

Goldsboro Weekly Argus

This ARGUS o'er the people's rights,
Doth an eternal vigil keep

No soothing strains of Maia's sons
Can lull its hundred eyes to sleep.

VOL. XV

GOLDSBORO, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1904.

NO 19

CHICAGO'S TERRIBLE FIRE

THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE TO LIFE IN ALL HISTORY.

The Latest Report From the Scene of Disaster, in a Special Telegram to the Argus This Afternoon at 3 O'Clock, Shows that

745 Bodies Have Been Found

And There Are Still an Unknown Number in the Ruins—The Scenes Are Among the Saddest Ever Witnessed.

[SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS.]

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 31.—The most awful theatre fire in America's history, which occurred yesterday, caused the death of nearly one thousand people here, when Klaw & Erlanger's Iroquois Theatre, within five weeks of its opening, burned during the matinee of "Bluebeard."

At this hour (3 o'clock p. m.) Corner Traeger reports, by account, the bodies of SEVEN HUNDRED and FORTY-FIVE DEAD, and there are still an unknown number in the ruins. It was one of the most dread catastrophes ever known in the history of this country, and the scenes are among the saddest ever witnessed by mortal man.

It will be many hours before the number of dead is accurately known and many days before all of them will be identified. There are bodies lying by the dozens to-day in the undertakings, in the police stations, and in the hospitals, from which nearly everything that could reveal their identity to those who knew them best, is gone. Their clothing is torn to rags or burned to cinders and their faces have been crushed into an unrecognizable pulp by the heels of the crowd that trampled them down as they fled for safety.

The fire broke out during the second act of the play, "Mr. Bluebeard," which was the first dramatic production presented at the theatre since its erection. The members of the company which was a large one, escaped to the street in safety, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snowy streets with no clothing but their stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained minor injuries, but none were seriously hurt.

Accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting and none of them certain, but the best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery suddenly broke and was grounded. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus who were then engaged in the performance to flee to the wings with screams of terror. The fire in itself up to this time was not serious and possibly could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work.

THE FIGHT FOR LIFE.

When the firemen entered the building, the dead were found lying in a pile at 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 center of the doorway reached to within two feet of the passage way. 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 something that is simply beyond human power adequately to describe. Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived 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. Others lay with arms stretched out in the direction toward which lay life and safety, holding in their hands fragments of garments not their own. They were evidently torn from the clothing of others whom they had endeavored to hold down and trample under foot as they fought for their own lives.

BRAVE MEN BREAK DOWN.

As the police and firemen removed layer after layer in these doorways, the sight became too much even for them, hardened as they are to such scenes, to endure. The bodies were in such an inextricable mass, and so tightly were they jammed between the slides of the door and the walls that it was impossible to lift them one by one and carry them 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 running 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 compelled to abandon their task and give it over to others whose nerves had not as yet been shaken by the awful experience.

Iowa's Pineapple is called Council Bluffs.

PITABLE TO BEHOLD.

THE GROANINGS, WEEPING AND WAILING

Of the Grief-Stricken and Frantic Searchers For Loved Ones Who Perished in Chicago's Theatre Fire Beggars Description and Appeals the Senses.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Through the marble foyer of the Iroquois theatre there have been carried since five o'clock yesterday evening the bodies of 556 dead and nearly 300 injured spectators of yesterday's holiday matinee. Down the white stairways speechless rescuers have borne blackened corpses and maimed figures, until the disaster has become a horror of horrors, a colossus among the world's holocausts. In a score of morgues the dead now lie in thick lines, so close to one another that they touch. On the side walk surrounding the doors the frenzied crowds clamored from early morning until midnight for admittance. The streets everywhere down town were full of people, sorrowing, silent and appalled.

Scenes indescribable were enacted within the morgues and other centers of the carnival of death. Identifications are progressing with cruel slowness, and of the 556 bodies only 200 have been recognized. With the machinery of the coroner's office clogging the work, pitiable delays have resulted, which adds inestimable weight to the misery of uncertainty that is driving sufferers frantic. Suggestions were made by the chief of police that the unknown dead be taken to the Coliseum and there arranged so that there would be more facility for the work of information. The coroner refused. All the time the few who could gain entrance to the morgues were trampling over bodies, creeping through the rows of the dead in the search for their friends.

In the office of the chief of police and the city hall corridors adjoining there were packed a half crazed throng waiting the news from the places of death. On a chair in the middle of the room the chief secretary read from the police report the descriptions of the dead as they were formulated at the morgue. Now and then there was a shriek as a man or woman pushed out with the knowledge that in one of the black rows of the dead was the body of a loved one. To each of these was given a permit for the inspection of the bodies, but the morgues were too small to admit of a tenth of those who had orders from the chief. At one of the downtown places a man on his hands and knees peered down into the features of the dead before him. When he came to the parched face of a six year old boy he fainted and fell across the body.

APPALLING SCENES.

Daybreak disclosed appalling scenes around the morgues and near the theatre. Crazed men and women all night had haunted the Randolph street entrance to the playhouse with the hope born of desperation that they might find those for whose return others knew there was no hope. At Ralston's morgue, in Adams street, the scenes of anguish were indescribable. Weakened by their ghastly, all-night vigil, two hundred weeping people stood wear-

ily in front of the door, too tired to continue their clamor for entrance. As the morning waned, the crowd became greater and greater and clamored more insistently for admittance.

Men clutched at the sleeves of stolid policemen and begged that they might be allowed to go in. One woman dropped to her knees and crawled after the sergeant, who had turned away to avoid her entreaties. Others walked up and down the street, wailing and moaning in their agony. The strain on the nerves of the police became unbearable, and at 7:30 o'clock the officer in charge of the detail of twenty demanded additional men. Fifteen patrolmen were sent to him, and with their arrival the others dropped back to rest. Inside the morgue silent men were passing among the thick rows of dead, seeking to identify them and to tabulate descriptions of those upon whose bodies no identifying mark could be found.

At the other morgues conditions were equally cruel. The crowds beat against the police guards, muttering futile excuses to be allowed to enter. They were pushed back again, dazed and desperate. Many of those who watched the sufferers declared that often the police were unnecessarily harsh and unfeeling in their treatment of the people.

In the second gallery, seen by the light of a fireman's lantern, two rigid figures sat erect in the east side of the front row. The horror look was on their faces. But they had not moved. The man's arm was stretched in front of the woman, as if he had prevented her from rising and joining in the rush for the door. Charred opera glasses were in her burned hands. These were the last bodies to be taken from the theatre.

A WHITED SEPULCHRE.

Though serene without the interior of the theatre marked it as a true whited sepulchre. Upon the marble staircases at the left and right within were the mess and confusion of the grim march of the bearers of the dead. Among the thousands of bits of brilliantly colored glass, shattered in the fight against the flames, lay many scorched pieces of clothing and occasional fragments of charred bodies. From the upper galleries the view seemed a reminder of a burned out volcano crater.

In a saloon near the theatre was being guarded a huge pile of garments and furs gathered up in the theatre after the fire. Five bushel baskets were filled with the purses, gloves and handkerchiefs of the fleeing, terror-stricken women. Two barrels were needed to hold the over-shoes and shoes found.

The greatest center of excitement to-day was not the theatre, but Ralston's morgue. All of the morgues were surrounded, but at Ralston's where more bodies of the dead were taken than to any other, the scenes of anguish were the worst. The police stationed there could not begin to handle the crowds and extra details were hurried to the besieged morgue. On a lesser scale the same fearful siege was in progress at the various other morgues.

GHOULS REAP A HARVEST.

Immediately after the fire ghoulish thieves reaped a harvest. They succeeded in passing the fire lines by shamming grief and telling the police they wished to search for bodies of relatives. Inside the theatre the floors were strewn with purses, watches and pieces of jewelry which the people had lost or thrown away in the wild scramble for their lives. The ghouls plundered the purses and stuffed their pockets with the jewels. They snatched rings from charred fingers, in some instances breaking off the fingers. They tore ear drops from the ears of patrician women and fished the watches out of their pockets.

"Joints pain you this morning?" Rheumacide will give you quick and thorough relief. Ask your druggist.

SPICER-GOLD.

A Notable Wedding At The Home of Elder P. D. Gold.

Special cor. Raleigh Post.

Wilson, N. C., Dec. 30.—There was celebrated last evening at 7:30 o'clock the most elegant and most elaborate home wedding that ever took place in Wilson, when Miss Ruth Gold, the talented and highly cultured daughter of Elder P. D. Gold, was married to Dr. Williams Spicer, an able, learned and prominent young physician of Goldsboro. The Gold home, on Vance street, last evening, under the electric glare and festooned and garlanded as it was with choicest vine and flower, was indeed a scene of loveliness and beauty. Upon the assembling of the invited guests, that accomplished musician, Mrs. Alice Wright, played the wedding anthem, "The Voice That Breathed O'er Eden," which was most sweetly and beautifully sung by Mesdames Venable, Cutchin, Whitehead, Davis, and Messrs. Brown, Harris, Bruton and Tate. Then Mendelssohn's wedding march was played by the talented Miss Mary Austen of Tarboro, and during the ceremony "Meditation" was also most softly and beautifully rendered by Miss Austen. The marriage ceremony was performed in the front parlor and under the alcove, which was decorated in trailing cedar and smilax, with candles extending clear up and over the arch on both sides. First came the four little five year old nieces and nephews of the bride, Miss Margaret Howard and Master Richard Winstead, and Misses Elizabeth and Margaret Gold, two from the hall door and two from the library door, carrying ribbons, making a passage way through which the bridal party marched in and formed in a circle around the ministers, Elders E. V. White and P. D. Gold, who united the couple.

Then from the hall and library doors the bridal party came simultaneously in the following order: Miss Stella Phippen, gowned in white mousselin, trimmed with plaited chiffon and lace with pink fan, velvet girdle and carrying pink carnations, and was met by Mr. Norwood Spicer, who came from the library door; then Miss Clara Spicer, gowned in accordion plaited silk mousselin, trimmed in lace, pink fan, velvet girdle, and carrying pink carnations, was met by Mr. Allie Edger-ton from the parlor door. The maid of honor, Miss Bessie Gold, in white silk mousselin, trimmed in lace, plaited chiffon and white sash, carrying white carnations, entered next. The groom entered from the hall door, with his brother, Dr. John Spicer, meeting the bride, who entered from the library door on the arm of her brother, Mr. Joe. M. Gold, of Washington, N. C., who gave her away. The bride was gowned in a white lace robe, with plaited mousselin, over white taffeta, and carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses and lilies of the valley. Her veil was caught with orange blossoms, fastened with a diamond brooch. This ceremonial was made the more impressive by the fact that the bonds were pronounced by the venerable and beloved father of the bride and another relative, Col. E. V. White, of Leesburg, Va., who very feelingly asked God's blessing on the happy couple.

From 8:30 until 10:30 there was an ingoing tide of Wilson's best people to give to this popular couple their congratulations and cordial good wishes. Mesdames F. Y. Wiggins and Jno. E. Gold, Col. and Mrs. White, and Dr. and Mrs. Spicer, of Goldsboro, welcomed the incoming guests, who were presented to the receiving party by Messrs. Harry Wainwright and Steve Anderson. From the front parlor to the punch room the guests were invited by Mrs. Graham Woodard and Miss Austin, of Tarboro, where that delightful beverage was served by Misses Margaret Hadley, Annie

Pipkin, of Goldsboro, and Sue Wilson, of Kinston. From this room they were escorted by Mr. F. L. Phippen, of Enfield and Mrs. C. D. Gold to the dining room, where most delicious refreshments were served by Misses Xir Roberts, Ella McCraw, Vance Tilghman, Edna Tyer, Georgia Hales and Sallie Gordon. From this room the guests were ushered to the coffee room by Misses Smith, of Goldsboro, and Pauline Woodard, of Wilson, who were received in this room by Mesdames Albert Anderson and Thad Thrash, of Tarboro, where coffee was served by Misses Bettie Wainwright and Maude Tyler, of Wilson, and Rachel Borden and Stella O'Berry, of Goldsboro. In this room were the presents. They were many of them. They were magnificent.

The couple left on the north bound train for an extensive northern tour. After their return their home will be in Goldsboro, where the groom has a large and growing practice. Wilson regrets to lose from her midst this popular young bride, for she was beloved by all. In all of the churches and at all social functions her sweet melody and song have made her numberless friends whose cordial good wishes go with her to her new home in our sister town of Goldsboro.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Annual financial statement of the Board of Education of Wayne county for the year ending June 30, 1903:

RECEIPTS.	
From General State and county poll tax.....	\$ 5,557.50
From general property school tax.....	12,749.50
From fines forfeiture and penalties.....	1,473.36
For liquor licenses.....	3,762.95
From State Treasurer.....	1,644.45
From sale of old school houses.....	204.00
From teachers' examination fees.....	32.00
Total received during the year ended June 30, 1903	\$25,423.76
Balance on hand as per last report.....	3,314.85
Total.....	\$ 28,738.61
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Paid white teachers.....	\$ 10,212.00
Paid col teachers.....	3,981.45
Paid for school houses and sites, white.....	4,754.00
Paid for school houses and sites, colored.....	239.60
Paid county superintendent.....	900.00
Paid for Teachers' Institute, white.....	30.65
Paid for Teachers' Institute, colored.....	35.00
Paid county treasurer.....	395.85
Mileage and per diem, County Board of Education.....	37.20
Expenses County Board Education, including fuel, stationery and postage.....	63.84
Paid to D. J. Broadhurst for schools of the city of Goldsboro.....	5,374.00
Paid for taking census.....	138.72
Paid treasurer of the Mt. Olive graded school....	1,200.00
Paid insurance on school houses.....	99.00
Paid attorney's fee.....	20.00

Total disbursements \$ 27,431.31
Balance on hand July 1, 1903..... 1,307.30

Total..... \$ 28,738.61

This statement is published in accordance with Sec. 75, of the school law, which requires that this statement shall be published the 31st of December of each year.

E. T. ATKINSON,
Secretary.

Jos. E. ROBINSON,
Chairman of Wayne County Board of Education.
Dec. 31, 1903.

Russia and Japan will probably put off their ultimatums to 1904.