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BLOWN TO ETERNITY

Explosion Causes Utah Mine to Swallow
300 Men.

TURKEY'S BILL STILL DUE.

Virginia Attempts to Disfranchise Her
Negroes—Potato Pingree Turns
Democrat.

SALT LAKE, Utah, May 1.—A special to the Tribune from Scofield, Utah, says: The English language cannot describe the appalling disaster which occurred here at 10:25 this forenoon by an explosion in mine No. 4, of the Pleasant Valley Coal company, and by which certainly 300 men and upwards have lost their lives. At this hour 200 bodies have been recovered, and the work of rescue is still proceeding and will continue until all bodies are brought to the surface. There are willing hands at work, and as fast as the bodies are reached they are brought down to the boarding houses and other company buildings, where they are dressed and prepared for the coroner's inquest. These buildings are numerous, and in each are from 10 to 35 bodies. When a corpse is brought out it is usually carried to the place of deposit. Here there is a corps of men, from four to 10 in number, with sponges, hot and cold water in tubs and other receptacles. The clothing is first removed, the soot and powder burns washed from their faces, the bodies prepared and laid out in long rows to await identification by relatives or friends.

TURKEY HAS NOT REPLIED.

May Be Trying to Compromise the
Claims Unofficially.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—It is said at the state department that Mr. Grierson, the United States charge at Constantinople, has not yet acquainted the department with the nature of the reply made by the Porte to his last representation touching the American indemnity claim, so it is presumed that he, himself, has not yet received an answer.

There is some reason to believe that a powerful effort is being put forth by the Turkish government to compromise the missionary claims unofficially. The method which is looked upon as most feasible is that connected with the building of a warship for Turkey in the United States. If the claimants choose to receive the amount of their claims from an American shipbuilding firm instead of through the state department, thereby removing from the department the basis for further prosecution of its demand upon the Porte, some interesting points of international law might be raised. It would seem that once committed to the state department, an international claim cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the department, though whether there would be a refusal in this case cannot be stated.

NEW CONSTITUTION IN VIRGINIA.

Agitation for it Said to be Based on Hostility to the Negro.

NEW YORK, April 28.—A special to the Times from Richmond, Va., says: The question of calling a constitutional convention in Virginia, primarily for the disfranchisement of the negroes, has been practically settled so far as the Democrats are concerned. A majority of the delegates to the Democratic State convention, which meets at Norfolk on May 2, are instructed in favor of making the call for the convention a party issue. This matter is now the absorbing one in Virginia, and the demand for the disfranchisement of the negroes and other constitutional reforms has entirely overshadowed the original purpose for which the Norfolk meeting was called.

The constitution under which the people now live was adopted in 1869 by what was known as the Underwood convention. That body was composed of Northern settlers and negroes. The white people of Virginia, very many of whom were then disfranchised, had little or no part in formulating the organic law under which they have lived since. There is an overwhelming sentiment in the state in favor of eliminating the colored vote from its politics forever. This can only be accomplished by constitutional revision. The elimination of the black vote is demanded not only from the great black belts of Virginia, but also by the white counties. Some of the largest and most influential of the latter elected delegations instructed to favor a convention.

The keynote of this radical suffrage reform has been sounded by the declarations of some of the great negro counties. These, in effect, insist that the present political conditions cannot continue in the Old Dominion. The plain explanation of these explanations is that the people are tired of the means which they have been forced to countenance in order to retain white supremacy in the state. They now demand that a constitutional convention shall be assembled and the negroes removed from politics. The elements opposing this movement are the great corporations, the local

office-holders and the republicans. Some of the democrats, including Governor Tyler, have taken the position that their party cannot carry the convention at the polls on May 28. They insist that the elements named, with the addition of the illiterate whites, will defeat it.

BOLT OF PINGREE.

Little Danger That He Will Carry
Michigan With Him.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The announcement of Governor Pingree in favor of democracy is believed by republicans from that state to mean that he is making a distinct bid for either the vice-presidential nomination on the democratic ticket or for the nomination of that party as governor, it being evident that he cannot be elected either to the senate or as governor by the republicans again. The Michigan senators declare that the bolt of Pingree will not place Michigan in the doubtful column, and that McKinley will carry it by not less than 30,000. Pingree has a personal following in Michigan that has been surprising, and if he could hold that personal following as the nominee of the democrats, he might possibly make Michigan somewhat unsafe. Michigan was very unsound on the financial question, and its delegates to the St. Louis convention fought the gold plank as hard as they could, but there has been a great deal of education since then, and possibly the populistic and Bryanistic ideas are not as strong as when the republicans went into campaign on a gold platform four years ago. The democrats are looking upon Michigan, Minnesota and Indiana as doubtful ground, and these three states, they say, with those they claim as sure democratic, will give them the necessary votes to elect Bryan.

Horse Sickness Causes Heavy Losses to Lord Roberts' Cavalry.

LONDON, May 1.—(Tuesday, 3:50 a. m.)—The Boers are now showing uncommon activity west of Bloemfontein. They are in force between Fourteen Streams and Kimberly. On Sunday they occupied Winderton, west of the railway, and now threaten interruptions of the British force at Warrenton to the north. This, too, at a time when General Hunter is about to start on a 200 mile march for Mafeking probably with 5000 men.

To the east of Bloemfontein the Boers, on Sunday night, were still holding the hills near Thabanchu, while behind them long wagon trains, loaded with wheat for

the Boer army in the north, are moving through Ladybrand.

The British captured one Boer convoy Saturday, but its size is not mentioned. Wepener is deserted. General Brabant and Colonel Dalgety have moved northward. According to information from Masers, the main army of Boers reached the Leeuw river, due west of Ladybrand on Sunday. The African horse sickness has broken out in General Buller's army. The Bloemfontein correspondents point out that the deficiencies in the veterinary department cause thousands of losses. The morning papers give special prominence to the statement of a news agency, that Sir Redvers Buller sent his resignation to Lord Roberts after the Spionkop censure was published, and that Lord Roberts declined to accept it.

MAY NOT NAME BRYAN.

Wharton Barker Would Like the Mid-
Road Populist Nomination.

PHILADELPHIA, April 29.—Interest has been aroused in the approaching populist national convention, which will be held in Cincinnati May 9, owing to the possibility of that party turning its back upon W. J. Bryan. According to Wharton Barker, who has received the endorsement of some of the populist state conventions for president, there will be between 800 and 1000 delegates at the Cincinnati convention, the majority coming from the South, West and Central West. Asked as to the effect of his nomination for the presidency by the populists on Mr. Bryan's candidacy, Mr. Barker said:

"There can be no longer a doubt in the mind of any one who considers the situation that at least 1,500,000 of the 2,000,000 Populist votes cast for Mr. Bryan in '96 will be this year lost to him and cast for the presidential candidate of the people's party. That the democratic leaders know this fact, is made clear by the course of Hill, Pattison, Gorman and other associates. The democrats will probably give the nomination to some one else and thus invite the gold democrats back into the fold."

Mr. Barker scouted the idea of a strong opposition to President McKinley at the republican convention in this city. He asserted that the president's friends control the machinery of the party, and that he would be renominated. Mr. Barker says he thinks the populists have a fighting chance to win the presidential fight. With McKinley, Bryan and Barker as the candidates he believes the former will win, but with Bryan not in the race McKinley's prospects will be less bright. "I think," said Mr. Barker, "Bryan is the man the republicans would like nominated."

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