OLD NEWSPAPERS TO MERGE

New Orleans Times-Democrat and Picayune Will Be Consolidated.

NEW ORLEANS, April 2.—The Times-Democrat and The Picayune, two of the oldest morning newspapers in the United States, will be consolidated, according to an announcement made here to-night. When the merger will be made has not been announced. The consolidated papers probably will be published as The Times-Picayune.

The Picayune has been published continuously for seventy-eight years. It has been in the hands of the Nicholson family for almost half a century. Until three years ago Thomas G. Rapier, a Director of The Associated Press, was active manager of the publication.

FIRE SCARE BLOCKS TRAFFIC

Smoke at Police Headquarters Was Due to Condemned Gambling Devices

Thousands of factory workers were going home in Broome and Grand Streets last night at 6 o'clock when they saw dense smoke issuing from the roof of Police Headquarters. A great crowd gathered quickly, thinking that the building was on fire. The Third Avenue surface cars in Grand Street were blocked, and so were the cars in Centre and Broome Streets.

There was, however, no fire in Police Headquarters beyond the one in the furnace. The great chimney of the building ends at the roof, and it was from this that the smoke was issuing. Down in the basement cleaners, who had spent the afternoon chopping up gambling paraphernalia seized in Chinatown raids were putting it into the furnace.

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