

VOL. LIII NO. 63

ROCK ISLAND, ILL., SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1904.

PRICE TWO CENTS

DEFECTIVE APPLIANCES CAUSED IROQUOIS HORROR

Official Investigation Brings Out Details of the Origin of the Fire.

ATTACHES OF THE THEATRE ARE ARRESTED

List of Dead Brought to 586, of Which Twenty-five Are Not Identified.

Total Dead..... 586
Identified..... 561

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The total number of corpses recovered from the Iroquois theatre fire stands today at 586, compared with 582 yesterday. Of these, 25 remain unidentified.

All Ordered Closed.

Mayor Harrison today ordered the closing of every theatre in Chicago without exception until it be definitely ascertained they are not violating any city ordinance. This is supplementary to the mayor's order last night which closed 17 theatres.

Warrants for Management.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Warrants for the arrest of Will J. Davis and Harry Powers, proprietors of the Iroquois theatre, and George Williams, city building inspector, were sworn out late last night by Arthur E. Hull, who lost his wife and three children in Wednesday's fire, on the charge of criminal manslaughter. The accused were notified to appear in court at 11 this morning and give bonds.

When the proprietors, Davis and Powers, and the building commissioner, Williams, were arraigned in court, Arthur E. Hull, the complainant, was present. Davis, Powers and Williams were released on bonds of \$10,000 each on the charge of manslaughter. The hearing was set for the 12th. Five members of the "Bluebird" chorus, arrested in connection with the Iroquois tragedy, were released on \$1,000 bail each. They will have a hearing on the 11th. Twelve employees of the theatre will have a hearing next Monday. Their bond was placed at \$5,000 each.

Trace to Inception.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The fire which wrecked the Iroquois theatre and caused the loss of 585 lives was traced to its inception yesterday. As has been the case in numerous heads followed by those officials who are endeavoring to fix the responsibility for the catastrophe, the trail led to imperfect and improperly operated appliances.

An inadequately protected "spot light" machine, close to which hung the frayed edge of the mesh draperies, made the combination that caused the fire. William McMullen, the man who operated the "spot light," is under arrest with a charge of manslaughter against him.

McMullen, who was known about the theatre as "Red," was brought in to Chief O'Neill's office by Treasurer James Noonan of the theatre after W. J. Davis and Harry J. Powers, its managers, had been called before the chief and made to agree to produce any of their employees at any time the chief wanted them and to lend their active assistance in the work of investigation. The police had been searching for McMullen since the afternoon of the fire.

Spark Caught.

"A spark from the arc light within the machine caught in the frayed edge of the drapery," was the confession by McMullen to Chief O'Neill. The drapery had been cut off, it having been improperly fixed, and from its unbound edges threads of the fabric

Employee of Packing Ho Had \$25,000 in His

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 2.—For many years John Walker, of South Omaha, formerly of Chicago, has worked in the tinclings of his clothes \$20,000 in gold and bills, while presiding to his acquaintances the picture of abject poverty. The discovery of Walker's hobby in hoarding wealth was made yesterday in the probate court by chance. It being New Year's day, County Judge Vinson had not in the office when two strangers asked for appointment as administrators of the estate of John Walker, who died a few days ago. He worked for Armstrong & Co. seven years ago on a small salary and never was seen to have money.

The anxiety of the pair to desired the privilege of caring for the estate aroused the court's suspicion and an investigation followed. Walker was stretched out on a bed in a scantily furnished apartment. The court clerk's

hand accidentally with a barrel snubbed down the stairs and vest were shoulders of with bills of lation. In the in yesterday in the probate court by chance. It being New Year's day, County Judge Vinson had not in the office when two strangers asked for appointment as administrators of the estate of John Walker, who died a few days ago. He worked for Armstrong & Co. seven years ago on a small salary and never was seen to have money.

Two men, McMullen and his assistant, were on the first perch operating the calcium "spot" light. The light was bent to an angle of about forty degrees to illuminate the double act in its dance. The two carbons were acting badly, from too close or improper contact. There was a sputtering and scattering of sparks, or what is known technically as a "dirty" light. Every one has seen this sort of thing at some time or other in the arc lights at the street corners, when red hot flakes of carbon drop to the ground in a shower.

Some of these flakes dropped on the ragged, unraveled fringe.

First Noticed

McMullen called the attention of his assistant to the flame.

"Put the fire out," he said.

"All right," said the other man, reaching down, using his hands to put out the small flame.

"Put it out! Put it out!" shouted McMullen.

"I am! I am!" said the other, clapping the flimsy stuff between his hands.

Some of the stage hands at this moment noticed the fire.

"Look at that fire!" these called out. "Can't you see that you're on fire up there? Put it out!"

"D— it, I am trying to," said the man, who was clapping away at the burning paint impregnated muslin.

Then a flame a foot high shot up and caught the draperies above those on fire.

"Look at that other one. It's on fire," some one on the stage yelled.

"Put it out!" shouted another.

"All right," said the man on the stage. But he did not clap hard enough or fast enough, and in two seconds the flames were beyond his reach.

It was after these hand-clapping attempts to extinguish the fire had proved futile that McMullen shouted a call for the asbestos curtain to be put down.

Funerals Have Right of Way.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The church bells tolled at noon, business activity was checked and many activities were postponed as long lines of funerals moved through their way to the cemeteries. These circumstances evidenced Chicago's outward grief for the victims of the Iroquois theatre disaster. Today priests and ministers went from funeral to funeral, as they will tomorrow and Monday. The unidentified dead will be kept as long as possible at the morgues. If any are claimed the bodies will be sent to the city's expense. By contrast with the clergy, the hymn book and the organ were silent.

Kindly light is being sung in the churches.

Business Houses Closed.

The city hall, except a necessary departments, was closed today. The board of ten hour earlier than usual, mercantile and manufacturing concerns closed early. The banks were open, thirty-four teachers.

Continued on P.

IS DRIVEN INSANE TROUBLE IS INDICATED

Chicago Woman Affected by Brooding Over Theatre Horror

TWO CHILDREN IN JEOPARDY

Police Attracted to the Place in Time to Save Their Lives.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Her brain weakened from pondering over the Iroquois fire, Mrs. Mary Hopkins seized her two children today and threw them violently under a bed, and securing an ax, commenced breaking up the stove which stood in the room.

Shrieks Draw Attention.

The crazed woman's frantic shrieks, "Fire! They're burning! Save my children!" attracted the attention of the police, who arrested her and rescued the children.

CLAIMED TO BE A BRITISH CONSUL

Clever Scheme by Which European Bankers Were Fleeced.

New York, Jan. 2.—By means of a clever and carefully prearranged scheme a man calling himself S. W. Spencer, representing himself to be the British vice consul at Washington, an office that does not exist, is declared by a banking and exporting house to have been traveling through Europe since last October defrauding banking houses with spurious drafts and forged checks drawn on prominent bankers and business houses in New York.

The scheme he is alleged to have operated involved his presence here a few months ago. He is said to have visited exporting houses, and representing himself as British vice consul at Washington secured drafts for large sums on foreign correspondents for shipments of watches for New Jersey makers for whom he pretended to hold power of attorney. The shipments never reached Europe, but Spencer did, and he took along the drafts, upon the proceeds of which, it is alleged, he is enabled to live without labor for the time being. He is now supposed to be in Egypt.

PROBE IS PUSHED IN A NEW DIRECTION

Irregularities Alleged in the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The treasury department experts today instituted an investigation of the accounts of the interstate commerce commission. The action is taken at the instance of Acting Chairman Clements, as a result of persistent rumors of irregularities in the drawing of vouchers, etc.

Doctor of Law with Murder. Decatur, Ga., Jan. 2.—A coroner's inquest today heard the case of a man who is charged with the murder of two children. Mrs. Walter Rogers, mother of the children, was arrested on Wednesday and is accused of performing the operation. Dr. Rogers is out of the city.

Want Any of These Bonds? Washington, Jan. 2.—Circulars have been issued for subscriptions for \$7,500 Philippine bond purchase bonds. Bonds will be dated Feb. 1, 1904, and bear 4 per cent. interest, payable semi-annually. The bonds will be free from all forms of taxation either in the Philippines or in the United States.

Prominent Man Commits Suicide. Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 2.—Banker Charles F. Woods shot and killed himself in his bank at St. Charles, Ia., death resulting instantly. The cause of the tragedy is not yet known. So far as could be learned the bank was in good condition. Woods was a prominent member of church and several lodges.

Turks Suspected of a Plot. Salonica, European Turkey, Jan. 2.—Over 100 Turks were arrested here on suspicion of complicity in a plot to massacre Christians. The arrests are continuing. Quantities of arms and explosives have been seized.

Son of a Statesman Vies. Brazil, Ind., Jan. 2.—John Holliday, eldest son of Representative Holliday and secretary to his father, has married Miss Irene Turner, daughter of a bank Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Turner.

Authority on Yellow Fever Dead. New York, Jan. 2.—Dr. Hamilton A. Wood of Galveston, Tex., who was considered as a high authority on yellow fever, is dead here after a brief illness.

TROUBLE IS INDICATED

By Today's News From Far Eastern Sources.

RUSSIA HOLDS GROUND

Japan Calls on Reserve Force of Engineers.

Glasgow, Jan. 2.—A large number of Clyde engineers received cable orders from the Japanese government today to proceed immediately to Japan. They were engaged by the Japanese government six months ago on the understanding they would be called if active service is probable. Full instructions were sent in cipher.

Will Not Accept.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2.—It appears to be true that Russia has decided not to accept Japan's precise proposals. Foreign Minister Lamsdorf and the Japanese minister are still conferring with a view of arriving at an amicable settlement. Unofficially the situation is regarded most seriously.

Tokio, Jan. 2.—The report is current that a Japanese squadron of six armored cruisers under Admiral Kamimura, now at Sasebo, will seize the port of Masampo, Korea, and that its departure is fixed for Jan. 4.

Russia Stands Firm.

London, Jan. 2.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, has been informed from Paris that Russia has decided not to grant the Japanese proposals. This is the first intimation any one here admits having received about the Russian reply. The baron said to a representative of the Associated Press: "If my information from Paris is borne out by the wording of the Russian reply, and if the Japanese government adheres to its present determination, there seems to be small possibility of averting war."

London Hopeless for Peace.

The British foreign office is unable to confirm or deny Baron Hayashi's information. The officials, however, say they are not surprised at the tenor of his advice. Foreign Secretary Lansdowne has informed one of the foreign ambassadors that he has practically given up all hopes of peace. At the embassy here the statement made by Baron Hayashi that he had been informed from Paris that Russia had decided not to grant the Japanese proposals, is regarded as being most grave, especially in view of the minister's statement that his information came from Paris, and the fact that he permitted such information to become known at this critical stage.

It Was News at Washington.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Baron Hayashi's statement from London was communicated to Japanese Minister Takahira just as he was starting for the New Year reception at the White House. Although it was what the minister has been expecting for days it was naturally somewhat of a shock. The legation here has had nothing yet from Tokio. The Russian embassy was equally lacking of advice from its home office, and the state department has not been able to secure any indication of the outcome of the negotiations between Russia and Japan, notwithstanding it has cabled special instructions to its agents in both countries to report developments.

PARIS MISSES THE NEWS

No One There Seems to Have Heard of Russia's Alleged Action.

Paris, Jan. 2.—Absolutely nothing is known in official circles of the advice sent from Paris to the Japanese minister in London to the effect that Russia has decided not to grant the Japanese proposals. It is pointed out, however, that Foreign Minister Delcasse has left Paris for Nice, which is thought he certainly would not have done if serious news had been received.

At the Japanese legation here Minister Montono authorized the Associated Press to make a categorical denial of a report that advice had been sent from the legation at Paris to the Japanese minister at London that Russia had decided not to grant the Japanese proposals. This report came from London and New York. But, while officials generally were participating in brilliant New Year's festivities centering at the Elysee palace.

The general tone of official comment during these informal exchanges was somewhat improved. President Delcasse addressed to the diplomatic corps taking international peace as a subject, and the Japanese minister, M. Doi, and the Japanese ambassador, M. Nomura, were among the attractive listeners to the president's remarks.

HOTEL FIRE FATAL

Three are Suffocated in Blaze in a Chicago Establishment.

STARTED NEAR MIDNIGHT HOUR

Mounts From First to Third Stories and Guests are Cut Off.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Three people are dead and two seriously injured as the result of a fire that broke out at 11 o'clock last night in the Hotel Louvre, 2611 to 2623 Lake avenue. The victims were suffocated in their rooms and firemen stumbled over their bodies after the flames had been extinguished.

The dead: PATRICK RYAN, a retired merchant, MRS. FLORENCE CHAPIN and 12-year-old son.

The injured: DR. NICHOLAS VON SCHELL, jumped from third story window; leg broken. G. M. BRIGHT, jumped from third story window; right leg broken; taken to Battle Creek sanitarium. FRED HOPP, fireman, who fell from ladder.

Was Row of Dwellings. The building was formerly a row of dwellings of three stories and basement, but was leased by Dr. Von Schell and converted as a hotel. The fire started on the first floor, and in a few minutes shot up to the roof and enveloped the entire south end of the structure. Dr. Von Schell, who lived on the third floor, was aroused by the flames entering his room, and with out waiting to dress jumped from the window to the pavement. G. M. Bright, who lived on the third floor, followed his example.

Jacksons' Victory IS DULY CELEBRATED

Five Hundred Democrats of Both Sexes Met at Omaha.

Omaha, Jan. 2.—Nearly 500 Democrats of Nebraska celebrated the ninety-ninth anniversary of Andrew Jackson's victory over the British at New Orleans, and incidentally the thirtieth annual banquet of the Jacksonian Club of Nebraska. The event was the best attended and most enthusiastic of any in the history of the club. The speakers were all men of prominence. The occasion was of special significance to Nebraska Democrats, because of a recently made of the fact that have formerly been known as "gold" and "silver" Democrats.

The affair was in the nature of a love feast and those present entered into the spirit of the occasion with old-time enthusiasm. The principal speakers were John M. Reed, of Des Moines, Ia., who discussed "Democracy from the Standpoint of a Voter," Representative Hitecock, of Nebraska, whose theme was "The Laguard Law," Representative De Arnold, of Missouri, spoke on "What of Our Future?" and Senator Newlands, of Nevada, on "Democracy in 1904."

Head of the Union PACIFIC RESIGNS

Horace G. Burt Has Held Office of President for 35 Years.

Omaha, Jan. 2.—Horace G. Burt, president of the Union Pacific, has handed his resignation to the directors. It is understood it will be acted upon at the next meeting of the board. The reason assigned is, he feels the need of a complete rest after 35 years' service.

LAURENCE RAMMED BY THE OLIVETTE

Accident to Torpedo Boat Destroyer While at Anchor in the South.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—Rear Admiral Sands, commanding the training squadron, telegraphs the navy department under date of Key West, Fla., yesterday that the torpedo boat destroyer Laurence, at anchor, was rammed by the Olivette.

consequently the report of Paris advice that Russia had decided not to grant Japan's proposals was somewhat inexplicable at the Japanese legation. When Minister Montono was asked regarding the utterances of Baron Delcasse he said that certainly no such report emanated from him, and that he was the usual medium for additions of that character to his colleagues.

REPORTED A COLOMBIAN WARSHIP HAS BEEN SUNK

Unconfirmed News That United States Boats Shelled the Gen. Pinzon.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE VERY PRESSING

Attention to South American Republic Temporarily Diverted From Panama.

Colon, Jan. 2.—There are persistent rumors here that the Colombian gunboat General Pinzon had been sunk by United States warships. There is no confirmation of the report to this time. The Mayflower, to which Admiral Coghlan had transferred his flag, has steamed out of the harbor. There are now no ships of war here.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Assistant Secretary Darling, of the navy department, said, with reference to the rumored sinking of a Colombian vessel by United States warships that he believed the rumor was without foundation in fact.

Is Growing Graver.

Colon, Jan. 2.—That Colombia's internal situation is daily becoming graver and more threatening, and that Colombians are realizing the extreme seriousness thereof is evidenced by a discussion that has been brought out at Cartagena and Barranquilla by the publication of documents dated Bogota, Dec. 7, and signed by President Marroquin and his cabinet, in which it is proposed to have municipalities hold plebiscites as to whether the constitution will be changed, decentralizing Bogota's powers and greatly increasing the powers of municipalities and departmental governments. The documents say the purpose of the change is to strengthen municipal and departmental governments, save the republic's present integrity and cause all reasons for existing unrest and discord to disappear.

How It Is Viewed at Cartagena.

In replying to these documents the municipality of Cartagena passed resolutions that first, considering the country's greatest need is interior peace, and second, that the abolishing of the constitution would inevitably bring on agitation against national peace and concord, and discussing the constitution would endanger its existence and its cardinal principles; and third, that a change in the constitution would establish a dangerous precedent, it was resolved that administrative decentralization be obtained through legislation, but without changing the constitution.

Panama in the Background.

El Porvenir, of Cartagena, the leading newspaper on the Atlantic coast, has started a discussion of the proposed measure which shows that the people of Colombia are thinking far more of the dangers in regard to the situation than of any efforts to take military steps against Panama. The Panama situation seems to have been accepted as inevitable, and the country is now preoccupied with the need of concentrating its efforts on the internal condition to save itself further disruption. The paper gives a long list of revolutionary disorders and wars which have followed previous changes in the Colombian constitution as an argument against the proposals from Bogota.

WHAT THEY DEFEND UPON

Hopes of the Non-Ratification of the Bona-Ventura Treaty.

An interview with Dr. Antonio R. Blanco, one of the Colombian commissioners who recently visited Washington, published at Cartagena, shows clearly that General Reyes and the government of Colombia are counting almost entirely upon the non-ratification of the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty. In the interview Dr. Blanco says: If the treaty is passed by the congress of the United States Colombia will have to choose between the resignation of a weak people or the sacrifice

of an heroic people. We have nothing to hope for from the attitude of the other powers. It is no exaggeration to say that we are entirely alone in this matter."

At a political meeting held recently at Medellin, in the state of Antioquia, it was resolved to do everything possible to oppose any separatist movement, and to ask President Marroquin to call a national convention in order to find a solution for all the problems that today are so deeply distressing the country. The resolutions will say: "We are moved to this step because the separatist movement in Panama is but a link in the chain of such moves, the end of which is not yet. We are threatened with a complete disintegration of national unity, and already in various parts of the country have been heard rumors of separation which caused the greatest disquietude because of the disastrous results they may entail."

STARTED REPORT OF AN EARTHQUAKE

Explosion of Blasting Powder and Dynamite Felt 10 Miles.

Danville, Ill., Jan. 2.—Five hundred pounds of blasting powder and 100 pounds of dynamite exploded at the Fairmount quarries, twelve miles west of here. The explosion was heard and the concussion felt for a distance of forty or fifty miles, many in this city believing it an earthquake. Workmen had taken the explosives from the powder house to a shanty at the quarry and spread it on the floor to dry it and then went to breakfast.

It is believed the stove became overheated, setting fire to the building. Dozens of quarymen's houses were shattered, all the chimneys in the neighborhood are blown down, but no loss of life resulted. In Fairmount, half a mile distant, houses rocked and windows were broken.

FRIGID WEATHER COMING TONIGHT

Indications Point to Dropping of the Mercury Far Below Zero.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—A cold wave is predicted for the western states tonight. Throughout the northwest today the mercury ranges from 12 to 36 below, and in the southwest from 7 to 10 below.

WHEAT GOES HIGHER IN VIEW OF RUMORS OF WAR

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Complications in the far east caused an advance of three cents in May wheat today. Corn and oats were sympathetically higher.

Dr. Rice Acquitted of Murder.

Pueblo, Colo., Jan. 2.—Dr. Charles O. Rice, a prominent physician of this city, has been acquitted of the charge of murder, his defense being insanity. Dr. Rice on Oct. 17 shot and killed Policeman Marts after holding at bay for four hours a crowd in front of a drug store of which he had taken possession.

Fire in a Packing House.

Quincy, Ill., Jan. 2.—The branch house of the Armour Packing Company, together with the stock, was damaged to the extent of \$50,000 by fire.

Train Holdups Decrease: Records of 14 Years Show

Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 2.—The following summary of train and stage robberies committed in the United States during 1903, together with the record for the last 14 years, has been compiled: The total number of trains held up in 14 years is 341; total number of people killed, 99; and the number of people wounded, 109. The number of trains held up in 1903 was 13, as compared with 22 in 1902. The number of stage robberies in 1903 was 5, while that of 1902 was 7. The year's record shows that no passengers or train men were killed by robbers, but 11 men were wounded. In 1902 1 was killed and 7 wounded. One robber was killed in 1903, as compared with 3 in 1902.