

## BEYOND COMPUTE

### Figures Fail in the Face of Baltimore's Appalling Disaster.

Insurance Men Aghast—"We Have No Figures to Describe It," They Say.

The Loss Is Above a Hundred Million But May Reach Twice That Enormous Total.

One Hundred and Forty Acres of the City's Most Proliferous District in Ruins.

Stricken City Is Under Martial Law, and Order Is Being Preserved.

The burned district is within the territory 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 city's chief commercial and financial houses, postoffice, courthouse, hotels and theaters. The district thus swept away by the fire comprised seventy-five blocks and nearly 2,500 buildings, and covered 140 acres. The loss is near \$200,000,000.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—Baltimore is staggering under a fire loss which no one has the temerity to put in figures. The important commercial district is blackened ruins, laid bare by a conflagration which raged without a momentary check from 10:45 a. m., Sunday until late Monday evening. The flames had raged for thirty hours, in spite of almost superhuman efforts put forth by the best fighting forces which more than half a dozen cities were able to muster.

The city is overcast with gloom. Stores are closed in nearly every street. Apparently there is but one cause for gladness, and that is there are no homeless. The residence section of the city escaped. This phase of the situation relieved the officials from any thought other than the saving of property.

Throughout the terrible contest in which firemen and fire waged for supremacy, humanity was handicapped by a gale which carried burning brands over the heads of the workers and beyond the reach of the hundreds of streams of water poured into the raging furnaces. But for the work of volunteers in seeking out and extinguishing these embers it is almost certain that the burned area would have been twice larger than it is. About seventy-five squares or 140 acres are in ashes.

Insurance Companies Stunned. Insurance companies have opened temporary offices in the Lexington hotel, but their representatives decline to estimate the loss. The answer of one is typical of all:

"It is too big. We have no figures to describe it. Make it above one hundred million. That's the best we can do." The same indecision is true in regard to estimates concerning insurance.

The city was early placed under martial law and thus all danger of rioting in the doomed district was eliminated. General Corbin of New York arrived here today to take command of the federal troops. The presence of two regiments of militia as a deterrent to the police, which were augmented by details from Philadelphia and Washington, resulted in the maintenance of the best of order.

No one dares to guess what would have happened had the flames jumped the end of confining the fire to the east side of the muddy stream. That effort was successful is merely the result of the fire burning itself out and ending in contact with the concentrated forces of nearly a hundred fire companies. Had the fire gained a foothold on the east side, the city would have been a charred mass. The fire was stopped by the fire departments and the departments would have been powerless to prevent damage as great if not greater than Chicago fire.

RELIEF WAS CHEERING Baltimore's Fearful Tension at Last Relaxed.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—When late last evening the cheering news spread that the conflagration had been checked, the great crowds that all day had gathered against the tightly drawn fire began to turn homeward. But the firemen took no chances. All over the burned district they continued to fight the fierce flames that still burned in large piles of ruins. These were no menace, however, for there was nothing to feed upon outside the city limits. Toward the afternoon the fire ate its way toward the water. Sporadic

fires sprang into existence and caused the withdrawal of apparatus and men from the line of battle, and the fire swept onward. As the day wore on the forefront of the fire neared Jones Falls, a small stream that trends north and south and divides Baltimore from that portion of the city known as East Baltimore. This little stream was the last stand. If the conflagration leaped it and gained a foothold, its extent could not be foretold. Tremendous efforts were made to block it. Dynamite was used freely. The fire apparatus was centered and all the skill of the fire fighters called into play to defeat the element that had eaten up millions of dollars worth of property. And human skill and pluck and grit and unflinching courage won. The fire was checked. But behind it lay a great gutted waste of more than 140 acres in extent.

Under Military Control. The city is under the strictest military control. All around the burned area is stretched a cordon of soldiers, who hold up all comers at the point of the bayonet. Police brought from the neighboring cities patrol the district and on every street near the limits of the fire area pace armed sentinels. The burned area is a scene of complete devastation. Numberless buildings that were the pride of Baltimore, costly and stately, and occupied for diverse purposes, were gutted, and only smoldering debris or walls or remnants of walls remain to mark the sites. The Baltimore American building, one of the finest, is now but smoldering debris, save but remnants of side and front wall. Across South street, where stood the Baltimore Sun building, only the pillars that marked the front remain. Entire blocks just below there are wiped out, without in some cases a wall left standing. From Fayette street down Holliday street as far as German street there is no building left save the Corn and Flour Exchange at the corner of German street. That building, whose walls tower above the crumbling debris of what were adjoining structures, was gutted and the standing walls formed a cauldron, the flames of which burst at times through the windows, but could cause no further damage.

Like a grim tower in the ruins stands the walls of the fifteen-story Continental Trust company building. The walls of the Baltimore & Ohio building are also standing, but the Pennsylvania Railway building, directly across Calvert street, is razed. Only the walls remain of the once stately Equitable building. Only remnants of one wall are left of what was the National hotel. No buildings are left standing as far as the eye can see down Baltimore street from this point. A broken sign and a tottering front wall show where the Maryland W. C. T. U. building once stood.

Adjoining this was the building occupied by the Iron Ship company, and hard by the British consulate, whose building is a complete loss. The building used by the German consulate, on this square, is also in ruins. The costly United States customs house, in course of construction, is said to be ruined. The marble blocks are badly damaged, the cornices on the north side are destroyed, and the marble is cracked in a number of places. The only other federal building damaged was the United States storehouse diagonally opposite. Westward along Pratt street is only debris from which flames leap and play.

Down Pratt street, west from Gay, for several blocks, the oil in the wreck of the Standard Oil building ignited, and there was a succession of explosions with the bursting out of flames. Pratt street for many squares is almost impassable by reason of huge piles of masonry. The electric wires are a tangled network and the trolley wires are down in every direction. At O'Donnell's wharf, where a freight station of the North Central railroad is located, the flames fed all day on the inflammable trimmings of the annex to the power-house of the United States railroad, the main building of which was gutted. The Commercial building, a six-story building at the corner of Lombard and Gay streets, stretching over half a block, is destroyed, but the vaults are safe.

The fire was most remarkable in many ways, but more so in the lack of casualties. Only one person was reported killed and the number treated in the hospitals will be not more than fifty. The dead man was a fireman from York, Pa., who was crushed by a falling wall. In the city hospital thirty-five persons were treated during the progress of the fire, and only one was compelled to remain in the institution, and he was suffering from exposure.

The State Will Aid. Annapolis, Md., Feb. 9.—The general assembly met at the state house last night to consider plans for the relief of the fire conditions in Baltimore. Senator Gill, of Baltimore, introduced a bill authorizing Gov. Warfield to declare ten successive legal holidays in the stricken city so as to aid property owners and other losers by the fire to get their business affairs in as good shape as possible. The bill, which was passed at once, and signed by the governor, also authorizes him to extend the suspension of business beyond ten days if necessary. A bill to make a relief appropriation which was to have been presented in the house was laid over until the conditions and amounts needed can be ascertained.

Fearful Railway Wreck. Managua, Nicaragua, Feb. 9.—A passenger train on the Vieja railroad was derailed while passing over a high bridge and wrecked. Over twenty first-class passengers were killed and many others were injured.

## A WORLD WAR

### Should France be Drawn Into Russo-Jap Row, Look Out.

Attitude and Obligations of France in the Matter Attract General and Close Interest.

The Situation Is Regarded as One of the Utmost Delicacy.

Nagasaki, Feb. 9.—It is assured that the Russian fleet will fight. The Russians long ago decided upon war, and their delay was due to lack of preparation and uncertainty whether certain powers would intervene or not.

Paris, Feb. 9.—There is no question but that interest here centers much more in the attitude and obligations of France than in the actual happenings in the far East. All the newspapers today without distinction of party, are striving to reassure the public on the possibility of France being drawn into the conflict.

M. Delcasse's reply to a deputy who asked whether the Russian alliance would not oblige France to intervene in case Great Britain or some other



CEAR NICHOLAS II.

power aided Japan was certainly no written engagement to compel the intervention of France. Premier Combes was questioned by several deputies and gave assurance that the government was determined, whatever might arise, not to do anything which could alienate France's liberty without the chamber of deputies and the whole parliament being called upon not merely to pronounce on the attitude to be taken, but without being informed of every detail of the events which had occurred or might occur.

Premier Combes was so precise in his statements that the intention of demanding the publication in a yellow book of all documents relating to the engagements contracted by France toward Russia has been abandoned.

The ministry of marine positively denies the report that preparations are being made for the sending of 6,000 French troops to the far East.

The various political groups have decided not to take any course likely to embarrass the government during the present crisis. The Nationalist members of the chamber of deputies met and passed a formal resolution to this effect, which was communicated to the press, and M. Presson (Socialist) conveyed to Premier Combes the assurance that the Socialists would not create difficulties.

Subsequently M. Presson in his capacity of reporter of the foreign affairs and budget committees, had a long conference with M. Delcasse, who made him the following statements:

That a state of war did not yet exist and that it possibly would not exist in the future in the event of Japan's confining herself to limited action in southern Korea, this was a reason to make a fresh effort to bring about a peaceful solution and that he had acted in accordance with the interests of France and Russia in the direction of conciliation, and that Russia had offered Japan concessions.

Interest centers here in the attitude of Great Britain, and it is the general opinion apparently that the war will be confined to Russia and Japan.

### WILL BE ON THE SPOT

An Order Pending That Will Cheer Fighting Bob Evans.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Tentative orders have been prepared sending the cruiser squadron of the Asiatic fleet northward from Subig bay to the vicinity of Port Arthur to observe the Japanese-Russian naval operations and to be at hand to protect American interests wherever they may be menaced in the war-stricken district. The orders will be submitted to the president for final revision but will not be sent unless they are agreeable to Russia and Japan, which will be sounded in advance on this side.

Germany Promises Neutrality. Berlin, Feb. 9.—The Cologne Gazette defines Germany's policy in East Asia in an article which is evidently inspired, as follows: "We must direct

our attention to seeing that further complications do not arise from this quarrel, and that the regions in China adjacent to the theater of war are not drawn into the outbreak. We can best subserve this purpose by a policy which will leave no doubt of our full neutrality."

### Chinese Court in a Flurry.

Tien Tsin, Feb. 9.—A Russian force is reported at Kalgan, 110 miles northwest of Peking and near the Great Wall. Preparations are being made for the fight of the Chinese court and the removal of the imperial treasure, as it is feared that Russia will descend upon Peking.

### Will Occupy Seoul.

Che Foo, Feb. 9.—Japanese transports are landing troops at various ports in Korea. Seoul is to be occupied and the landing is being covered by the torpedo division. The main body of the Japanese fleet will sail in the direction of Port Arthur.

### Report Officially Confirmed.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Secretary Moody has received a cablegram from Lieutenant Commander Marsh, the American naval attaché at Tokio, announcing the departure of a naval division from Japanese waters for Chemulpo, Korea.

### Heavy Firing Heard.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—The Jiji Shimpō has received a telegram from Fusan, Korea, declaring that the firing of heavy guns has been heard to the east of Koje island (about twenty-five miles southwest of Fusan).

### Rumor Lacks Confirmation.

London, Feb. 9.—The rumor that some Russian merchant ships have been captured by Japanese warships has reached the Japanese legation here. The report lacks confirmation.

### Senator Hanna's Condition.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senator Hanna's condition today is a little more encouraging, though the extreme weakness which has been the worst feature of his illness continues. The physicians say it is a case of waiting for the disease to run its course, but that they are hopeful.

### Sarafoff Again to Take Field.

Monastir, Feb. 9.—A skirmish is reported to have taken place between Turkish troops and revolutionists in the Komitagh-Torin district, in which five Turks and four revolutionists were killed. Boris Sarafoff, the revolutionary leader, is expected in the field soon with a strong escort.

### Threatens to Raise a Row.

Indianapolis, Feb. 9.—R. M. C. Hosford, the postoffice inspector who was arrested at Crawfordsville last week on the charge of striking a woman, is in the city conferring with Deputy United States District Attorney Lafayette and other federal officers in regard to his troubles. Hosford would not talk of the case in which he became involved at Crawfordsville, but other officers here intimated that the matter is not ended yet, and that there is more serious trouble ahead for the people who caused Hosford's arrest after the case against Hosford has been settled.

### Uncle Sam Will Give a Help-Out.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The senate passed the bill granting assistance to the proposed Lewis & Clark expedition at Portland, Ore. The bill was amended so a permanent memorial to Lewis and Clark was eliminated.

### National Bowling Tournament.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 9.—The annual bowling tournament of the American Bowling congress began last night in Central Armory. About 2,000 spectators were present.

### Zola and Dreyfus' Book.

The editor of a Paris paper, recalling what Zola had done for Dreyfus, called upon the novelist to have him review the unfortunate captain's book, the history of his troubles. The visitor found him at the big table in his library, doing his day's work. "Review Captain Dreyfus' book," he repeated when the proposition was made to him. He got up and ambled round the table—a short man, with a stomach and no presence—grunting at intervals. Finally he said: "Why should I review his book? He never even read mine."

### The Retort Unexpected.

"Yes," she said with sarcastic bitterness. "I believe it is true that a man is known before marriage by the company he keeps." "No doubt," he smilingly replied. "I remember that I kept company with you for fully four years."—*Chicago Times.*

Chicago to St. Paul Minneapolis four daily fast trains via the Chicago & North-Western Ry.

The Overland Limited, solid train Chicago to Coast daily. Chicago, Union Pacific & North-Western Line.

### Mardi Gras Festivities.

New Orleans, La. and Mobile, Ala., Feb. 9th to 15th, 1904. The Clover Leaf Route will make an Excursion rate of one first-class fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip with the privilege of stopovers, extensions of time, etc. Tickets on sale Feb. 9 to 15, 1904. For full particulars see nearest Ticket Agent, Clover Leaf Route or address.

C. D. Whitney, General Traffic Manager, Toledo, Ohio.

## IS IT A BLUFF?

### Indiana Operators and Miners Question the Motives of Robbins.

It is Intimated That the Big Pittsburgh Operator Is Not Sincere in His Demands.

Alleged Discrepancies Discovered Between His Statements and the Facts.

Terre Haute, Ind., Feb. 9.—Indiana coal operators and miners here say that if Robbins of Pittsburgh really intends to go to the extent of suspending operations if the men do not accept a reduction, that Indiana and Illinois will leave him and sign at the old scale. They do not believe, however, that Robbins is expecting a reduction, but that by the time the contract must be signed his purpose, that of stiffening the price of coal, will have been accomplished. Vice President Boyle of the Indiana miners points to the easy manner in which all his contentions in the recent conference can be refuted as indicating that he is not making a sincere fight for a reduction. The miners have obtained the annual report he made to his company, which controls all the Pittsburgh district, in which he told his stockholders that a 7 per cent dividend was declared and that enough money had been made during the year to make possible the payment of the same dividend for several years, though the mines be idle. When Robbins said that the 17,000 coke ovens were shut down, an emissary was sent out of Indianapolis to the coke field and he learned that 15,000 of the 17,000 ovens were in blast and since then 1,000 more have resumed operations.

### SOUTH BEND'S FAD

Appendicitis All the Rage in an Indiana City.

South Bend, Feb. 9.—Appendicitis is becoming a fad in this city of 50,000 population. Whenever a person becomes conscious of a pain in the abdominal region he imagines himself seized with the popular malady and many physicians diagnose accordingly. Scores of operations have been performed here within the last twelve months that never found their way into the public prints, and one physician is said to be the proud owner of sixteen appendices which he has carved from patients in this city and vicinity. Nearly every patient has recovered and there have been very few fatalities. If the fad continues to increase it will soon overshadow all other maladies in numerical strength, as it does now in popularity.

### Disagreed With His Wife.

Knightstown, Ind., Feb. 9.—Sherman Harold of this place remarked to his wife that he intended committing suicide, and, stepping into an adjoining room, he fired a bullet into his brain which may prove fatal. He had been despondent for days, and during the dinner hour manifested great irritation following a controversy with his wife on religious and fraternal lodge matters. He is thirty-six years old and the father of two children.

### Two Children Drowned.

Petersburg, Ind., Feb. 9.—Two young girls in a family named Young were drowned in a flood near Union, eight miles west of here. The family, consisting of father, mother and four children, lived in a log hut on the bank of Indian creek. As the waters surrounded the house the family fled. The father, mother and a daughter waded the strong current and the children were washed into deep water, two of them being drowned.

### Detectives Getting Results.

Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 9.—Prosecuting Attorney Miller has just returned from Bedford. He had a conference with the detectives, and says that he expects that an arrest will be made in the Schafer case soon, but it is not known when. Mr. Miller also says that the detectives are now on the right trail, gathering evidence that will lead to conviction.

### It Was Loaded.

Bedford, Ind., Feb. 9.—While Lloyd Cissne and the thirteen-year-old son of Andrew Lantz, with other companions, were playing with a revolver, the weapon was discharged, the bullet striking the right arm of the Lantz boy and passing into his body near the heart. The wound is not mortal.

### Boy's Serious Mishap.

Fairland, Ind., Feb. 9.—Richard Wells, fifteen years old, son of Louis Wells of this place, fell off an interurban car, crushing his skull. His recovery is doubtful.

### Danger Is Passed.

Evansville, Ind., Feb. 9.—The local waterworks' situation shows little change. The danger to the building is believed to be passed, although one wall is expected to fall.

### Suicide in Floyd County.

New Albany, Ind., Feb. 9.—Jefferson Stewart, a farmer of Sugar Grove, mentally unbalanced, committed suicide by hanging. He was forty-five years old.

## MRS. E. H. DUNAKIN WRITES A LETTER ABOUT VINOL

How Pale Women May Get Strength, Rich Blood and the Bloom of Health in Their Faces.

A pale, bloodless face indicates trouble, it is a sign of weakness, and as we see so many right here in Decatur, the following letter will interest many of our readers:

Mrs. E. H. Dunakin, state chairman of correspondence, Women's Literary Union, of Pennsylvania writes: "I suffered for over a year with general debility and weakness; I had severe backaches, headaches, and was pale and nervous. My physician prescribed different remedies, but they did not seem to help me at all. A club associate recommended Vinol, as it had cured her of a severe stomach trouble. I tried it, and soon felt greatly improved, and after taking four bottles I can say I am free from all my troubles, and it has made me well once more. Several of my friends are using it with beneficial results for lung



MRS. E. H. DUNAKIN.

and stomach troubles and to restore lost strength."

Smith, Yager & Falk, our well known druggists, says: "There is absolutely no need for people to drag around weak, pale nervous, run-down and debilitated, for they guarantee that Vinol will in a natural manner build up the weak, give strength to the aged, restore color to pale faces, cure stomach troubles, nervousness, hard colds, hacking coughs and make rich, red blood. Containing as it does all the vitalizing principles of cod liver oil, without any oil to upset the stomach. Vinol is the most wonderful builder of health and strength known to medicine; it is not a patent medicine, and is absolutely free from all harmful drugs."

"If it fails to give satisfaction money is refunded without question, and it will pay every weak or ailing person in Decatur to try it on our guarantee. Smith, Yager & Falk, Druggists."

### Clover Leaf Excursions.

Atlanta, Ga. National educational association, department of superintendence, Feb. 23-26, 1904. One and one-third first-class fare for round trip. Tickets on sale Feb. 20-21, 1904.

Cincinnati, Ohio. Ancient accepted Scottish Rite, Feb. 23-26. One and one-third fare on Certificate plan. Tickets on sale Feb. 22-27, 1904.

Cleveland, Ohio. American Bowling Congress of the United States, Feb. 8-13, 1904. One and one-third fare, Certificate Plan.

Danville, Ill. Central Illinois Teachers' Association, March 25-26, 1904. One fare for the round trip from stations in Illinois. Tickets on sale March 24-25, 1904.

Lebanon, Ind. State Convention Missionary Society of the churches of Christ in Indiana, May 18-20, 1904. One fare for the round trip from stations in Indiana. Tickets on sale May 17-18, 1904.

Pana, Ill. Convention of eastern Illinois Teachers' Association, Feb. 12-15, 1904. One fare for the round trip from stations Ridge Farm to Herrick inclusive.

San Francisco, Cal. National Association of Retail Grocers of the United States, May 3-8, 1904. Tickets on sale April 22-30, 1904.

Washington D.C. National American Women Suffrage Association, Feb. 11-17, 1904. One and one-third fare on Certificate plan.

See nearest agent, Clover Leaf Route, for full particulars, or address C. D. Whitney, General Traffic Manager, Toledo, Ohio.

## DECATUR INSURANCE AGENCY

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