

CIGARETTE GETS 68

Mexican Mine Explosion Caused by Violation of Rules

MINER HAD TO HAVE A SMOKE

Party Injured are in Hospitals—Many Escaped Because Foul Air Could Not Reach Them.

Laredo, Texas, Feb. 3.—One of the greatest disasters in the history of the Mexican mining took place today in the coal mine at Las Esperanzas, Mexico.

The toll of human life which paid the penalty of negligence on the part of some miner, according to the latest reports, is placed at 68. After an official report showing 53 dead, twelve additional bodies were recovered, bringing the total to 65, and three others were found in the hospital, making the grand total of victims thus far 68.

The explosion occurred in No. 3 shaft of the coal mine of the Esperanzas Mining company and is attributed to the ignition of gas from the flame of a cigarette of a miner. Smoking is contrary to the rules.

The miners, mostly Mexicans and Japanese, had assumed their places at about 7 o'clock. At 8:30 o'clock a loud explosion and almost instantly a great cloud of dust and smoke issued from the mouth of the mine. When the onlookers realized the meaning of the disaster, assistance was immediately forthcoming.

As soon as the air in the shaft could be purified sufficiently to permit rescuers to descend, many volunteers were ready to risk their lives in an elevator to succor their stricken brothers below.

Cages were sent down, loaded to capacity with miners bent upon rescue. On the first and second levels everything was found intact and the men working in these places were safe. The rescue party went down to the third level and as soon as the air could be sufficiently cleared they entered the shaft and began a search for the dead and injured. Scattered about in various positions in the workings they found the bodies of the men suffocated.

The rescuers worked in relays. After six hours' work 53 bodies had been removed to hospitals. The injured owe their escape to the fact that they were working where they were protected from the rush of foul air. State representatives sent a detailed report of the explosion and a deduction as to the probable cause to the governors of Chihuahua and Saltillo. They instructed the local authorities to take such action as they deemed necessary and to investigate thoroughly the cause of the disaster.

The Palau mine is one of the best equipped coal mines in the Republic. It has an adequate ventilating system and is provided with electric lights. Mining officials are at a loss to account for the presence of mine damp in the workings.

Half of Force is Spared.

Drakenboro, Ky., Feb. 3.—Thirty-three miners are known to have been killed, two are missing and 15 are injured as a result of the explosion in the Browder coal mine near here yesterday. There were 100 men in the two wings of the mine at the time of the explosion, but the 50 in the west wing escaped uninjured. Those in the east wing felt the full force of the explosion. One or two of the injured were in a critical condition. Of the dead about half were white men, all Americans, and the remainder negroes.

U. S. May Dissolve Big Firm.

Chicago, Feb. 3.—Oliver E. Pagan, special assistant attorney general, did not leave here today, as was expected, and it is said he will remain for some time. The presence of Mr. Pagan in the Federal building gave rise to reports that the government would file a civil suit to dissolve the National Packing company within a short time. The Federal grand jury continued its investigation into books and documents of the National Packing company.

Primeros Victims Number 75

Primeros, Colo., Feb. 3.—Monday's mine explosion in the main mine of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company claimed a total of 75 victims and left 75 widows and 65 fatherless children. These facts were determined late this afternoon, when the official canvass of the camp was completed and the names of the missing men checked with the company's pay roll. Fifty bodies have been recovered. No opinion was expressed as to the cause.

Board Discusses Claim

The Hague, Feb. 3.—Before The Hague court of arbitration today representatives of the United States and Venezuela exchanged memoranda on the dispute regarding the claim of the Orinoco Steamship company against the government of Venezuela. The steamship company, a New Jersey corporation, filed a claim for the alleged arbitrary repudiation of certain concessions by the Castro government.

Wells Fargo Stock Sold

New York, Feb. 3.—It was said in authoritative circles today that the American Express company had purchased the Southern Pacific Railroad company's holdings of stock in the Wells-Fargo Co., which is taken to indicate that a merger of the two express companies is under way.

PLAN TO RULE CUBA.

Negro Party Could Win Everything if Held Together.

Havana, Feb. 1.—Organization of a distinct negro party, with the avowed intention of obtaining control of the Cuban government, is being agitated through the republic—and the movement has become menacing from the viewpoint of the whites. This issue has been brought to public notice recently by race conflicts upon the hotel question, and the numerical strength of the negroes, united, gives it portent.

Provision, the organ of the Partido Independiente de Color—Independent Party of Color—prints the newly constructed platform of the party, which contains these significant provisions:

"The Independent Party of Color shall be organized throughout the whole republic with a national character, to maintain its equilibrium toward all Cuban interests.

"The republic of equality, sovereign and independent, without race discriminations or social antagonisms, shall get our support."

To what extent promoters of the new movement may be successful remains to be seen, but there can be no doubt that, if the organization of the negro race as a political party ever should be effected, it would rule the republic.

The importance of the congressional elections in July can hardly be overestimated. It is not so much a question of which party shall return the greater number of candidates, as whether the independent republic, unaided by American supervision, shall prove itself competent to conduct an absolutely fair and peaceable election.

President Gomez' appointment of Senator Manuel Sangulliy as secretary of state ends the long suspense regarding that important office. It is significant that the president should have gone out of the ranks of all political parties to select Sangulliy, who ever has been an independent of the independents.

The senator lived in Harlem in the war of the revolution and returned to Cuba under the first intervention, buying himself at once with protests against the interference of the United States in affairs of Cuba. He is the author of several unsuccessful bills to restrict the immigration of foreigners into Cuba.

THUMB NOW INDIANS' PEN.

Service Requires Impression of Digit Instead of Crossmark.

Chemawa, Or., Feb. 1.—Orders have been issued to the agents in the field of the Indian service to require thumb-mark signatures by Indians who are not able to write.

Thumb-mark signatures are now required on all checks, receipts and other official papers, which were formerly signed by a cross-mark by Indians and others. The impression is to be made with the right thumb placed after the names instead of the crossmark as before. The thumb-mark is then witnessed to make the identification certain and thus be an infallible method of identification in case of dispute or attempted fraud.

This was first done in the Indian service in 1905, when the system was adopted as evidence of the authenticity of written agreements with Indians, the thumb print of the signers being required in addition to their signatures or their marks. The system now includes the entire business of the department.

Peary Wins Flag Case.

Elmira, N. Y., Feb. 1.—The demurrer interposed by Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, in the action for desecration of the American flag, growing out of the display of the famous "North Pole" flag at the Hudson-Fulton celebration, was sustained today by Justice Lyon. Roswell R. Moes, an attorney, who brought the action, announced that he would carry the case to the Supreme court rather than acknowledge defeat.

Goebel Dies, Heartick.

Cincinnati, Feb. 1.—On the 10th anniversary of the assassination of William Goebel, the funeral of his brother, Arthur Goebel, who died in Phoenix, Ariz., on January 20, was held in Covington, Ky., this afternoon. Commonwealth Attorney Franklin, in his funeral oration, declared that "the bullet that killed William Goebel, together with the liberation of all those charged with the murder, just as certainly killed Arthur Goebel." Arthur, he said, died of a broken heart.

Lips Fastened With Pins

Los Angeles, Feb. 1.—Fastening his lips together with safety pins so he could not curse, Vernon E. Bennett, formerly a missionary among the Indians, was carried, a raving maniac, into the receiving hospital yesterday. It was necessary for Nurse Morgan and Probation Policeman Leo Marden to pry his jaws apart with instruments to get at the ordinary pins and needles with which he had filled his mouth.

Po May Overflow Its Banks.

Rome, Feb. 1.—Although weather conditions have improved throughout Italy, reports are still being received of the flooding of much territory. The river Po threatens to overflow its banks, while at some points landslides have occurred. Dispatches from Perugia say that the river Tiber continues to rise and is three feet above the highest level of the last flood.

Asiatics to Work on Railroads

San Francisco, Feb. 1.—The Pacific Mail steamship Manchuria arrived here tonight four days behind her schedule, having on board 400 Asiatics, 175 of them Hindus, for work on California railroads.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Washington, Feb. 4.—Senator Heyburn today completed his criticism of the postal savings bank bill in the senate, but aside from his speech, little progress was made in the consideration of the measure. It will be before the senate again tomorrow and Senator Carter, who is in charge, expects a vote not later than next Thursday.

Mr. Heyburn declared that the bill had been drawn so loosely that, if enacted, it inevitably must result in scandal. It should, he said, be safeguarded more carefully than some past legislation, and he instanced the corporation tax law, which, he said, already had been proved unsatisfactory. Declaring his objections to the bill, he said that there was no provision for securing deposits, that in providing for secrecy regarding deposits the bill had made it impossible to find investment for the postal savings fund.

"Never in years has any session of congress done as much work as the present one," said Representative Dwight of New York, Republican whip in the house, in a statement today. "Congress has been in session less than six weeks since December 1 and in that time the house has passed the army, urgent deficiency, District of Columbia and agriculture appropriation bills. We have also redeemed two pledges of party platform by passing a bill to establish a bureau of mines and mining and to admit Arizona and New Mexico."

Washington, Feb. 3.—Secretary Ballinger was criticized on the floor of the senate today for sending a communication to the senate inclosing a bill providing for an insane asylum in Alaska.

Although Mr. Ballinger said he transmitted the measure in obedience to the direction of the president, Senators Heyburn and Bacon succeeded in obtaining annulment of reference in the bill to the committee on territories, on the ground that neither a cabinet officer, nor even the president himself, had authority to introduce a bill in the senate.

Senator Elkins today made bitter complaint in the senate concerning the treatment he received in connection with his resolution providing for an investigation into the high cost of food.

He charged Senator Aldrich with a desire to shield the tariff law and the trusts in the inquiry, and he intimated that hereafter he might be an "insurgent" if his wishes did not receive more respectful consideration.

The discussion was precipitated by Senator Stone, who soon after the reporting of the Lodge resolution to investigate the cost of living, in mock solemnity, raised the question whether the committee on contingent expenses had yet reached the Elkins resolution which had been adopted last month. Responding, Mr. Kean said that probably the measure would be amended and reported soon.

Taking the floor, Mr. Elkins complained that the finance committee had reported the Lodge resolution after a day's consideration, whereas his own measure had been held up for a month.

After a short but torrid open hearing, followed by an executive session of an hour, also filled with dissension, the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries today voted, 10 to 7, to report favorably the administration ship subsidy bill, as introduced by Representative Humphrey, of Washington.

Washington, Feb. 2.—A lively political debate occupied nearly the entire time of the house today in defense of the bill to amend the census law so as to provide an enumeration of animals slaughtered in country butchering establishments and of hides produced in such establishments.

Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, explained that this amendment was to give accurate information on the subject, upon which there has been much political discussion. With this amendment and others providing for an enumeration of lands under irrigation and in relation to irrigation projects, the bill was passed.

Should the postal savings bank bill become a law it would greatly endanger, if not destroy, incomes to the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars, declared Senator Heyburn today. The Idaho Senator was engaged in a general discussion of the bill in connection with an amendment presented by Senator Smoot for the regulation of the removal of postal savings deposits from banks.

He contended that, inasmuch as the fund under the bill would reach fully \$700,000,000, it would enable the board of trustees to dictate the rate of interest throughout the country.

"In other words, the government purposes to go into the loaning business," he said, "and intends to fix the rate of interest at 2 1/4 per cent." In view of this fact, he asked what the effect would be on incomes derived from funds invested at 5 and 6 per cent.

It was announced at the State department today that either a complete agreement or a rupture between Germany and the United States on the

National Coal Reserve Sought

Washington, Feb. 3.—The coal fields of Alaska are the subject of a lengthy bill introduced in the house by Delegate Wickersham, of Alaska, providing that 15,000 acres of the best coal bearing lands of Alaska be set aside by the United States in perpetuity as the national coal reserve. Provision is made for the withdrawal of 5,000 acres each from the Katalla and Matanuska districts, and 5,000 more from the Kenai and Peninsula areas.

present tariff negotiations might be expected tomorrow.

Washington, Feb. 1.—A running fire of criticism was poured into the forestry department in the house today when the agriculture appropriation bill was under consideration. The session was devoted to the forestry schedule.

Representative Taylor of Colorado questioned Chairman Scott as to the reason for including in the forest reserve lands without forest on them.

Mr. Scott said ex-Chief Forester Pinchot had asserted that such lands could be planted with trees.

"Do you know," declared Mr. Taylor, "that at elevations of 7,000 and 8,000 feet it will take 500 years to grow a forest, and at higher altitudes the time required will be longer?"

In his own state, he said, land worth \$200 or \$300 an acre was included in the forest reserves.

However, in no instance was an appropriation for the bureau of forestry reduced by the house.

To protect the government postal employees on the trains and prevent the loss of mail by fire, Representative Carey, of Washington, is in favor of the government buying its own mail cars and contracting with the railroads for their hauling. He has introduced a bill that authorizes the postmaster general to proceed with the work of contracting for these cars to put them in use as rapidly as possible and to have all railroads fully equipped with them by 1915.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Postal savings banks were discussed at length in the senate today, Carter of Montana, leading off with an argument in favor of the bill for which he is sponsor and Heyburn hinting plainly that he would oppose it. Saying that the United States is the only first-class power which has no postal banks, and recalling frequent platform pledges, Carter proceeded to answer objections.

He denied that postal banks would menace the present banking system, saying the latter could not reach remote rural districts. He said postal banks would encourage thrift, draw money out of hiding and induce foreigners to deposit money in them, instead of sending it abroad. He contended that the new system would only be an elaboration of the use to which money orders are now put, that it was as constitutional as the money order system and would be a source of strength to private banks.

The army appropriation bill, as reported to the senate today, carries \$95,440,568, which is only \$142,860 more than is appropriated in the bill as it passed the house. The law for the present year carried more than \$102,000,000.

The senate committee on military affairs added \$517,860 to the amount fixed by the house for contingencies of the army nurse corps, transportation, etc., maneuvers, shooting galleries and ranges and for blank ammunition, but reduced by \$375,000 appropriation for barracks and quarters in the Philippines islands.

Representative Hays, the Republican insurgent member of the house from California, will not circulate the petition for a Republican caucus on the subject of amending the house rules, at least, not before Wednesday of this week.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The many-angled fight in the house over the question of revising the rules of that body took a new turn and assumed additional importance today when Representative Champ Clark, of Missouri, leader of the minority, introduced a resolution providing for the election by the house of a new rules committee of 15. Special significance is attached to the resolution by the fact that Mr. Clark is a member of the present rules committee.

An investigation of the expenses of the immigration commission, a sequel to the recent flurry in the house over charges that members had "junketed on their trip abroad," is provided for in a joint resolution introduced by Representative Macon, of Arkansas, creating a joint committee of one senator and two representatives for the purpose. Mr. Macon was the author of the charges on the floor of the house.

Secretary Dickinson today informed Delegate Wickersham, of Alaska, in a letter, that he could not accede to his request that Major W. P. Richardson, of the army, be relieved from duty in Washington, as his services were required here in connection with the work of the board of road commissioners of Alaska, of which he is president.

Mr. Wickersham based his request for the removal of Major Richardson on the ground that he was lobbying before committees of congress "for his special work in Alaska."

Land Grant Report Waits

Washington, Feb. 2.—In response to the Chamberlain resolution, regarding the suits to set aside Oregon land grants, Attorney General Wickersham sent a letter to the senate today, stating: "To comply with the resolution, it is necessary to secure certain detailed information from Oregon. This information has been sent for, and as soon as it is received the report will be transmitted to the senate." He added the information was being gathered.

Senators Ask for Report

Washington, Feb. 1.—Senators Bourne and Chamberlain united today in a request to the life saving service to cause an investigation to be made by an unprejudiced officer into the wreck of the Czarina in Coos bay. The senators also requested the improvement of facilities and service along the Oregon coast.

ASKS COOLER CRITICISM.

President Taft Asks Magazine Publishers to be Moderate.

Washington, Jan. 31.—President Taft told the periodical publishers of the United States tonight that, if they overloaded their criticism of men in the administrative authority with unparliamentary expressions and intimations as to lack of honorable motives, nobody is going to pay any attention to them.

Although he made no direct allusion to "muckraking," it was plainly evident at what he was directing his attack.

The president, addressing the periodical publishers association of America as their guest at dinner, did not give this advice to the editors assembled from all parts of the nation until he had prefaced his remarks with good humored treatment of his relative position to the wielders of public opinion.

"This is a formidable gathering to address," said President Taft, after he had been presented by C. H. Smith, the toastmaster. "Gentlemen who act as fates as to what is or is not current literature, would under any circumstances, be formidable to address, and under conditions prevailing in Washington and in legislative halls, it requires a brave man, standing in my position, to face them.

"As to controversies, let me say that all evidence—questions of facts—must be weighed broadly to reach an ultimate conclusion. It is the case with every trust, as much as we condemn them for their iniquities. The evidence must be weighed. It does no good to denounce a person on the witness stand, if he testifies against you.

"You controllers of public opinion and controllers of the rulers of the country may hammer a man into indifference as to what you say, but at that he will come nearer to doing right than if he tried to fight.

"But, seriously speaking, I would like to say that when you criticize a poor devil exercising a responsible position, first give him the benefit enjoyed by every criminal, that of reasonable doubt."

WILL PRESS MERGER SUIT.

Pacific Roads Must Face Trial by Next April.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The president has determined to press to a conclusion the pending suit against the Union and Southern Pacific Railroad companies, looking to a dissolution of the merger, and today concluded to deny the application of Mr. Lovett, Harriman's successor, for a dismissal of the suit.

Soon after Judge Lovett and a number of influential railroad people appealed to the president to squash proceedings before Judge Vandeventer's court in Salt Lake City, Mr. Taft, following the course that had been adopted in the case of the famous New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad company, when a similar appeal was made, referred the matter to the attorney general for examination. In the New England case, it was found that, because of action taken by the state of Massachusetts and the insignificance of the government's interests, it would be best to abandon the prosecution of the railroad, and this was done.

But Attorney General Wickersham reached a different conclusion in the Pacific railroad merger case, and today he reported to President Taft a voluminous report, conclusions of which justified the president in the announcement that there was a good case against the railroads, following the decision in the Northern Securities litigation. Therefore, proceedings at Salt Lake City will be pressed.

The status of the case at present is this: The government has put in its testimony. The defense must begin in April and the usual evidence in rebuttal must be submitted thereafter. Then the case will go to that novel tribunal of four judges provided by the anti-trust act, known as the expediting court, and doubtless in the end it will come before the Supreme court of the United States.

Panama Libel Suit Dismissed.

New York, Jan. 31.—The indictment against the Press Publishing company, publishers of the New York World, charging Joseph Pulitzer and others with criminal libel against Theodore Roosevelt, President Taft and others, was quashed today in the United States District court. Judge Hough ruled that the statute upon which the indictment rested was not sufficient in authority, in other words, that the court had no jurisdiction.

Children Forced to Work.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—High prices for food in Chicago are driving children to work. In the last three months 1,000 more permits have been asked of the state factory inspector's office than in the corresponding three months a year ago. This is an increase of more than 33 per cent. It is attributed not to any sudden demand of employees for the services of minors, but to the necessities of workingmen's families, which have compelled children to work to buy food.

New Cabinet Rebuffed.

Budapest, Jan. 31.—An early rebuff was met by the recently formed Hedervary cabinet, when the chamber today with a large majority voted a want of confidence in the ministry. The premier told the deputies he was unable to decide immediately whether to resign or to dissolve parliament. He then drew from his pocket an imperial rescript adjourning the house to March 4.

EXPLOSION KILLS 79

Primeros Coal Mine In Colorado Scene of Disaster.

BODIES PILED AT FOOT OF SHAFT

Nearly Seventy Others Were in Mine and Little Hope That They Are Alive.

Primeros, Colo., Feb. 1.—Seventy-nine bodies of the victims of yesterday afternoon's explosion in the Primeros mine were found piled in a mass at the foot of the air shaft shortly after midnight.

When the explosion occurred the men evidently made a rush to escape through the air shaft, and were suffocated as they battled with one another for freedom.

It has been shown by the time-keeper's records that there were 149 men in the mine at the time of the explosion. Few are thought to be alive. The main shaft of the mine is completely wrecked.

The mine authorities telegraphed an order to Denver early this morning for 80 coffins. One man only has been found alive. He is badly injured, and has not been identified.

The explosion occurred in the mine of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Three men at the mouth of the mine were killed by the force of the concussion.

Both fans with which the mine was equipped were shattered, but were replaced and J. H. Thompson, superintendent, and a rescue party entered by the main air shaft, but were unable to reach the main shaft, which was completely blocked. The party returned to the surface after securing five bodies, which were badly buried.

A party equipped with oxygen helmets replaced them and continued the search for more bodies. Miners were rushed to Primeros from Trinidad, Saudo, Starkville, Sopris and Cokeville, and labored frantically to clear the main shaft, relieving each other every few minutes.

Most of the victims are Slavs and Hungarians, although Electrician Will Helm is among the missing.

The camp was a scene of indescribable horror last night. While every able-bodied man was taking his turn with pick and shovel to clear the shaft, the women and children, kept back by ropes, gathered about the shaft, weeping and calling loudly upon their loved ones who had not been found.

Members of the rescue party say that the effect of the explosion underground is indescribable. The bodies recovered were horribly burned and unrecognizable. One body was impaled on broken timbers.

PARIS RECOVERS.

Water Recedes and Work of Repairing is Begun

Paris, Feb. 1.—Improvement in the general situation continues and the spirits of the Parisians are rising as the waters fall. Street hawkers are selling postcard pictures of the flood and the boulevards are once more gay with thousands.

With the crisis past, the mercurial French temperament faces the subsidiary troubles with a light heart, but the papers already are warning the people that measures must be taken to avoid a repetition of the disaster.

The prefect of the department of the Seine has issued instructions to the owners of flooded houses to clean and disinfect their premises to the satisfaction of the municipal architects within 24 hours after the subsidence of the waters.

The government has ordered the tax collectors to show the greatest leniency to delinquents, and the Mont de Pieta is extending pawn tickets for three months.

Public and private benevolence continues to respond to the call of the sufferers. Theaters and societies are organizing benefits, while the various race courses are arranging a big meeting for the spring, the receipts of which will go to the poor. A resolution has been introduced in the chamber of deputies asking the government to award special crosses of the Legion of Honor to those who have been conspicuous in the rescue work.

Although the papers are printing columns of pitiful stories, a hundredth part of the horror never will be known. Many corpses have been swept down river, and occasionally a corpse is found in a boat, broken away from some funeral procession.

Suffrage Union Bars Meat.

New York, Feb. 1.—The Gotham beef party, named in memory of the Boston Tea Party, was formed today by the National women's progressive suffrage union, which has been active in the campaign against higher cost of living. Mrs. Sophia Loebinger and others addressed an open-air crowd in Madison square. Mrs. Loebinger said she and her associates proposed to open public cooking schools in the streets, to teach cooking without meat.

Trust Attorney Testifies.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—The Federal grand jury today resumed its investigation into the methods of the so-called "beef trust." Ralph Crews, general counsel for the National Packing company, testified. Documents and books belonging to the National Packing company were examined.