

EXPLOSION ON BOILER
TO BLAMEFindings of Court of Inquiry on
Bennington Disaster
Fix Blame.

ONLY ONE GUILTY SURVIVES

Shutting Valve of Steam Gauge Was
Direct Cause—Court-Martial for
Ensign Wade, Who Was in
Charge, Proposed.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—Secretary Bonaparte received and made public the findings of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the explosion on the gunboat Bennington at San Diego, Cal., on July 21. The findings were a complete surprise, for they at once set at rest the stories that had been circulated to the effect that the Bennington's boiler, and perhaps those of other navy vessels of the same age, were defective. As a matter of fact, the court found the explosion resulted from the closing of a valve which connected the exploded boiler with its steam gauge so that the pressure on the boiler may have been several hundred pounds to the square inch when the accident occurred. While praise is accorded to the officers and ship's company for their conduct during the harrowing scenes following the accident, the officers and men who were responsible, in the opinion of the court, are pointed out, and court-martial proceedings suggested in the case of the only one of them surviving—Ensign Charles T. Wade.

The court consisted of Commodore Stevenson, retired, and Captains E. J. Moore and Thomas S. Phelps. The findings recite the arrival of the Bennington at San Diego and says:

"The ship was in an excellent state of discipline and in a good and efficient condition, with the exception of her boilers, which were in fair condition and efficient, considering their age (34 years), and the use to which they had been subjected."

Cause of Explosion.

Continuing, the court says:

"About 5:20 on July 21, after both boilers had been fired and the furnaces started, it was observed that the steam gauge on boiler B showed about five pounds of steam pressure, and at this time Officer Frank de Courville, acting as water tender, directed D. N. Holland, fireman, second class, to close the air-cock on boiler B; that the said Holland, in doing so, closed a valve and almost immediately the steam gauge on boiler B failed to register any pressure; that this was apparently not noticed by either water-tender or fireman, and that it was not until about 5:30, when the steam-gauge on boiler A showed 130 pounds, there was no pressure showing on the steam-gauge of boiler B.

The finding goes on to state that about 5:30 o'clock a small leak was found on boiler B. A request had been sent to the boilermaker to come and attend to the leak when the explosion occurred. All that happened after the explosion is described at considerable length. The court said:

Blundering but Brave.

"No one seems to have noticed any escape of steam from the safety-valves of either of the boilers, and no one can state that any of the safety-valves blew off at any time that morning. We can find no record of the fact that the boiler B having been overhauled since July, 1904, nor any positive evidence of its having been in good condition. It has been given for this to be done in March, 1905. We find that there is no record of the fact that the safety-valves were set at 140 pounds; but on route from Honolulu the fireman had been given to carry steam pressure at from 10 to 12 pounds, not to exceed the latter, but it is also clearly and clearly changed; that this order had been clearly understood; that the hands for lifting the safety-valves had been set in working order, and there is no record or direct evidence that the safety-valves had been tested in accordance with the navy regulations; that the discipline seems to have been excellent and everything that could be done by the surviving officers and crew was done in a cool and courageous manner, no one thinking of himself, but of what he could do for the injured shipmates and the safety of his ship; that the volunteer aid of every kind came from shore and the injured were promptly removed to the regular and improvised hospitals, where all the necessary medical aid could be to alleviate their sufferings and aid in their recovery, while the dead were taken to the various undertaking establishments, where they were prepared for burial; that after an examination of the collapsed furnaces and of the boiler tests that we have made, the material of this furnace was of good quality; that the ship was found to be filling and settling when a tug was obtained and the warship was towed into Chual water until she could be hoisted; that the ship was hoisted and subsequently the sea-valves were closed, the ship pumped out and returned to her anchorage; that the ship is practically in better shape than when she was damaged and better equipped in and about the engine and boiler rooms."

Placing the Blame.

The opinion of the court follows:

"The court is of the opinion that the explosion was caused by the closing of the valve on boiler B, which came about: first, by shutting the valve connecting the boiler with the steam gauge, instead of the valve on the air-cock alone, as was intended, so that the steam-gauge failed to show steam; second, by the failure of the safety-valves to lift at the pressure for which they were set and the pressure increased until it was beyond the strength of the boiler, which gave way in its weakest part, afterwards found to be the corrugated flue of No. 2, the lowest middle furnace, which collapsed.

"The court is also of the opinion that the explosion was caused by the failure of the safety-valves to lift at the pressure for which they were set and the pressure increased until it was beyond the strength of the boiler, which gave way in its weakest part, afterwards found to be the corrugated flue of No. 2, the lowest middle furnace, which collapsed.

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Court-Martial for Wade.

"The court is of the further opinion that further proceedings should be had in the case of Ensign Charles T. Wade, U. S. N., who was in charge of the engineering department of the United States ship Bennington at the time of the explosion and since October 22, 1904, in this, the said Ensign Charles T. Wade, U. S. N., did fail in his own person to see that the safety-valve on boiler B was overhauled at the proper time and kept in good working order, but did accept the

verbal statement of his subordinate or subordinates that it had been overhauled in March, 1905, and further that he, the said Ensign Charles T. Wade, U. S. N., did fail to see that the safety-valves on the boilers in good working order; and further that he, the said Ensign Charles T. Wade, U. S. N., did fail to cause the safety and sentinel valves on all the boilers to be tested according to article 1609, paragraph 12, U. S. N. regulations, 1905, in all of which he, the said Ensign Charles T. Wade, U. S. N., in charge of the engineering department of the U. S. S. Bennington, was negligent in the performance of his duty; and the court recommends that he, the said Ensign Charles T. Wade, U. S. N., be brought to trial before a general court-martial."

ITALIAN SAILORS' TRIBUTE.

Officers and Crew of Umbria Place

Huge Wreath on Victims' Grave.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., Aug. 21.—Tribute to the memory of the victims of the Bennington disaster was given today by the officers and men of the Italian cruiser Umbria. Eight officers, including the captain, and all the petty officers and half a hundred sailors went to Fort Rosecrans, where they were joined by Colonel McClellan and Captain Scott, and proceeded to the little military cemetery on Point Loma. There they placed upon the mound which lay the bodies of the Bennington sailors the largest and handsomest floral wreath ever seen in Southern California. Six sailors bore it to the common grave.

It was five feet long by three and one-half feet wide and consisted of white roses, maidenhair fern and white carnations, laid with ribbon on which, in letters of gold, were the words: "Royal Italian Navy S.S. Umbria, to the victims of the U. S. S. Bennington." The sailors grouped about the grave, while the captain of the Umbria briefly expressed the sympathy of the Italian navy and spoke of the heroism of the dead and wounded.

NAVIES WILL FRATERNIZE

AMERICAN TARS WILL ENTER-

TAIN BRITISH BRETHREN.

Great Preparations for Visit of Bat-

tenberg's Squadron to New

York in October.

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—New York will be the scene of a remarkable demonstration of fraternity and good-will between the jack tars of the navy of Great Britain and the United States during the first week of October on the occasion of the visit of the second cruiser squadron of the British fleet.

On or about the first Monday in the month 1200 American sailors will entertain a like number of their British brethren.

Arrangements are making for a great banquet, smoker and theater party which shall repay Prince Louis, of ABTenberg's men for all the entertainment they have showered on the Americans in times past.

Today a committee of three representative seamen from the North Atlantic squadron, now lying in the naval anchorage at Newport, arrived in this city. The committee was at first a \$1000 raised by subscription among the seamen of the squadron, which is to be spent for the entertainment of the visitors.

INDIANS WANT STATEHOOD

Convention of Chiefs Oppose Union

With Oklahoma.

MUSKOGEE, I. T., Aug. 21.—The Chief-

tains of the five civilized tribes to the

number of 200 delegates, met here today

to declare for separate statehood for In-

dian Territory, and to oppose the union

with Oklahoma. The delegates, who are

for both business and sentimental rea-

sons are opposed to a union with Okla-

homa. This is the first time the tribal

citizens of Indian Territory ever assem-

bled for the purpose of notifying Con-

gress that they are ready for statehood.

Many leaders, who are abetted by

the convention as to make and adopt a

constitution, but it is probable that the

actual work will be delegated to a

committee authorized to submit the con-

stitution to the people for ratification.

The convention will declare for prohibi-

tion, which may be submitted as an issue

separate from the constitution at the same

time. Funds will be raised to ratify the

constitution.

Temporary organization was effected

by electing D. C. McCurtain, son of

Governor McCurtain, chairman, and

Alex. P. Posey, secretary. The creden-

tial committee reported 175 delegates in at-

tendance, representing nearly all the

recording districts. Pleasant Porter,

chief of the Creeks, was elected per-

manent chairman and will preside over

all the sessions.

The chiefs are in absolute control

and, as they are understood to be op-

posed to statehood at present, it is

predicted that the work of the conven-

tion will be of a negative rather than

of an affirmative character, by shaping

a course directly opposite to the plans

submitted out by Congressional leaders.

Chief Porter's control of affairs was

manifested in the report of the com-

mittee on order of business, which recom-

mended a committee of 51 to draft

a constitution, 25 to be appointed by

the chairman. Every avenue appears

well guarded against any outbreak of

popular expression for joint statehood.

It is expected that the organization will

be completed tomorrow.

DENIES PADDING VOTERS' ROLL

Philadelphia Republican Machine

Will Check Up on Weaver.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 21.—The regu-

lar Republican machine here today took

steps looking to the purging of Assess-

ment lists of alleged bogus names. Mayor

DOWIE'S NEW ZION

Announces Plans for Big Colony
in Mexico.

BUY LAND WITH WARRANTS

Will Allow Cigarette-Smoking and
More Freedom in Courtship, but
Must Propagate as Freely
as in Illinois.

ZION CITY, ILL., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—

"Paradise Plantation" is the name John Alexander Dowie, First Prophet, "Elishah III," and General Overseer, has given his proposed colony in Mexico. He issued a letter to his followers today, announcing the plan for financing the new colony.

It was five feet long by three and one-half feet wide and consisted of white roses, maidenhair fern and white carnations, laid with ribbon on which, in letters of gold, were the words: "Royal Italian Navy S.S. Umbria, to the victims of the U. S. S. Bennington." The sailors grouped about the grave, while the captain of the Umbria briefly expressed the sympathy of the Italian navy and spoke of the heroism of the dead and wounded.

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CUT STOCK WITH KNIVES

Charge Against Two Young Men Under

Arrest at Kalama.

KALAMA, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—

Sheffey Kirby has returned from Castle

Rock having in custody William Reynolds

and Roy Hayward, both of Castle Rock,

charged with a peculiar crime.

The boys, under the influence of liquor,

stolen from a Northern Pacific boat,

entered the pasture of R. M. Merrill, a

mile from Castle Rock, and attacked

three of his milch cows with a pocket

knife, cutting and injuring them severely.

Not being satisfied with their deed, they

returned the next day and entered the

barn of Mr. Merrill and cut and slashed

a calf until the animal was dismembered.

Reynolds and Hayward made their es-

cape to Silver Lake. Sheriff Kirby got

on their trail by a peculiar horse heel

worn by one of them. He located the

boys at Silver Lake and both admitted

committing the crime.

William Reynolds is also charged with

burglary committed about a year ago at

Castle Rock, stealing a watch. Frank

Davis and Roy Zeno are also implicated

in the burglary case.

MAY CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT

Yakima Indian Agent Will Not Al-

low Dams to Be Blown Up.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—

Yakima Indian reservation, said today in regard

to blowing up of dams on reservation by

Washington Irrigation Company agents:

"If any further aid and abetted by

attempts I will wire for United States

troops and have a guard placed over our

irrigation works. The loss was slight in

this case, but it must be decided whether

an act of vandalism and anarchy like

this can be committed and go unpun-

ished."

"I shall pay no attention to suits that

have been brought against me. I take

my orders from the Indian Department of

the United States and I do not think the

local courts have jurisdiction over Gov-

ernment property on the reservation.

The Samuels people have dammed the

river at their intake and gone on the

reservation to do it. I have just as much

right to send my Indian Police and blow

up their dam."

NORTHWEST DEAD.

Funeral of Judge C. E. Clay.

ELMA, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—

The largest funeral ever held in Elma, and

one of which there were over 1000 persons

present, occurred Sunday at the funeral

of Judge Charles E. Clay. The procession

was headed by the Knights of Pythias

of Aberdeen, of which Mr. Clay was a

member, followed by Master Masons from

the Harbor and Elma, the Grand Army

Post of Elma and the Knights of Pythias

of Elma and many visiting brothers.

The first service was held in the Meth-

odist Church. From here the procession

moved to the Masonic temple. There

were sounded the bugles and Union

bugles, and a grand Union funeral

man, who had been in many battles

against the deceased.

Thomas Warren.

COLFAX, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—

Thomas Warren, who came here from

Portland, died here in a hospital last

night. His body was embalmed and is

being held at the undertakings of

Oliver Hall, while efforts are being made

Aug. 21.—(Special.)—Preparations are being made for the construction of a new water tank at the pumping station at this post that will have a capacity of 100,000 gallons. This is necessary on account of the lack of sufficient pressure to get the water in sufficient quantities into the Government cemetery, and because of the lack of water at the post for irrigating purposes.

Contrary to the usual method, the work will be advertised for and different firms asked to furnish their plans and specifications and price, and the contract will be awarded to the firm which, in the estimation of the examining board, can put up the best tank for the money.

Asks for Tax Reduction.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—Jay Sedgwick, tax agent of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, was in Vancouver today for the purpose of attending to the matter of the assessment of the company's property in this county. He agreed to a raise on the P. V. & Y. from \$250 a mile to \$300 a mile. He also asked for a reduction on the Kalama branch of the road from \$600 a mile to \$500 a mile. This is being considered by the Commissioners.

Sailboat Is Found Empty.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Aug. 21.—The launch Union left this morning with the lower bay in search of Frank Anderson. Anderson left here Tuesday morning in his fishboat bound for Oysterville, where he was to buy some land. He had with him, so his wife says, \$250. Anderson's boat was picked up off the Nasel. It has the sail set, was dry, but the anchor and two sacks of sand ballast were missing.

Decision Is Against Mrs. Blair.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 21.—Judge Hebard rendered a decision today affecting the Yarde-Buller estate, in which he sustained the demurrer to the complaint in the suit of Edna Yarde-Buller against W. H. Chapman, as trustee of the estate, and Ralph K. Blair, the surviving son of Mary L. Kirkham Blair Yarde-Buller, holding that Mrs. Blair has no claim on the estate.

Lieutenant Colges Returns.

VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special.)—Lieutenant F. B. Colges, Battalion Quartermaster of the Fourteenth Infantry, returned to this post today from duty in Europe. He has been in charge of a detachment of troops for the Third Infantry.

Revolver Had a Load in It.

SPOKANE, Wash., Aug. 21.—While Gus Johnson, of the Omel saloon, on Main street, was exhibiting a revolver to some friends it was discharged and a stranger, whose name is not known, was shot in the heart. He died instantly.

ELKINS' SEAT IN DANGER

Losing Grip on West Virginia as

Democrats Get Together.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash-

ington, Aug. 21.—A rather serious con-

fronts the Republicans of West

Virginia, a condition which may wrest

control of the State from that party and

place it again in the hands of the Demo-

crats. West Virginia was once a Demo-

cratic stronghold; in late years it has

been the boast of the Republicans of West

Virginia that their State has broken

away from the "Solid South," and be-

come a solid Republican stronghold. And

for 16 years the Republicans have held

every Congressional district and have

elected both United States Senators. But

there was a special election in the Sec-

ond district last June, and the Democrats

carried the day, sending to Congress

Colonel Tom Davis, brother of Henry

Clay Davis, who was elected Vice-

President in 1904. This was the first

actual demonstration of weakness in the

Republican ranks and an augur of the

struggle that the Democrats are getting

together.