

An Iowa man has gone insane because he could not sell an ear of corn...

A western man claims to have discovered a new way of making cigars, straw being the material used.

"Woman Tamer Killed by Lions," announces a headline in a New York paper.

The latest serum for the cure of tuberculosis killed the patient who was intended to save.

A new application of electricity has been made in France, and now the power is actually used for felling trees.

A great western railroad system announces that its new cars are equipped with all the conveniences of a modern car.

Two verdicts of \$70,000 and \$75,000 damages have been awarded to sufferers from the New York Central tunnel accident.

The National Association of Letter Carriers is undertaking a rather large enterprise in its scheme to provide pensions for its superannuated or disabled members.

From a town in Indiana comes the exciting tale of a man who filled his pipe with tobacco from a pocket in which he had placed some cartridges.

Many students of American social life have urged that our homes are suffering from the excessive demands made on the wives and mothers particularly.

The Mother's club, of Des Moines, Ia., has declared that the legend of Santa Claus and other fairy tales are necessary for the best development of the child mind.

After all Prof. Langley's experiments in the way of aerial navigation, he has been outdone by two brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, of Ohio.

The New York post office reports at least a ton of letters addressed by children to "Santa Claus," which had to be forwarded to the district office at Washington.

Father Chidwick, probably the best known chaplain the navy has, will retire as soon as the necessary form can be observed.

W. J. Buchanan, the first United States minister to the new republic of Panama, is a self-made man, having started in life as an edge toolmaker in Covington, O.

That perplexing problem, "How old is Ann?" is likely to be succeeded by a still more knotty problem if a case before the civil service board of New York city gets into public discussion.

A fire in the first avenue hotel at East Brainerd caused a loss of \$5,000.

A WEEK'S HISTORY

The Important Happenings of a Week Briefly Told.

IN ALL PARTS OF THE UNION

All the Latest News of Interest from Washington, From the East, the West and the South.

THE LATEST FOREIGN DISPATCHES

FROM WASHINGTON.

Senator Hale says that it is the intention to make provision for another liberal addition to the navy during the present session of congress.

The government announces the corn crop for 1903 at Washington as 2,244,176,925 bushels, valued at \$952,868,801; winter wheat, 399,867,250 bushels, worth \$286,242,849.

The sentiment of the cabinet at a meeting was that the Colombian question could not be submitted to the other nations could settle for the United States.

The control of the steel trust is now in the hands of John D. Rockefeller and H. C. Frick.

Secretary of War Root has declined to accept the chairmanship of the national republican committee.

In the past year lives lost in wars throughout the world number 86,468, against 25,700 in 1902.

Several experiments with turbine propulsion prove successful and the new system will be used on naval ships of the United States.

At Hollowell, N. Y., Joseph Phillips, a farmer, murdered his three children, and then hanged himself in a neighborhood barn.

The death of Gordon Trumbull, aged 82, of distinction, especially in the studies of fish, occurred at Hartford, Conn.

At the East Buffalo (N. Y.) stock yards 7,000 sheep were burned to death.

The girl students at Rosemary hall, Greenwich, Conn., handled stone for a new chapel which they have resolved to construct with their own hands.

William Shaw and Moses T. Clough, prominent lawyers, lost their lives in a fire in a Troy (N. Y.) club house.

In the past year a total of 619,980 immigrants arrived at New York, against 547,197 in 1902.

In the east the Standard Oil company has reduced the price of oil five cents and two cents in the west.

Judge M. W. Acheson in the United States circuit court in Pittsburgh held that railroads are responsible for the full value of goods lost in transit.

The annual review of Bradstreet predicts a year of satisfactory conservative business for 1904, following the severe strains put upon the industrial and speculative communities of 1903.

In the past eight days Minneapolis mills have booked almost 100,000 barrels of cotton for Japan.

Secretary of State Hay will go to Thomaston, Ga., to recuperate his health as soon as he has recovered sufficiently to endure the fatigue of the journey.

J. E. Grillo, of Cincinnati, has been elected president of the American Baseball association.

Lynching of George Williams and Ned Zimmerman, negroes accused of assault, was attempted at Council Bluffs, Ia. The jail door was broken in, but the militia was called out in time.

In Chicago Jerome Sykes, star comedian of "The Billionaire," died of pneumonia contracted during a Christmas party given for his company.

Miss Alice Pilcher, 21 years old, daughter of a Louisville (Ky.) organ manufacturer, masqueraded as a boy for three years in Montana with her father's consent.

Fireman H. C. Badger and brakeman W. J. Long, of Galeburg, were killed in a railway wreck near Denrock, Ill.

At the age of 66 years Thomas Connolly, a millionaire carriage manufacturer of national prominence, died suddenly at his home in Dubuque, Ia.

At Guthrie, Okla., a railway company has been formed to build a line from Port Nelson, on Hudson bay in British America, to the Argentine Republic, a distance of 10,000 miles.

The oldest man in Minneapolis, Robert C. Harper, died at the age of 104 years and six months.

At San Jose, Ill., safe blowers cracked and looted the safe in the post office of \$1,000.

In Chicago all the livery establishments are open, the employers agreeing to reinstate the striking drivers.

Judge Webster sentenced John Tully, a soldier, at Missoula, Mont., to hang February 26 for the murder of Thomas Kennedy at Fort Missoula.

Robbers dynamited the safe of O. Cohen, a jeweler in Des Moines, Ia., and stole \$8,000 in cash, diamonds and watches.

Myra Jane Williams, of Brainerd, Minn., was sentenced to the penitentiary for life for the murder of her little daughter.

John Denison, Ia., Detlef Evans, a German farmer, poisoned his 18-month-old child and his wife. It is believed Evans is insane.

The cruiser New York sailed from San Francisco for Panama.

Minister Powell has been given an order of warship at San Domingo as three revolutions are in progress there.

Irritation against Americans and English is indicated at St. Petersburg, because of undoubted sympathy for Japan.

Recount of Russia's cruelty to the Jews the United States may withdraw its ambassador from St. Petersburg.

The powers have been notified by Japan that the situation in the far east is critical and that she is preparing for the worst.

Herman Adler, of London, praises American Jews for seeking to have President Roosevelt interfere to prevent another Kishineff massacre.

Leading sentiment in Russia is that war with Japan is inevitable. Newspapers say the country should assert itself and not let a little nation dictate to it.

There are warlike nations left to San Francisco to join the fleet under Admiral Glass at Panama.

A diplomat in South America says Colombia must fight to preserve her integrity, and that the feeling toward the United States and Panama is growing more bitter.

Colombia was not represented at the New Year reception, nor did President Roosevelt receive the good wishes of Bogota government on that day.

Forman Danial Phalen was killed and two other employes severely injured in a fire caused by an explosion in the factory of the United States lead and tin company at Chicago.

James T. Donnelly, a groceryman at Pittsburg, Pa., was killed in his store by negroes. The deed was committed in the presence of Donnelly's daughter, who was powerless to prevent it.

Twelve of the employes of Iroquois theater, Chicago, were arrested on orders issued by Chief of Police O'Neill.

The charge against them is at present that of being accessory to manslaughter. They will be held pending the verdict of the coroner's jury.

In a family quarrel in the southern end of Wayne county, Ky., J. J. Smith and his son fired upon Diane Blevins and his two sons, killing Blevins and fatally wounding both sons. Smith is Blevins's son-in-law.

Three persons were killed and four injured in a fire that destroyed the Louvre hotel, Chicago. Nearly 100 guests were in the hotel and several had been killed.

Superintendent of Schools Cooley announced that the Iroquois theatre had killed twenty-four teachers in the Chicago public schools, and six teachers still reported missing, making a total of thirty.

Fire damaged the Lehigh Valley depot at Bethlehem, Pa., \$200,000 worth. Mayor Harrison ordered 19 theaters in Chicago closed until proper safeguards against fire were completed.

Empress of Russia presents two lions to President Roosevelt.

An explosion of 100 pounds of dynamite in a mine near Bloomington, Ill., made houses tremble, but killed no one.

A passenger train was wrecked near Ashtabula, O., and three of the train men were killed. Heavy snow caused the disaster.

The Tennessee Central railway shops at South Nashville, Tenn., burned, causing a loss of \$300,000.

Capt. Fred Baber, president of the Pabst Brewing company of Milwaukee died the 1st.

Over 100 Turks are arrested on suspicion of a plot to kill Christians.

Chicago democratic leaders will make determined effort to obtain the national convention for that city.

Cotton King Brown will erect a \$2,000,000 hotel in New Orleans, La., from his cotton bull clique profits.

Plus X issued an important document, warning the Roman Catholic laity in Italy from taking part in politics.

Amy Gistrap, who lives in Macon county, Mo., is 100 years old, and says she was never angry in her life.

Ministers of Lincoln, Neb., adopted a resolution that the number of churches in the state ought to be reduced 50 per cent.

AWFUL DISASTER OCCURS IN CHICAGO

Fire Breaks Out During Matinee in Iroquois Theater--Panic-Stricken the Audience Attempts to Escape--Loss of Life Placed at 571.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Fire broke out in the Iroquois theater, on Randolph street between Dearborn and State streets, about 2:30 p. m. The theater was packed to the doors with an audience gathered to witness a matinee performance of the extravaganza "Mr. Bluebird, Jr." The flames spread rapidly through the auditorium, and panic and stampede ensued. The loss of life is appalling, latest estimates placing the number of dead at 571, while 350 others were injured. Many of the victims were burned to death, but the majority lost their lives through suffocation and asphyxiation. Every hospital and morgue in the city is filled with victims. The work of identification is proceeding very slowly, and it is impossible at this time to give any thing like a correct list of the dead, injured or missing. The hospitals and morgues are besieged by hundreds of agonized men and women whose relatives were known to have attended the performance, but of whom nothing has since been heard. It is the most appalling catastrophe in point of loss of life which has ever been visited upon this city.

Men fell on their knees and prayed. Men and women cursed. A rush was made for the Randolph street exits. In their fear the crowds forgot the many side exits, and rushed for the doors at which they had entered the theater. Little boys and girls were thrown to one side by their stronger companions. The 12-year-old son of Mrs. F. A. Morgan, of 496 Webster avenue, was literally scalped by a man who grasped the boy by the hair and threw him to the ground. With his hands the man tore the boy's hair out. The mother held her son's arm. Alive, but injured, both were carried out.

Removal of the Bodies. Coroner Traeger and his two physicians, Joseph Springer and Otto Lewke, arrived at the fire early. The coroner took personal charge of the removal of the bodies. A number of the victims' bodies had burned to the seats, so that the firemen were either forced to rend the bodies in removing them or use axes on the seats to which they were fastened. Scores of the dead will never be identified. Hundreds of bodies were taken from the building, their clothing gone, their faces charred beyond recognition. Under pretense of serving as bearers, ghouls gained entrance to the theater and robbed dead and dying in the midst of the fire.

Origin of the Fire. The fire started from sparks from the eight electric lights which hung in the fire entrance back of the proscenium arch, behind the grand drape on the south side of the stage. The large arc lamps were used to throw "spot" light on the performers in the dark scenes. There were 180 drop scenes hung in the files of the theater and a spark ignited one of the draperies hanging from the top of the stage near the proscenium. It took nearly a minute before it was discovered by the men in the files, who gave the alarm. Stage Manager Carlson ordered the drapery lowered, but the men in charge of the fly gallery were excited and instead of lowering it pulled it up, and in an instant all the hanging drops were ablaze. A moment later there was an explosion of several calcium tanks which lighted the theater like a photograph's flash light powder and the flames spread to the auditorium. The fly men barely had time to climb down the ladder leading to the upper portion of the stage and escape before the entire scenery was blazing. Nearly all the company were in their dressing rooms at the time, and when the alarm was given they rushed madly into the street through the stage exits. Their faces covered with makeup and wearing their stage costumes.

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Like Rats in a Trap. Most gruesome were the sights in the upper balcony of the burned theater, when the police and firemen began removing the bodies. There 150 persons, caught like rats in a trap, had died in fearful agony. Along the rail guarding the edge of the pit were stacked the bodies of the hapless victims, their limbs drawn and faces set. Indications in the highest balcony were that in the last few seconds of the struggle for life the agonized people had crushed forward, intent upon throwing themselves to the floor below. Their arms were interlocked and the muscles set so hard that much force was necessary to separate them. In the end of the gallery nearest the stage the fire had done its most awful work. There were found bodies charred beyond the possibility of recognition, some with shreds of clothing still clinging to them. A number of the victims' bodies had burned to the seats, so that the firemen were either forced to rend the bodies in removing them or use axes on the seats to which they were fastened.

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