FIRE IN THE CAPITOL.

Gas Explosion Wrecks the Supreme Court Room.

PRICELESS DOCUMENTS ARE DESTROYED.

Twenty Thousand Volumes Burnt Up—Part of the Grand Marble Structure at Washington a Blackened Mass.

Washington, Nov. 6.—An explosion of gas at 4:17 this afternoon wrecked the supreme court room and the rooms adjacent, in the east front of the capitol. The damages is estimated at $100,000.

The entire central eastern part of the great marble pile from the roof to the basement, a distance of nearly a score of tiers, was wrecked. The force of the explosion was so heavy that the ceiling stones on the main floor, just east of the court room, were cracked, and many of the doors in the corridors were torn out and the ceiling were torn down. Many other doors were forced from their hinges, some a hundred and fifty feet from the point of the explosion.

The force of the explosion was so quickly felt throughout the capitol that it caused a momentary panic. The explosion shook the entire structure to its foundations, and it was felt throughout the city. The alarm of it spread in a small form throughout the city, and was followed by the ringing of the fire bells and the appearance of the fire department, apparatus, hundreds of people and the usual curiosity to the scene of the explosion.

There was a low light over the place, which can be by a four-story building, but at the time of the explosion the gas had not been turned off, and the gas pipe in the vicinity was wrecked, and the gas pouring from the main caught fire from the electric lamps on the shelf of the chamber, which is the floor of the chamber above, and the force of the explosion, and the fire that followed, soon communicated with the chamber of the supreme court, and the other rooms in the central section, and the contents of the court, and the supreme court library, building the supreme court library, building the supreme court room, and the rooms in the vicinity soon had been completely destroyed, and the fire spread rapidly to the marshal's office and some other rooms in the adjacent wing.

200 VOLUMES DEMOLISHED.

The library of the supreme court, the most comprehensive in the country, was totally damaged by the fire and water, and the work of removing the great collection of law reports begun.

The library contains about 20,000 volumes and was used not only by the justices of the supreme court, but by members of Congress and lawyers from the supreme court. It was in charge of Librarian Martin, and the library was very valuable. Many of the works is contained would be very difficult to replace.

Librarian Clarke, after a cursory examination, ventured the opinion that many of the books could be saved, although they would be injured to the extent of being taken down or more after the records unscathed.

The extent of damage, in the opinion of the justices of the supreme court, is to the records, dockets and briefs of cases and opinions rendered by the tribunal since its organization. Apparently, the documents in the room are either totally destroyed or so badly damaged as to be useless. Justice Harlan said that while the loss of the library was great, the loss of the court would be the loss of the records of the court, which are lost in the office of the clerk, which is in the east wing, not injured, as documents for reference at the time and are not filed in the court room, and are of far greater value than the records destroyed. Fortunately, the office was not in the room on fire, and the application of water to it caused to have done so and safe.

DOCUMENTS DESTROYED.

Mr. James McKenney, clerk of the supreme court, expressed the hope after a cursory examination of the wreck that not most, at least, of the documents in the court room, and the records in process from the court, would be saved. Tonight, however, owing to the inadequate light and the fact that a portion of the ceiling where the explosion and fire started, it was impossible for him to ascertain the exact extent of the damage done to the records. The supreme opinions were damaged principally by fire and smoke, and by the ruining of the ceiling.

Although the marshal's office and library, both the marshal's office and the clerk's office, were in the attached field to the room.

While many theories are offered as to the cause of the explosion, it seems quite probable to have been due to a leak in the gas pipe. Captain Alfred E. Blunt, chief of the capitol police, declared an odor of gas from the corridor adjoining the supreme court room, and being able to locate it, he proceeded to investigate half the old hall of the House of Representatives, in which the gas might be escaping from a burner in the floor of the room. When he was endeavoring to locate the cause of the gas the explosion occurred.

NARROW ESCAPES.

Only a few minutes previously offices of the capitol police, were in the building at the time, but several of them had left the room a few minutes before the explosion, which responded to an alarm sent in by a policeman, three floors below in the capitol. Captain C. F. Crook, chief electrician of the senate, was in the room of the house of the House side, and a stream playing into the supreme court room, and he, by that time was a roaring furnace.

Within a few minutes after the alarm, the fire department was there, and were under control, although as a precautionary measure streams were turned into the marshal's office, the library and the subterranean basement of the house. The debris were so dense, however, for a considerable time, as endangerd the flues of gas which still burned in the wreck, that the water made. From this main the fire was put through an orifice in the basement, and resembled the conflagration attached the consultation room of the supreme court justices on the third floor, which damage was done to the furniture and fittings of this room, but it was inconsiderable as compared with the main chambers. The rooms of the supreme justices was practically undamaged.

It was evident that the fire would not be extinguished until the gas from the main was shut off, and the gas was accomplished the fire burned so fiercely in the main, thinking the flow of gas would at the same time cut off the flow. Superintendent Glass, however, was not to be so easily, and he ordered the main cut off the gas at the main, and the supply of the main.

The rooms which were central portion of the old capitol building floors, with the exception of those in committee rooms, and other apartments are badly damaged. Just north of the crypt an archway almost over the center room was completely torn from the floor were hurled to the ceiling with such force as to bury the stone and plaster in the wall above. Numerous fragments were wrenched from their resting places and throughout the corridors the floors, ceiling, the walls and walls of the corridors were utterly ruined. No damage is done to the main foundations of the building as there are 27 massive masonry piers embedded and twenty-five feet from the foundation.

The electric lighting apparatus, including dynamos, boilers and wiring was not damaged by the fire, and it was possible to work without peril from the wires. Electrical Clerk Cut off the current from all wires in the building, and, which lighted the house western part of the building, and the dirty fast of the scene of the explosion a military incandescent lamp marking the place, and a center of the capitol and hanging directly over the bar in which it was proposed to lay the remains of President Washington, burned brightly.

Among the losses which will be most sincerely regretted are those of Justice Chief Justice Mitchell and other distinguished members of the supreme court, which were arranged on small pedestals about the Supreme court chamber in the order in which they followed the expiration from judicial office, and were under a bell, hanging or wholly destroyed with the destruction the country has suffered an irreparable loss. Many of these have been treasured as exhibits in the supreme court chamber for half a century.

FORMER FIRES.

The capitol building has been destroyed a number of times before by fire, but it is believed that lessons of the past prove to be the most dangerous in the history of the building. The fire in 1814 was prior to this, this have been the only explosions of gas. Seveteen years ago there was a serious of danger was done to the same part of the building, and it was thought at the time that the cause of the fire was an explosion of gas, but it was not so. The fire of 1814 was caused by the burning of the records of the court, which are lost in the office of the clerk, which is the east wing, not injured, as documents for reference at the time and are not filed in the court room, and are of far greater value than the records destroyed. Fortunately, the office was not in the room on fire, and the application of water to it caused to have done so and safe.

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A LIVING WITNESS.

Mrs. Hoffman Describes How She Wrote to Mrs. Pinkham for Advice, and In Now Well.

DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Before using your Vegetable Compound I was a great sufferer. I have been sick for months, was troubled with severe pain in both sides of abdomen, now feeling in lower part of bowels, also suffered with dizziness, headache, and could not sleep. I wrote you a letter describing my condition and asking your advice. You replied telling me just what to do. I followed your directions, and cannot praise your medicine enough for what it has done for me. Many thanks to you for your advice. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has cured me, and I will recommend it to my friends.—Mrs. Florence B. Hoffman, 112 Rebecca, Canton, O.

The testimonial letter of Mrs. Hoffman will appeal to many women, yet lots of sick women struggle on with their daily tasks disregarding the urgent warnings until overtaken by actual collapse.

The present Mrs. Pinkham's experience in treating female ills is unparalleled, for years she worked side by side with Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, and for continuous past has had sole charge of the correspondence department of her great business, treating by letter as many as a hundred thousand sufferers a year.

HEARTRENDING STORIES

Cubans are Dying Like Flies from Starvation and Neglect.

SPANIARDS ROBBING AND PLUNDERING.

United States is Accused of Duly-Shirking in the Face of Cherish Civilization and Dictates of Humanity.

Havana, via Key West, Nov. 1.—The interrogatory between Spain's national line of steamships to Cuba and the assumption of full authority by the United States over the entire archipelago, with the seven subsidiary groups, will be seen, is a very long step in a course which daily grows poorer and more depopulated, on all sides the question is asked, how much longer in the cities of the province shall it be possible to feed the starving masses, and the people and signed. The feeling among the better classes is pleasant and sympathetic. Cubans may be plainly answering against the Spanish administration made by the Spanish government, and the Havana Herald, the mouthpiece of the American Press.

"It seems to me, and I think my opinion is shared by many, that the United States government is doing everything in its power to relieve the distress in Cuba. The problem is a difficult one, but the Spanish authorities are doing all they can to carry assistance to the starving and destitute. Cuba is now in an environment of unprecedented, even more well-nourished and well-fed people than its predecessor, and with energy in operation with a sense of power, which, so far as we know, American experience does not exist, the purpose of conducting issues and restoring our small achievements.

SPIRIT OF JEALOUSY.

"Almost nothing has been accomplished. The spirit of jealousy has not yet been overcome, and, since it is commonly said, also exists between the different commissions, considerable time will be required to organize the relief work, and to make it operative