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**TRYING TO FIND MINISTERS** King Alfonso's Main Desire Is to Avoid New Election.  
MADRID, Dec. 5.—The Cabinet crisis continues. The King has given an exhaustive hearing to the views of all the political leaders, showing himself acquainted with the details of the situation, and apparently anxious to avoid a dissolution of the Chamber, which, owing to the divided state of the Liberal party, is regarded in some quarters as inevitable. With this idea the King this evening again summoned Senor Sagasta to a conference. On leaving the palace the ex-premier said that the King declared that he would announce his decision tomorrow.

## WERE SHUT OUT

### Blacklisted Men Before Commission.

### NO PLACES LEFT FOR THEM

### MacVeagh Says Agreement Is Hopeless.

### COMMISSION MUST DECIDE

### Blind Men Testify to Dangers of Coal Mining—Catholic Priest Describes His People's Condition—He Opposes the Boycott.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 5.—The lawyers for the miners continued to call witnesses today before the strike commission to testify to the alleged blacklisting methods pursued by several coal companies in refusing to re-employ strikers who took a more or less prominent part in the strike. In most cases, according to the testimony, no satisfactory reason was given why the men were not taken back. Two blind men, who were also otherwise badly injured by underground explosions, were presented as living evidence of the dangers in the mines. When the commission adjourned for the day, Rev. J. J. Curran, the Catholic clergyman of Wilkesbarre, who took a prominent part in the miners' cause during the recent strike, was on the witness-stand. Page 7.

Nothing could be learned here today with reference to the reported efforts at a settlement outside the commission. None of the attorneys for either side professed to know anything about any contemplated move in that direction. Wayne MacVeagh, who is representing the Erie coal properties, was the only attorney in a position to know who would talk about the matter. He left here, accompanied by Mr. Parker, this afternoon. The testimony now being presented to the commission does not concern Mr. MacVeagh's clients to an extent which makes his presence necessary.

**MacVeagh Favors Settlement.**  
Mr. MacVeagh, before leaving, stated to the correspondent of the Associated Press that a majority of the operators thought it better to adjourn all efforts to reach by amicable conferences a basis for the award of the commission until both sides had presented all the testimony they wished to offer. Whether the efforts to reach such a basis will then be resumed can only be decided after the testimony shall be closed. Mr. MacVeagh added that he personally thought that, in view of the extraordinary conditions existing in the anthracite region, this was a mistaken attitude for the operators to assume, as he feared each day's testimony would tend to increase the bitterness of feeling; but it was not only the right, but the duty, of the operators to act on their own judgment of the situation, and he sincerely hoped the result would fully justify the conclusion they reached.

From this expression it is taken that Mr. MacVeagh was opposed to the calling off of the negotiations last week. The departure of Mr. MacVeagh is to a rumor that the distinguished lawyer was going there to consult with the operators on the settlement scheme, but when he was seen just before he left the city he said he did not know whom he would see there. He denied knowledge of any efforts being made by the large coal companies to absorb the independent concerns. Individual operators who were approached on the subject also said they knew nothing of such a move.

**Evidence on Blacklist.**  
When today's session of the commission opened, a long colloquy was begun over the objection of Lawyer Everett Warren, of Scranton, to hearing the testimony of William Markowick, an engineer employed before the strike by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Company. This witness was on the stand when adjustments were taken yesterday. He struck work when the steam men were called out, and was refused his place when the strike was over, because it had been filled.

Mr. Warren said the witness should not be heard. His place had been filled because he voluntarily left it, and therefore the company was not guilty of blacklisting men. Harry Reynolds, for the People's Coal Company, made the point that the concern he represented protected men good positions if they took strikers' places. They came and the company felt it was bound to protect such men.

It was decided that where it was admitted by the operators that some men's places had been filled or in whose cases there was a special reason for not re-employing them, it would be a waste of time to hear further testimony, and that such facts may be laid before the commission on request of the opposing side. The witness was permitted to continue, inasmuch as he had already started his testimony, but nothing new developed.

Before the examination of witnesses was resumed Chairman Gray said the commission had decided to present to both sides tomorrow certain blank forms which would indicate what information regarding wages the commission wanted.

Half a dozen witnesses, all of them miners, were called to the stand in rapid succession to testify to the alleged blacklisting of themselves by the companies. All of them were employed before the strike, but when the suspension was ended they were refused work. The companies, the witnesses said, gave va-

rious reasons why they refused to re-employ them, none of which was satisfactory to the workmen.

**Blind Men Testify.**  
Mr. Darrow, for the miners, then presented two witnesses, who had been injured in the mines. Both were blind and had to be led to the stand. One of them, besides losing both eyes in an explosion, lost one arm and the hand of the other arm was rendered useless. The other blind man lost part of one of his ears in the explosion in which he was caught. After they left the stand the attorneys for the operators protested against bringing those unfortunate men to the witness-stand. They were injured before the strike, and had no direct bearing on the matter before the commission. They sympathized with the men, but thought it was not the right thing to have them appear before the commission. Mr. Darrow said he did not intend to overdo the presentation of such witnesses, but he wanted to bring the commission to a realizing sense of the dangers of coal-mining.

Chairman Gray here broke in and said he hoped the thing would not be overdone.

"We have a realizing sense of the conditions," he said, "and I may say that I never saw a sadder spectacle than that presented by these two men."

**Priest Condemns Boycott.**  
Rev. J. J. Curran, the Roman Catholic clergyman of Wilkesbarre, occupied the witness-stand during the remainder of the session. He read a statement in which he said he had made every effort possible to prevent the recent struggle, and that after the men had concluded to strike he came out and strongly espoused their cause, because he thought they were being unfairly dealt with and deserved more money for their labor.

Father Curran then gave a description of the conditions under which the miners work here, which was somewhat similar to that given yesterday by Father Husel, of Hazelton. In answer to question put by Judge Gray, Father Curran said he was opposed to the boycott and the blacklist. This sentiment raised the approval of the chairman, who said that if boycotts were permitted "the country would go to pieces."

**Office of Equal Rank With Ministry to China—He is Now Securing Oriental Exhibits for St. Louis Exposition.**

**OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU.** Washington, Dec. 5.—John Barrett is to receive the appointment as Minister to Japan, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Minister Bueck. For some time the President has had Barrett's name under consideration in connection with the diplomatic service of the Orient, although Barrett has aspired to the Chinese mission and had filed many memoranda for that place. The President is familiar with Barrett's record as Minister to Siam and appreciates his familiarity with Oriental countries and conditions, and for this reason more than anything else has chosen him for the important Japanese post. The salary of this office is \$12,000 a year, which is the same as the Minister to China receives.

**WORKING FOR ST. LOUIS FAIR.** Barrett is now securing exhibits from Oriental countries.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—When the President comes to take up the question of the succession to the vacancy caused by the death of Minister Bueck, at Tokio, it is understood that he will name John Barrett, of Oregon, at present commissioner-general of the St. Louis Exposition to Asia and Australasia, to be Minister. Mr. Barrett is now somewhere in the neighborhood of the Straits Settlements. He has been working to secure a good Asiatic representation at the St. Louis Exposition and his efforts have been attended with success, for he has induced both China and Japan to embark upon large governmental exhibits when they had decided not to be represented in that way. He is now bound for Australia, where it is his hope to change the minds of the Premiers in Australia and New Zealand.

**HOW MINISTER BUECK DIED.** Fell as He Was Setting Net to Catch Ducks.

YOKOHAMA, Dec. 5.—Paralysis of the heart caused the death of United States Minister Albert E. Bueck, which occurred yesterday. The end was tragically sudden. Mr. Bueck was the guest of the Emperor in a duck hunt on the Shinjima preserves. A bird had been netted and the Minister, with a jocular remark, started to reset the net. Suddenly he fell, and, without a word or groan, expired instantly. He had suffered from a weak heart for some time. Mrs. Bueck was not with the party.

Minister Bueck was held in high esteem in Japan, and the flags on government buildings have been placed at half-mast. The funeral has been set for Monday next. Secretary J. M. Ferguson is in charge of the legation.

**TONQUE'S PURE FOOD BILL.** Requires Sale of Goods as What They Really Are.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 5.—Representative Tongue today introduced a pure food bill, which follows out the lines of proposed legislation suggested at the meeting of the National Food and Dairy Association, held at Portland last Summer.

The bill creates in the Department of Agriculture a food bureau to be in charge

## SUCCEEDS BUECK

### John Barrett, of Portland, Is Selected.

### PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED

### Success in Oriental Diplomacy Fits Him

### FOR MISSION TO JAPAN

### Office of Equal Rank With Ministry to China—He is Now Securing Oriental Exhibits for St. Louis Exposition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—President Roosevelt is now making the tentative arrangements for his trip to the Pacific Coast next Spring. According to the present allotment of time, he will be in Oregon during May and will visit Portland after passing through the Willamette Valley from California. He plans to go West over the Southern route, going north through Oregon to the Puget Sound cities and thence home by way of Spokane.

While the President desires to visit Alaska he tells Senator Foster that he doubts if his time will permit of that side trip.

The fact that the President is arranging for this trip in May goes away with the talk of an extra session. If such a session is found necessary, it will be called later in the year.

**MOVEMENTS OF ENEMY.** Consul Reports Progress of White Squadron to Point of Attack.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Reproducing real war conditions in connection with the naval maneuvers now in progress in the Caribbean Sea, United States Consul Smith, at Port of Spain, today cables the State Department an account of the movements of the "enemy's squadron," which is supposed to be a foreign fleet attempting to approach the United States by way of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

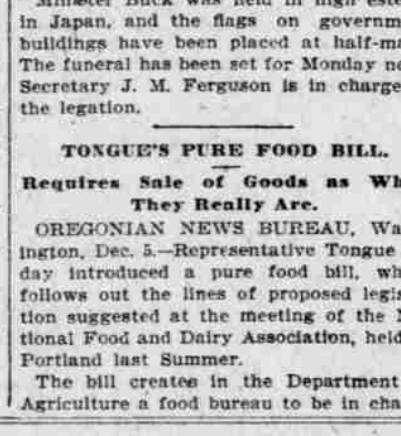
The Consul says the squadron left Port of Spain yesterday, going through the Boca Grande, and steered eastward with all the ships well supplied and coned. The commander of the fleet casually inquired before leaving as to the health conditions at Bermuda, which the Consul suspects is a crafty device to mislead him as to the real destination of the squadron. The State Department will inform the Navy Department of the Consul's advice, and later will notify Rear-Admiral Higginson.

**HOTEL MAN UNDER FIRE.** He and His Clerk Accused of Manslaughter.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—Fred A. Smith, proprietor of the Lincoln Hotel, in which 14 men were smothered to death yesterday, and Night Clerk E. C. Weber were arraigned this morning on the charge of being accessories to manslaughter before the fall. Alderman John J. Brennan signed bail bonds for their appearance this morning, and they were in custody but a short time.

On request of the police the hearing was continued until December 11. The defendants were admitted to bail.

**U. S. CRUISER PHILADELPHIA.**



U. S. CRUISER PHILADELPHIA.

TO BE CONVERTED INTO TRAINING-SHIP FOR PUGET SOUND NAVY-YARD.

SEATTLE, Dec. 5.—The cruiser Philadelphia, one of the crack ships of the Navy, is to be converted into a training-ship at the Puget Sound Navy-yard. It would have cost about \$500,000 to remodel the cruiser and bring her down to date, and the department thought better to make a training-ship out of her and spend the money on a new ship. She will take the place of the training-ship Nipsic, which is of a type now obsolete.

## IN WINTER'S GRIP

### Atlantic Coast Swept by a Blizzard.

### SNOW TEARS DOWN WIRES

### Ship Wrecked and All on Board Lost.

### FLOODS RAVAGE THE SOUTH

### Storm is General From New England to Virginia and Throughout the South—Europe Suffers From Snow and Cold.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—A furious storm of wind and snow swept over the whole Atlantic seaboard today, and seems to have been general, not only in the new, but also in the old world. From New England on the north to Virginia on the south, the gale strayed, the coast with wrecks and, aided by the snow, tore down telegraph wires, so that communication was seriously interrupted. Railroads were also blocked by the snow, which ranges from four to twelve inches in depth. As the storm advanced, the cold grew more severe, and the whole seaboard is in the grasp of winter.

The cold wave has extended to the far South, frost being experienced as far as Mississippi. It was accompanied by storms of rain and snow, which quickly melted and swelled the rivers to such a point that they in some cases overflowed their banks and drove away the inhabitants, and in one case washed out a railroad bridge.

The snowfall and cold weather has been general throughout Europe. England being covered with four inches of snow, the canals in Holland and the harbor of Copenhagen being blocked with ice, and many villages in Switzerland being isolated by the deep snow.

**NONE OF CREW ESCAPED.** All Dead on the Oler—Other Wrecks on a Virginia Coast.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 5.—Reports received in Norfolk tonight are to the effect that none of the crew of the ill-fated schooner Wreathley M. Oler escaped. Only one chance of a rescue is known. The German steamer Koln, from Bremen to Baltimore, reported the crew of an abandoned schooner aboard while entering the Cape Fear river.

The three-masted schooner William D. Hilton and Melville Phillips and several smaller craft were blown ashore in the harbor during the gale. The crew of the Underwriter, which was towing the Oler from Nassau, has not yet been heard from and fears are entertained that she foundered in the gale. The crew of the schooner were compelled to abandon that vessel in a rudderless condition off Hatteras early this morning and were rescued with difficulty by life savers.

**HOUSES UNROOFED IN VIRGINIA.** Snow and Gale Wreck Wires, Block Railroads, Drive Ship Ashore.

BOSTON, Dec. 5.—After an unusually long period of mild weather, a storm from the Gulf brought grim winter to New England today with great suddenness, and, for the first time this season, covered the entire region with snow to the depth of eight inches. The storm was severe in southwestern New England, where there was much wire prostration and delay in railroad traffic.

New England received the full benefit of a northeast gale, which in some places attained a velocity of 40 miles an hour. The shipwreck reported was that of a schooner, which ran on Dog Bar breakwater, in Gloucester Harbor. No lives were lost.

A fishing vessel from Boston, the James R. Clark, ran in the breakers off Manchester, Mass., this afternoon, but she is expected to be pulled out of danger. Seven of the 12 men on board landed in safety.

A bad railroad wreck, due to the storm, occurred at South Ashburnham, in which one brakeman was killed and another fatally injured.

**TRAFFIC AT A STANDSTILL.** Snow Blocks New York Streets—Lives Lost in the Bay.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—A heavy wind storm, accompanied by rain, and later by snow, struck New York today, and for a time seriously interfered with all railroad and steamship traffic, as well as with business in general. Surface car lines, the elevated railroad and all ferry-boats were compelled to suspend their schedules and run as best they could. Part of the Third-avenue elevated line was tied up completely. The tie-up was of severe that even the Stock Exchange began the day with an extremely small attendance.

Toward noon the snow ceased to fall, but the wind continued high and it became much colder. The maximum velocity of the wind was 48 miles an hour. Telegraph service is much hampered by the storm. Both the Western Union and the Postal Companies reported that their systems had been shaken up. The worst conditions for the telegraph companies were in New England and in the Hudson Valley, although business to the south was somewhat delayed.

Disaster from up the state showed that the storm was severe in the country districts, and the snowfall in the interior was much heavier than in this city.

The White Star liner Teutonic, which reached her dock today, completed a trip of 7 days and 13 hours of almost continuous

(Concluded on Second Page.)