

The Call=Chronicle=Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1906.

EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE: SAN FRANCISCO IN RUINS

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION HAVE BEEN THE FATE OF SAN FRANCISCO. SHAKEN BY A TEBLOR AT 5:13 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY MORNING, THE SHOCK LASTING 48 SECONDS, AND SCOURGED BY FLAMES THAT RAGED DIAMETRICALLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS, THE CITY IS A MASS OF SMOULDERING RUINS. AT SIX O'CLOCK LAST EVENING THE FLAMES SEEMINGLY PLAYING WITH INCREASED VIGOR, THREATENED TO DESTROY SUCH SECTIONS AS THEIR FURY HAD SPARED DURING THE EARLIER PORTION OF THE DAY. BUILDING THEIR PATH IN A TRIANGULAR CIRCUIT FROM THE START IN THE EARLY MORNING, THEY JOCKEYED AS THE DAY WANED, LEFT THE BUSINESS SECTION, WHICH THEY HAD ENTIRELY DEVASTATED, AND SKIPPED IN A DOZEN DIRECTIONS TO THE RESIDENCE PORTIONS. AS NIGHT FELL THEY HAD MADE THEIR WAY OVER INTO THE NORTH BEACH SECTION AND SPRINGING ANEW TO THE SOUTH THEY REACHED OUT ALONG THE SHIPPING SECTION DOWN THE BAY SHORE, OVER THE HILLS AND ACROSS TOWARD THIRD AND TOWNSEND STREETS. WAREHOUSES, WHOLESALE HOUSES AND MANUFACTURING CONCERNS FELL IN THEIR PATH. THIS COMPLETED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE DISTRICT KNOWN AS THE "SOUTH OF MARKET STREET." HOW FAR THEY ARE REACHING TO THE SOUTH ACROSS THE CHANNEL CANNOT BE TOLD AS THIS PART OF THE CITY IS SHUT OFF FROM SAN FRANCISCO PAPERS.

AFTER DARKNESS, THOUSANDS OF THE HOMELESS WERE MAKING THEIR WAY WITH THEIR BLANKETS AND SCANT PROVISIONS TO GOLDEN GATE PARK AND THE BEACH TO FIND SHELTER. THOSE IN THE HOMES ON THE HILLS JUST NORTH OF THE HAYES VALLEY WRECKED SECTION PILED THEIR BELONGINGS IN THE STREETS AND EXPRESS WAGONS AND AUTOMOBILES WERE HAULING THE THINGS AWAY TO THE SPARSELY SETTLED REGIONS. EVERYBODY IN SAN FRANCISCO IS PREPARED TO LEAVE THE CITY, FOR THE BELIEF IS FIRM THAT SAN FRANCISCO WILL BE TOTALLY DESTROYED.

DOWNTOWN EVERYTHING IS RUIN. NOT A BUSINESS HOUSE STANDS. THEATRES ARE CRUMBLING INTO HEAPS. FACTORIES AND COMMISSION HOUSES LIE SMOULDERING ON THEIR FORMER SITES. ALL OF THE NEWSPAPER PLANTS HAVE BEEN RENDERED USELESS, THE "CALL" AND THE "EXAMINER" BUILDINGS, EXCLUDING THE "CALL'S" EDITORIAL ROOMS ON STEVENSON STREET BEING ENTIRELY DESTROYED.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE LOSS IN SAN FRANCISCO WILL REACH FROM \$150,000,000 TO \$200,000,000. THESE FIGURES ARE IN THE ROUGH AND NOTHING CAN BE TOLD UNTIL PARTIAL ACCOUNTING IS TAKEN.

ON EVERY SIDE THERE WAS DEATH AND SUFFERING YESTERDAY. HUNDREDS WERE INJURED, EITHER BURNED, CRUSHED OR STRUCK BY FALLING PIECES FROM THE BUILDINGS, AND ONE OF TEN DIED WHILE ON THE OPERATING TABLE AT MECHANICS' PAVILION, IMPROVISED AS A HOSPITAL FOR THE COMFORT AND CARE OF TWO OF THE INJURED. THE NUMBER OF DEAD IS NOT KNOWN BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 500 MET THEIR DEATH IN THE HORROR.

AT NINE O'CLOCK, UNDER A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, THE CITY WAS PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW. HUNDREDS OF TROOPS PATROLLED THE STREETS AND DROVE THE CROWDS BACK, WHILE HUNDREDS MORE WERE SET AT WORK ASSISTING THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS. THE STRICTEST ORDERS WERE ISSUED, AND IN TRUE MILITARY SPIRIT THE SOLDIERS OBEYED. DURING THE AFTERNOON THREE THIEVES MET THEIR DEATH BY RIFLE BULLETS WHILE AT WORK IN THE RUINS. THE CURIOUS WERE DRIVEN BACK AT THE BREASTS OF THE HORSES THAT THE CAVALRYMEN RODE AND ALL THE CROWDS WERE FORCED FROM THE LEVEL DISTRICT TO THE HILLY SECTION BEYOND TO THE NORTH.

THE WATER SUPPLY WAS ENTIRELY CUT OFF, AND MAY BE IT WAS JUST AS WELL, FOR THE LINES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY USELESS AT ANY STAGE. ASSISTANT CHIEF DOUGHERTY SUPERVISED THE WORK OF HIS MEN AND EARLY IN THE MORNING IT WAS SEEN THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE CHANCE TO SAVE THE CITY LAY IN EFFORT TO CHECK THE FLAMES BY THE USE OF DYNAMITE. DURING THE DAY A BLAST COULD BE HEARD IN ANY SECTION AT INTERVALS OF ONLY A FEW MINUTES, AND BUILDINGS NOT DESTROYED BY FIRE WERE BLOWN TO ATOMS. BUT THROUGH THE GAPS MADE THE FLAMES JUMPED AND ALTHOUGH THE FAILURES OF THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THE POLICE FIREMEN AND SOLDIERS WERE AT TIMES SICKENING, THE WORK WAS CONTINUED WITH A DESPERATION THAT WILL LIVE AS ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE TERRIBLE DISASTER. MEN WORKED LIKE FIENDS TO COMBAT THE LAUGHING, ROARING, ONRUSHING FIRE DEMON.

NO HOPE LEFT FOR SAFETY OF ANY BUILDINGS

San Francisco seems doomed to entire destruction. With a lapse in the raging of the flames just before dark, the hope was raised that with the use of the tons of dynamite the course of the fire might be checked and confined to the triangular sections it had cut out for its path. But on the Barbary Coast the fire broke out anew and as night closed in the flames were eating their way into parts untouched in their ravages during the day. To the south and the north they spread; down to the docks and out into the resident section, in and to the north of Hayes Valley. By six o'clock practically all of St. Ignatius' great buildings were no more. They had been leveled to the fiery heap that marked what was once the metropolis of the West.

The first of the big structures to go to ruin was the Call Building, the famous skyscraper. At eleven o'clock the big 18-story building was a furnace. Flames leaped from every window and shot skyward from the circular windows in the dome. In less than two hours nothing remained but the tall skeleton.

By five o'clock the Palace Hotel was in ruins. The old hostelry, famous the world over, withstood the siege until the last and although dynamite was used in frequent blasts to drive

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BLOW BUILDINGS UP TO CHECK FLAMES

The dynamiting of buildings in the track of the fire, to stay the progress of the flames, was in charge of John Bermingham, Jr., superintendent of the California Powder Works. Several experienced men from the powder works, assisted by policemen and members of the fire department, did the hazardous work of blowing up the buildings. They were razed in sets of threes, but the open spaces where the shattered buildings fell were quickly turned into holocausts of flame. The work was most effective in the business blocks east of Kearny street.

WHOLE CITY IS ABLAZE

At 10 o'clock last night the Occidental Hotel was destroyed by the flames which swept unheeded across Montgomery street and attacked the block bounded by Montgomery, Sutter, Bush and Kearny. The new Merchants' Exchange building was a mass of flames from basement to tower.

The Union Trust building and Crocker-Walworth Bank were both ablaze and the Chronicle building and other buildings in that block were threatened by the flames.

Shortly after 10 o'clock the fire had eaten its way southward from Portsmouth Square to Kearny and California streets. The entire section fronting the west side of Kearny street seemed doomed.

All the building adjoining the Hall of Justice were ablaze and the firemen were striving to save the structure by using dynamite. It is almost a certainty that every building contained in the section bounded by Clay, Kearny, Market and East streets will be consumed.

The flames had eaten their way westward in the residence section as far as Gough street. There, by dynamiting blocks after blocks, the firemen succeeded in checking the devouring element.

CHURCH OF SAINT IGNATIUS IS DESTROYED

The magnificent church and College of St. Ignatius, on the northwest corner of Van Ness avenue and Hayes street represents in its destruction a material loss of over \$1,000,000. The actual cost of the great building was over \$800,000, but during the years which have elapsed since its erection the church has been enriched by paintings and frescoes, which were priceless. Some of them were works of art which can never be replaced, however willing those interested in the church might be to meet any expense in the effort.

MAYOR CONFERS WITH MILITARY AND CITIZENS

At 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon 50 representative citizens of San Francisco met the Mayor, the Chief of Police and the United States Military authorities in the police office in the basement of the Hall of Justice. They had been summoned thither by Mayor Schmitz early in the forenoon, the fearful possibilities of the situation having forced themselves upon him immediately after the shock of earthquake in the morning, and the news which at once reached him of the completeness of the disaster. He lost no time in making out a list of citizens from whom to seek advice and assistance, and in summoning them to the conference. It was called at the Hall of Justice, as virtually the first news which reached the Mayor regarding the extent of the disaster was that of the ruin of the City Hall. He did not realize that even while the conference was to be going on cornices would be crashing down and windows falling in fragments in the Hall of Justice also, and that before sunset desperate efforts would be made to blow the structure up in the vain endeavor by this means to check the advance of the flames in the northern section of the downtown district.

All, or nearly all of the citizens summoned to the conference

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AT LEAST 500 ARE DEAD

NO HOPE LEFT FOR SAFETY OF ANY BUILDINGS

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the fire away from the swept section toward Mission street, they made their way to the point of the hotel until the old place began to crumble away in the blaze.

The City Hall is a complete wreck. The entire part of the building from Larkin street down City Hall avenue to Leavenworth, down from top of dome to the steps is ruined. The colossal pillars supporting the arches at the entrance fell into the avenue far out across the car tracks and the thousands of tons of bricks and debris that followed them piled into a mountainous heap. The west wing sagged and crumbled, caving into a shapeless mass. At the last every vestige of stone was swept away by the shock and the building laid bare nearly to its McAllister street side. Only a shell remained to the north, and the huge steel frame stood gaping until the fire that swept from the Hayes Valley set the debris ablaze and hid the structure in a cloud of smoke. Every document of the City government is destroyed. Nothing remains but a ghastly past of the once beautiful structure. It will be necessary to entirely rebuild the Hall.

Mechanics' Pavilion, covering an entire block, went before the flames in a quarter of an hour. The big wooden structure burned like tinder and in less time than it takes to write it was flat upon the ground.

The flames had come from the west, this time fanned by a lively wind. Down from Hayes Valley they swooped, destroying residences in entire rows, sending to cinders the business houses and leaping the gaps caused by the dynamiting of homes. They had stolen their way out from the Mission while a dense crowd blocked that street. So quickly did they make their way to the north of Market that their approach was not noticed. When it was realized that the danger had come to this particular residence section, the police and the cavalry drove the crowd back in haste to the north and out of harm's way. Down Hayes street playing the cross streets coming on like a demon, the fire swept over St. Ignacious Church, leveled barns and houses, and, as if accomplishing a purpose long desired, blazed down to the front of Mechanics' Pavilion. Only shortly before the patients in this crude hospital had been removed to other hospitals in outlying districts.

From the big shed the flames spread to the north, east, south and west, everywhere. Confusion reigned. Women fainted and men fought their way into the adjoining apartment houses to rescue something from destruction — anything, if only enough to cover their wives and their babies when the cold of the night came on. There was a scene that made big, brave men cry. There were the weeping tots in their mothers' arms weeping with fear of the awful calamity; salesmen and soldiers fighting to get the women out of harm's way through the crowd; heroic dashes in the ambulances and the patrol wagons after the sick and injured and willing men, powerless as the mouse in the clutches of the lion, ready to fight the destroyer, but driven back step by step while their homes went down before them.

It was when the terrible shock of the first big rumble was passing off, that San Franciscans, sent scurrying into the streets in their nightclothes, turned to the east and south and first saw the pillars of flame that have bred such wicked destruction.

Down in the wholesale district south of the cable and along through the section facing the city's front, the flames appeared. Fire shot into the air from every corner. Before the first alarm was sent in the fire was beyond control. The city was beyond saving from the time that the first blaze broke toward the heavens.

Gradually the flames stole along Mission and Howard streets, and then rapidly they made their way from building to building until Seventh street was reached. Out into the warehouse district bounded by Sansome on the west and the bay on the north and east they went and such structures as the Wellman Peck Building and the Tillman, Bendel building were made into whitened walls, left tottering in the breeze that was blowing. Everywhere were scenes of horror. People rushed frantically through

the streets, looking for missing relatives and rescue parties were formed to go into the burning blocks to save life. Here and there the grim-faced men dug out the unfortunates who had gone down into the shapeless piles of debris when the big shock came. Man fought to save man and many times did the sickened crowds turn away as they saw the rescuers driven back by the flames that reached down through the ruins to claim their victims.

Steadily the fire found its way into the uptown retail districts. From the south end east the south side of Market was attacked. One by one the familiar buildings went down. Levi Strauss and Company, Zellerbach and Company, Holbrook, Merrill and Stetson, Hicks-Judd Company, D. N. and E. Walters, W. W. Montagu, the Donohoe estate building, Uhl Brothers, the Bancroft Building,—all the places that have made the San Francisco business district. Everyone of them went. They can't be enumerated. The work of the fire demon was too complete to make that necessary. From Mission to Market and east to Ninth the many-storied structures were gutted. True, many of these places had crumbled when the earth shook, but evidence of this was removed in the path of the flames.

From Second to Third streets Market street held its own until late in the afternoon. The Call Building was ablaze, but the Examiner Building, the Palace Hotel, the Grand, and the other structures toward Second street stood. Two attempts were made to dynamite the new Monadnock Building when it was seen that the Hearst structure was doomed. And slowly came the blaze from Mission street just below Third, sweeping everything before it and igniting the Examiner Annex. Then the main building took fire and by two o'clock only the Third street wall was standing. Later the Palace took fire in the rear and the flames made quick progress to Market street. By five o'clock Colonel Kirkpatrick's famous hotel was no more. The Grand went at the same time, and in a few minutes the flames had Market street again. At Sansome they combined with the fire on the north side of the street but the changeable winds kept the fire back from the buildings extending from this point to Kearney street.

At seven o'clock the entire region lying just back of the Hall of Justice was on fire. The dynamite did no good. From the Fairmount Hotel now could be seen the gigantic semicircle of flame extending from the Mission at about Thirteenth street down through the entire southern end of the city proper, along the channel, over the hill, along the waterfront, through the wholesale district and over onto Barbary Coast.

At nine o'clock the Crocker-Woolworth Bank Building was on fire at the gore. Across from it is the railroad building and Masonic Temple. Only a row of small buildings separate it from the Chronicle Building.

Then the fire fighters prepared for the thing they hoped would not happen. It was certain that the fire would spread northward and join the inferno near the Hall of Justice. Dynamite was placed in the Hall of Justice to be sent into the air at the signal. The flames on lower Kearny street had gained the office buildings on the west side of the street. This means the doom of Chinatown. Thousands on thousands of Celestials scurried over Nob Hill to safety.

PARDEE ISSUES BUILDINGS ARE PROCLAMATION ALL RUINED

OAKLAND, April 18—Governor Pardee tonight issued a proclamation declaring tomorrow, Thursday, a legal holiday, and that all business be suspended throughout the State. This followed a conference held by the Governor with Mayor Mott, Lieutenant J. Anderson, of the Adjutant General's staff, and Judge Henry A. Melvin at the Mayor's office. Governor Pardee said he had sent Lieutenant Anderson to San Francisco to investigate conditions. The Governor came to Oakland as quickly as possible in order to be in touch at the nearest point with which he could keep in communication with San Francisco.

Fire Chief Nick Ball and Fire Warden MacDonald, are making a tour of the City of Oakland condemning all buildings damaged by the earthquake and left in a menacing condition. The tower of the First Baptist church has been ordered torn down, and other structures throughout the city have also been placed under the official ban.

EFFECTS HEROIC RESCUE

The disaster brought forth hundreds of heroic deeds. About the only persons in the awe when the tremor occurred were the mechanical workers of the newspapers, policemen and saloonmen. Among the heroes were Emile Dengel, foreman of "The Examiner" stereotyping department, and several of his men. After the first crash, and upon their escape from the building they were passing Krumm's cafe when they heard cries for help coming from beneath the debris of the place. Dengel rushed out to a passing hose cart, seized an axe, and with his great strength began chopping a hole through the structure to release its captive inmates.

A woman's voice kept saying from beneath the ruins, "I'm all right, hurry and get me out." The imprisoned people—Krumm, the proprietor, his wife and a waiter—were finally released, but none too soon for 20 minutes later flames consumed the fallen structure.

Later Dengel caught a vandal looting the body of a dead man, and upon Dengel seizing him the fellow turned and made a vicious cut at Dengel with a key-hole saw. He was finally overpowered and arrested by the police.

NEWSPAPER ROW IS GUTTED

The Examiner and Call buildings gave the inferno of flame that swept up from the district south of Market street a stubborn fight and prevented the fire from sweeping up Kearny street. The two buildings burned slowly, and held out for hours, only to be finally gutted.

When the Winchester Hotel crumbled into ruins at 11 o'clock the cafe in the top of the twenty-story Call building began spouting fire. At that time Market street as far as Seventh street was burning as a single block from the Bohemian Cafe. As the fire burned out in the top stories of the Call, it descended and turned the building into a fountain of flame.

At 12 o'clock the annex of the Hearst building took fire and a half an hour later the rear wall fell. Shortly afterwards the fire appeared through the frieze on the seventh floor, where the editorial rooms were located, but it was 3 o'clock before the windows of the lower floors began to belch flames.

The fire burned out gradually and the building remained standing, completely gutted. At 4 o'clock the ground floor of the Call building began to burn again with redoubled fury, but the building stood amid the surrounding ruins, a denuded frame of blackened stone.

MAYOR CONFERS WITH MILITARY

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responded. Among those promptly on hand were Hartley and Herbert Law, capitalists, the brothers Magee of Thomas Magee & Sons, real estate men; J. Downey Harvey, of the Ocean Shore Railway Company; ex-Mayor James D. Phelan, Garrett McEnerney, the prominent attorney; ex-Judge C. W. Slack, W. H. Leary, manager of the Tivoli Opera House; J. T. Howell, of Baldwin & Howell, real estate men; former City Attorney Franklin K. Lane, also many others.

No time was lost at the meeting, and almost the first words spoken by the Mayor breathed strongly of the grimness of the disaster and its accompaniments.

"Let it be given out," said the Mayor, sternly, "that three men have already been shot down without mercy for looting. Let it be also understood that the order has been given to all soldiers and policemen to do likewise without hesitation in the cases of any and all miscreants who may seek to take advantage of the city's awful misfortune. I will ask the Chief of Police and the representatives of the Federal military authorities here present if I do not echo their sentiments in this?"

The uniformed officials to whom the Mayor turned as he spoke signified their acquiescence, and Chief Dinan stated also he would undertake the distribution throughout the city of printed proclamations making public the order.

Then the Mayor told those present of what had already been done to lighten the effects of the disaster. For one thing he had secured 2400 tents which were already in process of erection in Jefferson Square, Golden Gate Park and on the Presidio grounds, for the accommodation of the homeless.

Garrett McEnerney, moved, and the large number of other prominent citizens present unanimously voted, that the Mayor be authorized to draw checks for any amount for the relief of the suffering, all of the gentlemen present pledging themselves to make such checks good. Ex-Mayor Phelan was appointed chairman of a Relief Finance Committee with full authority to select his associates.

The Mayor announced that orders had already been given forbidding the burning of either gas or electric currents, even where possible. During the fire citizens must get along with other light, as no chances could be taken of a renewed outbreak of flames. Police Chief Dinan stated that he had also instructed his men to announce all over the city that no fires were to be lighted in stoves or grates anywhere lest the chimneys should be defective as the result of the earthquake.

Then the statement was made that expressmen were charging \$30 a load to haul goods—a rate which was prohibitive to poor people. The announcement provoked great indignation, and an immediate order from Mayor Schmitz, in which Dinan heartily concurred.

"Tell your men," said the Mayor, "to seize the wagons of all such would-be extortionists, and make use of them for the public good. The question of recompense will be seen to later."

Then a further notice was ordered distributed as widely as possible throughout the city instructing all householders to remain at home at night for protection of their families and property during the continuance of the trouble and excitement.

It was at this point that the explosion of a heavy charge of dynamite used in blowing up a building a block away brought glass and cornice work in the Hall of Justice crashing down. At once W. H. Leary and J. Downey Harvey urged that the Mayor at least immediately remove from the building. "Your life is too valuable, Mayor," said Mr. Harvey, "at this dreadful juncture for any unnecessary risk to be taken."

To this all present concurred, and a few moments later an adjournment was taken to the center of Portsmouth Square, across Kearney street. There, in close and dangerous proximity to a great pile of dynamite, brought thither to be used for the necessary destruction of buildings, the Mayor and his officials continued for some time longer to discuss the situation. When they finally separated it was with the agreement to meet again this morning at 10 o'clock at the Fairmont.

ENTIRE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IN DANGER OF BEING ANNIHILATED

Big Business Buildings Already Consumed by Fire and Dynamite---30,000 Smaller Structures Swept Out and Remainder Are Doomed

PANIC-STRICKEN PEOPLE FLEE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—This city lies in smoldering ruins and total annihilation seems to be its fate. The magnificent business district lying between the water's edge and Tenth street and even still farther west is destroyed, and there is scarcely any hope of saving but a few of the magnificent skyscrapers that have been erected during the last ten years.

Thirty thousand houses were either partially or wholly destroyed by earthquake, and the subsequent fire which started in 100 different places simultaneously has swept the city from one end to the other. Hundreds of buildings are burning without any effort being made to check the fire. By tonight it is estimated that there will be 150,000 homeless people.

NUMBER OF DEAD.
The number of the dead cannot be roughly estimated. One hundred bodies about have been recovered, but hundreds perished miserably in the broken down wooden houses along the water front, in the Mission and along Market street.

Falling walls pinned many victims fast and they were compelled to suffer untold agonies while the fiery flames crept toward them. Some believe that the number of deaths will reach the appalling figure of 5000, but from the number of bodies thus far recovered the figure may be excessive.

PEOPLE IN PANIC.
The entire city presents a scene of indescribable confusion. The fire zone is so large that it takes two and one-half hours to go around it. Every automobile vehicle and wagon in the city was pressed into service as ambulances.

Mayor Schmidt appointed 3000 or more special policeman. It is estimated that aside from the regular fire department there were 25,000 fire-fighters. Marvelous deeds of heroism are reported on all sides.

There were many thrilling rescues. The deeds of valor performed by the firemen and police would fill a volume.

TURNED INTO HOSPITAL.
The Mechanics' Pavilion was early this morning turned into a hospital for the city injured, and a resting place for the unfortunate dead.

Every physician and nurse in the city volunteered their services. Shortly after noon the flames hedged the pavilion about and the injured and dead were removed in wagons, automobiles to the Presidio, the Children's Hospital and other hospitals which go to the front and assist the police in maintaining order.

of the fire and all the intervening streets are practically under martial law.

Mayor Schmitz to prevent disorder ordered all of the saloons closed. There were but few cases of theft reported.

The Call building is already destroyed utterly and it is probable that the Examiner building and the Chronicle building will also be destroyed.

The Emporium is reduced to ashes as is the Flood building. The magnificent new store of Hale Brothers was dynamited in an effort to stop the progress of the flames which burned with the same uncontrollable intensity that was manifested in the Baltimore fire.

CITY HALL GONE.
The City Hall is a grand mass of ruins. It is totally destroyed. The surrounding streets are choked with the debris. Several other buildings were destroyed as the huge building tottered to its destruction. In all 150 of San Francisco's best buildings have been destroyed and probably 20,000 others.

STOPS CLOCKS.
The earthquake which did such terrific damage occurred at 5:16 o'clock precisely. The clock on the dome of the Ferry building stopped precisely at that time. The Ferry building itself was cracked and split, but is still in a safe condition. Twenty or more wharves and the buildings on them collapsed utterly along the water front.

STEAMER SUNK.
The steamer San Pablo was struck and sunk by a huge girder which fell on it. How many lives were lost is not known.

Some of the crew are missing, but owing to the great confusion nothing definite could be ascertained. Another vessel is reported to have been sunk by the walls of a building falling on it.

The name of the vessel is not known. After the work of demolition had been accomplished by the earthquake fires in twenty places started up along the water front.

It is assumed that the twistings and turnings of the earth broke the electric wires and caused the fires to break out.

MANY ALARMS.
In twenty minutes' time alarms to the number of several hundred had been turned in.

The fire department responded, but the extent of the conflagration made the streams of water poured on them seem like toy streams.

On the water front the hose was connected with the bay and a fair showing made. Owing to the fact that the mains of the Spring Valley Water Company were

broken by the earthquake during the early progress of the fire nothing could be done to stay the hungry blaze.

BUILDINGS DYNAMITED.
More than 100 buildings were dynamited with hope that the fire could be kept within a certain district.

In the business district, at Sansome and Bush streets, the flames are supposed to be under control. Twenty buildings were dynamited in this district.

One of the particularly sad features of the catastrophe was the drowning of a score or more persons in the Mission. Apparently the earthquake was more violent at this point than anywhere else in the city. Depressions of ten feet were made.

MAINS BROKEN.
The mains of the Spring Valley were broken at this point and flooded the tenements. Many of the victims were pinned in the basements by falling walls and had no recourse but to await their fate by drowning.

750 ARE TREATED

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Up to half-past two this afternoon, more than 750 persons who were seriously injured by the earthquake and the fire, had been treated at the various hospitals throughout the city. The proportion of dead is not as large as it might be expected. Only twenty of those admitted to the hospitals have died since their admission.

DEAD IN STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The front of the Bailey and La Costa building on Clay near Montgomery fell in. Three men and seven horses were killed and were still lying there at 9 o'clock.

Captain Gleason of the Police Department was seriously injured at noon today by the falling of tiling.

BIG FIRE IN MISSION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—A great fire is raging in the Mission district and is utterly beyond control. Before night, it is estimated, that in this particular section of the city 50,000 persons will be homeless.

RESIDENCES BURNING

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—An intense fire broke out late this afternoon immediately west of the Mechanics' Pavilion, threatening to destroy one of the most thickly populated residence districts of the city. As there were no fire apparatus on hand the flames are raging unchecked.

RUINS 20 COMPANIES

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—From the present appearance of things, it is probable that twenty or more insurance companies will be ruined. The managers of the larger companies are of the opinion that they will be able to meet the losses. In any event all of the insurance companies doing business in this city have been hit a staggering blow, from the effects of which many will never recover.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The United States bonded warehouse where liquor is stored before the duties are collected is destroyed.

EMPORIUM IN RUINS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The Emporium is a mass of ruins, with nothing but the walls of this magnificent store standing. The buildings immediately adjoining it are doomed to destruction.

DYNAMITE BUILDINGS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon the firemen are dynamiting one of the most imposing structures on Market street. Buildings in the vicinity of the United States Mint and the United States Post-office were blown up in the hope that they would be saved. Both of them are in grave danger, and while standing the shock of the earthquake, will probably fall victims of the uncontrollable conflagration raging in that vicinity.

DOCTOR'S BRAVERY

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Dr. McGinty of the Central Emergency Hospital, while attempting to rescue some persons who had been buried by the falling wall, was himself pinned to the ground by additional debris that fell. He was rescued and insisted on resuming his duties of attending the wounded and injured.

FATEFUL BUILDING

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The scene at the Mechanics' pavilion during the early hours of the morning and up until noon, when all the injured and dead were removed, because of the threatened destruction of the building by fire, was one of indescribable sadness. Sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts searched eagerly for some missing dear ones. Thousands of persons hurriedly went through the building inspecting the cots on which the sufferers lay in the hope that they would locate some loved one that was missing.

The dead were placed in one portion of the building, and the remainder was devoted to hospital purposes. After the fire forced the nurses in positions to desert the building, the eager crowds followed them to the Presidio and Children's Hospital, where they renewed their search for missing relatives.

WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The buildings occupied by the San Francisco Post and the San Francisco Bulletin are threatened with fire and may be consumed. This will leave the city without a single daily newspaper.

DAMAGE A BILLION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Market street, which has been the pride of San Francisco since 1849, is simply one black mass of ruin. It is estimated that up to the present time, the fire and earthquake have done at least \$150,000,000 worth of damage to this thoroughfare alone. The damage to the entire city will probably aggregate \$1,000,000,000. There is, however, no accurate means whereby the loss can be ascertained.

THEATERS RUINED

All of San Francisco's best playhouses, including the Majestic, Columbia and Grand Opera House, are a mass of ruins. The earthquake demolished them for all practical purposes, and at the present time it appears the fire will complete the work of demolition. The Rialto and Casserly buildings were burned to the ground, as was everything in that district.

The Terminal Hotel at the foot of Market street fell this morning and buried twenty persons under the debris. These were incinerated, and there is no possibility of learning their identity.

NARROW ESCAPE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The stereotypers and pressmen of the Examiner and Call, as soon as the tumbler was felt, rushed out of their buildings and found that the coffee house at Stevenson and Third street had collapsed.

They immediately set to work with axes and anything in the way of an implement they could arm themselves with and set to work to rescue those inside. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the proprietor and his wife, and a waiter whose name is unknown, were rescued from the building and taken from under the debris unharmed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Every government conveyance is pressed into service and is used in hauling explosives from the Presidio for the blowing up of buildings in the center of the city.

