

BIG FIRE IN NEW YORK CITY

CHIEF MARTIN COLEMAN PERISHED IN THE FLAMES.

Large Six Story Furniture Factory Burned—Quarter of Million Dollars Damage Was Done—Frightful Panic Among Inmates—Firemen From Three Precincts Called.

New York, Dec. 23.—"The two nines" fire alarm, summoning more fire apparatus than any other alarm provided for New York's fire department, was sounded for a terrific fire which destroyed the six story factory building of the Hermann Furniture & Plumbing Cabinet works in Mott street and the four story varnish factory of the firm, run under the name of the Hermann Lumber company. A quarter of a million dollars damage was done. Battalion Chief Martin Coleman perished in the fall of two great walls of the factory and a fireman is missing. There was a frightful panic among the inmates of the front and rear tenements opposite, and the firemen and police reserves from three precincts had the utmost difficulty in getting the people out to the street.

The fire started on the third floor, and when the firemen arrived the first, second and third floors were in a blaze. The third, fourth and fifth alarms were sent in rapid succession and about an hour after the fire started the "two nines" alarm was sounded.

Battalion Chief Coleman had entered the building with a number of men, including Lieutenant Jones and Father Smith, the fire department chaplain. They were about 25 feet inside, when the fire came through the walls and the building shook. The firemen saw the danger and dashed out. The chaplain escaped, but a beam fell and hit Coleman and Jones, pinning them to the floor. Father Smith, with three firemen, turned back to the rescue and dragged out Jones, who had managed to stagger to his feet. Jones, in pulling himself out, felt for Coleman. He found him so pinned he could not rescue him, but got his helmet, which he put on, and escaped. Within a minute the entire rear and side walls fell.

After the building had been totally destroyed the body of Chief Coleman was found wedged under fallen debris in such a position that the firemen were unable to reach it.

Coleman was made a battalion chief last August. He won the Bennett medal for bravery eight years ago for rescuing two women from a boarding house fire in East Tenth street. Richard Joyce, a fireman who was appointed only 10 days ago, was reported missing after the fire was out. He was last seen in the building just before the walls fell.

SIX SMOTHER TO DEATH.

Accidental Asphyxiations in Different Parts of San Francisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—Six persons were asphyxiated by gas Sunday night, and the coroner concluded that the cases were all accidental. In most instances a window was open in each room in which gas was escaping and the coroner called the attention to the fact that it is popularly supposed a fatal result can not ensue where fresh air also has entrance.

John Lundin, a railway foreman, and Percy Nelson, a laborer, were asphyxiated in a Sacramento street lodging house. They were to have started for Los Angeles this morning. James Tyson, aged 78 years, and formerly a miner, died at 2728 Howard street. A rubber tube attached to a gas stove had rotted and allowed the fluid to escape. Miss Jennie Crowley, a laundress, rooming at 626 Golden Gate avenue, was found in her room in a comatose state and died at the hospital. T. Kawabata and I. Murakami, Japanese fishermen, who had just arrived from Honolulu were found dead in a lodging house.

Robbed the Safe.

Boulder, Mont., Dec. 24.—The sheriff here has received news from Elkhorn, a mining camp several miles from here, of a daring robbery committed recently, the crooks entering the saloon of Harris & Anderson and stealing the iron safe, which they carried away on a sled, a distance of a quarter of a mile from town. The robbers then blew the safe open and secured about \$400 in gold coin and some jewelry valued at \$50.

It is said that many of the gamblers of the camp made the iron safe of the saloon their bank, which accounts for the large sum of money kept there. There is no clue to the thieves.

Second Cavalry Departs.

New York, Dec. 21.—With the Second United States cavalry on board transport Kilpatrick, bound to Manila, by way of Suez, left port today. It is expected that the voyage will occupy about 50 days.

MOST UNUSUAL CRIMES.

Two Robberies and Murder on Freight Train.

Stockton, Cal.—A most unusual robbery and murder was committed recently on a freight train about five miles north of this city at what is known as Castle switch. Three men boarded the train at some point several miles north of there, probably at Galt, as the men had been seen drinking in a saloon of that town after they had quit work on a ranch near New Hope. The murdered man is believed to be A. S. Richards of Bancroft, Idaho, who, in company with E. A. Lewis and a negro, started for San Francisco on the freight train.

Shortly after passing Lodi, Richards is said to have pulled a revolver and robbed Lewis, who was thrown from the train and had an arm broken. The negro is credited with participating in this robbery, and it is believed that Richards failed to divide the spoils with the colored man, who turned on his companion and, after robbing him, threw him from the train.

Richards fell under the car wheels and his body was cut into several pieces. Coroner Southworth was informed and took charge of the case. The negro disappeared and, although several officers have been searching for him, up to a late hour he had not been located.

TO PREVENT WAR.

European Powers Have Taken a Hand in the Matter.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Diplomatic pressure will be brought to bear upon Colombia by several European powers to prevent war between that country and the United States. The first step has already been taken by several foreign powers through their representatives, who have informed General Reyes of the futility of any attempt by Colombia to retake Panama, declaring that it will result only in precipitating the Bogota government into war with the United States and that the result of such a catastrophe Colombia herself must realize.

If this is not sufficient, the representatives of these countries at Bogota will be instructed to inform President Marroquin that Colombia may expect no sympathy from the European powers in any movement she may make on Panama, which would inevitably involve her in war with the United States. The members of the diplomatic corps have been informed by General Reyes himself that he fears he can with difficulty check his people much longer.

IDAHO SQUIBS.

Fred Hechtner, living on the Big Potlatch, committed suicide by taking strychnine last Monday.

There are excellent prospects that Post Falls will have a paper mill, and perhaps a sugar beet factory also.

Senator Heyburn has fallen heir to the "dressy" reputation at the capital once held by James Hamilton Lewis of Washington.

C. S. Richards, of Idaho, was run over and killed by a train near Stockton, Cal., recently. It is claimed that he was pushed from the train by two men who had robbed him.

A verdict of accidental death was returned by the coroner's jury after hearing the evidence in the case of Michael Sweeny, who was killed at Twoby's camp near Hope.

The year just closed has been the most prosperous in the history of Kootenai county. The sawmilling industry has been developed to such an extent that the product is almost double that of any former year.

Charles S. McNichols, special agent of the Indian department, from Washington, is investigating charges against E. T. McArthur, superintendent of the Indian school at Lapwai and accounting agent of the Nez Percés.

J. Vials of Butte, is in Wardner to organize and drill a concert band among the musicians there. Mr. Vials, who until recently was leader of the Old Alice band of Butte, is an accomplished musician and has trained and conducted some large bands in the west.

Senator Dubois has presented to the senate his bill providing for the donation of 50,000 acres of land for improvement, enlargement and continuation of the Idaho State Soldiers' home. Senator Dubois' bill is accompanied by a favorable report by the committee on public lands, of which the senator is a member.

A company organized under the laws of Maine and composed of leading Utah, Idaho and several Montana and eastern capitalists, will be incorporated within the course of two weeks to erect three mammoth power plants on the Snake river, in Idaho, capable of generating great horse power. These plants will be situated at Shoshone, Augur and Twin Falls.

Gales on Maine Coast.

Portland, Maine, Dec. 21.—A terrific southwest gale has prevailed along the coast today, reaching a velocity of 50 miles an hour outside the harbor. The gale did much damage in the city to windows and electric light wires.

SEVEN COLORED GIRLS DEAD.

One White Woman Fatally Injured in Walden Fire.

Nashville, Tenn.—Seven are dead and 17 seriously injured as the result of the fire in the woman's dormitory of Walden university, an institution for the education of colored people. President Hamilton was the first member of the faculty to be apprised of the fire. He heard the screams of the women, and, rushing to his window, saw the flames bursting from the building.

When he reached the door the frightened inmates had begun to hurl themselves from the windows.

Several were killed in jumping or crushed to death by those who followed. The dormitory was a four story building of brick, and the only means of exit was down the main stairway, which was soon cut off after the fire broke out, and the inmates rushed panicstricken through the smoke and heat, seeking an avenue of escape. Baffled in this, they sought the windows and hurled themselves headlong to the ground.

Cora Bryant, who was sick in bed on the fourth floor, is missing and is believed to have been burned to death. All the dead and injured, with few exceptions, are negroes from southern states. Among the injured are Miss Eleanor Moore (white) of Chicago, a preceptress, who was fatally hurt, and Bertha Morford of Chicago, who also will die.

GREAT MONTE CARLO GAINS.

Seven Millions Profit—Best Year Ever Known.

Monte Carlo.—Although there has been no sensational play recently, this year will be the most profitable year ever known here. This is partly because of the closing of Ostend Spa, causing an increased clientele and partly because the cold, wet weather drove people here during the off season.

Last year's profits were \$5,600,000. This year's will be close upon \$7,000,000.

Increased facilities for heavy gambling will be given in the new year by the opening of a new sporting club annex to the Casino. On the first floor of the old Monte Carlo hotel a gorgeous saloon has been fitted up for baccarat, while rooms have been set apart for bridge, poker, and, in fact, any game at cards gamblers desire.

There has been great discussion among the authorities as to whether women shall be admitted to the sporting club. Professional gamblers, who receive valuable aid from pretty demimondaines in securing victims, are urging the authorities to admit women.

PORTE WILL APOLOGIZE.

Sultan Gives Orders to the Governor of Alexandretta.

Constantinople.—The porte has agreed to the demands of the United States government and has ordered the governor of Alexandretta to make ample apology to Consul Davis for the insults and assaults to which he was subjected by the police of that city while he was escorting to a departing steamer a naturalized American citizen named Attarian, who had been liberated from prison through the intervention of Mr. Davis.

United States Minister Leishman arrived at a friendly understanding with Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish foreign minister, who agreed to the demands of Minister Leishman. The porte notified the United States legation of the instructions telegraphed to the vali of Aleppo to order the governor of Alexandretta to call on Consul Davis immediately upon his arrival at Alexandretta and offer to him a complete apology. The porte also has promised to punish the police officials who assaulted Consul Davis and will allow Attarian to depart unhindered.

Lumber Market.

Portland, Dec. 23.—As a result of a disagreement that arose at the meeting of the Pacific Coast lumbermen held here for the purpose of readopting the agreement formed to maintain prices and limit the output of lumber which has been in effect for the past two years between the lumber manufacturers of California, Oregon and Washington, the export lumber trade of the Pacific coast threatens to become seriously demoralized. As the present agreement terminates on the last day of the present month unless some decision is arrived at by the contending factions, the mills of Oregon and Washington find themselves confronted with a drop in the price of export lumber of about \$4 per thousand from the present basic rate, \$14.

Wheat Market.

Tacoma, Wash.—Nominally 1c higher with little trading; bluestem, 79c; club, 75c.

Portland, Ore.—Walla Walla, 71@72c; bluestem, 77c; valley, 78c.

Lewiston, Idaho.—Bluestem, 60c per bushel; oats, 80c per cwt; barley, 67 1/2 per cwt; flax, 73c per bushel. Market dull.

Davenport, Wash.—Little club, 66c; bluestem, 69c.

ARE ON THE VERGE OF WAR

JAPAN AND RUSSIA ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS.

Fears are Expressed That Russia Has Gone Too Far for a Peaceful Settlement—Has Assumed a Defiant Attitude—London Worried—Crisis Soon to Come in Japan.

London, Dec. 22.—Reuter's Telegram company has learned that much anxiety is felt regarding the possible outcome of the situation in the far east. Fears are expressed that Russia may have overstepped the bounds which would make peaceable negotiations with Japan possible.

Apart from the delicate state of the negotiations between the two nations, Reuter's says it is also known that Russia is assuming a more defiant attitude and the outlook may be regarded as more gloomy than it hitherto has been, although it can not be said that the resources of diplomacy have been completely exhausted.

The statement concludes by saying that there is as yet no actual news of fresh developments and that no ultimatum has been sent by Japan to Russia.

Pekin Feels the Crisis.

Pekin, Dec. 22.—While no news has been received at the Japanese legation that Japan has sent an ultimatum to Russia, it is recognized at the legation that a grave crisis is approaching. Major General Yamani, the Japanese military attaché, and the Japanese colonel who has been instructing General Yuan Shai Kais troops, have both started for Japan.

The native press recently reiterated a circumstantial story to the effect that in the event of Manchuria being retained by Russia it was the intention of Great Britain to establish a protectorate over the Yangtze valley as compensation and to appoint a viceroy therein, so that her prestige in the far east would be equal to Russia's. Some native papers give Wai Wai Hu of the Chinese foreign board as authority for the story. The fiction is largely credited and gravely discussed and is creating hostility against Great Britain. It is suspected that the story has been fostered by unfriendly agencies appointed for the purpose and the British legation is investigating its origin.

No Ultimatum as Yet.

Pekin, Dec. 22.—While the knowledge of the legations on the situation leads to the belief that the sending of an ultimatum is improbable, the prospects of war are evidently increasing. The British legation some days ago received a telegram indicating that war was possible, and the Japanese legation is informed that Russia's recent reply to the Japanese proposals was unsatisfactory.

IRRIGATE WASHINGTON LANDS.

Mr. Newell Says It Is Largest Project in the World.

Washington, D. C.—There was a joint meeting of the senate and house irrigation committees recently. The arrangement was for the purpose of giving Mr. Newell, chief of the reclamation service, an opportunity to present his views regarding irrigation work and investigations in various states. In Washington an investigation is being made of the Big Bend project, which, Mr. Newell said, is the largest irrigation project in the world. According to his statement, it would irrigate between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 acres of land, and so far as the investigations have gone the cost would be staggering and could only be compared with the Panama canal in magnitude. But the land reclaimed would be well worth the cost of reclamation. He said it would be several years before the department could fully determine whether the project was feasible or not.

Consul Goes Back.

Constantinople.—Rear Admiral Cotton left Beirut yesterday on board the United States cruiser San Francisco, taking Consul Davis to Alexandretta, which place Mr. Davis left as announced December 8, because he had been insulted and assaulted by the police while accompanying, on board a departing steamer, a naturalized American.

Gorges Rise in the Ohio.

Cincinnati, Dec. 21.—With the Ohio river frozen and great gorges at many places, a rise of nearly three feet today threatens danger for all kinds of craft.

Fear Gorge Will Break.

Evansville, Ind., Dec. 21.—Owing to the heavy rains last night there is alarm among the steamboat men for fear the large gorges between this city and Louisville will break.

Mr. Hughes, the London artist, has finished his full length portrait of the queen, the second he has painted since the coronation.

TRADE REPORT.

New York.—Bradstreet's Report says:

Holiday and retail business generally is reasonably active, wholesale and jobbing trade correspondingly quiet, while manufacturing industry slackens for the above reason, but also because of low water in streams or efforts to readjust operations to changed conditions of demand and supply. Cold weather is still an important stimulus to heavy wearing apparel and footwear. There are several continuously encouraging factors noted.

Prices, all things considered, showed marked steadiness, confirming reports of closely held supplies.

Seasonable quietness does not affect building material, which, judging from permits issued at leading cities, is likely to be active next spring. Petroleum is at the highest point in years, due to increased domestic demands for fuel and straightened condition of old fields of supply.

Wheat, including flour, exports for the week aggregate 3,363,035 bushels. Business failures in the United States for the week numbered 239.

W. J. Bryan Visits Tolstol.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—William J. Bryan has arrived here. Mr. Bryan said he spent 14 hours with Tolstol Friday last, arriving before breakfast. He rode half an hour with Tolstol, who then insisted that Mr. Bryan should take a siesta while the author wrote. Tolstol's physician laughingly said that he was sorry that the author had curtailed his daily exercise through fear of tiring Mr. Bryan. The conversation between Tolstol and Mr. Bryan took the widest range.

While Mr. Bryan was dining with Ambassador McCormick at a restaurant the servants rushed in with the news that Mr. McCormick's house was on fire. It turned out, however, that only a chimney was ablaze and the fire was soon extinguished.

At the Spokane Theatre, Spokane.

January 8 and 9—Andrew Robson in "Richard Carvel."

January 13 and 14—"Foxy Grandpa."

January 15 and 16—J. H. Stoddard in "Bonnie Brier Bush."

January 19 and 20—"Way Down East."

January 23—Patti.

January 29 and 30—Melbourne MacDowell and Florence Stone.

January 31 and February 1 and 2—Marie Wainwright.

February 4—The Kilties band.

February 5 and 6—Robert Mantell.

February 12 and 13—The Bostonians.

February 14 and 15—Alberta Gallatin in "Ibsen's Ghosts."

February 24—Paul Gilmore.

February 26 and 27—"The Eternal City."

Among some of the best attractions which will be at the Spokane during the last three months of the season are: "The Four Cohens," Jerome Sykes in "The Billionaire," E. H. Sothorn in "The Proud Prince," "The Silver Slipper," Richard Mansfield in "Old Heidelberg," and Blanche Walsh in "The Resurrection."

Write Manager Dan L. Weaver and have seats reserved in advance. Prices range from 50 cents to \$2.00.

Spokane Market.

Vegetables—Potatoes, 55@65c 100 lb sack; turnips, 70@75c 100 lb sack; beets, 2 bunches, 5c, carrots, 2@3 bunches 5c; cucumbers, 5c and 10c ea; cauliflower, 15@25c head; celery, 10@15c bunch; sweet potatoes, 2 1/2c@3c lb; cabbage, 1 1/2@3c lb; pumpkins and squash, 5@15c each; popcorn, 5@10c lb; shelled, 8@10c lb.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 16@18c lb; turkeys, 25c dressed; geese, 16@18c dressed; ducks, 18c dressed; wild ducks, 35@50c each; squabs, 15c ea; teal ducks, 25c each.

Dairy Products—Creamery butter, 35@40c lb; country butter, 20@30c lb; cheese, 20@25c lb.

Eggs—30@45c doz; case, \$8@10.50 wholesale.

Fruits—Lemons, 25x@x35c doz; oranges, 35@75c doz.

Grain and Feed—Timothy hay, 90c cwt, \$20 ton; grain hay, 90c cwt, \$16 ton; alfalfa, \$16 ton; chicken feed, \$1.35 cwt, \$22 ton; oats, \$1.20 cwt, \$23 ton; bran, 80c cwt; bran and shorts, 90c sack 90 lbs; shorts, \$1 cwt; barley, \$22 ton, \$1.20 cwt; corn, \$1.40; chopped corn, \$1.50.

Flour—Wholesale, eastern hard wheat, \$5.50@5.75 bbl; retail, fancy patents, \$1.20 sack; standard brands, \$1.15 sack; common grades, \$1.10 sk; lowest, \$1 sack; Washington wheat, \$4.40@4.60 bbl; buckwheat, 40@50c 10 lb sack.

Prices Paid to Producers.

Poultry and Eggs—Chickens, roosters, 10c; hens, 10@12c lb live weight; young chickens, 10@12c lb; turkeys, dressed, 18@20c; eggs, 35c doz, strictly fresh, case, \$10@10.50.

Vegetables—New potatoes, 40@50c cwt; onions, 75c@1.

Live Stock—Steers, \$3@3.50 per cwt; cows, \$2.50@3 cwt; mutton, ewes \$2.50@2.80 cwt; wethers \$3.25 cwt; hogs \$5@5.10 cwt.