ALL IN BLACK

City of Chicago Wrapped in Gloom

The Mayor Officially Asks That There be no New Year's Celebration on Account of the Horrible Disaster, Messages of Sympatry Are Received From Many European Sovereigns. From the President of the United States and the Mayors of Many Cities-Offers of Aid Are Tendered, But Chicago Can Care for Its Own-The Mystery of the Cause of the Fre Remains Unexplain d-Developments During the Day-Many Thrilling Stories of of the Dead by Relatives and Loved Ones is a Heartrending Sight-The Hearse Drivers Call Off Ther Strike for 10 Days to Assist in the Burial of the Dead-A General Suspension of Business is Asked for Today.

Chicago, December 31.-At lidnight 471 dead had been dentified, the injuries of 171 persons had received attention and 337 were still reported missing. As only about 80 bodies were still unidenlified, many of the men, women and children who were reported to the police as missing last night and this morning have doubtless recovered from their fright and 💠 returned to their homes.

Chicago, December 31.-For the first time since Chicago has possessed

bells to peak, whistles to shrick, and horns to blow, the old year was ailowed silently to take its place in listory and the new year permitted to come with no evidence of joy at is birth.

In an official proclamation issued this afternoon by Mayor Carter H. Harrison, he made the suggestion that the usual new year's eve ceiebration be for this time omitted. The idea found a ready response in the bearts of the people and the mayor's words in fact only gave utterance to the unexpressed thoughts that had filled them all.

Ordinarily, on new years eve, the streets of the city are filled with merry makers, but tonight the only throngs to be found were those around the morgues; ordinarily Onumbers of fathionable restaurants in the heart of the city are filled with light hearted reviers who toast the year that passed and hail the year that comes. Tonight these places were comparatively\ deserted, and some of them closed entirely, with doors locked and Chrisins drawn. Usually among these gy people are found many members, of the theatrical profession. Tonight tot a single one of them was in evidence.

The List of Dead The list of dead continues as it was given last night, in the peighborhood of 560. It is generaly accented at this time that the mot accurate estimate is 564. This number re people in the hospitals who calnot survive for any length of time It is believed, however, that the total missing, it is estimated that the total number of casualties at the present

time is approximately 1,000. There are among the missing the names of many who are at their homes and of some who were not at the theatre at all. in the first exitement following the calamity these were reported by their relatives as quency the missing and numbers of hem have since returned to their homes and no report of this fact has been made to police headquarters. Their names, however, still swell the list of the missing . When the names of the dead which are still to be identified are subtracted from the list of missing, it is probable that the extent of the catastrophe will be

fully reveiled. Cause of the Fire.

There was animated discussion today among firemen, employes of the theatre and architects as to the cause of the fire. Accounts differ today as widely, as they varied last night. The theatrical people are practically a unit in declaring that He announced tonight: "I have

the fire started with an explosion, and in this they are flatly contradicted by scores of people in the audience, who declare they saw the fire creeping along the edge of the curtain for several minutes before the explosion took place. These statements are substantiated by the stories of a number of people who left their seats after seeing the blaze and were well on their way to the street when overtaken by the frightened rush of those they had left behind them. The best evidence obtainable is to the effect that the fire was caused by the sparks from an arc light, striking the edge of the drop-curtain, but the actual fact. however, will not be known until Rescue Are Told-The Identifying after the conclusion of the coroner's inquest. There are also many statements at present and they differ so widely that it is impossible to as-

> Although the Iroquois Theatre was undoubtedly the safest theatre in Chicago, it became evident today that the city building department had not strictly enforced one or two sections of the building ordinances.

certain the exact truth of the mat-

Everything Reported all Right. William Curran, a building inspector, was in the theatre only a few moments before the catastrophe and went away saying that everything was in good condition. Deputy Building Commissioner Stanhope went to the theatre today to make an inspection. On his return to the city hall, he said: "The theatre and its management were strictly within the law. I will not go into detail until I have completed my report." Section 185 of the local building ordinance provides that in buildings of the class to which the Iroquois Theatre belong, there shall be a system of automatic sprinklers. There

were no sprinklers in the theatre and Mr. Stanhope when this was I called to his attention replied: There was no sprinkler system in the theatre, but the provision about the Iroquois made it unnecessary for the theatre to have them." Section 189 of the ordinance pro-

yldes that theatres be equipped with fire alarms connected with the city fire alarm system. City Electrician Hyland said: "The

Iroquois had no fire alarm connection with the city alarm system. No application is on file for any such connection. The alarm of fire, in fact, was turned in from a box over half a block distant from the thea-

The law provides also that there shall be a ventilating shaft at the rear of the stage, which will conduct flames and smoke away from the auditorium in just such emergencies as arose yesterday. The Iroquois theatre possessed no such ventilating shaft.

Take Precautions Now.

From the action of a committee of prominent architects of Chicago at a meeting tonight, may result a recommendation to Mayor Harrison to close every theatre in the city until its exits and construction have been examined. The idea was suggested to President Beaumont of the Chicago Architects Association today by W. A. Pridmore, an architect who lost some relatives in the

tion to Mayor Harrison, but called Thomas is among the missing. an informal meeting of the associa-

he theatres than for stopping all wreck. There is no necessity of get- lost friends and relatives. ting hysterical about this matter, alnumber of dead will not in any though this horrible disaster has event exceed 575. Including the Taken place in porbably the safest fleatre in Chicago."

Warning for the Others.

tion seut a letter to all theatrical proprietys in the city, calling their attention to the failure of theatres The mayor trects the chief of the to be paid by the theatres.

mayor said: "It any one of the dren were pathetic in the extreme. theatrical managers refuses to pay the wages of these men, as several of them have refused in the past, I will close the doors of the theatres and keep them closed funtil they agree to act as they should.

Offers of Aid. All during the day telegrams of sympathy to the people of Chicago and offers of aid poured in by telegraph upon the mayor.

received many offers of aid. It may be before we get through this a few persons will be found to have been. put to need, but Chicago will be able to give that aid herself. Most or those killed and injured, now identified, can be abundantly cared for."

Messages of Condolance. Among the telegrams of condolence received during the day by the mayor were the following: "Washington, D. C., Dec. 31, 1903.

'Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor,

Chicago, Ills. "In common with all our people hroughout this land, I extend to ou, to the people of Chicago, my deepest sympathy in the terrible catastrophe which has befallen them.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

"Mayor Harrison: Wish to express deepest sympathy on account of terrible catastrophe at Iroquois Theatre. Please let me know of missing and if some of my acquaintances among them. What a terrible beginning of the new year many good citizens of Chicago wil have.

(Signed) "HENRY OF PRUSSIA." From E. S. Willard, the actor, London, was received the following: Deepest sympathy with citizens

Telegrams of condolence were also received from Mayor Low, of New York; Mayor Collins, of Boston, and from dozens of the chief executives of cities between St. Louis and New

In addition to his proclamation issued during the afternoon suggesting that the usual new year's fesson tonight made the announcement that all departments of the city hall will be closed on Saturday, January 2nd, on account of the calamity at the Iroquois theatre. He made the request that all business houses throughout the city also close on that day.

On every train which arrived in Chicago during the morning came the relatives of persons who were thought to have been killed or injured in the fire. The lobbies of the down town hotels were scenes of many happy meetings, as well as anxious inquires on the part of fathers, mothers and more distant relatives of people of whom no trace could be found. Many of these people returned to the hotels late in the evening after either a fruitless search for their loved ones, or after finding a charred and disfigured body lying in the morgue-all that remained of the relatives or friends for whom they had searched.

Strikers Declare a Truce.

Possibly nothing could better typify the breath of the sympathy which is felt for those who suffered directly by the calamity than the action of the striking livery drivers. By a vote which was without a

dissenting voice, it was decided to establish a truce of ten days. President Albert Young, of the union, following the meeting, issued the following decree which was distributed broadcast:

"Owing to the great disaster to the public caused by the fire at the Iroquois Theatre, I do hereby declare a truce in the present strike of undertakers and livery drivers for ten days, and do further request that every man now on strike report at once to their respective places of employment, and do everything in his power to assist his employer in caring for the wants of the public. Wages are to have no consideration.

(Signed) "ALBERT YOUNG." In their turn the employers issued a call to their striking employes to return to work, "irrespective of any previous affiliations with any and all organizations," and promising to protect them in all contingencies

which may arise in the future. A Virginia Girl Escapes.

One of the most thrilling escapes was that of Miss Millie Overlook, of Virginia, a young girl who was visiting friends in the city. Miss Overlook's companion Remington Thomas made an heroic effort to escape with her, but after carrying her to the President Beaumont refused to door where he placed her on her personally make the recommenda-, feet, the two became separated and

From early in the morning until tion, at which it was decided that a late at night, crowds besieged the larger gathering of the members undertaking rooms and hospitals. would be held tomorrow and action looking for the dead and injured. at that time would be decided upon. Policemen were detailed at all places Mayor Harrison said tonight: "I where the dead and injured had see no more reason for closing all been carried to restrain the anxious railway trains after a disastrous; the doorways and inquired for their company are stopping, ordering that

In all the undertaking rooms the bodies were placed as far as possible upon cots and when these were exhausted, stetched in long lines upon the floors and a constant succession The mayor tonight in this connec- of pale faced men and tearful women passed slowly between the bodies, lifting the covering from the charred and bruised faces, and to comply with the building ordi- searching in the clothing of the dead nances religing to places of amuse- | for something by which their lost ment, especially that provision re- ones could be recognized. In many fire department to assign regular which they recognized the features firemen to each theatre, their wages of a dead child or a beautiful young girl. The scenes that were enacted After dispatching this letter, the around the bodies of the little chil-

> While the crowds of anxious seekers for news besieged the different morgues, the telegraph and long distance telephone offices were almost swamped with the flood of inquiring messages. Messenger boys from the telegraph offices of the Postal and board of trade houses were likewise and from lumbago.

gathered by the police and firemen and turned over to the coroner. Among these were fully a dozen watches, and in every instance the watches had stopped at 3:50 o'clock, the time when the fire broke out.

House Was Too Crowded.

There have been numerous reports, unauthenticated, however, that the aisles and passageways in the rear of the theatre were blocked by a crowd of people who occupied the standing room. The actual seating capacity of the theatre is 1,615. Will J. Davis, one of the proprietors of the theatre was asked if it was true that 500 people were standing in aisles and in rows back of the seats on each floor. Mr. Davis was plainly unstrung, but said he did not credit the statement. On Wednesday afternoon, after the fire, however, several of the ushers declared that at least 2,000 people were in the theatre.

James H. Strong, told tonight of his experience in attempting to force open one of the exits leading from the first balcony. When the panic commenced, Mr. Strong led his party off toward an exit in the center of the balcony toward which he saw but few people hastening. On arriving at the door he found it locked. He smashed in the transom and climbed over on the other side and with the assistance of a carpenter tried to get the door open. They failed and the fire drove them off.

Loss Will Not Exceed \$20,000.

E. R. Welmore of the insurance firm which had placed the insurance on the Iroquois Theatre, declared today that the loss would not exceed \$20,000. He also asserted that the spread of the flames to the auditorium was due to the failure of the asbestos curtain to work prop-

Newport News, Va., December 31 -Miss Minnie Overlook, of Middlesex county, Va., whose escape from the Iroquois Theatre was reported in today's Associated Press story from Chicago, is well known in society circles here.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Stewart Kellam, of Saluda, Middlesex county, Virginia. Before going to Chicago she wrote to her friend, Mrs. T. J. Chewning, of this city, that she would pay her a visit here before returning to her home in Middlesex. Miss Overlook was reported among

the missing in Wednesday's night's report of the disaster and to this probably is due the erroneous report of her death appearing in Virginia afternoon papers today. Richmond, Va., December 31.-M.

B. Florsheim, of Richmond, had a narrow escape from death in the Iroquois Theatre fire. He left the building, leaving behind his overcoat, hat and gloves. Mr. Florsheim is in Chicago on a

visit to his mother, Mrs. Florsheim and his brother-in-law, I. Flegenheimer both of whom formerly lived in Richmond.

SEVEN MEN ARRESTED.

Charged With Accessory to Manslaughter in the Theatre Fire.

Chicago, December 31.-Seven employes of the Iroquois Theatre were arrested tonight on orders issued by Chief of Police O'Neill. The charge against them is at present that of being accessory to manslaughter. They will be held pending the verdict of the coroner's jury.

The men arrested are: William Calton, stage manager; Edward Cummings, stage carpenter; Frank J. Jandrow, R. M. Cummings, E. Engle, Thomas McQueen, S. J. Mazoni.

The last five are stage hands and scenery shifters. After being taken in custody by the police, four of the men told Chief O'Neill that they had been requested by people, connected with the theatre to leave the city. When asked who advised them to do this they at first refused to say but later admitted that the advice was given by Assistant Stage Manager Plunkett. They say they were about to follow Plunkett's advice and all of them had packed their trunks and would have been out of the city had not the police arrested them.

Orders were issued tonight by Chief O'Neill to find other members of the company and theatre employes who were actual witnesses of the fire. This order will mean, the police say, that more than twenty arrests will be made in the morning. chiefly among the ballet dancers and members of the chorus.

According to Coroner Traeger, a large placard had been placed in the hotel where a large number of the all members of the company should be ready to leave upon short notice. Believing that this was a move to keep witnesses from testifying before the coroner's jury the arrests were decided upon.

Moscow, December 31.-The imposition of war risks today by the insur-

No War Talk Nor Excitement.

ance companies on shipments hence to quiring then to employ a fireman. instances many women fainted when the Far East was the first scal intilifting the sheet from some faces in mation that Russo-Japanese hostilities were considered within the bonds of possibility. There is no war talk, however, nor excitement.

No New Developments.

St. Petersburg, December 31.-The foreign office declares nothing has yet been decided regarding Russia's reply to Japan. M. Krino the Japanese min-Western Union, carrying great bun-dles of messages and tonight the with Foreign Minister Landdorff, notterrific rush of business was still on. withstanding the fact that the Japanese Private wires of stock exchange and official is suffering severely from a cold

loaded down with inquires and answers. Six bushel baskets of valuables and trinkets of various descriptions were trinkets of various descriptions were

Coroners Jury Will Fully **Investigate Cause**

of Fire

SINGLE VERDICT

Will be Rendered and This Will Cover all the Cases-The Jurors Visit the Morgues, Examining the Charred Bodies and Then Are Taken Through the Theatre-It Was Generally Remarked That the Protection Against Fire Was Inadequate.

Chicago, December 31.-With the announcement that one jury of representatives citizens would listen to all the evidence regarding the Iroquois Theatre fire and return a single verdict for all the victims, Coroner Traeger today promptly enpanelled a jury.

"If any persons are responsible for this fire," said Coroner Traeger," they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The investigation of the fire will be thorough. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to fix the responsibility."

The coroner's jury is as follows: L. H. Meyer, secretary of the Kennedy Furniture Company; Dr. Beter Byrnes, salesman for Lyon and Healy; Walter Clingman, salesman for the Tobey Furniture Company; Joseph A. Cummings, manager of Browning, King and Company; Geo. W. Atkins, credit man for Marshalfield and Company; John W. Finn, salesman for A. H. Revell and Com-

Continued sight of dead bodies lying huddled on the floors and tables of the various city morgues proved too much for some of the jurors. Several of the members of the jury objected to being forced to Last year it was on a basis of twentyview the bodies, and one juror, Joseph Cummings, practically collapsed at Rolstone's morgue, where the jury was forced to step over the dead bodies in their tour of inspec-

Coroner Traeger tonight conduct ed an informal inquiry into the cause of the fire. His first witness was William C. Sellers, the fireman employed at the theatre. Sellers did not know just how the fire began, but said he saw it shortly after it broke out. He threw extinguishers on the blaze, but without effect. He tried to pull down the drop curtain or to tear loose that portion of it which was blazing, but without success. The fire then spread with such great rapidity that he was unable to do more. Other witnesses were examined and after they had been heard Assistant State's Attorney A.

A. Herer, who was present, said: "It seems agreed that the asbestos curtain was dropped, but that it went only to within fourteen or fifon the stage opened the door leading from the stage to the street on the west side of the theatre and this created a strong draft. The draft blew the curtain out toward the audience. This held the curtain so tightly that all attempts to lower it further were fruitless." This evening the coroner's jury

which had spent the day in visiting the various morgues, was taken by Coroner Traeger to the theatre. The jury first went to the stage and Deputy Coroner Buckley pointed out the spot where the fire was discov-The seats in the first ten rows on

the first floor were burned, but back of that the orchestra were in good The members of the jury while

engaged in inspecting the stage frequently remarked that 'the protection against fire seemed to them to have been inadequate.

leading to the first balcony. Here Michaud, a chaffeur, employed by his the plush covering of the seats was found to be burned on every seat. from wall to wall and from the front row of the balcony to the last. An coach house of the minis er's residense inspection was made of the exits in the suburb of Marianao at the time leading to the fire escapes at the They were using 22 call re rais, and north end of the building. "These one of them apparently got out of ordoors are much too small; they der. Michaud, after examining the should have been three times as large," said Juror Finn.

The iron doors were closed and locked and it was then seen that the inner doors were so close to the steel shutters that they could not be opened with the shutters fastened. This exit is not sufficiently high for an hour Squiers died. ordinary sized man to walk through rors learned this fact by personal experience there was considerable comment among them. The jury then ascended to the top gallery, where the greatest loss of life oc-

curred. Coroner Traeger pointed to the balcony rail which was bent in several places and said that a number of spectators had jumped through these openings to the lower floor. An inspection was then made of the exits leading to the fire escapes and the jurors were told that the bodies of the dead were piled ten feet high in front of these doors when the investigation of the shooting

police reached the scene after the

"If these doors were locked somebody was criminally negligent," said Juror Finn. "The exits are too small anyway," said Foreman Meyer, as he measured the doors leading to

the fire escape. In both balconies there were hundreds of grewsome relics of the catastrophe, scattered between the seats where they had been dropped by the terrified victims. There were a score or more of rubbers, muffs, handkerchiefs, gloves, children's woolenhoods and mittens. Under one seat was found a tiny doll which had evidently been taken to the theatre by a little girl. The jurers were deeply affected by the sight as they y sorted over the relics of the disaster. At the conclusion of the inspection of the theatre it was decided to continue the inquest until next Thursday morning at 9 o'clock.

REDUCE THE WORK HOURS.

Cotton Spinners in England Resolve to Curtail Production.

Manchester, Eng., December 81 .--A meeting of the committee of the federation of master cotton spinners today recommended that the mills should work 40 hours per week, instead of 55 1-2.

The resolution declared that if the movement was to be successful to defeating the operations of speculators every section of the trade must join in.

The committee also adopted a resolution calling a special meeting January 4th, to consider the following questions:

First. Can the trade be carried on without paper contracts? Second. Are the present methods the best possible to obtain from the American cotton fields a sufficient, reliable supply for the Lancashire

It was announced that a joint conference of the members of the United States had been called to meet in Washington, and that the Manchester federation had been invited to send a representative.

MISSIONS AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Plans by the Baptists for Vigorous Prosecution of the Work.

(Special to the Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., December \$1 .- The mission board of the Baptist State convention met here this evening, John E. Ray, being chairman. It is composed of forty representatives from the state at large and one from each of the fifty nine associations. This is the most important meeting the board holds during the year. The work is enlarged. five thousand dollars. This year on a thirty thousand dollar basis and this was apportioned tonight,

Plans were put on foot in Charlotte at the recent convention for a vigorous prosecution of Sunday School work. The Sunday School committee will employ a Sunday School missionary to give entire time to this interest, organize new schools, hold rallies, in order to create interest in work and also hold institutes.

The outlook before the denomination is found to be brighter than ever be-

TWO DISTRICTS CONSOLIDATED.

Eastern and Western Districts of Southern Ry. Become One.

(Special to The Messenger.) Greensboro, N. C., December 31 .- It is announced here that the eastern and western districts of the Southern Railteen feet of the stage floor. People | way have been consolidated, C. S. Mc-Manus the present general superintendent of the western district office at Birmingham, Ala., becomes the superintendent. The general offices will be transferred to Atlanta. S. J. Collins general superintendent of the eastern district, offices at Greensboro refires. The news created surprise and regret here and a large force of office vien and women lose employment unless work is provided elsewhere.

AN ACCIDENTAL KILLING:

Fargo Squiers Mortally Wounded by a Chaffeur in His Father's Em-

Havana, December 31.-Fargo Squiers, the eldest son of United States Minister Squiers, was accidentally shot The jury then climbed the stairway and mortally wounded today by Gaston father. Young Squiers and several servants were shooting at a target in the weapon re-cocked it when suddenly it was discharged in the direction of Equiers, who was standing between Michaud and the target. The ball penetrated the young man's left lung. A hemorrhage ensued and within half an

Secretary Sleeper, who was in charge without stooping and when the ju- of the legation, sent a cable dispatch to Minister Squiers at Wa hington and. one to Mrs. Squiers at Katonah, N. Y., informing them of the accident. The body will be sent home.

Fargo Squiers was popu'ar here. He was twenty years old, and prior to last summer was a student at a military academy in Virginia.

Michaud is distracted at the consequence of his carelessness. It has been decided that as the accident occurred on the prem'es of the

United States minister there will be no