AWFUL HOLOCAUST.

Particulars of the Hotel Disaster at Denver.

DREADFUL SIGHTS WITNESSED.

A Careless Engineer and Weak Walls Cause the Disaster.

LIST OF KILLED AND INJURED.

A Large Number Yet Missing Who are Undoubtedly in the Ruins—Men and Women Roasted to Death Before the Eyes of the Spectators, While Begging to be Saved—One Victim Offered $1,000 to Save Him and Begged That His Imprisoned Leg be Chopped Off.—The Walls Fell and Buried Him Under Tons of Debris—Heart-Rending Scenes Witnessed by the Firemen, Powerless to Save.

Denver, Colo., August 19.—A portion of the Gumry Hotel, the scene of last night's frightful disaster, is still standing, a gaunt and sinister ruin, constantly threatening to crash down on those delving in the ruins at any moment. The search for victims has been carried on with the utmost energy constantly since the explosion occurred and is being continued tonight with the aid of twenty arc lights.

Flames broke out afresh in the wreckage tonight and the fire engines are again pouring forth water, still further impeding the work of rescue.

The list of dead and missing now numbers 25, making the disaster the worst that has ever occurred in the city. Up to 7:30 tonight only seven bodies had been recovered, being those of Manager Greiner and his wife, clasped in each other's arms; George Burt, a Rock Island railroad conductor; Mrs. George R. Wolfe and daughter; Fred Hubbold and Will Richards, the elevator man.

Among the missing are now included Elmer Pierce (not Lusher) the night engineer, who is said to have re-entered the hotel just before the explosion occurred. It is to this man's carelessness that the disaster is attributed.

The bodies of Peter Gumry and General Adams are still in the ruins. Judge James Glynn, who was at first supposed to have been in his room at the hotel, turns out to be at Holyoke, Colo., where he was spending Sunday with friends.

A vast throng surrounds the building on every side, pressing forward as far as the ropes will allow. The police are constantly guarding against any one stepping through the lines, on account of great danger that the front of the building may fall.

The loss of life by the Gumry explosion and fire is probably the greatest of any similar catastrophe known to the city. There were in the hotel between forty and fifty persons, including guests and employes. Of these it is believed that 25 met with death. The found on the left side of his head and the left arm was broken. The body was badly scalded across the breast and face. On his left second finger he wore a solitaire diamond ring. The head and bust of a woman, with a heart, was tattooed on the inside of his left arm between the elbow and shoulder. The body was taken to the morgue in the ambulance.

The ruins are twenty feet deep, and under them are at least twelve bodies—how many more is not known. The work of rescue goes rapidly on. The front of the building is standing, but in the back and center is the scene of the terrible devastation of the explosion.

Mingled with bricks and mortar and burning ruins are human bones, human skulls and the smell of burning flesh.

The north wall is still standing, but a huge crack warns that a fall may be expected at any moment. Directly in the path of this fall is buried at least eight bodies.

Among the injured who were rescued from the building and are at the county hospital are:

N. C. Burgess, of Denver; left side and shoulder injured.

Bud Hopkins, of Detroit, Mich., left hip and shoulder.

Joe Manugl, of Cairo, Ill.; shocked.

Burgess was not an occupant of the hotel at the time of the explosion; but was walking along the street and was struck by parts of flying timbers.

Bud Hopkins was a bartender employed in the hotel and had not retired when the catastrophe occurred.

Joe Manuel was in his room on the top floor, and the first he knew of the affair was when he saw the firemen digging the debris from around him.

Two corpses, partly burned in the debris, are plainly visible from the alley in the rear of the demolished structure. Up to 10 o'clock the firemen and workmen engaged in clearing away this portion of the wreck were unable to recover them or even get within ten yards of the bodies. This state of affairs is occasioned by the clouds of dense smoke which are pouring from the ruins in large volumes. It is absolutely out of the question to expect any headway from this quarter until the partly smothered fire under the huge pile of brick, mortar and timber is extinguished. Three streams were playing on the fire at 10 o'clock and although this end of the building is almost flooded, the smoke continues to belch forth in quantities sufficient to suffocate a person should one remain there any length of time.

Another obstacle in the way of rescuing the dead is the shackly north wall which bears indications that it will topple over at any moment. If this should occur this morning and the work of quenching the fire and smoke should be accomplished, it is entirely probable that most of the dead, who are supposed to be near the front of the building, could be taken out with ease.

From the alley in the rear the scene is an appalling one. The wreck of the building could not have been more complete had dynamite done the work. Although three of the walls still remain intact the whole interior of the building is a mass of ruins, the like of which was never before witnessed in Denver.

Even the demolition of the Tramway power house in West Denver last spring could not compare with the ruin wrought by last night's explosion.

One of the bodies to be seen from the alley is only covered by a thin layer of bricks and plaster. One of the legs of the unfortunate, though, is pinioned underneath a huge girder, and on account of this it is impossible to take the body out unless the limb should be amputated. The smoke and fire prevents the rescuers from removing the girder. The unfortunate was in bed when death came, as close by is the remains of a cot on which he was probably sleeping. This body may be gotten at, in all probability, this afternoon some time, or as soon as the fire is all out.

Hale. The body will be prepared for burial and shipped to Chicago, where the parents of the dead man reside. Burt was a member of the Order of Railway Conductors and carried a heavy insurance on his life in several companies.

PITIFUL SIGHTS.

James Murphy Offers $1,000 to be Saved, But is Killed by Falling Walls.

The scene surrounding the death of James Murphy, a contractor, was heartrending. The firemen at the rear of the building heard the agonizing cries from the man that he was burning and to continue to play the water. After fifteen minutes of heroic work the firemen reached him. His two lower limbs were pinioned between two heavy joists. After herculean efforts, with dense smoke blinding the firemen's eyes, Murphy's left leg was released. At this moment a sheet of flame compelled the men to withdraw. Murphy then offered $1,000 to get him out, and piteously begged them to chop his leg off. A second later the west wall collapsed and covered poor Murphy with tons of ruins. Mr. Murphy came to Denver from Omaha six years ago.

Mrs. George R. Wolfe, here from Lincoln, Neb., visiting Mrs. Schmittel, was a victim of the catastrophe. She was accompanied by her five-year old daughter. Mrs. Wolfe's husband is a prominent tobacco manufacturer at Lincoln. He left the hotel yesterday for a tour of Colorado.

J. A. Brown and L. J. Kirk, of Omaha, are among the missing. They registered at the Gumry Sunday afternoon, and have not been seen since the explosion. Mrs. Brown telegraphed an inquiry from Omaha and Chief Goulding answered that there were little hopes of her husband being alive.

A suit of clothes was found in the ruins of the hotel, in the pockets of which was a 1,000-mile railroad book bearing the name of A. Stuckey and a letter addressed to Miss Hattie Layton, Belvidere, Ill.

J. E. Calkins, wife and baby, were thought for a time to have been victims of the casualty, have been located in Highlands. Mr. Calkins is a newspaper man from Davenport, Iowa, city editor of the Gazette. They registered at the Gumry on their arrival, but later went to stay with friends.

M. E. Setson, a dairyman of this city, was in the ruins ten hours before he was rescued. His injuries are a crushed arm, several contusions and the shock to his nerves. Mr. Letson said: "I was more encased than pinioned, as only my left leg, there where you see the bandages, and my right arm were held down by any weights. You can not have the faintest idea of my feelings as I lay there in the bottom of the basement with all the ruins on top

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

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