

FIVE DEAD IN FIRE PANIC.

Five More May Die of Hurts—Shirt-waist Makers Leaped from Windows.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.—Five persons, four girls and one man leaped to their death to-day in a panic caused by a fire in the four-story factory building at 208 and 210 Chancellor Street, near Second and Walnut Streets. Five others received injuries from which they will probably die and many more were less seriously hurt. The dead are:

Morris Pessan, aged 26, fractured skull; Clara Swartz, aged 18, crushed by fall; Ida Greenburg, aged 20, burned and crushed; Rebecca Kaufman, aged 19, fractured skull; Elizabeth Chachkin, aged 16, burned and crushed. The probably fatally injured are Rebecca Chachkin, aged 14, fractured skull, internal injuries, and burns; Hyman Belokin, aged 25, both legs and arms broken and probably internal injuries; Sarah Cohen, seriously burned and probably internally injured; Phillip Poklos, arm and both legs fractured, and an unidentified workman, overcome by smoke and flames.

Nearly all of the dead and severely injured were employed in the shirtwaist factory of Joseph Chachkin, which occupied part of the fourth floor of the building. Chachkin himself was injured. One of his daughters is dead and another dying. Chachkin's force of operatives was greatly reduced owing to the shirtwaist strike.

The flames, which originated in the elevator shaft on the fourth floor, are supposed to have been caused by the short-circuiting of the electric motor which ran the elevator. The girls and men in Chachkin's factory jumped wildly from the fourth-story windows. Men in the street spread blankets and an awning, but in the dense smoke which filled the narrow street many fell to the pavement before these improvised fire nets could be extended. The building was equipped with fire escapes, and nearly every window had a rope. One man jumped from a window with the loose rope end in his hands. He died with a fractured skull. Others had their hands burned to the bone by their rapid descent on the ropes.

STETSON TRUSTEES RESIGN.

Quit Christian Science Board Following Defeat of Their Friends.

The last vestige of influence exerted by Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson over the affairs of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, was eliminated last night by the resignations from the Board of Trustees of the remaining four members, who all along had championed the cause of the deposed and excommunicated leader. Those who resigned were Edward F. Hatfield, Chairman; John D. Higgins, John Franklin Crowell, and Adolph Rusch.

Although no reason for their resignations were given last night, it was attributed to the defeat of their friends on the board for reelection at the church meeting, which began on Tuesday night and ended in the early hours of yesterday morning, as announced in yesterday's TIMES.

There was some talk last night in Christian Scientist circles that the Trustees who have resigned and those who were defeated at the election on Tuesday night may bring legal action in an effort to declare the church election illegal.

As to what Mrs. Stetson will do now is a question which most of the First Church members are discussing. Many believe that she will dispose of her residence next door to the church and leave New York.

Treasurer Whitney's report showed that the church expended on the special investigation of Mrs. Stetson \$2,408, divided as follows: Counsel fees, \$750; Secretary, \$208; stenographers, &c., \$1,063; printing and distributing the report, \$345.

Coachman Shot by Burglars Is Dead.

William O'Keefe, coachman for Henry Decker of Dongan Hills, S. L. who was shot four times early on Christmas morning by burglars whom he surprised in the home of his employer, died yesterday in the Smith Infirmary. No trace of the burglars has been found, and O'Keefe was able to give only the most meagre description of them.

QUICK GRAND JURY FIRE INVESTIGATION

District Attorney, a Witness of the Horror, Takes Steps for an Immediate Inquiry.

CONFERS WITH CHIEF CROKER

Fire Department Head Says All Loft Buildings, Once Tenanted, Are More or Less Fire-Traps.

A Grand Jury investigation of general conditions prevailing in the so-called loft and office building section between Canal and Twenty-third Streets is to be started at once by District Attorney Whitman as a result of a preliminary inquiry he made late yesterday afternoon at the scene of the disaster on Washington Place.

This Grand Jury inquiry, the District Attorney says, will be to determine, first, if the laws providing for the safeguarding of human life in the loft buildings are adequate to meet the present-day conditions and the overcrowding of the sweatshops and factories, and, second, to determine whether existing laws are being observed.

The inquiry will also take into consideration Fire Commissioner Waldo's proposal made in his first report to Mayor Gaynor, in which the Commissioner urged that a separate bureau of fire prevention be established in the Fire Department, and that the supervision of fire escapes and other life-saving property-saving appliances on office, loft buildings, and tenements be withdrawn from the Tenement House and Building Department and transferred to the proposed new bureau.

District Attorney Whitman says that the appalling nature of yesterday's disaster has emphasized the immediate need of an investigation to determine whether more adequate safeguards can be provided. He was in his apartment at the Hotel Iroquois when news reached him that a fire attended by great loss of life had occurred in Washington Place, and that the pavement in front of the burning building was littered with bodies of the victims.

Whitman Sees Croker.

Mr. Whitman called a taxicab and hastened to the scene, arriving there before the fire was out, and even before the bodies had been removed from the sidewalks. Forcing his way through the fire lines, he hunted out Fire Chief Croker to learn the extent of the fire damage and loss of life and to question the Chief concerning what had already been done. Briefly Chief Croker sketched the circumstances of the fire and told the District Attorney that although there had apparently been one fire escape in the building, so great was the panic among the employees when the blaze started that few, if any, managed to escape that way.

There are few fire escapes in any of these office and loft buildings of the so-called modern fireproof type, said Chief Croker to the District Attorney. "In this case there seems to have been one only, and that not in the front of the building. I have said over and over again that this thing was sure to happen—and it will happen again. The overcrowding of these loft buildings is a menace to life which the present conditions surrounding the buildings themselves do not overcome."

"These buildings are not fireproof, although they are called such. They are fireproof, yes, when the builders get through and before the tenants move in. But after the tenants are in they are only slow-burning buildings. They are safe so far as property damage is concerned, but not so far as human life is concerned. There are more fire traps in the loft and office building section than you can realize."

"What, office buildings?" asked the District Attorney.

Not Strictly Fireproof.

"Yes, office buildings, too, in this part of the city," replied Chief Croker. "They are fireproof in name only. Of course the standpipes, sprinklers, and other devices for checking fire are of great importance, and fire escapes are equally so. The grave peril to human life in these loft and office buildings cannot be too strongly put. This disaster emphasizes what I say. The fire itself has been restricted to the three top floors and the property damage is comparatively slight to what might have been in one of the old rookeries built of highly inflammable material."

Even while the Fire Chief was talking his men were carrying the bodies of men and women from the pavements to the waiting ambulances and patrol wagons, placing the mutilated bodies in rude wooden coffins and carrying them away. Now and then Chief Croker paused in his talk with Mr. Whitman and gave hurried directions to his men. Some of them were already on the floors which had been burned out and the work of recovering bodies and lowering them down to the street level with ropes had begun.

A few feet from where the District Attorney and Fire Chief stood talking was a hole in the asphalt pavement. Chief Croker explained that it had been made by falling bodies and that half a dozen which had plunged through the break in the pavement were lying at the bottom of the hole. Several were dragged out while the District Attorney stood by.

"This is horrible, horrible!" exclaimed Mr. Whitman. "But what you have told me, Chief Croker, certainly seems to call for an investigation, not only of this fire and possible negligence, but of those conditions which seem to prevail in other buildings of a like character, where the lives of hundreds of thousands of young women, men, and even children are risked every day. If the laws governing the safeguarding of life in such buildings are adequate, it is the duty of the authorities to learn whether they are observed; and if the laws are not adequate, then it is the duty of the authorities to see to it that adequate laws are enacted, and that quickly."

The District Attorney added that, while the horror of the disaster was appalling, and while he disliked to talk about an official investigation at such a time, the very nature of the case seemed to demand immediate action of some kind.

Inquiry to Begin at Once.

Leaving Chief Croker the District Attorney hastened to a near-by telephone and called up his assistants, Charles F. Bostwick and Robert H. Manley, and instructed them to start an investigation at once along lines he indicated. He told them to pay especial attention to the question as to whether the requirements of the Building and Fire Departments had been complied with to the letter and to report to him on Monday. Mr. Whitman also communicated with the Coroner's office and instructed the clerk in charge to summon every available Coroner to the scene. Coroner Hellenstein arrived while Mr. Whitman was using the telephone, and he and the District Attorney conferred as to what was best to be done.

Mr. Whitman learned from Inspector Schmittberger that the morgue was already overcrowded with bodies and that other arrangements would have to be made for the accommodation of the remaining bodies, numbering fifty or more. The District Attorney suggested that the recreation pier at the foot of Twenty-fifth Street be converted into a temporary morgue, and instructions to that effect were issued by Coroner Hellenstein.

The District Attorney also questioned First Deputy Police Commissioner Driscoll, Inspector Daly, and Capt. Hayes as to what they knew of conditions prevailing on the scene when they arrived. From them the District Attorney learned that more than fifty men, women, and girls had jumped from the windows of the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors, while the blaze was at its height and had been killed by the plunge of nearly 100 feet. Accompanied by the Coroner, Mr. Whitman sought out the elevator men who were on duty when the fire started and took part in the work of rescue. Joseph Zito was one of the elevator men and he was soon found. He came here from Italy nine years ago and lives at 120 MacDougal Street. He proved to be one of the real heroes of the disaster. He and others who had witnessed the tragic

Police Numbering the Bodies in the Street.



POLICE TRYING TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS

scene told Mr. Whitman what occurred in the elevator shaft when the fire started.

Elevator Man's Account of It.

Zito and the other elevator man, Joe Jaspard, were on the first floor when the alarm sounded from above. Seated on a bench in one of the near-by offices Zito gave the District Attorney this account: "I had just brought several employes downstairs and was waiting for a ring from the upper floors when I heard a crashing of glass apparently on the eighth floor. A shower of glass came down the shaft and landed on the top of my car."

"I started the car up at once. At the eighth floor I found a group of girls screaming and pressing up against the door. Looking through the broken glass was Mr. Harris. The girls were all around him and badly scared. Mr. Harris was telling them to keep back. Some of the men employes were also crowding around, and Mr. Harris was telling the men to keep back and let the girls down first."

"I couldn't see any blaze then, but I guess it was right behind them. While Mr. Harris held the men back about twelve or fifteen girls scrambled into the elevator and I carried them down to the street level. Up I went again, and the same conditions prevailed at the door of the elevator on the eighth floor. The girls fought each other to get in."

"I made about twenty trips in all, I think. Sometimes I would go to the ninth floor and sometimes to the tenth, always getting as many as I could into the car and letting them run for the bottom. On the last few trips I could see the fire all right. It was spouting out from the elevator doors on the ninth and the tenth floors, and on the two last trips I thought the flames might run through the elevator cables and pitch us all to the bottom of the shaft."

"While I was doing this the other passenger elevator also was making trips, but I believe after the first few a college student was running that car. But I didn't have any time to watch what was going on anywhere but in my own elevator. There was enough excitement there and to spare. Some of the girls would faint on the way down and have to be dragged out at the bottom. There were several men, too, who crowded their way into the car in spite of the girls."

Bodies Down the Elevator Shaft.

"On my last trip the flames began breaking into the upper part of the elevator shaft, and it would have been madness to venture up again, so I could do nothing more. Hardly two minutes after I reached the bottom after the twentieth trip, and even while the passengers were scrambling out, a body struck the top of the elevator cage and bent the iron. An instant later another followed."

"Then the car went down to the bottom of the shaft and the bodies kept on plunging down. Oh, it was horrible! I will never get the sight out of my mind. I should think that at least thirty-five men and women plunged down the elevator shafts from the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors to death. Some of their clothing was burning as they fell, and I could see the streaks of fire coming down like rockets."

While he was telling his story to the District Attorney, Zito was nursing an injured leg. He had been jammed up against the side of his car by the crush of women and men on one of the last trips, and could not stand on that leg. Zito had been arrested by one of the policemen, but after hearing his story and its corroboration by other witnesses, District Attorney Whitman suggested that Zito be released and sent to hospital. "I believe the poor fellow's leg is broken," said Mr. Whitman, who was deeply moved by what he had heard. "I will see to it that he gets the best of attention for he is a real hero. I dare say there are some elevator men who would not have done the half that Zito has done to-day, yet there is nothing of his boasting about him, and he did not even mention his own injury. He is a hero, every inch of him."

After some further inquiry the District Attorney gave instructions that no immediate arrests be made unless for some actual crime, such as robbing the bodies or disorder at the scene.

"It will be time to make arrests, if any are needed, after an inquiry develops whether this disaster was due to criminal negligence on the part of any one."

Mr. Whitman, however, ascertained the name of the owner of the building, J. J. Asch of 733 Broadway, and of the two members of the firm, Max Blanck and Isaac Miller, for the purpose of calling them to testify in the investigation that is to be made.

Question of Responsibility.

The investigation by the District Attorney's office will be independent of the Coroner's inquest, although Mr. Whitman will be represented at the inquest. But the facts bearing upon criminal responsibility, if any exists, will be gathered independently by Mr. Manley and Mr. Bostwick, although they will be submitted to the Coroner before the inquest.

The Grand Jury inquiry will follow the Coroner's inquest, and any facts bearing upon the question of responsibility will also be considered by that body. But the Grand Jury inquiry will have a far broader scope than the actual disaster of yesterday. Its main object, in fact, will be to determine whether the loft building in which the disaster occurred is typical of hundreds of others, and what, if anything, can be done to guard against a repetition of the horror.

With the Grand Jury investigation in view, the District Attorney, while on the scene, made inquiries as to the number of elevators in operation in the building, the number of staircases, the character of the building itself, and everything bearing on the causes for the great loss of life. He was informed by Chief Croker and others that there were four stairways and four elevators, two passenger elevators on the Washington Place side and two freight elevators on the Greene Street side. The freight elevators were not in use, however, when the fire started, for most of the other tenants had left the building

and the work of handling freight had ceased for the day. As for the stairways, the District Attorney was informed, few if any of the employes of the Triangle Waist Company used them as a means of escape. So great was the panic and so dense the throng that packed around the passenger elevator shafts that few of the men and women seemed to remember the stairways.

Chief Croker told Mr. Whitman that some of the men and women in the top floors jumped to the street after he arrived. When the fire chief got there several firemen were holding a life net for these who jumped, but so great was the height that the life net sagged as each body fell and could not save a life.

Shortly before the District Attorney quit the scene Chief Croker made a personal inspection of the burned floors, and upon his return to the street reported to Mr. Whitman what he had found.

"It is likely that between 150 and 200 men and women perished," Chief Croker said to the District Attorney. "The floors up there are a frightful sight. Bones are everywhere, and are burned to a crisp, the flesh having been burned away. Fifty-five persons must have jumped out of the windows, and at least thirty-five plunged down the elevator shafts. There must have been seventy or more trapped on the three floors and burned there. Heaven knows how many died right there on the floors. Perhaps the number of bodies there may reach a hundred."

There was a strike of the shirtwaist makers several months ago. Prior to that time Jewish help had been employed almost exclusively. But after the strike ended this company, so Mr. Whitman was informed, refused to take back any of these employes, preferring instead to hire Italians, Irish, and Americans.

Employes Questioned.

In his investigation of the premises and of the conditions surrounding the disaster the District Attorney talked with other employes of the building besides the two elevator men.

He was informed that there were about 1,500 machines in operation by the Triangle Waist factory, and that about 2,000 employes were on the payroll. The machines were working full time, he was told, but had the fire occurred an hour later every one would have been out of the building. The company on the seventh floor had quit work at 4 o'clock, and the last of the employes there had reached the street before the shower of glass down the elevator shaft, warned Zito and his fellow-elevator man, that something was wrong on the eighth floor.

The District Attorney was also informed that there was great difficulty in identifying the bodies, as many of them were burned past recognition. In several instances, the police reported to him, women had been identified by their pay checks, for the Triangle Waist Company employes had all been paid off at noon.

When Mr. Whitman was asked what witnesses would probably be called before the Grand Jury to be examined along the lines of criminal negligence, as well as along the general line of conditions prevailing in the loft building district, he said that architects, builders, city officials and tenants would doubtless be called. Officials of the Fire Department, Building Department, Tenement House Department, and other branches of the city government will be among the witnesses. Commissioner Waldo is likely to be one of the most important, and Chief Croker will be another.

There is no Grand Jury at present which would have time to go into the investigation of general conditions surrounding the safeguarding of human life in factory and loft buildings, but it is likely that one of the April Grand Juries which will be sworn in next week before the Judges of General Sessions will take up the inquiry.

It seems apparent from a cursory inspection of the scene that the great loss of life was due to panic rather than to the nature of the building itself," said the District Attorney as he made his way to his taxicab. "In some of all the advances in building construction and the fireproofing of city structures it seems impossible to overcome the human element in fire danger. From what I have learned from Chief Croker, it would appear that one can make a building very nearly fireproof but not panic proof. But, of course, it is absolutely necessary to do this if the laws concerning the safeguarding of human life are observed, and if they are, what new laws are required."

Mr. Bostwick's Statement.

Assistant District Attorney Bostwick, who arrived at the scene of the disaster shortly after District Attorney Whitman, said:

"This disaster only bears out the statement made by many, which was that some day New York would suffer from some horror on account of the present law in regard to fireproof buildings. So far as I have been able to learn in the short time I have been here, this building complied in all respects with the law, which requires only one fire escape."

"My chief, District Attorney Whitman, has told me that I am to take up the investigation on Monday, and I intend to make it a thorough one. At present I am not in possession of sufficient facts to say what this investigation might lead to, but if it appears to the District Attorney and myself that there has been a violation of the law the matter will be presented to the Grand Jury. At present I can say no more about the case and will not be able to do so until I am furnished with other facts about it."

Deputy Police Commissioner Driscoll, who was at the scene of the fire, said that it was his opinion there was no excuse for the great number of lives lost. He added: "It is my belief that this is the greatest disaster in the history of our city. Of course more lives were lost in the Slocum disaster, but in this case there was no reason for the great loss of life, and with more fire escapes it is possible that no lives would have been lost at all."

141 MEN AND GIRLS DIE IN WAIST FACTORY FIRE; TRAPPED HIGH UP IN WASHINGTON PLACE BUILDING; STREET STREWN WITH BODIES; PILES OF DEAD INSIDE

The Flames Spread with Deadly Rapidity Through Flimsy Material Used in the Factory.

600 GIRLS ARE HEMMED IN

When Elevators Stop Many Jump to Certain Death and Others Perish in Fire-Filled Lofts.

STUDENTS RESCUE SOME

Help Them to Roof of New York University Building, Keeping the Panic-Stricken in Check.

ONE MAN TAKEN OUT ALIVE

Plunged to Bottom of Elevator Shaft and Lived There Amid Flames for Four Hours.

ONLY ONE FIRE ESCAPE

Coroner Declares Building Laws Were Not Enforced—Building Modern—Classed Fireproof.

JUST READY TO GO HOME

Victims Would Have Ended Day's Work in a Few Minutes—Pay Envelopes Identify Many.

MOB STORMS THE MORGUE

Seeking to Learn Fate of Relatives Employed by the Triangle Waist Company.

Three stories of a ten-floor building at the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place were burned yesterday, and while the fire was going on 141 young men and women—at least 125 of them mere girls—were burned to death or killed by jumping to the pavement below.

The building was fireproof. It shows now hardly any signs of the disaster that overtook it. The walls are as good as ever; so are the floors; nothing is the worse for the fire except the furniture and 141 of the 600 men and girls that were employed in its upper three stories.

Most of the victims were suffocated or burned to death within the building, but some who fought their way to the windows and leaped met death as surely, but perhaps more quickly, on the pavements below.

All Over in Half an Hour.

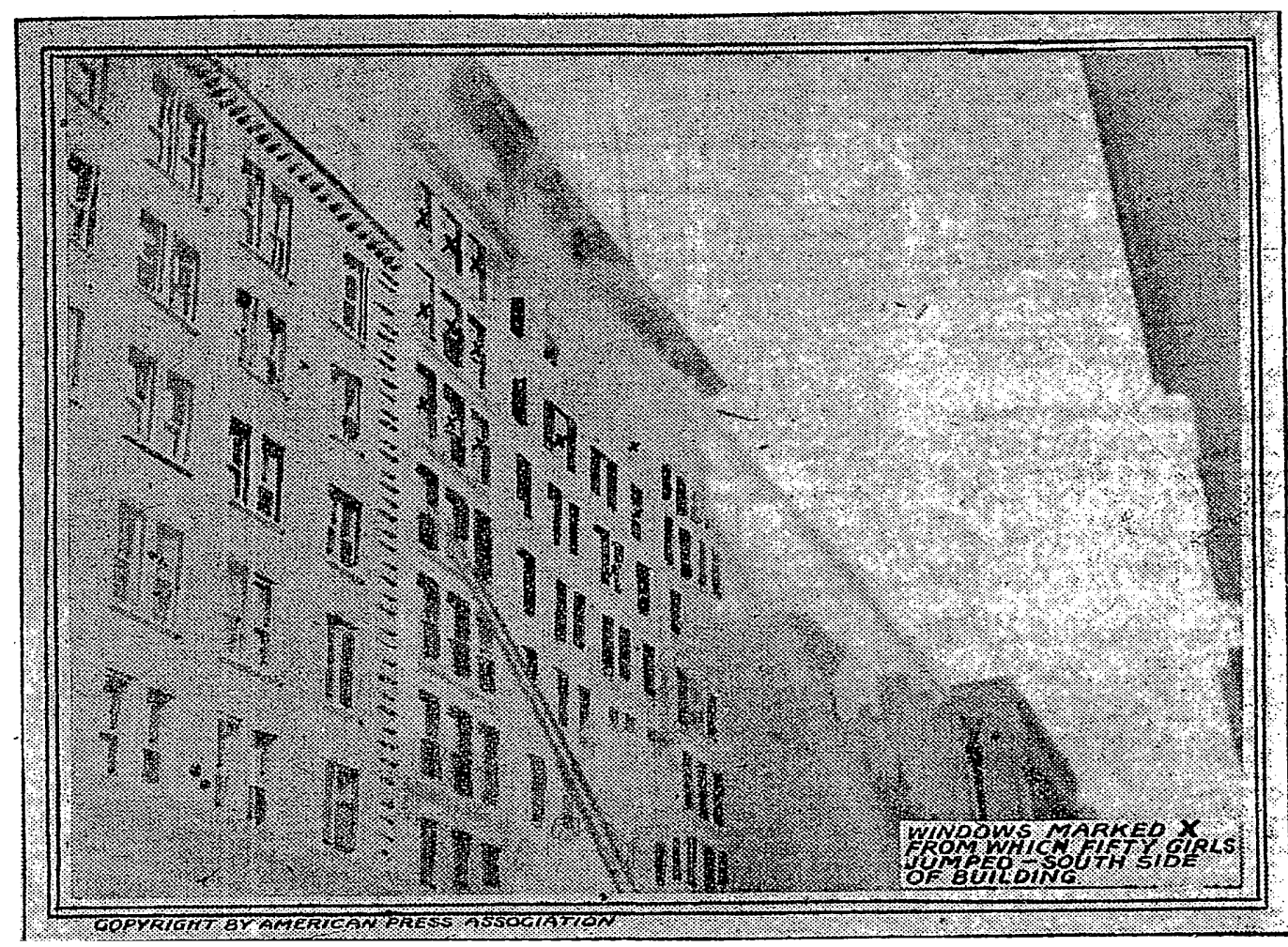
Nothing like it has been seen in New York since the burning of the General Slocum. The fire was practically all over in half an hour. It was confined to three floors—the eighth, ninth, and tenth of the building. But it was the most murderous fire that New York has seen in many years.

The victims who are now lying at the Morgue waiting for some one to identify them by a tooth or the remains of a burned shoe were mostly girls of from 16 to 23 years of age. They were employed at making shirtwaists by the Triangle Waist Company, the principal owners of which are Isaac Harris and Max Blanck. Most of them could barely speak English. Many of them came from Brooklyn. Almost all were the main support of their hard-working families.

There is just one fire escape in the building. That one is an interior fire escape in Greene Street, where the terrified unfortunates crawled before they began to make their mad leaps to death, the whole big front of the building is guiltless of one. Nor is there a fire escape in the back.

The building was fireproof and the owners had put their trust in that. In fact, after the flames had done their worst last night, the building hardly showed a sign. Only the stock within it and the girl employes were burned.

A heap of corpses lay on the sidewalk for more than an hour. The firemen were too busy dealing with the fire to pay any attention to people whom they supposed



The Burning Building at 23 Washington Place.

beyond their aid. When the excitement had subsided to such an extent that some of the firemen and policemen could pay attention to this mass of the supposedly dead they found, about half way down in the pack, a girl who was still breathing. She died two minutes after she was found. The Triangle Waist Company was the only sufferer in the disaster. There are other concerns in the building, but it was Saturday and the other companies had let their people go home. Messrs. Harris and Blanck, however, were busy and their girls—and some men—stayed.

Leaped Out of the Flames.

At 4:40 o'clock, nearly five hours after the employes in the rest of the building had gone home, the fire broke out. The one little fire escape in the interior was never resorted to by any of the doomed victims. Some of them escaped by running down the stairs, but in a moment or two this avenue was cut off by flame. The girls rushed to the windows and looked down at Greene Street, 100 feet below them. Then one poor, little creature jumped. There was a plate glass protection over part of the sidewalk, but she crashed through it, wrecking it and breaking her body into a thousand pieces.

Then they all began to drop. The crowd yelled "Don't jump!" but it was jump or be burned—the proof of which is found in the fact that fifty burned bodies were taken from the ninth floor alone.

They jumped, they crashed through broken glass, they crushed themselves to death on the sidewalk. Of those who stayed behind it is better to say nothing—except what a veteran policeman said as he gazed at a headless and charred trunk on the Greene Street sidewalk hours after the worst cases had been taken out:

"I saw the Slocum disaster, but it was nothing to this."

"Is it a man or a woman?" asked the reporter.

"It's human, that's all you can tell," answered the policeman.

It was just a mass of ashes, with blood congealed on what had probably been the neck.

Messrs. Harris and Blanck were in the building, but they escaped. They carried with them Mr. Blanck's children and a governess, and they fled over the roofs. Their employes did not know the way, because they had been in the habit of using the two freight elevators, and one of these elevators was not in service when the fire broke out.

Found Alive After the Fire.

The first living victim, Hyman Meshel of 332 East Fifteenth Street, was taken from the ruins four hours after the fire was discovered. He was found paralyzed with fear and whimpering like a wounded animal in the basement, immersed in water to his neck, crouched on the top of a cable drum, and with his head just below the floor of the elevator.

Meantime the remains of the dead—it is hardly possible to call them bodies, because that word suggests something human, and there was nothing human about most of these—were being taken in a steady stream to the Morgue for identification. First Avenue was lined with the usual curious east side crowd, Twenty-

sixth Street was impassable. But in the Morgue they received the charred remnants with no more emotion than they ever display over anything.

Back in Greene Street there was another crowd. At midnight it had not decreased in the least. The police were holding it back to the fire lines, and discussing the tragedy in a tone which those seasoned witnesses of death seldom use.

"It's the worst thing I ever saw," said one old policeman.

Chief Croker said it was an outrage. He spoke bitterly of the way in which the Manufacturers' Association had called a meeting in Wall Street to take measures against his proposal for enforcing better methods of protection for employes in cases of fire.

No Chance to Save Victims.

Four alarms were rung in fifteen minutes. The first five girls who jumped did so before the first engine could respond. That fact may not convey much of a picture to the mind of an unimaginative man, but anybody who has ever seen a fire can get from it some idea of the terrific rapidity with which the flames spread.

It may, convey some idea, too, to say that thirty bodies clogged the elevator shafts. These dead were all girls. They had made their rush their blindly when they discovered that there was no chance to get out by the fire escape. Then they found that the elevator was as hopeless as anything else, and they fell there in their tracks and died.

The Triangle Waist Company employed about 600 women and less than 100 men. One of the saddest features of the thing is the fact that they had almost finished, for the day. In five minutes more, if the fire had started then, probably not a life would have been lost.

Last night District Attorney Whitman started an investigation—not of this disaster alone but of the whole condition which makes it possible for a firetrap of such a kind to exist. Mr. Whitman's intention is to find out if the present laws cover such cases, and if they do not to frame laws that will.

GIRLS JUMP TO SURE DEATH.

Fire Nets Prove Useless—Firemen Helpless to Save Life.

The fire, which was first discovered at 4:40 o'clock on the eighth floor of the ten-story building at the corner of Washington Place and Greene Street, leaped through the three upper stories occupied by the Triangle Waist Company with a sudden rush that left the Fire Department helpless.

How the fire started no one knows. On the three upper floors of the building were 600 employes of the waist company, 500 of whom were girls. The victims—mostly Italians, Russians, Hungarians, and Germans—were girls and men who had been employed by the firm of Harris & Blanck, owners of the Triangle Waist Company, after the strike in which the Jewish girls, formerly employed, had become unionized and had demanded better working conditions. The building had experienced four recent fires and had been reported by the Fire Department to the Building Department as unsafe, on account of the insufficiency of its exits.

The building itself was of the most modern construction and classed as fireproof. What burned so quickly and disastrously for the victims were shirtwaists, hanging on lines above tiers of workers, sewing

machines placed so closely together that there was hardly aisle room for the girls between them, and shirtwaist trimmings and cuttings which littered the floors above the eighth and ninth stories.

Girls had begun leaping from the eighth story windows before the firemen arrived. The firemen had trouble bringing their apparatus into position because of the bodies which strewed the pavement and sidewalks. While more bodies crashed down among them, they worked with desperation to run their ladders into position and to spread fire-nets.

One fireman, running ahead of a hose wagon, which halted to avoid running over a body, spread a firenet, and two more seized hold of it. A girl's body, coming end over end, struck on the side of it, and there was hope for an instant that she would be the first one of the score who had already jumped to be saved.

Thousands of people, who had crushed in from Broadway and Washington Square and were screaming with horror at what they saw, watched closely the work with the firenet. Three other girls, who had leaped for it a moment after the first one, struck it on top of her, and all four rolled out and lay still upon the pavement.

Five girls who stood together at a window close to the Greene Street corner held their places while a fire ladder was worked toward them, but which stopped at its full length two stories lower down. They leaped together, clinging to each other, with fire streaming back from their hair and dresses. They struck a glass sidewalk cover and crashed through it to the basement. There was no time to aid them. With water pouring in upon them from a dozen hose nozzles the bodies lay for two hours where they struck, as did the many others who leaped to their deaths.

One girl, who waved a handkerchief at the crowd, leaped from a window adjoining the New York University Building on the westward. Her dress caught on a wire, and the crowd watched her hang there till her dress burned free and she came toppling down.

Many jumped whom the firemen believe they could have saved. A girl who saw the glass roof of a sidewalk cover at the first-story level of the New York University Building leaped for it, and her body crashed through to the sidewalk.

On Greene Street, running along the eastern face of the building, more people leaped to the pavement than on Washington Place to the south. Fire nets proved just as useless to catch them and the ladders to reach them. None waited for the firemen to attempt to reach them with the scaling ladders.

All Would Soon Have Been Out.

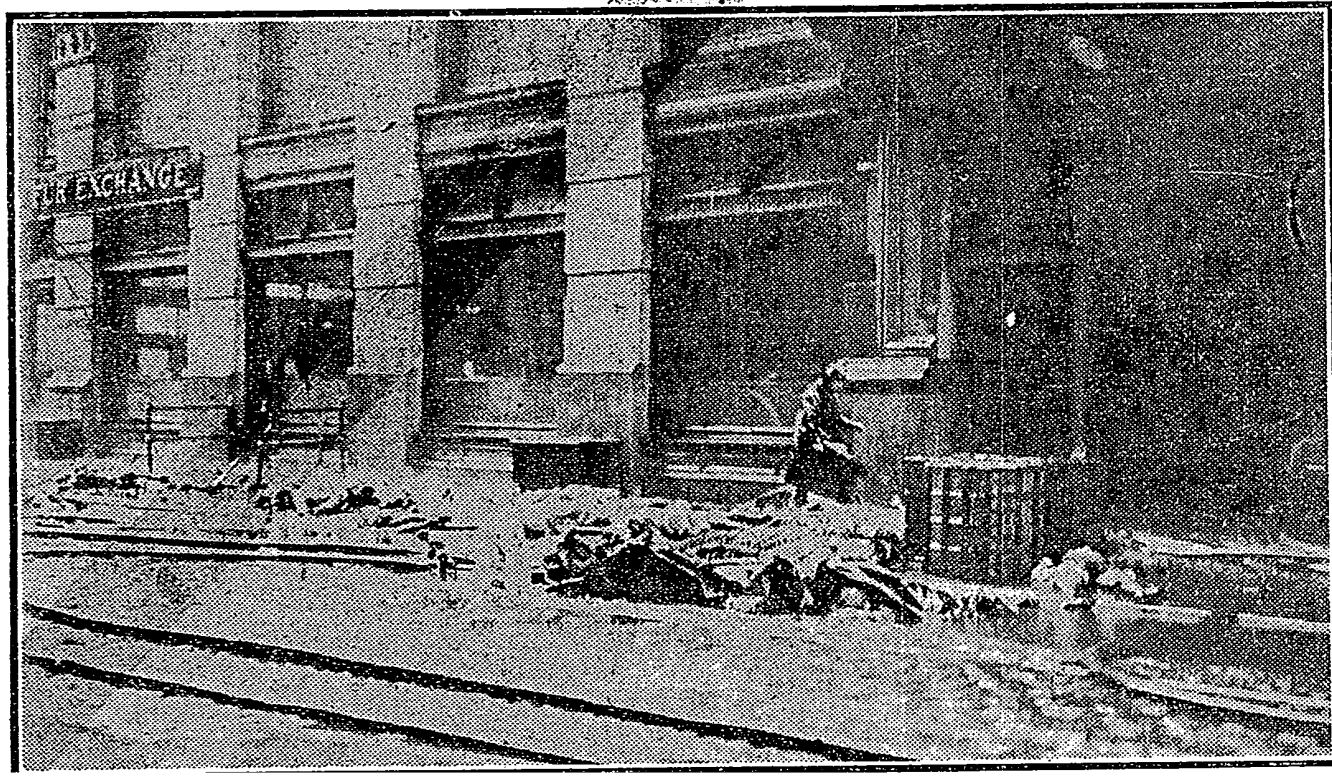
Strewed about as the firemen worked, the bodies indicated clearly the preponderance of women workers. Here and there was a man, but almost always they were women. One wore furs and a muff, and had a purse hanging from her arm. Nearly all were dressed for the street. The fire had flashed through their work-room just as they were expecting the signal to leave the building. In ten minutes more all would have been out, as many had stopped work in advance of the signal and had started to put on their wraps.

What happened inside there were few who could tell with any definiteness. All that those who escaped seemed to remember was that there was a flash of flames, leaping first among the girls in the southeast corner of the eighth floor, and then suddenly over the entire room, spreading through the linens and cottons with which the girls were working. The girls on the ninth floor caught sight of the flames through the windows, up the stairway, and up the elevator shaft.

On the tenth floor they got them a moment later, but most of those on that floor escaped by rushing to the roof and then on to the roof of the New York University Building, with the assistance of 100 university students who had been dismissed from a tenth story classroom.

There were in the building, according to the estimates of Fire Chief Croker, about 600 girls and 100 men. The bodies of those

East Side of Building—40 Bodies on Sidewalk.



One Hour After This Picture Was Taken Two of the Victims Were Discovered to be Alive.

and burned to death were found principally on the ninth floor, where over 50 perished in front of a closed doorway, which they had jammed shut; in the two elevator shafts 30 or more were piled up in the bottom after the elevator had ceased running; at the bottom of a single iron fire escape in an air shaft in the building's rear on the fire-proof stairways between the eighth and ten stories, up which the fire from the burning sewing machines on the eighth floor went with a rush of air toward the roof.

When the Fire Was Discovered.

Samuel Bernstein, the waist factory's foreman, and Max Rothberg, his first assistant, were standing together on the eighth floor when the screams of girls attracted their attention to the southeast corner of the large room. They rang for the elevators, of which two were in the south side of the building, and Rothberg telephoned to the Fire Department Police Department. Two hundred girls were working on that floor, most of them still at their machines in the narrow aisles that gave them hardly room to move about. Dynamos, used to operate the sewing machines were in the corner from which the fire was spreading. The two men attacked it with buckets of water, feeling confident at first they would be able to put it out. In the meantime the girls, screaming loudly and in a panic, rushed for the elevator shaft and the staircase, where they encountered a closed door.

Dora Miller of 10 Cannon Street got the door part way open, but it was jammed shut again by the press of people behind her. She struck a glass panel in it with her fists until she had made a hole large enough to climb through, and she escaped. Twenty others followed her before the flames reached them, and the rest of those caught on the floor were only discernible as a mass of charred bones when the firemen at last worked their way up the staircase. Bernstein and Rothberg escaped by way of the elevator on its last trip to the floor.

Factory Owners Escape.

The two partners, Harris and Blanck, were both in the building, Harris being on the ninth floor and Blanck on the eighth. With Blanck, according to a statement of Joseph Zito, an elevator man, were his two daughters and a governess. He was telephoning for a taxi-cab to take them home when the alarm was sounded. Blanck told Zito, the latter declares, to keep his elevator running and take out the women first.

The two passenger elevators, in charge of Zito and another operator named J. Gaspar, made several trips, but never went above the eighth floor, as they found more than enough people surrounding the entrance on that floor each time they reached it.

One of the men—which one was not made clear in the various versions of the affair—offered to operate his elevator and ran away, crying "Fire" as he ran. Max Steinberg, a New York University law student, saw him running through Washington Place, and at the same time saw a girl leap from an eighth story window. He pulled a fire alarm box in Washington Square East and then ran to the building, where he entered the deserted elevator and ran it for four more trips before the heating of the cables put it out of commission.

Trapped on the Ninth Floor.

On the ninth story, which like the eighth was filled with sewing machines and was used for cutting and sewing shirtwaists, the girls fared worse than those on the floor below. They crowded about the elevator shaft, but no cars responded to their frantic ringing of the bell. Time after time they saw the cars approach, only to be filled at the eighth and go down again.

Girls who rushed to the staircase were met with flames which bore them down before they could retreat. Those who reached the windows and waited there for firemen saw the ladders swing in against the building two stories below them.

The one little iron fire escape, leading from a rear window, was pitifully inadequate, and it was from this floor that most of those came who fell like paper dolls and over end, to the pavement.

There were about 20 men on the ninth floor. Calmer than the girls, they lined the southerly tier of windows first and tried to force the girls back to prevent them from jumping. Several girls they dragged back, after they had reached the window sills, and some of them helped lift themselves again after they had climbed outside and were clinging only with their hands.

Zito, the elevator man, said that on his last trip down he could hear the thud of bodies striking the roof of his car as women jumped from the ninth floor after giving up hope that he would reach them. He heard the rattle of silver from their pay envelopes as it came through the iron grating into the car.

The loss on this floor was not known to the firemen and police until nearly 7 o'clock, when Deputy Fire Chief Blinn reached it on the concrete stairway, which remained perfectly solid and unharmed. Blinn found the bodies of fifty or more women, those who had not been burned beyond recognition seeming to be mere girls. They were lying in heaps upon the floor, as if they had huddled together near the stairway and the elevator shaft, and had been overtaken there by the flames. Money from the pay envelopes was strewn about close to them.

The tenth floor was the only one on which men were employed in any numbers. On this floor was the packing room, where the finished shirtwaists were prepared for shipment, and the showroom, where customers were made welcome.

Students Save Some Lives.

The men and women on this floor rushed for the roof. The smoke issuing from the windows was seen by Prof. F. Sommer, who was teaching twenty-five young men the principles of the New Jersey Code on the tenth floor of the law school.

Prof. Sommer ordered his students to rush to the roof and lower ladders to the roof of the factory building. The New York University building is one story higher than the waist factory building. One ladder was procured and a student named Kremmer descended on it to the roof of the building on fire. Another student, at the top of the ladder, grasped the women as they climbed toward the top, while Kremmer kept them from blocking the bottom rungs.

Men, panic-stricken, fought with the women to get to the ladder, but Kremmer shoved them away and let the women out of the danger zone first. Over 100 women and 20 men escaped this way. Another hundred reached a building north of the burning one, whose roof was only five feet higher and could be reached without a ladder.

How many reached the streets through the stairways nobody knew, as they were forgers who spoke little English and fled for their homes in the lower east side as soon as they gained the sidewalk.

The task of the police and firemen outside the building was hardly started before the fire had caused its full damage in loss of life. The three burned stories, after it was all over and the Fire Department ladders were up, were wholly intact, except for their

wooden window trim and wooden floor coverings. Red tiling flashed the searchlight glow back to the street below from all the ceilings, and steel and concrete layers made the floors as firm to the tread of the firemen as if they had been newly built.

Police and Firemen Arrive.

The call to the police reached Headquarters over the telephone in a brief message that said girls were jumping from the Triangle Waist Company windows. The police were familiar with the place, as it had played a centre rôle in the opening phases of the shirtwaist strike.

Headquarters, from First Deputy Commissioner Driscoll and Chief Inspector Schmittberger to the last clerk and doorman, emptied itself, at Driscoll's orders, into the fire zone. Inspector Daly and twelve Captains reported to Schmittberger a few moments after he arrived.

Capt. Dominick Henry of the Mercer Street Station had preceded Driscoll and Schmittberger, and was attempting to establish fire lines when they arrived. Twenty-five patrol wagons from all the downtown precincts and 150 men came into the fire zone. They made one line on Washington Square East, forcing the people to the west side of the street, another line at Broadway, and cross-street lines at Waverly Place and on Fourth Street.

The second, third and fourth fire alarms were turned in before any apparatus had appeared. On the receipt of information at Fire Headquarters that there were twenty or more dead on the sidewalks, Chief Croker arrived in time to see his men spreading helplessly their small and one or two large life nets, and saw many jump to their deaths.

Ambulances from Bellevue and New York and St. Vincent's Hospital—twenty or more in number—lined the street in Washington Square East and in Washington Place.

Ten surgeons from Bellevue, under Drs. Byrne, Read, and Kempf, threaded their way among the firemen gathering up the dead. They worked at this task from 8 o'clock until 7, and then policemen came to their assistance. The bodies found on Greene Street were taken to the east sidewalk, while those in Washington Place were laid in lines on both sidewalks.

Tarpaulins, laid over them, protected them somewhat from the deluge of water which, pouring from the high-pressure towers like a miniature Niagara, flowed down the side of the building and into foot-deep flood along the pavement.

The surgeons could offer little aid except to cover over the bodies of the dead. Here and there from near-by stores reports came of injured, and a few ambulances drove away with these to the hospitals. Mostly all there was to do was to determine that life was extinct in the bodies on the pavement, and cover them over.

How Many Died.

A thirteen-year-old girl hung for three minutes by her finger tips to the sill of a tenth floor window. A tongue of flame licked at her fingers, and she dropped to death.

A girl threw her pocketbook, then her hat, then her furs from a tenth-floor window. A moment later her body came whirling after them to death.

At a ninth-floor window a man and a woman appeared. The man embraced the woman and kissed her. Then he hurled her to the street and jumped. Both were killed. Five girls smashed a pane of glass, dropped in a struggling tangle, and were crushed into a shapeless mass.

A girl on the eighth floor leaped for a fireman's ladder, which reached only to the sixth floor. She missed, struck the edge of a life net, and was picked up with her back broken. From one window a girl of about 13 years, a woman, a man, and two women with their arms about one another threw themselves to the ground in rapid succession. The little girl was whirled to the New York Hospital in an automobile. She screamed as the driver and a policeman lifted her into the hallway. A surgeon came out, took one look at her face and touched his hand to her wrist.

"She is dead," he said. One girl jumped into a horse blanket held by firemen and policemen. The blanket ripped like cheesecloth, and her body was mangled almost beyond recognition.

Another dropped into a tarpaulin held by three men. Her weight tore it from their grasp and she struck the street, breaking almost every bone in her body.

Almost at the same moment a man somersaulted down upon the shoulder of a policeman holding the tarpaulin. He glanced off, struck the sidewalk, and was picked up dead.

Chief Croker thought at first it would not go over twenty-five. Then he placed the number at sixty-five—the total on the streets and reported from the inside. At 7 o'clock, over two hours after the firemen had come, the dead on the ninth floor were found, and those in the elevator shaft, each find sending the total up beyond the largest estimates previously made.

In getting out the bodies, the task proved so formidable that it was late in the night before it was reasonably complete.

Taking the Bodies Away.

Coroner's Physician O'Hanlon, with Coroners Holtzhauser and Lehmann, arrived at 6:45 o'clock along with District Attorney Whitman and several of his assistants. O'Hanlon explained that he had

there were insufficient means of egress by stairways, and there were not sufficient fire escape facilities.

"Oh, that makes a difference, then," Holtzhauser concluded.

Winfield R. Sheehan, Commissioner Waldo's secretary, joined the group at that juncture. He said that he personally had mulled the protest to the Building Department and knew of Commissioner Waldo's anxiety because of the unsafe condition of the building and his inability to force the making of changes.

Alfred Ludwig of the Department of Buildings was acting in the capacity of Superintendent during the absence of

At 7:45 o'clock the searchlights from four Fire Department engines were playing in the upper windows, and a glow came out of them from torches carried within by firemen. Suddenly a black shadow swung out of the ninth-story window, and the creaking of pulleys and a rope and tackle began, as the black mass descended speedily toward the ground. Firemen in windows on the lower floor guided the ropes. It was the beginning of the work of bringing out the bodies from the floor where the death roll was the largest.

The pulley system worked for an hour, each body being lowered after it had been wrapped in black cloth and tied securely until it resembled just such packages as go up and down daily in the business district, rope-and-pulley fashion.

Coroner's Statement.

The scene was more than Coroner Holtzhauser could stand. Sobbing like a child, the Coroner, who was first to open the fireplace where Ruth Wheeler's body was incinerated in the Walter flat, said that that scene was easy to stand compared with this.

"And only one miserable little fire escape!" he said. "I shall proceed against the Building Department along with the others. They are as guilty as any. They haven't been insistent enough, and these poor girls who were carried up in the elevator to work in the morning—now they come down on the end of a rope."

That investigations from many centres would be started was early made apparent. Building Department officials, who arrived at 7:20 o'clock, said they would begin one this morning. Fire Marshal Beers said he would begin another. The District Attorney made a list of witnesses that he will question.

Chief Croker's View.

Fire Chief Croker, after the fire had flickered down to a few embers still glowing here and there, spoke vigorously against the men who have opposed his plans for better fire protection. "Look around everywhere," he said, "nowhere will you find fire escapes. They say they don't look rightly. I have tried to force their installation, and only last Friday a manufacturers' association met in Wall Street to oppose my plan and to oppose the sprinkler system, as well as the additional escapes."

"This is just the calamity I have been predicting," said Chief Croker. "There were no outside escapes on this building. I have been advocating and agitating that more fire escapes be put on factory buildings similar to this. The large loss of life is due to this neglect."

He said that there was only one fire escape from the building. An old-time perpendicular affair, he said, leading to the courtyard in the centre of the block of buildings, which would only allow of one person's escape at a time. When he examined this escape, he said, he found on the upper floors that it had become very loose, and it was a dangerous matter to escape by that route.

"A repetition of this disaster is likely to happen at any time in similar buildings," he said. He advocated balcony fire escapes with a wide iron staircase.

The staircases in the building, the Chief said, were of the ordinary three feet six inches wide type, but he believed that if escape had been sought by that route, the death list would not have been so appalling.

There were rumors that the fire started by a gasoline explosion, but the survivors said that they had heard no explosion.

Fire Commissioner R. Waldo being out of town yesterday, the fire was in charge of Deputy Commissioner Arthur J. O'Keefe, in charge of Brooklyn and Queens, who is taking the Commissioner's place.

He and Coroner Holtzhauser had a dispute concerning the cause of the fire at 11:20 o'clock. Holtzhauser remarked that there was terrible responsibility for the Fire Department to meet.

"And for some other departments, too," O'Keefe replied. "Commissioner Waldo to my certain knowledge had reported this place to the Building Department within the past three months as a building unsafe for use as a factory, since

Supt. Rudolf F. Miller, who was out of town last night.

The building which was burned, it was said by one of the members of the department who stands near to the Commissioner but who refused to be quoted, was one of several thousand which had been recommended by the Fire Department for additional fire escapes.

"These recommendations," said the official, "were made several weeks ago after a thorough investigation by members of the Fire Department of all office, manufacturing, and loft buildings in the five boroughs. These investigations were made by the Fire Department at the request of Commissioner Waldo, although according to law this department had no control over the construction and means of escape on the many large factory buildings in the city."

"There was not one building in the city which escaped the eyes of the Fire Department, each place being investigated by the foreman of the engine company in the district in which it was situated."

"The investigation lasted weeks, and after a report had been made to the Commissioner it was forwarded to the Building or the Tenement House Department. Many of the recommendations which were made by the Commissioner were at once attended to, but this one seems to have been neglected."

Fire Chiefs and others connected with the department seemed to believe that the large loss of life could have been avoided had the operators not become panic-stricken. The work of the elevator men was spoken of by members of the department with praise, who seem to think had they not kept their heads the total loss of life might have been doubled.

The building, Chief Croker said, was all that could be wished for in the way of fireproof construction. "But it isn't the building that's going to give us fireproof conditions," Croker said to the dripping firemen and others crowded around him. "The lesson of the fire is that a building is just as fireproof as the stuff within it—fireproof walls, fireproof floors, and fireproof stairways—then rooms packed with flimsy cloth and trimmings and run by electric dynamos about which waste and oil were allowed to accumulate."

The Edison Company string lights between 8 and 9 o'clock through every floor in the building, to aid the firemen in their search for bodies.

The cloud of smoke from the fire was

visible in all parts of Manhattan. It rose straight in the air above the roof, and then for a time between 5 and 6 o'clock tongues of flame illumined the darker mass above. The firemen could not reach it with their hose streams, and even the high pressure towers had difficulty in throwing their streams above the ninth floor. No water went over the roof until firemen made their way up the staircase after the fire fighting had become a matter of detail and small burning sections.

It leaped across an open acreway into the New York University Law School, destroying the Faculty room and damaging two classrooms. Students carried many valuable books to safety out of the library and helped with buckets to wet down woodwork that was beginning to smoke in the intense heat.

Nowhere in the building except on the three upper floors were people at work. The other concerns in the building had

dismissed their forces at 3 o'clock, and only the shirtwaist makers were continuing at work. These were Meyer, Crow & Wallace, clothiers, on the sixth and seventh floors; Morris Blum, clothier, on the fifth and sixth floors; Harris Brothers, clothiers, on the third and fourth floors, and the Hatters' Exchange, and Martin Bates, Jr., on the first and second floors.

The superintendent of the building, who refused to give his name, or identify himself other than that he was employed by J. J. Asch of 735 Broadway, the owner, said there were two freight elevators in the rear on which the owners had partly depended to get the shirt waist makers out in case of fire. Whether anyone had tried to use them, or if anyone had come down on them he did not know.

The building was roped off at 10:30 o'clock, and the police lines withdrawn.

Continued on Page 3.

141 DEAD IN WAIST FACTORY FIRE HERE

Continued from Page 2.

except for the streets immediately surrounding it.

Relatives of the dead were not allowed to come near while the work of the firemen and surgeons was going on, but were taken under police escort to the Mercer Street Station, where a vast crowd congregated throughout the evening. Broadway at 11 o'clock, in the vicinity of Washington Place, was thronged with women, walking up and down and wringing their hands while calling the names of their kinfolks whom they had lost.

SCENES AT THE MORGUE.

Men and Women Gather in a Frantic Throng in Quest of Loved Ones.

A few minutes after the first load of fire victims was received at the Bellevue Hospital Morgue the streets were filled with a clamoring throng, which struggled with the reserves stationed about the building in an effort to gain entrance to view the bodies of the dead in the hope of identifying loved ones.

The frantic mob was reinforced as the hospital wagon brought more of the dead to the institution. The sobbing and shrieking mothers and wives, and frantic fathers and husbands of those who had not been accounted for struggled with the police and tried to stop the wagon that was bearing the dead on its trips to the Morgue. Mothers and wives ran frantically through the street in front of the hospital, pulling their hair from their heads and calling the names of their dear ones.

A few of the surging mob who viewed the situation in a calmer manner attempted to calm the excited ones, but in vain. The police were abused because they would not allow the surging mob in the Morgue, and in many instances they were threatened and had to resort to the use of their nightsticks to keep the struggling mass from breaking in.

Two members of the throng who succeeded in gaining entrance to the Morgue were Mrs. Josephine Pannel of 49 Stanton Street and her son-in-law, who came in search of her daughter, Mrs. Jane Bucalo, 18 years old. She was last seen struggling to get into the elevator on the eighth floor of the building. Mrs. Pannel walked up and down the aisle that was formed between the rows of the unidentified dead and looked in vain for her daughter.

She was filled with hope, however, when an attendant announced that the wagon had just arrived with another load of the fire victims. The newly arriving dead were brought into the Morgue and stretched out, and Mrs. Pannel and her son-in-law ran frantically up and down the lines trying to find the one they sought. When the mother found that her search was in vain, she ran shrieking to her son-in-law and began tearing out her hair. Bucalo stood as a man in a trance, gazing at the rows of blackened bodies. Suddenly he reeled and fell to the floor. He was assisted to his feet by the attendants.

Presently Mrs. Pannel became calmer, and, seeing that there was no body among the dead that would answer the description of her daughter, she grew more composed, and thought it was probable that her daughter had escaped from the burning building alive.

At the door of the Morgue Mrs. Pannel met a reporter, and told him of her miraculous escape from the burning building, and the cause of her frantic search for the body of her daughter. According to her story, she was in the reading room of the factory when the fire was discovered. She, with others, ran to the elevator shaft, and when the car reached the eighth floor they fought to get into it. She said that she seized her daughter by the skirt before leaving the cutting room, and as she was being carried into the elevator by the frantic mob that was surging behind her her hold on her daughter's dress was torn away, and she remembers seeing the terrorized face of her daughter as the car was started downward. She called to her daughter, and thought that she saw her reel and fall to the floor as the car shot downward.

Mrs. Pannel described graphically the surging throng that clamored in the hall of the eighth floor and the struggle of the employes to gain entrance to the elevator car. She told of the rush of the occupants of the car when the elevator reached the ground floor on its last trip. She said she had a dim recollection of persons being trampled under foot by the excited mob as they dashed from the car to the entrance of the building, and that she believed many who were trampled upon perished in the bottom of the elevator car.

She also said that when the car left the eighth floor, some of the employes made a vain attempt to leap on the top of the car and that a few, being pushed forward by the struggling mass behind them, fell down the shaft through the open doorway of the shaft on the eighth floor and were dashed to death upon the roof of the car.

Police Work Desperately.

A hundred policemen, most of them ashen and with trembling lips, worked at the heart-rending task of keeping back, without undue roughness, the maddened thousands.

"For God's sake," one cried to a reporter, who was wedging his way out of the mob, "get me a drink!"

The poor bluecoat needed it.

Every few minutes a patrol wagon or a hastily improvised morgue wagon that had done duty as an auto truck earlier in the day appeared at the head of the mob at First Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, and the reserves of six precincts had to force open a narrow path through the crowd for it. As soon as the path was opened in front, however, the crowd surged in behind it. At the sight of the bodies the crowd broke into fresh weeping and screaming, each seeming to see in the charred and often unrecognizable remains a loved one.

Twelve patrol wagons from as many stations, besides dozens of hastily impressed dispensary wagons of the Police Department and the Department of Public Charities and a few auto trucks were used in transporting the dead from the fire to the Morgue. The Morgue itself became too crowded, early in the evening, for further storage of bodies, and the Charities Department decided to throw open the long public dock adjoining it. Here, as night settled over the city, the bodies were taken from the wagons and laid out, side by side, in double rows along either side of the long docks.

Besides the thirty attendants regularly at the pier, twenty derelicts who had applied at the Municipal Lodging House in East Twenty-sixth Street for a night's rest, were pressed into service for the ghastly work.

In the narrow lane left between the double rows of the dead on the dark pier, the patrol wagons and rude dead wagons crept slowly to where the lines had freshly ended. They deposited their freight, backed slowly out, and returned to the scene of the fire for more bodies. As fast as the dead were brought to the pier the grimy panhandlers and de-

relicts were set to work arranging them in rows, and later putting them in the rough wooden boxes that serve as coffins nightly at the Morgue. But the supply of boxes was soon exhausted, and Commissioner Drummond of the Department of Charities was obliged to send over to the storage warehouse on Blackwell's Island for more. Presently there steamed up to the pier from the island a large double-decked launch, bringing stacked up on its deck 100 more boxes.

"Them boxes wasn't brought here since the Slocum fire," said one old attendant at the Morgue, amid a tense silence. Other attendants nodded reminiscently.

Considerable confusion was caused on the pier in numbering the dead. The police of the various precincts had received from the Charities Department small, colored tags bearing numbers to tag the different boxes as soon as the bodies were laid in them. There turned out to be three separate systems of numbers, and the enumeration had to be done all over again.

At 11:30 o'clock, with the mob still storming more and more outside, the police had counted in the Morgue and on the pier 136 bodies—thirteen men and 122 women. Fifty-six of these were burned beyond all but human semblance and may never be identified. The thousands of clamorers outside could not have identified them, even if the police had let them swarm in on the pier.

As the maddened throng swarmed around the ghastly laden patrol wagons and improvised hearses their misery wrung even the hardened habitual handlers of the dead in the Morgue, making them frequently turn away from their work. There were hundreds scantily clad and shivering, despite their raving, in the cold night air. Many of them had no money. Their week's funds were in the pay envelopes, found in dozens, on the scorched and unrecognizable bodies on the pier. One woman, her head charred to a mere twisted blur of black, carried in her stocking \$600 in tightly crumpled bills. Dozens of the girls whose bodies were laid out on the pier were found to have carried their scant savings in this way.

Cling Together in Death.

Two girls, charred beyond all hope of identification, and found in the smoking ruins with their arms clasped around each other's necks, were conveyed to the pier, still together, and placed in one box.

Horrible cries had burst from the misery-stricken mob outside when these two were carried through the narrow lane in the street, and a few of the clamorous throng had forced their way to the wagon and lifted the dark tarpaulin. Everywhere burst anguished cries for sister, mother, and wife, a dozen pet names in Italian and Yiddish rising in shrill agony above the deeper moan of the throng.

Now and then a reporter, the way cleared before him by a broad, white-faced policeman, forced his way to the nearest telephone, to send to his office a report of what was happening there. Each time a hundred faces were turned up to him imploringly, and a hundred anguished voices begged of him tidings of those within. Had he seen a little girl with black hair and dark-brown cheeks? Had he seen a tall, thin man, with stooped shoulders? Could he describe any one of the many he had seen in there? The poor wretches were hunting for a "story," too.

Piteously they pleaded with the policemen to let them—only them—past, so that they might see whether their loved ones were on the pier. They would only look around, one short glance, and come straight out. The policemen, struggling with their own emotions more roughly than with the crowd, could only put them off. Presently, they said, in a very little while now, they would let them all in.

When finally the pleadings and struggles of the anguish-wracked multitude bade fair to drive them through all lines in a hungry swarm over the pier and into the Morgue, Inspector Walsh, Capt. Cray of the East Thirty-fifth Street Station, Commissioner Drummond, his Deputy, Frank J. Goodwin, and Coroners' Physicians Weston and O'Hanlon held a hurried consultation behind the barred doors of the Morgue. They decided to number each body anew, to make sure of the count; to turn over the valuables or money found with the bodies to Lieut. Sullivan for safekeeping, and then to let the throng, in small parties, into the place. As soon as a body was identified they would place the lid on the coffin and remove it to one side.

The mere announcement, spreading through the crowd outside, that the police would let them through and open the doors at midnight threw the mob into a wild hysteria of almost joy. Several women had to be taken to Bellevue for treatment, laughing and crying and struggling all the way.

Inside, as they heard the savage cries of the mob, they sickened and paled at the thought of what would follow when the doors were opened.

"Fifty-six!" muttered Inspector Walsh, turning his face away. They called him "Smiling Dick" Walsh, but his averted face was not smiling. He meant the fifty-six bodies that were burnt or crushed beyond recognition; fifty-six that would certainly be buried in unnamed graves. Dozens of them had every stitch of clothing burned off them. One body—that of a young girl—was headless and burned to a crisp.

Commissioner Drummond realized that when the mad throng was let into the Morgue and on the pier, many of them, already crazed by uncertainty concerning their loved ones, might at the sight of the dead throw themselves into the river. He therefore ordered that every opening in the Morgue building and on the covered pier be boarded up at once, and that no space should be left which would permit of the passage of a body.

At midnight, by order of Capt. Gray, the door of the Morgue was opened for a brief moment, and the foremost of the surging mob outside, to the number of fifteen, was allowed to enter. The police squad at the doors could hardly keep the rest back, with promises of letting them, too, presently enter in groups of fifteen.

Each group, shivering and clamoring and weeping, was lined up at the door and allowed slowly to file between the rows of boxes. Two policemen accompanied each of them, ready to support them if they should faint. And more than half of them did. They looked around with an air of frightened bewilderment at the ghastly array of dead, and then, one by one, looking down at the nearest box at their feet, where the mangled bodies lay, with heads propped up on boards for the light of the attendant beside the box, they collapsed with cries of terror. Such were carried to one side and revived by physicians from Bellevue, and later warmed with coffee handed to them by attendants and panhandlers at the pier.

Scores of men and women thought they saw in the ghastly bodies propped up in the boxes the relatives they were looking for, but could not identify them positively.

Around several bodies gathered men and women in small knots, each insisting pitifully that what was propped up there belonged to them, and calling the unrecognizable mass with tender pet names.

One man, William Mantes of 35 Second Avenue, came there seeking for his sister Sarah, aged 15; his sister Lucy, 19 years, and his mother, all of whom had worked in the same shop. He couldn't find any of them and broke down completely. Another, Dominick Leone, of 444 East Thirteenth Street, came to find three cousins and a niece, who hadn't returned home. He did not find them.

At 1 A. M. eight bodies had been identified by relatives and set aside in sealed boxes. The relatives filed into the improvised Coroner's office in the morgue and tearfully stood in line for their slips, permitting them to have the bodies removed. There was a competitive mob of undertakers with their wagons at the outskirts of the crowd ready to do that.

PARTNERS' ACCOUNT OF THE DISASTER

Blanck and Harris Tell of Their Escape in the Maddened Throng of Employes.

CHILDREN OF ONE THERE

Fled to the Roof When Other Avenues Were Cut Off and Thus Es- caped with Their Lives.

Max Blanck went to the home of his partner, Isaac Harris, at 324 West 101st Street, last night, and there told his story of what happened.

Two of his six children and their governess had come to visit him at the factory yesterday afternoon, and he was so shaken with the terror of the moments when it looked as if he and they would share the fate of the screaming hundreds he knew were perishing on the lower floors that it was only a fragmentary account he could give of the minutes before he and the children found their way to safety.

Mr. Blanck is an average type of the successful business man—short, stocky, and unemotional; but he sat in the reception room of his partner's home last night barely able to hold himself together while he answered questions. His partner, Harris, with his right hand bandaged from injuries received while he was helping some of his employes to safety, paced the room and occasionally interjected facts.

Mr. Blanck's six children are all under 13 years of age. His wife and four of the children went to Florida for their health some weeks ago. Yesterday Henrietta, the oldest, and Mildred, 5 years old, went with their French governess, Mlle. Ehresmann, to their father's office, and were waiting to accompany him home when the fire began. Mr. Blanck said that he was waiting for a taxicab when he heard first a rumble of voices, and then shrill screams, which seemed to come from the street.

Panic Soon Began.

He ran to the front windows, looked out, and saw upturned faces through a haze of smoke drifting out from the second floor below. He threw open the door to the front stairway and met one of his employes running up yelling, "Fire!" His voice was almost drowned in a roar from the hundreds of girls and men, who were already beginning to pile into the stairway.

Fearing that it would not be possible to take his children out that way, Mr. Blanck ran for the rear, but as soon as the rear doors to the stairway were opened the rush of heat and smoke drove back the throng of thirty bookkeepers, clerks, and operators who shared the tenth floor with the offices of the partners. It was then that the first elevator which had answered the frantic pushing of the tenth floor button appeared at that level.

Mr. Blanck had marshaled his children and the governess in the private office, and he and his partner were endeavoring to get the panic-stricken operators into some order. They had separated the men and women, and with the help of the bookkeepers managed to squeeze about ten women into the passenger elevator and get the door closed.

The elevator never came up again as far as Mr. Blanck could tell last night. The smoke and heat were becoming suffocating on the tenth floor by that time, and Mr. Blanck turned to his office, to find his two children and the governess out on the window sill.

He was about to join them when he heard the voice of his partner Harris shouting from the rear.

"The roof! Follow me to the roof!" Blanck and the office force who were gathered in the private office with the children and the governess groped their way north through the smoke-filled sample room to a stairway boxed off near the centre of the building. The door was open and Harris had gone through pushing a group of the frightened operators before him.

Guarded His Children.

Blanck kept his children out of the crush and sent the remaining office force and clerks up a stairway before he went himself. A salesman, E. T. Tischner, who was about to start on a trip and had come to the office to pack his sample cases was in a state of collapse from panic and Blanck and his bookkeeper stopped to help him up the stairway. The smoke and heat were so great behind them that it seemed the fire had finally burst into the tenth floor.

On the roof Harris took the lead and marshaled the women, pushing them toward the northeast corner of the building, where it joins a factory building at Wooster Street and Waverley Place. This building adjoins the rear of the Triangle Waist Company's factory for only about one-quarter of its length. The rest of the way to the westward the two buildings are separated from each other by a narrow well, for part of its length only ten feet wide. This was spouting flames and embers, which rained on the roof and swirling eddies of hot gases added to the peril.

For the narrow space where the Triangle Waist Factory joins the Waverley Place Building it is an eight-foot climb

to the latter's roof. Harris, who is a small man, and frail, as were most of his male operators and bookkeepers, had great difficulty in getting the women out. The two daughters of his partner and the governess had been passed to safety, but the remaining forty or fifty operators and girls were running wildly about in the smoke, and for a few minutes it seemed as if some would jump to the street.

Some of the men had managed to clamber up on the roof of the American Book Company, which joins the Triangle Waist factory building on the west side of Washington Place, and extends along the block front of East Washington Place. This building houses on its upper floors the law department of New York University and is amply equipped with fire apparatus.

Ladders were let down from its roof to the roof of the Triangle Waist Building and many of the girls and men were carried up. It was about fifteen feet higher, and the ladders were crowded with fighting, jostling girls and men, who most of the time were showered with sparks and choked with hot gases, but it is believed all escaped either to the American Book Company Building or the Waverley Place factory.

Blanck told his story in disconnected sentences, chiefly in response to questions and was hazy as to who had escaped with him, except his children and their governess. He remembered that his niece, Esther Harris, 18 years old, a bookkeeper on the ninth floor, had been badly burned, and sent to one of the hospitals, but was not sure how she escaped.

He also remembered that Diana Lipschitz of 405 Miller Avenue, Brooklyn, had been asked for in the throng in the street, but neither he nor his partner had any account of her. He remembered, too, that a shipping clerk named Smith had been one of those who got up to the roof, but in his state of nervous collapse could not name any others of the eighty who were waiting for the machinery to stop when the fire began.

Harris, who was pacing up and down with his wife during most of the interview, nursing his injured hand, told something of the escape, but he was most interested in explaining the precautions which the partners had taken to avoid just what had happened.

Harris Led Them to the Roof.

He had nothing to say of his own part in leading his partner and the rest to the roof stairway which had at first been forgotten, and it was only when he was questioned that he remembered that he had cut his hand breaking in the skylight of the Waverley Place Building.

He said that when he and Smith climbed up the eight-foot separating wall and saw that the last of those waiting below had been pulled to safety they found the doorway leading into the Waverley Place factory building locked. There was a big skylight close at hand, and while Smith kicked frantically at the locked door he beat on the skylight with his fists. His right hand crashed through and was severely cut. Through the jagged hole he and the girls screamed for help and eventually those inside opened the door and led downstairs those who were on the roof half choked with smoke.

Blanck was asked what precautions he had taken about fire and what were the means of escape. He said the Building Department and factory inspectors had all passed his lofts, and the only requirements in recent years had been certain guards ordered by the Building Department on the machines on the eighth and ninth floors, and an additional window in the woman's dressing room. He said he had already installed the guards and other safety devices before the orders came from the authorities.

The extra window to the dressing room was put in for light and air and was incidental to the increase in accommodations made after the strike of last Summer. He explained that he and his partner had been tenants in the building for twelve years. It was looked upon as a model building for loft purposes when they began manufacturing there. He had kept pace with improvements ever since and in many respects, he said, had gone ahead of the requirements.

Second Fire in the Building.

Nine years ago, while the factory occupied but one floor of the building, there was a fire at night. Since then, Blanck said, he had employed a watchman night and day to look out for violations of the rules. One of the recognized dangers from fire was sparks from the motors. Since the factory has occupied three floors of the building—for the past three years—they have had seven motors most of the time in use.

Mr. Blanck said that as an extra precaution to avoid fire danger from the sparking of armatures he employed two negro engineers whose duties were to keep the motors in order, and two extra armatures were constantly kept in stock so as to have perfect apparatus always at hand in case a machine should get to sparking. Four of these motors were on the ninth floor, where most of the machines and about 350 operators were employed, and two of them were on the eighth floor, where about 300 operators were working yesterday.

The eighth floor is the main cutting room, and Mr. Blanck, in answer to questions, seemed to think that it was here that the fire might easily have started. He said that there was a large stock of material on this floor, most of it cut into shapes and piled up in stacks ready for the machines.

He also admitted that this material, being mostly lawns and other light cotton goods, was of a highly inflammable nature, and in the sewing rooms, where the flimsy stuff was being basted together and made ready for the operators, there must have been great stacks of fluff material lying about on the machines.

Neither Mr. Blanck nor Mr. Harris could tell anything definite about the origin of the fire. They admitted under questioning that it was their belief that it started probably in the rear of the building and on their premises, although they said they believed all of the building was occupied except the sixth floor, from which the tenants were moving out.

The rear stairway was cut off at the tenth floor by smoke and flame, while the front stairway and front elevator were still running. Both partners agreed that they saw no elevators reach the tenth floor.

Fire Escapes Cut Off.

As for the fire escapes, which were on the rear of the building and in a narrow well, there was never any time after

the partners left their private office when escape was possible that way. Mr. Blanck said that when he reached the roof the entire well between his premises and the rear of the Waverley Place buildings seemed a roaring furnace with flames and glowing embers leaping high above the roof. He did not think that any one on either the eighth, ninth or tenth floors could have escaped that way.

Mr. Blanck was asked about the elevator service and the stairways. He said that as nearly as he could calculate the two front elevators, which were used all day long for passengers, easily carried ten passengers each. The two freight elevators in the rear were of iron construction and were also used as passenger elevators morning and evening when work began on a dented. These, he said, would carry twenty persons each. The elevator boys on the freight elevators were accustomed to carry passengers during the rush period morning and evening each day.

The halls were fireproof, Mr. Blanck said, and the stairways iron and stone. The elevator shafts were cut off from the factory premises by fireproof wire glass partitions, and the doors leading into the halls were sheathed with iron. He repeated over and over again that he knew the doors into the hallway were always unlocked. He said that the keys were tied to the knobs, and that he made it his personal duty every morning to go to each door and see that it was open.

Blanck & Harris have two other factories in New York, at which they employ some 200 more operators. One is at 11 University Place, which is an overflow for the business of the Triangle Waist Company. Here about 120 operators are employed. In Canal Street, at an address which Mr. Blanck could not recall last night, the firm operates the H. & B. Waist Company, with about fifty or sixty employes.

After the shirtwaist strike of last Summer the Harris & Blanck factories were about the first to start up and, in fact, Mr. Blanck said the Waverley Place lifts were the second in the city to resume work. At that time every demand of the strikers' committees had been complied with, but the only improvements which they had to ask for were additional accommodations in the women's dressing rooms.

It was only two days ago, Mr. Blanck said, that he had made an inspection of the entire premises and saw that all the fire buckets, of which there were 100, were full of water. This water was ordered changed every other day, so as to make sure that the buckets were kept full. There was also a fire alarm box on each floor.

Mr. Blanck could not remember whether it was the Building Department or the Fire Department which had last inspected the place, but he said that about eight days ago an official from some city department had been through the premises and reported everything perfect.

He said he believed the stock was worth about \$200,000, but neither he nor his partner could be sure how much the insurance aggregated.

Unless the payroll was put in the safe on the tenth floor in the afternoon, the partners explained, the full roster of the dead may not be known. The only other records of the 700 employes were kept on card indexes on the several floors where they worked. These cards contained the names and addresses as well. The payroll contained only the names.

The card indexes were undoubtedly destroyed, both partners agreed, and they thought it extremely doubtful that the payroll had been put in the safe. It was pay day and the payroll was in use. In the ordinary course of routine the bookkeeper would have had it on his desk until the closing hour.

OTHER NOTABLE DISASTERS.

Yesterday's Fire Stands Among Those in Which There Was Big Loss of Life.

Factory fires in and around New York have not cost so many lives as disasters of other descriptions. On Nov. 26, 1910, fire swept through a four-story factory building at High and Orange Streets, Newark, and twenty-five girls and women were burned to death or killed by jumping from windows. Forty more were injured. The building was fifty years old and was long considered a firetrap. Between 200 and 300 women were employed on the four floors, and they had no chance for their lives.

The burning of the excursion steamer General Slocum on June 15, 1904, heads the list for loss of life in any one accident in this city. Between 1,000 and 1,100 persons were burned to death or drowned on that occasion.

The Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago on Dec. 30, 1903, also furnished an appalling list of dead and injured. The record of known dead after three days was 582, with a missing list of 336, and 160 injured. In the Brooklyn Theatre fire on Dec. 5, 1876, 294 persons lost their lives. At the Ring Theatre fire in Vienna on Dec. 8, 1881, 580 known dead were found, while 917 persons were reported missing. At the Grand Ducal Theatre fire at Carlsruhe in 1843, 100 lives were lost. At the Paris Charity Bazaar fire on May 4, 1807, the revised list of dead totalled 150.

One of the first of American fire horrors was the burning of a theatre at Richmond, Va., in 1811, when 75 persons were killed. Loss of life has been greatest in disasters around New York. During a panic caused by a false alarm of fire at St. Francis Xavier's Church in 1876 7 persons were trampled to death. The burning of the North German Lloyd steamships and docks in Hoboken on June 30, 1900, was one of the serious disasters in the history of the city. The death list reached 150.

On Feb. 7, 1892, the Hotel Royal, at Fortieth Street and Sixth Avenue, burned to the ground and seventeen bodies were recovered, while of the thirty-eight who were reported missing only a few were ever accounted for. On Dec. 10, 1872, fire partially destroyed the old Fifth Avenue Hotel. The guests got out safely, but twenty-two servants who were asleep on the top floor perished. The Windsor Hotel fire, at Fifth Avenue, between Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Streets, furnished a death list of nearly thirty.

Prior to the burning of the General Slocum there were three steamboat disasters that stood out in American history. The first was the burning of the Erie steamboat on Aug. 9, 1841, while on its way to Chicago from Buffalo. Two hundred persons lost their lives on this occasion. As many more were burned to death or drowned when the Ben Sherrod burned to the water's edge on the Mississippi in 1837. On June 28, 1880, the steamboat Seawanhaka was burned in New York Harbor and thirty-two persons lost their lives.

Coming down to more recent events, ten persons were killed in an explosion of gas in the New York Central Substation, at Fiftieth Street and Lexington Avenue, on Dec. 20, 1910. On Feb. 1 last between twenty-five and thirty persons lost their lives in a dynamite explosion on a Central Railway of New Jersey pier at Communipaw.

LACK OF FIRE DRILL HELD RESPONSIBLE

Company Advised to Train Its Workers, Says Industrial Engineer, but Ignored Him.

DANGER IN OTHER FACTORIES

Only a Few, He Asserts, Have Emergency Drills and Escape in Many Is Cut Off.

According to two of the ablest fire experts in the city the great loss of life at the shirtwaist factory fire can be accounted for by the lack of adequate instruction of the girls in the way to conduct themselves in time of fire.

These men, H. F. J. Porter, an industrial engineer, with offices at 1 Madison Avenue, and P. J. McKeon, a fire prevention expert, who is now delivering lectures at Columbia University, are both familiar with the building which was destroyed and had advised the owners of the factory to establish some kind of a fire drill among the girls and put in better emergency exits to enable them to get out of the building in case of fire. Mr. Porter said last night, when told of the fire by a Times reporter:

"I don't need to go down there. I know just what happened."

Two years ago Mr. McKeon made an insurance inspection of the factory, among others, and was immediately struck by the way in which the large number of girls were crowded together in the top of the building. He said last night that at that time there were no less than a thousand girls on the three upper floors. "I inquired if there was a fire drill among the girls, and was told there was not," said he. "The place looked dangerous to me. There was a fire-escape on the back and all that, and the regulations seemed to be complied with all right, but I could see that there would be a serious panic if the girls were not instructed how to handle themselves in case of a fire."

Mr. Porter even found that the door to the main stairway was usually kept locked. I was told that this was done because it was so difficult to keep track of so many girls. They would run back and forth between the floors, and even out of the building the manager told me."

Fire Drill Suggestion Ignored.

Mr. McKeon impressed the manager with the fire-drill idea, and recommended him to Mr. Porter, who has taken up this work with industrial concerns all over the country. He spoke to Mr. Porter himself about it, and the latter wrote the factory people this letter:

June 19, 1909.
The Triangle Waist Company, 23 Washington Place, New York City.
Gentlemen: I have been advised by Mr. P. J. McKeon, Fire Insurance Inspector, who inspected your premises, that your manager spoke to him in regard to having a fire drill installed in your factory, and that he was requested to ask me to communicate with you.

I write to say that I have installed a number of fire drills in this city and elsewhere, and would be pleased at any time that would suit your convenience to call on you and look over your premises in order to make you a proposition.

If you will kindly let me know when it would be convenient I will arrange to be on hand at the time mentioned. As I live in your immediate neighborhood it would be convenient for me to visit you before 9 o'clock on any morning or after 5 o'clock in the evening. Yours very truly,
H. F. J. PORTER.

Mr. Porter never received an acknowledgment or reply of any kind, he said last night.

Mr. Porter was very emphatic in talking of the fire last night. "It is a wonder that these things are not happening in the city every day," said he. "There are only two or three factories in the city where fire drills are in use, and in some of them where I have installed the system myself the owners have discontinued it."

Cites Other Instances.

"One instance I recall in point where the system has been discontinued despite the fact that the Treasurer of the company, through whose active co-operation it was originally installed, was himself burned to death with several members of his family in his country residence, and notwithstanding that the present President of the company, while at the opera, nearly lost his children and servants in a fire which recently swept through his apartments and burned off the two upper floors of a building which was and still is advertised as the most fireproof and expensively equipped structure of its character in the city."

"The neglect of factory owners of the safety of their employes is absolutely criminal. One man whom I advised to install a fire drill replied to me, 'Let 'em burn up. They're a lot of cattle, anyway.' The factory may be fitted with all the most modern fire-fighting apparatus and there may be a well-organized fire brigade, but there is absolutely no attempt made to teach the employes how to handle themselves in case of a fire. This is particularly necessary in case of young women and girls, who always go into panic. They can be easily trained to handle themselves in a fire drill, however."

Criticizes Fire Escapes.

In discussing these matters in a recent article in The Survey, the weekly publication of the Charity Organization Society, Mr. Porter said: "The fire-escapes supplied to buildings are generally of such construction as to be themselves more a source of accident than an escape from it. As a rule they

consist of outside iron balconies, one at each floor, connected by means of ladders, the lowest balcony having its ladder detached and hung up, so as to prevent people from entering the building from the ground. These ladders are at an angle of 30 or 60 degrees, and in order to descend people have to turn around and go down backward, with others crowding down on top of them.

In cases of emergency when both men and women have to descend by such means, and especially in winter weather when the iron is cold and perhaps covered with snow or ice, these so-called escapes are prolific of hazards which add to rather than take away the dangers attendant upon a fire. At the lowest balcony the ladder is often a long one, correspondingly heavy, and the combined strength of several men is necessary to handle it. This is particularly true if it is out of place, as it frequently is.

Men are not necessarily the first to reach the landing where it is located, and if not they cannot get there after women have crowded down ahead of them. On such occasions a jam results, crowding those who are near the opening to a fall. The ideal fire escape has no ladder whatever, but is merely a balcony running from one building to another, separated by a fire wall.

Doors Often Closed too.

"Although against the law of many States, it is not infrequent that factory doors used by the employes are kept locked during working hours. In one such case, of the 400 girls locked in on the fifth floor of an underwear factory, some leaped into nets held by firemen and others were taken down on the fire ladders; many were more or less injured, all nervously shocked.

In the many factories which I have examined at the request of the proprietors, to satisfy them that they were doing all they could for the safety of their employes, I have failed to find any which, in one way or another, had not introduced

some obstruction to the availability of their fire escapes, and had not allowed some of their fire extinguishing apparatus to go uninspected until it was absolutely useless.

Many factories give no thought to the subject, and on one occasion my question to the Superintendent as to what he would do in case a fire occurred, right then was met by the amazing reply that he would think of some way to get his employes out. When pressed to think then, while he had plenty of time, of a way to do so, he was utterly unable to say how, under conditions as they existed, he would get them out.

"It is only by going through the manoeuvres which would occur in case of an actual fire that the efficiency of the escapes and appliances can be tested. A fire drill will do this, and, once introduced, its desirability is so evident that one would suppose it would never be discontinued.

Yet owing to the fact that it develops such conditions in a factory that a fire or panic is practically impossible, the employes after a considerable continuance of this immunity often forgets that the immunity is simply an effect, not a cause, and when a busy season arrives he begins to postpone the practice, and then lets it drop into total disuse."

Newark Fire an Example.

Also writing for The Survey, Mr. McKeon says this of factory fires:

"An investigation of the recent factory fire in Newark, N. J., in which twenty-five employes were killed and injured, shows it to have been identical with many others which occur with periodical regularity, and which have to a greater or less extent the same attendant circumstances. It is the same story of dangerous processes carried on in unfit buildings, the same crowding of these buildings with hundreds of workpeople, the same neglect of fire alarm facilities, the same omission of panic or exit drills, the same failure to provide safe and sufficient exits, the same failure to use modern mechanical appliances for checking and extinguishing fire, the same failure of laws and public administration to prevent controllable combustion and unnecessary death.

If factories are to be maintained as fire traps and the workers compelled to stand at windows calmly waiting the result of a race between the flames and the firemen, then they should be instructed how to remain calm and cool amidst blinding smoke and choking heat.

Factory conditions in New York are undoubtedly bad. Any Fire Inspector can testify to this from personal observation, and the larger number of factories means a greater number of people endangered. New York has nearly 30,000 industrial establishments, with close to 700,000 workers in them. These are distributed among 12,000 buildings, only 1,000 of which are of fireproof construction. The remaining 11,000 factory buildings are of ordinary non-fireproof construction, with the same good stairways and outside fire escapes which made the Newark factory a fire-trap.

The State Factory Inspectors of the State Bureau of Labor, who particularly supervise the factory conditions, are working under a fire escape law which is as defective as the New Jersey law. It reads:

Such fire escapes as may be deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Labor shall be provided on the outside of every factory in this State, consisting of three or more stories in height.

In practice this leaves it to the discretion and competence of the staff to decide whether fire escapes shall be needed, and it is therefore proper to inquire what instruction or training in fire prevention science is given these Inspectors. As a matter of fact, however, in New York City the State Bureau of Labor refers all fire escape matters to the Municipal Bureau of Buildings, because the Appellate Division has ruled that the Bureau of Buildings has exclusive jurisdiction over fire escapes in Greater New York.

The Fire Department is able to do little to make factory buildings safe against fire, an argument for the reorganization of this department urged by Commissioner Waldo. The Fire Department company commanders, on their semi-annual inspection of buildings, make recommendations that fire escapes be placed on structures which in their judgment require them.

This important duty is performed by subordinate officers, and, as a general rule, the Fire Department recommendation has the purpose of providing a means of entrance for firemen in their work of extinguishing the fire, and not a means of exit for the occupants of a building. The recommendations for fire escapes made by the company commanders are forwarded to the Chief of the department,

who is expected to send them to the Bureau of Buildings for action.

All the means of exit that the law provides for factories are thus focused on the fire escape provision of the Building Code, which reads as follows:

Every factory, mill, manufactory or workshop shall be provided with such good and sufficient fire escape stairways, or other means of egress in case of fire, as shall be directed by the Department of Buildings.

The application of this law is made by inspectors who are required to be competent in construction details, but it is a question whether their experience and training fit them to pass upon fire conditions, and the special problems connected with discharging great numbers of people from a building on fire.

Stricter Laws Urged.

"Some improvement can be secured by legislation. If theatres and tenements can effectively be safeguarded, so can factories. But the laws will have to be based on sound principles of fire safety and will have to take heed of what fire prevention science has already established as necessary precautions. They will have to set standards for new constructions and they will have to recognize the changed demands which changed occupancy, processes, and populations make on structures. The application of the laws will also have to be made by competent inspectors; either special fire prevention inspectors will have to be employed, or the regular inspectors will need instruction and training in fire prevention science.

And responsibility for the enforcement of the law must be centred inescapably upon a public agency commissioned and equipped to carry out its full purpose. My belief is that this agency should be the State Factory Inspection Department in each State; and that in cities where professional fire departments are maintained it should logically be turned over to this department, particularly organized to protect life and property from fire.

The State Labor Department and other interested departments should co-operate. It should be in position to call on the Building Department to see that structurally new buildings meet its standards, but the power and responsibility for constant inspection and enforcement should be concentrated. The Fire Department is expected to extinguish fire; why not to prevent it?"

New Bill in Legislature.

The City Federation of Women's Clubs took up the question of making fire drills in factories compulsory a year ago and tried in vain to get the Aldermen to pass an ordinance to this effect. They finally had a bill drawn to bring it about, and it was recently introduced to the Legislature. It says in part:

The owner, or the manager, Superintendent or other person in charge of every such factory or mercantile establishment shall instruct and train the employes thereof by a system of weekly fire drills where-by such employes in case of fire or alarm of fire may leave the building quickly without confusion or panic. If the owner, manager, Superintendent or other person in charge of any such factory or mercantile establishment shall neglect to cause the same to be equipped with a suitable and adequate fire alarm system as required by this section, or to comply with an order of the Commissioner of Labor in respect thereto, within the time prescribed by this section, or to maintain weekly fire drills in such factory or mercantile establishment as required by this section, he shall be liable to a penalty of \$50 per day for each day he shall fail to equip such factory or mercantile establishment, or to comply with such order of the Commissioner of Labor, and to a penalty of \$50 per week for each week in which he shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section in respect to fire drills. Such penalties may be recovered by the Commissioner of Labor in the name of his office, and shall be cumulative, and more than one penalty may be recovered in the same action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

The State Labor Commissioner has said that he believes this bill to be unconstitutional, however, and the Association for Labor Legislation is now drawing another bill.

After the fatal Newark factory fire the New Jersey authorities considered taking steps of this kind and the State Labor Commissioner had some correspondence with Mr. Porter on the subject. He said last night, however, that he believes nothing ever came of it.

Former State Labor Commissioner Sherman recognized the value of fire drills in crowded factories and once said: "Even the best fire escapes are frequently useless. A panic among women employes can easily make them so, and all factory owners should have a system of thorough instruction of their employes in the way in which to leave the building in case of fire."

LIVED AMID FLAMES, BUT NEARLY DROWNS

Hyman Meshel, First Person Rescued from Ruins, Tells of His Fight for Life.

CAME DOWN ELEVATOR CABLE

Up to His Neck in Water for Four Hours, Yet Surrounded by Blazing Debris.

At five minutes to 9, four hours after the fire in the Triangle Waist Company factory was discovered, the first living person was found in the debris. He was Hyman Meshel, 21 years old, and single, of 332 East Fifteenth Street, who worked on the eighth floor and was on that floor when the fire threw the garment workers of the waist company, by whom he was employed, into a panic.

The rescue party found Meshel crazed by fright and blackened by soot in the southwest corner of the basement. He was sitting helplessly on the elevator cable drum, with his body immersed almost to the neck in water, which was slowly rising in the basement. The flesh of the palms of his hands had been torn from the bones by his sliding down the steel cable in the elevator, and his knuckles and forearms were full of glass splinters from beating his way through the glass door of the elevator shaft.

Ambulance Surgeon Flanagan rushed him to St. Vincent's Hospital, where it was said that he might recover if pneumonia did not set in. Meshel was weak and chilled from his four hours' immersion in the cold water of the basement. His legs were paralyzed, and it was a difficult task to restore the circulation.

About 8:45 Battalion Chief Worth and several firemen who were working on the ground floor of the burned building near the Greene Street entrance, heard faint cries for help. They listened intently, and decided that the sounds came from below them. The firemen got a lantern, and under Chief Worth organized themselves into a rescue party.

Who the Rescuers Were.

The men in the group who started out to rescue the unknown prisoner consisted of Firemen Wolff, Boucher, and Levy of Truck 5, and Firemen Rubino and Connell of Truck 13. When they entered the basement, led by Chief Worth, they found themselves splashing in water up to their knees. Their lanterns proved of little value, and they were obliged to grope their way over a great many obstacles and among a number of floating boxes.

As they groped about they set up concerted shouts with the view of learning the prisoner's location by his answers. They finally located his cries as coming from the southwest corner of the building, to which they made their way. In their haste to reach the victim they knocked down three partitions and battered in an iron door in the cellar.

When they reached the main elevator shaft in the southwest corner of the basement they saw a man's head just above water directly above the location of the cable drum on which the elevator cables were wound. A little above the man's head was the floor of the elevator of the building.

The man's eyes were bulging from his head, and he whimpered monotonously like a timid and spirit-broken animal. His face was swollen from heat and looked charred as if it had been scorched and then rubbed with soot.

"Get up, we've come to get you!" shouted Chief Worth.

Victim Unable to Rise.

The man did not reply, though the message was repeated by Chief Worth and echoed by his companions. At last the firemen seized him bodily and carried him out of the building over the same tortuous route by which they had entered.

It was not till he had been taken to the hospital, placed in his bed, his wounds treated and his body massaged that Meshel was able to give any account whatever of how he had reached his strange position.

He said he had been on the eighth floor when the fire started and that he had run over to the elevator shaft. There he beat in the glass upper portion of the shaft door with his fists and swung himself over the wooden lower half into the shaft, going down hand over hand for several floors on the cable, though in the process the flesh was torn from the bone. Just before he got to the bottom he became faint from pain and exertion and dropped onto the roof of the elevator.

When he regained consciousness, he said, he had to break his way out of the shaft again. He said that a man or several men and a woman had fallen onto the top of the elevator down the shaft near him, and that he was afraid he would be killed if he remained where he was. His statement to this effect has not yet been verified by the firemen.

Driven Back by the Flames.

Once out of the shaft Meshel said he was driven back into the elevator well by the flames all about him, and kept himself under water as much as possible to avoid being burned. The heat, he said, was unbearable.

As the water rose in the basement Meshel began to fear, he said, that he would be drowned, and he climbed up on top of the cable drum and sat there, with his back braced against the wall, while the water crept slowly up to his neck. The cold so paralyzed him then that he was unable to move, and the fear that after suffering so much he would be drowned made him semi-conscious.

After Meshel had told his story he became irrational again and shouted, "My sister! My sister!" When quieted, he explained that his sister Annie had been working on the same floor with him, and he had not seen her in the group of panic-stricken shirtwaist operatives when the shouts of fire were taken up on his floor and the mad rush for the windows began.

It was not known at the hospital what had become of his sister, though efforts were made to bring Meshel some encouraging news.

CROWD AT POLICE STATION.

Mercer Street Is Turned Into an Emergency Hospital.

The Mercer Street Police Station, only two blocks from the scene of the fire, was the centre of a great deal of the police activity in the early part of the disaster. As soon as its serious nature was known the reserves, under Capt. Henry, left for the doomed factory. The first few of the injured were taken to the station, and it was the headquarters until it became evident that this was far too large a matter for any one precinct to manage.

The first person brought there was Kate Uzo, a 25-year-old Russian girl who had jumped from one of the windows. She was found to have serious internal injuries and was removed in a Bellevue Hospital ambulance. Then an unidentified man about 25 years old was brought in. The policemen then brought in Anna Weitre and Anna Niesoles. They were later treated in the police station and removed to St. Vincent's Hospital.

Then the orders came that a field hospital was to be established and no more injured brought there. The staff from the Coroner's office also made the arrangements here for the disposal of the bodies.

As soon as the news of the disaster had circulated on the east side, relatives and friends thronged to the station, anxious to learn the fate of workers in the building. There was a crowd in front of the station for several hours. A file of policemen was stretched across the steps to tell all inquirers that no bodies had been taken there and that identification could be made at the Morgue only.

DOORS WERE LOCKED, SAY RESCUED GIRLS

Workers Huddled Against Them
as Fire Spread, According
to Strike Leader.

MASS MEETING OF PROTEST

Arranged by Women's Trade Union
League—Triangle Employees Under-
paid, Miss Dreier Charges.

Speaking to delegates from twenty philanthropic organizations and settlement workers, who met yesterday in the headquarters of the Women's Trade Union League to plan a mass meeting to discuss problems suggested by the Triangle Waist Company's fire, Leonora O'Reilly, a leader in the strike in the company's plant last year, declared that to her certain knowledge the doors on the eighth and ninth floors of the building were locked fast Saturday afternoon.

"I have just come from a luncheon we prepared for the unfortunate girls who escaped," Miss O'Reilly declared. "They all told me one thing—that the doors were locked. Eighteen of our workers have been going the rounds of the families of those having employment. In every family they tell the same story.

"And while at first this thing may seem strange to you, I assure you it is not strange at all. The girls are locked in while they work in nearly every factory. We exploited this fact when we declared the strike in the Triangle plant, and later saw it grow into the revolt of the entire trade.

"And since that strike the rule about keeping the doors locked has been enforced more strictly than ever. It had an economic basis and it was to the advantage of the employer in more ways than one.

"In the first place, employers do not trust their help. In many factories they search them at night to see that they do not carry off the shirtwaists they have made.

Planned to Prevent Tardiness.

"To enforce rules regarding tardiness the idea of locking the doors was first inaugurated. It was found that if girls understood they could not get into the factories after the minute of commencing work in the morning, they would be more sure to come on time.

"But, in trying to lock the late-comers out, they overlooked the fact that they were also locking those in who were at work. After the strike the locked doors gave another protection, for it was when agents entered the rooms of all shirtwaist factories simultaneously that the girls all walked out to join the revolt. The locked doors were a permanent guarantee that there would be no more sudden notices to cease work passed simultaneously to all factories.

"The girls with whom I lunched to-day were very excited, and could tell but little with definiteness. But they did say that they had seen large numbers of girls huddled against the locked doors, and the reports of the fire agree that girls were found in just this position on the eighth, and especially on the ninth floor."

The meeting Miss O'Reilly addressed passed resolutions denouncing the administrative policies which did not provide better means of egress. It also appointed committees to confer with labor organizations and employers and see if a co-operative plan cannot be worked out to bring about an improvement of exit facilities in loft structures.

Miss Mary E. Dreier, President of the Women's Trade Union League, who was arrested in the strike while doing picket duty in front of the Triangle Waist Company's place of business, said she recognized among the dead many who had passed with her through the strike experiences.

"The worst of all the firms we had to

deal with was that of Harris & Blanck," Miss Dreier declared. "When both sides had been wearied by the long struggle and it seemed they could get together, Mr. Blanck came to our representatives and pleaded with us that he had a business reputation to sustain—that he didn't want it to seem that we had beaten him into making changes. He said if we would only help him save his face and let the girls go back he would see that the improvements were speedily made and every sanitary regulation suggested was complied with.

"His words were reassuring. We thought he had seen the justice of our demands for decent working conditions. He was the largest man in the business, controlling factories in Newark and Philadelphia, as well as in New York. We trusted him, and let our girls go back.

"They found that each experienced girl was required to teach six Italian girls all she knew about the business—these six being seated near her machine to see her sew. Then we found the experienced girls, as soon as they had done the instructing necessary, were dismissed.

"All who had joined in the strike as leaders were dismissed, one by one, whenever excuses, however slight, could be found. The union girls were put exclusively on the eighth floor, after others had been instructed to do their work, and thus it is that there are so many employes other than Jews who met their death. The employes, up to the time of the strike adjustment, were nearly all Jewish."

Says Girls Were Underpaid.

Miss Dreier recounted the manner in which she was arrested in front of the place, and then received apologies from the police when her identity became known and reproaches from the policeman who had taken her into custody for not telling him who she was, so that he could have avoided the "mistake." She said that in every union shop the girls were paid 60 cents a dozen for doing work for which the girls in the Triangle shop got 35 cents a dozen, and that it was because of this low rate that the girls were still at work at an hour when employes had left off work in nearly all the factories of the city.

"The poor Italian girl," she said, "has no conception, when she first arrives, of how short a distance \$6 a week will go in this country. She thinks the wage is fair; her more experienced sisters know that \$10 a week is less than needed to keep decently alive. And there you have the game Harris & Blanck played—they exploited the newly arrived and unsophisticated and turned out those to whom they pledged that they would change conditions in their shop."

Ida Rowe, a field worker for the league, told of her experiences trying to get the Mayor and the Building Department to take action against known firetraps, following the Newark disaster.

"We found the authority scattered all through the City Government," she said; "the Building Department referred us to the Fire Department, and the Fire Department to the Factory Inspectors, and so it went.

"Chief Croker told me how anxious he was to gain complete control. I think we are anxious to see him have it, or see it centred in his department, since it knows more than the others about the toll in death lists that the improper facilities

have. I think a monster mass meeting, which we are here to provide for, should put itself on record as in favor of such consolidation and revision of the laws."

To Seek Data from the Workers.

The question of gathering information about conditions in factories was brought up by Morris Hillquit. Miss O'Reilly said that it was more than any girl's head was worth to speak openly about the conditions of her employment. "I propose that we name a committee," she said, "which will advertise that it will guard as secret any information brought to it." She proposed that the girls of all factory buildings be asked these questions:

- Do you work in a fire trap?
- Are the doors locked while you work?
- Are there bars on the windows?
- Are there fire escapes on all floors?
- Are the escapes readily accessible?
- Are scraps or waste allowed to accumulate near the motors or steam plant?

If so, you work in a fire trap. You may secretly describe your condition by calling at the homes or writing to Mrs. Stephen Wise, 23 West Ninetieth Street; Leonora O'Reilly, 680 Seventh Avenue; Mrs. Beard, 501 West 120th Street; Mrs. Olshelmer, 5 East Fifty-eighth Street, or Helen Marot, 43 East Twenty-second Street.

Circulars as suggested were ordered sent out, the data gathered to be turned over to a steering committee of twenty-five citizens to be named by the mass meeting's Chairman, to plan for a general assembly on Thursday or Friday night in the largest hall available.

Rabbi Stephen Wise declared that he was willing to take no man's word—especially no official's word—about what the facts of the shirtwaist fire were. "We have seen," he said, "the terrible evidences of what officials can do in the way of avoiding the search for facts in the case of the recent legislative investigating committee, which passed so skillfully all opportunities really to find out the scandals of race track gambling.

"I want the citizens of New York to find out for themselves, through the medium of a committee named at a general mass assembly. If this thing was avoidable I want to see those responsible punished. If it was due to some corrupt failure to enforce the law I want to see that determined. And I do not trust public officials to determine it for us; it is our own task as citizens to do that for ourselves."

The Resolutions.

Benjamin C. Marsh of the Mayor's Committee on Congestion of Population, William J. Schieffelin, President of the People's Union, and others spoke in favor of the resolutions which were adopted, and which read:

Whereas, So soon following the frightful holocaust in our neighboring city of Newark, and in spite of the solemn warning to our officials in a leading New York magazine, that conditions were as bad, or worse, here, this dreadful disaster has come to the most helpless of our people, the working women of our city and those dependent upon them; and

Whereas, It is most evident that there has been neglect on the part of many, both officials and private citizens, and especially lack of co-operation to prevent such accidents, and that such neglect is immediately the cause of this most deplorable affliction; and

Whereas, Yet deeper lie causes, such as the continuation of industrial warfare, the failure to exact and enforce proper factory inspection, the inexcusable delay about adopting measures, which in other countries have minimized such dangers and provided for the compensation of the victims of industrial accidents in a manner, which results in a maximum of prevention; and

Whereas, These, our sisters and our brothers will have died in vain if the occasion pass without a full and firm expression of the indignation, shame, and grief, with which the horror has been received by all, now therefore be it:

Resolved, That we, who are here assembled, deplore and condemn the blindness of public officials, who fatuously permit such conditions to continue, the insufficiency of the number of factory inspectors, the greed of employers, who do not welcome, but instead punish with dismissal, employes, who demand safe conditions under which to work, and the inertia of the great, busy public, which does not render such unprofitable, both in the public servant and the employer; and

Be it resolved, That we call upon the people of our city, State, and Nation to bring to account all who are responsible for such conditions, and to take steps to render it impossible that we should ever again be compelled to bow our heads in helpless grief, and rage, and shame at that which human forethought could so easily prevent; and

Be it resolved, That we call upon the working people of New York, and all in sympathy with them, to join in the funeral procession of the victims, and thus give expression alike to their sorrow and to their resolve to prevent such horrors in future.

The committee of twenty-five called for to arrange a mass meeting, it was announced, would be appointed this morning from among the city's most representative men and women.

BLAME SHIFTED ON ALL SIDES FOR FIRE HORROR

Fire-Escape Law Admittedly Inadequate and Legislature Plans Reforms.

THE 142D VICTIM DIES.

29 Bodies Remain Unclaimed at the Morgue, Where 26 Were Identified Yesterday.

CIGARETTE CAUSED FIRE

Fire Marshal So Convinced After Examining Survivors—Oil Cans Near Spot of Origin.

DOORS WERE JAMMED TIGHT

Chief Croker Says They Had to be Chopped Down—Firemen Will Testify To-day.

RELIEF FUNDS POUR IN

Andrew Carnegie Gives \$5,000—Many Pitiful Stories Told by Mourners at the Morgue.

City, county, and State officials were involved yesterday in the discussion of responsibility for the conditions existing in the ten-story loft building at University Place and Greene Street, where Saturday evening's fire cost 142 lives, the latest victim dying in a hospital yesterday.

Responsibility for the inadequate fire escape facilities was charged directly to the Building Department. In its defense Borough President McAneny issued a statement last night. He held that the Department was in no way to blame for the disaster and there was not the slightest grounds for accusing Supt. Miller. The efforts to hold him responsible he characterized as "outrageously unfair."

Mr. McAneny said the plans for the Washington Place building were filed eleven years ago and were accepted as complying with the law. This fact, he urged, completely exonerates Supt. Miller.

Coroner Holtzhauser, insisting that the Building Department was seriously at fault, contended that its inspectors never had time to look at buildings except those in process of construction, and that several of its small force of inspectors were grossly incompetent.

District Attorney Whitman engaged two engineers yesterday to examine the building with a special view of determining official culpability, and their report will be ready when the April Grand Jury begins the investigation.

Certain paragraphs in the State labor law were quoted by District Attorney Whitman to show that responsibility for proper fire protection in factories, especially in the matter of fire escapes, devolved upon the State Labor Commission.

But State Labor Commissioner Williams refused to accept this interpretation, pointing to the fact that a decision of the Appellate Division in 1903 settled the fact that the Building Department has complete control over fire escapes in New York City.

At Albany plans are being made for legislation that will settle this issue. One proposed bill provides that the State Labor Commissioner have control of fire escapes in New York City as in other parts of the State, and the other would vest full control in the Fire Department, as recommended by Chief Croker.

The last report of the State Labor Department on the Asch Building was to the effect that stairway conditions made it impracticable to change the doors so that they would open outward—that such a change would really increase instead of lessen the fire danger. The same report held that the Triangle Waist Company's plant was not overcrowded. The total of employees then at work, however, was only 405, while on Saturday it had grown to over 600.

Investigations continued yesterday under the auspices of four different city departments. Fire Marshal Beers had the waist company's owners, the building's owner, and thirteen others before him in an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire's origin.

His conclusion was that there was no explosion; that a lighted match thrown into waste near oil cans, or into clippings under cutting table No. 2, on the Greene Street side of the eighth floor, started the conflagration. In answer to evidence that no smoking was permitted, he declared he had many cigarette cases, picked up near the spot of the fire's origin, and could prove that smoking was constantly indulged in.

Fire Chief Croker, dissenting from evidence furnished the Fire Marshal that the doors within the factory were not locked, declared his men had to chop their way through them to gain entrance, and if not locked they were at least closed so firmly that only an axe could effect a passage through them.

At the loft building itself the fire lines were withdrawn, except for a guard on the sidewalk immediately surrounding it. Crowds of morbidly curious people flocked in from all directions, blocking traffic in Washington Square East, and in Washington Place, Waverley Place, and Greene Streets.

Investigators from Fire Headquarters,

SUPT. MILLER HOME; WON'T TALK OF FIRE

Asch Building Is Being Restored Apparently to Its Original Condition.

THREE MORE IDENTIFIED

16 Victims Still Unclaimed—Survivors Testify That Panic Was Chiefly to Blame—One Tells of Rotten Hose.

Rudolph P. Miller, Superintendent of Buildings, had nothing to say about Saturday's fire disaster in the Asch building when he returned to New York last night from his vacation trip to Panama. He arrived by train from Galveston and went at once to the home of Borough President McAneny, remaining in conference with him for several hours.

"I am sure Mr. Miller will have nothing to say for several days yet," the Borough President, who is Mr. Miller's immediate chief, said, in reply to questions. "It will be useless to try to interview him. His first business will be to acquaint himself with the situation and hear the report of Mr. Ludwig, his chief inspector, who has taken what steps were necessary in his absence; Mr. Miller will take up the investigation at the point Mr. Ludwig has reached and will carry it on."

The absence of the Building Superintendent when the fire which cost 143 lives swept through the upper floors of the loft structure that had been converted to factory purposes made it difficult for several days to obtain authoritative statements from the Building Bureau as to its attitude toward problems presented by the fire.

President McAneny, who has warmly defended Mr. Miller's course throughout and has blamed the failure of the department to investigate conditions in buildings already erected to a lack of inspecting force, greeted his subordinate cordially and expressed his confidence in his ability and intention to take whatever measures he is legally able to do to increase fire-preventive facilities.

While the conference between the Borough President and the Building Superintendent was in progress men were busily at work in the Asch Building clearing away the debris and preparing to make repairs necessary to reopen its various floors for business.

No Improvements Called For.

The building permit under which they worked called for no improvements or the alteration of any conditions existing before the fire. It called for "repairs" only, which means, it was generally conceded, that the place will be reopened, in the same condition it was before Saturday. Objectors who wished to see more fire escapes installed were confronted by declarations from those at work in the building that on more than three-fourths of the loft buildings in the shirtwaist factory zone, including several buildings very close to the one that was burned, there were no fire escapes whatever, and the fireproofing conditions were much less satisfactory.

On the Fire Department's blacklist of lofts with insufficient fire exits are several buildings very close to the Asch Building. One next door to it is on the list forwarded to Mayor Gaynor by the Cloakmakers' Joint Board of Sanitary Control.

The developments of the investigations conducted by Fire Marshal Beers and the District Attorney tended to show that the great loss of life was due not so much to the lack of escapes as to extreme phases of panic. The witnesses before Assistant District Attorneys Bostwick and Rubin included many of the Triangle Company's sub-bosses and forewomen. These united in placing the blame on panic conditions, the stories of their own escape tending to show that there was ample opportunity to get out had the best use been made of it.

Harmon Howard, the Inspector of the Department of Labor, who visited the Triangle Waist Company's plant, testified from the original notes on which his report to the Labor Department had been based. When he telephoned to Albany for a certified copy of his report, so that it might be introduced as evidence, he was informed that it was probably burned up in the Capitol, or at least so water-soaked that it would be illegible.

The Assistant District Attorneys, finding that they could not obtain the official report, accepted the testimony of the Inspector from his personal note book. This showed that he had found doors locked on the lower floors of the Asch building, but not in the Triangle Company's plant, and that he had filed no violations against the Triangle Company on the grounds of inadequate fire protection. Such complaints as he did file, he testified, were against sanitary conditions only.

What a Coroner Saw.

Coroner Winterbottom, who visited the District Attorney's office in company with Coroner Holtzhauser, had been, it developed, a personal witness of the fire for the first twenty minutes. His comments upon it were severe in so far as they concerned the police and fire departments. Men from the fire department, he said, reached the upper stories of the American Book Company building, next door, in time to have saved many lives had they brought axes with them.

"But, without axes," he insisted, "they kicked at the doors that would have opened upon a narrow air well separating them from the windows of the burning building in vain, and had to retreat."

Of the police, Coroner Winterbottom said they seemed demoralized and allowed the loss of many valuable minutes for the Fire Department by not establishing fire lines and clearing the trucks and wagons out of Washington Place East. Coroner Winterbottom lives at 53 Washington Place South.

"I saw the smoke from my window," he said, "and ran out into the square. As I reached Washington Place I saw one engine approaching. A block east of that there was a tangle of fire apparatus and trucks, and a crowd was surging all around. The police were huddled together talking to each other and looking at the jumping girls, seemingly completely confused. I saw two girls at a window, apparently trying to jump, and others holding them back. I ran to a telephone and called both Police and Fire Headquarters, urging them to send more apparatus and more policemen, and many ambulances.

"As more apparatus came from the second and third alarms, I suppose, the trucks came first. They got into such a position that it blocked the way for the engines, and it took time—it seemed fully ten minutes—to straighten things out.

"I fainted after twenty minutes or more of witnessing the fire, and someone who recognized me, or read my name upon my shield, had me carried to my home."

Three More Identified.

Of the nineteen unidentified bodies still at the Morgue yesterday morning three were identified in the course of the day. Dr. J. Zaharia, a dentist, of 86 Second Avenue, who had placed a gold cap on a tooth for Mary Loventhal, 22 years old, of 604 Sutter Place, Brooklyn, picked her body out from among the group of the more badly charred. Her brother Benjamin, who had accompanied the dentist to the Morgue, verified the identification and was allowed to take the body away.

Abraham Meyers of 11 Rivington Street recognized an earring upon the body of a girl in Casket No. 2 as that of his sister Yetta Meyers, 19 years old. His identification was accepted as accurate and the body released to him.

The partial identification made on Tuesday evening of Esther Goldfield by her brother, the identification being based on a signet ring, was confirmed yesterday

morning by the girl's father, Benjamin Goldfield.

Of the sixteen bodies now at the Morgue, all but one are charred beyond hope of identification, except from the trinkets taken to the Coroner's office. Charities Commissioner Drummond made special efforts to have the body of a woman, who had not even been slightly burned in the fire, identified, but he was not successful.

Eight injured persons were still in the hospitals last night, with indications of being able to leave within a few days.

Coroner Holtzhauser, in order to obtain data to use in his contemplated inquest, sat through the hearings conducted by Assistant District Attorneys Bostwick and Rubin. He admitted afterward that little had been brought out to strengthen charges of criminal negligence except that there was no fire escape ladder leading from the second-story level to the bottom of the air shaft.

Tells of Heroic Girl Who Died.

The entire force of Triangle Waist Company employees who escaped from the ninth floor, it developed at the inquiry, had searched in vain until yesterday afternoon for the body of Mary Loventhal, the bookkeeper of the ninth floor, who seemed to have been the general favorite of all. When word was brought that a dentist had identified the body, Jennie Lerner was telling the Assistant District Attorney how Mary Loventhal had ordered her upstairs at the first cry of fire, and had herself remained behind, urging the other girls to leave. She was so unnerved by the news that the body had at last been identified that she had to be taken from the room sobbing.

Diana Lufchitz, a relative of Max Blanck, one of the Triangle Company's owners, who operated the telautograph on the ninth floor, testified that she was talking to her dearest chum, Mary Loventhal, when smoke began to come up from the ninth floor. She described the panic which she held responsible for the loss of life.

"I sent the message 'Fire, fire, escape, to the tenth floor,'" she testified, "and got for an answer, 'Quit your kidding.' 'I tried again with, 'We're on fire down here, run,' and then, realizing that the telautograph message was not being taken seriously, I seized a telephone. As I spoke to the tenth floor bosses, and then to Fire Headquarters, I could see some New York University students just across the narrow light well. They were telling me I'd be burned up, and to get out. But the sight of the fire—it was beautiful and fascinating as it spread toward me—had me fascinated, I guess. I could only think how beautiful it was. Then I realized it was getting hot, and I walked—I did not run—to the window, and climbed out on the fire escape.

"There was a large woman just behind me. I didn't want to hurry, and she did, so I clung to the side while she passed me. I saw her go on down. I remember going two flights at least, and then I fainted on a platform. Joe Levitch found me there and brought me down the rest of the way. I know many more would have been saved if they had only kept cool."

Leo Todor of 14 Clinton Street told of losing his hold upon the fire escape at the seventh-story level, and catching on a platform at the fourth story, only to lose his hold again at the second and crash through a glass roof to the sub-cellar, from which he worked his way by breaking a window into the engine room.

Gussie Rapp, a forewoman, was positive that she had used the Washington Place stairway frequently, and had never found the door locked. She was not in the fire, having left for home at 4 o'clock.

Joseph Flicher, the Triangle Company's paymaster, testified that the money he had disbursed just before the fire—amounting to \$3,000—was the wages due for the previous week, and that the death of Mary Loventhal, the bookkeeper, had prevented him from completing his pay rolls so that the money due could be given to every employe, or a surviving relative. Miss Loventhal's books, he said, perished with her, but all the other records were preserved, they having been put into the safe on the tenth floor.

Joe Levitch, foreman of the cutters, testified differently from others who told of the fire's origin. He said a man who saw the box of clippings on fire jumped in it, and tried to stamp the fire out, and that he spread the fire zone over the cutting table as he jumped across it with his clothes on fire. In escaping he used the fire escape.

Says Hose Was Rotten.

Louis Senderman, a shipping clerk, disagreed in his testimony from the versions of firemen who said the stand-pipe hose on the eighth floor had not been brought into play. He said he had pulled the hose off the rack and that it broke, it was so rotten. Then, when he tried to turn the water on anyhow, the tap was rusted fast and could not be budged. He had run to the ninth floor, advising all to get out, but to be patient, as there was plenty of time.

When asked concerning the results of their investigation the Assistant District Attorneys in charge said they were satisfied that the case of criminal negligence had not been made out. They urged compulsory fire drills, and District Attorney Whitman joined in their conclusion that this was the one definite thing easy to put into force at this point in the investigation. He said he was not certain whether the Labor, Building, Tenement, Fire, or Police Department should have charge of the fire drill regulations, but that it certainly should vest in one of these departments. He thought the State Labor Department was the best equipped to handle the matter at present.

With a few exceptions the witnesses who appeared in the District Attorney's investigation testified before Fire Marshal Beers earlier in the day.

Joseph Flicher, the cashier, testified that clippings were left in the rooms where they first fell from the cutters' shears for from eight to ten days, as the rag man, who had a contract to take them away, could only get a bale of them in that time, and didn't want to bother with less than bale lots. He said it was his belief that the floor could have been cleared of cuttings in ten minutes after closing time each night. He had no idea why this practice did not prevail. The girls spoke for the most part Italian or Yiddish, he said, but he knew of no effort to advise them in either of those languages where the exits were and how to get to the roof.

Mounted Patrolman James P. Meehan, told of penetrating to the eighth floor before fire apparatus arrived. As he went up he met girls coming down the stairs at the sixth floor. At the eighth floor he found one who had fainted. The flames were then back ten feet from the door, and no crowd was at it. He picked up the girl who had fainted and, with a machinist, carried her to the ground floor. At the sixth floor they heard pounding on a loft door, and on smashing it in found twenty or more girls, who had entered through a window from the fire escape. These girls they saw go down the stairs safely.

Capt. Howard Rush of Engine Company 18, who arrived three minutes after the first alarm was received, said he was positive the standpipe service could have put out the fire, if it had been brought into play.

The investigations, both at Fire Headquarters and at the District Attorney's office, will be continued to-day.

N. Y. U. STUDENTS PROTEST.

Want Better Fire Protection in Washington Square Building.

Two hundred students of the New York School of Commerce met last night to protest against the inadequate provisions for escape from fire in the university's building in Washington Square, adjoining the Asch building. Students of the university rescued many girls employed in the Triangle Waist Company.

The students had drawn up a set of resolutions containing a clause to the effect that they would withhold their tuition fees from the university until better provisions against fire were made. The sentiment of the majority of the students present was clearly against these resolutions, and after several of the cooler-headed students and Dean Joseph French Johnson of the school had made addresses advising the students first to go before the Faculty of the university with their grievances a motion was made and carried to lay the resolutions on the table and a committee was appointed to wait upon the Faculty.

Dean Johnson told the students that he was heartily with them in their desire to have better protection against fire, and that if there was a fire in the school with loss of life it would end his career as a teacher, as he could never go back and face the crowd. He thought that if the students would wait upon those in authority at the university they would obtain all they wanted.

The building has eleven stories. The American Book Company occupies the first seven floors and part of the eighth. The remaining stories are occupied by the university. The students said there were no fire-escapes in the building, and only two stairways and four elevators, and that frequently as many as 1,000 were in class on the upper floors.

PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE HELD RESPONSIBLE

Voters Should Demand Better Fire Protection, Says Dr. Anna Shaw at Protest Meeting.

"DOLLARS AGAINST A LIFE" Mass Meeting in Opera House on Sun- day to Protest Against Conditions.

A mass meeting of protest at the conditions which made possible the Washington Place fire disaster a week ago to-day was held at Cooper Union last night under the auspices of the Collegiate Equal Suffrage League. Although the big hall was filled and scattered through the crowd were women draped in the heavy black of fresh mourning, it was a silent gathering, marked by none of that hysteria which stirred the memorial meeting at the Grand Central Palace on Wednesday evening.

Stretched where every one could see was a flaring banner which bore this legend: Votes for Women, Nov. 28.—Twenty-five women killed in Newark factory fire, March 25.—One hundred and thirty women killed in Triangle fire. Locked doors, overcrowding, inadequate fire escapes. The women could not get out, but they altered these conditions. We demand for all women the right to protect themselves.

There were three speakers. Meyer London, who was counsel for the striking shirtwaist makers last year, spoke with the authority of organized labor; Morris Hillquit used the fire as a text for the gospel of Socialism, and Dr. Anna Shaw was there as a suffragist. She seemed filled with a tremendous anger and she spoke eloquently.

"As I read that terrible story last Sunday," she said, "I asked, 'Am I my sister's keeper?' for the Lord said to me, 'Where is thy sister?' And I bowed my head and said I am responsible. Yes, every man and woman of this city is responsible. Don't try to lay it on some one else. Don't try to lay it on some official. We are responsible. You men, forget not that you are responsible; that, as voters, it was your business, and you should have been about your business. If you are incompetent, then in the name of heaven let us try. Time was when woman worked in the home, with her weaving, her sewing, her candlemaking. All that has been changed, and she can no longer regulate her own conditions and her own hours of labor. She has been driven into the market, with no voice in the laws, and powerless to defend herself. The most cowardly thing that men ever did was when they tied women's hands and left them to be food for the flames."

"All sympathy here is natural but useless," said Mr. Hillquit. "Punishment as a revenge is natural but useless. I do not believe in jail as a remedy for social evils. The girls who went on strike last year were trying to readjust the conditions under which they were obliged to work. I wonder if there is not some connection between that fire and that strike. I wonder if our Magistrates who sent to jail the girls who did picket duty in front of the Triangle shop realized last Sunday that some of the responsibility may be theirs. Had that strike been successful those girls might have been alive today and the citizenry of New York would have less of a burden upon its conscience."

"Mr. Harris and Mr. Blanck were there at the time the fire broke out," said Mr. Hillquit, and the mention of the names was greeted by a wave of hisses. "They escaped and we congratulate them. My friends, what a tremendous difference between the Captains of ships and the captains of industry! But let me tell you that that was no extraordinary thing that happened Saturday. Every year in this country industrial accidents kill something more than 50,000 workers. That is 1,000 a week, and 143 a day. Does the number 143 sound familiar? When such a thing happens to your friends it is a blow, if it happens in New York it is a disaster, if it happens in San Francisco it is an occurrence, and if it happens in Russia it is statistics."

Mr. London hoped that the next time the girls tried to change conditions the public sentiment would stand back of them and answer, as it should be answered, the question as to which has the greater value, an American dollar or a Russian girl. For his own part he wanted to protest with all his being, he said, against the searching of the girls to protect the employers from the chance of being the victims of petty larceny. After the first fire alarm had been heard last Saturday, he said, the searching continued.

Fire Chief Croker was not present, but one of the women read an interview with him in which he reiterated his appeal for more fire escapes and fire drills in factories, and said that the responsibility for proper conditions should be put on the tenant rather than on the city.

"Well, it all comes right down to dollars and cents against a life," Chief Croker was quoted as saying. "That is the bottom of the entire thing. Mr. Owner will come and say to the Fire Department: 'If you compel us to do this or that we will have to close up the factory; we cannot afford to do it.' It comes right down to dollars and cents against human lives, no matter which way you look at it."

"The Safety of Life in Factories" was discussed at a meeting held by the Business Men's Group of the Society for Ethical Culture last night in the society house, Sixty-fourth Street and Central Park West. The speakers were H. F. J. Porter, an industrial engineer who two years ago investigated the Fire Department for the Merchants' Association; F. J. Stewart, Superintendent of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters; and Dr. Felix Adler.

Adler said, "and we must now strike while the iron is hot. Do not be content with enacting laws and ordinances, for it is another of our weaknesses that we every year pass laws and ordinances and then do not put them into force. Let us pass the necessary laws for our protection, but see that they are backed up with intelligence. We have got to press for a steadfast enforcement of the laws. Then we do not have to wait for the law in this matter. We should see to it now that as employers we have done everything in our power to safeguard our employes."

I have read since the disaster that capital murdered the wage earners. This is not true. Murder does not apply in this case. It is a crime of taking chances. Americans are always taking chances. Look at some of the flimsy apartment houses in which some of your friends live. There you see some who are taking chances with their children's lives. A man may, if he wants to, take a chance with his own life, but when he takes a chance with the lives of others he is criminally culpable. No one as an employer has the right to take chances."

MASS MEETING TO-MORROW. Fire Protection to be Discussed at Metropolitan Opera House.

The Women's Trades Union League has issued a call to citizens to attend a mass meeting at the Metropolitan Opera House at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon to discuss the Washington Place fire, "to take counsel together, and to call upon experts in various lines as to what shall be done to prevent another similar disaster, for it is commonly understood that there are thousands of factory buildings in addition to tenement and apartment houses and other buildings in which a similar frightful loss of life might easily follow a fire."

Jacob H. Schiff will open the meeting. There will be speeches by Gov. Dix, who has accepted a long-distance telephone invitation to be President; John Mitchell, Rabbi Wise, Rose Schneiderman, Bishop Greer, E. R. A. Seligman, Father White, and others, to be announced later. The call says:

"The Washington Place fire occurred last Saturday evening. During the week official investigations have been made, testimony taken, every feature of our present laws discussed, and attempts made to fix the blame. These measures are in good hands and will be continued. It is our belief that the time is ripe for

a sober, discriminating survey of the whole situation in its bearings on the future. We shall know shortly, if we do not know already, just where our laws are weak. We shall learn just how our building methods are at fault. We shall be told who, if any one, is to blame. Let us now look unitedly into the future."

"At the time of the Newark factory fire it was pointed out in a New York magazine that New York City is full of factory buildings ripe for similar disasters. Four months passed without action and the disaster came. In the last analysis the blame is on all of us, citizens who permitted such conditions to continue without effective protest. Let us learn our lesson and see to it now that lethargy and indifference lead to no further delay which shall be measured in terms of human lives."

At the headquarters of the league yesterday a movement was started to organize a permanent bureau or labor laws, whose purpose will be to see that all statutes having to do with the safety of life, limb and health are rigidly enforced and that all cases of building code violations are followed up through the courts. Eleanor O'Reilly, who is managing the movement to open the permanent bureau, said that a similar organization, established in Newark after the fire there, had resulted in the equipping of every factory building in the city with the most modern fire protection devices.

WOMEN URGE FIRE DRILLS. Commissioner Waldo Agrees That They Should Be Held.

The Public Safety Committee of the Federation of Women's Clubs met at the Hotel Astor yesterday morning. The committee had a bill introduced at Albany some time ago making fire drills obligatory in all large factories and stores, and at the meeting yesterday a telegram was received saying that the bill had been voted out of committee.

A complaint has been received of a factory in lower Broadway, where infants' clothes are made, and where conditions are so bad that since the Washington Place fire the nervous girl employes have almost to be driven into the place every morning. The complaint will be investigated immediately by the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Mrs. Francis Cartwright, and Mrs. Ralph Trautman and Mrs. Julian Heath.

Fire Commissioner Waldo attended yesterday's meeting and admitted that he believed in the fire drill. Mrs. Cartwright suggested that firemen who had retired on pensions be put in charge of the work of instituting fire drills.

PENED IN FACTORIES AND NO FIRE ESCAPES

State's Investigators Find Things as Bad as Before Triangle Factory Fire.

ONE PLACE LOCKS GIRLS IN

Box Factories Found Heaped with Rubbish and Fire Exits Blocked—Unsanitary Candymaking Shops.

Complete negligence of sanitary arrangements in factories and measures of prevention or escape in case of fire, despite the warning of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, were disclosed by the investigators who have been quietly at work for the State Factory Investigating Commission in the last two weeks, and who testified at the second hearing of the commission at the City Hall yesterday. Some of the conditions complained of were admitted by manufacturers directly concerned.

Police Commissioner Rhinelander Waldo, testifying concerning conditions while he was Fire Commissioner, declared that even now the area of newer loft buildings east and west of Fifth Avenue, and between Eighth and Twenty-third Streets, constitutes a constant menace in case of fire. He urged the establishment of a single Department of Inspection, with a Commissioner in this city, and one for the rest of the State, to take charge and responsibility for the rigid inspection of factories which is now divided ineffectually among the Building, Health, and Tenement Departments, and the State Labor Department.

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, presided at the session yesterday, but the hearing was conducted chiefly by Abram I. Elkus, counsel for the commission.

Henry L. Schnur, Assistant State Factory Inspector, like Commissioner Waldo, declared that the present system of divided responsibility for factory inspection among many departments should be replaced by one centralizing the authority in a single department, and giving that department full power to enforce its orders. At present, he said, the State Labor Department has no authority over factories in New York City, except in ordering that passageways to fire escapes be kept clear.

Powerless to Stop Abuses.

"It is powerless to enforce orders for the widening or removal of even a narrow two-foot wooden stairway," he said. "Likewise, though we have found children under the legal age of employment concealed in engine rooms of factories, we have been unable to punish the factory owner because the present law does not make the mere presence of children in factories during working hours prima facie evidence of their employment. Nor can the department interfere in cases where employes handle dangerous material or poisonous chemicals without proper safeguards; and it can do no more than attach condemnation tags to food products which are found to be scandalously unclean. Merchants can, however, buy such products with the tags."

Actual conditions found in factories here in the last week were described by Miss Rose Schneidermann of 60 Second Avenue, an organizer of the Women's Trades Union League, appointed by Mr. Elkus to carry on such an investigation. She told of one paper box factory in West Broadway from which there was no egress save by wooden stairs with doors opening inward, or one fire escape leading to a narrow eight-foot blind alley. The alley itself, she said, was choked up with paper and rubbish, and would imprison employes hopelessly, while "the alley itself would burn out." In this factory, she said, the machinery was so located that it barred the fire escape windows, and the floors were littered with inflammable paper and trimmings. There were no fire appliances in it. She found six or seven factories in one block on Wooster Street, she said, where the same conditions obtained, and where the narrow and flimsy fire escapes were littered with old clothing, paper, and refuse.

One paper box factory in Ridge Street, she said, was in the rear of a rear building, and could be reached only by way of a three-foot alley that led to a narrow court strewn with paper and rags, and a rag shop stuffed with inflammable bales. The front of the building, she said, is used daily as a Hebrew school by some fifty children. Twenty girls are employed in the factory making fancy boxes for the holiday trade.

"They are crowded together, and the rear windows are blocked by machines," she said. "When we asked the employer to let us take a photograph of his factory he refused."

Another Fire Trap.

Miss Schneidermann told of three other box factories in one building in the Bowery where all the doors except one opened inward, and the windows to the fire escapes were barred by iron shutters that also jutted out over the fire escape. In these factories girls under 16 years of age, she said, worked for from \$4 to \$9 a week.

Dr. Henry Moskowitz, secretary of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control recently established by the employers and employes in the cloak and suit trade, reported that of 1,738 factories 63 had been found to lack fire escapes altogether, 101 to have fire escape ladders defectively placed, 152 to have openings to fire escapes obstructed, 378 to lack even fire

buckets, and 25, even since the Triangle fire, have kept their employes locked in.

In 742 the stairways were found to be of wood, and in 710 of quickly heated stone. Dr. Moskowitz recommended the abolition of the unwieldy drop ladder in fire escapes altogether, and urged the commission to report in favor of the establishment of one central department of fire inspection for factories, as well as a State Bureau of Medical Inspection.

Commissioner Waldo, testifying at the afternoon session of the commission, declared that he believed the fire drill to be of only secondary importance to fire prevention. Panic, he said, often upsets fire drill in case of real fire. He recommended that it be made mandatory upon factory owners to equip their factories with automatic sprinkling devices, which, he said, in the great majority of cases, would check the fire almost at its start. The Fire Department, which, heretofore, he said, had no control whatever over fire escapes, should have such power in order to provide ample and safe means of egress in case of fire.

"The fire escape in the Triangle factory," he said, "was of such poor construction and location that even if it could have been used it would have taken hours instead of minutes to empty the building. As it was the victims, finding the fire escape blocked by open shutters, could only jump."

Fireproof Stairs Necessary.

"Outside fire escapes are inadequate," continued the Commissioner. "The ideal escape is the inclosed fireproof stair in one corner of the building without any connection with the rest of the house and shut off by fireproof, self-closing doors. Where the building is large, this system should be replaced by one in which fireproof walls divide one part of the building from another, allowing the occupants to take refuge behind one of these 'fire bulkheads' while the fire is confined to the compartment on the other side."

Commissioner Waldo declared that smoking among employes can scarcely be prevented. The next best precaution, he said, is to see to it that all factories be kept clear of refuse and litter.

"Moreover," he said, "the building plans for new structures ought to be submitted to the Fire Department before they are approved by the Building Department. Even the newer loft buildings east and west of Fifth Avenue and between Eighth and Twenty-third Streets, are to-day a menace. They should be provided with fire bulkheads, shutting off one part of each building completely from the other in case of fire."

Two manufacturers were called before the commission yesterday to testify concerning conditions which Miss Leonora O'Reilly, one of the commission's investigators, reported she had found in their shops. They were Aaron Goldberg, who has a human hair goods factory at 48 Mangin Street, and Samuel Schapiro, who has a candy factory in the same building. Miss O'Reilly reported that she found the former's factory littered with loose and highly inflammable hair, amid which the employes ate their lunch. Some of them, she said, took the hair home for work at night. She told also of the dyeing and disinfecting of the hair without any protection for employes against the poisonous fumes of the chemicals used in the process.

Goldberg declared that his factory had been passed by a State Factory Inspector only two months ago. He said the place was cleaned up every day and swept twice a day, and he denied that the floors were dirty or that the smell of the boiling chemicals used in dyeing and disinfecting—muriatic acid, ammonia, and soda—could be noticed in the factory. He said the pots in which the boiling was done were kept near open windows.

The commission ordered Henry L. Schnur, Assistant State Factory Inspector, to have on hand at the next meeting of the commission on Friday morning the Inspector who last inspected the factories of Schapiro and of Goldberg, and the one who inspected the Triangle shirtwaist factory just before the disastrous fire there. The inspectors are to bring copies of their reports with them.

GIVES LIBRARY TO MUSEUM.

Prof. Bickmore Turns Over His 20,000 Lantern Slides to the Public Also.

The gift of Prof. Albert S. Bickmore of his personal library and almost unequalled collection of lantern slides, to the American Museum of Natural History, was announced yesterday by Assistant Secretary George H. Sherwood.

The collection comprises more than 20,000 lantern slides, of which about 12,000 are colored. They were made by Prof. Bickmore while connected with the State Department of Education, and represent a result of his extensive travels. Assistant Secretary Sherwood remarks that in view of the loss in the fire at Albany last Winter of the original negatives, the Bickmore collection, which has no duplicate, is of greatly increased value.

For many years Prof. Bickmore lectured to school teachers in the museum, and his office became a rendezvous for teachers, who were permitted to consult his library and study the slides. The slides have been extensively used in recent lectures to school children, which have been given annually in the museum to supplement classroom work in geography and history. Mr. Sherwood believes that with all the slides available, these lectures will be unusually instructive as well as broad in scope.

MRS. CHESTER GETS DIVORCE

Said of Author in Complaint She "Couldn't Stand Him Any Longer."

A decree of divorce from George Randolph Chester, the author, was granted yesterday by Supreme Court Justice Delany to Elizabeth M. Chester, whom he married July 25, 1895, at Davenport, Ia. Mrs. Chester receives the custody of her children George R., Jr., aged 14 years, and Robert Fay Chester, aged 7 years, together with \$1,620 annually for her own support, and \$2,400 a year for the support of the children until they reach the age of 25 years.

Justice Delany granted the decree on evidence that Chester had been living from Feb. 1 of this year into June at the Gainsborough Studios where Lillian Derimo was known as his wife. Mrs. Chester told the court that she left her husband in January at the Hotel Van Cortlandt and went to the Hotel Albe-Marle, "because I could not stand him any longer." She testified he had assigned to her his interest in George M. Cohan's dramatization of his short stories about "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford."

On her wedding certificate, which was put in evidence, appeared several verses of which these were two:

They were so one it never could be said
Which of them ruled or which of them obeyed;
Between them there's never a dispute
Save which the other's will should execute.

The decree granted yesterday was an interlocutory judgment, which must be presented later for the entry of a final decree.

"CHIROPRACTIC" HELD

Dueringer "Cracked" the Neck of a Woman Detective.

Heinrich Dueringer, who calls himself a "chiropractic," was held yesterday for Special Sessions by Magistrate Herrman in the West Side Court, where he was arraigned charged with practicing medicine without a license.

Mrs. Frances Benzecry, an agent of the Medical Society, declared that she visited, on Aug. 9 and 10, Dueringer's office in the Thoroughfare Building, Broadway and Fifty-seventh Street, which she found so crowded with women awaiting treatment that she had to wait a full hour for her turn. Dueringer, she says, instructed an attendant to show her how to "prepare for treatment," and the attendant fitted upon her a kimono, open at the back to permit of free manipulation of the spine. Finally Dueringer entered the room.

"Don't say a word," Mrs. Benzecry said he commanded. "Let me do the diagnosing, but if it hurts you, cry out." Then, she said, he pressed up and down her spine, told her that one of the vertebrae needed readjustment, that she was very susceptible to colds and was suffering with asthma and hay fever. He added, according to Mrs. Benzecry, treatments to effect a cure would cost \$10. She says she paid \$1 for the first treatment, and received a "treatment card" describing Dueringer's practice thus:

It is the only method of healing which actually locates the cause of the sickness and removes same. It is not faith cure, Christian Science, magnetism, osteopathy, massage, or anything else but chiropractic.

Whatever it was, a second dose of it, Mrs. Benzecry said cost her \$2 the next day. When she complained of a pain in her neck thereafter, she says, Dueringer manipulated that until he "cracked" it.

Dueringer's attorney contended that his client's treatment did not constitute practicing medicine, but counsel for the society insisted that it did, and Magistrate Herrman agreed with him.

FACTORY FIRETRAPS FOUND BY HUNDREDS

Chief Kenlon Has a List of "Sev- eral Hundred" Where Thou- sands of Lives Are in Peril.

NO ACTION ON HIS REPORTS

Authorities Have No Power to Enforce the Law—Cases 7 Years in Court —Commission's Inquiry Adjourns.

There are hundreds of factories in New York City where another such fire may occur as the one that occurred in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and cost 143 lives, according to the testimony of Fire Chief John Kenlon at the hearing of the State Factory Investigating Commission at the City Hall yesterday. Thousands of employes in these factories are in constant danger, the Chief declared, and but for fear of throwing them into a panic he would make public the addresses of each and all the firetraps his investigators have discovered. He volunteered, however, to give the addresses—numbering between 200 and 300—to the commission privately.

The Fire Chief declared that the investigation was entirely voluntary and gratuitous on the part of himself and his men, and though each case of violations of law had been reported by him to the various State and City Departments having authority, no remedial action, so far as he knows, has been taken by them, nor have his communications reporting the violations been even so much as acknowledged.

Supt. Rudolph Miller of the Bureau of Buildings in Manhattan declared that his department had no means of knowing beforehand the number of occupants of buildings whose plans it approves, or the adequacy of fire escapes to accommodate them. No inspection is made of the finished buildings by his bureau, he said, except on complaints.

"At present we can order additional exits put in," he said, "but have no power to enforce the order except by civil suit to procure the penalty, and a second suit to enforce compliance with our order. This is a lengthy proceeding. We have some cases pending since 1904."

"Seven years," interrupted Abram L. Elkus, counsel for the commission. "And in the meantime the buildings could have burned down four or five times."

Power Needed to Enforce Orders.

"Yes," replied Mr. Miller. "The bureau should have summary powers to vacate the building when its orders are not complied with. We have now about 2,500 cases of violations or rules concerning fire escapes and sufficient exits, in the Borough of Manhattan alone. Owners are willing to take their chances with such a long waiting list. When the case finally does come to trial they simply say they have complied with the order and have the case thrown out of court. The prosecution is in most cases practically a farce."

Mr. Miller said he had not asked the Corporation Counsel why the cases pending are not pushed for trial. Most of the 2,500 cases, he said, resulted from the thousands of complaints sent into his office by employes after the Triangle factory fire.

Another source of danger, he said, lies in the laxness of the present law, which allows an employer to put his employes into a building that is not yet finished and not yet equipped with fire escapes. The fault of the law, he admitted, seems to be that it divides jurisdiction and responsibility among too many departments instead of centralizing it in one. But he was unwilling to say he favored putting the responsibility on his bureau alone.

The Building Department, he said, is intrusted with the inspection of elevators—but only passenger elevators, not freight elevators, unless complaint is made to the bureau.

"Freight elevators are generally used by employes," he admitted, "but there is a card on them as a rule warning those who ride in them that they assume all risks and responsibility in doing so."

"That card is put there by employers to escape damage suits, is it not?" asked Mr. Elkus. Mr. Miller said he thought that might be the purpose.

"Isn't it true that practically not a single factory building in the city has adequate fire exit facilities?" asked Miss Mary Drier, one of the Commissioners.

"I should not like to say no building," replied Mr. Miller, "but I think most of them ought to have additional facilities."

Chief Kenlon testified that he had found a general carelessness about rubbish in factory buildings and the equipment of fire escapes.

Reported 2,000 Negligent Owners.

"From Aug. 18 to Oct. 11 we have reported to the various departments concerned 1,022 violations of the building law; 627 of Charter provisions; 421 of the labor law; 20 of the tenement house law, and 2 of the sanitary laws," he said, "making a total of 2,081 violations in less than two months, or about 40 a day. I have no means of knowing if these violations have been remedied. The inspection carried on by the Fire Department was purely voluntary and an act of courtesy on our part. It was not required of us by law."

Q.—And you don't know whether the slightest attention has been paid to these facts which you laid before the departments? A.—I couldn't say.

Q.—And in many of the cases, Chief, they required immediate action in order to preserve life in case of fire? A.—That is right.

Q.—Is it likely that from the conditions as you found them there might be a repetition of this so-called Triangle fire at any minute? A.—At any minute.

Q.—With the same result in loss of life? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—And that is because the violations of law are not being attended to? A.—Well, it is because the conditions have not been improved, yes.

Q.—That is to say it might occur because there are inadequate fire escapes or means of egress, or rubbish on the floors, or because the doors are locked or open the wrong way? A.—Yes.

Mr. Kenlon expressed little confidence in outside fire escapes, favoring instead ample and well-protected stairs or stairs inclosed in a fire tower shut off, except for fire-doors, from the rest of the building. He favored strongly, too, the compulsory installation of automatic sprinklers.

"The automatic sprinkler sends in its own alarm without panic," he said, "and starts extinguishing the fire or at least holds it until the firemen come. If there had been sprinklers in the Triangle building, I honestly believe not a single life would have been lost."

Q.—And how much would it have cost to put sprinklers in? A.—Well, not more than \$5,000.

Q.—And \$5,000 would have saved 143 lives, not to speak of property? A.—Yes.

Q.—It has been requested that you give the addresses of some of the buildings where another Triangle factory fire is likely to occur. A.—I can give them to the commission privately, but I think it unwise to scare 2,000 or 3,000 girls again.

Q.—You think it might scare 2,000 or 3,000 persons? A.—Yes.

Hundreds of Shops Like Triangle.

Chief Kenlon added that the addresses he would provide are of a number of buildings, not one—"several hundred, two or three hundred."

Robert D. Kohn urged the commission to report in favor of a State Building Code, not as a substitute for local building codes, but as a basic code for them to supplement in details. He said the National Board of Fire Underwriters favored such a State code.

Commissioner John Williams of the State Labor Department said his department had now a directory of manufacturers, and suggested compulsory registration of manufacturers under penalty of heavy fine.

G. I. Harmon, the Inspector of the State Labor Department who last inspected the Triangle factory about a month before the fire, was next called. He could not tell just how many buildings or factories he had been assigned to inspect at that time, because, he said, his books were at home, where he was allowed to keep them by the Department of Labor. But he

thought he had inspected the factories in nine blocks in about two months. His inspection of the Triangle factory's three lofts, he said, took about an hour and a half or two hours.

He admitted that before he entered the factory itself he entered the office and told what was his mission, and that those in charge had ample time to clear up the factory and remedy conditions before he made the inspection. He found only a lack of proper dressing room facilities for the girls, and doors that opened inward, but which he reported would otherwise cause an obstacle in the hall were they to open otherwise.

Q.—You know that if the doors had opened outward there would not have been that loss of life? A.—Yes.

Q.—And didn't you find the space leading to the Washington Street stairs between the wall and the ends of the tables—only eighteen inches—inadequate? A.—Inadequate? That depends on whether the employes were in a hurry or not.

Q.—Of course they would be in a hurry in a fire, but you did not report that. A.—No.

Harmon looked greatly distressed as he spoke.

Fire Commissioner Without Power.

Fire Commissioner Johnson said he could not tell whether his office had received answers to the communications sent by Chief Kenlon to the State Labor Department, that coming under the routine of his office.

"If they had been received, however," he said, "the Chief would have got them ultimately, because the Bureau of Violations comes under his charge."

The Commissioner asked for a special fire prevention bureau, which, he said, was practically denied him by the Budget Committee.

The commission will hold a short session this morning, and thereafter meet in Troy on Oct. 28. Later hearings will be conducted in Albany, and in November the commission will sit again here.

ARSON A COMMON OFFENSE

But ex-Chief Croker Observes That Convictions Are Infrequent.

Ex-Fire Chief Edward Croker, President of the National Fire Prevention and Engineering Company, in his offices in the Thorley Building, 562 Fifth Avenue, talked to a TIMES reporter yesterday about his testimony before the New York State Factory Investigating Committee last Tuesday, where he charged that oil was often placed in fire extinguishers with criminal intent.

There are oil paintings and photographs of all kinds of fires as well as hero medals for service on the walls about the office now occupied by the ex-Fire Chief. The ex-Chief sat smoking yesterday, as usual, among these favorite reminders of his recent past.

"I said the other day," said he, "in answer to a question which was put to me on the stand, that there are some people who like fires. I said that I knew of chemicals in hand grenades being removed and the vessels being filled with oil, so that when used the supposed extinguishers would help the blaze along."

"I mean what I said. I could say more, but we are not using any names just now. I have no cases before me at present, but if ever I run across any more of them I will be only too glad to hand them over to the proper authorities."

"We have had only one conviction for that kind of offense in New York as far as I can remember. That was in connection with a shirt-waist factory fire in Walker Street three or four years ago. A man went to prison for forty years for it."

"But there have been a great many more cases just like that one, except there was no conviction. You can't convict without the proof. Evidence is easy to get, but proof is another thing. The Fire Marshals can easily size up a criminal deal of that kind. The smell of oil and a burned up fire extinguisher! What more do you want? But that doesn't send a man to jail."

"In general, a fellow who burns up houses by putting oil in his extinguishers does it under a systematic plan. He leases fifteen or twenty flats or apartments in tenement buildings requiring fire extinguishers, all under different names, of course. He buys about \$300 worth of furniture, takes out \$1,500 to \$2,000 insurance, and then has a series of fire. Figure it out, it's a paying investment. They caught a man in Chicago the other day. I see by the newspapers, who used this system and who admits clearing \$2,000,000 on the game."

FIRE TOOK 497 LIVES IN THE YEAR 1911

Far Above the Record of the Year
 Before, Owing to the Tri-
 angle Factory Disaster.

DOING PREVENTION WORK

Committee of Safety Reported 74
 Buildings and Forced 71 to Comply
 with the Law—Dangers Still Lurking.

In the year 1911 there were 497 deaths from burning in Greater New York, according to statistics which have been compiled by the Committee on Safety. This number compares with only 329 deaths from the same cause during the preceding year.

Included in this total are 198 deaths from conflagrations and of this number 147 persons were killed in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory disaster which oc-

Causes.	MANHATTAN.				BRONX.				BROOKLYN.				QUEENS.				RICHMOND.				TOTALS.						
	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11	'08	'09	'10	'11			
Conflagrations	60	40	38	165	..	3	..	3	26	32	20	28	1	3	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	87	79	61	198
Stoves	25	31	30	37	8	6	5	15	31	27	28	28	2	2	4	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	67	67	84
Lamps	5	2	4	6	2	1	1	1	11	7	2	2	1	..	..	3	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	20	11	9
Playing with matches	20	10	33	19	6	1	3	3	13	27	17	13	1	1	1	6	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	40	40	55
Miscellaneous	22	35	35	21	11	13	14	16	28	34	34	18	12	8	8	8	6	4	5	1	..	..	..	..	79	94	96
Not specified	30	61	31	43	..	..	..	2	7	12	7	43	5	6	3	3	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	44	69	41
Totals	162	169	171	291	27	24	23	40	116	139	108	137	22	20	19	25	10	8	8	4	..	..	..	..	337	360	329

curred in the Asch Building in Washington Place on March 25.

The other deaths which make up the appalling total of 497 occurred in minor blazes, small tenement house fires and from such causes as lamps, stoves and playing with matches, etc. This preventable waste of human life is at the rate of more than one death a day.

Usually after fires which result in a shocking loss of life there is a cry for more stringent measures of protection. But, after the first shudder the matter of future protection is usually forgotten. New York City has proven the one striking exception to this rule. Since the Asch disaster last March continued effort has been made in the interest of fire prevention and safety. State and city authorities and various philanthropic organizations have been working hand in hand to relieve the hazardous conditions which exist throughout the city.

For this purpose the Committee on Safety of the City of New York was organized by public-spirited citizens with the object of undertaking the difficult

task of conserving the lives and health of working people, and improving the conditions of factory buildings so as to render impossible the repetition of such a disaster as occurred last March.

After many months of effort a measure was drawn up under the direction of the Committee of Safety, in co-operation with members of the Legislature and representatives of the city government, creating the Bureau of Fire Prevention as an adjunct to the New York City Fire Department. This Bill was passed by the Legislature and the Bureau is now in actual operation. Although handicapped by an inadequate money appropriation the Bureau is doing material work.

More legislation in the interest of safety is to be urged by the Committee during the present session at Albany. The recent trial and acquittal of the proprietors of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory has demonstrated the need of an amendment to the present law which will definitely fix the responsibility for such horrors upon those persons who maintain fire-traps and who are directly responsible, through wilful and criminal negligence. Such an amendment will be urged at the present session of the Legislature.

Another important matter requiring the

immediate attention of the Legislature is an amendment to the present fire prevention law which will make more effective the enforcement of that law and which eliminate conflict between the various State and city departments.

The Committee on Safety made during 1911 a preliminary investigation of 450 buildings, housing more than 1600 factories, disclosing widespread violations of existing laws. Formal complaint of 74 buildings containing the most flagrant violations was made to both State and city authorities. Inspectors for the Committee discovered that more than 22,000 working people were employed in these buildings. As a result of the investigation corrective action has been compelled in 71 of these buildings. Inspection work will be continued with greater vigor during 1912 and unless the owners of unsafe buildings take immediate steps to obey the requirements of the authorities, the Committee on Safety will institute legal action through the proper channels.

Despite the progress made during the past eight months the cold hard fact remains that New York City still presents the greatest conflagration hazard in the world. In the congested value district of Manhattan, the type and occupancy of the buildings, the mutual exposures, taken in combination with the enormous values involved, make such an alarming situation that constant watchfulness day and night is necessary.

GARMENT WORKERS THREATEN BIG STRIKE

Five Thousand Women Applaud Demands of Their Leaders at Two Meetings.

MORE PAY, SHORTER HOURS

If Their Proposition Is Not Accepted by Manufacturers, Speakers Frankly Predict a Strike Here.

At two great mass meetings held last night, one in Carnegie Hall and the other in Cooper Union, 5,000 persons, most of them young girls, and all said to be members of unions affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, indorsed a new form of contract which is to be submitted to every manufacturer of women's waists and dresses in New York.

This contract, in the language of Alexander Bloch, who presided at the Carnegie Hall meeting, is a demand for shorter hours, higher wages, and safe and sanitary workshops. In the event that the demands are not met, the speakers frankly stated that another shirtwaist strike, which would be better organized than the last one, and which they said would be fought to the finish, would be the outcome, and that the leader of that strike would probably be Miss Josephine Casey, one of the Western organizers of the Union, who led the recent woman garment makers' strike in Cleveland, Ohio.

The speakers at both meetings were the same. As soon as one speaker finished talking to one audience, he would hurry to the other place and repeat his remarks. The Triangle fire, in which 147 persons lost their lives, was often referred to by the speakers. Some of the speeches were in Yiddish, a few were in Italian, and several in English. All the speakers got noisy receptions and were applauded loud and long when some particularly appealing criticism was made in regard to the manufacturers.

Whether or not there is to be another strike depends on the attitude of the manufacturers toward the demands that are to be submitted. These cover several typewritten pages, demand an iron-clad recognition of the union, and call for the privilege of inspection by union officials of all factories, and a working week of fifty hours.

A weekly wage of \$25 is asked for cutters, of not less than \$15 for sample makers and tuckers, of not less than \$14 for drapers, sleeve setters, and pressers, of \$12 for buttonhole makers and lace runners, \$10 for button sewers, \$12 or \$8 for finishers of the good and cheap blinets respectively, \$6 for cleaners and lace cutters, and corresponding increases in the wages of others in the women's dress and costume trades.

Want a Nine-Hour Day.

The workdays are required to be nine hours for the first five weekdays and five hours on Saturdays, and no worker is to do any overtime of more than two hours on any day of the week, and for this work double the union rate must be paid. Also, a duly accredited representative of the union must have access to all factories for purposes of inspection, but the union agrees that his visits will be such as not to interfere with the workers. When extra labor is required, and the union is unable to supply it, the employers may go outside of the union to get the extra help, but this extra help must join the union within a week after being employed. There is also a clause calling for arbitration of disputes.

"Our purpose in being here to-night," said Alexander Bloch in opening the Carnegie Hall meeting, "is not to vote on a strike, but to submit for your indorse-

ment the demands that are to be made on your employers.

"In a nutshell, these demands call for higher wages, shorter hours, and safer and more sanitary workshops. At a later date, in the event these demands are not agreed to, a strike shall be called in the ladies' dress and costume trades, and you will be expected to answer that call at a moment's notice if necessary."

Meyer London followed Bloch. He referred to the industry as one "in which slaves are employed" and in which "the old principle of slave-driving still exists."

"If you fail to demand better conditions after that terrible Triangle fire," exclaimed London, "you don't deserve to be called men and women. You are fine strikers, but you are rotten union men and women. You have been going at your employers with silk gloves, but if you want to succeed you will have to use more force than that. What does a strike mean? It means to strike a blow."

London spoke for nearly three-quarters of an hour, and the crowd cheered him to the echo. When he sat down it was to give Abraham Flegenbaum a chance to speak, and when Flegenbaum stopped Miss Casey made her speech. Her speech was so conservative that it sounded strange after the talks of London and Flegenbaum.

Woman Advises Arbitration.

"I was sorry to see you applaud what Mr. London said about you being good strikers, but poor union people," Miss Casey said, "and I think it would have been more appropriate had you hung your heads in shame. Now, I don't want you to do anything rash, or anything that looks like the act of a bully. Do not let anybody get you to vote for a strike to-night. The only people who benefit by a strike are the detectives. I don't want a fight for I know what suffering is."

"Let us try arbitration. We must be square, and this is a big thing, and we must go at it in a big, generous way. You know what happens to bullies. We must meet the employer who is square in a just and generous spirit, and act accordingly, but if in the end it should be necessary to call you to the fight, why, we will expect you to answer just as the regiments do in war, but we must be careful not to act with undue haste."

The demands were read after Miss Casey finished speaking. There was some discussion of them by those in the audience but with a single exception all the questions asked were friendly. The one exception wanted to know what the assistant cutters would get under the new schedule. He sat down when Bloch told him there was no such job as that of assistant cutter. Assistants, he explained, were apprentices.

At the Cooper Union meeting Albert Abrahams, presided. In the course of the speech there of Jacob Panken, one of the women in the hall became hysterical when Panken referred to the Triangle fire and fainted. One of the speakers also referred to Mrs. Belmont in such a way as to cause a protest from a man in the audience and the applause that followed the protest showed that Mrs. Belmont's friends were in the majority.

As at Carnegie Hall the demands were unanimously approved.

MANY LEAP, ONE DIES, AT FIRE

Conditions of Triangle Disaster Reproduced in Bowery Blaze.

A repetition, on a much smaller scale, of the Triangle shirtwaist factory fire occurred yesterday at noon in the five-story factory building in the rear of 21 Bowery. More than 100 men and women were trapped in the burning building, and twenty-five of them were forced to jump for their lives. One man was killed and several were injured.

The brick building in which the fire started is inclosed entirely by other brick structures on all sides. It is in the centre of the block, bounded by the Bowery and Chrystie Street on the west and east, and by Bayard and Division Streets on the north and south. No part of the building can be seen from any of these streets, and the only means of entrance is through a hallway leading from the Homestead Hotel, a lodging house at 19 Bowery. This hallway leads directly to the one and only entrance and exit door of the building. In the neighborhood this building had always been regarded as a fltetrap. There had been three fires in the building in the last ten years, it was said, but no lives had been lost, though the building had absolutely no fire escapes.

After the Triangle disaster, however, the Building Department insisted on the building of two fire escapes, on the Division Street and Bayard Street sides. Had it not been for these many lives would have been lost.

The first floor of the building was occupied by J. Rothman, a manufacturer of tables. Abe Jablowsky, a shirtwaist maker, had quarters on the second floor. Above him, on the third floor, and extending to the roof there were the establishments of Harris Lapizes and Steier & Co., manufacturers of trousers. The fire started on the third floor with the explosion of a gas engine just after 100 girl workers had filed out for luncheon. But above and below 100 more men and women were busy at their various occupations. When the alarm was given those below the third floor fled through the single exit on the ground floor. Those above were cut off by the smoke and made for the north and south fire escapes.

Smoke prevented escape by the north fire escape, however, and 100 persons crowded on the narrow escape on the south. The early arrivals climbed safely down the iron ladder which leads to the backyard of 22 Division Street. The others, about twenty-five in number, had to depend on the ladder which leads to the rear yard of 26 Division Street.

This ladder, it proved, was useless. It had apparently rusted to the framework and hung down in front of a ground-floor window from which smoke was pouring. Those who tried this means of escape had to retire to the first landing of the narrow fire-escape.

The rear yard of 26 Division Street is about 12 by 12 feet in dimension and is surrounded by a ten-foot wooden fence. In the corner of the fence is a twenty-foot poplar sapling. The yard leads to the tailor shop of M. S. Scheimman. Mr. Scheimman, with his brother, Charles, and his two clerks, Frank Wellman and

Charles Stein, had rushed into the back yard to help those trying to make their escape by this rear yard. They soon had their hands full.

Mr. Scheimman and his assistants got a step ladder from the store, but it reached only half way to the crowding men and women. Then they got a carpet and stretched it out for a fire-net.

"Jump!" they shouted.

A man darted through the air from the fourth or fifth story, cleared the branching poplar tree, and missed the improvised net by many feet. He dashed, head foremost, on the cement pavement and was killed instantly.

Within a moment men and women were jumping in groups, and the men below ran for their own lives, dropping the carpet as they ran. The first man landed on a clothesline and his fall was broken. The others jumped straight into the poplar tree, and the bending green branches stood the test well. Those who were fortunate enough to land on the four-foot patch of grass which bordered the wooden fence were not even injured. But many fell on the cement pavement and were injured.

One elderly woman made a successful leap to safety, but her skirts caught in the sapling and she could not extricate herself. She became hysterical, and when one of the store clerks tried to help her she bit him in the thumb. She struggled until a large part of her skirt gave away.