

MINNEAPOLIS.

Additional City News on Fifth Page.

"NO ONE TO BLAME."

After four days' deliberation, the coroner's jury has rendered a verdict. It finds that the men were killed by falling from the Tribune building during the fire Saturday night. The verdict, signed by the jury, covers thirty-eight pages of closely written legal cap and is a calm, dispassionate review of the testimony taken. It is not the kind of a verdict the public mind had expected, or was prepared to receive. That some one was to be blamed, the jury was sure of. Who that somebody was the coroner's jury was expected to determine. The jury, by its verdict, has acquitted with unmeaning generalities, has placed the blame nowhere, but left the matter just about where it was. The Tribune building was in a manner that the Tribune building was a manufacturing and should have been supplied with fire escapes. The jury finds that if the building was a manufacturing the city officials were derelict in their duty in not enforcing the law. The Tribune building has been inquiring into the cause and responsibility of the death of the seven men who were killed at the Tribune fire returned their verdict. It is by far the most voluminous verdict ever rendered by a coroner's jury in this city. The jury believes that the Tribune building properly belonged to that class of buildings known as manufacturing, and that the fire escape law applied to that building, consequently the city officials were negligent in not enforcing the law relative to fire escapes. The jury finds that at least one death would not have been caused had it not been for the electric wires overhead. The verdict in full is as follows:

An investigation taken at the city of Minneapolis, county of Hennepin, on the 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 1st days of December, 1893, before J. E. Peters, M. D., coroner for said county, on the bodies of Milton Pickett, James Lee, Robert McCulloch, Edward O. Smith, William Millman, W. Miles and E. J. Jenkinson, lying dead, by the oaths of the jurors, whose names are hereto subscribed, who on being sworn to inquire on behalf of the state of Minnesota, in and upon the persons of the said Milton Pickett, William Millman, James Lee, W. Miles, R. McCulloch, Edward O. Smith and E. J. Jenkinson, who the above-named deceased came to their death from falling from the Tribune building on the night of Saturday, Nov. 24, 1893, during the fire which destroyed the Tribune building. Furthermore, we, the said jurors, do find from the evidence adduced before us the following facts, to-wit: That the Tribune building, situated on the north end of the building, was the only means of egress known to the persons employed and then being on the sixth and seventh floors of the building. This latter fact was established by the testimony of the said Pickett, James Lee, W. Miles, R. McCulloch, Edward O. Smith and E. J. Jenkinson, who were the only means of egress known to the persons employed and then being on the sixth and seventh floors of the building. The stairs and the elevator had been shut off by the fire as a means of egress, and the only means of escape, namely, the standing ladder, which broke out in the portion of the building near this fire escape. That the fire raged so fierce in this part of the building that twenty-five or more of the people employed in the building were unable to reach this fire escape. That the men who did reach this fire escape, had been so nearly smothered by smoke, and were so severely burned by the fire as to render them, or some of them, too weak to avail themselves of this mode of escape with safety. That this latter particularly applies to the condition of William Millman, deceased, and witness Charles Alf Williams, the last man to attempt the descent on the fire escape. That the elevator was operated and run by Elevator Man Smith and then by Stenographer Hutz during the fire to the very last moment possible, taking men down with all possible expedition until the fire had reached the top of the building. It has been testified by A. B. Nettleton, one of the original owners of the building, that the standing ladder, which was placed in the composing room of the Tribune, was capable of reaching to the lower window sill of the windows of the fifth floor of the Tribune building, and that it was placed in a room on the fifth floor, and that it was capable of reaching to the ground. It has also been testified by witness Frank Hoover, a compositor who has been continuously employed on the seventh floor since the Tribune moved into the building, that the ladder was not known to him to have been in this composing room two and a half years last passed, but that it was about the time mentioned by witness Nettleton. It has been testified by witness Charles Alf Williams, the managing editor of the Tribune, who has been continuously employed in the composing room for four years last passed, that he never heard of any indication of the existence of the ladder. Compositor Hutz, who has been employed "off and on" in the building for several years, testified that he never heard of the ladder.

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THE CORNER'S JURY RETURNS A VERDICT ON THE TRIBUNE FIRE.

Verdict on the Tribune Fire. City Officials Were Derelict If the Building Was a Manufacturing. Overhead Wires Were Responsible for at Least One Death.

The Building Company Held Morally Responsible for the Death of the Men.

After hearing some brief testimony in the morning, and having been in consultation all day, at 6 o'clock last evening the jury which has been inquiring into the cause and responsibility of the death of the seven men who were killed at the Tribune fire returned their verdict. It is by far the most voluminous verdict ever rendered by a coroner's jury in this city. The jury believes that the Tribune building properly belonged to that class of buildings known as manufacturing, and that the fire escape law applied to that building, consequently the city officials were negligent in not enforcing the law relative to fire escapes. The jury finds that at least one death would not have been caused had it not been for the electric wires overhead. The verdict in full is as follows:

An investigation taken at the city of Minneapolis, county of Hennepin, on the 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 1st days of December, 1893, before J. E. Peters, M. D., coroner for said county, on the bodies of Milton Pickett, James Lee, Robert McCulloch, Edward O. Smith, William Millman, W. Miles and E. J. Jenkinson, lying dead, by the oaths of the jurors, whose names are hereto subscribed, who on being sworn to inquire on behalf of the state of Minnesota, in and upon the persons of the said Milton Pickett, William Millman, James Lee, W. Miles, R. McCulloch, Edward O. Smith and E. J. Jenkinson, who the above-named deceased came to their death from falling from the Tribune building on the night of Saturday, Nov. 24, 1893, during the fire which destroyed the Tribune building. Furthermore, we, the said jurors, do find from the evidence adduced before us the following facts, to-wit: That the Tribune building, situated on the north end of the building, was the only means of egress known to the persons employed and then being on the sixth and seventh floors of the building. This latter fact was established by the testimony of the said Pickett, James Lee, W. Miles, R. McCulloch, Edward O. Smith and E. J. Jenkinson, who were the only means of egress known to the persons employed and then being on the sixth and seventh floors of the building. The stairs and the elevator had been shut off by the fire as a means of egress, and the only means of escape, namely, the standing ladder, which broke out in the portion of the building near this fire escape. That the fire raged so fierce in this part of the building that twenty-five or more of the people employed in the building were unable to reach this fire escape. That the men who did reach this fire escape, had been so nearly smothered by smoke, and were so severely burned by the fire as to render them, or some of them, too weak to avail themselves of this mode of escape with safety. That this latter particularly applies to the condition of William Millman, deceased, and witness Charles Alf Williams, the last man to attempt the descent on the fire escape. That the elevator was operated and run by Elevator Man Smith and then by Stenographer Hutz during the fire to the very last moment possible, taking men down with all possible expedition until the fire had reached the top of the building. It has been testified by A. B. Nettleton, one of the original owners of the building, that the standing ladder, which was placed in the composing room of the Tribune, was capable of reaching to the lower window sill of the windows of the fifth floor of the Tribune building, and that it was placed in a room on the fifth floor, and that it was capable of reaching to the ground. It has also been testified by witness Frank Hoover, a compositor who has been continuously employed on the seventh floor since the Tribune moved into the building, that the ladder was not known to him to have been in this composing room two and a half years last passed, but that it was about the time mentioned by witness Nettleton. It has been testified by witness Charles Alf Williams, the managing editor of the Tribune, who has been continuously employed in the composing room for four years last passed, that he never heard of any indication of the existence of the ladder. Compositor Hutz, who has been employed "off and on" in the building for several years, testified that he never heard of the ladder.

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of the building, they ran across the charred remains of the dog that belonged to Lou Raymond. The Tribune reporter who was always at the scene of the fire, and who attended his young master about the building at night and was a character in a dog's life, and was the smartest of brutes. He was a split by descent, and had absolutely no love or respect for any one save his young master, but the boy could do nothing that he liked. The dog was up stairs when the fire started, and descended to the third floor in his endeavor to escape, but was shut off and perished in the flames in the First avenue end of the building. The workmen were working last night in removing the dog safe that was in the office of Surveyor Dahl, when darkness put a stop to their labors. The counting room safe belonging to the Tribune was removed in good shape early in the day. The Tribune-Star vault was entered and the contents found to be in good condition. The Tribune vault was reached yesterday and the upper door found to be open, as was the Journal's, and probably the contents were all destroyed by fire. Day before yesterday John Fairly, the vault expert, found the contents burning, and the firemen turned on a stream of water. The vault will be entered today. Much of the hanging debris has been removed from the walls and upper ruins. There was an accident yesterday, but there was a scare among the onlookers on First avenue during the afternoon. A portion of the brick work fell from the top of the ruins and some of the workmen and onlookers narrowly escaped being struck by them. The ruins are yet full of cinders, and hundreds of people, and from early morning to late at night there is a big crowd gazing on the monument of the fateful catastrophe. The police officers say that there are many men who have been in constant attendance from early morning to late at night ever since Sunday morning.

WHAT STARTED THE FIRE? There Were Numerous Visitors at the Room That Afternoon. It now turns out that the old Republican league rooms in the Tribune building had many visitors on the Saturday afternoon preceding the fire, and that the fire was not means the only man who was there during the afternoon. He said that he was passing the room at about 5 o'clock Saturday evening, and that he saw a man from about six inches open a little farther and looked in. His brother, J. W. Loftus, the engineer of the building, was with him at the time, but he did not strike a match at all while near the room. He was only there an instant, and then took the elevator and went out down stairs. Engineer Loftus states that he was not at the room after Tuesday. It appears that the feeling between Loftus and Miller, the elevator man, is not the slight discrepancy. W. H. Rooks, a clerk for Harlan P. Roberts, the attorney, also looked in during the afternoon. Attorney Forrester was also among the number. Loftus and Miller, the elevator man, is not the slight discrepancy. W. H. Rooks, a clerk for Harlan P. Roberts, a tenant on the third floor; P. M. Dahl, county surveyor, and Thomas Boyle were also visitors at the doorway during the afternoon.

THEY WILL ALL GET WELL. Those Injured in the Fire Are Recovering Rapidly. Those injured by the fire of Saturday night are all recovering as well as might be expected. W. H. Williams, the foreman of the Tribune composing room, is recovering quite rapidly at his home at Lake Calhoun. He hopes to be about in a week or two. It is now thought that there is no danger of his losing his hand. Gerber, the deaf mute, is suffering some from his injuries, but will surely recover. Fred Schmidt will be about again in a week or two. Rennie Dickinson, who was injured internally, is now able to talk and receive nourishment, and he will doubtless recover. George Warden, William Loun, E. C. Andrews, William Kraus, Albert W. Johnson, and George Stevens, Frank Hoover, the others whose injuries were not of a serious nature, are out again.

HE MEANS BUSINESS. Building Inspector Hazen Says Fire Escapes Must Be Made More Efficient. Since the terrible fire at the Tribune building there has been an unusual activity in the building inspector's office. The entire force of deputies was sent out to examine buildings which were supposed to need better facilities for escape in case of fire. These examinations were hurriedly completed, and notices to erect escapes, and it is probable that the law will now be enforced; and in the upper stories where the law will be taken into the municipal court and fined. In speaking of the matter Building Inspector Hazen said: "I have repeatedly ordered parties wealthy who own buildings where there are no escapes to put them on. They have ignored my orders. They would say that the law was not a grand promise, and such a time and they did not see why I should insist on their putting them on. I have been in the habit of issuing public sentiment will be with me in enforcing the ordinance, and I am going on now and in time to save all the lives of fire wherever they are needed. The cost of a good fire escape is not so great as it is, and on a building like the Tribune, there should be at least three of them with a platform balcony at each window."

COMING TO THE FRONT. Minneapolisans Responding Nobly to the Cause of Charity. The people of Minneapolis are coming to the front royally in support of the Press club's enterprise to raise a relief fund for the sufferers from the late fire. As yet there is no doubt that it is intended that the affair would be a gala, but there was some opposition to it on the ground that a ball would be inappropriate. Therefore it was decided to change it to a grand promenade concert, and there is no doubt that it will be fully as enjoyable as a ball. West of the city, in addition to tendering the use of his hotel, will put forth extra efforts to make the affair a social success, and, from the sale of good names and four quarters are lost to its being a financial success. The magnificent hotel will be decorated specially for the occasion. The music on the evening. Dan's full orchestra will furnish the music for the promenade in the large dining room, and in addition, the Fort Snelling band will be stationed in the rotunda. No effort will be spared to make this a most enjoyable social and entertainment that has ever taken place in Minneapolis. It has been learned that some of the printers who were injured in the fire are not likely to recover. Moreover, there are several others who were so badly injured that they will be unable to work for some time. The money raised by the benefit will be used to help them, as well as the families of those who have lost their lives. The money men—or a majority of them—are responding liberally to the calls of the various committees. Among the large sales were made of tickets to J. F. O'Connell, \$125 worth to George R. Newell, \$150 to L. M. Stewart, \$25 worth to S. G. Morton & Co., worth to E. J. Jenkinson, \$25.

A DOG IN THE RUINS. A Throng of Idle Gazers Still Watch the Laborers at Their Work. The work about the Tribune building ruins progressed quite rapidly yesterday. The tenants were busy removing what remained of their books and other property, and there are numerous private crews in their employ. The work of erecting the scaffolding on the inside of the building did not progress very far yesterday, and did not reach above the second floor at dark. The main cause for this was that the scaffolding must rest in part on the debris within the building, and the contractor wishes to allow the tenants to remove what property they can before stopping the work. One important find of the day was that of a portion of the folding ladder which was said to have been stored on the Seventh floor. Only twenty feet of the ladder have yet been brought to light. The question is, was the ladder on the seventh floor, or was it stored in some other portion of the building. Presently the workmen were busy removing the debris in the First avenue end

of the building, they ran across the charred remains of the dog that belonged to Lou Raymond. The Tribune reporter who was always at the scene of the fire, and who attended his young master about the building at night and was a character in a dog's life, and was the smartest of brutes. He was a split by descent, and had absolutely no love or respect for any one save his young master, but the boy could do nothing that he liked. The dog was up stairs when the fire started, and descended to the third floor in his endeavor to escape, but was shut off and perished in the flames in the First avenue end of the building. The workmen were working last night in removing the dog safe that was in the office of Surveyor Dahl, when darkness put a stop to their labors. The counting room safe belonging to the Tribune was removed in good shape early in the day. The Tribune-Star vault was entered and the contents found to be in good condition. The Tribune vault was reached yesterday and the upper door found to be open, as was the Journal's, and probably the contents were all destroyed by fire. Day before yesterday John Fairly, the vault expert, found the contents burning, and the firemen turned on a stream of water. The vault will be entered today. Much of the hanging debris has been removed from the walls and upper ruins. There was an accident yesterday, but there was a scare among the onlookers on First avenue during the afternoon. A portion of the brick work fell from the top of the ruins and some of the workmen and onlookers narrowly escaped being struck by them. The ruins are yet full of cinders, and hundreds of people, and from early morning to late at night there is a big crowd gazing on the monument of the fateful catastrophe. The police officers say that there are many men who have been in constant attendance from early morning to late at night ever since Sunday morning.

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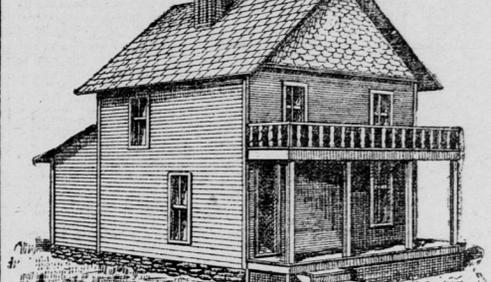
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