Gainesville Daily Sun

VOL. XXIV, NO. 293 GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1908 TEN CENTS A WEEK

BOYERTOWN TRAGEDY

Total Death List Now Reaches Hundred and Sixty-Two.

TRAGEDY AWFUL IN EXTENT

Pall of Sorrow Has Touched Almost Every Family in the Pennsylvania Town and the Surrounding Neighborhood—Coroner Investigating.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 16—With the opening Wednesday of the four improvised morgues in which lay the bodies of the victims of Monday night's theater holocaust, the inhabitants of this little borough began to realize the awful extent of the tragedy.

The hand of sorrow has touched probably every family in the town and neighboring villages.

Gruesome Scenes.

Where families were not directly affected by the terrible panic and fire through the loss of relatives, they were mourning for lost friends or acquaintances. The gruesome scenes following the disaster bring a shudder to the stoutest heart and many of the thousands who have come as curiosity seekers have gone away declaring they never want to witness another sight like it.

The four buildings used as morgues contain 162 bodies.

Jacob Johnson, who was badly hurt in the mad rush for exit from the burning building, died Wednesday morning. Coroner Trasser is making an investigation preliminary to the official inquest.

"It was the saddest picture I ever looked upon," he said. "No living person can depict the scene. It was simply indescribable. I shall make a thorough investigation leading up to what I consider the most horrible affair that ever occurred in eastern Pennsylvania."

Had a Premonition.

The coroner's attention was called to the fact that oil lamps were used for footlights in the opera house in the place of stationary illumination. He said he would make a thorough investigation. But two members of the cast so far as can be learned were killed. This is due to the precaution taken by Mrs. Della Myer. She had a premonition that something would happen. At a luncheon given to the members of the cast in the town several days ago, she said she feared something. "There ought to be a means of escape," she said. The rear entrance was spoken of and at her suggestion the doors were taken off the hinges so that in case of accident egress could be easily accomplished.

Henry W. Fisher, of Carlisle, Pa., the operator of the calcium lights, which was the original cause of the terrible disaster, made his escape from the burning building, though not without receiving severe burns.

Mr. Fisher said: "The accident to the calcium light was caused by a cap on one of the tanks on the calcium light blowing out. This caused a sharp report and a flash which startled the people in the audience.

"I stuck to my apparatus and finally got the leak repaired and succeeded in quieting the alarmed people. Just as I had them calmed, the foolish action of some frightened person on the stage caused the upsetting of the foot-light lamp and the consequent spread of the flames, which nothing could avert. Not until then did I desert my post and seek my own safety in flight."

Many Out-of-Town Victims.

That the victims were not confined to residents of Boyertown was shown by the number of unclaimed teams in the city. Fully forty teams remained uncalled for in the stables on Tuesday and the hostler said they belonged to people residing within a radius of five or six miles of Boyertown, who drove to this place on Monday with their families to witness the production of the "Scottish Reformation." There is no clew to the identity of the owners of a number of the teams.

Bearing Up Bravely.

Boyertown is bearing up bravely under the heavy burden of sorrow which has stricken many homes. Seventeen of the victims resided in one row of houses near the scene of the disaster.

By order of the town burgess all the saloons in the town which were closed at 5 a. m. Tuesday because of disorder among drunken men, will remain closed until further notice.

The majority of the residents are staying in their homes. The few that are walking the streets are doing so out of despair.

Ship Faced Storm; Mate Drowned.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Jan. 16.—The schooner E. R. Daniels, Captain Saunders, arrived in port Tuesday afternoon after a most stormy and perilous voyage of seven days from Wanchez to this city. Coming up Pamlico sound during the severe storm of last Thursday, the captain and mate were knocked overboard. The mate, Allen Gray, of Avon, N. C., was drowned. Captain Saunders clung to the rigging and escaped without serious injury. The mate's body has not yet been recovered.

Third Receiver for Seaboard.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 16.—Edward Carlton Duncan, of Raleigh, N. C., was Tuesday afternoon appointed a receiver of the Seaboard Air Line Railway company by Judges Pritchard, Boyd and Purnell. Mr. Duncan at once qualified, and joined Messrs. Warfield and Williams at a conference, at which Messrs. Untermeyer, Braxton and Byrne, counsel for the receivers, were present. After the conference Messrs. Untermeyer and Byrne left for New York and Mr. Warfield for Baltimore.

Take Issue with Bricklayers.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 16.—The International Bricklayers and Masons Union of America, which opened its forty-first annual convention here Monday, adopted a resolution asserting jurisdiction over the Tile Layers' union. The tile layers, it is said, have taken issue with the bricklayers, the San Francisco union of the tile layers having voted to deny the jurisdiction claimed by the bricklayers.

Skaters Break Through Ice.

Paris, Jan. 16.—Great excitement was caused here by the breaking of the ice on the lake in the Bois de Boulogne, some thirty young people being precipitated into the water. It was feared at first that many of them were drowned, but after a detachment of firemen had dragged the lake by the aid of searchlights, it was found that only two had been drowned, both bodies being recovered.

TO FIGHT EXTRADITION.

Every Effort Will Be Made to Prevent Extradition of Russians.

New York, Jan. 16.—Every effort will be made by the members of the New York branch of the Russian revolutionary association to prevent the extradition to Russia of Jean Janoff Pouren, who was arrested last week on the complaint of the Russian consul general, charged with a series of robberies and murders in Russia.

Pouren was prominent in the revolutionary movement in Russia and has been a fugitive from that country since 1896, having been in New York for six months.

Members of the revolutionary association here say that the Russian government, fearing another revolutionary movement in Russia, is attempting to gather in all the fugitives from Russia who are prominent in the movement to secure in other countries a fund with which to carry on the work of the party in Russia. They declare that the charges against Pouren are purely political and have arranged to employ counsel and fight against his extradition. It is claimed that the Russian government is particularly anxious to have Pouren returned to Russia, as it is thought through him much information can be gained. It is claimed that if he is returned he will be tortured until he reveals the hiding places of other much wanted fugitives.

A hearing on the application for extradition will be held before a United States commissioner.

SITUATION IS GRAVE

Japanese Politics Are Now at a Serious Climax.

SITUATION ALMOST A PANIC

Resignation of Cabinet and Dissolution of Diet Seems To Be Only Solution of Present Trouble—Immigration Question Not Involved.

Tokio, Jan. 16.—An accurate prediction concerning the probable life of the Maquis Saionji's cabinet is impossible. The inability of the government to avert a climax and the resignation of the ministers of finance and communication has created a situation approaching a political panic. Even those best informed are unable to forecast developments with any degree of certainty.

A consensus of opinion is to the effect that the present cabinet, either with double portfolios or possible additions following the vacant posts in the ministries in the interior and justice, will face the diet which opens on July 22.

Situation Is Very Grave.

An effort is being made to fill these vacancies, but there is a difficulty encountered in securing the consent of statesmen to accept the responsibility under existing circumstances.

The opposition and even the friends of the government are apparently determined to force the government to appeal to the country. With an unpopular budget, the constitutionalists lack nine votes of an actual majority in the lower house.

Reliable authorities think the constitutionalists will refuse to accept the government's financial policy, when the budget is presented.

In this event the cabinet will resign, the diet will be dissolved and the former budget will continue until another cabinet is formed and a new budget passed.

By such a method the constitutionalists may be in a position to appeal to the country, and say they are not responsible for Premier Saionji's mistakes. They can also point to the fact that they repudiated a budget involving increased taxation, the suspension of public works and the unnecessarily heavy expenditures for the army.

Due to Finances?

It is believed that with such a position the constitutionalists will secure a majority at the general elections, and that the cabinet will be formed by Marquis Matsura, the ex-premier, or possibly by Admiral Baron Gobel Yammamoto. The latter, however, improbable.

There is no reason to doubt that the present situation is due entirely to the financial problem. The immigration question is absolutely unaffected, and had nothing to do with hastening a crimax. It is believed on all sides that the immigration questions that exist with America and Canada will be settled amicably. In fact, since the present critical situation developed, the immigration question had been hardly mentioned.

An interesting feature of the situation is the increasing influence of the commercial classes in the policies of Japan.

Fell from Buggy, Broke Neck.

Tampa, Fla., Jan. 16.—John M. Matthews, turpentine operator, clutching at his hat, which had blown off while riding in a buggy on Stemper road, 11 miles from here, lost his balance and fell, landing on his head in the road, breaking his neck. He died almost instantly. Matthews lived at Stemper and had large interests in this section.

Big Secretary Will Not Resign.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Secretary Taft has indicated that he would like to be quoted as saying that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumors that he is to resign from the cabinet. The printed story was to the effect that Secretary Taft would resign and devote his entire attention to his campaign for nomination for presidency.

BRIGHT ARE THE PROSPECTS.

Industrial Conditions in Georgia and Alabama Promising.

Columbus, Ga., Jan. 16—Reports for the past seven days reflect prosperous and promising industrial conditions in Georgia and Alabama.

Comparatively few manufacturing plants in these two states suspended operations because of the recent financial stringency, but those which did are resuming operations, and, in some instances, with larger forces than before.

Many industrial plants announce that orders are beginning to be received in increasing volume. It is stated semi-officially that the United States Steel corporation is planning even more extensive investments in the Birmingham district. Banks have been declaring dividends of from 8 to 20 per cent. In the cities of Georgia and Alabama, clearing house associations are rapidly retiring the certificates which they issued, and in some of these cities all of the certificates have been recalled. Confidence has been restored. The outlook is not only bright, but there are substantial promises of even greater prosperity upon a substantial basis than that which previously prevailed.

"DRY" FOR SHREVEPORT.

Prohibition Forces Win in the Louisiana City.

Shreveport, La., Jan. 16.—After one of the most strenuous and exciting campaigns on record, Shreveport was carried in favor of prohibition Tuesday.

Immediately on the result becoming known those who led the fight for prohibition launched a campaign for state prohibition, it being their intention to carry the contest to the legislature, which assembles in May.

According to unofficial returns from every precinct in the parish of Caddo, the majority for prohibition was 41. In the city proper there was a majority of 309 against prohibition, but the country precincts overcame this majority. An unusually heavy vote was polled.

It is almost certain that the election will be contested in the court on several grounds, the most important of which is the claim that the warning issued by the campaign comittees on both sides that the negroes would not be permitted to vote was an intimidation of voters and makes the election illegal. Prohibition is to go into effect Jan. 1, 1909.

BRYAN AND TAFT.

Will Undoubtedly Lead the Opposing Forces in 1909.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Bryan and Taft will be the nominees of the democratic and republican parties, according to the views of the representatives in congress.

The members of the lower house, who are supposed to be in closer touch with the people than the august upper body, were polled Tuesday on the subject of their individual preferences for leaders in the national fight which is just being entered upon. More than one-half the republicans who expressed themselves were for the big secretary of war. Nearly two thirds of the democrats were for the Nebraskan.

Struck With Bottle, Eye Put Out.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 16.—C. H. Dorsett, one of the most prominent business of the city, was assaulted Monday night in the park extension by three men, as he was on his way home. He was struck with a bottle, his eye was put out and he had to be removed to the hospital. Mr. Dorsett is well known throughout the state because of his prominence in Odd Fellowship, having been a number of times representative of Georgia to the supreme lodge.

Financial Crisis Laid to Roosevelt.

Berlin, Jan. 16.—In the course of an interpellation in the reichstag on Tuesday in reference to high rate of discount charged by the imperial bank Count Von Kanitze, conservative, suggested that President Roosevelt's "threats against the trusts" was responsible for the critical financial situation existing today throughout the entire world."

LAWMAKERS GATHER

General Assembly of South Carolina Convenes.

A SESSION OF FORTY DAYS

Governor Ansel's Message Was Read in Both Houses—It Dealt Largely with the Railroad Situation in that State— Prohibition Considered.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 16.—The South Carolina general assembly convened here Tuesday and will continue in session for forty days.

After the routine business of the opening day, the message of Governor Ansel was read in both houses.

The following reference was made to the railroad situation:

"While other states have had much litigation with reference to railroad passenger rates during the past year, South Carolina has been free from this character of litigation, and I am glad to report to you that in a conference had with the president and other representatives of the Southern railway, they stated to me that on or about the first of April, 1908, they will put on a flat passenger rate of 2½ cents per mile, and will sell mileage books at 2 and 2 1-4 cents per mile in this state. I have a letter to this effect from President Finley, a copy of which I will place in your hands, with a special message on the subject, setting forth their whole plan."

Governor Ansel in his message calls attention to the labor contract law having been declared unconstitutional, and urges the general assembly to pass a measure that will do justice to both landlord and laborer and provide for severe punishment both for landlord and laborer when a contract is violated.

Prohibition, the lien law and the railroads will be the chief topics for discussion at the present session.

SEA ISLAND GROWERS.

Annual Meeting Is Held at Valdosta and Officers Selected.

Valdosta, Ga., Jan. 16.—The Sea Island Cotton Growers' association of Georgia and Florida had its annual meeting here Tuesday and among the most important business was the receiving of the report from the committee which has had a discussion with representatives of the Jacksonville board of trade as to a plan for warehousing and holding the cotton crop.

The committee's recommendation, which was unanimously adopted, was as follows: "We recommend the formulation of an incorporation at once of a Sea Island Cotton Warehousing and Holding company, with head quarters in Jacksonville, Fla., with a capital stock of $250,000 with the right to increase it to $2,000,000."

The election of officers resulted as follows for the association for the next year: Harvie Jordan, president; J. T. Price, Alachua, Fla., vice president; P. G. Schnell, secretary; J. Y. Blitch, treasurer.

Boy Is Killed by His Brother.

Valdosta, Ga., Jan. 16.—Lonnie Bass, the nine-year-old son of B. A. Bass, of Ousley, died here of a gunshot wound received accidently at the hands of his eleven-year-old brother, Burs Bass. The oldest boy had the weapon and raised it to shoot at a hawk, but lowered the gun so that it pointed directly at his brother. The weapon was discharged, entering the child's right leg below the knee. When he reached the hospital here he was too weak to undergo an operation and died an hour later.

Murder Puzzles Police.

New York, Jan. 16.—Another murder in Westchester county is puzzling the authorities. The body of Frank Nuzzo, a wealthy young banker, was found beside his wagon in a lonely road near Ardsley Tuesday night. He had been stabbed in the neck, evidently after a fierce fight. He had a large sum of money when he left Ardsley, and that, as well as his watch, was gone when his body was found.