

# CLIFF HOUSE TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE; J. M. WILKINS, OVERCOME BY SMOKE, SAVED

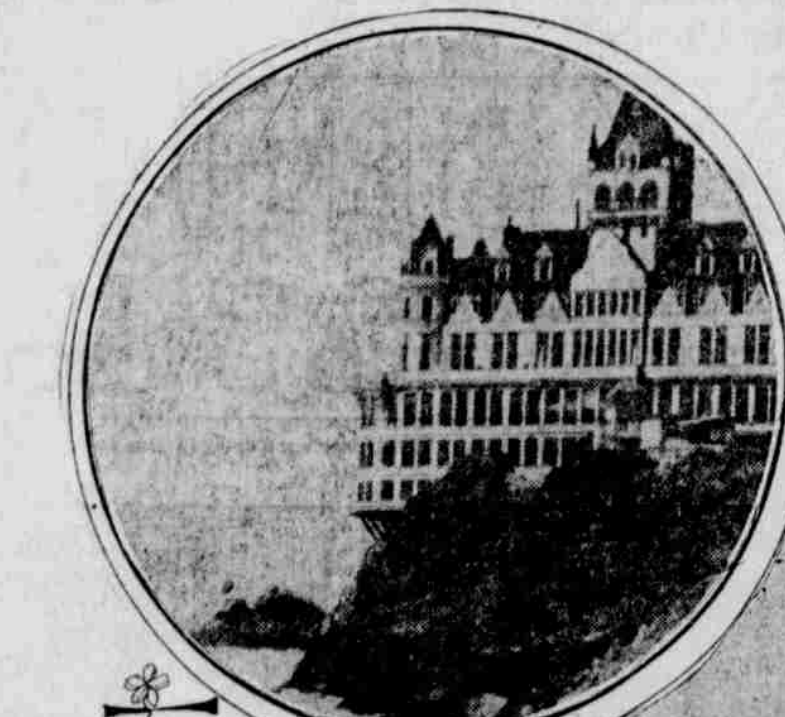
(From copyright stereograph by Underwood & Underwood)

## FIREMEN BY BRAVE WORK SAVE HOMES ON SUTRO HEIGHTS

### Flames Again and Again Catch Roofs but Are Beaten Out.

The great Sutro baths the firemen ran their engines and their hose down into the very face of the fire and stood to their task against blistering heat. The north wind favored them, and also they saved not only the baths, but also the stables which caught fire a score of times.

Historic Sutro Heights and all the other buildings on the bluff before the Cliff House were for more than an hour in grave danger of destruction. The burning brands carried on the wind from the Cliff House fire strewed the whole steep slope of the heights,



and the dry grass, the fences and the roofs of many houses, including the residence of James M. Wilkins, were several times in flames. Detachments of firemen were hurried up over the precipitous places, and in every instance they succeeded in extinguishing the blaze.

The burning of the Cliff House was a wondrous sight, viewed from whatever point. Whether one looked in from the sea, or up from the beach, or down from the heights, the scene was at every moment wild and spectacular. Hanging there over the edge of the cliff, big and alone, with the booming surf spraying its seaward wall, the flame-wrapped building seemed to be a thing apart from the unknown to hold the human mind in awe and wonderment.

### Veritable Inferno.

Looking down into the seething, roaring cauldron from the parapet of Sutro Heights, the burning hotel took on the aspect of an inferno. Seen from the southern stretch of beach, the starting, snarling flames, for after the flames died down for lack of something to feed on, it was seen that the whole giant frame of the hotel had crumbled in upon itself, and that the ashes of its timbers lay heaped on the great flat rock where the proud walls had lately reared.

It is a long way out to the Cliff House from the heart of the city—a full five miles; and not everyone can scout out there to the ocean's edge in a fast automobile. For these reasons, and for the reason that it was some time before the fire was visited, the hotel was generally noised about town, there were but few persons—not more than two or three—who had witnessed the last red hour of one of the world's finest resorts.

### A Notable Resort.

Through the belching flames there came visions of some of many persons and events which had made the Cliff House a familiar and a pleasing name throughout the whole of Christendom. Princes, presidents, prima-donnas and possessors, all had graced the history during its long and busy life. The rich and the poor, the high and the low of all the earth, or so many of them as lived or sojourned in the city by the Golden Gate, made the Cliff House their one and pleasure place. Between its lower balcony and its lookout tower there was little of human interest that did not occur and recur its midday lunches and its midnight suppers included men and women in every walk of life. In every civilized country there are those who can tell a hundred tales of interesting things that happened out there where the sea does bare and wide, and the setting sun slips down behind the waves.

### Building Unoccupied.

At the time of the fire the Cliff House was unoccupied. It was being rented and remodeled by the Cliff House Company, a corporation that had leased the property for a term of years. The work mapped out by the new lessees had progressed so far that they expected to reopen the hotel within the next thirty days. It was their intention to make the Cliff House a much finer and more attractive place than it had been before. The corporation had already spent much money on it and the investment is a dead one excepting so much of it as was covered by insurance.

John Tait, of Tait's Cafe, who was the active head of the leasing corporation, stated last night that the loss of his concern would be about \$5,000. He said that \$1,000,000 of the amount was secured by insurance. The loss of the Cliff House building falls on the Sutro estate, the heirs of Adolph Sutro being its owners. The original cost of the second, or new Cliff House, said James M. Wilkins yesterday was about \$60,000. The new Cliff House was first opened to the public on January 14, 1895, and had been running almost continuously ever since that time.

### Soon to Be Rebuilt.

San Francisco will not be long without its Cliff House. A new building will soon be perched on the rocky site of the old landmark, and the new structure will rise as soon as the ruins of the old are swept into the sea. John Tait, the lessee of the Cliff House, stated last night that he had already closed negotiations for a lease on the new structure, that is to be. "A new building that will far surpass in magnificence the old one is to be erected as soon as possible. The plans of the Cliff House Company will be carried out in the new structure, as

**SNAPSHOT** by an "Examiner" staff photographer of the Cliff House ruins just as the last beams were falling; portrait of James M. Wilkins, who had managed the hotel for many years, and picture of the building as it was before the fire. At the left of the large photograph the famous sea rocks can be seen, while people are gathered at the water's edge and on the roadway watching the work of destruction by the flames.

"we have already negotiated a lease," he said. No man of any consequence has ever visited San Francisco without being taken to the Cliff House. The hotel register would make a catalogue of illustrious names. General Grant, on his return from his trip around the world, was banqueted there. The Princess Louise, the Marquis of Lorne, President Hayes and President Harrison tasted of its good cheer and others beyond counting.

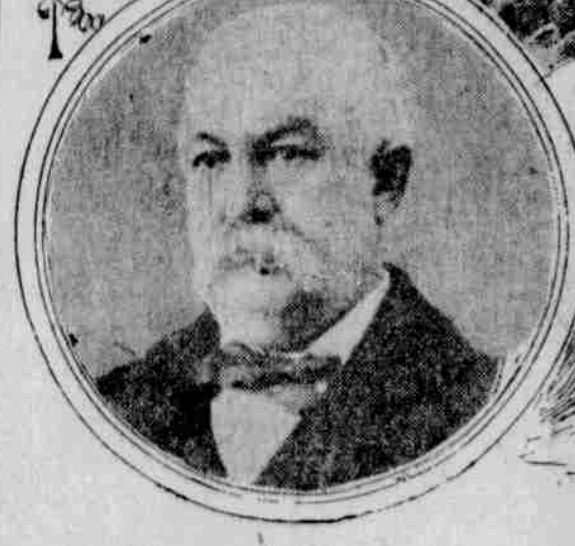
## ROOSEVELT GRILLED BY DRISBEN WALKER

### Called Conserter With Trusts Who Wants Cortelyou as Next President.

(Special by Hearst leased wire service) NEW YORK, September 7.—In a most remarkable denunciation of Theodore Roosevelt at Copper Union tonight, John Brisben Walker declared that the President is deliberately inviting war with Japan through the forthcoming fleet movement in the Pacific; that his real candidate for the next presidency is Cortelyou, and not Taft; that he is a conspirator with the trusts, and that ten days before he gave forth the famous statement branding Harriman as an undesirable citizen he had sent message to the magnate by a mutual friend, saying: "Give my love to Harriman."

After condemning the maneuvers in the Pacific of the fleet, the speaker called for a vote on the proposition as to whether the fleet should remain in the Atlantic, and was greeted by only fourteen eyes and by a roof-raising volley of noes. The former magazine editor began with the assertion that Roosevelt is the most popular idol Americans have ever fallen down to worship. Reviewing the life of the President, he went back to the days when he was first a Republican Assembly candidate, snatched up for the sake of his reputation, he said, by Platt and given the "man of ten cents" title, the man which Platt ruled. "He proved himself amenable to the system in New York," charged Mr. Walker. "The people then elected Roosevelt to reform evils. What action did he take? Why did not the exposure of insurance frauds make his insurance evils come in 1895 increase of 1907?" Mr. Walker declared that the only way of keeping the trusts from holding the Government in the iron grip they now exert upon it is to turn over all the public service corporations to the ownership of the Government.

**Say Severed Head Secured for Joke.** The police have come to the conclusion that the severed head and hand found in the lot at Oak and Pierce streets are portions of a subject dissected by medical students, and not the evidence of crime. They accept the statements of Peter Callahan, a bar tender, and Joe Dougherty, a laundry wagon driver who say they have seen the hand before, and that both the head and the hand were procured from a medical college by Donald Graham, business agent of the roofers union, for the purpose of playing jokes on his friends.



## MANAGER CUT OFF BY FIRE; RESCUED

### James M. Wilkins Is Found Unconscious After Battle With Flames.

"I want to know the name of the fireman who saved my life," exclaimed James M. Wilkins as he stood and watched the fire dying down over the ruins of the big hotel that had been under his management for so many years. "Did a fireman save your life?" some one asked. "That Wilkins, his mustache singed to a baker's brow," told, in vivid fashion, the story of his fight for life in the burning hotel and of his timely rescue by fireman Fred Klattel of Chemical Engine 8. "John Tait had just left the hotel in an automobile after delivering some new brooms," said Wilkins. "I had met him at the entrance and had told him that everything was getting along nicely. After that I met Owen Mulvaney, the watchman of the property, and we were standing on the north balcony of the main floor gazing out along the beach. "Mrs. Schmitz was suddenly attracted to smoke that was coming up through a hole in the floor—a hole that had been working on the building, and had been working on the building."

not then know how much of a fire there was as I had seen nothing but the smoke issuing through the hole in the floor. "I reached the telephone, and was trying to get control, when, without a moment's warning, the north side of the building was forced in and I was surrounded by smoke and flame. "The smoke was so dense that I could not see, but I thought I knew which way to go, and I tried to reach a near door. "I ran up against a wall, and then I felt that I was becoming confused. I knew there was a window near the telephone booth, so I tried to reach that. But when I arrived there I was beaten back by the flames. "Then I headed for the barroom. There I found that the smoke was more dense and stifling. I felt that I was suffocating, and was losing my sense of direction. "Finally I found another door and stumbled out into the main corridor. There I lapsed into unconsciousness, and I do not remember what happened after that."

## PERMIT SCHMITZ TO VISIT MOTHER

Eugene Schmitz was yesterday granted the right to visit his mother for two hours a day on account of her illness. The order was made by Judge Graham, who occupied Department No. 8 yesterday in the absence of Judge Dunne. The rule will be in force till Judge Dunne's return Tuesday. Schmitz came to court yesterday with his counsel, Frank Drew, for the hearing on four charges of extortion on which he has not been tried. Drew said the mother of the former Mayor is ill at her home on Green street and that the District Attorney had consented to the issuance of an order allowing him to visit her. Judge Graham said if there was no objection he would make the order so that Schmitz could see his mother two hours each day until the return of Judge Dunne. Prosecutor Cook made no objection. Mrs. Schmitz is 74 years old and has lately been ill with pneumonia. She is suffering from a slight relapse and Schmitz was very anxious to see her. He said he had not visited her since his conviction. Following the granting of this order the charges of extortion were continued one week.

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## EXPLOSION ON SHIP MORROCCAN ARMIES ONCE WRECKED CLIFF HOUSE MARCH AGAINST EACH OTHER

It Was First Established by Capt. Foster, One of Early Caterers, in 1858.

POPULAR WITH PIONEERS

Fame of the Landmark Resort Extended to Every Civilized Country.

Rival Sultans Mobilize Forces and Start for Atlantic Seaboard.

BATTLEGROUND AT RABAT

Tribesmen Ask French Commander to Suspend Hostilities for Present.

Two other accidents marked the history of the Cliff House before its destruction by fire yesterday. In 1850 it was wrecked by the explosion of a schooner loaded with dynamite and on Christmas, 1894, it was burned to the ground. Back in 1858 Captain Foster, a pioneer caterer, saw the possibilities of the cliff and put up a tavern where the good things he was known to cook could be had by the free-spending, pleasure-seekers of those days, and he thrived. His resort was known as "The Seal-Rock House" and the beauty of the scene with the three great rocks accommodating the seals when they would sun themselves and the view through and beyond the Golden Gate, attracted so many patrons that Captain Foster added to the tavern until it became a crazy quilt of patches, and finally he was forced to build a new house. So in 1861 Captain Foster built what was then known as "The Cliff House" on the site of the building burned yesterday.

Tourists from all over the world counted their visit to San Francisco incomplete without a visit to the Cliff House, and its fame extends into every civilized country. Twenty-eight years ago Captain Foster sold out to Marsh & Sheldon, who managed it for a short time, when it became the property of C. Butler and the Buckley estate. Soon after Adolph Sutro, projector and builder of the Sutro tunnel, purchased the property and it is now owned by the Sutro estate. James M. Wilkins leased it in October, 1894, and retained possession of it until it was recently leased to John Tait.

The most dramatic episode in the history of the house was the explosion in 1890, when the schooner Parallel, loaded with dynamite, exploded in front of it and close to shore. The explosion shattered one end of the building and extensive repairs were necessary before it was considered safe. After it was burned to the ground on Christmas day, 1894, the new structure was opened in 1896. That was the building that was destroyed yesterday.

## WOULD LEVY ON SALARY OF THE CITY ENGINEER

Damage Judgment Against Former Works Board Member Unsettled.

By order of the Superior Court, Sheriff O'Neil is making another effort to levy upon the salary of City Engineer Woodward in his search for the money to satisfy the \$2,500 judgment lately obtained against Woodward in a damage suit dating back to the time when he was a member of the Board of Public Works and as such was personally liable for damages resulting from defective street work. An attempt was made some days since to place an attachment upon the Woodward homestead, but the property was found to have been presented by the owner to his wife many years ago.

## LEFT FOR VACATION AND RETURNED A BRIDE

Petaluma Girl Is Quietly Married in Los Angeles.

(Special by Hearst leased wire service) PETALUMA, September 7.—Few of Miss Sophie Thompson's relatives and friends were aware that when she left home a few weeks ago to enjoy a vacation in Los Angeles that she would return home a bride. Wednesday in the City of Angels she was married to B. Hamme of this city. The groom left here a few days ago for Los Angeles and upon his arrival the wedding was performed by the Rev. B. P. Bolter.

TANGIER, September 7.—Events in Morocco are marching on with great rapidity. Yesterday both the Sultans, Abdel Aziz and Mabd II, were reported to be leaving the rival capitals, Fez and Morocco City, at the head of armies which had been levied in hot haste and which may decide within a fortnight the destiny of Morocco's monarchy. The immediate objective of these forces is the ancient city of Rabat, on the Atlantic seaboard, the prior possession of which great center of the Western Islamic national life probably would have an important if not a decisive bearing upon the struggle for supremacy. Half way between Fez and Morocco City, Rabat is the natural frontier port, dividing Northern and Southern Morocco, and there the dramatic interest of the situation for the moment culminates.

Both Sultans are sons of the same father and they are daily issuing passionate appeals to the patriotism and religious enthusiasm of the nation—each denouncing his rival as being worse than an infidel, a traitor to Islam. In the meanwhile the powers have not yet decided whether to recognize Mabd II as Sultan, seemingly awaiting the result of the appeal to the arbitration of civil war. The fear that Germany would object to the policing of Moroccan ports by France and Spain has been dispelled by Germany's reply to the circular note addressed to the signatories of the Algeiras convention. The official reply, it is true, has not yet been received, but it has been learned from an authoritative source that Germany will make allowance for the present extraordinary situation and that France and Spain will be given all that is necessary to preserve the security of Europeans in Morocco.

The government has not changed its attitude on the question of sending a military expedition into the interior of Morocco. The last announcement made on this subject was that the French intended to abide by the terms of the Algeiras convention, but the planned occupation of the principal Moroccan ports by the troops of France and Spain, preparatory to the establishment of international police, may necessitate the sending of reinforcements to Tangier and Casa Blanca, not for the purpose of conquest, but in order to fulfill the duty of France as the agent of the treaty powers to restore order.

A special dispatch from Casa Blanca today announces that the various Moorish tribesmen around that place had asked General Druce, the French commander, to suspend hostilities for the purpose of negotiating peace. The general, it is added, agreed to receive the envoys, when he will march on Taddert.

## FUMIGATING GAS DRIVES OUT WOMAN STOWAWAY

Japanese Girl Crosses Ocean Hidden on Board Hongkong Maru.

Formaldehyde gas did more than all the crew could do in finding and bringing out a stowaway on the Japanese liner Hongkong Maru. The stowaway was a Japanese woman who had evidently been smuggled aboard in Japan and fed by her countrymen among the sailors during the long trip across the Pacific. Her presence was not known to the officers until yesterday afternoon, when the woman's head suddenly appeared at an open port of the steamer lying at the Pacific Mail dock, the terrible fumes of the fumigating gas having driven her from her hiding place. Members of the crew appeared to be greatly astonished when the woman was discovered, but their astonishment didn't fool their officers. As soon as possible the gas was shut off and the woman was taken out, but not before she was practically unconscious. If she recovers from the effects of the gas she will be sent back to Japan.

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