

34 ARE DEAD

Chief Horan and Many Others Slain at Morris Plant Blaze in Chicago.

BIG AMMONIA TANKS EXPLODE

HUGE CANOPY OF BRICKS FALLS ON SQUAD OF FIRE-FIGHTERS, CARRYING ALL TO DEATH.

LOSS MAY BE \$3,000,000

Assistant Chief Burroughs and Many Other Officers Are Among Victims—Comrades of Dead Men Dig Frantically for Bodies—Several Corpses Recovered From Ruins.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Fire Chief James Horan, Assistant Chief Burroughs and Captains Collins and Doyle perished with 30 other firemen in a fire which destroyed the beef plant of Morris & Co. at the stockyards.

Scores of firemen were injured. The property loss may reach more than \$3,000,000.

Fire Chief Horan's body was recovered after repeated efforts to move the smoldering debris under which he was buried.

The flames spread so rapidly that the firemen were powerless to save



Chief Horan.

the plant. The entire stock yards district was threatened.

Huge tanks of tallow stood directly in the path of the flames and threatened to explode.

Among the Dead.

- FIRE CHIEF JAMES HORAN.
- ASSISTANT CHIEF WILLIAM BURROUGHS.
- CAPT. PATRICK J. COLLINS, Engine Company No. 25.
- CAPT. DENNIS DOYLE, of Engine Company No. 25.
- LIEUT. MICHAEL FITZGERALD, Commanders of the three engine companies missing and believed to have met death in the flames.
- Engine Company No. 25.
- HENRY J. FUCHS, Captain, Engine Company No. 25.
- MAURICE J. RIGAN, lieutenant, Engine Company No. 25.
- DENNIS M. DOYLE, captain, Engine Company No. 25.
- PATRICK E. COLLINS, captain, Engine Company No. 25.
- LIEUT. JAMES P. FITZGERALD, Engine Company No. 25.
- LIEUT. EDWARD DENNIS, Engine Company No. 25.

Huge tanks of ammonia exploded and wrecked the buildings in the beef house of the packing plant. The walls tottered and crumbled, burying firemen beneath the ruins.

The deadly ammonia fumes spread. Firemen who were not killed by the collapse of the walls succumbed from the effects of the ammonia gases.

Scores of other firemen were injured and are dying in various hospitals.

Extra calls were sent in every few minutes for additional fire-fighting apparatus. For a time it was feared the entire stock yards would be destroyed.

It was the most serious conflagration that has threatened Chicago since the big fire of 1871. Hundreds of lives were endangered. For hours the firemen battled with the flames.

The entire beef plant was destroyed. It was hours before the firemen were able to get within half a block of the plant.

It is not known how many lost their lives, but the number may reach 50.

The men were at work on the ground floor when a tremendous explosion occurred. Instantly the walls crumbled and fell on them. Not a single man was able to escape.

Immediately afterward, huge flames sprang up and the buried men had not chance for their lives.

Rescuers Are Driven Back.

Scores of firemen rushed to the rescue, but were driven back by the intense heat and the deadly fumes of ammonia.

One after another was overcome and fell to the ground. Meantime the

walls fell on the various sides of the building and buried firemen who were near.

Call after call was sent in for reinforcements. A dozen patrol wagons took the injured to hospitals.

Loud cheering greeted the appearance of Lieut. George O. Berkley, Pipe-fitter James F. Foster and Engineer William Bailey, who were thought to have been buried in the ruins.

The men were supposed to be dead, but succeeded in fighting their way through a crevice. They had reached the outside when both men fell to the ground unconscious and were dragged to safety by companions.

Search for Chief Horan. The discovery was quickly made that Chief Horan was missing, but it was believed he had succeeded in escaping. A search was made for him without success. Then it became known that he had been in the building and directing the firemen when the explosion occurred.

An abandoned lead of hose was found, and then it became known that the members of engine company 29 were missing.

This was followed by the discovery that the members of engine companies 39 and 59 were missing. Members of other companies also could not be found, and as the flames progressed it was reported that the loss of life would probably reach 50, if not more.

Groans fill the air. Fireman after fireman was dragged from beneath the ruins. It was not believed one of them would recover. All had been caught beneath the falling walls when the explosion occurred.

More than 100 engines responded to the various calls, and tons of water were poured on the flames, but it soon became evident that the building was doomed.

A huge water tank at one corner of the building showed signs of toppling over, adding to the horror, but after swaying while the crowd looked on helplessly it held firm. A dash was made for the building by firemen and spectators in an effort to save the buried firemen. A burst of flame and heavy smoke drove them back, all but suffocating the front rank of rescuers.

Floors Fall on the Men.

Chief Horan and Assistant Chief Burroughs were standing just inside the walls of the burning building, directing the work of the men of companies 59, 39 and 29, when the walls were blown out with a report like a cannon. The second floor of the building collapsed, burying all the men. The three other floors of the building held.

Again and again the rescue parties tried to fight a way into the debris but flames and smoke proved too much for them. A dozen hose pipes were turned on the smoldering mass, which broke into flames every few minutes, but the water appeared to have no effect. For more than an hour the men battled with the stubborn smoldering mass.

Ignore Burns in Rescue Work.

Burns and bruises were ignored in the heroic efforts to tear away the red-hot brickwork and blazing beams but whenever the men fought their way to their comrades' pyre a burst of flames would again drive them back.

Meantime other firemen had made for the other side of the building and were attempting to tear out the wall there in an effort to get at the buried men.

They were compelled to desist when it was seen that further efforts would probably precipitate the other floors on the debris and thus render rescue utterly impossible.

Battle to Halt Spread.

A terrific battle was waged by firemen to prevent the flames spreading to Armour & Co. and other packing establishments across Loomis street. Constant streams were kept playing on the front of these structures, while the flames, blown in all directions by the wind, aided by the draft created by their own heat, licked the very walls. The dripping water froze until an ice sheeting more than an inch thick was formed. The flames, however, melted this every time a puff of wind blew them against the buildings.

Firemen Rapidly Overcome.

Every available fire-fighting apparatus was on the scene, and every fire plug within reaching distance of the flames was in use.

Men were overcome so rapidly by smoke and the heavy vapors from the hide room that ambulances from all hospitals in the neighborhood were called into requisition and physicians from nearby aided the hospital doctors in tending the half-suffocated firemen.

More than 2,500 men were employed in the three buildings. All of these appeared when the fire started and aided in checking the spread of the flames to other buildings by mounting the roofs and stamping out blazing cinders blown there.

RESCUE ATTEMPTS ARE VAIN

Efforts to Reach 320 Men Entombed in English Colliery Have Proved Unsuccessful.

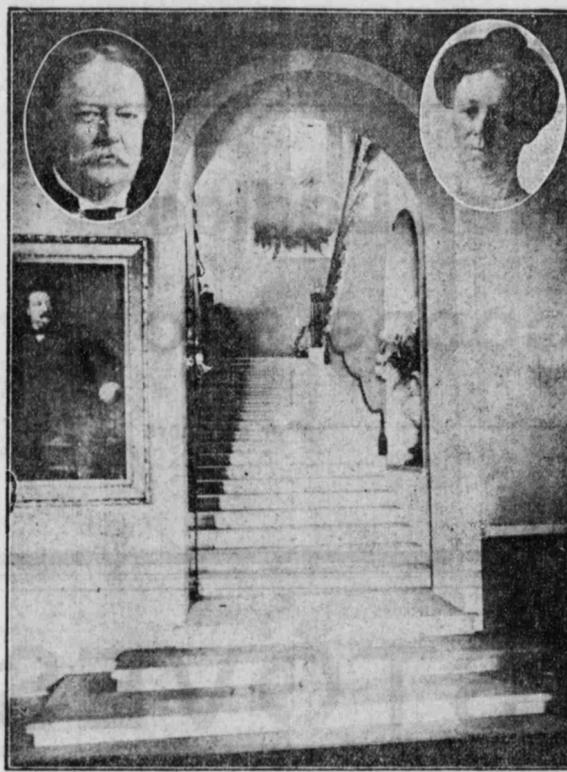
Bolton, England, Dec. 23.—Although rescue parties worked throughout the night in the little Hulton colliery, where an explosion occurred, they did not succeed in reaching the level where 320 men are entombed.

Ship and 21 Given Up.

Hamburg, Dec. 23.—The French steamer Savona, owned by Sloman & Co. of this city, is believed to have been lost with her crew of 21 white bound from this port for Naples. The Savona is a sister ship of the Palermo which was recently lost.

New Year's Day at White House

President Taft Mrs. Taft



GRAND STAIRWAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE DECORATED FOR THE NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION. WHEN THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. TAFT DESCEND THIS STAIRWAY THE OPENING OF THE GREAT RECEPTION IS SIGNALLED.

The "social season" in Washington opens nominally with the assembling of congress. In reality, it blooms fully only with the White House reception on New Year's day. This is always one of the most beautiful functions of the winter.

The great conservatories, into which one enters from a back door of the Executive Mansion, are ruffled for choicest flowers with which to decorate every room. Palms and ferns add their touch of summer green here and there, and the ladies appear in their freshest toilettes.

It is truly the president's reception. He and his wife are supposed to be receiving alone, though, in point of fact, the wives of cabinet ministers and other ladies assist. They stand in line in the oval-shaped "Blue Room," perhaps the most beautiful of the White House parlors, in its furnishings of pale blue and gold.

From eleven in the morning until half-past one, or later, the procession of guests files by. First comes the supreme court in a body, headed by the chief justice. Then approach the members of the diplomatic corps, most of them far more stately and distinguished in manner than our plain citizens, and dazzling in their uniforms, decorations and orders.

The officers of the army and navy rival them, however, in their gay, full-dress uniforms, as they come next in the line.

More soberly clad, senators and representatives and other officials follow them, and then comes the motley crowd of the "general public," rich and poor, small and great. Every one enjoys a handshake with the president and his wife, then passes on into the Red Room and beyond. Occasionally one hears a stranger say: "My father went to school with your father," or "I knew you when you were a baby. Did you ever hear your mother speak of Miss Sally Sparks?" and other quaint and intimate speeches. Sometimes upon hearing one, the face of the president lights up and his set, conventional smile falls like a mask. It is a sight worth seeing.

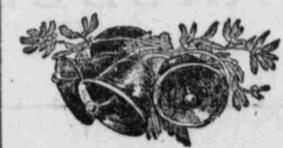
Never have a more cordial and socially accomplished host and hostess presided over the White House than President and Mrs. Taft. The coming New Year's reception there may confidently be expected to prove one of the most successful in its history.

The Old Man With the Scythe

THE wonderful new year has a way of coming round once in twelve months, seeming so much the same when it dawns upon us as the one just passed that we hardly realize another one has been added to those who answer to the roll call of Time.

When we do realize it, there is always a bit of silence, except with the children—with them everything is new, as we think of the fresh book of three hundred and sixty-five leaves that opens in its whiteness for us to fill the pages. And we hope that the record will be better than any previous one, whether good or ill. And we put up a little prayer that we may "make good" our nobler resolves and "measure up" toward our high ideals, so that the world shall be better for our having lived this year.

It is a good time to be optimistic, to believe, with Browning, that—"God's in His Heaven! All's well with the world" when time begins throwing his white roses at us, and every passing year puts into his laden wallet a little light from the eyes, a little bloom and softness from the cheeks, a little gloss and color from the hair, a little lightness from the step, and bestows upon us, in their stead, a varied assortment of odds and ends, which are, as to value, exactly what we choose to make them. It needs a little moral alchemy to turn them into gold and diamonds, pearls and opals; but with this transforming touch, Time's gifts are—a growing patience which brings sweetness and gentleness in the train. And all of these things write themselves clearly enough on ageing faces, sometimes beautifying what was once almost destitute of charm; and sometimes spiritualizing what once was beautiful in form and color, but lacked the loveliness that results from an equal balance of mind and heart.



Time's New Lucky Bag



Master Nineteen-Eleven Offers a Bag of Mystery

So may the New Year be a happy one to you, happy to many more whose happiness depends on you! So may each year be happier than the last, and not the meanest of our brethren or sisterhood debar their rightful share in what they were formed to enjoy.—Dickens.

Hail and Farewell!



A New Year's Wish. I wish you happiness throughout the coming year, and tho' I may not always tell you so, the thought and the wish will be yours just the same. Whatever joy or success comes to you, it will make me glad.

KENTUCKY GLEANINGS

WHAT IS GOING ON IN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

IN A QUANDARY.

Sheriff Wants to Live Up to Law—Omitted Tax Raise.

Frankfort.—In order to make some arrangement with the state officials by which he can renew his bond as sheriff without being held to the strict letter of the law, A. M. Emler, sheriff of Jefferson county, was in Frankfort with Scott Bullitt, county attorney. Frank P. James, state auditor, told Mr. Emler that the state officials would work out some satisfactory solution of the problem, which is a novel one. The trouble is caused by the action to prevent the raise in the assessment of the property in Jefferson county. This suit was brought by citizens of Louisville and was hung up for some time in the courts. In the meantime the sheriff collected taxes, without the 12 per cent increase.

When the courts held that the raise was legal it became necessary for the sheriff to collect the increase from all the taxpayers. He can not do this now in time to get his quietus and give new bond as the law requires. The auditor said it was an unusual case, but arrangements would be made so that Mr. Emler could give his bond and go on with his duties.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

Mother, Who Went to Rescue, Fatally Injured.

Campton.—The 3-year-old child of John L. Trent, a farmer of Hiram's Branch, this county, was burned to death. The child was left in the house by itself while its mother went to a spring nearby to get a bucket of water, and as she was returning she heard the child scream. The mother ran toward the little one only to find its clothes enveloped in flames. When the mother reached the child it was burned so badly that it only lived a few moments. In trying to extinguish the flames on the child's clothing Mrs. Trent was burned so badly that she is not expected to live.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY.

Annual Meeting of Kentucky Members and Election of Officers.

Louisville.—The annual meeting of the Virginia Society in Kentucky was held and officers for the ensuing year are: Maj. John H. Leathers, president; Judge A. E. Richards, first vice president; Charles E. Hoge, second vice president; George H. Wilson, secretary-treasurer; F. J. Wals, recording secretary. Preparations were made for the celebration of George Washington's birthday. Several well-known speakers have accepted invitations to be present.

RESIDENCES DESTROYED BY FIRE

Mt. Sterling.—The residence of David Saylor was burned to the ground with all the contents. The loss, \$2,500, is partly insured. Fire also destroyed the residence of "Sonny" Robinson, in the same neighborhood, entailing a loss of over \$2,000. Defective flues caused both fires.

VALUABLE RESIDENCE BURNS.

Glasgow Junction.—The fine country home of Mrs. J. T. B. Gillenwaters was burned. The fire is supposed to have started from a defective flue and the loss is \$5,000 with \$2,500 insurance. This home was known as the Dr. J. Y. Wilson home and was one of the most beautiful in this county.

Sharpsburg.—Clarence Sinters, 20, accidentally shot Elijah Jones, 18, in the thigh at the home of Sinters.

INSTRUCTION TO SHERIFFS.

Prison Board Issues a Letter to County Officers.

Frankfort.—Instructions to sheriffs and circuit court officials showing from what counties prisoners are sent to each penitentiary have been sent out by W. F. Grayot, secretary of the prison commission. On account of the contracts which the state has for the labor of the convicts it has not been possible to put into effect the new law creating a reformatory. This is explained in the letter, which also tells what prisoners are to be brought to Frankfort and what sent to Eddyville.

PARDONED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Condition of Son of Convict Prompted the Action.

Frankfort.—Because the son of Scott Keeton, a convict from Whitley county, lost his legs in a railroad accident recently, Gov. Willson pardoned Keeton, who had but eighteen more days to serve out a five-year sentence for manslaughter. Keeton was a deputy sheriff, and killed a man whom he was trying to arrest.

CUPID WON OUT.

Interesting Romance With Usual Happy Termination.

Frankfort.—Reunited through the efforts of Mrs. J. C. Mayo, wife of the millionaire coal land owner, politician and chairman of Paducah, after an estrangement said to have been caused by a third person, Miss Anna Adams, of Catlettsburg, Mrs. Mayo's cousin, and Howard S. Estill, a prominent coal operator of Lexington, were made man and wife at Cincinnati.

"Come to Cincinnati at once. You shall no longer be denied the girl of your heart," read a message which Mrs. Mayo sent to Mr. Estill.

That gentleman was endeavoring to drown his sorrow in business. He tore open the telegram in a business-like manner. In less than five minutes an answer was being clicked off by the telegraph operator at Lexington and in a few minutes later it was delivered to Mrs. Mayo.

J. J. C. Mayo, Gen. Percy Haley and Congressman C. B. Slemp were hastily summoned and when they arrived in Cincinnati were whisked to the Sinton, where the bride and the bridegroom, Mrs. Mayo and two men of the cloth, Rev. Dr. J. R. Savage, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, of Covington, and the Rev. Dr. Cyrus M. Youm, pastor of the Central Christian church, of Cincinnati, awaited them.

FATAL PISTOL DUEL.

Brothers—One a Deputy Marshal, Killed in Kentucky Town.

Mt. Sterling.—Clinton Allen, deputy United States marshal, and his brother, Walter, were shot to death in a pistol fight here with James Tipton, a special policeman, and Michael Gibbons, a saloonkeeper. The battle took place in front of Gibbons's saloon. According to witnesses, Clinton Allen and Tipton quarreled, and when the federal officer drew a revolver the policeman took it away from him. Walter Allen then drew a revolver and Gibbons went to Tipton's aid. During the battle the brothers were killed. Gibbons and Tipton were arrested.

AWARDED PROPERTY DAMAGES.

Whitesburg.—The suit of the Lexington & Eastern Railroad Co. against James H. Frazier, a merchant of this city, for right of way through Frazier's property near here was tried out in court here, resulting in a verdict of \$25,000 for damages to Mr. Frazier.

BACK TO ACTIVE SERVICE.

Louisville.—Announcement was made here that William J. Dickinson, of Yonkers, N. Y., has been elected second vice president of the Louisville and Nashville railroad to succeed A. W. Morriss, resigned. Mr. Dickinson was formerly third vice president and resigned in 1905. For 15 years he was connected with the company in the capacity of chief clerk of the traffic department, assistant auditor of receipts and auditor of receipts.

TWO DAMS LOCATED.

Maysville.—Word was received here that the government in building dams in the Ohio river had decided to locate dam 33 one and one-half miles below Maysville, while dam 34 will be located at Wellsburg. These dams will cost nearly \$1,500,000 each, and will give a twenty-five mile pool of water nine feet deep at this point.

MAY LOSE HIS LEG.

Richmond.—Dr. W. H. Jones, who accidentally shot his right heel off while hunting, was brought here, where it is believed an amputation of the limb will be necessary. He suffered six hours before medical aid was reached. The discharge of the gun was caused by the hammer catching in a brush.

Louisville.—Charles Dorst, a boiler-maker, had a narrow escape from scalding to death. He crawled into one of the huge spiral tubes and one of the workmen at the engine, who did not know that he was there, turned on the hot water. When the first dash drenched Dorst he hastily scrambled out just as the boiling flood rushed in. A delay of ten seconds would have caused his death.

Irvine.—For the second time Mrs. Amelia Belle Allen, of Broadhitt county, was placed on trial, on a charge of murder. She is alleged to have entered the home of Mrs. Amelia Tutt and shot the latter as she knelt at a baby's cradle. On the first trial Mrs. Allen was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. She obtained a new trial.

Louisville.—Judge Henry S. Barker, president-elect of Kentucky State university, will assume the active duties of his office on January 2, and will be in the president's chair at the reopening of the school session after the Christmas holidays on January 3.

Versailles.—One of the oldest landmarks in the county was destroyed by fire. The house which is situated in the Big Spring bottom, was built in the year 1750 by Capt. Searcy, an early settler of this county, and at the time of its destruction was the property of Jane Searcy, of Chicago.

Shepherdsville.—In the Bedford murder case the jury hung, seven being for a life sentence and five for manslaughter, carrying with it a term of from two to twenty-one years in the penitentiary.