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NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

FIRE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Through the bursting of a methylated spirit jar a fire occurred at Buckingham Palace late on Saturday afternoon. Thirteen engines and two escapes turned out, but the outbreak was suppressed by Palace servants. The damage was slight; no one was injured.

THE TIMES.—NEW SHAREHOLDERS AND NEW CAPITAL.

Some details of the new arrangements at the Times office appear in the *Financial News*. It is announced that the price has been fixed at £500,000, and the new company, the name of which will probably be "The Times, Limited," is to be capitalised thus: 250,000 Five per Cent. first preference shares, 250,000 Six per Cent. second preference shares, and a large amount of ordinary capital.

The first preference shares are to be provided by Sir Alexander Henderson, Lord Rothschild, Lord Stratheona, Lord Iveagh, and Lord Brassey. The *Financial News* adds that the second preference shares will be taken by the present proprietors in exchange for their holdings, and it is because some of them are not satisfied that recourse to the courts may be yet necessary. The ordinary shares are to be taken by Mr. A. F. Walter, the senior representative of the Walter family. He retains control, and Mr. Buckle retains the editorship.

OUTRAGE ON LORD GOUGH'S ESTATE.

Particulars reached Galway on Thursday of an extraordinary shooting outrage near Gort last Wednesday. A man who had taken some trees on Lord Gough's property was, says the *Irish Times*, engaged with a number of others felling them, when they were attacked by an armed band, said to number about 200. A volley was fired at the workers, and two of them, were, it is reported, wounded by pellets. No arrests have been made. The men are not dangerously wounded.

(Lord Gough, it will be recollected, was until recently British Minister Resident in Dresden.)

TERRIBLE PANIC FATALITY.

During a cinematograph performance at Barnsley, Yorkshire, a panic ensued from some as yet unknown cause, resulting in the death of 16 children and injuries more or less severe to a great many other people.

A later report states that the cause of the disaster was as follows: a crowd of children sitting in the gallery suddenly rushed down some steep stairs in order to obtain better seats in the hall. The foremost tripped and fell and the remainder stampeded over them.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

GREAT FIRE AT NEW YORK. THREE KILLED: MANY INJURED.

The thirteen-story Parker building on 19th Street, occupied by various firms, was destroyed by fire last Friday night. The loss is estimated at 5,000,000 dollars, a rug-dealer named Karghension alone losing a million.

Three firemen lost their lives, and many were injured. The burning of the "sky-scraper" provided an awe-inspiring spectacle.

THRILLING RESCUE SCENES.

The block of buildings fronting on Fifth-avenue and Nineteenth-street, says another report, was last Friday night the scene of a disastrous fire, which kept the brigade at work for several hours, and which was not finally extinguished before three firemen had lost their lives, and several others had been severely injured.

Vast crowds of spectators gathered on the spot to watch the brigade at work, and many sensational incidents were witnessed. The people in the numerous hotels in the neighbourhood of the scene



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of the outbreak flocked excitedly into the streets, fearing every moment that the flames would spread across the intervening space, and set other buildings alight.

In the vicinity for a short time something like a panic ensued, but the efforts of the firemen, assisted by a large force of police, sufficed to restore confidence. One by one the people were rescued from the burning building, mostly by means of the special long fire escapes, but it was found impossible to reach a number of printers, who were at work on the twelfth floor, and who, on the outbreak of the fire low down in the building, found their escape completely cut off.

So fierce were the flames that the firemen could not get a ladder to the window, and it seemed that the men's fate was sealed. Eventually, however, it was decided to attempt a rescue by means of a line thrown across from a window on the opposite side of the road, and after several unsuccessful attempts, a stout weighted line was thrown into the room in which the unfortunate men were imprisoned, and made fast at each end.

All of the men then dragged themselves along the line to safety, little the worse for their terrible experience. The crowd cheered vociferously each time a man was seen to leave the burning building, and then there was the silence of suspense until he had landed in safety, when another great cheer went up from the excited spectators.

The firemen's bravery throughout the whole of the time was conspicuous.

100,000 DOLLARS FOR A UNIVERSITY.

The governing body of the Columbia University acknowledged last week the receipt of 100,000 dollars from a donor who desires to remain anonymous.

The donation is made, says the *Globe*, in order that a "Humane Chair" may be founded at the University, or, to put it more clearly, in order that special attention may be directed to the study of means by which cruelty to animals may be the better prevented.

It is understood that the donor's object in founding the Chair is the perpetuation of the memory of the late Mr. Henry Bergh.

THE SZECHENYI-VANDERBILT WEDDING.

The wedding of Miss Gladys Vanderbilt and Count Laszlo Szechenyi of Buda Pesth will take place at New York on January 27. Invitations have been issued.

RELIEF FOR BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

The New York correspondent of the *Globe* says that by the opening of the new tunnel under the East River the dangerous congestion of the Brooklyn Bridge traffic has, to a very large extent, been relieved.

For a long time past the state of affairs on the bridge during what is popularly known as "the rush hour" has been nothing less than a disgrace. Between the hours of five and six, when thousands of New York's workers are returning to their homes on the Brooklyn side, something like a continuous *melée* has reigned at the starting stations of the cars, and cases of severe personal injury have been frequent. A month or two ago a working man was crushed to death while endeavouring to board one of these conveyances, several of his ribs being fractured. It is the New Yorker's boast that he is, above everything else, chivalrous to women, but he has seldom showed it on Brooklyn Bridge, where those of the opposite sex have been accustomed to be elbowed out of the way in the most ferocious manner. Indeed, to most women the crossing of Brooklyn Bridge during the busy part of the evening has been a daily terror.

Steps were taken last week to ascertain to what extent the new East River tunnel remedied the trouble, and after a comparison of figures it was found that the bridge traffic has been decreased by about 20 per cent.

THE ATLANTIC FLEET'S VOYAGE.

According to a Rio de Janeiro telegram the captain of the German cruiser "Bremen", lying off that port, received a wireless message from the American Squadron announcing their approach to Rio de Janeiro.

A latter message states that the sixteen American battleships have arrived in Rio de Janeiro bay, escorted by a squadron of Brazilian warships. The American fleet will remain there until January 22, and the Government and the United States diplomatic representative have arranged festivities in connection with the visit.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

It is reported from New York that, as the result of an underestimate made in connection with the excavation work for the Panama Canal construction, the total cost will probably be considerably greater than had previously been expected.

It is now believed that the Canal will cost 250,000,000 dollars to construct, and that some 6,000,000 dollars yearly will have to be spent for its upkeep.

A BROOKLYN BRIDGE TRAGEDY.

Brooklyn Bridge was on Friday last the scene of a remarkable tragedy, which caused the greatest excitement.

The attention of foot passengers had been attracted by the peculiar conduct of a man who had several times apparently attempted to get in front of one of the many trolley cars incessantly passing and re-passing. It soon became clear that the man's object was suicide and an attempt was made to capture him, but he took to flight and ran across the car track.

Headless of warning shouts, one of his pursuers followed, and at that moment a car dashed up. The fugitive doubled back out of the way, but his would-be rescuer was struck with great force and hurled clear over the bridge parapet into the river.

The terrible scene was witnessed by crowds of people, and several women fainted. In all probability the man was dead before he reached the river.

A desperate struggle took place when a number of persons seized the intending suicide. He fought like a madman, but was eventually exhausted and taken into custody.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

ESPIONAGE AT CHERBOURG.

The Paris *Eclair* reports from Cherbourg that plans of the two latest submarines were found in a drain in the arsenal. It is thought that these plans were stolen, but that the thief, fearing to keep such compromising papers about his person, threw them away.