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GREAT DOCK FIRE

Million-Dollar Blaze on the Hoboken Water Front.

SEVERAL LIVES WERE LOST

Steamship British Queen and a Number of Lighters Were Destroyed—The Big Maasdam Threatened.

The pier of the Phoenix Line, at Hoboken, N. J., burned last night, causing a loss of \$1,000,000. It is believed that at least two persons perished. The steamship British Queen was burned to the water's edge, and several lighters and their cargoes were destroyed. The Barber Line pier was damaged and the big steamship Maasdam was for a time threatened.

NEW YORK, March 18.—A swift and picturesque fire tonight destroyed the pier of the Phoenix Line on the Hoboken, N. J., river front, with many bales of cotton and hay; burned that company's vessel, the British Queen, to a hulk; consumed several lighters and their cargoes, damaged a dock belonging to the Barber Steamship Line and for a time threatened the property of the Holland-American Line and the Hugh Campbell steamer.

The loss, according to estimates tonight, will approximate \$1,000,000. Whether any lives were lost is difficult to say. Who first started the fire, its height, and after it had been reduced by the firemen and fire boats, rumors were rife that several men perished. It was tolerably certain at midnight, says Chief Engineer Scott of the British Queen, was burned to death on her and that a sailor named Jensen met the same fate. One of the men who jumped into the water when the steamer became enveloped in fire and he saw few, if any, of them rescued. The quartermaster of the burned ship said that the crew of the vessel were in the forecastle and if they escaped it was with difficulty. Nevertheless, some of the British Queen's officers said tonight that together they were sure that all were safe, save Engineer Scott, who, they simply said, was missing. It is not unlikely that some of the longshoremen and stevedores who swarmed about the vessel may still have to be accounted for.

Estimate of Losses.
Piers.....\$500,000
British Queen.....400,000
Cotton and lighters.....250,000
Seven lighters were more or less damaged.
The scene of the fire was Seventh and River streets, Hoboken. There are docks and basins of the Phoenix Line, the Holland-American Line and the Barber Line. The Phoenix Line pier was a wooden structure built on piles, with a frame shed. In this were many bales of hay and cotton, which burned with the utmost rapidity.

How the fire started is not known. With but the barest warning the flames burst out, quickly licking up the pier and the cotton upon it and driving the stevedores and crews to the street, for the vessel was being unloaded, and arrived here Friday from Antwerp. The fire flared up from the steamer with as great suddenness as from the pier and, since the vessel was being unloaded, the pier and other water craft which lay alongside of her, some of them holding such inflammable stuff as oil cake, quickly caught fire, too.

The stiff wind which had blown all day gave impetus to the fire, whose glare reddened the North River for a long distance.
From the Phoenix Line pier the flames spread to the pier of the Barber Line and then to the steamer Heathburn, newly arrived from Hong Kong, with a cargo of tea. Among the crew of the steamer Heathburn were 22 Chinamen. When the flames began to run over the vessel they all scrambled to the pier for safety and began to make their way to the streets of Hoboken. There was a large force of customs officers in hand guarding property. As soon as these officials saw the frightened Chinamen they became alarmed that the aliens would make an illegal entry into the country, so with drawn pistols they ordered the Chinese to halt. The command was heeded and then, surrounded by guards, the foreigners were marched to a pier some distance away and there packed up, under surveillance, for the night.

Maasdam Towed to Safety.
The Holland-American docks are below those of the Barber Line. They caught fire, but were only slightly damaged. The company's big steamer Maasdam was towed out in the river as soon as the danger became apparent.

The fire was fought by Hoboken and Jersey City fire-engines and from the water side by the New York Fire Department boats. Employees of the Holland-American and Bremen steamship lines assisted these forces, as did the crew of the United States steamship Portsmouth, lying at the pier next above the Phoenix Line.

blew open the safe in the Commercial Hotel at midnight tonight, causing a conflagration which did damage to the extent of \$100,000. It is said \$5000 was taken from the safe.

Deaf and Dumb Asylum Burned.
JACKSON, Miss., March 18.—The State Institution for Deaf and Dumb, located in this city, was destroyed by fire today. All the inmates were rescued. Loss, \$40,000.

SUIT AGAINST RAILROADS.

Proceedings at Kansas City in Packing-House Products Case.

CHICAGO, March 18.—Injunction proceedings will be started in Kansas City tomorrow by Attorney William A. Day, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, against eight railroads operating between Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago—the Santa Fe, Rock Island, Missouri Pacific, Wabash, Burlington, Chicago Great Western, Alton and Milwaukee.

The bill to be filed tomorrow sets forth that about March 15 the Interstate Commerce Commission requested the United States Attorney-General to require the District Attorney to begin proceedings to prevent the Chicago-Kansas City railroads from violating the "act to regulate

MITCHELL TO LEAD

Succeeds Morgan in Charge of Canal Bill.

WILL HAVE TIME ALLOTTED TO IT

Alabama Senator Too Naughty in His Dealing With Steering Committee—Bryan Straddles Question of Disfranchisement.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Senator Mitchell has been designated by the committee on interoceanic canals to confer with the Republican members of the Sen-

SLATED FOR COMMANDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL ROBERT P. HUGHES.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—Major-General S. H. M. Young, who is to relinquish command of the Department of California to become president of the War College which is to be established at Washington barracks, provided the necessary funds are appropriated, will be succeeded by Brigadier-General Robert P. Hughes, now on duty in Washington, D. C., as president of the Military Board of Uniforms. General Hughes only returned from the Philippines in January. He was in that service three years and seven months, the longest of any officer of high rank in the Army. Within two weeks after the capture of Manila, in August, 1898, General Hughes was made Provost-Marshal of the city. He had to provide Manila with a government with departments, officers and everything that pertains to a modern city. His duties were performed in such a manner as to win praise from every quarter. He won special commendation for the efficiency with which he thwarted the natives' attempts to burn the city in February, 1899. In May, 1899, when he was relieved of this command and sent to suppress the insurrection in Panay, there were widespread expressions of regret in Manila. His campaign in Panay was most vigorous, and the island was soon brought under American authority. General Young was then placed in command of the Department of the Visayas. Most of the people here were tractable, but in Samar General Hughes found it necessary, after the memorable massacre of Company C, of the Ninth Infantry, to conduct a severe campaign against the rebels. His health finally broke down under the long, severe strain, and he had to come home.

General Hughes was born in Pennsylvania 63 years ago. When the Civil War broke out, he entered the Army as a private in the Twelfth Pennsylvania Infantry, and he rose to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the One Hundred and Ninety-ninth Pennsylvania. He was brevetted Colonel for gallant services in the assault on Fort Gregg, Virginia. Continuing in the regular Army, he was transferred to the Inspector-General's Department many years ago, and made a splendid record.

commerce." The Attorney-General at once directed the bringing of the suit. The bill recites that the accused roads have made schedules of 2 1/2 cents per 100 pounds on packing-house products from Kansas City to Chicago, this being until January 1 the only lawful rate. Then it is declared that the railroads involved secretly made a rate of 1 1/2 cents, with corresponding reduction through to New York, in which unlawful combination received large quantities of packing-house products, later rebating to certain shippers the difference between the secret and the published rate.

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

Cleveland on His Birthday Talks of the Canal and Politics.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 18.—Grover Cleveland was 65 years of age today. Mr. Cleveland spent the whole day at his comfortable home on Bayard Lane with his wife and children. As he was confined to the house much of the winter on account of sickness, he deemed it advisable, in consequence of the sudden change in the weather, to remain indoors.

When seen by the Associated Press correspondents this afternoon, Mr. Cleveland appeared to be in a happy frame of mind, and talked freely on several questions. As to construction of an isthmian canal he said: "I notice the question has already been debated and has passed one of the houses, and I see no reason why it should not go through. Much care should be exercised, however, that we do not make the thing merely a kind of grab-bag for ourselves."

Mr. Cleveland said he had not carefully looked over Henry Watterson's recent letter in which he assails the present Administration at Washington and makes the accusation that things are politically in bad shape there with the Republican party. Commenting on it Mr. Cleveland said: "Well, the party may get badly mixed up with itself at times, but it seems to have the faculty of pulling together at convenient times."

Jockey Buchanan Suspended.

BERLIN, March 18.—Le Jockey this morning says the committee of the Jockey Club has suspended W. J. Buchanan, for disobedience of the orders of the starter at Malson Laffite.

Disappointed With America.

BERLIN, March 18.—Five hundred emigrants, disappointed with life in the United States, have passed through Berlin, on their way to their old homes in Posen, East and West Prussia, Russia and Austria.

The Democrats, weary of the futility of the Philippines as the "paramount issue," gladly grabbed at the proposed investigation for an issue which has been unflinching in securing the return of Democratic Senators and Representatives from Southern States. That is about all there is to the whole affair. Even if the investigation takes place, it will amount to nothing, as it would be impossible to change the status. Besides, there is a general desire that the South should work out its race problem without any further interference, even if negroes are to be disfranchised for a time.

Ship Subsidy Talk Depresses.

The votes of Allison, Spooner and Proctor, three prominent Republicans of the Senate, together with their colleagues, who are not so well known, has had a depressing effect upon the advocates of the subsidy bill. It is well known that a similar rush of disaffection in the House would mean that the bill would be defeated. It is also feared that the action of these Republican Senators will prove a stumbling-block in the Congressional campaign. As all other Republicans voted for the subsidy bill, it will naturally have to be defended on the stump, and this will be a difficult task in the face of the votes of these Republican Senators. One effect will be to put the bill over until the short session. Several Democrats of the House have advised that they say that if the bill is pressed now the Democrats will make opposition a party question, and the Democrats will be compelled to vote against it. If it goes over until the short session, they promise from 20 to 25 votes for it, which will make up the Republican loss. The advocates of the bill also count upon quite a number of votes from defeated Congressmen in the short session, as they are usually not so particular if their votes are criticised when they are soon to go out of office.

Outlook for Mineral Schools Bill.

The outlook for the bill applying a portion of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to the endowment of schools or departments of mines and mining in the several states, which was recently favorably reported to the House, is not very encouraging. Representative Scott, of Kansas, who reported the bill, said today that there was little hope of even securing consideration for it in the House. He recently took the matter to the speaker, and was told that the appropriations are already climbing up pretty high, and he hesitated about passing a bill that would add a permanent charge of about \$1,000,000 on the appropriations. Furthermore, the bill will be antagonized by many of the strongest advocates of irrigation, for the reason that their bill also looks to the fund arising from the sale of public lands as a means of constructing reservoirs and other irrigation works. However, if the bill can be by any possible chance get before the House, it is believed it will pass.

COURT-MARTIAL OF MARINES

Waller's Counsel Argues That the Army Has No Jurisdiction.

MANILA, March 18.—The court-martial appointed to try Major Littleton W. Waller and Lieutenant John A. Day, of the Marine Corps, on the charge of executing natives of the island of Samar without trial, held its first session today. General Boer, who represented Major Waller, pleaded that the court lacked jurisdiction, as marines cannot be tried by the Army except when attached to the Army service, whereas Major Waller returned to duty with the marines in February, though the facts charged occurred in January, and consequently the Army had voluntarily forfeited its right to a trial.

GUERRA SURRENDERS.

Lukban Brings the War in Samar to an End.

MANILA, March 18.—General Lukban's efforts in influencing Guerrera, who recently issued a proclamation declaring himself the successor of General Lukban in the island of Samar, to surrender, have been successful. Both General Smith, in command of the United States forces in Samar, and Guerrera have agreed to an armistice to facilitate the collection of Guerrera's men with their rifles, when the formal surrender will be made. The arms will be paid in at the fort. General Smith cables that Guerrera has 400 rifles, and that Guerrera guarantees the absolute peacefulness of his men.

Trial of Major Davis.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—By the authority of Secretary Root, General Chaffee recently appointed a court of inquiry to meet at Manila for the purpose of inquiring into certain allegations respecting the official conduct of Major George B. Davis, Commissary, U. S. A., while acting as Depot Commissary of Subsistence of Manila.

Shipwreck Crew Rescued.

WILMINGTON, N. C., March 18.—The United States revenue cutter Algonquin arrived at Moorehead City tonight, with Captain Garry and a crew of 27 men rescued from the Spanish steamer Ea, of Bilbao. The Ea sailed from Ferdinandina, Fla., March 31, for New York, with a cargo of rosin and phosphates. When off Cape Lookout shoals March 15 she went aground, and high seas and break southeast to northeast winds prevented the lifesaving crew from going to her assistance. The steamer broke in two this morning, and a total loss with her cargo. By the efforts of the lifesaving crew and the revenue cutter, the crew of the Ea was at the last moment taken off the bridge of the vessel, after having been without food and water since Saturday.

George G. Houghton.

MILWAUKEE, March 18.—George G. Houghton, vice-president of the Wisconsin National Bank, and well known in banking circles throughout the country, died today, aged 70 years. Mr. Houghton suffered a stroke of paralysis about a month ago.

PLEA FOR FREEDOM

Growth of the Revolutionary Movement in Russia.

INCENDIARY TRACTS SPREAD

Students Asked That the Police, and Not the Military, Preserve Order at Sunday's Demonstration.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 17, by the frontier, March 18.—The comparatively bloodless outcome of Sunday's riots develops a rather Gilbertian feature of an otherwise serious political move. The students, on preparing to make a demonstration, remembered the rough treatment they were subjected to at the hands of the military last year, and sent letters to the authorities promising to demonstrate wholly unarmed, and begging that the police instead of the military might be sent to maintain order. In fact, while the military were numerous, the police were in the majority, and the cavalry did not use to any great extent the terrible Cossack whips with loaded butts, which caused so many fatalities in 1901.

The students during the course of the day managed to distribute a mass of incendiary literature from the tops of street-cars while the police were busy fighting below. Some of these tracts were couched in the most revolutionary language ever sent abroad in Russia. The following is an extract from a leaflet:

"Citizens of Russia, awake from that nightmare of harsh despotism which oppresses every man in Russia, under which it is impossible for three men to meet together! Where in Russia is that freedom of speech and press which is found in every civilized country? Under the heel of the autocrat, is it not strange that one man with insignificant mental facilities should rule over 140,000,000 people?"

After a scathing denunciation of "the pretended reform of Vannofsky" (the Minister of Public Instruction), the leaflet concludes:

"Let us begin the battle with the enemy for personal freedom, freedom of speech and popular representation. Halt the revolutionary struggle! Down with the autocracy!"

The election of Maxime Gorki to be an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences causes lively comment. Gorki was banished from the Russian capital years ago, and the newspaper with which he was connected was suppressed.

ON PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Object of Lord Wolseley's Trip to South Africa.

LONDON, March 18.—In the House of Commons today, Mr. Secretary Mr. Brodrick, set at rest the rumors regarding Lord Wolseley's trip to South Africa by announcing that the ex-Commander-in-Chief had gone to Cape Town on an entirely private visit, without previously communicating with the War Office. Regarding the Boers wearing British uniforms, Mr. Brodrick said all civilized nations are in danger from the Boers and Boer sympathizers in the city, and today applied to the Mayor and Chief of Police for police protection. Chief of Police Journeaux promised to investigate, and if there are any grounds for Van Zittar's complaint, protection will be granted.

Captured a Boer Lancer.

PRETORIA, March 18.—General Bruce Hamilton has captured a small Boer lancer eastward of Vryheid, Southeastern Transvaal. Four Boers were killed, six were wounded and 17 were made prisoners. General Bruce's men were also present. Emmett, was among the Boers captured.

Kitchener's Weekly Report.

LONDON, March 18.—Lord Kitchener's weekly report shows that during the week ending today the British and Boer forces surrounded, 156 were made prisoners, and 125 surrendered.

SUMMARY OF THE DAY'S NEWS.

Congress.
The Senate considered the bill for the protection of the President. Page 2.
Hepburn, in the House attacked the river and harbor bill. Page 2.
The House caucus agreed to the ways and means reciprocity proposal. Page 2.
Foreign.
Incendiary tracts distributed by Russian students during Sunday's demonstration. Page 10.
Chinese rebels were victorious in Kwang Si Province. Page 3.
Prince Henry arrived safely at Cuzhaven. Page 3.
Domestic.
Fire on the Hoboken water front caused a loss of \$1,000,000. Page 1.
The United Mineworkers' convention opened at Shamokin. Page 5.
The northern transcontinental lines are still snow-bound. Page 3.
Pacific Coast.
Orator Hale sustained in his victory by Oratorical Association committee. Page 4.
Plans of the Marion County Democrats. Page 4.
Big sales of railroad lands in Washington. Page 4.
Commercial and Marine.
Heavy shipment of potatoes by last night's San Francisco steamer. Page 10.
Eastern wheat market shows a slight recovery. Page 10.
Electric specialties continue in favor on Wall-street. Page 10.
Steamship Quip's injuries more serious than first reported. Page 1.
First November wheat ship from Portland reaches Queenstown. Page 10.
British ship Lady Isabella damaged by a gale. Page 10.
British bark Earl Cadogan completes a record-breaking cargo for South Africa. Page 10.
Portland and Vicinity.
Great demand for brick among Portland contractors. Page 8.
Independents meet and discuss plans for county convention. Page 12.
Water committee plans to lay a mile of pipe. Page 10.
Trinity Church accepts offer to worship in First Presbyterian Church. Page 7.
O. R. & N. offers to Government engineers for sounding at mouth of Columbia. Page 8.