

fire. Every able-bodied citizen in the town and mines surrounding have been fighting day and night to save it from destruction, and by Herculean efforts they have succeeded. The flames are now many miles away, looking up everything in their path. Not only are the fires destroying grand forests of timber, but have wiped out the cabin home and supplies of many a miner, who in numerous instances have tonight had to flee for their lives. Tales told by the fugitives of their narrow escapes are thrilling in the extreme.

Three Forks, a small mining town in Slovan county, was burned out completely and the inhabitants narrowly escaped. The families are coming into Kaslo and Slovan to seek refuge and sustenance. Many hundreds of prospectors are in the mining districts, and fears are entertained that many will not be heard of again.

In the Cœur d'Alene country the fires continue with unabated fury. Miners and prospectors are deserting their cabin homes in the path of the flames and are seeking refuge in places of safety. Nothing has been heard from the little village of Saltz, which was reported threatened with destruction yesterday. It is isolated from communication by wire, and several days may elapse before definite news can be heard from there. This season has been a dry one, and in a measure accounts for the terrible havoc now being done by the flames.

DENVER, Aug. 19.—At midnight the Geary hotel was destroyed by an explosion which startled the whole downtown region of the city. In an instant one of the best known hotels in Denver was reduced to a heap of ruins. The front of the structure remained standing, but the great mass of brick and projecting wooden beams marked the spot which had been occupied by the main portion of the hotel.

To add to the horrors, fire began to break forth in different places from the ruins. The groans of human beings in distress came from the smoldering pile, and had it not been for the most strenuous exertions of the fire department many imprisoned victims would have been burned to death.

The great loss of life, the extent of which is impossible at present to determine, was entirely unexpected. As soon as the explosion occurred every guest of the hotel was up. When the fire department reached the scene the windows were crowded with human forms, who pleaded for help to escape from their perilous positions. It was not thought at that time, however, that the flames would complete the work of demolition. The guests were naturally very much alarmed at the explosion, but in answer to their frantic appeals they were assured that they were perfectly safe where they were, and indeed it seemed so. Afterwards when the fire broke out all calculations were upset and many who might have been saved at once, had it been known that the fire was to follow, went to their awful fates.

The fire department was soon on the scene. Ladders were run up to the windows fronting on Lawrence street, and men and women were assisted down the stairway. The escaping guests found refuge in a neighboring lodging house. Many of them

came away from the hotel in their bare feet, which were badly cut by broken glass in the streets.

While the fire department was bending its energies to the important work of rescue, a report spread through the crowd that the rear of the building had fallen down, carrying many victims. The cry of a babe caused a thrill to sweep through hundreds of men and women who looked on, and in a few moments the voice of a woman could be heard coming from a great mass of brick and mortar that lay piled forty or fifty feet high, near the center of the ruins. At another point, toward the northwest portion of the ruins, the voice of a man was heard. Men set themselves to work with superhuman exertions to clear away the debris and release the human beings. Nobody could estimate the number of victims in that mass which extended across the alley and as far toward Lawrence street as the front row of rooms in the building.

E. E. Irwin, the night clerk, made the following statement: "I was standing at my counter talking to Bud and Dan Hawkins, the two bartenders, when all of a sudden a terrific roar was heard and instantly the roof came crashing down and I was pinioned between some heavy beams, which held me so tightly that I could not move my limbs. The room began to fill with smoke and I was unable to breathe. After about giving up all hope I heard firemen above me and soon they had removed enough timbers to allow me to draw myself out, and from there to the street.

"The engineer is a boy seventeen years old named Elmer Loescher. He was drunk at the time he went on duty. In fact he either gets full all the time, or is away from the engine room. I cannot say just how many there were in the hotel at the time, but I should say about seventy. There are eleven now in the ruins, including General Adams."

The clerk was covered with blood and presented a gruesome sight. He has scalp wounds and internal injuries, but will recover.

PITTSBURG, Aug. 19.—Last night's storm was the most terrific and destructive that has visited this city for many years. It came without warning at a time when the parks were filled with people and the river boat-crowded with excursionists. As far as known, two lives were lost, a score of persons injured, two fatally, and property damaged to the extent of \$100,000.

The storm struck the city about 10 o'clock and was over in half an hour. Rain came down in torrents accompanied by vivid lightning and terrific wind. Houses were unroofed, trees uprooted, fences and outhouses demolished. So tremendous was the force of the tornado that the steamers Luu Keeler, Little Bill and Arlington were overturned and many barges, boats and small craft torn from the moorings and sent adrift. The passenger barge Dakota was forced against the bridge and had her side crushed in. She sank in several feet of water. When the storm struck Keeler, Captain Keeler, May Miller, Millie Linbaugh, a cook, and two colored chamber maids were on board, but all reached shore in safety except

Millie Linbaugh, who became exhausted and was drowned.

The steamer Courier with 400 passengers on board, was swept with water and the passengers became panic-stricken, but Captain Klein succeeded in making a landing at Painter's mills and all were discharged from the boat in safety. While the wind was at its height, an unknown woman attempted to cross the Point bridge. She was caught in the whirlwind and blown into the river, and was drowned.

Thousands of people were at Schenley park. When the storm came on there was a rush for shelter. The wind has prostrated the electric light wires and several women were seriously shocked by coming in contact with them. On Second avenue, a feed wire was broken and in attempting to repair it, Conductor Adams was fatally shocked. On the south side, the large grain elevator of Henderson & Johnson, in course of construction, was almost completely demolished. Heavy iron girders fell on a row of tenements and crushed them, but fortunately the occupants were away from home. Two freight cars on the Pittsburgh, Lake Erie road were blown into the Monongahela river. Portions of Monongahela and Castle Shannon inclines were carried away by the wind. On the north side of the Allegheny great damage was done to small buildings and many trees were uprooted in the parks, but as far as reported no persons were injured. On Arc street, this city, a new brick building was blown over crushing a double frame dwelling adjoining, occupied by Mrs. Daily with one child and Mr. Pryer with three children. They were dug out and are unhurt.

Deming, New Mexico, *Headlight*. The fair to be held by the colonists at Colonia Diaz next month will be a surprise to the many who will attend from this section, and the colonists will make a wonderful showing of their many and rich resources.

Iron County *Record*: The heavy storms of last week in the vicinity of Milford destroyed a large amount of grain. Many farms were entirely submerged by the flood. There was a big flood in Coal creek Monday afternoon. Old timers claim that it was the greatest flood known here for the past twenty or twenty-five years. The roar of the advancing torrent could be heard a long distance, and the grinding of the great rocks as they were being driven along the bed of the stream was gruesome and almost appalling. No serious damage was done. Peter Jensen, of Beaver, who has the mail contract from Milford to St. George, was in the city Tuesday and Wednesday looking after affairs along the line. Mr. Jensen was accompanied by Joseph W. Wilson, of Salt Lake, who is representing the Great Western Roller Mill Co. Mr. Wilson is trying to induce the Co-op to put a roller process in their mill. The Co-op board of directors will consider the subject at its next meeting. Southern Utah has been raked and scraped by cattle buyers this season, and while there is considerable stock still on the range, it will be several years before there will be as many cattle in the country as there have been.