

IDENTIFY MORE NEWARK FIRE VICTIMS

Total Number of Dead in the Factory Horror Probably 23 or 24.

FIVE MORE LIKELY TO DIE

County Prosecutor to Investigate and Try to Prosecute Those Responsible.

With no more dead taken out yesterday from the factory building which was destroyed by fire on Saturday morning in Newark, and with only one or two inquirers at the Morgue for missing persons, who convinced the attendants that they were genuine, the belief grew that the full extent of the horror may now be measured.

The number of dead was reckoned last night at twenty-three or twenty-four, and five of those in the hospitals were in so serious a condition that they may die. It was not considered likely that the search of the ruins will result in the discovery of the bodies of more than two or three additional persons.

From this the conclusion was drawn that if only there had been more fire escapes the loss of life would have been much less. It does not seem likely that more than three or four of the factory employes were so overcome by fire and smoke that they could not reach the windows. Eight of them were found dead in one heap in the northeast corner, to which the girls in their panic ran. One was found overcome near the entrance to the building, and most of the rest were killed by the jump from the windows.

If the girls were able to reach the windows, it was argued by those who were examining the ruins, a proper provision of fire escapes would have afforded them the means to get out in safety, and it was simply because only two had been provided that the girls were forced to jump. A rigorous examination of this side of the calamity is to be begun this morning by County Prosecutor Mott.

A Missing Errand Boy.

Of the six women reported as missing on Saturday night, four were identified yesterday at the Morgue. There is still some doubt as to the fate of Roy Davidson, the errand boy, who was listed among the dead on Saturday. The body first taken for his has now been identified as really that of Charlotte Heckler, and as his address is unknown there is no way of ascertaining the facts till he or his relatives come forward.

In the same way there was confusion over the body of Theresina Tortorella of 507 Market Street. A body was identified as hers by a brother, and it was removed from the Morgue on Saturday to her home. There it was discovered that a mistake had been made, and it was sent back to the Morgue. Yesterday it was found to be really all that can be found of Mrs. Lucy Sullivan of 110 Elm Street, Rahway, N. J., daughter of Acting Police Chief Conger of Rahway.

Late in the afternoon another body was identified by Theresina Tortorella's family as hers. About the only thing they had to go upon was a velvet shoe, but they were confirmed in their opinion by Matilda Doege of 55 Beach Street, Arlington, one of the girls slightly injured in the fire, whose sister Emma now lies in a precarious condition in St. Michael's Hospital.

Matilda Doege was also one of those who gave rise to hopes yesterday that Roy Davidson may still be among the living. A cousin had declared one of the charred remnants of a body to be his on Saturday, but later it was reported that he had been seen running out of the blazing building among the first of those who escaped, without his hat or coat. Then the Doege girl declared that after she was discharged from St. Michael's Hospital she had seen and talked with him in the street. The authorities at the Morgue could not decide definitely whether the boy was alive or dead as they declared that they had no complete list of the bodies which had passed through their hands and been removed by relatives.

Six More Dead Identified.

The bodies which were identified yesterday were:
 GOTTLIEB, DORA, 26 years, 74 South State Street, Newark
 GOTTLIEB, MINNIE, 18, sister of above.
 GOTTLIEB, TILLIE, 20, sister of above.
 HECKLER, CHARLOTTE, 55 Beech Street, Arlington.
 SULLIVAN, Mrs. LUCY, 29, 110 Elm Street, Rahway, N. J.
 WEBER, Mrs. KATHERINE, 60, 401 Halsey Street, Newark.

At first the parents of the three Gottlieb girls could only be certain that one of the burned bodies at the Morgue was that of their daughter Minnie. The other two were charred out of all human resemblance. However, they remembered that the girls had had a good deal of dental work performed, and by means of the bridgework in their teeth they made certain that all three were dead.

Charlotte Heckler was identified by her father. Two rings were taken from a half-consumed hand, one set with a diamond. Heckler remembered these, and on this evidence his claim to the body was allowed.

Nothing more was discovered about Grace and Mary Baker, for whom inquiries were made on Saturday by an elderly man who said he was their uncle. Among others who were asked for were Jane Lee of 264 Littleton Avenue, Newark, by a Mrs. Norton of 216 Ninth Avenue, New York, and Freda Ferretta by relatives from Peapack, N. J. A man who gave his name as Bafagne and said he lived at 3 Cutter Street said he had not seen his wife since the fire and feared she was among the dead.

These the Morgue keepers took to be genuine inquiries, but they were inclined to think that other callers had invented names and addresses through a ghoulish desire to be admitted to the dead chamber, and satisfy their morbid curiosity. The girls they asked for were Elizabeth Miller of 84 Broome Street, Newark; Henrietta Martin of Roseville, Ethel Brent of 453 High Street, Newark; another girl called Brant of 217 Orange Street, Newark, and one called Lang of 141 Wycliffe Street, Newark. Investigation showed

that some of the addresses were undoubtedly false, and that no girls lived at them. There is an Elizabeth Miller in a serious condition at the City Hospital, and she may be the one that was sought.

At the hospital it was stated that, most of the injured were doing well. At the City Hospital, however, Florence Balsom, Lena Koenig, and Rosa Rowan were in a serious condition, and their recovery was considered doubtful, and at St. Michael's Emma Doelge and Minnie Smith were giving the physicians a great deal of anxiety. They had all been terribly injured in their leap for life, and sustained internal injuries from which there is small hope of recovery.

The Search of the Ruins.

A search among the ruins was carried on for some time yesterday morning by twenty-five firemen under the direction of Fire Chief Astley. Patrolman Fitch came upon what was believed to be the remnant of a body on the third floor, but it was impossible to establish this positively, since the fire was still smoldering, and as the men pried up the debris in the interior of the building the flames here and there burst forth again. It was decided that it was impossible to conduct a systematic search, and so it was determined to wait till to-day before resuming the search. An engine played for a while on the ruins, and the fire which appeared was effectually quenched.

A crowd of about 10,000 people had gathered to see the work of the Fire Department, and for a time they were permitted to promenade at will before the ruined factory. Then the fire lines were drawn, and the whole afternoon the police had their hands full keeping back the throngs.

On the ground in front of the factory were scattered broadcast cards wishing all who read them "A Merry Christmas." They came from one of the paper-box factories which had occupied the lower stories in the building, adding a touch of mockery to the scene of ruin.

A smaller throng stood all day and gazed at the outside of the Mullins undertaking shop, behind which the Morgue is situated. It had one thrill of genuine excitement. A fire started about 5 o'clock in the store at Washington and Bleecker Streets, and there was a great deal of smoke. A coach had caught fire and Policeman Harry Jewell rushing in found Mrs. Rauchwacher, an elderly woman, wandering about in the smoke, and he got her out just in time to prevent her being overcome. The engines arrived quickly and put out the fire.

Prosecutor Mott had his detectives observing conditions all day at the factory. He has announced that the first business of his office this morning will be to look into the question of the fire protection of the burned building. He will hold a conference with the city officials who are concerned, and may decide that a Coroner's inquest shall be held.

Question of Prosecution.

This in Essex County is an unusual step. The regular investigation of every sudden death by the Coroner has been practically suspended for the last twenty years, the last special one being held at the time of the Clifton Avenue trolley disaster, in which nine lives were lost, on Feb. 19, 1903. Mr. Mott would not discuss the disaster beyond saying he felt that the fullest publicity should be given to all the circumstances surrounding it, and that he will take the matter in hand just as soon as his detectives have gathered the necessary data.

For the purpose of investigation, Prosecutor Mott last night instructed First Assistant Prosecutor Frederick Lehlbach to go to Trenton this morning. He will see State Labor Commissioner Bryant and obtain transcripts of all reports bearing on the ruined building made by State Factory Inspectors, and copies of all State laws bearing on the matter.

Factories in New Jersey are under the supervision of both the municipal authorities and the State Department of Commerce. The Commissioner, Capt. William H. Bryant, lives at Atlantic City, and his Deputy for Essex County is William Schlachter. He has declared that, as far as he knows, the factory had complied with all the requirements of the law with regard to fire escapes, and that if only the girls had kept their heads there would not have been such a terrible outcome of the fire.

"The department," he said, "caused the escape at the west end of the building to be erected some time ago, and it was held to be adequate for an emergency. There was another at the back, and there was also a means of exit by the regular stairway.

"Everything seems to show that the fire was so sudden that the women could think of nothing, but ran to the windows at which there was no ladder. When I made by last inspection of the building, either in September or October, I took care to see that there was no inflammable substances in the building, and I understand that all that started this fire was two quarts of gasoline. It seems that such a blaze might have been extinguished if there had been a proper extinguisher at hand.

"The department has nothing to do with the extinguishers that are provided, and all our power consists in ordering the erection of the proper number of fire escapes, and we cannot demand more fire escapes unless there is an increase of more than twenty-five in the number of employes on any floor."

An Increase of Employes.

Some question may be raised as to whether there was not an unusual increase in the number of employes on the fourth floor. A representative of the Wolf firm admitted on Saturday that there has lately been an augmentation of its regular force through the rush of business, and was not certain that the entire list of girls at work could be supplied, as all the recent accessions to the force might not have been reported to the New York office.

If the State factory Inspectors passed the building, equipped as it was, there still remained the authority of the Municipal Department of Buildings. Supt. William P. O'Rourke, however, explained yesterday that, considering that the State passed on factories, the Building Department had not felt itself called on to interfere in the case of old buildings.

"When applications are made to us for permits for new buildings or for alterations to old ones, we require the applicants to live up to the law in the matter of exits and emergency escapes," said he. "But our force has not been sufficient to examine all factories now standing, and the city ordinance under which we work is somewhat loosely worded. The proposed ordinance is a good deal more stringent in its requirements."

Supt. O'Rourke has instructed Inspector McKinney, who is in charge of the district, to make a report of what he observed at the fire, and particularly how the fire escapes were used. It is probable that as a result of the disaster a city Factory Inspector will be appointed, who, in addition to the State Inspectors, will investigate the conditions in all the older factories of the city.

One thing discovered about the ruins was that the door leading from the fourth floor, where the undergarment plant was situated to the stairway, was a single door, three feet nine inches in width. This was the only exit for the 100 girls employed in the place. It was also discovered, it is said, that a platform in front of the windows leading to the fire escape on the rear of the building, was so flimsy that when the girls climbed onto it to reach the fire escape, it collapsed with them, some of them probably being injured in that way before they were able to reach the window.

To the fund for the relief of the survivors of the fire and the families of those who lost their lives subscriptions of \$100 each have been received from Gov. Fort, Mayor Jacob A. Haussling, and The Sunday Call. The fund is in charge of City Treasurer Guenther.