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## MILLIONS UP IN PLACES AND NUMBER FATALITIES

### Immense Equitable Building Destroyed by Fire Today in New York City

Great Insurance Company's Structure, Housing Many Financial Concerns, Gilded by Fire—Various Estimates Placed on the Damage, Some Amounting as High as Fifteen Million Dollars—Four Known Dead So Far and Number Injured—Several Missing—Securities and Records Intact.

New York, Jan. 9.—The immense granite office building, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society on lower Broadway, was destroyed by fire today. Four bodies have already been taken from the building. There is little doubt that several more 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 railroads, the banking house of August Belmont & Co., the Mercantile Trust Company, and the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company.

Together with many New York financial concerns, millions upon millions of dollars were cared for in the immense vaults of the Equitable Company. It is not believed the fire and 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 destruction of insurance and railroad records. Within two hours after the fire broke out at 5:30 o'clock 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 safe Savarin and carried by a draft, shot upward through the elevator shaft, setting fire to the upper floors.

Many Narrow, Thrilling Escapes.

William Giblin, president of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company, was rescued from this company's vault, after a fireman sawed through several steel bars. He is mortally injured. Three employees of the building saved themselves from death by jumping from the third floor to the street, but were seriously injured. Two porters were rescued from the basement when the sidewalk in front of the structure caved in. The heat of the flames had the intensity of a blast furnace. The heavy floors buckled under while on fire and fell in, while the giant walls crumbled under the heat and dropped piece-meal into the streets. The building was gutted. Business in the financial section was brought to a standstill.

Securities and Records Intact.

President Day, of the Equitable, says the society's securities and records are intact. Four men are known dead, and five are injured. Several persons are missing. Battalion Chief Walsh's body has not been found. The fire was still burning in the basement this afternoon. Conservative estimates of the damage place the loss near ten million dollars. Some say the loss will aggregate fifteen million.

## DECLARES FOR LEASE SYSTEM

### Sec. Fisher Favors Such in Annual Report

Head of the Department of the Interior Believes That Leasing Will Better Protect the Public Interest—Also Calls for Better Laws, Deeming Present Statutes Not Sufficient to Properly Develop Government Domain.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Enlarged application of the leasing principle, as applied to the public domain, especially a liberal leasing law for the development of the mineral resources of Alaska, particularly its coal lands, and immediate consideration by Congress of the whole subject of water-power development and control, are the most important recommendations contained in the annual report of Secretary of the Interior Fisher.

A general overhauling of conditions in Alaska is needed, the Secretary says. He favors a law for the retirement of government employees, placing it on the ground of good business policy. He urges the creation of a bureau of national parks, each of them at present being "a separate and distinct unit for administrative purposes." There is also serious need, he declares, for the enlargement of the work of the bureau of mines.

"The great public movement for the conservation of our national resources," says Secretary Fisher, "is not in any way opposed to prompt and wise development of the public domain. The essential thing is to see that under the guise of settlement, we do not permit more exploitations, which in the last analysis retards both settlement and development." He recommends, therefore, certain modifications of existing laws relating to the public domain so as to permit its proper development.

Many of the restrictive provisions which now irritate and hamper the bona fide settler and industrial pioneer, should be removed, he says.

"The man on the ground should be the object of our solicitude, and we should protect him against those who would place upon his shoulders any unnecessary burden."

In regard to agricultural land settlers, Secretary Fisher holds that the law should insist absolutely upon cultivation but "should permit the relaxation of the rule requiring residence during the first two years," in some cases on account of conditions, there being "no reason whatever for insisting upon the requirement of actual residence at the outset."

Some modification of the law in regard to repayment of reclamation charges is recommended and a change in the law is proposed to permit the settler at any time after five years from the date of entry and after he has lived to three years upon his land, to acquire title to the property.

"No land should be open to homestead entry," he declares, "except that which is really suitable for homes; and then the homemaker should be aided in every proper way."

"The public range can not be properly administered under the existing law. It should be leased for grazing purposes under the broad administrative discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, so that the leases can be adapted to actual conditions and the legitimate interests of the sheep and cattle-men. At present the range itself is being destroyed and both sheep and cattle-men are coming to the conviction that their own interests will be better subserved by a leasing law."

"In fact, the enlarged application of the leasing principle to the public domain generally will, in my judgment, more effectively promote development and protect the public interest than the present system. Certainly coal, oil, gas, asphalt, nitrate, and phosphate lands can be more appropriately developed by leasehold than by the present system of classification and sale of the fee which prevails with respect to coal."

In respect to such leasing in Alaska, the Secretary recommends "that passage of a liberal but carefully guarded leasing law for the development of its mineral record and especially of its coal lands. Alaska's greatest resources are her minerals and in the development of these the precious metals still hold the predominant place. Careful consideration of the provisions of an appropriate law is needed."

(Continued on Fifth Page.)



JUDGE ANDERSON

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 9.—Judge A. B. Anderson, who is in charge of the federal grand jury that is investigating dynamiting matters, intends that the inquiry shall be as complete as possible. Ortie McManigal has been brought from Los Angeles to testify, and other witnesses have been brought from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and elsewhere. Judge Anderson has been on the federal bench since 1902.

## RICHESON GETS DEATH PENALTY

### Sentence Passed On the Preacher Today

He Showed Little Emotion and Would Make No Further Statement—Sentenced to be Executed in May, But Petition Will be Sent to Governor For Commutation to Life Imprisonment.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 9.—A plea of guilty of murder in the first degree was made today by Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson in the 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 the murder of Avis Lincoln, his former fiancée. Following the written confession, made public Saturday, he retracted that plea and made a formal plea of guilty. It is understood a petition may be made to Governor Foss and the State's executive council to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment.

Displayed Little Emotion.

Richeson heard the death sentence with little apparent emotion. When brought into court he walked with slight assistance from the officers escorting him. He was not required to enter the prisoner's cage and remained standing. District Attorney Peletier read the minister's written confession and added that the Government had sufficient evidence to convince a jury that Richeson was guilty of first degree murder. He then said it became his solemn duty to move for sentence.

Made No Further Statement.

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

Realized Gravity of His Plea.

Judge Sanderson read the statutes bearing on the case and asked the prisoner if he realized the gravity of his action in pleading guilty, if he had consulted counsel and if he acted voluntarily. To each question Richeson said: "Yes, sir."

The court gave the prisoner every opportunity to realize what his action meant and to make any statement, but the prisoner expressed no desire to make further explanation of his decision. The court then pronounced the sentence. Richeson was immediately taken back to jail.

## TODAY ONE OF LOVE MAKING

### Serene Aftermath of Jackson Day Banquet

Democratic National Committee men in Session Again Today and Settle on June 25th as Date for Convention—The Convention City Will be Named This Afternoon and Baltimore Still Thought to be in the Lead.

Baltimore has been selected as the place for the next Democratic National Convention.

Washington, Jan. 9.—When the Democratic National Committee assembled today troublesome contests and bitterness were things of the past. The Jackson Day dinner was a veritable love feast and the Democratic atmosphere had considerably cleared. Today's sitting was brief. Representatives of various cities, bidding for the National convention were heard. Baltimore continued a decided favorite. 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 a call for delegates. Primaries, it is believed, will be permitted where-ever State committees desire.

It was later decided that the convention will be held June 25th—one week after the Republican convention.

SPECIAL DERAILLED

Fast Train on Lake Shore Wrecked Today.

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

## DEATH SENTENCE CHANGED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Special to The Dispatch.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 9.—Governor Kitchin today commuted to life imprisonment in the penitentiary at hard labor the death sentence of Cleveland Garner, convicted in Wayne county. The commutation was recommended by the trial judge, the Solicitor and others on the ground that the circumstantial evidence was too weak to take the man's life. He had two brothers, it is said, mixed up in the affair.

## UNITED STATES TROOPS TO GO TO CHINA

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—The United States will send a battalion of infantry, consisting of 500 men, to China to help open railway communication between Peking and the sea.

## MARRIED AT BALTIMORE

Friends here will be interested in the following account of the marriage of Mr. Joseph King Corbett, formerly of this city, and Miss Anna Rita Van Lill, from Sunday's Baltimore Sun:

"Miss Anna Rita Van Lill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Van Lill, of Catonsville, was married yesterday at noon to Mr. Joseph King Corbett, of Baltimore, formerly of Wilmington, N. C. The ceremony took place at St. Mark's Catholic Church, Catonsville, and was performed by Rev. Peter B. Tarro, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Mount Washington, in the presence of a large assemblage. Other priests in the sanctuary were Rev. Thomas Staunton, chaplain of Mount de Sales Academy; Rev. Michael A. Ryan, of St. Paul's Church, Ellicott City; Rev. Thomas McCormick, of St. Joseph's, Baltimore; Rev. Father Quirk, of Georgetown, and Rev. Edward A. Williams and Rev. J. J. Brennan, of St. Mark's Church.

"The bride entered the church, which was prettily decorated, with Easter lilies and palms, on the arm of her father, by whom she was given in marriage. She was attended by Miss Marie Louise Dion, of Quebec, Canada, as maid of honor. Mr. John Grace, Mayor of Charleston, S. C., was best man, and the ushers were Messrs. John Smith, John Carroll, William Kirschmann and Stephen J. Van Lill, Jr., brother of the bride.

"A gown of white satin, charmeuse, hand embroidered, trimmed with lace and pearls, was worn by the bride. She wore also a tulle veil, caught with a spray of orange blossoms, and a diamond brooch, the gift of the groom. She carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. The maid of honor was attired in white embroidered crepe de chine, ornamented with pink and blue roses, and wore a string of pearls, the gift of the bride. She wore a white picture hat and carried pink Killarney roses.

"After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served to the bridal party at the home of the bride's parents on Edmondson avenue. The home was decorated with pink Killarney roses and palms. Later Mr. and Mrs. Corbett left for New York and an extended trip South. They will reside in Catonsville, where they will be 'at home' after February 6th."



REPRESENTATIVE LINDBERG

Washington, Jan. 9.—Chas. A. Lindberg, who represents the Seventh Minnesota district wants the house to conduct an inquiry into financial affairs with especial reference to the life insurance companies are carried on. The resolution he has introduced provides for such an investigation in an effort to learn the identity of those who "control credits and the money supply." Mr. Lindberg, who is a Republican, does not believe that the senate should be asked to aid in the inquiry, as he thinks the money power has too much influence in the senate.

"What's your missis kidding about?" inquired the housemaid from next door.

"This is her night out, but I told her I had an engagement mesself."—Kansas City Journal.

## COTTON FIGURES

Issued by the Government Showing Amount Ginned Up to the First of the Year—Crop Over Fourteen Million Bales—North Carolina Supplied Nearly One Million of This Number.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Census Bureau's eighth cotton ginning report of the season, issued at 10 a. m. today and showing the number of running bales, counting round as half bales, of cotton of the growth of 1911 ginned prior to January 1, with comparative statistics for last year and other years, is as follows:

Year	Bales
United States, 14,332,756 bales, compared with 11,084,515 bales last year, when 95.8 per cent. of the entire was ginned prior to January 1; 12,465,298 bales in 1908, when 95.3 per cent was ginned, and 11,741,039 bales in 1906, when 90.4 per cent was ginned.	
Round bales included were 96,228, compared with 109,232 bales last year, 143,949 bales in 1909 and 230,572 bales in 1908.	
Sea Island cotton bales included were 106,439, compared with 82,432 bales last year, 89,611 bales in 1909, and 86,528 bales in 1908.	
Ginning by States, with comparative statistics and the percentage of the entire crop ginned prior to January in other record years, follows:	
Alabama	1,621,843
1911	1,162,728
1910	1,302,338
1908	1,190,062
Arkansas	785,499
1911	724,100
1910	810,422
1908	731,547
Florida	86,439
1911	63,105
1910	66,855
1908	59,011
Georgia	2,623,604
1911	1,762,070
1910	1,930,783
1908	1,571,582
Louisiana	352,409
1911	240,170
1910	453,210
1908	336,459
Mississippi	1,047,508
1911	1,131,562
1910	1,522,160
1908	1,289,294
North Carolina	975,809
1911	702,150
1910	847,505
1908	571,628
Oklahoma	902,562
1911	895,926
1910	585,010
1908	701,814
South Carolina	1,509,297
1911	1,154,003
1910	1,176,220
1908	869,977
Tennessee	380,949
1911	289,293
1910	

## N. C. LAW UPHELD

United States Supreme Court Declares North Carolina Oil Inspection Statute is Constitutional. Leaves Chance to Bring Another Suit.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—The North Carolina Coal Oil inspection law was upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court today, but the court left open to those attacking the law an opportunity to show, in another suit, that the law has an unconstitutional effect in its application.

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

Convened Today, Controlled by Republicans.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 9.—The New Jersey legislature convened today. The opening session was devoted mainly to swearing in members, electing officers and reading Governor Wilson's message. The Republicans control both houses.

## WEALTHY MAN ARRESTED IN MURDER CASE

Blytheville, Ky., Jan. 9.—C. P. Carpenter, the wealthy planter arrested last night, after he had 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 today. He admitted his story about the details of the alleged attack. A verdict is expected late today.

## VICTORY FOR RAILROADS

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Supreme Court today annulled the North Carolina statute of 1905 penalizing railroads for refusing to accept goods for Interstate Commerce. The court found the law to be an interference with Interstate Commerce.

Steamer Goes Aground.

Provincetown, Mass., Jan. 9.—New York steamer, Wilhelmina, bound from Weymouth, Mass., for Newport News, Va., stranded during the thick weather off the mouth of Pamet river, in Cape Cod Bay. The steamer was practically high and dry at low tide at noon. The vessel is not considered in danger.

ALL BUT TWO TORPEDO BOATS ACCOUNTED FOR

Washington, Jan. 9.—All but two of the fourteen United States torpedo boat destroyers caught in the terrific storm at sea last week, while engaging in the war game en route 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.

## TAR HEEL SHOT IN BALTIMORE DIED TODAY

Baltimore, Jan. 9.—George E. Cagle, of Candor, N. C., 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. Eaula Sloppet, a young widow of Rome, Georgia, and who he averred was betrothed to him. Cagle encountered King in the Equitable building yesterday and the shooting followed. Cagle's age was thirty and King's thirty-six.

## LUMBERMAN HINES ON WITNESS STAND

Washington, Jan. 9.—Edward Hines, the Chicago lumberman, alleged to have "put Lorimer over" at Springfield, was called to the witness chair today when the Senate Committee resumed investigation of Lorimer's election. Lorimer will be the witness at the close of Hines' story.



HERR VON KIDERLEN-WAECHTER

Berlin, Jan. 9.—The general elections for the Reichstag Jan. 13 are expected to show strong disapproval of the government's foreign policy, and it is probable that Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the foreign minister, will lose his office as a result. It is generally understood that the emperor is losing confidence in his foreign minister.

"Brown of Harvard," the Great Drama Presented in Superb Photoplay Style Grand Theatre Today.