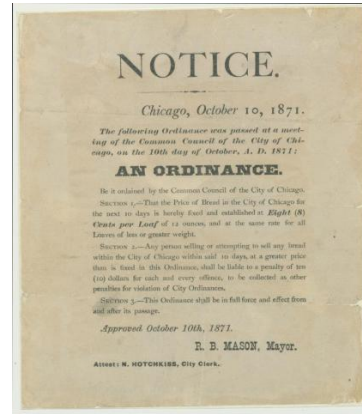


0. CIVIL RESTRICTIONS - Story Preface
1. FIRE!
2. 19TH CENTURY FIREFIGHTING
3. WAS IT REALLY THE COW?
4. FIRE IN PESHTIGO: A COINCIDENCE?
5. DEATH IN PESHTIGO
6. PESHTIGO SURVIVORS
7. CHICAGO IN 1871
8. CAUSE AND ORIGIN
9. CHICAGO BURNS
10. A DEVASTATED CITY
11. SHOCKED CITIZENS
- 12. CIVIL RESTRICTIONS**
13. HOLLAND BURNS



To protect Chicago's citizens from being overcharged for their daily needs—such as the price of bread—the mayor (R.B. Mason) issued this broadside outlining a new city Ordinance which took effect on October 10, 1871. Click on the image for a better view. Image online via Chicago Historical Society.

The Mayor and city officials passed ordinances to protect citizens against price gouging. Drastic measures were also taken to limit general civil unrest and looting.

Instituting a ban against smoking, the Mayor prepared a handwritten note banning all pipes and cigars until water service was restored. And ... he meant it.

Soldiers guarded the city in an effort to maintain security. Such measures had the backing of Chicago's shattered citizens. The Mayor also ordered that all saloons close by 8 p.m. Whenever his directives were violated, soldiers closed down the offending establishments.

Cities around America (and elsewhere - such as London) rallied to help the people of Chicago. The city was rebuilt to even greater glory.

But ... no one thought much about the poor souls in Peshtigo where the Great Fire had been much more deadly. And ... no one thought much about the fire victims in Michigan whose stories were largely unknown throughout the rest of the country.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CIVIL-RESTRICTIONS-Great-Fire-of-1871)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CIVIL-RESTRICTIONS-Great-Fire-of-1871>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CIVIL-RESTRICTIONS-Great-Fire-of-1871)

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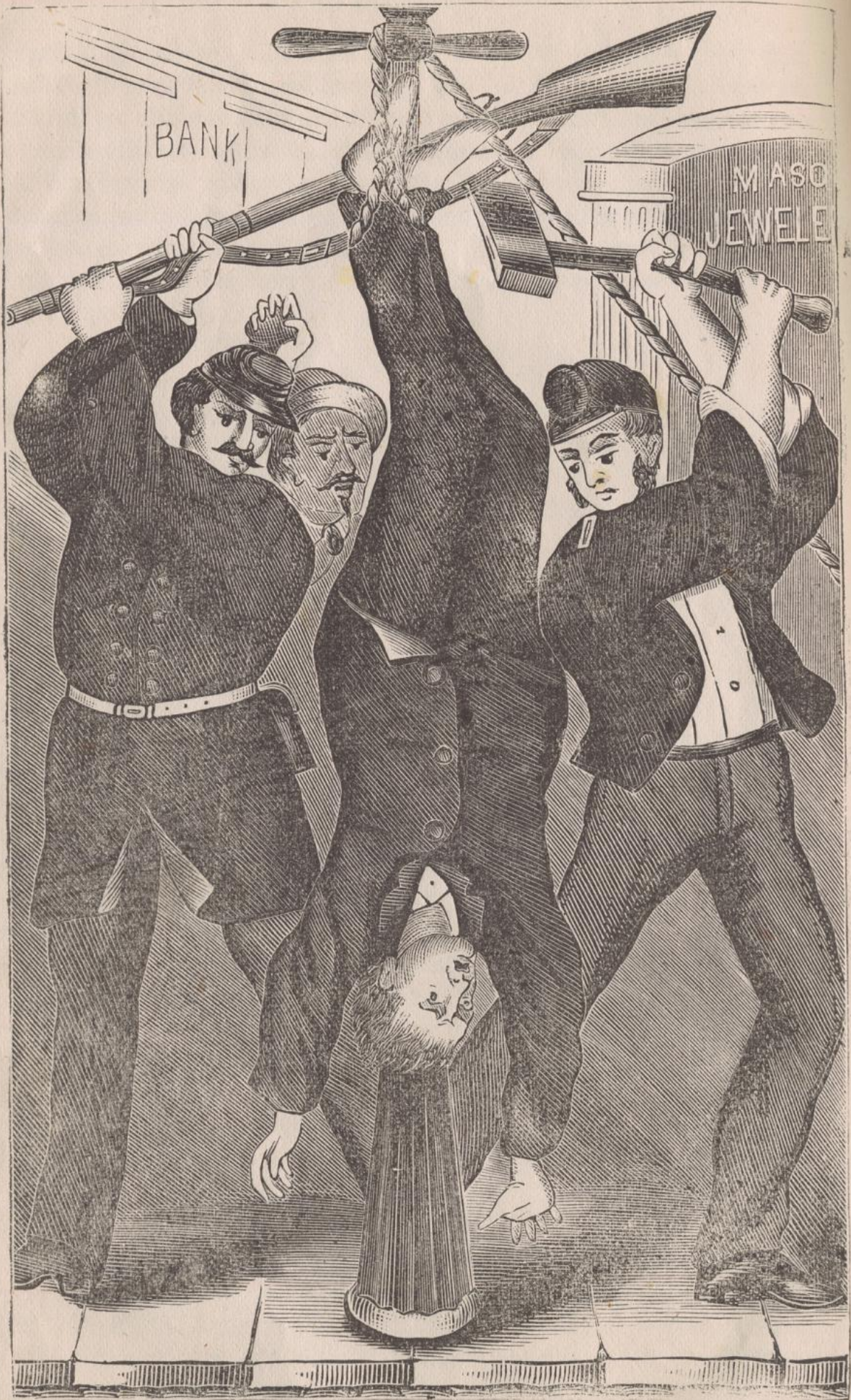
## Questions 2 Ponder

### What Causes Looters to Steal During a Disaster?

An illustration, entitled “Men and Boys Drinking from the Casks of a Burning Liquor Store,” depicts events taking place at the time of the Great Chicago Fire (in 1871). It shows looters stealing goods belonging to others while their city is in the midst of a catastrophe.

Why would looters steal goods belonging to others while their city is being devoured by flames?

Review the “Fearful Retribution” illustration. Response to looting was quick, ferocious and often lethal in the aftermath of the Chicago Fire.



Fearful Retribution. Thieves and Incendiaries are hanged by the Heels and brained.  
Fürchterliche Vergeltung. Diebe und Mordbrenner werden an den Füßen aufgehängt und massakriert.

Was the punishment inflicted on those offenders appropriate, or inappropriate? What is the basis for your opinion?

Looting also happens in today's world, during major catastrophes (like hurricanes, floods and earthquakes). How does punishment for looters today compare with punishment for looters in 1871? Which approach is better? Explain your answer.

## Media Stream



### Chicago Fire - Civil Unrest

Image used in numerous publications, immediately after the Great Fire, entitled "Orgies in the Doomed City--Men and Boys Drinking from the Casks of a Burning Liquor Store." Online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Chicago-Fire-Civil-Unrest>



### Chicago Fire - Looters Punished

Image entitled "Fearful Retribution. Thieves and Incendiaries are Hanged by the Heels and Brained," from George L. Barclay, *The Great Fires of Chicago*, 1871.

Online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

Quotations from "The doomed city! Chicago during an appalling ordeal!: the fire demon's carnival: the conflagrations in the West, South and North divisions: graphic sketches from the scene of the disaster" (1871), [online via Archive.org](http://www.archive.org).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Chicago-Fire-Looters-Punished>



### Great Fire in Chicago - London Responds

Image online, courtesy U.K. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Fire-in-Chicago-London-Responds>

# NOTICE.

Chicago, October 10, 1871.

The following Ordinance was passed at a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Chicago, on the 10th day of October, A. D. 1871:

## AN ORDINANCE.

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Chicago,  
SECTION 1.—That the Price of Bread in the City of Chicago for the next 30 days is hereby fixed and established at Eight (8) Cents per Loaf of 12 ounces, and at the same rate for all Loaves of less or greater weight.

SECTION 2.—Any person selling or attempting to sell any bread within the City of Chicago within said 30 days at a greater price than is fixed in this Ordinance, shall be liable to a penalty of ten (10) dollars for each and every offense, to be collected as other penalties for violation of City Ordinances.

SECTION 3.—This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Approved October 10th, 1871.

R. B. MASON, Mayor.

Attest: W. HITCHKIEB, City Clerk.

## CIVIL RESTRICTIONS

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/CIVIL-RESTRICTIONS>