DESERET EVENING NEWS: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1903.



Schilling's Best tea is five kinds: a matter of taste or habit. The coffee is four. Each kind is always alike. At your grocer's ; moneyback.

advantage of it. However, about two dozen, it is believed by Mr. Elliott, made their way across this narrow causeway.

The members of the theatrical company, being on the first floor, had com-paratively little difficulty in reaching the street, although their situation was for a moment highly critical because of the speed with which the flames swept

tain to be lowered.

"This curtain, when about half-way down, refused to go further, and thus an additional draft was created. The swept the flames out into the auditor-ium, and I knew that the theater was doomed. I hurried back to the stage and alded in getting the women mem-bers of the company into the alley. Some of them were in dressingrooms and were almost overcome by smoke when they got down to the stage and to the doors. The simple fact that the curtain did not descend entirely was what saved the lives of the company, although it caused such a horribi-catastrophe in the front of the house. GAS TANKE EVEN ODE

"After the curtain had refused to de-scend, there came an explosion of the gas tanks, and with the curtain down all the fire and gas would have been confined between the rear wall of the theater and the fireproof curtain in front. Under these circumstances it would not have been possible for a sin-sle member of the company to escape alive unless he or she had been stand-ing immediately in front of the door leading into the alley. As it was, the draught carried all the gas and fire out beneath the curtain and the company was saved, although their salvation was the death of so many poor people in front." in frent.

SUREADING OF THE NEWS. Raiely in the history of Chicago has "There was no need, as far as I know,

HEAPS OF MANGLED. "I have never witnessed such a scene in all my life," said Sherift Barrett. "On all sides were heaps of mangled and charred humanity. "We carried out so many injured and of a single fife being lost. There were over 40 exits to the theater. The

SAVED FIFTEEN WITH LADDER

Waiters and cooks from Thompson's

Waiters and cooks from Thompson's restaurant, which adjoins the theater on the east, rescued 15 people by rais-ing a ladder from the roof of a shed to a window in the rear of the build-ing, around which window a mass of screaming women and children were congregated. C. Little, the head cook, mounted to the top of the ladder and told them to juamp into his arms. Fifteen women and children did this and were passed by Little down to the other men on the ladder below them. One woman attempted to jump into his

One woman attempted to jump into his arms before he was ready to take hold of her and she fell to the alley, fractur-

ing her skull, dying instantly, One of the marvelous escapes that

was made was by the members of a theater party given by Miss Charlotte Plamondon of Chicago. The party was

Mary Peters of Columbus, O., and Miss Josephine Eddy of Evanston, Ill, Miss

Plamondon was the first of her party to

AUDIENCE WATCHED FIRE.

"The curtain, however, still burned, pieces of the smoldering cloth falling into the orchestra pit. An effort was made by the stage hands to arrange the

curtain so that the blazing fragments would not drop into the plt.

"I looked over the faces of the audi-ence," said Miss Planmondon, "and re-marked how many children were pres.

ent. I could see their faces filled with interest and their eyes wide open as they watched the burning curtain.

A WOMAN CRIED FIRE.

"Just then the people in the balcony rose to their feet and crowded forward

to obtain a better view of the fire. Ed-die Foy rushed to the center of the stage and waved his arms in a gesture meaning for the people to be seated. At that instant a woman in the rear of the

place screamed 'Fire!' and the entire audience of women and children rose to

their feet, filled with uncontrollable ter.

fused roar made by a thousand people as they rushed madly from the impend-

"In another instant there was a con-

ents of the clothing in

made up of a number of society peor Miss Elsie Elmore of Astoria, Or.: M

in a lifetime







1.300 people were in the theater. Three hundred of these were on the first floor, the remainder being in the balconies and in the hallways back of them. The theater is modeled after the Opera Comjoue in Paris, and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to passageways to-ward the front of the theater. Two.of these dorways are at the end of the balcony and one being in the center.

RUSH FOR EXITS.

The audience in its rush for the outer nir seems to have chosen, for the great-er part, to flee to the left entrance and to attempt to make its way down the eastern stairway leading into the lobby

of the theater. Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these two doorways on the first and second bal-conies that the greatest loss of life occurred.

DEAD HEAPED UP.

When the firemen entered the build-

When the firemen entered the build-ing the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the stairway at least eight feet from the door back to a point about five feet in the rear of the door. This mass of dead bodies in the cen-er of the doorway reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children. The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is some-thing that is simply beyond human power to adequately describe. Only a faint idea of its horror could, be de-rived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay.

Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before.

HOW THE DEAD LAY.

How THE DEAD LAY. Others lay with arms stretched out in the direction toward which lay life and safety, holding in their hands frag-ments of garments not their own. They were evidently tori from the clothing of others whom they had endeavored to pull down and trample under foot as they fought for their own lives. As the police removed layer after "layer of dead in those doorways the sight became too much even for the police and firemen, hardened as they are to such sights, to endure. The bodies were in such an inextrica-ble mass and so tightly were they.

The bodies were in such an inextruct ble mass and so tightly were they jammed between the sides of the door and the walls that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them

PULLING BODIES OUT.

The only possible thing to do was to seize a limb or some other portion of the body and pull with main strength. Men worked at the task with tears run-

Men worked at the task with tears run-ning down their cheeks, and the sobs of the rescuers could be heard even in the hall below where this awful scene was being enacted. A number of the men were com-pelled to abandon their tasks and give them over to others whose nerves had not as yet been shaken by the awful experience. As one by one the bodies were dragged out of the water-soaked, blackened mass of corpses, the spec-tacle became more and more heart-rending.

rending. TRAMPLED INTO A PULP.

There were women whose clothing was torn completely from their bodies above the waist, whose bossons had been trampled into a pulp and whose faces were marred beyond all hope of identification. Many were bent over backs of seats where they had been thrown by the rush of people for the doors and killed with hardly a chance to rise from their seats.

WOMAN CUT IN TWAIN.

One man was found with his back bent nearly double, his spinal column having been fractured as he was thrown backward. A woman was found nearly cut in half by the back of the seat, she having been forced over it face downward. In the aisles nearest to the doors the scenes were harrowing in the extreme.

In the alses hearent to the boors the scenes were harrowing in the extreme. Bodies lay in every conceivable atti-tude, half-naked, the look on their faces realizing some portion of the agony which must have preceded their texts.

FACES TRAMPLED OFF.

FACES TRAMPLED OFF. There were scores and scores of peo-ple whose entire faces had been tram-pled off by the heels of those who had rushed over them, and in one atsle the body of a man was found with not a vestige of clothing, flesh or bone re-maining above the waist line. The entire upper portion of his body had been cut into mince meat and car-ried away by the feet of those who had trampled on him. A search was made carefully with a hope of finding his head, but at a late hour tonight it had not been discovered and all that will ever tell his friends who he was is the color and appearance

who he was is the color and appearance of the clothing on the lower limbs, and this is in such a condition as to be hardly recognizable.

MORGUE KEEPERS' ESTIMATES.

According to the morgue keepers there are 392 bodies at five of the mor-gues and at St. Luke's hospital. Roth-ston's, 150; Jordan's, 15; Sarroll's, 33; Gavin's, 23; county, 19; St. Luke's hos-pital 20 pital. 20.

crowds around Rothston's and

The crowds around Rothston's and Jordan's are so large that it is impos-sible to get the excited people into line to view the dead. Therefore, the crowd was notified that no one would be admitted tonight to see if they could identify their relatives or friends. Only one body was identified at the county morgue.

NO ESCAPE LADDERS.

The theater had been constructed but The theater had been constructed was not a short time and its equipment was not all yet in place. This included, unfor-tunately, a fire escape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconles to which the iron ladder was to be at-turbed wave up, but the ladder had tached were up, but the ladder had

not yet been constructed. When the panic was at its height a great number of women ran for these fire escapes only to find as they emerged from the doorway upon the little from the doorway upon the little road platform that they were 30 to 50 feet from the ground, a fire behind and no method of escape in front. Those who reached the platform first endeavored to hold their footing and to keep back the crowd that pressed upon them from the rear.

WOMEN SCREAM AND FIGHT.

The effort was utterly useless, and in a few moments the iron ledges were jammed with crowds of women, who screamed, fought and tore at each other like maniacs. This lasted but a brief interval, and the rush from the interior of the building became so violent that of the building became so violent that many of them were crowded off and fell to the granite pavement below. Others leaped from the platform, fracturing legs and arms, and two were

picked up at this point with fractured skulls, having been killed instantly. George H. Elliott, secretary of the Ogden Gas company, was in a building directly across the alley from the theater, and, noticing the smoke, went down to ascertain its cause.

DROPPED TO DEATH.

When he reached the street the wo When he reached the street the wo-men were already dropping into the al-ley, and Mr. Elliott immediately rushed for a ladder in the effort to save as many as possible. No ladder was avail-able, and the only method of assistance they were able to devise was to lash some planks together and throw them across to the frightened women on the platforms, with instruction to place platforms, with instruction to place the end firmly on the ironwork. Before this could be done a fearful

loss of time ensued, the women were being pushed every instant into the al-ley and by the time the bridge was con-structed few persons remained to take

its people been so stirred as by the Its people been so surred as by the calamity of today. It is, next to the Chicago fire, the greatest catastrophe that has ever occurred here and the speed with which it came and went seemed for a brief period to appall the bunches are then of the other. business section of the city. The news sprend with great rapidity, and in a short time hundreds of men, women and children were rushing toward the

LOCATION OF THEATER.

The building in which the calamity courred stands midway between State and Dearborn streets, on the north side of Randolph street. Although every available policeman within call of the department was immediately hurried to department was immediately hurried to the spot and men placed in lines from the ends of the block, allowing nobody to enter Randolph street from either Dearborn or State, it was found almost impossible for a time to hold back the frenzied crowd that pressed forward, many of them having friends or rela-tives in the theater and being anxious to learn something of them.

SPLENDID POLICE WORK.

The conduct of the police was beyond all praise. The officers held their ground firmly, and gently pushed back all who sought to gain an entrance to the theater, although in some instances frantic men, anxious to look for their loved ones actually beat the officers with their first in their more their

with their fists in their rage at being prevented. The building was so full of smoke when the firemen first arrived that the full extent of the catastrophe was not

immediately grasped until a fireman and a newspaper man crawled up the stairway leading to the balcony,holding handkerchiefs over their mouths to void suffocation

DOOR JAMMED WITH DEAD.

As they reached the doorway the fire man, whose vision was better trained in such emergencies, seized his companion by the arm, exclaiming: "Good God man! don't walk on their faces." The two men tried valuely to get through the door, which was jammed with dead women, piled higher than either of their heads

FIRE CHIEF INFORMED.

All the lights in the theater were necessarily out, and the only illumination came through the cloud of smoke that hung between the interior of the theater and the street. The two men imme-diately hurried to the floor below and informed Chief Musham of the fire department that dead bodies were piled high in the balcony and prompt assist-ance must be rendered if any of them were to be saved.

CALLED TO THE RESCUE.

The chief immediately called upon all his men in the vicinity to abandon work on the fire and come at once to the rescue. The building was so dark and the smoke so thick that it was found im-possible to accomplish anything until lights had been secured. Word was at once sent to the Orr &

Lockett Hardware company, two doors east of the theater, and that firm at once placed its entire stock of lanterns at the service of the department. Over

Headache



at all druggists or by mail of C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

of a single hie being lost. There were over 40 exits to the theater. The building is fireproof, and if somebody had not screamed 'fire,' I think that all, as far as those killed in the panic are concerned, could have yeached the street in safety. And of those who were suffocated by the gas, nearly all would have been taken out by the time the explosion occurred if order had been preserved in making their exits.

preserved in making their exits. "As far as we have learned, every-hody on the first floor except three escaped, although some sustained bruises and other minor injuries. The great loss of life was in the first and second balconies. These combined will seat about 900 persons. "The sale of seats had been good, but

not up to the capacity, and as far as I can estimate the balconies between them held between 750 and 800 people. The top balcony, where the cheapest seats were located, was the most seats were located, was the most crowded, and it is here that the crowd found most difficulty in struggling toward the exits."

CAUSE OF FIRE.

It was declared tonight by the management of the theater that the fire was not caused by the grounding of an electric light wire or to any defect in the equipment of the theater. It was the equipment of the theater. It was started, they claim, by the bursting of a calculm light apparatus. The concussion was so great that it blew out the skylight over the stage and auditorium. This statement of the theater management is contradicted by many people who were in the theater, and who declared that when the explosion occurred the flames in a narrow streak crossed the wall near the upper part of the drop curtain.

A FIREMAN'S DESCRIPTION.

notice the fire, which crawled along the top of the drop curtain. She called the W. A. C. Sellers, the house fireman, who was severely burned in trying to attention of other members of her party to the blaze and they all watched it. lower the asbestos curtain, describes the scene upon the stage and the cause to the blaze and they Miss Plamondon said: as follows: "I was standing in the wings when I heard the explosion, and then immediately went forward a cry "I could see the little girls and boys in the orchestra chairs pointing up-ward to the slowly moving lines of flames. One of the stage hands wear-ing overalls appeared before the foot-lights and requested the audience to keep their seats, as there was no dan-ver of fire from the stage and all over the theater. Looking up I saw that the curtain was ablaze, so I rang for the fire curtain. We got it half-way down when the wind, rushing in from the broken skylights, bellied it out so that it caught, and we could not budge it ger. ger. "Eddie Foy hurried to the front of the stage and commanded the people to re-main calm, saying that if they would keep their seats the danger would be

"With the stage hands I climbed to where it was suspended, and together we tried to push it down. Our efforts were futile, and seeing that no human were futile, and seeing that no human power could move the fire curtain and that the stage was a mass of flames, I turned my attention toward warning the actors and trying to save those who were in trouble. I stood at the stairway leading to the dressingrooms where the chorus people were located and kept some from going up to get their street clothes. "As the others came down I forced

"As the others came down I forced them to leave the building. I don't know how they ever got out all those girls and men who were crowding down the stairs, for the stage entrance was blocked by a mass of flames."

BP. FALLOWS ON THE SCENE.

Among the hundreds of person who rushed to the rescue when the call of free was heard on the streets was Bishop Fallows, who happened to be passing the theater.

THROUGH THE DARKNESS.

"Without fear or hesitation he made his way through the darkness, that was intensified by the volume of smoke that filled the auditorium, to the gallery and assisted in carrying out victims

"God forbid that I ever again see such a heartrending sight," said the bishop tonight. "I have been in wars and on the bloody field of battle, but in and on all my experience, I have never seen anything half so gruesome as the sight that met my eyes when, with the aid of a tiny lantern. I was finally able to penetrate the inky darkness of that balcony.

MASS OF BLEEDING BODIES. "There was a pile of bleeding bodies

by the news of the disaster. "I'll never allow another theater to be dead that at last they grew so numer-ous that we were unable to keep count built with a stick of wood in it," he declared, reading bulletins which were of them. Such a dreadful sight I trust I will never be called to witness again, "Crazed men fought to get within the "The Iroquois was built along

"Crazed men fought to get within the corridors, thinking to find their loved ones among the pile of corpses that filled every amailable foot of space. "Strong men with tear-blinded eyes stood on the sidewalk and called loudly very latest lines and was provided with 27 double fire exits, but wood was used and stairways were employed. A fire-proof building will not be erected as long as wood is used. In a theater there stood on the sidewalk and called loudly the names of their loved ones as though there was a chance of the dead hearing. We did all we could to lessen their grief, but such scenes can never be forgotten are so many articles of inflammable material that when a blaze once gets headway it spreads in the most alarm-

THE IDENTIFIED DEAD.

Chicago, Dec. 31.-The following is ist of the dead thus far identified: Mrs. John Adaneck, Bartlett, Ill. Walter D. Austrian, Leporte, Ind. Walter D. Austrian, Leporte, Ind. Son of Joseph D. Austrian, Ethel Barker. Mrs. C. D. Bartlett, Bartlett, III, Charles R. Barnheisel, William C. Beutel, Mrs. W. F. Boyce, Helen Bryersloth. Waltar B. Bissinger Walter B. Bissinger. Mrs. H. C. Birndsley. N. W. Bodice Mrs. Emma Brinckley, Margaret Beuhmann Mrs. L. Rosehill Butler, Rose Butler. Ruth Bumfurth Alexander Boyer. Julia Brewster, Paul Brennan. Agnes Chapin. E. D. Clark. - Corcoran, daughter of Michael Corcoran. C. L. Cooper. W. W. Cooper. Thomas Contelly Helen Cooper. R. H. Coults. Mrs. Millie J. Crocker, May Curran. Vinton Clayton. Mrs. Jacob Cohen Mrs. Thomas A. Cantwell. Roy A. C. Caldwell. Leander S. Diffendorf, Lincoln, Ill. Miss N. DeLee. Violet De Lee. Mrs. J. F. Dodd, Delaware, Ohio.

H. Donaldson, Miss A. Donaldson, Ruth Dyndorth. Taylor Dryden. Mrs. John Dryden. Mrs. Dawson. Herman Eisensted. Mort Eldridge. Maurice Engle. Engle Espen. Miss Espen Frank Eberstein. Marjorie Edwards. Gertrude Falkenstein. Annie Fitzgibbons. George Sidney Fox, son of F. Mortor Fox, Winnetteka, Ill. Thomas J. Flannagan, Indianapolis. Mrs. Lillian M. Frady. Leon Frady. H. Foley. Ada Folke. Helen Folz. John G. Fitzgibbon. Miss Anna Fitzgerald. Mrs. C. O. Foltz. t. Mary Feiser. Misa J. Gahn. Mrs. Mary Dorothea Gartz. Barbæra Gartz. Mabel Gerron, Winnetteka, Ill. Pauline Geary. Wilma Gerry, Gobor Mrs. B. E. Gould. Harry Gariz. B. E. Gould. Frank Garn. Willis Garn. Vera Gouldsby. Mrs. Belle Greney. Mrs. Belle Greney, Emperly Hall. Miss Lee Haviland. Mrs. Harbaugh. John Holland. Idlian Holland, Des Moines, Ia.

Mrs. Mary E. Heward.

F. A. Muir, H. P. Morehouse, H. P. Moore. Edmund W. Morton, St. Louis, Bernard McKenna. Bernard McKenna. Berry McClurg, Austin, Ill. Mabel McMillans. Alice Maloney, Ottawa, Ill. Mrs. H. H. Merriam. Charles Murray. Mamie Muir, Peoria, Ill. Catherine Middleton. Mrs. Bessie Olinger. Mrs. Oscar Olson. Florence Oxman. William Murry Owen, Farenella Peterson. R. H. Pultz. Walter Pharcker. Adele Phillipson. Jack Pottlitzer, Lafayette, Ind. Charles T. Page. Lillian Patton. Harold Page. Nellie Reidy William Rattey. J. Rattey. Mrs. G. O. Reiter. Hazel Regensberg. Adele Regensberg. B. Regensberg. W. M. Reed. Rev. H. L. Richardson. Rose K. Rogers. Thomas Remington. Minnie Robertson — Sawyer, Warner Sedill, Kankakee, Ill, Wilma Smith Barry, Lolla Shephard. Burr Scott. Myrtie Shabbard. Lulu Shabbard. W. N. Sprang. Mrs. Stern. Harry P. Sutton. Mrs. O. T. P. Steinmetz. Warren E. Savill. Miss Margaret Smith. Electa Sylvester, Plainview, Me. Mrs. J. H. Stendler, Lowell, Ind.

fighter!

will be patient.

Millard Merriel. Espie Moses.

"In Monterey," said the senor, "I gava de fight-I not standa-under English weil-my doctor bills \$900! Uh, Carramba! My suit costa \$200. Uh, Carramba! Giva great ex-he-bish-cen!"

burning curtain from our

ing danger, "On the stage the chorus girls, who "On the stage the chorus girls, who had aroused my admiration by their exhibition of presence of mind, turned to flee, but many of them were over-come before they could take a step. "Several of them fell to the floor and I saw the men in the cast and the stage hands carry them off the stage. Miss Elsie Elmore was the first to leave our box. The upholstering on the ralling was then on fire and we were compelied to brush fragments of the burning curtain from our clothing in

averted.