

A FIERCE FIRE AND HUMAN HOLOCAUST.

An unfortunate fire occurred in this city last Monday morning, shortly after 1 o'clock.

It was unfortunate in two respects—in the loss of property consumed and in the tragic result—for one human life was the sacrifice of the fiery enemy.

It was an exceedingly fierce fire; a raging, angry, dangerous conflagration. The buildings destroyed were the hotel of Mr. Andrew E. Maloney, on the corner of Louisiana and Lake streets, scarcely completed, and those of Mrs. M. L. Bourquin, hard by to the northward, and fronting Louisiana street. These had not yet been finished.

The buildings were all of wood and their recent painting made them all the more inflammable and the flames took hold and devoured them as would a hungry tiger a juicy victim in its grasp.

It is said that an alarm was sounded from two boxes, 14 and 27, the latter being the correct one. This is said to have caused some delay in reaching the scene, as Caddo No. 2 dashed down to 14 instead of straight out the street to the scene. This may be hear-say; we don't know.

Our firemen are skillful, dexterous workers, and they made an onslaught with their usual vim, but they were at a terrible disadvantage from the beginning.

There was no plug nearer than a block away and only one at that. This was utilized, and by this time the heat was so intense that the Union Depot, nearly a hundred feet away, was scorched, the window frames becoming warped and contorted. Great billows of flame could be seen stretching out from the terrible furnace and sweeping the streets.

The fireman now began their fight, but it was useless. The fire was too hot, the distance from the plug too great, and some say the water pressure was not sufficient. So it could be seen the buildings were doomed. Thirty barrels of whiskey exploding at once in the Maloney Hotel added to the confusion and intensity of the scene.

But the worst is not yet. So far only the serio-comedy has been presented. In the hotel were guests who were trying to escape as the flames enveloped the house. These were Mr. H. S. Newcomb, a news agent of Kansas City; Mr. Frank Rose, wife and daughter, of Saginaw, Michigan, on their way to Port Arthur. These last three had been detained in Shreveport by the quarantine regulations.

Mr. Newcomb essayed to save his life by jumping from a second story window. In falling he sustained a fracture of the right and left leg.

Mr. and Mrs. Rose and daughter were running to leave the building

when Mr. Rose, by some means, tripped and fell, and the flames seemed to actually pounce upon him. His agonizing appeals for help were heard by Patrolman Charles Wagner, who responded to the cry and went to his aid, rescued him from the tormenting flames, being himself badly burned in the effort, thus displaying an act of heroism that few men dare attempt and should win him the appreciation and commendation of all people who admire chivalry and devotion to duty.

In the meantime Mrs. Rose and daughter had missed Mr. Rose for the first time, and hastened back to ascertain, if possible, where he was. In reaching the scene both got in reach of the flames and were burnt, Mrs. Rose considerably so.

The four were then taken to the hospital, where every assistance was rendered, but Mr. Rose was so severely injured that he died about 6 o'clock. Mrs. Rose and daughter remained there, while Mr. Wagner was conveyed to his home.

The Rose family were swept of everything by the fire, and Tuesday Mr. C. E. Peroncel and Mr. Joe Levy kindly assumed the role of solicitors from our citizens such amounts as they desired to contribute, and a very snug little sum was thus gathered from the treasure caves of Charity. Neither gentleman was asked to do this, and the gracious recipients knew naught of it until the testimonial of sympathy was tendered.

Comparatively speaking the losses fell heavily on all whose property fell beneath the flames. The houses of Mrs. M. L. Bourquin cost \$2,250. She was insured for \$1,500.

The hotel, owned by Mr. J. Henry Shepherd, cost \$3,600, and was insured for \$2,000.

The stock, furniture and fixtures in the hotel and bar, owned by Mr. A. E. Maloney, were valued at \$7,5000, on which there was an insurance aggregating \$5,300.

The house of Mr. A. A. Zodiag, and occupied by Mr. W. A. Kelly as a bar and lunch room, was damaged in the sum of \$1,000 and was fully covered by insurance. Then there was the Union Depot, which also suffered some damage. It has been estimated that the loss was about \$14,550, covered by insurance to the amount of \$9,900, or a total general loss of \$4,600.

In the general compilation of fires this loss may seem insignificant, but none of these are able to sustain even that small sum, in the eyes of the great financial world.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Maloney, and energetic business man and liberal young citizen, should be burned out just as he began business at this stand. His establishment was neat, attractive and modern, and would no doubt have won its way into the travel-

ing public's favor. Mrs. Bourquin is a progressive woman, has excellent business judgment and would soon have been in a position to receive an income from rentals from these three stores. Mr. Shepherd is also one of our most liberal citizens and his loss comes heavy just now.

In fact this little center was a regular region of new buildings, with handsome furniture and fixtures.

THE WELSH MONITOR.

Monday THE PROGRESS received three copies—different issues—of the Welsh Monitor, published at Welsh, this State, and edited by Mr. John D. Wilson.

We do not recall ever having met Brother Wilson, but his utterances show him to be a brave man, one with the courage of his convictions, and THE PROGRESS welcomes him into the fraternal field of Louisiana and hopes he will meet with our association in New Orleans on December 14th and 15th.

The Morehouse Clarion reached our office Monday morning, the first copy we have seen since Mr. R. B. Todd resumed the publication.

THE PROGRESS is glad to have it on its table once more, and we trust to see it and Louisiana Appeal lock horns again, as was their wont before they united under the hyphenation of Clarion-Appeal.

Morgan City Review of last Saturday came to us printed on the back of a small sheet of wallpaper. We do not know whether Brother Jolly did this simply to be sentimentally reminiscent, or whether newspaper was not to be had.

Oh, yes, we lacked to have left out an important part of this story. True to his convictions the worthy editor used tinted paper with gilt figures. He's a goldbug, you see.

A lively fight between white and negro newsboys took place in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 14th inst., that required a large detail of police a full hour to quell. Broken heads, arms and legs, about equally divided, was the result.

Senator Turpie of Indiana, has announced himself a candidate for re-election for the United States Senate and does so as a prominent advocate of Cuban liberty. Let's see what the Hooser State will do!

Strange, but only our State administration newspapers declared the last Democratic National platform un-Democratic! If another in Louisiana, claiming to be Democratic, ever passed such a criticism upon it, THE PROGRESS has never seen it. Nor do we say that every supporter of the administration did.

A PARK OUT OF A GRAVEYARD.

Transformation Scene Taking Place on West Side of New York City.

Workmen in the employ of the city of New York have begun to transform the famous old St. Johns burying ground into a park. First they dug a large pit and into it they threw more than 900 ancient tombstones. On some of these stones were cut names that were once well known in New York. Five thousand bodies were buried in the cemetery, that is now in a crowded part of the West side and is needed for a pleasure ground for the people of the district. Trinity corporation fought hard for the old burying ground, but was defeated and obliged to accept \$520,000 for the land. Some of the bodies were disinterred and removed, but the others will be undisturbed, the park grounds being laid out above them. One New Yorker whose kindred's graves were to be covered by a walk is said to have obtained a modification of the plans, by which a flower bed will be above the bodies. Until now the century old tombstones, the inscriptions on whose faces had been almost effaced by the hand of time, have been objects of wonder and interest to strangers, telling of a time when New York was a little community at the southern end of Manhattan island.

THE RYE CROP.

It is a Disappointment as Indicated by the Final Returns.

A disappointing rye crop is indicated by final returns to the American Agriculturist. Instead of some 28,000,000 bushels expected from earlier indications, the crop of the United States now figures out about 25,000,000 bushels 1,000,000 more than last year and 2,000,000 less than in 1895 and 1894. The increase is mainly in Pennsylvania, the western crop being quite disappointing. Latest European crop advices are confirmatory of serious shortages in rye, especially in Russia. Germany's rye crop seems to be somewhat larger than earlier reports indicated, but reduced estimates for France and other countries barely offset this. Stocks of old rye at home and abroad are lower than for years, and export demand for American rye continues very active. Except during the fall of 1895 and 1896, rye had not been so low as at present since before 1890.

PREVENT PREMATURE BURIALS.

Subject Attracting Considerable Attention at Present Time in Italy.

The subject of premature burial is just now attracting interest in Italy, according to a report of United States Consul Mantius, at Turin. He says that, realizing that there is at present no infallible test that may be applied to prevent the horrifying cases of persons being buried alive, a number of prominent physicians and laymen are at work preparing reports on the subject. These will be made the striking feature of the medical department of national exposition next April at Turin. Reports of a similar kind are expected from all over the world, as prizes will be offered for the best solution of the problem, and the consul says inestimable good to the cause will result if the people of the United States interest themselves in it.

Billions of Needles Made Annually.

A German paper calls attention to the extraordinary fact that in Aachen (Aix la Chapelle) alone 800 tons of steel wire are used up annually in the manufacture of needles—4,500,000,000 in number, valued at \$1,500,000. And it again asks the old question: "What becomes of all the needles in the world?"

Few Persons Reach Old Age.

Of every 1,000 persons only one reaches the age of 100 years and not more than six that of 65 years.