## FOURTEEN PERISH IN A FIRE AT NEWARK

Several Other Persons Injured,
Two of Them Seriously.

#### MAY BE WORK OF INCENDIARY

Suspect Under Arrest—One Family Entirely, and Another Almost, Wiped
Out — Frightful Scenes in
Italian Tenement.

Italian Tenement

Fourteen poor Italians of sixty inmates of a ramshackle tenement at Morris and Fourteenth Avenues, in West Newark, met death in an early morning fire yesterday. Two more were seriously and a number of others more or less severely injured. The fire was believed by the police to be incendiary, and a fellow-countryman of the victims was placed in custody under suspicion, with one other held as a witness. The burned building was a three-story

and attic frame structure, used formerly as an Italian Catholic Church, but several years ago it was converted into a tenement. It provided quarters, however, of a most miserable character, the tenants being crowded together like cattle. The sixty persons constituted ten families and their boarders. The two upper stories were traversed their length by halls 4 feet wide, on each side of which were the rooms. 10 by 8 feet, practically nothing more than box stalls of plain unpainted boards.

Each family had two of these rooms, in

which they ate, slept, and lived. In some rooms were three beds, so close that to reach one it was necessary to crawl over another. Huddled six and eight in a room, these tenants were asleep when a baker or milkman in passing at a few minutes after 5 o'clock saw the building ablaze and turned in an alarm from a box directly across the street.

In response to the alarm Battalion Chief

Joseph E. Sloan, in whose district the fire occurred, hurried from his headquarters, in Bruce Street, three blocks distant, and was the first to arrive at the fire. He was quickly followed by Truck No. 3, under Capt. Voight. As the truck turned into Fourteenth Avenue a minute after the alarm had been sent out they found that the fire had already gained such headway that flames were shooting out of every window in the upper stories.

As they neared the burning building they

saw a man, frenzied by fear, throw up a window on the third story and dive headforemost to the street, striking the sidewalk on his head. He was picked up unconscious and taken to the City Hospital,
where he died a few hours later from fracture of the skull.

Three engine companies and the salvage

corps arrived soon afterward, as did also Chief Kiersted and Assistant Chief Ashley, while a platoon of police from the Fourth Precinct under Capt. Edwards and Roundsman McGeehan were soon on hand.

TENANTS RAISED NO ALARM.

#### A strange thing was that no one of the

to vaise an alarm, and all those who caped had betaken themselves to neighboring houses before the firemen arrived, and it was not known that there had been such loss of life until the fire was got under control. It was, indeed, some time before any considerable crowd was attracted, and this was of chattering Italians, whose excited talk in their native tongue gave little information to the firemen and policemen. It was not long, though, before many of these, discovering that members of their

ramilies were missing, were running about, groaning and wringing their hands. In many cases, however, the lost ones were found in the homes of neighbors, and the police were at a loss to know what fatalities there might have been.

Entrance to the house was impossible. The only door to the two upper stories was at the top of a double wooden stairway in

front. on Morris Avenue, once serving as the church entrance and leading into a hall-way of the second story, which led to the rear of the building, and on either side of which were many rooms, such as those which have been described, while close by the same entrance was a narrow stairway, wide enough for one person to pass, leading to the floor above, which, in its arrangement, was exactly similar to the second floor.

So far as known, it was close to this doorway that the fire began, and burned so fiercely that many of those who perished were doubtless here cut off from

escape, though there were evidences that some of them had been suffocated in bed before their bodies were reached by the flames.

A narrow alley led alongside the building in the rear of three little stores which fronted on Fourteenth Avenue on the ground

floor. In this, while hauling through a hose to play from the rear. Capt. Voight found one man who had dropped from the top floor. He was taken to the hospital. It was an hour and a half after the arrival of the hremen that the fire was sufficiently under control to permit the firemen to enter the wrecked structure, and then it was that the awful fate of so many of the

terants was discovered. One whole family

had been wiped out and most of another. Fireman Blyhl of Truck No. 3 was the first to come upon a dead body. It was badly charred, and proved to be that of a

Mrs. Boldi. Lieut. Smith and Fireman Mc-Cabe of the same truck carried out the first bodies discovered. Seven bodies were found on the third floor, four children and three women, and six on the second floor, one man, two women, and three children. On the top floor lived Antonio Palmisano with his family, consisting of wife and two children. They were all lost, and when the top floor was eaten by the flames and part of it fell, Antonio's body was thrown to the floor below.

THE DEAD AND INJURED.

The names of the dead are as follows:

BOLDI, NUNZIATA, forty-five years old.

### ROLDI, TERESA, seven years old, daughter of Nunziata Boldi. CASILLO, ANGELA, twenty-five years old, wife

of Eugenio Casillo.

CASILLO, ANTONIO, ning years old, son of Eugenio.

CASILLO, BEVINITO, four years old, daughter

CASILLO, BEVINITO, four years old, daughter of Eugenio.
CASILLO, CARMINO, one year old, daughter of Eugenio.
CASILLO, FRANK, two and a half years old, sin of Eugenio.

PALMISANO, ANTONIO, thirty-five years old.
PALMISANO, GIUSEPPA, seven years old,
daughter of Antonio.
PALMISANO, NUNZIATA, one year old, daughter of Antonio.
PALMISANO, SEBASTIANA, wife of Antonio.
PALMISANO, GAETANA, thirty-five years old,

ROSSO, ANGELO, died in City Hospital; fractured skull Unidentified body of child about four years old. Owing to the excitement among the Italians and their evident fear of the police there was added difficulty in obtaining iden-

wife of Filipe Palmisano.

tifications. It was believed that the unidentified child was also of the Palmisano family.

Two injured taken to the hospital were:

BOLDI, Salvatore, burned about the hands while attempting to escape.

CASILLO, Eugenio, suffering from contusions received by jumping from the building.

A number of others who were injured took refuge in the nouses of neighbors and did

not report their hurts to the police.

Filipe Palmisano was burned slightly about the hands. He and his wife, who was lost, lived with the family of his cousin Antonio on the top floor. This family was entirely wiped out.

The wife and daughter of Boldi, who were burned to death, were found in the hallway

of the second floor. Boldi said at the hospital that when he was awakened he seized his ten-year-old son, while his wife caught up the girl Teresa. I pon going out into the hal! they found it filled with smoke. Boldi dropped upon his hands and knees and the boy did likewise. He called to his wife to

dropped upon his hands and knees and the boy did likewise. He called to his wife to do the same and she did so. He reached the door with his son when the boy collapsed. He grabbed him by the collar and drew him out to safety. He saw no more of his wife and daughter, and was with difficulty re-

strained from rushing again into the burning building.

TRIED TO SAVE HER BABIES.

Mrs. Casillo was found with two of her children clasped in her arms. The little fellow Frank had his face buried in her breast, while the baby was thrust beneath her night gown to save it from the smoke.

The three stores on the ground floor were occupied by Giacomo M. Maffia, with his wife and two children, who kept a grocery store; Paulo Mazzio, who kept a butcher's shop, but did not live in the building, and Alfonso Capossa and his wife, who kept a grocery store at the corner. Capossa is beyond middle age, and has but one leg. His wife dragged him to the sidewalk. Maffia escaped with his family uninjured. He was the lessee of the building, which was owned by the Rev. Felix Morelli, rector of the Catholic Church of St. Philip De Neri.

upon the smoldering ruins an Italian was overheard to say to a friend that if there was any money in it he could tell who was responsible for the fire. This was the first intimation that the fire may have been of incendiary origin. The two Italians were De Prula and Joseph Firrigino. Policeman John Murphy took the men into custody and as a result the arrest was made later of Vito Cradanza, under suspicion of being the incendiary.

While the firemen were playing streams

It appeared that there was a game of cards in one of the rooms of the house on Sunday night and it lasted until well into yesterday morning. The players drank considerable wine and after midnight there was a quarrel, during which Cradanza is reported to have exclaimed: "I'll send the whole lot of you to hell in a few hours if you are not careful." Soon after this threat was made the card party broke up. It was said that just before the fire was discovered Cradanza was seen to leave the building with his wife and two children, all fully

This, taken in connection with his threat at the card game, led to the suspicion of incendiarism. His arrest caused a great deal of excitement. It was after the bodies had been removed and the police were on guard keeping off the crowd. Before Cradanza knew that a policeman was near he was grasped from behind by the neck and Patrolman Murphy was searching him for a weapon.

Patrolman and prisoner were soon surrounded by a crowd, which sought to wreak vengeance upon the suspected man. Murphy called for help, and other policemen went to his aid, and forming a circle around the prisoner, saved him from violence. He was taken to the station in a patrol wagon and locked up. Later he was arraigned before Justice Schalk and held for examination. If convicted his penalty would be hanging, even if he had no intention to kill, so long as death resulted from the fire.

The burned building was formerly known as St. Rocco's Catholic Church. Father Morello, who owns it, when seen yesterday and informed of the disaster, seemed greatly shocked. He said that he had leased the building to Maffia after it ceased to be used as a church, and he had not been in it for five years.

#### SHEEHAN SEES CARROLL

# Ninth District Leader Then Announces that He Has the Support of Tammany Hall.

John C. Sheehan, whose leadership of the Tammany organization in the Ninth Assembly District is being assailed, had a long talk with John F. Carroll, Richard Croker's deputy, at Tammany Hall yesterday. After the conference, Mr. Sheehan said that his followers constituted the regular district organization, and that, despite the opposition of the Horatio Seymour Club, it would continue to represent the interests of the Democratic Party of the county.

"I have nothing to say in reply to the so-called appeal sent out by my enemies," Mr. Sheehan said, "but any opposition to the District General Committee of which

I am the head will not have the sanction of Tammany Hall. Instead, it will be contrary to the wishes of the party leaders." On Saturday night a rumor was circulated in the Ninth District that a cablegram from Mr. Croker had been received by some one in the Pequed Club, in which the Tammany leader stated that he desired to have the fight against Sheehan dropped.

The first point this report reached was the

headquarters of the Horatio Seymour Club, and immediately a score of anti-Sheehan workers were sent through the district to spread denials of the rumor. The circulation of the address to the voters by the Seymour Club, which began at once, settled the rumor, and the people of the district were convinced that the fight was on in earnest.

HESS PEFEATED IN FIRST BATTLE.

#### Fifteenth Election District Republicans Support Opposition Ticket. The first battle between the Hess and anti-

Hese factions in the Twelfth Congressional District occurred last night. It resulted in a decisive victory for the antis. The Republican electers of the Fifteenth Election District of the Twenty-fifth Assembly District met at the Hotel Bartholdi, and the anti-Hese ticket was victorious by more than three to one. Charles Stewart Davison, President, and Leader C. A. Hess was present.

When the result was announced, E. T. Keehn, the Captain of the district, shouted

"I am not going to send this list to you to present to the County Committee."
"Why not?" inquired Mr. Hess.
"Because I don't trust you." replied Mr.

to Mr. Hess:

Lyceum.

Keenn. "You changed the tickets before and you might do it again."
"Nonsense" retorted Mr. Hess. "Every one in this district will at least concede that I am honest."
Resolutions were adopted charging the

Hess people with fraudulent practices at the primary on Sept. 19, 1899, and asserting that enough fraudulent votes were cast to defeat the will of the majority, and that justice was only done when the courts were appealed to.

Lively times are expected to-night at the "smoker" of the F. Norton Goddard East Side Republican Club at the Murray Hill

GRUBER MEN DISCONCERTED.

## Ford Expected to Follow Fallows and Come Out for Austin—Gruber

## Accuses Quigg. The announcement of Assemblyman E. H. Fallows that he will support George C. Austin in his fight to wrest the Republican

leadership of the Twenty--first Assembly District from Abraham Gruber has caused consternation in the Gruber camp. It is expected to be followed by a similar declaration from Senator Ford, who long ago declared a strict neutrality. The Austin men declare that the action of Mr. Fallows means certain defeat for Gruber.

Col. Gruber, while defiant, was nevertheless apparently worried yesterday. He produced letters tending to show that the sympathies of Mr. Fallows had been with him.

He claimed Fallows had been coerced by Chairman Quigg. The latter, Col. Gruber contended, hed sent for Fallows and given him to understand that if he did not support Austin, any bills in which he (Fallows) was interested could not be passed. Col. Gruber promises to make interesting revelations at the meeting to be held to-night at Colonial Hall, at Columbus Avenue and One Hundred and Third Street.

Chairman Quigg yesterday denied that he had attempted to influence Assemblyman Failows in any way, and his assertions simply proved that Gruber realized that he was a beaten man.

Gruber expresses confidence that he will beat Austin by 1,500 votes at the primaries.

Deputy City Clerk Hayes's Reception.

Deputy City Clerk Nicholas J. Hayes, the

Tammany leader of the Thirty-third As-

sembly District, has issued invitations to

the Democrats of the district for a recep-

tion to be given at the house of the Po-

casset Club, 208 East One Hundred and Fourteenth Street, on St. Patrick's Day, between the hours of 2 and 9 P. M. The affair, which will be entirely informal, is designed to promote the acquaintance of the members of the club with each other and has no political significance.

In the clothing of Mrs. Boldi was found