

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 4.—Pinned in narrow hallways, jammed up against doors that only opened inward, between 160 and 170 children in the suburb of North Collinwood today were killed by fire, by smoke and beneath the grinding heels of their panic stricken playmates.

The awful tragedy occurred this morning in the public school of North Collinwood, ten miles east of this city. At 10 o'clock tonight 165 corpses were in the morgue at Collinwood, six children were still unaccounted for and all the hospitals and houses for two miles around contained numbers of children, some fatally and many less seriously injured.

Eighty Escaped Unhurt.

All of the victims were between the ages of six and fifteen years. The school contained between 310 and 325 pupils, and of this entire number only about 80 are known to have left the building unhurt. It will be several days before the exact number of killed is known, as the ruins may still contain other bodies, and the list of fatalities may be increased by a number of deaths among the children, who are now lying in the hospitals hovering between life and death.

But One Fire Escape.

The school house was of brick, two stories and an attic in height. The number of pupils was more than normally large, and the smaller children had been placed in the upper part of the building. There were two stairways, one leading to a door in front, and the other to a door in the rear. Both of these doors opened inward, it is claimed the rear door was locked as well.

When the flames were discovered the teachers who, throughout seem to have acted with courage and self-possession, and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils, marshaled the little ones into column for the fire drill, which they had often practiced. Unfortunately the line of march in this exercise had always led to the front door and the children had not been trained to seek any other exit. The fire came today from a furnace situated directly under this part of the building.

Massed Against Door

When the children reached the foot of the stairs they found the flames close upon them, and so swift a rush was made for the door that in an instant a tightly packed mass of children was piled up against it. From that second none of those who were upon any portion of the first flight of stairs had any chance for their lives. The children at the foot of the stairs attempted to fight their way back to the floor above, while those who were coming down shoved them mercilessly back into the flames below. In an instant there was a frightful panic with two hundred of the pupils fighting for their lives. Most of those who were killed died here.

The greater part of those who escaped managed to turn back and reached the fire escape and the windows in the rear.

Various and unconfirmed statements are made as to the cause of the fire and also that the doors of the building had been locked at the front entrance, while but one door of the entry was unfastened.

The janitor, F. C. Herter, himself bereaved of three children, says the doors were open, according to custom. At any rate, the congestion of fleeing children in the hallway below effectively barred the way and the little ones went to their death totally unable to evade the flames.

Within three hours after the start of the fire it had burned itself out and the work of rescuing the bodies proceeded. The village fire department had only two engines and neither, upon arrival after the alarm was given, was at all effective in stemming the flames.

Children Killed in Mass

WASHINGTON, March 4.—United States Senator Redfield Proctor, of Vermont, died at his apartments at the Champlain here at 4:50 o'clock this afternoon after a short illness following an attack of grip. The Senator's son, Governor Fletcher Proctor, of Vermont, the Governor's wife and several intimate friends, were at the bedside when the Senator passed away. Senator Proctor was 77 years old.

The Senator had been confined to his room for about a week. His illness was diagnosed as grip, which later developed into pleurisy with pneumonia, complications which affected the heart and which in his enfeebled condition, proved too much for his powers of resistance. The body will be taken to the old home at Proctorsville, Vermont.

Senator Proctor is survived by his wife, two sons, Fletcher D. Proctor, Governor of Vermont, and Redfield Proctor Jr., and a daughter, Miss Emily D. Proctor.

The Senator had been in feeble health ever since the assembling of Congress and it was remarked by his friends that for the first time in their recollection he had failed to return from his usual summer fishing trip in the high state of health which he always enjoyed.

No announcement of the death was made to the Senate. Information was communicated to Vice President Fairbanks. The Senate then adjourned. It was not desired to formally announce the death for the reason that it was thought best to lay aside business for an entire day in respect to the Senator's memory.

Senator Proctor has been a conspicuous factor in the politics and business interests of Vermont for many years and was reputed to be one of the wealthiest members of the Senate. He was largely interested in the marble industry. He was a civil war veteran, on the staff of Gen. Wm. F. (Baldy) Smith, Secretary of War during President Harrison's administration, and had been in the Senate since 1891, when he left the cabinet to succeed George F. Edmunds. The Senator was born in Proctorsville, June 1, 1831, and served his State as a member of each house of the legislature in turn and as Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

MURDERERS OF AGED COUPLE DID BRUTAL WORK WITH AN AXE

HAWKINSVILLE, Ga., March 4.—A terrible murder shocked this county today and the whole section of the country near Empire, Ga., is wild with excitement, over one thousand people being gathered at the scene of the tragedy. Just at daylight this morning some person or persons attacked Mr. Warren Hart as he went out to feed his stock, crushing his head to jelly and killing him instantly. They then went to the kitchen, where Mrs. Hart was preparing breakfast and attacked her with an axe, leaving her for dead. She was found lying on the floor with a fork in her hand and her breakfast burned to a crisp. She is now barely alive. The object of the plot to murder them is supposed to have been for robbery, as they had about one thousand dollars in the house which the murderers failed to find. The report reaches here that two negroes have been arrested, and it is believed they are the assassins. A lynching is feared at any moment. Mr. and Mrs. Hart were about 65 years old and are highly respected citizens. The people of the section are wrought up to a frenzy.

SECOND BALLOT WAS SAME AS THE FIRST

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Declaring that the practices of the New York cotton exchange were intolerable and that the cotton growers of the South had determined to use all lawful means to end them, Mr. Sims, of Tennessee today in the House of Representatives advocated the passage of the Burdison bill, prohibiting the use of telegrams, telegraph and telephone service in dealing in "cotton futures," where the delivery and acceptance of actual cotton is not intended. He said that if there was any good left in the New York cotton exchange, "it was so overshadowed by the bad as to make desirable to wipe out the good rather than to longer tolerate the bad effect of its reprehensible practices."

Mr. Sims asserted that there was legitimate benefit to the cotton industry of the United States in any for growing out of transactions on the cotton exchanges of this country as now conducted. Dealing in cotton futures was denounced as "an unmitigated evil" with no compensating advantage. He said the largest crop of cotton ever grown in the United States was round numbers, thirteen and one-half million of bales, and yet in the said

JUDSON LYON WAY TO WHI

Factions Will Join Issue Over Member On National Committee. State Committee Will Be Called

ATLANTA, Ga., March 4.—(Telegraph Bureau, Kimball House.) Around the membership on the national committee will be waged among the factions of the Republican party of Georgia, according to talk among the leaders here. It is stated that a strong effort is being made to displace Judson W. Lyons, Augusta, who has represented the State in the national councils of the G. O. P. for twelve years, and to give the job to a white man. The white Republicans spoken of in connection with the place are Henry Blount, of Savannah; E. F. Blodgett, Atlanta, and Harry Edwards, of Milledgeville. The negroes who are opposed to Lyons, but who wish to retain honor for their race are booming Graves, a non-office holding negro, Atlanta.

Lyons has been in Atlanta for several days, and has held several conferences with leaders, white and black. Most of his time has been spent in the Federal building, and it is said he has been trying to line up officeholders there on his side. The first show-down will probably come March 28, when two district conventions will be held—one in the Secretariat at Dawson, and the other at Marshfield, in the Third. The main purpose of these two meetings will be to elect two delegates for each district to the national convention in Chicago and it is said that the contest over the national committee will overshadow that of the Presidential nomination.

Col. W. H. Johnson, marshal for the Northern district of Georgia, will call a meeting of the State committee a few days. He is chairman. The purpose of the meeting will be to arrange for the State convention, where the selection of delegates by the districts will be sanctioned and four for the State at large will be chosen. It is also rumored that a State ticket will be named. The present national committee was for two terms, register of the treasury at Washington. He was called