THEATER ARCHITECT DISAGREES WITH OTHERS ON CRASH CAUSE With other of the collapse—Admits He Did Not Make Full Inspections. Failure of the top chord in truss statisfactory, adding, "among the best in Washington." Failure of the top chord in truss statisfactory, adding, "among the best in Washington." Failure of the top chord in truss baland for the collapse of the two planes of the

Failure of the top chord in truss
T12 was blamed for the collapse of the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater by Reginald W. Geare, supervising architect of the building, when he took the stand yesterday afternoon at the coroner's inquest to fix the blame for the disaster.

Mr. Geare's testimony was in direct opposition to that of the board of Army and Navy experts, and also to that of J. H. Ford, the steel designer and contractor for the roof supports.

He admitted to the jury, during questioning by Maj. Gordon, United States district attorney, that he did not make full inspections to determine whether the building was in all trusses were to be asset of the building was in all trusses were to be asset of the said trusses were to be asset of the said trusses and not make full inspections to determine whether the building was in all trusses were to be asset of the building was in all trusses were to be asset of the contractor for the roof supports.

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He admitted to the jury, during questioning by Maj. Gordon, United States district attorney, that he did not make full inspections to determine whether the building department.

He admitted to the jury during questioning by Maj. Gordon, United States and the counter the walls back of beams B 21 and 21? Maj. Gordon to tell why the subgator of the sub-did for unit. "Of course, I can't explain that."

"On direction, he detailed the sub-contractor as follows: Union iron as follows: Union iron dasked.

"The lamment Fireproofing work: It A. Lanford, excavating, and the sub-contractor as follows: Uni

not make full inspections to determine whether the building was in all respects secure, saying that it was the duty of the supervising architect merely to make a daily visit to the building.

Cannot Find Specifications.

Asked what had become of the

Asked what had become of the specifications for the building, he said he could not find them, but admitted that such specifications were written. He did admit, however, that the steel plans did not show any dimensions. although he attempted to show the jury that all his plans contained full dimensions. He could not say that the redesigned steel work contained any more steel that that provided in the original plans.

Mr. Geare was questioned at some length regarding the failure to the the Columbia road and stage walls together, failure to do which was attacked by the board of Army and Navy engineers. Geare did not remember that he gave instructions to either do this or not to do so.

William G. Carpenter said he did not see anything wrong with the iron work in any way, shape or form. Carpenter was an ironworker on the specifications for the best, and the walls stand today in wonderful shape, "a monument to engineers of failure to tie the Columbia road and stage walls, he said it was not necessary as it was an "inwork in any way, shape or form. Carpenter was an ironworker on the leave of the best, and the walls stand today in wonderful shape, "a monument to engineers of failure to tie the Columbia road and stage walls, he said it was not necessary as it was an "inwork in any way, shape or form. Carpenter was an ironworker on the leave of the best, and the walls stand today in wonderful shape, "a monument to engineers of failure to tie the Columbia road and stage walls, he said it was not necessary as it was an "inwork in any way, shape or form. Carpenter was an ironworker on the leave of the best, and the walls stand today in wonderful shape, "a monument to wonderful Asked what had become of the

work in any way, shape or form. Car-penter was an ironworker on the building.

Architect on Stand.

Reginald W. Geare, the architect of the Knickerbocker, next was called. He said he had been an architect for about twelve years, prepared at George Washington University, and took the beaux arts course. He did The plans and details of specifica-tions for the theater were prepared by him, he testified, answering ques-tions by Maj. Gordon. He was then directed to detail all that he did in

directed to detail all that he did in the preparation of the plans, after first telling the jury that he was in charge of the construction.

After the first set of plans the building did not proceed for about a year, witness said. They were prepared originally for Mr. Smallwood and Mr. Cassidy. After a year's time Mr. Crandall and others took over the ground. Smallwood and Cassidy, he said, sold the permit to Crandall and him. Another set of plans giving more details was later prepared, he declared.

See that the work is earlied wot gently: to see that the job is progressing really; to see that the job is progressing properly in accordance with the plans."

"Who superintended the construction of the steel work?"

"My engineer, I suppose; I don't recollect," witness answered.

"You left the details to the engineer?" pressed Maj. Gordon. "You don't know whether beams and trusses had requisite bearings or not?"

"No, I didn't go into that," witness responded.

Mr. Geare took up each set of plans Mr. Geare took up each set of plans and explained them to the jury, under questioning by MaJ. Gordon.

The name of Costigan appeared on the plans as the District official who approved them.

The plans were made, he said, by M. S. Rich.

Declares Dimensions Shown

"I have heard it said there were no dimensions on my plans." witness went on. "I want to show you that they were fully dimensioned," he said, pointing to dimensions on each plan. He asserted that a copy of these same plans was filed with the application for a permit.
"Did the steel plans show dimen-

cation for a permit.

"Did the steel plans show dimensions?" asked Gordon.

"No, sir. The steel plans are tracings of these. These have the dimensions and show just where the steel is to be set.

"I'd like to show you how carefully the Columbia road wall was provided for," he continued, showing the jury the details on the plans.

"The blueprints are an exact copy of the originals?" asked Mr. Hart, assistant corporation counsel.

"Yes."

"Yes."

He said the original drawings are submitted to the building department with the blueprints.

After the permit was issued, contracts were let, he said, and then he asked for bids from about six contractors, and could remember only the names of the Weller Construction—Company and Frank L. Wagner.

Questioned further by Gordon, he for for the first things I saw upon arriving at the theater about a half an hour after the accident."

The contract was let to Frank L. Wagner to construct the building.

Frank L. Wagner construction—Company, the Boyle Robertson Company and William E. Mooney.

Frank L. Wagner construct the building. Wagner to construct the building. He noticed it by an abrasion.

The contract was let to Frank L. Wagner to construct the building. He noticed it by an abrasion could be in the steel without being observed.

Says Chord Caused Collapse.

The top chord of T-12 started the feet to be contracted the plants of the contractors, who were

The contract was let to Frank L. Wagner to construct the building, he testified. Witness said the contractor kept him informed of the names of subcontractors, who were

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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"No."

"Then it wasn't your intention to tie them?" queried Gordon.

"I wouldn't say that I didn't intend to tie them, I didn't direct that they should not be tied, nor do I remember that I told them to do it."

"You don't contend it was tied, do you?" pressed Maj. Gordon.

No. sir."

"It was your business to see that it was tied?"

Duty of Architect.

responded.
"Did you see that brick and terra cotta, work was properly construct-

"Did you see whether proper amount of cement was going into the tile?"
"Yes, I frequently went on the scaffolding to examine the work."

Says Chord Caused Collapse. The top chord of T-12 started the

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"Not necessarily. It is the architect's duty to go there once a day and see that the work is carried out generally; to see that the job is progressing properly in accordance with the

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Chinese Night Postponed. Owing to uncertainty, up to within a short time of the date set, as to whether some of the actors who were to appear on Chinese Night could keep their engagements, it was not possible to advise the public early enough of the postponement of Chinese Night. The management of the Evenings of Oriental Art seriously regret any inconvenience caused by deferring the opening of the evenings to East Indian Night on February 14, and hope that the public will appreciate the difficulty of the situation in which the management was placed.

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AT THE KNICKERBOCKER **NOT PASSED BY ENGINEER**

(Continued from First Page.)

Supervision to ascertain whether the plans were being carried out, with authority to reject on the spot any faulty work or defective material.

Referring to the "cinder fill" on the roof, he said it was of the lightest fireproof material that could be where the beams went through the wall.

"Did you ever discuss these plans with the Engineer Commissioner?" asked Maj. Gordon, the witness substituted by Mr. Ford.

"Did you ever discuss these plans with the Engineer Commissioner?" asked Maj. Gordon to tell of the main trusses substituted by Mr. Ford.

"I do not remember that I did," witness responded.

"I do not remember that I did," witness responded.

"The building regulations provide for the quality of the material."

"Wou asked Maj. Gordon.

"Well, "hesitating, "Barber & Ross and C. A. Schneider's Sons. I don't recollect any more."

Witness could not remember the amount of each of the proposals.

At the direction of Maj. Gordon, the witness could not remember the amount of each of the proposals.

At the direction of Maj. Gordon, the witness told of the reason for changing the steel plans, substantially as testified by previous witnesses.

"Did you have a superintendent on the work all the time?"

"Yes."

"What were his duties?" Maj. Gordon continued.

"General supervision of all the

"Do you know personally why the building fell down?" Maj. Gordon continued.

"I have a theory," witness answered.
"Of your own knowledge of on talking with your engineer?" Maj. Gordon interrogated.
"I haven't talked with him," Geare answered.
"Tell us. if you can, why it fell," Maj. Gordon directed.
"Bordon directed.
"Of your own knowledge of on talking with your engineer?" Maj. Gordon interrogated.
"I haven't talked with him," Geare answered.
"Tell us. if you can, why it fell," Maj. Gordon directed.
"Because the code allowed it."
"Borty you look to see whather it."
"Provided the bolts don't come loose," witness answered.
Mr. Geare admitted that changes were often made in specifications, but said the building department is notified only of inportant changes.
"Why didn't you notify the building department?" Mr. Hart asked.
"Because the code allowed it."
"Don't you know that rivets are 20 per cent stronger than bolts?"
Maj. Gordon interjected.
"Provided the bolts don't come loose," witness answered.
Mr. Geare admitted that changes were often made in specifications, but said the building department is notified only of inportant changes.
"Why didn't you notify the building department?" Mr. Hart asked.
"Because the code allowed it."
"Don't you know that rivets are 20 per cent stronger rivetting or bolting?"

asked.
"No, sir."
"On whom did you rely?" Maj. Gordon continued.
"That would be left to the architect, and if he missed anything, I considered that it would be caught up by the building inspectors, as they rule supreme in theater building. However, I do not mean to cast any reflection there."

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"Yes."
"I take it you are a graduate engiteer?" the coroner queried.
"Yes, sir, coroner."
He said he did not make any inpections of the steel, as he went into

he Army.

"How much personal supervision of the steel did you give?" Coroner Nevitt asked. "None at all." "None at all."

The witness said he turned the suervision of steel work over to engieers, but he did not have any recolection of turning this particular job

"Do you know who took your olace?" Coroner Nevitt asked. "No. sir."

He was there immediately after the accident, but subsequently he was not admitted to the building, he said.

Witness testified a nine-inch beam took a nine-inch bearing, a twelve-inch, a twelve-inch bearing, etc. They all seemed to have that bearing, he

knowledge would have not."

"Are bolts more lasting or safer than rivets?" asked Coroner Nevitt.

"Turn driven bolts are considered the highest form of connecting two pieces of steel. In other cases rivets. It is hard to say."

A turn driven bolt gets the same rating as a rivet, he said, in answer to Maj. Gordon.

Contractor on Stand.

Contractor on Stand. Frank L. Wagner, 1746 K street northwest, builder and contractor for the Knickerbocker Theater, next took the stand.

He started as an apprentice carpen-

He started as an apprentice carpenter, he said, in 1888; later he was employed as an estimator and superintendent, and in 1902 started a partnership. He opened here in 1905. Since 1907 he has been operating as an individual builder.

The Knickerbocker was the first theater project he had ever built, he

theater project he had ever built, he said. Subsequently, he built the Metropolitan Theater here.

He then went over previous evidence regarding the original contract and letting of subcontracts, already in the

record.

He did not remember how many structural steel firms were asked to

"Idea onto remember that I did,"
"It witness responded.
"The building regulations provided for the quality of the material," witness continued.
"This covers the steel, as the steel contractors are familiar with the building regulations at the roof line, he said.

Beam forty-one ran between the twenty columns at the roof line, he said. He said as the same of placeman under the sem forty-one about six feet above the ceiling. He said he saw that that he saw was in.

The specifications showed that all steel work was to be "field rivetted."

"Questioned on this point, by Mal. Gordon. he said he didn't recail why the building continued.
"General supervision of all the work." Will your records show whether of motivating. He dientified to his attention that the revised plan had a note in his handwriting. He dientified to his attention of placeman under the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he said he saw that that he may be a serious and the said he sai hence. It's more economical to give your body help before resistance to disease is broken down. A very little

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time."
"Is it your duty to see that trusses and beams have proper bearing?"
"That is an engineering problem."
"If they had only an inch bearing, would you put them up?"
"They wouldn't stay up."
"Did they all have sufficient bearing."

"They all had sufficient bearing."

He was there immediately after the

"No, sir."

"Why did you put in bolts instead of rivets?" Coroner Nevitt asked.

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"I cannot recall, sir."
Witness here was excused.

"Bolts were delivered to the job,"
witness answered.
In low buildings, he said, bolts are as good as rivets.

"Were double I-beams put under all trusses?" asked Mr. Hart.

"Where it was called for."

"Did you put them under all of them?"

"I cannot recell siz."

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