

SEVENTEEN ARE DEAD

Explosion in Pennsylvania Coal Mine Disastrous.

AT LEAST 16 MORE ARE INJURED

Bare Lamp Touches Off Pocket of Gas—Black Damp Prevents Rescue Work.

Wehrum, Pa., June 24.—As the result of an explosion of gas in mine No. 4 of the Lackawanna Coal & Coke company early today, 17 miners were killed and 16 injured. With the exception of one, those killed were foreigners. With few exceptions the injured were Americans.

Inspector Joseph Williams with a party entered the mine today to ascertain if there were any more victims. Superintendent A. M. Johns stated that while the mine has always been regarded as non-gaseous, the explosion was caused by a miner's open lamp igniting a pocket of gas.

The mine is burning fiercely in several places and deadly black damp is pouring from the mouth, effectively preventing systematic rescue work.

Large quantities of oxygen and many oxygen tanks have been requested from the Cambria Steel company of Johnstown, Pa., and the United States government mining and testing station at Pittsburgh.

Three men, seriously burned, succeeded in reaching the surface. They said that following the explosion there seemed to be a flash and then all was darkness. Calls for help and groans were heard by them as they made their way to the entrance, staggering over the bodies of comrades, who had fallen with the first shock.

WOMEN ARE SAVAGES.

Famous Scientist Causes Stir at Chicago by Declaration.

Chicago, June 24.—"Woman, the eternal savage, whose only salvation lies in the fact that she always has been and always will be a savage," has been played again by the lash of Professor Frederick Starr, the famous scientist and ethnological explorer of the university of Chicago.

"Women are not civilized," according to the astute investigator. "Furthermore, they should not be civilized. What is more, they can't be," he continues, "for the fundamental nature of woman is barbaric, and it is better so, since the posterity, even the continuance of the race, depends upon the rigid assertion of a fundamental difference between man and woman."

"Woman's religion is also notably that of lower culture," he asserts. "She is always seeing signs in everything; she avoids having 13 at her table and starting on a journey on Friday; she is the chief supporter of spiritual mediums. She is the founder of new sects, in which the religious attitude of savagery is given high-sounding names and maintained by most select individuals; she dabbles constantly in the occult."

OFFICE CLERK SUSPECTED.

Theft of \$30,000 From Mails Laid to Los Angeles Postal Employee.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 24.—The Federal grand jury today returned an indictment against an unnamed person in connection with the recent robbing of a registered mail sack, at the local postoffice, of \$30,000 in currency. It is said upon good authority to be directed against one of the clerks in the registry division of the postoffice.

The arrest may not be made for several days.

Fifteen thousand dollars of the stolen money was recently found hidden behind the postoffice safe in the main building. The money was shipped originally in four packages by the First National bank of Los Angeles to the bank of Bisbee, Arizona.

River Floods Big Tunnel.

Grand Junction, Colo., June 24.—The Denver & Rio Grande tunnel at Tunnel station, 20 miles east of here, was flooded by the Grand river at 3 o'clock this morning and traffic in both directions is effectually blocked. The tunnel is more than a quarter of a mile long, and is flooded to a depth of a foot. The water is still rising. The track at other points also is in danger. Two trains are isolated, with the flooded tunnel behind and a burned-out bridge ahead. All eastbound trains are being held here.

Menelik's Death Again Reported.

Rome, June 24.—Reports from Abyssinia state that King Menelik is dead and that Empress Taitu is in charge of the government. The messages say the king's death is being kept secret while the empress is organizing the new regime, and making her position secure. Officials here are not inclined to believe the report until it is verified, but it is generally believed that Menelik is in very poor health if not yet dead.

Russians Fear Cholera.

St. Petersburg, June 24.—Because of the prevalence of cholera in this city the cabinet has decided that the government will undertake the drainage of St. Petersburg, and the reorganization of the water supply. Fifty million dollars must be realized by a loan for the work, which it is estimated will be completed in 15 years.

AUSTRIA OUSTS STANDARD.

Will Build Reservoirs and Aid Home Refineries to Fight Octopus.

Vienna, June 25.—Owing to the decisive intervention of the imperial government, the Standard Oil company's plans for gaining control of the Galician petroleum industry have suffered a final and crushing defeat. The Austrians have withdrawn the contract with the company, which would have insured to the American concern a dominating position in the Galician oil fields, for which it has been striving many years.

The minister of finance has undertaken to build reservoirs and lease them to oil men at rents much less than those demanded by the Standard Oil company. Moreover, home refineries will escape the handicap of heavy rebates on the price of the raw product which the Standard was to have enjoyed under the contract now canceled.

The government expresses a hope that competition will be sharpened through abrogation of the contract, but it is probable that lively fight will follow for export trade, which vitally affects the Standard's position in Germany.

CZAR GETS MONEY.

Compromises With Former Official Who Embezzled \$1,000,000.

Winnipeg, Man., June 25.—The famous case in which the czar of Russia brought action against Ivan Proskowkoff in the Winnipeg courts for the recovery of a large amount of money was ended today after a year and a half of litigation.

Ivan was a defaulting official in charge of the administration of a province in the trans-Caucasus. He absconded with more than \$1,000,000 years ago, made his way through China and Japan, where he purchased large quantities of Oriental goods, and finally reached America, opening stores in San Francisco, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

Anna Seaman, a talented and handsome Russian woman, alleged to be a nihilist, joined him here as his wife, and they kept house in luxurious fashion in a fashionable suburb.

The Russian police eventually traced him to Winnipeg, but when the time came to make his arrest he was missing. His property was attached, and after a long fight, a compromise finally has been reached under which the property and merchandise is to be sold and the proceeds divided between the czar and representatives of the Proskowkoffs.

SUTRO HEIRS GET MONEY.

Will Giving Vast Estate to Charity Is Annulled.

San Francisco, June 25.—The Supreme court invalidated today the will of the late Adolph Sutro and ordered that the large estate, valued at millions, and consisting of the Cliff House ranch in this city and the San Miguel rancho, be distributed among the heirs. The former property is situated along the beach and includes the famous Sutro heights and resorts.

Under the terms of the will the estate was to be held in trust until the last surviving child should die, after which the lands were to be sold and the proceeds given to charitable and educational institutions in this city. The court held that the failure to provide specifically for the distribution of the proceeds of the sale rendered that bequest invalid.

MAY GRAFT ARM ON MAN.

Unique Operation Possible at Billings if Extra Arm Can Be Secured.

Billings, Mont., June 25.—The grafting of an arm from one man to another will take place in a hospital in this city should some unfortunate individual come along from whom the arm may be secured. J. G. Williamson was knocked down and robbed in the railroad yards at Park City several weeks ago. He was thrown beside the tracks and a train came along while he was unconscious and cut off one of his arms just below the elbow. County Physician Miller states that his arm is in good condition for grafting, and if a dying patient should happen along in time to supply the limb the operation will be performed.

Robs State School Fund.

Denver, June 25.—Mark Woodruff, ex-state register of lands of Colorado, was arrested today at Plattville under an indictment charging embezzlement of \$15,000 from the sale of school lands. Woodruff was brought here this afternoon, arraigned in the District court and released under \$2,500 bond. Woodruff declares that he has received no promise of immunity. He refused to go into details as to where he has been since leaving Denver more than two years ago, but stated that he had been employed on various newspapers.

Gotham Still Swelters.

New York, June 25.—Although the temperature in this city was slightly cooler than yesterday, the humidity was high and therefore conditions were extremely uncomfortable. The highest point reached during the day was 89 above zero. Fifty persons were prostrated by the heat. There were 6 deaths from that cause. The hot wave yesterday was blamed for at least 12 deaths and more than a score of prostrations.

American Bank Opened.

Pekin, June 25.—The Pekin branch of the International Banking corporation, the first American bank in the East to join the group of British, French, German and Japanese institutions in existence here since 1902, was opened here today.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

ACT IS SPECIAL.

Injunction Is Granted Against Crater Lake Road.

Salem—In the Circuit court Judge William Galloway granted a perpetual injunction restraining the governor and secretary of the treasury from paying out \$100,000 for the construction of the road to Crater lake. He held the law is special and local and clearly inhibited by the constitution of the state. The case will be immediately appealed. The Supreme court has previously taken the same stand as Judge Galloway, in a case almost identical.

The court's reasons for the decision are given as follows:

The act is local and special in that it applies to only two counties in the state and because it is limited to a specified section and for special purposes only. The act creates a loan of the credit of the state, which in the aggregate with previous debts or liabilities exceeds the sum of \$50,000.

The proposed Crater lake road would not be a continuous public highway across the state via Crater Lake National park because the act provides only for the construction of roads from Medford, in Jackson county, to the western boundary of the park and from Klamath Falls, Klamath county, to the eastern boundary of the park, leaving an intervening segment of more than 13½ miles over which the state government has no jurisdiction or right to trespass.

WILL BUILD NORTH.

Rumor Says Harriman Will Not Stop at Klamath.

Klamath Falls—According to reports Klamath Falls is not to be the terminus of the terminus of the California Northwestern for any considerable length of time. It is stated on good authority, however, not officially, that a contract has been let for the construction of 25 miles of road northward from this city. The roadbed is now completed to upper Klamath lake, about two miles north of the depot site. The track will be completed during July and direct connection made with the boats on the lake. The large steam dredges used in building the dyke across the marsh are to be moved to the lake and will be used in building the Southern Pacific dock. This work will take but a short time. It is generally believed that as soon as the docks are completed the dredges will be used in constructing the grade for the extension. It will be necessary to cross several miles of marsh in extending the road northward and it is likely that this work will be begun in the near future.

Local representatives of the Southern Pacific will not confirm the report that a contract has been let for a 25 mile extension. Erickson & Peterson, contractors, who have been building the spur, say that they cannot give out information in regard to future work.

Fruit Outlook Improved.

Cottage Grove—The past week has been a busy one in all parts of this end of Lane county. The recent rains have put a broad smile on the face of every farmer and agriculturist. The fruit outlook is improving each day and with a continuance of showers this section will surpass last year in abundant crops. Wheat, oats, vetch and barley are looking well and the warm weather is bringing in the berry crop on schedule time. Haying will soon be in full swing, in fact several parties have already cared for their first crop.

Linn's Finances Good.

Albany—The county funds of Linn county are in excellent condition, showing a monthly balance of \$132,652.62, as taken from the books of County Treasurer Francis. Resources—Balance May 1, \$140,350.73; received from all sources, \$4,640.64; total, \$145,000.37. Disbursements—General fund warrants, \$7,689.36; road fund warrants, \$4,660.97; school fund warrants, \$94.90; institute warrants, \$2.50; total, \$12,547.72.

Plant Has 800 Berries.

Dufur—A strawberry plant bearing 800 well developed berries is thought to be the record, even for this prolific variety, yet in the field of Mike Abnet, not far from this place, such a plant flourishes. The berries have been counted time and again by doubtful persons. The plant is supported entirely by one root, and spreads over a large area. It has grown with no unusual cultivation.

Ontario Bridge Is Begun.

A. C. Thornberg, of the Minneapolis Steel & Machinery company, has arrived in Ontario to begin the erection of the Idaho-Oregon interstate bridge across the Snake at this point. Preliminary work has begun, and Mr. Thornberg reports that within a week or ten days a full force of men will be at work on the structure.

Looks Good in Wheeler.

Mitchell—Cloudy, damp weather, with heavy showers at intervals during the past week, have been favorable to the crops. In some localities fall sown grain failed to rally, but a big hay crop and a heavy yield of spring sown grain are now the very best prospects in the greater portion of Wheeler county.

Kansans in Eugene to Organize.

Eugene—The former residents of Kansas who are now residing in Eugene organized by electing William Hempy, president, and Paul Merrill, secretary. July 15 was selected as the day for the first Kansas picnic.

PORTAGE ROAD GETS FUND.

Attorney General Finds Way Out of Legislative Blunder.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has rendered an opinion to the effect that \$75 a day appropriated by the terms of Chapter 89, laws of 1909, be used for the operation and maintenance of the entire portage railway system.

Under a strict interpretation of the act, the amount would not be available for anything but the construction of the line from Big Eddy to The Dalles, and the balance of the line would have to quit business for lack of money with which to operate. The attorney general, however, decided that it would be safe to be guided by the evident intent of the legislature rather than by the strict wording of the law.

Judge W. J. Marriner and L. A. Lewis, of the Portage Railway commission, are in Salem to consult with the state officials regarding the matter. The commissioners report that the road is doing a good business and that when the extension to The Dalles is completed the road will be self sustaining.

Money for Road Case.

Medford—The Medford Commercial club has voted the necessary \$200 to carry the Crater lake road case to the Supreme court on an appeal from the decision of Judge Galloway of the Maas county court, in which the act was declared unconstitutional. The steps will be taken by the attorneys at once in order to get action on the matter in the Supreme court as early as possible. The \$200 is for the payment of court costs.

Railroad Bonus Raised.

Baker City—All of the \$10,000 bonus that has been raised for extension of the Sumpter Valley railroad, the last being reported from the John Day valley, following which David Eccles ordered construction crews into the interior to begin the work of grading and laying track. The road is expected to be ready for business by Thanksgiving.

Canal Commission Wants Fir.

Portland—The Isthmian Canal commission has asked for proposals for supplies for the Panama canal work which include 2,000 pieces of center, intermediate and side sills of either Douglas fir or long leaf yellow pine. The notices have been received by the Portland Chamber of Commerce and are on file here.

New Library at Baker City.

Baker City—The opening of the new Carnegie library was celebrated here with appropriate exercises. The Baker Concert band rendered a concert in the evening, where several hundred people had gathered, after which addresses were made by Mayor Pollman, Professor J. A. Churchill and C. A. Johns.

Three Roads to Coast.

Salem—Three companies have organized and filed articles of incorporation within the past week for the purpose of constructing railroads from points in the Willamette valley to the Pacific coast. Two have been projected for the Coos bay country and one for Lincoln county.

Benson to Name Delegates.

Salem—Complying with the request of the Mississippi-to-Atlantic Inland Waterway association, Governor Benson will appoint a number of delegates to attend the meeting of the association at Jacksonville, Florida, this fall.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem milling, \$1.30; club, \$1.20; valley, \$1.17. Corn—whole, \$35 per ton; cracked, \$36 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$41 per ton. Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$17@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$20@23.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@2.50 per box; strawberries, \$1.50@1.85 per crate; cherries, 6@8c per pound; gooseberries, 4@5c per pound; currants, 8@10c per pound.

Potatoes—\$1.25@2 per hundred. Vegetables—Asparagus, 75@90c per dozen; lettuce, head, 25c; onions, 12½@15c; parsley, 35c; peas, 3@6c per pound; radishes, 15c per dozen; rhubarb, 3@3½c per pound.

Butter—Fancy creamery, extras, 26½c; fancy outside creamery, 25@26½c per pound; store, 15c. Butter fat prices average 1½c per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Oregon ranch 24c per dozen. Poultry—Hens, 13c per pound; springs, 18c; roosters, 8@9c; ducks, young, 14@15c; geese, young, 11@12c; turkeys, 18c; squabs, \$2@2.25 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 10c per pound. Veal—Extras, 8½@9c per pound; ordinary, 7c; heavy, 6c.

Hops—1909 contracts, 15c per pound; 1908 crop, 10@11c; 1907 crop, 5@5½c; 1906 crop, 2@2¼c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@23c per pound; valley, fine, 23c; coarse, 21½c; mohair, choice, 24@25c.

Cattle—Steers, top, \$4.50@4.60; fair to good, \$4.25@4.40; common, \$4@4.15; cows, top, \$3.75@3.85; fair to good, \$3.25@3.50; common to medium, \$2.50@3; calves, top, \$5@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls and stags, \$2.75@3.25; common, \$2@2.50.

Hogs—Best, \$8@8.15; fair to good, \$7.50@7.75; stockers, \$6@6.50; China fats, \$6.75@7.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; ewes, ½c less on all grades; yearlings, \$4.15; fair to good, \$3.75@4; spring lambs, \$4.75@5.25.

DRIVE JAPS OFF.

Planters Propose Drastic Measures to Prevent Repeated Strikes.

Honolulu, June 23.—The work of getting a jury to try five of the Japanese strike leaders charged with conspiracy in connection with the strike of laborers on the sugar plantations began today.

Several of the leaders stated today the strike would be resumed on the Ewa and Waiiala plantations July 1, when they would again call out 3,000 Japanese who have returned to work. They declared that all the Japanese in the islands are affiliated in one large organization.

Representatives of the planters declare that, if the threatened plan of intermittent strikes on alternate plantations, enabling those working to support the large number on strike, is carried out, the strikers will be ordered off the plantations. This would mean that the Japanese would have to vacate the homes furnished by the planters and would be homeless.

The Japanese training squadron is expected here tomorrow.

The Planters' association has received from its agents at Washington, D. C., encouraging reports regarding a plan to import efficient labor from Europe through immigration channels.

Sugar planters here resent the statements of a number of Spaniards who departed from the islands some time since and are reported stranded in San Francisco, where they complained of unfair treatment. The planters declare that the men were given houses, lands, wages and other perquisites usually granted to plantation laborers, and that they left against the advice of the Spanish consul to go to Mexico, lured by false promises.

HIS SEAT RICKETY.

Reichstag May Force Chancellor Von Buelow to Resign.

Berlin, June 23.—The political situation for the crown is extremely confused by today's events. The reichstag's adoption of a quotation tax, which Chancellor von Buelow declared the government would never accept, and the finance committee's rejection of an inheritance tax, which he declared to be an essential part of the central scheme of finance reform and which the Conservatives and Clericals are determined to defeat, leaves the chancellor's position precarious.

Many politicians think the chancellor will be compelled to resign, unless he has the courage to dissolve the reichstag and appeal to the country.

Dissolution can take place only on joint action by the emperor and the Federal council.

The proposal to impose a yearly tax on bonds and stocks was adopted by 203 votes against 155. The tax is to be calculated on the basis of the average quotation for the preceding year and the rate of interest on this amount which the current dividend yields. The tax will then be deducted by the companies from the dividends before payment.

WHEAT DOES WELL.

Colorado Farmer Pays Debts on Irrigated Land From Dry Farm.

Longmont, Colo., June 23.—Twelve hundred bushels of wheat harvested from 60 acres of dry farm land and sold for \$1.32 a bushel.

This is the result of dry farming on George F. Givens' farm near here. He bought the land from the railroad at \$4.50 an acre. In 1907 he got 2,990 bushels of wheat from 60 acres. Last year, which was the driest in many years in that vicinity, he threshed the 1,200 bushels mentioned above. Now he is building a fine barn and paying off the debts he contracted on his irrigated quarter section with the proceeds of his dry farm wheat.

Samples of the grains raised under similar conditions in all parts of Colorado will be exhibited at the International Exposition of Dry Farm Products, which will be held at Billings, Montana, next October 25 to 29, in connection with the Fourth Dry Farming congress.

Search for Treasure Ship.

San Francisco, June 23.—Officers of the United States mine planter Armistead are planning to make a final effort to locate the sunken hull of the steamer Rio de Janeiro, which was wrecked in the Golden Gate February 11, 1901. The Rio was entering the harbor from an Oriental trip and carried to the bottom with her scores of passengers and \$200,000 worth of treasure. During the last eight years many attempts have been made to locate the wreck. It is thought it has been carried far to sea by the tides and currents.

Treasure Ship Is Found.

Chester, Pa., June 23.—Silver was found today by the crew of the government boat Cataract, which has been working in the vicinity of Fort Mifflin in an endeavor to raise the contents of the supposed English treasure boat that was sunk during the Revolutionary war. The dredger Heliogate will be sent to Fort Mifflin to raise the sunken boat. It is believed that the hold of the vessel contains many thousands of dollars in gold sent to pay soldiers.

Masked Men Rob Messenger.

Green Bay, Wis., June 23.—Two masked men held up Night Messenger Kade, of the United States Express company last night, securing \$5,000 and making their escape. Kade was counting the money in the transfer room here when the holdup took place. There is no clue to the identity of the bandits.

HARRIMAN TO BUILD

Has Called for Bids on Line From Natron to Klamath Falls.

WILL COST ABOUT \$2,225,000.

Construction to Be Undertaken Will Be Followed by Completion of Line Soon.

Portland, June 25.—Bids for the construction of 69.48 miles of the Oregon Eastern railroad, projected from Natron to Klamath Falls, will be taken in the Southern Pacific office at San Francisco during the next two weeks. Of that mileage, 34.24 miles will be constructed southeasterly from Natron, while the remaining 25.24 miles will be built in a northwesterly direction from Klamath Falls.

Bids for the construction of the Klamath Falls end of the extension must be submitted on or before June 30. Contractors, however, are allowed until July 10 to submit proposals for building the 34 miles of the track from Natron, the present northern terminus of the projected road. Local Harriman officials will make no estimate of the probable cost of building the two sections of this railroad, but it is believed the improvement will involve an expenditure of approximately \$2,225,000.

The two extensions, aggregating about 60 miles, for which bids have been asked, cover about one-third of the length of the proposed road, which according to the approved survey, will be 198.6 miles in length from Klamath Falls to Natron.

The action of Harriman in calling for bids for extending this road by beginning work simultaneously at Natron and Klamath Falls is accepted as conclusive evidence of his determination to complete its construction. It is figured that to build the 60 miles of track for which bids have been invited will practically exhaust the appropriation that has been made for this road for the ensuing year. For that reason additional appropriations for further extensions are looked for next year.

There can be no question of the ultimate purpose of Harriman to complete this road between Natron and Klamath Falls. Completion of the extension for which proposals have been asked cannot in themselves add materially to the value of the property. By extending the road 25 miles northward from Klamath Falls, the northern terminus of the southern extension would now only into the heart of Klamath county. The construction of an additional 35 miles southerly from Natron would terminate the road from this end in a mountainous and sparsely settled district.

For these reasons it is patent from a practical business consideration that the Harriman interests will complete the road as soon as possible and place the investment on a revenue-producing basis. The primary purpose in projecting this road was to provide for the Southern Pacific a better grade of crossing the state and thereby make the more difficult passage now followed over the Siskiyou mountains.

Completed, the Oregon Eastern would undoubtedly become the main line to the Southern Pacific between Portland and San Francisco.

AID DESTITUTE LABORERS.

Plantation Hands Now in Bay City Be Returned to Bay City.

Honolulu, June 25.—The territorial board of immigration has decided to bring back here 200 Spaniards and Porto Ricans stranded in San Francisco, and reported to be destitute. It is understood that this is being done at the request of the department of commerce and labor at Washington.

The stranded laborers were imported here about a year ago from Porto Rico to work on the sugar plantations in the islands. Becoming dissatisfied they left the islands and came to San Francisco, where they charged that they were brought to Hawaii under false promises.

May Take Clear Title.

Washington, June 25.—Under a order just issued by Secretary Ballinger settlers on all government irrigated projects may make full payment for their water rights as soon as they comply with the requirements of the law as to residence, cultivation and irrigation. Heretofore final payment for building channels could not be made until five years after water was turned on. This makes it easier for settlers with money to get absolute title to the land, especially settlers who want to clear the land before water was ready.

Welcomes Jap Cruisers.

Honolulu, June 26.—The training squadron of Admiral Ijichi, composed of the cruisers Aso and Soga, arrived here today. Hundreds of Japanese were assembled at the waterfront and the vessels an enthusiastic reception. Governor Fear entertained Admiral Ijichi at dinner tonight and the admiral of the Japanese fleet was given a tour of the island during the day and the squadron will remain in the harbor for a week.

Japs Bound to South America.

Honolulu, June 6.—The Japanese liner Hongkong arrived today from Yokohama en route to South America with 700 steerage passengers, mostly Japanese, aboard. They are all bound for South American ports.