

OHIO STATE NEWS.

Topics of Interest to Buckeyes at Home and Abroad.

United Mine Workers in Convention.
COLUMBUS, April 11.—The national convention of United Mine Workers of America, met here yesterday with 150 delegates present. The feature of the morning session was the address by President John McBride, who made a savage attack on John W. Hays, general secretary of the K. of L., whom he denounced as a falsifier and traitor. He charged that at the time of the formation of the United Mine Workers, five years ago, by consolidation of the miners of the K. of L. with the Miners' Progressive union, Hays obtained undue advantage for the K. of L. miners by representing their members as 23,000, when in fact there were less than 8,000. The charge was also made that Hays had continued the padding process ever since, thereby obtaining unjust advantages at conventions of the miners, and imposing unnecessary and excessive burdens in the way of expenses. He urged K. of L. miners either to compel the national executive board to remove Hays or withdraw themselves from the order.

President McBride, in the most emphatic manner, counseled independent political action and the sentiment was applauded to the echo. He also urged a general strike and cautioned miners not to yield until there was a general concession to their demands. The old method of miners returning to work as soon as operators in particular districts acceded to their demands must be abandoned. This statement was enthusiastically received.

Heavy Robbery.
CLEVELAND, April 10.—Between \$10,000 and \$15,000 worth of jewelry, diamonds and watches was taken from the safe of the Home Security Company, 149 Ontario street, between midnight Saturday and Monday morning. The combination of the safe was worked by some one who evidently knew all about it and the valuables quietly carried away, leaving not a clew to the perpetrators.

The office of the company adjoins that of Davis, Hunt & Co., hardware merchants. Entrance was made into the hardware store by means of the fire escape. The burglars came down through the building from the third floor into the basement. The basement extends under the Home Security Company's office. There boxes were secured and the floor above bored through with an augur, taking a piece neatly out. Through this hole entry was made to the office. There the safe was worked and the valuables packed, leaving no trace of the intruders save the empty safe and the hole in the floor. In this shape the store and office were found Monday morning.

CLEVELAND, April 11.—Two of the Home Security Company robbers were arrested by detectives near Painesville yesterday. Their names were given as George Anderson, of Denver, Col., and Charles Snow. Two sachets containing about 200 watches were also recovered. The men deny all knowledge of how they came to be caught with the jewelry.

Miss Pollard as an Actress.
CINCINNATI, O., April 9.—"Miss Pollard is an actress, equal, I may say, to Clara Morris or Sarah Bernhardt," said Hon. Ben Butterworth at the Burnett house Saturday evening. "I never saw anything like it. She can simulate any passion or emotion and it is my opinion that this is but the prelude to her going on the stage." "There was no excuse on earth for the bringing of this suit. Nothing is gained by it; public or private virtue is not subserved by it. It is worse than a foul, pestilence-breeding contagion. Had I been called into the case three days sooner it would not have been tried, if my counsel could have prevented."

Under New Management.
CINCINNATI, O., April 9.—Col. J. H. Woodward, "Jayhawker," will be editor-in-chief of the Commercial Gazette with full control of the entire editorial and news departments of that paper under the new management, which takes hold to-day. Col. Woodward will also be assistant business manager. Perry S. Heath being business manager. Elliot Marfield, at present managing editor, is to become city editor. It is the understanding that the Halsteads, including Murat and his three sons, Marshall, of Cincinnati; Robert of New York, and Albert, of Washington, are to retire.

Incorporated.
COLUMBUS, April 11.—The following articles of incorporation were filed yesterday in the office of the secretary of state: The Arctic Glass Painting Company, Cincinnati, increase of capital stock from \$10,000 to \$25,000; the Harrison Hedge Company, Cadiz, capital stock \$30,000; Columbia Lodge, No. 1230, Knights and Ladies of Honor, Dayton; the Hudson School Furniture Company, Athens, capital stock \$100,000.

Parole Recommended.
COLUMBUS, April 10.—Warden James and the new chaplain, Rev. Mr. Winger, of the Ohio penitentiary, have recommended Patrick J. Elliott for release on parole. He and William J. Elliott, February 23, 1891, killed two men and wounded nine others on High street on account of a newspaper feud of a personal character.

Jail Delivery Frustrated.
WOOSTER, April 11.—It was discovered yesterday morning that four prisoners in the county jail had, during Monday night, torn up the heavy iron door and gone into the cellar and dug away an eighteen-inch wall. Then they went back to the prison, expecting to make their escape last night. Samuel and Abner Shanklin, who were taken to the penitentiary Tuesday morning, gave the affair away at the depot, claiming that it was done simply to show that they could have made their escape. They said they told it because they did not want to assist Wiggins and Dr. Brown to liberty.

THE TARIFF BILL.

Merits of the Measure Discussed by the Senators.

On the 4th Mr. Allison resumed his speech, devoting his remarks to the departure from specific to ad valorem duties, and pointed out the inconsistency of retaining specific duties on some articles and the ad valorem system on others. In response to a question Senator Allison declared that he intended to vote for free sugar, both raw and refined, as it was in the bill when it came from the house, and then he would propose an amendment replacing the bounty on sugar as it was in the McKinley law. He criticized the alcoholic schedule as imposing a great hardship upon many industries and denounced the plan to make up a deficit by levying a tax on sugar and incomes. He asserted that he should not knowingly contribute by this bill or any other to the promoting of the interests of Great Britain at the sacrifice of the interests of his own country.

Mr. Mills (dem., Tex.) followed, confining himself chiefly to a defense of the ad valorem system. Mr. Mills said: "We cannot pass our bill without making some concessions. A man between the devil and the deep sea, and when it is a question of going to the devil, by keeping the McKinley law, or of going to sea, and there must be some favorable wind to blow me back to land, an anchor is cast." On the 6th Mr. Peffer (rep., Kan.) in a discussion of revenue and protective tariffs declared that the "most consistent and practicable system of tariff taxation for revenue only is that adopted by Great Britain—taxing only such articles as are not produced in the country levying the tax, and in addition such articles as are of a more or less harmful character—as liquors and tobacco. But," he said, "while this method is simple it is unjust in its operation. Sugar, coffee, tea and spices would supply all the revenue we now derive from customs. But a system which operates so unjustly upon poor people could not be enforced in this country."

The Wilson bill Mr. Peffer characterized as a "protection to the manufacturer," referring to the luxuries and discriminations against farmers. The duties on many farm products are of no benefit to the farmer, but when they are of any use let them remain, if the protection policy is to be maintained. The Wilson bill, he said, is a "protection to the manufacturer," and a "protection to the manufacturer," and a "protection to the manufacturer."

Referring to the populist view of the tariff he said: "We understand that the levying of tariff duties is a tax upon the people, and we would make the burden as light as possible. The populists believe in a graduated income tax and regard it as the most equitable system of taxation. The populists do not believe in putting down the rich, but in raising up the poor. We do not believe in abandoning wholly the present system. I take it that protected tariff reformers do not see how greatly their practice contrasts with their theory; they mean well but lack courage. Protection as taught by our fathers is the proper doctrine. Protection to domestic industries. Only such industries as can be made national, employing large numbers of people, should be protected, and that only long enough to establish them. Boundaries in many cases are better than cheaper duties."

On the 9th, Senator Hill (dem., N.Y.) opened his speech by criticizing the Hawaiian policy of the administration, and scoring the president with this "blunder" as "the natural consequence of the policy which has been followed from that other mistake in placing the department of state in charge of a republican statesman, distinguished and estimable though he may be, whose public services have always been identified in opposition to the democratic party, who was without sympathy for its conditions and purposes and whose political convictions upon the disputed political questions of the day, if changed at all, are carefully concealed."

"It was to be regretted," he said, "that the president should not have been able to find in his own party some safe and honored statesman who would have reflected credit upon the country and would have avoided the promulgation of the un-American policy—a departure from democratic principles—which was sought to be forced upon an unwilling people. In this view of the situation our opponents must accept some share of the responsibility for the blunders committed in our foreign affairs. In other respects the present administration of our government affords scant grounds for just criticism."

The senator spoke of the repeal of the federal election law as a fulfillment of the party's pledges and a triumph for the just doctrine of state's rights, and endorsed the repeal of the Sherman law, which he said was the main question—tariff reform—he said:

"Revision should be approached with circumspection and with a realizing sense of the changed condition of the country since 1887 and 1890. An extreme reduction of tariff duties at a time when the treasury was swollen with a surplus of \$100,000,000, when the country was reasonably prosperous, when all our industries were in operation and when all our workmen were employed, assumed a different aspect and presented a different question when protection now, with a large and growing trade deficit instead of a surplus starting us in the face, with our industries paralyzed, our manufacturing closed, our workmen idle and following upon the heels of one of the most disastrous financial panics in our history, is not safe and prudent and wise then it would be criminal folly to attempt now."

"In the face of the prostration of private industries and in the presence of such a paralysis of general business as the treasury deficit attests, and which were fully set forth in my speech as passed by the house, sought to double the deficit by discarding customs revenue and to fill the void with an income tax."

He intimated that the tariff bill was constructed on lines laid down by the administration, that it was an anomalous state of affairs when the president should be able to give congress information as to what had occurred in a committee of the house.

Senator Hill said that for his part, as a democrat, he preferred indirect taxation and tariff reform above direct taxation and tariff extension. He preferred taxing foreign products rather than taxing home products. He followed Jefferson in regarding even the species of indirect taxation on home products, by international revenue war taxes, as not good to be extended, and the first to be rid of when their need is past.

"I stand ready," he said in conclusion, "to support any reasonable measure for tariff reform framed within the lines and based upon the principles which I have here partially indicated, and which were fully set forth in my speech in opening the political campaign in Brooklyn on September 19, 1892. I stand today where I stood then. I have nothing to add and nothing to retract. I will cheerfully vote for the Mills bill, and join with you in making such minor reductions of duties as may be. I am ready to waive all minor differences of details which do not involve a question of principle."

SCRAPS OF SCIENCE.
It would take about twelve hundred globes as large as our earth to make one equal in size to Jupiter.

A GERMAN officer has invented a motor in which a fine stream of coal dust is utilized to drive a piston by explosions in the same manner as the gas in the gas engine.

It has been estimated that at least one-half of the power expended in the operation of the average manufacturing establishment is wasted in overcoming the friction of lubricated surfaces of shafting and other machinery.

BEN KING NO MORE.

The Poet and Humorist Found Dead in His Bed.

BOWLING GREEN, Ky., April 10.—Ben King, the Michigan poet and humorist, who appeared at the opera house here Friday night with Opie Read, was found dead in bed at his room in the Morehead house. When the clerk went to his room to wake him to go to Owensboro on the 4 o'clock (a. m.) train he could not be aroused. Repeated knocking at the door brought no response and an entrance to the room was effected through the transom. Mr. King was lying in bed dead. He had evidently died from heart disease. His body will be sent to his home at St. Joseph, Mich., where he has a wife and two children.

Friday night at the supper given by the local press to Read and King one of party, after all had been seated, remarked that there were just thirteen at the table. Mr. King, apparently very much excited, but evidently in jest, jumped up and declared he would not again seat himself until another guest was provided and the unlucky number broken.

CHICAGO, April 10.—The remains of Ben King, who died suddenly at Bowling Green, Ky., arrived here Sunday. Funeral ceremonies were held at the rooms of the Press club. Appropriate addresses were made by members of the club and a committee was appointed to attend the funeral at St. Joseph, Mich.

WOMEN TO BE MASONS.

Mrs. Lease Preparing to Organize a Lodge in Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 10.—Mrs. Lease, of Kansas, is in the city. Her errand is the organization of a lodge of female masons. Speaking of her mission she said:

"I am in Chicago to organize a masonic order for women. I have decided that the masonic order has been of such wonderful benefit to men, so wonderfully uplifting and educational, that it is certainly a pity to deprive women of the benefits. I do not propose to organize anything antagonistic to the present masonic order, but the organization will be made in such a manner that they will cooperate with us and approve of it. I wish to organize here first, and then in New York and the other principal cities. I am already billed to speak in New York for a compensation of \$500 a night at Madison square. The lectures will be followed by the organization and the initiation of members of the masonic degrees. This is really no new departure, in fact, it is old. At one time in Europe, principally in France, the crowned heads all went wild over the scheme of conferring masonic degrees on women. There is no use in saying there is any masonry in the eastern star degree. I propose to use the bona fide masonic order."

SIX MEN POISONED.

Poison Placed in the Coffee to Get Even with a Boarder at Danville, Ill.

DANVILLE, Ill., April 10.—Six men, boarders at the house of C. L. Plunkett on Hazel street, were poisoned by drinking coffee Friday evening. Their names are Harry E. Owens, P. A. Zorio, Dolph Murray, James Mackenson, Walter Miller and James R. Gaskill. The last named died after suffering terrible convulsions, at 3 a. m. Saturday. He was 70 years old, lived at Stillwater, Minn., and was in Danville for medical treatment. The other five are considered out of danger. These six were the only boarders that drank coffee. Those that took tea and milk were not affected. Mrs. Plunkett, wife of the landlord, only took two mouthfuls of coffee and was slightly affected. It is supposed that coffee was poisoned to get even with one of the boarders.

ALL FAIR BUILDINGS SOLD.

Bought at Private Sale by L. C. Garrett, of St. Louis, for \$75,500.

CHICAGO, April 10.—All the big world's fair buildings were sold at private sale by the south park commissioners Friday. L. C. Garrett, a St. Louis contractor, bought the lot for \$75,500. This purchase includes the great Manufacturer's building, Machinery hall and the buildings of Administration, Electricity, Mines, Agriculture, Fisheries and Transportation. The only structure not named in the purchase are the Art building, now the property of the Field Columbian museum, the Convent La Rabida, the two service buildings, into which the exposition company has gathered its effects, and the Forestry building.

TILLMAN'S CRUSADE.

It Has Cost the State About \$25,000—Will Continue the Fight.

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 10.—Gov. Tillman's crusade against Darlington and his use of the militia cost the state \$25,000. The governor says he is personally responsible for Constables McLenon and Cain, who are under arrest, and will not ask for a change of venue for their trial. If they are convicted Tillman has promised not to interfere by pardon. He says the dispensaries at Florence and Darlington will reopen and that his spies will continue to search private houses for illicit liquor. Within two weeks, the governor says, 25,000 men will be organized to uphold the dispensary law.

Made Too Much Flour.

ST. LOUIS, April 10.—Two of the largest flouring mills in this city closed down a few days ago, ostensibly for the purpose of making repairs to machinery. Now it is reported that nearly every flouring mill in this district will close down for an indefinite period. It is claimed that there has been an overproduction of flour. This, in addition to the low price of flour, makes it almost necessary for the mills to close down.

Sequel to the Cornell Tragedy.

ITHACA, N. Y., April 10.—A phase of the recent Cornell university poisoning case developed Saturday evening in the suicide of W. I. Benizer, a dentist. His friends say that the act was due to despondency and me imitating over the recent Cornell freshmen banquet tragedy, which occurred in the same block in which his office is situated and directly over it. A letter addressed to Charles W. White, of this city, was found on his desk. The letter declares that the allegations made against him of complicity in the Cornell chloroform tragedy are false.

MANY VICTIMS.

Eleven Men Killed by the Explosion of a Fireworks Factory.

Three Deaths by a Premature Blast in Pennsylvania—Four Slain by an Exploding Boiler in Indiana—A Fatal Disaster in Memphis.

NEARLY A DOZEN DEAD.

PETERSBURG, Va., April 10.—Eleven persons were killed and half a dozen injured by two explosions following a fire in the fireworks factory of C. N. Romaine & Bro. Saturday afternoon. Among the killed are several of the substantial and esteemed residents of the city. The total loss by fire will be fully \$100,000, partly covered by insurance in northern companies.

The dead are: John R. Bland, jaw broken and right leg blown off; James Bryant, employee; John F. Harris, a tailor; Quincy Livesey, employee; William Parker, employee; James W. Perkins, bricklayer, head blown off; Charles W. Romaine, proprietor, head blown off; James Rowland, farmer of Prince George county, spectator after first explosion; Robert Rowland, carpenter, body badly mutilated; Capt. James T. Tash, burned to death; Thomas Woolfolk, colored.

The explosions were distinctly heard for miles, and window glasses some distance away were broken. As soon as the first explosion occurred the entire building was enveloped in flames, which were communicated to another structure near by in which were stored fireworks and powder. Then followed the second explosion, and the flames shot up a distance of several hundred feet. The blaze spread across the street to the large trunk factory of Romaine Bros., thence to an old whisky distillery and to the large tobacco factory of John D. Bland, all which were totally destroyed.

When the alarm of fire was sent in Chief Engineer Farley went rapidly to the scene. He had just reached there when the first explosion occurred and received injuries from which he will die. Bland and Romaine were killed outright at the first explosion. They were both members of the city council. Capt. Tash was so badly mutilated that his remains were identified only by his watch. He was on the staff of Gen. Colston during the war and was a candidate for commissioner of the revenue at an election soon to be held.

The origin of the fire is as yet unknown. The total loss is estimated at from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and is only partially covered by insurance. An interesting coincidence is that an insurance agent on Saturday tried for an hour to persuade Romaine to take a \$10,000 policy on his life but did not succeed.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 10.—Twenty tons of rock and dirt, hurled into the air by a premature blast of powder at Brinton, Pa., Saturday, buried and killed three men, severely injured four others and bruised and cut ten.

The men were all Austrians. They were engaged in excavating for the foundation of the new electric plant. A heavy charge of giant powder was placed in the solid earth. In some unaccountable manner the dynamite cap placed on the powder went off, but did not explode the powder charge. The men were called back to drill for the powder, and in so doing their steel drills ignited the explosive. Twenty tons or more of rock fell upon the laborers, while an equal quantity of earth was scattered in all directions. When the men were extricated, half an hour later, three were dead and four were in a critical condition. Of the injured, Michael Crofar, aged 22, unmarried, was the most seriously hurt. Both legs and arms are broken and the body badly burned. David Livingstone, aged 60, severely burned about head and shoulders, one leg and one arm broken. The third injured man had both eyes blown out and was otherwise terribly injured. The fourth was less seriously hurt than the others.

SPENCER, Ind., April 10.—The boiler in the sawmill of Christian Weber at Patricksburg, a small mining town 13 miles west of this place, exploded Saturday morning, killing four men and fatally injuring another. The dead are: Christian Weber, the proprietor; his son, Lewis; Charles Shaffer and Rhinehart Lester. The boiler was an old one and had been used for three years after being condemned. It had been leaking steam and was patched in many places. For three days the fireman, Lewis Weber, had thought the work of keeping up steam too heavy and he decided to pin down the safety valve from which the greatest leakage was observable. Saturday morning the mill was in readiness to start and the first log was placed on the carriage, when the explosion occurred. The mill building was blown to atoms.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 10.—Sunday morning at 7:20 o'clock the brick three-story building at 154 and 156 Beal street collapsed. Four persons were killed and five were wounded, and there are believed to be two others in the ruins. All the killed, injured and missing are negroes of the lowest class. The building was built in 1860, and was regarded as unsafe because of the inferior quality of the material used in its construction and the fact that for years water has stood in the two cellars. The first floor of 156 was occupied as a storehouse for feed by J. Wade & Sons. The upper stories were rented to two negro families, all of whom escaped unhurt. The first floor of 154 was vacant. The upper floors were cut up into lodging-rooms.

COUNTERFEITERS CAUGHT.

Arrested in Milwaukee While Passing Boats Money in Saloons.

MILWAUKEE, April 10.—Collin McDonald, a Bay City (Mich.) saloonkeeper, Frank Westbrook, alias Malcolm, and "Hi" Weed, an unknown, were arrested early Sunday morning while passing counterfeit money in the all-night saloons of the west side. On their photographs bank notes all of the denomination of \$20, except one "queer" \$5 note. The \$20 was an excellent photograph of a South Bend national bank bill numbered H6,380,196.

A JUDGE ON TRIAL.

Congressmen Begin an Investigation of Judge Jenkins' Action.

MILWAUKEE, April 11.—It was after several delays and false starts that the congressional investigation into the acts of Judge Jenkins in connection with the issuance of an injunction restraining the employees of the Northern Pacific railroad from quitting its service, "with or without notice," was finally begun Monday in the spacious club-room of the Pfister hotel.

The three inquisitors representing the government of the United States sat in a row before a long desk, while opposite sat Attorney Harper, of Terre Haute, Ind., the representative of the labor men.

Attorney Harper placed a handful of documents in evidence and pointed out that the receivers themselves represented that there was no contract with the men.

The features of the proceedings were: That Congressman Terry made the point that the receivers did recognize the chiefs by sending them notices of intent to cut the wages; that the men considered the injunction binding on them to remain in the employ of the road whether satisfied or not; that the acceptance of the new schedule of wages was made with the shadow of the injunction over them; that the men were hired by the day or by the mile and could be discharged at any time; that the injunction has practically rendered the unions inoperative.

Edgar T. Clark, grand chief of the Order of Railway Conductors, was the first witness. He proved a shrewd, plain speaker and conservative in his views. He explained the workings of the order and showed that it required a two-thirds vote of the men in order to have a strike. He gave a history of the conferences with the receivers and showed that the injunctions were issued before efforts to arrive at an amicable understanding could be reached.

During the evidence the witness gave his sentiments as follows: "I believe that next to the home labor organizations are the pillars of our government. They teach men obedience to the laws and make them better citizens while advancing their interests and those of their employers." Mr. Clark said he had not been served with the injunction, although a United States marshal had hunted for him. He is bound by the order, however, and would not have sanctioned a strike under the circumstances. He said also that the men felt bound by the order and would not quit the employ of the road and would not strike.

In answer to Representative Boatner, Mr. Clark said he did not think the injunction had done any harm so far as the Northern Pacific employees were concerned, but it had been harmful in a general way to workingmen, as he believed it was an abridgement of their constitutional rights, and established a precedent which would be followed by all courts but not congress being called on to investigate.

Mr. Sargent's testimony was practically to the same effect.

SCALDED TO DEATH.

Seven Men Lose Their Lives in a Michigan Railway Wreck.

NEW ERA, Mich., April 11.—On the floor of Staples & Covell's logging camp 3 miles east of here lie seven charred and scalded bodies, the result of the most frightful railroad accident that ever happened in this section. The logging crew of Staples & Covell's road were returning from White river camp shortly before noon Monday and when within sight of camp the narrow-gauge engine struck a falling tree and was knocked over a 16-foot embankment, carrying nine men down with it. The men were thrown into the wreckage, which pinned them down and they could not avoid the escaping steam. Seven of them are dead, one is seriously injured and one slightly hurt. The following are dead:

Adolph Shelander, engineer, Whitehall; Gus Anderson, fireman; Frank Shippy, foreman, Nowago county; Martin Lynch, Whitehall, walked 1 mile and fell dead; Charles Wolfe, scalded and burned; Loren Critchell, Allen Critchell, brother of Loren.

Fred Chovker was fatally injured. Henry Starn was slightly scalded, but saved himself by jumping from a window of the engine. The men were all shockingly burned and scalded. Anderson's scalp and forehead were completely roasted and his abdomen burned to a crisp. The bones of Shippy's hands and arms were laid bare and his sides likewise, but he succeeded in taking off most of his clothing before he died.

The road starts 3 miles east of here and runs parallel with the Chicago & West Michigan to White river, a distance of 7 miles. Staples & Covell were cleaning up adjoining land and last winter had logs skidded along the track. This crew was engaged in hauling these logs to the river and would have finished the job next Wednesday.

A. G. CATTELL DEAD.

An Ex-United States Senator and Member of the First Civil Service Commission.

CAMDEN, N. J., April 11.—Ex-United States Senator A. J. Cattell, of Merchantsville, died at Dr. Livingston's retreat at Jamestown, N. Y., where he had been for some time a patient. Mr. Cattell was in his 79th year. He was elected United States senator from New Jersey as a republican in 1866 and declined a reelection. He was appointed a member of the first civil service commission by President Grant and was financial agent of the government in London during 1873 and 1874.

Killed at School.

CHICAGO, April 11.—Monday afternoon a steam pipe burst in the Humboldt school at North avenue and Rockwell street, and in the mad rush of children to escape the stairway became choked and a boy was killed. Fourteen children are in St. Elizabeth's hospital, while many others were taken to their homes more or less injured.

Losses by Fire.

NEW YORK, April 11.—The fire losses in the United States for the week ended on the 7th, estimated from telegraphic reports, were \$2,583,085. The losses since January 1 amount to \$36,287,785.

DEATH 'MID FLAMES.

Brave Milwaukee Firemen Plunged Into a Seething Furnace.

They Fall with the Blazing Roof of the Davidson Theater, and Nine of Them Are Taken Out Dead—A Thrilling Rescue.

BRAVE MEN PERISH.

MILWAUKEE, April 11.—Nine firemen met a horrible death in a fire which destroyed the Davidson theater on Third street between 4 and 5 a. m. Monday. The big stone building, which contained the finest playhouse in the city and the Davidson hotel, was burned to the ground in the midst of a blinding storm of rain and sleet, and in the final crash of falling roof and walls several companies of the fire brigade were thrown from the top story into the pit of the flaming furnace. The disaster is one of the most frightful that has befallen the city since the Newhall house burned down, when scores of lives were lost. The Davidson block was one of the most imposing in Milwaukee and the pecuniary loss of the fire is estimated at between \$300,000 and \$350,000.

The following is a list of the dead: Third Assistant Chief August Janssen, 295 Eighth street; Frank McGurk, lieutenant truck company No. 4 and acting captain No. 14, 397 Park street; Fred Krosschauer, pipeman company No. 2; Capt. Archie Campbell, of the fireboat Foley, 71 Twenty-seventh street; Alie Ries, company No. 3, killed by a falling ladder; James C. Freeman, lieutenant company No. 4; Frank Winne, company No. 4, found in balcony of theater; Thomas Morgan, engine company No. 1; John Farrell, chemical No. 2.

Seven of the injured firemen were taken to the Emergency hospital and a number of others were removed to their homes.

Shortly after 5 o'clock, when the fire was seemingly under control, the theater roof, on which a score or more firemen stood as they fought the flames, went down, and the brave men were carried with it to the floor of the auditorium below. Some were extricated from the furnace of flames, in which the whole interior was now enveloped, by their brave and more fortunate comrades, who risked their lives to drag out the prostrate forms of the dead and injured men. Six or eight men were soon brought out, and those who were able to speak said there were ten or more in the ruins, where living death awaited them. For these poor fellows there was no chance. The burning roof had fallen on them, and they were roasted to death, if they had not been killed outright in that terrible plunge from the roof.

The most thrilling experience of all was that of John Crowley. For several hours he was pinned beneath the ruins, suffering bodily torture, but brave and self-possessed all the while. From 9:30 o'clock until 12:15 his comrades worked to liberate him. It was known that he had been buried, but the firemen thought he must be dead or unconscious until one of the men heard a faint sound. Putting his ear down he listened and then shouted: "Who's down there?"

"This is John Crowley," came the faint reply. "I'm alive, but for God's sake don't drown me. There are two men dead beside me, and Tom Morgan of No. 1 is one of them."

A cloud of hot smoke drove the men back, and flames bursting forth, it was necessary to pour in more water. The faint cries of Crowley could be heard.

"For God's sake kill me in some other way than by drowning. I can't stand all that water. I'm lying on my back." But the fire was soon put out and fifty men, a special detail ordered by Chief Foley, set to work to rescue the brave fellow. Crowley grew weaker and the men heard him say he could not last much longer. Then came a most dramatic incident. William Crowley, a brother, appeared with Father Haven, a Catholic priest. The father bent down and spoke to the imprisoned man. In reply Crowley said that the water was nearly over his head and fast rising, and asked that the last sacrament of the church be given him, and there, amid the steaming ruins, the dense smoke and the charred timbers, the priest administered the last sacrament, and fifty men stood around with their helmets off, all brothers, all comrades, Catholic and non-Catholic.

The work of rescue was pushed by details of ten men working in five-minute shifts, and they fought the stubborn timbers and beams like mad men. At 11:30 o'clock Crowley's head was free, and a shout went up that shook the tottering side walls. Shortly after his right leg was freed, but it looked as if nothing could save the other limb.

But the firemen kept at work and inside of an hour the man was pulled out. He was perfectly limp and his face wore a distorted look, showing plainly the terrible agony he had gone through. As he was placed on the stretcher he opened his eyes and endeavored to smile to his companions, but the effort was too much and his head sank back. He was conscious, but he was unable to utter a sound.

He was placed in the ambulance and taken directly to the Emergency hospital. When Crowley was carried into the Emergency hospital his pulse had almost ceased beating. Dr. Fox, assisted by Miss Jackson, the matron of the hospital, worked over him an hour before he returned to consciousness. His pulse gradually quickened and at 3 o'clock was quite strong. Dr. Fox says Crowley is suffering from the shock to his nervous system, but with good care will recover.

Worst Storm in Fifty Years.

ST. JOHNS, N. B., April 11.—In over half a century a storm to equal the one now prevailing, which began Sunday night, cannot be recalled. All traffic is suspended. All railroad communication is shut off, the public schools are closed and the streets are deserted. All vessels in the harbor and all the wharves have thus far ridden the gale in safety, and no disasters are reported.

Death of a Railway President.

RICHMOND, Ind., April 11.—William Parry, president of the Cincinnati, Richmond & Fort Wayne railroad, died in this city Monday.