

NEWARK FIRE STARTS AN INQUIRY HERE

Trades Unions Worried for Fear Factory Disaster Could Be Repeated in This City.

MANY BUILDINGS UNSAFE

Superintendent Starts an Investigation to Make Sure That the Factory Laws Are Complied With.

Trade unionists in this city have noted with alarm the loss of life in the Newark fire, and are asking whether there are not many other small factories in this city which, so far as fire protection is concerned, are as badly off as the building which was destroyed last Saturday. They doubt whether the factory law is thoroughly enforced and whether it is really sufficient to provide exits in case of fire for girl workers, who are likely to become panicstricken in times of peril.

The United Hebrew Trades, with an office at 151 Clinton Hall, have adopted a resolution calling on the Health and Building Departments and the Factory Inspectors to look particularly into the condition of the paper box manufacturing shops. Max Weinstein, the Secretary of the organization, said yesterday that in the process of organizing a union among the women paper box makers many factories had been visited that seemed to be improperly protected against fire as well as being unsanitary in other respects. A list of these has been forwarded to the city departments concerned, with a request that the matter be looked into immediately.

The trades unionists complain that in many cases residences have been converted into factories quite irrespective of their suitability. They are often old and in poor repair, and the means of exit is a dark, rickety staircase. Such fire escapes as exist are sometimes quite unfitted for use by women and girls, frightened out of all common sense by fire, and are merely iron ladders affixed to the walls, from which the danger of falling would be very great.

It is also asserted that in some factories, of which the United Hebrew Trades have taken cognizance, the windows of the ground floor are blocked by heavy bars, and it is said that a few months ago such a protection against burglars caused the death of several persons caught in a death trap in Brooklyn. One large shop in Canal Street has been reported on account of the obstruction of the fire escapes by heavy boxes and machinery, in spite of the fact that this is absolutely against the tenement house and factory law. Objection is also taken to the establishment of shops for the manufacture of such substances as paper boxes in close proximity to lumber yards. Mr. Weinstein urged yesterday that thereby the chances of a dangerous conflagration through the careless dropping of a match or a cigarette stub was doubled.

In this city the inspection of factories, so far as fire protection is concerned, is left entirely to the city's Building Department. The State Factory Inspectors are concerned with the sanitary condition of the workshops and the number and ages of the people employed in them, but by a decision of the Supreme Court are not permitted to interfere with the question of fire exits.

Rudolph P. Miller, Superintendent of Buildings, said last night that he certainly would pay immediate attention to the factories which the United Hebrew Trades called to his attention. Fire exits, he said, have for long been a special study with him, and since the Newark disaster had brought the matter forcibly to the front, he had been considering the steps which might be taken to improve present conditions. In a few days he hopes to be able to make a definite statement of what is to be done.

"The trouble we particularly meet with is old buildings," he said. "It is much easier to see that new buildings are properly equipped than to be sure that old buildings are fully provided. I have one or two inspectors in the department who have given special study to fire exits, and they are used in special cases.

"It is not easy, however, for us to keep pace with the changes in the use of an old building. Its fire protection may have been quite adequate so long as it was employed for one purpose, but when it changes owners and accommodates a considerably larger number of persons

we have no means of finding it out save by chance. Then, of course, we meet with all sorts of obstacles when we order a radical change to be made in an old building."

NEWARK DEATH LIST 24.

Forewoman Whose Heroism Saved Many Lives Expires in Hospital.

Another young woman died yesterday from injuries suffered in the Newark factory fire last Saturday. The latest death was that of Miss Anna Haag, forewoman of the Wolf concern. She died in the City Hospital. The death list now numbers twenty-four. It is believed that all the bodies are out of the ruins, as every one who was employed in the factory has been accounted for. Mrs. Barbara Reynolds, who was reported as missing, was found at her home, 67 Dickerson Street.

Stories of Miss Haag's heroism at the fire were told yesterday. It was said that she could have escaped uninjured, as she was the first person to discover the fire. Her first act was to run down the stairs, open the door that excluded the fourth floor from the rest of the building, then return and warn the others in her room. Even after warning her associates Miss Haag did not think of her own safety, for she took time to put the payroll and books of the concern in the safe, and locked it. She then jumped from a window. She suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries.

SUSPECTS THE BLACK HAND.

Bomb Victim Thinks They Want More Ransom for Boy Stolen Years Ago.

Francesco La Barbera, in front of whose saloon, at 258 Elizabeth Street, a bomb was exploded early yesterday morning, shattering every window for nearly a block on either side of the street, told the police later in the day that he thought the Black Hand had tried to punish him for ignoring its demands for a large sum of money as ransom for his son, Pietro.

The boy, then 6 years old, was kidnapped about five years ago, and has never been heard from. The late Lieut. Petrosino worked on the case, but neither he nor those who followed him discovered a clue to the boy's captors. La Barbera said he had received many threatening letters, but none recently, and that he had begun to feel that his persecutors had abandoned him.

PUTS AND CALLS NO MORE.

Business in Smoking Room Handicapped and Only Cold Street Open.

The remnant of the old "put and call" market which in the old days used to be a recognized part of the Stock Exchange lobby and used its advantage to trade "over the rail" with almost the same facility as members of the Exchange, has been banished from its last precarious standing on the Stock Exchange. The "put and call" contract placed by modern court rulings in the gambling class has no standing on the Stock Exchange, but the "smoking room" on the New Street side of the new Exchange Building, with its convenient door leading into the broad halls of the Commercial Cable Building, has offered an easy means of quick action to the Exchange members. It is only a step from the trading floor of the Exchange.

Put and call men have made the smoking room a sort of unofficial headquarters. Yesterday the following notice was posted in the smoking room:

On and after Dec. 1 a non-member will not be admitted to this annex room except for an interview with a member, and after said interview said non-member must retire. By order

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

The put and call business is only a fraction of what it was in the days when Russell Sage and Jay Gould were the largest makers of this class of contracts, but there are enough of the traders left to make a daily group in New Street which will now have to face a cold winter.