

FOREIGN.

St. PETERSBURG, 9.—The *Nuovo Vremya* expresses indignation at the reference in President Arthur's message to the representations made by the U. S. Government to Russia on the subject of Jews. It says: President Arthur has departed from the principles of American policy of non-interference in the affairs of foreign countries, and it remarks the message does not refer to England's treatment of Ireland. It further says President Arthur recently repelled interference in regard to the Panama Canal, but yet allows himself to judge of Russian affairs, which he does not understand.

VIENNA, 10.—About 2 o'clock the fourth gallery fell in, and the firemen are carrying out lumps of charred remains, without form and far beyond the possibility of recognition. Who these victims are will not be known until their relations have announced them as missing.

Long lists of the dead and missing appear to-night. Among those already identified are the Polish Deputy Pengowski and wife, Max Ritter, Von Bitner Canker, C. Z. Ern, Mr. Carr (described as from America), Arthur Waddell, a student from Scotland, Dr. Boog and his young wife, Prof. Loewan and wife, of Nicholasburg, the architect Melkof, of Vienna, Siegmund Raschberff (broker), Anton Lipp, A. J. Heearz, Duschinski (a student) and three chorus girls. Among the missing are three professors and several students of the Friez Military Preparatory School, and among them is young Count Siegmund, of Tez. A young Hungarian student, who was in the third gallery, told me that no sooner did the fire break into the auditorium than the air became insufferably stifling. He managed to escape, but he saw some fall down suffocated before he reached the stairs, and he only escaped by finding his way to the window of the upper loggia. Comparatively few people effected their escape from the two upper galleries through the pitch dark passage. Many fell at the narrow winding stairway leading from one gallery to the other. In the narrow circular stairway leading from the second to the third gallery, 30 bodies were found together.

Brown, of the firm of Brown Bros. & Co., of New York, who with his wife and entire family visited the Ring Theatre on Thursday afternoon at a matinee concert, and therefore left the theatre about an hour before the catastrophe, says that the stairways are narrow, and the passages leading from the lobby to the parquette seats were scarcely wide enough for two persons to pass and that he had vowed after arriving in the open air again, never to take his family into such a death trap again. The difficulty of escaping, even after leaving the auditorium, may be gathered from the narrative of a young man who had a seat in one of the galleries. He says that the galleries were quite filled.

An eye witness said that as soon as the fire burst through the curtain into the auditorium a terrible cry went up from the entire house. To spring up and hasten to the exit was the work of a moment. In the corridors the deepest darkness prevailed. With many others I tried to make my way in the dark, caught hold of the coat of a person before me, and my own coat was held by a string of others behind me. Thus we grouped our way to the stairs where also it was pitch dark. All fell on one another, but finally we reached the grand loggia. While we were escaping we heard the piercing shrieks of the unfortunates who were either crushed to death or suffocated by the smoke and flames. Those who could not escape by the stairs hastened to the windows of the loggia. It was a terrible time, dense crowds struggled together, those behind urging those in front to spring out or we shall all die. Some made the spring and were caught by the public below. I remained until the nets were brought and the life leaps could be made in safety. Yet few seem to have escaped so easily.

Two beautiful girls were at the Morgue with their faces scarcely discolored, looking as if they were only asleep. Another youthful figure, only one charred stump of her neck remaining. Her death is described easily. Caught in the dense surging crowd, the flames descended upon them all, charring and consuming only the heads with the fiery heat. Most of the better preserved bodies show one arm uplifted

as if struggling for freedom, while the other is pressed to the mouth to exclude the destroying breath of the fire. Others have the heads and upper parts of the bodies without the least mark, while the feet and legs are charred off. Other victims are represented by the trunk alone, the head, feet and legs missing entirely. Those who were exposed to the flames are as dark as Africans, but with the form and features often faithfully preserved. Other bodies retain the form of the last desperate struggles, the features expressing the final cramp of agony. Others are fair women, some with diamond rings still glittering on their fingers, the only objects by which they can possibly be recognized. Some have been trampled to death and then partly consumed by the fire. Some have their skulls crushed in and limbs distorted and broken; from others the bowels protrude—a horrifying sight. But why continue the ghastly list?

So far only a dozen people have been recorded as having escaped wounded from the catastrophe. The rest are all dead.

All this fearful result is due to criminal negligence. The week after the Nice fire the police authorities ordered that Director Janour should have a reserve of petroleum lights in all the passages and galleries in case of the extinction of the gas; that a sufficient number of water plugs should be in the flies, and that a wire gauze curtain should be placed before the drop scene, to be let down in case of fire on the stage. Six months have passed since this order, and a fire breaks out in the scenery on the stage. Every precaution for the security of the audience was there except the drill and discipline of the attendants, who, with their director are responsible for the catastrophe. The audience was helpless; the bravest man could do nothing. The shouts of Director Janour to the audience, endeavoring to quiet them by saying there was no danger, reads to-day like the act of a man who was deprived of his senses. The calmest head, the bravest heart, could have done nothing to save those nearest and dearest to him. It was almost impossible to save any one but one's self.

Several of those who escaped to-day are madmen. Last night about midnight a young man belonging, by his dress, to the upper classes, was found in a side street near the burning theatre, bareheaded and singing, insanity expressed in his staring eyes, and crying out incessantly a single word, "Amatie, Amatie." He held a strip of fur worn by ladies around the neck hysterically to his bosom. "Where do you live? Have courage," said a bystander; but his only answer was: "Amatie, Amatie! I sprang down, but she is being burnt within."

Two bank officials and 20 members of the fruit exchange are missing. A score of medical students are among the victims. The majority of the dead are handworkers, clerks and people of limited means.

The Vienna fire department proved itself supremely inefficient. There was only one fire engine, giving a stream scarcely larger than a finger, and it could not reach the upper portion of the house. The hand engines were only fed from water filled from barrels driven into the ground. There were no fire escapes, and the ladders came late on the ground, and when they arrived much time was lost in planting them. There was a great display of military, who keep order, but of efficient firemen and apparatus there was a lamentable lack.

There is to be a searching official inquiry into the cause of the fire, and who is culpable.

The *Zeitung* demands that all the theatres in the city, with the exception of the Opera House, be closed at once, and not be allowed to reopen until all the entrances, exits, galleries and passages are rebuilt so as to assure safety to the audience. It declares the periodical examinations of the theatres by the police to be a farce, and that it is criminal negligence on the part of the authorities to allow daily 20,000 citizens to be jeopardized by the hysterical shriek of a woman, or the negligence of a workman. Criminal procedures should be taken against those responsible for the present catastrophe.

The Emperor has given 50,000 florins.

Much dissatisfaction is expressed that the Hof Opera and Burg and Wieden Theatres should have opened to-night. At the former only a few persons were present, and as the doors were closed at nine, I presume

the whole performance was not given. Many places of business were closed all day.

Among the victims is one entire family of seven. The father arrived home on Thursday, after six months absence, and celebrated his birthday by taking all to the theatre. The stairs to the third and fourth galleries were found barricaded with such a mass of overcoats, umbrellas, jackets, shawls and bonnets, that the workmen had to clear these away before they could proceed to the inside. The third gallery had few victims, one man having presence of mind to keep order at the upper door. After entering the dark passage he lighted a wax taper and led the people out of danger. The burial of victims takes place on Monday. The number wounded will be at least 500, perhaps more. The Consul-General assures me to-night that no American students are missing.

In the narrow stairway between the second and third galleries the firemen discovered a confused mass of human bodies writhed together. The corpses taken out of the galleries were so mangled and also entwined, that it is not doubted the unfortunates at last struggled and fought each other in order to gain the door. Three of the corpses could not be separated, and were borne away together.

The scene outside the theatre, wives seeking their husbands, children looking for their parents, and parents for their children, was heart-rending. The immense crowd stood silent as death, watching the flames. The telegraph office, only two minutes' walk away from the fire, was crowded by persons who had escaped from the fire, and who informed their friends of their safety, to allay their fears.

Three of the Grand Dukes were present last night at the scene of the disaster, watching the finding of the dead. They wept bitterly. The Emperor has telegraphed for full details. Subscriptions have been opened by all Vienna papers for the relief of the sufferers.

On arrival of the fire brigade, it was found impossible to penetrate beyond the first tier of the theatre. The rush of the suffocating smoke and air extinguishing the lamps and torches, the firemen retired, under the momentary impression, because their shouts were not answered, that there was no more people in the theatre. Those who escaped on the first alarm, however, soon undeceived them. Another effort was then made to penetrate parts of the theatre which were not actually blazing. In a narrow passage, between the second and third galleries, a mass of corpses was discovered, some closely interlocked. It was hardly possible to part them. The first man discovered was got out alive, but all the rest were dead. There were persons who had lost their way in consequence of the turning off of the gas, which is now ascertained was done by an irresponsible person with a view to prevent explosion. Some men were found grasping each other's throats. Subsequent investigations showed in some cases persons finding escape hopelessly committed suicide. It is stated by survivors that women were seen to throw their children from the galleries into the pit at the time of the outbreak of the flames. The gallery especially allotted to ladies was full and many missing.

Further inquiries as to the origin of the fire at the Ring Theatre establish the fact that the people entrusted with the duties of firemen on the stage ran from fright at the first alarm. One even tumbled headlong from the gallery to the stage floor, and another, who had charge of the gas, thinking that an explosion had occurred or would occur, turned off the gas at the meter, plunging the theater into total darkness until it became illuminated with the conflagration. The number of petroleum lamps placed in the theatre six months before, by order of the police, had not been lighted on this occasion, and probably had never been lighted after the first month of the order. There was a wire gauze curtain ready to be let down in a case of emergency, and supposed to be attended by a special mechanic well drilled in his duties. Had this curtain been lowered it is possible every person in the theatre would have escaped. He was also seized with panic, anyhow he ran and saved his own life at the expense of six hundred or more lives whom Vienna is mourning to-day. Herr Forsled, who built this death trap styled Ring Theatre, says had this curtain been lowered the fire would not have extended beyond the stage.

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