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SAN FRANCISCO HOLOCAUST

Baldwin Hotel, Stores, Theater, Scenery and Effects of Secret Service Company Consumed--Two Lives Lost.

First Fire That Has Visited the California Capital for Years—Scenes of Heroism and Thrilling Rescues During the Conflagration.

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 23, 2:40 a. m.—The Baldwin Hotel, on the corner of Market and Powell streets, is in flames and seems to be doomed to destruction. The first alarm was turned in at 2:15 a. m., and since then a second alarm has been sounded. The fire seems to envelop the entire building and the flames are bursting through the roof in various places. Showers of sparks are being scattered over buildings in the vicinity and only the absence of wind will prevent a disastrous conflagration, extending over several blocks. The hotel is owned by Millionaire E. J. Baldwin and cost with its furniture nearly $1,000,000. It is of brick, and the interior construction is of wood and a high tower with a wooden tower on top has offended fuel for flames.

STARTED IN THE THEATER.

The fire is supposed to have started in the Baldwin Theater, which is in the hotel building, the flames extended rapidly towards the roof and burst through windows of upper stories. The guests were panic stricken, and many jumped from windows and a number of them have been taken to the receiving hospital. No other fatalities have been reported. The fire is still spreading in the height of the building making it difficult for the firemen to do effective work in extinguishing the flames. The buildings immediately adjoining is of iron and it is hoped it will be saved. There are some 400 guests and employes in the hotel, nearly all of whom sleep on the top floor, where the fire is raging fiercest. Fears are entertained for some of them have been burned to death. The firemen are making efforts to reach them with ladders, but so far without success. It is hoped, however, that the flames will be extinguished before loss of life, as they appear to be spreading in new directions and getting the upper hand in their progress.

The Baldwin Hotel is only second to the Palace Hotel in the great catastrophe of the city and is furnished in elegant style. The first floor is partly occupied by the Baldwin Theater and a fashionable cafe. The Baldwin Theater, for under lease to Gorlinski, Marx & Co., is a leading place of amusement in the Pacific Coast. The last play presented, produced by Wm. Gillette and his famous company, was played there for eight nights to a crowded house. The performance that the fire broke out, all the scenery and property of the company was burned.

Some way fire was burning from the roof of the hotel by several young men who had been in the upper stories of the building, the whole back of the building facing Powell street. They rushed into the office of the hotel and with the aid of the night clerk and others, they went through the corridors giving the alarm. The lobby was full of guests, it being a popular evening place of resort, many had retired to their rooms, but the hotel is filled to its large numbers. Most of the people in the building are believed to have escaped, but the roof was in flames a minute was seen endeavoring to escape from an upper window, clothed only in night shirt. The flames in the rear of the street he seemed to fall back, were now the raging flames, so he suddenly disappeared. The identity is unknown. Those connected with the hotel are convinced that several of their employes have perished in the flames, but owing to the great excitement prevailing in the vicinity of those who are missing they cannot be ascertained. One man, named Morris, was taken to the receiving hospital, having been injured in his leg by a fall.

The whole interior of the hotel and annex are now a raging furnace. It is hard to prophesy everything above the third floor certainly is doomed. It may be possible to save some of the valuables from the stores on the ground floor, and possibly a portion of the furniture and fixtures of the building. The thousands of people crowd the streets in the vicinity, and the guests of the establishment are in a state of excitement as they see their personal property go to the flames.

The entire city is illuminated by the fire, which is one of the largest ever known here. At present it is probable that the loss will be in the neighborhood of $500,000.

KLONDIKER PERISHES.

Later—The Mr. Morris taken to the receiving hospital from the Baldwin Hotel, died. He recently returned from the Klondike and was taken sick on his way to this city. Mr. N. D. Ness, of St. Louis, was carried in the receiving hospital, having been badly injured by a fall from a window. Several others were injured from the window. The patient mentioned has been called to the hotel and they are expected to behold dead or in a dying condition, in the hospital.

At 4:30 a. m. the Ellis street wall of the hotel appears to be swaying slightly, and fears are entertained that it will fall if the flames are not soon under control. As the street is a narrow one and the wall very lofty, it will be quite dangerous to approach to the Golden Eagle Building across the street, West hotel and other buildings opposite the Baldwin.

About Powell street are the Columbia Theater, St. Anna building, and several lodging houses, which are also in danger. The corner on which the hotel is stands is one of the business centers of the city, and the street car traffic will be interrupted for some time, if the fire of the day. The Baldwin Hotel is owned and managed by Stone & company, who formerly managed it at great expense. The building is owned by the estate of E. J. Baldwin, for several hundred thousand dollars. The stores on the ground floor belong to Gilmore, Wolf & company, cigars; Weil & company, gents' furnishings; J. J. Ryan & company, hats; Baldwin Clothing house; Schoenfarber & company, body; Baldwin Jewelry Co.; Baldwin Money establishment; Grant & company's clothiers; Burlingame photographic parlors, and Bangers Grill room in the basement. On the first floor is a Bohemian restaurant and grill room, connected by the manager of the hotel.

At 3:30 this morning the fire is still beyond control, though it appears probable that it will be confined to the hotel building. There is a report current that night servant girls, who slept on floors, have failed to take every precaution. The fire is still eating the base of the west end of the hotel and only from there can it be reached. Which falls, the dome, which for many years has been a landmark, will be destroyed. In this dome was stored many reels of the Baldwin theater.

The Baldwin theater was completely demolished by the fire, and all the scenery, etc. The other effects of the dramatic division, which was filling an engagement at Post theatre, were saved. Fortunately the Bonita Service company was all rescued. Nothing of the company was lost. It was a great loss of jewelry and scenery belonging to members of the company was lost. In addition the contracts were burned.

The wall on the north side (Ellis street) appears to be strong, but the west wall, which appears to be very weak, leans toward Market.

The Baldwin Theater and basements of pieces of business opposite the Baldwin were damaged by water to an extent of $15,000.

E. J. Baldwin, owner of the hotel, is prostrated and unable to talk much about his affairs. He is to be with his sick bed and cannot be able to estimate his loss for several days. H. W. Luke, manager of the hotel, barely escaped to get out with his wife and child. He says there were 407 guests in the hotel.

Dr. Freeman of the Gray Camp Island company, escaped but lost $1,000 in cash and all of his papers.

J. B. McCabe of Butte, occupied room 44, on the second floor of the hotel. He lost all his personal property, but escaped without much trouble.

James F. Ellis, of Ellinwood, escaped room 218 on the third floor. He had a hard time getting out of the hotel, owing to the smoke which filled the corridors.

Mrs. Sharp, a wealthy lady from New York, escaped from the burning building by sliding down a stand pipe on the Market street front. She fell part of the distance and was badly bruised.

Harry Fudich, a Chicago bookmaker, clambered down the fire escape from the second to the third floor. There his iron ladder came to an end. Fearful lest the firemen should not reach him, he dropped to the street below and fortunately escaped with only a sprained ankle.

Jack Purdy, the well known commission agent, who had a room on the fifth floor, is missing. It is stated that he has been seen on the street after the fire broke out.

A number of prominent bookmakers are at present guests of the hotel. Many of them carried large amounts of money with them, and it is thought the guests have been lost in the general effort to escape with their lives.

Other guests of the hotel are W. H. Rice, Sr., and wife, and W. H. Rice, Jr., Colonel Henry Knowlsby, the attorney, and Mrs. Tarkerfan, the actress, who were also guests of the hotel.

Lookers were on the scene and began to make a way with what they could of the effects of the hotel. Many of the goods were observed at the corner of O'Farrell and Mason streets carrying a trunk and other valuable effects, which had been left on the sidewalk. Policeman O'Keefe called upon them to halt, and they refused to do so until he drew his revolver and fired two shots from his revolver. Then they dropped their burden and made their escape.

Some of the Painfully Guests.

San Francisco, Nov. 23.—The following named people registered at the Baldwin hotel yesterday:

Mrs. Hoffman, San Jose; E. J. Caldwell, Los Angeles; D. Lipman, San Francisco; J. W. Blair, Portland; W. M. Ring, Vancouver; J. Ryan, Stockton; J. Wadsworth and wife, Texas; D. S. Burton, San Francisco; J. Gottlieb, Keweka; Dr. Decker, Tokio; F. C. Sherman, Los Angeles; Mrs. Hunter, Boston; Dr. Partington, Arizona; J. Perrenelin, Lexington; W. H. Clark, Stockton; Mrs. Ellis, Los Angeles; L. A. Bonkem, San Jose; D. V. Mahoney, San Jose; J. M. Fragmore and wife, New York; L. Lewis, Chicago; Mrs. Mary Hoey, New York; L. Meyer, New York, Miss Perry, New York; Miss E. Gray, New York City; C. Lewis, Chicago; Mrs. H. S. Carlton, Portland; D. Prince, Boston; J. N. Cullin, Portland; H. P. Adams, San Francisco.

American Rails for Russia.

New York, Nov. 23.—Sergeo Priede, who has an office in the Manhattan building, is about to start for New Orleans as the representative of large manufacturing interests in Russia, and he has never retired now building between New Orleans, Chattanooga and Sargent. Mr. Priede returned to Russia from Chicago, where he spent 18 months in the employ of Mr. Adolph Dewey's first when he was engaged in selling goods in Brooklyn and in Philadelphia with the locomotive works for the railroad.

Mr. Priede was the first Cossacks to come over the seas, which he designed guessed would be colected for the new railroad.

He believes that in the future the United States will supply the material for the railroads of the Russian empire, and declares his intention of spending a part of each year bringing American manufacturers in the East that San Francisco. It seems as the trans-Siberian railroad is completed will be of the greatest commercial importance. He believes that Russia desires to build the Siberian railroad between her Pacific port and America.

Be Compelled to Testify.

St. Paul, Nov. 23.—The state railroad commission has requested the attorney general that the Great Northern refused to answer certain questions of the commission, and he has decided that such action is to be deemed admissible. The road refuses to state the number of its gross earnings. Mr. Hill is to be the final gross earnings of the system. Attorney General Childs will probably proceed against the company and ask for a mandamus to compel it to furnish the figures desired by the state railway commission.

FIRST ORDER

War Department Issues Edict Regarding Occupation of Cuba.

MOVE AT AN EARLY DATE.

Troops Will Embark at Savannah Without Unnecessary Delays on Hostilities.

COMMISSARY WILL BE WELL PROVIDED.

Profiting by Past Experience, the Troops To be Provided with Tent Floors and Anti-Fever Impedimenta.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The war department today issued the first of the general orders looking to the occupation of the central and western provinces of Cuba, by the United States troops. The order contemplates the early beginning of the movement, as the Spanish troops are expected to have progressed with the evacuation movement early in December. The order is dated Nov. 23, and is as follows:

"Commanding General Second Army Corps, Augusta, Ga.

"With the approval of the secretary of war, the First brigade, Third division of your corps will proceed fully equipped for field service and take station in Cuba as follows:

Headquarters and one regiment of infantry at Pinar del Rio; one regiment of infantry at Marisel and one regiment of infantry at Guanajay. The troops will embark at Savannah and the movements will be so regulated that no regiment will reach Savannah more than twenty-four hours prior to sailing.

The regiment for Marisel should land at that point. The other two should land at Havana and proceed to destination by rail. It is not necessary that the entire brigade leave at the same time, but regiments may move in succession as transport can be provided. The evacuation of Pinar del Rio by the Spanish will be completed by December 1 and the troops there designated should reach destination by Dec. 1 at earlier.

The brigade will take as much of its wagon transportation as is possible and camp and garrison equipage, including tent floors.

The quartermaster's department will provide the necessary transportation and thirty days' forage for animals; the subsistence department make provision for thirty days' subsistence rations and the medical department provide proper medical attendance and stores.

Acknowledge receipt and advise that the commanding general of brigade report to the adjutant general of the army the date of departure of each movement and upon arrival at destination report direct to the adjutant general of the army by telegraph.

By command of Major General Miles.

H. C. CORBIN, Adjutant.

This brigade is commanded by Brigadier General Wilson. C. Ovelle, and consists of the 10th Pennsylvania, 1st New Jersey and 22nd New York regiments. They are now in camp at Augusta, Ga., having recently arrived at that place from Camp Meade, Pennsylvania. Marisel is the seaport of Pinar del Rio province on the north side. It lies about thirty miles west of Havana and lying at the mouth of the Cuyaguateje river, the nearest point to the railroad line running from Havana to the city of Pinar del Rio, the capital of the province of the same name, which is about 120 miles west of Havana, and is to be the headquarters of the American army of occupation in the province.

The railroad can be reached from Guanajay by a short march.

TREACHERY ON THE BUFFALO.

Marine Engineers on the Manila Transport Disable Machinery.

Simply Because They Did Not Want to be Sent to a Station So Far from Home.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says:

Chief of Engineers Merrill has received the report of the board of inquiry which has been investigating the circumstances surrounding the breaking down of the machinery of the steamer Buffalo, which was destined for Manila with about 300 soldiers to relieve the men of Admiral Dewey's fleet when it arrived at Manila. It is stated that the report of the board fully exonerates