

150 WERE KILLED IN FIRE PANIC AT BOYERTOWN, PA.

Bodies of 75 Victims, Mostly Children, Have Been Identified Already--Work of Searching Ruins is Being Pursued.

EXPLOSION, STAMPEDE, THEN BATTLE FOR LIFE

Fire Caused by Kicking Over Oil Lights on Stage Was the Chief Contributing Cause to the Horror of the Situation.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 14.—An exploration of the steaming ruins of the Rhoades opera house, shortly before noon today, and a poll of the homes of the little parish of St. John's Lutheran church, indicate that the list of dead resulting from the fire and panic last night will approximate 150. Already 75 bodies have been identified, according to the coroner, and reports from the temporary hospitals show that several fatalities will result among the 75 persons seriously injured.

The rescue party which is searching the ruins today is greeted with appalling sights that have not been equaled in this country since the Iroquois theatre fire in Chicago.

Further investigation reveals that the entire disaster was due primarily to the panic and the stampede after the first explosion, inconsequential in itself. The flash and noise, however, terrified the children in the packed hall and started the first rush for the doors. It was then that those on the stage became frightened and kicked over the kerosene lamps used for foot-lights and fired the place.

The opera house was crowded with the members of the Sunday school, who were attending a benefit given for that church. While the show was in progress, a tank exploded. The actors endeavored to quiet the audience, but in their anxiety to make themselves heard and to avoid the awful stampede of the women and children, the coal oil lamps which were used as the footlights were overturned, setting the place on fire. The flames, fed by the oil, shot almost to the ceiling and there was a wild rush of the 700 persons to escape from the burning building. Scores of women and children were trampled on, several who escaped being burned to death died after being dragged from the opera house.

In many cases entire families were wiped out. The scene which followed the explosion is indescribable. Scores of persons who were in the balcony at the time the explosion occurred jumped from the windows and sustained fractured limbs and skulls.

To add to the terrible disaster the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the seething flames. Assistance was asked from Pottstown, but before the apparatus from that city reached this place, the entire center of the structure was a roaring furnace.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the injured who remained in the building, the loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows at such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the theatre. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits and the most serious loss of children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the street.

Assistance was at once asked of both Reading and Pottstown and special trains carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to the scene of the disaster. Every home within a radius of half a dozen blocks of the opera house was made a temporary hospital where the wounded were conveyed by carriage and other means of conveyance.

The night was one of waiting and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire was pitiful. As the night wore on the crowds surrounding the building grew to such proportions that it was almost impossible for the police force, which had been augmented by a score of men from Pottstown and Reading, to keep the people back. One woman, who had been on the stage, was with difficulty restrained from throwing herself into the roaring flames.

At one o'clock a special train from Reading bearing physicians and nurses reached here, but there was little for them to do, as the injured who remained in the building were being taken care of by the physicians, assisted by the Pottstown relief corps. A few minutes after midnight the rear wall of the theatre collapsed. The flames broke out anew and those who had vainly hoped to be able to find their relatives in the lower seats turned in despair from the scene of the awful catastrophe.

Three children ranging in age from 8 to 12 years and one woman, who were

PRISONER WAS NEAR COLLAPSE

Dr. J. M. Ryder Sentenced To Twelve Years FOR MALPRACTICE CASE

Judgment of Windham County Court Was Sustained by Supreme Court in Decision as Announced To-day.

Dr. James M. Ryder, who was convicted in Windham county court of malpractice upon Miss Iva Martin of Proseville, who died in the doctor's office October 30, 1906, nearly collapsed in supreme court at Montpelier today when Judge Rowell, after announcing that the verdict of the lower court had been sustained, sentenced him to not less than twelve and not more than fifteen years at hard labor in the state prison at Windsor. Exceptions to the verdict in the lower court were argued before the supreme court at Brattleboro at the special session last November, and Dr. Ryder was brought up to Montpelier last evening. Deputy Sheriff Dan P. Thompson of Bellows Falls and placed in the county jail to await the action of the court today.

Dr. Ryder had been out on \$7,000 bail pending the decision in his case by the higher court, but for several months prior to his conviction in the lower court he was in jail in default of bail. Judge Rowell announced that the respondent takes nothing by his exceptions and declared no error in the lower court. Thereupon, he asked the respondent if he had any reason why sentence should not be pronounced.

The prisoner then made a long rambling statement, saying that the illness of his counsel prevented his getting a fair trial, and that the cause of the girl's death had not been proved. Following his statement, Judge Rowell pronounced sentence as noted above. The length of the sentence has been the topic of conversation about the supreme court room since that time.

In the case of State vs. Dennis Gilman, Franklin county, charged with selling liquor to a minor, the exceptions were laid aside and the sentence to pay \$300 and costs or an alternative sentence, was affirmed. Judge Rowell read.

In the Windham county case of Mary Lincoln vs. Nancy Hemmingsway, for the plaintiff to recover on note, decided affirmatively. The decision against the defendant in the Chittenden county case of In re. Harriet Peck, estate, vs. Edward W. Peck, estate, was affirmed and the cause remanded, with leave to replead.

This was the opening day of the regular term of supreme court, and all the judges were present; also Judges Taylor and Waterman of the Superior court, as well as a large number of lawyers. Rev. L. E. Reed of Montpelier offered prayer at the opening, which came at 10 o'clock. A term of at least three weeks' duration is forecasted.

Two candidates were admitted to the bar today, they being John C. Sherburne of Bethel and J. A. Wilcox of Ludlow. Both passed the examinations recently, but had not been registered long enough to admit them to practice. The rules have been changed so that study by Rhodes scholars at Oxford university, England, count the same as years in an attorney's office. Mr. Sherburne studied a year at Oxford, going from the university of Vermont.

Two Vermonters with these scholarships are at present studying at Oxford university, England. Harry Holt of West Rutland, a graduate of Middlebury college in the class of 1905 and C. C. Wilson of Bethel, who graduated from the university of Vermont in 1907.

NEW ENGLAND GRAIN DEALERS. Fifth Annual Meeting Held in Boston Last Night.

Boston, Jan. 14.—At the fifth annual meeting of the New England Grain Dealers' association, held at the Boston Chamber of Commerce last evening, the following officers were elected: President, Frank A. Noyes, Boston; vice-president, R. MacKinnon, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; John W. Cox and Harry J. Wood were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. Among the directors chosen were A. J. Wallbridge of Peterborough, N. H.

Following the meeting of the grain dealers the Grain Dealers' Fire Insurance company held its first annual meeting. Among the directors for three years chosen were H. L. Marsh of Newport, R. I., and J. S. Morrill of Laconia, N. H.

The board of directors selected the following officers: Dean K. Webster of Lawrence, president; Milton L. Cushing of Fitchburg, vice-president; V. M. Bourne of Haverhill, treasurer, and A. Shirley Ladd of Boston, secretary.

HUGHES MAN CONFIRMED. Party Lines Tightly Drawn on the Nomination of Blackmar.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 14.—The nomination of Governor Hughes of Abel E. Blackmar, Republican, of Brooklyn, as counsel to the public service commission in the first district was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 33 to 15, after midnight last night, after a partisan debate lasting almost four hours, as justice of the supreme court in the second judicial district to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Justice Willard Bartlett, Democrat, as an associate justice of the court of appeals.

The vote was a straight party vote, except Senator Fuller, Democrat, of Brooklyn, who voted with the Republicans to confirm the nominee. The absentees were Finnan and Wilcox, Republicans, and Sullivan, Democrat.

BURLINGTON MAN UP. "John Murphy" Sentenced to 40 Days For Vagrancy.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 14.—John Murphy, aged 28, and giving his home as Burlington, Vt., when he has a family, was sentenced in police court yesterday to 40 days in jail as a vagrant. He said he was a boot loan fixer and had worked in the Winoski mills.

MARRIED IN MONTPELIER IN 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Stevens of Essex Junction Have Anniversary.

Essex Junction, Jan. 14.—Mr. and Mrs. George W. Stevens today observed the 50th anniversary of their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens were married in Montpelier by the Rev. Eli Bolton, who died many years ago. The bride, then Dolana M. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Huntley of Duxbury, was no quite 16 years old, one of a family of four children. Mr. Stevens was born in Huntington in 1831 and was one of the 10 children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Stevens.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens lived in Duxbury and then moved to Bolton, where he was in the lumber business for many years. They moved to this village 10 years ago last fall into a home which they had built. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have been the parents of four children, one son having died in infancy, another, William H. of Bolton, died last August. The two children now living are Arthur G. of Bolton and Mrs. Charles W. Barney of this village. They also have five grandchildren. Mr. Stevens represented the town of Bolton in the legislature in 1888. In 1894 he was elected assistant judge of Chittenden county court and served four years. Mr. Stevens held most of the town offices in Bolton and has held several since coming to this place. He has been justice of the peace continuously for 29 years or more. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens are highly esteemed and a large circle of friends extend hearty congratulations on this occasion.

Mr. Stevens is in poor health.

TO FAVOR NATIONAL LAW. To Govern Regulation of Automobiles in United States.

Rutland, Jan. 14.—Charles A. Matthews, secretary of the Rutland County Automobile club, has received from the American Automobile association, with which the local organization is affiliated, a communication asking that the local association notify the Vermont delegation in Congress that its members favor the bill for a proposed national law looking to the regulation, registration and identification of automobiles. The club will, without doubt, do this.

Under the present system, where each state has a different automobile law, it is necessary for a motorist owner, if he obeys the laws, to register in every state through which he passes during a tour. Although New Jersey was about the only state to enforce the law strictly last season, other communities might have done so and made it very unpleasant for tourists. In New Jersey the past year, he had to cross the state several times during an afternoon's spin, to be arrested if he did not carry a New Jersey register.

The object of the proposed new law is to do away with all this by registering in the A. A. register in all states.

It is interesting to know that up to January 1, 1908, there were 1,316 automobiles registered in Vermont. The gain during 1907 was 488 and 923 during 1906. Rutland county had 80 registered machines at the close of the automobile season in the fall.

RHODES EXAMINATIONS. They Will Be Held at Middlebury College January 21-22.

Middlebury, Jan. 14.—The Rhodes scholarship examinations for the state of Vermont will be held this year with Middlebury college Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21 and 22. All residents of the state are eligible to take these examinations, but before appointment have completed the sophomore year in a fully accredited college and be under 25 years of age. Further information on the subject of examinations may be had from the faculty of Middlebury college, who this year will have charge of the examinations.

This will be the third time these examinations have been held in Vermont, having previously taken place in January of 1905 at Middlebury and in January of 1907 at Burlington.

THAW'S ANTECEDENTS ARE BEING RAKED OVER

Evidence of Insanity in His Family Are Being Recounted in the Trial in New York.

New York, Jan. 14.—The first witness for the defense when the Thaw trial opened this morning was Dr. John T. Demar, the Thaw family physician, and Littleton plumed at once into his proof that his client was abnormal from birth, as a child, said the witness, was extremely nervous. His uncle, Henry W. Copley, suffered from imbecility for six years prior to death. Littleton attempted to bring evidence regarding more distant relatives, but Jerome objected and was sustained.

Roger O'Mara, former chief of police of Pittsburg, who has been in charge of the detectives looking up the evidence for the defense, appeared in the court room today. He said that he saw Mrs. William Thaw in Pittsburg yesterday. "She is suffering from a complication of nervous prostration and rheumatism, but we hope she will be able to be on hand to testify when desired by Mr. Littleton. If not, of course her evidence will have to be taken by commission.

Thaw looked even more depressed than usual when he entered the court room. His wife was early at the court house, but as she is to be called as a witness she was not permitted a seat inside the trial chamber.

Dr. William W. F. Butler of Ronoke, Va., who was assistant physician of the Virginia state hospital for the insane at 84, Antoin in 1883, when Horace Thaw, a son of the first William Thaw, was confined there, testified regarding his condition while there. Documents containing the original commitment recited that Thaw was mentally incompetent.

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MANY BANKS IN SESSION

Three Financial Institutions Hold Annual Meetings

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. P. Abbott Is a New Director of the National Bank of Barre—The Good Showing Made as Shown by Deposits.

To-day was bank day in Barre, three of the institutions holding their annual meetings, the People's National, the National Bank of Barre and the Barre Savings Bank and Trust company.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the National Bank of Barre was held this forenoon at the bank in the Aldrich block, when the following directors were elected: F. G. Howland, Ben A. Eastman, John E. Smith, Frank H. Burke, M. E. Howland and A. P. Abbott, the latter being a new name on the board. At the directors' meeting following, F. G. Howland was elected president, Ben A. Eastman vice-president, and Thos. H. Cave, jr., cashier. The bank has had the most prosperous year since its organization in 1873, and has just paid its semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent to stockholders. This is the sixty-ninth semi-annual consecutive dividend paid, aggregating \$317,500, and the bank has also always paid a good rate of interest to its depositors. No greater evidence of the faith and confidence of the public in this institution and its management is needed than the fact that deposits have increased \$161,883.92 during the past year.

The annual meeting of the People's National Bank of Barre was held at the banking rooms in the Worthen block at 10 o'clock this morning, when the old board of directors was re-elected, as follows: C. W. Melcher, S. D. Allen, C. W. Averill, E. D. Ladd, W. D. Smith, A. J. Young, Ira C. Calf, L. J. Bolster and F. N. Braly. At a subsequent meeting of the directors these officers were elected: president, C. W. Melcher; vice-president, I. N. Braly; cashier, D. F. Town, being the same as last year.

The People's bank has had a good year's business and stands off 1908 with an increase of \$33,000 in its deposits over Jan. 1, 1907. The bank has also increased the number of its depositors in both savings and check accounts, it has increased its surplus beyond \$2,000 and \$3,000, and paid 4 per cent on its stock for the year. Although doing business only four years, it now has a total surplus and profits of \$8,475.33, and deposits of nearly \$250,000. The bank has every reason to feel proud of its year's record.

NOT SO SERIOUS AS WAS ANTICIPATED

C. Com's Wound in Lip Was Not Made With a Knife—His Alleged Assailant Will Have a Hearing Thursday Morning.

Frank Calvero, who was arrested yesterday afternoon at his home on Granite street by Officer Carle on a warrant alleging an assault, being armed with a dangerous weapon, and with intent to kill, was arraigned in city court yesterday afternoon and placed under \$1,000 bonds for his appearance this morning for a hearing in binding over proceedings. Calvero and C. Com engaged in an altercation in front of Marr's saloon on North Main street Saturday night about eight o'clock in the midst of which Com and his lip cut open.

After the witnesses had been questioned this morning by State's Attorney Gates and Grand Juror Davis it was found that there was no evidence that Com's wound was made with a knife. The state's attorney then changed the charge against Calvero to plain breach of the peace. Attorney R. A. Hoar was unable to appear in court this morning as counsel for Calvero and the case was continued to Thursday morning.

The officers say they had considerable trouble in finding Com yesterday, but they finally located him in a house on Beekley hill. Constable Nichols, who served the subpoena on Com, stated that he understood that Com and Calvero had agreed to keep the affair quiet and Calvero was to pay the doctor's bills.

CO. D WON. Defeated Turners Falls Athletics, 28 to 19.

Turners Falls, Mass., Jan. 14.—Co. D of St. Johnsbury won from the Turners Falls Athletics here yesterday 28 to 19 in a spirited game of baseball. The visitors showing great speed toward the close of the contest. Matthews and Henschieff put up the best game for St. Johnsbury, while McLaughlin, Hanniman and O'Keefe played well for the home team. The summary:

Turners Falls A. H. Hallowell, rf.....lb. McLaughlin Doyle, lf.....rb. Hanniman Matthews, c.....c. O'Keefe Doran, rb.....lf. Shultz Schloek, rb.....lf. McCarthy Henschieff, lb.....rf. Boggio

St. Johnsbury 28, Turners Falls 19. Goals from floor Doyle, Matthews 5, Henschieff 3, Doran 4, McCarthy 3, O'Keefe, 3, McLaughlin 3, Hanniman, Brown. Goals from fouls, Matthews 2, O'Keefe, Referee, Grogan, Timers, Shea, Gray. Time 20m. halves. Attendance 600.

FAMOUS VETMAN OF THE CIVIL WAR DIED IN WORCESTER TO-DAY.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 14.—General Josiah Pickett, a noted Civil war veteran, died at his home here today, aged 87. He was born in Beverly, Mass., on November 21, 1822. Since the war he has enjoyed the unique distinction of being under an arrest placed upon him at the battle of Cold Harbor, where he displayed signal bravery and was brevetted brigadier-general.

SMALL BOY DROWNED.

Amesbury, Mass., Jan. 14.—Dennis Murphy, Jr., aged 2 years, was drowned late yesterday in a pond in the rear of the home of his parents, Dennis and his older brother, William, aged 14, were playing at the edge of the pond which is at the foot of a steep embankment, and Dennis slipped in. William jumped after him in an attempt to rescue him, and was nearly drowned himself. William was pulled out by Albert Mairs, but Dennis was drowned.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mrs. Mabel Wheatley of Williamstown was in Barre to-day on business. C. F. Pike of Windsor is visiting with friends in the city. Mr. Pike acted as starting judge at the races here last summer.

Among the arrivals at the City Hotel last evening and to-day are M. S. Clark, E. E. L. Taylor, J. E. Skilton, A. R. Day, Boston; Penn Varney, Lynn, Mass.; E. Schwenger, Cleveland, O.

SWEEP-STAKE AWARDS

Just Announced For the Recent Poultry Show in Barre.

The award of the special sweep-stake premium ribbons at the recent exhibit of the Central Vermont Poultry and Pet Stock association is announced to-day. The highest scoring male bird at the show was William T. Kenerson's Black Orpington cockerel, scoring 93 1/2. R. S. Currier's Buff Leghorn pullet was the highest scoring female bird with 93 1/2. The sweep-stake premium ribbons for classes were as follows:

Barred Plymouth Rocks. George Booth, Barre, hen, scoring 92 1/2. White Plymouth Rocks. H. D. Hopkins, Montpelier, hen, scoring 93 1/2. Buff Plymouth Rocks. L. M. Blodgett, West Burke, pullet, scoring 92 1/2. White Wyandottes. John W. Roberts, South Barre, pullet, scoring 94. Single Comb Rhode Island Reds. Frank Haynes, East Barre, pullet, scoring 92 1/2. Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds. E. M. Lyon, Barre, pullet, scoring 94. Brown Leghorns. L. M. Blodgett, West Burke, pullet, scoring 94 1/2. Buff Leghorns. R. S. Currier, Barre, pullet, scoring 93 1/2. White Leghorns. L. M. Blodgett, West Burke, pullet, scoring 93 1/2. Asiatics. C. W. Coolidge, Bristol, N. H., L. Brahma pullet, scoring 91 1/2. The lady's umbrella, presented by chief of police Faulkner as a special for the lady entering the largest number of birds at the show, was won by Mrs. Flora E. Badger on entry of Buff Plymouth Rocks.

WHOLE CORNER HAS BEEN SOLD

G. A. Lane and Wife Take Big Chunk of Barre Real Estate FROM A. E. BATCHELDER

Main and Seminary Streets Corner, With Frontage of 138 Feet on Former and 288 on Latter, Brought About \$18,000.

A. E. Batchelder has sold the property at the corner of North Main and Seminary streets to Grant A. Lane and wife, the deeds being passed yesterday afternoon. The price paid was in the vicinity of \$18,000, and constitutes one of the largest real estate transactions in Barre in some time. This property has a frontage of 138 4-5 feet on Main street and 288 2-5 feet on Seminary street, and is covered by a numerous collection of buildings, some of which are a part of the property and others which are owned by lessees of the ground on which they stand. On this property and being a part of that sold, is the old "blue blind" house and home, Crowley's paint shop, McLeod's blacksmith shop, Smith & Cumings' storehouse, the Burlington Rendering company's Barre plant, a building on Main street in which Conk's lunch rooms and Djora's paper store are located.

In addition to these, J. B. Sanguinetti owns the building at the corner of the two streets and Carlo Merio owns the two-story building next the "blue-blind" house on the other side. All the leases go to Mr. Lane, the longest having two years yet to run.

Mr. Lane has no present intentions of improving the property, but may later. The property was purchased by Batchelder & Hill about 20 years ago, and included then the ground on which stands St. Monica's and the Presbyterian churches and four house lots at the rear of the Catholic church. At the time it was purchased by the late paid firm, the lots sold off brought \$3,100, making the cost of the property \$3,100, which was sold yesterday for \$18,000, making a six-fold increase in the score of years.

The D. A. Perry Real Estate agency has sold for Percy Buckley his farm known as the Calvin Bassett farm in Barre Town to Joseph Berard and wife of Westville; consideration for farm, stock and tools \$3,000. This agency also closed a sale Saturday for a wood and lumber lot in East Orange owned by Charles Coleman, for \$1,000.

TO MAKE HOTEL OF OTIS.

O. H. Hale Is Remodeling His Pearl Street Building.

Barre is to have an addition to its hotels, the addition being the Otis, a Pearl street apartment building, which the owner, O. H. Hale, is remodeling in such a manner as to fit it for the accommodation of the public. The part of the ground floor which has been used as a restaurant, is being remodelled and will be used as a dining-room, and the rooms in the west end of the building, which formerly was occupied by the Emstie greenhouses as a saleroom, will be used for an office. There are on the upper floors 24 sleeping rooms, beside sitting-rooms. The building is in the center of the city, just off Main street, and is also near the railroad stations.

FOURTEEN CANDIDATES. For Certificates from the State Board of Medical Registration.

The state board of medical registration is meeting at its quarters in the State House, at Montpelier, having been called to order at ten o'clock this forenoon. Dr. F. E. Godfrey of Chelsea is president, Dr. W. S. Nay of Underhill secretary and Dr. E. B. Whitaker of Barre treasurer. There are fourteen candidates for certificates, as follows:

A. H. Wright of Willard, N. Y., Harry H. Lawrence of Sheldon, L. B. Jones of Hanover, N. H., E. J. Hickey of Barnard, R. S. Morse of Worcester, Mass., F. H. Carter of Underhill Center, F. O. Shea of Worcester, Mass., David Nathan of Montreal, William M. Johnstone of Morrisville, F. T. Hubbard of New York, N. L. Schofield of Rhode Island, William C. Mitchell of Pownal, D. L. Miner of New Jersey and M. E. Cotter of Northfield.

A three days' session of the board will be held.

DANCED AFTER INSTALLATION.

Manchester Unity Odd Fellows Had Their Friends With Them.

Green Mountain lodge, Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, held a public installation of officers at Knights of Columbus hall last evening. The installation and following festivities were attended by many of the Odd Ladies and friends of the order. The officers were installed by District Deputy John Begg and are as follows: N. G. William Leitch, V. G. Harry Farrar; grand master, Alex. Ritchie; permanent secretary, Peter Mutch; recording secretary, Edwin Palmer; treasurer, Charles Oliver; wardens, William Halvosa; chaplain, Samuel Sinclair.

At the conclusion of the installation ceremony the company enjoyed dancing until a late hour, refreshments being served at intermission.

ARRESTED AS DESERTER.

John McCutcheon Who Was a Private at Fort Ethan Allen.

John McCutcheon was arrested last evening for desertion from the United States army by the police department. McCutcheon, who was a private in Troop C, 15th cavalry, left Fort Ethan Allen last November and went to Montreal, where he found employment. He arrived in the city yesterday morning in civilian's clothes and was discovered in the early evening by the police.

DESPAIRED OF A CURE. Frederick Bartley, Wealthy Boston Man, A Suicide To-day.

Boston, Jan. 14.—Despondent of ever being cured of diabetes, Frederick Bartley, a wealthy wool merchant, suicided to-day in a private room in the Homeopathic hospital by cutting his throat with a razor.