

The Only Paper in Seattle That Dares to Print the News

VOLUME 18.

SEATTLE, WASH., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1915. ONE CENT

WEATHER—Occasional rain
High 41
Low 35
Wind S.W. 15 to 20

50 CHILDREN DIED!

TRAPPED, ROASTED, AS SCHOOL BURNS

Investigation Shows Seattle Schools Have No Fire Escapes

ONLY 4 OUT OF 43 BUILDINGS PROTECTED

The appalling school disaster at Peabody, Mass., Thursday morning has set Seattle thinking. How about OUR school buildings? Are they fire traps like the one at Peabody? Fire Marshal Harry Bringhurst told The Star Thursday that ONLY FOUR OF THE 43 FRAME SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN SEATTLE HAVE FIRE ESCAPES! "They are at Interbay, Leschi, the John B. Allen school, and the old Ballard high school," said Bringhurst.

In addition to these, some of the brick buildings also have wooden stairways.

He argued that all schools are provided with many interior stairways and exits.

"But supposing the fire started in the basement by an explosion and spread over the first floor, cutting off the stairways, as was the case at Peabody?" said The Star man.

"Don't think it would happen here," replied Bringhurst. "Eighty-five per cent of the danger of fire in schools is in the basement, and this has been practically eliminated in Seattle. They have been lined with concrete, and in most cases the heating plants have been moved outside.

"Any way, if we DID have outside fire escapes, they would be dangerous. The children would become frightened and shove each other off."

No building only two stories high needs fire escapes, Bringhurst says.

Most Have Two Stairways
No school building in Seattle provided with two or more interior stairways has fire escapes.

None of the brick or stone buildings has fire escapes. The more modern buildings have numerous interior stairways, leading to exits scattered all over the lower floor and all the school children in the city are drilled thoroughly every year under the direction of the fire department, on how to escape in case of fire.

But they're not told what to do when escape is cut off, like it was at Peabody.

Declares They Are Safe
Admitting that he would do away with some of the old school buildings if he could, Judge Richard Winsor, president of the school board, Thursday claimed, nevertheless, that Seattle schoolhouses are sufficiently protected against such a disaster as occurred at Peabody, although many of the frame school houses here have no outside fire escapes.

"We have provided plenty of exits and escapes inside the buildings," he said. "They cannot be all shut off at once. We have been most anxious to follow out any suggestion by the fire department for making these buildings safe, and on the advice of the fire department outside fire escapes were not provided on some of these buildings.

Fire Escapes Unnecessary?
"I have consistently advocated every precaution possible and have deplored the attitude of some other members of the board who tried to keep the expenses of our new buildings down by saying that we are over-cautious."

"Why, then, don't you follow the idea in the old school buildings of the idea of extra precautions?" Judge Winsor was asked.

"We do."
"Would it not make it extra safe to have the numerous exits you mentioned and the outside fire escapes,

FIRE ESCAPE LAW

The state law provides that outside fire escapes or fire ladders are required on three-story frame school buildings UNLESS they can be replaced by interior stairways or ladders, properly placed.

Four-story buildings must have a stand pipe—a water pipe running from the basement to the roof, to which firemen can couple hoses at any story, and fireproof stairway or ladder, on which the firemen can mount to upper stories.

"Well, it might—but it isn't necessary."

The Star asked Reuben W. Jones, secretary of the school board, about the number of fire escapes on Seattle schoolhouses.

"The Star," said Jones, in reply, "is always trying to do something destructive."

Following are Seattle's frame school buildings, only four of which have fire escapes:

Ballard high (old), Tallman and Barnes
John B. Allen, Phinney and N. 66th st.
Daniel Bagley, Woodland Park ave. and N. 49th st.

Beacon Hill and annex, 16th ave. S. and Lander st.
Brighton, Holly st., near 16th ave. S.
Brishton Beach, Graham st. and 50th ave. S.

Broadway (Ballard), 31st ave. N. W. and Market st.
Francis H. Coe, Seventh ave. W. and Wheeler st.

Colombia, 32th ave. and Ferdinand st.
Denny, Fifth ave. and Battery.
Dunlap, Rainier ave. and Leanna st.
Georgetown and annex, Horner st., between Sixth and Seventh aves. S.
Green Lake and annex, 50th side ave. and N. 45th st.

John Hay, Fourth ave. N. and Newton st.
Interbay, 16th ave. W. and Barrett st.
Interlake, Wallingford ave. and N. 41st st.

Irving, W. 52nd st. and 14th ave. N. W.
Latona and annex, Fifth ave. N. E. and E. 27th st.
Longfellow, 20th ave. N. and E. Thomas st.

Maple, 16th ave. S. and E. Lucille st.
Minor, 17th ave. and E. Union st.
Olympic, 26th ave. S. and Norman st.
Pioneer, county road to Pontiac.
Rainier, 23rd ave. S. and King st.
Riverside, near Detroit ave. and Junction st.

Ross and annex, W. 43rd st. and Third ave. N. W.
Salmon Bay, W. 63rd st. and 20th ave. N. W.
Seward and annex, Franklin and Round Bay st.

South Park, 13th ave. S. and Sullivan.
Isaac I. Stevens, 18th ave. N. and E. Galer st.
Summit, Summit ave. and E. Union st.
University Heights, 14th ave. N. E. and E. 27th st.
Warren Ave., Warren ave. and Republican st.
Washington, 18th ave. S. and Washington st.

Whitworth, 46th ave. S. and Dawson st.
Yester, 36th ave. N. E. and E. 41st st.
Youngstown, W. Genesee st. and 24th ave. S. W.

THREE HEADS OF THREE FAMILIES MAY FACE LIFE WITHOUT HANDS OR FEET!

THREE city linemen, all of them young, strong and with families dependent upon them for support, were on Wednesday smitten without an instant's warning by 60,000 volts of electricity, each sustaining enough voltage to kill 25 men—yet they live.

They will, however, be crippled for life, and IT IS LIKELY THEY WILL LOSE THEIR HANDS AND FEET.

The men are: J. E. Rhodes, 6714 Fourth ave. N. W.; William McTaggart, 6338 37th ave. S., and F. Fletcher, 4948 Orcus st.

The linemen were extending two service light wires to a house at 8336 Renton ave. near Dunlap station, in the Rainier valley.

Pletcher, who received the worst burns, was standing on or beside the service automobile, taking care that the wires did not become tangled as they

ran off the reels.

Rhodes stood some distance away, feeding the wires to McTaggart, who hoisted them on and up to a lineman on a pole.

At this point the high tension wire of the Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Co. hangs very low. Either McTaggart hoisted the wire he was handling too high, or a strong wind carried it upward, or else peculiar atmospheric conditions caused the current to leave the high tension wire and leap thru space.

In any event, 60,000 volts passed thru the bodies of the linemen, knocking them unconscious and horribly burning their hands and feet.

Dr. E. H. Smith of the city hospital and Police Sergeant Bunnell arrived in response to a telephone message, and with pulmotor, saved the injured men from death by shock.

They were taken to the Swedish hospital, where it was given out Thursday that they would not die, but that they would be crippled for life.

Whether they will lose their hands and feet by amputation, the doctors said, depends upon the extent to which the bones have been burned. This cannot be ascertained for three or four days. But electricity burns are generally deep.

Fletcher has a young wife. McTaggart has a wife and two babies in West Seattle. And Rhodes has a wife, two small children and a little home in Ballard, which he has been buying on the installment plan. It isn't paid for.

The linemen owe their escape from death to the fact that they received an overdose of electricity. About 2,200 volts are used when condemn-

ed persons are put to death in the electric chair. Two thousand up to 7,500 volts are sure death.

Electricity acts like water when it is poured in too great a volume into a tube. The water flows down the outside of the tube. In the same way, much of the 60,000 volts flowed down the outside of the bodies of the linemen.

The injured men Thursday were still dazed, and unable to comprehend the tragedy that has befallen them. It will be some time before their brains will clear sufficiently for them to grasp the knowledge that they, a moment before the accident so strong, so confident in their virile youth and strength, may be doomed to go thru life as helpless cripples. It may be, without hands and feet.

ALMA GIVES UP \$150,000 CONCERT TOUR TO SPEND WINTER WITH BABY



Mrs. Alma Gluck, Her Husband, Erefim Zimbalist, and Their Famous \$150,000 Baby.

Mme. Alma Gluck, one of the most famous prima donnas of the world, will sing to the most exclusive audience of her life during the coming season.

The audience is Maria Virginia Zimbalist, the \$150,000 baby of the beautiful singer, so called because of the fact that Mme. Gluck gave up a tour which would have netted her \$150,000 for the sake of becoming a mother.

Mme. Gluck and her husband, Erefim Zimbalist, will devote the coming winter season to the enjoyment of the \$150,000 baby, and the wonderful soprano voice which has charmed all America and Europe will be heard in an exclusive program of lullabies, sung to an audience of one tiny baby and a proud papa.

MRS. LILLIAN'S CHILD WILL NOT BE BORN IN JAIL

Mary E. Lillian's child will not be born in jail.

So declared Judge Smith Thursday when the woman who killed Howard Borders, the man alleged to have betrayed her when she was a young girl and deserted her, came up for sentence.

She had been convicted last week of manslaughter, she charged with murder in the first degree. Judge Smith imposed a sentence

of one year in the county jail, but in the event she is to become a mother, her sentence will be automatically concluded a few days before the child is born.

All the time she has already spent in jail while awaiting trial will also be counted as part of the year to be served. She has been in jail since July 30.

Judge Smith's sentence of Mrs. Lillian is the only one of its kind on record in King county.

CABINET QUILTS IN FRANCE TO DOCK HERE

PARIS, Oct. 28.—The French cabinet resigned today.

Following Premier Viviani's tender of his resignation, the entire body followed, and Aristide Briand, for many years prominent in the councils of France, was asked by President Poincare to form a new cabinet.

Back of the resignation loomed the story of France's dissatisfaction with war developments. The people disapproved of the failure to progress in the West, and the failure of the allied diplomats to win Bulgaria over to their side. This latter failure forced French aid in the Balkans.

The crisis has been brewing for some days. The resignation of Foreign Minister Delcasse was the first outward sign of trouble.

Viviani at that time assumed Delcasse's post, in addition to his own. The resignation in toto have had a cause a surprise.

The French saw in it the possibility of an upset in the English cabinet, and some quarters hinted it may mean the inauguration of a new policy, which will have a marked effect on the war.

The chamber of deputies held a stormy session after the resignations, but adjourned at the request of Viviani.

England came in for its share of blame for the crisis.

Her course toward the Balkans and her failure to send a strong force into that territory are declared to have contributed to making her responsible in the eyes of the French for the present unrest.

150,000 FRENCH TROOPS LANDED;

LONDON, Oct. 28.—One hundred and fifty thousand French troops, with 100 big guns, have landed at Salonika to aid Serbia, according to Bucharest today.

Better rent that flat now before winter sets in! A Star want ad will attend to it. Phone Main 9400 now.

The port commission has scored again. As a result Seattle will gain about \$50,000 worth of foreign business that had hitherto been going to Tacoma.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamship line will hereafter discharge its cargoes at Seattle, instead of the City of Destiny, arrangements having been satisfactorily secured, Thursday, from the port commission for the Hanford st. dock.

Application for port accommodations was made for the steamship line by the Milwaukee line several days ago, and the details were concluded Thursday.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha line will continue to take on cargoes for the Orient at Tacoma, because it is bound to do so under the subsidy agreement from the Japanese government. It is free, however, to unload its cargoes at Seattle, and this means anywhere from 15,000 to 25,000 tons a month.

Don't fill lamps except in daylight.

Can You Stretch a Dollar?

Impossible? Not at all. By carefully watching the advertising columns of The Star every day and taking advantage of the opportunities presented there, you can stretch the buying power of a dollar to a remarkable extent. A case in point is Fraser-Paterson Co.'s special Friday sale. You'll find full details in their ad on page 3.

VICTIMS CRY AS THEY JUMP TO DEATH

PEABODY, Mass., Oct. 28.—Fifty lives were snuffed out today and 12 more will die as the result of a fire which swept the tinder-like St. John's parochial school, according to the estimates of firemen and doctors at 1:30 p. m.

Mothers temporarily insane with grief; half-naked, crying children rushing in the midst of the crowds about the building; a score of broken, charred little bodies stretched in a row on the ground while the ruins smoldered and smoked—such was the scene as firemen delved among the charred timbers for more bodies.

Twenty-seven bodies have been recovered. Many were burned to a crisp. Others were trampled by their playmates in the mad rush to escape.

Many were caught in a jammed doorway and were crushed to death as they sought to flee. A panic followed. Doors swinging inward were responsible for many deaths. Before the first of the horrified children could swing back the doors, the rush behind them swept them into the fatal crush.

Still others ran to windows. Bewildered, they jumped. Neighbors on hand before the firemen arrived caught the tiny forms as they hurtled thru the air by spreading out blankets as life nets. When the firemen came they could not open the main door owing to the mass of little bodies behind.

The ages of the dead children range from 8 to 12 years. Nine of the charred, crushed forms could not be recognized.

The children were just preparing to go to classes when a sister smelled smoke. She found the lower hall wrapped in flames, and at once sounded the fire alarm.

As calmly as she could, so as not to alarm her ward, the black-robed nun told the pupils to leave by the side doors. For a few moments, while they were in the class rooms, the children maintained perfect order.

Then, as they marched into the halls, a thick, hot smoke poured toward them and the flames crackled near by.

Terror seized the sisters and the children simultaneously. Seeing their charges helpless, the teachers ordered them to break ranks. As they did so a rush for doors and windows followed.

Below the townfolk had already gathered. They besought the white-faced children in the windows not to leap until they brought blankets to use as life nets.

Some obeyed. Crying and protesting, they crowded the windows, while the flames and smoke came dangerously near.

Others jumped. Below strong men tried to catch them with outspread overcoats. No Fire Escapes on School. By this time blankets had been

EVERETT, Wash., Oct. 28.—A total of \$26,661.52 was earned by 1,095 school children during the summer vacation, according to a survey made by teachers here. This makes an average of \$24.35.

PUPILS EARN MONEY

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