

FRANCISCO PRACTICALLY IN RUINS; FEW LARGE BUILDINGS ARE LEFT STANDING; TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION PARTLY CHECKED; THE SOLDIERS HAVE SHOT MANY THIEVES.

PROPERTY LOSS IN TERRIBLE DISASTER GREATER THAN IN THE CHICAGO, BALTIMORE OR GALVESTON DISASTERS

Estimates As To Loss of Life Vary From 500 to 10,000--Thousands of Refugees Flee To Interior Points--Since Noon the Fire Has Been Checked To a Certain Extent And Is Now Confined Largely to Telegraph Hill--Soldiers Working Faithfully and Have Situation Under As Good Control As Is Possible Under the Circumstances--Horrible Scenes Enacted In Different Parts of the City--Relief Fund Growing.

San Francisco is practically in ruins. Only a few large buildings remain and are still burning. Both the business and residence sections are destroyed. Since noon the fire is partially checked. Property loss is much greater than in Chicago or Baltimore fires or in any other disaster.

The fire and was burning fast. The ferry buildings present a fearful scene of men, women and children and few articles they have tried to save. They are all to leave the city on the first boat they can get away on.

It is impossible to estimate the number of dead. Five hundred may be as near right as five thousand. Estimates of ten thousand are common. Two thousand refugees arrived at night at Sacramento and twenty thousand more will be sent there today.

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LEFT WITH HER BROTHER FOR HOME THIS MORNING

When the 10:30 train pulled out for Greensboro today the last act so far as local officers and newspaper men may be concerned was over and the curtain went down on the little incident mentioned in yesterday's Sentinel--for among the passengers on board were S. F. Hutchins, wife and child, besides Mrs. Hutchins' brother. As mentioned yesterday, Mrs. Hutchins was to have been sent back to her parents at Climax on the afternoon train, but she refused to go. Instead, she went back to the miserable hotel on Cole's pond--to a house of shame, the abode of mulatto woman. An officer was sent there and took her to a reputable boarding house, where she spent the night. Her brother arrived this morning in response to a telegram sent by Hutchins and the woman consented to go home with him.

FRANKLIN STATUE IS UNVEILED AT PARIS.

By Wire to The Sentinel. PARIS, April 20--In the presence of thousands of people, among them many Americans, the magnificent bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin, donated by Mr. John H. Harjes, the American banker, to the City of Paris, was unveiled this afternoon by Professor Albert Henry Smyth, of the American group, were President Failliot, specially appointed as the representative of the American government by President Roosevelt. The statue, which represents the great statesman and scientist seated in an armchair, is a duplicate of the statue standing in front of the Philadelphia postoffice. It is of bronze and was cast in New York after the design by John J. Bert, the New York sculptor. It cost \$10,000.

BLACKBURN HAS BEEN ACQUITTED

Judge Goff Did Not Give Case To Jury, Saying Evidence Was Insufficient

He Informed Jury That if They Should Return Verdict of Guilty He Would Set It Aside And That, Therefore, It Was Not Necessary for Them to Consider Case--Blackburn Is Warmly Congratulated.

Special to The Sentinel. GREENSBORO, April 20--The trial of Congressman Blackburn came to a sudden end this morning, practically in the midst of Judge Goff's charge to the jury. His honor was proceeding as if to deliver quite a lengthy charge but after going over and explaining the case fully, giving the contentions of both sides, he stopped and looking at the jury full in the face, said:

"And so, should you return a verdict of guilty under these conditions I would at once set it aside. It is therefore useless to have you go through the formality of considering the case or returning a verdict."

At this sudden announcement there was one outburst of applause from all over the packed court room, which the court made no effort to check, and numbers of ladies, who attended the trial regularly, crowded up to the bench and shook Judge Goff's hand.

There being no further charges against the defendant he was ordered discharged and was then the recipient of numerous congratulations. The opinion has prevailed throughout the trial that the government failed to make out its case and that the jury would acquit the defendant.

Mr. Blackburn shed tears while congratulations were being showered upon him by relatives and friends. The defendant went forward and shook hands with the twelve jurors. While doing this two or three members of the jury grabbed him around the neck and hugged him.

The congressman, accompanied by Mrs. Blackburn, her parents and aunt, who attended the trial, will probably return to Washington tomorrow.

NEWS ITEMS REPORTED FROM STATE CAPITAL

RALEIGH, April 20--The second annual session of the North Carolina Library Association will be in session in this city April 27 and 28, specific purpose of the organization being the promotion of the literary interests of the state, the association having been organized in Greensboro in May, 1904. The officers are Mrs. Annie Smith, president; Dr. Chas. D. Melver, vice president; Dr. L. R. Wilson, secretary. Among the most notable features of the session will be "The Library and Library Club" by Mrs. Lind say Patterson, Winston-Salem; "Public Libraries of North Carolina" by Dr. Edwin Mims; "Rural Libraries" by State Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Jovner. There will be a reception by the citizens of Raleigh Friday evening.

Mr. Joyner left this afternoon for Buncombe, Watauga and McDowell counties where he will be until the 26th delivering educational addresses. Sup. Jovner is much exercised over the question of the place of meeting of the National Educational Association, of which he is one of the officers. The annual meeting was to be in San Francisco July 6, but the terrible disaster which has befallen the city will make it necessary to select another place for the meeting. He thinks they will probably select Los Angeles.

May Save Part of City. WASHINGTON, April 20--2:15 p. m.--The War Department at noon received the following from General Funston: "Fire situation at seven this morning was better. Fire has been stopped at Franklin street. Hose is now being stretched from Franklin and Broadway toward Russian Hill and Telegraph Hill. It is hoped to stop the fire on that line. "South of Market street, the fire has passed to west of Dolores street, but north of Market street the entire line is under control from about Fillmore and Market. The region of city west of this line and north of Market will probably be saved. "The weather continues fine. Supplies are arriving and the situation appears a little better than anticipated at midnight."

Much Effective Relief Work. OAKLAND, April 20--2:30 p. m.--At least a hundred thousand homeless have succeeded in reaching Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda. Those without relatives or funds were taken in charge by charitable organizations and made as comfortable as possible in parks, churches and hotels. Almost without discrimination the destitute were taken into private homes for temporary succor. Ten to twenty thousand Chinese are among those reaching west side of the bay. They hurried supplies and in main found places for their countrymen. Bay citizens took special precaution to protect themselves from the lawless element. Organized corps of special police patrol the streets and guard the houses. All the people were ordered from the streets at 10 o'clock. Suspicious characters were arrested. Mayor Mott, of Oakland, served notice on storekeepers that if they charged exorbitant prices, their stocks would be confiscated for distribution by authorities. Unless more food than is in sight reaches here within 48 hours both the homeless in San Francisco and those of other bay cities will suffer hunger. The soldiers are pressing into service all the men who come near Presidio, forcing them to labor in burying the dead. Corpses are piled so thick they have become a menace and orders were issued to bury them at any cost. No attempt is made to identify them. Ex-Mayor Phelan, of San Francisco, one of the heaviest losers, headed the subscription for relief of the distressed by giving one million dollars. All nearby towns are raising subscriptions. No Water Famine Expected. NEW YORK, April 20--3:45 p. m.--Western Union Bulletin says: The homeless people are concentrated in three camps, one between Fort Mason and Presidio, one in Golden Gate Park, and a third south of the Presidio in the hills. No water famine is anticipated.

Supreme Court Hits Divorce Laws Hard. The United States supreme court holds that divorces obtained in states that do not have jurisdiction over both parties, are not enforceable outside the state where they are granted. Justices Harlan, Brewer and Brown united in a dissenting opinion, and Justice Holmes delivered a separate dissent. Justice Holmes held that the majority decision would result in dispensing many innocent children. He looked upon it as a reversal of the court's former opinion as expressed in the case of Atherton against Atherton. Justice Brown thought this case should be treated separately, and not be used as a general principle for it was apparent that the only object of the wife was to obtain alimony. The majority opinion, he declared, was a backward step.

Anniversary of the Kishieniff Massacre. BOSTON, April 19--The anniversary of the Battle of Lexington, being a legal holiday in the State of Massachusetts under the name of Patriots' Day, was duly observed here and in other cities and towns throughout the State in the usual manner. Many patriotic and social organizations will hold meetings this afternoon and evening when prominent speakers will deliver addresses on the meaning and importance of the day. In the town of Lexington the day was ushered in, as customary, by the Lexington Drum Corps and the School Color Guards. There was also a band concert on the battle green in the forenoon. There will be another band concert in the afternoon and later in the afternoon there will be a popular entertainment for young people. The Old Belfry Club will keep open house all day and will conduct the usual ball in the evening. The Irish-American Historical Society will hold its annual meeting in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening. At Arlington the Fire and Drum Corps started early this morning and went over the Paul Revere Route, starting at 5 o'clock in the morning from old Mystic Bridge that divides the town from Medford and marching up the Paul Revere Road to Lexington line. The corps visited the Revolutionary monument and the Revolutionary burying ground in the town and decorated them with flowers and flags. The tablets about the town and the Soldiers' Monument were also decorated.

Clemmons School Notes. Pupil Return for Six Weeks' Work Before Commencement. CLEMMONS, April 19--Easter holidays are over and all the pupils are back ready for the six weeks of real work before commencement. Mrs. Thos. Cooper and two children of Raleigh, are here to visit her father, Mr. Carlos Strupe, who has been unwell for some time. Miss Maud Long, of Dowler, who has been out of school for some time on account of sickness, returned this week. Clemmons school and the West End ball teams will cross bats on the Clemmons school grounds this, Thursday afternoon. Services on the graveyard of Clemmons Moravian church were conducted at 10 o'clock Sunday morning and at Hope at 7 o'clock by Rev. Jas. Hall. Rev. E. P. Mendenhall went to New Philadelphia to conduct Good Friday services and also to Macedonia for the graveyard services on Sunday morning. He was accompanied by Master Venter and Mrs. Mildred Mendenhall. Any man who plays only favorites never wins by a long shot. Don't attempt to build a new reputation on the ruins of an old one.

MEMORABLE EVENT 131 YEARS AGO TODAY.

BOSTON, Mass., April 19--The anniversary of the Battle of Lexington, being a legal holiday in the State of Massachusetts under the name of Patriots' Day, was duly observed here and in other cities and towns throughout the State in the usual manner. Many patriotic and social organizations will hold meetings this afternoon and evening when prominent speakers will deliver addresses on the meaning and importance of the day. In the town of Lexington the day was ushered in, as customary, by the Lexington Drum Corps and the School Color Guards. There was also a band concert on the battle green in the forenoon. There will be another band concert in the afternoon and later in the afternoon there will be a popular entertainment for young people. The Old Belfry Club will keep open house all day and will conduct the usual ball in the evening. The Irish-American Historical Society will hold its annual meeting in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening. At Arlington the Fire and Drum Corps started early this morning and went over the Paul Revere Route, starting at 5 o'clock in the morning from old Mystic Bridge that divides the town from Medford and marching up the Paul Revere Road to Lexington line. The corps visited the Revolutionary monument and the Revolutionary burying ground in the town and decorated them with flowers and flags. The tablets about the town and the Soldiers' Monument were also decorated.

BALTIMORE, April 19--Today is a memorable day in the history of this country. Just 131 years ago the shot was fired at Lexington, which "was heard around the world," and just forty-five years ago today Baltimore was the scene of an important event in the history of the United States, the attack upon the Sixth Massachusetts regiment as it was on its way to Washington in defence of the Union. There are still quite a number of persons living in this city today who remember that April 19, nearly half a century ago. The country was in a turmoil then. Fort Sumter had been fired upon, the federal government had called for volunteers to fight for Union side and the stars and bars had been run up to replace the stars and stripes in many of the Southern states. Baltimore was a hot-bed of secessionists then and, when the Washington authorities attempted to pass armed men through the city, there was trouble. On the morning of April 19, the 6th Massachusetts Regiment and portions of the First and Second Regiments of Pennsylvania troops started across the city. They were greeted with hoots and jeers and showers of missiles were hurled at them by the immense throng of Southern sympathizers. A soldier's gun was accidentally discharged, the mob made an assault and the soldiers fired a volley. Four soldiers and twelve citizens were killed and thirty-six soldiers and a great many citizens wounded.

GREATEST DISASTERS IN HISTORY.

- Herculaneum, destroyed by eruption of Mount Vesuvius; 79; more than 2,000 lost.
Earthquake in Constantinople, thousands killed; 557.
Earthquake in Sicily, 15,000 persons killed by earthquake; 1137.
20,000 killed by earthquake; 1158.
20,000 killed by earthquake; 1268.
Earthquake, 6,000 lost; 1726.
China, 100,000 lost by earthquake; November 30, 1731.
North Persia, 40,000 lost, earthquake; 1755.
City ruined by earthquake, 25,000 killed; November, 1755.
Destroyed by earthquake, thousands killed; 1822.
Earthquake, 6,000 lost; May 27, 1830.
Earthquake, 10,000 lost; 1857.
Krakatoa, volcanic eruption, 36,380 lives lost; May 27, 1883.
Iceland, earthquake, 2,000 lost; 1883.
Mauna Loa, Hawaii, 79 killed; 1880.
San Francisco, earthquake, 49 lives lost; August 30, 1886.
Volcanic eruption, 1,003 killed; July, 1888.
Hondo, Japan, earthquake, 10,000 killed; October, 1891.
Earthquake, 3,000 killed; April 24, 1894.
Earthquake, loss of life not yet ascertained; April, 1902.
Martinique, May, 1902; loss of life 40,000.
Town destroyed by eruption of volcano, April, 1906; 400 killed.
San Francisco, April 18, 1906, earthquake, followed by fire; 2,000 killed, injured.