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GREAT FIRE IN BALTIMORE.

Loss Over a Hundred Million

Seventy-five Business Blocks Swept Away—140 Acres of Buildings Now a Moulding Heap of Ruin—Fire Raged Thirty Hours.

One of the most disastrous fires that ever visited this country or any other country in modern times broke out in the heart of the city of Baltimore Sunday morning at about 11 o'clock and raged continuously until Monday evening. All efforts to check the flames were without avail. The Baltimore firemen with the assistance of firemen from Washington, Philadelphia, New York and other near-by cities, worked valiantly to stop the fire, but their efforts were almost futile and the fire stopped only when it reached Jones Falls creek and the water front.

The fire broke out in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co. Almost the entire wholesale district was destroyed. All of the morning newspaper buildings fell a prey to the flames and many of the handsome buildings of the city were totally destroyed.

The following press dispatches tell the story of the fire:

Baltimore, Md., February 7.—Midnight.—The most disastrous fire since the great conflagration which wiped out Chicago, has been raging here for the past twelve hours and is still burning fiercely.

More than a hundred business houses have gone up in flames and the loss will foot up not less than forty, and may reach fifty millions, according to estimates tonight.

The flames, which started before noon, in the heart of the business district, the store of John E. Hurst & Co., on Hopkins Place, soon got beyond the control of the Baltimore fire department, and Philadelphia, Washington, Wilmington and other towns were called on for fire assistance, which was promptly forthcoming. A high wind was blowing and despite all the efforts of the fire-fighters, the sparks from the original fire set fire to the surrounding buildings so rapidly that it looked as though they were being set on fire purposely.

Block after block crumbled away as though they were houses of cards. Time and again the fire-fighters, contesting desperately every inch of ground, were driven back and it was seen that the entire wholesale section was doomed.

The city has been placed under martial law and dynamite is being used to level whole rows of buildings in the fire's path. At midnight the flames have laid waste the territory bounded by Lexington, Lombard, Light, St. Paul and Howard Streets.

The Equitable building, in which is the Western Union operating rooms, has been ordered dynamited, and its neighbors which seem doomed, are the court house, at Calvert and Fayette Streets, costing \$3,000,000; the Calvert building, Fayette and St. Paul Streets, costing \$1,250,000; the Continental Trust building, at Baltimore and Calvert Streets, valued at \$1,125,000; the general offices of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at Calvert and Baltimore Streets, value, \$1,125,000; the City Hall and Postoffice and the Monument which gives Baltimore its name.

All the newspaper offices have been burned out. The Herald and News are in ruins, the Sun has transferred its staff to Washington. All the retail dry goods district is in flames.

All the electric lights have gone out and the streets are filled with a terror-stricken army. All is lighted by a red glare punctuated by explosions. Overhead for miles is a canopy of sparks. Many of them are as large as stones. Everywhere they leave other fires behind.

At midnight the fire had con-

sumed the Equitable building and was lapping the walls of the Postoffice and Courthouse. The flames were sweeping along Gay street, the second most important thoroughfare in the city, from Baltimore to Fayette streets.

FLAMES CHECKED AT LAST.

Baltimore, Md., February 8.—Stunned, disheartened and on the verge of despair, Baltimore drew a deep sigh of relief at 7 o'clock tonight when Mayor McLane confirmed the report that the progress of the flames had at last been arrested. After thirty hours of desperate fighting the combined fire forces of a half dozen cities succeeded in holding the flames at the Union docks.

Two hundred millions of dollars worth of property in the meantime had been swept away. This is the conservative estimate. Sixty business blocks have been wiped out. More than one thousand modern structures, many of them skyscrapers, modern in every respect and said to have been "fireproof," are blackened ruins.

The fire area covered a territory more than a half a mile in length and from three to six blocks in width. Two square miles are in ruins. The entire business, banking and commercial district of Baltimore has been obliterated, thousands of poor workers have been thrown out of employment, great fortunes have been wrecked and the commercial prestige of Baltimore has received a blow from which it cannot recover in many years. Amid the darkness and the desolation of the calamity that has overtaken the city, there is only one ray of light.

So far as can be ascertained at this hour, only one life has been lost in the tragedy of flame and gale that has penetrated one of the great cities of the continent.

Not without varying hope and despair did Baltimore reach tonight the first stage in her progress toward recovery from the calamity.

All through the night the fire raged. At dawn the flames were still sweeping resistlessly onward, and it seemed that the entire city must go down in smoldering ruins. Then at 11 o'clock came a gleam of hope. The firemen announced that the fire was under control.

A cry of thanks went up and Baltimore took courage. A hundred fires still blazed about the destroyed district, but the firemen kept back their spread. There was a feeling that the worst was over, and then came another blow. At 2 o'clock, despite all the worn and weary fighters could do, the flames took fresh hold, and with renewed fury began fresh devastation.

Powerless the firemen fell back and again the fire was master of the situation. Then the flames swept on, and once more, block after block going down, the residential sections looming into danger, and all hope was abandoned.

But they continued desperately at their work, the New York Battalion rendering magnificent aid, and shortly after seven the announcement was made and confirmed by the mayor, that the fire was surely under control. At this hour great blazes continued in the burned district, but they are no menace, being islands of fire in a desolate waste.

Any attempts to describe the speed of the flames are utterly futile, so rapidly did they encompass the burned district and so vast and complete is the ruin.

In the extent of property loss, the fire has reached proportions that are likely to exceed those of any other conflagration in the history of the United States.

To estimate the loss accurately at this time is impossible. A large percentage of it will fall upon the insurance companies. Insurance brokers today estimated that at least \$30,000,000 in premiums will have to be paid by the companies concerned, the losses falling on individual companies to the extent from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000 each.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—The burned district is within the ter-

ritory bounded on the west by Liberty street, on the north by Lexington street, on the east by Jones Falls, and on the south by the basin. Within this district were the big structures on Fayette, Gay, Lombard, Charles, Balderson, Elliott, Hollingsworth and Cheapside streets.

Passing southeast along the basin, the following large docks were destroyed: McClure, Pattersons, Smiths, Frederick, Long and Union. Small thoroughfares which do not extend as far north as Lexington street, and which were in the path of the flames are Commerce, Frederick and Mills streets. The district thus swept by the fire comprised seventy-five blocks and nearly 2,500 buildings.

BEGUN ITS RESURRECTION.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 9.—Amid ruins still hot and smoking, Baltimore has begun its resurrection. With the dawn of a clear winter day, whose brightness was in itself an inspiration, the apathy of yesterday gave way to energy, and from the Governor of the State to the least private citizen the people of this distressed city aroused themselves to meet the appalling conditions that confront them.

All things considered, the public stocktaking that engrossed the business world of Baltimore today was satisfactory. But this does not mean that the great fire was a lesser calamity than has been pictured in these dispatches. The bold fact is that 140 acres of business buildings, representing property to the approximate value of \$125,000,000, were destroyed within the journey of a clock's hand.

History is marked by few calamities so vast and so costly in actual values, but with the passing of the first great shock and prostration, the brighter side is coming uppermost, and a realization of what Baltimore escaped is dawning. Had not that Providential shift of wind occurred Sunday night, there would have been another story, a story of death and of thousands who tonight sleep safely in their homes suffering for shelter. Such a sequel would have been written, but for the magnificent last stand of gallant firemen and volunteers at the little sewer-like stream of Jones Falls.

A great cloud was lifted this afternoon when it was discovered that practically all of the vaults and strong rooms and safes of the financial concerns, whose buildings were destroyed, are unharmed. A tremendous loss in securities had been anticipated here, and when vault after vault yielded up its treasures unharmed, the joy of the guardians was boundless.

From one trust company's safes alone papers to the amount of more than \$20,000,000 were recovered. The news cheered the whole city and encouraged immediate and thorough investigation. Merchants and their assistants, smoke-soiled and begrimed and hollow-eyed from anxiety and loss of sleep, worked like laborers in the smoking ruins to uncover their safes, and in nearly every instance they were rewarded by intact contents.

Wreck at Benson.

There was a freight wreck at Benson last night about 10 o'clock caused from a broken axle which piled the cars on the track and was not cleared until about day this morning. The through train north was delayed and did not pass Wilson until about six o'clock this morning.—Wilson Times 10th.

Nearly Forfeits His Life.

A runaway almost ending fatally, started a horrible ulcer on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. For four years it defied all doctors and all remedies. But Bucklen's Arnica Salve had no trouble to cure him. Equally good for Burns, Bruises, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c. at Hood Bros' Drug Store.

If you suffer with any Liver, Kidney or Bladder Trouble take July Weed. It always cures. Hood's Drug Store.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

First Guns Fired Last Monday.

The Plucky Japanese Made an Attack on Port Arthur and Disabled Three Russian War Vessels.

The much talked of war in the Far East has begun. All the resources of diplomacy were exhausted without a peaceful settlement. The war began Monday with the bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese.

The story of the conflict is told in the following press dispatches: Che Foo, Feb. 9.—The Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur at midnight on Monday. Two Russian battleships and one Russian cruiser were disabled by torpedoes. The battle is being continued this morning at a range of three miles. There has been no further damage.

The steamer Columbia has arrived from Port Arthur with additional news of the attack by the Japanese fleet upon the Russian fleet in the roads outside of the harbor of Port Arthur.

ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10, 1 a. m.—The following bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, dated February 9:

By order of the viceroy I beg to report that this day at about 11 o'clock in the morning, a Japanese squadron, consisting of about fifteen battleships and cruisers, approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with a cannonade from the shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement.

At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south.

Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed, and twenty-one men wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in her side below the waterline. The torts were slightly damaged.

MAJ. GEN. FLUG.

Admiral Alexieff's official report of the attack by the Japanese is as follows:

I most respectfully inform your majesty that at or about midnight of February 8-9 Japanese

in breaking off the negotiations. The Czar and his ministers, who had been informed immediately of the receipt of Viceroy Alexieff's telegram, accepted the gage and prepared to face the reality of war. The Czar's manifesto declaring a state of war to exist is expected to be issued tomorrow morning at the latest. Feverish anxiety reigned at all the ministries and war preparations were pushed in all directions.

The Russian Red Cross Society already has sent out 2,000 beds to the Far East, and Sisters of Mercy are leaving.

"CZAR OF THE EAST."

Alexieff, vice admiral of Russia's navy, is the czar's right hand man in



VICEROY ALEXIEFF. The far east. In Manchuria and Siberia he is in command of the army and navy and at the head of civil affairs.

The latest returns of Russian warships in the Far East total ninety-four, including eight battleships, sixteen cruisers, seven gunboats and fifty-six torpedo boat destroyers and torpedo boats. Three more battleships and the nine torpedo boats are to go to the Far East in the spring.

The Russian battleship Retvizan was built by the Cramps at Philadelphia. She is of 12,700 tons displacement, has 16,000 indicated horse-power, and has a



PORT ARTHUR, RUSSIA'S GREAT STRONGHOLD IN CHINA.

It was at Port Arthur that the Japanese struck the first blow to Russia and beached three of her ships in the attack last Monday night. It is in the southern part of Manchuria, and by right should belong to Japan. In the Chino-Japanese war in 1894-95 Japan captured this stronghold from the Chinese, but Russia stepped in and compelled her to evacuate, because Russia wanted it herself. It is strongly fortified.

torpedo boats made a sudden attack by means of mines upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retvizan and Cesarevitch and the cruiser Pallada were damaged. An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage. Details are following for your majesty.

The action of the Japanese in attacking the Russian fleet without a declaration of war is denounced as an outrage by the Russians generally and the result, instead of discouraging them, seems to have been to furnish the spark necessary to fire Russian patriotism. From the larger centers throughout European Russia comes information that the country is already aroused by the Japanese action

speed of eighteen knots per hour. Her armor is of Krupp steel from four to ten inches in thickness and her armament consists of four 12-inch guns, twelve 6-inch guns, twenty 3-inch guns and twenty-six smaller rapid-fire guns.

The Cesarevitch is a battleship of 13,110 tons, built in France. In armor, armament and speed she about equals the Retvizan. The Pallada is a cruiser of 6,630 tons. She was built in Germany and was completed in 1902. Her armament consists of six 6-inch guns, twenty 3-inch guns, and eight 1.4-inch guns. Her speed is estimated at twenty knots.

ALL ENGLAND IS ELATED.

London, Feb. 9.—All England is glad that first blood in the

mighty struggle between Russia and Japan has been drawn by her allies.

With the feeling of elation comes one of amazement at the splendid audacity of the Japanese sailors. That Japan would attempt against Russia the tactics which she so successfully employed against China at Wei-Hai-Wei was not imagined. That these tactics should have proven successful to the extent of disabling two of the first battleships in the Russian navy with the attacking flotilla, getting away practically unscathed is regarded by experts as still more amazing. It is held by British naval and military men that the action at Port Arthur establishes Japan's superiority at sea, gives her a free hand in the landing of her troops in Corea and Manchuria and immeasurably increases her chances of winning the fight.

London, Feb. 10.—A special dispatch from Tokio today says the Japanese have captured three Russian transports having on board about 2,000 troops.

London, Feb. 10.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, has received official confirmation from Tokio of the destruction at Chemulpo of the Russian first-class cruiser Variag, and the third-class cruiser Korielz.

A summary of the losses sustained by Russia in the first twenty-four hours of the war with Japan show that ten Russian warships were placed out of action in one way or another, and that the Japanese did not lose a ship.

The losses were as follows: Battleship Betvizan, torpedoed and beached at Port Arthur. Battleship Cesarevitch, torpedoed and beached at Port Arthur.

Battleship Poltava, hole below water line at Port Arthur. Armored cruiser Boyarin, disabled by Japanese fire, at Port Arthur.

Cruiser Pollada, torpedoed at Port Arthur and beached.

Cruiser Novik, hole below water line, at Port Arthur.

Cruiser Askold, hole below water line, at Port Arthur.

Cruiser Diana, hole below water line, at Port Arthur. First-class armored cruiser Variag, destroyed at Chemulpo, Korea.

Torpedo gun vessel Korielz, destroyed at Chemulpo.

BRIDGE BLOWN UP. 30 KILLED.

London, Feb. 11.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail says an important bridge on the Manchurian railroad has been blown up and thirty men have been killed.

SEOUL OCCUPIED.

London, Feb. 11.—Special dispatches from Tokio this morning announce the arrival of Japanese troops at Seoul, the Korean capital, but beyond this the dispatches published in the newspapers here this morning add practically nothing to the knowledge of the actual situation.

Death in Selma.

Selma, N. C., February 9.—Mrs. Hiram J. Howell died at her home in this place about seven o'clock last night. She had been in poor health for quite a long while, but was able to be up and do the most of her work. She leaves a husband and one child, a boy about ten years of age. Her husband was engineer at Selma Oil Mills. She was buried in the cemetery here.

Escaped an Awful Fate.

Mr. H. Haggins, of Melbourne, Fla., writes, "My doctor told me I had Consumption and nothing could be done for me. I was given up to die. The offer of a free trial bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, induced me to try it. Results were startling. I am now on the road to recovery and owe all to Dr. King's New Discovery. It surely saved my life." This great cure is guaranteed for all throat and lung diseases by Hood Bros., Druggists. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.