

HUNDRED PERSONS PERISH IN FLAMES

Tank Explodes in Theater in Boyertown, Pa., Causing Terrible Fire and Panic.

BODIES REDUCED TO ASHES.

Oil Lamps Were Upset by Those Who Sought to Quiet the Audience—Scores Fatally Injured.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 13.—Nearly 100 persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic tonight, and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally. A majority of the killed were members of the leading families of the town.

LIST OF DEAD.

The list of dead, so far as known, follows:

- Mrs. Frank Cullen.
- Lulu Fogley.
- Mrs. Daniel Gabel.
- Daniel Kramer.
- Frederick Kramer.
- Frederick Godschall.
- Herbert Godschall.
- Eileen Godschall.
- Misha Reiter.
- Harry Toms.
- Mrs. Harry Reinhardt.
- Mrs. George Romig.
- Blanche Boehl.
- Mabel Graft.
- Mrs. J. J. Becker.
- Three children of Mrs. Becker.
- Mabel Hoehl.
- Leola Trader.
- John Bauer.
- Charles Lehyer.
- Daniel Krause.
- Morris Anderson.
- James Anderson.
- Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson.
- Mrs. Carrie Weand.
- Franklin Leidy.
- Charles Lowery.
- Jennie Konkle Kunz.
- Miss Mary Taber.
- Mary Foreman.
- Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Foreman.
- A daughter of Amos Engle.
- Clara Hallman.
- May Bauman (all of Boyertown).
- Mrs. Enhrain Johnson.
- Miss Johnson, a daughter.
- Mrs. Amos Hartman.
- Wife of Dr. Francis.
- Frank Boyer.
- William Boyer.
- E. H. Boyer.
- Anna Dorr.
- Mrs. Anna Bauman.
- Herbert Johnson.
- Mrs. Herbert Johnson.
- Daughter of William Boyer (all of New Berlinville).
- Mrs. Reuben Hoffman.
- Oscar B. Mench.
- Mary Ronch (all of Gilbertsville).

CAUSE OF PANIC.

While the "Scottish Reformation" was being reproduced in Rhoades's Opera House by Mrs. Monroe of Washington, a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children who composed the greater part of the audience.

It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred.

In their attempt to quiet the great crowd, those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal oil lamps used at the footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terrified people who were fighting fanatically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement.

A ROARING FURNACE.

It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tanks until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace. There was a mad scramble to the stairway and scores of women and children were knocked down and trampled upon, many of them doubtless being crushed to death.

In the meantime a relief corps was at work at the entrance of the theater, endeavoring to release those who were wedged in the doorway and unable to extricate themselves. Many persons who otherwise might have made good their escape from the furnace were held in check by the awful jam at the doors.

As the flames cut their way toward the front of the building, women could be seen to clasp their hands and fall back into the flames. Once the doors were cleared, the rescuers dragged many women and children

Are Your Kidneys Perfectly Sound?

If not a simple remedy used in time will brace you up. Drake's Palmetto Wine Compound is a splendid invigorator of sluggish or diseased kidneys. Made of Pure Juice and Vegetable Ingredients.

75c a Bottle

The Hot Drinks Served at our Fountain are Growing in Popularity

DRUG STORE

The Pure Drug Dispensary 112 - 114 South Main St.

from the stairways leading to the balcony. Some of them were badly injured that they died before reaching a temporary hospital. Skulls were crushed and the faces of some of the victims were so horribly mutilated that they were barely recognizable.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain that the bodies of some of the unfortunates who were overcome by the smoke and perished will never be found. Assistance was asked from Pottstown, but before the fire apparatus from that city reached this place, the entire center of the structure was a roaring furnace.

PANIC UNNECESSARY.

Had the women and children heeded the warnings of the cooler heads in the audience the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows at such a catastrophe. Assistance was at once asked of both Reading and Pottstown, and special trains carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to the scene of the disaster. Every home within a radius of half a dozen blocks of the opera house was made a temporary hospital, where the wounded were rushed by carriages and other means of conveyances.

Boyertown is a borough with a population of about 2,500, and is located about midway between Pottstown and Reading.

Hundreds of persons surrounded the burning structure, apparently desirous of the pending danger from falling walls. Many parents who had children in the house were pacing to and fro, almost maddened by the awful sight.

A NIGHT OF ANGUISH.

The night was one of waiting and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire was pitiful. As the night wore on the crowds surrounding the building grew to such proportions that it was almost impossible for the police force which had been augmented by a score of men from Pottstown and Reading to keep the people back. One woman who said she had lost her entire family in the theater was with difficulty restrained from throwing herself into the roaring flames.

At 1 o'clock a special train from Reading bearing physicians and nurses reached here, but there was little for them to do, as the injured who had dashed themselves to the pavement had been cared for by the local physicians, assisted by the Pottstown relief corps. A few minutes after midnight the rear wall of the theater collapsed. The flames broke out anew and those who had vainly hoped to be able to find the remains of some of their dear ones turned in despair from the scene of the awful catastrophe. It is estimated that at least 75 persons were injured by being trampled upon either on the stairway or by jumping from the windows of the burning structure. Of this number, at least a score were fatally injured, at least a half dozen succumbed to their injuries after being hurried to one of the temporary hospitals.

Three children ranging in ages from 8 to 2 years and one woman who were dragged from the building by persons who had rushed to the rescue had been trampled almost to a pulp. The skull of one of the unfortunate children had been crushed as though an egg shell. The fire was under control shortly before 1 o'clock but it will be absolutely impossible to attempt to make a search of the ruins before tomorrow. It is extremely doubtful if the remains of the victims can be distinguished from the debris, as many of the audience were covered with burning oil as the lamps exploded.

COAL CARRYING ROADS.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The coal-carrying railroads who are required under an act of Congress to dispose of their coal properties by May 1st, have submitted to the attorney-general a proposition looking to a postponement of the date of enforcement of the law on account of the recent financial disturbance.

The proposition was submitted through R. W. DeForest of New York, general counsel of these railroads. The roads represent that, owing to the financial situation, if they carry out the law, it will result in sacrificing their property at prices greatly below its real value. The proposition has been taken under advisement by the attorney-general.

KANSAS ANTI-LIQUOR LAW.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The supreme court of the United States today upheld the anti-liquor law of Kansas by affirming the decisions of the supreme court of that state in a number of cases, including that of Fritz Durlin, of Shawnee county, convicted of violating the law. Durlin appealed to the federal supreme court on the ground that the statute contravenes the federal Constitution because it gives discretion to probate judges in granting permits. The decision was announced by the chief justice. There was no written opinion.

PLEADS GUILTY.

Postmaster at Searchlight, Nev., Admits Embezzlement.

Carson, Nev., Jan. 13.—In the United States district court today the matter of the injunction asked for by the Mine Owners' association against the mine-union of Goldfield went over until tomorrow as criminal cases filled the day's proceedings. Postmaster Atwell, under indictment for embezzlement of \$1,000 from the Searchlight postoffice, withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty. Atwell will be sentenced tomorrow to the penitentiary for a term of one year. His action in changing the plea came as a general surprise to all connected with the case.

A CRIPPLE MURDERED.

Kansas City, Jan. 13.—Sidney Herndon, owner of the Nevada hotel, was found dead in his room in the building at noon today. A large hammer was found beside the body, which had been crushed. It is believed that Herndon was robbed and then murdered. Herndon is known to have carried much money. His pocketbook is missing. Mr. Herndon came to Kansas City from Tulsa, Ok., in 1906. The murdered man was a cripple and was but four feet in height.

SENATE AWAITS REPORT ON BONDS

Issue of Panama Bonds Will Not Be Discussed in Detail Until Received.

SENATOR TILLMAN TO FORE.

Wants to Know How Banks Got Them At Lower Rate Than Private Persons Bid.

Washington, Jan. 13.—After a short discussion in the senate concerning the recent bond issue of the treasury department, it was agreed before taking up the question in detail to await a report from the secretary of the treasury, which Senator Aldrich assured the senators would be before them on next Thursday. Mr. Clay of Georgia asked whether the secretary would be required to make a report of these facts by law. Mr. Aldrich replied that he believed he was so required, but that he thought it would be best to let them go to the committee on finance without attempting to pass them without reference to that committee.

He said he wished to lay some correspondence on this subject before the committee and read from the vice-president's desk a letter from George H. Klobbers of Wilmington, Del., stating that he had bid an average of 104 1/2 for \$100,000 of Panama bonds, but had not been awarded any of them, although they had sold for 102 1/2. Mr. Tillman wanted to know how it happened that the bonds had been sold to the banks at a lower price and denied to citizens who bid higher for them.

He also read a letter from Asst. Secy. J. Edwards of the treasury department to Mr. Klobbers, as follows:

"In reply to your inquiry of the 17th inst., you are informed that individual bidders whose bids were greater than \$10,000 were not allowed any bonds."

He also read another letter from a correspondent in Augusta, Ga., who wanted to know how it had happened that the secretary places "vast currency in New York banks" to "enable the financial stringency" while these banks charge 1 1/2 per cent premium on this money to southern banks. "The stringency seems to be a source of profit to some one," Mr. Tillman's correspondent added.

Mr. Bailey of Texas wanted to know whether Mr. Tillman's Delaware correspondent was the man who had instituted a suit against the secretary of the treasury in the matter of the award of these bonds.

Mr. Tillman did not know whether the injunction suit has been brought by this correspondent.

"As some courts have been so glad to issue injunctions," said Mr. Bailey, "I think they would be glad of an opportunity in this case. I think this course on the part of the secretary is the more remarkable in view of the fact that the purpose was to attract the money that was in hiding. They might attract it from places where citizens had it, but not from the banks. A part of the understanding under which these bonds were issued was that 30 per cent of the money received from their sale would be left on deposit with the banks."

"If that be true," he declared, "the banks received from the government interest at the rate of 30 per cent per annum."

Continuing, Mr. Bailey added:

"The government sold these bonds at 102 1/2 and deposited in the banks 90 per cent of the purchase price, so that the \$10 paid on each bond actually drew interest at the rate of 30 per cent per annum. It was not intended that this money should be used for the Panama canal, but it was to relieve the financial stringency. Under that plan with that profession on his lips the secretary seems to have declined the money which individual citizens were willing to take from their trunks or other places of hiding and turned the bonds over to the banks at 30 per cent per annum."

Mr. Tillman remarked that he would wait for the secretary's reply.

Mr. Tillman's resolutions were referred to the committee on finance and the discussion of the financial question was suspended awaiting Secy. Cortelyou's response to the senate inquiry.

A CURE FOR MISERY.

"I have found a cure for the misery malaria poison produces," says R. M. James, of Louellen, S. C. "It's called Electric Bitters, and comes in 50-cent bottles. It breaks up a case of chills or a bilious attack in almost no time, and it puts yellow jaundice clean out of commission." This great tonic medicine and blood purifier gives quick relief in all stomach, liver and kidney complaints, and the misery of malaria back. Sold under guarantee at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112-114 Main, Salt Lake City.

STOCK BROKERS FAIL FOR MILLION AND A HALF.

New York, Jan. 13.—The suspension of the firm of Robert Maclay & Co., was announced today on the stock exchange. The firm consists of Robert Maclay and Alfred B. Maclay, who are sons of the late Robert Maclay, president of the Knickerbocker Trust company before Charles F. Johnson was named to head that institution, and Harold H. Weeks, the former Columbia college athlete, who is the board member. Robert Maclay said he hoped the suspension would be only temporary. The obligations, according to counsel for the firm, amount to \$1,600,000, which is covered by collateral not readily saleable in the present market.

At last year the firm's name was Thomas, Maclay & Co., best known for its organization of the Western ice company, in whose affairs E. H. Thomas played a prominent part. The senior member of the firm, who is a son

Easy Change Coffee is delicious

POSTUM and "There's a Reason"

Read "The Road to Wellville" in Page.

HOUSE IN TREETOP.

A farmer living in Wrentham, Mass., a small village near Providence, R. I., has built a house in the tops of two adjoining pine trees on his farm and will spend the winter there. The man is 35 years old and has been compulsive for several years. The "house" is about 9x8, with a door and two windows, which will be closed only to keep out snow and rain. Access is had by means of a rope ladder which, Robinson Crusoe-like, will be drawn up each night.

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This mixture will usually break up a cold over night. Care should be exercised to use only the genuine Virgin Oil of Pine, which is prepared in the laboratories of the Leach Chemical Co., Cincinnati, O., and put up for dispensing only in 1-ounce vials, each securely sealed in a round wooden case. It is better to purchase the different ingredients separately and mix them at home.

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One Miner Fatally Injured, the Other Painfully Hurt.

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One Bulgarian was killed and several wounded. They were attacked because they consented to a cut in wages at a lumber mill.

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