

the building was ablaze in the upper stories. Erwin has been quite unconscious of the fire, which had been observed but a few minutes earlier by several passers-by, who were startled by a sudden burst of flames in the fourth story. After the first alarm, the fire chief turned in a second and general alarm. A stiff breeze fanned the fire within the brick walls, causing it to develop with extraordinary rapidity, and it was soon apparent that the interior of the structure would be entirely destroyed. Adjacent to the brick factory was a row of old wooden buildings, including a branch Salvation Army barracks and the Southern police station. These seemed doomed. Fortunately the police station contained only three prisoners, but the terrified yells and appeals of the trio to be liberated caused intense excitement among the gathering crowds. They were transferred as quickly as possible to the Central station.

Meanwhile floor after floor of the crocker factory fell in, rendering the side walls unsafe. Then the east wall of the factory toppled over, and a waiting sheet of flame spread over the wide wooden area adjoining. With the crash of the east wall occurred the tragedy of the conflagration. A score of firemen were in the neighboring paint shop, endeavoring from that point to check the spread of the flames. A falling timber struck Fireman Mahoney on the leg, breaking it. He refused to allow his comrades to carry him away in their arms, insisting that he must be borne off on a shutter. All but two of the band of firemen ran to procure a shutter, and just as they left their injured companion, the wall fell, burying beneath a mass of brick and mortar Mahoney and his faithful friends. By dint of much dangerous labor, the three bodies were recovered.

The loss to the brick building is estimated at \$40,000, with \$60,000 loss on the contents, consisting of machinery and stock.

The damage to the Salvation Army barracks was \$1,000.

**NEW YORK, June 7.**—William J. Calhoun, who was sent to Cuba as special commissioner to investigate the cause of the death in prison of Dr. Ruiz, an American citizen, reached this city on his return today, accompanied by Geo. W. Fishback, his secretary, and Charles M. Pepper, a Washington newspaper correspondent, who went to Cuba with the commissioner. Ramon O. Williams, formerly U. S. consul-general to Cuba, came on the same steamer.

Mr. Calhoun said that the commission held three sittings between May 20 and June 1 at Havana, Regulus and Guanabacoa.

The papers examined in the case were chiefly military records. The final report will be made to Washington by General Lee.

"At the sessions of the commission," Mr. Calhoun said in response to a reporter's questioning, "we examined several witnesses, but when you ask me if they were plentiful, I can only say that they did not run after us and we had to use no force to keep them away. They were composed of Spaniards and Cubans. The Spanish witnesses, and in

fact all of those who testified were so surrounded with safeguards that it was impossible to get at the naked truth. One person whom we would have liked to have heard could not be found. This was Fondevilla, who commanded the Spanish in the Guanabacoa territory. He disappeared and it was impossible to find him. Captain General Weyler did not appear at the investigation. We inspected the jail at Guanabacoa, and when we were there it was suspiciously clean.

"We learned that Dr. Ruiz was arrested Feb. 4, charged with having some connection in an assault which took place in a railroad train between Guanabacoa and Havana. He was placed in solitary confinement or, as it is known there, he was incommunicado. Thirteen days later he was taken out of his cell on account of his mental and physical condition. It was then found that he was suffering from a severe wound on the head and he died two hours after he had been released from the cell in which the sore of his injury is buried. The deceased doctor's American citizenship was never denied. The autopsy showed that he died of congestion of the brain. His remains are interred at Guanabacoa. We had no positive or direct proof of any assault whatever, and the conclusion arrived at must be based on the detailed evidence in the report of Consul General Lee, which is now on its way to Washington. I myself will make no report, and I prefer not to say anything as to my idea of the affair until the report is made public by the proper authorities at Washington. I shall go to Washington tomorrow morning.

Mr. Calhoun said that he had been treated courteously while in Cuba by all those with whom he came in contact. His visit was a pleasant one, but owing to the bad weather which prevailed during his stay he was unable to visit the interior.

G. W. Fishback, who is Mr. Calhoun's secretary, was reticent when spoken to in reference to his trip but he made one significant statement: "We did not go within the insurgent lines, but the insurgents, however, are not all within the lines."

Mr. Williams said he had been traveling through Mexico and had a very enjoyable trip. When informed that his name had been mentioned for the Spanish mission he expressed surprise and said he had not received the offer.

**SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK, Colo., June 7.**—By reciting Casey at the Bat on the summit of Pike's Peak today in the presence of a large crowd, Mr. De Wolf Hopper has established beyond question his reputation as being the "toughest and most wonderful actor in the world." He sent the following telegram to the Lamb's club of New York: "Am up at St. Peter's gate; have fixed admittance for all true lambs."

**CHICAGO, June 7.**—The leaders of the silver Republicans are gathering in the city for a committee meeting Tuesday. Among those already here are:

Ex-Congressman Charles A. Towne of Minnesota, Senator Fred T. Dubois of Idaho, Senator R. F. Pettigrew of South Dakota, Congressman Charles

Hartman of Montana, H. C. Jones of Washington, and Governor J. P. Lee of South Dakota.

June 8th was set for a meeting of the silver Republican forces in Chicago on Tuesday last. At that time the four senators and six representatives of that faith, sent out of Washington to the chairman of each state central committee a call for a meeting at this time. The object is to reorganize the party and to extend it to every section of the United States.

The committee consists of one member from each state, with ex-Congressman Towne as chairman.

Few senators or congressmen are members, but most of them of the faith will be present to lend inspiration to the cause. Besides those mentioned above, Senators Teller, Stewart and Mantle and Congressman Shafroth, Newlands and Carter are expected today. The meeting will be called to order tomorrow at 1 o'clock at the Leland hotel, and a campaign of action will be instituted. It is expected that speakers and literature will be sent out through the country and particularly the east and the continual fight made from now until the next presidential election.

In an interview, Congressman Hartman said: "We are here, not to divide the silver forces, but to unite them. We realize that silver is strongest among the Democrats and we expect to heartily affiliate with them in anything that is for the advancement of the silver cause. However, many Republicans are not willing to call themselves Democrats or Populists and so we have to make a party for them. We are not for any individuals or party, but for silver. Our meeting here will be harmonious and much good to the cause of silver will result from it."

Ex-Senator Dubois said: "The cause of silver is growing stronger every day. The money question is the greatest issue today, and we will keep up the fight for silver regardless of the work now being done by the monetary commission now abroad."

Senator Pettigrew said: "I just arrived from Washington, where I have been making a hard fight on the lumber schedule in the Dingley bill. We are making good progress now on the bill, and I think it will pass by June 25. It will then go to the House and a motion to concur will be defeated. A conference committee will then be named from each branch and probably by July 8th or 10th the bill will be agreed upon. This will be at once passed by both houses and adjournment will then take place. The silver Republican senators will not oppose the bill. It is not probable that their votes will be needed, but I believe all of them will vote for it. The Republican party is purely responsible for the bill, and we are anxious to have it passed in order to demonstrate that it is not the tariff that is affecting the country. The people will then realize the truth."

**NEW YORK, June 7.**—A dispatch from Madrid to the Journal says:

The solution of the cabinet crisis has caused an enormous sensation here. Premier Canovas keeps the same cabinet ministers and he also retains Weyler in office. An impression pre-