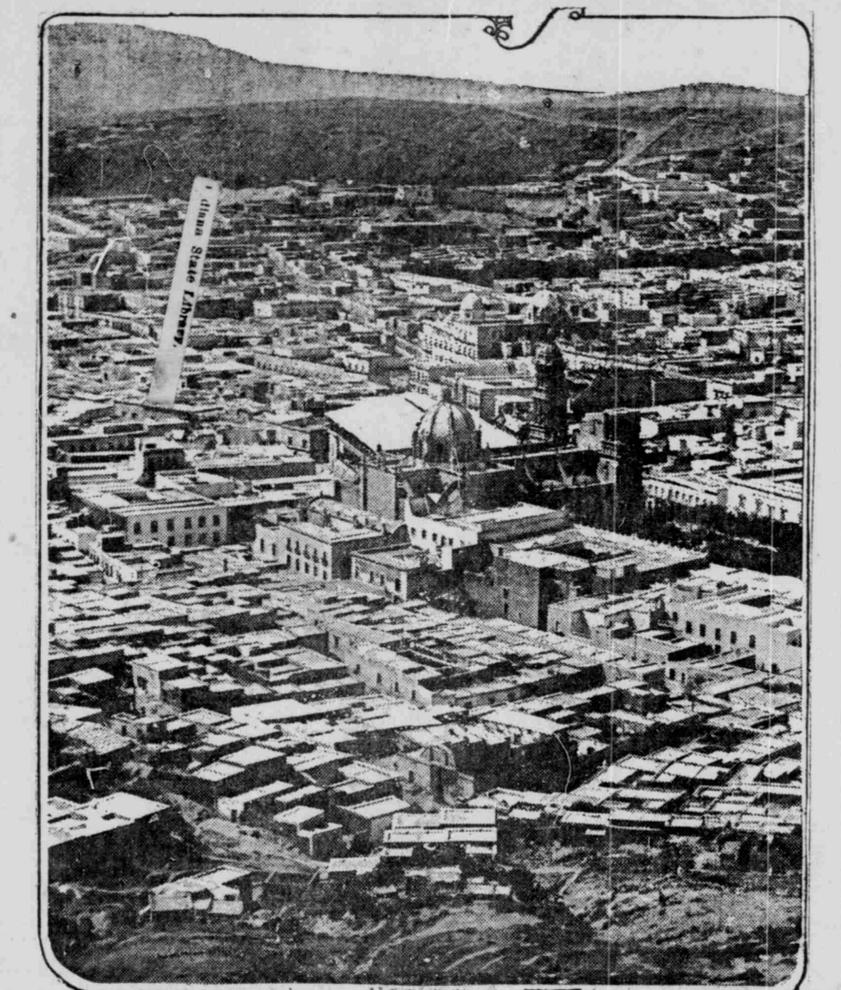
A former mayor of Rome, and Italian commissioner to the 1915 world's fair, recently dedicated the famous old Latin nation's fair site at San Francisco, amid one of the most impressive ceremonies so far witnessed at the fair grounds.

"Italy's exhibit will be a surprise to everyone," said Nathan, but he didn't tell what the surprise would be.

### HAVE THE NEWS-TIMES COMPANY TOG ON YOUR VACATION.

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### KEY TO MEXICO CITY CAPTURED BY VILLA'S REBELS



The last stronghold of Huerta's army outside the capital is now in the hands of the rebels, and the march on Mexico City of Villa's men threatens to wreck the plans agreed upon by the mediators and plunge Mexico into greater chaos. Zacatecas was the last big town in the way of the rebels, and when Villa led his 26,000 men against it he won the day only after great losses. But the victory makes the rebel general master of the situation in Mexico, and it seems that his threat to string up Huerta to the nearest tree is near execution.

### VILLA SETS UP NEW ORDER IN CAPTURED CITY AND STARTS CAPITAL MARCH

BY JOHN W. ROBERTS.  
ZACATECAS, Mexico, June 26.—With 200,000 constitutionalist soldiers rushing to Agus Calientes to complete the work begun by the capture of Zacatecas, Gen. Villa today bent his efforts to establishment of a new governmental system here and removing traces of the recent battle in which Gen. Barron's federals were overwhelmingly defeated.

Three hundred rebel soldiers were detailed to gather up the bodies of the slain federals. They were piled into vast heaps, oil poured on them and ignited. Smoke of these funeral pyres could be seen in a dozen different sections of the city.

First estimates of 6,000 killed may prove too large, but officers in charge of the work insist that it is not far wrong. On some of the hills, particularly the hill of the crickets, which guards the northern entrance to the city, and in the canon through which the railroad enters the city, groups and rows of dead soldiers were found, terrible evidence of the execution caused by the fire of the rebels' machine guns.

Zacatecas, the eagle city, has been the scene of battle in many revolutions, but never has it suffered the damage such as that wrought by the guns of Gen. Villa. Row after row of buildings were leveled by the shells of the constitutionalist gunners.

With the city in his control, Villa took no time for rest. He has probably had no more than five hours' sleep since the city was captured.

"This is the beginning of Huerta's end," he declared today. "Within a month we shall be in Mexico City."

### LARGE MERCHANDISE DEBT OWED BY FIRM

Bankrupt H. B. Clafin Company Has Total Liabilities of \$36,000,000.

NEW YORK, June 26.—The bankrupt H. B. Clafin company, it was learned today, owes about \$2,800,000 to manufacturers and dealers in dry goods and notions. This sum added to the \$34,000,000 owed to banks on discount paper, makes the total liabilities of the firm \$36,800,000. It should be said, however, that the indebtedness of \$2,800,000 for merchandise purchased is not charged entirely against the H. B. Clafin company, but also against the 27 stores controlled and financed by the corporation.

Six of these stores, two of them in Brooklyn, went into bankruptcy following the failure of the parent house. Others are going to receivership in various cities throughout the country today. A few of the stores may be able to finance themselves, but the bankers most conversant with affairs of the Clafin concern say this fortunate condition applies to not more than two or three of the establishments affected.

### GREAT BLAZE AT SALEM LEAVES CITY IN RUINS AND 200 ARE MISSING

Twenty Thousand Made Homeless in Greatest American Conflagration in Years Are Fed in Great Army Camp and Martial Law Rules

### GOVERNOR CALLS FOR AID; HISTORIC BUILDINGS SAVED

SALEM, Mass., June 26.—Two hundred persons were unaccounted for today in Salem's great fire. The flames were under control at 5 a. m., after raging for 15 hours unchecked. Four people are known to be dead. Fifty have been injured. From 15,000 to 20,000 are homeless.

The property loss is estimated all the way from \$5,000,000 to \$25,000,000. The city is practically without water. The thousands of homeless are being fed today in a great army camp set up on Highland av. One thousand cots, 1,000 tents and 1,000 blankets are being distributed among the fire sufferers. There are rations for ten thousand being served by the militia commissary department.

Ten thousand are being sheltered under the canvas today.

Rich and Poor on Level. Today's rations to the homeless consisted of a loaf of bread, a can of beef, and a cup of coffee. Rich and poor were served alike. The wealthy section of the city as well as the tenement districts are in ruins. One thousand buildings were burned.

The known dead are: Mrs. Edward McGlone, Federal and Boston sts.; died of heart failure after seeing her home burned.

Mary Fliske, died of heart disease while being moved from Salem hospital to the almshouse.

Unidentified man, body found in ruins.

Unidentified child, body found in ruins of a house on May st.

Governor Issues Appeal. Fifty persons were injured and removed to the hospital. Gov. Walsh is personally supervising the relief work. He arrived on the scene last night and worked all night among the fire sufferers.

The governor issued the following appeal today:

"The city of Salem, one of the most prosperous and attractive municipalities in the state, has been stricken with a conflagration unparalleled in the recent history of Massachusetts. Millions of dollars' worth of property has been destroyed and thousands of men, women and children have been made homeless and destitute. The need of immediate relief is most urgent.

"Let the citizens of Massachusetts show their sympathy at once in a practical way and demonstrate once more the generous spirit that has always characterized the people of Massachusetts when a call has been made by a stricken community. In order that aid may be given and an opportunity provided for collecting funds I hereby request all citizens interested, who can conveniently do so, to meet me at the state house at 9:30 o'clock this morning to organize a committee to undertake all the necessary relief work. I also request the mayors of cities and sections of towns, to organize local movements to organize in this work. At this morning's meeting a treasurer will be named to whom all funds may be sent and the committee on relief organized."

City Under Martial Law. The city is now under martial law of the strictest kind. All looters will be shot on sight. A cordon of militia now extends around the burned district.

The militia now on the spot includes the Second corps of cadets, the entire Eighth regiment and one company of the naval brigade. Col. Frank A. Graves is in command.

Adding to the suffering homeless was a water famine. Drinking water was brought in buckets from springs in the outskirts or carried from Peabody, Beverly, Marblehead and Lynn. So small was the supply of water that only a scantily filled tin cup full could be allotted each applicant. The fire has laid waste one-third of the city. The flames swept southeast a mile and a half after having been started by an explosion of gas in the plant of the Korn Leather company.

The flames then cut a crescent

shaped area in the business district over a mile wide.

At daybreak the fire raged in the east section of the city, but at 5 a. m. the firemen said they had controlled the flames.

Spend Night in Camp. Most of the refugees were forced to spend the night in the open, the main refuge camp being on Salem commons.

Block after block was dynamited in an effort to check the fire. The railroad depot was among the buildings dynamited.

A score of manufacturing plants are burned, including the big mill of the Naumkeag Cotton company, which has 4,000 hands on its payroll, being one of the largest in the world.

The night was one of terror. All the lights in the city were put out of commission. The fire was the most serious conflagration in the history of New England. In the destruction of the industrial plants, the city and its inhabitants suffered a tremendous loss. Thousands of employees lost their jobs as well as their homes.

The entire water front was swept. Some sailing vessels had a very narrow escape.

Hospital Destroyed. The Salem hospital was destroyed. A hundred patients, of which thirty were injured in the fire, were hurriedly removed to the almshouse and to the Beverly hospital. Ambulances, automobiles, hacks and grocery wagons were pressed into service. One old woman died during the transfer.

Several churches in the Point section of the city were destroyed, including the new St. Joseph's Catholic church, a costly edifice.

Through the night there were various rumors of fatalities. The most persistent was that reporting the death of Gen. Lyman Green. It was impossible during the excitement and disorders to ascertain the probable tolls.

A hurried roll call will be made today by the police and the military authorities and the rains will be searched.

Mayor Hurley Directs Work. Mayor Hurley, whose sick hat is famous throughout the country, personally supervised the dynamiting of buildings alongside of the commissioner of public safety. Seventeen companies of infantry men with fixed bayonets patrol the fire zone today.

Army stoves are being set up in different parts of the city in the streets. Coffee will be kept hot on these stoves and members of the commissary will cook any victuals which refugees desire to have hot.

Salem's buildings of nation-wide fame. The House of Seven Gables, Hawthorne's birthplace, the Essex institute, the Peabody museum, the Old Town House and other structures famed in the historical and literary annals of the country, are still preserved.

THOUGHT HE WAS GOAT. Heat Drives Man Insane and He Butts Brains Out.

CROWN JOINT, Ind., June 26.—Crazed by the heat into believing he was a goat, Henry Martin, after being confined in jail here, butted his head so hard against the steel bars that he fractured his skull and bent the bars. He was found dead today.

### CITY ASKS RAISE OF ASSESSMENTS ON 3 FRANCHISES

Street Railway, Electric and Gas Corporations Likely to Protest Against Increase By Board of Review.

City Atty. Eli F. Seebirt took the first step Friday in what is expected to result in a contest on the assessment of corporation franchises in South Bend by filing petitions with the county board of review asking that the valuation of three franchises be increased. The franchisees are those of the Chicago, South Bend and Northern Indiana Railway Co., Indiana and Michigan Electric Co., and the Northern Indiana Gas & Electric Co.

It has been understood for several days that the city expected to petition that the assessments of the franchises be increased materially and it is thought that the three companies will make strenuous objections to such action.

The petitions filed request that the county board of review increase the valuation of the Indiana and Michigan Electric Co. franchise from \$100,000 to \$500,000, the Northern Indiana Gas & Electric Co. from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and make the Chicago, South Bend and Northern Indiana franchise assessment \$200,000.

Take Up Matter Monday. The matter of assessing the corporations will be taken up by the board of review on Monday or Tuesday and it is expected that objections to the petitions by the city will be made by the three companies before a hearing is permitted.

C. D. Emmons, general manager of the Chicago, South Bend and Northern Indiana Railway Co. stated Friday that objections would be made to an increase in the assessment of the company's franchise. He declared that the board of review will be acting outside the scope of its authority in increasing the assessment, asserting that the state has complete control over all transportation assessments. It is probable that a fight will be made against the increase which has been petitioned for when the board takes the matter under consideration Monday.

HUSBAND'S VICTIM DIES. Newcastle Woman Succumbs to Wounds From Revolver.

NEW CASTLE, Ind., June 26.—Mrs. Charles Grissom, who was shot four times by her husband yesterday following a quarrel, died last night. After shooting his wife Grissom blew out his own brains, dying instantly. A double funeral will be held Sunday.

### FIND MISSING GIRL AND ARREST A CONDUCTOR

Pair Fled Fearing Threats By Wife of Charles Wolfe—Found in Elkhart.

Ruby Scott, 14, the girl who disappeared from her home at 1633 Florence av. Wednesday afternoon, was found Friday morning at two o'clock at Elkhart, where she had been taken by a girl named Viola Doolittle, otherwise Helen Rose, 498 N. Scott st.

The trip to Elkhart was the result of the threatened arrest of the two girls by Mrs. Charles Wolfe, 522 S. Carroll st., whose husband is a street car conductor, with whom the two girls had ridden Wednesday afternoon. The Doolittle girl had told Ruby, according to the latter's story to the police, that Wolfe was her father and that it would be all right for them to ride on his car.

Charles Wolfe has been arrested on a charge of assault and battery filed by his wife, on which he will be held. The Doolittle girl is 18 years old and answered the description of the girl who was seen with Ruby late Wednesday afternoon on the Jefferson bridge. Ruby had met her on several occasions in the parks of the city.

Wife Has Wolfe Arrested. It is said that Wolfe had made arrangements to resign from his position with the railway company and had all his clothes packed as if ready for a trip. Mrs. Wolfe told the police Friday morning that Wolfe had ordered her from the house.

Wednesday the two girls rode out as far as Walnut st. on Washington av. with Wolfe. When the car returned from the end of the line they boarded

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN)