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HORRORAWFUL
Nine Ohio School Girls Suffocated in Vault.
SCORE OTHERS NARROW ESCAPE
Were Precipitated into Cesspool by Collapse of Floor—Rescuers are Overcome by the Foul Gas.

Cincinnati, Sept. 26.—At least nine school girls were suffocated in a vault today during the afternoon recess at Pleasant Ridge public school house, and as score of others narrowly escaped the same horrible death.
All of the victims were from the primary grades. On opposite sides of the spacious grounds in the rear of the suburban school building are two out-houses. At recess, about 30 young girls were in the out-house assigned to them, when the floor gave way precipitating them in the stone walled cesspool, 12 feet deep, and containing four feet of sewage.
The frantic struggles of those who were on top kept at least nine underneath until they were dead. The frame shed over the sewer was about 20 feet square, without windows, and had only one narrow doorway. One girl in the party escaped falling. She ran into the school building and told the teachers what had happened. Principal T. L. Zimmerman and seven female teachers ran to the rescue. Mr. Zimmerman secured a ladder, on which the drenched girls climbed out, most of them fainting as soon as they reached the surface, overcome by fright and sewer gas.
The teachers were soon reinforced by the entire population of the suburbs, the police and fire departments rendering effective service.
Principal Zimmerman finally fainted. Then others lifted out dead bodies until the death pool was cleared. Those rescued alive presented such an appearance as to make many in the crowd of spectators faint.
James Smith, aged 14, a pupil, climbed to the roof of the school house and got the flag which was made into a rope that rescued several.
John Steinkamp, when his daughter was not among those brought out alive, entered the vault and carried out several bodies, among them that of his daughter. Then he fainted. At the same time there were other parents in the crowd who fainted when it was announced that all of the living had been rescued, and their children were still among the missing.

CHINA HAS APOLOGIZED.
Reparation Made for Attack on the Guard at Pekin.
Paris, Sept. 26.—The foreign office has received a report from the French minister at Pekin saying that China has given the most complete apology and reparation for the attack of Chinese soldiers at Pekin upon Captain Laribe, of the French legation guard, on Monday last. The captain was insulted and struck with a stick, but he was not seriously hurt. The French minister energetically protested to the general commanding the Chinese, who wrote the minister an abject apology while the Chinese captain commanding the assaulting soldiers made a personal apology to Captain Laribe.
The Chinese general condemned the five ringleaders to punishment only one degree short of death. Owing to the action of the general, the officials here do not consider that this incident and the assault on the Italian soldiers September 15 indicate another general anti-foreign movement. Therefore the reparations have been accepted and the incident is closed.

Ordered to Portland.
Washington, Sept. 26.—Major Thomas C. Goodman, paymaster, was today relieved from further duty in the department of the Gulf, to take effect upon the expiration of his present leave, and will then proceed to and take station at Portland, reporting to the commanding general of the department of the Columbia for duty. Captain T. C. Dulin, assistant surgeon of the National Guard of Washington, was today authorized by the president to pursue a regular course of instruction at the army medical school.
Receiver for Mine Concern.
New York, Sept. 26.—Judge Holt, of the United States district court, has appointed Alfred Roelker, Jr., receiver of the General Metals company, of this city, which professes to have a capital of \$1,500,000 and large plants for the reduction of gold ore into bullion at Colorado City, Colo. The appointment of a receiver was made on an involuntary petition filed by Joseph M. Bacon, who alleges he is a creditor of the General Metals company.

Telephone in Place of Telegraph.
Chicago, Sept. 26.—As rapidly as the change can be brought about the management of the Burlington system has determined to substitute the telephone for the telegraph in dispatching and operating both passenger and freight trains. The announcement was made today after the conclusion of comprehensive tests that have been in progress for several years on various parts of the system.

More Ships for Baltic Fleet.
Berlin, Sept. 22.—The correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger has telegraphed from Revel to his paper an interview with Vice Admiral Rojestvensky, in command of the Russian Baltic fleet, in which the admiral declares that he expects three additional ships before long, and with that augmented squadron, he will leave for the Far East. The correspondent dimly intimates that the arrival of this squadron need not be expected before spring.

Killing Frost at Grand Forks.
Grand Forks, N. D., Sept. 22.—The first killing frost of the season visited this locality last night. The temperature was at the freezing point and ice was formed on all exposed water. Cut corn was killed and large quantity of flax. There is still some green wheat, but this will be good for nothing but fodder.

SECOND DAY OF CONVENTION.
Irrigationists Elect Officers and Decide on Next Meeting.
Ontario, Or., Sept. 21.—The second day of the irrigation convention opened at the opera house yesterday morning with a large attendance of delegates. The night trains brought in a large contingent from the West, also a large visiting delegation from Boise and intermediate towns in Idaho. President Devers presided.
The first speaker of the day was Hon. Thomas G. Hailey, of Pendleton, member of the state commission to draft a state irrigation law to be submitted to the legislature this winter. Mr. Hailey explained that the commission had secured the services of a government irrigation attorney, who was an expert in the matter of irrigation law, and he had prepared the draft of a bill which would be taken up by the state commission soon. He explained that the United States government would have to be a party to all government aided irrigation schemes in this state, hence the necessity of having a bill passed which would meet the requirements of the government officials.

The chief address of the morning was delivered by Judge J. H. Richards, of Boise, Idaho, on "The Home and Irrigation." Mr. Richards said that the noblest type of manhood and womanhood came from the home beautiful. Following this line of thought, Mr. Richards contended that the pursuit of agriculture and horticulture as a means of gaining a livelihood under proper conditions would produce the best class of citizens, both for the state and nation.
Dr. Withycombe, of the state agricultural college, delivered an interesting address on the educated farmer. Speaking of the government irrigation project for Malheur county, Mr. Withycombe said that it had come to his knowledge that some of the prominent citizens of this valley were sacrificing their personal interests in order to further the government irrigation plans. Following out this suggestion, the doctor spoke at some length on cooperation as a factor in irrigation.

At the afternoon session the committee on organization reported the following officers for the ensuing year:
President, E. M. Brannick, Portland; first vice president, S. A. Lowell, Pendleton; second vice president, F. W. Metcalf, Arcadia; secretary, A. King Wilson, Portland; treasurer, A. H. Devers, Portland.
Hon. J. N. Williamson was the chief speaker of the afternoon. Mr. Williamson had to deal with a delicate subject, and the opera house was crowded to its capacity when he delivered his address on "Disposition to Be Made of the Range Lands of the Arid and Semi-Arid Region." Mr. Williamson spoke with deliberation and positiveness. After dealing with the matter in all its phases, he said that in his opinion individual ownership was the best means of solving the problem, provided the present limit of ownership was removed, taking into consideration location, condition and value of land outside of the irrigated area, each individual to take what is necessary to support a family. It is a question of climatic conditions, altitude and water support; an arbitrary rule will not apply.

Ira Smith read an address prepared by Senator Mitchell, who was unable to be present. Addresses were delivered during the afternoon by Attorney General Crawford, President Brannick, A. King Wilson, E. H. Percy, government law clerk, and D. W. Ross, engineer in charge of the government reclamation service in Idaho.
Mr. Ross said that the irrigation projects now under consideration in Idaho and Oregon if carried out to completion would support a population of 300,000 people.
The convention voted to meet next year in Portland.

Palma Will Protect America.
Havana, Sept. 22.—Minister Squires had an interview today with President Palma regarding legislation by which it is proposed to put sugar grinding and other machinery on the free list. As a result of the conference, it is probable that the bill will be so amended as to protect the United States in her rights under the reciprocity treaty. President Palma gave Mr. Squires assurances that he would not approve of any legislation inimical to the reciprocity treaty. It is expected that the bill will be reconsidered.

Rushing Coal and Oil to Siberia.
New York, Sept. 23.—A dispatch from London to the Times says: Business is active on steamers with coal, oil and stores for Russian account. It is clear that urgent measures are being taken to secure supplies for Siberia and Manchuria before the winter. Underwriters are skeptical as to the weather permitting steamers which have still to sail from Europe to reach Vladivostok. It is known that unless large quantities of oil are got out many of the Eastern Siberian towns may be in darkness during the winter.

Japan Expects Port to Fall Soon.
Tokio, Sept. 23.—A renewal of the attack upon Port Arthur on newer and more aggressive lines is expected this week, and it is predicted in well informed quarters that the reduction of that fortress will be accomplished within ten days or a fortnight. The authorities continue silent concerning operations there. The publication of a small list of casualties in the naval brigade operating on land is the only recent official utterance.

1905 Fair Plans Forwarded.
Washington, Sept. 23.—Plans for the Lewis and Clark buildings were forwarded to Superintendent Lazarus today. Bids will be opened by the supervising architect in this city October 17. Superintendent Lazarus is expected to have the plans open to bidders the latter part of the week.

NINE ARE DEAD
Massachusetts Electric Car Strikes Dynamite.
NINETEEN OTHERS ARE INJURED
Teamster Was on His Way to Get It When the Disaster Occurred.—He Was Arrested.

Melrose, Mass., Sept. 23.—An outward bound electric car containing 32 persons was blown to pieces in this city tonight by striking a 50-pound box of dynamite that had fallen off an express wagon. Six persons were killed outright, three more died of their injuries within an hour and 19 others on the car were taken to the hospitals suffering from severe injuries. At least a score of persons in the immediate vicinity of the explosion were hurt by flying glass and splinters.
So great was the force of the explosion that all but ten feet of the rear portion of the car was blown into small pieces, while windows within a radius of a quarter of a mile were shattered.
The immediate vicinity of the accident presented a fearful spectacle when those in the neighborhood reached the scene. The ground was strewn with legs, arms and other portions of the bodies of those who had been killed, and shrieks and groans came from the writhing forms of the injured. The car contained mostly men on their way to their homes in this city.

For more than three hours there was the greatest confusion. Thousands of people rushed about trying to find relatives and friends, and the hospitals were besieged. The police arrested Roy Fenton, driver of an express wagon. Fenton, it was learned, was carrying two 50-pound boxes of dynamite on his wagon, and did not know until he reached the express office that one of the boxes had dropped off. He hurried back in the hope of picking it up, but the electric car reached the box first.
PICNIC AT ARCADIA.
Oregon Irrigationists Enjoy a Day Near Ontario.
Ontario, Or., Sept. 22.—The delegates to the state irrigation convention were the guests of citizens of Ontario and Malheur county yesterday at a picnic and banquet at Arcadia, a model fruit farm owned by the Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson company. Arcadia is on the O. S. L. railway, seven miles east of Ontario. Eight years ago it was a barren waste of sagebrush land; today it is one of the most fruitful sections of land in the state, embracing several hundred acres of alfalfa hay, acres upon acres of bearing fruit trees and a dense grove of locust and maple trees—an ideal place for a picnic.
The delegates and their wives were taken in carriages supplied by the citizens of Ontario and ranchers residing in the vicinity for a drive among the farms, covering an area of several miles, finally ending up at Arcadia, where the women having charge of the banquet had prepared a feast which Congressman Williamson said eclipsed any banquet he had ever attended, not excepting those of Washington, and ex-President Devers declared that it was far superior to the famous banquet given to the delegates of the national irrigation congress at Ogden last year, which is known to have cost over \$1,500.
After inspecting the fruit orchards of Arcadia, where hundreds of tons of ripe and growing fruit are to be found on the trees, the guests were taken back to Ontario, where they all departed on the afternoon trains for home.
The judges awarded the \$100 loving cup, offered for the county making the best fruit exhibit, to Malheur county. Baker county was the only other competitor for this cup.
The experts employed by Commissioner Young to pack the fruit exhibit for shipment to St. Louis began work yesterday afternoon and expect to forward it today. A fresh lot of fruit will be sent, as there is plenty as good and better growing on the trees in the vicinity of Ontario than that placed on exhibition for the convention.

China Has Apologized.

Palma Will Protect America.

Rushing Coal and Oil to Siberia.

Japan Expects Port to Fall Soon.

1905 Fair Plans Forwarded.

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