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BALTIMORE HAS \$50,000,000 FIRE

City Suffers Most Disastrous Blaze in the History of the South

FIRE RAGED ALL DAY SUNDAY
Toward Midnight the Fire Began Eating Its Way Into the Financial District—Mayor McLean Says the Loss Cannot Be Estimated.

Baltimore, Special.—The most disastrous conflagration in the history of Baltimore occurred here Sunday in the wholesale dry goods business district, raging practically unchecked during many hours, completely destroying scores of the largest business houses in the wholesale district, involving losses which cannot be estimated, as the fire was still burning fiercely when night fell. Owing to the wide extent of the calamity it will be tomorrow before an approximate estimate can be made, though it is certain that it has already exceeded \$25,000,000. The fire was still burning at nightfall, but was under control. No loss of life was reported at this hour.

BROKE OUT ON HOPKINS PLACE.
 The fire broke out shortly before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods store of John T. Hurst & Co., on Hopkins place, in the heart of the business district, with a series of loud explosions, which were heard in remote parts of the city, and spread with fearful rapidity. In half an hour there were a dozen big warehouses in the wholesale dry goods and notions district burning fiercely. The entire fire department was called out, but was utterly powerless to check the spread of the flames, which were aided by the high winds, and by noon there were savage fires in at least 30 big warehouses, and the conflagration was steadily eating its way into successive blocks, east, north, west and south. On Baltimore street, the blocks between Liberty and Sharp streets were soon ablaze, then came the next block east to Hanover and after that the block on the south side to Charles street broke out into flames, the Consolidated Gas Company building and Oehm's Acme Hall burning fiercely.

Meanwhile there were stores north of Baltimore street being struck by the flames. The fire spread to the south side of the street, the block was next to the big bargain house at so caught. Down in Hopkins place where the conflagration started, Hurst's building and other wholesale houses on both sides of the street crumbled and fell.

The big dry goods houses of Daniel Miller & Sons and R. M. Sutton & Co. were soon aflame, and along German street—east and west from the Hurst building—there were a dozen buildings burning.

Mass & Kemper's big wholesale store, on Baltimore street, quickly succumbed to the flames. On Hopkins place the Hopkins Savings Bank and the National Exchange Bank were gutted by the flames. Across the street were the ruins of John E. Hurst & Co., and next to it Hechl, Jr. & Sons, were in flames.

THE BLOCK A CAULDRON.
 All these buildings were swept away by the flames, and the whole block was nothing but a cauldron of fire.

At 1:30 o'clock Mullin's Hotel, a seven-story structure, at Liberty and Baltimore streets, was in flames from garret to cellar and its great height and narrowness acted as a torch. All the guests had been ordered out, and none, consequently, was injured.

Though every bit of fire-fighting apparatus in the city was called into requisition as the flames continued to spread, at 10 o'clock six engines arrived from Washington and four from Philadelphia. It is roughly estimated that there were 350 hose playing on different parts of the conflagration at the same time.

FINE RIN FOR THEIR LIVES.
 Wall after wall toppled into the streets, and firemen ran for their lives. All kinds of wires had to be cut to clear the way for the fire fighters. The block bounded by Gorman, Liberty, Baltimore and Sharp streets was early found to be doomed, and the firemen turned their attention to saving the buildings on Baltimore street, east of Sharp, but the fire was beyond their control.

Infuriated Negro Kills.
 Tarboro, Special.—Because she would not marry him, Randal Pitman, colored, shot and instantly killed Maggie Battle, a widow, here Sunday and probably fatally wounded her sister, Louisa Barrett. Pitman had called, renewed his suit and as Maggie was about to consent, Louisa protested, whereupon the man drew his pistol, shot both and then made his escape. He has not yet been apprehended.

Minor Mention.
 George Meachins, known as the polyglot guide at the capitol in Washington, died last week. He had served as guide there for nearly twenty years, and was most successful in his employment. He came from Wales, and could speak and write in French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, besides having a familiarity with several dialects. He spoke his native Welsh, and naturally had a good command of English. He went to California in 1849 and made a fortune in sluicing gold, which he invested in valuable real estate.

NOW OUT OF CUBA

American Army No Longer Occupies the Country

INDEPENDENT AFTER MANY YEARS
The Last Indication of Foreign Occupation Has Been Removed From the Island.

Havana, By Cable.—The last vestige of the American occupation of Cuba disappeared Thursday afternoon when the American flag was lowered from the Cabana barracks, and the last battalion of American soldiers marched to the Tristrama pier and boarded the United States army transport Sumner.

The Sumner had brought the Seventeenth and Nineteenth company of United States artillery from Santiago, and these troops participated with the Twenty-first and the Twenty-second companies, who have been stationed here in the evacuation of Cabana barracks.

President Palma and the members of his cabinet, Gen. Rodriguez, commander of the rural guards, United States Minister Squires and the members of the legation staff took their places in the centre of the parade ground. After the soldiers had presented arms, the American flag was slowly lowered from the staff over the barracks, a salute of 21 guns meanwhile being fired from the fortress. The Cuban flag was raised in its place and also saluted with 21 guns. President Palma then addressed Mr. Squires and Major Brown, commander of the American troops, saying:

"We are confronted by one of the most extraordinary facts recorded in the annals of universal history, the departure from our shores of the last troops the United States has kept in Cuba, after helping us to secure our independence and the blessings of freedom. They could stay longer, under any pretext whatever, or an unjust demand could be imposed upon us but on the contrary, the government of the United States identified as it is with the liberal spirit and noble character of the American people, willingly proves its disinterestedness and the sincerity of the aid it rendered us by taking these men away and showing at the same time, that we have an independent people, the product of our own efforts and the blessing of our liberators."

Smith Piano Company; F. W. McAlister & Co., opticians; Bryant Stratton, business college; R. Leitz & Co., pianos; Inwald & Co., furniture; Granger & Co., tobacconists; Ambach Brothers, clothing manufacturers; Conrad Zeul's Sons, trunk manufacturers; the building occupied by Silberman & Todes, dry goods; Thalmier Brothers, dry goods, and the Florence W. McCarthy Company; Fussellhaugh-Blake Company, wall paper; Raschgan & Garner, window shades; R. Jandorf & Co., boots and shoes; James Robertson Manufacturing Company, metals; Peter Rose & Sons, harness and saddlery; B. Cohen, notions; N. Pretzfelder, boots and shoes; John Murphy Company, publishers.

LATER.—At 8 o'clock Monday morning the fire was reported uncontrolled, with loss fully fifty millions of dollars. The fire departments of New York City, Philadelphia, Washington and Wilmington on hand and almost powerless to stay the flames.

News of the Day.
 The presentation by the Prince of Monaco to the Academy of Sciences of Paris of a map of ocean depths, showing the nature and formation of all the bottoms sounded, has once more brought the personality of the Prince before the public. Beyond the fact that he is paid \$500,000 a year to permit gambling in his principality and that he has twice been freed from marital obligations—once from the daughter of the Duke of Hamilton, his first wife, and lately from the Duchess of Richelieu, nee Heine, of New Orleans, very little is known of the Prince. With the gift of this deep sea chart, has come the revelation that Prince Albert is a scientist, for most of the soundings recorded on this chart were taken by him or those with him in the cruises of his yachts, the Hirondele, the Princess Alice I and the Princess Alice II.

It is announced that Thomas Nelson Page, author, is in the near future to establish a technical school in Hanover, Va., in the county of his birth. The plan is to teach young men and girls the different manual callings, such as carpentering, mechanics, cooking, cooking, sewing, etc.

Telegraphic Briefs.
 The Russian reply was delivered to Japan at Tokio, and is expected to lead to war.
 Mrs. Florence Maybrick is at the country home of the Sisters of the Epiphany, at Truro, Cornwall.
 Joseph Chamberlain is exhausted by his political labors and will take a long rest.
 The movement for separating church and state is gaining a fresh impetus in France.
 The Presidential boom of Chief Justice Alton B. Parker was launched at a banquet of the Manhattan Club, in New York.
 Important arrangements for the Republican National Convention were completed in Chicago.
 District Attorney Jerome returned from his tour in Mexico, and declared that New York was less open than in Mayor Low's administration.
 Provisions are short at Fort Arthur, and it is feared that the Russian garrisons will be starved out if Japan gets control of the sea.

Raleigh Woman Held in Rome.
 Rome, By Cable.—Anna Stevens Jackson, of Raleigh, N. C., who, on Jan. 15, after escaping from a house of detention, was found on the railroad tracks, three miles out of Rome, had been placed in an asylum for the insane, pending inquiries which are being made in the United States concerning her identity.
 God's mercy is like the ocean, if it is not too deep for one place it is certainly shallow in another.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS

Discussion in the Senate on the Treaty Question.
Tillman Speaks Plainly.

After almost allowing the amendment to the urgent deficiency appropriation bill providing for a loan of \$4,600,000 to the St. Louis Exposition to go through without any discussion whatever, the Senate Wednesday changed its tactics just as the vote was about to be taken, and entered upon a debate on the loan provision, which continued for about four hours, and which was still in progress when the Senate adjourned for the day. The bill was precipitated by a point of order made against the amendment by Mr. Bailey, who supported his point with a speech based on the theory that the national government was not, as such, concerned with the success or failure of any exposition. He was supported by Mr. Lodge and Mr. Ekins, while speeches were made in support of the amendment by Messrs. Hale, Allison, Cockrell, Spooner, McComas and others.

Mr. Tillman said he wanted to say something on this "loan or gift" matter, but he thought, as it was not likely that the government would ever get anything back. In the course of his remarks he said South Carolina had had a share of the steel that had been secured by other cities and he had helped to get it. What he meant was that this expenditure of money was unlawful and unconstitutional.

Mr. Spooner remarked that the Senator from South Carolina had put himself on record as participating in a deal.
 "What I mean," declared Mr. Tillman, "is that when Congress takes money from the people and gives it away for expositions it amounts to a gift. What I want to know is how far we are to go and how much longer we are to participate in it."
 Here Mr. Tillman hesitated.
 "Steals," interjected Mr. Spooner.
 "Yes, steal," said Mr. Tillman, defiantly.
 Mr. Bacon said that he intended to vote for the amendment but he did not want the impression to go out that he was in the wrong. He thought the appropriation a proper one. In reply to a question from Mr. Bailey he said that he did not endorse the principle, and that the practice of giving aid to expositions was now being initiated he would oppose the practice. But in view of what had been done in the past he considered it not wise to place to make the appropriation.

The Senate chamber was again the scene of an interesting political debate on the provision in the urgent deficiency appropriation bill for a loan of \$4,600,000 for the St. Louis Exposition the basis for the discussion.
 The controversy was precipitated by Mr. Lodge, who quoted many official figures to demonstrate that Republican policies had not been a failure in the past.
 On the Democratic side Messrs. Gorman and Bailey were the orators.
 Commenting on the present condition of the country's finances, Mr. Gorman said that it was not to the imagination that the government had made in preparation for war—\$82,000,000 last year for the navy and \$118,000,000 for the army, in a time of profound peace. He denied, as Mr. Lodge had charged, that he had been an enemy of the tariff, but he said that, on the contrary, he would have the navy engage ample forces to guard American interests everywhere. But he had had no idea of a navy to compete with that of Great Britain or Germany, because our conditions did not require such a navy. He did not want a navy for display, but for service.
 "I want economy in it," he said, and he called attention to the effectual and given to Venezuela during the administration of Mr. Cleveland. "We did that," he said, "at the cost of \$16,000,000 a year, and now we pay \$32,000,000 for a navy with which to threaten Colombia." He would reduce the army from 100,000 men as now authorized, to 50,000.
 "He did not say," confessed that he would be willing to take money from the excessive expenditures for the army and navy, and give it to the St. Louis fair, the success of which was pledged by the United States.

Some Spicy Remarks.
 Indiana and Kentucky locked horns in the House Wednesday. The debate, which involved nearly every member of both State delegations, was fast and furious from start to finish. Kentucky demanded of Indiana the return of W. S. Taylor, that he might be tried for the assassination of Wm. Am. Goebel, of Kentucky, and the defense was led by Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana. Partisan feeling rose to an extreme tension, and as either side seemed but a plausible derision resulted. The debate was a diplomatic and consular appropriation bill.
 Mr. James fired both sides of the House to interest and feeling by declaring at the outset that the "Tough Rider" President was ridiculous in his message to Congress favoring international extradition treaties, when one State could not get from another fugitive from justice. He had, he said, introduced a bill in which the Federal government made extradition compulsory in cases where persons had been indicted for crime. For four years, he said, Governor Durbin, of Indiana, had protected Taylor, who had been regularly indicted in Kentucky for the murder of Goebel, "and yet I notice that when Durbin comes to town," continued Mr. James, "he is wined and dined by this great Don Quixote upon extradition, who absolutely confides to Durbin the right to give the waiting and anxious world the news that Hanna can run for President if he wants to. And when we all read that, we again declare 'the king can do no wrong.'"
 Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, arose to make a reply to Mr. James, and brought a storm of questions from the Democratic side.
 The Governor of Indiana needed no defense, began Mr. Crumpacker, especially to anyone acquainted with the Kentucky election of 1893. He declared Taylor had been elected Governor; that two Kentucky juries had been "packed," and that history would justify the action of Indiana.
 Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, combated the idea that the Kentucky juries were "corrupt and rotten." In fact, he said, the jury in the case of Taylor was a fair one. Mr. Crumpacker was a disgrace to American civilization. It was ridiculous to suppose that all purity reigned in Indiana, and that just across the river all was corruption.

Safe Blowers Arrested.
 Roanoke, Va., Special.—Two men giving their names as William Raymond and James Donohue were arrested here last night by W. G. Baldwin, president of the Railway Special Agents' Association of America, charged with cracking the safe in the National Bank of Rocky Mount, Va., two weeks ago, when \$4,000 in silver was taken. Eleven bags containing \$1,100 in silver were found on the men. There is still \$2,900 missing. The men had the money buried near Rocky Mount and went there from Roanoke to get it.

Silk Culture Congress.
 Washington, Special.—Louis B. Magid, of Georgia, the president of the Silk Culture League of America, announced that he had called a silk culture congress to be held next October at St. Louis. He announced that Secretary Wilson has promised to make an address. Mr. Magid called on President Roosevelt in the interest of the movement for the growth of silk in the United States.

Plan of Organization.
 New York, Special.—It was announced Thursday night that a plan for the re-organization of the United States Ship Building Company, satisfactory both to the bondholders, represented by Samuel Untermyer, and to the Schwab-Sheldon controlling interests, has been reached, and that in consequence all litigation will come to an end.

Accident to the Iowa.
 Norfolk, Va., Special.—The battleship Iowa, while testing her batteries on her way down the coast February 4, blew off the muzzles of both eight-inch guns in her forward starboard turret. Flying fragments smashed one of the ship's whale boats. Both guns are fractured and bent hoops E and F, and the barrels are badly scorched. None of the crew was injured, and no damage outside that given was sustained by the vessel.
 Must Be War.
 A cable dispatch from London says that the Japanese Minister in a published interview declares that Russia agrees to sign treaty war will be inevitable.

As Chickens Come Home.

You may take the world as it comes and go, And you will be sure to find That Fate will square the accounts she owes. Whoever comes out behind; And all things bad that a man has done, By whatsoever induced, Return at last to him, one by one, As the chickens come home to roost. So as you will, there's a time to reap, For the good and the bad as well, And conscience, whether we wake or sleep, Is either a heaven or hell, And every wrong will find its place, And every passion loosed Drifts back and meets you face to face— Like chickens that come home to roost. Whether you're over or under the sod The result will be the same, You cannot escape the hand of God, You must bear your sin and shame, No matter what's carved on a marble slab. When the items are all produced You'll find that St. Peter was keeping 'em. And that chickens come home to roost. —Laporte City (Iowa) Press.

Naval Officer Buys Pew.
 Commander F. A. Miller, U. S. N., has purchased pew No. 118 in the historic St. John's church, Washington, from a Philadelphian, paying him \$1,000 for it.

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