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BIG OFFICE BUILDING IS DESTROYED

Home of Equitable Life Assurance Society Burend, With Property Loss of Six Million

AT LEAST THREE DEATHS FROM FIRE

The Office Building of the Equitable Life Assurance Society Destroyed By Fire This Morning—Several Deaths in the Building and Many Narrow Escapes—Fire Chief Walsh Imprisoned in the Burning Structure for Two Hours—William Gillin, President of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Co. Also Caught in The Company's Vaults—Had to Be Sawed Out.

New York, Jan. 9.—The immense granite office building of the Equitable Life Assurance Society on lower Broadway, was destroyed by fire today. Three bodies have already been taken from the building, and there is no little doubt that several men, both dead and alive are caught in the ruins. The damage, provided the flames can be confined to the building where they started, will be six million dollars.

The Equitable building was the home of the Union and Southern Pacific Railroad, the banking house of August Belmont and Co., The Mercantile Trust Co., the Mercantile Safe Deposit Co., together with many New York financial concerns. Millions upon millions of dollars were cared for in the immense vaults of the Equitable Co. It is not believed the fire's heat can penetrate the safes. There probably will be no loss from this source. The heaviest loss besides that of the building was caused by the destruction of insurance and railroad records.

Within two hours after the fire broke out at five thirty this morning, the building was a mass of flames. The Equitable building occupied the block between Broadway and Nassau streets and Pine and Cedar streets. The fire was first discovered on the ground floor in the store room of the Cape Savarin, and carried by the draft, shot upwards through the elevator shaft, setting fire to the upper floors.

William Gillin, president of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Co., was rescued from this company's vaults, after the firemen sawed through several steel bars. He is mortally injured.

Fire Chief Walsh was rescued after being imprisoned in the building nearly two hours. Three employees of the building saved themselves from death by jumping from the third floor to the street. They are seriously injured. Two porters were rescued from the basement, when the sidewalk on the front of the structure caved in. The heat of the flames had the intensity of a blast furnace. The heavy floors buckled under the white fire and fell in, while the giant walls crumbled under the heat and dropper, piece by piece.

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NORTH CAROLINIAN KILLED IN BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Jan. 9.—George E. Cagle, of Candor, N. C., who was shot yesterday by Herbert H. King, husband of the woman Cagle expected to marry, died this morning. Cagle came here to recover a ring and money he said he gave Mrs. King when she was Mrs. Eula Sloope, a young widow of Rome, Ga., and who he averred was betrothed to him.

Cagle encountered King in the Equitable building yesterday. The shooting followed. Cagle's age was near thirty, King's is twenty-six.

America Will Send Troops to China. Washington, Jan. 9.—The United States will send a battalion of infantry consisting of 500 men to China to help keep open railway communications between Peking and the sea.



MISS MAY TANG AND CHANG YIN TANG.

Washington social life, and her departure for the younger set. Ambassador Chang has represented his government at Washington just a little over a year.

RICHESON SENTENCED

Richeson Pleads Guilty to Murder and Is Sentenced to Electrocutation

Boston, Jan. 9.—A plea of guilty of murder in the first degree was made by Mr. Clarence Richeson today in superior court. He was sentenced by Judge Sanderson to death by electrocution some time during the week of May 19, 1912.

Richeson had pleaded not guilty when arraigned after his indictment on the charge of murdering Avis Linnell, of Hyannis, Mass., his former fiancée. Following the written confession made public Saturday he retracted that plea and made the formal plea of guilty.

It is understood that a petition may be made to Governor Foss and State's Executive Council to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment.

Richeson made no statement. He was in the court-room about six minutes. His face was pale but he was perfectly composed. He answered the formal questions propounded by Judge Sanderson in the simplest possible way, asked if he had anything to say, he replied: "I have nothing further to say, further than my written confession."

GRAND LODGE HERE TONIGHT

Annual Communication of Masons in Temple—Lay Corner-Stone Today

From every section of the state Masons arrived in Raleigh today to attend the communication of the Grand Lodge, which will be in session tonight, tomorrow and tomorrow night. An interesting feature of the meeting will be the presentation tomorrow by the grand lodge of a bust of Governor Samuel Johnston to the North Carolina Historical Association. The presentation will be made by Col. J. Bryan Grimes and the acceptance will be by Governor Kitchin.

The sessions of the grand lodge will be held in the Masonic Temple. About 700 Masons are expected to be in attendance.

EDWARD HINES ON THE STAND AGAIN

Washington, Jan. 9.—Edward Hines, Chicago lumberman, alleged to have "put Lorimer over" at Springfield, was called to the witness chair when the senate committee resumed investigation of Lorimer's election.

STATE LAW WAS UPHELD

Supreme Court Says North Carolina Has Right to Inspect Oil

Washington, Jan. 9.—The North Carolina coal oil inspection law was today upheld as constitutional by the supreme court. The court left open to those attacking the law the opportunity to show in another suit that the law had an unconstitutional effect in its application.

The case decided by the court was that of the Red C. Oil Company against the North Carolina board of agriculture. The matter was heard before Judge H. G. Connor and appealed. The court sharply sustained the right of the state to impose a tax for the inspection of oils, but left open the matter of whether or not the state had the right to levy a tax to produce a residue.

Penalizing Law Announced. Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—The supreme court has annulled the North Carolina statute of 1905 penalizing the railroads for refusing to accept goods for interstate commerce. The court found the law to be an interference with interstate commerce.

INEXCUSABLE WASTE OF WATER HERE

It is rumored that during the last few days of cold weather numbers and numbers of people, instead of taking the trouble to cut off their water supply, have opened the water faucets and permitted the water to run day and night to keep the water pipes from freezing. Some idea of the immense quantity of water wasted in that way can be gathered from the fact that an ordinary barrel will, under six or eight pounds of pressure, discharge about two hundred and forty gallons of water per day, which is enough for the use of a family of five people for a whole day. Of course, such action is a waste of that which belongs to other people. A violation of the water supply rules and incurs the risk of having the supply disconnected.

TOOK KERN FOR E. Z. MARK.

But Indiana Senator's Four Words Made Confidence Man Flee. Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—Senator Kern has been detailed to read Washington's farewell address to the Senate, February 22, Washington's birthday. The designation of Mr. Kern brought forth a new story this afternoon.

The Indiana Senator went abroad last fall. Being away from Democratic influence, Bryan's running mate of 1908 forgot Jeffersonian simplicity for a time and blossomed out in a silk hat and good clothes to match. His appearance was so changed that he looked more like a minister than a statesman.

CHARGED WITH MURDER

Man Tells Story of How His Family Was Assaulted by a Band of White Men. Blytheville, Ky., Jan. 9.—C. P. Carpenter, a wealthy planter, who was arrested last night after he told the authorities of the murder of his wife and her mother, and how he was assaulted by a band of white men late Sunday night, took the stand when the coroner's inquest was resumed. He reiterated his story about the details of the alleged attack. A verdict is expected late today.



MRS. EDMUND K. STALLO.

Formerly the wife of Dr. E. Stallo, son of the late Mark Hanna, she died last year of typhoid fever. Her husband, Edmund K. Stallo, changing to her name, died in a hospital in New York City, after a long illness, on Jan. 9, 1911. The couple were married in 1902.

CONVENTION AT BALTIMORE

Troublesome Contest and Bitterness Things of the Past

Washington, Jan. 9.—When the Democratic national committee assembled today the troublesome contests and bitterness were things of the past. The Jackson-Bland fight was a veritable hot battle, and its Democratic atmosphere not generally desired. Today's situation was truly representative of various cities holding for the national convention were held. Bland more completely decided the issue.

The committee on resolutions, headed by Clark Howell, of Georgia, met and prepared a report to be submitted later to the national committee, dealing with the primary question and call for delegates. Paragraphs, it is said, will be prepared whenever state committees desire.

It was decided to hold the convention June 24th, one week after the Republican convention.

ALL DESTROYERS EXCEPT TWO SAFE

Washington, Jan. 9.—All but two of 34 German and McCall of the United States torpedo boat destroyers, caught in the terrific storm of sea last week while en route in the war game course to Guantanamo, Cuba, are accounted for according to a dispatch from Rear Admiral Winslow, commanding the second division of the Atlantic fleet which has been sweeping the seas in search of the little vessels.

Knickerbocker Special Wrecked. Erie, Pa., Jan. 9.—The Knickerbocker special, Chicago to Boston, over the Lake Shore Railroad, was wrecked near Dunkirk, N. Y. The special's engine crashed into a switch engine. Several cars left the rails. Several were injured.

GOES TO PEN FOR LIFETIME

Death Sentence of Cleveland Garner Is Commuted By Governor

Cleveland Garner, sentenced to the penitentiary for life, will spend the remainder of his natural life at hard labor in the penitentiary. Governor Kitchin today commuted his death sentence. This action was taken on the recommendation of the Ohio pardons board, and was based on the fact that the system of evidence in the case was so defective that the taking of Garner's life would be a violation of the constitution.

Garner was convicted on the charge of murdering a woman in a saloon in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1907. The conviction was based on circumstantial evidence of such a character that the best of lawyers would have been unable to secure an appeal, and that he would recommend that the sentence be commuted.

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80,000,000 IN DEPRESS POOR.

Petitions Court in Partition Estate and Relieve Financial Distress. New York, Jan. 9.—Mrs. John G. Lawrence complained to the Supreme Court today that although she was heir to more than \$100,000 from the estate of her son, the late Mrs. G. Finekeny, she was in actual poverty at the present time.

COALITION IS LIKELY AGAIN

Democrats and Insurgents May Vote Together On Steel and Other Schedules

STEEL SCHEDULE FIRST

Coalition is indicated by the announcement that Democratic members will follow Cummins Steel Amendment in the Bill They Report—Steel Schedule the First to Be Tackled by the House and the Bill is Practically Ready For Report—Reduction of 30 to 40 Per Cent Planned.

(By Winfield Jones.) Washington, Jan. 9.—That another democratic insurgent coalition is in progress at the capital is indicated by the announcement that the democratic members of the ways and means committee will report a steel bill that follows closely the Cummins steel amendment of last session.

The steel schedule will be the first tackled by the democratic house and the bill is practically ready for report. It is learned that although the democrats of the ways and means committee have drawn the bill after their own fashion it is almost identical with the Cummins measure, and that practically the same reductions in the duties on steel are made as were carried in the bill which passed last session, only to be vetoed by the president.

The Cummins amendment, introduced by Senator Cummins, to the lower insurgent bill when that measure was passed by the upper chamber. When it came to the house, the chemical bill, attached, was accepted by the democratic ayes and the bill went to the white house.

There it met the veto of President Taft, as did all other tariff revision bills passed by the democrats and insurgents during the extra session. It is believed that the president will again veto the steel bill unless the democrats of the house are inclined to wait until the tariff board can get ground to the steel schedule and make a report on that industry.

House democrats, who believe that the revision of the tariff is the most important issue now facing congress, show little willingness to grant the deliberate actions of the tariff board. They have gone ahead and prepared a steel schedule while the tariff board is still investigating the wool and cotton industries, and the present intention of the democratic leaders in the house is to pass the steel schedule ahead of all others, possibly following it with a revision of the duties on chemicals and sugar.

It is authoritatively stated that the democrats of the house, in which body all tariff legislation must originate, plan a reduction of 20 to 45 percent in the present duties on steel and its products. The Cummins bill of last session contained practically the same percentage of reduction and the prospects are that the house democrats and senate insurgents will have little difficulty in reconciling their differences when

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CENSUS BUREAU GINNING REPORT

Washington, Jan. 9.—The census bureau's cotton ginning report shows the number of running bales of cotton ginned prior to January 1st, shows: United States, 14,832,736; pound bales 96,228; Sea Island 196,439; Alabama 1,621,845; Arkansas 485,139; Florida 86,433; Georgia 2,422,604; Louisiana 353,409; Mississippi 1,047,608; North Carolina 975,899; Oklahoma 902,662; South Carolina 1,509,297; Tennessee 350,349; Texas 3,235,539; other states 119,302; Sea Island by states, Florida 38,095; Georgia 63,514; South Carolina 4,809.

Richard Harding Davis is returning to this country from England after unsuccessful efforts to induce his sister, the wife of Rev. F. P. Farrar, to accompany him.