

A HEAP OF RUINS.

Lightning Fires the Oil Tanks at Jersey City.

Six Men Trying to Extinguish the Flames Burned to Death.

Over a Million Dollars Worth of Property Destroyed in a Few Hours.

Tank After Tank Caught Up by the Flames and Reduced to Ashes.

FURIOUS FLAMES.

A Stroke of Lightning Fires the Standard Oil Works at Jersey City—Five Buildings, Twelve Tanks and Other Property Valued at \$1,500,000 Destroyed—Six Lives Lost.

NEW YORK, May 10.—The Standard Oil Works at Jersey City were struck by lightning, early this morning, and seven tanks have already exploded. The fire is still raging with terrible force, and more disaster is feared.

10 a.m.—Fire in Standard Oil Company's Works, New Jersey, is still raging and is now near the tanks of the Jersey Central track, where 150,000 barrels are stored. Thus far 500,000 barrels of oil have been destroyed, including 250,000 barrels of refined in the store house. It is now thought the loss will reach \$750,000.

JERSEY CITY, May 10, 11:30 a.m.—The oil fire is still raging. The Eagle Refinery is in danger. If the winds continue in the southeast the remaining buildings may be saved. Six lives have been lost.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The works of the Standard Oil Company at Communipaw, the most extensive in the country, are on fire, and about one-half of the property is now destroyed. The fire started during a severe storm this morning.

One of the large tanks near the shore was struck and exploded by lightning. The burning oil rolled out like an angry river and flowed down the avenues between the rows of enormous tanks toward the river. In a short time the flames communicated with three huge tanks, and they exploded simultaneously with terrific force. Fragments of iron were hurled a distance of half a mile, and the burning oil was scattered in all directions. The entire Fire Department has been summoned, but their services were almost useless, as the burning tanks after tank on the east side and licking up buildings. The storehouse, a solid structure where barrelled oil was kept, was attacked by the flames and succumbed. The engine house was next, and the oil and water pump houses, sunken tanks and the machine shop quickly followed. The whole easterly side of the works is a seething mass of flames. Despite the tremendous heat and blinding smoke, the firemen are working valiantly in the hope of checking the progress of the flames, but it appears at this hour that the vast works will be destroyed, and it is feared the flames will reach out and sweep up the entire neighborhood.

It is estimated that there were 5,000,000 gallons of oil in the tanks, and the loss of property already laid in ashes will reach \$1,000,000.

BEGINNING OF THE FIRE.

The shaft of lightning, of unequalled brilliancy and brightness, that struck the first tank was set fire by the firemen of Engine No. 10, in Halliday street, Jersey City, one mile away, and the engine was soon at the scene.

It was soon discovered to be useless to work to put up the flames, and all efforts were directed to prevent them from spreading. This was partially successful until 5 o'clock when tank No. 7 exploded with a terrific report, and the blazing oil spread with lightning rapidity.

Chief Fire and Police officers of men were within sight of this tank when it exploded, and were saved almost by a miracle. Dropping the hose, which was burned to ashes, they fled for their lives. When they mustered together at a safe distance six of their number were found missing. It is thought that the unfortunate men ran down to the river and were lost.

LIST OF THE LOST.

The names of the missing are: John Herter, Superintendent; Joseph Jenkins, foreman of the cooper shop.

George Davis, engineer.

Henry Kiston, laborer.

Dick Conklin, laborer.

William Curry, boiler maker.

The waves of flaming oil rolled in upon the shop, boiler and pump room, two warehouses, cooper shop and blacksmith shop, and they were a heap of ruins in an hour.

Tank after tank was caught by the flames, until seven out of twenty-six on the ground were blazing. The tracks of the Pennsylvania Road also caught fire, and several rolling tanks on rails were only saved by having the iron rails cut through the bottom of the sheet of flaming oil, and the long, trestle bridge of the railway, about a quarter of a mile long, running from the works to Black Tom's Island, were also burned down to the water's edge.

MOURNING FOR THE DEAD.

At the boarding house of the Eagle Refinery, close by, the scene was painful in the extreme. The newly-made widows congealed in their distorted minds, and despairing in their tormented bodies, lamenting the loss of their loved ones, from whom they had parted but a few hours before. No bodies have been found for the heat renders close approach to the ruins impossible.

The burning works extend, with those of the Eagle Refinery, about three-quarters of a mile. The buildings that have been destroyed are situated in the midst of the ground, and the tracks of the railway, from which they had parted but a few hours before. No bodies have been found for the heat renders close approach to the ruins impossible.

The fire is now under control. It is thought the loss will be over \$1,500,000.

Twelve tanks, eighteen cars, six barges, a dredger, two boats, and five brick buildings were destroyed. The quantity of oil consumed is not known. Among the firms besides the Standard Oil Company, are several other firms, who each lose from 400 to 700 barrels of cylinder oil, which was stored in one of the warehouses.

Death of General Grant's Mother.

JERSEY CITY, May 11.—Mrs. Hannah S. Grant, mother of ex-President Grant, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Corbin, in Jersey City Heights this afternoon. Mrs. Grant rose this morning apparently in good health, but was seen with pain in the heart shortly before noon. A physician was at once summoned, but she expired before his arrival. Mrs. Grant was born in Berks County, Pa., November 23, 1789, and was

married to Jesse R. Grant at Claremont, O. She was the mother of six children, three of whom are now living—Mrs. Corbin, U. S. Grant and Mrs. Cramer, wife of the present United States Minister to Switzerland. The funeral services will be held to-morrow afternoon at her late residence. The interment will take place in the family plot at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, O.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A heavy fall of snow occurred Sunday at Deadwood, Dak.

Brady, one of the Phoenix Park murderers, was hung in Dublin, Ireland.

During the month of April 78,476 immigrants arrived in this country.

Eight hundred assisted emigrants sailed for Boston Saturday from Galway.

Several culprits were publicly whipped at Newcastle, Del., Saturday evening.

Several hundred Confederate soldiers at Memphis, Tenn., were decorated Sunday with appropriate ceremonies.

At Ashville, Kan., Friday, three children of Isaac Wilson were burned to death in their father's house.

Frank Grimes and Casius Ide were burned to death in a saw mill at Vermontville, Mich., one night last week.

Grayson's Illinois is now said to be greatly improved, his only affliction being his gouty rheumatism.

The editor of an American paper printed at Constantinople has been condemned to imprisonment for life for publishing a libelous article.

Edison of the oldest passenger engines of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, dropped dead on his engine, near Panz, Ill., Saturday.

George names Saturday night Lynch's William Corcoran, who killed two men and seriously wounded two more in a drunken quarrel at Glenmary, Tenn.

At Paris, France, last Thursday, as a wedding party was leaving a church, a delighted lover shot and killed the bridegroom in the vestibule, and then pointed his pistol at himself.

Nine convicts in a South Carolina convict camp attempted to escape Friday and were fired upon by the guard. Six of them were killed. Of the others, four escaped.

At New Haven, Conn., last Wednesday, the wall of a burning library still fell upon six firemen, four of whom were fatally injured. The loss of the fire was \$75,000.

The cutting of passenger rates from Louisville to Indianapolis and Chicago has been suspended, and the conspiracy of the railroads will be discontinued.

A few weeks ago Mrs. Anna Geyer, of Wheeling, W. Va., was robbed of \$1,200 of diamonds and jewelry. Saturday the thieves returned the same amount.

There arrived at Boston last Thursday by the steamer Phoenician 321 evicted tenants from Ireland, most of whom had been "assisted" to emigrate by the British Government.

Seven hundred female cigar makers at Hartford, Conn., having demanded an advance of 20 per cent on the pay they were receiving, the employers Friday instituted a lockout.

Slitting Bell and his followers, numbering 147, have organized a strike at the Granite City, Ill., old warren wants to end his days farming, and has broken all his contracts for war paint.

The rumor current in Washington that the Cabinet has discovered the plot against General Grant, and that he will be impeached, has been exploded.

Edwin P. Hammond, of Bensenville, Ill., was on Monday appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of this State, vice Woods, appointed to succeed Mr. Gresham as Judge of the United States Circuit Court.

The New York World has been sold by Jay Gould to Joseph Pulitzer, of St. Louis, for \$200,000. The World will continue to be Democratic in politics. The new proprietor has assumed control of the paper.

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Hannah Simpson Grant, the mother of ex-President Grant, died last Friday at Jersey City, the eighty-fifth year of her age. Her death was sudden, and she died in her sleep, having been with her daughter, Mrs. Corbin.

Ward McCooksey, who murdered George A. McCloskey in Dead Man's Hollow, near McKeesport, Pa., August 21, 1874, was executed last week at the State Prison at Mifflinburg, Pa. He was condemned to death for the killing of his employer, and was given a life sentence.

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\$1,000,000.

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An ex-speaker of the New Jersey House of Representatives has been arrested at Elizabeth upon the charge of attempting to bribe Assemblian Armitage, of Newark, at the late session of the Legislature.

The success last year was a master of universal congratulation. Teachers, Professors, Principals and Superintendents from a majority of the States were present with their assistants, teachers, Hundreds of young gentlemen and ladies prepared for examination, obtained certificates and degrees.

A group of young people completed a course of bookkeeping that put them into lucrative positions. Not a few County Surveyors fitted themselves for field work during the eight weeks. The work in botany, geology, natural philosophy and chemistry was exceedingly popular, because practical.

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