

Notwithstanding the difficulty in its production (many tons of ore being required for one grain), a radium industry has already developed in Germany and France, and, although one grain is sold at a little less than \$2,000, the manufacturers are said to have orders for several hundred grains.

An electric fan that heats the air current that it delivers has been devised by M. de Mare, a Belgian electrician. The apparatus consists of an electric motor and a rotating fan, the blades of which are of mica. Upon these mica blades are fastened resistance-coils, which are heated by the passage through them of a current of electricity.

According to figures compiled recently by a French explorer, there are still almost 55,000 square miles of rubber forest along the Amazon river and its tributaries that remain to be exploited. This would mean more than a doubling of the present annual production if the rubber trees in the unexplored tract prove to be plentiful and productive.

Nearly every one has heard of the petrified forests of Arizona, but that in Montana, which Dr. Merrill, curator of geology of the National museum at Washington, has been exploring, is hardly known, though it is believed to be at least equal in extent. The northern forests have curiously enough turned to opal instead of agate by the action of the elements.

Preparations are being made for the establishment of a national bank on the World's fair grounds. A charter has been applied for, and a meeting to elect officers and directors will be called in a few days. The bank is to be owned jointly by all bankers of the city who have financial interest in the exposition. The institution is to be known as the Bankers' National.

Although Mongolia, in which Russia is now entrenched, has been a part of the Chinese empire for the greater part of the last two centuries, China has not exercised much authority over it, and the Mongol has been largely at liberty to follow his own desires in the method of government and conduct. The only tribute which has been heretofore required from the country has been a certain number of men to serve in the Chinese army.

Wheaton college, Illinois, has inaugurated a plan by which any young man, by depositing \$100 with the college treasurer, can study six months in each of three consecutive years in college, and work the other six months for the American Sunday-school union. At the end of the time, if his work has been satisfactory, he will receive a certificate from the college as well as a certificate from the union.

The French navy is to carry on further experiments of shooting with full service charges against the turrets of ships in commission. The experiment with the battle ship Suffren a few weeks ago was a complete success. Now similar experiments are to be made with Gloire and Conde, new armed cruisers. This time, however, men instead of sheep are to be in the turrets to observe the effects of concussion. The sheep survived.

That rats carry plague infection is well known to scientists. The London board of health now kills rats aboard ships at anchor in the Thames. In the search for means of killing them without harming the cargo Prof. Haldane suggests the use of carbonic oxide, which kills everything, even the mild and sedentary cockroach. Two German doctors have perfected a method by which they guarantee to kill all the rats in a ship for \$15.

Few persons realize how much bigger and stronger the United States navy is now than it was at the time of the war with Spain. Everybody knows what the navy did in that war—how it swept the fleets of Spain from the seas and astonished the European critics. To-day the American navy is three times as big and three times as strong as it was then, besides being immeasurably better in other respects. And yet only a beginning has been made on the naval program.

Speaker Cannon and Congressman De Armond have been in the House together for a dozen years, one a republican and the other a democrat leader. They have scored each other in speeches and have flung parliamentary taunts at each other, but no one ever thought to introduce them and they never introduced themselves. The other day John Sharp Williams brought them together formally and the two shook hands for the first time. The speaker had appointed Mr. De Armond on the committee on rules, and Mr. Williams thought it was about time the two should be on speaking terms.

One of the longest fences in the Northwest is being constructed, running entirely around the Lower Brule Indian reservation, on the Missouri river, in the central portion of South Dakota. This remarkable fence will be 63 miles in length. It is composed of four wires placed on posts set a rod apart, cedar and ash posts alternating. In its construction 250 miles of wire will be used, or 76,000 pounds. To erect the fence required an aggregate of 19,000 posts. In this long fence there will be only three gateways, which will be guarded.

HARVEST OF DEATH IN THEATER FIRE

Awfulness of the Catastrophe in Chicago Playhouse Grows with Every Passing Hour.

Death March Is Kept Up All Night Long—Identification of Victims Is Difficult—Period of Mourning Proclaimed by Mayor Harrison—President and Others Send Sympathy.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—With every hour the horror of the fire that swept over the Iroquois theater at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday increases. While no official list of the dead has been compiled as yet, and the number of victims has not been ascertained, it is considered certain that the dead number 582. All but 29 have been identified. Of the remainder the majority are disfigured beyond recognition and there is little doubt that many will never be identified. Of the number 99 per cent. are bodies of girls from nine to 17 years of age. Piteful sights followed at all of the undertaking establishments, where friends are flocking to seek their dead. The same is true of the hospitals.

Death March All Night.
There was a death march all night long in Chicago. From morgue to morgue distracted fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters trudged, seeking their dead. House of merriment at 3:15; charnel-house at 3:30! Perhaps never before in the history of the continent has so much of grief, agony and horror been pressed into so short a space of time.

Never before has Chicago been bowed with such grief. Not even that other fearful fire—the great fire of 1871—left such sorrow in its wake.

Agony of the Living.
Occasionally is a cry of agony, and the sound of hysterical, wild weeping, as a mother recognizes her child among the dead. Others stop and whisper words of sympathy, then move on, silently and slowly, in a search which can end only by the side of a charred or trampled body.

As the hours pass and the police toll laboriously over the lists of dead and injured the incompleteness of the records of the catastrophe appears appalling. There are many whose identity will never be known, the flames having twisted and distorted body and feature and charred flesh and bone.

Satiated with Horror.
Even the morbid crowds which always collect near scenes of disaster were satiated with horror. As wagon after wagon came by and its load of dead was emptied, the bystanders shrank back. The sight of charred hands or feet, distorted faces and mangled forms was too much even for the stoutest.

All sorts of vehicles were pressed into service in the removal of the dead. Drays and delivery wagons, carried scores. Ambulances and cabs, as far as obtainable, were needed for the injured. Police patrol wagons from all over the city were used in the removal of the bodies, and even heavy trucks and coal wagons were pressed into service.

Identification Difficult.
Some of the later identifications have been based by loved ones on recognition of bits of jewelry and shreds of cloth hanging to the seared bodies. In a number of instances only the buttons of burned clothing remained as clues to lead the searchers to final recognition of the dead.

Each Body Numbered.
In the morgues where the larger number of the dead were lying, each body was numbered. All jewelry, money and other marks of identification were replaced in an envelope bearing a similar numeral, and carried by the police to the city hall. In this way it was hoped to facilitate the identification.

The heartrending scenes in and around the morgues are beyond description. Frantic mothers, worn with sorrow and fatigue, sunk down fainting on the icy pavements.

Cause of the Fire.
The cause of the "jamming" of the asbestos curtain, considered the chief origin of the disaster, was explained by an inspector for the underwriters, who made a tour of the house and found that the wire on which the queen of the aerial ballet flew over the audience in the second act held the asbestos curtain in place and prevented it from being lowered. It was shown by the inspector that the wire on which the most spectacular feature of the show was made practically caused the holocaust.

President Sends Message.
Many messages expressing sympathy and condolence with citizens of Chicago and relatives of the victims have been received. The following message was received Thursday morning from the president:

"Washington, Dec. 31.—To Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor, Chicago: In common with all our people throughout this land, I extend to you, to the people of Chicago, my deepest sympathy in the terrible catastrophe which has befallen them.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

London Sends Sympathy.

London, Jan. 1.—The following message, which Lord Mayor of London Sir James T. Ritchie transmits, well voices the consternation and sympathy which prevails throughout the British metropolis over the disaster at Chicago: "Mansion House, London, Dec. 31.—The citizens of London offer their deep sympathy and sincere condolence with the American people in the awful loss of life in the fire at Chicago."

Sir Thomas Lipton says he believes sympathy is best evidenced by helping the sufferers, and that if a fund is opened in Chicago to assist those who have been deprived of their breadwinners, he will gladly contribute \$1,000.
King Edward and Queen Alexandra

have sent telegrams of sympathy for the sufferers of the Chicago fire to the United States government, through foreign Minister Lansdowne.

German Sympathy.
Washington, Jan. 1.—Baron Von Sternberg, the German ambassador, called on Acting Secretary of State Loomis to offer the sincere condolence of his government for the terrible catastrophe which befell the American people in the fire at Chicago. He brought with him a cablegram from Count Von Buelow expressing the deepest sympathy and asking for further details.

Charge Made in the Complaint.
Chicago, Jan. 2.—By the identification of the unknown dead made yesterday the number of unidentified Iroquois theater victims at the various morgues has been reduced to 21 out of a total of 582.

The complaint covered three pages of typewritten foolscap, and concludes with: "This complainant, upon his oath, says that, by means of the premises aforesaid, George Williams, Will J. Davis, and Harry J. Powers, each aforesaid, her, said Helen Hull, unlawfully, willfully, feloniously, knowingly, and maliciously did kill, and by force of the statutes of the state of Illinois in such case made and provided for, the said George Williams, Will J. Davis, and Harry J. Powers, aforesaid, committed the offense of manslaughter, and are guilty of said offense of manslaughter. The prayer of the petition is that they be forthwith arrested and dealt with according to law."

It was agreed that the three prisoners should appear at 11 o'clock this morning at Justice Underwood's court and give bonds. They will be for \$10,000 each. Attorneys Perce and Hynes assured the justice that their clients would surely appear.

Many Dead Buried.
While a Sabbath stillness brooded over the city, a hundred funerals passed in mournful procession through the streets Friday. In the snow-covered cemeteries half a thousand graves were being dug. In as many homes lay the dead, who had perished in the hecatomb of fire at the Iroquois theater, with closed eyes and crossed hands, coiled and garbed for the tomb. In cellars and back rooms of morgues many remained unidentified.

INDIAN SCHOOLS.

Interesting Facts Gleaned from the Annual Report of Superintendent Estelle Reel.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Estelle Reel, superintendent of Indian schools, in her annual report to the commissioners of Indian affairs, calls attention to the advancement made by the Indians in civilization and urges teachers to study the Indian character as an aid in teaching self-support in the shortest possible time. The enrollment of the pupils last year was nearly 29,000, and the employees in Indian school work has increased from 221 in 1877 to almost 3,000. The Indians have under cultivation 25 per cent. more land than in 1890. Those wearing citizens' dress have increased in the same time from 118,196 to 143,974; the number that can speak English from 27,822 to 62,616, and the number of dwelling houses from 19,104 to 26,629.

FARM PRODUCTS.

Figures Given by the Department of Agriculture Show the Value of Leading Crops.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Final returns to the chief of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture show the value of the principal farm crops of the United States in 1903 to have been as follows: Corn, \$952,868,801; winter wheat, \$286,242,849; spring wheat, \$156,781,977; oats, \$267,661,665; barley, \$60,166,313; rye, \$15,993,871; buckwheat, \$8,650,733; flaxseed, \$22,291,557; potatoes, \$151,638,094; hay, \$556,376,880; tobacco, \$55,514,827.

Post Office Robbed.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 30.—J. L. Garrett, the town watchman of West Point, was held up Monday night by three men armed with revolvers, who bound and gagged him, marched him to the post office, broke in the door, blew open the safe and robbed it of considerable money and a package containing \$2,100 in bonds. Garrett was compelled to take a seat and witness the whole performance. The robbers escaped.

Held for Murder.

Carbondale, Ill., Jan. 2.—City Attorney Charles A. Jachum and J. L. Guiley, the latter the son of City Marshal Guiley, have been held to the grand jury for the killing of John W. Chamness at Creal Springs last Saturday evening. The arrest of Attorney Jachum came as a great surprise, although rumor had coupled his name with the tragedy.

Shows a Surplus.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The forthcoming monthly statement of the government receipts and expenditures will show the total receipts for December last to be about \$42,747,532, and the expenditures \$32,248,000, leaving a surplus for the month of \$10,499,532. The surplus for the six months of the present fiscal year will be about \$8,433,667.

Heavy Immigration.

New York, Dec. 31.—During 1903 a total of 619,980 immigrants, steerage passengers, arrived at this port, against 547,197 in 1902, which was considered a record-breaker, the increase over 1901 being 139,000. Italy contributed the largest number, though there was a marked increase in the arrivals from Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Another Horror in Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Fire Friday night destroyed the Louvre hotel and sanitarium, 3611 to 3623 Lake avenue. Three dead bodies have so far been taken from the ruins.

DARK SIDE OF THE PAST YEAR

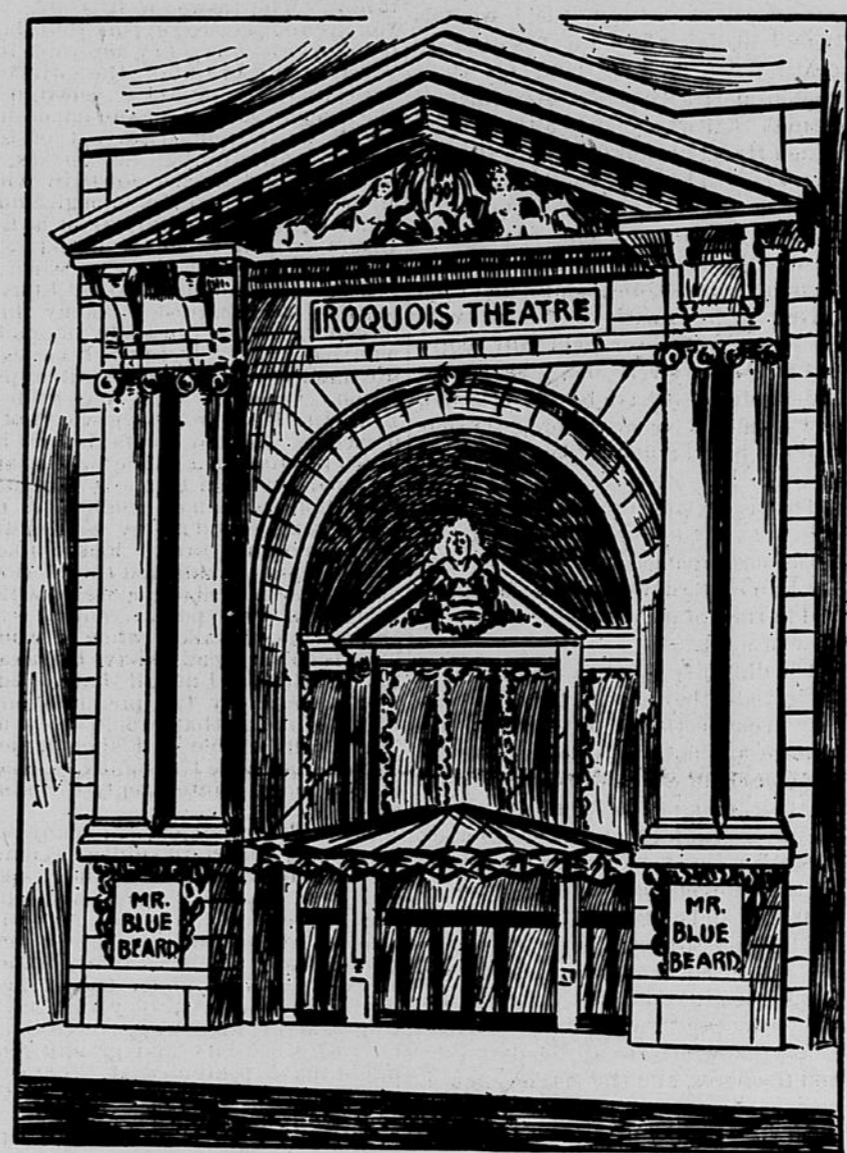
A Brief Glance at Some of the Sorrowful Occurrences During the Twelve Months.

Many Crimes That Resulted in Death in Various Forms—Increase in Number of Suicides and Lynchings—Record Closes with Crowding Horror in Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The record of crime, of suicide, of disaster, of property losses, of legal executions and lynchings, and of private beneficence is made up for 1903, and it closes with the crowding horror of the year in our own midst. Its details should furnish ample material for investigation by students of sociology and criminology, political reformers, and municipal, state and national governments.

Deaths by Violence.
There were 8,976 crimes resulting in death by various forms of violence in 1903, a small increase over 1902, when there were 8,834. One of the most significant features of this record is the fact that 406 of these murders were committed by thugs and holdup men, being nearly twice as many as were committed last year, and showing proportionately the increase of lawlessness.

Suicides and Hangings.
There were 8,597 cases of suicide in 1903. The following figures show the



Entrance and Front of Playhouse.

steady increase of self-murder: In 1899, 5,340; in 1900, 6,755; in 1901, 7,245; in 1902, 8,291; in 1903, 8,597. As has been the case during the last three or four years, poisoning and shooting have been the principal methods, the two numbering 7,677 out of 8,597. The ease with which poison may be obtained accounts for 4,050 of these cases.

The total number of legal executions in 1903 shows a falling off compared with last year, being 123, as against 144 in 1902, 118 in 1901, and 110 in 1900. There were 77 hanged in the south and 46 in the north, and of these 63 were white and 60 colored.

Lynchings.
Lynchings numbered 104, as compared with 96 in 1902. Notwithstanding this comparatively slight increase, an examination of the reports for several years back shows that there were many less lynchings in the decade just closed than in the preceding decade. The total for 1903 includes 92 in the south and 12 in the north; 86 negroes, 17 whites, and one Chinaman; 102 men and two women. The two principal alleged crimes were murder, 47 cases; and criminal assault, 20.

Trains Held Up.
The number of trains held up in 1903 was 13, as compared with 22 last year. The number of stage robberies in 1903 was 6, while that of last year was 7. The record shows that no passengers or trainmen were killed by robbers, but there were six wounded. In 1902 one was killed and three wounded. One robber was killed in 1903, as compared with three in 1902. The total number of trains held up in 14 years is 341; total number of people killed, 99, and the number of people injured (shot), 109.

Various Disasters.

The loss of life by disasters in 1903 has been large. Shipwrecks on the ocean and inland lakes and rivers have taken 1,935 lives. Over 4,000 persons have been killed and over 5,000 injured in railroad accidents. These figures include only the severely injured, and the list of killed is mainly passengers. The complete returns, including those killed and injured on electric roads, will be much larger, as this record includes only prominent disasters.

There have been numerous other disasters involving heavy loss of life. Cyclones and rockslides in April killed 127 persons. By cyclones and the floods at

Topeka and Kansas City in May 266 persons perished. In June there was a series of unusual disasters. Eighty lives were lost by a cyclone at Gainesville, Ga.; 58 by a flood at Spartansburg, S. C.; 31 by a cloudburst at Clifton, Ariz.; and 200 by a cloudburst at Heppner, Ore. Then the country enjoyed immunity from great disasters until Dec. 30, when between 500 and 600 lives were lost by the burning of the Iroquois theater—the crowning horror of the year's record at home or abroad.

Embezzlers and Defaulters.

The embezzlers and defaulters in 1903 got away with \$6,586,165, not a large sum as compared with the average of the last 50 years. Compared with this there stands to the credit of the national generosity and philanthropy the handsome sum in donations and bequests of \$76,934,978, distributed as follows: To educational institutions, \$39,950,692; to charities, \$21,726,318; to religious purposes, \$3,996,912; to museums, art galleries, and for municipal betterments, \$2,927,500; and to libraries, \$7,583,556.

A GREAT PROJECT.

Company to Build Pan-American Railway 10,000 Miles Long—Has Capital of \$250,000,000.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 30.—The Pan-American Railway company, with headquarters at Guthrie and with \$250,000,000 capital stock to build a line from Port Nelson on Hudson Bay in British America to the Argentine Republic, was chartered yesterday. From Port Nelson the road runs via Winnipeg, in Manitoba, through the states of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas, thence through Mexico, Central Amer-

MEMORABLE EVENTS OF YEAR 1903

History of the Past Twelve Months Recalled in Brief Manner for Future Reference.

In the United States Progress and Prosperity Prevailed—Portion of Work Done by Congress—Labor Disturbances Were Numerous—Notable Gifts—Other Notes.

Peace reigned throughout the greater part of the world during the year 1903. There was no war in progress between nations, though Russia and Japan are still unfriendly and there is a possibility that the new year will see them engaged in a deadly contest for supremacy in the far east.

One of the most hopeful signs of the year was the progress made in establishing the principle of international arbitration.

In this country the year has been one of peace, general prosperity and progress. The trouble with Colombia on account of the revolution in Panama and an encounter or two with the Moros in the Philippines have given the army and navy a little work to do, but no difficulty has arisen of sufficient importance to cause the authorities any real concern.

From a national point of view the important events of the year so far as concerns the United States have been the Alaska boundary award, the conclusion of a reciprocity treaty with Cuba, the creation of a department of commerce and labor in Washington designed in part to deal with the trust question, the passage of other antitrust laws and the measures taken looking toward the building of an isthmian canal across Panama.

Work of Congress.

At the closing session of the Fifty-seventh congress several laws were passed with a view to curbing and regulating industrial combinations and local monopolies. Among them were the act creating a bureau of corporations in the department of commerce and labor, the act expediting antitrust litigation, the Elkins rebate law and the appropriation of \$500,000 for prosecuting violations of the Sherman, interstate commerce and other similar laws.

Panama revolted, formed a new republic, was recognized by the United States and other powers and negotiated a canal treaty of its own with the United States. This treaty is pending before the United States senate for ratification and Colombia is threatening to make war upon both Panama and this country.

The Political Field.

Politically the year was uneventful. The few elections of importance that took place in November indicated no marked change of sentiment in any part of the country. The republicans elected governors in Iowa, Massachusetts and Ohio, while the democrats carried Kentucky, Maryland, Rhode Island and Mississippi. In New York city Tammany triumphed over the reform or fusion forces by defeating Seth Low and electing George B. McClellan mayor.

Labor Disturbances.

Labor disturbances were many and serious, though none reached the proportions of the anthracite coal miners' strike of last year. In Colorado, Utah and a few other states in the far west a struggle arose between the miners' unions and the employers which resulted in an almost complete cessation of work, the destruction of much property and the calling out of the national guard. Several collisions took place in which lives were lost and serious injuries inflicted. The contest is still in progress.

Investigation of irregularities in the post office department extending back several years occupied much of the time of government officials in Washington. The alleged frauds were chiefly in connection with the purchase of supplies for the post offices of the country, such as cancelling machines, money order blanks, mail bags, typewriters, badges, etc. Other charges concerned the use of the mails by "get rich quick" and other fraudulent concerns.

In the Philippines.

In the Philippines the most noteworthy events of the year was the substitution of a new currency system for the unstable money in use during the Spanish regime, the resignation of Gov. Taft, who is to take the place of Secretary of War Root about February 1, and the settlement of the friars' land question.

Capt. Pabst Dead.

Milwaukee, Jan. 2.—Capt. Frederick Pabst, president of the Pabst Brewing company, died at his residence yesterday. While the members of his family and his friends knew that he was suffering from an incurable disease, and that he could not live more than a few months longer, his death came quite suddenly and unexpectedly. He was 67 years of age last March.

Banker Suicides.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 1.—Banker Charles F. Woods shot and instantly killed himself in his bank at St. Charles, death resulting instantly. The cause of the tragedy is not yet known. So far as could be learned the bank was in good condition.

Thousands Laid Off.

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—As a result of the high price of cotton, 4,000 men, women and children employed in textile mills in this city, have been laid off indefinitely. This enforced idleness will continue until cotton quotations tumble.

Price of Oil Reduced.

Toledo, O., Dec. 30.—The Standard Oil company has reduced the price of oil five cents in the east and two cents in the west.