

FIRE CHIEF'S BODY
DUG OUT OF RUINS

It Is Found Near Stairway and the Workmen Tunnel Under Tons of Debris to Get It.

TO RAZE WALLS TO-DAY

Bankers Move Millions of Dollars' Worth of Securities from Vaults in the Burned Building.

The body of Battalion Chief William J. Walsh, who lost his life in the Equitable Life Assurance Society fire, because he insisted on remaining at a point of danger after he had ordered his men to retreat, was found in the ruins at half-past twelve o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Four hours later the workmen succeeded in extricating the body from the debris, and it was carried out of the Pine street entrance of the building in a large wicker basket and taken to an undertaking establishment in Brooklyn.

Eight firemen of the Second Battalion, which Chief Walsh commanded, carried the body to the street. In front of it walked Fire Commissioner Joseph Johnson, Chief Kenlon, Deputy Chief John Blinn and Captain Fred Mitchell, brother of Mr. Walsh's widow. A score of firemen and policemen who were standing in the street bared their heads as the body was carried out.

Chief Walsh's body was found on the third floor, about fifty feet east of the Broadway entrance to the building. Its condition indicated that he had been killed instantly. There was not an unbroken bone in the body, but the heavy helmet, which was still on his head, had been jammed down over his eyes, protecting the face from mutilation.

A big force of firemen and building wreckers were working at the southeast corner of the building, looking for the body, when a workman, who had been removing debris from the center of the building on the third floor, reported that he had uncovered a rubber coat, from which protruded the leg of a man, encased in a rubber boot.

Tunnels to Get Body. Additional workmen were immediately dispatched to this point, and after fifteen minutes' work they had torn away enough wreckage to satisfy themselves that the body was that of Chief Walsh.

Word was immediately sent to Chief Kenlon, and, accompanied by Fire Chaplain McGean, he hurried to the scene. A number of the men of the Second Battalion followed, and it was with difficulty that they were retained from taking the body out at once.

Inspectors of the Department of Buildings refused to permit this, as two steel girders were resting across the body and on top of these were many tons of wreckage. The situation required the most careful handling. It was obvious to the experts that if the body was to be got out at all, it would have to be reached by tunneling under the debris. Accordingly props were placed beneath the steel beams and the wreckage was taken out with the greatest care. After four hours of this work the wreckers announced that the body could be drawn out. Two men of the Second Battalion took hold of Walsh's arms and gently drew the body out. It was immediately placed in a wicker basket carried by an undertaker's wagon. Last night the body was taken to the Walsh home, No. 1170 Forty-second street, Borough Park, Brooklyn.

Ten Feet from Stairway.

The point where the body was found is ten feet from a staircase leading from the third to the fourth floor. Apparently Chief Walsh was going toward this staircase when he was caught by the falling floors. His right arm was across his face and he was lying face downward when he was found.

Relatives of Campion and Neider, the watchmen, implored the firemen to get these bodies out yesterday, but the Building Department inspectors refused to allow the wreckers to do any work at the north end of the building, where the bodies are known to be. With the recovery of Chief Walsh's body all search for the dead was ended for the time being.

Alfred Ludwig, chief inspector at the Building Department, appeared before Justice Gleason, in the Supreme Court, yesterday and applied for an order, technically known as a precept, directing the Building Department to raze the Equitable Building.

Mr. Ludwig made an affidavit to the effect that the ruins were in a very dangerous condition, and that the lives of men working in the ruins were in danger. The precept was granted, and the wreckers began working under the direction of the Building Department inspectors an hour later.

To Pull Down Side Walls. The north and south walls were shored up and preparations made to pull them down. This will probably be done to-day. All experts who have examined the ruins agree that until the walls have been torn down it is not safe to work in the building. Not only that, but all contiguous buildings are in danger.

August Belmont & Co. and William A. Read & Co. moved their million dollars' worth of securities from their vaults in the Equitable Building annex in Nassau street, yesterday.

The Equitable Society got permission to have an expert examine the vault on the second floor, which contains \$280,000,000 worth of securities. The expert reported that the vault was intact. No attempt to open it will be made before to-morrow. The \$2,000,000 notes on which the Equitable has lent \$70,000,000, were taken to No. 165 Broadway yesterday afternoon. Other papers also were carried to the Equitable private quarters. Scores of law clerks and private detectives, acting as watchmen, remain in the building, made efforts to enter the ruins to search for valuable papers yesterday, but were kept out by the police, acting under instructions from the Building Department.

WILL GET MATTEAWAN POST.

Dr. J. W. Russell, Acting Superintendent, Soon to Become Permanent Head of Hospital. (SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE HERALD.) ALBANY, N. Y., Saturday.—Dr. J. W. Russell, who has been the acting superintendent of the Matteawan Hospital for the Criminal Insane since the appointment of Dr. James V. May as president of the Lunacy Commission, will be made superintendent as soon as it can be done in a legal way. Colonel Joseph E. Scott, Superintendent of Prisons, who has the appointing power, has a civil service list with two names on it. He is entitled to a new list, and will call for it. Dr. Russell will not be eligible for the examination for about a month, when he will have served the required time as assistant superintendent.

Brisk Fire Baptizes
New Vanderbilt Hotel



SCENE OF VANDERBILT HOTEL FIRE.

With Third Floor Ablaze Elevators Bring Many Women in Fine Gowns Down Through Drenching Torrents of Water While Orchestra Plays to Allay Fears.

The Vanderbilt Hotel, at Thirty-fourth street and Park avenue, which was opened two days ago, received its baptism of fire yesterday afternoon. The flames swept the third floor corridors, which were packed with new furniture, and did \$75,000 damage.

Although there were more than three hundred persons occupying rooms above the fifth floor, the situation was so well handled by the hotel management that a panic was averted. The operators at the telephone switchboard notified every one that there was a fire on the third floor and told them not to be alarmed by the smoke. Many of the more timid residents hurried to the elevators and insisted on descending to the main lobby. Some of them received a ducking, as the water was pouring in torrents down the elevator shafts below the third floor.

About half-past four o'clock a bell-boy dashed out of an elevator, ran to the chief clerk, George Williams, and whispered excitedly that the third floor was ablaze. Mr. Williams grabbed the bell-boy and hurried him across the office to T. M. Hilliard, the manager, who was talking with his assistant, W. H. Marshall. There was a hurried consultation. Mr. Hilliard started for the elevator, Mr. Marshall headed for the Eaton room to notify the leader of the orchestra to keep playing at all hazards, and Mr. Williams, keeping the excited bell-boy in tow, went to the telephone room and gave orders to the operators to allay any excitement among the residents on the upper floors.

Mr. Hilliard found hotel employees and furniture men trying to fight a lively blaze in a pile of excelsior and jute bagging in the north corridor of the third floor. Some of the men were unpacking furniture, which was stacked all through the corridors, when the blaze started. Mr. Hilliard sounded a fire alarm from the hotel's private system and ordered the windows opened to

let out the smoke. Then he hurried downstairs to meet the Fire Department.

Instead of having the hose dragged into the lobby and up the stairway, he had the firemen connect their hose with the hotel's standpipes system. Five streams were connected. The north corridor was blazing like a furnace under forced draft when the firemen began work. They had the fire under control in half an hour.

Outside the building in Thirty-fourth street and Park avenue there was no evidence of fire except the puffing engines, but great volumes of smoke poured from the windows in Thirty-third street. This caused some apprehension for a time among the patients in the Dr. Bull private hospital, nearby.

The main corridors of the first floor were crowded with excited residents, many of the women hairless and some of them in gowns that hung limp from the water that had poured down on them during their elevator trip by the burning floor. Meanwhile the orchestra in the Eaton room played merrily on and the house force, acting under orders, went about their business as though nothing unusual was transpiring.

At five o'clock the machines thronged in for tea and none was turned away, although a great many decided not to risk their gowns and millinery. Those who remained were served in an atmosphere filled with smoke and suppressed excitement.

Water seeped through the ceiling of the main dining room, but employees were put to work drying the floor and dinner was served as usual. By six o'clock the firemen had left the building.

The heat and the powerful stream of water tore the plastering from the walls and ceilings of the third floor corridor. The great quantities of valuable furniture being unpacked there is a total loss.

After the fire was under control Frederick Read, of the Park Avenue Hotel, and George Boldt, of the Waldorf-Astoria, sent squads of workmen to assist the Vanderbilt house force in removing traces of the fire and to get things ready for the night's business.

Last few days the firemen have had little rest. Fire in a building at No. 138 Bowers street yesterday morning caused a property loss of \$5,000 and blocked traffic for nearly an hour. The building was occupied by the New York Gas Appliance Company. While the firemen were extinguishing the blaze there was a gas explosion in a candy store on the ground floor of a tenement at No. 108 Chrystie street. Twenty families were aroused and made their way to the street in their night clothing.

In another tenement house fire, at No. 642 West Forty-seventh street, which is occupied by negro families, fifty men, women and children were driven to the street. The fire, which started in the basement of a rooming house, spread rapidly to the second and third floors, watched the tenants fleeing down the fire escapes. It was with difficulty that the firemen succeeded in preventing the flames from spreading to adjoining buildings.

One hundred men who had been assembled in a building at No. 40 Beaver street were thrown into a panic early in the day when it was discovered that the place was on fire. The men had been quarantined there by H. V. Dougherty, head of a detective agency and brother of the Second Deputy Police Commissioner, who had employed them as strikebreakers should there be a strike among the employees of the Consolidated Gas Company. Policeman Anderson, of the Old Slip station, said the fire, which burned to the roof of the three-story building, started in the basement.

Fire was discovered in the room occupied by the porter at the Thirty-third street station of the Sixth avenue elevated railroad at nine o'clock in the morning. The blaze, which caused a damage estimated at \$50, was extinguished by firemen. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

FIRES ROUT SCORES FROM THEIR HOMES

Twenty families, attired only in their night clothing, were driven out into the zero weather early yesterday when a fire, which gained rapid headway, was discovered in the kitchen on the top floor of a five-story apartment house at No. 1,655 Madison avenue. Firemen rescued many of the tenants and brought them down the fire escapes. When Samuel Newman, in whose apartment the fire started, was aroused he found the flames were beyond control. One hundred men who had been assembled in a building at No. 40 Beaver street were thrown into a panic early in the day when it was discovered that the place was on fire. The men had been quarantined there by H. V. Dougherty, head of a detective agency and brother of the Second Deputy Police Commissioner, who had employed them as strikebreakers should there be a strike among the employees of the Consolidated Gas Company. Policeman Anderson, of the Old Slip station, said the fire, which burned to the roof of the three-story building, started in the basement. Fire was discovered in the room occupied by the porter at the Thirty-third street station of the Sixth avenue elevated railroad at nine o'clock in the morning. The blaze, which caused a damage estimated at \$50, was extinguished by firemen. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

Grande Maison de Blanc
308 FIFTH AVE., at 32d St.
ANNOUNCE THEIR
January Sale
Table Damask, Bed Spreads,
Sheets and Pillow Cases,
Towels, Bureau Scarfs,
Tea and Luncheon Napkins,
French Underwear, Children's Dresses,
Blankets and Comfortables.
Decided reductions have been made throughout our entire stock of Linen specialties which offer exceptional opportunity for money saving.

EQUITABLE FIRE
STARTS TWO FUNDS

One Is for the Benefit of Families of the Men Who Were Killed.

PLANNED BY BANKERS

Other Is for Relief Work in Fire and Police Departments—Headed by Morgan & Co.

As evidence of their appreciation of the good work done by the Fire and Police departments in the Equitable Building fire, prominent banking firms and corporations in the financial district yesterday started two funds.

Firms, institutions, corporations and individuals immediately benefited by the efforts of the men in the two departments at the Equitable fire have already contributed \$50,000 to one fund and the other is begun with a subscription of \$5,000 by J. P. Morgan & Co.

The Morgan fund, while its inception is a direct result of the Equitable fire, is general in scope, and is to be disbursed under proper direction, for worthy individuals who have suffered loss through relief work of the two departments. The other fund, started by the Bankers Trust Company and others, is for the specific purpose of aiding the families of those who lost their lives in the Equitable Building fire.

Letter from Bankers. This letter was sent by J. P. Morgan & Co. and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. to Joseph Johnson, Jr., Fire Commissioner, on Friday:

"DEAR SIR:—A movement has been started to collect a fund for the benefit of the families of those members of the Fire Department and others who lost their lives in the Equitable Building fire.

"Further, several corporations, firms and individuals, occupants of the Equitable Building and of offices facing the Equitable Building, who would have suffered great loss had not the spread of the fire been so effectively prevented, intend to make contributions directly to relief funds of the Fire and Police departments, and also for the benefit of the families of those who lost their lives in the Equitable Building fire. A committee is being formed to take charge of this movement.

"It is now suggested that a general fund be raised by subscription from other banks and bankers in the financial district to be contributed to relief funds of the Fire and Police departments as an expression of the appreciation of the efficient and heroic services rendered by the members of the departments under conditions of great danger and difficulty in the Equitable Building fire, and also as an expression by the financial district of the city of the confidence that is felt in the ability of the Fire and Police departments effectively to meet any emergency that may arise.

"We are informed that in movements of this kind it is necessary first to obtain the consent of the Fire Commissioner, and we would appreciate a reply (by bearer if practicable) favoring us with your consent."

Glad to Accept. The Fire Commissioner replied promptly, saying: "GENTLEMEN:—On behalf of the uniformed men of the Fire Department I shall be glad to accept these contributions for the purpose set out. Permit me to inform you that no legal obstacle stands in the way of such acceptance. All that is necessary for you to do is to forward the fund

to the Fire Department when you have collected it.

"Permit me again to thank you for your generous purpose."

Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. sent the same letter to Rhinelandier Waldo, Police Commissioner, who replied in similarly favorable terms. Contributions to this fund will be received at the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co., which firm has consented to act as treasurer of the fund.

Approval of the bankers' fund also has been given by the Commissioners of the Fire and Police departments. Benjamin Strong, Jr., vice president of the Bankers' Trust Company, is chairman, and Alvin W. Kroch, president of the Equitable Trust Company, is treasurer. The others on the committee are: Albert H. Wiggin, president of the Chase National Bank; James G. Cannon, president of the Fourth National Bank; James E. Alexander, president of the National Bank of Commerce; William A. Read, of William A. Read & Co., and Lewis L. Clarke, president of the American Exchange National Bank.

Subscriptions will be received by the Equitable Trust Company, at No. 115 Broadway, or through any member of the committee.

WALSH FUND NOW \$2,965.

The fund which the friends of Battalion Chief Walsh are raising for the purpose of lifting the mortgage on the Walsh home, in Borough Park, Brooklyn, reached a total of \$2,965 yesterday. Robert H. Malinzer, who has charge of the fund, announced yesterday that the sole object of this particular fund is to clear the Walsh home of all indebtedness so that Mrs. Walsh and her six children will be sure of having a roof over their heads for the rest of their lives.

Among the contributors yesterday were W. A. Read & Co., who sent a check for \$1,000; Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., who contributed \$250; J. & W. Seligman & Co., who contributed \$250, and Jacob Ruppert, who sent his check for \$200.

"Chances" is the name of Joseph Conrad's newest novel, written especially for the SUNDAY NEW YORK HERALD. It is a story that all women will like. First chapters next Sunday.

LEPER BUILDING
BURNS ON ISLAND

Superintendent and Wife Are Forced to Take Refuge in a Barn.

New Bedford, Mass., Saturday.—The administration building at the Massachusetts leper colony on Penikese Island, at the entrance of Buzzards' Bay, was burned to-day, causing a loss of \$10,000. Most of the other buildings were on the opposite side of the island and at no time were in danger. Dr. Frank H. Parker, superintendent of the colony, with Mrs. Parker and her mother and three attendants, who occupied the building, took refuge in a nearby barn. They were unable to save any of their effects.

Word of the fire reached the mainland through a wireless message sent by the wrecking tug Tasco. The crew of the tug saw the fire while passing the island on their way to New London, Conn.

Captain Darius Weeks, of the Cuttuhunk Life Saving Station, on receiving word of the fire, engaged the tug J. T. Sherman to take him with his crew and tow the lifeboat to Penikese, but on arrival they found that they could be of no assistance in fighting the flames, as the house already was practically destroyed. The tug brought Mrs. Parker's mother, Mrs. Angelina King, to this city. The other members of the household remained on the island.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A. Joekel & Co.
Fifth Avenue
Importing - Manufacturing
Furriers
ANNUAL CLEARANCE
OF FURS
Offering entire stock, without reserve,
AT GREAT REDUCTIONS
Every fashionable Fur is represented—
Coats, Sets, Separate Neck Pieces and
Muffs of the finest qualities, including
Imported Models at Half Former Prices.
Men's Fur-Lined Coats in Large Variety.
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Between 35th and 36th Streets
Telephone: 2044 Murray Hill
SALE OF
FINE GRADE BLACK FURS
50% Reduction.
ONE WEEK ONLY.
CROCKER MOURNING HOUSE,
402 5th Av.,
at 87th St.

CHILD'S LIFE LOST
IN TENEMENT FIRE

Twenty Negro Families Driven from Homes by Flames in West Forty-Seventh Street.

CHILD'S LIFE LOST

Fire which started in the basement of the five-story tenement house, occupied by negroes, at No. 252 West Forty-seventh street, yesterday morning caused the death of Annie Robertson, three years old, who lived on the fourth floor; drove twenty families into the street in various stages of undress, destroyed the interior and indirectly was the cause of a collision between the automobile of Fire Chief Kenlon, who was speeding to the fire, at Herald square, and an automobile owned by Adolph Gordon, living in the Langdon Apartments, Seventy-third street and Broadway. None of the occupants of the two machines were injured.

When Hook and Ladder Company No. 4 reached the scene three negroes were seen standing on a ledge on the third floor ready to jump. Scaling ladders were run up and the frightened women carried down by firemen Mooney and Hlokey. The excited tenants, many of them children, were hysterical with fear.

Some one in the crowd cried out that a child had been left on the fourth floor. When a search was made the body of Annie Robertson was found. She had been suffocated by the smoke. An old

negress implored the firemen to save "Little Ruby," a dog, but help was unavailing.

SHERIFF NAMES DETIES.

Edward F. Croker Among Those Appointed by Mr. Hauger. Julius Harburger, Sheriff New York county, yesterday made following appointments of special deputies:—

Sumner Ballard, owner of Journal of Commerce; Edward F. Croker, former Chief of the Fire Department; W. Childs, of the Hotel Reister; E. H. Cobb, of the Broadway Central Hotel; Joe Stevens Ullman, banker; A. L. Westphalen, manufacturer; J. F. S. Clark, clerk; F. T. Barry, of the E. T. Barr-Royal Estate Company; Philip Morrison, clerk; Samuel A. Adler, novelty manufacturer; Herman Runkel, manufacturer; chocolate; E. H. Shumson, iron manufacturer; Douglas Sanderson, of the Astor use, and C. F. Thorley, florist.

No Writ in Lawrence Sool Case.

Justice Kelly, in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, yesterday refused to issue a writ of mandamus asked for by F. E. Merrill, President of the Vice of Lawrence, L. I., to compel the Superintendent of Schools of Nassau county to make a separate school district of town. Justice Kelly said the State Commissioner of Education, Andrew E. Drag now had that matter under consideration, and he regarded the proceeding for writ of mandamus as premature and improper.

To Oppose Short Taxation Bill.

Members of the Real Estate Owners' Protective Association will meet tomorrow evening at the Municipal Court building, Broadway and Forty-sixth street, to discuss the Suban-Short taxation bill. The majority of the members are opposed to this bill on the ground that they believe it would seriously affect the value of realty.

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Forsythe
Extraordinary Purchase!
SUITS, COATS, DRESSES AND WAISTS
At 1/2 Former Prices
Suits, high class, finely tailored—no two alike—all copies of imported models; broadcloth, wide wale chevots and French novelty cloths, richly braided and trimmed with velvet; 16 to 42..... \$29.50
Actual Value \$55.00 to \$110.00
Suits of stripe mixtures, fine quality broadcloth, rough chevots, plain tailored or braided trimmed..... \$19.50
Actual Value \$34.50 to \$38.00
Coats of fine quality crepe finish chin-chilla, in gray, black and navy—very smart and stylish model..... \$19.50
Actual Value \$38.00
Coats of warm wool mixtures, also black broadcloth; lined throughout with guaranteed satin.
\$12.50, \$16.50 and \$22.50
Actual Value \$25.00 to \$42.50
Dresses of crepe meteor, chiffon, marquise, taffeta, for afternoon and evening wear; also a number of black meteor dresses, trimmed with crepe, for mourning.
\$12.00, \$15.00 and \$18.00
Actual Value \$24.50 to \$40.00
Dresses of fine quality serges, Henrietta cloth and velveteen; various models, neatly trimmed with braid; also a number of crepe trimmed dresses of Henrietta, for mourning.
\$11.50 and \$14.50
Actual Value \$17.50 to \$35.00
END OF THE JANUARY SALE
OF WASH WAISTS, \$2.35
Regular price \$3.50
Forsythe
Extraordinary Sale
Strictly High Class Lingerie Waists
Trimmings of real Irish Cluny and Val Laces.
All the very latest styles—long and short sleeves—high and low necks—
\$1.85, \$2.85, \$3.85, \$4.85, \$5.85, \$7.85
REGULAR SELLING PRICES \$3.00 TO \$15.00
ANNUAL SALE MUSLIN UNDERWEAR
WILL BE HELD ON FIRST FLOOR
Corset Covers..... 50c 75c 95c \$1.45
Drawers..... 50c 75c 95c \$1.45
Gowns..... 95c \$1.35 \$1.45 \$1.85
Chemises..... 75c 95c \$1.45 \$2.95
Combinations..... 95c \$1.45 \$1.95 \$2.45
Skirts..... \$1.15 \$1.45 \$1.85 \$2.95
"The Forsythe" Celebrated Corsets
Special Reductions
Clearance Sale of Millinery
The balance of our Hats will go on sale at to-morrow, while they last..... \$5.00
Value \$15.00 to \$20.00.
NOW ON EXHIBITION,
ADVANCE MODELS FOR SOUTHERN RESORTS.
The Balance of All Our
FINE FURS—CLOSING OUT
At Very Great Reductions
22-24-26 Thirty-fourth Street, West