

FIREMEN CARRY PEOPLE TO SAFETY.

Imperil Their Lives to Save Others in the Burning Winchester Building.

Flames and Smoke Cut Off the Retreat of the Many Occupants of the Fourth Floor.

REACH THE GROUND ON LADDERS.

Howard C. Ruch Nearly Loses His Life While Saving Mrs. Pierce—William H. Weise Rescues a Family of Four.

What was undoubtedly the most dangerous fire of the year broke out a little after 5 o'clock yesterday morning, when the Winchester building, Nos. 1242-1244 Broadway, was discovered to be on fire.

Luckily there were no lives lost, but this fact is due to the skill and daring of the firemen and policemen who nobly exposed themselves to save others. The fire developed nearly a dozen heroes and was the scene of many daring and exciting rescues.

The Winchester apartment house is a four-story brick building which tops the stores running from Nos. 1242 to 1248 on the east side of Broadway. The stores were empty when the fire was discovered, but in the confused jumble of business offices, living rooms and studios on the second, third and fourth floors there were thirty persons, among whom was Frank Wavra, an elevator boy, who was asleep in the office of Foley & Hagan, real estate agents, in the rear of the third floor.

He was awakened at a few minutes after 5 o'clock by a suffocating atmosphere and found the room full of smoke. Wavra ran to the fire going near the elevator and rang it several times, and then dashed down the stairs and into the street, where he turned in an alarm on the northeast corner of Thirty-third street and Broadway.

RESCUING THE OCCUPANTS.

Roundsman William J. Ennis and Precinct Detective Martin D. Langdon, from the West Thirtieth Street Police Station, saw Wavra, and Detective Langdon made an attempt to get the sleeping people out of the burning building. He grasped his way up to the third floor and shouted as loud as he could, asking if any one remained on the floor above. A girl's voice answered him.

"I am at the foot of the stairs!" he shouted. "Don't be afraid, but jump as far as you can and I will catch you."

Langdon had hardly braced himself when the girl, who had already leaped through the smoke struck him. He caught her, and recovering himself carried her to the street. She proved to be Miss Reeva Huson, who, with her mother and brother Harris, live on the third floor.

The first alarm was turned in at 5:10 a. m., and the second followed four minutes later. The firemen began their rescue even before they connected the hose.

Every one was got out from the burning building except those on the top floor, who were out off from escape, and would undoubtedly have been suffocated if they had not been rescued when they were.

Howard C. Ruch, of Engine Company No. 1, holding what is known in the Fire Department as a "Jacob's ladder," started to climb up the front of the building by the many signs that adorn the Winchester building. He had reached the second story in this manner when his brother fireman handed him a scaling ladder. With this he reached the top floor and made fast the "Jacob's ladder" which he carried. Then he knelt in the window and climbed into a room. He found Mrs. Jessie H. Pierce, and in another room Robert F. Pierce, her husband, and their seventeen-year-old son, Edward F. Pierce.

Ruch placed Mr. Pierce and his son Edward on the "Jacob's ladder," and holding it they passed by a scaling ladder. With this he reached the top floor and made fast the "Jacob's ladder" which he carried. Then he knelt in the window and climbed into a room. He found Mrs. Jessie H. Pierce, and in another room Robert F. Pierce, her husband, and their seventeen-year-old son, Edward F. Pierce.

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T. R. LANGFORD



W. H. WEISE

Scenes at Two Fires on Broadway Yesterday.

Members of the Fire Department proved themselves heroes at the fire in the Winchester building yesterday. One of the most daring acts was the rescue of Mrs. Pierce by Fireman Ruch. The woman was on the fourth floor and Ruch carried her down a swinging "Jacob's ladder" to safety. Fireman W. H. Weise saved a father, mother and two young children. A few doors below, at No. 1180 Broadway, twenty girls in Miss Lamb's Typewriting School were frightened by a fire on the fourth floor in the rear of where they were at work. The hall was filled with smoke. Though they might have walked downstairs, they would not mind the firemen, and insisted on having ladders put up. This the firemen did, and thousands of people saw them climb down.

TWENTY SCARED GIRLS.

Wouldn't Walk Downstairs, but Screamed and Firemen Had to Take Them Down Ladders.

Four firemen rescued twenty future typewriter girls from Miss Lamb's school of typewriting, at No. 1180 Broadway, yesterday afternoon. The girls were helped down two ladders from the fourth story of the burning building to the roof of the one-story structure on the corner of Broadway and Twenty-eighth street. From there they were passed down other ladders to the sidewalk.

There was no reason why the girls should not have walked down the stairway to the street, for they were in no danger whatever, but they became panic-stricken and refused to leave the building except by way of the ladders.

The fire started on the fourth story in the rear of the building by W. A. Miller, a tailor. The precise cause of the blaze is unknown, but it is supposed that a can of benzine became ignited accidentally. In a few minutes the entire fourth floor was filled with smoke and the rear part was all ablaze. It is on this floor that the typewriting school is located.

When the smoke crept into the girls' room they threw open the door and were confronted by a thick cloud of smoke. Not one of them dared venture into the hallway, although they might have done so with perfect safety, for there was at that time no fire between their room and the stairs.

They ran back into the room, and, throwing up the four windows looking out on Twenty-eighth street, the twenty girls raised their voices in shrill screams for help.

Patrolman Johnson, on Twenty-eighth street, heard them, and saw the smoke pouring out at the windows. He sounded an alarm which in a few minutes called three fire engines to the spot. The firemen ran into the house and tried to coax the girls down the stairway, but they were frightened too badly to be persuaded. One woman tried the experiment of sending a girl and dragging her by main force down the stairs, but she sprained an ankle in the struggle and that method was abandoned.

There was nothing to be done but take the girls down the ladders. The ladders were raised from Twenty-eighth street to the top of the one-story structure and from the roof of that to the windows of the burning building. Four firemen went up the ladders and helped the girls down, two at a time. Thousands of people in Broadway looked on.

Mrs. Griffin, wife of the janitor of the building, was on the top floor. She lost her head and ran through the hall screaming. From the street John Fox, of the song and dance team of Conway and Fox, and Patrolman Johnson, saw Mrs. Griffin. They ran into the house and tried to induce her to go down the stairs, but she refused, so they threw a shawl over her head and dragged her into the street.

A MILLION FOR HIS SIGHT.

Charles Broadway Rouss Would Pay That Sum for Restored Vision.

Would Cheerfully Start Life in Poverty Again, with No Capital but Youth and a Shirt.

COULD AMASS ANOTHER \$10,000,000.

Believes He Has Existed Before and Will Exist Hereafter—Advice to Young Men and Estimates of Great Americans.

"I will give \$1,000,000 to any man who will restore to me my eyesight. I will walk out of the store and hand him the keys."

So said Charles Broadway Rouss, multi-millionaire, to a Journal reporter in the office of his ten-story granite building, at No. 561 Broadway, yesterday.

"I can't see whether I am speaking to a man or a woman," Mr. Rouss went on; "but that is what I would do—aye, cheerfully."

Mr. Rouss's eyes have been failing for some time, and day by day it is with greater difficulty that he can distinguish objects. Yesterday he declared they had almost totally failed him.

"The only things visible to me," he said, "are those huge pillars. I can just discern the hazy outlines of two," pointing to the supports immediately before him. "I am not in total darkness yet, as I still see a light mist. But my doctors say that in a short time all will be night." He smiled as he spoke, not sadly, but cheerfully.

He was paying the penalty of twenty years of overwork and he had no complaint to make.

"Having accomplished the object of your life," asked the reporter, "would you, if it were possible, give up all and return to the days when you were poor?"

"Yes," came the answer, without hesitation, "with faculties unimpaired I would walk out of this store in my shirt."

"Could you again, starting to-day, build up a fortune of \$10,000,000?"

"I could by the same application. It is as easy to-day to make a fortune as it was in my time. It's all ideas and persistence. Here," and here his face became deeply reflective, "what good will it do me if I don't remember who I was before?"

CHARLES L. COLBY'S WILL.

Relatives and Charitable Institutions Will Divide His Estate, Valued at \$534,000 by Executors.

Charles L. Colby's will, filed in the Surrogate's office yesterday, disposes of \$520,000 in trusts and legacies, including generous charitable bequests. His executors estimate his entire estate to be worth only \$534,000. He created two trusts of \$100,000 each for the ultimate benefit of his sons, Howard Augustus Colby and Everett Colby.

The total income of these two funds, designated as Trusts Nos. 1 and 2, is to be paid to Ann S. Colby, his widow, for life; after her death, the principals are to go to the legatees. Trusts Nos. 3 and 4, also of \$100,000 each, are created for the benefit of the sons alone, to be applied to their education and maintenance, with the exception that Mrs. Colby is to decide how much of the income of each is to go to the beneficiary in the next three years. After the expiration of that period, the incomes of these two funds are to go to the sons absolutely.

In addition to these four large trusts, each of the sons is to receive, one year after the death of the testator, a direct legacy of \$100,000.

The charitable bequests are as follows: \$5,000; International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, \$5,000; Madison Avenue Depository and Exchange for Woman's Work, \$5,000; Brown University, Providence, R. I., \$2,000; American Baptist Missionary Union of New York City, \$10,000; American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York City, \$10,000, and the Woman's Foreign Foreign, Missionary Society of Boston, \$5,000.

HIS FIRST WIFE CLAIMS HIM.

A Sea Captain's Defence for Not Supporting Mary T. Robbins.

Darius E. Robbins, a sea captain, has appeared to Special Sessions against an order of Magistrate Plimmer to pay \$3 a week to his wife, Mary T. Robbins. In his appeal Robbins says that he went on a long voyage several years ago, and when he came back he could not find his wife, though he hunted everywhere, and was informed that she was dead.

Three years later he married the woman who demands support, and lived happily with her for more than two years. By chance he met his first wife, and then he told the second Mrs. Robbins that their marriage was invalid, and he left her for the other.

The Justice reserved decision until a further inquiry shall be made.

Every Reader of Next . . . SUNDAY'S JOURNAL . . . Will be delighted with the SUPERB COLORED PICTURE . . . Entitled, "On the Bowery." . . . It is Simply Charming!

MILES OF ICE ON THE CENTRAL'S TRACKS.

Arctic Weather Renders Impassable Much of the Road Along the River.

Thousands of Tons Piled Up Twenty Feet High on the Rails from Backing Waters.

WORKMEN FIGHT ICE WITH DYNAMITE.

Obliged to Use Boats to Get to the Scene of Their Labors—Great Damage Wrought All Along the River and Many Horses Lost.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 4.—The damage done by the big freshet which originated in the upper Hudson Sunday night is more serious than was at first expected. The greatest sufferer is the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Company. All its tracks between Coxsack and East Albany are under either ice or water. A large ice gorge has formed near Stuyvesant, and in some places the ice is piled up twenty feet high. The water backed over the Hudson River Railroad tracks and deposited thousands of tons of ice on the roadbed, making traffic impossible. Central Hudson Railroad trains bound north go no further than Hudson over the Hudson River road, and will not for several days yet as it will take some time to remove the ice and fix the tracks at points above Coxsack, where there is a blockade.

At Stockport the ice on the tracks is from three to thirteen feet high and extends for a mile or more. In some places the roadbed is badly washed away, and wrecking trains from every point along the line have been brought into service. General Roadmaster Eggleston and a gang of 200 men left this city late last night for Stuyvesant, where work of removing the ice is progressing. The work train is surrounded by water, and the workmen are compelled to go to and from their train in row boats. Near the big gorge at Stuyvesant the ice is piled on the tracks from twelve to twenty feet high. All the way from Coxsack to Stuyvesant, a distance of three miles, the water on the tracks is six feet deep, and the ice ten feet. So firmly imbedded is the ice between the rails that the workmen will have to use dynamite to remove it.

The elevators and engine house of the Rogers Ice House, the elevators of the Four Mile Point Ice House and the boat house of Benjamin Tryon, at Four Mile Point, were carried away by the flood on Sunday. At Coxsack the water had fallen four feet, leaving the streets in a bad condition, ice having formed on the surface and inside the buildings. In order to gain an entrance to their homes people have to chop thick ice from their doors.

Traveling by row boats was the feature yesterday, and there is only one meat market in town doing business. All the other stores are closed, and business is practically suspended. All the ice houses suffered great damage. The engine house, elevator and derricks used for harvesting ice have all been carried away by the flood. Twenty-four horses belonging to the Ridgewood Ice Company at Light House Island were locked in their stables Sunday night, and when the freshet came the barn was carried away and all the horses drowned. The National Ice Company, on Rattlesnake Island, also lost five horses. The water backed over the island and destroyed the engine house, a dwelling and the boarding house where the ice harvesters lived. At present it is impossible to place with any degree of accuracy the amount of damage done to property in that vicinity, but it will be over \$25,000.

The ice gorge formed about four miles south of Coxsack, opposite the Dealers' Ice Company's house. The ice is broken up only in the west channel. That in the east channel remains solid. If the gorge is to break up soon great damage will be done for miles up and down the river. Many of the through trains have been annulled until further notice, and what few are running go by way of the Harlem and Boston & Albany railroads. All of the perishable freight received by the Hudson River Railroad is being shipped on the West Shore road.

SILVER MEN THREATEN.

Mr. Sibley Says That if They Do Not Get What They Want They Will Have a Presidential Candidate.

Ex-Congressman Joseph C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, was a visitor to this city yesterday. He is an ardent silver advocate, and said that in case the silver men failed to secure what they wanted from the two big parties they would combine and place a third ticket in the field, headed by United States Senator Don Cameron or some equally well known silverite.

Mr. Sibley said the silver sentiment in the Eastern States was much stronger than any one imagined, and that the silver men would not be satisfied with any half-way measures.

In discussing the probability of a fourth nomination for President Cleveland, he said: "Why, he is the most unpopular man in the country to-day, and if he should again be a candidate for the Presidency he could not carry a school district."

MORTON DISQUALIFIED BY AGE.

So Says Ex-Senator Ingalls in Discussing Presidential Aspirants.

St. Louis, Mo., March 4.—Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, of Kansas, in an interview last night, said: "There is no doubt that McKinley is the choice of the people of Kansas, and there is but little doubt that he is the choice of fully 75 per cent of the Republicans of the United States. During the past few months I have seen in nearly every State every one of the Rookies, and I am convinced that McKinley is the man the people want. Whether he will secure the nomination or not is another thing."

"No one takes the candidacy of Quay seriously, but it is possible that Pennsylvania will give him election from that State. Cullom, of Illinois, will probably secure the delegation from his State, but at the same time Illinois is as strong for McKinley as Ohio itself."

"But Cullom is the 'favorite son.' Morton will be the only pawn on the board in the hands of Platt, but it is quite probable that New York State will come to the convention instructed for Morton. Morton is disqualified by age, but again we give an example of the 'favorite son.' Mr. Reed is a powerful man and a leader in his party, but if it was not that he was a local man New England would be instructed for McKinley, for the people are for McKinley."

"Will you be a candidate for your old seat at the expiration of Mr. Peffer's term?" was asked.

"I will," was the decisive reply. "It was understood when I left public life that I would run in the fall of 1896, and I would rather begin exactly where I left off."

IN ARMS FOR FREE SILVER.

Missouri's Governor Takes up the Cudgel Against Gold Advocates.

St. Louis, Mo., March 4.—Governor William J. Stone has sent a letter to the silver Democrats of Missouri, in which he defies the sound money men of the State, and, among other things, says: "I shall favor the Sedalia convention sending a solid free silver delegation to Chicago. I shall favor the selection of two delegates from each Congressional district, as has been done heretofore, as a matter of geographical distribution, but I shall start with those who will insist on every delegate being a pronounced advocate of free silver coinage."

The land is simply to elect delegates to the National Convention who are in accord with the party sentiment and who will strive, as a matter of conviction, to execute the will of those they represent. If gold men are in control at Sedalia I will throw up my hands, and so far as I am concerned, give them what they are entitled to—a clear field. If the gold men are in control at Chicago they will adopt a gold platform and endorse Mr. Cleveland's policy, and in favor of preventing that if possible, but it cannot be prevented by sending Cleveland men to represent silver constituencies in the convention."

One Thousand Defendants Named. St. Paul, Minn., March 4.—About 1,000 defendants and 200,000 acres of most valuable land in Minnesota are involved in a dozen suits which have just been brought by the United States District Attorney at St. Paul. The suits are valued at \$4,000,000, including the whole town of Litchfield. All the defendants reside in Minnesota. Those most concerned are the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad; the St. Paul & Northern Pacific; St. Paul & Sioux City; Winona & St. Peter roads; and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul as the successor of the Southern Minnesota Railroad. The suits are based on alleged erroneous certifications of land by the Interior Department of the United States to the State of Minnesota, and by its officials to the companies mentioned.

Actress Lethia Glenroy Dead. Lethia Glenroy, a well-known vaudeville actress, died at her residence, No. 1129 Park avenue, early Tuesday morning, after a lingering illness. Under the names of Richmond and Glenroy, she and her husband, James Glenroy, were high-priced sketch artists, famous in all the large cities for their clever dialogue. Mr. Glenroy was in Boston when news of his wife's sudden death for the worse reached him. He hastened to this city, but was not in time to witness her death.

Durland's Academy Seized. Deputy Sheriff Mulvaney yesterday took charge of Durland's Riding Academy at Grand Circle and the Boulevard under an attachment for \$31,815 in favor of Charles F. Easton. The district of Frayze & Co. has merchants, who failed on last Tuesday. The sheriff levied upon all the property in the company's building, including eighty-seven horses, safes, books, etc.

PREFERS HIS WIFE TO AN ARMY CAREER.

Lang Married a Sergeant's Daughter and Was Ostracized by His Mates.

Suffered So Much That He Asked to Be Retired Six Months After Graduation.

FAILED THEN, BUT WILL TRY AGAIN.

Every One Connected with the Marriage Has Offered for the Violation of the Caste Code, Which Prevails in the Army.

Lieutenant Clarence E. Lang has a summer home at Glenham, near Fallville, N. Y. Mrs. Stone, who was left in charge of the place, recently told weird tales of midnight visitors and of letters threatening death for her and Lieutenant Lang. She claimed to have shot at a man who drove to the house and threatened to kill her.

Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont yesterday directed Second Lieutenant Clarence E. Lang, Second Artillery, to report to Colonel Charles C. Byrne, president of the Army Retiring Board, convening at Governor's Island. This will be Lang's second appearance before a Retiring Board. Only a few months after his graduation from West Point, in June, 1894, he made an application for retirement on the ground of physical disabilities.

The board ordered him back to his regiment. Then he applied for a six months' leave of absence, which was granted.

Since Miss Stone began to hear ghost-like noises, to see mysterious faces peering through windows, and to receive anonymous communications of a threatening character, Lang removed his family to Fort Warren, Boston, where his regiment is stationed. Since the family arrived at Fort Warren another chapter has been added to the romance which began in the Sunday school of the soldiers' chapel at West Point, where Lang, then a cadet, met and won the affections of the young woman who is now his wife.

"The persistent efforts of young Lang to get on the retired list," said an intimate friend, who knew him at West Point, "are the result of his romantic courtship and marriage to the daughter of an enlisted man. For love he has sacrificed what promised to be a brilliant career as an officer."

"Lang was one of the brightest and best disciplined students in his class at West Point. He graduated among the first ten men. While a cadet, and during his last year at the Academy, he met a Miss Mamie Kinkie, the daughter of Commissary Sergeant Kinkie, and while a cadet had charge of the Sunday School in the soldiers' chapel. Miss Kinkie was one of his teachers. She was a bright, vivacious and unusually attractive girl. Their Sunday school intercourse led to more friendly relations, and some few weeks before graduation day it was announced that the young cadet Sunday School Superintendent and his prepossessing assistant, the commissary sergeant's daughter, were betrothed.

"West Point social circles were dumfounded. Lang was warned by the officers that an alliance with the daughter of an enlisted man would blight his whole army career. Father O'Keefe, the Catholic priest at West Point, was asked to use his influence to prevent the marriage. Father O'Keefe, who knew Miss Kinkie, warned her of the consequences of marrying a man who was not her equal socially, but his warnings were unheeded.Hints were given Miss Kinkie's father that he had better prevent the marriage. But neither officers, priests nor parents could prevent the wedding."

"Immediately after getting his diploma Lang met his affianced. They were driven to Highland Falls and married in the Catholic Church.

"Trouble has come to every one connected with the marriage. Lang's best man was Hospital Steward Lally, then stationed at West Point. Only a short time after the marriage Lally was summarily dismissed from the service. No reasons were given, no explanations made. There were no charges against him, no complaint against his efficiency or character. The part he took in the Lang affair was considered the reason for his dismissal.

"Sergeant Kinkie then found it agreeable to request to be relieved from duty at West Point. He wanted to get an Eastern station, where he could be near Mrs. Lang, his only child. He was sent to the wilds of Texas. This nearly killed the old people.

"Then, Mrs. Lang was not considered the equal socially of the other officers' wives, and being constantly pointed out and referred to as the 'soldier's daughter,' made her lot anything but an agreeable one. It was to avoid this atmosphere that compelled Lieutenant Lang to purchase the little home in Glenham. After only a few months more at Fort Warren the young officer again seeks to get on the retired list."

PLATT MEN ARE SURE TO WIN.

So Says Amasa Thornton, Who "Knows the Game."

Republican politicians are busily engaged in preparing for the primaries to elect delegates to the district and State conventions, which will select delegates to represent New York at the St. Louis Convention. The regulars have been working day and night and predict that they will carry at least seven of the ten Congressional districts.

The fight in the Twelfth District is the most interesting in the city, this being a historic battle-ground between the two factions. The district is a close one, and a compromise may be arranged whereby one Platt and one anti-Platt delegate may go from this district. Amasa Thornton, the Platt leader in the Twenty-first Assembly District, is against a compromise.

"We will do those fellows sure," said he yesterday. "The district is mighty close, but we know the game and that counts for everything in a primary."

Cornelius B. Rice resides in this district, and he wants to be a delegate. There is also considerable talk of sending General Howard Carroll from the Twelfth. Thornton himself would like to be a member of the delegation.

In the Ninth District the fight is between ex-Police Commissioner Charles J. Murray and John "Shiner" Simpson. Both men claim they will win.