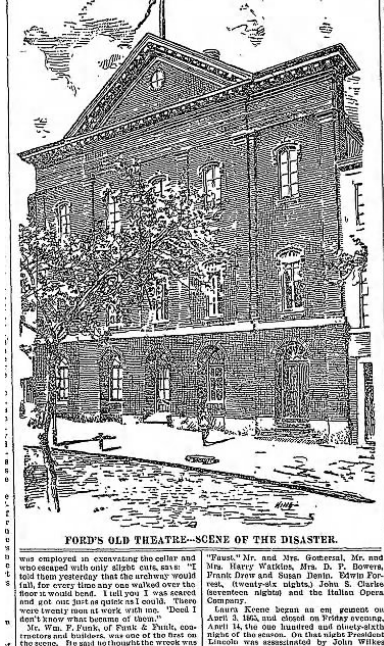
The Bal

Jon loaded on Jan 27, 2018



FORD'S OLD THEATRE--SCENE OF THE DISASTER.

was employed in excavating the cellar and who escaped with only slight cuts, says: "I told them yesterday that the archway would fall, for every time any one walked over the floor it would bend. I tell you I was scared and got out just as quiet as I could. There were twenty men at work with me. 'Dead I don't know what became of them."

Mr. Wm. F. Funk, of Funk & Funk, contractors and builders, was one of the first on the scene. He said no thought the wreck was caused by the faulty manner in which the work of underpinning seemed to have been conducted. He said he had noticed several times during the last few days and no later than this morning had looked at it. It did not seem to him that the work was being carried on in a safe manner.

Mr. Barr said the building had been notoriously unsafe for a long time, and he stated that a bond three times been concerned. He said the rear wall of the building had been bowed out for a long time.

Investigation to Be Made.

There seems to be no one directly responsible for the disaster. The mistake made by in the belief that under a building so constructed a hole could be dug without endangering the safety of the clerks who occupied it. But as the plan appeared feasible on paper, it was but natural that its execution should have been considered possible.

In addition to the supposed weakening of the foundations of the columns it is not unlikely that there were defects in the method of bonding the joists and other supports together, which added to the extent of the wreck.

An official inquiry will be commenced tomorrow both by the War Department and the District coroner, but it is doubtful if, in the present condition of the building, any more definite information can be obtained concerning the causes than that already ascertained.

Declared Unsafe in Congress.

Examination of official records shows that the unsecurity of the building was brought to the attention of Congress in a roundabout manner as far back as 1865. Attention was then directed usually to the safety of the army medical museum museum. The protection of human life was not especially brought in question.

Mr. A. M. Stockslager, of Indiana, who was chairman on the committee of buildings and grounds in the Forty-eighth Congress, made a report in favor of the construction of a new building for the museum and library, in which by said of Ford's Theatre, then used for that purpose:

"The building now used by the medical department for a library and a museum, situated on Tenth street, between E and F streets northwest, is not only too small to contain the records of the library and museum, but is unsubstantial and disused to destruction by fire."

When the bill came before the House for its consideration, February 16, 1885, Mr. Stockslager said:

"There is a medical museum, the most complete in the world, the result of the great war, which is now kept in the old Ford Theatre Building—a building totally inadequate to its safe keeping—a mere tinder-box surrounded by wooden buildings and liable to be destroyed by fire at any time. I visited it a short time ago in company with the surgeon-general and found the building in an absolutely dangerous condition. The building was occupied up under a contract in ninety days and was very badly constructed. The east wall is more than twelve inches out of plumb. The southwest corner of the building has given away until there is a great crack in the wall, and the officers in charge have been prohibited from putting heavy articles in the upper story for fear of pressing out the west wall. It is indeed in a tottering down condition."

General Slocum, who also visited the building, in the course of the same debate, said: "My attention was directed to the importance of this proposed building by a visit to the building where the manuscripts and books and specimens are now kept, and I do not believe there is a gentleman on this floor who would venture to vote for this bill after going there and seeing for himself the value of the contents of that building and the danger to which they are now exposed."

Congress acted upon these statements to the extent of removing the inestimable contents of the museum to a new and safe building, but Congress and the War Department thought proper to excuse government clerks to risks from which they shielded skeletons and medical books.

AN HISTORIC BUILDING.

When and How Built—Actors Who Appeared There—The Assassination.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—A church originally occupied the site of Ford's Theatre, and was the first church of the Baptist denomination, it is said, erected in Washington. President Jackson was among those who worshiped there. Mr. Jno. T. Ford purchased the building, turned it into a concert hall and occupied it until December 28, 1862, when it was destroyed by fire. The theatre was built. This was during the spring and summer of 1863. Mr. James J. Gifford, of Baltimore, was the architect and builder. The brick work was done by Mr. George R. Collis, also of Baltimore. The house was opened August 31, 1863, and was under Mr. Ford's management until President Lincoln was shot.

Two hundred and sixty performances were given in the theatre, beginning with "The Naiad Queen," which was followed by Maggie Mitchell. Then John Wilkes Booth played for two weeks, his repertoire comprising Richard III, Hamlet, Romeo, Shylock, Claude Melnotte, "The Marble Heart," Richelieu's "Richlieu," Dulwerle "Money" and "Taming the Shrew." "Richard III" being acted three times. Booth was followed by the Webb Sisters and James H. Rackett.

John E. Owens appeared in the theatre on the one hundredth night of the season. This came, in the order named, Joseph Proctor, Mrs. D. P. Bowers, "Rosedale," "Octoroon," John S. Clarke, James H. Hackett as Falstaff, (return engagement,) and Edwin Forrest, who acted Virginius, Hamlet, Richelieu, Damon, Richard III, Othello, Brutus, Macbeth, Pusaro, King Lear, Broker of Bogota, Jack Cade, Metamora, Gladiator and Coriolanus. During Mr. Forrest's engagement John McCullough acted the parts next to those personated by Mr. Forrest. John S. Clarke followed Mr. Forrest in twenty-four comedy performances and was in turn followed by Miss Mary Mitchell, now Mrs. John W. Alstaedt.

The memorable season of 1864-65 commenced on August 29 with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence in an engagement of one month. They were followed by Maggie Mitchell, Julius Brutus Booth, Jr., J. B. Roberts in "Faust," Mr. and Mrs. Gomersal, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Watkins, Mrs. D. P. Bowers, Frank Drew and Susan Denin. Edwin Forrest, (twenty-six nights,) John S. Clarke (seventeen nights) and the Italian Opera Company.

Laura Keene began an engagement on April 3, 1865, and closed on Friday evening, April 14, the one hundred and eleven-fifth night of the season. On that night President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at quarter of 10 o'clock during the third act of "Our American Cousin." Mr. Ford was in Richmond at the time, having gone there the previous Tuesday on a pass furnished by President Lincoln. As soon as Mr. Ford heard that President Lincoln had been shot he started on his return home. Orders were issued for his arrest, but without knowing it at the time he kept in advance of the telegrams sent to intercept him. The house he stopped at in Richmond was searched by soldiers shortly after he had left and the boat on which he took passage for Baltimore left an hour and a half earlier than the usual time. Mr. Ford arrived in Baltimore Tuesday, April 17, and was arrested the same day and taken to Washington, where he was imprisoned forty days, finally securing his release, mainly through the efforts of his counsel, Henry Winter Davis. No charge was ever made against him and Mr. Ford was never told why he was arrested.

During the summer of 1865 Mr. Ford attempted to open the theatre, but was prevented from doing so by an armed force sent by E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War. At the session of Congress of December, 1866, a bill was passed appropriating $100,000 to purchase the property. Thaddeus Stevens was chairman of the ways and means committee at the time. After the theatre had been purchased by the government it was altered for an anatomical museum, all the interior being removed. These alterations only were involved in the disaster. All that was left of the theatre building remained intact, the accident being confined to the interior part as reconstructed by the national authorities.

Within the past few years the building has been occupied by a portion of the clerks employed in the record and pension division of the War Department. They gradually crowded out the museum exhibits, which found a resting place in the new medical museum adjoining the Smithsonian Institution. The unsuitableness of the building to office purposes has frequently been noticed out, and it has not been actually officially condemned as unsafe, is point on which there seems some doubt. It has borne a notorious reputation for instability among the clerks for years. The structure of the rooms and its other disqualifications for the purpose for which it was used have been made the subject of frequent public comment. The United States flag remained floating above the wreckage which covered the dead and wounded until some one went up on the top of the roof and lowered it to half-mast.

Mr. James J. Gifford, the architect of the theatre, lives at 1428 East Fayette street, Baltimore. He was born March 14, 1814, and enjoyed good health until about a year ago, when he was attacked with the pain from which he is now recovering. He reconstructed the church that formerly occupied the site and built the theatre in ninety days in order to be ready for the opening of the season. Mr. Gifford has a distinct remembrance of the construction of the building, and when he was told early in the day that the roof had fallen in and the walls collapsed, he replied that such a thing was impossible from the manner in which the building had been constructed.

The theatre was about 70 feet front by 130 feet deep. It was somewhat longer, but very similar to the Holliday Street Theatre in Baltimore, and would seat about 1,200 persons. It had three circles. These were five doors in front and two in the rear. The walls were from 18 to 24 inches thick, and a tunnel in connection with the building was of a substantial character. Mr. Gifford says the ground on which the theatre stands is quicksand, which he dug through in order to secure a solid foundation. The alterations made by the government were supervised by Mr. Gifford at the request of the superintendent for the work. Mr. Gifford and he was not at all satisfied with the manner in which the work was done, and that he protested against it without avail.

Mr. Gifford was the master carpenter who created for the late Noah Walker what is now known as the Metro Building, the Holliday Street Theatre and Ford's Grand Opera House in Baltimore, Harris, Britton & Donn's theatre in Washington and many other well-known buildings, but retired from business some years ago. He has recovered from the effects of nearly all his wounds, and can explain all the details.

JOHN WILKES BOOTH.

A Fresh and Graphic Account of His Escape from Washington.

The intensely interesting narrative of Mr. Thomas A. Jones, who had charge of J. Wilkes Booth during the time that he was concealed in Charles county, and who finally secured his escape to Virginia, has already been noticed in THE SUN. Mr. Jones's account of the events of that week is dramatic and vivid. From it a few facts are gathered.

Booth met Herold at the navy-yard bridge, and with him traveled all night, reaching Dr. Mudd's house, twenty miles from Washington, early Saturday morning.

After leaving Dr. Mudd's that afternoon the fugitives crossed the Potomac and lost their way in Zachiah swamp. Here they met a negro man, Oswald Swann, who joined Easter day the two men, guided by Swann, reached at Mr. Cox's house and crossed the family. Mr. Cox came out and Booth, taking him aside, showed him the letters "J. W. B." tattooed on his wrist. Told him that he was J. Wilkes Booth and that he had killed Mr. Lincoln, and that he threw himself on Cox's mercy. Whether they went into the house has never been shown. Swann, the guide, informed on Mr. Cox and declared that they did, but a colored servant girl swore to the contrary and Swann's charge was never proved. Early the next morning Mr. Cox sent his adopted son, Samuel Cox, Jr., to Mr. Thomas A. Jones, our author, and requested him to come to him. He told Jones the whole story and asked him to get Booth across the river. This request filled Jones with consternation. The South had then been conquered, and the escape of Booth could not assist the cause, and to assist in that escape would, he knew, put his life in jeopardy. Finally he consented, however, and Cox directed him where he could find the man. A signal was given, and in a piney woods, not a mile from Cox's house, Mr. Jones first saw Booth, who was, from that time until the following Friday night, in his charge.

"He was lying," says Mr. Jones in his account, "on the ground with his head supported on his hand. His carbine, pistols and knife were close beside him. A blanket was drawn partly over him. His slouch hat and crutch were lying by him. * * * He was exceedingly pale and his features bore the evident traces of suffering. I have seldom, if ever, seen a more strikingly handsome man. * * * His voice was pleasant, and, though he seemed to be suffering intense pain from his broken leg, his manner was courteous and polite. * * * No sooner had I seen his helpless and suffering condition than I leave my whole mind to the problem of how to get him across the river. Murderer though I knew him to be, his condition so enlisted my sympathy in his behalf that my horror of the deed was almost forgotten in my compassion for the man."

In this place of concealment the fugitives spent six days of agony. Jones visited them daily and supplied them with food. Booth was frantic for newspapers. He wished to know how his act was regarded. His impatience to cross the river had to be restrained. The whole country was filled with detectives and everybody was suspected. To move out of the place of concealment would have been suicidal. One party of soldiers passed within two hundred yards of Booth and his companion. During this time, while in Port Tobacco, a detective who had a vague suspicion that Jones knew where Booth was, offered him $100,000 for his betrayal. In referring to commendations he, a poor man, had received for declining to earn this money, Mr. Jones says: "Had I for money betrayed the man whose hand I had taken, whose confidence I had won, and to whom I had promised secrecy, I would have been of all traitors the most abject and despicable. Money won by such vile means would have been accursed, and the pale face of the man whose life I had sold would have haunted me to my grave."

There were at this time but two boats on the Potomac in this vicinity. Booth belonged to Jones. One was held. The other was in plain view of the soldiers, who believed it was the only one, and yet they did not seize it! On Friday afternoon, one week from the day of the assassination, the opportunity to cross the river came. Information came to the soldiers that Booth had been seen in St. Mary's county, and all left the neighborhood. That night about 9 o'clock Booth was mounted on Jones's horse and the three went to the river bank at Dent's Meadow, three and a half miles from the place of concealment. Here the boat was ready. The river, which is at this point two miles wide, was smooth and the night was intensely dark. Booth was placed in the stern of the little flat-bottomed boat, with an oar for steering. Jones lighted a candle, which was concealed under an oil coat. He pointed out the course on the compass which would carry him to Machodoc creek, near the residence of Mrs. Quesenberry. Herold was in the bow to row. A few strokes of the oar carried the fugitives out into the black darkness, and Mr. Jones saw them no more. They did not reach their destination that night. A strong flood-tide carried them astern near Nanjemoy, on the Maryland side. Then they remained concealed until Saturday night, when they again started, and this time succeeded. They reached Mrs. Quesenberry's on Sunday morning.

INCIDENTS OF THE ESCAPE.

Recollections of the Rev. Mr. Garrett, a Presbyterian Minister.

It is well known that Edwin Booth rarely allowed his most intimate friends to engage him in conversation about the horrible tragedy with which his brother, John Wilkes, was connected, but on one occasion, in the spring of 1871, a gentleman was introduced to him at Guy's Hotel, in Baltimore, by Mr. W. E. C. Harrison, and after a few remarks Mr. Booth said: "Not long since I received a letter giving the details of brother John's last hours at Garrett's place, stating that they have a lock of his hair, and that his last words were to our mother." He added that he had written to Mr. Garrett to secure the lock of hair, but had never received a reply. The newly made acquaintance assured Mr. Booth that he would set it for him, and also secure a detailed statement in regard to his brother's stay with the Garrett family. The promise was duly kept and the package delivered to Edwin Booth thirteen years after the horrible tragedy at Washington. Mr. Booth disclaimed any political sympathy whatever with John Wilkes, but said his brother's memory was dear to him. In acknowledgment of the delivery of the lock of hair and statement he wrote:

"The precious package reached me safely several days ago. * * * * * * I can express but little of what it feel for your disinterested friendship in this matter. I can only say I think me cordially and sense to know you better. Fraternally yours,

"EDWIN BOOTH."

At that time young Garrett was studying for the ministry and in need of some valuable books. This fact was indirectly mentioned to Mr. Booth and he requested a list of the books, which were secured and prepared by express to Mr. Garrett. The bill amounted to $28. This valuable and excellent young Garrett to complete his education for the pulpit, and at last account he was pastor of the Presbyterian church at Maysville, Ky. Mr. Garrett's statement was as follows:

"I have been requested to write a description of the death of John Wilkes Booth, the slayer of Abraham Lincoln. Though years have passed since then, and though your correspondent was a youth at the time, the incidents connected with his death are as fresh in my memory as if they had just occurred. To comprehend fully the details of his capture I will have to give a short description of my father's house and farm, where he was shot. Our farm is situated in Caroline county, Va., a little more than two miles south of the little village of Port Royal, on the Rappahannock river. Our house is on the right of the stage road leading from Port Royal to Bowling Green, the county seat, and about a quarter of a mile from the road. It was on the afternoon of Monday, April 24, 1865, that Booth came to my father's house. He was brought there by two ex-confederate soldiers, Willie Jett and Lieutenant Ruggles, and introduced to my father as James W. Boyd, a Confederate soldier, who had been wounded at the battle of Petersburg. It will be remembered that Mr. Booth had broken his leg in jumping to the stage of the theatre in Washington after shooting the President. Mr. Jett asked my father if he could accommodate Boyd for a few days until he got better and could travel. You know a true Virginian never resents an appeal like that, of course, Mr. Boyd was welcomed at once. Messrs. Jett and Ruggles then rode off toward Bowling Green. Mr. Boyd and my two brothers (who had just returned from Appomattox) remained on the porch talking until supper was announced. After supper Mr. Boyd complained of his wound; said that riding had jarred it. He retired early. I slept in the same room with him that night and noticed that he had two handsome revolvers and a dirk with a pearl handle. The latter, he said, was a gift of a friend. He slept soundly, and when I arose in the morning he was still sleeping. I remember looking at him as I left the room, and I thought that I had never seen a finer specimen of manly beauty, and I still think that he was the handsomest man I ever saw. He was very fair and his jet-black curls were brushed back from a forehead rather low, but very broad. His glossy black mustache shaded a mouth as soft as a woman's, while his glance claim told of a resolute will. Nothing of interest occurred during the forenoon of the next day (Tuesday.) My brothers went away in the morning and did not return until dinner. After dinner they amused themselves firing at a post in front of the house with pistols. Mr. Boyd surprised us all, for he would strike the mark every time.

"About the middle of the afternoon another soldier came, whom Mr. Boyd called 'Davy.' This man was Harold who attempted to kill Stanton. They then asked my brothers if they could hire the horses to go to Milford Station, on the R. F. and P. R., the next day. My brothers replied that they could not spare their horses, but that there was a colored man who lived near who would take them. They went to see this man and engaged him to take them next morning. He did so. He did so, but he only took the blooding corpse of one and the managed wretch who was so soon expiate his crime upon the gallows. That night (Tuesday) Booth and Herold proposed to sleep in the barn, as they wanted to make an early start and did not wish to disturb the family. My brothers, fearful of losing their horses, slept in an adjoining barn. About 3 o'clock on the morning of the 26th my father was awakened by a noise at the door, and on going to answer the knock was confronted by a man, who placed a cocked revolver at his head and led him into the yard, where he was greeted with cries of 'Hang the rebel!' 'Hang him! here is a rope,' &c. The whole premises were surrounded by a horde of cocked men, searching in every house and corner. They soon found out that there were men in the barn, upon which they surrounded it, not forgetting to leave my poor old father in the yard in his night clothes, guarded by two men, who even refused to let him put on a coat, but kept him in the chill night air, old and feeble as he was, without anything to protect him from the cold. At the barn the then fifty men were engaged in trying to persuade one man to surrender. Failing in this, they resorted to the idea of burning him out. The barn was fired, and then they seemed no nearer their object than before, until at last one man, more humane than the rest, walked up to the side of the barn, put his pistol through a crack and fired. That my brother and a soldier rushed in and dragged him from the flames that were almost upon him, took him out and laid him upon the grass in the yard. Finding that life still remained, they brought him on the porch, where a mattress was spread for him. A man was dispatched for a doctor, who soon arrived, but too late, for human skill could not avail where death had already set his seal. The glazing eyes, the clammy brow, now wet with the cold dews of death, told us that the fatal bullet had done its work. Reviving for a moment, he asked to see his hands. They were shown him. He looked at them for a while, and murmuring 'Useless, useless,' fell back upon the pillow. The thread of life that remained was parting very gently. A few strands yet remained, but the tension was increasing. Again he revived and whispered, 'Tell my mother I died—for my country. I did—what—I—thought—was—best.' A gasp—a shiver—and the caring soul was before its Judge."

The Colored Clerk from Virginia.

(Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.)

ROANOKE, VA., June 9.—George R. Arnold, the colored man killed in the collapse of Ford's Theatre at Washington today, was well known here, having been a mail agent on the Norfolk and Western several years ago and stamped this section for the Grant and Hayes presidential tickets.

English Criticism on the Accident.

LONDON, June 10.—All the morning newspapers comment more or less reproachfully upon the Washington government's responsibility for the loss of life in the fall of Ford's Opera House. They criticise the government severely for allowing a department to use a notoriously unsafe building and dwell upon the flimsiness of American buildings, railways and bridges. All mention the fact that Lincoln was assassinated in the old opera house.

SUNDAY-CLOSING APPEAL.

Chief Justice Fuller Will Decide the World's Fair Opening.

CHICAGO, June 9.—The United States Court decided this morning to allow the World's Columbian Exposition an appeal from the decision yesterday granting an injunction against Sunday opening of the fair. The time and place of hearing the appeal will be fixed by Chief Justice Fuller. Application for a supersedeas, which would suspend the effect of the injunction pending a hearing on the appeal, was refused, leaving yesterday's decision in force.

Attorney Walker, representing the exposition directors, moved for a suspension of the order when it should be entered, and began a long argument in support of the motion. After hearing Mr. Walker's arguments Judge Woods announced that the order for immediate was entered in accordance with the decision of yesterday.

The order for an injunction was accordingly made out and signed. It was agreed, however, that a transcript of the record would be made out today and that tomorrow morning Attorney Walker will go before Chief Justice Fuller and ask for a suspension of the injunction until such time as it can be heard by the Court of Appeals. On Chief Justice Fuller's decision hangs the question whether or not the fair will be open next Sunday.

Soon after the proceedings in the federal court Attorney William Mason, of this city, and Attorney-General Maloney, of Illinois, filed a bill for mandamus in the State courts to compel the park commissioners to open Jackson Park on Sunday.

BOSTON, June 9.—Secretary Noble, of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, has received a dispatch from Chicago stating that President Higinbotham has decided to close the fair Sundays without further notice. Mr. Baer says he is pleased with the decision of the federal court, and the directors considers the decision final and withdraws their attorney's appeal to a higher court and immediately decides to close the gates on Sundays he means to do everything in his power to stimulate the attendance, believing the exposition closed on Sundays merits the united, hearty and enthusiastic support of every one in the land.

The Central Traffic Association has taken the initiative in the matter of lowering the rates to Chicago to a single fare for the round trip, based on the highest rate for limited tickets on the route traveled. It is said in official circles here that this is the meeting ground which will lead to uniform and general action on the part of all the trunk lines.

Secretary of War Lamont was one of the visitors selected by a pickpocket at the World's Fair yesterday. While the secretary did not lose anything, he probably would have been minus his pocket-book in a minute more but for the interference of one of Captain Bonfield's men. The pickpocket had investigated the contents of two of Mr. Lamont's pockets when the arrest was made.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—The officials of the War Department protest that the recent increase of the military force at Chicago has nothing to do with the closing of the World's Fair, but notwithstanding this denial there is reason to believe that trouble is anticipated if the attempt is made to carry out the construction of law given by the United States courts.

FATAL FIGHT WITH STRIKERS.

Several Men Killed and Wounded—Cause of the Trouble.

CHICAGO, June 9.—A pitched battle took place this afternoon between strikers and employes of contractors on the Chicago drainage canal.

The fight took place at Romeo, the strikers coming down from Lemont and others coming from the north, the opposing gangs being two miles apart. They at once began firing on the contractors and their men.

Coming from the north, they drove off the men on section 16. The men retired fighting, but they had only gone a short distance when they were met upon by another division of the strikers and several men were killed.

Three of the men killed are in Will county; two of them in the Illinois and Michigan canal. One is lying on the ground and two others are lying in the bushes just across the line in Cook county. Four of these who are wounded will probably die. It is impossible to learn the names of the killed. The list of wounded is as follows:

Michael Mcbolith, bullet through fleshy part of thigh.

Frank Dalai, two bullet wounds and terribly clubbed.

Lorens Levandoski, wrist shattered by a bullet.

Ludwig K. Ruga, shot through abdomen; will die.

Anton Vescioski, several wounds in head and clubbed.

Thomas Moralski, bullet through lungs; will die.

Michael Boyer, bullet through lower lobe of liver; will die.

John Zwojatoski, bullet through thigh bone; will lose leg.

Michael Jeolosk, bullet in lungs; is dying.

Frank Smith, ear shot off.

Severn Peterson, shot in several places and clubbed.

There are six or eight others who are wounded, but their injuries are not of a serious nature. All of the wounded live in Lemont, where they were brought for treatment. Dr. J. J. Lehy attended all of them. He extracted a dozen or fifteen bullets from the wounded men.

According to the stories told by the strikers, they were in no way responsible for the carnage. They claim they were unarmed and were attacked without provocation. Of the men employed on the drainage canal almost 100 armed refused to join the strikers. This morning they were armed with shotguns, Winchesters and revolvers and told to protect themselves.

When the party from the north came in sight about one mile they saw they were much surprised to be met with a fusillade from the men at work. They deny having fired a shot or making any hostile demonstration.

At the first fire they started to run. The negroes gave pursuit, and seventeen of the strikers were captured and imprisoned in a boat car in which they were afterwards conveyed to Joliet.

The contractors declare they will not pay two dollars for eight hours' work. Chicago's contract, if enforced, will, it is claimed, make the contractors lose millions of dollars.

Suicide of Lieut. Hay.

VALLEJO, CAL., June 9.—Lieut. Wm. P. Hay, United States Navy, commander of the United States coast-survey steamer MacArthur, committed suicide at Mare Island Naval Hospital this morning by cutting his throat. Lieutenant Hay was transferred to the Naval Hospital a short time ago suffering from nervous prostration. The deceased was a native of Indiana and leaves a wife and family.

Toledo and Damascus blades were very popular in the middle ages and sold for their weight in gold.