

## FLED FROM FIRE OVER PLANK

ERRAND BOY SAVES BABY AT AN APARTMENT HOUSE BLAZE.

Carried it Across a Board From the Seventh Floor Window to an Unfinished Building Next Door—Others Get From Fire Escape Over a Plank Path.

Boyd Potter, a cool headed sixteen-year-old messenger boy, rescued a baby from a fire in the seven-story apartment house at 380 Central Park West yesterday afternoon, by carrying it in midair over a plank to a building fifteen feet away. Two women and a young man made their escape from the same floor in the same way, but they had two minutes, placed side by side to walk on. The plank was swung across the burning building by workmen on the unfinished building adjoining, which is to be nine stories high.

The fire was discovered by W. R. Russell, the telephone operator in the St. James apartments at 380 Central Park West. Russell telephoned to Fire Headquarters for the engines and about the same time, Charles Boyce, the janitor of 383, saw smoke coming from the cellar.

It is supposed crossing electric light wires started the fire. In a few minutes some flamed stuff stored in the cellar was burning furiously and banks of black smoke poured up the elevator shaft in the front of the building. The smoke was so dense that the elevator boy had to desert his post, and with Boyce he ran through the building warning the tenants.

There are three apartments on each floor, and it was on the top floor that the fire caused the most trouble. Mrs. M. E. East has the north apartment, and with her live her sixteen-year-old son, Lloyd Selden East; her daughters, Mrs. W. N. Butte, whose husband is an electrical engineer; Mrs. M. A. Herran and her husband, who is an artist, and Phyllis, Mrs. Herran's two-year-old baby. The adjoining apartment is occupied by Ernest Monkhoush and his mother and sister, and the apartment on the east by Montague Howard, the fifth avenue jeweler, and his wife.

A few minutes before the fire young Potter, who is an errand boy for Stern's drygoods shop, came into the house with some bundles for Mrs. Butte. She was taking the parcels from him when she smelled smoke and walked out into the main hallway. The smoke was so thick there that she was almost overcome, but she ran through the hall to the Monkhoush apartments and hammered on the door, yelling "Fire!"

Ernest Monkhoush dragged her into his apartments out of the smoke-filled hall, but she struggled with him, crying that her niece Phyllis was asleep and would be killed. Monkhoush told her that he would get the baby, and he started across the hall. The smoke was too much for him, however, and he came back almost blinded and without having reached the East apartment, although there were only a short distance across the hall.

Mrs. Butte entreated him to make another try, and Monkhoush said he would. His sister wrapped a wet towel over his face and he dived through the smoke choked hallway. This time he collapsed, and his sister and mother had to drag him out of the hall. He was for making another try when he recovered, but his mother and sister would not let him.

While this was going on things were happening in the East apartments. Lloyd East was sitting in the dining room reading, when a puff of hot smoke struck him. He ran toward the kitchen and saw flames spouting from the dumbwaiter shaft.

He slammed the door shut and dashed on to the parlor. Mrs. Butte had left the parlor door open in her flight to the Monkhoush apartments, and the smoke poured in from the hall. Young East met his mother and sister, who were rushing from the parlor, and he hustled them to the kitchen. There they ran into Errand Boy Potter, who was trying to find some way to get out himself.

There is a fire escape from the kitchen on the north side of the house and, young East was helping his mother and sister out the window when Mrs. Herran remembered her baby.

Mrs. Herran begged her brother to let her go back for the baby and when he told her that if she would stay on the fire escape he would see that the baby was saved she almost broke away from him. While East was arguing with his sister and trying to persuade her not to leave the fire escape young Potter, who had been standing near the window, grabbed Mrs. Herran's arm.

"That's all right," he said; "stay where you are. Tell me where the kid is and I'll get it."

Mrs. Herran, who was hysterical, told him between sobs and tears that the baby was in a bedroom ten feet from the dining room. The boy had to pass the burning dumbwaiter shaft, but he hurried by and jumped into the baby's room. The door had been closed and the baby was still asleep.

The boy wrapped a blanket around the child and carried her to the window. Mrs. Herran and her mother were on the fire escape on the same side of the house. Potter stretched far out the window and held the baby so that her mother could see her. "There's the kid!" he shouted. "She's fine as a dandy."

Next to the apartment house a nine story building is going up. Every workman on the building had rushed to the seventh floor, and one of them, a bricklayer, came up with a plank and put it across the window at which Potter stood.

"Keep your head," yelled the bricklayer, and Potter climbed up on the window sill with the child in his arms and started across the plank.

"It's a cinch!" he yelled to the bricklayers with a laugh. "I'd like to be paid for doing this every day."

The workmen were not so sure, however, and when the boy and the baby were near enough to them they grabbed them and lifted them into the building.

Meantime other laborers had strung two planks over to the fire escape, where the two women and young East stood, and they walked safely across. Mrs. Butte and the Monkhoushs walked down the fire escape ladders in the back of the house to the yard. Mrs. Butte said that there was no ladder from the first floor to the yard, and they had to drop.

A Mrs. Brown, who was ill on the sixth floor, was carried out by two nurses. Some of the tenants said that a man climbed out the window of the fourth floor and was about to drop when a couple of workmen on the new building shoved a plank over to him. He couldn't help himself back to the window and he got across the plank hand over hand.

The fire did only about \$2,000 damage.

## EXPLOSION KILLS FOUR.

Powdered Starch Becomes Ignited—Damage to Factory About \$200,000.

WAUKESHA, Ill., Feb. 24.—The starch plant of the Warner Sugar Refining Company was destroyed by fire following an explosion here to-night. Four men were killed and several others injured, some, it is feared, mortally.

The property loss will reach \$200,000. The explosion was caused by the igniting of a fine dust or powder that arises from the ground starch. The force of the explosion was felt five miles away.

The Warner Sugar Refinery is owned by a stock company of which C. M. Warner of Syracuse, N. Y., is president.

## CASSINI DIDN'T MEET TAKAHIRA.

State Department Messengers Prevent Them From Being Brought Face to Face.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Through a clever stroke of diplomacy on the part of Edward Savoy, head messenger of the State Department, assisted by Isaac Edwards, another messenger, Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, and Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister, were saved the embarrassment to-day of being brought face to face.

Mr. Takahira reached the State Department while Count Cassini was closeted with Secretary Hay in the diplomatic reception room. When Count Cassini went to the anteroom to get his overcoat and hat, Mr. Takahira was there. Quickly grasping the situation and realizing how awkward it would be to have the representatives of the two warring nations meet, Savoy directed Edwards to meet Count Cassini at the door with his overcoat.

As the Ambassador started to enter the anteroom he found the doorway was blocked by Edwards, who held the coat spread out for Count Cassini to don. This accomplished, the Ambassador looked for his hat. Savoy placed it on his head. The Ambassador bowed his thanks, smiled and walked away. Mr. Takahira breathed a sigh of relief.

## SUBWAY METROPOLITAN WANTS

Parallels the Belmont Route and Taps Central and Penna. Tunnels—Plans Out.

The Metropolitan Street Railway Company has forwarded to the Rapid Transit Commission for discussion to-day its suggestions for the route which the next city subway should take. The Belmont-McDonald syndicate had already sent in its plan.

Mr. Belmont wants to build from the present subway under Broadway to Twenty-third street, thence under Fifth avenue, West Broadway, and Greenwich street, to the Battery, with an East Side branch from the junction of the existing subway at Forty-second street and Fourth avenue under Lexington avenue. The Metropolitan's plan practically parallels the Belmont route. It would build from the Battery under Greenwich and Hudson streets and Eighth avenue to a point between Thirty-second and Thirty-sixth streets and thence across town, continuing up Lexington avenue to the Harlem River, having tapped the new Pennsylvania terminal and the Grand Central station.

There will be a strong fight between the companies for the contract to build this new subway. The bids of both companies will be especially favorable to the city and both concerns will hold out many attractive inducements in the effort to get the contract.

It is understood that the Metropolitan people will offer to transfer passengers from the subway to all their existing lines and may even agree to make arrangements for carrying passengers over the Union Railway system in The Bronx for a single fare.

The Interborough company having the extension to Brooklyn and the Queens county trolley system, when the old Steinway tunnel is finished, can transport passengers from The Bronx and through Manhattan to Brooklyn and Queens for a single fare.

## NO PATTI AND NO MONEY BACK.

"Same Has Been Attached by the Sheriff," the Philadelphia Notice Read.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—Mme. Adeline Patti is still in jail. From the windows of her hotel she looked at the poster that announced the song she did not sing this afternoon and also saw scores of her admirers turned away from the box office of the Academy of Music minus the dollars they had given up for seats.

Over the box office of the Academy was posted another poster. It said that the money couldn't be refunded to-day on tickets purchased. "Same has been attached by the Sheriff," it continued cheerfully. "Hope to get it released early next week."

A long line of people saw this notice. They said harsh things about everybody concerned, but no one got any money. The contributions of the public to the attached box office approximated \$2,000.

Mme. Patti didn't seem at all disturbed over conditions, but her husband, Baron Cederstrom, was disturbed. The Baron, who is thirty-three years younger than his wife, boiled with indignation. He counted up the \$5,000 lost by Mr. Grau cancelling the engagement at Syracuse, the \$5,000 at Scranton and the fiasco here was the last straw. He took the first train to New York to find Mr. Grau.

Mme. Patti has a \$5,000 concert guarantee, and when Mr. Grau sees that the box office receipts don't come up to this sum he puts an injunction on the diva's notes. She doesn't get her guarantee and the Baron gets angry, because he is her business manager.

Anton Hegner, the cellist, who attached the receipts because the singer owes him \$2,800, sent her a big bunch of roses to-day. "I attached the money, yes," he said; "but the diva is so much an artist!"

## IN PERRY HEATH'S PLACE.

Elmer Dover Appointed Secretary of the Republican National Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Elmer Dover, for many years private secretary to the late Senator Hanna and assistant secretary of the Republican national committee, has been appointed acting secretary by Postmaster-General Payne, acting chairman of the committee, to serve until next June, when the national convention meets in Chicago. Mr. Dover succeeds Perry S. Heath, former First Assistant Postmaster-General, who was prominently mentioned in the postal scandals and who resigned as secretary last week.

The last Florida tour, via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, will be run March 8. Only \$50 round trip. Inquiries at Ticket Office, A-49.

FAMOUS TRIPS TO FLORIDA.  
N. Y. & Fla. Special, 2:10 P. M. Florida & West Indies, 9:25 A. M. Unexcelled service via Penn. & Atlantic Coast Line, 1:16 P. M. W. A. R.

## TAMMANY CLEVELAND BOOM

STARTED IN THE 29TH, WHICH WILL KEEP IT UP.

Leader Rush Says That Charles S. Fairchild, John G. Carlisle and Ashbel P. Fitch, Who Live in the District, Are With Them—Speeches Praising Cleveland.

A boom for Cleveland as the next Democratic Presidential candidate was formally launched last night at a meeting of the Tammany Hall general committee of the Twenty-ninth Assembly district, of which Thomas E. Rush is leader.

"This is only a committee meeting," said Mr. Rush, "but we are all for Cleveland. We will continue these meetings to create a strong sentiment for him and in the latter part of March will hold a mass meeting of the Democrats of the district to endorse him."

Mr. Cleveland is the only Democrat on State or national ticket who ever carried this Republican stronghold. John G. Carlisle, Ashbel P. Fitch and Charles Fairchild, who live in the district, will attend future meetings and have assured me of their support."

James W. Gerard presided. The principal speaker was Champe S. Andrews. After praising Mayor McClellan's administration he said in part:

"The Panama Canal is not an issue in this campaign. We have too long been a party of obstruction and criticism. The Democratic party has more young men and first voters in its ranks than ever before and we must go forward on new issues. The platforms at Kansas City and at Chicago did not present a single issue that we were justified in going before the people on. The party needs now as it never did before a man to rise up by force of character to lead it."

The candidate of the party this year will not be named by any boss, any chain of newspapers or any barrel, but he is going to be named by the affections of the Democratic party. The tariff is now a live issue, and we have got with us the only man who ever led the party to victory since the civil war, and he did it on that issue, and that was Grover Cleveland. His character has been tested in the past and he will not be able to say 'no' to the demand of his party."

Dr. H. A. C. Anderson, Thomas W. Churchill and Louis W. Osterweis spoke in the same vein.

## PRICE OF ROLLS PUT UP.

Rise of 2 Cents a Dozen Decided On by West Side Bakers—Bread Not Increased.

Master bakers of the West Side at a meeting held last night at L. A. Cushman's home in Morningside avenue decided from next week on to increase the price of rolls from 10 to 12 cents a dozen, on account of the higher price of flour. It was decided to make no change in bread prices and quantities for the present. Among those at the meeting were Bakers Cushman, Fairbanks, Coy, Tompkins, Kendall, Blier, Ware and Wilson.

Out of four other bakeries in different parts of town visited by a SUN reporter yesterday afternoon, the proprietors of all but one said they had made no change in price or in the size of the loaf. An East Side bakery in New Chambers street admitted having reduced the size of its loaves.

The manager of another of the largest East Side bakeries said he had made no change in size or price, although he was paying much more for materials than usual. The foreman of a large West End avenue bakery said that in spite of the advance in the price of flour the size and price of his loaves would be the same unless flour went much higher.

All of the master bakers said it was manipulation of the flour and wheat markets and not the Russo-Japanese War that had raised the price of material.

The National Biscuit Company has announced an advance of about 10 per cent. on all its products with the exception of its specialties. The flour market, the company says, is higher than it has been in years.

CRANK AFTER ROOSEVELT.  
Violently Insane Man Arrested as He Was About Starting to Washington.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 24.—Vowing that President Roosevelt promised to furnish him a wife and had failed to do so, August Burdage, a Hollander, was arrested to-day at Cedar Rapids as he was about to take the train for Washington. He was immediately taken before the Commissioners for Insane at Marengo and to-day was ordered committed to the State Asylum.

Burdage is violently insane and once attempted the life of his daughter, with whom he resides at the famous social settlement of Hollanders at South Amana. The authorities are convinced that he had designs on the life of the President.

## LOST! AN EIGHT FOOT INDIAN.

Wooden One Gave From In Front of a Railed Cigar Store.

This alarm was sent out from Police Headquarters yesterday:

Look for a wooden Indian that is missing from in front of Charles May's cigar store at 121 Fourth avenue. The Indian is eight feet tall and has been missing since late Saturday night.

Capt. McDermott of the Fifth street station on Saturday night raided the place in front of which the Indian stood. The captain found a lot of young men playing craps in the cigar store. The police say they didn't take the Indian prisoner.

## AUTO COMPANY ARRESTS DRIVERS.

Three drivers for the New York Electric Vehicle Transportation Company were arrested last night on warrants, obtained by the company, charging them with overcharging patrons of the company. The evidence was obtained, the police said, by "spotters."

## SIX MINERS BURIED IN A SNOWSLIDE.

CRESTED BUTTE, Col., Feb. 24.—Six miners employed at the Augusta mine, nine miles northwest of this place, were caught in a snowslide while coming to town yesterday and swept to death.

## ROOSEVELT MEN CHOSEN.

Dr. Crum to Go to Chicago as Delegate-at-Large From South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 24.—Denied the use of the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Republican State convention met in Cooper and Taylor Hall, on Assembly street, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, considerably later than the scheduled time. Resolutions were adopted endorsing President Roosevelt and instructing the delegates for him.

There was considerable opposition to Dr. W. D. Crum for delegate-at-large, but he finally won out on the third ballot. The other delegates-at-large elected are John G. Cappe, L. W. C. Blalock and Edmund E. Doss.

## OWES BAILEY \$278,000.

Report of Receivers of Houston Oil Co. Discloses the Debt to the Senator.

AUSTIN, Tex., Feb. 24.—There was much surprise caused in political and business circles by the announcement made in the report of the receivers of the Houston Oil Company, filed in the Federal Court at Houston, showing that the corporation owes Senator J. W. Bailey \$278,808.

The total liabilities of the Houston Oil Company are scheduled at \$41,188,761, and its assets are also placed at that figure. The current liabilities are \$2,294,402 and the surplus is placed at \$1,307,529.

The receivers say that they are now having prepared a list of lands, amounting to 850,000 acres, which will be filed soon.

## STOCKINGS WITH POCKETS.

A Novelty of the Season Designed, Say the Promoters, for Railway Tickets.

A wholesale hosiery house in upper Broadway has introduced novelty hosiery this season, dedicated to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. Flags of all nations in embroidery adorn them, but the most interesting feature of the stockings—which are silk—is that pockets are woven in the fabric, near the top.

The firm is authority for the statement that the pockets are intended to accommodate the lady's railroad tickets, but there is no objection to their being converted into purses.

## DICK NAMED FOR SENATOR.

Ohio Republicans in Caucus Nominate Him to Succeed Mr. Hanna.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 24.—At a caucus of the Republican members of the Ohio Legislature to-day, Gen. Charles Dick was nominated unanimously for both the unexpired and regular terms in the United States Senate to succeed the late Senator Hanna.

As a nomination is equivalent to an election, the Legislature being strongly Republican in both branches, the selection of Gen. Dick is assured.

The caucus was called a week earlier than was intended because of the refusal of the Cuyahoga delegation to declare for Gen. Dick. His name was presented by Senator Harris, and the 108 Republicans voted for him. The election will take place on March 1.

## FAVERSHAM MUST PAY

\$3,200 Yearly to First Wife, Whatever Julie Opp's Expenses.

Supreme Court Justice Truxet refused yesterday to reduce the amount of alimony which William Faversham, the actor, has to pay his former wife, Mrs. Marian M. Faversham. The decree of divorce which she obtained carried with it alimony at the rate of \$3,200 a year. Faversham has since married Julie Opp, and he asked the Court to reduce the alimony on the plea that he found it hard to support both women at once.

## YOUNG FARMER BURIED ALIVE.

Fell Into a Trench While Digging Carrots and Was Killed.

HEMPSTED, N. Y., Feb. 24.—By a most unusual accident, Arthur Smith, 21 years old, son of Alexander Smith, one of the wealthiest farmers of Rockville Centre, was buried alive on his father's farm this afternoon while digging carrots from the field where they had been stored during the winter. The vegetables had been buried six feet below the surface to prevent them from freezing.

Young Smith and a farmhand were digging them out. Smith sent the farmhand to the barn. On the hired man's return he found that young Smith had fallen into the hole and had been buried by falling earth, nothing but his feet showing above the surface. The farmhand gave an alarm and young Smith was dug from the hole.

Physicians were called, but although they worked over the young man for some time, he finally died without regaining consciousness.

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Latest Marine Intelligence.  
Arrived St. Alliance, Colon, Feb. 18.

Now in the Time  
to visit Pinehurst, Camden and Florida resorts. Seaboard Florida Limited leaves New York 12:35 P. M. daily and will land you at any of these resorts.

## JAPS BEATEN

IN BOLD ATTACK

Tried to Bottle Up the Port

Arthur Fleet—Russia

Claims Victory.

## FOUR STEAMERS ARE SUNK

Plan Was to Get Them Across the Mouth of the Harbor.

Russians Declare That Attempt to Repeat Hobson's Trick at Santiago Failed—One Torpedo Boat Reported Sunk With the Hotting-Up Ships She Was Conveying—Others Damaged—Battle-ship Retzikan, Disabled in First Japanese Attack, Does Good Work in Defending the Harbor—Probable Loss of Life in Japan's Defeat—Steamers Destroyed Said to Have Been Loaded With Cargoes of Explosives.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.  
ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 24.—The czar has received a despatch from Admiral Alexieff announcing a victory at Port Arthur, which was again assaulted by the Japanese on Tuesday.

The despatch is not issued textually, and there is some doubt of its exact purport. The following, however, is the gist of it, according to the most reliable data:

ATTEMPT TO BOTTLE UP THE FLEET.  
The Japanese sent four torpedo boats as escorts to four old steamers, with the intention of sinking the latter in the fairway, thus blocking the entrance to the harbor. The steamers, it is understood, were loaded with explosives.

Owing to the vigilance of the Russians the attack failed. The Retzikan, whose repairs have been nearly completed, opened fire on the Japanese flotilla. The forts followed.

The Japanese vessels did no damage and were themselves destroyed, two being sunk and two run ashore.

## TORPEDO BOAT LOST.

One torpedo boat was sunk, one grounded and two were damaged. The latter were seen in the morning steaming away, evidently in difficulties.

Several unexploded torpedoes that were found in the harbor were secured.

TRIED TO REPEAT HOBSON'S TRICK.  
LONDON, Feb. 25.—Most of the accounts of the Japanese attack on Port Arthur yesterday concur in stating that the Japanese were repulsed with the loss of certain small vessels. There is at present no version from the Japanese side, but from the Russian despatches and those furnished by special correspondents, it is apparent that Admiral Togo tried to repeat, on a larger scale, the feat performed by Lieut. Hobson at Santiago in the Spanish-American War.

With the view to sealing up the harbor and bottling the Russian vessels within, he sent some small steamers laden with explosives and escorted by torpedo boats. What happened is not yet accurately known. His object may have been attained notwithstanding his alleged repulse, for it is confidently stated that vessels were sunk and apparently near the mouth of the harbor.

All the known circumstances of the position at Port Arthur point to the extreme daring of the attempt, from which it is easily possible that none of the hardy adventurers returned.

STRANDED RETZIKAN AIDS IN DEFENSE.  
The Harbin correspondent of the Chronicle, confirming the reports of the attack on Port Arthur, says that the affair was an attempt to repeat the feat of Lieut. Hobson in sinking the collier Merrimac in the entrance to the Bay of San Francisco.

He says that the Russian battleship Retzikan, which has remained on the rocks ever since she was disabled, in the first Japanese attack, fired on the aggressors and sank all of them at a distance from the channel.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—The Russian Embassy issued the following this evening:

"On the night of Feb. 23 the Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur. Their torpedo boats attacked the Russian warships and attempted to set fire to them. The Retzikan, supported by the coast batteries, repulsed the attack and compelled the Japanese to withdraw after four of their ships had been sunk."

CHEFOO GETS NEWS OF THE FIGHT.  
CHEFOO, Feb. 24.—The Russian Consul here has received news that several Japanese vessels attacked Port Arthur yesterday, and that four of them were destroyed. The attack failed. Unofficial reports confirm this statement with slight variations. It is stated that the Russian fleet remained in the harbor.

The German steamer Gouverneur Jaeschke has arrived here from Ching-wantao. She reports that there was continuous firing at Port Arthur between 1 and 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The night was clear and the rays from the searchlights and the gun flashes were visible. No ships were sighted.

One version of the engagement says that during the assault the Japanese tried to land in Society Bay, but were repulsed. The German steamer Pronte has arrived