

FIVE HOURS IN AN EXPERIMENT

An Exploding Acetylene Tank in New Haven Breeds Fire, Wreck and Death.

Others of the Building's Occupants Are Missing and They May Have Perished.

THE INSURANCE MAY NOT BE PAID.

The Fire Originated in Pfeilgar's Machine Shop, Where the Owner Was Testing a New Gas—He Was Seriously Injured.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 21.—One of the worst fires that New Haven has had in years broke out this morning from a gas explosion in Pfeilgar & Mersick's block, Nos. 70, 72 and 74 Crown street, in which five persons are known to have lost their lives.

The dead are: Joseph Hauser, H. Stevens, Thomas Toof, John Schmidt.

The bodies have been recovered. Hauser was a machinist, and well-known in industrial circles as president of the St. Cecilia Society and organist of St. Boniface Church. His body was disfigured by the explosion, as he was working on the acetylene tank at the time with Frank J. Pfeilgar. His body was picked up by his fellow-workmen in the room after the fire broke out, and was conveyed to an adjacent building.

H. Stevens, a bookkeeper for Pfeilgar & Mersick, was found blackened, and was identified by papers found on the body. Not far from it was found the body of Thomas Toof, who died beyond identification. Three or four workmen were slightly burned, but they were not seriously injured.

The bodies of John Schmidt and an unknown were found by the firemen late this evening. They were covered with masses of machinery and terribly mangled.

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It was an experiment.

Pfeilgar's machine shop occupied the second floor of the building, and in this shop Pfeilgar was testing a new gas, which was compressed in cylinders being made for Brooklyn concern. One of these cylinders exploded with a terrific report. The whole front of the building seemed to explode and fragments of heavy plate glass windows were hurled across the street.

Pfeilgar, the owner, was standing at the time when the explosion occurred, and he was burned and cut. He acknowledges that he was experimenting with acetylene at the time. There were fifty men employed in the building.

The force of the explosion tore down the front of two floors, and by the time the fire department arrived the fire was out. It is put on the fire a second explosion is shown by flying debris over the fire. At 10:15 the fire was out.

When the first explosion occurred two men were standing at a window on the second floor. They were hurled down, and they were killed.

The firemen attacked the flames from the side. At first the water did not reach to the second story window, but after a delay which nearly cost the men their lives, they descended the stairway to the street.

The force of the explosion shook up everybody in the vicinity and many windows were broken. The fire was so hot that they kept the crowd at a respectful distance, and then the police got together and tried to keep the crowd back. Superintendent Smith and Captain Wren were early on the scene and directed their men.

OTHERS WERE INJURED.

Alexis Krub, foreman of the factory of the Pfeilgar Company, was burned severely about the face and neck. He was taken to his home at No. 620 State street. John Higgins, ladderman, of No. 1 company, was struck in the forehead by a falling brick, but luckily remained at work after the fire.

The second floor of the building was occupied by English & Mersick, carriage hardware manufacturers. The first floor was occupied by the shop of F. P. Pfeilgar & Son, and the fourth floor was occupied by Edward J. Mersick & Son, manufacturers of sewing machine attachments.

The Mersick building is built up flush with the building of the New Haven Gas Light Company. The east side of the company's building is looked upon as fireproof, but for the first hour of the fire it was as combustible as any other building.

It is thought all the employees escaped, though all have not been accounted for. Most of them made their escape by a back staircase.

MISS OVERMAN TO BE HEARD.

New Light May Be Thrown on Her Relations with Parson Brown.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 21.—Investigators into the charges against the Rev. Dr. Charles O. Brown were in session again tonight, and before the meeting adjourned another sensation was developed in the case. Miss Mattie Overman has demanded the right to appear before the Board of Inquiry and give her version of the affair which has so distressed the people of the First Presbyterian Church.

Miss Overman has carefully prepared a voluminous document, and like Rev. Dr. Brown, insists upon being tried by reading it to the members of the joint committee. Her request was discussed at some length, and it is believed that it should be granted. The statement of the young woman is very long, reviewing all the incidents which have become public property since the death of Mrs. Davidson. Particular attention is paid to the letters which Miss Overman wrote to her friend, Mrs. Davidson, and which constitute one of the most important features of the inquiry. The committee is particularly anxious to know whether or not they are genuine. When they are convinced of that fact by inspection, they will institute a very rigid cross-examination.

Once a Mayor, Now in Berneville.

James M. Walker, once a rich Southerner and Mayor of Danville, Va., is in Bellevue Hospital, under treatment for chronic gout, and entered on the books as "Berneville." He walked into the Hudson Street Hospital yesterday, and was found to be unable to care for himself. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where he is now lying in bed. The old man says his wife, Maggie Walker, lives at No. 117 East Marshall street, Richmond, Va. He declined to talk for publication last night.

A Determined Legislator.

Assemblyman Charles S. Adler, who fell while going down Capitol Hill, in Albany, Wednesday, was brought to the hospital, suffering from a fractured shoulder and a broken leg. The old man says his wife, Maggie Walker, lives at No. 117 East Marshall street, Richmond, Va. He declined to talk for publication last night.

Ex-Judge Curtis, counsel for Louis Gordon, on trial in Part IV of the general Sessions for arson in the third degree, began his summing up yesterday. He told the jurors that his client was the victim of a conspiracy, concocted by the fire insurance companies and the District-Attorney's office. He characterized the testimony of the witnesses for the prosecution as a parcel of lies, and made a point of the defendant's previous good character.

Judge Curtis spoke for six hours yesterday, and will probably continue that yesterday.

TAILORS TO BRING SUIT.

Will Try to Have Twelve Contractors' Bonds Forfeited—The Sad Case of Mrs. Erenstoff.

The lockout of the East Side tailors is developing new features lately. It is believed that the least influential of the contractors are in a tight place between the pressure of the union on the one side and the Contractors' Association on the other.

One of the contractors who put up the new rules is Joli Erenstoff, whose shop is in the factory building at No. 87 Norfolk street, and who lives on the third floor of No. 155 Delancey street. As soon as he posted the new rules his tailors quit work.

On Sunday morning his wife was found unconscious in a little alleyway about two and a half feet wide between No. 155 Delancey street and an adjoining house. She was taken first to the Gouverneur Hospital, and then to the Hebrew Hospital on East Broadway. Here it was found that her spine was fractured, causing partial paralysis, and that she had sustained several other injuries.

The version of the affair told at Wallalla Hall, Mr. Erenstoff was in favor of settling with the union and his wife was against it. Falling to change her mind, she opened the window and other stopped or threw herself out.

Her neighbors ran to the window and saw her falling. It was believed that she had jumped from the window, and that she had sustained several other injuries.

Dr. Freedman, the house surgeon at the Hebrew Hospital, said that the woman, in the name of Erenstoff, was in the name of the window without knowing it. At another time she said she believed she had fallen out.

A vest-making contractor, who has a shop on the floor as Erenstoff, was yesterday that Erenstoff had worked a good deal for the past week or two over his trouble with the tailors. His card was still up and the men were still out.

Instructions were given yesterday to a lawyer to have the contractors' bonds forfeited. The largest contractors for the furniture of their bonds. The suits will be brought in the name of Solomon Davis, the treasurer of the Brotherhood of Tailors.

The Knights of Labor clothing organization, having been in conference with Meyer Schoenfeld, of the Brotherhood of Tailors, for some time with regard to leaving the Knights and joining the United Garment Workers. On Sunday night eight local organizations of these tailors will meet in the name of Solomon Davis, to decide whether or not they will join the United Garment Workers.

The contractors' bonds were received yesterday in aid of the lock-out tailors: United Garment Makers' special appropriation, \$1,000; Cigar-makers' Union, \$100; Plumbers' Union and Bricklayers' Union, \$50 each; University settlement, \$70; general union, \$100. The total amount of the assessment of members at work, \$333; smaller sums, \$30, Total, \$1,883.

Some of the tailors absolutely depend upon the relief fund for themselves and their families. The amount paid to them being from \$2 to \$5 a week.

M'NULTY DID NOT APPEAR.

Ash Cart Drivers by Mistake Looked for Him Down Town.

The office of Lawyer Walsh, in the Downing building, on Fulton street, was again besieged by ash-cart drivers and hostlers connected with the Street Cleaning Department yesterday. An idea had got abroad that Patrick J. McNulty, the walking delegate of the Hostlers' and Drivers' Protective Association, was to be another of the men to be arrested.

McNulty did not appear, and many of the drivers expressed themselves in forthright manner. They must have mistaken the affair was believed to have arisen from a mistake, as McNulty is paying the back claims nearest where the men are employed.

COACH DRIVERS IN FORM.

"Liberty Dawn" Elects Officers and Puts in a Telephone.

The Liberty Dawn Association of Coach Drivers has decided to keep abreast of the times, and yesterday put in a telephone in its headquarters, Twenty-seventh street and Third avenue. This is the first phone to be put up in any labor headquarters, and it is to be used for the convenience of livery stable keepers who want to hire union men.

At a meeting of the organization, which took place on Monday night, and ended early yesterday morning, the following officers of the union were elected for the ensuing year: President, Henry Mustard, who was Frank Burke, worthy foreman; George Baimor, financial secretary; John F. Maher, recording secretary; and Joseph J. Maher, Robert Winston and J. E. Maher, business agents.

The meetings of coach drivers have usually been held on Monday about 3 a. m. They have now decided that they will begin their meetings at 9 p. m., and any business of the union will then be proposed to be held over until the next evening.

Horse Clippers to Meet Friday.

The Horse Clippers' Union, with a membership of 300, which was formed last week, is to have a meeting on Friday evening in Bricklayers' Hall and will be addressed by officers of District Assembly 49, K. of L. The organization of the newly formed union will then be perfected. It is proposed to fix a uniformed scale of prices for clipping.

Accused of Stealing "Labor" Funds.

Thomas Keating, an ex-walking delegate of Electrical Workers' Union No. 3, was held in \$500 in the Centre Street Police Court yesterday on the charge of appropriating \$540 in dues and initiation fees collected for the union. Keating said he was innocent and that the animus of the case was directed against the union.

DEATH OF JACOB DOELGER.

He Succeeded to the Brewing Interest Established by His Father.

Jacob Doelger, a brewer, died at his residence, No. 130 East Fifty-fourth street, at 7:25 a. m. yesterday. His father established a brewery in New York nearly fifty years ago, and when the elder Doelger died his sons, Jacob and Anthony, succeeded him. Anthony retired last fall, leaving Jacob the sole proprietor.

Jacob Doelger was born fifty-five years ago in this city, was educated in the public schools, and learned brewing in Philadelphia and Washington. In 1866 he married Miss Louisa Woerner, who survives him. There are two children, Joseph and William.

THE FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN St. Patrick's Cathedral on Friday morning, and the interment will be in Calvary Cemetery to the Doelger family plot.

TALKING IN GORDON'S DEFENSE.

Mr. Curtis Averred that Insurance Men Conspired Against His Client.

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HOW 2,000 VOLTS FEEL.

Supt. Hines Was Shot Through by a Powerful Electric Current.

Seemed as Though Every Nerve Was in Flame, Which Swept from Right to Left.

HE WAS TURNING ON A SWITCH.

Did Not Lose Consciousness at First, but Telephoned for an Ambulance, Then Darkness Came—When He Awoke He Had Convulsions.

Charles H. Hines, the superintendent of the Flatbush Electrical Works, is thirty-one years old. He has been informed by an autopsian who cast his microscope that if he survived for three months from the date of the predicition he would become very prosperous and attain the age of seventy-eight. The three months expired last Monday amid such frightful circumstances as to leave no doubt in the mind of Mr. Hines that his escape from death on that day was little short of miraculous, and might be regarded to portend the verification of the astrologer's prophecy.

Mr. Hines accidentally came into contact with the two poles of the alternating circuit in the incandescent light department of the factory, and received a shock of 2,000 volts.

"I really do not know how it happened," he said yesterday, "but while I was throwing the switch on the temporary switch-board to the primary circuit, I became conscious of a frightful burning sensation. It seemed to me as if I were being consumed by a flame, which swept through me from right to left. Then there was a momentary blank. My thoughts were jumbled together. The one predominant thought which seemed to envelop all the others was fire.

"The next thing I knew was when I was standing at the telephone in the office and shouting 'Central' to send to Police Headquarters for an ambulance.

"Then I became abnormally calm. It seemed only a moment afterward that Dr. George Dowling came in and began to look me over. By that time I, of course, realized that I had received an electrical shock of sufficient voltage to have killed a dozen men. The very thought of it sickened me. Suddenly things began to grow dim and vague around me. One object after the other faded away until I was in total darkness.

"When I again opened my eyes I was at my home. An ambulance had taken me there. I felt that it coming on again, and requested to be taken back to the office in order to spare my wife and children such a frightful spectacle. The ambulance accordingly conveyed me to the office, and although the distance is only four blocks, the doctor found it necessary to give me two hypodermic injections on the way in order to calm me.

"At the office I went into convulsion after convulsion, the intervals being filled with such a nauseating sensation as made each awakening many more times disagreeable than death. Thanks to the doctor's unflagging efforts for many hours, my equilibrium was at last entirely restored and I felt strong enough to go home and go to bed. I awoke refreshed in the morning, but the right arm, through which the current had passed into my body, was stiff and sore; but with this exception I felt quite well and strong, and was able to attend to my duties, and paid several business calls in New York without experiencing very much inconvenience.

"I am still a trifle nervous, and the pain in the arm has not altogether subsided, either. Still, I do not think that my experience will entail any permanent injury either to my mind or body."

Mr. Hines is modest, and spoke with great reluctance about himself. But his

FROM CASE TO PULPIT.

Henry Hammond's Great Piety, However, Does Not Save Him from the Charge of Polygamy.

Nashua, N. H., Jan. 21.—From tramp printer to Methodist pastor with a confiding flock is a long jump to most people and it has remained for Henry Hammond to show how easy it could be accomplished.

He chose New Hampshire for his stamping ground several years ago and located in the little town of Bath, near Lake Winnepiscogee. He was glib of tongue and although without funds or even decent clothes, managed to get into the good graces of Elder G. W. Norris, who took after the Methodist interests in that conference. He inspired the elder with so much confidence that he selected him for the vacant pulpit in the Bath church. At that time Hammond claimed to be a converted Unitarian and he was warmly received by the church people.

His revenues from this church failed to satisfy his desires and he resigned to take a "case" in a printing office in Haverhill. Here he remained for some time, and his departure brought matters to a climax. He was discovered by Rev. S. C. Keeler.

The next year he preached in the pulpit of the Swift Water Church, and here, as in Bath, he was a great favorite, especially with the women of the flock. South Tamworth was where he was next sent, and when he remained until a few days ago, there he disappeared, leaving his wife to explain that he had gone West. The fact that he had been waiting on a local unmarried woman gave rise to considerable gossip, and his departing brought matters to a climax. She has since learned of his evil ways and about a year ago procured a divorce and left at South Tamworth when he left that town a few weeks ago. Since leaving New Hampshire Hammond has written letters to the Rev. S. C. Keeler, who has since will. Mr. Keeler says: "Hammond will be speedily brought to justice, and his object in possessing the documents which conclusively prove him guilty."

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THE RAINES BILL STRONGLY OPPOSED.

Excise Question Thoroughly Aired Before the Senate and Assembly Committees.

Senator Higgins Indicates His Position and Argues Points with the Two Speakers.

SENATOR HIGGINS INDICATES HIS POSITION AND ARGUES POINTS WITH THE TWO SPEAKERS.

FURTHER HEARINGS WILL BE HELD.

Representatives of the Retail Grocers' Association and New York Excise Board Urge Changes in the Proposed Liquor Law.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 21.—The excise question was discussed several of its phases and with particular reference to the pending Raines bill, before the Senate Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment and the Assembly Excise Committee in the Senate chamber this afternoon. Senator Higgins presided and Assemblyman Allds sat at the Senator's left hand. The room was crowded with legislators, representatives of liquor dealers and temperance advocates. There were but two speakers, Mr. H. Ross, who appeared for the Retail Grocers' Association of New York, and Julius M. Mayer, counsel to the New York Excise Board.

The joint committee's prospective action was, in the opinion of many, indicated by the attitude of the chairman. He evidently does not believe that the committees are conducting these public hearings for the purpose of ascertaining public sentiment. Mr. Higgins took especial pains to dispute with the two speakers, and endeavored to show what he regarded as weak points in their arguments. Senator Raines, who figures as the author of the measure, was absent from the proceedings, and the capacity of the committee's "coach" and on several occasions he propounded questions obviously intended to "pose" the speakers.

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