

THE WESTERN UNION FIRE.

PLANS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTED BUILDING—ALL WIRES WORKING.

Bad as the upper part of the Western Union Telegraph Building has looked since the fire that paralyzed the telegraph business of the greater part of the country, it will look a great deal worse for the next few months. About as many workmen as could get around in the building without interfering with one another and retarding work were busy yesterday putting things in readiness for the transformation that will begin immediately.

The three top stories of the building, including the ornamental roof, are to be taken down. The five-story brownstone building, 25 feet front in Dey street and 80 feet deep, adjoining the Western Union Telegraph Building on the west, is the property of the company. It will also be torn down to the foundations when the top stories of the big building are removed. Upon the ruin thus created the new Western Union Telegraph Building will be built. It will be ten stories high instead of nine, as now, and will be extended over the Dey street lot, adding thus an area of 25 by 80 feet to the area of every floor as at present. Instead of an ornamental roof the reconstructed building will have a flat roof of metal, with glass skylight.

Walter C. Humstone, Superintendent of the company, says it is believed that the new building will be under roof by Jan. 1. Two floors in the new part of the building will be devoted to the operating department, instead of one, as formerly, and instead of being twenty-two feet high, like the room which was burned out, they will be each eighteen feet high. The old quarters had been outgrown, and the company had long contemplated an enlargement of the operating room, but had put it off from time to time to find a more convenient season. The fire made the opportunity in a very unwelcome way. In the reconstructed building there will be room enough for everybody.

In the meantime the former occupants of the building are rapidly getting into quarters somewhat cramped, but as comfortable and convenient as circumstances will admit. The old battery floor is occupied by the operators. The Associated Press is accommodated on the floor below, and the auditing department has been removed to the company's building in Broad Street. A tremendous quantity of debris from the fire still remains to be removed, and then some means of draining the old operating room floor will be put in before daylight is let through the roof and the work of tearing down begins. Preliminary to this an additional chute was yesterday in course of construction to send the debris down to the carts on the Dey Street side of the building. New cables were yesterday being put in the elevators, and one of them was promised for use to-morrow.

The telegraph service, Superintendent Humstone says, is working perfectly throughout the entire system, including the private lines, tickers, and special-service lines. About fifty new instruments were mounted yesterday, and as many more are ready for mounting when the tables, which the carpenters are building, shall be ready for them. The first installment of new furniture came in the shape of a score of gaudily-decorated water coolers. H. J. Hardenburgh, the architect under whose superintendence the repairs and extension of the building are to be carried on, and Gen. Eckert of the Board of Directors of the company were at Toms River yesterday, in consultation with J. B. Smith, the builder who is to do the work.

On the Exchanges everything was reported to be working in the usual order except on the Cotton Exchange, where the wires to one section of the South were not working satisfactorily, but the trouble was found to exist out of town and had no relation to the fire.

ON THEIR WAY TO OTHER LANDS.

PASSENGERS ON THE OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS YESTERDAY.

The White Star steamship Teutonic, which sailed yesterday for Liverpool, had as passengers the Hon. James H. Platt, the Rev. C. H. Plummer, Dr. Frederick S. Dennis, Major Brownrigg, Dr. S. L. Benson, Wells H. Blodgett, Treadwell Cleveland, Henry W. Hobson, Harold C. Wilson, C. St. D. Spencer, Edward Wakefield, the Rev. E. D. Tibbits, Dr. Z. T. Sowers, Col. M. M. Parker, B. B. Osler, Q. C.; the Rev. A. H. Munroe, Dr. J. R. Leech, the Rev. G. Ernest Magill, and Samuel W. Fordyce.

On the North German Lloyd steamship Trave for Southampton and Bremen were Henry E. Abbey, Capt. Eugene Griffin, Col. C. H. Jones, Dr. Robert Abbe, Major W. E. Goodman, Dr. H. E. Goodman, Dr. V. P. Gibney, Dr. Richard H. Derby and family, Dr. L. Bolton Bangs, Dr. D. Bryson Delavan, J. Henry Harper, Dr. Louis Starr, Dr. T. J. Tyner, the Rev. E. F. H. J. Massé, and Francis H. Saylor.

Among those who sailed for Liverpool on the Inman steamship City of Richmond were the Rev. W. Tyson, Dr. Frank McDonald, William T. Mitchell, the Rev. Bernard M. Doogan, John Edward Naylor, Charles M. Strahan, Thomas Clarke, J. Howard Johnston, and John Wheeling.

The Red Star steamship Westernland for Antwerp had as passengers the Rev. Dr. John A. Childs, Prof. Edward Everett Hale, Jr., Dr. Henry A. Todd, Dr. P. J. Murphy, Maxwell K. Moorehead, Dr. I. R. Embree, Col. Charles Chaille-Long, Dr. C. F. Bingamon, and Dr. Leo Backelandt.

Among those who will sail to-day for Southampton and Hamburg on the Hamburg-American steamship Augusta Victoria are Dr. T. Johnson Alloway, Dr. T. Griswold Comstock, Dr. H. Chittenden, Dr. A. R. Angell, Dr. S. M. Burnett, Dr. William C. Bailey, Dr. F. Buller, Consul Ludwig Duplace, Dr. Edward Evans, Dr. M. B. Davis, Dr. O. Brandes, Dr. A. F. A. King, Dr. Robert Hoffman, Dr. E. Elliot Harris, Dr. Siney A. Fox, Dr. J. W. Farlow, Baron J. F. Lagerfelt, Dr. Edwin D. Lowe, Dr. D. L. M. Moore, Dr. E. S. Niles, Dr. George S. Norton, Charles Lathrop Pack, Dr. D. Webster Prentiss, Dr. P. W. Van Payne, Director P. Rauers, Dr. Louis Livingston Seaman, Dr. Andrew H. Smith, and George Walters.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Contracts were signed yesterday in the offices of Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau, by the terms of which Marcus R. Mayer and Benjamin Stern become the managers of the new Pauline Hall Opera Company for a term of two years. Miss Hall will open her season at the Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, Sept. 22, producing "Amorita."

Helen Dauvray's coming season as a star will begin Sept. 29 at the Standard Theatre, in this city, when Sydney Rosenfeld's new play, "The Whirlwind," will be presented for the first time. James Jay Brady, one of the brightest advance agents in the business, will pilot Miss Dauvray's tour.

Richard Mansfield continues to do a remarkably fine Summer business at the Madison Square Theatre. "Beau Brummel" is the only play now running in New-York, and Mr. Mansfield's artistic portrayal of the title rôle elicits warm praise from critical audiences nightly.

The improvements made in "Castles in the Air" have made practically a new opera of that work, and De Wolf Hopper and his excellent company are extracting all the fun and interest possible from the piece. The Hopper season at the Broadway will close with the performance of Aug. 16. The company will then rest for two weeks, after which it will begin its tour in Brooklyn.

James O'Neill has purchased the costumes and scenery imported from England by Adèle Payn for her recent production of "The Dead Heart." Miss Payn is making elaborate preparations to appear in a number of classic plays this season.

McKee Rankin and his company are now engaged in the final rehearsals of "The Canuck," which is to be presented at the Bijou Theatre next Monday evening, opening the regular season at this house. The sale of seats for the first week will begin at the theatre this morning.

Russell's comedians in "The City Directory" have made a great success in the new California Theatre. Manager Russell telegraphs that his receipts of the first week reached the very substantial sum of \$7,849.

The New-York theatre patrons will be astonished at the remarkable change observable in Laura Moore, Francis Wilson's soprano, when she makes her appearance here on Aug. 18 in "The Merry Monarch" at the Broadway Theatre. Miss Moore began "banting" some weeks before the close of last season, and a careful attention to the directions of her physician, dancing lessons in Paris, and long walks in the country have reduced her weight to 125 pounds. Miss Moore weighed 160 last March. Of course, she is delighted, and her friends say she never looked better.

FREDERIC R. COUDERT'S CONDITION.

Frederic R. Coudert, who was injured by a fall from his horse Monday afternoon, was doing well yesterday. Mr. Coudert was riding a broncho pony, which stumbled and fell. Mr. Coudert sustained a compound fracture of the leg just above the ankle. He was about five miles from his country residence, near Metuchen, N. J., and was taken to a farmhouse near by, where he had to remain over night.

His son, who was with him, summoned the nearest country physician. The medical man wanted to cut off the leg, but Mr. Coudert objected and sent for other physicians, including one from this city. These on their arrival pronounced amputation unnecessary and set the broken bones. Tuesday Mr. Coudert was moved to his home. The statement that he had received internal injuries was unfounded.

AN EX-ALDERMAN IN TROUBLE.

Judson Startup, once a well-known Democratic politician in Jersey City and a member, some years ago, of the Jersey City Board of Aldermen, was arrested yesterday on a charge of having embezzled \$70 from Wells, Fargo & Co., in whose service he had been.

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