

BROTHER AND SISTER DROWN

Fred and Madeline Steffensen Run Down on River by Launch.

THEY WERE IN A ROWBOAT

When the Fox Struck the Frail Craft the Third Occupant of the Boat, Lillian Thurkelson, Was Taken on Launch.

Ten feet away from twenty persons on the launch Fox, a brother and sister struggled until they drowned, for none of the spectators dared go to the rescue, and, separated from their punctured rowboat, they were unable to help themselves.

Fred and Madeline Steffensen, of 25 East Tenth street, were the victims of a river accident that has been long expected. Together with Miss Lillian Thurkelson, of 467 Stephens street, they were rowing on the river without a light.

The accident took place at 8:30 o'clock last night, a few minutes after the Fox started down the river to Clatsop town. On board were twenty men and women.

Were Rowing Up River. Off the Ash street dock the three young people were making their way back to the boat house. They had not lighted the lantern which is placed in every rented boat. Darkness had just fallen over the river and the stars and bridge lights showed on the smooth water.

A moment later the brother and sister, 20 and 18 years old, were at the bottom of the Willamette under forty feet of water. Their bodies had not been recovered early this morning.

In a neat little cottage on East Washington street a Norwegian woman, 36 years old, sat on the porch awaiting the return of her son and daughter from their short outing on the river. The boy worked at the tinners' trade, and the girl served at a dressmaker's. With another sister who is employed at the Union Depot, they were the main supports of the old mother. Her husband has been in Seattle for several years.

Mother Informed of Accident. It was after 9 o'clock, and Mrs. Steffensen expected her children every minute. Instead there came her friend, Mrs. Thurkelson, whose daughter had been saved. With the news that Fred and Madeline were drowned, late last night the gray-haired mother sat, calling in Norwegian upon God to bring back her children.

Naturally, accounts of how the accident occurred vary widely. The point where the collision happened is less than fifty feet from the Ash street dock. The steamer Modoc was lying there at the time. Three men from her dragged the river faithfully in an effort to bring the bodies to the surface. It is the custom of all launches going down the river to run close to the wharves at this point, cutting off the turn in the stream.

Captain Reid's Statement. Captain Jack Reid of the Fox said last night: "I was running under a slow bell at the time. The lights on the Burnside street bridge were right in my eyes. Suddenly I saw an object almost directly toward me on my starboard bow. It was not over twenty feet away. I gave the 'stop' and 'back' signals to the engineer, but the rowboat turned across my bow. There was no light to be seen on it. We struck the boat and it ran alongside, almost scraping the Fox's side. I couldn't leave the wheel. One girl was pulled out, but before the launch could be stopped the boat had drifted past the stern. I was trying to get the launch close to the man and girl I could see in the water. They were just a few feet away. I can't swim a stroke, and none of my passengers jumped after them. I could see them away from their boat. They seemed so close and yet I could not reach them. They had gone down before I could get the launch to the spot."

Mrs. Reed was on board with her husband. A rope was thrown out, but the struggling forms could not grasp the salvation a few inches away.

Like every other launch on the river, the Fox does not carry life preservers. By a remarkable piece of legislation, launches of this size, the Fox is over fifty feet long and often carries forty or fifty passengers, are free of any kind of inspection or supervision whatever.

Miss Thurkelson's Story. Miss Steffensen was steering. Her brother was at the oars, and Miss Thurkelson occupied the bow seat. Only Miss Steffensen, the youngest of the party, was facing the oncoming launch. She was a strong, robust girl, while her brother was slight and delicate. Miss Thurkelson, when seen at her home last night, said she was able to seize the side of the Fox when the boat capsized. "I saw Madeline with her arms about her head in the water, and I called 'Help, help.' Nobody grabbed her, and both she and Fred went down. The launch was slow in getting to the place where they had been."

The Fox landed Miss Thurkelson and most of its passengers at the wharf. Many of the pleasure-seekers left the launch, but she continued to the tavern after a time. The rowboat has a small hole on the port side, just aft the rowlocks. Miss Thurkelson's arm was sprained while she was being lifted over the side of the Fox.

George Robinson, a restaurant man, was

DROWNED IN MOCK'S SLOUGH

Eric H. Bigelow Meets Death While in Swimming.

Pursued by misfortune from his home in Chicago, which he had left for the West in hopes of making his fortune, Eric H. Bigelow met his death, yesterday afternoon, in Mock's Slough, while swimming with a friend. In the pocket of his clothes left upon the bank was found a picture of his mother, upon which was written the day of her death. In another pocket was an unmailed letter to his sweetheart in Chicago, telling of his bad luck and inability to find suitable employment, but expressing the hope that the dark days would soon end.

Bigelow came from Chicago some months ago and remained at Baker City for a time. From there he went to a sheep ranch, but soon returned to Baker City, coming from there to Portland. For the past week he had been working for the McMonie Harness Company, and had lived at 129 Kronen street, Albin. Yesterday afternoon, in company with George Brown, the son of his host, Bigelow went to Mock's Slough to swim. After having been in the water for some time the swimmer suddenly threw his hands above his head and sank from sight. His companion, being unable to swim, could not go to the rescue, but called to a couple of men rowing near by. These men attempted to rescue the body with poles, but were unable to locate it. Coroner Finley has arranged with Hugh Brady to recover the body this morning.

MEETS DEATH NEAR THE FAIR

Seventeen-Year-Old Boy Drowns While Learning to Swim.

Floyd Havird, aged 17, son of F. C. Havird, an employe of the Eastern & Western Lumber Company, was drowned yesterday afternoon while trying to learn to swim near the pumping station at the Fair grounds. Young Havird, who lived near the entrance of the Fair grounds, went swimming yesterday afternoon with a number of young fellows from the neighborhood. Being unable to swim, he was learning by paddling about the water upon a board. While thus engaged he slipped from under him, and he immediately sank.

The companions of the drowning boy were too frightened to lend assistance, but ran for the father, who reached the scene a few minutes after his son had sunk for the third time.

The body was recovered later in the day and taken to the City chapel. It was taken to the City chapel, on the Columbia River, below the city, the date not yet having been determined.

GOMEZ BREATHES DEFIANCE

WILL BROOK NO INTERFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT.

Moderates Say General Is Reckless in Statements and Will Be De-feated for the Presidency.

HAVANA, Aug. 6.—Jose Miguel Gomez, Governor of the island, President and Liberal candidate for the Presidency of Cuba, has given out an interview full of defiance to the Palma government. With reference to the Vuelta case and the Cuban government's assumption of the right to inspect municipalities without reference to the provincial authorities, Governor Gomez says: "I will certainly not obey any one excepting the provincial authorities to inspect the municipalities of this province. Should a municipality be governed by moderates, I would refuse to consent to this procedure just the same and would deliver justice to them if permitted."

"If the Supreme Court decides against the contentions, we are now maintaining, we would not obey its mandates because of its partiality in favor of executive authority. The court would be certain to favor with the government."

He said that of the force of 3000 rural guards, half were inwardly in his favor. Military officers absolutely deny this statement, and say that the only street-car of rural guards in which disaffection was shown was that of Santa Clara Province, now removed to Havana, the Captain of which resigned to avoid being disgraced.

The moderates profess satisfaction at Gomez's statements, which they term sensational and reckless, and which they assume will certainly defeat him as a candidate for the Presidency. They say that he has defied the court or sought to incalculates in the soldiers a rebellious spirit.

TRAIN HITS STREET-CAR

Cleveland Conductor Does Not See Engine Until Too Late.

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 6.—The fast Pittsburgh Flyer, No. 540, on the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad, crashed into an east-bound St. Clair street-car at 9:30 tonight, killing a child instantly and fatally injuring six people, while 15 others, sustained injuries.

The accident happened without warning, as the conductor had just crossed the railroad tracks to see that the line was clear, and had thrown a safety-dealer switch to permit the car to pass. The headlight of the train was not visible, nor was its rumbling heard until it was but a short distance from the crossing.

The conductor let go the derailing switch in time to throw the rear truck of his car off the track, but not in time to prevent the front end from being struck and the car hurled around until it stood parallel with the railroad track.

The car contained 42 passengers, who were bound for their homes and for amusement resorts along the car line. Only a few escaped uninjured, and they were persons occupying the rear seats.

The dead—Mrs. May Martin, 2 years old, daughter of James Martin. Fatally injured—Mrs. James Martin, crushed about chest; Gertrude Martin, 12 years old, arm fractured and internal injuries; Frank Williamson, metatarsal chest crushed; Mrs. Patrick Whelan, skull fractured; Michael Hussey, internal injuries; Lucy Haller, 22.

Japanese Go Back to Ships. ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 6.—A dispatch from Odgrad, the Russian headquarters in Manchuria, says the Japanese, who landed recently at Castris Bay, have returned aboard their warships. All the buildings along the shore of the bay were burned.

CANNON'S SEARCH FOR A WATCHDOG

Poor Material to Choose From in Appropriations Committee in Congress.

BIG MAN IN GREAT DEMAND

Guardian of Treasury Should Be of Highest Integrity, Ready in Debate and Well Informed on Governmental Methods.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Aug. 6.—(Special.)—The selection of a chairman for the committee on appropriations for the fifty-ninth Congress will be one of the most difficult tasks laid before Speaker Cannon at the opening of the coming session. It is customary to fill vacant chairmanships of House committees by promotion, and when a chairmanship becomes vacant for any cause it is the practice to give that position to the next ranking member. But this cannot be done in this instance.

The chairmanship of the appropriations committee is one of the most important positions in the House of Representatives. The requirements of the office are many. The chairman must be or should be a man of highest integrity, a man of discernment, a man well-acquainted with governmental methods and the manner of operating the various departments of the Government, and withal a man ready in debate, capable alike of meeting the attacks of the opposition and assaults from members of his own party.

Every appropriation bill is subject to attack and criticism on the floor of the House; it must be defended. Every appropriation committee meets the requirements of a chairman, while framing a bill, is beset by dozens—yes, hundreds—of members clamoring for appropriations for their districts, and is flooded with demands for money from every bureau of the Government.

The chairman of this committee must be able to sift the necessary items from the unnecessary; must be able to ward off influences that are behind projects lacking in merit, and must be able to stand by and defend every item of his bill when it is brought into the House.

NO ORDINARY MAN WILL DO.

It is readily seen that no ordinary member is competent to fill this chairmanship. And it is extremely unfortunate at this time that no member of the present appropriations committee meets the requirements. If Speaker Cannon does the right thing by the country and by his party, he will not promote any member of the appropriations committee to the chairmanship, but will select some old, experienced and tried member from outside committee for this important office, which carries with it the title, "Guardian of the Treasury."

Representative Henry Bingham, of Pennsylvania, is the ranking member of the appropriations committee, and is the "father of the House of Representatives," being the oldest member of that body in point of service. General Bingham was first elected to the Forty-sixth Congress, and has served continuously since 1879. But General Bingham has weaknesses well known to his colleagues in the House which totally unfit him for the chairmanship, and he cannot be appointed.

Next in line is Representative J. T. McCleary, of Minnesota, a fair, average Congressman. The greatest objection to McCleary is that he is "not big enough for the job." From the local standpoint, McCleary is a good Congressman, but he is not a leader, he is not of large caliber. He might, if appointed, make a fair chairman, but not a great one.

Littauer Under a Cloud. Following McCleary comes Luetins L. Littauer, of New York. He has served only three terms in Congress, is not especially well acquainted with governmental methods in general, has no personal following in the House, and does not possess the characteristic of a leader of men. Moreover, there attaches to Littauer the stigma of having been involved in a nasty Army glove scandal, which would undermine his usefulness and lay him open to continual censure. Though whitewashed by an investigation, the impression prevails that no man who has been described in a Government contract scandal should be placed at the head of the mighty appropriations committee.

Walter F. Brownlow, of Tennessee, comes after Littauer. He is followed by Washington Gardner, of Michigan; then in order are Frederick H. Gillett, of Massachusetts; Walter L. Smith, of Iowa, and Benjamin F. Marsh, of Illinois. All five, like McCleary, are average Congressmen—nice fellows, but they are only average men, and they are not men of brief service. They are not thoroughly familiar with Congressional and departmental methods, and therefore not fitted for chairmanship. Not one member of the committee has any especial following in the House; not one is strong enough for chairmanship.

NO CONCESSIONS WANTED

Germany Will Await Action of International Conference.

TANGIER, Morocco, Aug. 6.—The German government has intimated to the Moroccan government that it does not desire to secure and concessions pending the international conference.

BOYCOTT ON SPECIAL LINES

YOKOHAMA, Aug. 6.—The meeting of Chinese, which it was announced would be held today, resolved to boycott American bankers, shippers and insurance agents, but deferred action with regard to other lines of business.

YELLOW FEVER IS TO BE THROTTLED

Government Takes Control at Request of the Citizens of New Orleans.

ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT

City Will Be Divided Into Wards and Marine Hospital Surgeons Will Be Put in Absolute Control of Sections.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Aug. 6.—(Special.)—The fever report up to 6 P. M.: New cases 28 Total cases to date 533 Deaths to date 103 Total to date 636 New sub-foot to date 2 Total sub-foot to date 65

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—Active control of the yellow fever situation in New Orleans by the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service will begin immediately.

Orders to that effect were wired tonight to Surgeon J. H. White, the Marine Hospital officer now on duty in that city. These orders followed the receipt from Dr. White during the day of several telegrams which showed that the citizens of New Orleans had promised their hearty and unrestricted co-operation in the work to be undertaken by the Federal Government, and would meet certain financial requirements imposed by the Marine Hospital Service as a preliminary to assuming the responsibility.

Anticipating this outcome of the case Dr. White has already determined upon tentative plans for the work in hand. The city will be divided into wards, and each ward will be placed in charge of a responsible and experienced surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service, who will have absolute control of the locality.

Already Surgeon General Wyman has given directions to a number of Marine Hospital surgeons to proceed to New Orleans for assignment to work under Dr. White. These are all officers who have had experience dealing with yellow fever epidemics.

CITIZENS TO SUPPLY FUNDS

Pledge of Quarter-Million Dollars Is Made by Committee.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 6.—The fever situation today is a great improvement over the middle of the week, and the fact that there are only two new sub-foot, one up town and one down town, is a source of special encouragement. An effort is being made to determine the number of cases of fever under treatment, and, allowing ten days, which is a liberal estimate for a patient to either recover or die, it is figured out that there are now 212 cases under treatment.

The Marine Hospital Service has not yet assumed control of the local situation, but it is expected to do so tomorrow. The conditions precedent to their assumption, that the citizens of New Orleans pledge themselves to put up \$250,000 to defray the cost of labor and material, has been met and Surgeon White is in momentary expectation of receiving the formal order from Surgeon General Wyman to take charge.

President Roosevelt and Surgeon General Wyman have both been wired by the citizens' committee of New Orleans that all of the funds that the service may require outside of its own stated expenditures will be supplied by the people of the city. This action was taken at noon at a special meeting of the finance committee held in the St. Charles Hotel.

Surgeon White returned today from Gulfport and Ocean Springs, where he had gone to arrange for the improving of the camp at Fountalibou, on the Louisville & Nashville road, and stated that he would probably not establish any camp on the Mississippi coast in view of the attitude of the people of Ocean Springs, and Governor Vandaman's expressed determination to abide by their wishes.

The camps at Slidell and Wyman will be enlarged to accommodate such travel as would have gone over to a camp on the Mississippi coast.

BACKED UP BY THE SECRETARY

Revenue Cutter Captain Ordered to Proceed in Endeavors.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—Secretary Shaw today telegraphed Captain E. C. Chayer, of the revenue cutter Winona, sustaining the latter's action in the enforcement of the yellow fever quarantine between Mississippi and Louisiana, and giving some general instructions. The dispatch is in reply to one from Captain Chayer, saying the friction between the two states has become serious, and asking for an official definition of the revenue cutter's authority. Secretary Shaw's reply today was as follows: "I think you are proceeding properly, notwithstanding conflicting reports. Promptly advise the name, general description and name of master of every private vessel placed at your disposal. We will then give authority which will doubtless protect. There may be some question about your authority to arrest vessels and to take them to Ship Island, but there can be no doubt of your authority to prevent both vessels and persons leaving the infected district."

"I have directed Captain Ross to proceed to New Orleans and exercise general supervision over his branch of the service."

DEATH IN NEW YORK HARBOR

Pantryman on Steamer Advance Contracted Disease in Panama.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—One man died of yellow fever at the New York detention

WRECKED ON FIRST VOYAGE

CHICAGO BOY HAS THRILLING EXPERIENCE ON CATBOAT.

CAPISED FAR OUT ON LAKE, HE IS PICKED UP TWELVE HOURS LATER HALF CRAZED.

CHICAGO, Aug. 5.—(Special.)—James Tomlinson, 17 years of age, is the hero of a thrilling experience on the lake Saturday night. He was picked up this morning in an exhausted and half-crazed condition by the crew of the trading schooner, after having been adrift, clinging to a capsized 15-foot catboat, for more than 12 hours.

Saturday afternoon young Tomlinson purchased the boat of a friend and set out on a cruise. A strong wind realized his strength was failing and he returned, but he shouted, but without avail. Meanwhile the boat bounded up and down the beach as the waves rose and the nightfall darkness settled upon him and the boy almost gave up the struggle.

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 83 (deg.); minimum, 61 (deg.). TODAY'S—Fair and continued warm; northerly wind.

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GREAT CROPS ALL OVER THE UNION

Condition of the Grain Makes Immense Harvests Almost a Certainty.

PRICE PROSPECTS GOOD

Farmers Will Receive Many Millions More From the Soil Than Ever Before in the History of the Country.

WHEAT FIGURES OF TWELVE STATES. State. 1905. 1904. Illinois 22,000,000 22,000,000 Indiana 22,000,000 22,000,000 Iowa 14,000,000 11,000,000 Kansas 10,000,000 10,000,000 Michigan 18,000,000 17,000,000 Minnesota 13,000,000 12,000,000 Nebraska 15,000,000 14,000,000 North Dakota 10,000,000 9,000,000 South Dakota 10,000,000 9,000,000 Wisconsin 10,000,000 9,000,000 Totals 149,000,000 125,000,000

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—(Special.)—American farms will produce bigger and better crops and return many more millions in revenue to the farming interests this year than ever before in the history of the country. All kinds of crops—wheat, corn, oats, hay and smaller grains and produce staples—have progressed to the stage where this prediction may be made with scarcely the slightest chance that the final official figures will disprove its correctness.

Railroad officials and statisticians of agricultural departments in the various states of the Government grain-producing regions give their personal and official guarantee that the year 1905 is to be the banner year in farm prosperity.

If there is a dissenting voice anywhere, it is drowned out by the clamor of optimism that comes from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, the far Southwest, the Pacific Coast and the wonderful Spring wheat country of the Northwest.

COMPARES WELL WITH 1901 YIELD.

Possibly one wheat crop—that of 1901—will exceed that of 1905. In 1901 the crop aggregated 76,000,000 bushels. It may be that one previous crop—that of 1902, when 225,000,000 bushels were produced—will not quite be equaled by the yield of this year. It is when one takes the wheat, corn, oats and hay crops together and contemplates what the grand total of this year of grace is to be that the story becomes a glorious one. There never before was such a combination of stunning figures needed to express the tribute of the Nation's horn of plenty.

Quite as much to the point, if not even more, in casting up the ledger of prosperity, is the prospect that prices, comparable with the success of the production, will be higher than they have been since war times. An estimate of 12 states of farm products, based on present market quotations, would represent an array of figures that would be simply amazing. Superlatives are in order all along the line to make the situation sufficiently impressive.

MILLIONS MORE OF CORN AND WHEAT.

According to figures emanating from state capitals Saturday afternoon, 230,000,000 bushels more of corn will be raised this year than last in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The entire crop of corn last year, taking official Government figures, was 2,467,000,000 bushels. The record crop of all years was 2,523,000,000 bushels in 1902. Hence, if the other states of the Union do anywhere near as well proportionately as the 12 mentioned, this year's corn yield will tower high above that of other years.

These same 12 states are expected to produce 11,000,000 more wheat than they did a year ago. Of the winter wheat States, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, Nebraska and Missouri make a fine showing in increases. Enough of the crop has been gathered and threshed in good order to make these figures semi-final.

With black rust made practically innocuous in the Spring wheat country by favorable weather conditions, with the harvest already on in a large part of the area, and with a larger acreage than last year from which to draw the figures submitted for prospects in the Northwest are not apparently overdrawn.

CABLE OVER GRAND CANYON

Tourists Are to Be Swung 8000 Feet in the Air.

SALT LAKE, Utah, Aug. 6.—(Special.)—Over a cable 8000 feet in the air passengers are to be carried across the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. The Grand Canyon Transportation Company, promoted by Utah men, has been incorporated with a capital of \$19,840 to bridge the chasm in this unique manner.

Tourists will be taken from the famous Bright Angel Trail on the Santa Fe Railroad side of the river, across the Buckskin Plateau. The length of the cable will be 500 feet. The wire rope will be anchored in the opposite walls of the gorge, and a car will be run back and forth.

An excursion of officials from Utah and Arizona is being arranged for this month, at which time it is expected the work will be started. Their aid is being solicited by Utah men, has been incorporated with a capital of \$19,840 to bridge the chasm in this unique manner.

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