HUNDREDS KILLED BY

Death Comes Suddenly to Miners in West Virginia.

ONLY EIVE ESCAPE ALIVE

Deadly Black-Damp Slays 400 People and Wrecks Two Mines.

TERRIFIC FORCE EXERTED

Cave-in Cuts Off Escape of Struggling Men.

RESCUERS WORK IN RELAYS

Only Six Brought to Surface of Monongah's Living Tomb-Bodies Are Piled in Heaps Below-Dead Mostly Foreign Workmen.

GOVERNOR TO INVESTIGATE.

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 6 .ernor Dawson, of West Virginia, who is in Washington attending the Rivers and Harbors Congress, left for Charleston tonight and announced that he would at once institute s rigid investigation into the cause of the disaster.

MONONGAH, W. Va., Dec. 6.-That not less than 400 miners were killed by an explosion of blackdamp in No. 8 of the Consolidated Coal Company, of Baltimore, at this place today, is now iceded by those who take the most hopeful and most conservative view of the disaster. Five badly injured men

made their way to the surface. Of the victims six dead bodies had been taken from mine No. 6 at midnight and 65 others were piled up in the entry awaiting completion of facilities for bringing them to the surface. From mine No. 8 at the same hour, 14 hodles had been removed and a number of others are ready to be brought out as soon as arrangements can be completed.

Rescuers Seek the Dead.

Five recruiting parties, with ten men to each party, are working like Trojans at different parts of the two mines to the end that every nook and corner of the workings may be reached in the shortest possible time. There is a large force of experienced miners for this work and they are working in relays, owing to the accumulation of gas, which prevents the men from remaining long in the mine.

President Oscar Murray and other officials of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, were in New Martinsburg, Va., & miles from here, on an inspection trip when they heard of the disaster. They immediafely ordered their special train run to Monongah, arriving here tonight. Mr. Murray upon his arrival conferred with the officers of the mining company and offered on behalf of himself and the company any assistance that it was possible to render.

No Doubt, 400 Are Lost.

Clarence W. Watson, of Baltimore, president of the Consolidated Coal Company, was at Frostburg, Md., and immediately chartered a special train to bring him here. After conferring with the mine superintendent and other local representatives of the company, he said there was no doubt that 400 lives had been lost.

The explosion occurred shortly after 10 o'clock today, after 380 of the full force of 500 men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are Nos. 6 and 8 of the Consolidated Coal Company, located on opposite sides of the West Fork of the Monongahela River at this place, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and on the surface by a great steel tipple and

Frantic Struggle for Life.

Three of the living men, while unable to give any detailed report of the disaster, state that immediately back of them when they began their frantic struggle for libefty, there was a large number of men engaged in a similar struggle, while still further back in the workings there was a larger number of whom they know nothing. It is the opinion of the mine officials and others familiar with mining that these seven men had not penetrated the mine as far as had the majority of the day shift, when the explosion occurred, and that they headed for and heavy cave-in that now blockades the entrance not more than a few hundred

feet beyond the main opening of mi

Slender Hope for a Few.

As to the miners referred to by the rescued men as having been alive when last seen, it is believed that they were caught back of a heavy cave-in and could not have survived more than a few min utes in the deadly gasses with which the entry filled as soon as the ventilating system was interrupted. There is more ope for those in more remote sections of he mine, as they may have reached vorkings where fresh air is supplied by other openings. But at best only the most slender hope is entertained for the survival of any one of the men in the mine when the debris can be cleared away and communication with the ou side re-established.

The two mines regularly employ 1000 men, working in two shifts, 500 during the day and 500 during the night, and the best information obtainable at this time is that the entire day force had gone to work this morning and that all were



publican National Committee, re-

caught. It was shortly after 10 o'clock when the explosion occurred, and at that force is customarily at work, according to mine officials.

Due to Deadly Black-Damp.

There is much speculation as to the cause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it resulted from black damp, scientifically known as methane. It is believed that a miner attempted to set off a blast which blew and Ignited an accumulation of this deadly gas, and that this in turn ignited the coal dust, a highly inflammable sub stance found in greater or less quantities in all West Virginia mines. However, all explanations of the cause up to this time are necessarily speculative. Only thorough investigation after the mine is re-opened will disclose the cause if it is ever ascertained. The explosion affecte both mines, and so far as now known appears to have done about as much damage in one as in the other. It has not

been established in which it originated. Tremendous Force of Explosion.

Evidencing the terrific force of the con cussion, props in the entry of No. 6 mine supporting the roof, were not only shat tered and torn from their position, but were blown out of the entry and to the east side of the river. Other evidence of the awful force is shown in every sec tion of the mines that has been reached by the rescuers. Huge quantities of coaand rock have been toosened and hurled into every opening, and all of the underground structure is wrecked beyond sem blance of its original shape.

Character of the Mines.

Possibly the largest steel tipple in the (Concluded on Page 4.)

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PREPARING CALL FOR CONVENTION

Republican Committee in Session.

NEW RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN

May Be Deadlock Between Chicago and Kansas City.

DENVER MAY SNAP PLUM

Varying State Laws Regarding Elections Make Wording of Call a Ticklish Job-Members Attend From Northwest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.-The Republian National Committee, which was called to meet here to name a time and place for holding the Republican National Convention next year, was in session for an hour at the Shoreham Hotel today. but aside from the election of Acting Chairman Harry S. New to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of Secretary Cortelyou, the session was confined to preliminary details. Mr. New had no opposition and the vote was unanimous

Meanwhile the friends of the various sities which desire to secure the convention were actively at work. There are delegations here from Kansas City hour even the latest of the straggling and Denver and while there is no delegation from Chicago, a great deal of work is being done in behalf of that city by Representative Lowden. Of the 54 members of the National Committee, from 23 to 25 are said to be pledged to Kansas City and an equal number to Chicago. The remainder of the members are non-committal and their votes will decide the city in which the convention will be held.

Committee to Prepare Call. The subcommittee appointed to frame a call for the next Republican National

Convention, met this afternoon to give hearings to persons desiring to have spe cial provisions in the cail, in order that the selection of delegates as prescribed by the committee might not conflict with the laws of their states. Since the last National Convention was held several states have passed laws prescribing the methods of electing delegates, and in several instances these laws conflict with the methods of the committee that have revailed in the past. The com avold conflict with reasonable state laws. Prince Kalaiananole, of Hawali, apeared to ask the committee to give the

Hawaiian Islands four instead of two delegates in the National Committee. committee did not conclude its work today, but will meet again tomorrow and report to the National Commit-

Chicago Still in Field.

Whereas yesterday Kansas City seemed to be practically without a rival for the next convention, it was evident at the his pulse was fairly strong but irregular. | giant powder scattered around three pole

eginning of the canvass today that Chi cago's advocates had received assurances and would be prepared for a strong fight. Indeced, the friends of that city were boldly claiming a majority of the com

The Kansas City delegation was by ne means willing to concede the lead. It de-veloped that for some months that city has had representatives visiting commit teemen at their home towns to secure pledges. It is said that many committeemen had been committed to the Missouri city to such an extent that they could not change. It was urged for Kan-sas City that that city, being in the midst of what is termed "The Bryan Country," it would be of vast advantage to the Republican party to have the convention held there in case of Bryan's nomination The fact that the location there of the convention might have a material influence upon holding Missouri in the Re publican column also was urged, as were many other conditions supposed to be fa-

vorable to Kansas City. Denver May Win as Compromise.

The only other city prominently spoker of was Denver, but the contest between Chicago and Kansas City is now so spirited that little is said of a third place. The friends of the Colorado metropolis are hoping that the fight between the Illinois and Missouri locations will grow so animated that it may be necessary to shift from both of them, and in that event they think that Denver offers advantages. There will be one or two votes at the beginning for Seattle and some

Mr. Lowden assured all comers that Chicago was willing not only to furnish the hall ,but to pay all the bills of the convention. United States Marshal Bailey, of Colorado, also was active among the delegates. He said Denver would pay \$80,000 for the convention, and that the offer would be made in such tangible form as to leave no doubt of Denver's

New Elected Chairman. Senator Crane, of Massachusetts, non inated Mr. New for chairman, and Mr. Lyon, of Texas, seconded the nomination. Mr. New, who had retired, was then no tified and was escorted to the meetingroom and enthusiastically received. He made a brief speech, sincerely thanking the committee for the honor. Mr. Cortelyou's resignation was formally accepted and a committee appointed to draft resolutions of regret over his retirement A committee to suggest a plan of procedure in the election of delegates in Porto Rico and the Philippines was Mr. Yerkes, of Kentucky; Mr. Streeter, of New Hampshire, and Mr. Kellogg, of Minnesota, will draft the formal call for the convention and will deal with all questions pertaining to the election of delegates.

The committee then called on the President.

Western Members Present.

The rollcall showed that the following, The rollcall showed that the following, among others, were present: California, George A. Knight; Colorado, D. C. Balley; Idaho, Senator W. B. Heyburn; Montana, John B. Walte; Nevada, Patrick L. Flanagan; Oregon, Senator C. W. Fulton; Utah, Senator Reed Smoot; Washington, Senator Levi Ankeny; Wyoming, Senator C. D. Clark; Alaska, John H. Held; Arizona, Senator Charles S. Dick; New Mexico, Solomon Luna; Hawali, Prince Kalanianole; Philippine Islands, Senator William Warner.

KING OSCAR IS THE SAME

Bulletins Show No Change Except Decrease in Strength.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 6 .- A bulletin isned this evening by the physicians in attendance on King Oscar showed that no essential change in the monarch's condition had taken place during the day, except that his strength again was decreasing. His temperature was 99.86 and

SPEAKER CANNON-GIVE 'EM THE TREASURY SURPLUS, AND THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO LOWER THE TARIFT.

BRUTAL TACTICS FEDERATION

Man Crippled by Goldfield Thugs.

ATTEMPT TO DYNAMITE WIRES

Another Man Missing and Believed Murdered.

TROOPS ARE ON THE WAY

From San Francisco and Monterey Will Arrive Today. Sparks' Appeal for Troops Tells of the Reign of Terror.

GOLDFIELD, Dec. 6.-Herbert Belford son of Judge Belford, of Denver, appeared today at the office of the legal department of the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company with his face so badly disfigured that he was hardly recognize ble, as a result of treatment received at the hands of the miners Saturday night His face was bruised and his now broken, upper teeth knocked out and sev

eral ribs broken. Mr. Belford says that he was recog nized in one of the saloons of the town and called to the sidewalk, where he was taken into custody by a man wearing a star and representing himself as a Dep uty Sheriff. He was led through a dark and lonely district, supposedly on als way to jail, when he was set upon by thugs and was left for dead. He was found two or three hours afterward in an un conscious condition and taken to the hos pital, and it was several hours before he regained consciousness. Mr. Belford was missed by his friends, but was supposed

Believes Friend Murdered. During the evening of the assault Mr.

Belford had been accused of having "scabbed" on Stratton's Independence, in Cripple Creek, during the strike there He had worked there at the time, but in the office of the company, and was no eligible to join the Miners' Union. He was also accused of being too friendly with detectives in Goldfield. He was taken to the Miners' Union hall to clear his record, but he found no one to identify him. He was permitted to go, with Mr. Belford says his friend, one Green lee, who had also been threatened at the time of the assault on Mr. Belford, is nowhere to be found. His trunk and efects are undisturbed in his room, just as he left them Saturday night, and no one has seen him since. Belford says he is either killed or has departed.

Attempt at Dynamiting.

Dynamiters made an effort yesterday to wreck the electric power line which furnishes light and power to Goldfield. patrolman today discovered 100 sticks of

the railroad track, two miles from city. Holes were bored in two of the poles and caps had been exploded, but the powder, being frozen, failed to ig-The Nevada-California Power Company

maintains a patrol of its line between Goldfield and Bishop, which covers the entire line once every 48 hours. The force has been augmented and hereafter a close watch will be maintained.

MINERS ARE TAKEN UNAWARES

Thought Operators Bluffing-Sher-

iff, Tool of Federation, Disappears GOLDFIELD, Nev., Dec. 6,-There is itense but suppressed excitement Goldfield today over the expected ar-rival of the United States troops in the Goldfield camp tomorrow morning. It is the only subject of conversation. Miners union hall has been filled all day and



crowds fill the sidewalks and streets in

speak of, though some excitement has been created by hotheads, who talk of what they will do after the troops come The miners have thought the report of troops was all a bluff, intended to intimidate them, and they have only come to a realization of the real situation in the last few hours. They seem disconcerted and nonplussed, as events have happened and swept along too fast for them. They are certainly unprepared for the present turn of affairs.

President McKinnon, of the local niners' union, a brother-in-law of William D. Haywood, is in charge of the niners' eampaign. Vincent St. John has been in the hospital for several weeks, as a result of a ganshot wound received in a duel, between limself and anothe labor leader, but he is ready for duty

Sheriff Is Angry and Disappears. Sherm Ingalis and his force are disthis afternoon the Sheriff disappeared and his whereabouts are unknown. It is

conjectured his action has an important bearing on the present situation. Before he left, the Sheriff said he knew of no trouble in Goldfield, and that the call for troops was made over his head. The Sheriff and his forces have always been charged by the Mineowners' Association with being more than friendly to the miners. He is one of the owners of one of the largest saloons and gambling-

houses in Goldfield, largely patronized by the miners. Last Spring during the strike hundreds of striking miners were sworn in as Deputy Sheriffs and armed. It was because of this mistrust of the Sheriff that the mine operators appealed to the Governor direct. Under-Sheriff Bert Knight and nearly all the county officers signed a protest against troops coming to Goldfield and sent it to the Governor.

It is understood by the mine operators that the coming of the troops means a permanent garrison at Goldfield. It is declared the plan has been under consideration for several months and that a number of appeals have been made by the mineowners throughout the state for such action by the War Department. But little of the details could be gathered, but it is understood the post will be a branch of the Presidio and that It will be a regularly established military post will have to be established in a few months and that troops are being hurried to Goldfield ahead of time to prevent the possible outbreak of violence in the event of an attempt on the part of the operators to reopen their mines.

TROOPS START FOR NEVADA

First Detachment From Presidio Will Arrive This Morning.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6 .- Five comstationed at Fort McDowell, in this city, and four companies of the same regiment Monterey, were dispatched to Goldfield. Nev., today by Brigadier-General Frederick Funston, commanding the Department of California, in compliance with orders received from the War Depaytment late last night.

The troops were ordered to the big mining camp in Nevada by President Roosevelt in response to an appeal from Governor John Sparks, of Nevada, who apprehends serious trouble as a result of the strike of the miners and an attempt to open the mines with non-union labor As Nevada has no state troops, Mr. Sparks called for Federal soldiers

About 150 men and 14 officers, under ommand of Colonel Alfred Reynolds, left the Oakland mole on a special train of four Pullmans and two baggage cars, shortly before noon today. The Monterey contingent, consisting of about 100 men of Companies C. E. F and G. and two Vickers-Maxim machine guns, under Captain Curtis, left that city at 7 o'clock this morning.

Rations were taken to last 20 days and (Concluded on Page 6.)

ONLY WATERWAYS CAN SUPPLY NEED

River and Harbor Congress Speaks Mind.

NO MORE PIECE-MEAL WORK

Regular Annual Appropriation of \$50,000,000.

FAR RAILROADS BEHIND

Cannot Expand Fast Enough to Supply the Present Needs, Let Alone Increase-Cannon Again Advises Spending the Surplus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6-An annual appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the systematic and uninterrupted improvement of the necessary to supply the deficiencies of the railroads for handling the country's trafwas the main point of resolutions dopted today by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress at its closing session The old system of piecemeal appropriaons is unsparingly condemned and Presdent Roosevelt is thanked for his championship of improved waterways.

Voice of 36 States.

J. Hampton Moore, of Philadelphia, chairman of the committee on resolutions, presented the platform as the as sentiment of 36 states, and he said that the committee requested the approval of the report in the hope that it would receive the respectful consideration of the National Congress. The report of the committee follows:

port of the committee follows:

After a year's consideration of the aims and purposes of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, expressed in resolutions adopted by that body in 1906, the American people have given them emphatic indorsement by sending to this convention, assembled at the National capital, December 4, 5 and 6, 1907, nearly 2000 delegates from 37 states and territories, representing the commercial, manufacturing, producing and consuming interests of the country, and these delegates are unaulmously of the belief.

Transportation Lines Inadequate.

First—That profitable and successful commerce is alsolutely dependent upon economical transportation of commedities and that the importance of transportation will increase with the growth of population and the development of the Nation's resources. Second—That the railroads of the United States are now unable to bandle the business offered them and much loss results from the congested condition of traffic; that according to high railroad authority the business of the country has increased 100 per cent within ten years, while the facilities for handling it by rail have increased only about 20 per cent, and, as the railroads cannot be expécted in the near future to increase their facilities sufficiently to relieve the situation, other means of transportation should be provided at once.

once.

Third—That transportation of heavy commodities by water on all rivers and inland waterways is much cheaper and usually quicker than by rail; that no country in the world has been so blessed by Nature with watercourses as our own, and that, if properly improved and connected by canals, they would furnish a convenient means of shipping, enormous volumes of freight, thereby relieving the congestion on the railroads and furnishing cheaper and safer transportation for the benefit of producer and consumer.

Time to Improve Waterways.

Time to Improve Waterways.

Fourth—That the time has come when the policy of the Federal Government Army Post.

Is understood by the mine operators the coming of the troops means a manent garrison at Goldfield. It is ared the plan has been under contation for several months and that imber of appeals have been made by mineowners throughout the state for action by the War Department. It is understood the post will be ranch of the Presidio and that it be a regularly established military. The statement is made that the will have to be established in a few this and that troops are being hurried toldfield ahead of time to prevent the state of the double of the Comprehensive Plan.

Time to Improve Waterways.

Fourth—That the time has come when the policy of the Federal Government to ward waterways, over which It ightly has suprome control, should be more liberal, persistent and continuous than heretofore, that as a result of intermittent action meritorious works of importance begun many years and harbors have been made at intervals of three years instead of annually; that for the past ten years they have averaged only about \$22,900,000 a year, or less than 3 per cent of the average annual expenditures of the Government. and that enough money should be appropriated each year for at least the next ten years properly to improve the various rivers, waterways and harbors on plans which have been and shall be surveyed and approved by the Government of the Preside by the Congress of the United States.

Therefore, be it resolved by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress:

Adopt Comprehensive Plan.

First. That we earnestly urge the adop-tion by the Federal Government of a wide, liberal, comprehensive waterways policy that will provide for the proper improvement within ten years of the rivers, waterways prospective benefits to commerce. Second. That, without presuming to prescribe the engineering or the financial de talls of this great undertaking, this conislis of this great undertaking, this congress strongly urges upon the Congress of
the United States the importance of the
immediate adoption of a comprehensive
plan of waierways improvement, of the
carrying on of the work by an adequate
number of engineers and of such liberal
appropriations annually as will insure the
sarly completion of such projects as may
be undertaken.

Third. That we cordially indorse the
action of President Roosevelt in appointing a special Inland Waterways Commission, being confident that its report will
prove a source of accurate and valuable

prove a source of accurate and valuable information to the American people. We further recommend that Congress enact such laws as will make the Inland Waterways Commission permanent and will pr vide it with necessary authority for i investigations and recommendations.

Fourth-That this congress cordial; thanks President Roosevelt for the suppor recent message to Congress.

Fifth-That we ask Congress to view Fifth—That we ask Congress to view the river, waterway and harbor appropriations not as the appropriation of money for the current expenses of Government, but as an investment in permanent improvements, bound to pay increasing dividends from year to year. Viewing these appropriations in this light, Congress is fully warranted in authorizing an annual expenditure beginning at the present ression of not less than one tenth of the amount of money required for all the various river, waterway and harbor improvements already waterway and harbor improvements already planned and approved by the engineers in charge or her-after planned and approved

(Concluded on Page 4.)