

Temporary Office  
of The Call,  
1651 Fillmore Street

# THE CALL



Oakland Office  
of The Call,  
1016 Broadway.

VOLUME XCIX—NO. 142

SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1906.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

# WATER FRONT BURNS ALMOST TO THE FERRY

## RUSSIAN HILL IS PREY TO FLAMES

The loss of North Beach, Russian Hill and the waterfront almost, if not quite to the ferry building completed yesterday's record of disaster. The second saving of the Western Addition made record, of achievements.

### Fierce Gale Drives Flames to North Beach During Afternoon Despite Brave Fight.

About midnight a strong gale was raging and the fire was spreading rapidly toward the ferry building. Despite the gallant fight made by many tugs during the afternoon, and despite the hopes that seemed fairly well-founded up to a late hour, the sudden springing up of a strong wind baffled every attempt to save the eastern water front from total destruction.

Those at the ferry building had hope until after midnight, but when the wind veered and the flames began to rush toward the noble structure that has served as a union ferry for so many lines of suburban boats during many years the situation appeared dark.

Just when hope was almost abandoned there was back-firing from Vallejo to the bay which gave some hope of saving the ferry and a block or two of the water front adjacent thereto. Soldiers that had been in readiness to blow up the ferry were withdrawn.

A number of dead bodies found along North Beach and other parts of the water front were those of thieves and hard characters who had been killed by the soldiers.

One hundred and seventy-six prisoners from various branch county jails were sent to San Quentin, but the Warden refused to receive them, as they had not been sentenced. They were landed at Alcatraz and will probably be removed from there today to various jails adjacent to the bay. George D. Collins was among those thus transferred.

Two vital events marked yesterday in San Francisco—the breaking out of a great fire that consumed Russian Hill and most of the district between its apex and a point on the water front a few blocks north of the ferry building, and the subduing of the same blaze in its vicious attempts to creep back to the west and possibly invade the large section between Van Ness avenue and Golden Gate Park.

The cause that lost the fight to save Russian Hill was the cause that contributed largely to the saving of the Western Addition—in both instances the violent gale from the west. The same high wind that drove the flames over Russian Hill did much to beat it away from the Western Addition. This, with dynamiting buildings to the west and using the waters of the bay through one large hose won the battle for the untouched areas west of Van Ness avenue.

#### TUGS FIGHT BRAVELY.

The fight to save the water front after the blaze had crossed Russian Hill was waged entirely by a number of fire tugs that battled with vigor and did much to check the blaze from leaping at once to the foot of Market street.

Yesterday was an anxious and eventful day to about half a million people, and particularly to a large proportion of that number camped in the wide areas west of Van Ness avenue, who still hoped that the great holocaust was at an end, but the leaping of flames and the thundering of dynamite blasts all afternoon awoke twice a hundred thousand men, women and children who were sleeping in yards and parks, on sidewalks or in beds.

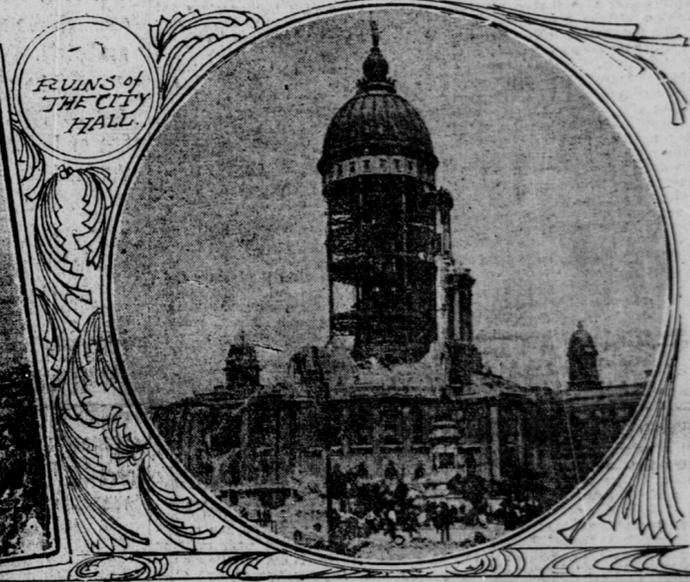
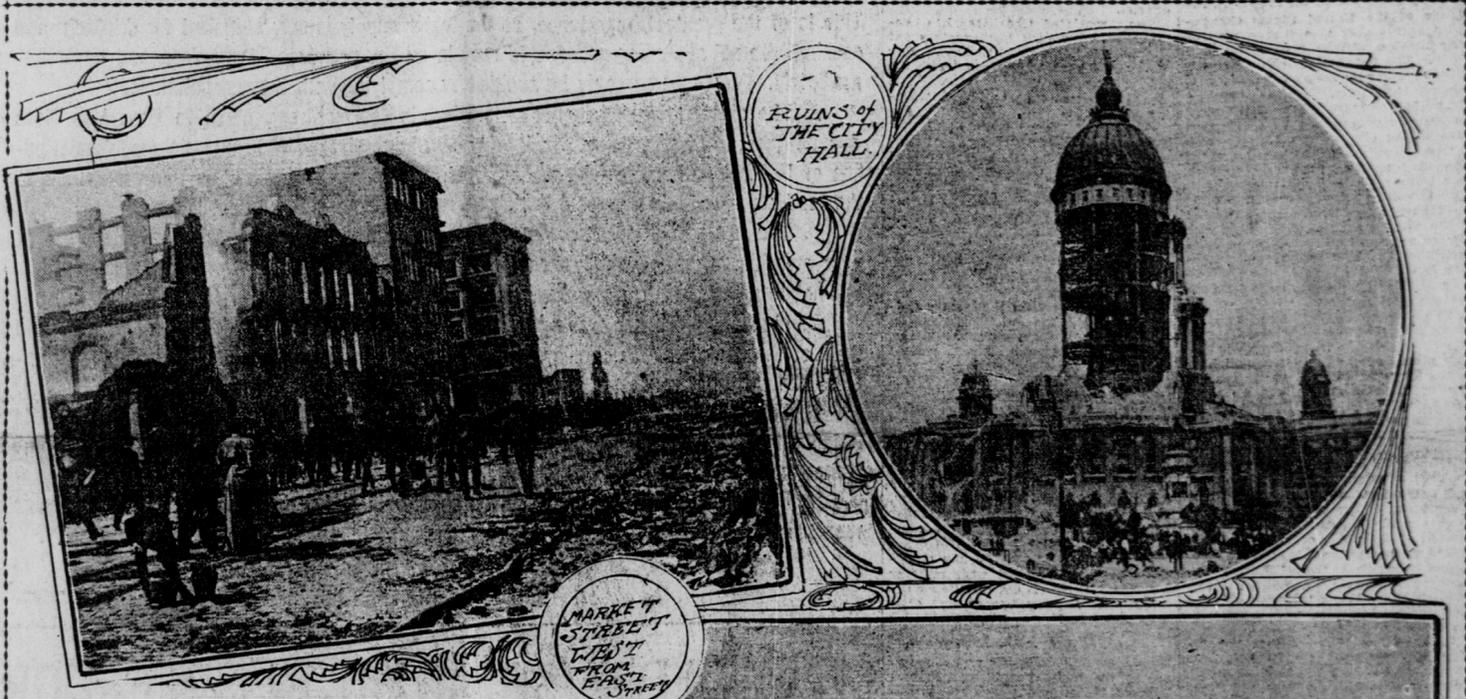
News from sentries and automobilists hastening to the Western Addition from the fire line was that there was danger that the flames might cross Van Ness avenue and consume the western section of the city despite all dynamiting and other measures at the disposal of the department.

#### WESTERN AREA SAVED.

Soon after that there were reassuring reports to the effect that the demon had been throttled and turned back toward the bay. By 11 a. m. the blowing-up of houses in the vicinity of Russian Hill showed that there was a close battle to save the water front, but by noon the flames had run over a large area in the bay region, and with the fiercest westerly gale in many days driving the flames to the east, it was soon evident that much of the water front was doomed.

North Beach was the last section of the city to be devoured by the flames. All hope for it was abandoned when the fire crossed Pacific street near Kearny. Throughout the night the conflagration raged in the direction of the beach, sweeping up the sides of Telegraph and Russian hills.

Early in the morning the fire had reached the lumber yards and factories adjacent to the bay and stretched as far as Van Ness avenue.



### PARDEE CALLS LEGISLATURE

Governor Pardee will call a special session of the State Legislature at once to prepare for relief measures for San Francisco.

Then they stopped, but burned in an easterly direction from Kearny street, destroying the two sections of the seawall and encircling Telegraph Hill. At the southern base of the hill lay Barbary Coast, which had until this time escaped the blaze. In a comparatively short time this far-famed district was laid in ashes and the fire reached out for that portion of the city on lower Broadway, Vallejo and Pacific streets that yet remained intact. The flames then crackled in the direction of the water front and made the work of demolition in this section of the town complete. The fire tugs were pressed into service and fought the fire as quickly as it reached East street.

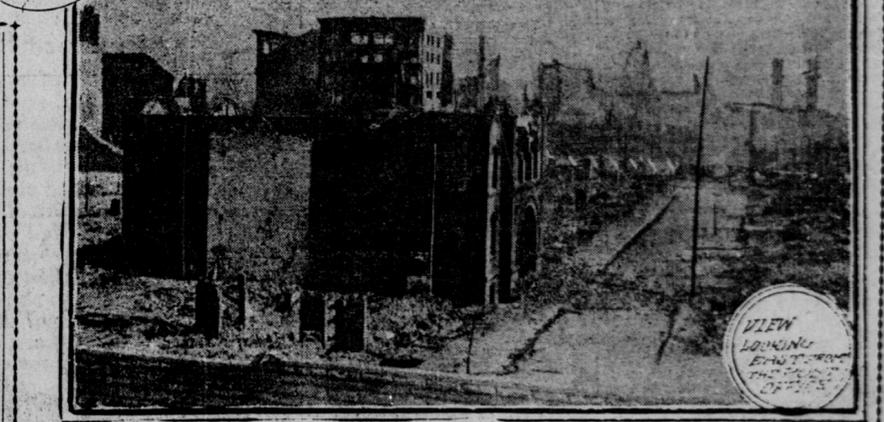
#### MEIGGS WHARF GOES.

By 3 p. m. Meiggs wharf was in flames, which traveled fast toward the ferry. From the deck of the Vanguard, opposite Meiggs wharf, a Call man saw the burning of Meiggs wharf and the gallant fight of about twenty fire tugs, which pumped large streams of bay water ahead of the advancing flames and even in the very teeth of the fire.

The battle was an unequal one, but the work of the tugs did much to check the progress of the fire and finally, it is believed, to save the ferry depot from annihilation.

Despite a report received by Governor Pardee at 9 o'clock last night to the effect that the ferry building was doomed and being abandoned the fire was not within two blocks of the great tower-like structure as late as 11 p. m. and employes had not thought of deserting their posts. It was then believed that the tugs might save the noble structure and stop the flames a block away from it.

An hour later the wind shifted to an unfavorable direction and it seemed inevitable that the ferry building must go. At an early hour this morning hope of saving the ferry was abandoned.



RUINS OF THE CITY HALL AS THEY APPEARED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON; SCENE ON MARKET STREET LOOKING WESTWARD FROM EAST STREET AND VIEW OF RUINED DISTRICT EAST OF THE POST OFFICE.

## WILL RISE AGAIN IN SPLENDOR

With Undaunted Spirit San Francisco Faces the Future, Confident That All Is Well.

San Francisco has demonstrated the courage and confidence of her citizens by declaring to the world that assistance will not be solicited from cities other than those in California. The spirit of the hour is that the city will rise again in renewed splendor and in such form that the dream of beautiful San Francisco will be realized.

The Mayor has invoked the Governor to call a special session of the Legislature and whatever aid the great State of California may extend to the metropolis of the commonwealth will be appreciated.

Continued on Page 2, Columns 6 and 7.

Continued on Page 2, Columns 3, 4 and 5.