

# 170 CHILDREN DIED IN A FIRE

## School Building Burns and Children Die By Scores in Utter Helplessness

### DEATH AT SCHOOL HOUSE

Their Egress Cut Off by the Fiery Flames That Raged Below Them, the Little Ones Are Incinerated Almost Within Reach of Safety.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Pinned in narrow hallways, jammed up against doors that only opened inward, between 169 and 170 children in the school at Collinwood Wednesday were killed by fire, by smoke and beneath the grinding heels of their panic-stricken playmates.

The awful tragedy occurred Wednesday morning in the public school of North Collinwood, 10 miles east of this city. At 10 o'clock Wednesday night 155 corpses were in the morgue at Collinwood, six children were still unaccounted for and all the hospitals and homes for two miles around contained numbers of children, some fatally and many less seriously injured.

All of the victims were between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school contained between 310 and 325 pupils, and of this entire number only about eighty are known to have left the building unhurt. It will be several days before the exact number of killed is known as the ruins may still contain other bodies and the list of fatalities may be increased by a number of deaths among the children who are now lying in the hospitals hovering between life and death.

#### Only One Fire Escape.

The schoolhouse was of brick, two stories and an attic in height. The number of pupils was more than normally large, and the smaller children had been placed in the upper part of the building. There was but one fire escape and that was in the rear of the building. There were two stairways, one leading to a door in front, and the other to a door in the rear. Both of these doors opened inward, and it is claimed the rear door was locked as well.

When the flames were discovered the teachers who throughout seem to have acted with courage and self-possession and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils, marshaled the little ones into columns "fire drill," which they had often practiced.

Fortunately the line of march in this exercise had always led to the front door and the children had not been trained to seek any other exit. The fire came from a furnace situated directly under this part of the building. When the children reached the foot of the stairs they found the flames close upon them, and so swift a rush was made for the door that in an instant a tightly packed mass of children was piled up against it. From that second none of those who were upon any portion of the first flight of stairs had a chance for their lives. The children at the front of the stairs attempted to fight their way back to the floor above, while those who were coming down showed them mercilessly back into the flames below. In an instant there was a frightful panic with two hundred of the pupils fighting for their lives. Most of those who were about died here. The greater part of those who escaped managed to turn back and reached the fire escape and the windows in the rear.

Approximately 300 children attended the school, which had nine rooms.

#### Scores of Freight Conductors Laid Off by Southern.

Asheville, Special.—On account of decrease in business on the Asheville division of the Southern it is learned here that within a week 59 freight conductors have been laid off. It is said that for years has business on the division been as slack as at present.

#### Serious Labor Troubles Threatened in England.

London, By Cable.—Serious labor troubles still are threatened in the Lancashire cotton trade and among the engineers on the northeast coast. Notices were posed threatening a lockout of 20,000 cotton operatives in the Colne and Nelson districts, while the engineers who have been involved in the recent ship building strike along the Tyne rejected by a large majority the compromise effected with the employers by David Lloyd-George president of the board of trade.

#### Locomotive Explodes.

Roberts, Ga., Special.—Engine No. 125 on train No. 61, Southern railway exploded at Champion, two miles below here at 8 o'clock Wednesday morning. Engineer Charles O'Neill, of Fort Valley, was scalded and internally injured and will die. Two negro firemen were scalded, one fatally. The engine and four freights are a complete wreck. The truck is torn up for a hundred yards.

### Mutterings Against the Janitor

Could Be Heard on Every Side, the Grief-Crazed Parents Forgetting That the Janitor Himself Walked Behind a Hearse Containing Three of His Loved Ones.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Collinwood Friday came to a full realization of her woe. Slowly and solemnly the processions of death began to wind their way toward the cemeteries, bearing the battered and charred remains of some of the hundred and sixty-seven children whose lives were snuffed out in Wednesday morning's catastrophe in the Lakeview school. From 9 o'clock in the morning until dusk there was no cessation in the funeral corteges. Those who had no dead to mourn as a personal loss stood in the streets with bare heads as the grim processions passed. There was scarcely a dry eye in Collinwood. One of the sad funerals was that of the three children of Janitor Hirter, held jointly with the services for three other little ones.

#### Talk Against Janitor.

Mutterings against the janitor could be heard about the village as grief-crazed parents sought an object upon which to wreak vengeance, forgetting as they did that Hirter himself was walking with bowed head and broken-hearted behind the biers of three of his loved ones. A detail of police was placed about the Hirter home when the hour of the funeral came. Fully five hundred persons had gathered, but when the coffins were carried to the doorway the crowd spread and opened the way for them without protest or expression of hostility.

Altogether there were 50 burials Friday and Saturday the greswome task was repeated. Sunday will witness the last of the individual burials and on Monday the remains of all those who are yet unidentified will be laid to rest with one funeral. There are 28 of these bundles of flesh that await claimants.

#### Stories of Heroism.

Testimony describing the mad rush to death of the school children was given Friday at the continued session of the coroner's inquest. Stories of heroism on the part of the women teachers were recited. F. P. Whitney, superintendent of the Collinwood schools, stated his belief to be that no fire department could have done any effective work after the fire had started. Two of the teachers told of their unavailing attempts to open one of the double doors at the rear which they said was locked. The inquest also developed the fact that, after the first crush at the door, it was beyond human possibility to aid or save those whom the tongues of fire were devouring in the charnel house. The inquest will be resumed Monday.

In a statement Chief Wallace, of the Cleveland fire department, after an examination of the ruins, of the Collinwood school, said it was his opinion that the loss of life would not have been so great had there been no partitions at the sides of the storm doors at the rear entrance. Two feet eight inches had been taken off either side of the hall for the partitions. His examination developed that the doors opened outward. Chief Wallace doubtless will be a witness before the coroner.

#### Cleveland Learns Lesson.

Drastic steps were taken by the Cleveland school board to place all the Cleveland educational buildings in a condition that will preclude any loss of life from fires. Basements will be fireproof, wooden stairways replaced by iron and spiral fire escapes enclosed in towers installed. Inner doors in vestibules also will be removed.

#### Another Priest Threatened.

Providence, R. I., Special.—The fate that overtook Father Leo Heinrichs, of Denver, threatens Rev. J. H. Beland, pastor of Notre Dame French Catholic church of Central Falls. Letters have come to him containing a notification that he will be killed at the altar. His friends appealed to the authorities when they learned of his danger.

#### Big Horse Show in Texas.

Fort Worth, Tex., Special.—Entries have closed for the horse show exhibits at the National Feeders' and Breeders' Show, which will open next Wednesday in the great coliseum erected at a cost of \$250,000. There are fifty-four different classes in the horse show lists and \$3,000 will be awarded in premiums. A prize list aggregating \$20,000 is offered on the live stock which will be on exhibit. Governor Campbell will preside at the opening of the show on Wednesday morning and will deliver an address.

#### The Suit Over Virginia's Debt.

Washington, Special.—The big suit between the States of Virginia and West Virginia over the claim of the former that the latter should share the latter's \$33,000,000 debt advanced one stage when attorneys for West Virginia presented to the Supreme Court arguments for limitation of the powers of the master whom the court proposes to appoint to take testimony in the suit. Virginia wants the master given a wide field.

### Georgians Avenge the Murder of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hart—Lynching Party, Wearing Masks, Takes Prisoners From County Jail and After Hanging Them to a Tree, Burns Their Bodies.

Hawkinsville, Ga., Special.—Two negroes, Curry Robertson and John Henry, were lynched Thursday near here and their bodies burned. They were charged with the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hart.

One of the negroes confessed to the crime and said the motive was robbery. Robertson and Henry were arrested Wednesday following the discovery of the body of Warren Hart. His wife was lying nearby in a dying condition. The murders took place near Frazier, the home of the Harts.

Mr. Hart had been killed as the result of a blow on the head, apparently made by an axe. Mrs. Hart was seriously beaten and was found unconscious. She died Wednesday night without having recovered consciousness.

Thursday the negroes were quietly taken from the county jail and carried some distance from the town, where they were hanged to a tree.

The lynching party consisted of a number of men who concealed their identity with masks. After the hanging the bodies were cut down and incinerated. After this the posse quietly dispersed. There is no announcement in the district as a result of the lynching.

The crime of which the negroes were accused was committed just at laylight Wednesday, when some one attacked Hart as he went from his house to feed his stock. His head was crushed. The murderers then went to the kitchen of the Hart home where Mrs. Hart was preparing breakfast and attacked her with an axe, leaving her for dead.

Mrs. Hart was found on the floor with a fork in her hand and the breakfast which she had cooked burned to a crisp. She died late that night.

The purpose of the assault is believed to have been robbery, as the Harts were known to have about \$1,000 in the house. The murderers did not get the money. News of the murder spread quickly through the section, and in the vicinity of Empire, a village near the scene of the murder, there was the most intense excitement.

Over a thousand persons gathered, among them the friends of the aged couple, who immediately formed a posse, secured dogs and began a search. Within a short time two negroes were arrested and brought here for safe keeping. During the night men gathered near the county jail, demanded Robertson and Henry and then took them to an isolated place near the scene of the double murder and lynched them. Mr. Hart and his wife were 65 years old.

#### Bank President Indicted.

New Orleans, La., Special.—William Adler, former president of the State National Bank of New Orleans, was indicted by the United States grand jury here charged with misapplying national bank funds and with other illegal transactions. There were 74 counts in the indictment. Charges that dealings about which they should have been informed were concealed from the board of directors and that false entries and misapplication and distortion of funds occurred reaching between \$200,000 and \$300,000 were made against Adler in the indictment.

#### Louisiana Banker Threatened.

Alexandria, La., Special.—Paul Lisso, president of the First National bank here announced the receipt of a letter demanding \$5,000 from him at an appointed place and signed "The United Black Hand of Louisiana." The letter threatens the life of President Lisso's daughter if he refuses payment. The police have begun an investigation.

#### Attempt to Sell War Secrets.

New York, Special.—The Federal authorities of Brooklyn reluctantly admitted that the arrest of Heinrich Esser, on charges of attempting to sell United States war secrets to Germany, is directly due to the German authorities. The latter notified the German consul in New York, who in turn communicated with the police. Together with the tip came an assurance from Germany that under no circumstances would that government take advantage of such offers.

#### Patents to Carolinians.

Washington, Special.—R. W. Bishop, patent attorney, reports the issue of the following patents on the 3rd instant to residents of North and South Carolina: Log turner—J. R. Meese, Roseman; drive gear for engines—M. O. Carter and W. T. Davis; Travelers' Rest, S. C.; sandpaper machine—J. T. Brantley, Salisbury; brush handle—J. H. Greene, High Point.

### THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Doings of Our National Law-Makers Day by Day.

#### Railroads Robbing Uncle Sam.

The charge that the government had been robbed of over \$70,000,000 since 1880 by railroads carrying the mails was made on the floor of the house of Representatives by Mr. Lloyd, of Missouri. He referred to the new system of weighing the mails recently introduced by the Postmaster General and declared that it was an admission that the Postoffice Department had allowed the people of the country to be mulcted out of the sum stated. He demanded to know why suits had not been instituted against the railroads to recover this money. No suits, he charged, had been filed and none suggested. "I call upon the chairman of the committee to audit and control the expenses of the Postoffice Department," he exclaimed. "to investigate that department and ascertain whether there is anything wrong in it."

Mr. Wanger, of Pennsylvania, the chairman, pledged careful investigation into the subject. Mr. Lloyd, referring to the retirement of Mr. Madden, the Third Assistant Postmaster General, and the proposition to drop 22 postoffice inspectors, declared that they were from the beginning all "marked" men because of their connection in one way or another with the suppression of certain publications. "We have too much bureaucracy," he exclaimed. "We need more law and less departmental rule."

#### A Day in the Senate.

Speeches on the pending currency bill were made in the Senate by Senators McCumber, of North Dakota, and Newlands, of Nevada. Each of these Senators contended for modifications of the emergency currency bill and each declared in favor of legislation adding confidence on the part of the depositors in the banks as a prominent feature of any plan for preventing panics.

The Senate also passed a resolution offered by Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, calling on the Attorney General for all information concerning court proceedings in the Indian Territory affecting the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

A number of bills of minor importance were passed.

#### Tillman Wants to Know.

Senator Tillman wants to have the Comptroller of Currency send to the Senate a detailed statement of all loans made by national banks in New York City upon collateral security from June 1st to December 1st, 1907, with the full names of borrowers, amounts of loans and lists of stocks and bonds deposited with each loan as collateral security with a statement whether they are time or call loans and whether call loans are made by executive officers of the banks by order of the board of directors. This direction to the Comptroller of the Currency was embodied in a resolution submitted to the Senate by Mr. Tillman.

A preamble of the resolution recites that banks in cities where stock exchanges are located loan money of depositors which are trust funds upon worthless stocks and bonds, on terms that make such loans dangerous and make them a menace to the public.

Mr. Aldrich asked that the consideration of the resolution be postponed. Mr. Tillman wanted immediate action.

"Stock gambling," he said, "is recognized by a great many people as one of the most pernicious and devilish things of all the pernicious and devilish things that are being done in New York."

Senator Aldrich suggested that there were other places besides New York where stock gambling is practiced. Mr. Tillman said he would be glad to have the same information from all places where there are stock exchanges.

"I am willing to let it go over," he added, "to see what special interests are jeopardized."

Consideration of the resolution was postponed.

#### Postoffice Appropriations.

Washington, Special.—Consideration of the postoffice appropriation resolutions. As adopted the bill bill was begun in the House of Representatives a total appropriation of \$220,765,392, which is \$9,675,624 less than the estimates. Mr. Overstreet, of Indiana, explained the provisions of the measures, the main features of which already have been published. An understanding was reached whereby general debate is to continue indefinitely.

#### Millionaires in Congress.

Washington, Special.—According to a Washington statistician, the United States Senate now has 32 millionaires, representing a capital of \$210,500,000, and the House 14 men in the millionaire class, with fortunes aggregating \$83,000,000. Simon Guggenheim heads the list of millionaire Senators, with \$60,000,000. Senator Isaac Stephenson of Wisconsin possesses a fortune estimated at half that sum, and Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, is a close third, with \$25,000,000. Representative John A. Andrus, of New York, is the rich man of the house, his "pile" being given as \$35,000,000.

### Late News In Brief

#### MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Seven of the Russian terrorists sentenced to death for plotting against a grand duke and other personages were hanged at St. Petersburg.

The air pressure caused by an avalanche wrecked a temporary hotel in Switzerland, 13 persons being killed and 15 others hurt.

The British campaign against the Zakhahels, a tribe of Afridis in Northern India, has ended with the complete submission of the tribesmen.

Eleven men of a French column were killed and 36 wounded in an all-day fight with Madakra tribesmen in Morocco.

While railroads must employ thousands more telegraph operators to enforce the nine-hour law, they intend to close hundreds of small stations.

The progress of the fleet gives impetus to the movement to create the rank of Vice Admiral in the Navy.

A. B. Butt, cashier of the wrecked People's Bank of Portsmouth, took a special train on his journey to serve five years in the Richmond penitentiary.

Norfolk police found a baby in a satchel and are looking for Mrs. B. B. Davis, said to be its parent.

Dr. Eli Marsh Turner, former president of West Virginia University, died a few hours after consenting to run for mayor of Morgantown.

A hot fight is to be made over the New Jersey Local Option bill at Trenton.

Friends of Rear-Admiral Evans hope to greet him with a vice-admiral's commission when he reaches San Francisco.

More than 300 buildings were burned, with a loss of \$600,000, at Tampa, Fla.

One boy was killed and another badly injured in a collision of ice-boats on the St. Lawrence river.

Among the clergymen mentioned as possible successors to the late Bishop Satterlee, of Washington, is Rev. Dr. Randolph H. McKim, who was for a time at a Baltimore church.

W. B. Wood, an American magician and his daughter Bertha were drowned by the sinking of a tug off Yucatan recently.

Andrew Hamilton, in charge of the legislative fund of the Equitable Life Assurance Society and other companies, was found dead at his home in Albany.

Anonymous pamphlets scattered in the streets of Teheran notified the Shah that there was no intention to kill him at the time the bombs were thrown.

Thomas B. Wannamaker, son of John Wannamaker and proprietor of the Philadelphia North American, died in Paris.

Mexican Ambassador Creel's bank was robbed of \$500,000.

Commander Sims, testifying before the Senate Naval Committee, declared the marksmanship at Santiago to have been "disgraceful."

The Supreme Court will hear Virginia rate test cases October 13.

President Roosevelt praised Judge Wilfley, of Shanghai, but the House investigators will probe the charges against him.

Six Taft delegates were selected in Kansas.

Senator Smith of Michigan, accused Senator Aldrich of bolstering up prices of railroad bonds in his financial bill.

The Interstate Commerce Commission decided to disregard petitions to delay enforcing the nine hour law.

Mr. Hepburn introduced a bill providing a tax of 50 cents a hundred shares for stock sales.

A bill making October 12 the anniversary of Columbus' discovery, a holiday was offered in the House.

The House defeated a bill for exporting alien felons.

Luther Combs was shot in the thigh by Clifton Sawyer, his 17-year-old stepson, near Norfolk.

The Senate will ask the President to withdraw the name of G. A. Porter, a cousin of Mrs. Roosevelt, as United States marshal in Oklahoma.

Ex-Judge F. M. Whitehurst died in Norfolk.

The Potomac River Oyster bill agreed on by Maryland and Virginia legislators, was passed by the Assembly.

Chief of Police Shippy, of Chicago, killed an anarchist who had stabbed him and shot his son and driver.

Father Leo Heinrich, assassinated at the altar of St. Elizabeth's Catholic church in Denver, was buried at Patterson, N. J.

The defense in the suit of Attorney-General Jackson in New York to dissolve the New York City Railway Company admitted that \$4,500,000 entered as an asset was not a real asset.

The Ohio State Republican Convention is expected to be harmonious for Taft.